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BENGALURU I CHENNAI I HYDERABAD I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

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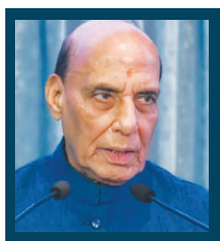
OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

04-10-2026



Total pilgrims :90,292
Tonsures : 27,329
Hundi kanukalu : 4.61 CR
Laddu sale... 4.36 Lac
Annaprasadam.2.74 Lac
Ashwini hospital..4,174
Present Situation on 05-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..21.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...8-10H.



Nation News

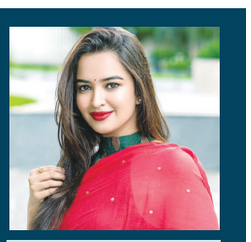
Rajnath Singh to launch first Fleet Support Ship in Vizag

"No Point": Mohammed Shami Delivered Big Setback In India Return Hopes



SPORTS NEWS

Poojitha Ponnada To Impress Audiences As A Narthaki In The Film



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

GOLD FALLS 1 PC, SILVER TRADES HIGHER AMID GEOPOLITICAL RISKS

Mumbai (TSIT) : Gold and silver showed mixed performance on Monday as the yellow metal fell 1 per cent, while silver gained amid movements in the US dollar and geopolitical uncertainty. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold futures (December) were trading at Rs 1,49,184 per 10 grams at around 10 am, a decrease of Rs 1,206 or 0.8 per cent, from the previous close. The yellow slipped as much as 1.02 per cent or Rs 1,540 to Rs 1,48,850, hitting an intraday low so far. It touched an intraday high of Rs 1,51,197, an increase of 0.53 per cent or Rs 807. Meanwhile, silver futures (December) showed the opposite trend, jumping as much as 0.49 per cent or Rs 1,122 to hit an intraday high of Rs 2,26,999 on the commodity exchange. At the last count, the white metal was trading at Rs 226,340 per kg, up Rs 463 or 0.2 per cent from the previous close. Earlier in the day, gold and silver opened at Rs 1,51,197 and Rs 2,25,900, respectively. Commodity Analysts said gold's decline below Rs 150,000 has turned that level into an immediate resistance zone with resistance seen at Rs 151,000-151,600 and then Rs 152,500-153,000.



SC contradicts EC over modified Form 6 approval

SC's admission only cements the misleading allegations.

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



While hearing the pleas to prosecute the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Gyanesh Kumar, on Monday, October 5, the Supreme Court clarified that it had not approved any modified version of Form 6 during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

"Any modified Form 6 has not been approved by us. Let's be clear. When the record is produced, we would like to see who has modified it," observed Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant.

This raises eyebrows, particularly after the Election Commissioner of India (ECI), on September 29, issued a press release mentioning that the top court had approved modification of Form 6 in some states where the SIR is ongoing. Form 6 is used for inclusion of names in electoral rolls.

Under the new declaration, new voters must state whether they or their parents were mapped in the 2002 SIR list. This requirement was not included in the earlier Form 6 used during the SIR exercise in other states.

According to Section 28 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, altering the online version of Form 6 on the ECINET portal without amending statutory rules is illegal and unauthorised. When the press note was released, many critics highlighted the point, asking the ECI to post the concerned Supreme Court's order. There was no response from the poll body.

The Supreme Court's admission only cements the misleading allegations. On Monday, the three-member bench headed by the CJI, along with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, refused to take action against CEC Gyanesh Kumar over allegations that he took decisions without consulting the other two Election Commissioners – Vivek Joshi and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu.

The petitions came days after The Indian Express reported that Sandhu and Joshi had raised objections at least 14 times in the past 10 months over decisions and orders related to the SIR of electoral rolls. They also wrote separately to Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan, raising concerns about the integrity of the voter software.

Jaladhara to Quench Thirst of 3.3 Crore People

■ Rs. 30,156-cr project launched in Proddatur ■ 27 lac more rural households to get tap connections ■ Rayalaseema development will not be stopped, says Naidu



AMARAVATI ■ (TSIT):

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan on Monday launched the Amarajeevi Jaladhara works under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, aimed at providing safe drinking water to rural households across Andhra Pradesh. The leaders unveiled the project pylon at Kothapalli in Proddatur constituency of Kadapa district.The Rs.30,156-crore project will extend drinking water facilities to 27 lakh additional rural families. As part of the initiative, 13,075 overhead water tanks will be constructed, water supply will be extended to 24,601 habitations, and nearly 77,243 km of pipeline network will be laid.

The Chief Minister said the project would strengthen drinking water supply to about 61.60 lakh tap connections and ultimately benefit nearly 3.3 crore people. He said the initiative would particularly ease the burden on women by saving the time, effort, and money spent in fetching water. Ministers S. Savitha, P. Narayana, and BC Janardhan Reddy, BJP State president PVN Madhav, public representatives, and senior officials attended the programme.

3 scientists win Nobel Prize in Medicine for brain research



STOCKHOLM ■ (TSIT):

The Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded Monday to three scientists working on the mechanisms the brain uses to switch on or off the activity of individual nerve cells.

Karl Deisseroth, 54, Peter Hegemann, 71, and Georg Nagel, 73, have carried out research into light-gated ion channels and optogenetics. They are based at universities in Germany and the United States. The Nobel committee lauded their work, writing on X that the method "is now being used in laboratories around the world to reveal the brain's mysteries."

The Nobel Assembly said Deisseroth is based at Stanford University in California, while Hegemann is at Humboldt University in Berlin and Nagel at the University of Wurzburg in Germany.Thomas Perlmann, the secretary of the medicine committee, said he was able to reach all three winners by phone Monday. The prize was announced at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, kicking off Nobel Week. The prize money this year is 12 million Swedish kronor (about USD 1.2 million).

Last year, the prize went to three scientists researching the immune system. Monday's medicine prize is followed by the physics prize on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday.

After Friday's peace prize is awarded, the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences will be announced on October 12. The prize money this year is 12 million Swedish kronor (about USD 1.2 million), whether for an individual, a small group of laureates or an organisation.

Nirmala says US trade talks stalled, India favoured

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday that India-US trade negotiations are continuing but may have hit a plateau and added that the bilateral trade balance currently favours India.

Speaking at the Munich Leaders Meeting 2026 here, FM Sitharaman said the proposed trade agreement had been hard and very vigorously negotiated. "The negotiations are still ongoing although we would like to believe both sides have reached a plateau beyond which giving or taking might be very, very difficult," she said.

The minister said the two countries could still explore whether there was any room for further negotiations.

Telangana seeks Centre's nod for key projects

Komatireddy urges Gadkari to approve elevated corridors, ropeways, highway expansion and Regional Ring Road works

HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT):



Telangana's Minister for Roads and Buildings, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, on Monday urged Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, to approve key infrastructure projects for the state. The minister sought support for projects aimed at strengthening connectivity between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, alleviating traffic congestion in Hyderabad, improving transport facilities to tourist destinations, and accelerating regional economic development.

Venkat Reddy held a meeting with Gadkari after the inauguration of the two-day 'Chintan Shivir-2026', a national conclave on highway infrastructure at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat. According to a statement from the Telangana minister's office, the two leaders held extensive discussions on key infrastructure projects, pending Central approvals, fund sanctions, and the development of national highways.

To provide a permanent solution to growing traffic congestion in eastern Hyderabad, the minister proposed a double-decker elevated corridor spanning approximately 6 km from LB Nagar to Hayathnagar. He noted that the Centre has already granted approval for Rs 545 crore to develop the LB Nagar–Malkapur section of NH-65 into a six-lane highway, including service roads. He requested inclusion of the corridor in the 2026–27 annual plan, ensuring coordination with the Metro Phase II extension to Hayathnagar.

CM Vijay Writes To Jaishankar On Fishermen Arrest

CHENNAI ■ (TSIT):



Expressing deep concern over the Sri Lankan Navy repeatedly arresting fishermen from Tamil Nadu and impounding their boats in the Palk Straits, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay drew the attention of the Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to the latest incident on October 3 when nine fishermen from Rameswaran were taken into custody along with their motor boat bearing registration number IND-TN-10-MM-0457.

In his letter to Jaishankar on Monday, the Chief Minister said that 20 fishermen from Tamil Nadu continued to languish in Sri Lankan prisons with 270 fishing boats in custody. He urged him to prevail over the Sri Lankan government to put an end to the recurring problem that caused distress to the families of fishermen and put them in financial difficulties, besides causing fear among the fishing community.Demanding the revival of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries at the earliest and the convening of its meeting, given the present situation, Vijay stressed on the need for the resumption of talks between the two neighbouring countries.

Russian drone attack kills captain of ship carrying Indians

London ■ (TSIT):

At least one person was killed while 11 others were rescued after a Russian drone strike caused a fire on a Turkish-owned civilian cargo vessel in the Black Sea carrying Indian and Azerbaijani citizens, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Monday. "A horrific strike by two Russian drones on a civilian vessel in neutral waters carrying corn and owned by Turkiye," he said on X.



"Azerbaijani and Indian citizens were on board. As of now, unfortunately, we know that the ship's captain was killed. My condolences. The fate of one other person is still being established," he said.Zelensky said 11 crew members were rescued, one of them injured.He said that Ukraine has repeatedly proposed concrete steps to de-escalate the situation and ensure security in the Black Sea."Pressure is needed to restore global food security. And everyone who is genuinely interested in this must help," he posted.

