SIT PUBLICATIONS PVT LTD | Estd 2009 | VOL No. 17 | ISSUE No. 255 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026 | P-8 | ₹.5/- | PRGI No. KARENG/2012/43253

BENGALURU I CHENNAI I HYDERABAD I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

Essence of the South

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

15-10-2026



Total pilgrims : 72,337
Tonsures : 33,548
Hundi kanukalu : 3.87 CR
Laddu sale... 4.0 Lac
Annaprasadam.. 2.29Lac
Ashwini hospital..8,419
Present Situation on 16-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..
Out side line at Silathoranam.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...18 H.

Bhatti sets Three-month deadline for Rohit Vemula Bill



Hyderabad ■ (TSIT):

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to prepare the preliminary draft of the proposed Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill within three months to protect students' rights and prevent caste-based discrimination in higher educational institutions.

At a Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting at the Secretariat on Friday, he instructed the Scheduled Castes Development Department to lead the drafting process in coordination with the Law Department and other relevant institutions.

He called for consultations with students, faculty, legal experts, civil society groups and education specialists to ensure practical provisions for preventing discrimination and promoting equal opportunities. NALSAR University of Law has agreed to provide legal and technical assistance for drafting the Bill.

INBRIEF

Govt cuts gold duty drawback rate by 3.1 pc, silver by nearly 9 pc

New Delhi, Oct 16 : The central government on Friday reduced the duty drawback rates applicable to the export of gold and silver jewellery, as well as other precious metal products. According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance, the duty refund on gold jewellery has been cut by 3.1 per cent, while the refund on silver jewellery and other such products has been reduced by approximately 9 per cent. The decision will lower financial gains for Indian jewellery exporters compared to before, and it could have a direct impact on their profit margins. Following the revision, the duty drawback rate for the export of gold jewellery has been reduced from Rs 1,851.99 per gram to Rs 1,794.11 per gram. The reduction is even more significant for silver-based products. The rate for the export of silver jewellery and other silver items has been lowered from Rs 29,501.09 per kilogram to Rs 26,859.02 per kilogram. Duty drawback is a mechanism through which exporters receive a refund of customs and other duties paid on raw materials or inputs used in the production of goods intended for export.

ISI RAISES ESPIONAGE BUDGET TO RS.1,300 CRORE, TARGETS NAVY AND IAF

New Delhi : Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has reportedly raised its annual espionage budget targeting India to Rs 1,300 crore following last year's Operation Sindoor, with funds focused on building a Human Intelligence (HUMINT) network within the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, according to intelligence officials. An Intelligence Bureau official said that before Operation Sindoor, the ISI's budget for espionage against India was Rs 800 to Rs 900 crore. "However, post Operation Sindoor, there has been a hike in this sum of up to Rs 1,300 crore. The reason why the budget has been hiked is that Pakistan wants to trap high-value targets within India's defence forces," the official said. In recent months, the ISI has been specifically focusing on setting up a massive Human Intelligence (HUMINT) network within the Indian Navy and Air Force. Offices handling sensitive information are targeted through honey-traps or by exploiting security vulnerabilities. The cost of establishing such networks has risen sharply over the past year, with high-value targets now being paid between Rs 15 lakh and Rs 25 lakh, compared with Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh before Operation Sindoor.

TIRANGA MARCH



Dipke, Bora detained; flash protests in Delhi

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):

Despite efforts by the Delhi Police to prevent activists and students from gathering for the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led 'Lehra Do Tiranga' rally on Friday, October 16, the day was packed with developments. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke was detained as soon as he stepped out, and All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora was detained at Mandi House; the police action prompted flash protests across central Delhi.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke was detained as soon as he stepped out, and All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora was detained at Mandi House; the police action prompted flash protests across central Delhi.

Over 20 police personnel arrived at Dipke's Delhi accommodation in Jhandewalan with two notices—one barring him from the march over stampede and traffic concerns and another over alleged violation of bond conditions—before the scheduled 5 pm march.

While the first notice barred him from holding a demonstration, procession or rally in the vicinity of Connaught Place, the second notice, issued by the Special Executive Magistrate, concerned the bond conditions imposed on Dipke and CJP co-leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka.

SC seeks Centre's response on social media age limits for children

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the Centre on a plea seeking a comprehensive and enforceable regulatory framework to protect children from the risks associated with social media platforms, including age-based restrictions on access and safeguards against online exploitation.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notice on the petition filed by The Emerald Heights International School and its Director (Academics), Siddharth Singh Girnar, and tagged it with a pending petition raising a similar issue.

The apex court has listed the matter for further hearing on December 3. The petition, filed against the Union of India, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Law and Justice, and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, raises concerns over unrestricted access to commercial social media platforms by children and the alleged inadequacy of the existing legal and regulatory framework to address the risks posed by their use.

The plea contends that social media platforms generally prescribe a self-declared minimum age of 13 years, which does not correspond to the protection accorded to children under Indian law. It refers to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, which recognises every person below 18 years of age as a child and provides for enhanced safeguards, including verifiable parental consent and restrictions on tracking, behavioural monitoring and targeted advertising.

Rahul slams police 'brutalities' against students during protests

Gandhi made remarks in a post accompanying video of his recent interaction with some students.

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday, October 16, claimed that Delhi Police is refusing to register a first information report (FIR) on the "assault" of student protesters by security personnel, and asserted that police can break bones but not a 'satyagraha'. The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha also stressed that "brutality by Home Minister Amit Shah's Delhi Police" will not go unchecked and the Congress will pursue every legal route against the officers responsible.

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi interacts with student activists who were allegedly beaten up by Delhi Police during a protest, in New Delhi. (Source: PTI)

Gandhi made the remarks in a post accompanying the video of his recent interaction with some students, including those from the Congress' students wing NSUI, who were injured during recent protests against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the SIR process. The Congress leader had met them at the 10, Janpath residence of Sonia Gandhi here on Wednesday, October 14.

"Delhi Police is refusing to register an FIR on the assault of our students. Two young women, Athira from Kerala and Ritu from Rajasthan, along with many others, were beaten by Delhi Police. I have spoken to Kerala Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala and Rajasthan PCC President Govind Singh Dotasra. A Zero FIR has already been registered in Kerala," Gandhi said in his post on X. Interview with Rahul about police brutality against students during protests.Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi interacts with student activists who were allegedly beaten up by Delhi Police during a protest, in New Delhi. (Source: PTI)

"We will pursue every legal route against the officers responsible, in Kerala, in Rajasthan and in the courts. Brutality by Amit Shah's Delhi Police will not go unchecked," he said. "Police can break bones. They cannot break a satyagraha. India's youth, especially young women, are fearless, determined and united. They are standing up for our democracy, and I stand with them," Gandhi said.In the video, Gandhi listens to the students and then calls up Chennithala and Dotasra, asking them to file an FIR against the policewoman who indulged in brutalities according to the students.

Jagan accuses Naidu of turning Andhra into 'jungle raj'



TADEPALLI■ (TSIT):

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress President, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Friday alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has turned Andhra Pradesh into a 'jungle raj'. Jagan Mohan Reddy strongly condemned an attack on YSRCP Lok Sabha leader and MP Peddireddy Mithun Reddy and spoke to him over the phone to enquire about the incident and his condition.

The YSRCP chief said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had no intention of allowing the local body elections to be conducted peacefully and fairly. He said there was intense public opposition to the coalition government after two-and-a-half years of its rule and that the government was resorting to violence, attacks and intimidation because of this growing resentment.

Lakhs of devotees witness Garuda Seva amid heavy rain

Tirumala: Lakhs of devotees witnessed the grand Garuda Seva of Sri Malayappa Swamy in Tirumala on Friday evening despite heavy rain during the annual Brahmotsavams.

Devotees filled the four Mada streets, chanting "Govinda, Govinda" and carrying umbrellas and raincoats as the deity, adorned with glittering ornaments and silk robes, proceeded on the majestic golden Garuda Vahanam.TTD officials, police, vigilance personnel and Srivari Seva volunteers supervised crowd management and safety arrangements. TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu, Executive Officer M. Ravichandra, board members and the Tirumala pontiffs were also present.



Kharge writes to PM Modi, seeks all-party meeting to discuss new bills

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



Congress President and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking an all-party meeting to discuss bills and other proposals.

Congress President and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking an all-party meeting to discuss bills and other proposals.

Highlighting that the Constitutional Amendment Bill on Delimitation failed to muster the necessary two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha on April 17, 2026, by a decisive margin, Kharge wrote, "Please convene an all-party meeting to have a detailed discussion on your new proposals before they are finalised for consideration in Parliament."The LoP said, "All political parties must get sufficient time to deliberate among themselves, with each other and with all other stakeholders. Please do not once again try and bulldoze a far-reaching Constitutional Amendment Bill through Parliament as you attempted earlier and that met its well-deserved fate."

Kharge said, "You may kindly recall that I had first written to you on April 11, 2026 to convene an all-party meeting before bringing any Constitutional Amendment Bill on Delimitation. You did not do so. Thereafter, you made the Bills public on the late evening of April 14, 2026 and convened a special session on April 16, 2026."

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

CM Vijay inaugurates Periyar knowledge centre, holds roadshow in Coimbatore

The Rs 300 crore project (including Rs 245 crore for construction, Rs 50 crore for books, besides e-books) was conceptualised and initiated by the previous DMK government to serve as a knowledge



COIMBATORE: Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Friday inaugurated the 'Periyar Arivulagam' and Science Centre established on sprawling 7 acres on Dr Nanjappa Road, Gandhipuram, here. The Rs 301.71 crore (including Rs 245 crore for construction, Rs 50 crore for books, besides e-books) was conceptualised and initiated by the previous DMK government to serve as a knowledge centre. Named after the social reformer "Periyar" EV Ramasamy, the 7-storey facility was built to serve as a destination for education, scientific learning, and research.

He unveiled the statue of social reformer Periyar at the complex and inaugurated 89 completed projects at Rs 408.25 crore, laid foundation stones for 144 new projects at 32.32 crore and distributed welfare assistance to 9,343 beneficiaries for 34.72 crore Hours before the formal inauguration of the facility, DMK president and former chief minister MK Stalin posted a video on social media and stated that the project was the brainchild of his "Dravidian model government".

"What does it matter who opens it? Does the pride lie in inaugurating it? The true pride is in planning and creating something unique. That pride belongs to the DMK forever," Stalin said.Chief Minister Vijay, who arrived here from Chennai by a special flight, held a roadshow on Avinashi Road to Gandhipuram ahead of the inauguration of the Centre. He traversed about 11.4 km from the Coimbatore International Airport to the venue of the function in Gandhipuram.

Massive crowds of TVK party workers and residents lined up along the Avinashi Road to welcome him. Police personnel have set up heavy barricades across Peelamedu, Avinashi Road, and Gandhipuram. A strict drone-flying ban is actively enforced along the entire stretch.

The chief minister later arrived at the Periyar Arivulagam campus on Dr Nanjappa Road, where he was accorded a warm reception.

He unveiled a huge statue of Periyar on the campus and also inaugurated the Periyar Arivulagam and Science Centre. Vijay went around the science centre, digital library, and planetarium, interacting with local corporation school students on the second floor of the facility. The foundation stone for the project was laid by Stalin on November 6, 2024. The initial construction and development framework were carried out by the Public Works Department (PWD) under the DMK administration before the change in governance. While the project was designed, funded, and started under the DMK government, it was officially completed and opened to the public today by the current CM.The facility features over 1.25 lakh physical books, a digital library, children's library, reading sections, and interactive science facilities. It is also equipped with modern computer systems, a vast e-book network, digital archives, and interactive learning media designed specifically for children.

Specialised study halls and materials curated for students preparing for competitive examinations like TNPSC and UPSC are available in the 'Arivulagam', meaning 'world of knowledge'.The facility also houses a modern, high-tech auditorium built to host academic seminars, intellectual debates, and cultural events. A security blanket was in place ahead of Vijay's maiden visit after becoming the chief minister in May, with over 3,500 police personnel deployed across the city. Barricades have been erected along Avinashi Road, the airport route, Peelamedu, and Red Fields, leading to expected traffic diversions throughout the morning, police sources said.

Ramanathapuram: El Niño effect suspected as red sea sponges wash ashore

While freshly washed-up specimens retain a light red hue, those exposed for longer periods have dried and turned white.



CHENNAI: Large quantities of red-coloured sea sponges have washed ashore along the Ramanathapuram coast, particularly between Pudumadam, Manangudi and Nochiurani near Uchipuli, raising concerns among local fishermen over possible changes in marine conditions. According to a Daily Thanthi report, the sponges found along the coastline display different colours depending on how long they have remained on the shore.

Misappropriation of gold: EOW arrests 4 more in co-op society scam

While freshly washed-up specimens retain a light red hue, those exposed for longer periods have dried and turned white.

The unusual occurrence has prompted fishermen to seek an investigation by Forest Department officials to determine the reasons behind the phenomenon. The waters surrounding the 21 islands in the Gulf of Mannar, off Ramanathapuram district, support a rich diversity of marine life.

The region is home to around 3,600 species, including dugongs, dolphins, seahorses, porpoises and coral reefs. The appearance of large quantities of sea sponges along the coast has drawn attention to the possible effects of changing marine conditions. Fishermen have urged the authorities to examine the specimens and identify the factors responsible for their arrival on the shore.

Is it due to El Niño ?

Climate change and possible shifts in ocean conditions associated with the El Niño phenomenon have been suspected as potential reasons for the sponges washing ashore.

Minister Kamali Warns Against Expired Livestock Medicines



Kanchipuram, Oct. 17 : Tamil Nadu's Minister for Animal Husbandry, Kamali, conducted an inspection yesterday at the veterinary pharmacies in Padappai and Ayyampettai, as well as at the Kanchipuram Veterinary Hospital. During this visit, he instructed the animal husbandry officials that expired medicines should not be provided to livestock and emphasized the need to provide quality treatment and continuously monitor the animals. Present during this inspection were Tamil Nadu's Minister for Forests, R.V. Ranjithkumar, Kanchipuram District Collector Sneha, uthiramerur mla munirathinam several others.

