SIT PUBLICATIONS PVT LTD | Estd 2009 | VOL No. 17 | ISSUE No. 254 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026 | P-8 | ₹.5/- | PRGI No.KARENG/2012/43253

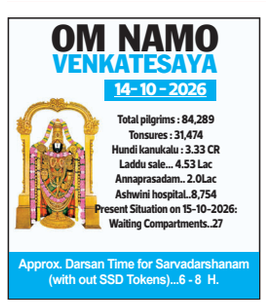
BENGALURU I CHENNAI I HYDERABAD I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Essence of the South

For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com | www.thesouthindiatimes.com | /thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in





Nation News

Kishan Reddy inaugurates NTPC-funded medical equipment at UPHCs

Russia accuses Ukraine of attacking oil refinery after Zelensky says strikes to resume



World News

"Crazy Kalyanam Is a Crazy Family Entertainer That Everyone Can Enjoy This Festive Season" – Anupama Parameswaran



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

3 Indians killed in fire incident in Germany's Bochum

Berlin, Oct 15 : As many as three Indian nationals have been killed in a fire incident in Bochum in Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia, the Indian Embassy in Germany said on Thursday. The Indian Embassy said that all three Indian nationals were studying in Germany. The Embassy said it is in contact with local authorities and the victims' families and is providing all necessary assistance. German authorities have launched a probe into the incident. "Three Indian nationals (two women and one man) have tragically lost their lives in a fire incident in Bochum, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. All 3 were studying in Germany. Embassy of India in Berlin and Consulate General of India in Frankfurt are in contact with local authorities and the bereaved families, and are extending all necessary assistance," the Indian Embassy in Germany posted on X. "The incident is under investigation by German authorities. We extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief," it added.

MODI TO INTERACT WITH ASIAN GAMES' INDIAN CONTINGENT

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to meet the Indian contingent that participated in the Asian Games 2026 on Thursday at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. The event is scheduled for around 4:30 p.m. PM Modi will also address the gathering on the occasion. Athletes from the Indian contingent, their coaches and support staff, Indian Olympic Association officials, representatives of National Sports Federations, and officials from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will attend the programme. India finished fourth in the medal tally at the Asian Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, winning 85 medals, including 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze. This was India's second-largest medal haul at the Asian Games, only behind Hangzhou 2023, where the Indian contingent bagged a record haul of 106 medals, including 28 gold, reflecting the country's growing competitiveness across a diverse range of sporting disciplines.

INDIA'S NET DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS RISE 13.2 PC TO RS 13.38 LAKH CRORE

Mumbai, Oct 15 : India's net direct tax collections grew 13.21 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 13.38 lakh crore (as of October 14) in the current financial year (FY27), driven by higher corporate tax, non-corporate tax and securities transaction tax (STT) receipts, according to data released by the Income Tax Department on Thursday. Gross direct tax collections, before adjusting for refunds, increased 14.89 per cent to Rs 16.03 lakh crore during the period, compared with Rs 13.95 lakh crore collected in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. Refunds issued by the tax department also registered a sharp increase, rising 24.22 per cent to Rs 2.65 lakh crore from a year earlier, as per the official data.

SC issues notice to EC on Rahul's plea on SIR 'irregularities'

The court also issued notice to Gandhi, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and others on a plea against their march to the apex court over alleged SIR irregularities, while observing that nobody can browbeat the judiciary



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday sought response from the Election Commission and others on a plea filed by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and several other opposition leaders over alleged large-scale voter deletions and SIR irregularities.

The court also issued notice to Gandhi, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and others on a plea against their march to the apex court over alleged SIR irregularities, while observing that nobody can browbeat the judiciary.Taking up the plea filed by the opposition leaders, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notice to the poll panel, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. "We are issuing notice ...Tagging with pending cases. But we would like to ask one of the petitioners about his conduct," the bench said. During the hearing, some lawyers referred to the Congress leader's march to the apex court over the alleged irregularities in SIR.

"Nobody can browbeat judiciary. We are not sitting in ivory towers," the bench observed. Referring to the unconditional apology tendered by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan in a contempt matter, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that tendering unconditional apology does not mean that actions cannot be defended and said it is a part of procedure. The bench told Mehta that it is not taking cognisance of media reports that authorities tendered unconditional apologies before the court.The contempt case pertained to alleged violation of the apex court's direction to ensure no "complete prohibition" on Metro and train services in Delhi in the wake of the October 10 protest called by the Cockroach Janta Party. The top court also issued notices to the Centre, others on various pleas related to the Election Commission filed by leaders like Asaduddin Owaisi.

CENTRAL PARK IN CONNAUGHT PLACE SHUT AHEAD OF CJP MARCH IN DELHI

NEW DELHI ■ TSIT:

The Central Park in Connaught Place will remain shut to the public on October 16 and 17 due to administrative reasons, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) said in a notice, a move that comes ahead of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)'s "Lehra do Tiranga" march at the park on Friday In the notice dated October 15, the civic body said, "It is hereby informed that the Central Park, Connaught Place, shall remain closed for general public on 16th October 2026 and 17th October 2026, due to administrative reasons." The Cockroach Janta Party is scheduled to take out a "Lehra do Tiranga" march at Central Park in Connaught Place on Friday. The park closure notice was issued by the NDMC director.

Murmu calls for women to become 'Crorepati Didis'



VIJAYAWADA ■ TSIT

President Droupadi Murmu and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday inaugurated the National Saras Mela 2026 in Vijayawada. The President called upon women to progress beyond becoming 'Lakhpati Didis' and emerge as 'Crorepati Didis' by establishing and expanding their own enterprises.

The President appreciated the Union Ministry of Rural Development for organising the national-level mela outside Delhi for the first time and congratulated the Chief Minister for hosting the event in Vijayawada during the Sharannavaratri festivities. Chandrababu Naidu said the state government had introduced the 'Swayam AP' brand to secure national and international recognition for products made by rural women.

He announced that one lakh self-help group members had become entrepreneurs in the past year, with a target of empowering another five lakh women to take up entrepreneurship. Stating that 650 self-help groups were participating in the 14-day mela, the Chief Minister said the event should create year-round market opportunities for rural women's products.

KTR demands independent probe into Rs 10,000-cr scam

Hyderabad (TSIT):



BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao on Wednesday demanded an independent investigation into the alleged Rs 10,000-crore scam in Singareni Collieries Company Limited and warned that the BRS would intensify its agitation to protect workers' rights and prevent privatisation of the public sector enterprise.

He accused Telangana's Congress Government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of encouraging corruption, commission-driven contracts and financial mismanagement in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

Addressing the Singareni Karmika Garjana public meeting organised by the BRS at Godavarikhani in Peddapalli district, he alleged serious irregularities in the Naini coal block tenders, site visit certificates, opencast mine contracts, machinery procurement and other operations. He demanded a probe by the CBI or a sitting judge and questioned why the Centre had failed to initiate an independent investigation despite the serious allegations. Referring to claims that cancellation of the Naini tenders had saved Rs 30,000 crore, the BRS leader asked who had allegedly sought to benefit from the deal and why the tender process had been repeatedly delayed. He alleged that the site visit certificate system was being misused and that tender decisions were benefiting contractors at the expense of Singareni.Rama Rao accused the Congress Government of failing to safeguard the company's financial interests. He claimed that Rs 6,317 crore had been diverted over two financial years and alleged that approximately 40 lakh metric tonnes of coal had gone missing.

'Nobody can browbeat us': SC issues notice on plea seeking action over Oppn march



"Nobody can browbeat us," the CJI Kant-led Bench responded, observing that such attempts were "fragile" and that nobody took notice of them.

New Delhi, Oct 15 : The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notice on a plea seeking safeguards against political demonstrations in and around court premises in the backdrop of the Opposition INDIA bloc leaders' protest march towards the apex court on October 12, with Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant observing that "nobody can browbeat" the top court and directing the preservation of CCTV footage and other digital evidence relating to the incident.

A Bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notice on the petition after senior advocate Gaurav Bhatia, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that it was unacceptable that the Supreme Court had to deal with a political procession.

"We are not sitting in ivory towers. We know what statements they make outside and what they say in court. We know everything," the apex court remarked.

The proceedings follow petitions moved by four advocates seeking a uniform framework to regulate political processions and demonstrations around the Supreme Court and High Courts, including a prohibition on political protests inside court premises.

The petitioners have contended that political mobilisation must not be allowed to interfere with the administration of justice or create pressure on courts in matters pending adjudication. They have also sought preservation of CCTV footage, visitor and access-control records, and security reports relating to the October 12 incident.

The pleas further seek an examination of the conduct of political leaders and consideration of criminal contempt proceedings if their actions are found to warrant such action.

The controversy stems from the protest march undertaken by the INDIA bloc leaders, including Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, towards the Supreme Court to raise concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The march came after the CJI declined a request by Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to meet him and submit a memorandum on the issue, observing that the matters raised by them were already pending before the top court. In his response to the Opposition leaders, the CJI said that convening a meeting to discuss pending cases would be contrary to the constitutional principle of separation of powers, an intrinsic facet of the basic structure doctrine.

He also clarified that the Supreme Court did not exercise administrative powers to deal with the issues highlighted in their letter but remained duty-bound to examine matters affecting citizens' rights through its judicial jurisdiction.

TVK joins INDIA bloc stir against 'voter deletions' in Chennai

Chennai: The INDIA bloc constituents of Tamil Nadu staged a major "protect democracy" agitation here on Thursday, October 15, demanding CEC Gyanesh Kumar's removal and against the Centre over alleged electoral roll manipulation, with the ruling TVK, in a first, joining the protest as a part of the opposition grouping. TVK's participation in the protest came days after it joined the INDIA bloc.A large number of party workers belonging to constituent parties joined the agitation, and the leaders, one after the other, spoke denouncing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. However, the stir exposed the faultlines within the opposition alliance with VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan declaring that the DMK's April 2026 electoral defeat was an "artificial loss" engineered by the Central government, rather than a genuine mandate for change.

Malayappa Swamy blesses devotees on Sarvabhupala Vahanam

Tirumala: Sri Malayappa Swamy, adorned as Venugopala Swamy with Rukmini and Satyabhama, blessed devotees on the Sarvabhupala Vahanam on Thursday night as part of the Navaratri Brahmotsavams of Lord Venkateswara.

The procession moved through the four Mada streets from 7 pm to 9 pm amid devotional bhajans, auspicious music and Vedic recitations by Jeeyars. Caparisoned elephants led the procession as devotees offered camphor haratis and chanted Govinda's name.



The Sarvabhupala Vahanam symbolises the service rendered by the guardians of the eight directions to the Almighty and conveys the message that rulers should govern according to dharma and work for the welfare of the people.

On Friday, the Lord will appear in the Mohini Avataram in the morning and on the Garuda Vahanam at night.

Pedda and Chinna Jeeyar Swamijis, TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu, Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra, Additional EO C.H. Venkaiah Chowdary, board members and other officials participated in the event.

'Please pretend I'm running': Trump asks voters ahead of Nov midterms

Washington, Oct 15 : US President Donald Trump has urged Americans to treat the November 3 Congressional midterm elections as though he were personally on the ballot, saying Republican candidates need his supporters to turn out in large numbers to prevent Democrats from reversing his administration's policies.

Speaking at an election rally in Bullhead City, Arizona, and later to reporters before leaving for Montana, Trump said he was undertaking an extensive campaign tour despite not being a candidate himself.



"So essentially I'm saying, 'Please pretend I'm running.' And in a true sense, I am running because I don't want them tearing down what we've built," Trump told reporters.

The President said he expected to hold about 32 or 33 campaign rallies before the elections, describing the response from Republican supporters as extraordinary.

"And, I wasn't gonna do this, but, you know, we're gonna end up doing about 32, 33 of them," he said.

Trump said he had already completed approximately eight rallies and was preparing for another major gathering in Montana.

He argued that Republican turnout declined significantly when he was not personally contesting an election. "When I don't run, which, you know, in theory I'm not running, but I feel that I'm running. When I don't run, we get 49 per cent less turnout," he said.

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

Presence of mosques, Eidgahs can't be grounds to deny RSS route march permission: Madras High Court

VG Jagadeesan, State secretary of RSS's north Tamil Nadu unit, approached the court seeking permission to conduct route marches followed by public meetings across Tamil Nadu on October 18,



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu police cannot deny permission for RSS route marches merely because mosques and Eidgahs were located along the proposed routes, said the Madras High Court, observing that citing such reasons would portray Muslims in a bad light.

VG Jagadeesan, State secretary of RSS's north Tamil Nadu unit, approached the court seeking permission to conduct route marches followed by public meetings across Tamil Nadu on October 18, October 25, and November 1.

Madras High Court directs CCB to reply to Anbil Mahesh's anticipatory bail pleaHe had submitted a representation to the State police chief on October 3 seeking directions to all Commissioners and Superintendents to grant permission for the marches. However, the DGP had not issued any directions, he said.

When the case came up for hearing again, Justice V Lakshminarayanan took strong objection to the State citing the presence of mosques and Eidgahs along the proposed routes as a reason for denying permission, stating that it would portray Muslims in a bad light.The judge noted that an Eidgah was for gathering and praying during Ramzan and Bakrid. "You're saying that they (Muslims) will celebrate Ramzan in October? You're giving a bad name to Muslims," the court told the State.

