







## Central Government Neglecting Telangana

**TPN, Telangana:** The central government has shown discrimination against Telangana, especially concerning flood relief. Questions arise as to why the BJP and BRS are not holding discussions regarding the inadequate flood assistance provided to the state. Despite two central ministers representing the state, there has been a noticeable silence on the matter.

It is crucial to set aside politics and focus on the need for adequate flood relief. The previous government failed to disburse funds for Bathukamma sarees, leaving behind a liability of Rs. 375 crore. In our tenure, we have managed to release Rs. 150 crore of the pending dues. Women need not worry about the Bathukamma sarees; we will ensure that those who are members of women's organizations receive them.

In our ten months of governance, we have introduced initiatives such as free bus services, free electricity, and 500 free gas cylinders. The process for filling DSC jobs continues, with new notifications being issued.



We are open to advice and suggestions from opposition party leaders, keeping the interests of the state in mind. It is essential for the central government to allocate a fair budget for the state's benefit. On Monday at 9 AM, I will participate in the ministers' face-to-face program at Gandhi Bhavan. Regarding Konda Surekha's comments, the victims themselves requested her to retract her statements. Following their wishes, the minister withdrew her comments. It raises the question of why the issue is still being discussed afterward.

## TPCC on New Medical College and Development Projects in Telangana

**TPN, Telangana:** The government is actively working towards establishing a new medical college in Nizamabad district, with plans to have the CM's Medical College operational by 2025. The focus is on developing the district both industrially and medically.

An examination of the Nizam Sugar Factory is underway, with assurances from the Congress party to reopen the facility. Former minister Harish Rao's claim that he would resign if loan waivers were not implemented has been challenged, as the BRS has yet to fulfill its promises. The Congress party has stated that, over ten years, the BRS has provided minimal loan waivers compared to what they committed. They promised a loan waiver of two lakh rupees, yet in nine months, only 18,000 crore rupees have been waived. The Congress is prepared for discussions on loan waivers, questioning if Harish Rao is also ready for dialogue. The BRS has handed over a state burdened with debts exceeding 7.5 million rupees, yet they have managed to implement some loan waivers despite the challenges. Additionally, they accused BRS leaders of misappropriating 1,500 ponds. Hydra operations in Hyderabad are ongoing; otherwise, the city's situation could mirror that of Wayanad. The Moosi river beauti-



fication project is also in progress, and Nizamabad is set to benefit from various initiatives. The Congress party is committed to not neglecting anyone and ensuring Hydra's operations continue amid pressures. They dismissed BRS's criticism regarding corruption before the Moosi beautification initiative as baseless. The nominated posts will soon be allocated to those who have worked for the party, with assured representation for the district in the state cabinet. Nizamabad aims to be included in the Smart City list; efforts will be made to rectify past shortcomings that prevented its inclusion.

## Adilabad Unrest: Local Communities Rally Against House Demolitions



**TPN, Adilabad:** Members of several communities, including Banjara, Mathura, and Vanjari, staged a protest on the Adilabad-Utnoor road following the demolition of illegal structures built on the banks of a nala in Indervelli mandal. The area is known for its historic connection to tribal movements. Protestors blocked traffic and shut down commercial establishments in response to the demolitions, accusing the government of unfairly targeting them based on complaints from some tribal groups.

Leaders from the aggrieved communities criticized the government's actions, with Dongre Manoj, a protest leader, stating, "We are not infringing on tribal rights; we coexist peacefully. Demolishing our homes is barbaric." Despite their anger, the protest was called off after police intervened and pacified the crowd.

In response, Collector Rajarshi Shah clarified that the demolished structures were built illegally on land adjacent to the agricultural market yard. He emphasized that proper notices had been issued to the occupants before the action was taken and urged the public not to build homes on government lands in villages and towns without permission.

## Modi Has No Moral Right to Talk About Farmers

**TPN, Telangana:** Minister Seethakka strongly criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments on the Telangana government in the Maharashtra Assembly, stating that Modi has no moral right to speak about farmers. She pointed out that, despite ten years in power, Modi has not waived a single rupee of farmers' loans, making his criticism of Telangana laughable.

She further added that it was Modi who brought in "black laws" that made farmers' lives miserable and that he was responsible for the death of 700 farmers during the protests in Delhi. Seethakka accused Modi of being the number one in breaking election promises to farmers, particularly citing his 2019 promise of pensions for farmers over 60 years old, a promise that remains unfulfilled to this day.

Modi was also criticized for failing to increase the minimum support price (MSP) for crops in proportion to rising farming costs and for cutting funds for crop insurance schemes. His government's reduction of subsidies on fertilizers and pesticides, leading to price hikes, was another point of criticism.

Seethakka called Modi's recent criticism of the Telangana Congress government a tactic aimed at gaining votes in the Maharashtra elections. She highlighted Congress's achievement of waiv-



ing loans for 23 lakh farmers in Telangana and assured that all eligible farmers will receive loan waivers despite technical challenges.

She also condemned both BJP and BRS for their false propaganda, accusing them of working together to target Congress ahead of the Maharashtra elections. Seethakka concluded by urging Modi to focus on fulfilling his election promises, such as waiving farmers' loans nationwide and providing free electricity to the homes of the poor, rather than criticizing the Congress party.

## SCCL Falls Behind Half-Yearly Coal Production Target

**TPN, Kothagudem:** The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has reported that its underground and opencast mines have fallen short of their coal production targets, achieving only 90 percent of the overall half-yearly goal. From April to September 30, SCCL produced 28,449,547 tonnes of coal against a target of 31,589,100 tonnes. This marks a decline compared to the same period last year, when production was 31,318,052 tonnes. The shortfall has been attributed to heavy rains and other operational challenges.

Among the 11 areas of SCCL, only RG-2 and Yellandu exceeded their half-yearly production targets, producing 19,931,30 tonnes against a target of 16,970,000 tonnes and 39,344,487 tonnes against a target of 36,113,300 tonnes, respectively. In September, overall monthly production reached only 72 percent of the set target, with Yellandu exceeding expectations at 123 percent, while Kothagudem achieved 87 percent.

Issues such as ongoing repairs at the GDK-11 incline and PVK-5 incline, along with delays in spare parts delivery and heavy rainfall, impacted production in the Kothagudem area. In September, production in other areas like Manugur, Mandamarri, Bella-



mpalli, Srirampur, and RG-1 also fell below targets, ranging from 49 to 82 percent.

To address these challenges, SCCL Chairman and Managing Director N. Balram has convened a review meeting with senior officials, urging them to increase daily coal production to at least 200,000 tonnes and remove 1.4 lakh cubic meters of overburden daily to meet the financial year's target of 72 million tonnes.

## Congress Likely to Win Haryana, Miss Majority in J&K: Exit Polls

**TPN, New Delhi:** Exit polls suggest that the Congress party is poised to form the next government in Haryana, ending the 10-year reign of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Additionally, in Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress-National Conference alliance is predicted to stay ahead but fall short of a majority, with a fractured mandate expected.

In Haryana, an aggregate of four exit polls predicts the Congress will win 55 of the state's 90 assembly seats, comfortably surpassing the halfway mark of 45. The BJP, which has held power for a decade, is projected to secure only 24 seats. However, two polls, Dhruv

Research and People's Pulse, suggest the BJP could win up to 32 seats.

Other key parties in Haryana, such as Abhay Chautala's INLD (Indian National Lok Dal) and the BJP's former ally, the JJP (Jannayak Janata Party), are expected to win 3 and 1 seat, respectively. Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party, despite its strongholds in neighboring Delhi and Punjab, is unlikely to secure any seats in Haryana.

In Jammu and Kashmir, which saw its first assembly elections after a decade due to delimitation, the Congress-National Conference alliance is projected to win 43 out of 90

seats, three short of the majority. The BJP is expected to win 26 seats, far from the majority required to form the government. Mehbooba Mufti's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is likely to win 8 seats and could play a decisive role as a potential kingmaker, although Mufti has ruled out any tie-up with the BJP, signaling interest in a "secular alliance."

Despite these projections, exit polls have been known to miscalculate actual results, and the final outcome could differ. The elections in Jammu and Kashmir hold significant interest due to the potential for a hung assembly, which could lead to intense post-election negotiations.

## Who is the Masked Thief Hiding Behind Musi?

the Panchayats are struggling due to a lack of funds! Why is there misery when it comes to organizing a state festival? Why is Telangana's cultural identity being neglected? Bathukamma is a unique festival that honors nature, and it should be celebrated in a clean environment, especially for women. The distribution of Bathukamma sarees has also stopped. Now, are you saying that there is no need to celebrate Bathukamma festivals?" questioned KTR.

## Gazette Notification Issued to Grant Legitimacy to HYDRA

The government established HYDRA to address illegal constructions on lakes and drainage systems in the state. Following the issuance of GO 99 on July 19, HYDRA has been actively dismantling various unauthorized constructions located within Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones. However, these demolitions faced significant resistance in several areas, leading many individuals to seek judicial intervention. The legitimacy of HYDRA was also questioned in court, with numerous petitions filed in the High Court requesting a stay on GO 99. In this context, the government created a special ordinance to remove the obstacles faced by HYDRA.

The ordinance was issued by amending Section 374-B of the GHMC Act of 1955, granting comprehensive powers to protect government properties, lakes, and drainage systems up

to the Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits. The district collector and the Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) have delegated their powers to HYDRA. Following the cabinet's approval, the file was sent to the Raj Bhavan, where the governor granted his approval. The municipal department's Chief Secretary, Dhan Kishore, provided clarifications on several questions raised by the governor. Satisfied with the government's explanations, the governor signed the HYDRA ordinance file, leading to the release of the gazette notification.

With the gazette issued, HYDRA is now free from legal hindrances. The granting of legal status will enable HYDRA to operate more efficiently, and it is expected to intensify efforts against illegal constructions on lakes and drainage systems.



# CM Revanth Reddy Assures Support to Musi Residents



**TPN, Telangana:** G. Venkat Swamy, fondly known as Kaka, was one of the few leaders from Telangana who rose to national prominence. Despite his immense contributions, some previous leaders either viewed him only through a Congress lens or deliberately distanced him from the public. Recognizing Kaka's legacy, I have directed officials to officially commemorate his birth anniversary. Kaka played a pivotal role in ensuring the Telangana statehood process continued, personally persuading Sonia Gandhi to not let the movement fade away. Ironically, those who now boast of their achievements once sought Kaka's help to win elections but have since failed to honor him. A true champion of the underprivileged, Kaka secured housing for over 80,000 poor families and stood by Singareni workers, saving the company and protecting their livelihoods. His bond with the people was such that, while Nehru was called 'Chacha' at the national level, Kaka earned the same affection in Telangana. Speaking at a program, he advised the people in the Musi buffer zone not to worry. He assured that the Congress government would stand by the evacuees. Revanth Reddy made it clear that they are

cleaning the Musi to protect the residents from floods. He announced that the government is ready to allocate Rs. 10,000 to each resident affected in the Musi area. "The BRS party claims they have ten years of governance experience. Instead of boasting about your wealth, use your experience for the benefit of the poor... Come, let's all sit down and talk... Let's discuss what we can do for the underprivileged. "The poor must feel devastated if they lose their hard-earned property... Don't I know that? It would be better for the earth to break apart than for the poor to suffer so deeply. I have been in opposition for 20 years... Do you think I have come this far without understanding the plight of the poor? "Now, the poor are being provoked to protect the farmhouses. Revanth Reddy addressed the leaders of the BRS saying, 'Don't provoke the poor... Tell us directly what should be done about the encroachments.' He further stated that there is Rs. 1,500 crores in the BRS account, and even if 10 percent of the amount looted by the BRS is returned, the poor will be much better off."