Sexual assault accused dies at police station in Madurai



MADURAI: A 40-year-old man accused of sexually assaulting his 15-year-old daughter died after collapsing at the Madurai Town All-Women Police Station, where he had been summoned for inquiry into the case on Thursday (October 15). The police rushed him to the Government Rajaji Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

His daughter, a Class X student, was admitted to the hospital after she fell ill, police said. During the examination, doctors found that the girl was six months pregnant and alerted the police.

During the subsequent inquiry, she allegedly told the police that her father had sexually assaulted her. Summoned for questioning, Rajkumar suddenly collapsed at the police station, a police source said. Preliminary investigation suggested that he might have consumed poison.

Kanchipuram Deputy Mayor Protests in Sewage Water



Kanchipuram, Oct. 16 : In Kanchipuram Municipality, the roadside drain on Aadisampettai Chetty Street has been broken for the past month, causing sewage water to accumulate like a pond. Local residents have been facing great difficulties while passing through this area daily.

In this situation, the Deputy Mayor and the local residents have repeatedly requested the repair of the roadside drain. However, no action has been taken so far. In protest against this, Kanchipuram Municipality Deputy Mayor Kumaragurunathan sat in the sewage water on Aadisampettai Chetty Street yesterday, along with his supporters, to condemn the municipal administration. During this time, the Municipal Commissioner, who arrived at the scene, spoke with the highway department and assured that the drain would be repaired, after which the Deputy Mayor ended the protest and left the area. The incident of the Deputy Mayor sitting in the sewage has caused a significant stir in Kanchipuram.

India needs 2.6 billion sq ft more healthcare space by 2035: Report



New Delhi, Oct 16: India will need an additional 2.6 billion square feet of healthcare real estate by 2035, along with nearly 2.9 million additional hospital beds, to bring its healthcare infrastructure closer to global benchmarks, according to a report released by CBRE South Asia on Friday.

The report said India currently has around 1.6 hospital beds per 1,000 people, significantly below the global average of 3.3 beds per 1,000 people. To bridge this gap, the country's total healthcare real estate footprint will need to expand substantially from an estimated 2.1 billion square feet in 2025. "The requirement presents a significant opportunity for developers, investors and healthcare operators to create purpose-built and scalable healthcare assets across markets," the report said.

Healthcare investment is increasingly shifting towards specialised facilities, day-care formats and acquisition-led expansion, reflecting changing demand and the need to expand capacity across the country.

Southern states, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka, have relatively higher levels of existing healthcare infrastructure in relation to their burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).In contrast, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand have lower hospital bed density relative to their NCD burden, highlighting the need for additional healthcare infrastructure in these states.Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, meanwhile, have stronger healthcare infrastructure and higher household incomes, supporting further expansion of specialised healthcare facilities and medical ecosystems. "Healthcare is emerging as one of India's most consequential real estate opportunities, not simply because demand for care is increasing, but because the country needs a far deeper and more distributed physical healthcare network," said Anshuman Magazine, Chairman and CEO for India, South-East Asia, the Middle East and Africa at CBRE.He said built-to-suit (BTS) structures could play an important role in meeting this requirement by providing healthcare operators with specialised, purpose-built clinical infrastructure tailored to their operational and regulatory needs.Such arrangements would enable healthcare providers to direct more capital towards clinical services, medical equipment and technology, while offering property owners greater income visibility through long-term leases, he added.

Beyond conventional hospitals, the sector is also witnessing the growth of diagnostic centres, day-care surgery facilities, wellness and preventive healthcare formats. These include health screening centres, rehabilitation clinics, eye-care centres, in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) centres and vaccination facilities, particularly in urban areas. The report also noted that, given the highly competitive healthcare landscape in certain cities, operators are increasingly evaluating the acquisition of existing hospitals to enter established markets more quickly by leveraging their operational infrastructure, licences and patient networks.

Study finds replacing ultra-processed foods with fresh foods linked to lower bowel cancer risk



Mumbai, Oct 16: Replacing 10% of ultra-processed food intake with minimally processed foods is associated with a 2% lower incidence of bowel cancer, according to a new analysis of data from more than 460,000 US adults.

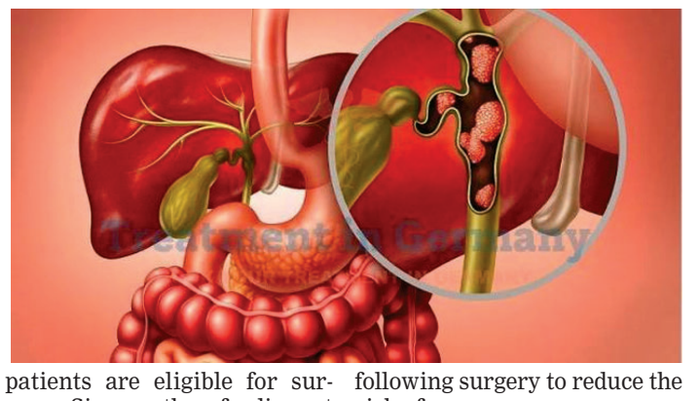
The study, published in PLOS Medicine, found no association between total ultra-processed food consumption and bowel cancer incidence. However, the findings suggest that the type of food consumed may be more important than whether it is classified as ultra-processed.

Researchers analysed data from adults aged 50 to 71 who enrolled in the US National Institutes of Health-AARP Diet and Health Study in 1995-96. Participants were followed for more than 20 years, during which over 10,000 cases of bowel cancer were diagnosed.

The analysis found that higher consumption of reconstituted meat products, such as hotdogs, was associated with increased bowel cancer incidence. In contrast, higher intakes of frozen desserts and milk products, including fruit yoghurt, as well as breakfast cereals and bread, were associated with lower incidence. The researchers also found that wholegrains, fibre, dairy products and calcium from ultra-processed food sources were associated with lower bowel cancer incidence.

Ultra-processed foods include packaged snacks, sugary drinks, instant noodles, biscuits, processed meats and ready-to-eat meals. The study used the Nova classification system, which groups foods according to the nature and extent of industrial processing. The researchers cautioned that the findings show associations and do not establish that particular foods directly cause or prevent bowel cancer. They also noted that dietary questionnaires have limitations and that the results should be interpreted carefully.The findings highlight the need to consider the nutritional composition of foods rather than treating all ultra-processed products as a single category when assessing cancer risk. For bowel cancer prevention, the researchers said the findings were consistent with existing dietary guidance that recommends eating more fruits.

Global experts issue new guidelines to improve bile duct cancer treatment



Mumbai, Oct 16: International specialists have developed new clinical recommendations to improve the management of cholangiocarcinoma, a cancer that develops in the bile ducts, with a focus on early treatment decisions, genetic testing and advanced therapies to improve patient outcomes.

Cholangiocarcinoma is an increasingly prevalent malignancy worldwide and is often detected at an advanced stage, contributing to poor survival rates. An international expert panel has outlined evidence-based recommendations covering disease classification, biomarker testing and treatment strategies to address key challenges in patient care. The experts stressed the importance of accurate anatomical classification under ICD-11, distinguishing intrahepatic, perihilar and distal cholangiocarcinoma to guide treatment decisions.

Surgical removal of the tumour remains the only treatment offering curative intent, but only around 20 to 30 per cent of newly diagnosed patients are eligible for surgery. Six months of adjuvant capecitabine is recommended following surgery to reduce the risk of recurrence.

For patients with inoperable disease, early assessment for liver transplantation or locoregional therapies may provide additional treatment opportunities. The panel also recommended multidisciplinary tumour boards for every patient to support coordinated decisions on diagnosis and treatment.

Comprehensive molecular profiling through next-generation sequencing is now considered standard practice for advanced cases, helping identify genetic changes that may respond to targeted therapies. These include IDH1 mutations, FGFR2 fusions, HER2 amplifications and BRAF mutations.

For first-line treatment of advanced disease, combining cisplatin and gemcitabine chemotherapy with immune checkpoint inhibitors such as durvalumab or pembrolizumab has demonstrated improved survival compared with chemotherapy alone. For patients without actionable genetic alterations whose disease progresses, FOLFOX chemotherapy remains an evidence-based second-line option.The experts highlighted the need for further research into liquid biopsy technologies, greater participation in clinical trials and a better understanding of the tumour immune microenvironment. Developing new drug combinations to overcome acquired resistance and strengthening supportive care were also identified as important priorities. The consensus statement also recognises the contribution of co-author Dr Rachna Shroff, whose leadership helped advance clinical trials in biliary tract cancers.

MSM Unify Joins Team Canada Trade Mission to India 2026, Calls for Deeper Cooperation in AI, Higher Education and Cybersecurity



Bengaluru : MSM Unify is participating in the Team Canada Trade Mission to India 2026, with Mr. Mahir Laul, Global Strategist and Partnerships, joining nearly 300 Canadian delegates to advance bilateral trade, investment and strategic cooperation. Led by Canada's Minister of International Trade, the Honourable Maninder Sidhu, the mission spans Mumbai and Bengaluru from October 12 to 17, bringing together business leaders and policymakers at a pivotal moment in Canada-India economic relations.

With both countries pursuing an ambitious expansion of bilateral trade and renewed engagement on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the mission signals an opportunity to build partnerships beyond traditional sectors, particularly in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced technologies and the knowledge economy.

Representing MSM Unify, Mr. Mahir Laul brought attention to the strategic convergence of technology, higher education and international trade. His discussions focused on how Canada and India can move beyond conventional education partnerships toward deeper institutional cooperation, joint innovation, AI-driven workforce transformation and stronger digital resilience.

Commenting on the evolving Canada-India economic relationship, Mr. Mahir Laul said:

"The next chapter of Canada-India trade must be defined not simply by the volume of commerce, but by the intellectual and technological capabilities we build together. Artificial intelligence is fundamentally reshaping economic competitiveness, while cybersecurity has become a prerequisite for digital trust and cross-border growth. Higher education sits at the intersection of both. The real opportunity is to move from talent mobility to talent co-creation, where universities, industry and technology ecosystems jointly develop the expertise, research capabilities and innovation infrastructure that both economies will need over the next decade."

Karnataka INDIA bloc to hold Nov 5 rally against SIR process



BENGALURU: The INDIA opposition bloc in Karnataka has announced plans for a statewide movement against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, accusing the exercise of risking the exclusion of eligible voters. The campaign will be held under the slogan 'Save Votes, Save the Nation'.

The decision was taken at a meeting of alliance partners chaired by KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad at the Legislators' House in Bengaluru on Friday. Leaders discussed alleged deletions from electoral rolls, concerns about the revision process and the role of the Election Commission.

Hariprasad said every eligible citizen's voting right must be protected and argued that genuine voters should not be removed from the rolls. He demanded that the SIR process be scrapped and eligible voters' names restored. He also sought the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the poll panel was acting in favour of a political party rather than functioning as an independent constitutional body.

A coordination committee representing the Congress, CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML) Liberation, Samajwadi Party and Forward Bloc will be formed to plan protests and coordinate activities across Karnataka.As part of the campaign, alliance representatives will attend a protest at New Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on November 1. A major demonstration is scheduled in Bengaluru on November 5, followed by protests at district and taluk headquarters. Hariprasad said the movement would continue despite possible restrictions, describing it as a struggle to defend constitutional guarantees rather than merely a political campaign. Alliance leaders also stressed the need to involve farmers, workers, women, students, young people and progressive organisations to turn the campaign into a broader public movement.

Coursera Showcases Project Helix In Bengaluru



Bengaluru : Coursera , a leading global online learning platform, showcased Project Helix, a new AI-native skills platform, at FWD 2026 in Bengaluru.

Held under the theme "Human Skills. AI Scale.", the combined annual flagship event of Coursera and Udemy brought together leaders from government, higher education and industry to explore how organizations can turn AI investment into practical workforce capability. Coursera also announced a partnership with IIMBx Digital Learning Foundation of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, to bring management education to learners worldwide.

Built from the ground up, Project Helix is designed to connect business priorities with personalized learning, practical application & verified skills. Leaders and learners will be able to describe their goals in natural language to generate adaptive learning paths, while employees build and demonstrate proficiency through practice and assessments. The platform will bring learning into everyday workflows and help organizations connect skills development with measurable business outcomes. Project Helix is expected to be broadly available to enterprise customers in the first half of 2027."Access to AI tools is growing rapidly, but the ability to use them effectively depends on people's skills, confidence and judgment. Project Helix aims to help organizations integrate learning into everyday workflows, validate skills with confidence and turn workforce data into action," said Ashutosh Gupta, Managing Director, India and Asia Pacific, Coursera.Coursera also announced a partnership with the IIMBx Digital Learning Foundation of The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore to bring its management expertise to learners in India and around the world. In the coming months. , IIMBx Digital Learning Foundation plans to launch new programs on Coursera spanning business strategy, entrepreneurship, data-driven decision-making, communication, digital marketing, public policy and fintech."Great management education should reach people wherever they are in their careers and wherever they live," said Sitaraman Shankar, Chief Executive Officer, IIMBx Digital Learning Foundation, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB). "Through Coursera, we look forward to sharing IIM Bangalore's expertise with a wider global audience and helping learners build skills they can apply to the decisions and challenges they face at work."



Outgoing Governor of Karnataka, Thaawarchand Gehlot was called on by D. R. Vijaya Sarathi, Secretary of Vasavi Educational Institutions, and the president of Shri Subramanyeshwara Co-operative Bank, at Lok Bhavan. They extended their warm wishes to the outgoing Governor on his farewell and wished him good health, happiness and continued success in all his future endeavours.

Ostrich Mobility, US-Based Pride Mobility Join Hands to Bring Advanced Rehabilitation Solutions to India



BENGALURU : In a significant step towards making advanced mobility and rehabilitation solutions more accessible in India, Ostrich Mobility Instruments Pvt. Ltd. and US-based Pride Mobility Products Corporation have announced a strategic partnership to introduce a specialised range of customised mobility products for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and patients recovering from illness, injury or surgery. The partnership was announced at the Posspole Ecosystem in Bengaluru.The collaboration brings together Pride Mobility's globally recognised assistive technology and Ostrich Mobility's 19 years of experience in the Indian market, supported by local assembly and pan-India service capabilities. The initiative aims to strengthen access to personalised mobility solutions for individuals, hospitals and rehabilitation centres.