The judge added that it was a matter of agony that the police portrayed the minority community as having issues with the procession. "Citizens' rights cannot be surrendered to the whims and fancies of the police," the judge remarked. The court pointed out that while laying down detailed guidelines to prevent unnecessary litigation over RSS route marches, Justice G Jayachandran had rejected reasons such as the presence of mosques and churches, possible traffic congestion, and organisations with different ideologies, terming them "lame".

TN schools told to complete Class 10 exam registration by Oct 31; exam fee fixed at Rs 115

Schools have been instructed to verify students' personal details, upload the required documents and collect exam fees from eligible candidates before submitting the details online.

CHENNAI: The Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE) has directed all government and private high and higher secondary schools in Tamil Nadu to complete the registration of students appearing for the Class 10 public exam by October 31.

Schools have been instructed to verify students' personal details, upload the required documents and collect exam fees from eligible candidates before submitting the details online.Applications open for AYUSH



diploma courses; last date October 29 The exam fee has been fixed at Rs 115 per student. Schools must remit the collected exam fees online through the portal by October 31.

The directorate has also instructed all schools to pay Rs 300 towards the preparation and online release of the Tamil Language Mandatory (TML) exam question paper timetable and mark list. This payment must also be made by October 31.

For students with disabilities who seek exam concessions, schools have been directed to upload scanned copies of the relevant disability identity card or the appropriate medical certificate issued by an authorised medical board, as applicable.

The directorate has specified several categories of students who are exempted from paying the exam fee.

All students studying in the Tamil-medium stream are exempted from the exam fee. Students studying in other mediums in government and government-aided schools are also eligible for exemption if they belong to the specified categories and satisfy the applicable conditions.

SIR: TVK, Cong, other INDIA Bloc constituents hold protest demanding CEC's resignation



CHENNAI: Stepping up the heat against Gyanesh Kumar over the SIR process, the INDIA Bloc in Tamil Nadu held a massive protest here condemning the "murder of democracy" and demanding the removal of the CEC, with the agitation witnessing the participation of C Joseph Vijay-led TVK in the state days after it joined the opposition alliance.

The TVK, its key ally, the Congress and other constituents of the INDIA Bloc including VCK attended the protest seeking action against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Incidentally,VCK founder Thol Thirumavalavan, who walked out of the DMK-led alliance post April elections to back the TVK government, blamed the SIR for the Dravidian party's loss in the hustings.

"The DMK was defeated through a systematic process of targeted voter deletion and electoral manipulation," he said, suggesting that individuals were specifically targeted to ensure a negative outcome for the then ruling party.

Thursday's protest was led by Tamil Nadu Congress chief B Manickam Tagore and represented by School Education Minister A Rajmohan on behalf of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). It saw the cadres of the INDIA Bloc gather in large numbers, display their respective party flags and raise slogans seeking the immediate resignation of the CEC over the SIR exercise.

At the protest, various speakers alleged that millions of voters - specifically Muslims, tribal groups, and marginalised communities - were systematically removed from the electoral rolls under the SIR process, asserting that over 97 lakh voters were struck off the roles in Tamil Nadu alone.

They argued that this process undermined the Constitution and represented a "democratic massacre" and expressed concerns that election processes were being manipulated to favour the ruling party, ie BJP.

They demanded transparency and the immediate reinstatement of unfairly removed voters. Rajmohan highlighted his party's long-standing opposition to the SIR of electoral rolls and commitment to protecting democratic rights.

According to VCK MP Thirumavalavan, the DMK's defeat in the April 2026 Assembly election was "not a natural loss."

He alleged a systematic "theft of votes" and a "conspiracy" involving the Central government and the EC targeting political opponents in removing voters from the rolls during the SIR process.

Two more arrested in the case of the pregnant woman's murder in Kanchipuram!



Kanchipuram, Oct. 16 : Somasuntharam (35), a resident of the village of pazhaiya seevaram near Kanchipuram, is a member of the village police force. He got married to a woman named Sonia (28) eight months ago. In this context, Sonia, who was five months pregnant, was found dead with neck injuries at her husband's house on July 28. Following a complaint lodged by the deceased woman's relatives at the Salavakkam police station, Sonia's husband Somasuntharam was immediately arrested. Subsequently, based on the complaint of the deceased woman's brother regarding dowry harassment, the Salavakkam police arrested Somasuntharam's mother Manjula,(53) and his brother Yogaraj, (37) after the R.T.O. investigation confirmed their involvement, and they were imprisoned in Vellore jail.

Intensive work is underway to demolish and reconstruct the seventh dam that has been blocked in the Uthiramerur Lake!

Kanchipuram, Oct. 16 : Intensive work is ongoing to demolish and reconstruct the seventh dam that has been blocked in the Uthiramerur Lake. Uthiramerur Lake is one of the largest lakes in Kanchipuram district. The water collected in this lake provides irrigation facilities to 5,500 acres of agricultural land across 15 villages. The seventh dam among the 18 dams here had been blocked for a long time. As a result, even when the dam was opened, insufficient water was released, and only a small amount of water flowed out.

Scientists Sequence Arabica Genome, Opening Doors to Climate-Resilient Coffee

The work makes it possible to tell the story of the fusion of genomes that gave rise to the world's most consumed species, as well as identifying genes responsible for resistance to rust and other diseases.

Coffee is one of the world's most traded commodities, and Coffea arabica is the most widely consumed of the 130 or so species that exist. It is the result of the fusion of two other species: Coffea canephora (known in Brazil as Conilon or Robusta coffee) and Coffea eugenioides. In the last decade, almost every major commodity in the world has had a reference genome sequenced, but coffee has only recently joined the list.



The reference genome is essential for developing varieties that are better adapted to climate change and resistant to disease. By sequencing the reference genome of Arabica coffee in an unprecedented endeavor, a consortium of scientists was able to select genes that may be responsible (candidate genes) for coffee's resistance to rust and other diseases. At the same time, they identified the expression of some genes related to the aroma of Arabica. The Power of Genomic Knowledge "With the knowledge of the genome, it is possible to obtain information that allows us to go in two directions: the development of varieties by directing crossbreeding, in other words, as a reference to guide us in future crossbreeding that produces new varieties; and more direct interventions, such as modifying a gene specifically," summarizes Douglas Domingues, currently a researcher at the Plant Genomics and Transcriptomics Group of the Luiz de Queiroz School of Agriculture at the University of São Paulo (ESALQ-USP), in Brazil, and one of the authors of the paper (developed when he was still working at the Rio Claro campus of the São Paulo State University).

According to him, there was a bit of a race to sequence the genome. "The price of sequencing has come down a lot, and coffee was one of the few commodities that hadn't had its reference genome sequenced. There were other groups trying, and there was a paper published just before ours. But most of them used the standard strategy: choosing an interesting plant for cultivation and sequencing its genome," he reports.

Unique Approach to Sequencing

The group to which Domingues belongs has sequenced a plant that is not interesting from an agronomic point of view but has a lot to offer from a genetic point of view. "The advantage of our reference genome is that it's derived from a 'dihaploid' individual. This results in a homogeneous reference genome that will be a superior standard for future research," explains Patrick Descombes, coordinator of the work and senior expert in genomics at the Nestlé Institute of Food Safety & Analytical Sciences. He explains that Arabica coffee is a tetraploid: it has two genomes in one because it is the fusion of two other species.

By sequencing a dihaploid derived from Arabica coffee compared to a common tetraploid variety, scientists get a clearer and more simplified view of the genome. This makes it possible to identify variations between similar genes with greater precision, facilitating the use of molecular information for improvement studies.

In this study, the group was able to determine more precisely when this fusion took place: no more than 600,000 years ago, C. canephora and C. eugenioides fused to form this tetraploid hybrid, which continued its evolutionary path. "We came to this conclusion using DNA information from Arabica, Robusta and Eugenioides: we were able to make a more accurate inference because previously this interval was dated at between 50,000 and 1 million years. We reduced that window to 350,000 to 600,000 years," reports Domingues.

The article, published recently in Nature Genetics, was the result of a consortium of scientists from more than ten countries, including Brazil, which participated with more than one institution. In Domingues' case, his participation was partially funded by FAPESP through a Young Researcher project and a postdoctoral fellowship awarded to Suzana Tiemi Ivamoto-Suzuki, also an author of the article. "We used the reference sequence to understand the diversity that exists in wild Arabica coffees, from the African region of origin, and compare this with the Arabica coffees that are cultivated today," says the ESALQ-USP scientist, explaining that the group resequenced Arabica coffee varieties planted in different parts of the world, as well as wild specimens collected in the forests of Ethiopia, and managed to understand the difference between the wild and cultivated ones.

Tracing Arabica's Evolutionary History

To gain a genomic perspective on the evolutionary history of Arabica, the consortium sequenced 46 accessions, including three Robusta, two Eugenioides and 41 Arabica. The latter included an 18th-century type specimen (the physical specimen designated by the author of the taxon at the time of the description as the material on which it was based), 12 cultivars with different breeding histories, the Timor hybrid (a spontaneous cross of Arabica with the pest-resistant C. canephora Robusta variety) and five of its backcrosses with Arabica and 17 wild accessions plus three wild/cultivated ones collected from the east and west sides of the Great Rift Valley in Ethiopia."We used the latest genomic technologies, i.e. long reads from the high-fidelity PacBio system [for gene sequencing] and proximity ligation with short reads from Illumina [an integrated system for analyzing genetic variation and biological function], to generate the chromosome assembly.

This combination resulted in a chromosome-level assembly of the highest quality and integrity," says Descombes. According to the ESALQ-USP professor, among the cultivated species, something very important for breeding was the introduction of genes for resistance to coffee leaf rust. "In the 1930s, Brazil played an important role in this regard. And the IAC [Agronomic Institute of Campinas, also in the state of São Paulo] is a pioneering center for studies and breeding. IAC researchers provided us with plants that predate the institution's breeding program, which dates back to the 1930s. Disease-oriented breeding emerged between the 1960s and 1970s, and the main work was to cross a rust-resistant Arabica plant, the so-called Timor hybrid, with plants grown in various countries so that the new varieties would be resistant. But it wasn't known which genes were responsible for the resistance."

Discovered in the fields of Timor Island in the 1920s, the Timor hybrid is naturally resistant to rust and other diseases. "In addition to rust, coffee berry disease, coffee berry borer and coffee stem borer are three other major pests affecting production in many regions of the world. Climate change is also a key concern in the control of pests and diseases, as it allows them to spread to new regions. The trade of green coffee beans between different regions is another factor that can facilitate the spread of certain pests and diseases to new areas," reveals Maud Lepelley, manager of the Plant Genetics and Chemistry group at the Nestlé Institute of Agricultural Sciences.In the paper now published, the group has managed to find sets of genes already linked in the literature to disease resistance that are only present in post-improvement varieties. "Somehow the Timor hybrid managed to get these resistance genes, and now we know which ones. There are dozens of them, but we've narrowed the search. Arabica coffee has 69,000 genes; we've narrowed it down to just under 30 genes. Being able to identify these candidate resistance genes.

A Lunar Orbit That's Just Right for Humanity's First Space Station Around the Moon



A unique halo orbit is the road less traveled around the Moon. As NASA prepares for humanity's long-term return to the lunar surface through the Artemis missions, the agency is introducing novel concepts – backed up by science and decades of experience in human spaceflight – to blaze new trails on and around the Moon.

An international collaboration, Gateway is a human-tended, small station that will orbit the Moon. The lunar outpost is specially designed to enable deep space exploration with many capabilities for maintaining a sustained presence in space and conducting research in a deep space environment. Features like a human habitat, multiple docking ports for a variety of spacecraft, including Orion, and the ability to host experiments that will study space weather will all help contribute to future exploration efforts. Similarly, Gateway's unique near-rectilinear halo orbit, or NRHO, was specifically chosen to help ensure the success of future Artemis missions.There is no shortage of options for how a spacecraft could orbit the Moon, but two in particular – low lunar orbit and distant retrograde orbit – are helpful for understanding why NRHO is the right fit for Gateway.

A spacecraft in low lunar orbit follows a circular or elliptical path very close to the lunar surface, completing an orbit every two hours. Transit between Gateway and the lunar surface would be quite simple in a low lunar orbit given their proximity, but because of the Moon's gravity, more propellant is required to maintain the orbit. Therefore, low lunar orbit is not very efficient for Gateway's planned long-term presence at the Moon – at least 15 years. Meanwhile, a distant retrograde orbit provides a large, circular, and stable (or more fuel-efficient) orbit that circles the Moon every two weeks. However, what Gateway would gain in a stable orbit, it would lose in easy access to the Moon: the distant orbit would make it harder to get to the lunar surface.A third option, NRHO, is just right for Gateway, marrying the upsides of low lunar orbit (surface access) with the benefits of distant retrograde orbit (fuel efficiency). Hanging almost like a necklace from the Moon, NRHO is a one-week orbit that is balanced between the Earth's and Moon's gravity. This orbit will periodically bring Gateway close enough to the lunar surface to provide simple access to the Moon's South Pole where astronauts will test capabilities for living on other planetary bodies, including Mars. NRHO can also provide astronauts and their spacecraft with access to other landing sites around the Moon in addition to the South Pole. The benefits of NRHO don't end with surface access and fuel efficiency. NRHO will allow scientists to take advantage of the deep space environment for a new era of radiation experiments that will inspire a greater understanding of potential impacts of space weather on people and instruments. NRHO will also give Gateway a continuous line of sight, or "view," of Earth, translating to uninterrupted communication between Earth and the Moon.

H.D. Kumaraswamy is the lowest-level politician when it comes to blackmail tactics.