## Telangana on High Alert Following Controversial Remarks by Yati Narsinganand

**TPN, Telangana:** The Telangana police have heightened security measures across the state in response to alleged blasphemous remarks made by Swami Yati Narsinganand regarding Prophet Mohammed during a public meeting.



Tensions escalated in Hyderabad as a small protest emerged following the circulation of videos on social media, believed to be shared by individuals aiming to incite communal unrest. Fortunately, the protest remained peaceful, with demonstrators visiting local police stations to file complaints against Swami Narsinganand.

In anticipation of further protests over the weekend, senior police officials have instructed all Superintendents of Police (SPs) and Commissioners of Police (CP) to remain vigilant. Local Station House Officers (SHOs) in communally sensitive districts have been particularly advised to exercise caution.

To maintain public order, additional police personnel were deployed to key stations in Hyderabad. A delegation from the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul

Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by its president Asaduddin Owaisi, met with Hyderabad's Commissioner of Police, C.V. Anand, urging him to take action against Swami Narsinganand.

In response to complaints, a case has been registered against Narsinganand at the Nampally police station, following a complaint filed by Congress leader Rashed Khan. Numerous other complaints have also been lodged across various police stations in the city and neighboring districts of Vikarabad and Mahabubnagar.

## COME BACK OF KAVITHA WILL BE DELAYED TO AVOID POLITICAL DAMAGE

Kavitha's Absence from Bathukamma Celebrations Raises Questions Among Activists

**TPN, Telangana:** Kavitha, often recognized as a brand ambassador for the Bathukamma festival in Telangana, is notably absent from this year's celebrations, leading to widespread discussions among activists and political observers. Regardless of the political criticisms directed toward her, Kavitha has played a significant role in enhancing the visibility of the Bathukamma festival, especially in promoting the celebration of girl children. Her absence this time is being interpreted not only as a political stance but also as a traditional omission, igniting curiosity and concern among her supporters.

For the past decade, the Bathukamma festival has gained remarkable recognition throughout the state, thanks in large part to Kavitha's involvement in its organization and promotion. She has been instrumental in ensuring that the festival is celebrated in every district, bringing special attention to its cultural significance. Last year, she made headlines by showcasing the Bathukamma doll at Dubai's Burj Khalifa, emphasizing the festival's global relevance and placing Telangana's cultural heritage on an international platform. However, following her arrest in the Delhi Liquor Scam case, Kavitha's image has suffered, and the BRS party has also faced severe backlash. Opposi-

tion parties have seized on her situation, utilizing it as a key point of criticism against the BRS and its leadership during the Lok Sabha elections, which resulted in significant losses for the party.

As the BRS party works to recover from the electoral setbacks, internal discussions suggest that Kavitha's absence from the Bathukamma celebrations may be a calculated strategy to avoid further controversy. While many anticipated her return to the spotlight during the festival, party insiders believe it is prudent to keep her away to prevent giving opposition parties additional ammunition to criticize the BRS.

Activists and supporters are hopeful that Kavitha will make a comeback by the time of Saddula Bathukamma, another significant event in the festival calendar. The situation remains dynamic, with various factions within the party speculating on Kavitha's potential return and its implications for the party's image and electoral prospects.

Overall, her absence has sparked a debate about her role in the party and the cultural significance of the Bathukamma festival, reflecting the intricate relationship between politics and tradition in Telangana. As discussions continue, many await Kavitha's next move and its impact on both her personal brand and the BRS party as a whole.

## Reservation Ceiling Must Be Lifted for Justice to SC, ST, and BC Communities

**TPN, Telangana:** It is imperative to lift the reservation ceiling to ensure justice for the SC, ST, and BC communities. If Rahul Gandhi were the Prime Minister, the Parliament would have passed a bill to increase reservations. Conducting local body elections after caste enumeration will also ensure fairness for marginalized groups.

I commend Sharath Power for advocating to raise the reservation ceiling from 50%. I am offering valuable advice to BRS leaders, who seem to overlook crucial issues.

While they claim to have implemented programs like loan waivers, Dalit Bandhu, and Rythu Bandhu, they fail to understand why they keep losing elections. Unlike Congress, which reflects on its defeats, BRS seems intent on slinging mud at the government instead of engaging in meaningful governance.

If BRS does not take corrective measures, it



risks becoming irrelevant in the political landscape. It is essential for them to focus on substantial issues affecting the people rather than merely blaming others.

## I Will Stage a Protest at KCR's Farmhouse: Jaggareddy

**TPN, Telangana:** Senior Congress leader Jaggareddy has issued a warning to Harish Rao, who has been criticizing the Congress for not waiving farmers' loans. Jaggareddy stated that he plans to stage a protest in front of their leader Rahul Gandhi's house, holding Harish Rao responsible for the current situation. He expressed his anger, accusing KCR of burdening the people during his ten-year rule, and declared that Harish Rao should now go to Delhi and stage a dharna.



"Who broke the backs of the Mallanna Sagar farmers? Who shackled the farmers in Khammam? What was Harish Rao doing at that time?" Jaggareddy questioned. He blamed the losses faced by the farmers on the mistakes made by KCR and Harish Rao.

He further stated that he would convince CM Revanth Reddy to have a discussion on the

loan waiver issue and asked, "Can Harish Rao convince and bring KCR to the discussion?" Jaggareddy made it clear that, due to technical reasons, some people were not able to receive the loan waiver.

## NO STEP BACK, REVANTH MOVES FORWARD STRONGER

Many expected a significant shift in the political landscape. Initially, MLCs and MLAs began queuing up to join the Congress. However, defections slowed after a petition was filed against Mr. Nagendar, who contested the Secunderabad parliamentary constituency on a Congress ticket while still a BRS MLA. Additionally, Congress high command instructed that defected BRS MLAs should not be given cabinet positions. Mr. Revanth Reddy further announced that no MLA would receive a cabinet berth unless they won on a Congress ticket, which stalled further defections.

Subsequently, the issue of loan waivers for farmers became a major topic. BRS capitalized on the delay in fulfilling the loan waiver promise by initiating protests, gaining momentum in the process. As a result, some surveys suggested that BRS had recovered to an extent in the northern Telangana region, while they remained strong in Hyderabad. The slowdown in defections also slowed Congress's plan to strengthen its position in Hyderabad, giving BRS hope for the future.

The situation shifted dramatically with the introduction of HYDRA. HYDRA began demolishing illegal or unauthorized constructions owned by influential individuals. Naturally, few questioned these actions, and the general public supported them. In one instance, however, HYDRA dismantled temporary structures in an illegal premises, affecting some shopkeepers who were operating there. While the action was aimed at the property owner, some shopkeepers faced losses and expressed their grievances on camera. The videos were then made viral by certain media outlets allegedly aligned with BRS, sparking a negative campaign against HYDRA.

One website, also allegedly run by BRS, launched an aggressive attack on HYDRA. Prominent individuals and the real estate mafia, who were losing out due to HYDRA's strict enforcement, joined in the negative campaign. Several major media outlets portrayed HYDRA's actions as mistakes, arguing for more control over the agency. The ulti-

mate aim appeared to be to dilute HYDRA's powers to protect personal interests.

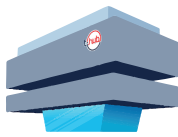
Following the Musi survey, the situation worsened, with BRS framing the issue as a battle between the poor and the government. In the face of these developments, many expected Mr. Revanth Reddy to step back. However, he doubled down with stronger rhetoric, directly countering BRS's narrative. While BRS argued that the poor were being forced out of their properties, Mr. Revanth Reddy countered by asserting that the poor would enjoy a better quality of life after leaving the Musi areas. He explained that Musi's pollution was impacting the health of Nalgonda residents and that even those living near the river were in danger.

Mr. Revanth Reddy also exposed illegal constructions owned by former minister Sabita Indra Reddy and others, issuing a warning to all politicians with illegal properties. However, the Congress has struggled to present HYDRA's actions as part of a broader effort to create a flood-free city.

Amid these tensions, the Konda Surekha controversy erupted. Social media accounts allegedly associated with BRS launched an abusive attack on Minister Seetakka and Konda Surekha. In response, Surekha made serious allegations against KTR, accusing him of provoking her with taunts. She claimed that KTR had blackmailed the Akkineni family regarding Samantha and that her refusal to follow the family's instructions led to her divorce. These remarks ignited a firestorm, prompting statements from industry figures criticizing Surekha's allegations. She later retracted her remarks, but Nagarjuna filed a defamation case against her. In another aggressive move, Mr. Revanth Reddy supported the filing of a criminal case against Nagarjuna for the construction of N Convention.

Through all these developments, Mr. Revanth Reddy remains steadfast, pushing forward without hesitation. It remains to be seen what will unfold in the political landscape of Telangana.





# Slow Progress in Musi River Beautification

## Demolition Efforts Face Resistance

- Actions so far are limited
- Marking up to 1,333 out of total 1,595 structures in the riverbed
- Process halted at 262 places due to protests and agitations
- Reluctance to approach commercial buildings
- The mechanism that will proceed only after the orders of the government

TPN, Hyderabad: The ongoing efforts to beautify the Musi River are progressing slowly, particularly in terms of demolishing illegal structures built on the riverbed. Despite identifying numerous structures and counseling residents to relocate, only 25% of the targeted demolitions have been completed. Many locals are resisting relocation, even though revenue officials have spent hours advising them that moving to double-bedroom houses would provide relief from dust and unsafe conditions.

As part of the Musi beautification project, a total of 1,595 residential and commercial structures were identified for removal within the riverbed in Hyderabad district. Of these, 1,333 buildings have been marked for demolition. However, protests and local agitations have halted the process at 262 locations. The reluctance to approach commercial buildings further complicates the efforts, with officials proceeding cautiously and only after



receiving explicit orders from the government.

Among the 824 residential houses marked, 771 structures include shops, sheds, and other commercial properties. However, only 149 residential houses have been demolished so far.

Officials are finding it difficult to convince remaining homeowners to relocate. In many instances, tehsildars and their teams visit local bastis to speak with residents, but there is little enthusiasm for moving to the double-bedroom homes being offered as an alternative.

### Commercial Building Resistance

In certain areas such as Nampally, Bahadurpura, Old Malakpet, and Chadar ghat, many people are unwilling to vacate commercial buildings, shops, and factories that have been in their families for generations. Some locals have even confronted revenue officials, warning them not to mark their properties or disrupt their businesses. For instance, revenue personnel visiting commercial structures in Old Malakpet were met with resistance and had to return without making progress.

Commercial building owners, unlike residential homeowners, are not being offered double-bedroom houses, which has led to a lack of interest in the relocation efforts. These business owners are demanding compensation if they are forced to vacate, and government orders are required before officials can proceed with demolishing these structures.