India's rapidly ageing population has increased the need for accessible healthcare and mobility support. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the country's elderly population is projected to reach approximately

Kia India Strengthens Customer Confidence in Connected Mobility with AIS 189 and AIS 190 Compliance



Bengaluru : Kia India, one of the country's leading mass-premium automakers, today announced that it has received AIS 189 and AIS 190 "Confirmation of Compliance (CoC)" Certification from ARAI for its vehicle portfolio. The certifications emphasize Kia India's commitment to secure connected mobility and compliance with industry requirements for vehicle cybersecurity and software update management.

As connected technologies become an integral part of the driving and ownership experience, ensuring the security and reliability of vehicle software is increasingly important. Kia India's compliance with AIS 189 and AIS 190 reinforces its systematic approach to identifying and managing cybersecurity risks, safeguarding software updates and maintaining robust processes throughout the vehicle lifecycle.

The AIS 189 certification validates Kia India's Cyber Security Management System, covering cybersecurity governance, risk assessment, incident management, organisational capabilities and continuous monitoring of cybersecurity risks throughout the vehicle lifecycle. The AIS 190 certification validates its Software Update Management System, encompassing software update planning, validation, deployment, OTA package protection, traceability, monitoring and regulatory compliance.

For customers, these measures are designed to strengthen confidence in connected vehicle technologies and contribute to a more secure, reliable and seamless ownership experience. Securely managed over-the-air (OTA) updates will enable eligible software updates to be delivered conveniently, while robust validation and monitoring processes will help maintain software integrity and reliability throughout the vehicle lifecycle.

Commenting on the certifications, Atul Sood, Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Kia India, said, "As vehicles become increasingly connected and software-driven, safeguarding the customer's connected mobility experience is as important as ensuring performance, quality and safety on the road. The AIS 189 and AIS 190 certifications reflect Kia India's commitment to maintaining robust cybersecurity and software update management practices throughout the vehicle lifecycle. Through these systems, we are strengthening protection, reliability and trust while delivering secure and continuously evolving mobility experiences to our customers."

The initiative reinforces the security and reliability of Kia's increasingly connected and software-enabled vehicles throughout their lifecycle - from development and production through post-production support. Through robust cybersecurity governance, continuous risk assessment, incident-response preparedness and secure software update management, Kia India is further enhancing its ability to identify, assess and address emerging cyber risks. Kia India's implementation roadmap includes continuous risk monitoring, employee awareness and competency development, internal audits, process improvement initiatives, cybersecurity incident preparedness.

ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD. (ARCIL)
CIN No.: U65999MH2002PLC134884 • Website: www.arcil.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (acting in capacity as Trustee for the below mentioned Trusts) (hereinafter referred to as "ARCIL") is incorporated under the companies Act, 1956 and registered as an Asset Reconstruction Company with the Reserve Bank of India of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of security interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the SARFAESI Act") and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from Northern ARC Capital Limited, the Original Lenders and whereas ARCIL has acquired the financial assets relating to the loan accounts mentioned herein below and whereas ARCIL being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons.

LAN No. / Name of Original Lender / Demand Notice Date / Name of the Trust	Borrower / Co-Borrower Name	Total Outstanding in INR as per, Demand Notice Date
LAN: 106053791764 Original Lender: Northern ARC Capital Ltd. Date of Demand Notice: 15-07-2026 Trust Name: Arcil - Trust -2026- 032	Ananda / Sushma A Narasamma Narasimhamurthy	Rs. 4,31,114.78 as on 08-05-2026

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of plot/land owned by Smt. Narasamma W/o Narasimhamurthy, bearing Katha No. 318 and E-Katha No. 152500903000300377, measuring East to West 9.7536 Meters and North to South 7.62 Meters, situated at Kaidala Village, Gulur Hobli, Tumkur Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, under the limit of Hettanahalli Grama Panchayathi.North: Road; South: House Of Ramaiah; East: Remaining Property And Road; West: House Of Hanumanthamma

Date: 16-10-2026
Place: Karnataka

Sd/-Authorized Officer,
Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.
(In capacity as Trustee)

ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD. (ARCIL)
CIN No.: U65999MH2002PLC134884 • Website: www.arcil.co.in
Registered Office :The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai-400028. Tel: +91 2266581300.

CLIX CAPITAL SERVICES PVT. LTD. | Registered Office: W2/14, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008 | "APPENDIX-IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8(6)] Sale notice for sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization 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(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd. (CLIX) (Secured Creditors), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd. (CLIX), Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 23-Nov-2026, for recovery of amount as mentioned below, due to the Secured Creditors from following Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and Corporate Guarantor(s). The reserve price and earnest money to be deposited is mentioned below respectively.

Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower/ Guarantor(s) with address/es	Description & Owner(s) of Properties
1.JNANAJYOTI VIVIDODDESH SAMSTE KARUNESHWAR NAGAR JEWARGI ROAD GULBARGA KARNATAKA - 585102, **2.SIDDAMMA R KANNI W/O REVANASIDDA KANNI, 3.SANGEETA D/O REVANASIDDA KANNI** PLOT NO 85 BALAJI NILAYA NEW JEWARGI ROAD, BHAGYAWANTI NAGAR GULBARGA GB RS GULBARGA KARNATAKA -585102, **4. MAHADEVI W/O DEVINDRAPA,** NO E/139 GUDUR S A JEWARGI TQ GULBARGA DIST KARNATAKA -585310, **5. SANGANNA BIRADAR S/O BASANNA,** PLOT NO 26 UDNOOR ROAD VARDA NAGAR GULBARGA GB RS AFZALPUR GULBARGA KARNATAKA -585102, **6. BASANNA GOUDA BIRADAR S/O UMMANNA BIRADAR,** H NO 1/23 R/O NARAYANPUR TALUK JEWARGI, NARAYANPUR HULLUR JEWARGI KALABURAGI KARNATAKA -585212, **ALL ALSO AT -** PLOT NO.5 & 6, SY NO.75, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION NO.1-891/75/5 & **6, VINAYAKA HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY,** BRAHMAPUR VILLAGE, GULBARGA HOBLI, GULBARGA TALUK, GULBARGA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA -585102, **ALSO AT -** PLOT NO.21 & 22, SY NO.75, VINAYAKA HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, BRAHMAPUR VILLAGE, GULBARGA HOBLI, GULBARGA TALUK, GULBARGA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA -585102, **ALSO AT -** PLOT NO.35, SY NO.75, VINAYAKA HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, BRAHMAPUR VILLAGE, GULBARGA HOBLI, GULBARGA TALUK, GULBARGA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA -585102, **ALSO AT -** PLOT NO.59, SY NO.75, VINAYAKA HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, BRAHMAPUR VILLAGE, GULBARGA HOBLI, GULBARGA TALUK, GULBARGA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA -585102. **Loan No. - SBLK12000039578 1,(Along with futura Interest and charges accruing after 14.10.2025 till the total realization of the loan amount)**	**PROPERTY NO.1, DISCRIPITION OF THE PROPERTY/SCHOOL ITEM 1) -** BUILDING BEARING CORPORATION NO.- 891/75/5 & 6 CONSTRUCTED ON PLOT NO. 5, & PLOT NO. 6, EACH PLOT MEASURING 2400 SQ. FT. TOTALLY MEASURING 4800 SQ. FT IN SY. NO.75 HAVING PLINTH AREA 7026 SQ. FEET. IN SAID SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTED AND COVERING TO THE EXTENT ON THE ENTIRE PLOT NO. 5 IN III WING OF THE APPROVED LAYOUT OF VINAYAKA HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, GULBARGA, SITUATED AT BRAHMPUR VILLAGE, HOBLI, TALUK, GULBARGA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA AND TAKA AND BOUNDED ON EAST BY: PLOT NO. 7, WEST BY: REMAINING PORTION OF SCHOOL BUILDING OVER PLOT NO.5 AND PLOT NO.4, NORTH BY: LAYOUT BOUNDARY WITH APPROVED LAYOUT IN SY NO. 75, SOUTH BY: 30 FT WIDE ROAD. **PROPERTY NO. 2 -** PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO.21, IN SY. NO.75, IN III WING OF THE APPROVED LAYOUT OF VINAYAKA HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, GULBARGA, SITUATED AT BRAHMPUR VILLAGE, VILLAGE, HOBLI, TALUK, GULBARGA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA MEASURING 40 FEET X 60 FEET TOTAL 2400 SQ. FT AND BOUNDED ON: EAST BY: PLOT NO.22, WEST BY : PLOT NO.20, NORTH BY : ROAD, SOUTH BY : PLOT NO.36. **PROPERTY NO. 3 -** PROPERTY BEARING FOR PLOT NO.22, FORMED IN SY NO. SY.NO.75, MEASURING 40 FEET 60 FEET, IN TOTAL 2400 SQ FEET IN III WING OF THE APPROVED LAYOUT OF VINAYAKA HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCLETY, GULBARGA, SITUATED AT BRAHMPUR AHMPU VILLAGE, V HOBLI, TALUK, GULBARGA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA. EAST BY: PLOT NO.23, WEST BY: PLOT NO. 21, NORTH BY: 30 FT WIDE ROAD, NO 3, SOUTH BY: PLOT NO.37. **PROPERTY NO. 4 -** PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO.35, IN SY. NO.75, IN III WING OF THE APPROVED LAYOUT OF VINAYAKA HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, GULBARGA, SITUATED AT BRAHMPUR VILLAGE, HOBLI, TALUK, GULBARGA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA MEASURING 40FEETX60FEET TOTALLY 2400 SQ. IT BUT ACTUAL SITE AREA 1600 SQ FEET AND TOTAL BUILTUP AREA 1408 SQ FEET AND BOUNDED ON THE: EAST BY: PLOT NO. 36, WEST BY: PLOT NO. 34, NORTH BY: PLOT NO.20, SOUTH, SOUTH BY: 30FT WIDE ROAD. **PROPERTY NO. 5 -** PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO.59, IN SY. NO.75, IN III WING OF THE APPROVED LAYOUT OF VINAYAKA HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, GULBARGA, SITUATED AT BRAHMPURVILLAGE, HOBLI, TALUK, GULBARGA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA MEASURING 40FEETX40FEET TOTALLY 1600 SQ.FT AND BOUNDED ON THE: EAST BY: PLOT NO. 60, WEST BY: PLOT NO. 58, NORTH BY: PLOT NO. 50, SOUTH BY: 30FT WIDE ROAD. **(Type Of Possession & Date - Symbolic & 28-Aug-2026)**

Reserve Price (RP) & EMD & Incremental Amount - Property No. 1 - Rs. 2,62,80,000/- & Rs. 26,28,000/- & Rs. 50,000/-, **Property No. 2 & 3 -** Rs. 1,53,60,000/- & Rs. 15,36,000/- & Rs. 50,000/-, **Property No. 4 -** Rs. 75,50,000/- & Rs. 7,55,000/- & Rs. 50,000/-, **Property No. 5 -** Rs. 51,20,000/- & 5,12,000/- & Rs. 50,000/-.

Recovery Amount as per Demand Notice	Date & Time of On-Site Inspection of Property	Date & Time of E-Auction
Rs. 3,75,21,065.02/- as on 25.05.2026	12.11.2026 From 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM	23-Nov-2026 & 11-00 AM to 01-00 PM (with unlimited extensions of 5 Minutes each)

EMD amount shall be remitted through NEFT/RTGS/Demand Draft in favour of "Clix Capital Services Private Limited", Account No. 341905000665, Bank Name- ICICI BANK, IFSC-ICIC0003419, Branch Name - DLF Horizon, Gurugram.
Last date for deposit of EMD and uploading Bid documents: 20-Nov-2026 Till 12:00 PM at https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net
The balance 25% of final purchase price minus EMD Amount shall be deposited by the successful bidder, latest by the next working day by way of RTGS / NEFT in the E-Auction account of Clix, as detailed above. The balance 75% of the final purchase shall be deposited by way of RTGS / NEFT within 15 days from the date of auction in the same E-Auction account as above. The refund of EMD to the unsuccessful bidders shall be made only in the account number mentioned by such bidder in the Bid form within 5 working days.
Terms and Conditions:- E-auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and will be conducted "Online". The auction will be conducted through Clix's approved service provider M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (Auctiontiger) at the web portal https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net Bid Documents, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the properties. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquires regarding the encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims/rights / dues/ affecting the property/ies, prior to submitting their bid, in this regard, the a-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of Clix. For any details with respect to any help, procedure and online training in respect of the auction process please contact Ram Sharma – 8000023297/9374530130 and E-mail ID – support@auctiontiger.net/ramprasad@auctiontiger.net. For any details regarding the property please contact Authorized Officer **Mr. Nikhil Kumar 7053869593.** It may please be noted that in case of any discrepancy/ inconsistency between auctions notices published in English and in Kannada then the contents of the notice published in English shall prevail. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in anyway for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/ conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Place : Karnataka, Date : 17.10.2026
Authorized Officer, Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd.

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

STARLINK'S ARRIVAL AND INDIA'S STRATEGIC CONCERNS

Elon Musk's criticism of the delay in Starlink's launch in India has once again brought the regulation of satellite-based internet services into the spotlight. This debate is not limited to allowing private companies to enter the Indian market, but also involves serious questions such as national security, data sovereignty, border surveillance, and government control over communications. In a country as vast and geographically diverse as India, satellite internet could be an effective means of bridging the digital divide, but the security risks associated with it cannot be ignored.

Services like Starlink provide internet access via satellites in low Earth orbit. They can bring connectivity to remote villages, mountainous regions, islands, and border areas where traditional telecommunications infrastructure is difficult and expensive to install. However, the global nature of these services, their portable terminals, and their reliance on foreign companies pose new challenges for regulatory authorities. The most significant challenge is the potential for misuse in terrorist activities. Terrorist organizations or other non-state actors operating in remote areas could use satellite communication systems to coordinate their activities. Reports of the discovery of Starlink-branded equipment in Manipur in 2024 highlighted this concern. However, the recovery of equipment itself is not conclusive evidence of its actual use or its connection to an organization. Therefore, security assessments must be based on reliable intelligence and technical investigations.