Bengaluru: KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar has alleged that H.D. Kumaraswamy is the "lowest-level politician" when it comes to employing tactics like lies, malicious propaganda, and blackmail. Manohar stated that this reality is becoming increasingly evident day by day—not just within Karnataka, but now across the entire nation.

In a press statement, Manohar questioned whether H.D. Kumaraswamy is currently recalling his own past experience of tapping the phones of ministers and heads of religious institutions (mathadishas) during his tenure as Chief Minister. He emphasized that the Congress party and the Chief Minister do not engage in such low-level politics, noting that this is, in fact, Kumaraswamy's own characteristic political style.

Manohar pointed out that H.D. Kumaraswamy—who failed in his previous campaigns, including the protests regarding the Bidadi Township and the NICE project, as well as his attempt to use a 'pen drive' as a political weapon—is now initiating a new ploy to further his own political interests.

He further remarked that H.D. Kumaraswamy's political pettiness and poor taste clearly reflect his true character. Manohar demanded that Kumaraswamy either disclose the documents he claims to possess or, if he lacks the capability to produce such evidence, immediately apologize to the people of the state. Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy seems to have developed an intense obsession with the CBI and the issue of phone tapping. He must first provide a clarification to the people of the state regarding the allegations of phone tapping leveled against him. Furthermore, given that he previously criticized the CBI but is now demanding a CBI investigation.

Vijay Sales' Grand Electronics Sale Brings Up to 65% Off on Festive Gifts and Home Upgrades.



Bengaluru : The festive season is a time for thoughtful gifting, joyful get-togethers and giving every corner of the home a fresh, celebratory glow. Making these moments even more rewarding, Vijay Sales, one of India's leading electronics retail chains, has announced its Grand Electronics Sale, bringing together exciting savings across electronics, home appliances and lifestyle technology - online and at stores nationwide.

Whether shoppers are choosing a memorable gift for someone special, setting up a cinematic entertainment space for festive evenings, refreshing the kitchen for family feasts or adding smart conveniences to a new home, the sale offers something for every festive plan and budget.

Commenting on the sale, Nilesh Gupta, Director, Vijay Sales, said, "The festive season is when families come together, upgrade their homes and gift their loved ones something special. With the Grand Electronics Sale, we wanted to make it easier for every household to bring home what they have been planning for all year. We have brought together the best brands, strong festive prices, attractive bank offers and easy payment options, both online and in our stores, so that every customer can celebrate with technology that fits their home and their budget."

The festive line-up features category-wide discounts on audio products & Smartwatches starting at only 599, up to 65% on televisions, up to 60% on washing machines, air conditioners and microwaves, up to 55% on laptops, and up to 50% on mobiles and water purifiers. Customers can browse Top Festive Deals and shop by budget to find products that suit both the occasion and the recipient.

For thoughtful gifting, shoppers can explore personal-audio products, smartwatches, grooming and styling essentials, speakers, tablets and compact kitchen appliances. Select highlights include the boAt Party Pal 450 wireless party speaker at 60% off, the Ninja Blast portable cordless blender at just 3,499, the Bombay Shaving Company beard trimmer at just 529 and the Philips OneBlade grooming kit at 35% off - useful picks for hosts, travelers, fitness enthusiasts and style-conscious loved ones.

Those looking to make their homes look their festive best can choose from televisions, immersive sound systems and design-forward appliances. Selected offers include up to 64% off on the VISE by Vijay Sales 32-inch HD Smart QLED TV, 56% off on a Panasonic 75-inch 4K QLED Smart Google TV, 42% off on a JBL Dolby Digital 2.1 sound bar and 43% off on the TCL C6K 55-inch QD-Mini LED Smart Google TV. These additions can help turn living rooms into inviting spaces for movie nights, music and festive gatherings.

The sale also brings practical upgrades for busy festive homes. Customers can explore Air Fryers starting at 2,800, Water Purifier starting at 6,659, Side-by-Side refrigerators at up to 50% off and washing machines at up to 50% off. Dishwashers, garment steamers, vacuum cleaners, air purifiers, induction cooktops and smart fans add further choice for easier hosting and everyday living.

Adding more value to festive shopping, customers can avail instant discounts on eligible card transactions with participating banking partners. Customers can also avail benefits of No Cost EMI, product coupons as well as various finance schemes available on eligible products, helping shoppers complete last-minute gifting and home preparations with added convenience.

"ARREST ME IF YOU DARE": KUMARASWAMY LAUNCHES BROADSIDE AGAINST CONGRESS GOVERNMENT



Bengaluru, : Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Thursday challenged the Karnataka government to arrest him, accusing the Congress leadership of attempting to suppress his voice amid controversies surrounding the NICE land project, a purported sting operation and alleged police excesses.

Speaking to reporters at JP Bhavan, the former Chief Minister questioned Home Minister Priyank Kharge's response to the allegations and demanded an independent investigation into issues involving the state government.

From 0 to 55 Virtual Kitchens in a year, Kouzina Accelerates Vasudev Adiga's Expansion in Bengaluru

VASUDEV ADIGA'S

ವಾಸುದೇವ್ ಅಡಿಗಾಸ್

Bengaluru : Since acquiring Vasudev Adiga's, Kouzina Food Tech has grown the brand from 0 to 55 delivery-focused kitchens across Bangalore. Company has scaled the business, while retaining the flavours and familiarity that have made Vasudev Adiga's a trusted South Indian name.All 55 kitchens operate through Kouzina's franchise network and are delivery-led. For the next phase of growth, Kouzina is inviting established Bengaluru restaurants and commercial kitchen operators to add the Vasudev Adiga's menu and brand within their existing licensed kitchens., helping them access additional delivery demand without investing in a separate outlet. Kouzina reports strong customer retention and repeat ordering across active Vasudev Adiga's locations. The company attributes this response to the brand's trusted Udupi flavours, standardized recipes and consistent delivery experience, supported by customer feedback and order-level performance data. "Growing Vasudev Adiga's from 0 to 55 virtual kitchens in a year shows what is possible when a trusted culinary brand is supported by technology, disciplined operations and the right partners. Bengaluru remains central to this story, and we now want more strong restaurant operators in the city to grow with us." said Shrikanth.

NAARM celebrates Women Farmers' Day



Hyderabad, October 15: The ICAR–National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad, celebrated Women Farmers' Day 2026 on Thursday, highlighting women's contributions to agriculture and the importance of their socio-economic empowerment.

Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, former professor at NIRDPR, Hyderabad, stressed the need for women farmers to prioritise their health and take precautions against occupational hazards. She advised them to use masks, gloves and protective equipment while handling pesticides and other agricultural chemicals. She also highlighted the role of Self-Help Groups in promoting women's self-reliance.

Dr. Gopal Lal, Joint Director of ICAR–NAARM, encouraged women farmers to adopt modern technologies, including drones and farm machinery, to reduce physical labour and improve efficiency.

Lavanya, an ICAR Best Woman Farmer Award recipient from Telakapally village in Nagarkurnool district, shared her experience of cultivating 70 acres through organic and multicrop farming, including saffron rice. Rajeswari, a farmer from Siddapur village in Rangareddy district, explained her use of sustainable practices involving cow dung, neem-based inputs and other organic methods.

Progressive women farmers Saraswathi, Laxmamma, Prabhavati, Y. Rajeswari and Lavanya were felicitated. The programme also featured farmers' success stories, a demonstration of vermicompost preparation and an expert talk on women's socio-economic empowerment.

Dr Sudha Yadav to take oath as K'aka Governor on October 16



BNG: Senior BJP leader Dr Sudha Yadav has been appointed as the new Governor of Karnataka, succeeding Thawarchand Gehlot, whose five-year tenure has come to an end. Yadav, the wife of a soldier who was killed in the Kargil War, holds a PhD in chemistry and is a former Lok Sabha member. She is also a prominent member of the BJP Parliamentary Board.

Yadav is scheduled to arrive in Bengaluru at 6.45 pm on Thursday, October 15, ahead of her swearing-in ceremony the following morning. She will be administered the oath of office at 10 am on Friday, October 16, at the Glass House in Lok Bhavan, the official residence of the Governor.

The Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court will administer the oath to the incoming Governor. Preparations for the ceremony have been completed at Lok Bhavan, with senior officials making arrangements for the formal transition. Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, Director General and Inspector General of Police M.A. Saleem, and Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao are expected to receive Yadav at the HAL airport on her arrival.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, ministers, BJP leaders and other dignitaries are expected to attend the swearing-in ceremony. The appointment brings a change in the state's constitutional leadership following Gehlot's completion of his term. Gehlot was given a farewell at Lok Bhavan on Wednesday. Officials and staff of the Governor's office gathered at the banquet hall to thank him for his service and wish him well for the future.

Addressing the gathering, Gehlot described his opportunity to serve Karnataka as a privilege. He said he had learnt a great deal from the state and its people, and had worked with sincerity and honesty for their welfare during his tenure.

Milann's Multidisciplinary Fertility Preservation Helps Woman with Recurrent Ovarian Tumour Achieve Pregnancy

Bengaluru : A 32-year-old woman with a rare and recurrent ovarian tumour has preserved her fertility and achieved a successful live birth through a carefully planned fertility-preservation and IVF approach at Milann Fertility & Birthing Hospital, Bengaluru.

The treatment was led by Dr. Shilpa Reddy, Consultant – Reproductive Medicine & Gynecology, Dr. Varini N, Senior Consultant - Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Dr. Mohammed Ashraf C, Scientific Director, Head of Embryology, and Dr. Monisha Ravi, Jr Consultant – Reproductive Medicine, at Milann Fertility & Birthing Hospital. The case was challenging as the woman had recurrent ovarian disease, very little ovarian tissue remaining after two previous surgeries at another hospital, and a low ovarian reserve. Despite this, she strongly wished to have a child using her own eggs.At another hospital, she was first diagnosed at 30, when a large cyst measuring 11.2 × 7.6 × 8 cm was found in her right ovary, along with a smaller endometriotic cyst in the left ovary. She underwent minimally invasive surgery, and testing confirmed a rare borderline seromucinous ovarian tumour with microinvasion. This means the tumour was not clearly cancerous but had a very small area where abnormal cells had entered the surrounding ovarian tissue. Atypical cells were also found in the fluid around the abdominal organs, so she was placed under regular ultrasound monitoring.

Fifteen months later, an MRI detected a large 15 x 10 cm cyst, this time in the left ovary. Surgery was done for the same, which confirmed a microinvasive seromucinous BOT with abnormal p53 expression, which is a risk factor for abnormal cell growth

Within three months, the tumour returned in the same ovary. She was then referred to Milann - Fertility and Birthing Hospital for specialised oncofertility care, which focuses on preserving fertility in patients with cancer or cancer-related conditions.At this stage, imaging showed an 11.3 × 7.4 × 7.4 cm complex cyst in the left ovary, with only two visible follicles, the structures that contain eggs. The right ovary was not visualised, and her AMH level was 0.6 ng/ml, indicating a very low ovarian reserve.The case was reviewed by specialists in reproductive medicine, gynaecologic oncology and pathology. Removal of both ovaries and fallopian tubes, along with the omentum, a layer of fatty tissue covering the abdominal organs was recommended for definitive treatment. However, the couple wanted to explore the possibility of having a genetically related child using her own eggs.After counselling, the team planned a two-step approach: first addressing the recurrent tumour while preserving access to the remaining ovarian tissue, followed by controlled ovarian stimulation and egg retrieval before definitive treatment.The patient underwent surgery to remove the affected ovarian tissue. Testing again confirmed a borderline seromucinous ovarian tumour with microinvasion, but importantly, there was no evidence of tumour spread into the surrounding tissues.

The fertility team then planned IVF while aiming to minimise oestrogen exposure. A low-oestrogen stimulation protocol was used to control hormone levels while allowing the remaining ovarian tissue to produce eggs. The first embryo transfer did not result in pregnancy. The team then evaluated the uterus through hysteroscopy and specialised testing, which suggested chronic endometritis, or long-term inflammation of the uterine lining. She was treated with antibiotics followed by probiotics to improve the uterine environment.

For the next attempt, the team chose a natural-cycle frozen embryo transfer to avoid additional hormonal stimulation. The uterine lining developed well, and a single high-quality 4AA blastocyst was transferred.Fourteen days later, the pregnancy test was strongly positive. A seven-week ultrasound confirmed a healthy singleton pregnancy. The patient continued regular oncological surveillance alongside pregnancy care and subsequently delivered a healthy baby.

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.
Corporate Office : Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400 028

POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Brief details of secured assets	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1.	Raghuveer Nulvi/ Praveena A Nulvi/ HUB-HL-000198/ Hubli	All part and parcel of property No.151400502000102768 ie VPC No.26 measuring 111.48 Sq mtr situated in Ward no.III, Shigli Village, Laxmeshwar Taluka and Sub-registrar Jurisdiction in Gadag District and same is bounded as under; East by:. Property of Shirabadagi West by: Property of Gondakarvar North by: 20 ft mud road, South by: Property of Bagewadi	23-Jul-2026/ Rs. 5,04,016/- Rupees Five Lakh Four Thousand Sixteen Only.	14-Oct-2026
2.	L Bhagyashri/ S Devraj/ 070-07000094/ Shivamogga	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Property Situated Within Shikaripura-taluk, Maravalli Grama Panchayath Limits, Gudedahalli Village, Bearing Panchayath Property No: 42 And E-khata Property No: 152400400100200216, Measuring 6.40x25 Meter or In Total. 160.00 Sq. Meters. Bounded By- North- Road South- Chandya Naika Property East- Dharmi Bai Property West- Hobayanaika Property.	23-Jul-2026/ Rs. 8,47,862/- Rupees Eight Lakh Fourty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Two Only.	15-Oct-2026

Date: October 16, 2026,
Place: Gadag, Gudedahalli

Sd/- Authorized Officer,
Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited

Protium | **PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED**
(Formerly known as Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.)
Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase – I Nirlon Knowledge Park, Pahadi Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Cama Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai- 400063, Maharashtra.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Protium Finance Ltd.** the same shall be referred herein after as **Protium Finance Ltd.** The Secured Assets will be sold on **"As is where is"**, **"As is what is"**, and **"Whatever there is"** basis through E-Auction.