### Challenges for Revenue Officials

The beautification of the Musi River has turned into a difficult task for revenue officials. They are under pressure from higher authorities to move quickly, yet the reluctance of locals to relocate has slowed down the process. While orders have been issued to demolish structures marked as part of the riverbed and relocate residents, there is still uncertainty about when and how to address the demolition of commercial properties. Tehsildars have expressed frustration over the two-week-long process, which involves multiple meetings with locals, review sessions with superiors, and pressures from public representatives. While the first phase of the project has focused on clearing the riverbed, there is growing concern about how difficult it will be to clear the buffer zone in the second phase. Both residents and authorities are facing considerable challenges as the project moves forward.

## Veteran Actor Rajendra Prasad's Daughter Gayatri Passes Away



TPN, Hyderabad: Gayatri, the 38-year-old daughter of veteran actor Rajendra Prasad, has passed away after suffering



from chest pain late last night. Despite being rushed to a corporate hospital in Hyderabad for immediate treatment, she

succumbed to her illness in the early hours of the morning, despite all medical efforts to save her.

Rajendra Prasad, who was on a film shoot, hurried back to see his daughter but unfortunately arrived too late. The news of her death has plunged the entire family into mourning.

Recently, Gayatri had been in the tabloids due to her love marriage, and it was reported that she and her father had reconciled after years of estrangement. Rajendra Prasad

had previously expressed his emotions regarding their relationship at a film function, highlighting the significance of their renewed bond.

Gayatri's last rites will take place today in Hyderabad, where family, friends, and members of the film industry are expected to gather to pay their final respects. This tragic event has cast a shadow over the film fraternity, with numerous celebrities extending their condolences to Rajendra Prasad and his family during this incredibly difficult time.

## GHMC Commissioner Calls for Action Plan to Make Hyderabad a Garbage-Free City



TPN, Hyderabad: GHMC Commissioner Amrapali has set a two-day deadline for the Sanitation Department to devise an action plan to transform Hyderabad into a garbage-free city. During a teleconference with Zonal and Additional Commissioners on Friday, she instructed the Additional Commissioner of Sanitation, Raghuprasad, to prepare and submit a comprehensive strategy.

The Commissioner emphasized the importance of clearing debris from completed projects under the Water Board and GHMC. To speed up pending works, she suggested organizing zonal-level meetings with contractors to ensure they address incomplete tasks swiftly. A particular focus was placed on improving sanitation in commercial areas, especially during property tax collection drives. The Commissioner highlighted the need for close inspection of these areas to ensure cleanliness.

Additionally, the performance of GPS-equipped garbage trolleys should be closely monitored to ensure efficient waste collection. The use of these trolleys aims to enhance accountability and real-time tracking of sanitation efforts across the city.

This proactive approach comes in response to growing concerns over waste management in the city, and the GHMC aims to ensure a cleaner environment for all residents by implementing these strategic steps in coordination with relevant departments and stakeholders.

## Traffic Restrictions Announced Ahead of Grace Cancer Run

TPN, Hyderabad: Traffic restrictions will be in effect on Sunday, October 6, ahead of the Grace Cancer Run, scheduled to take place from 5:30 AM to 8:30 AM. The event will cover a 10-kilometer route starting from Gachibowli Main Stadium, proceeding to IIIT Junction, and continuing to Wipro Junction via TNGOs Colony.

To facilitate the run, the Cyberabad traffic police will implement diversions at key junctions throughout Hyderabad. Traffic coming from Mehdiapatnam and the Outer Ring Road (ORR) will be redirected from Gachibowli Junction towards Kondapur. Additionally, vehicles from the Financial District, Gowlidoddi, and Q-City will be diverted from Wipro

Junction towards Nanakramguda village.

Commuters traveling from Lingampally, HCU, Masjid Banda T Junction, and Gachibowli Stadium will need to take a detour from DLF Junction towards Radisson Junction. Similarly, those coming from Kondapur and Kothaguda will be rerouted from Botanical Junction to Heritage Junction.

During the event, heavy vehicles, including trucks, lorries, goods carriers, and water tankers, will not be permitted on the marathon route to ensure the safety and smooth operation of the Grace Cancer Run.



## Telangana Police Holds Workshop to Review New Criminal Laws Implementation



TPN, Hyderabad: To mark three months since the new criminal laws (BNS) took effect on July 1st, the RBVRR Telangana Police Academy (TGPA) hosted a workshop focused on reviewing progress and addressing challenges in implementation. Senior police officials, legal experts, and law faculty attended, emphasizing the importance of ongoing training for effective law enforcement.

Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) Dr. Jitender, the chief guest, stressed the need for continuous

reviews to tackle initial challenges faced in applying the new laws. "Workshops like these are crucial for officers to understand the evolving legal landscape, helping them navigate both positive aspects and practical difficulties," he noted.

Abhilasha Bisht, Director of TGPA, highlighted the significance of regular training, especially for leadership roles. "New laws can be complex, and without adequate training, enforcement becomes challenging. Leaders must be equipped to guide their teams effectively," she stated.

DGP (CID) Shikha Goel identified challenges and issues in the implementation process during her presentation, responding to concerns raised by field officers.

Retired IPS officer DC Jain and former DGP of Rajasthan delivered a lecture on the new criminal laws, emphasizing the need for clarity in enforcing legal provisions. The workshop underscored the importance of training for senior police leadership to enhance efficiency and fairness in law enforcement.





# Climate Change Forces Italy and Switzerland to Redraw Their Borders

The dramatic impact of climate change is being felt across the globe, but in the Alpine region of Europe, it has reached a point where it is reshaping not just the environment but also national boundaries. Switzerland and Italy, two nations deeply connected by the Alps, are now in the process of redefining their shared border due to the melting of glaciers, which traditionally served as natural demarcation lines.

## The Role of Alpine Glaciers in Defining Borders

The majestic Alpine glaciers, particularly those around the iconic Matterhorn mountain, have long served as a natural boundary between Switzerland and Italy. These glaciers, embedded deep in the Alpine range, have historically marked the highest points on the landscape, which in turn defined where one country's territory ended and the other's began.

However, as climate change intensifies and the rate of glacier melt accelerates, these once-stable borders are shifting. Swiss glaciers, like many others around the world, are rapidly losing ice. In 2023, Swiss glaciers experienced a volume loss of approximately 4%, following a larger 6% loss in 2022. This ongoing decline in ice mass is indicative of a larger global issue, but for Switzerland and Italy, it's more than an environmental concern—it's a territorial one.

## Redrawing the Border

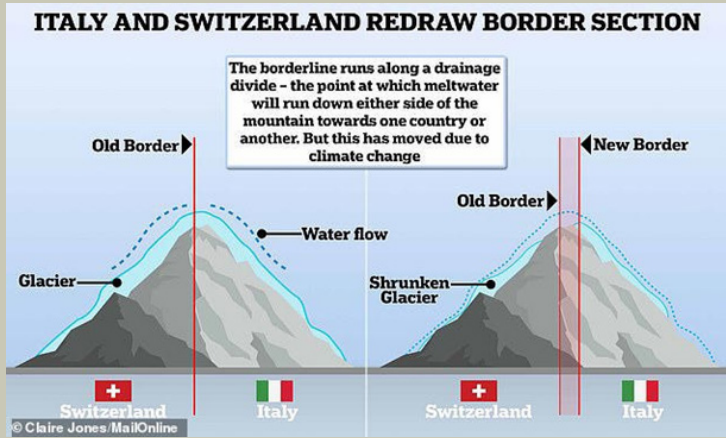


In May 2023, Switzerland and Italy reached an agreement to redraw their border near the Matterhorn mountain, a prominent peak shared by both nations. This agreement, finalized by Switzerland in September 2023 and currently awaiting ratification from Italy, marks a significant moment in how countries are adapting to the realities of climate change. The melting glaciers have shifted the highest points on the landscape further into Italian territory, meaning Switzerland is effectively gaining land as the glaciers recede.

Though the change in land area is minor in the grand scheme of things, it symbolizes a much larger trend. Natural features that once seemed unchanging are now moving, forcing nations to reconsider how they define their geographic boundaries. This is not an isolated case. In 2006, Italy and Austria also had to modify their borders due to the shifting glaciers along their shared border.

## Climate Change and Geopolitical Boundaries

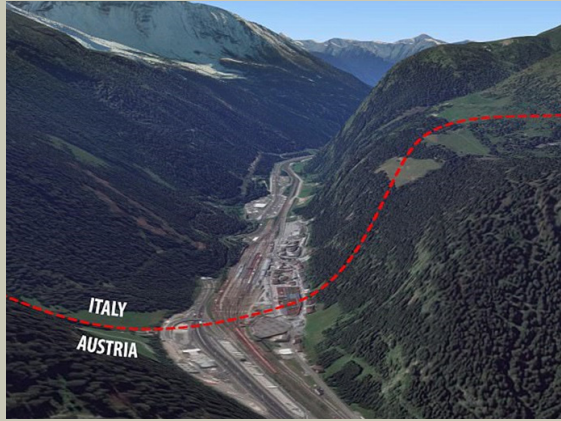
The agreement between Switzerland and Italy underscores how climate change is becoming a geopolitical issue, influencing not just national policies but also the very borders between countries. Historically, borders have been shaped by wars, treaties, and political negotiations, but now they are being influenced by the natural world and its response to human-induced climate change.



As the glaciers retreat, the highest points of the landscape—those that once served as the clear dividing line between nations—are moving. In this case, as the glaciers on the Matterhorn shift, Switzerland is gaining a slight advantage in land area, a rare example of how a country can “grow” due to climate change. However, this is no victory. The loss of glaciers is a far greater concern for both nations, as it signals a profound environmental shift that will have far-reaching consequences beyond the adjustment of borders.

## A Broader Trend

The adjustment of borders due to melting glaciers is not unique to Switzerland and Italy. The 2006 agreement between Italy and Austria demonstrated that this issue has been on the horizon for some time. The ongoing effects of climate change, particularly in regions that rely on glaciers for both natural boundaries and economic activities, suggest that more countries may need to revisit their borders as the environment changes.



In conclusion, the redrawing of borders between Switzerland and Italy is a stark reminder of the pervasive impact of climate change. What was once thought to be permanent—the icy Alpine glaciers and the borders they defined—has now become fluid, literally melting away. As these countries work to navigate the new realities imposed by climate change, their cooperation offers a glimpse into how nations might need to rethink their geographic and economic futures in the face of a rapidly changing world.

## Tourism and Economic Impact

The Alps are a significant driver of tourism for both Switzerland and Italy, with visitors flocking to these countries for skiing, mountaineering, and other outdoor activities that are intrinsically tied to the health of the glaciers. As the glaciers retreat, not only are borders shifting, but so too is the landscape of Alpine tourism.

Ski resorts, for example, rely heavily on the presence of glaciers to maintain their slopes and attract visitors. The shrinking ice sheets mean that resorts must adapt, either by moving their operations or investing in artificial snow, which comes with its own set of environmental and financial challenges. The changing landscape can also affect hiking routes, mountaineering paths, and even the aesthetics that draw tourists to these scenic areas.

Both countries, though reliant on tourism in these regions, must now balance the immediate economic needs of their Alpine industries with the long-term implications of climate change on their natural environments. For instance, while Switzerland is gaining land as glaciers recede, this “gain” comes at the cost of losing a portion of the environment that supports its tourism-driven economy.