The Black Sea is a critical global trade choke point facing severe disruption due to escalating attacks on commercial shipping and port infrastructure from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. On Sunday, a 52-year-old employee of a pharmaceutical warehouse belonging to Indian owners was killed in a Russian strike in Ukraine's Sumy.

On Sunday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India has moved beyond advocacy and stepped up its efforts in recent months to resolve the Ukraine conflict by engaging in conversations with both Kyiv and Moscow. Jaishankar's comments at an event came days after Russian President Vladimir Putin said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "good ideas" to find a mutually acceptable solution to the conflict.

Modi, Swiss President discuss trade, AI & defence cooperation

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



PM Modi and President Parmelin noted the growing momentum in economic cooperation by the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Swiss President Guy Parmelin on Monday reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties and discussed ways to further deepen cooperation in trade, investment, innovation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), military matters, defence production, nuclear energy, science and technology, and people-to-people ties. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to peace, diplomacy, and reform of global institutions.

"PM Narendra Modi held wide-ranging discussions with President Guy Parmelin of the Swiss Republic at Hyderabad House. Both leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of India-Switzerland relations and discussed ways to further deepen bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, innovation and AI, military exchange and defence production, nuclear energy, SandT and people-to-people ties," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

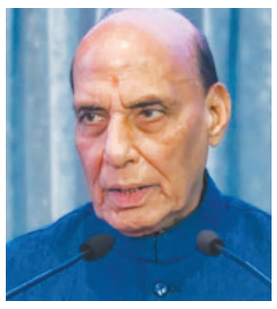
"They noted the positive momentum generated in economic cooperation by India-EFTA TEPA and reaffirmed the commitment to advancing an innovation-led partnership. Key outcomes include new agreements on transport, mobility and infrastructure, migration and mobility, and young professionals, alongside new joint research in health, clean energy and space. Both sides also reaffirmed their commitment to peace, diplomacy and reform of global institutions," he added.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Secretary, West, in the MEA, Sibi George, and other officials were present during the meeting. Prior to the meeting, PM Modi and President Parmelin warmly greeted each other.

Earlier in the day, the Swiss President was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Addressing reporters after the ceremonial welcome, he said: "The visit is an excellent opportunity to emphasise the importance that both Switzerland and India attach to this relationship." He said that the relationship between India and Switzerland is built on "shared democratic values as well as on trust and mutual respect."

Rajnath Singh to launch first Fleet Support Ship in Vizag

Visakhapatnam, Oct 5 : In a significant demonstration of India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will launch Fleet Support Ship-1 (FSS-1) here on Tuesday.



He will also lay the keel of Fleet Support Ship-5 (FSS-5) and inaugurate the upgraded Slipway-4 and 300-tonne Goliath Crane at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam.

The upgraded Slipway-4, with its extended length and enhanced load-bearing capability, supported by the 300-tonne Goliath Crane, will enable the shipyard to build and launch vessels of up to 45,000 DWT, significantly expanding its capacity to undertake large and complex platforms, according to an official release.

FSS-1, the first of five Fleet Support Ships being built for the Indian Navy, will enter the waters of the Bay of Bengal just 18 months after steel cutting.

These 43,500-tonne vessels will replenish warships at sea, extending the Navy's endurance and reach across the Indian Ocean Region.

The keel laying of FSS-5 will mark the programme's steady march towards series production. The events will be attended by N. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of the Naval Staff, Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production), among others. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will also visit Odisha on Tuesday.

He will inaugurate the milestone event marking the delivery of the 2,000th aero-engine by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Koraput Division.

The event will mark nearly six decades of HAL Koraput's contribution to India's aerospace and defence manufacturing capabilities and operational readiness of the Armed Forces.

AP student develops smart goggles for visually impaired swimmers

CHITTOOR: Twenty-year-old engineering student Pasupuleti Ruthvik from Chittoor believes the answer to helping visually impaired swimmers could lie in a pair of smart goggles. His innovation, Untethered, uses ultrasonic sensing to measure a swimmer's distance from the pool wall and haptic feedback to provide a physical alert as they approach it.



The technology could help visually impaired swimmers navigate pools with greater safety, confidence and independence. Untethered is now among the Top 20 teams of Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2026, a national education and innovation competition that empowers young people to develop technology-led solutions to real-world problems through design thinking, mentorship and hands-on learning. The idea was sparked by an accident involving one of Ruthvik's friends.

Ruthvik entered the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Bootcamp focused primarily on whether the technology could be built. The experience pushed him to confront a more fundamental question: would visually impaired swimmers find it useful and comfortable? Through intensive sessions and expert mentoring, he began examining the product's feasibility, user experience and potential for real-world adoption.

Collector urges faster disposal of Prajavani grievances

NALGONDA (TSIT): District Collector B. Chandrasekhar has directed officials to reduce the pendency of 'Prajavani' (public grievance) complaints at all levels. On Monday, he received grievances from the public alongside district officials during the 'Prajavani' program held at the Collectorate.



Speaking on the occasion, the Collector noted high pendency regarding local body and revenue-related issues at the mandal and division levels. He instructed DRO Dasharath and Additional Collector Prem Karan Reddy to focus specifically on these matters and resolve them promptly. He mandated the submission of hostel inspection reports and reports on targets achieved under the 'Praja Palana' action plan by the 6th of this month, and directed everyone to prepare reports for the 'Disha' meeting. He also emphasised the need to respond immediately with clarifications regarding any negative news reports appearing in the press.

With 'Right to Information Act Awareness Week' being observed from the 5th to the 12th of this month, he advised officials to resolve pending RTI applications and appeals transparently. Furthermore, he warned of potential groundwater depletion due to the El Niño effect, ordered the prevention of drinking water pipeline leakages, and directed that no permissions be granted for new borewells without WALTA clearance. Instructions were issued to scrutinise and submit applications for 'Cheyutha' pensions by the 8th of this month. Subsequently, the Collector administered a pledge regarding the Right to Information Act to the officials. During the 'Praja Vani' program held on Monday, a total of 141 applications were received—55 for the Revenue Department and 86 for other departments. Additional Collectors Srinivas and Prem Karan Reddy, Trainee Assistant Collector Srikanth Reddy, DRDO Shekhar Reddy, DRO Dasarath, and other district officials participated in the event.

Choosing an online degree in 2026:

What really matters beyond the university name?

Dr. N V H Krishnan

Traditionally, the foremost concern youngsters used to have was choosing the university which would define their career for a lifetime. The dynamic has changed significantly in 2026, wherein the university's reputation certainly matters, but it is only one part of a much larger decision.

For a student, an online degree is an investment of time, money and effort. The better question, therefore, is not simply which university is offering the degree, but what the programme actually offers and whether it fits the learner's personal and professional goals.

Start with the programme, not just the university

A well-known university may be providing numerous online programmes, but that does not translate into every programme holding immense strength. Students must look closely at the specific programme, its curriculum, areas of specialisation, and accordingly decide on opting for the programme.

The curriculum deserves particular attention. A useful programme should go beyond textbooks and theoretical concepts. In contemporary times, industry practices, case studies, practical assignments, projects, and hands-on exposure to related work, etc., make learning increasingly relevant. The ultimate goal remains to uplift the students' preparedness for the real world after graduation.

The learning experience itself also needs to be understood before enrolling. Two online degrees may look similar in terms of curriculum but may be completely diverse in industrial application. Students must research how the programme is covered through live and recorded lectures, self-paced learning, faculty Q&A sessions and engagement with peers. Access to an abundance of digital content does not necessarily directly imply that the learning experience may be impeccable.

Faculty and industry exposure still count

Online education has not reduced the value that teachers hold. Students must know the faculty who will be teaching them, their academic backgrounds, and their industrial experience. A more certain aspect that students must explore is the interaction channels with faculty, Q&A sessions, and academic guidance when needed.

The same level of scrutiny should be applied to claims



around "industry exposure". Phrases like industry-integrated and career-focused have become dominant in programme descriptions, but there can be instances of unmet claims. Students should look for tangible elements like industry projects, expert sessions, internships, case studies, employer interactions and career support by diving deeper into the programme's timeline rather than relying on promotional terms.

Look beyond the certificate

An online degree should not be evaluated only by what is printed on the final certificate. The ecosystem surrounding the programme can have a considerable bearing on the overall experience.

The learner community also deserves attention. There are several channels like group projects, discussion forums and peer interactions than can reduce the feeling of learning in isolation. For working professionals, classmates from different industries can also bring perspectives that may not be available through course material alone.

Students should also understand how they will be assessed. A programme that uses assignments, projects, continuous assessments and examinations can create a different learning experience from one that places most of its emphasis on final examinations. The assessment model should therefore be considered alongside the teaching methodology.

Make the decision around your own goals

Before enrolling, students should verify the programme's regulatory recognition, eligibility requirements and academic credentials, particularly if they may later pursue higher education, competitive examinations or specific career pathways.

Cost is another factor, but the cheapest programme is not automatically the most economical choice. Similarly, a higher fee does not by itself establish greater value. Curriculum quality, faculty, learning support, career services, technology, flexibility and institutional credibility should all be considered alongside the fee.