The second challenge relates to cross-border crime and smuggling. India's long international borders, vast maritime areas, and difficult geographical conditions already pose challenges for security agencies. If satellite internet terminals are used to coordinate illegal activitie

s, identifying criminals and investigating their communications could be difficult. Starlink devices were also discussed in the context of drug seizures in the Andaman region in 2024. In such cases, the actual role of the devices must be confirmed, as their mere presence does not prove a direct link between smuggling and satellite networks.

The third challenge is data sovereignty and foreign control. Satellite network operations, technical management, and some data-related processes may be controlled outside India. This raises questions about who will have control over Indian users' communications data, where it will be processed, and how access to information required under Indian laws will be ensured. Without clear rules on these issues, it may be difficult for investigative agencies and regulators to effectively exercise their legal powers.

The fourth challenge is lawful surveillance and law enforcement. In traditional telecommunications networks, lawful surveillance mechanisms can be implemented through service providers, licensing conditions, and domestic network infrastructure. Satellite internet, due to overseas network operations and cross-border data flows, may require additional technical capacity and international cooperation to implement these mechanisms. If service providers are unable to comply with lawful orders in accordance with Indian laws, investigations into terrorism, organized crime, and cybercrime could be hampered. Furthermore, the exercise of surveillance powers must be subject to clear legislation, proportionality, and accountability, ensuring citizens' privacy and fundamental rights are protected.

India Is A Rising Big Power, Not A 'Middle Power' - As Some Want To Label It

Narendra Taneja



There appears to be an orchestrated attempt to drag and push India into the vague category of 'Middle Powers' in the global power pecking order, unsurprisingly, much to the surprise and shock of the country's 1.4 billion women, men, and children. Because this goes diametrically against the hard-earned image of India as a growing big power.

Middle powers, theoretically speaking, are countries that enjoy significant influence in their region or part of the world over smaller nations but are constrained by their limited size and power as far as influencing international policies and affairs are concerned, unlike big powers. India crossed that 'middle power' stage many years ago and is now considered, including by the countries calling New Delhi a 'middle power', the most eligible country to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the ultimate club of the superpowers.

Needless to say, India must thwart all such moves as forcefully as possible before it is too late. In this age of AI and hypercommunication, it may take no time for such a label to get stuck, but years and years to get rid of it. It has never been more important than now to position the correct image of the country in the mind of the world.

A section of deliberations at the two major international conferences, including the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, in the heart of New Delhi this month, may have left many a bit convinced that India was just a 'Middle Power' like Germany, or Australia, or Canada, and not a superpower in the making, thanks to some of the high-profile foreign speakers present there. However, addressing the Forum, India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, in his own inimitable style, tried to nullify all such efforts by insisting: 'India is a power in the middle' and not a 'middle power'. But we need to be more categorical, more forceful, and, if required, louder in stating that India is a big power in the making and nothing less. Sometimes, the world listens only when you speak a bit bluntly. Countries like China and Pakistan have never been comfortable with the rise and growing recognition of India as a big global power in the making. Some countries in the West, too, appear to be keen to label India just as a 'Middle Power' rather than acknowledging the country's rise as a big power on all key parameters, including economic and defence. But there is no point blaming anybody - that is how the world is! There is no point being sentimental about such issues in internal affairs. The world - eventually, if not immediately - will think of us what we think of us. Hence, it is important that we are clear and consistent in positioning India as a rising big power everywhere, both as a people and as a government. China is nowhere equal to the United States in most parameters. Yet, President Donald Trump has granted Beijing the status of an equal, or G2, in his desperate efforts to rebuild bilateral relations, lower the temperature on the issues of the South China Sea and Taiwan, and wean China away from Russia. China is, predictably, also happily playing along, talking more like a global superpower than what it is - a regional Asian power.

Until yesterday, the United States used to look upon itself as the guardian of the rules-based international order. It is, however, now China, a one-party dictatorship, which is trying to position itself as the most prominent voice on the rules-based world. Hard power is important. Soft power is important. But how you position and play your cards, image, and power has become central in this modern world.

A 7,000-year-old civilisation, the land known universally for peaceful coexistence, India is today the third-largest economy in the world at USD 18 trillion GDP (on a purchasing power parity basis). By most credible international projections, India will be the second-largest economy in the world, together with the United States, by 2060, if not sooner. Undoubtedly, there is a lot that we need to fix internally, especially in areas like the rural economy, economic reforms, and education, to realise our full potential, but there is no doubt that the country is steadily on the rise.

The unipolar world we have known since the end of the Cold War in 1991, with the United States as its de facto leader, is rapidly collapsing, and the multipolar world has begun to rise for everybody to see. The United States and many others in the West are, however, still refusing to acknowledge this historic shift. Because they want the status quo - the West-dominated world order - to continue. The attempt, therefore, to bundle India into this vague group of 'Middle Powers', which includes Mexico, Turkey, and Indonesia, and may include - who knows - even Pakistan tomorrow, is easy to decode.

It is evident that the multipolar world is fast taking shape, with China already having risen and India fast on the rise. The European Union is also going through a massive churn and may well be a key economic, political, and military global pole in its own right within the next two decades. Russia will continue to be an important global pole.

The multipolar world, when it fully emerges in about twenty years, will be a world of five global super poles, or G5, namely, the United States, the European Union, Russia, China, and India. There will be many smaller poles, or 'Middle Powers', too. This transition, however, will not be without resistance, challenges, and hindrances. India will have to be vigilant, keeping in mind that there are no friends when it comes to battles for securing a top place in the global power pecking order. By middle powers and for middle powers, P4M has its roots in Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's address at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January this year. Invoking the oft-quoted realist principle from Thucydides' Melian Dialogue —"the strong can do what they can, and the weak must suffer what they must" — Carney gave a clarion call for middle powers to rally together. He argued that the old rules-based international order has "ruptured" due to great-power rivalry, and that middle powers must act together because "if we're not at the table, we're on the menu". That India signed on to this initiative is very much consistent with its foreign policy. But is India a 'middle power' at all?

Too big for the label

The middle power characterisation doesn't neatly fit India's stature. Some label India a rising middle power, others as a potential or emerging great power, or, as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar put it, "not a middle power, but a power in the middle". Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index 2025 describes India as a "major power", China and the United States as "superpowers", while reserving the "middle power" label for countries such as Japan, Russia, Australia, South Korea, Indonesia and even Pakistan.

While the term itself remains contested, with no universally agreed definition, there is consensus among New Delhi's strategic community that India is grander than the middle power label allows. India's self-image as a civilisational state also means its public sees the country through a larger prism, one in which a bigger role is destined for the nation. To be sure, in regions where countries want to hedge against both the US and China, they often look to India as the 'third party'. India even leads multilateral institutions, from the International Solar Alliance to the Global Biofuels Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. India is the most populous country in the world and boasts a vast territory.

INDIA'S 'SWACCH' DRIVE HAS A MOUNTAIN-SIZED BLINDSPOT

SUJAY N JHA



Every morning in east Delhi, trucks climb a hill that was never meant to exist. Ghazipur began taking the city's waste in 1984 and was supposed to stop at about 40 metres. A court-appointed commissioner who visited in March 2025 found it at roughly 60 metres, cracked on top, and venting methane. Fires break out regularly. Three decades of cleanliness drives have produced a clean pavement and a burning mountain a few kilometres away. The Swachh Bharat Mission, launched in 2014, is rightly celebrated for its toilets and door-to-door collection. Its record on what happens after the dustbin is lifted is far weaker. Calling this a "complete collapse" in every city goes beyond the evidence. Calling the official numbers reassuring does too. The honest description is a mission that measured what was easy, declared success early, and left the hard, expensive downstream work half done. Two Sets Of Numbers Official dashboards say India's cities generate about 161,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste a day and that roughly 80-82% is processed. Yet the capital, with the best-resourced municipality in the country, told the National Green Tribunal through the pollution regulator that it processes 64.2% of its 11,852 daily tonnes. Some 4,241 tonnes a day go to the Bhalswa and Ghazipur dumps. Processing capacity (8,173 tonnes) is itself below generation, and actual use falls short of capacity. An Ever-Growing Mountain Ghazipur is the symbol, not the exception. Delhi's three big dumps - Ghazipur, Bhalswa, and Okhla - were assessed by a CPCB, NEERI, and IIT Delhi committee as having caused environmental damage valued at about Rs 1.4-1.6 billion rupees. A 2022 report to the tribunal found only 7% of Ghazipur's legacy waste had been bio-mined. Delhi's municipal corporation told the tribunal in 2026 that the site still receives around 2,400-2,600 tonnes of fresh waste a day. Delhi's landfills are reported to be 55-60% organic material, the fraction that rots into methane and feeds fires.Nationally, officials put legacy waste at 270.2 million tonnes, of which 65.8% had been remediated by May 2026. The target, "Zero Dumpsites", falls due this month. A few sites hold most of what is left: 214 high-impact dumps contain about 80% of the remaining legacy waste. Remediation is also a flow problem. Clearing an old mound while fresh, unsorted waste keeps arriving simply refills it. Why The Mission Missed It measured the wrong thing. Toilets built and wards declared open-defecation-free are countable and photogenic. A functioning organic plant is not. Cities competed in the annual cleanliness survey, in which tidy streets scored well even when the waste was trucked to a dump on the edge of town. Waste arrives mixed. Processing plants, composters, and waste-to-energy units need segregated feedstock. Wet waste dominates Indian bins, but segregation at source is patchy outside a few cities. Indore, the survey's perennial winner, shows it can be done; it is the exception that proves how rare the discipline is. Municipalities are poor and fragmented. Waste is a local-body job, yet most urban local bodies lack the revenue, staff, and land to run plants. Central funds helped build capacity; the recurring cost of operating it is another matter. Self-reported dashboards let a city count capacity as processing. Health costs are real but poorly measured. Landfill fires and methane are linked to bad air near dumps, and doctors report rising respiratory complaints. But data tying specific illnesses to specific dumps has barely been collected. A health crisis is plausible; proving its scale needs research India has not funded. The comparison cuts both ways. Rich-world landfilling is not a model for India to copy, and America's 50% landfill rate would be a catastrophe without liners. China's incinerator boom shows state capacity but also how targets set from above can be met by building rather than by solving the underlying system. Europe's slower, rules-driven route is closest to what India's cities need: taxes on dumping, mandatory segregation, and enforcement.

As Himalayas Change, Jim Corbett's Voice Echoes Louder Than Ever

GARGI RAWAT



'But how do we even know if all that Jim Corbett wrote about was even true?' There was an audible gasp in the room. I was moderating a session on environment writing at the very first Corbett Literature Festival, being held right next to the Corbett National park, named after the celebrated hunter turned conservationist Jim Corbett. The offending question, over the sanctity of Corbett's many tales, that have enthralled generations, was asked, in a light hearted manner, by Professor Richard Kerridge, himself a nature writer, who teaches creative writing at Bath Spa University. Before I could react to the implications of the loaded statement he had just made, another panelist, prolific writer and celebrated author from the hills, Stephen Alter intervened. 'As someone who is from the region as well, I must step in here and defend Jim Corbett!' He said with some feeling, a smile on his face. 'How can you question our beloved hero? All his adventures, all his descriptions of chasing man-eating tigers and leopards in the Kumaon hills were all absolutely true!' The hall, which was full of writers, environmentalists and wildlife enthusiasts, laughed, and we continued our discussion, as Prerna Singh Bindra, the third panellist, spoke about her favourite Jim Corbett book, and the fact that his most popular book, The Man-eaters of Kumaon, was only published when he was in his 60s. Ours was the last session of the three-day-long inaugural Corbett Literature Festival. Over the course of the past three days, there was a rich mix of conversations about books, the environment, the Himalayas, local cultures and communities, and even cuisine. Historian and food critic Pushpesh Pant had kept the audience entertained with a lively session on the region's food traditions. The festival had also brought together celebrated photographers and filmmakers, who captivated audiences with films and photographic collections built over years of exploring the wilds of Corbett and the vast Himalayan landscapes. Their work offered glimpses of tigers and elephants, gharials basking by the river, the tall grasses of the grasslands and the Ramganga flowing through the forest. My favourite screening was a short documentary made by the forest guards of Corbett. Using drones (and given the access they enjoy), they captured some spectacular images of the wild, offering a glimpse of the park that few get to see. The visuals were spellbinding, but what made the screening particularly special was the opportunity it gave these often-unsung guardians of the forest to take centre stage and receive the applause they deserved, not just for their film, but also for the tireless work they do to protect a park that is loved by so many. Renowned singer Jubin Nautiyal joined them on stage, alongside the forest guards and Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs), to felicitate and honour them. As the audience applauded, it was a moment of recognition for the people who work, often away from the spotlight, to keep Corbett's wild heart beating. The festival was organised in part by the Forest Department, with the dynamic Corbett Tiger Reserve Field Director Saket Badola closely involved in spearheading the effort, along with several corporates, and resorts in the area. It was inaugurated by Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal, who spoke about the importance of communities in conservation. The Uttarakhand Tourism Development board also supported the festival, titled '3 days in the Wild' that brought together 30 speakers. The involvement of resorts did not mean that tourism was spared from scrutiny. Several conversations tackled the issue of meaningful tourism and conservation. Former park director Samir Sinha recounted an incident when he had entered a resort while tracking a tiger that was moving around habitation, and found a drain emptying dirty water straight into the Kosi river. The conversation pushed for responsible practices and finding the right balance when it comes to tourism. And these are issues that need more attention, at a time when Uttarakhand is facing challenges in striking that balance between tourism.

Stellantis enters next phase of growth in India with fresh commitments of Rs. 4,000 crore

Jeep® and Citroën to introduce 12 products under FaSTLAne 2030

Ranchi - Stellantis today announced the next phase of its growth in India, marking a shift from building the foundations of its business to scaling it. Under FaSTLAne 2030, Jeep® and Citroën will introduce 12 products over the next three years – seven all-new products and five major upgrades – with a clear ambition to put significantly more Jeep and Citroën vehicles on Indian roads. The launches will cover products in the B, C, D SUV segments, an MPV, an A-segment car and a premium pickup. The first product under the new roadmap is scheduled to launch by Q2 2027.