It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website **http://bankauctions.in/**

1	Account Number	GS078EEL2467997
2	Name of borrower, co-borrower, Mortgagors	(Borrower) A S Silk Through Its Proprietor Mohammed Shafi S/o Mohammed Ismail (Co-borrower) (1.) Mohammed Mubarak S/o Mohammed Shafi (2.) Shafeenaz W/o Mohammed Shafi (3.) Mohammed Shafi S/o Mohammed Ismail All having address at: No 35/2 Ward No 12 Tippu Nagar Ramanagaram 562159 Bengaluru, Karnataka 562159
3	Date of Demand Notice	04-Mar-26
4	Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2)	27,72,073.87/- (Twenty Seven Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Seventy Three Rupees and Eighty Seven Paise Only) as on 4th Mar 2026
5	Date of Symbolic Possession	22-May-26 (SYMBOLIC POSSESSION)
6	Amount as on date	27,26,817.41/- (Rupees Twenty-Seven Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventeen Paise and Forty-One Only) as on 13 Oct 2026

7 **Descriptions of the property/Properties :** All That Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable Property Bearing Decided No.382/A/624/A/35/2, Property 12-2-13-15, Old Property No. 35/2 Measuring East To West 8.839218 Mtr And North To South 12.192024 Mtr Total Measuring 107.767480 Sq Mtr, Situated At 2nd Stage, Amanekere Kottipura, Ramanagar Town, Ramanagar District And Bounded On: **East:** Property Belongs To Ghaffar Saheb, **West:** Property Belongs To Ghaffar Saheb, **North:** Property Belongs To Shukur, **South:** Road

8	Reserve Price	24,90,024/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Lakh Ninety Thousand Twenty-Four Only)
9	Earnest Money Deposit	2,49,002.4/- (Rupees Two Lakh Forty-Nine Thousand Two and Paise Forty Only)
10	Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.)	Rs. 5,000/-
11	E-Auction Date and Time	18th Nov' 2026 at 11:00 am to 2:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 min each)
12	EMD Submission Last Date	17th Nov' 2026 up to 5:00 PM.
13	Inspection Date	04th-Nov'-2026 BETWEEN 11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

1. All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website **https://bankauctions.in** & **https://protium.co.in/** For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may Contact **Mr. Nitesh D Pawar** Contact number: **8142000725/ 8142000066**.email id: **nitesh@bankauctions.in** / **info@bankauctions.in**

• For further details on terms and conditions please visit **https://bankauctions.in** & **https://protium.co.in/** to take part in e-auction.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/ Rule 9 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES,2002

Date: 16.10.26
Place: KARNATAKA

Sd/-, For Protium Finance Ltd.
Authorised Officer

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Questioning the government or disrupting the system?

The right to peaceful assembly is a vital cornerstone of democracy in India. Article 19(1)(b) of the Indian Constitution guarantees all citizens the fundamental right to assemble peacefully and without arms. In a democratic system, public meetings, sit-ins, demonstrations, and rallies are not only a means of expressing dissent, but also provide citizens with an opportunity to voice their demands, ensure accountability from the government, and influence public policy. In India, the current debates surrounding the permissibility of protests, restrictions in public places, road blockades, and preventive legal provisions have further increased the relevance of this right.

India's freedom movement is a historic example of the power of mass mobilization and peaceful resistance. Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha demonstrated that nonviolent public participation can be an effective means of challenging an unjust system. Even after independence, various movements on issues related to corruption, social justice, environmental protection, women's rights, employment, and farmers have influenced public discourse. Peaceful protests provide an opportunity to citizens and communities whose concerns may not receive adequate attention under normal circumstances.

The right to peaceful assembly is also closely linked to freedom of expression. Article 19(1)(a) grants citizens freedom of speech and expression, while Article 19(1)(b) provides them with the opportunity to express themselves collectively. Protests can prompt governments to reconsider their policies, address administrative deficiencies, and address public concerns. In this sense, peaceful dissent is not a weakness of democracy, but a testament to its vitality and responsiveness. In India today, protests over agricultural policies, citizenship, unemployment, recruitment exams, reservations, the environment, and other public issues highlight the importance of this right. On the other hand, questions have been raised about prolonged street protests, bans on public gatherings, internet shutdowns, and the use of preventive orders. The key challenge is to ensure that legitimate citizen dissent is not suppressed in the name of maintaining law and order. The Constitution does not recognize the right to peaceful assembly as absolute. Under Article 19(3), reasonable restrictions can be imposed on this right in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India and public order. Such restrictions are necessary because the state has a responsibility to protect the rights of protesters as well as the rights of other citizens. Violence, intimidation, damage to public property, and serious threats to public safety cannot be justified in the name of democratic protest. Similarly, prolonged blockades of essential routes can cause inconvenience to patients, emergency services, daily commuters, traders, and local residents.

In the Amit Sahni v. Commissioner of Police (2020) case, relating to the Shaheen Bagh protests, the Supreme Court clarified that public roads and places cannot be occupied indefinitely, obstructing the movement of others. This decision underscored the need to strike a balance between the right to protest and the rights of the general public. However, this does not mean that every demonstration in public places can be prohibited. The administration must distinguish between the general inconvenience caused by a peaceful demonstration and a serious or prolonged obstruction.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor: Business Must Lead the Way

Shishir Priyadarshi



The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) has attracted considerable strategic attention. It promises to connect India with the Gulf and Europe through an integrated network of maritime links, rail connections, ports and associated infrastructure. At a time when countries are rethinking trade routes, supply-chain dependencies and economic security, its potential is considerable.

But there is a fundamental question that must now move to the centre of the conversation: what will persuade businesses to use IMEC rather than the routes and networks they already depend on? The answer will determine whether IMEC becomes a transformative economic corridor or remains an ambitious geopolitical proposition. Governments can articulate a vision, negotiate agreements, facilitate infrastructure and provide diplomatic momentum. They are indispensable to the enterprise. But governments do not, by themselves, generate sustained cargo flows, establish commercial supply chains or make investment decisions. These are driven by businesses responding to costs, reliability, transit times, market access and the confidence that a new network will work consistently.

IMEC must therefore evolve from a government-supported strategic initiative into a business-led economic enterprise. Its ultimate test will not be the number of agreements signed or meetings convened, but the volume of trade it facilitates, the investment it attracts, the costs it saves and the economic opportunities it creates. The recent meeting of the IMEC Ports Club in New Delhi, jointly convened by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) and the Port of Marseille Fos on October 6, was significant in precisely this context. Bringing ports together is an important step towards translating the corridor's strategic promise into practical cooperation. More importantly, it places commercial infrastructure operators at the heart of the implementation conversation.

The challenge now is to build on this momentum and ensure that business remains in the driving seat.

■ FROM GEOPOLITICAL VISION TO COMMERCIAL PROPOSITION

The geopolitical case for IMEC is compelling. Countries want greater diversification of trade routes, stronger economic partnerships and reduced exposure to disruptions in critical supply chains. India seeks deeper integration with Gulf economies and European markets, while countries along the route see opportunities to strengthen their roles in trade, logistics, manufacturing and energy. Yet strategic alignment is a starting point, not a substitute for commercial viability. A manufacturer deciding how to ship goods from India to Europe will ask practical questions. Will the route be faster or more reliable? Will total logistics costs be competitive? Will customs procedures and documentation be seamless across jurisdictions? Will cargo move predictably between ships, railways, terminals and inland distribution networks? Will the route remain dependable when geopolitical tensions or other disruptions affect established pathways?

These are not questions that can be answered through diplomatic declarations alone. They require businesses, logistics operators, shipping lines, freight forwarders, exporters, importers and investors to work together from the outset. IMEC should begin, therefore, by identifying specific trade flows and supply chains where the corridor can offer a demonstrable advantage. Pilot projects could test its commercial proposition for selected commodities, manufactured goods, energy-related products and other cargoes where there is a credible business case. The precise priorities should emerge from consultations with actual users of the route, rather than being determined solely by governments or infrastructure providers. The objective should be to demonstrate that IMEC works in practice, and that using it makes economic sense.

■ WHY PORTS MUST BE AT THE CENTRE

Ports are natural starting points for this effort. They are not simply physical gateways through which cargo passes; they are critical nodes in larger networks connecting shipping, rail, road, warehousing, manufacturing and distribution. Their efficiency can influence the cost and reliability of an entire supply chain. This makes cooperation among participating ports essential. Ports will continue to compete for cargo and investment, as they should. But within a corridor such as IMEC, they also have a shared interest in ensuring that the entire network functions efficiently. A highly efficient port cannot compensate indefinitely for delays, fragmented documentation or unpredictable transfers elsewhere along the route.

APSEZ's role in helping convene the Ports Club with Marseille Fos is therefore noteworthy. The participation of major infrastructure and port operators brings operational experience and a commercial perspective to a project that must ultimately work for businesses. APSEZ's broader port and logistics operations also illustrate why ports should be understood as part of integrated economic networks, rather than as isolated maritime assets. The opportunity is to extend this approach across the corridor. Ports from Mundra to Marseille and beyond can help identify bottlenecks, improve coordination, share operational expertise and develop common approaches to the movement of cargo. They can also work with shipping lines, railway operators, customs authorities and private-sector users to identify where better coordination would produce the greatest gains.

■ THE MISSING LINK: A PERMANENT MECHANISM FOR COOPERATION

This brings us to an institutional question that deserves early attention. How will the Ports Club sustain momentum between meetings and translate broad agreement into practical outcomes? International initiatives often generate enthusiasm when participants first assemble. The more difficult task is maintaining progress once delegations return home, operational priorities compete for attention and decisions require coordination across institutions and countries. Without a mechanism for continuity, even sound proposals can lose momentum.

The IMEC Ports Club should therefore consider establishing a lean, permanent secretariat, supported by designated focal points at participating ports and in relevant countries. Its purpose would not be to create another layer of bureaucracy, but to make cooperation continuous, focused and accountable.

Such a secretariat could maintain a common work programme, track agreed actions, convene technical working groups, identify obstacles requiring intervention and report periodically on progress. It could help match commercial opportunities with the port, logistics and infrastructure capabilities available along the corridor. It could also facilitate dialogue between port operators and prospective users, ensuring that the programme remains anchored in business needs.

The secretariat should have a clear mandate, modest administrative costs and measurable objectives. Its effectiveness should be judged by what it helps participants accomplish, not by the size of the organisation it creates. Three areas would merit early attention.

First, the Club could identify a small number of commercially credible pilot initiatives, with businesses involved in defining the problem, assessing costs and measuring results.

Second, it could develop a practical agenda for operational coordination and digital interoperability, bringing together the relevant port operators, technology providers and public authorities.

ALLEGATIONS OF FOREIGN FUNDING:

TRUTH SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY EVIDENCE, NOT SENSATIONALISM

SAURABH VASHISHTHA

How appropriate is it for democracy, political discourse, and public credibility to make serious accusations without proof? This question itself raises questions. In international politics, the possibility of foreign interference in a country's internal affairs cannot be completely dismissed. In many countries around the world, questions have been raised from time to time about external influence on political activities, electoral processes, and public movements. However, presenting a suspicion as a proven fact and accusing a political party of accepting foreign funding to spread unrest in the country are two different things. This distinction is the foundation of responsible journalism, unbiased political discourse, and democratic values.

A statement recently surfaced on social media attributed to American singer and actress Mary Millben, alleging that a political party operating in India is receiving significant financial support from the United States. The claim also states that foreign funds are being used to disrupt India's internal peace, incite social unrest, and disrupt the functioning of the central government. The allegations also include the names of individuals and alleged financial groups.

After such serious allegations surface, the most important question is: What concrete evidence supports these claims? Have any bank account details been revealed? Are any financial transaction documents available? Has the relevant agency conducted an investigation? Have these allegations been corroborated by any credible investigative report or official document? If answers to these questions are not available, it would be inappropriate to present such statements as authenticated news.

The allegation that a political party has received foreign funding is not a simple political comment. It is a serious allegation that concerns the nation's sovereignty, political transparency, and the rule of law. If any party or organization has received illegal foreign funding, it should be investigated impartially. If proven guilty, action should be taken in accordance with the law. However, declaring an organization involved in anti-national activities before an investigation is conducted is inconsistent with the principles of justice. Making allegations in politics is easy, but proving them is difficult. Therefore, it is essential that the person making the allegations provide credible documents, financial records, or other verifiable evidence to support their claims. Mere social media posts, political statements, or comments by a foreign citizen do not, in themselves, constitute proof of a serious allegation. It should also be clear that, based on the available information, the allegations attributed to Mary Milben cannot be considered independently verified. Until credible evidence is produced, these should remain allegations or claims, not established facts.