## Congress Being Run By Gang Of Urban Naxals: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a rally in Washim district, Maharashtra, on Saturday, sharply criticizing the Congress party, which he described as being controlled by a "gang of urban Naxals." He urged citizens to come together to combat what he termed the "dangerous agenda" of Congress.

Modi emphasized that the Congress party believes that unity among the people will thwart their plans to divide the nation. He stated, "They think that if we all unite, then their agenda to divide the country will fail." He further accused Congress of aligning with individuals who do not have the country's best interests at heart.

Highlighting concerns about drug trafficking, Modi noted the recent seizure of drugs worth thousands of crores in Delhi, claiming that a Congress leader is suspected to be involved as a kingpin. He alleged that the party aims to fund its electoral campaigns through money derived from drug-related activities that target the youth.

The Prime Minister criticized Congress for its historical approach to governance, stating, "Congress' thinking has been foreign from the very beginning." He compared their behavior to that of British colonial rulers, suggesting that they do not regard Dalits, backward classes, and tribal communities as equals. Modi argued that Congress seeks to maintain power for one family, thus fostering a derogatory attitude toward marginalized communities like the Banjara.

Modi's remarks reflect the ongoing political tensions in India, where he is rallying support to strengthen his party's position against Congress ahead of future elections.



## 2 Terrorists Killed As Army Foils Infiltration Attempt In J&K's Kupwara

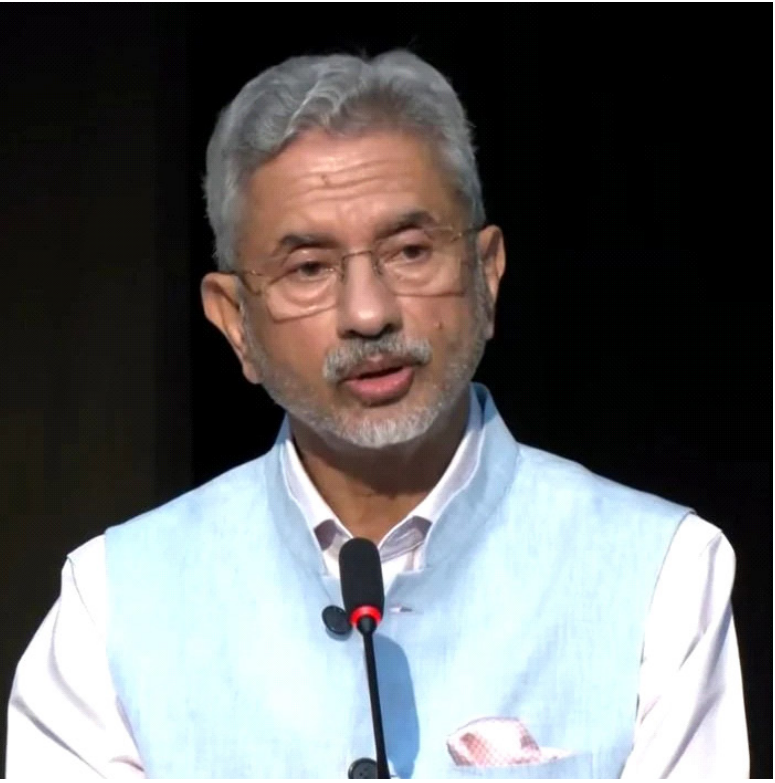
The Indian Army announced on Saturday that it successfully thwarted an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the deaths of two terrorists. The operation, named 'Operation Gugaldhar', was carried out in Kupwara's Gugaldhar region following credible intelligence regarding the infiltration.

On Friday, the Srinagar-based Chinार Corps had reported the launch of a joint operation involving both the Army and local police forces to address the potential threat. The operation focused on the Gugaldhar area, which has been a hotspot for infiltration attempts in the past.

On Saturday, the Chinार Corps confirmed that two terrorists had been neutralized during the operation. This successful mission underscores the ongoing efforts of security forces to maintain peace and security in the region, particularly in light of increasing infiltration attempts.

The Indian Army remains vigilant in its commitment to counter-terrorism and to protect the sovereignty of the nation. Further details about the operation are expected to be released as investigations continue.

## Jaishankar Clarifies Pakistan Visit Focused on SCO Summit, Not Bilateral Relations



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar clarified on Saturday that his upcoming visit to Pakistan is strictly for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit and not for discussions on India-Pakistan relations. Speaking at the Sardar Patel Lecture on Governance in New Delhi, he emphasized that he will be attending the SCO meeting as a "good member" of the organization.

Jaishankar confirmed his travel plans for the SCO heads of government meeting scheduled for mid-October in Islamabad, explaining that Pakistan, like India, is a relatively recent member of the bloc. He acknowledged the anticipated media interest due to the sensitive nature of India-Pakistan relations but reiterated that his focus would be on the multilateral event rather than bilateral discussions.

"The meeting is taking place in Pakistan because they are also a recent member," he said, referencing the tradition of Prime Ministers attending high-level SCO meetings. Jaishankar also indicated that he is preparing thoroughly for the summit, considering various scenarios that may arise.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has officially confirmed that Jaishankar will lead India's delegation to the SCO summit on October 15-16. This visit marks the first time an Indian External Affairs Minister will travel to Pakistan since Sushma Swaraj in 2015.

Earlier this year, in May, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited India for an SCO meeting in Goa, marking the first visit by a Pakistani Foreign Minister to India in six years. The SCO, founded in 2001, is a major intergovernmental organization that includes nine member states, among them India and Pakistan, as well as several observer states.

## West Bengal Junior Doctors' Forum Withdraws Cease-Work but Issues Ultimatum

The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Forum (WBJDF) announced on Friday that it would withdraw its cease-work demonstration, initially launched in response to the horrific rape and murder of a junior doctor from R.G. Kar Medical College & Hospital in August. The decision comes in light of the need to prioritize the interests of the public seeking medical services at state-run hospitals.

Despite this withdrawal, WBJDF representative Debasish Halder warned that junior doctors would initiate a fast-unto-death protest if their demands, which fall under the jurisdiction of the West Bengal government, are not met within 24 hours. The organization had previously outlined conditions for ending their ongoing agitation, which resumed on Tuesday.

The first of their ten demands concerns the prolonged judicial process necessary to secure justice for the victim, with fulfillment dependent on the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Supreme Court. Halder stated that the success of the remaining nine demands would rely on the state government's

commitment to addressing them.

The remaining demands include the immediate removal of the state health secretary, the introduction of a centralized referral system, and the establishment of a digital bed vacancy monitor. Additionally, the forum seeks the creation of task forces in each medical college with elected junior doctor representation, enhanced police protection in hospitals, and the filling of vacant positions for doctors, nursing staff, and health workers.

They are also calling for the formation of inquiry committees in every medical college to investigate individuals involved in threat syndicates and ensure accountability. At the state level, they demand an inquiry into rampant corruption and lawlessness within the West Bengal Medical Council and the West Bengal Health Recruitment Board, alongside immediate elections for student councils in every medical college.

The junior doctors emphasize that their next steps will hinge on the government's response to these urgent issues.



## Situation Is Deep Concern For Us: India On West Asia Tensions



The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed deep concern regarding the escalating tensions in West Asia, particularly involving Israel, Iran, and Lebanon. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized the importance of preventing the conflict from widening into a broader regional crisis.

In a press briefing, Jaiswal reiterated India's call for restraint among all parties involved and the need to protect civilians. He stated, "We had reiterated a call for restraint by all concerned and also the protection of civilians. It is important, in our opinion, that this conflict doesn't take a wider regional dimension." He urged that all issues be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

India's advisory to its nationals noted the deteriorating security situation in the region, particularly following Iran's ballistic missile attack on Israel, which prompted retaliatory actions and military engagement between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. The MEA has advised Indian citizens to exercise caution and avoid non-essential travel to Iran, urging those residing there to stay vigilant and maintain contact with the Indian Embassy in Tehran.

As for repatriation, Jaiswal clarified that there are currently no evacuation processes in place for Indian nationals in Israel, Iran, or other affected countries. He stated, "As of now, flights are running from Israel, Iran, and other countries, so people have the option if they want to leave." Families have reached out to Indian embassies, but no formal evacuation efforts have been initiated.



# Canada Reaffirms Strong Support for India's Territorial Integrity

The Canadian government has reiterated its firm stance on India's territorial integrity, labeling it as "absolute." David Morrison, Canada's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, made this statement while testifying before the foreign interference commission in Ottawa. He emphasized that Canada's policy is clear: there is only one India, and this position is unwavering.

Morrison, whose role is akin to that of India's Foreign Secretary, highlighted ongoing private discussions between Canada and India. "We have open channels and are continuing to engage with them," he remarked.



During his testimony, he acknowledged reports that Canada views certain actions by pro-Khalistan groups as "awful, but lawful," indicating a commitment to freedom of speech, even for views that may be contentious. Morrison stressed that while some activities are troubling, they are protected under Canadian law.

He also noted that the diplomatic situation has improved since September 18 of the previous year. This was a critical point when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau raised "credible allegations" suggesting a possible connection between Indian agents and the killing of Hardeep

Singh Nijjar, a pro-Khalistan activist, in Surrey, British Columbia.

"Thankfully, many aspects of our relationship with India have gradually been restored over the past nine months," Morrison stated, reflecting a cautious optimism about the future of Canada-India relations.



## Climate Change Activists Stage Dramatic Protest Outside UN Agency in London

On Friday, climate activists from Ocean Rebellion staged a striking demonstration outside the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in London, drawing attention to the environmental threats posed by Liquid Natural Gas (LNG). The protest featured a dramatic act where activists pretended to drown in oil and gas, symbolizing the peril facing the oceans.

The group, which has become a familiar presence on London's streets, staged this unsettling scene on the steps of the UN agency responsible for regulating maritime transport. One activist, adorned as an "ocean goddess," wore a fishbowl filled with black liquid, depicting a harrowing image of drowning. The visual was powerful, with the activist appearing to scream as the liquid engulfed her, only to drain away moments later.

Surrounding her were other protesters clad in gas masks and holding petrol pumps, which spewed flames, enhancing the dramatic effect of the demonstration. Ocean Rebellion shared images of the protest on X, emphasizing the urgent message behind their actions.



## Joe Biden requests Israel to avoid attacking Iran's oil fields

President Joe Biden has urged Israel to reconsider its military response to Iran's recent ballistic missile attack, specifically advising against strikes on Iranian oil fields. This call for restraint comes as tensions escalate in the region following Iran's launch of approximately 200 missiles at Israeli targets earlier this week.

During a press briefing at the White House, Biden acknowledged that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is likely to respond to the attacks but emphasized the importance of avoiding actions that could lead to a broader conflict. "If I were in their shoes, I'd be thinking about other alternatives than striking oil fields," Biden remarked, highlighting concerns that an attack on critical oil infrastructure could significantly disrupt global energy markets, particularly affecting supply to countries like China. Biden's comments reflect a broader effort to manage the situation, as he noted that Israel had not yet finalized its plans for retaliation. His administration has previously cautioned against targeting Iran's nuclear facilities as well, seeking to prevent a spiral into all-out war.