Commenting on the announcement, Tianshu Xin, Chief Operating Officer, Stellantis Asia-Pacific Region, said, "India has a dual role for Stellantis: it is an important market that we intend to grow in, and an increasingly significant capability base for the region and the wider Group. India is a long-term commitment for us, not just a volume chase. Under FaSTLAne 2030, our region-led model gives the India team greater ownership of decisions, and the roadmap we are announcing today reflects our long-term conviction in this market. A stronger product cadence, a multi-energy technology approach and India's capabilities across manufacturing, engineering, software and sourcing give us the foundation to build a larger and more competitive business here through 2030."

Shailesh Hazela, CEO & Managing Director, Stellantis India, said, "Our commitment to India will be measured by what we put on the road. Having built a strong foundation over the years, our focus now shifts to scaling the business. Twelve launches across Jeep and Citroën over the next three years will significantly broaden our market participation and give Indian customers more choice across segments and powertrains, supported by deeper localisation and a stronger sales and service network. With fresh investment of approximately 5,000 crore, we are building greater scale, relevance and competitiveness in this market, while strengthening India's role in Stellantis' global operations."

The product offensive will be supported by fresh investment of approximately 4,000 crore (approximately 400Million) over next 3 years, taking Stellantis' cumulative investment in India to approximately 15,000 crore by 2030. The roadmap comprises 5 Jeep and 7 Citroën launches, with the two brands playing distinct but complementary roles. Together, the products will take Stellantis into all high-opportunity segments that account of India's passenger vehicle industry.

The announcement comes as the business gains momentum. Stellantis India's business grew 35% in the second quarter of calendar year 2026 compared with the first quarter, while Citroën retail sales rose 68% in the second quarter of 2026 compared with the same period last year.

The next phase builds on more than 11,000 crore (over 1 billion) invested in India to date across manufacturing, engineering, software, sourcing and exports. Stellantis currently operates three manufacturing facilities in India – at Ranjangaon in Maharashtra and Thiruvallur and Hosur in Tamil Nadu – alongside engineering and software capabilities in Bengaluru, an ICT presence in Hyderabad and a growing domestic supplier ecosystem.

Under the new roadmap, Jeep® will strengthen Stellantis' position in the premium SUV space, expanding its participation across multiple segments with new products and advanced powertrain options, while building on its core credentials of capability, authenticity and distinctive SUV design. Citroën will drive broader participation across mainstream and higher-volume segments through accessible, differentiated products tailored to the needs of Indian customers, with a focus on comfort, design and technology, enabling the brand to reach a significantly larger customer base.

Recognising that India's mobility transition will be shaped by multiple technologies, the future portfolio will follow a multi-energy strategy spanning efficient internal combustion engines, hybrid, plug-in hybrid (PHEV) and battery-electric (BEV) technologies, drawing on Stellantis' global capabilities. Powertrain choices will be guided by customer needs, affordability, regulation, infrastructure readiness and individual segment economics – ensuring the right technology for the right customer and use case.

Bigg Boss South Crosses Half a Billion Watch Hours in Just 5 Weeks; 75+ Brands Bet Big on the Franchise



Mumbai, 15, October, 2026: JioStar's South editions of Bigg Boss have crossed 550 million watch hours in just five weeks, delivering the biggest launch in the franchise's history across Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. For the first time, all four South editions premiered on the same day, creating one shared entertainment moment across the region while preserving the unique identity of each market. The result has been the strongest opening the franchise has ever delivered, with overall watch time growing 20% year-on-year.

Bigg Boss South is seeing strong engagement across its 24x7 live feed this season as well. Beyond the daily episodes, 6 in 10 viewers are also engaging with the 24x7 live feed, signalling that Bigg Boss has evolved into an always-on entertainment experience, with audiences staying connected to the conversations, relationships and moments inside the house throughout the day.

Krishnan Kutty, Head – Entertainment Business, South Cluster, JioStar, said, "The Bigg Boss phenomenon continues to get bigger with every passing season. Crossing half a billion watch hours in just five weeks is an important milestone, but what is even more encouraging is what sits behind that number. Every season, audiences are spending more time with the franchise, whether through the daily episodes or the 24x7 live feed. The simultaneous launch across all four South markets created one shared entertainment moment, while the continued growth in Connected TV consumption reinforces how audience behaviour is evolving. Together, these trends give us tremendous confidence in the long-term strength of the Bigg Boss franchise."

The momentum has been matched by strong advertiser confidence. More than 75 brands have partnered with the four South editions, accounting for over 120 sponsorships. Notably, more than half of the participating brands are first-time advertisers, while local advertisers contribute approximately 30% of total advertising spends, highlighting the franchise's ability to attract both national and regional brands.

The brands on board include: WhiteGold, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Ai + Nova Smartphone, Asian Paints, Britannia Nutri Choice, Dulcoflex, Denver, Star Health Insurance, Dazller, Ramraj Mrithu Towels, Walkaroo, Kajaria Ceramics, 1 to 3 Noodles, Haier, Cadbury 5 Star, Continental Xtra Instant South Blend, Cera, CP Plus, Gold On Phone Pe, MYK Laticrete, Simta Astrix, Vijay Sales, Amazon, Amrutanjan, Anil Foods, Ariel, Aroma Ghee, Asal, Ashwasurya Realities, Ashwin Sweets, Avaada Energy, Bakers Masala, Darling Digital, EcoPlanet Elevators, EXO, FirstClub, Gold Drop, IHP Iyengar, India Gate, Jeeni Slim, Jos Alukkas, JK Tyres, K P Namboodiri, KT Special Tea, Max Gold, Milk Bikis, MyG - Future, Nilkamal Sleep, Nivea Soft Gel, Pears, Purplle, Ramesh Lungies, Ramson Dhotis, Regal Jewellers, e, Sunrich Oil, Taj Mahal, TDH Foods, TTK Prestige, Vicks Cough Drops, Vicks Inhaler, Walkmate, Hero Xoom, Kamla Pasand, ORN Vacations, Danube Properties Dubai, Colgate, Head & Shoulders, Kingfisher Packaged Drinking Water, Uber and Centuary Mattress.

When Saif Ali Khan revealed WHY his house smells like a Dhaba!

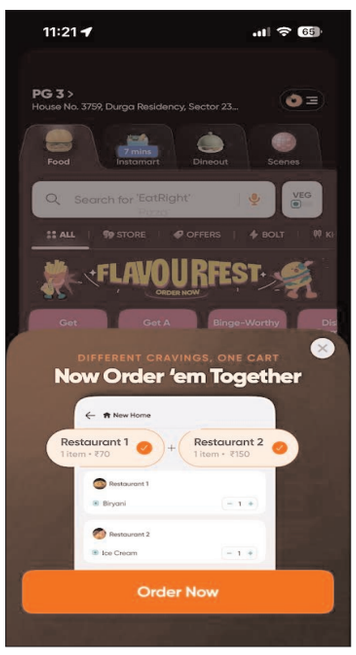


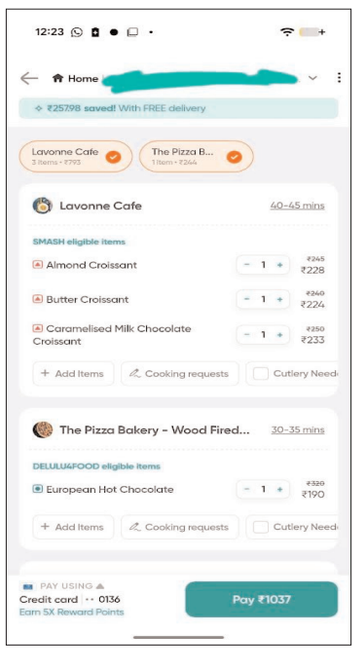
New delhi - Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan bring the laughs to Netflix's The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 5 this Saturday What's the secret to looking forever young? Good genes, a great skincare routine or, as Saif Ali Khan cheekily suggests, a generous helping of ghee? This Saturday 17th October, Netflix's The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 5 welcomes the ever-charming power couple Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan for a conversation that takes an unexpectedly turn, proving that when it comes to staying fresh, the answer might just lie in the kitchen! When Kapil Sharma asked the duo how they manage to look so fresh and youthful after 14 years of marriage, Saif was quick to credit ghee, when Kareena chipped in saying they consume ghee a lot in their house. But the ghee revelations didn't stop there. Taking the conversation up a notch, he said, "Ye (Kareena) sirf khaati nahin hai, ye pairo pe ghisti hai raat ko." Calling it romantic that their bedroom smells like dhaba, Saif left the audience with yet another unforgettable anecdote, while Kareena joined in on the laughter and said, " ussey kya neend aati hai, oof!"

From serving up a surprising take on youthful glow to giving romance a distinctly tadka-filled twist, Saif and Kareena bring their trademark chemistry and playful banter to Kapil's couch, coming together as guests for the very first time!

Tune in this Saturday to catch Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan on The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 5, only on Netflix.

This festive season, Swiggy launches Multi Restaurant Ordering: Reinvents Food Court Experience for Homes





October 16, 2026: Swiggy (Swiggy Ltd, NSE: SWIGGY / BSE: 544285), India's pioneering on-demand convenience platform, announced the launch of the Multi Restaurant Ordering feature on its app. Food is a personal choice and preferences tend to vary in a specific household or group. Multi Restaurant Ordering is designed to ensure users can order what they love to eat without any compromises. The feature allows the users to combine different cuisines, dishes and cravings from up to five restaurants and place an order at one go. In addition to a more seamless experience, Multi Restaurant Ordering feature also promises more savings for users as it eliminates the need for separate carts and checkouts, with multiple platform fees.

Whether it is family get-together, Diwali parties or long weekends, everyone at the table has different choices and preferences for food. With the Multi Restaurant Ordering feature, consumers can place orders for their favourite starters, main course and desserts from different restaurants together. The feature offers a food court experience in the comfort of your homes, where customers can build and hold multiple carts, compare them side by side, and order from up to five restaurants through a single payment, without repeating checkouts, OTPs or payment flows. Each restaurant's order is prepared and delivered independently and shows up as its own tab on one shared tracking screen. Speaking on the launch, Sidharth Bhakoo, Chief Business Officer, Swiggy Food Marketplace, said, " Food is the centerpiece of any celebration, but agreeing on a menu is always the hardest part. We are literally bringing the concept of a food court to your home. Multi-Restaurant Ordering is our solution to the ultimate dining dilemma. We're giving users the power to mix and match from their favorite restaurants or across a range of cuisines, whether it is pairing pizzas with biryani or combining sushi with local street food, all with a single checkout option. It's about delivering more choice, offering enhanced convenience, ensuring zero compromises, and the joy of everyone at the table eating exactly what they love and crave for."

Sharing a meal with loved ones often means balancing different tastes and giving up personal favourites to find something everyone agrees on. Consumer research conducted by Swiggy shows that 55% of users build two carts in a single session and 1 in 5 users place a second order within 30 minutes of their first. This may lead to abandoned carts or customers placing multiple orders at different times. The Multi Restaurant Ordering feature eliminates these challenges, serving as the perfect solution for multiple cravings. With the feature live across 720+ cities, Swiggy continues to pioneer solutions that turn every mealtime into an effortless celebration of individual tastes and provides more convenience to customers.

PHILIPS HOME APPLIANCES MAKES FESTIVE SHOPPING BIGGER WITH 'SONE PE DOUBLE SUHAGA'

Offering Gold Every Hour and Diamonds Every Day



October 16th, 2026: Building on the success of its 'Sone Pe Suhaga' campaign last festive season, Philips Home Appliances is returning with an even bigger festive proposition, 'Sone Pe Double Suhaga'. Taking its festive promise a step further, the campaign gives consumers assured gifts on eligible Philips Home Appliance purchases with an exciting chance to win gold worth ?9,999 every hour and a diamond worth ?50,000 every day, adding an extra layer of excitement to festive shopping.

Last year, 'Sone Pe Suhaga' moved beyond conventional festive offers to create an engaging consumer experience across 70 cities. Building on the response to the campaign, Philips Home Appliances is taking the proposition a step further this year by bringing together assured gifts and the opportunity to win precious rewards, making festive purchases even more rewarding for consumers.

As consumers make more considered purchase decisions, 'Sone Pe Double Suhaga' seeks to bring an element of aspiration and delight to the festive shopping experience. Moving beyond conventional discounts and product-led rewards, Philips Home Appliances is offering consumers an opportunity to experience something truly special by combining assured gifts on eligible purchases with the chance to win gold and diamonds. The campaign aims to make bringing home a Philips appliance during the festive season an even more rewarding experience, giving consumers more reasons to celebrate.

Running from 11 October to 11 November 2026, the campaign is expected to reach 200 million+ consumers across 112 cities. Consumers purchasing eligible Philips Home Appliances with a minimum MRP of ?1,500 during the campaign period will be eligible for an assured gift on purchase, along with a chance to win gold worth ?9,999 every hour or a diamond worth ?50,000 every day. Gold and diamonds hold a special place in India's festive traditions, symbolising prosperity, good fortune, celebration and new beginnings. By incorporating these rewards into the consumer experience, Philips Home Appliances aims to bring together the joy of festive shopping and the excitement of unexpected rewards, while offering consumers added value through assured gifts on eligible purchases.

Speaking about the campaign, Pooja Baid, Chief Marketing Officer, Versuni India, said, "The response to Sone Pe Suhaga showed us that consumers appreciate festive experiences that go beyond conventional offers. This year, we wanted to build on that response with a proposition that brings together assured value and the excitement of winning something special. With Sone Pe Double Suhaga, consumers purchasing eligible Philips Home Appliances can enjoy an assured gift on purchase, along with the chance to win gold every hour and a diamond every day. Our aim is to make festive shopping more rewarding by adding an element of joy, surprise and aspiration to an already special time of the year."