Differences between political parties are natural in a democracy. Both the ruling party and the opposition have the right to express their ideologies, criticize government policies, and present their views to the public. This is the power of democracy. However, when political opposition is linked to foreign conspiracy, anti-national activity, or a national security crisis, it becomes essential to examine the facts underlying such conclusions. Repeatedly circulating unverified allegations aimed at defaming a political party can create confusion among the public. On the other hand, if illegal activities are indeed being conducted with foreign funding, they cannot be ignored. Therefore, it is neither appropriate to dismiss every allegation as a political conspiracy nor to accept every allegation as true.

India is a sovereign democratic country. Laws apply to matters related to political activities, organizations, and foreign contributions. Relevant legal provisions, including the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, regulate and monitor foreign contributions to eligible organizations. The applicable law in a particular case depends on the organization, the source of the funds, the recipient, and the nature of the transaction. If there is evidence of a foreign organization or individual providing funds in violation of Indian laws, competent agencies should investigate. However, political comments by foreign nationals cannot automatically be considered evidence of foreign funding. Similarly, mere anti-government activity by a political party cannot be used as a basis for concluding that it is backed by foreign funding.

As important as it is to protect India's sovereignty, it is equally important that this issue not be used to make unsubstantiated accusations against political opponents. Mary Milben has previously expressed support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and some of India's policies. Her stance on agricultural reforms during the farmers' protest and her comments on the BBC documentary "India:
The Modi Question" have been part of public discourse. However, a person's previous support for a government or policy does not constitute proof of the veracity of their new allegations.

Political support and factual evidence are two different matters. A person's reputation, international recognition, or admiration for a leader cannot be considered valid based on every claim. Similarly, disagreeing with a person's political views cannot be considered false based on every statement.

CORNELL RAPE CASE:

WHEN SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS TEST ELITE US UNIVERSITIES

Amit Chaturvedi



A university's reputation is built over decades. Its response to a sexual assault allegation can put that reputation to the test in a matter of days. For students and parents, admission to a prestigious university represents more than academic achievement. It is also an investment in a future that is expected to offer opportunity, independence, and a degree of security. But what happens when allegations of sexual assault emerge in spaces like fraternity houses (off-campus places) that are associated with these institutions? Can a university distance itself from an incident just because it happened off campus?

Recent cases involving Cornell University and the University of Chicago have brought these questions into sharp focus.

At the University of Chicago, a woman reported being sexually assaulted at an off-campus fraternity party on October 11. The university said the woman was not affiliated with the institution. It subsequently identified a person of interest who, it said, was also not affiliated with the university. The police investigation is ongoing, but with the university looking to distance itself from the incident, the fears of victims that universities treat rape as more of a "PR problem than a heinous crime" are bolstered.

At Cornell, the questions are more complicated. A former student has alleged that she was sexually assaulted by members at a fraternity house in October 2024. She filed a civil lawsuit in September 2026, bringing renewed scrutiny to the university's handling of the case. Cornell has said it investigated the allegations through its disciplinary process and imposed sanctions, including expulsions and suspensions. It has also banned fraternity hose parties. The university's president has acknowledged that he knew of the student's report in 2024 but did not follow up with her. The criminal investigation has since been reopened. But Paul Ortiz, a labour history professor who sponsored a resolution that will be taken up by Cornell's governing body, the Faculty Senate, says more needs to be done to improve the "climate of fear" on the campus.

The two cases should not be treated as proof that sexual assault is more prevalent at elite universities. But they raise a question that extends beyond either campus: What responsibility does a university have when allegations of sexual violence emerge in its social ecosystem?

■ CAMPUS BOUNDARY CAN'T BE THE END OF CONVERSATION

Fraternities occupy an unusual position in American university life. They can provide students with a sense of community, social networks, and professional connections. But fraternity houses and parties can also create environments where alcohol, peer pressure, and group dynamics complicate questions of consent and intervention.

When an alleged assault takes place at an off-campus fraternity house, the distinction between the university and the social organisation may be legally significant. It should not, however, become an excuse to avoid asking difficult questions about campus safety. Universities cannot reasonably be expected to control every private gathering attended by their students. Nor should they automatically be held legally responsible for every offence committed by someone who happens to attend a university event. But they can be expected to examine whether their policies, prevention programmes, and response mechanisms are adequate, particularly when student organisations operate in close association with the institution.

This is where institutional accountability matters. Does the university have clear reporting mechanisms? Are students encouraged to intervene when someone appears vulnerable or incapacitated? Are complaints investigated promptly and fairly? Are survivors given appropriate support? And does the institution examine whether its own practices need to change after an incident?

Shyam Metalics Presents 'Shakti Ek Roop Anek'- A One-of-a-Kind Durga Puja Spectacle Celebrating the Many Forms of Shakti



Kolkata, 15th October: This Durga Puja, Shyam Metalics is set to bring Kolkata alive with 'Shakti Ek, Roop Anek'—a distinctive celebration of creativity, culture and compassion that explores the many expressions of Shakti in everyday life. Rooted in the brand's core values of Shakti, Suraksha and Samvedana, the campaign brings together immersive installations, inspiring stories of hope and meaningful community initiatives to create memorable festive experiences across the city.

Moving beyond the grandeur of traditional Puja celebrations, 'Shakti Ek, Roop Anek' celebrates Shakti through three powerful expressions: Ummeed (Hope), Yaadein (Memories) and Sukoon (Comfort and Care). From turning heartfelt wishes into possibilities and celebrating the art and culture of Bengal to recognising the tireless efforts of Bengal Police, the initiative reflects a simple yet powerful belief: Shakti is not merely a symbol of strength, but a force that nurtures dreams, creates lasting memories and brings comfort when it is needed most.

At the heart of the campaign is the Wall of Shakti, a distinctive installation crafted using SEL Tiger TMT Bars and featuring a prominent structure of Maa Durga. Visitors can place their wishes on the wall, with Shyam Metalics undertaking to fulfil selected wishes and bring its promise of "Sapne Pure Honge" to life. The initiative celebrates the transformative power of hope and demonstrates how meaningful support can help turn aspirations into reality. Adding to the festive experience, the Shakti Tunnel will offer visitors an immersive celebration of Bengal's art, culture and the spirit of Durga Puja through striking visuals and interactive selfie experiences. The installation aims to create a memorable space where visitors can engage with the many cultural expressions of Shakti while capturing moments of their festive celebrations.

Extending the spirit of care and gratitude, the campaign will also introduce Shakti Booths—resting kiosks for Bengal Police personnel who work tirelessly throughout the festive season to ensure public safety and maintain order across the city. These spaces will offer police personnel a moment of respite amid their demanding duties. Visitors will also be encouraged to leave messages of appreciation for the personnel, which will be handed over to police officials after Durga Puja as a gesture of collective gratitude.

The three principal campaign experiences will be featured at prominent Durga Puja destinations across Kolkata, including Mudiali Club, New Town Sarbojanin Durgotsab Samiti and Tala Barowari Durgotsab Samiti. In addition, Shyam Metalics will establish Shakti Booths across 30 Durga Puja pandals in Bengal, extending its gesture of care and appreciation to the personnel working on the ground throughout the festive period.

BUILT AROUND YOU:

HOW CUSTOMER VOICES ARE SHAPING THE AI+ SMARTPHONE EXPERIENCE



October 2026: Ai+ Smartphone is strengthening its customer-first approach by incorporating real user feedback into product and service improvements. Drawing insights from customer reviews, everyday device usage and after-sales interactions, the brand is addressing concerns related to camera stability, connectivity and performance through software updates, enhanced testing and more responsive customer support. This approach reflects Ai+ Smartphone's commitment to building not just for its users, but with them.

Across its smartphone portfolio, customers have appreciated Ai+Smartphone for its design, camera capabilities, battery life, performance and value for money. The Nova 2 Neo 5G has received positive feedback for its battery performance and accessibility, while the Nova 2 Power 5G has been appreciated for its overall experience and dual-tone design, particularly the Blue Fusion colour. The Nova 2 Ultra 5G has been recognised for its photography experience, performance and AMOLED display. Similarly, the Nova 2 5G and Nova 2 Pro 5G have received encouraging responses for their overall experience and value, while the Ai+ Pulse 2 has been appreciated for its battery, display and design.

Beyond positive reviews, Ai+Smartphone is actively using customer feedback to identify and address areas for improvement. Concerns related to camera stability, connectivity and device performance have been shared with product and technical teams, informing targeted over-the-air (OTA) updates and product refinements. The Nova 2 Ultra 5G, for instance, has received software updates aimed at improving camera stability. These insights are also being considered during product reviews and pre-launch testing to strengthen the experience offered by future devices.

Ai+ Smartphone has also made independent pre-launch evaluations an integral part of its product development approach through Project Open Review, inviting external feedback on its devices before they reach consumers. As of now we have over thousand registrations, from reviewers, creators, journalists, tech enthusiasts and, for the first time, ethical hackers to independently evaluate our devices. The initiative enables the brand to gather honest, unscripted feedback and incorporate necessary refinements into its products ahead of launch, reinforcing its commitment to Trust through Transparency.

Commenting on the approach, Archi Gogoi, Head of Brand, Marketing & Growth at Ai+ Smartphone, said, "At Ai+ Smartphone, we believe that building better technology starts with listening to the people who use it. Customer feedback helps us understand what we are getting right and where we need to improve. Whether through software updates, stronger product testing or more responsive after-sales support, our focus is on translating these insights into meaningful action.

AMPATH AND MYGATE PARTNER TO ENABLE HOME SAMPLE COLLECTION ACROSS HYDERABAD RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES

Hyderabad, 15th October 2026: AMPATH (American Institute of Pathology and Laboratory Sciences Pvt. Ltd.), a diagnostic laboratory chain, has entered into an exclusive association with Mygate to make home sample collection and preventive diagnostic services more accessible to residents across Hyderabad. Through the association, AMPATH will be featured on the Mygate app home screen, enabling residents in participating communities to discover diagnostic services, access exclusive health check-up offers and request home sample collection.

The collaboration brings together AMPATH's diagnostic network and Mygate's residential community platform to create a convenient, digitally enabled route to doorstep diagnostics. Instead of travelling to a collection centre, eligible residents will be able to initiate the service through a platform already used for everyday community needs. The initiative will reach over 600,000 residents across Hyderabad in its first phase.

■ UNDER THE ASSOCIATION, RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

· Book AMPATH accessible and precision based home sample collection through the Mygate platform;

· Access community-exclusive health check-up packages and offers;

· Receive information on health check-up camps planned within participating communities; and

· Explore AMPATH's available diagnostic tests and preventive health services.

Maneesh Bagai, Chief Operating Officer, AMPATH, said, "Convenience can play an important role in encouraging people to undertake regular health checks. Our exclusive association with Mygate in Hyderabad takes AMPATH's laboratory services closer to residents by combining digital discovery with home sample collection and community-level health initiatives. It gives residents a simpler way to access diagnostics from their homes, while helping us build more consistent preventive-health touchpoints across the city."

In addition to home sample collection, AMPATH and Mygate plan to organise 15–20 health check-up camps every month across Hyderabad in residential communities associated with Mygate. The initiative will include health awareness programmes, preventive screenings and specialised health camps, supported by exclusive health packages for community members. Residents can also avail themselves of special discounts on 12 comprehensive health packages covering over 100 tests, with the added convenience of home sample collection.

Optoma India Brings Its Latest 4K Home Cinema and Professional Display Innovations to Hyderabad



Hyderabad, October 15, 2026: Optoma India, a leading provider of projection and display technology, hosted an exclusive media showcase in Hyderabad, unveiling its latest innovations across home entertainment, premium home cinema and professional display solutions. Held at Radisson Blu, Banjara Hills, the showcase offered media representatives an opportunity to experience Optoma's latest products first-hand and understand how emerging visual technologies are transforming home entertainment and professional environments.

Hyderabad is a strategic market for the showcase, given its growing technology ecosystem, expanding corporate landscape and evolving premium residential segment. The city's housing market has seen a notable shift towards higher-value homes. This growing emphasis on premium living, alongside demand for advanced presentation and digital display solutions across business and commercial environments, makes Hyderabad a relevant market for Optoma's expanding portfolio.

"Hyderabad is an important market for Optoma, with growing demand for premium home cinema and advanced professional display solutions. With our flagship UHR90DV 4K UHD projector, featuring Triple Laser RGB technology, alongside our Optoma Photon Beam PK52 and Studio Series professional displays, we aim to deliver immersive visual experiences and high-performance display solutions tailored to evolving customer needs across residential and commercial segments." Mr. Vijay Sharma, Managing Director, Optoma India

The showcase brought together three key products from Optoma's portfolio, demonstrating how its display technologies cater to diverse requirements, from immersive cinematic experiences at home to always-on commercial communication.

Home Cinema UHR90DV: Designed for premium home cinema installations, the flagship 4K UHD projector features Triple Laser RGB technology, delivering 5,000 lumens of brightness and 96% coverage of the BT.2020 colour gamut. Certified for Dolby Vision, HDR10+, IMAX Enhanced and Filmmaker Mode, it combines advanced picture processing through PureEngine Ultra with motorised zoom and lens shift for flexible installation. Dolby Atmos passthrough and input lag as low as 8.5 milliseconds further enhance its appeal for high-end cinematic and gaming experiences. Optoma Photon Beam PK52: Built for everyday home entertainment, the compact 4K UHD projector combines a laser light source with 3,500 lumens of brightness, HDR support and Optoma's PureEngine picture enhancement. Its maintenance-free laser engine offers up to 30,000 hours of operation, while projection sizes ranging from 28 to 300 inches, a built-in 15W speaker and automatic vertical keystone correction make it suitable for a variety of home viewing spaces.