# Pak Capital Locked Down As Imran Khan's Supporters Try To Seize The Streets

Pakistan's capital was heavily fortified on Saturday as security forces swarmed the city and mobile internet services were shut down. This lockdown coincided with protests by supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who were determined to take to the streets despite significant government pushback.



Khan, who has been barred from participating in the upcoming February elections due to a series of legal challenges and allegations of rigging, remains a pivotal figure in Pakistani politics. His party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has defied a government crackdown, continuing to organize protests to challenge the current administration.

Supporters of PTI began their journey to Islamabad from Khan's stronghold in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday, but were met with roadblocks created by shipping containers and tear gas. Despite these obstacles, small convoys of protesters made their way toward the capital on Saturday, even as the government deployed troops to

ensure security ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit set to begin on October 15.

In a show of solidarity, Khan issued a message on social media, praising his supporters for their resilience. "I am so proud of all our people. You showed unfaltering courage as you came out yesterday and overcame unbelievable obstacles," he wrote.

In addition to the protests in Islam-

abad, demonstrations were planned in Lahore, but the main motorway linking the eastern city to the capital was blocked by security forces. Amnesty International criticized the government's actions, stating that the communication blackouts and roadblocks violate citizens' rights to free expression, peaceful assembly, and movement. They expressed concern over what they described as a disturbing trend toward suppressing the right to protest in Pakistan.

# Hit Iran's Nuclear Sites First Trump's Advice To Israel



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump stated on Friday that he believes Israel should target Iran's nuclear facilities in response to the recent missile attacks from the Islamic Republic. Speaking at a campaign event in Fayetteville, North Carolina, Trump referenced a recent question posed to President Joe Biden regarding potential strikes against Iran's nuclear program.

At the event, Trump recalled Biden's response, which suggested restraint: "They asked him, what do you think about Iran, would you hit Iran? And he goes, 'As long as they don't hit the nuclear stuff.' That's the thing you want to hit, right?"

Trump criticized Biden's stance, asserting, "I think he's got that one wrong. Isn't that what you're supposed to hit? I mean, it's the biggest risk we have, nuclear weapons." He emphasized that if action is to be taken, it should focus on nuclear targets first.

Biden, in a statement earlier in the week, firmly opposed military strikes on Iranian nuclear sites, stating, "The answer is no," when asked if he would support such actions. He acknowledged the recent Iranian missile barrage toward Israel but underscored the importance of proportional response, saying, "We'll be discussing with the Israelis what they're going to do."

This back-and-forth comes amid heightened tensions in the Middle East, particularly following Iran's launch of nearly 200 missiles aimed at Israel. Trump, engaged in a competitive election battle against Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, has been relatively quiet on recent Middle Eastern escalations but issued a critical statement blaming Biden and Harris for the crisis.



## Iran's Supreme Leader Declares Missile Strikes on Israel as 'Legal and Legitimate'

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has asserted that the recent military operation against Israel was "completely legal and legitimate." He made this statement during his address to a large congregation at the weekly Friday prayers in Tehran, discussing the missile attack executed by Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) targeting Israel, as reported by Xinhua.

Khamenei described the missile strike as a necessary response to what he termed the "astonishing crimes" perpetrated by Israel and the United States in the West Asia region. He emphasized that the actions taken by the Iranian armed forces were merely the "least punishment" for Israel, highlighting Iran's commitment to responding forcefully. "We will neither hesitate nor be negligent, nor hurry in fulfilling our responsibilities," he stated.

He further clarified that any future actions would be executed at the appropriate time, based on the assessments of military and political leaders. Khamenei indicated that similar operations would continue if deemed necessary.

On Tuesday, the IRGC launched approximately 180 missiles aimed at strategic sites in Israel. This attack was presented by Iran as retaliation for the targeted assassinations of key figures, including Hamas Politburo Chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, and senior IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan. Khamenei condemned these assassinations and characterized Israel's actions, supported by the U.S., as part of a broader pattern of aggression against both Lebanese and Palestinian groups.

Khamenei's remarks underscore Iran's intent to assert its military capabilities and commitment to its regional allies in the face of perceived threats, marking a significant moment in the ongoing tensions between Iran and Israel.



# DON'T PANIC, PICK UP STOCKS DURING THE DOWNTURNS

Wars Offer a Window of Opportunity for Long-Term Investors

MARKETS DURING CONFLICTS				
% change	Day 1	After 1 week	After 1 month	After 3 months
Kargil war (1999)	-2.14	-0.94	3.49	23.97
	-2.13	-0.91	3.65	23.51
Iraq-US war (2003)	1.18	0.72	-4.38	10.68
	1.10	0.99	-6.30	8.83
Karabakh war (2020)	2.28	3.50	18.05	25.64
	2.26	3.32	6.49	24.42
Russia-Ukraine war (2022)	-4.72	1.05	5.62	-0.88
	-4.78	1.54	6.00	-0.76
Israel-Hamas war (2023)	0.55	0.44	-1.57	8.12
	0.55	0.50	-1.23	9.46



The sharp correction in the stock market following the escalating Iran-Israel conflict presents a key opportunity for long-term investors to buy quality stocks at lower prices. Financial experts advise against panic, as markets have historically shown resilience during geopolitical crises, often recovering within a week. Lower valuations for quality stocks create an ideal entry point for those who believe in the long-term growth prospects of companies. Additionally, dividend-paying stocks become more attractive as their yields increase relative to the overall market.

Experts recommend that investors avoid impulsive decisions based on short-term market fluctuations. "The current market conditions could provide a favorable environment for those seeking to build a strong portfolio". Overvalued stocks with high price-to-earnings ratios are correcting to more reasonable levels, offering investors with cash reserves a chance to buy at more attractive prices.

While midcaps and small caps have been leading the recent bull run, they are now showing signs of a pull-back. "Large caps with a long-term outlook could be a more prudent option now," advises Moorti Naidu Padam, partner at Nifty Master.

In times of market downturns, experts emphasize the importance of staying focused on long-term goals and using lower valuations to build a robust investment portfolio.



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## SBI Classifies MTNL Loans as Non-Performing Assets



State Bank of India (SBI) has declared the loan accounts of the debt-laden state-owned telecom firm MTNL as sub-standard non-performing assets (NPAs) due to ongoing non-payment of installments and interest. According to a regulatory filing by MTNL, as of September 30, the total outstanding on its loan account was ₹325.52 crore, as detailed in an SBI letter dated October 1.

The declaration took effect on September 28, 2024, and was triggered by the firm's failure to make necessary payments since June 30. SBI's letter indicates that the specific

loan account (Term Loan Account Number 36726658903) has now been categorized under the NPA – Sub Standard classification. This classification applies to accounts with a default period of less than 12 months, suggesting they may have the potential to clear their dues.

As of the latest update, ₹281.62 crore of MTNL's loan is overdue and requires immediate payment to regularize the account. SBI has also requested clarification regarding the government's assurances to cover MTNL's outstanding dues.

Additionally, the public sector bank is seeking updates on various monetization projects that MTNL is pursuing, including a significant agreement with NBCC to develop 13.88 acres of land into residential and commercial properties. This move could potentially generate revenue and help address the telecom firm's financial challenges.

The situation underscores the ongoing difficulties faced by MTNL, which has struggled with financial stability amid increasing competition in the telecom sector.



## Oil soars 10% in five days, logs biggest weekly gain in one year

Oil prices surged on Friday, marking their largest weekly gains in over a year amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. Brent crude futures rose by 43 cents, settling at \$78.05 per barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude increased by 67 cents to close at \$74.38 per barrel.

The uptick in prices was driven by the threat of regional conflict following a missile barrage from Iran aimed at Israel. Israel has vowed to retaliate, escalating fears of broader warfare. Despite the surge in oil prices—nearly 2% at one point—gains were tempered after U.S. President Joe Biden suggested that Israel should consider alternatives to attacking Iranian oil facilities.

Earlier in the week, oil prices had jumped over 5% after Biden confirmed that the U.S. was in discussions with Israel regarding a potential strike on Iranian energy infrastructure. For the week, Brent crude gained over 8%, its

most significant increase since January 2023, while WTI saw a 9.1% rise, the largest since March 2023.

Analysts from JPMorgan indicated that while an Israeli strike on Iranian energy facilities might not be the preferred option, the current low levels of global oil inventories—at 4.4 billion barrels, the lowest on record—could keep prices elevated until the situation stabilizes. Brokerage StoneX warned that if Iranian oil infrastructure were targeted, prices could spike by \$3 to \$5 per barrel. Amid these tensions, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei publicly called for increased resistance against Israel. Iranian officials have threatened to target Israeli energy installations in retaliation for any attacks, highlighting the risks to the region's oil supply. Iran, a member of OPEC, produces around 3.2 million barrels per day, or 3% of global output. Analysts noted that OPEC's spare production capacity could mitigate potential disruptions to Iranian supplies.

## SEBI Approves Jio Financial and BlackRock's Mutual Fund Venture



Jio BlackRock aims to leverage BlackRock's global expertise in investment management, risk management, and technology, alongside JFS's deep understanding of the Indian market and its digital infrastructure. Together, they intend to introduce innovative financial solutions to Indian investors, creating a unique player in the burgeoning mutual fund sector.

Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFS), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries led by Mukesh Ambani, announced on October 4 that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has granted in-principle approval for JFS and BlackRock Financial Management to co-sponsor a new mutual fund. The final registration approval will be contingent upon the fulfillment of specific requirements outlined by SEBI.

This announcement follows the July 26, 2023, agreement between JFS and BlackRock to establish "Jio BlackRock," a joint venture with equal stakes from both companies. This collaboration marks BlackRock's return to the Indian financial market after its exit in 2018.

The partnership is expected to focus on offering a diverse range of investment products tailored to the needs of Indian consumers, enhancing the accessibility and efficiency of mutual funds in the country. With JFS's established digital capabilities and BlackRock's robust investment strategies, the joint venture is poised to make a significant impact in the competitive financial landscape.

As the financial services sector in India continues to evolve, this collaboration is seen as a strategic move that could reshape the market dynamics, providing investors with new opportunities and enhancing the overall investment ecosystem.



## India's per-capita income almost doubling: Nirmala Sitharaman

At the Kautilya Economic Conclave in New Delhi on Friday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressed optimism about India's economic future, predicting that per capita income could nearly double within the next five years. She highlighted that the ongoing growth of the economy will contribute significantly to rising living standards, marking a transformative era for the average Indian.

Citing data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Sitharaman noted that the current per capita income stands at \$2,730 (approximately ₹2.29 lakh) and could increase by an additional \$2,000 (around ₹1.68 lakh) in just five years. She emphasized that while India is poised for steady economic expansion, challenges in the global landscape could im-

pact this growth trajectory.

"The global backdrop is no longer the same," she stated, acknowledging both the potential challenges and opportunities presented by the current international environment. Sitharaman pointed out that the Indian economy must adapt to these changing dynamics, particularly as Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to transform India into a developed nation by 2047—marking a century since independence. Achieving this ambitious goal would require sustained growth rates exceeding 8% over the next 25 years, economists suggest, alongside efforts to bridge the existing inequality gap.

In her speech, Sitharaman also outlined key strategies for India's economic advancement.

She noted that global geopolitical shifts could be advantageous for the country, encouraging the creation of "robust supply chains" with other nations. Furthermore, she stated that India is benefiting from the evolving international order, which better reflects current power dynamics.