THIS NAVRATRI, ICICI LIFE INSURANCE ANNOUNCES TO RECRUIT 20,000 WOMEN ADVISORS ACROSS INDIA BY END OF FY-2027

ICICI Life INSURANCE

Mumbai, October 16th, 2026: On the occasion of Navratri, ICICI Life Insurance announced its plans to recruit 20,000 women advisors across India, under the Company's Narishakti initiative by end of FY-2027. Notably, 45% of the Company's agency business comes from its 78,000+ women advisors as on September 30, 2026. This announcement commensurate with the 2nd anniversary of the Company's 'Narishakti' initiative.

Mr. Amish Banker, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Life Insurance Limited, said, "We, at ICICI Life Insurance, firmly believe that 'Talent has no gender'. While we continue to witness improvement in the performance of our male insurance advisors, we have seen that our women advisors have left no stone unturned to understand our customers' pulse.

Importantly, women advisors constitute around 32% of our total number of advisors and they have contributed around 45% of our agency business as on September 30, 2026. Besides, in regions like Bangalore, Kerala and Mumbai, we have even seen this number crossing the 50% agency business mark.

Furthermore, our women advisors come from different walk of lives. They are homemakers, salaried professionals, businesswomen with an inherent power to multitask like a manager, solve problems like a consultant and manage money like a banker. With a natural aptitude for empathy and strategic problem-solving, Indian women have certain intrinsic qualities that are inbuilt in their DNA which helps them to understand our customer's requirement, provide optimal solutions and nurturing relationships long after the sale. These qualities include their strong emotional quotient, socially active nature, commitment, loyalty and their belief in securing families which are very important in the insurance business.

Hence, we launched the 'Narishakti' initiative two years back which helps us to empower women advisors across the country by providing the critical training and support necessary to spotlight their capabilities.

Zelensky says Ukraine has right to defend itself after Trump calls latest strikes a 'disgrace'



President Volodymyr Zelensky has said he is "only standing up for Ukraine's interests" after scathing criticism from Donald Trump, who said Kyiv's new wave of strikes on Russian oil refineries was a "disgrace". The US president, who recently made a controversial deal with Moscow to import diesel, also said Zelensky was "more difficult to deal with than [Russian President Vladimir] Putin". Zelensky, who has been angered by the diesel deal, said he could not accept it, because a gas agreement could come next. "If I don't stand up to this... who else will?" he said at an EU summit in Brussels. Tensions between Washington and Kyiv have escalated over the diesel deal and curbs on Ukraine's battlefield satellite network. Zelensky's trip to Brussels, following a visit to London, has come at the end of a bruising week. As he arrived at the summit on Friday, where EU leaders rallied around him in support, Zelensky said it was good to be back among allies. "Leaders, real leaders," he said, in a possible slight to the US president. At the summit, funding for Ukraine and helping it get through another freezing winter - its fifth since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022 - topped the agenda. The war will cost 155bn (£131bn; $174bn) next year, Zelensky told the European Council, with at least 70bn needed to come from the EU for defence and weapons. Zelensky said that while Ukraine could produce up to three times more drones, it "simply [doesn't] have enough money for that". A fundamental problem for Kyiv - which cannot be easily fixed - is the chronic lack of US-made Patriot missiles to defend its towns and cities. Zelensky said he believed Europe did possess all the interceptors his country would need this winter but described them as being scooped up in a piecemeal fashion. Zelensky also addressed Ukraine's frayed relationship with the US, saying there are "many people with good hearts in America" who want "to be allies, not to divide or humiliate Europe". Trump has heavily criticised Zelensky for resuming strikes on Russian oil refineries earlier this week, because it could impact Moscow's ability to complete its part of the diesel deal, which will see 300,000 tonnes of diesel sent to "the American and global marketplace". As both Russia and Ukraine continued attacking each other's energy infrastructure, Trump suddenly announced a ceasefire on the facilities last week. Kyiv said it would stop the strikes if Russia did the same, but Moscow said it had never agreed to the deal and continued its attacks. After three days, Kyiv resumed its strikes. Trump's comments about Zelensky, during an interview with US outlet Newsmax on Thursday evening, reflect the deteriorating relationship between the US and Ukraine. The US president said he was "not a big fan of Zelensky" and that he was "not a good guy for us to deal with". "He doesn't want to settle," Trump said. "He says he wants to settle, but he doesn't." "As you know, Putin hates Zelensky, and Zelensky hates Putin," he added. "And when you have that kind of hatred, it's very hard to get something settled." When asked about Ukraine's renewed strikes on Russian oil refineries, Trump said of Zelensky: "All he's doing is making the world oil price higher... There are a lot of targets that you can hit." Trump is frustrated at Ukraine's continued targeting of Russia's oil facilities, because it affects Moscow's ability to export its diesel to America, as per the deal the US has made with Russia, in an effort to bring down fuel prices. Since the war with Iran started in February, US fuel and especially diesel prices have skyrocketed, souring Trump's standing with the American public - something he wants to fix before next month's mid-term elections. At a news conference after the EU summit, Zelensky was asked if he felt that Trump was using him as a scapegoat for his own political problems. A 15-second pause, as Zelensky listened to the translation, then saw the president break out into a grin, prompting laughter from the journalists in the room. "This is my answer," he said. The diesel deal infuriated Zelensky, who called it a gift to Putin and on Friday said it would "put more money straight into Putin's pocket to fund this war". His anger was further heightened earlier this week, when restrictions were placed on the US-owned Starlink internet network, which is critical for Kyiv's military abilities to defend itself. During the slowdown on Tuesday night, there were several deadly Russian strikes on Ukraine, with residents and the government saying there was no prior warning. On Friday, Zelensky called the slowdown a "very dangerous and unpleasant surprise", adding that Starlink speeds were still not fully restored. The Trump administration had previously warned that it could withhold intelligence-sharing - crucial for Ukraine's defences - if Kyiv does not stop hitting Russia's oil refineries. Several people were killed in a Russian drone strike in the north-eastern city of Kharkiv on Thursday night, while some 270,000 households were without power after strikes in the western Volyn region, the local governors said. Ukraine also continued its strikes against Russia. The airspace above Moscow was closed for several hours, causing flight delays, as 644 drones were intercepted above 26 Russian regions, the defence ministry said. In the Vladimir region, east of Moscow, the governor said that Ukrainian drones had been intercepted to prevent an attack on heating infrastructure in the area.

US senators call for investigation into Ukraine's Starlink restrictions



A bipartisan group of US senators has signed a letter demanding an urgent investigation into disruptions to SpaceX's Starlink internet network in Ukraine. Starlink is a vital tool allowing Kyiv to guide drones to Russian targets and protect its own skies, but on Tuesday night Ukraine said it had unexpectedly restricted how fast drones could fly while maintaining internet connection. In the letter, sent to the US defence department inspector general, the senators express "grave concern" about reports of speed curbs between 12 and 14 October. Asked whether the US might have had a role in the slowdown, a US official told the BBC "no such request was ever made by the president [Donald Trump]". The letter, led by Jeanne Shaheen - a Democrat on the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee - calls for the inspector general to find out whether the restrictions were caused by the US defence department or its contractors. It says "restrictions reportedly degraded Ukraine's ability to conduct defensive operations against Russian drone and missile attacks on civilian infrastructure". Starlink, which is owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, restricted speed limits on Tuesday night to 100mph (160km/h), meaning any weapons that travelled faster than that lost connectivity to the network. On Friday, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky told a news conference in Brussels that Starlink services were still being restored in his country. "Has the speed been fully restored to what it was before? No. Is the speed being restored now? Yes," he said. The senators also say they are "deeply concerned" by reports of disruptions or "glitches" affecting intelligence-sharing and threat-warning capabilities relied upon by personnel operating in Ukraine. "We are particularly alarmed by incidents in which U.S. diplomatic, military, and security personnel were unable to reach designated bunkers during Russian air raids," the statement says. "Given the potentially deadly consequences, these incidents require immediate investigation," the senators add. The letter's signatories include Republican Senators Thom Tillis, Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and John Cornyn, alongside Senators Richard Durbin, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal and Christopher Coons from the Democrats. SpaceX owner Elon Musk has suggested the US government may be behind restrictions. On Wednesday Musk wrote on X that "Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government. Any limits on speed or usage are decided by the US military and ultimately [the US president]". Starlink is a civilian service that uses satellites in low Earth orbit to provide internet access, particularly in remote areas. Starshield, which relies on the Starlink network, is designed for government and military use. Both are owned by Musk's SpaceX. Zelensky has accused the US of withdrawing intelligence-sharing to pressure Kyiv into ending attacks against Russian energy sites. On Thursday, Zelensky said Ukraine's attacks would continue after Russia had continued striking Ukraine's energy infrastructure during an "energy ceasefire" announced by Trump on Sunday. Zelensky said he had restricted attacks for three days and would agree to the "energy ceasefire" if Moscow also abided by it. However, he accused Russia of ignoring the proposed deal within hours of it being announced.

DAD FINED AFTER SON, 2, DIED IN CYPRUS HOTEL FALL



A father whose two-year-old boy fell from a fourth floor window of a Cyprus hotel has been fined 3,000 (£2,500) for causing his death.

Joshua Foster thought the window was closed when he placed his son on a sill to show him the view of a waterpark and "lost control" of him, Paphos District Court previously heard.

The toddler fell nearly 40ft (12.1m) at the five-star King Evelthon Beach Hotel and Resort on 12 July, the first day of the family's holiday in Chlorakas.

Foster, 37, from Essex, admitted causing death through a reckless, rash or dangerous act and was sentenced earlier.

He told reporters afterwards: "Thank you for the support. I'm looking forward to going home and being with my wife and daughter."

Later, the family said in a statement: "We are relieved that this process is now over, but for our family, the consequences of this tragedy will never end.

"Our son was deeply loved and will be forever missed. His loss is something we carry with us every day."

Foster, an auditor, arrived in Cyprus hours before the incident with his wife, two children and in-laws. They enjoyed various activities and swimming, before getting ready for dinner in the evening. At about 18:00, Foster, his father-in-law and son were walking towards a lift when the boy noticed a waterpark outside. Foster pushed the lift button, placed the child on the windowsill and the "inconceivable" unfolded before he could react, the court heard. The boy was taken to Paphos General Hospital and later pronounced dead.

ALBANIAN PROTESTS TURN VIOLENT



Protesters and anti-riot police have clashed in Albania's main cities in scenes not witnessed for decades. Government buildings have been attacked and some private businesses, too. So what is happening? How big and unusual are these protests? Albania's capital Tirana has seen months of protests from an anti-government "Flamingo" movement, but what started on Tuesday this week was on a different scale. And the clashes have spread beyond Tirana - to include the main cities of Durrës, Shkodër, Lezhë and Vlora in the west, Gjirokastër in the south and Korçë in the east. The new demonstrations were announced as a student movement, ostensibly demanding action by the government to help with the high cost of education fees and books - and the higher cost of living. Secondary schools joined in, swelling the numbers. Before too long, masked protesters threw stones at police, and they responded with water cannon, tear gas and batons. Many were incensed by scenes of a young man being carried away, his broken leg dangling with him in agony. Apologies were expressed but failed to calm the situation. A floor of the education ministry was set on fire, with other government institutions ablaze, too. Every evening, throughout the summer for some 135 days in a row, Albanians in central Tirana would hold pictures of a pink flamingo, calling on Prime Minister Edi Rama - now in his fourth term - to resign. The protests began over a mega-tourism project on the Adriatic coast linked to US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Demonstrators said the bird would become extinct on an island near the coastal city of Vlora, if the plans for a luxury development went ahead.

The public anger comes as allegations of corruption among ministers and other senior officials grow louder. One deputy prime minister has fled the country, another has been ordered to step down as investigations continue. So has the Flamingo movement radicalised?

The flamingo protesters say they have no links to any political party - one of their slogans being "Rama in jail, Berisha in jail". While Rama is prime minister, Sali Berisha is Albania's main opposition leader - as well as a former prime minister and president.

They were attended by young and old, parents with children and sometimes their grandparents. Some of the participants took pride in cleaning up after every night. But after months and an unusually hot summer, their numbers dwindled - with no sign that the government was meeting their demands. The current movement appears far more violent. Dozens of police have been hurt, and the eyes of Europe are now watching what happens next in a country viewed as one of the top candidates for EU membership.

POPE PICTURED FOR FIRST TIME SINCE SURGERY AND CANCER DIAGNOSIS



Pope Leo XIV has been pictured celebrating Mass from hospital, in the first images of him released by the Vatican since he underwent lung surgery. The 71-year-old pontiff was diagnosed with lung cancer after the surgery at Rome's Gemelli Hospital on Tuesday afternoon, which the Vatican said had been "successful" and proceeded without complications. The images shared on Friday showed the Chicago-born Pope wearing a green robe while standing behind a makeshift altar on the tenth floor of the hospital. Pope Leo "celebrated with the medical and nursing staff" and thanked workers for their service, the Vatican press office said. Pope's cancer diagnosis leaves Catholics questioning what comes next On Friday, the Pope's doctors said tests had shown "a steady improvement in his general condition" since his procedure. His doctors said that a chest X-ray indicated "good recovery of the operated lung". The whole lower lobe of the Pope's right lung was removed "to ensure the procedure was radical", the Vatican said following the surgery. "After the operation, the Pope awoke normally and returned after a brief period of observation to his room," it said earlier, before he spent a "peaceful night" at the hospital.



Palestinians and US journalist injured by Israeli settlers in West Bank harvest attack

PATIENTS IN CHAINS RESCUED FROM SUSPECTED ILLEGAL REHAB CENTRE IN SOUTH AFRICA



Highlights

- A pastor and his wife have been arrested in South Africa after 200 people, some in chains, were found held at a suspected illegal rehabilitation centre in the north-eastern part of the country.