Studio Series Professional Displays: Designed for commercial applications, Optoma's upcoming N-Series brings 4K UHD displays to retail, corporate, hospitality, healthcare and public environments. Available in 75-, 86- and 98-inch sizes, the displays support 24/7 operation in portrait and landscape orientations. Powered by Android 14, they feature 500 nits brightness for brightly lit environments Additional features include anti-glare glass, low blue light and flicker-free technology, alongside packaging made from 99% recyclable materials.

Through the Hyderabad showcase, Optoma aimed to demonstrate the versatility of its product portfolio across residential and commercial applications.

Parachute Advansed Gold Onboards Creative Powerhouse Gautham Menon For Its Latest Brand Film



Hyderabad, 15th October 2026: Parachute Advansed Gold has pulled off quite the casting coup, and a blockbuster creative collaboration is in the making! The brand has brought together a dream team of South India's most celebrated names across cinema, music and dance for its latest brand film. Spearheaded by acclaimed filmmaker-director Gautham Vasudev Menon, and joined by renowned choreographer Brinda Master, popular singer-composer Karthik, noted lyricist Anantha Sriram, and versatile playback singer Swetha Mohan, the project reads like the credits of a much-awaited cinematic release rather than a brand film. Created especially for audiences in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the film brings together magic of cinema, music and dance to create a first-of-its-kind brand film experience.

More than just another brand film, Parachute Advansed Gold's latest outing plays out like a mini-Telugu musical, bringing together the emotion, music and larger-than-life storytelling audiences love. Rooted in the spirit of 'Feel Like a Girl Again', the film celebrates carefree joy and encourages women to reconnect with their inner child through music, movement and self-expression.

At the helm is Gautham Vasudev Menon, the filmmaker behind some of South Indian cinema's most loved and memorable stories. Known for his distinctive ability to capture emotion, relationships and nostalgia on screen, Gautham brings his signature storytelling style to the film, lending it the warmth and emotional depth his audiences have come to love. Adding another layer of cinematic magic, Brinda Master elevates the film with her signature choreography and a memorable hook step with strong viral potential. Complementing the visuals is an original composition by acclaimed singer-composer Karthik, with lyrics by celebrated writer Anantha Sriram, whose words lend emotional depth and resonance to the soundtrack. Bringing the composition to life is Swetha Mohan, whose soulful vocals serve as the emotional heartbeat of the film. Her evocative rendition elevates the narrative, making the music an integral part of the storytelling and amplifying the film's emotional appeal.

Also adding visual grandeur to the film is acclaimed cinematographer Manush Nandan, known for crafting some of Indian cinema's most stunning frames, alongside celebrity editor Anthony, whose razor-sharp storytelling has shaped several films across languages.

With some of South India's most loved creative talents joining forces, the film promises all the ingredients of an entertainer, heartfelt emotions, memorable music, beautiful visuals and a dance hook audiences won't forget anytime soon.

Set to launch soon across television, digital and social platforms in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the experience doesn't end with the film. Fans can also look forward to a special lyrical music video, giving the soundtrack its own moment in the spotlight.

INDIA'S NO. 1 EV IS NOW READY TO INDULGE!



Hyderabad, October 15, 2026: JSW MG Motor India today announced the launch of the MG Windsor INDULGE Edition, a more indulgent expression of India's No. 1 EV*. Powered by a 38-kWh battery pack, it delivers 100 kW (136 PS) of power and 200 Nm of torque, while offering a certified range of 332 km#.

Building on the MG Windsor's futuristic design, spacious interiors, and signature Business-Class comfort, the INDULGE Edition introduces a new layer of exclusivity. The special edition features a distinctive dual-tone exterior with a sophisticated Shadow Gold body colour contrasted by a Black roof. Black ORVMs, R-18 Black Alloy Wheels, and exclusive 'INDULGE' badging on the C-pillar further accentuate its premium character, giving the vehicle a bold and unmistakable identity. Inside, the cabin adopts an exclusive Urban Tan and Black upholstery theme, elevating the premium ambience with a warmer and more sophisticated character. The front headrests feature bespoke 'INDULGE' embroidery, reinforcing the edition's unique identity. To further enhance the Business-Class experience, the MG Windsor INDULGE Edition comes equipped with the 'PRIVE Screen' for second-row occupants as standard, offering added convenience and entertainment for rear-seat passengers. The package is further complemented by INDULGE-themed cushions and neck pillows, adding an extra layer of comfort and exclusivity. For customers seeking an even more distinctive expression of style and comfort, a curated range of accessories will also be available, allowing them to personalise their Windsor INDULGE Edition to suit their preferences.

Speaking on the launch, Vinay Raina, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW MG Motor India, said, "The MG Windsor is an important product not only for us but for the EV segment, as it has encouraged many fence-sitters to embrace electric mobility. Reaching over 80,000 families in just 24 months is a remarkable milestone and a testament to the value the Windsor delivers to customers. Building on this success, the INDULGE Edition introduces exclusive enhancements and an elevated cabin experience, offering customers a more premium and personalised expression of the Windsor lifestyle.

Russia accuses Ukraine of attacking oil refinery after Zelensky says strikes to resume



Russia has accused Ukraine of attacking an oil refinery after Volodymyr Zelensky said such strikes, halted at the request of the US, would resume. Ukraine's president said he had restricted attacks for three days while Russia had continued striking Ukrainian energy infrastructure. "We're done," he told the Financial Times. Zelensky also accused the US of withdrawing intelligence-sharing on Russian strikes to pressure Kyiv into ending attacks altogether after it struck a deal to import Russian diesel, and he said curbs on Starlink satellite services used by Ukraine's military were deliberate. Ukrainian defence sources told the BBC some Starlink functionality had resumed as of Thursday morning. They said its military service Starshield's "operation while on the move" had been restored, although it remains unclear whether the restrictions to the speed at which drones could fly while still maintaining Starlink internet connection have been fully lifted. Officials were still working to clarify "the reasons and circumstances" behind the move, the sources added. In a separate development, seven people are missing after a drone attack set a chemical tanker on fire off Romania, according to naval officials. Moscow said it had hit two cargo ships with military cargo heading to Ukraine's Odesa port, without naming them. The Kremlin said Kyiv had "attempted a large-scale attack" on a refinery south of Moscow early on Thursday. According to Russia's defence ministry, four missiles and dozens of drones were intercepted and the falling debris caused a fire at the site in Ryazan. Zelensky said dozens of Ukrainian cities had come under Russian attack in the past day. He previously said he would agree to the "energy ceasefire" announced by US President Donald Trump on Sunday if Moscow also abided by it. But he accused Russia of ignoring the proposed deal within hours of it being announced, with strikes leaving hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians without power. The Kremlin never said it had agreed to the deal. Zelensky agreed that he felt betrayed by the US when asked by Piers Morgan on Wednesday night, after Washington appeared to withdraw key elements of its support. European leaders have rallied around the Ukrainian president. Italy's Defence Minister Guido Crosetto told the BBC that the US restricting its intelligence-sharing with Kyiv would be a "complete mistake". "Because it is a fundamental form of support. This means denying a country any chance of defending itself." He added: "Peace will be achieved when [Russian President Vladimir] Putin will be convinced that there is a stalemate... that he cannot advance anymore. But if he sees a weakness on the Ukrainian front, if the United States takes its resources away, then Putin will think he can win, and so he will continue the war." Zelensky told the FT that Ukrainian officials had been told by US counterparts that "if you will not stop [the strikes], we will block intelligence". Ukraine's military relies on US early-warning alerts of incoming Russian aerial attacks to mount air defences, limiting successful strikes, while Starlink internet links are used throughout its war effort to guide drones and protect its skies. There were suggestions a technical glitch was to blame for the sudden Starlink restrictions on Tuesday evening, but owner Elon Musk appeared to deny this and suggested it was the Trump administration's doing. "It was not a technical problem, it was the will," Zelensky told the FT. Trump has denied halting intelligence-sharing. Starlink's sister service Starshield is provided to Ukraine under a US defence department contract. The BBC has approached the US authorities for comment. Zelensky spoke to the FT during a visit to London on Wednesday which also included a meeting with Prime Minister Andy Burnham in Downing Street - who announced the UK would speed up delivery of lightweight multirole missiles to Kyiv. The Ukrainian president told the FT he would now only halt strikes on Russian oil infrastructure - which Kyiv says are vital to cutting off revenue streams to its war machine - if the US supplied more Patriot air defence missiles. Ukraine has suffered a shortage of the US-made defences since the outbreak of the Iran war consumed stockpiles. Striking a more defiant tone than recently, the Ukrainian president told the newspaper his American counterpart had an affinity for autocratic leaders like Putin. He said it was not up to him to mend US-Ukrainian relations given the events of the past week: "We didn't destroy any relationship." Tensions have previously frayed between the two leaders. After returning to the White House last year, the pair shared a fiery Oval Office meeting in which Trump implied Zelensky was the main block to a peace deal. Zelensky has since walked a careful diplomatic line, showing willingness towards US-brokered deals while stressing that the terms of any peace deal must be just. But he criticised the agreement between Russia and the US to release 300,000 tonnes of diesel to the US and global marketplace.

Rural Women Take Command of the Skies:

"FlySakhi – Drone Queens of Bharat" Graduates Its First Cohort of Women Drone Entrepreneurs at IIT Hyderabad



Hyderabad, 15 October 2026 — Twenty-five rural women today completed the first cohort of FlySakhi – Drone Queens of Bharat and received their certificates at a Valedictory Session at TiHAN, IIT Hyderabad. Themed "Empowering Women Entrepreneurs through Agricultural Drone Technology", the programme trains rural women not merely as drone operators but as owners of rural drone-service enterprises. FlySakhi is led by WCOOPEF and CNRI, with TiHAN–IIT Hyderabad as technology partner and Syngenta India Pvt. Ltd. as CSR partner. It brings together the cooperative movement, civil society, academia, industry, research institutions and development finance behind a single goal: placing women at the controls of India's agricultural transformation.

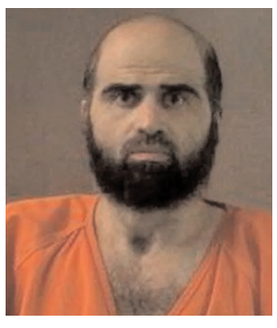
The Inaugural Address was delivered by Shri Dileep Shanghani, Chairman, World Cooperation Economic Forum. Dr. (Ms.) C. Tara Satyavathi, Director General, ICAR–NIPHM (National Institute of Plant Health Management) and Director, ICAR–Indian Institute of Millets Research, was the Chief Guest. Ms. Meenal Maheshwari, CFO, Syngenta India, delivered the Presidential Address.

Sangeeta Dawar, Head of Business Sustainability & Corporate Affairs at Syngenta India, said, "At Syngenta, our vision is to contribute to a more sustainable and resilient agricultural ecosystem by empowering farming communities, strengthening rural livelihoods and promoting responsible agricultural practices. We believe that the future of agriculture depends not only on scientific innovation and access to modern solutions, but also on building knowledge, skills and awareness among the people who are at the heart of this sector. Our sustainability initiatives, including I RISE (Inculcating Rural India Skill Enhancement), I CLEAN (Inculcating Cleanliness, Learning, Education, Awareness and New Habits) and WeCare, reflect this commitment by addressing different aspects of rural development and community well-being.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 25 rural women graduated from the first FlySakhi cohort, with certificates designed to be bankable for credit linkage.
- Training covered drone operation, flight safety, multipurpose agricultural and rural applications, and the Drone-as-a-Service business model.
- The programme is a flagship activity of CSRNAM 2026, aligned with the Panch Pran and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
- It commemorates the United Nations International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026.

TRUMP CALLS OFF LIVESTREAM FOR FORT HOOD SHOOTER'S EXECUTION BY FIRING SQUAD



US President Donald Trump has called off plans to livestream the execution of former US army psychiatrist Nidal Hasan by firing squad. Trump had previously said he approved of showing online the death of the Fort Hood attacker, while Vice-President JD Vance cast doubt on whether it would happen and said he would not watch it. As criticism over the public display mounted, Trump said on Thursday that "many very good and well meaning people would rather not watch him die". "I think streaming the execution for all to see might have been a strong deterrent for the World to witness how America deals with Terrorists and SCUM like Hasan," Trump said. "He will die, as scheduled, by firing squad, but this event will not be streamed," the president added. Hasan fatally shot 13 unarmed US soldiers at a military base in Texas in 2009, injuring another 32. His execution by firing squad will be the first military execution in more than 60 years. Trump said the execution can be viewed in person by the families of the victims. "They deserve to witness JUSTICE!" Trump said. The Pentagon announced last week it would execute Hasan on 3 December 2026 by firing squad. Hegseth then said the execution would be livestreamed for the public to watch, adding that "people need to understand that there's serious consequences for these types of things". Trump last Friday called Hasan "totally nuts", adding: "I really don't care how he goes, as long as he goes, and I think that the death penalty is a very worthy way of going for him."

Fifth edition of the MICHELIN Guide Dubai sees Trèsind Studio and Björn Frantzén retain three MICHELIN Stars



15 October,2026: MICHELIN unveiled the fifth edition of its annual MICHELIN Guide Dubai during a ceremony at the recently awarded Three MICHELIN Key hotel Atlantis the Royal Dubai which saw both Trèsind Studio and Fzn Björn Frantzén retain three MICHELIN Stars.