Addressing fiscal matters, Sitharaman reaffirmed the government's commitment to reducing the fiscal deficit, targeting a decrease from 5.6% of GDP in the 2023-24 fiscal year to 4.9% by March 2025. She highlighted that a larger share of the deficit is now allocated to capital outlays, indicating a focus on investment-oriented deficit financing. This approach underscores the government's aim to enhance the quality of its expenditures while fostering economic growth.



# Impact of Iran-Israel Conflict on India's Basmati Rice Exports



The ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel has begun to cast a shadow on India's agricultural export market, specifically impacting its famed basmati rice industry. Iran, one of the major importers of Indian basmati rice, has been at the center of the conflict, creating uncertainty and slowing down the demand for this essential commodity. This disruption has already caused significant ripples in India's domestic grain markets, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, which is a key region for basmati rice production.

## Slump in Paddy Prices

In the grain market of Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad, one of the key hubs for basmati rice, the effects of the Iran-Israel conflict have become starkly visible. The price of the Paddy (Dhan) Basmati 1509 variety, a popular variant for exports, has dropped significantly. Over the past two days, prices have decreased by ₹200 to ₹300 per quintal. The current price for this variety has fallen to ₹2,700 per quintal, down from the ₹3,500 per quintal it commanded last year.

The primary reason for this sudden drop is the decline in demand from exporters, who are no longer placing large orders. Exporters, fearing the uncertainty stemming from the Iran-Israel conflict, have reduced their procurement, causing distress among farmers. Many farmers are now concerned that their incomes will shrink dramatically due to this slowdown in demand from one of their key markets.

## Impact on Indian Basmati Exports

India is the world's largest exporter of basmati rice, with Iran being one of its biggest customers. Around 25% of India's basmati rice exports are sent to Iran. The Middle Eastern nation has long been a crucial partner in India's basmati trade. The ongoing conflict, however, has led to a severe disruption in trade relations.

The All India Rice Exporters Association (AIREA) has raised alarms about the situation. Ajay Bhalotia, the General Secretary of AIREA, has warned that the conflict is putting India's basmati rice industry in jeopardy. "Of the total basmati rice exported from India, 25% is exported to Iran, while 20% goes to Iraq. The combined value of these exports amounts to over two million tonnes, valued at more than \$2 billion," he explained.

The prospect of losing this substantial market has left farmers and exporters anxious. If exports to Iran and Iraq come to a halt, it will severely impact farmers' profits, with some expecting to lose nearly half of their earnings.

## Insurance Complications and Government Intervention

Adding to the exporters' concerns is

the halt in export insurance. Insurance companies have stopped providing coverage for exports to Iran due to the heightened risk caused by the conflict. Without insurance, exporters are unable to ship their rice to Iran, effectively cutting off a crucial market.

Bhalotia and other industry leaders have called on the Indian government to intervene. They are urging the government to negotiate with insurance companies to provide coverage for exports to Iran and Iraq. "We request the government to ask the insurance companies to give us insurance so that we can continue some level of exports and ensure fair prices for our farmers' produce," Bhalotia said.

## Recent Developments in Basmati Rice Exports

It is worth noting that just last month, India removed the minimum export price (MEP) for basmati rice in an effort to boost exports. The MEP had been seen as a barrier to selling certain grades of basmati rice, particularly in markets across the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas. The removal of the MEP was expected to create more opportunities for global buyers, allowing them access to a wider range of basmati rice options from India.

However, the unforeseen conflict between Iran and Israel has cast a shadow on these optimistic developments. Iran remains a critical market for India's basmati rice industry, and the current conflict has thrown a wrench in what was shaping up to be a positive export season.

## The Broader Geopolitical Conflict

The latest round of violence between Iran and Israel was triggered when Israel killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in an airstrike in Beirut. In retaliation, Iran launched missiles at Israel, escalating tensions between the two nations. Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, further stoked tensions by stating in a public sermon that Iran and its regional allies would not back down in the face of Israeli aggression.

This conflict has disrupted not only the political landscape but also the economic relations between countries like India, which depend on Iran for trade. As the situation unfolds, it remains to be seen how India's government will manage the economic fallout from this conflict and whether exporters will be able to navigate these choppy waters without suffering long-term damage.

For now, farmers in regions like Uttar Pradesh are left hoping for a swift resolution, as the decline in basmati rice prices threatens their livelihoods. The impact of this conflict is not only a matter of international diplomacy but also one of economic survival for thousands of Indian farmers and traders.

# Monetary Policy Committee (MPC): A Crucial Body in India's Economic Policy

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is an essential decision-making body responsible for formulating India's monetary policy, specifically determining key interest rates that directly impact inflation and economic growth. The central government recently reconstituted the MPC by appointing three new external members for a period of four years, reinforcing its role in guiding India's economic trajectory.

## What is the MPC?

The MPC is a statutory body established under Section 45ZB of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934, which was amended in May 2016 to provide a legal mandate for the committee. Its primary responsibility is to set the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target, which is crucial for ensuring price stability and fostering sustainable growth.

## Composition of the MPC

*The MPC consists of six members, with equal representation from the RBI and the central government. These six members include:*

- The RBI Governor, who serves as the ex-officio Chairperson of the committee.
- The Deputy Governor of the RBI in charge of monetary policy.
- One officer of the RBI, nominated by the Central Board of the RBI.
- Three external members, appointed by the central government. These external members are independent economists or financial experts who bring diverse perspectives to the committee.

The external members are appointed for a period of four years and cannot be reappointed. This mix of government-nominated members and RBI representatives ensures that the committee has a balanced view of both governmental policy goals and central banking objectives.

## Key Functions of the MPC

The central function of the MPC is to determine the benchmark interest rates for the economy. These rates directly influence lending and borrowing rates across the financial system. The primary rates determined by the MPC include:

- **Repo Rate:** The rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks. Changes in the repo rate can make borrowing more or less expensive, influencing overall economic activity.
- **Reverse Repo Rate:** The rate at which the RBI borrows money from commercial banks. This rate affects the liquidity available in the banking system.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** A mechanism by which banks can borrow funds from the RBI overnight in case of liquidity shortages, but at a higher rate than the repo rate.
- **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF):** A tool used by the RBI to manage liquidity in the banking system, including the repo and reverse repo rates.

Through adjustments in these interest rates, the MPC plays a pivotal role in influencing inflation, controlling money supply, and promoting economic stability.

## Objectives of the MPC

The primary goal of the MPC is to maintain price stability, a crucial precondition for ensuring sustained economic growth. Price stability refers to maintaining a stable inflation rate, ensuring that the economy does not face the adverse effects of



rising or falling prices. Excessive inflation can erode purchasing power, while deflation can lead to stagnation. Therefore, a balanced inflation rate is key to sustainable growth.

The inflation target is currently set at 4%, with a tolerance band of ±2%. This means the MPC aims to keep inflation between 2% and 6%. The policy interest rates decided by the MPC are critical for achieving this inflation target.

While price stability is the primary mandate, the MPC also keeps in mind the broader objective of supporting economic growth. The committee must strike a balance between curbing inflation and fostering growth, especially during times of economic downturns or crises.

## Legislative Background

The establishment of the MPC in 2016 marked a significant shift in how India's monetary policy is determined. Before the formation of the MPC, monetary policy decisions were made solely by the RBI, without a formalized committee structure. The amendment to the RBI Act in 2016 created a framework that ensured transparency, accountability, and shared decision-making between the government and the central bank.

According to **Section 45ZB** of the RBI Act, the central government is empowered to constitute the six-member MPC. This legal provision ensures that the MPC functions within a clear legislative frame-

work, with defined responsibilities and objectives.

## Importance of Price Stability and Sustainable Growth

Price stability is considered a **"necessary precondition"** for achieving sustainable economic growth. When inflation is stable and predictable, businesses can plan their investments and consumers can make spending decisions with greater confidence. Conversely, high inflation or deflation can create uncertainty, discouraging both spending and investment.

By managing inflation through monetary policy, the MPC plays a crucial role in maintaining the overall health of the economy. In this context, the interest rates decided by the committee not only influence inflation but also affect employment, consumption, and production levels in the economy.

## Conclusion

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a cornerstone of India's economic policy framework. With the central government appointing three new external members for a term of four years, the committee is now set to continue its crucial work in balancing price stability with economic growth. As inflation remains a key concern in today's global economic environment, the MPC's decisions on interest rates will be critical in steering India's economy through both immediate challenges and long-term growth objectives.



# Facebook seeks to attract young adults with new community features

Meta is on a mission to rejuvenate Facebook's appeal, particularly among younger audiences who have increasingly gravitated towards platforms like Instagram and TikTok. Traditionally seen as a space for parents and grandparents, Facebook aims to reposition itself as a hub for making new connections and expanding social networks.

Tom Alison, head of Facebook at Meta, explained that while the platform initially focused on connecting family and friends, its future lies in facilitating new relationships. "We see young adults turn to Facebook when they make a transition in life," Alison noted. For example, young adults relocating to new cities often utilize Marketplace to furnish their homes, while new parents frequently join parenting groups.

In line with this vision, Facebook recently announced the testing of two new tabs, Local and Explore, in select cities. The Local tab is designed to showcase nearby events, community groups, and local items for sale, thereby encouraging users to engage with their surroundings.



Meanwhile, the Explore tab curates content based on users' interests, making it easier for them to discover relevant topics and communities.

These updates are part of a broader strategy to create a more dynamic and engaging experience on Facebook, aligning the platform's offerings with the evolving needs of its users. By focusing on community engagement and personalized content, Meta hopes to entice younger generations back to Facebook, ensuring it remains a relevant social networking option in an ever-changing digital landscape.

As the platform tests these new features, the company is optimistic about rekindling interest among younger users and fostering a sense of community that resonates with the lifestyle transitions many face today.

# Swiggy Launches 'Bolt' for 10-Minute Meal Deliveries

Swiggy, the leading food delivery and quick commerce platform, has unveiled its new service, 'Bolt', which promises to deliver quick-to-prepare meals in just 10 minutes. This innovative offering aims to cater to the growing demand for speedy food deliveries without sacrificing taste, freshness, or quality.



With 'Bolt', Swiggy focuses on delivering meals from popular restaurants and quick service restaurants (QSRs) located within a 2 km radius of the customer. The service highlights a carefully curated selection of dishes that require minimal preparation time, including favorites like burgers, hot and cold beverages, breakfast items, and biryani. In addition to these, 'Bolt' will also feature ready-to-pack treats such as ice cream, sweets, and snacks, making it a convenient option for customers on the go.

The service includes a range of well-known brands such as KFC, McDonald's, Burger King, Baskin Robbins, Star-

bucks, and Chaayos. It also supports local favorites, showcasing restaurant partners like Karachi Bakery and G Pulla Reddy Sweets in Hyderabad, MM Mithaiwala in Mumbai, Bhartiya Japan and Anand Sweets in Bangalore, Sethi Ice-cream in Delhi, and Irani Cafe in Pune, among others.

By launching 'Bolt', Swiggy aims to enhance the convenience of meal delivery, addressing the needs of busy individuals who seek quick and satisfying meal options. The service is set to revolutionize the way people order food, making it easier than ever to enjoy a delicious meal in record time.