A pastor and his wife have been arrested in South Africa after 200 people, some in chains, were found held at a suspected illegal rehabilitation centre in the north-eastern part of the country. The facility, operated from a church in Mpumalanga province, was discovered during an operation by officials in the area on Thursday. Authorities said they uncovered "gross inhumane conditions" when they raided the facility, with some patients found with "sores all over their bodies" and "others chained to each other". Police have since charged the couple, who were running the facility, with kidnapping but could add more charges. They have not yet commented. Illegal rehabilitation centres have mushroomed in South Africa in recent years as drug use spirals in the country. Last year, the department of social development said it had uncovered over 100 unlawful facilities operating across the country, mostly in Gauteng province, home to the country's largest city, Johannesburg. A girl of 16 and a boy of 11 were found being kept in the same room as adults in the Mpumalanga centre. The couple running it told officials they were housing 60 people, but upon inspection, more than three times that number were found, including more than 30 women. The group, mostly believed to be drug addicts, were found in crowded rooms and without access to functioning bathrooms or running water. "Some [of them had] been at the alleged illegal centre for a while," the department said. The couple charged a monthly fee of 3,000 rand ($182; £137) to house the patients, of which almost a half would go to the church. Fourteen of those found at the centre have since been taken to hospital for further medical treatment, police said. Officials said 132 have been reunited with their families. The couple is expected to appear in a local court on Monday.

MS DHONI'S FUTURE AT CSK



Former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin has hinted that Chennai Super Kings (CSK) icon MS Dhoni could take up a mentorship role at the franchise during the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin opened up about the interesting dynamics that could take shape at CSK following the arrival of Zaheer Khan as head coach. CSK finished eighth in IPL 2026 with 12 points, missing out on a place in the playoffs for a third straight season. Dhoni didn't play a single game due to injury.

"With the new coaching staff, it'll be interesting to watch the dynamic between Dhoni, Zaheer and Ruturaj Gaikwad. Dhoni will likely be the mentor. So how Gaikwad works with Zaheer, or whether he goes to Dhoni, will be interesting to see," said Ashwin. Ashwin also spoke about the departure of long-serving head coach Stephen Fleming, whose partnership with captain Ruturaj Gaikwad did not yield the same success that he enjoyed alongside MS Dhoni.

"Fleming seemingly modified himself to fit in with Dhoni. He made himself the perfect fingers to fit into Dhoni's gloves. So it is surprising to see CSK decide that Fleming couldn't adapt himself to a new captain after two to three years. Fleming's modus operandi is to fit in based on the needs of the team and captain," he added.

Meanwhile, Zaheer pipped former India batter Hemang Badani for the top job at CSK, following the latter's poor run of results with Delhi Capitals over the past two years. CSK's management, comprising Dhoni, Gaikwad and owner Rupa Gurunath, wanted an Indian coach this time. Zaheer had mentored the Lucknow Super Giants during the 2024 season. He was also previously associated with the Mumbai Indians.

In the IPL, Zaheer played 100 matches for teams such as Mumbai Indians, Delhi Daredevils, and Royal Challengers Bengaluru. MS Dhoni didn't play a single game due to injury as CSK finished eighth in IPL 2026 with 12 points, missing out on a place in the playoffs for a third straight season. Ashwin believes that with the league getting more cut-throat and longer, a bit of a push towards fitness, perhaps inspired by Virat Kohli, could go a long way.

"Under Dhoni, over the last 18 years, CSK have never had a training culture," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. "Dhoni is an instinctive captain. In Kohli's teams, fitness has been highly emphasised, and he has established a standard. But in CSK, under Dhoni, training has never been emphasised. Before, the tournament used to be six weeks. But now it's a longer tournament, and most players play through the year."

INDIA VS ZIMBABWE LIVE SCORE UPDATES 1ST WOMEN'S T20I



ndia have won the toss and opted to bowl against Zimbabwe in the first women's T20I in Raipur. Star batter Smriti Mandhana is making her captaincy debut for India. The three-match series marks Mandhana's first assignment as captain after Harmanpreet Kaur decided to step down from the role. India and Zimbabwe are facing off for the first time in women's cricket, with the series also providing Mandhana an opportunity to lay the groundwork for the team's preparations for the ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 at home. Nitish Kumar Reddy is being touted as the ideal successor to fast-bowling all-rounder Hardik Pandya in the Indian team. With Hardik struggling with recurring injuries, Reddy has earned a place in the side, and the team management is looking to groom the youngster for the 2027 ODI World Cup. However, despite playing 27 matches for India across all three formats, Reddy is yet to establish himself as a dependable performer due to inconsistent displays. Even in the ongoing T20Is against West Indies, Reddy has failed to leave a mark. Former India fielding coach R Sridhar shared his views on Reddy, stating that the Andhra Pradesh all-rounder is currently 'punching below his potential'. Nevertheless, Sridhar remains optimistic that the youngster will elevate his game ahead of the World Cup.

So far, Reddy has featured in 27 matches for India and scored 658 runs, including one century and two half-centuries. He has also claimed 21 wickets across the three formats.

"Nitish, I think, is slightly punching below his ability at the moment. Hopefully, he picks up more and picks up better with the bat. He's more than a capable batter," Sridhar told CricketNext, as quoted by News18.

"Maybe Nitish Kumar could be a better product by then, or Hardik could come back super fit and play an absolutely blinder of a World Cup. So let's wait till we get more clarity on that position," he added.

After the ongoing series against the West Indies, India are scheduled to tour New Zealand for an all-format series comprising five T20Is, five ODIs, and two Tests.

IPL's Highest Wicket-Taker Yuzvendra Chahal Opens Up On Alcohol Addiction, Panic Attack 26-Day Rehab Stay: 'Things Got Excessive'



If one searches for the highest wicket-taker in the IPL, Yuzvendra Chahal's name comes right on top. With 233 scalps in 188 matches, he tops a list that includes Jasprit Bumrah, Sunil Narine, Ravichandran Ashwin and Lasith Malinga, among others. But his career is full of paradoxes. While he has played 72 ODIs (121 wickets) and 80 T20Is (96 wickets), Chahal has not had a single opportunity to play Test cricket. In his personal life too, Chahal, who is known to be a jovial person, has gone through struggles. Alcohol addiction, divorce and public scrutiny - Chahal has gone through it all. The 36-year-old opened up about all these aspects in a recent podcast with former India opener Aakash Chopra. "Yuzi, you are the guy who has made everyone laugh. You are like a livewire on the field, but when you were going through problems in your personal life, was there anybody with you? This is the lowest of the low. The emotional scars when a crisis happens in personal life are different, unlike anything we go through in professional life," Chopra asked during the podcast. "My best friend and family were there," Chahal replied. "So when did you decide to give up alcohol?" Chopra then asked. "After last year of county cricket. It crossed all limits, so I checked into a rehab centre and stayed there for 26 days. Now, I know how to handle it. That decision made a massive difference to my personal life. My maturity increased. My emotions are balanced now. Last IPL, my body felt like I was 30 years old again - doing gym work, fielding drills and training properly," he said. "But how did it start, and why?" Chopra asked again. "Initially, I was young. There were parties. In 2011, I played my first IPL. AB de Villiers once told me, 'Balance is key in life.' It sounds easy, but it is not. Things got excessive after my divorce, and my mental state was not that great. I realised that if I continued down that path, I would ruin the very thing I love most - cricket.

Sports Ministry Announces Massive Hike Assistance To NSFs For Hosting International Events



National Sports Federations will be entitled to financial support of up to Rs 50 crore to organise international events, the Sports Ministry announced on Friday while unveiling the operational guidelines for the revised Scheme of Assistance to NSFs. Previously, the NSFs were given up to Rs two crore for conduct of international events in the country. The Ministry said the new guidelines align with India's long-term sporting vision and preparations for the 2036 Olympic bid and 2039 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad. "Now, financial support of upto NSFs for hosting an international event, depending upon the nature and importance of the event, number of participating countries and athletes. Proposals of NSFs will be assessed by a designated Committee headed by Secretary (Sports)," stated a release from the Ministry.

In addition, provision has been made in the revised scheme to provide assistance up to Rs 50 crore for conduct of National Games. The funds would go towards sports equipment, Timing, Scoring and Result (TSR) services, remuneration to technical officials and technical conduct. The government has issued revised operational guidelines for the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), with enhanced financial support for hosting international sporting events in India. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports said the revised scheme provides financial assistance of up to 50 crore rupees for hosting international sporting events in the country. The scheme also provides assistance of up to 50 crore rupees for conducting the National Games. The funding will cover sports equipment, timing, scoring and results services, remuneration for technical officials, and other technical arrangements. The revised guidelines also provide for the establishment of specialised Olympic Training Centres equipped with modern sports science facilities to support elite athletes.

Suryakumar Yadav Buys Dubai Property, Says Quality Of Life Is 'Different



Suryakumar Yadav, India's 2026 T20 World Cup-winning captain, has bought a luxurious property in Dubai. He made the announcement on Instagram with a video in which his wife, Devisha Shetty, was also present. "I first came to Dubai in 2014 to play in the IPL. Then we came in 2020. Now you can see that the entire India is coming to Dubai. Luxury and the quality of life are different," Yadav, who plays for Mumbai Indians in the IPL, said in the video. "Safety is there in India as well, where I live in Mumbai. But safety in Dubai is good too. It feels very relaxed, and I feel very happy when I come here." The name of the property is Shahrukhz Residences. "There was no second thought when I heard that a building by Shah Rukh sir was being built here. The main thing is the interior work and the quality. The most important thing is the longevity and wellness centre," he said. The video claimed that the residential property offers hyperbaric treatment, red light therapy and cryotherapy. "I saw one more thing: without a blood test, you get to know all the levels of the body — blood sugar, A to Z, whatever it is. This is too good." A report in Moneycontrol stated that the star cricketer's wife, Devisha, had purchased an apartment in Mumbai's Chembur area for Rs 7.18 crore earlier this year. The 1,516.20-square-foot (140.86-square-metre) property is in Godrej Sky Terraces, the report stated. It was the third apartment the couple had bought in the building.

BRAZILIAN RAFAEL CAMARA TO MAKE F1 DEBUT WITH HAAS IN 2027



Brazilian Rafael Camara will race for Haas in 2027, the Formula 1 team announced on Thursday, after confirming the departure of French driver Esteban Ocon last month. "It's an important step in my career," the 21-year-old said in a statement from the US-based Haas team. "Now my focus is on preparing myself in the best possible way for this new challenge. There will be a lot to learn, and I'm looking forward to working closely with the team," added Camara, who currently leads the Formula 2 championship. A member of the Ferrari Driver Academy since 2021, Camara has impressed this season with Invicta Racing in Formula 2, having won the Formula 3 title with Trident in 2025.

EX-NBA CHAMPION TELLS NEW YORK KNICKS NOT TO LOSE KARL-ANTHONY TOWNS OVER CONTRACT FIGHT



Cedric Maxwell knows what it takes to win an NBA title, and he has a message for the New York Knicks. The two-time champion says the team should think hard before it lets Karl-Anthony Towns walk away. The Knicks are still celebrating their first championship in 53 years, but behind the cheers a fight over money is growing, and Towns has made it clear he isn't happy with how it's going. Maxwell hopes he is still in New York after the trade deadline.

MAXWELL'S MESSAGE: DON'T LET HIM GO

To Maxwell, there is no title without Towns. "You wouldn't have won it without him," he said on casino.org, calling him "a great scorer," and he'd happily give him a new deal. Sitting back and waiting for Towns to give in makes no sense to him, and he keeps coming back to the same question: who else could the Knicks possibly find to take his place? Jalen Brunson is still the leader of this team, he made clear, but that doesn't change a thing.

He isn't blind to the money side, though, and he said no team can spend without limits. Even so, when he was asked whether Towns will still be a Knick once the deadline passes, he said he thinks so.

HOW THE CONTRACT TALKS GOT STUCK

Towns was a big part of the run that ended a 53-year wait. Still, on Oct. 9, the Knicks said they wouldn't talk about new deals "until later in the season," which put Towns, Josh Hart, Miles McBride and Tyler Kolek all on hold.

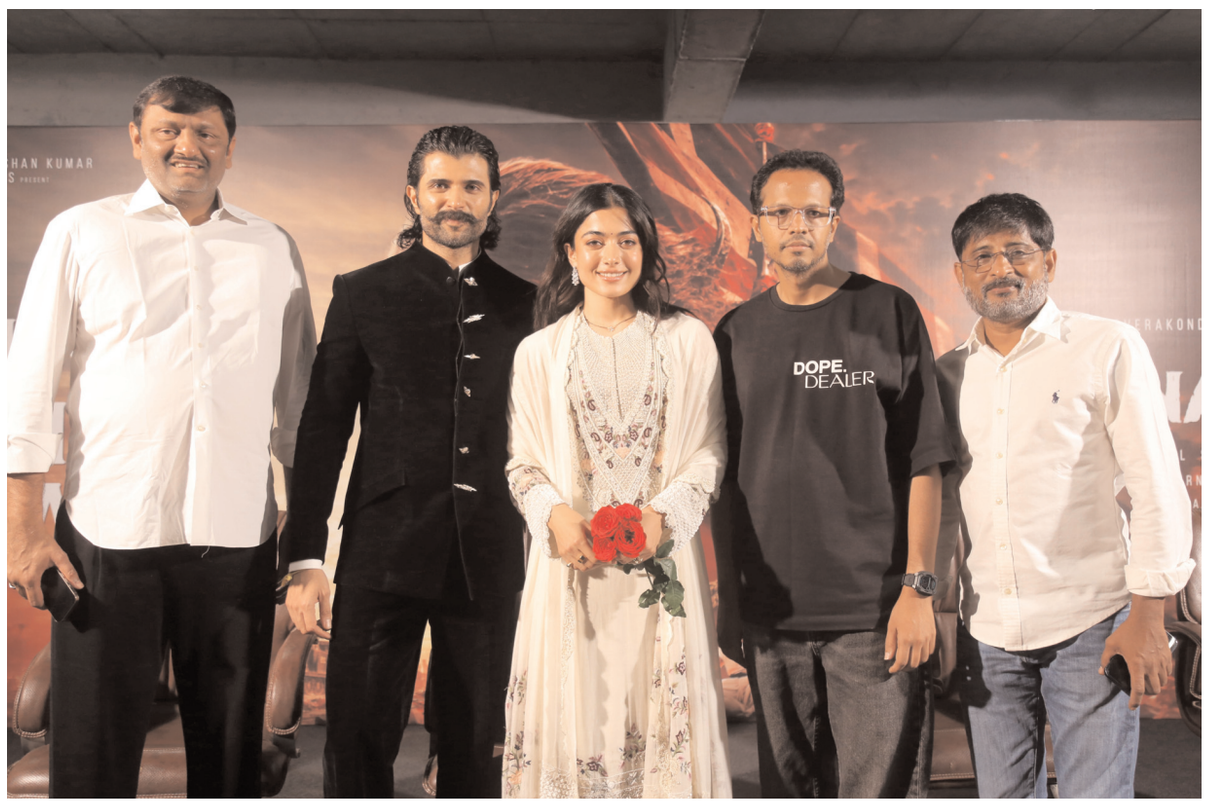
Police investigating antisemitic Nazi chants from Hajduk Split fans