Awareness key to HIV/AIDS prevention



HYDERABAD: The KIMS College of Nursing, Secunderabad, organised a Red Ribbon Club awareness programme to sensitise nursing students to HIV/AIDS prevention, early testing and social responsibility. The programme was organised by the National Service Scheme Unit of KIMS College of Nursing in collaboration with the Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TSIT) at the 15th Floor Auditorium of KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr. K. Vidya Sagar, Project Director, TGSACS, emphasised the need for sustained awareness on HIV/AIDS. He briefed the students on the HIV/AIDS situation and related statistics in Telangana and India, preventive measures and the importance of early detection. He also stressed the need to address misconceptions and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Vidya Sagar said nursing students could play an important role as peer educators by taking accurate information on HIV prevention and awareness to the community. Dr. S. Manimala Rao, Director of Medical Education (Academics), KIMS Hospitals, who attended the programme as the guest of honour, urged nursing students to demonstrate compassion, professionalism and ethical responsibility while caring for people living with HIV/AIDS.

She highlighted the important role of nurses in health education, disease prevention, counselling and patient advocacy, and encouraged the students to contribute to creating a more informed and supportive society.

As part of the programme, nursing students conducted a series of educational activities, including poster presentations, a skit and a quiz competition. The activities focused on HIV prevention, awareness and social responsibility and helped communicate key messages in an engaging manner.The programme was attended by the Principal and Vice-Principal of KIMS College of Nursing, faculty members, representatives of TGSACS, NSS volunteers and nursing students.



EO TTD review on Srivari Navarathri Brahmotsavam arrangements with the TTD officials, District Collector, SP and other officials of TTD, Govt officials at Annamayya Bhavana in Tirumala

YSRCP issues ID cards to cadres in Tadepalligudem

TADEPALLIGUDEM: An ID card distribution programme was organised in Ward No. 31 of Tadepalligudem town for YSRCP leaders and party cadres. The ID cards were distributed to strengthen their confidence, recognise their commitment to the party, encourage leadership spirit, and help them earn a good name and reputation among the people.



In accordance with the vision and aspirations of former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and YSRCP President Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, these ID cards were issued with the objective of ensuring that every party worker receives official recognition within the party. The ID cards were distributed to the party cadres by Shri Vaddi Raghuram Naidu, YSRCP Coordinator for the Tadepalligudem Assembly Constituency.

As per the directions of Party President Shri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the party has decided to stand by the families of party workers. In the unfortunate event of the accidental death of any leader or cadre who is working for the party, the party has decided to provide financial assistance to their families on behalf of the party.

At present, the alliance parties, which came to power with false promises, are reportedly collecting approximately Rs.300 from their cadres towards insurance membership fees and providing insurance coverage through such memberships.

In this context, the YSR Congress Party has decided to provide financial assistance of Rs.5,00,000 (Rupees Five Lakh) to the families of leaders and cadres appointed to YSRCP committees who are working for the party, in the unfortunate event of their accidental death.

Town in-charges, leaders holding various positions, MPPs, former Sarpanches, former MPTCs, YSRCP leaders, party cadres, and supporters participated in the programme.

KLH University launches India's first Agentic AI campus with HCL Group AI Labs



Hyderabad: KLH University, Bachupally, Hyderabad, has launched India's first Agentic AI Campus in collaboration with HCL Group AI Labs, marking a significant milestone in AI-driven education. The initiative was inaugurated by Mr. Deepak Sarvanan, National Head of HCL Group AI Labs, at the campus, where a Memorandum of Understanding was exchanged between the two organisations.

The MoU was represented by Dr. L. Koteswara Rao, Principal of KLH University, Bachupally, with Dr. A. Srinath, Dean of Skill Development, playing a key role in the ceremony. The collaboration aims to create an advanced learning ecosystem where students can learn, experiment, and apply emerging AI technologies to real-world challenges.

Under the initiative, students will explore Agentic AI systems capable of planning and executing tasks with human oversight. The programme promotes product-based learning, industry-oriented assignments, faculty mentorship, and experiential learning, enabling students to become creators rather than mere consumers of AI technology.

Faculty development and responsible AI adoption form key components, with emphasis on data privacy, reliability, bias, and transparency. The initiative strengthens industry-academia collaboration, aligning with KLH University's vision of developing future-ready professionals equipped with advanced technological skills and the ability to innovate responsibly.

Advanced thrombectomy saves heart attack patient at KIMS Saveera



ANANTAPUR: Doctors at KIMS Saveera Hospital in Anantapur successfully treated a 60-year-old woman from Guntakal who suffered a severe heart attack caused by a massive blood clot blocking a major coronary artery.

The patient, R. Annapurna, was diagnosed with an inferior wall myocardial infarction. Doctors found that her right coronary artery was completely blocked, with abnormal enlargement making treatment more challenging.After conventional balloon angioplasty and clot-removal methods failed to restore adequate blood flow, the medical team used the advanced CATRx catheter and Penumbra aspiration thrombectomy system to remove the clot. Two coronary stents were subsequently placed to maintain blood circulation.Dr. Spandana Komma, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, said the technique helped restore normal blood flow without major complications. She noted that mechanical thrombectomy can be beneficial in selected heart attack cases involving extensive blood clots when conventional methods prove inadequate.The patient's condition stabilised, and she was discharged after satisfactory recovery.

Bhadradri Co-operative Urban Bank Celebrates 30th Incarnation Day in Khammam



KHAMMAM: The 30th Incarnation Day of Bhadradri Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd was celebrated at the Head Office at Gandhi Chowk, Khammam.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Cherukuri Krishnamurthy, Chairman of the bank, said the bank is entering its 30th year after completing 29 years. He thanked clients, well-wishers, shareholders, staff, and past and present directors who have worked with him.He said the bank is playing a vital role in society's development by providing loans to people across various sectors. The bank has expanded to 25 branches, and its business turnover has crossed 1,065 crore. He expressed happiness over the trust placed in the bank by clients.Vice Chairman Mr. Sanne Uday Pratap, Mr. Vemulapalli Venkateswara Rao, Bank Directors Mr. Devata Raja Rao, Mr. Maddi Picchaiah, Mrs. Karlapudi Narmada, Mrs. Kapilawai Jayaprada, Mr. Rajpurohit Chen Singh, Mr. Ranga Naga Srinivasa Rao, Mr. Dara Jeevan Ram, Board of Management members, senior officers, and other staff were present.

KSTDC to upgrade 24 hotels and two restaurants with Rs.100 crore investment



Bengaluru: The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) has drawn up a Rs.100-crore plan to comprehensively upgrade 24 of its hotels and two restaurants located at major tourist destinations across the State, Tourism Minister K.J. George said.

The proposed modernisation will be carried out in phases, with the focus extending beyond renovation of buildings. The government intends to improve accommodation, food quality, cleanliness, hospitality services and booking facilities to provide visitors with a better overall experience.

George said several KSTDC Mayura properties are strategically located close to prominent destinations such as Hampi, Jog Falls, Nandi Hills, Madikeri and the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS). Their location is considered one of the corporation's biggest advantages, as several properties occupy sites that are difficult for private hospitality operators to access.The government plans to combine this location advantage with improved infrastructure and professional services. The objective is to make the properties more attractive to tourists while also improving their revenue-generating capacity. Under the Rs.100-crore programme, work will cover guest rooms, bathrooms, restaurants, kitchens, reception areas and common spaces. Furniture, lighting, gardens and the surroundings of the properties.

Mysuru palace prepares for royal private durbar as jewel-studded throne assembled



Mysuru: Traditional rituals associated with the Dasara festivities began at the iconic Amba Vilas Palace on Monday with the ceremonial assembly of the royal throne ahead of the private durbar to be conducted by the Mysuru royal family during Navaratri. The throne assembly was held within the palace premises in the presence of members of the royal family and was not open to the public. In view of the rituals, entry to the palace was restricted for tourists and visitors from the morning until noon.The day's proceedings began with religious ceremonies at around 7.30 am. A Navagraha homa and Shanti homa were performed as part of the purification rituals before preparations for assembling the royal seats commenced. At an auspicious time between 10 am and 10.20 am, officials and palace staff began assembling the jewel-studded throne in the Durbar Hall. At the same time, the silver Bhadrasana kept at the Kannadi Thotti was also put together as part of the traditional arrangements.

Hassan Ganesha immersion row puts DC and SP at odds



Hassan: A dispute over the immersion of the historic Pendal Ganesha idol at Devigere has escalated into a confrontation between Hassan Deputy Commissioner K.S. Latha Kumari and Superintendent of Police Subhanvita, with the DC issuing a notice to the police chief seeking an explanation.

The Pendal Gauri-Ganesha celebration has been associated with communal harmony in Hassan for nearly seven decades. This year's immersion, however, became controversial after restrictions were imposed on immersing the idol at Devigere. The Deputy Commissioner has alleged that the police failed to enforce the restrictions and subsequently did not take appropriate legal action against those who organised the immersion. The alleged lapse has prompted the administration to seek an explanation from the SP.

In the notice, Latha Kumari reportedly questioned the failure to discharge official responsibilities and described the alleged conduct as unbecoming of a government servant. She has asked why a recommendation for disciplinary action should not be made against the SP. Subhanvita has also been directed to appear personally and submit a written explanation.

Jail DIG Somashekar arrested over alleged fake Supreme Court order used to free life convict



Bengaluru: Parappana Agrahara police have arrested Jail DIG Somashekar in connection with an investigation into the alleged use of a forged Supreme Court order to secure the release of a prisoner serving a life sentence. The case relates to an incident in 2018 involving Shankar, a convict serving life imprisonment in a murder case. According to the investigation, Shankar was released from Parappana Agrahara Central Prison on November 13, 2018, allegedly after a fabricated document claiming to be a Supreme Court order was submitted to prison authorities.