As Swiggy continues to innovate and expand its offerings, 'Bolt' represents a significant step forward in the fast-paced world of food delivery, allowing customers to savor their favorite meals almost instantaneously. With this new feature, the company is well-positioned to meet the ever-evolving demands of modern consumers.

# Delhi Police's Hilarious Road Safety Advisory Features 'Ganji Chudail'

The Delhi Police have once again demonstrated their knack for blending humor with important messages on social media. In a recent post, they cleverly utilized the viral 'Ganji Chudail' meme, originally popularized by the YouTube channel and Instagram account 'Majedar Kahani', to promote road safety and helmet use.

The post featured an animated image of the meme character donning a helmet, accompanied by the playful text, "Sabko helmet pehnate hain Delhi Police wale" (Delhi Police makes everyone wear helmets). The caption further emphasized the message with a witty twist: "Mujhse nahi, chot se daro! Helmet pehno!" (Don't be afraid of me, be scared of getting hurt. Wear a helmet).



**SABKO HELMET PEHNATE HAIN DELHI POLICE WALE**

The response from users has been overwhelmingly positive, with comments ranging from admiration to humor. One user quipped, "Ganji chudail is not so ganji (bald) anymore," while another expressed, "Delhi police dil ki police" (Delhi Police are the police of the

heart). Many users praised the Delhi Police for their creative outreach, with one remarking, "Delhi police is on a roll," and another humorously stating, "We got ganji chudail in a helmet before GTA 6."

This clever use of a trending meme highlights the police's efforts to engage the public in a lighthearted manner while addressing critical safety issues. Last month, the Delhi Police also raised awareness about online fraud related to concert ticket sales, particularly for the upcoming mega concert by singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh on October 26. They warned fans against falling victim to scams by clicking on fraudulent links, urging them to always verify sources before making any payments.

Through these innovative campaigns, the Delhi Police continue to effectively communicate vital messages, ensuring public safety while keeping their audience entertained.

# Meta Unveils Movie Gen: A New AI Tool for Video Creation



Meta, the parent company of Facebook, announced the launch of its new AI model, Movie Gen, designed to create realistic video and audio clips based on user prompts. This innovative tool aims to compete with leading media generation platforms like OpenAI and ElevenLabs, marking a significant advancement in generative AI technology.

In a recent blog post, Meta showcased samples of Movie Gen's capabilities, including videos featuring animals swimming and surfing, as well as clips utilizing real photographs of individuals engaged in various activities, such as painting on a canvas. The AI model can also generate background music and sound effects that are synced to the video content, enhancing the overall viewing experience.

One notable demonstration involved Movie Gen inserting pom-poms into the hands of a man running in the desert, while another example transformed a dry parking lot into one with splashing puddles as a man skateboarded through it. This level of detail and creativity underscores the potential of Movie Gen in the realm of video editing and production.

According to Meta, the videos generated by Movie Gen can last up to 16 seconds, while the accompanying audio can run for 45 seconds. The company conducted blind tests that indicated Movie Gen's performance is competitive with tools from startups such as Runway, OpenAI, ElevenLabs, and Kling.

This announcement comes at a time when the film industry is grappling with how to effectively utilize generative AI technologies. The interest in such tools was piqued earlier this year when Microsoft-backed OpenAI showcased Sora, its AI model capable of creating feature film-like videos from text prompts.

While many in the entertainment industry are eager to adopt these tools to streamline filmmaking, there are concerns regarding the ethical implications, particularly regarding the training of these AI systems on copyrighted materials without proper permission. As Meta continues to innovate, the launch of Movie Gen highlights the growing intersection of technology and creativity in content creation.

# US Men Smash Record For Highest Egg Drop Without Breaking It

Guinness World Records (GWR) continues to dazzle audiences with its array of incredible achievements, and a recent food-related record has captivated social media users. This latest feat involved an ingenious experiment testing the limits of an egg's durability when dropped from a significant height.

In a video shared by GWR on Instagram, a group of men from the United States demonstrated their creative approach to this challenge. They meticulously placed an egg inside a protective shell constructed from straws and cushioned paper. Once secured, the entire setup was transported to a high altitude using a climbing device.

The dramatic moment arrived when the egg was launched into the air, equipped with a small parachute. To everyone's amazement, it successfully landed without cracking. Upon descent, the team revealed the egg, showcasing its pristine condition to the camera, which proved their method's effectiveness.



To validate that the egg was real and not a plastic substitute, one of the men dramatically threw the egg onto the ground, resulting in a satisfying crack. The video caption highlighted their achieve-

ment: "Greatest height to drop a protected egg without breaking: 25.3 m (82 ft 1.43 in) by Matthew Ma, Charlie Gawthrop, Jeffrey Wang, Derrick Wood, and Breckin Shefflerwood, US."

According to the GWR website, this impressive experiment took place in West Chester, USA, on August 18, 2024. Before their official attempt, the team used a drone to practice and refine their design, ensuring a successful outcome.

This isn't the first time egg-related records have made headlines. Previously, Gregory Da Silva from West Africa balanced a staggering 735 eggs on his hat, taking nearly three days to achieve this remarkable feat. Another notable record was set by Christopher Sander from the United States, who cracked open 18 eggs with one hand in just 30 seconds.

With such innovative and entertaining records, GWR continues to inspire both awe and amusement around the world.





# Indian Team To Bounce Back Against Pakistan

India's women's cricket team faces a crucial challenge as they prepare to take on arch-rivals Pakistan in their second group A match of the Women's T20 World Cup in Dubai. After suffering a disappointing 58-run defeat to New Zealand in their opening game, the pressure is on captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her team to regroup and address their team combination issues.

Currently, India's chances of advancing to the semifinals are precarious, with a negative run-rate of -2.99, necessitating substantial victories in their remaining matches against Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Australia. In their previous match, the team struggled in all areas, highlighted by the fact that Harmanpreet's highest score was just 15 runs.

To bounce back, the Indian side must refine their line-up. Against New Zealand, they opted for an extra pacer, leaving them one batter short and forcing a reshuffle in batting positions. Harmanpreet, typically solid at No. 4, was moved to No. 3, where she has historically struggled, failing to score a fifty in 19 previous attempts.

While the decision to field three pacers seemed strategic given the conditions, it ultimately backfired as key players like Pooja Vastrakar and left-arm spinner Radha Yadav were underutilized. Head coach Amol Muzumdar faces a critical task in reassessing the team combination, as another loss could jeopardize India's semifinal aspirations.

In contrast, Pakistan enters the match buoyed by their victory over Sri Lanka. With their own talented bowling lineup led by Fatima Sana and Nida Dar, they will pose a significant challenge to India.

With potential adjustments on the horizon, including the inclusion of Dayalan Hemalatha to strengthen the batting, the Indian team is eager to put their earlier missteps behind them. As they prepare for this high-stakes encounter, the focus will be on reclaiming their fighting spirit and restoring confidence against their formidable rivals.

# West Indies Announce Squad for Sri Lanka T20I Series

The West Indies cricket team will face a significant challenge in the upcoming three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka, set to take place from October 10-27. The squad will be without senior players Andre Russell, Nicholas Pooran, Akeal Hosein, and Shimron Hetmyer, who have opted out for personal reasons.

In response, the revamped selection committee, under head coach Darren Sammy, has called up Evin Lewis and Brandon King, both of whom bring valuable experience to the side. Lewis returns to the fold after his absence since the 2022 T20 World Cup, while King makes a comeback after recovering from a side injury that hampered his participation

earlier this year.

Rovman Powell retains his role as captain, with Roston Chase continuing as vice-captain. Sammy expressed confidence in the squad's depth, emphasizing the opportunity to evaluate players in various situations due to the absence of several senior members. "This series allows us to assess our talent and compete strongly against Sri Lanka," he stated in a release.

The West Indies recently moved up to third in the T20 rankings following a clean sweep of South Africa, and the series against Sri Lanka presents a chance to further solidify their position.



# Yashasvi Jaiswal's Stunning Start in Test Cricket

Yashasvi Jaiswal has made an explosive entry into Test cricket, emerging as a formidable force in the format. Since his debut against the West Indies in July 2023, he has amassed 1,217 runs in just 11 Tests, making him the highest run-scorer globally since his debut. With an impressive average of 64.05 and a strike rate of 71.67, Jaiswal stands out, following only cricket legends Sir Don Bradman and Kamindu Mendis in average among players with over 1,000 runs.

In 2024 alone, Jaiswal is the third-highest run-getter, racking up 929 runs in eight Tests, showcasing his consistency. He was instrumental in India's recent seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh, scoring 72 runs off 51 balls in the first innings and 51 off 45 in the second, embodying the aggressive batting philosophy reminiscent of England's 'Bazball.'

His ability to adapt was highlighted during his debut, where he scored a remarkable 171 runs, spending over eight hours at the crease and facing 387 deliveries. Jaiswal's skills have led him to become the third-fastest player to reach 1,000 Test runs, achieving the milestone in just 16 innings, just behind Vinod Kambli and Kamindu Mendis.

Notably, he also joined an elite group by scoring 209 runs in a single innings against England, with no other batsman surpassing 50 runs.

# Romelu Lukaku Shines as Napoli Defeats Como to Retain Serie A Lead

Romelu Lukaku continued to impress for Napoli, scoring once and providing two assists in a commanding 3-1 victory over Como on Friday. This win allowed Napoli to maintain its position at the top of the Serie A table for at least another week. Lukaku set the tone early by assisting Scott McTominay just 25 seconds into the match, marking the latter's first goal in Italy's top flight. He later converted a penalty seven minutes after halftime, before assisting David Neres, helping Napoli extend its lead to four points.

With Juventus trailing closely behind, they have a chance to narrow the gap to just one point if they win their upcoming match against Cagliari. Since joining Napoli under coach Antonio Conte, Lukaku has made an immediate impact, scoring three goals and providing four assists in five league appearances, demonstrating his readiness to help the team challenge for the title.

"It's going to take time because I got here late, but it's all thanks to my teammates, coaching staff, and fans that we're doing so well," Lukaku said in an interview with Sky.

The match at Stadio Diego Armando Maradona wasn't without challenges, as Como, managed by Cesc Fabregas, equalized before halftime with a stunning long-range effort from Gabriel Strefezza. Como threatened to upset the game further when Nico Paz hit the woodwork. However, Lukaku's assist for Neres' late goal in the 86th minute sealed the victory.

McTominay, who has quickly become a key player since his summer transfer from Manchester United, praised the team's quick start and acknowledged the tactical adjustments made during halftime.



# Mumbai Regains Irani Cup Title After 27 Years



Ajinkya Rahane's Mumbai team celebrated a historic victory on Saturday, reclaiming the Irani Cup by defeating the Rest of India (RoI) side at the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow. This win marked a significant milestone, as it ended a 27-year wait for the prestigious trophy, with Mumbai last securing the title in 1997-98.

The victory was achieved based on Mumbai's first-innings lead, allowing them to clinch the Irani Cup for the 15th time, a record number for any team in the Ranji Trophy's history. Rahane's squad had previously reached the finals eight times since their last triumph, showcasing their consistent performance in domestic cricket.

Mumbai's rich cricketing legacy continues to shine as they reaffirm their dominance in Indian cricket. The team's return to glory in the Irani Cup is a testament to their resilience and talent, especially in a format that celebrates the best of Indian domestic cricket.