Croatian police are investigating antisemitic chanting by Hajduk Split fans which took place before their Conference League game against Ajax on Thursday. Footage published online shows Hajduk supporters chanting outside the stadium about Auschwitz and in support of Adolf Hitler. A large supporters' march to the stadium was led by a yellow car carrying a coffin marked "Ajax" on its roof. The Amsterdam club is historically associated with the Jewish community. Croatia's ombudswoman Tena Simonovic Einwalter, an independent official appointed by parliament to safeguard human rights, called the incident a "manifestation of hatred and intolerance". The Croatian government also condemned the chanting. "We strongly condemn the unacceptable chants glorifying the Nazi regime that were recorded among a portion of fans before today's match in Split," it said on X on Thursday., external "Such shameful behaviour constitutes a negation of sport and the democratic values that modern Croatia cherishes." Local police told BBC Sport they had already made arrests in connection with yesterday's chants and that several further individuals had been identified and were being tracked down. Hajduk, who finished second in Croatia's top flight last season, won the match 2-1 but play was stopped for around 10 minutes because of fireworks in the stands. The Croatian club posted an apology on social media, external after the game, although it did not specifically mention any antisemitic chanting. "When situations like today happen, we are obliged to apologise to those who came to the stadium to cheer on the team that returned to European competitions after 16 years," it said. "We also apologise to the organiser of the competition and to the Ajax management and players who witnessed scenes we do not want Europe to remember us by."

Uefa has no jurisdiction over incidents away from the stadium but can take action if something happens in the stands or stadium precinct. Croatian football has previously faced sanctions over antisemitic and discriminatory behaviour.

RANABALI" WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT MOVIE FOR TOLLYWOOD AND A PROUD MOVIE IN OUR CAREER - VIJAY DEVARAKONDA



Ranabali" is a huge Pan India movie starring Vijay Devarakonda as the hero. This movie is directed by Rahul Sankrityan. Rashmika Mandanna acted as the heroine. The movie "Ranabali" is produced by producers Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravishankar on a huge budget under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers under the T Series offering. The movie "Ranabali" which came to the world wide theatrical release today has received blockbuster success by mesmerizing the audience of all sections.

HERO VIJAY DEVARAKONDA SAID -

We have organized this event to meet you today after seeing the words and messages sent by our media friends after watching Ranbali movie. We watched the movie yesterday evening. I can say that this is the best film from Tollywood this year. It will be a proud film in our career. This is my 14th film. Even after we have done thirty films, people talk about a film, its performance and the impact it created. Ranbali is such a film. This movie is going to be a big success. Because our media friends are taking this movie forward on their shoulders. I know how far this movie will go. While making this film, there was no attempt to make a big hit and create big numbers. We felt that it is very important to show this movie to our people. Even after watching the teaser and trailer, you will see many layers while watching our movie. Director Rahul made this film like a package. Everyone is talking great about some of the episodes. Ranbali will remain an important film in my filmography, Telugu cinema filmography. Tomorrow I will go to Vijayawada, Anantapur, Shinganamala, Guntur, Vizag... and meet our audience. Rashmika also says that we should celebrate our film. I am doing a cute rom-com movie with director Vikram Kumar. Vikram has brought such a script so he is able to do it.Now I love every film I do. They are asking to bring this film in Hindi as well. It will also be released in Tamil. We have targeted only in Telugu. Each hero brings his favorite story to the screen, but due to some reasons, the film and the business around it is becoming a race. Said.

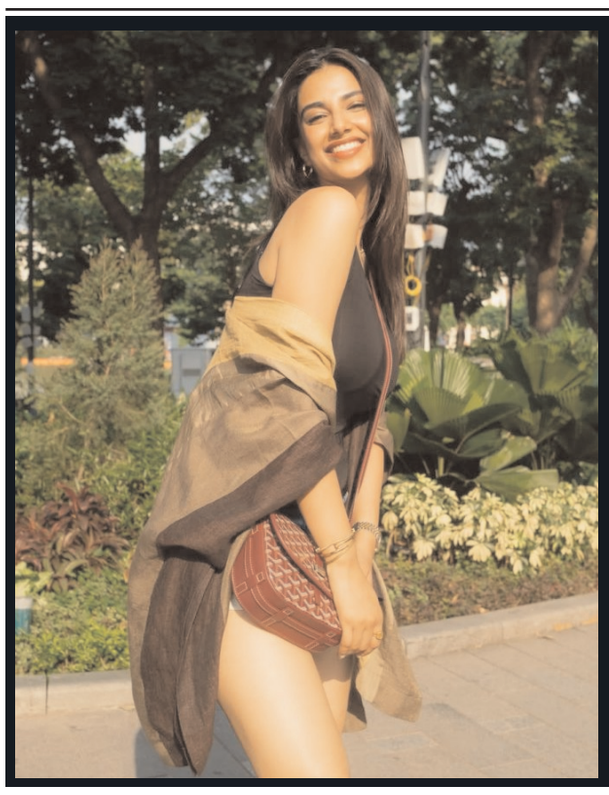
SREELEELA MAKES A STRIKING STYLE STATEMENT

Sreeleela rose quickly in Telugu cinema with hits like Dhamaka and Bhagavanth Kesari, and her Kissik song in Pushpa 2 became hugely popular. But her recent films have not worked at the box office.

Sreeleela chose a black velvet jacket with a V neckline, antique gold embroidery on the pockets and cuffs, and a jewelled buckle at the waist. She paired it with a black and white polka dot fishtail skirt that flared out at the hem. Small hoop earrings, straight open hair and nude lips kept the styling clean, while her calm, serious pose suited the moody backdrop.

Her hopes now rest on her Bollywood debut opposite Kartik Aaryan in Anurag Basu's romantic musical, yet to get a release date. She also shot for Diler opposite Ibrahim Ali Khan.





MEENAKSHI CHAUDHARY ROAMS HANOI STREETS IN STYLE

Meenakshi Chaudhary scored one of her biggest hits with Sankranthiki Vasthunam, which crossed 300 crore, and has also got back-to-back success with Lucky Baskhar, and Guntur Kaaram.

Meenakshi has been holidaying in Vietnam and shared pictures from Hanoi. She spent a few days roaming the streets, visiting cafés and vintage book stores, and enjoying the food and coffee. For the outing, she wore a black camisole with distressed denim shorts and an earthy colour block shrug. She added a maroon crossbody bag, hoop earrings, gold bangles and flat black sandals, and kept her hair loose and straight. Her wide easy smile in every single frame says it all.

On the work front, she has Vrushakarma opposite Naga Chaitanya and her Hindi debut Bhagam Bhaag 2 with Akshay Kumar lined up.

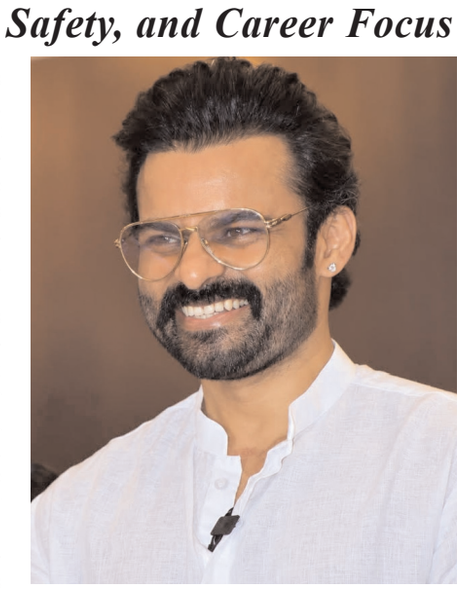
Supreme Hero Sai Tej Celebrates Birthday with Fans; Delivers Heartfelt Message on Women's Respect, Road Safety, and Career Focus

Supreme Hero Sai Tej celebrated his birthday amidst enthusiastic fans, well-wishers, and team members at a special event. Overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and warm wishes, the actor expressed deep gratitude to his fans and utilized the platform to share impactful messages regarding safety, respect, and career development.

Addressing the crowd, Sai Tej urged fans to make road safety a top personal priority, leading them in an emphatic chant: (Must wear a helmet!)". He further appealed to everyone to treat women and female actors with the utmost dignity, remarking that women outside deserve the same care and respect given to family members at home.

Advising his admirers to focus on personal goals, he emphasized: "Hits and flops come and go in cinema, but your future is entirely in your own hands. Focus on your careers and build your lives. We will work hard to deliver hits with your love, but your real-life achievements and success bring us the greatest pride."

Sai Tej also shared an exciting update on



his upcoming project, revealing that he is gearing up for a complete rural-backdrop family entertainer packed with high emotional value.

The celebration concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony, fan felicitations, and group interactions.

VERSATILE ACTOR SUNIL TO PLAY A POWERFUL LAWYER IN 'DUE DATE'

Versatile actor Sunil has joined the sets of Due Date and will be seen in a powerful lawyer's role. Starring Lomesh Pudipeddi as the hero and Jayashree as the heroine, the film also features Praneetha Patnaik, Vignani, Krishna Bhagavaan and Akshara Gowda in key roles. Produced by Pawan Tarigopula and Eluru Sreenu under the Varish Studios banner and directed by Anand K., the film recently held its grand pooja ceremony. Regular shooting has been progressing at a brisk pace in Hyderabad, with several crucial sequences being filmed. Comedian Krishna Bhagavaan has also joined the shoot after a considerable gap, promising to entertain audiences with his interesting character.

Speaking on the occasion, the producers said, "Sunil will be seen as the powerful lawyer Shekhar Chandra, and his character will be one of the major highlights of the film. We believe this distinctive role will remain a memorable one in his career. Based on a contemporary and pressing social issue, Due Date is an engaging commercial courtroom drama packed with intriguing twists and gripping moments. The story revolves around



a 'Due Date' that holds significance in everyone's life, blending strong commercial elements with a fresh and compelling narrative."

The makers further stated that Due Date promises a refreshing cinematic experience, with an engaging storyline and a perfect blend of entertainment, suspense and emotion. The film aims not only to entertain audiences but also to make them think and connect with the subject on an emotional level.

THOUGHT- PROVOKING FAMILY ENTERTAINER '3 2 1' RELEASING ON OCTOBER 23



While some films are made purely for short-term entertainment, only a few stay with the audience long after leaving the cinema hall, leaving a lasting impression and prompting thoughtful reflection. The upcoming film '3 2 1' (Love Marriage Vs Arranged) aims to belong to that distinctive category, according to its writer, director, and co-producer Chilumula Shanthikumar. A filmmaker who has previously earned two Nandi Awards across his past three projects, Shanthikumar shared that the film has been crafted cleanly so that both children and adults can watch it together without any hesitation or embarrassment. The film is set for a grand theatrical release on October 23. The central theme explores whether a love marriage or an arranged marriage is better for a lifelong journey, generating significant curiosity among viewers. The promotional material has already begun striking a chord; the recently released melody song 'Nanu Thaakina' touched a million hearts within a short span, while the official trailer, released two days ago, crossed the one million views milestone on digital platforms due to its engaging content.

The film stars Mohit Peddada, known for his work across multiple popular web series, as the male lead. Lavanya, who earned acclaim for portraying Junior Sammakka in Nani's successful feature 'Paradise', plays the leading lady. The supporting cast features Vivan Surya, Prabhavathi, Madhavi, Lakshmi Vennela, Yamini, Kunthi Srinivas, Appaji Ambarisha, and Vidyasagar in key roles.

DIRECTOR NANDINI REDDY UNVEILS THE FIRST LOOK OF JABARDASTH EMMANUEL'S 'DESTINY'

The intriguing first look poster of 'Destiny', directed by Chendu Muddu and produced by Dinesh Kurra under the Kurra Productions banner, has been unveiled by successful filmmaker Nandini Reddy, who extended her best wishes to the entire team.

Presented by K. Raghavendra Reddy, 'Destiny' is being produced by Dinesh Kurra under Kurra Productions, with Chendu Muddu at the helm. Jabardasth Emmanuel plays the lead role in the film, while Sri Satya, Aamani, Ravi Prakash, Kireeti, and Siva Kotla feature in other pivotal roles.

The newly unveiled first look poster has caught attention with its mysterious and intriguing visuals. True to its title, the poster features Emmanuel in



handcuffs, accompanied by a police constable against the backdrop of a forest and a secluded pathway. These striking elements hint at an interesting storyline and raise curiosity about the world the film is set to explore. The title logo also features the two characters, suggesting that their journey could be central to the narrative.

With its intriguing visual presentation and a premise that promises to spark curiosity, 'Destiny' has generated interest among moviegoers. Further updates about the film are expected to be announced soon. On the technical front, Maruthi Raja is composing the music, while Pankaj Thottada handles the cinematography. D. Venkata Prabhu is the editor. The film's story, screenplay, dialogues, and direction are by Chendu Muddu.

Thiruveer and Faria Abdullah's Bhagavanthudu Completes Shooting; Grand Theatrical Release Soon



The upcoming film "Bhagavanthudu" stars young talented hero Thiruveer and young talented heroine Faria Abdullah in the lead roles. Kannada actor Rishi will be seen in a pivotal role in the film. Produced by Ravi Kumar Panasa under the Ravi Panasa Film Corporation (Panasa Media India Private Limited) banner as Production No. 1, the film has Vidya Sri Panasa as its co-producer. G. G. Vihari is making his directorial debut with this movie.

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.