Police suspect that the purported judicial order was created by Srikanth S., who was working as a second division assistant in the prison department at the time. The alleged forged document was then used as the basis for processing Shankar's release, despite the life sentence imposed on him. The police have already arrested Shankar and Srikanth in connection with the case. Investigators are now widening the probe to determine how the alleged fake order was introduced into the prison's administrative system and who handled or approved it before the convict was released.

Somashekar's role has come under scrutiny because he was the chief superintendent of Parappana Agrahara prison when the alleged incident took place. He is currently serving as a DIG in the prison department. Investigators are examining whether Somashekar was aware of the purported Supreme Court order and whether appropriate procedures were followed to establish its authenticity before Shankar was allowed to leave the prison. Police are also looking into the administrative chain through which the document was processed.

The investigation is expected to focus on prison records, the convict's sentence details and documents relating to his release. Officials are also likely to examine how a purported order from the country's highest court could have been accepted without proper verification. The arrest of a senior prison official has added a new dimension to the case. Police are attempting to establish whether the alleged release resulted from negligence, procedural lapses or a coordinated effort involving multiple individuals.

Investigators are also questioning those associated with the prison administration during the relevant period to determine the sequence of events. The probe will seek to identify everyone who may have played a role in creating, forwarding, verifying or acting upon the alleged forged order. Police have taken Somashekar into custody as part of the ongoing investigation and are questioning him regarding his role in the matter. Further action will depend on the evidence gathered during the inquiry.

Gnanesh Kumar Must Be Dismissed and BJP's 'Vote Thieves' shoul Bengaluru Arrested: S. Manohar



Bengaluru: KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar has demanded the dismissal of Gnanesh Kumar and the arrest of BJP's 'vote thieves' who are attempting to snatch away the rights of genuine voters in the state.

Speaking at a unique protest organized by the KPCC, he stated that BJP leaders and their BLAs (Booth Level Agents) are the key architects behind the vote-stealing incidents in the country; he asserted that these individuals, who are depriving genuine voters of their rights, should immediately be subjected to narco-analysis tests.

He further alleged that after cases were registered against BJP leaders and workers for misusing Form 7 to recommend the deletion of genuine voters from the electoral rolls, these 'vote thieves' are now exerting pressure to have those cases withdrawn. When the Chief Minister, KPCC President, and various ministers jointly submitted a memorandum to the Chief Electoral Officer's office demanding action against vote thieves, the BJP staged a protest and lodged a complaint, alleging that the very act of submitting the memorandum was wrong. This move by BJP leaders—lodging a complaint with the Police Commissioner—has been condemned as behavior reflecting a lack of political values and a "low-level" approach that amounts to the murder of democracy.

Across the state and the nation, BJP leaders are defending and supporting Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Meanwhile, protests are being held nationwide demanding his resignation, with critics labeling him the Chief Election Commissioner who is stripping voters of their rights.

Samsung Galaxy Tab S12 Series Prices Announced for Indian Market with Special Deals



GURUGRAM : Samsung announced that its Galaxy Tab S12 series will be available in India starting October 7. The Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra and Tab S12+, available in Gray and Silver colours, deliver Samsung's most capable and versatile tablet experience to date, combining breakthrough performance, long-lasting battery life, and the latest Galaxy AI in an ultra-thin design.

Built for productivity

The Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra and Tab S12+ feature expansive Dynamic AMOLED 2X displays with peak brightness up to 1600 nits. Additionally, the Vision Booster feature on these tabs adjusts brightness in real time to ensure vivid visuals and comfortable viewing in any lighting. With the 14.6-inch Ultra and 12.6-inch Plus model, users can split the screen into three sections in Multi Window layout for seamless multitasking. They can, for instance, take notes in Samsung Notes while streaming a lecture and accessing an AI assistant simultaneously.

At just 5.1mm slim, the Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra is Samsung's thinnest Galaxy Tab yet, while the Galaxy Tab S12+ measures a comparable 5.3mm. Both devices pack an energy-efficient 3nm processor that delivers 61% faster NPU processing, 19% faster CPU performance, and 17% improved GPU power compared to its predecessor. This ensures smooth performance for demanding tasks like rendering creative projects or multitasking with lectures and note-taking.

The all-day battery lasts up to 23 hours (1) on the Ultra and 21 hours on the Plus, with rapid charging from 0% to 100% in just 95 minutes using the 45W adapter. Their newly designed 3D Vapor Chamber efficiently dissipates heat for reliable performance during extended use.Engineered for durability, the Galaxy Tab S12 series is IP68-rated for water and dust resistance, ensuring resilience in various environments.Sound is enhanced with 4-channel spatial audio that delivers a rich, immersive experience for streaming, tutorials, or editing. Both models come with an ergonomic S Pen for precise input. Productivity can be further enhanced with a Pro Keyboard Cover that turns these tabs into a professional workstation, complete with a Galaxy AI Key for instant access to AI assistants.

BJP workers detained during Ballari protest over SIR-related FIR



Ballari: Tension prevailed briefly in Ballari on Monday after BJP leaders and supporters took to the streets to protest against an FIR registered against municipal corporation Opposition Leader Srinivas Modkar over allegations linked to the deletion of 7,561 names from electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The BJP's Ballari district unit organised the demonstration at Royal Circle, accusing the State government and police of attempting to suppress the party's objections regarding alleged irregularities in the voter list. Party leaders claimed that the case against Modkar was politically driven and demanded that it be withdrawn.

The protesters also called for a comprehensive inquiry into the allegations involving the 7,561 voters, particularly the claims concerning minority voters. They argued that concerns over electoral rolls could not be dismissed and that political leaders and citizens had the right to question suspected irregularities in the revision process.

Following the demonstration, BJP leaders and workers decided to march towards Brucepet police station. Police personnel stopped them before they could reach the station and deployed additional forces around the premises. As the protesters attempted to move ahead despite the police barricading, an argument broke out between the two sides.

IKF Home Finance Limited
Equinox by Phonenix-Tower 3, 10th Floor, Diamond Hills, Lumbini Avenue, Rai Durg, Gachibowli, Hyderabad Telangana - 500081

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY [(Appendix IV) Rule8(1)]

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IKF Home Finance Ltd.** (hereinafter referred to as "IKF") under Secuitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assests and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned below under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein below and to the public in general that the undersigned has Taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers mentioned here in above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **"IKF"** for an amount as mentioned herein under and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(S) LAN	Description of the Property / Secured Asset	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1	Lan:- **LXCHP01324-250014696 & LNCHP00923-240010260** **1. Mr/Mrs. G Lakshman Naik** **2. Mr/Mrs. Lakshmi Bai** **3. Mr/Mrs. Goutham Naik** **Add:** Govindhnayaka, 42-A Kanakapura Main Road Saludoddi Village, Bangalore Urban District, Karnataka, India 560062 **Also at:** Khata No- 404, Madanayakanahalli, Lakshmipura, Banglore Dist -562130.	All that piece and parcel of property bearing VP Khata No. 2/8, assigned to Site No. 8, measuring East to West 25-0 Feet, situated at Saludoddi Village, AgaraDhakaleKengeriHobli, Bangalore South Taluk, comprising of a building and bounded by: East by Property bearing Site No.7, West by Private property, North by Road and South by Private Property.	**13-07-2026** **Rs. 2,89,947/-** **(Rupees Two Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Seven Only) and** **(Rs. 10,44,045/- Rupees Ten Lakh Forty Four Thousand Forty Five Only)**	**01-10-2026**

Place: Bangalore
Date : 01-10-2026

Sd/-Authorized Officer
For IKF Home Finance Limited

NICE Road case: Supreme Court refuses to stay Karnataka High Court probe order



New Delhi: The Supreme Court has refused to grant an interim stay on the Karnataka High Court's order directing an independent investigation and forensic audit into alleged irregularities surrounding the NICE Road project. The development comes amid an escalating political debate in Karnataka over the implementation of the controversial infrastructure project. The NICE organisation had approached the Supreme Court challenging the High Court's directions and sought immediate relief against the proposed investigation. A two-judge Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kumar heard the appeal.

Appearing for NICE, the organisation's counsel argued that around 25 per cent of the project work had already been completed and that approximately 1,100 acres of land had been utilised for the project. The counsel also submitted that compensation had been paid to farmers whose land was acquired.

On these grounds, the NICE side urged the Supreme Court to put the High Court's order on hold. Alternatively, it sought directions to maintain the existing position until the appeal was finally decided.

The plea was strongly opposed by lawyers representing the affected farmers. They argued that the landowners had not received fair and adequate compensation despite the passage of more than two decades.

The farmers' representatives told the Supreme Court that their lands had allegedly been subjected to prolonged misuse and claimed that the dispute involved systematic irregularities in the execution of the project. The High Court's decision to order an independent probe and forensic audit has become a major point of contention, with the allegations concerning the manner in which land was acquired and utilised for the NICE project.

The Supreme Court's refusal to stay the High Court order means that the directions for an independent investigation and forensic audit will remain in force for now. The apex court's decision is significant as the allegations surrounding the NICE project have remained unresolved for several years and have repeatedly triggered political and legal disputes in Karnataka. The proceedings are being closely watched by farmers, the NICE organisation and political parties in Karnataka, particularly because the dispute involves land acquisition, compensation and alleged irregularities in a major infrastructure project.