Following this win, the players and coaching staff expressed their elation, highlighting the significance of the title for the team and its supporters. This achievement not only adds to Mumbai's storied history but also serves as a reminder of the enduring spirit of cricket in the city.

As Mumbai looks ahead, they will aim to build on this momentum, aspiring for further success in the domestic circuit and nurturing the next generation of cricketing talent. The Irani Cup victory is a proud moment for Mumbai cricket and its fans, signaling a promising future for the team.



# Varun Tej's "Matka" Teaser Unveiled



Mega Prince Varun Tej stars in the upcoming film "Matka," directed by Karuna Kumar and produced by Vyra Entertainments and SRT Entertainment. The teaser, which premiered at Raj Yuvraj Theatre in Vijayawada, has generated significant buzz for its intriguing story-line and impressive visuals.

"Matka" follows the life of Vasu, an underdog from the slums who dreams of becoming the Matka king. Instead of succumbing to a life of poverty, he embarks on a journey to achieve greatness. The teaser effectively portrays Vasu's transformation without revealing too much of the plot, captivating audiences with its depth.

Set against the vibrant backdrop of Vizag, the film spans 24 years, showcasing Vasu's remarkable evolution. Director Karuna Kumar skillfully captures this progression, highlighting Varun Tej's ability to portray different age stages convincingly. His dedication to embodying the character's variations is evident, particularly in the standout portrayal of an older version of Vasu, accentuated by distinct voice modulation.

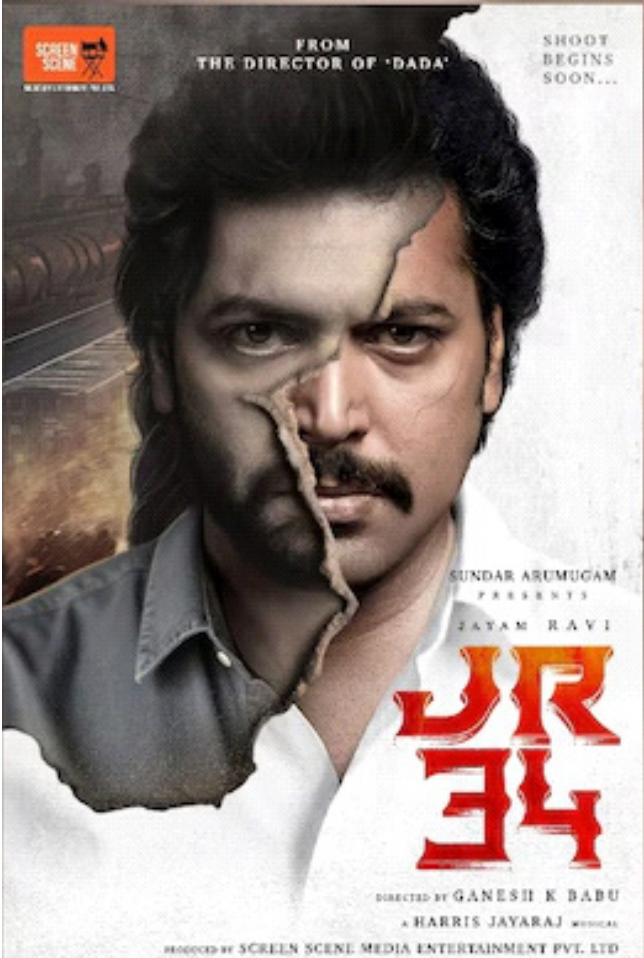
The teaser also features popular actress Nora Fatehi and Meenakshi Chaudhary, while Naveen Chandra makes a notable appearance,

closely observing Vasu's journey. An action sequence with an NTR cut-out in the background adds an exciting touch to the narrative.

Cinematographer A Kishor Kumar's work contributes significantly to the film's retro aesthetic, while GV Prakash Kumar's compelling score elevates the overall experience. The production values are top-notch, indicating a well-crafted film.

With a release date set for November 14, "Matka" is poised to be a potential winner, drawing audiences into Vasu's inspiring tale of resilience and ambition.

# Jayam Ravi's Next Film JR 34 Announced



Actor Jayam Ravi has officially announced his next project, tentatively titled JR 34, which will be directed by Ganesh K Babu. The announcement was made on social media by Ganesh K Babu, who expressed excitement about the collaboration, thanking Jayam Ravi, music composer Harris Jayaraj, and the production team.

Harris Jayaraj, a long-time collaborator with Ravi, is set to compose the music for this film. The duo has previously teamed up for successful projects such as Dhaam Dhoom, Engeyum Kadhal, and Vanamagan. Fans are eager for more details about the cast and crew, which are expected to be revealed soon.

In addition to JR 34, Jayam Ravi is preparing for the release of his upcoming film Brother, directed by M Rajesh, known for his work on Siva Manasula Sakthi and Oru Kal Oru Kannadi. Brother co-stars Priyanka Mohan and is set to hit theaters this month.

Ravi's busy schedule also includes another project titled Genie, directed by Arjunan Jr., featuring co-stars Krithi Shetty, Kalyani Priyadarshan, and Wamiqa Gabbi. Furthermore, he is working on Kadhalikka Neramillai, directed by Kiruthiga Ud-hayanidhi, alongside Nithya Menen.

# Highly-anticipated sequel falls flat at Indian box office

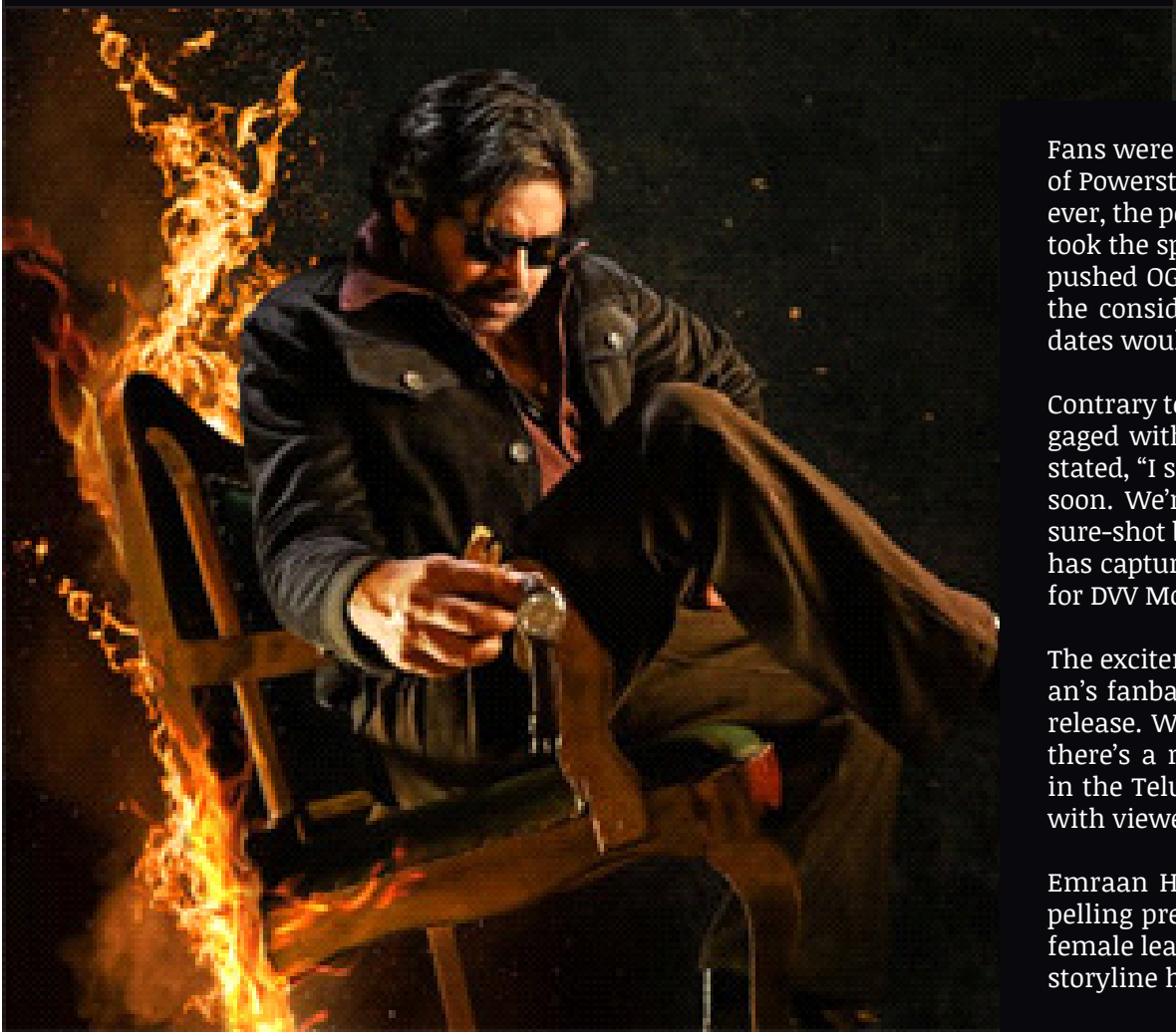


The highly anticipated sequel, \*Joker: Folie à Deux\*, hit Indian theaters on Gandhi Jayanti, aiming to recreate the magic of its predecessor, which earned Joaquin Phoenix an Academy Award. However, the film has fallen short of expectations, struggling to connect with audiences.

As of now, \*Joker 2\* has garnered a disappointing box office collection of just over Rs. 8 crore. Each day sees a decline in earnings, which poses a significant setback for Warner Bros. and DC Studios. Despite the star-studded cast featuring Lady Gaga, Brendan Gleeson, Catherine Keener, and Zazie Beetz, the film directed by Todd Phillips has failed to captivate viewers.

With the weekend approaching, hopes are pinned on whether the film can recover its footing and attract more audiences. Early reviews and audience reactions suggest that the sequel has not resonated as strongly as anticipated, leaving many fans disappointed. The industry now watches closely to see if \*Joker: Folie à Deux\* can turn things around or if it will continue to struggle at the box office.

# Anticipation Builds for Pawan Kalyan's OG as Updates Emerge



# Sudheer Babu's Maa Nanna Superhero Trailer Released



Sudheer Babu is gearing up for the release of his latest film, \*Maa Nanna Superhero\*, directed by Abhilash Reddy Kankara. As the title suggests, the movie revolves around the deep bond between a father and son, exploring the complexities of family relationships. A unique twist in the storyline features both a biological father and an adopted father, which adds layers to the emotional narrative.

In this feel-good entertainer, Sudheer Babu portrays a character raised by his adopted father, played by Sayaji Shinde, due to unavoidable circumstances surrounding his birth. The plot takes an intriguing turn when his biological father, portrayed by Sai Chand, reenters his life, prompting a dramatic shift in their dynamics.

Despite experiencing neglect from his adopted father, the son finds joy in the small moments they share together. A lighthearted moment in the film involves a humorous exchange between Sudheer Babu and Sai Chand about the former's name, Mahesh Babu, which injects some wit into the storyline.

Sudheer Babu delivers an emotionally rich performance, skillfully capturing the nuances of his character. Aarna stars as the leading lady opposite him, adding depth to the film's emotional landscape.