This year's MICHELIN Guide Dubai, dedicated to showcasing the city's leading dining venues and talents, includes a total of 122 restaurants, indicating a 77% percentage rise since the Guide's inaugural edition in 2022 when 69 outlets were recognised. With the results determined by MICHELIN's inspectors, who are sworn to anonymity, the increase in selected restaurants reflects Dubai's fast-growing and diverse culinary scene.

The MICHELIN Guide Dubai selection 2026 at a glance:

· 2 restaurants with Three MICHELIN Stars
· 4 restaurants with Two MICHELIN Stars (1 promotion)
· 14 restaurants with One MICHELIN Star (2 new)
· 22 Bib Gourmand restaurants (4 new)
· 80 MICHELIN selected restaurants (13 new)

(See list of restaurants below.)

Spanning 38 types of cuisines, the 122 restaurants featured in the MICHELIN Guide Dubai 2026 reflect the breadth and character of Dubai's culinary landscape, from internationally recognised fine-dining establishments and ambitious homegrown concepts to neighbourhood restaurants and accessible eateries. Together, they offer experiences for a wide range of tastes, occasions and budgets, while reinforcing the role of gastronomy in Dubai's tourism and economic ecosystem. The MICHELIN Guide provides an important benchmark for culinary excellence, demonstrating the strength of a food culture that has been built over time by the people who have created, invested in and championed it. His Excellency Issam Kazim, CEO of the Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing, part of the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (Visit Dubai) said: "The fifth edition of the MICHELIN Guide Dubai is an important milestone in our city's journey as a global culinary destination. When the first edition arrived in 2022, our ambition was clear:
to give the extraordinary depth, diversity and quality of our culinary scene the global recognition it deserved, while welcoming an internationally respected benchmark that would challenge our industry to continue raising the bar."

TWO DEAD IN ISTANBUL AFTER HEAVIEST RAINFALL IN 84 YEARS, GOVERNOR SAYS



Two people have died after severe flooding caused by what the governor of Istanbul said was the heaviest rainfall in 84 years, BBC Turkish has reported. A14-year-old boy died after he was electrocuted when he stepped in a puddle, while a 34-year-old man attempting to cross the road slipped and fell, hitting his head on the pavement. Nearly 600 people have been rescued after becoming stranded, the city's deputy mayor said, with cars submerged in water in some districts. Residents have been told by Istanbul Governor Davut Gül to avoid leaving their homes unless absolutely necessary. The city's governorship is investigating the death of the teenaged boy who was electrocuted. Some areas of Istanbul have seen rainfall equivalent to one seventh of the annual average, according to the interior minister. Schools were ordered to close on Thursday and Friday, as the rain is expected to continue. Nuri Aslan, deputy mayor of the city, said 595 people had been evacuated to safe areas after becoming trapped, while more than 8,000 workers were responding to the flooding. "I urge all our citizens to remain vigilant against the expected heavy rain and storm, particularly during nighttime hours," he wrote on X.



At least 33 pupils and teacher killed after school roof collapses in Pakistan

SBI CARD AND ETERNAL LAUNCH CO-BRANDED 'ETERNAL SBI CARD'

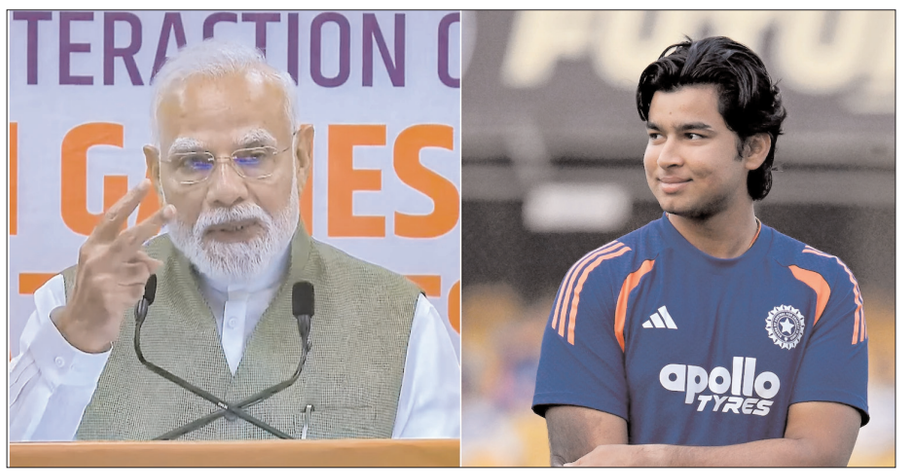


Jamshedpur, October 2026: SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, and Eternal Limited (formerly known as Zomato Limited) today announced launch & 'early access' for the Eternal SBI Card, a co-branded credit card designed for customers across Eternal and its affiliates. The card is among the first in the category to offer instant discounts across multiple brands within one ecosystem, bringing greater value to customers' everyday purchases while also extending benefits beyond the Eternal group brands. Customers can now request early access through the Zomato, Blinkit, and District apps to receive an invitation to apply when the card becomes available from 22 October 2026, in a phase-wise manner.

Cardholders get a 10% instant discount on transactions on Zomato, District, and Blinkit (only on products under the category of electronics and beauty) and a 5% instant discount on purchases under all other categories (subject to certain excluded categories mentioned below) on Blinkit. These discounts shall be subject to a combined cap of ?2000 per month across purchases made through all the aforementioned platforms. Additionally, there is a 10% instant discount on Bistro and a 1+1 offer on the purchase of movie tickets through District (all discounts on Eternal brands are over and above existing platform offers). With the Eternal SBI Card, customers can also earn 5% cashback, up to ?1,000 a month, on spends with Apollo 24|7, ixigo, Uber, and Urban Company. The Eternal SBI Card comes with the cashback auto-credit facility, which allows automatic credit of entitled cashback against eligible transactions directly to the SBI Card account on statement generation.

Salila Pande, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, SBI Card, said, "SBI Card has always strived to bring products for its customers that are customised as per their diverse lifestyle and preferences, offering maximum value and enhanced experience. Launch of the Eternal SBI Card in strategic alliance with Eternal reflects this commitment. Designed around customer's every day spending needs, the card brings together compelling cashback benefits, convenience, and value across a wide range of categories.

PM Modi Praises Young Asian Games Stars, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Smiles



India's teenage prodigy, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, was in attendance among the country's Asian Games 2026 stars at the Ashoka Hotel in Delhi on Thursday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitated the contingent. Sooryavanshi was a part of the Indian men's cricket team that won the gold medal in Tokyo. During the ceremony, PM Modi gave a riveting speech that also captured how 15-year-olds are winning medals for the country at grand events such as the Asian Games. The remark drew a smile even on the face of Sooryavanshi. PM Modi could not stop hailing the Indian athletes during the felicitation ceremony, including the cricketers, hockey teams, and boxers, whilst lauding the records that were broken in the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games and the historic milestones that were achieved.

As PM Modi continued his speech, he made a special mention of the 15 and 17-year-olds who won medals for India at the Games. Although he did not mention Sooryavanshi by name, the mention did see the camera shift focus to the Indian cricketing prodigy.

"This time in the Asian Games, there were many players on Team India whose age was only 15 to 17 years. At such a young age, these players have enhanced the pride of the country with their spectacular performances. They have won the hearts of the countrymen. This shows that for success, age is not a restriction. In sports, it is the start made at a young age that becomes an added advantage," he said.

As PM Modi said this, Sooryavanshi had a big smile on his face. "Therefore, it is our effort that in sports, the identification of talent should happen at a young age. For children between 5 and 15 years of age, we are especially focused on identifying sporting talent and its training. In the coming years, thousands of new players will get opportunities to advance through Khelo India and Emerging Khelo India," PM Modi added.

PM Modi also reserved special praise for the country's female contingent at the Asian Games. He said: "Friends, I would like to especially praise our daughters. Out of the 85 medals won by India, 38 medals were won by our women athletes, and 11 gold medals are included in them. These medals are not just a number. This is a picture of a new India." Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met India's Asian Games medal-winners, including the gold-winning men's and women's cricket teams, at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in Delhi and was presented with memorabilia ranging from signed jerseys to a bow from 17-year-old archery sensation Kumkum Mohod. The PM posed for pictures with the contingent that was accompanied by top officials of the sports bodies, including International Cricket Council Chairman Jay Shah. "You have made 140 crore Indians proud. The biggest success is to make the tri-colour fly high. That's why your success is not just yours but it belongs to crores of our countrymen.

BRADLEY BARCOLA MUST GET USED TO LIVERPOOL HIGHS AND LOWS, SAYS ANDONI IRAOLA



Bradley Barcola will have to cope with the scrutiny that comes with a huge price tag, Liverpool boss Andoni Iraola said after the Frenchman opened his account for the Reds with a Champions League hat-trick against LASK. Barcola had made an underwhelming start to his Liverpool career following a reported £123 million ($163 million) move from Paris Saint-Germain but burst into life against the Austrian champions in a 6-3 win for Iraola's side on Wednesday. "Football is like this. You win a game, you are incredible; you have a bad performance, you are a disaster," Iraola said at his pre-match press conference ahead of Saturday's trip to Brentford. "It is going to be like this for Bradley, for everyone who works in football. We have to accept this." Barcola's adaptation to a new league and new teammates has not been helped by injury problems, which have forced Iraola into constant changes. Cody Gakpo, Alexander Isak and Dominik Szoboszlai have missed the last two matches with injuries sustained on international duty. All three remain doubtful for Saturday's trip to Brentford. "Now it is a matter of finding the best condition and the best connection with teammates, the level of understanding, the work of everyone, and when to attack spaces," Iraola added on Barcola's adaptation. "The more he plays with us, the more he plays with his teammates, the better he will become." Iraola also revealed that centre-back Giovanni Leoni's return from a long-term knee injury has been delayed further. The Italian suffered an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury on his debut for the club in September last year. "Talking to the medical department, it wasn't just an ACL. It was a serious injury, and a lot of structures around the knee were affected apart from the ACL," said Iraola. "The plan now is for him to return during the next international break. It's not that far away, but it is a little later than we expected."

Manipur Chief Minister Felicitates 3 Asian Games Hockey Gold Medallists From State



Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Tuesday felicitated three hockey players from the state who represented India and won gold medals in the hockey discipline at the recently concluded 20th Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The gold medallists from Manipur are Sanglakpam Nilakanta Sharma from the men's squad and Pukhrambam Sushila Chanu and Kharibam Bichu Devi from the women's squad. During the meeting at the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Mantripukhri in Imphal, Khemchand Singh observed that Indian hockey has improved significantly in the recent past. He noted that the gold medal victories in both the men's and women's hockey events at the 20th Asian Games 2026 reflected a significant improvement in the performance of Indian hockey and marked a positive development for the sport in the country. In response to the players' request for suitable employment in the state government departments in recognition of their achievements and laurels brought to the state, the Chief Minister advised them to submit applications to the Director of Youth Affairs and Sports. Regarding the request raised by one of the players for formulating a comprehensive policy for successful sportspersons in the State, Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports, Naorem Praveen Singh, stated that a sports policy is under formulation.

After the felicitation, the players expressed their happiness at the warm reception accorded to them by Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh. One of the players remarked that the Chief Minister's own experience as a Taekwondo player enables him to better understand the needs and aspirations of other sportspersons. During the interview, the players advised the younger generation to pursue their dreams and never give up.

Mary Kom, Pramod Bhagat, Mahesh Bhupathi Back Delhi Half Marathon Initiative



As thousands of runners prepare for the 21st edition of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon (VDHM) on Sunday, October 18, sporting icons Mary Kom, Pramod Bhagat and Mahesh Bhupathi have joined #RunForZeroHunger initiative, calling on participants to turn every kilometre into a contribution towards the fight against hunger and malnutrition. VDHM will bring together elite international and Indian athletes, amateur runners and participants across age groups and abilities. The flagship half marathon covers 21.097 km, alongside multiple race categories including Half Marathon Elite, Champions with Disability and Senior Citizens Run, Open 10K, and Great Delhi Run. Under the #RunForZeroHunger initiative, every kilometre run translates into one meal for a child or an animal in need. The campaign encourages participants to look beyond the finish line and make their miles count towards a larger social cause. Six-time World Champion and Olympic medallist Mary Kom has called on runners to embrace the initiative and make every kilometre matter. Drawing on a sporting journey defined by perseverance and determination, her association reinforces the power of individual effort in driving collective change. Pramod Bhagat, Paralympic gold medallist and six-time World Champion, is also encouraging participants to convert their kilometres into meals. His support brings the values of resilience, inclusion and determination to a campaign that invites people of all abilities to contribute to a shared cause. Tennis champion Mahesh Bhupathi, a 12-time Grand Slam winner and former World No. 1 in men's doubles, has urged participants to get moving for the cause, whether they choose to walk, jog or run. His message underscores how everyday participation can help create a meaningful impact.

Stephen Curry And Ayesha Curry Make Romantic Memories At Mumford And Sons Concert



Stephen Curry and his wife, Ayesha Curry, spent a night at a Mumford and Sons concert, and Ayesha shared the photos on Instagram with the caption "More epic date nights please!" Curry wore a black-and-gold band jersey and a black "TUFF CROWD" cap, and he was seen singing along to "Little Lion Man" while the band played. Ayesha also posted a second set from a pool. The new photos came with a game-day twist: she had the cocktail, and he had water.