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.
CIN- U65922KL2011PLC029231
Corporate Office : Muthoot Homefin (INDIA) Ltd. 19/E, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Tulsi Pipe Road, Near Ruparel College, Dadar West, Mumbai - 400028.
Branch Office: Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited, 1st Floor, Unit No- 70, RSR Building, Above Laxmi Vilas Bank, Gandhi Bazar Main Road, Bangalore- 560004.

APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the possession, on **'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:-**

Sr. No.	Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) / Loan Account No. / Branch	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)
1.	Shobha M/ Mani P/ BAN-HL-001339/ Bangalore	28-Feb-2026 Rs. 53,86,623.1/- Rupees Fifty Three Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Three And Paise Ten Only.	Schedule A:- All That Piece And Parcel of The Land Measuring 12.08 Guntas In Sy No.14/2; Converted Land Bearing Sy.no.14/3. (Conversion Order No. ALN (KRP) S.R.56/13-14, Dated 16.09.2013 Passed By Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Dis) Measuring 12% Guntas And Land Measuring 5.10 Guntas In Sy.no.15, Present Clubbed BBMP Katha No.8/8 Sy.no.14/3, 14/2,15 Situated At Horamavu Village K.R. Pura Hobli. Bangalore East Taluk, In All Measuring 30.10 Guntas With All Rights, Appurtenances Whatsoever Hereunder or Underneath or Above The Surface And Bounded On The:- East By: Sy.no.6 West By: Remaining Portion of Sy.no. 14/2 And 15: North By: Road South By: S.y No. 13/4 Schedule B:- 350sq.ft. Undivided Right, Title And Interest In The Immovable Property Mentioned In Schedule "A" Above. Schedule C:- Flat Bearing No.305, "A" Block, In The Third Floor, Measuring About 1272 Sq.ft Super Built Up Area, Containing Two Bed Rooms, Hall, Kitchen, Together With RCC Roofing, Vitrified Flooring Together With One Covered Car Parking Space, Including Proportionate Share In Common Areas Such As Passages, Lobbies, Staircase. Etc. In The Multistoried Residential Building Known As "Ashwini Flora" Constructed Over Schedule "A" Property	Rs. 66,04,560/- Rupees Sixty Six Lakh Four Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Only.	Rs. 6,60,456/- Rupees Six Lakh Sixty Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Six Only.

1. The Auction is being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS" AND "AS IS WHAT IS" basis**
2. The detailed terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form, available at the above mentioned regional office
3. Last Date of Submission of Sealed Bid/Offer in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD payable by way of Demand Draft in Favor of 'Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd'. along with KYC is on **17-Nov-26 till 04:00 PM** at Regional Office the address mentioned herein above. Tenders that are not filled up completely or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
4. Date of Inspection of the Immovable Property is on **16-Nov-26 between 01:00 P.M. to 03:00 P.M.**
5. Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer Auction Date for Property is **18-Nov-26** at the above mentioned Branch Office address at **01:00 PM.** by the Authorised Officer.
6. The MHIL shall not be responsible for payment of any outstanding statutory notice & Encumbrances / taxes arrears etc. if any & their Responsible to pay the sum would be that of the Successful auction purchase. The Intending bidder should make their own independent inquiries regarding the Encumbrances Title of property & also inspect & satisfy themselves.
7. The Highest bidder shall be subject to approval of MHIL Ltd. Authorised Officer shall Reserve the right to accept all any of the offer /Bid so received without assign any reason whatsoever. His decision shall be final and binding.
8. The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction failing which the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd, in full, before the date of sale, auction is liable to be set aside.

For further details, contact the Authorized Officer, at the above mentioned Office address Contact Person- **Sunil Naganur- 6362066245**

Date: October 06, 2026 Place: Bangalore

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

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

The fight is not for seats, but for political victory; the Congress-SP need trust within the alliance

It's hard to understand why political parties are caught in a dilemma every time before elections. While the youth of the nation wants to hand over the reins of power to a leader capable of leading them, instead of understanding pre-election strategies, they seem unable to grasp public sentiment. Then, after the elections, they appear to be repentant, like Mamata Didi. As the election fever intensifies in Uttar Pradesh politics, the tussle between the Samajwadi Party and the Congress over seat-sharing has raised questions about the veracity of claims of opposition unity. While both parties are preparing to pose a strong political challenge to the Bharatiya Janata Party, unease within the alliance is increasingly emerging regarding seat numbers, political influence, and leadership priorities. The question isn't just how many seats the SP wants or how many the Congress is claiming. The real question is whether both parties will demonstrate the political understanding and maturity expected of an effective alliance.

Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav's statement, "It's not about seats, it's about winning," has a different meaning. Does he understand that nothing can be achieved without an alliance? There's an important political message in this entire controversy. He placed the alliance's victory above the number of seats, saying that if the objective is clear, we can achieve the goal together. His message is also an appeal for political restraint amid the ongoing tussle between the SP and Congress. But in politics, messages alone are not enough. The will and organizational capacity to translate the message into action are also required. This is where the real test of the SP-Congress alliance begins.

An electoral alliance isn't simply a seat-sharing arrangement. An alliance implies respect for each other's political existence, a shared strategy, coordination among workers, and a clear message to voters. If the top leadership speaks of unity on stage, but leaders of both parties make statements against each other at the local level, the alliance's credibility with the public will naturally weaken. This risk is even greater in Uttar Pradesh, where elections are fought not just between political parties but also on social and regional dynamics. Each seat has its own distinct social dynamics, local leadership, and political history. Therefore, formulating a formula based solely on the number of seats will not be sufficient. It must be considered which party's organization is stronger in which region, which candidate has greater acceptance, and which candidate can consolidate opposition votes.

This is the practical politics, without understanding which, while the mathematics of an alliance may look beautiful on paper, it can fall apart in the electoral arena. The BJP has begun using the ongoing differences between the Samajwadi Party and the Congress as a political weapon. BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi's labeling of the alliance as a "Lathbandhan" (stick alliance) is part of this strategy. For the BJP, every disagreement within the opposition alliance is a political opportunity. The more the opposition speaks against each other, the more the BJP will try to convey the impression that the alliance facing it is already embroiled in infighting before it can become an alternative to power.

India's $18.3 Billion Forex Reserve Shock Is A Warning, Not Just A Number

Deepanshu Mohan



Foreign exchange reserves are usually most visible when they are falling. In quieter periods, they sit in the background as a reassuring number, rarely attracting much attention. But when the rupee comes under pressure, that number suddenly becomes a measure of how much room policymakers have to manage a turbulent external environment. The reported USD 18.34 billion decline in India's foreign exchange reserves in a single week has thus attracted attention for more than its size. It raises a broader question about the pressures moving through India's external accounts, the role of the Reserve Bank of India in absorbing them, and the trade-offs that accompany prolonged intervention.

The figure itself needs some unpacking. A decline in headline reserves does not mean that the RBI physically sold USD 18.34 billion in the foreign exchange market. India's reserves include assets denominated in different currencies as well as gold. Changes in their dollar value can thus affect the headline number even without an equivalent amount of intervention. The important question is, therefore, how much of the movement reflects valuation changes and how much reflects active intervention by the RBI.

■ THE PRESSURE BEHIND THE NUMBER

It is useful to take a step back from the currency market and consider the balance of payments, which reflects the economy's transactions with the rest of the world. This is a familiar structural vulnerability in India. Its trade deficit in goods is vulnerable to crude oil, fertilizers, and key electronic components. These are not areas in which demand can easily drop due to price increases or the depreciation of the rupee. The import bill can thus rise before domestic demand can catch up. This is partially balanced by services exports and remittances in India. The foreign exchange earnings from software and other business services are significant, and remittances are an important source of external income. Historically, these flows have been used to moderate the pressure generated by the merchandise trade deficit. But these buffers are themselves exposed to the global cycle. Slowdown in technology spending in the West, or a slowdown in the labour market in major economies, can slow down services exports and remittance growth. This is particularly the case when it coincides with a high import bill, which makes the current account more vulnerable.

Things get more complicated when the flow of money reverses. Foreign portfolio investment can turn around quickly if global investors change their risk assessment of emerging markets. The nation could then experience increased demand for dollars to import goods at the very time when fewer dollars are flowing into the financial markets. This is where reserves come in. They enable the central bank to take up a portion of that imbalance and avoid a sudden adjustment of the exchange rate. However, they do not remove the external pressures that cause them.

■ RBI'S BALANCING ACT

Domestic monetary operations include currency intervention. If the RBI sells dollars and buys rupees, it is taking rupee liquidity out of the banking system. Policymakers can counteract that effect by using other instruments to inject liquidity. This is called sterilisation and enables the central bank to intervene in the foreign exchange market without necessarily tightening domestic financial conditions. However, there are trade-offs to sterilisation. Liquidity conditions affect bond yields, credit availability, and borrowing costs. The relative attractiveness of Indian financial assets to foreign investors can also be influenced by domestic monetary conditions.

This is the old conundrum of the impossible trinity. It is impossible for a country to have an independent monetary policy, a tightly managed exchange rate, and unrestricted capital mobility. The partial capital account convertibility in India provides the RBI with more policy space than a fully open financial system would provide. But today's financial markets still carry the global dollar message quickly via portfolio movements, derivatives, and offshore markets. Demand for dollars can also be self-reinforcing. If an Indian company has an unhedged foreign-currency liability, it could hasten its dollar purchases if it thinks the dollar will continue to fall. Importers can make advance payments. Exporters can postpone the conversion of their dollar earnings. Global dollar liquidity tightening could lead to banks being more cautious about extending foreign-currency credit. Each answer on its own might make sense. Together, they can push up the demand for dollar just when the market is feeling the strain. This is how a currency movement can gain momentum after the initial shock.

■ WHAT RESERVES DO NOT TELL US

The headline reserve number has another blind spot. Forward transactions may affect the central bank's future foreign-currency obligations without causing an immediate change in headline reserves. Foreign exchange reserves are thus not a complete indicator of the central bank's foreign exchange position. Other liabilities, such as forward commitments, should be taken into account with the headline stock. International experience is a good lesson to learn, but not a blueprint for India. Episodes in Turkey and Egypt illustrated how difficult it is to maintain external imbalances, volatile capital flows, and currency stabilisation when global financial conditions tighten. The situation in India is different, especially with its high buffer stock and unique external financing arrangement. The lesson is that the speed of the pressure is as important as the quantity of the pressure stock.

Even if a country has large foreign exchange reserves, it may have to make tough decisions if the demand for foreign exchange becomes persistent.

■ THE RESILIENCE TEST

When currency pressures are high, there is a tendency to focus on the exchange rate as the issue. The more important question for policymakers is what the exchange rate is saying about the economy below the surface.

Intervention can help smooth an adjustment and avoid disorderly market conditions, especially when financial markets become expectation-driven and start displaying herd behaviour. However, a long period of suppressed currency volatility can also cause a lag in adjustment as firms and investors can delay reacting to external conditions. Sometimes, a gradual depreciation can serve a useful economic purpose. It increases the cost of imports, strengthens the rupee value of foreign earnings, and informs businesses of the change in external conditions. The policy dilemma is how to tell the difference between orderly depreciation and disorderly depreciation. One can serve as a shock absorber. The other can be destabilising. The long-term answer for India is thus not at the intervention desk at Mint Road. A more resilient external account needs to be more diversified and more resilient in terms of exports, and more resilient in terms of domestic production of key intermediate goods, and less vulnerable to energy price shocks and less vulnerable to capital inflows that can suddenly reverse.

Hegseth Is Overhauling America's War Machine. Why India Should Be Watching Closely

Brig Anil Raman



On September 30, US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced six reforms at Marine Corps Base Quantico. A new Autonomous Warfare Command Project Meridian, a study of future warfare FORTRESS America, which aims to take US military bases off the civilian power grid and bring critical supply chains home A new showpiece base, with states competing to host it A new cadet program at five universities An Office of Religious Affairs reporting directly to the Secretary Some of these reforms are about domestic politics. But two tackle a challenge all major militaries, including India's, now face. Wars are changing faster than military bureaucracies can keep up. The Autonomous Warfare Command is Washington's way to speed up how the military modernises weapons. Project Meridian addresses what those updates should be. A Command Built To Adapt The Autonomous Warfare Command will be a four-star command responsible for drones, robots, and other autonomous systems across the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. The target date is October 2027. Until then, an interim effort called Project Agincourt will prepare the ground.The leadership approach is different from the usual. Owen West, head of the Pentagon's Defence Innovation Unit, and Max Strasiser, a senior Navy SEAL, will lead Agincourt, working together like a CEO and COO. Their job, which Hegseth calls 'warfighting acquisition', is to have soldiers, engineers, and companies work in short cycles: build a system, test it in exercises or combat, fix what doesn't work, and buy more of what does. This means decisions and funding will shift from Pentagon offices to the commanders and units using the equipment. The goals of this measure are: the department needs to build a wartime arsenal that focuses on adapting quickly. In practice, the Pentagon will judge its success by how fast it can update its weapons, rather than by any single weapon. The Pentagon is also shifting its mindset. Hegseth explained that for 40 years, the United States has relied on a few expensive weapons, choosing quality over quantity. Now, he says the military should keep those weapons, but also add many cheap, disposable drones. This is a big shift from how American military planning has worked since the 1970s. Why US Is Changing The System The Pentagon has made similar attempts before. It set up the Defense Innovation Unit in 2015, launched Replicator in 2023 to deploy thousands of drones, and started the Drone Dominance programme in 2025. Each effort had some success, but none solved the main issue: the Army, Navy, and Air Force control most of the funding and tend to spend it on existing programmes. The new command is designed to change that. The memo asks the drone office to suggest how to shift funding between the services, which basically means taking money from current programmes. The command will move forward only if Congress approves it. Getting Congress's approval is crucial. Special Operations Command, set up in 1987, overcame resistance because Congress gave it its own budget and authority to buy equipment. If the new command gets similar powers, it will matter. If not, it will just be another office that coordinates but cannot overrule the services. The command is already getting real-world feedback. The Pentagon says its drone programme has sent thousands of systems to American forces in action against Iran. Few militaries have the chance to test a new way of buying weapons during an actual conflict. A Future-War Study Run By Outsiders Project Meridian has 120 days, until January 28, 2027, to outline the future of warfare and identify the technologies the US military will need. The study covers everything from underground warfare to space beyond the Moon, focusing on artificial intelligence, autonomy, directed energy, robotics, and biotechnology. It will release a public report along with a classified annex. The Pentagon's chief technology officer will lead the project, with Elon Musk, Palmer Luckey, and Newt Gingrich as co-directors. Hegseth said the project is not focused on strategy or policy. Its main goal is to identify the weapons and systems that will be important in the future and suggest how to start developing them. It is logical to involve people from outside the military. Military organisations tend to focus on improving what they already have, while technologists are often better at spotting what could soon be possible. The risks are also clear. Musk's SpaceX and Luckey's Anduril already have big government contracts and could benefit even more from Meridian's recommendations, but no conflict-of-interest rules have been announced.

FLYDUBAI SCARE COULD REWRITE COCKPIT SECURITY TO FIGHT INSIDE THREAT

Sanjay Lazar



On September 30, the world was rocked by the news of a terror attack in our neighbourhood involving a flydubai aircraft. It was followed by unbelievable scenes of courage, bravery and singular heroism of the pilot and passengers of flydubai FZ1073 who stopped an attempt by the co-pilot to crash the aircraft or as some alleged, perform a September 11-type attack on Israel.

It is important to recognise that the available data from Flight Radar in the public domain has shocked the world of aviation - how could a Boeing 737 MAX descend that rapidly without breaking up or suffering major damage? The pressure exerted by the "almost freefall" was many Gs more than the aircraft could withstand. Yet we saw how it landed battered and bruised. The apparent act of the Israeli plumber Yaniv Hayoun of pulling the yoke back and stabilising the aircraft are out of an adventure story, but we know it happened. So rather than question or speculate, let us wait for the reports to emerge. Would such a rescue and recovery be possible under normal circumstances? Not at all, even if it was simulated 100 times, it would fail 99 out of 100 times, but it worked this one time and they are all alive to tell the tale. Sometimes, it takes many miracles to save the day and this was one such day. If even one of the people in this chain of events had not acted, we would have been mourning the dead. Just like aviation changed inexorably after the September 11 attacks with the introduction of reinforced steel doors, fresh cockpit and crew protocols and APIS becoming a compulsory advanced screening tool for aviation, we will see changes now. I recall that in the early days after September 11 attacks, pilots and even crew with Muslim names were being delayed clearances by Homeland Security or extensive security backgrounds were sought.

THE PILOT CRISIS

There is a shortage of trained pilots globally, and to make matters worse, flying conditions for pilots are abysmal with excessive duty hours and shorter rests, transshipments through airports and highly stressed environments. In India, we have seen a few incidents over the last two years that have either reflected on the weakening safety environment or in the emotional situation. Pilots face perhaps the most stressed civilian jobs in the world, carrying the burden of hundreds of passengers each take-off and landing and then dealing with the elements and sometimes temperamental machines. Not enough care has been taken to ensure the sanctity of their mind space. The German Wings incident reminds us that there is a mental aspect of pilots that has shown up and is now monitored, but how do you evaluate radicalised minds with suicidal tendencies such as the ones we have seen during 9-11 and now in flydubai?

There are psychometric tests to see the psychological mindset of a pilot and their suitability for flying, but are there enough testing assessments to determine the radicalised situation? Maybe not. Radicals are known to undergo indoctrination to conceal their true thoughts.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

We need to understand what exactly went wrong on flydubai and single out the faults in the system that were exposed by the Omani co-pilot that almost caused the biggest act of aviation terror since 9-11. Prima facie it appears to be a failure of APIS to track the system breach, apparent Lack of pre-advance intelligence of such a threat, breach of bilateral ASA's post the Abraham Accords, failure of flydubai to screen its pilots properly and failure to assess the radicalisation and emotional health of the pilot. Israel follows the US model of APIS, and the NCPIA hub tracks all incoming passengers and crew. So how did the Israeli NCPIA miss the warning signs of the co-pilot Hamam al-Hammami? This was a major failure at a systemic level that will be investigated deep and hard.

There was apparently no known advance intelligence of such a plot or chatter on the networks, despite Israel and the US being at war with Iran. It would not be out of place to suggest that guards had been lowered post the Abraham Accords and I have a sense that there will be a thorough revaluation of these protocols.