Stephen Curry and Ayesha Curry Enjoy The Mumford And Sons Concert Stephen Curry looks relaxed in all three photos. The Warriors star grins at the camera in the main selfie while Ayesha leans in with her lips puckered, her green cap turned backward. Another frame puts the pair in a dim, backstage-style area, with Curry's arm around her waist as she fixes her cap. In the third, they sit shoulder to shoulder under strong blue light. Ayesha looks up and Curry glances off to the side. The jersey is the only real clue to the band, and he wears it in every shot.

MAX VERSTAPPEN TO RACE ALONGSIDE VALENTINO ROSSI AT GT WORLD CHALLENGE THIS SATURDAY

Four-time Formula 1 World Champion Max Verstappen will return to GT racing this Saturday, October 17, competing in the season finale of the GT World Challenge Europe powered by AWS at the Algarve International Circuit in Portimão, Portugal. Fresh from consecutive Formula 1 victories at the Malaysian and Singapore Grands Prix, Verstappen will switch to the #3 Mercedes-AMG GT3 Evo of Mercedes-AMG Team Verstappen Racing for the three-hour Endurance Cup finale, beginning at 9:30 PM IST.



"NOTHING COMES EASY": IGA SWIATEK OPENS UP AFTER REACHING WUHAN OPEN THIRD ROUND



Iga Swiatek recorded her 40th win of the season, while Elina Svitolina survived a three-set contest against Liudmila Samsonova to reach the third round of the Wuhan Open on Wednesday. Both players remain in contention for qualification for the season-ending WTA Finals. The seventh-seeded Swiatek defeated compatriot Magdalena Frech 6-2, 6-1 in 1 hour and 43 minutes, registering her 149th career victory at WTA 1000 events. She moved past Serena Williams' tally of 148 to claim sole possession of seventh place on the all-time list since the format's introduction in 2009. "I'm happy to get the first match on Centre Court because I didn't get a chance to play there before," Swiatek was quoted as saying. "At the beginning of the match, it was point by point, but then I was happy that I started making fewer mistakes and used my chances until the end of the match. For sure, it was tougher than the score suggested." The Pole has now recorded at least 40 wins in five consecutive seasons, although she admitted that maintaining consistency in 2026 has been particularly challenging. "I mean every year has been so much different that there's no recipe or solution," Swiatek said. "I'm happy that even though every year was different and presented different challenges, I'm able to be consistent. For sure, this one has been the toughest, so every win still means a lot and I'll try to have as many as possible, obviously." Reflecting on the lessons from her difficult campaign.

"Can No Longer Complain About Financial Support": Ministry Grills Federations In Asiad Review



India's lower-than-expected medal haul in high-yielding disciplines like athletics and badminton was scrutinised at the Sports Ministry's review of the country's Asian Games performance on Thursday with questions raised about injured athletes travelling to the mega-event. The meet was chaired by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and was attended by Minister of State for Sports Raksha Khadse, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President P T Usha, Sports Secretary Hari Ranjan Rao, Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) CEO N S Johal and representatives of the National Sports Federations (NSFs). The review also sought to plan ahead for the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028. India won 85 medals at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, including 21 gold, significantly lower than the 106 medals achieved in the previous edition in Hangzhou, China.

"The Minister was very clear that there is no dearth of resources and the NSFs can no longer complain about financial support. The federations have to deliver. They have to not just make presentations but deliver on the ground," a top official present in the meeting told PTI. "But there were no major fireworks per say. The federations presented their insights and the Minister asked them to plan ahead." It is reliably learnt that injuries to key athletics stars such as hurdler Jyothi Yarraji, and triple jumper Praveen Chithravel, which were stunningly revealed during the Games, were raised by Usha when Athletics Federation of India (AFI) advisor Adille Sumariwalla presented his analysis of the performance. "At this point, the Minister intervened to say that instead of specific cases, the focus should be on analysing the overall performance," the source said. Even star runner Avinash Sable's fitness status was under the scanner after he did not start the 5000m race following a fourth-place finish in his pet event – the 3000m steeplechase competition. He was the defending champion in 3000m steeplechase and won a silver in the 5000m race in Hangzhou. Overall, the the gold count in athletics was down from six to one this time. The total haul in the discipline was also lower with 24 medals, which was five less than the number achieved in the previous Games.

Inspired by Her Character Jayamma in Ranabaali, Rashmika Provides Essential Supplies to 400 Families for Three Months



Actress Rashmika Mandanna is winning hearts with her generous spirit and commitment to social service. Inspired by her character Jayamma in her upcoming film Ranabaali, Rashmika has launched a charitable initiative called Annapurna. As part of this initiative, she has provided essential supplies sufficient for three months to 400 families across eight different locations. She has also announced that she intends to continue the initiative for an entire year. Vijay Deverakonda expressed his happiness over Rashmika's Annapurna project, saying that he is proud of her. Netizens are also appreciating her efforts in large numbers.

Sharing the details of the initiative, Rashmika said, "Many of you ask me whether I share any similarities with Jayamma's character. My answer is yes. As a gesture of gratitude for all the love you have showered on me, I have always wanted to do good things like this, but I never spoke about them publicly. I felt that it was enough for me and my team to know. However, I am sharing this now because I believe my initiative might inspire you as well. Today, I have taken responsibility for 400 families. I want to support all 400 families with essential supplies every three months and continue this initiative throughout the year. I hope the families can save the money they would otherwise spend on these essential items and set it aside for their future needs."

Responding to Rashmika's initiative, Vijay Deverakonda said, "You have been doing such wonderful things for a long time without bringing them to public attention. Now, your Annapurna project will support 400 families for an entire year. At a time when climate change is creating drought-like conditions and making life difficult, this initiative will help protect these families during a challenging period. We are proud of your kind heart. It is not just about growing in life; we should also stand by our people and support them."

Ranabaali, starring Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna, is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 16.

"Crazy Kalyanam Is a Crazy Family Entertainer That Everyone Can Enjoy This Festive Season" – Anupama Parameswaran



Navarasa Raya" Dr. Naresh Vijaya Krishna, Anupama Parameswaran, Tharun Bhascker, and Akhil Uddemari of Raju Weds Rambai fame play the lead roles in the film "Crazy Kalyanam." The film is being produced by passionate producer Boosam Jagan Mohan Reddy under the Arrow Cinemas banner as Production No. 2 and is directed by Badhrappa Gajula. Releasing worldwide in theatres on October 16 for the Dasara festival, the film promises to be a festive entertainer. In a recent interview, heroine Anupama Parameswaran shared the highlights of the movie.

- We initially considered a different working title for Crazy Kalyanam. However, throughout the process of making the film, everything felt crazy, and that is how our director came up with the title Crazy Kalyanam. It is a story filled with fun and emotion. Once actors like Naresh garu, Akhil, and Tharun Bhascker joined the cast, the project became even crazier. I have been involved in intense promotions for this film. Since I am personally happy with the project, I have been enjoying the promotional activities as well. Without a crazy producer like Jagan Mohan Reddy, this film would not have reached audiences in such a wonderful way.

- You will have to watch the film to find out whether I get married or not in Crazy Kalyanam. Unlike what happens in the film, there is absolutely no pressure on me at home regarding marriage. My family always tells me to get married whenever I feel ready. Personally, I want to have a baby before getting married. At weddings in Kerala, the food served is entirely vegetarian. However, I got to experience a new culture through Telangana weddings. In Kerala, new traditions such as haldi and mehendi ceremonies are now becoming part of weddings, whereas earlier, we used to have only two functions: the engagement and the wedding.

- All the characters in Crazy Kalyanam are struggling with something. What feels like a hardship to our characters may appear funny to you. Comedy emerges organically through our characters and the situations they find themselves in. When Badhrappa came to narrate the script, I could see his sincerity and conviction as a director. As he narrated the story, there were moments when I laughed and others when I became emotional.

GRAND TRAILER LAUNCH EVENT FOR "JAYAHO RAMANUJA



"Jayaho Ramanuja" is a movie starring and directed by Lion Dr. Sai Venkat. The film is produced by Sai Prasanna and Pravallika under the banner of Sudarsanam Productions. American actress Jo Sharma plays the female lead, while Suman and Pravallika will be seen in key roles. "Jayaho Ramanuja" is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on the 24th of this month. Today, the movie's trailer launch event was held grandly in Hyderabad.

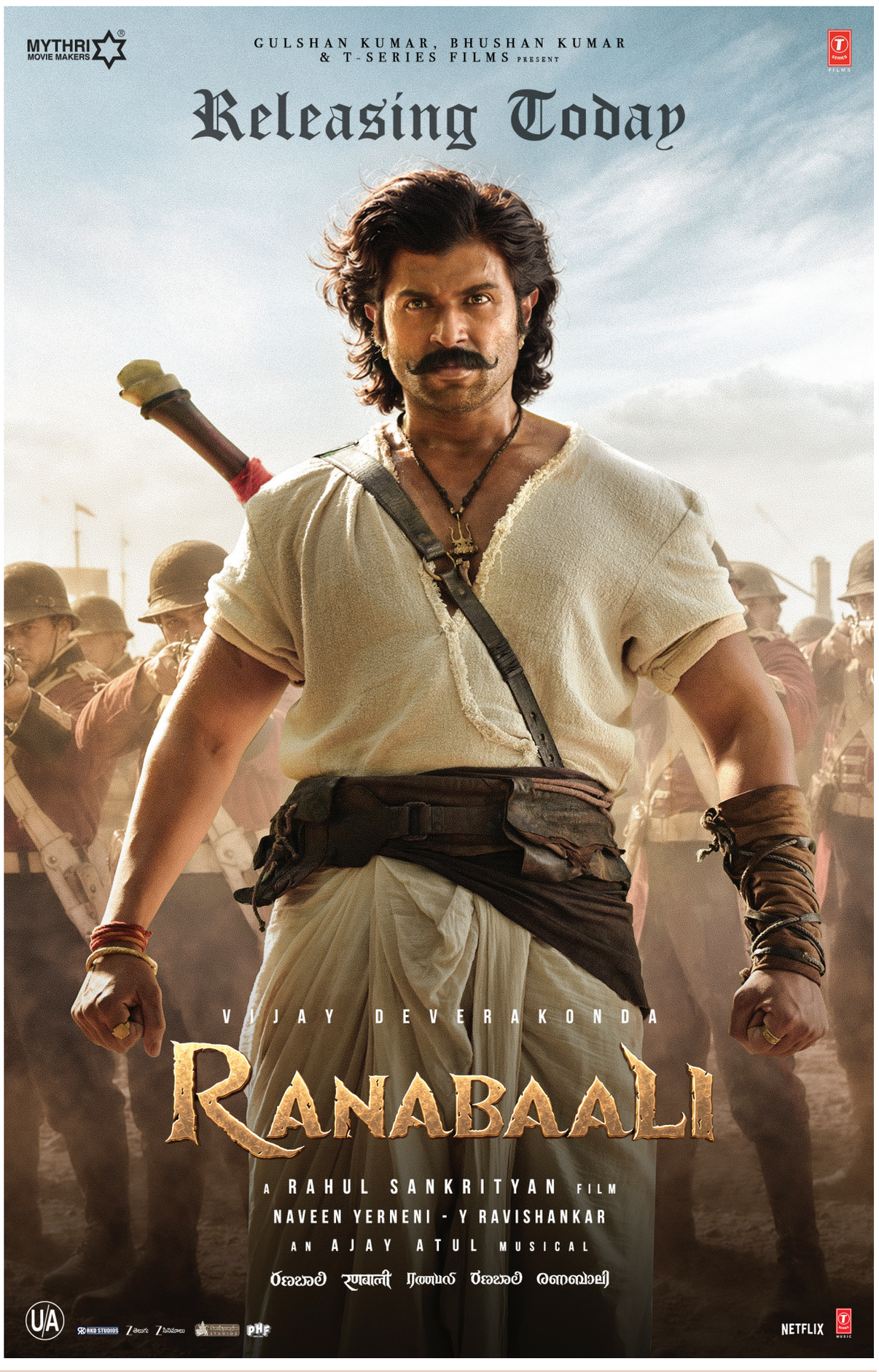
Sundeep Kishan, Ugandhar Muni, Shining Pictures Karikaala Launched Grandly With Pooja Ceremony



Promising hero Sundeep Kishan's ambitious pan-India socio-fantasy spectacle, Karikaala, has been launched grandly today with a traditional pooja ceremony attended by prominent personalities from the film industry. Directed by Ugandhar Muni and produced by Mahidhar Reddy & Rajashekhar Annabhimoju under the Shining Pictures banner, the film is being mounted on a massive scale, promising an extraordinary blend of mythology, fantasy, adventure, and social elements. Catherine Tresa, Sakkshi Mhadolkar and Gayatri Bhardwaj play the female leads.

Sathyavati garu, mother of producer Rajesekhar, switched on the camera, while Padma Reddy garu, mother of producer Mahidhar Reddy, sounded the clapboard. Actor Aadi Saikumar directed the first shot, and the script was handed over by Veera Brahma Chari garu, father of producer Rajashekhar Annabhimoju.





Printed, Published and owned By Vuppla Sujatha, Printed at: LAVANYA MUDRANA, NO-79, T.R. MILL COMPOUND, 5TH MAIN,9TH CROSS, CHAMARAJPET, BANGALORE - 560018, KARNATAKA STATE . Published At #50, OPP TO SKODA SERVICE CENTER, SUBHASHNAGAR, T C PALYA MAIN ROAD, VIRGONAGAR POST, BANGLORE 560049, KARNATAKA. Editor: Chiluka Venugopal Reddy. E-Mail: info.southindiatimes@gmail.com., Contact :9000657700, RNI Regd No: KARENG/2012/43253.