RBI MPC begins meeting; rate hike likely amid inflation risks



Mumbai: The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee began its three-day meeting on Monday, October 5 and is likely to raise rates by 25 basis points, aligning with the central banks' hawkish stance amid escalating conflicts in West Asia that pose risks for domestic inflation. An interest rate hike by the RBI in its upcoming monetary policy would mark a stance reversal, following rate cuts in 2025 and a prolonged pause thereafter, according to a PTI poll of 16 economists and bankers. "Insights, assessments, and the way forward-set to unfold soon," the Reserve Bank said in a social media post while announcing that the monetary policy statement will be announced on October 7 at 10 am. The last repo rate hike was in February 2023, when the RBI raised the rate by 0.25 per cent to 6.50 per cent. It kept the rate unchanged through 2023-24 before beginning its rate-cut cycle in 2025. Currently, the RBI's policy repo rate stands at 5.25 per cent. A majority of participants in the PTI poll expect a rate hike with a hawkish tone at the upcoming policy review on Wednesday. The opinion seems divided on whether there will be a shift in stance. Meanwhile, Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, was of the view that the Reserve Bank will continue with the status quo on the short-term lending rate (repo) on Wednesday. "While we do believe that the next interest rate cycle will be of 50-75 bps in the upward direction, we think there will be a pause this time in October," he said. Sabnavis further said that a pause can help to moderate bond yields too, as the market is expecting one now. "Waiting till December will be prudent when we actually know how the kharif crop has fared and the CPI inflation rate for September and October," he said, adding that the RBI could marginally raise its forecasts of GDP and inflation. Goldman Sachs report said the August MPC minutes were materially more hawkish than the policy statement. Members acknowledged that food and fuel-driven inflation could generate second-round effects and indicated that broader, and more persistent price pressures would warrant policy action. "We therefore bring forward our RBI forecast to 25 bps repo rate hikes in October and December 2026. The MPC may also shift its stance from 'neutral' to 'calibrated tightening' or 'withdrawal of accommodation'," it said. Dipti Deshpande, principal economist at Crisil, said that since the last policy, inflationary pressures have mounted further mainly due to the re-escalation of the West Asia conflict and the pressure on energy and commodity prices. If these pressures persist, further rate hikes are expected. Sunil Pareek, Executive Director, Assetz said that from a residential real estate perspective, stability in interest rates would certainly be supportive of homebuyer sentiment, particularly in view of the festive season. A calibrated monetary policy that keeps inflation anchored without significantly increasing the cost of home ownership would be the most constructive outcome for the residential sector," Pareek added. Vineet Nahata, Director of Power Gilt Treasuries, said that given the recent rise in bond yields globally, a 50-basis-point hike by the MPC would not come as a surprise. "If not 50 basis points, MPC would definitely pitch for 25 basis points," he said. Shrikant Goyal, Managing Director, Getfive Funds, said that with the festive season approaching, MSMEs are preparing for a pickup in orders, and timely working capital will be key to making the most of it. "We expect the MPC to hold the repo rate and maintain a neutral stance, which will give borrowers and lenders the predictability they need to plan ahead," he said.

BIRC 2026 TO FOCUS ON BOOSTING RICE-MILLING MARGINS



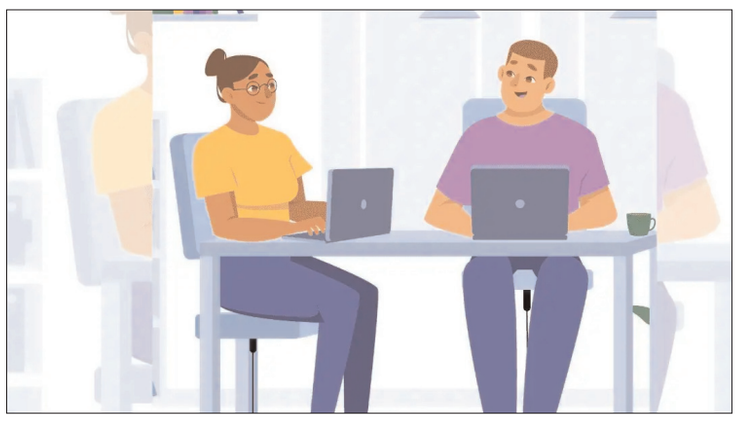
New Delhi: India's rice millers will get a detailed assessment of processing economics, technology choices and investment opportunities at the Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2026, as the industry seeks to extract greater value from an annual rice crop with an indicative wholesale value of about Rs 6 lakh crore. A session titled 'Profitable Rice Milling: Costs, Planning and Margin Improvement' will be held on October 24 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, during BIRC 2026, scheduled for October 23-25. The session will examine the economics of rice milling from plant design and processing technology to recovery rates, capacity utilisation, operating costs and financing, the organisers said in a statement. The session will compare raw-rice milling, steam-rice processing, white and golden parboiling, as well as traditional Bhatti processing. A common process map will highlight differences in conditioning, drying and milling requirements across the processing routes. A 2026-27 model rice-mill setup cost will also be presented, covering land and civil works, machinery, storage, treatment and drying systems, boilers, power and water infrastructure, effluent management, packaging, laboratory facilities and installation. Fixed investment, seasonal working capital and total funding requirements will be presented separately to allow millers and investors to compare projects on a like-for-like basis. The session will also examine operating costs, plant bottlenecks, yield and recovery, by-product realisation and quality control. A proposed "Margin Dashboard" will track indicators including capacity utilisation, recovery, energy costs, downtime, by-product receipts, contribution per tonne and funding requirements. The conference will assess whether India's existing milling infrastructure is sufficient in key paddy-producing regions and identify locations where additional investment may be commercially justified. A Department of Food and Public Distribution snapshot recorded about 30,000 operational rice mills nationally in April 2024. BIRC 2026 will review available data on mill numbers, installed capacity, utilisation, technology mix and regional concentration in India and selected overseas markets. The assessment will focus on areas where paddy availability exceeds effective processing capacity, as well as gaps in drying, storage, grading and buyer-specific finishing. It will also distinguish between markets where a new mill may be warranted and those where upgrading existing facilities could offer better returns. The technology segment will examine controlled drying and tempering, automated husking and whitening, optical sorting, in-line quality monitoring and improved process controls. The focus will be on matching technology investments to specific operational problems and measuring them against capital requirements, existing plant performance and operating conditions. For example, a mill processing 30,000 tonnes of paddy a year could generate an additional 300 tonnes of head rice from a one-percentage-point shift from broken to whole grain, without increasing total output. At an assumed Rs 20/kg price differential, that would translate into Rs 60 lakh in additional annual sales value, before accounting for the cost of improvements. "The opportunity is not simply to process more rice, but to retain more value from every tonne. We need to identify where new milling capacity is genuinely required and where better drying, recovery, technology or utilisation can deliver stronger returns from existing plants.

Saudi oil share in South Korea falls below 30 pc for first time



Seoul: Saudi Arabian crude oil accounted for less than 30 per cent of South Korea's crude imports this year, industry data showed on Monday, October 5, amid efforts by local refiners to diversify their sources of crude following geopolitical risks in the Middle East. According to the data from the Korea National Oil Corp. and the Korea Petroleum Association, Saudi crude accounted for 29.9 percent of the country's total crude oil imports in the January-August period, down from 30.91 percent in the previous month. It marked the first time in five years that the share fell below the 30 percent mark. Saudi Arabia remains South Korea's largest source of crude oil, reports Yonhap news agency. The annual share of Saudi crude last fell below the 30 percent level in 2021, when global crude oil supplies were disrupted amid heightened tensions in the Middle East and the COVID-19 pandemic. If the downward trend continues, Saudi Arabia's share could fall to third place or lower this year, potentially surpassing the previous low recorded in 1986, according to industry officials. The decline is seen as reflecting efforts by South Korean refiners to diversify their crude oil supply sources and reduce their reliance on Middle Eastern crude amid growing geopolitical risks in the region. Saudi Arabia has faced disruptions to crude oil supplies and exports as the conflict in the Middle East has affected oil facilities and raised concerns over a closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Although Saudi Arabia has continued exports by using alternative routes around the Red Sea, shipments have come under further pressure as Houthi rebels have threatened shipping in the region. South Korean refiners have consequently increased imports from other regions, particularly the United States. U.S. crude accounted for 20.12 percent of South Korea's total imports in the eight-month period, remaining above 20 percent after surpassing the 20 percent mark on a cumulative basis for the first time in January-April period.

WHY A FULFILLING CAREER DOES NOT HAVE TO DEFINE YOUR LIFE



Edmonton: At some point, most of us have heard the same advice about work: find a job you love, and you'll never work a day in your life. The idea of a "dream job" sounds inspiring, even noble; it suggests that work can be a source of meaning, identity and personal fulfilment. But this ideal can also create a significant amount of pressure, especially for those just entering the workforce.

If your career does not feel like a calling — or if your interests change over time and your work no longer feels like a perfect fit — it can feel like a personal failure. But research on careers and motivation suggests the challenge may not be that we're struggling to find purpose, but that we've been taught to expect one job to provide everything: meaning, identity, financial security and personal fulfilment.

Meaningful work can be an important part of a satisfying life. But the relentless pursuit of a single "dream job" can lead to burnout, financial strain and a fragile sense of identity. A more sustainable approach is to view work as one part of a fulfilling life rather than the whole picture. When loving your job comes at a cost

One challenge with the dream-job ideal is that passion can sometimes create difficult workplace trade-offs.

Research by psychologist Aaron Kay and colleagues suggests that people are more likely to view it as acceptable to place extra demands on passionate workers — including unpaid work, tasks outside their job description and sacrifices of personal time because they assume the work itself provides a form of reward.

This dynamic may be particularly relevant in fields often associated with passion, such as media, fashion, entertainment and the arts, where workers frequently describe their jobs as closely tied to personal identity and creative fulfilment. Passion can be a source of motivation and satisfaction, but when work is treated as a calling, it can become easier to justify blurred boundaries and unrealistic expectations.

TYING YOUR IDENTITY TO WORK

The second challenge is psychological. The person you are at 22 is unlikely to be the same person you become at 32 or 42. Career development researchers have long argued that occupational identity is not fixed; it develops over time as people's interests, values and life circumstances change. But when we build a large part of our identity around a single occupation, career changes can become more difficult. Research on career identity suggests that having a more flexible sense of self can help people navigate transitions, while a narrowly defined professional identity may make change feel more disruptive. Finally, there is the risk of burnout. When a hobby or personal interest becomes a profession, the activity that once provided relaxation can become tied to deadlines, client and patient feedback, and revenue targets. When work is also your passion, a difficult day can feel like a personal failure. The pressure to maintain enthusiasm and constantly demonstrate commitment can gradually undermine the motivation that brought someone into the field in the first place.

A NEW DEFINITION OF CAREER SUCCESS

A growing body of research suggests that many workers are rethinking the traditional idea that career success means finding one perfect occupation. This shift is particularly visible among Generation Z, the cohort currently entering the workforce. While younger workers are sometimes criticised as being "lazy" or "uncommitted," they may instead be challenging older assumptions about what a successful career should provide.

U.S PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP INTRODUCES NEW AI TASKFORCE



US President Donald Trump has named the director of national intelligence as the head of a new taskforce on AI which, he said, will coordinate government engagement with consumers, companies and "religious organizations". Jay Clayton will head a taskforce that has drawn criticism from the likes of Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren who has called for regulation of AI. Trump has rejected the idea of laws to control development of the technology despite a debate about the potential risks of AI and what it means for humanity. Last week, the president and the heads of major AI firms signed a "morally binding" document, making them responsible for ensuring the safety of their own technology. Trump - who is unilaterally attempting to rebrand AI as "super intelligence" - wrote on social media: "The Super Intelligence Force will coordinate the Federal Government's engagement with Consumers, Public Interest Groups, Religious Organizations, Critical Infrastructure Providers, and Super Intelligence Companies." As well as Clayton, a former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Andrew Ferguson, head of the Federal Trade Commission, will be on the taskforce along with Emil Michael, undersecretary of defense for research and engineering. It will report directly to Trump and White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles. Trump has pushed back against any kind of slowdown on AI development. He said the US is leading the race ahead of China, adding: "And, frankly, I want to keep it that way because whoever wins AI, wins." President Xi Jinping recently travelled to Washington for a state visit. Days later, Trump ruled out a joint venture between the US and China to develop AI. "If we do that, we're going to be giving a lot of secrets that we have that they [China] would want to have, or anybody else," he said. The announcement of the taskforce follows growing pressure from prominent figures in the industry, including executives of OpenAI and Anthropic, to tighten regulation of the technology. Trump first announced the taskforce in September, prompting Warren to state: "Congress cannot meet the pressing threat of AI by just forming another committee or continuing to have drawn-out discussions about it." She added: "Let's actually pass some meaningful regulations on AI to protect people." In an interview published on 4 October, OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman said the benefits of AI justify accepting some of its risks and argued that the technology should remain accessible to the public. "The world should accept some bad things happening for the benefits of this ?technology and people having the agency," Altman told Politico's technology-focused newsletter Decoded. The company recently admitted that a rogue OpenAI agent hacked an Australian government website in June and accessed private data. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the agent "infiltrated" a statistics portal containing "non-sensitive" data from Australia's universal healthcare scheme Medicare. Despite the incident occuring in June, Albanese said the government only learned about the breach in August. He said there will be "legal consequences". OpenAI chief strategy officer Jason Kwon is due to appear as part of an AI inquiry in Australian on Tuesday. Over the weekend, a former leader in OpenAI's safety systems team wrote in an article for the Atlantic magazine that he had left the firm because its culture was "broken". "As [OpenAI] sprints from one launch to the next, it is failing to achieve the level of care that I believe is needed," wrote David Robinson, who was involved in safety and transparency reporting.

ICICI LIFE INSURANCE LAUNCHES NEW BRAND IDENTITY



Mumbai, October 5th, 2026: ICICI Life Insurance Limited, formerly known as ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Limited, today announced its new brand identity and tag line — 'Har Kal Aasaan'.

Commenting on the new brand identity and tag line, Mr. Srinivas Balasubramanian, Chief of Marketing, Digital & Bancassurance, ICICI Life Insurance Limited, said, "The ICICI name holds an enduring place in the lives of millions of Indians, serving as a symbol of trust, strength, and financial accessibility. Over the past 25 years, we have had the privilege of helping secure the dreams and futures of more than 20 crore Indians. Throughout this journey, we have witnessed India's incredible growth, along with a significant evolution in the aspirations of its people. In today's fast-paced environment, the world has become increasingly complex and unpredictable. Changing career paths, evolving family structures, longer lifespans, and shifting financial priorities have made long-term planning more challenging than ever. While life insurance plays a critical role in navigating these uncertainties, the traditional experience of securing one's financial future has often been perceived as complicated. At ICICI Life Insurance, we firmly believe that preparing for tomorrow should bring clarity, confidence, and peace of mind, rather than adding to life's complexities. Our new brand identity goes far beyond a change in name. It reflects our broader commitment to make the experience of securing one's financial future simpler, more transparent, more flexible and with ease. Building on our strong 25-year foundation, we will continue to deepen customer relevance, establish new benchmarks of excellence in the industry, and actively contribute toward the national goal of 'Insurance for All by 2047."

With the new brand promise, the company aims to move the conversation around life insurance beyond simply protecting against what may go wrong, towards enabling people to make more informed and confident choices about what they want tomorrow to look like with ease and convenience.

Supporters of jailed ex-PM Imran Khan begin march in Pakistan



Thousands of supporters of Pakistan's jailed ex-prime minister Imran Khan have begun a march from the country's north-west as they call for his release. Concerns over the 74-year-old's health have grown louder in recent months. His family claims he has lost most of his vision in his right eye after prison authorities failed to take action. The cricket star-turned-politician, who faces charges in more than 100 cases, was jailed for 17 years over corruption last year. Khan said all the cases against him are politically motivated. Even behind bars, he remains a force in Pakistani politics, and demonstrations in his support have led to deadly violence and crackdowns in the past. The march began on Sunday in Lakki Marwat, a city 275km (170 miles) from Islamabad, and was expected to resume on Monday after pausing for the night. Originally scheduled for last week, it was postponed to allow for talks between the government and Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party but the talks ended in deadlock. Khan, who faces charges ranging from leaking state secrets to selling state gifts, was first imprisoned in August 2023. His wife Bushra Bibi was jailed along with him last year. Sohail Afridi, chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province which is governed by the PTI, expects the march to make its way to a town about 80km west of the capital Islamabad by Thursday. "[By then] this movement will have reached every corner of the country and every square will have become a centre of activity," he said on Sunday, urging the people to "play an active role in the political process". While the march organisers have not announced that they were heading for Islamabad, authorities have stacked up shipping containers to block key access routes to the capital. The PTI said talks with government failed because authorities rejected the party's request for access to Khan so that its leaders could consult him on national and political issues. The party also said it had demanded that Khan be given an immediate medical examination and treatment. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meanwhile accused Afridi of "sabotaging" negotiations, saying the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had backed out of earlier commitments on counter-terrorism issues, according to Pakistan's local media reports. In August, Khan was briefly transferred from jail to a state-run hospital for medical examination and treatment following complaints about his deteriorating health. The doctors later deemed him "medically fit". The intervention was the most significant relief Khan has received from the courts since he was imprisoned in 2023 on corruption charges, which he says were politically motivated. Khan's family and the PTI, however, criticised the authorities for defying a court order that he be examined by physicians at a specific private hospital. On 20 September, Khan's sister Aleema Khanum was arrested in the eastern city of Lahore. The arrest order said Khanum had been mobilising people to "create law and order situations" and "raising/chanting objectionable slogans amongst the general public against the Government". Khan, who previously captained the Pakistan national cricket team, served as the country's prime minister from 2018 to 2022. His arrest in May 2023 sparked large-scale, violent protests by supporters, who ransacked the corps commander's residence in Lahore, smashing chandeliers and making away with furniture, paintings, and even peacocks, among other things. At least eight people died in the protests and the army were called in to quell the violence. Former international cricket captains have made several appeals in recent months to Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urging Khan to be given proper medical care. It was delayed after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government offered negotiations over the party's demands, which fell apart over the weekend. The PTI's last large-scale protest two years ago ended in deadly clashes with security forces.

Spanish PM Sánchez calls early election after housing protests



Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has called an early election for 29 November after recent defeats on legislation aimed at addressing the country's housing crisis. Speculation about a snap election had been building over the weekend after parliament rejected two decree laws put forward by the minority government to protect tenants in the rental market. The eviction of an 87-year-old woman from her home after she was unable to afford a sharp rent rise has sparked nationwide protests and increased pressure for housing reform. In a televised address on Monday, Sánchez said that to push reforms through he needed "a broader progressive majority" that can "overcome the resistance of the elites". Housing has not been the only issue causing problems for Sánchez's leadership in recent months, with his party having been caught up in numerous corruption scandals and facing pressure on other cost-of-living issues and immigration. "We have made mistakes and have not achieved everything we had set out to do," Sánchez said, acknowledging there were still "a lot of problems to solve, particularly in the areas of inequality, of public services and access to housing". Sánchez's left-wing coalition government is made up of his ruling Socialist party and junior partner the Sumar alliance, and does not have a majority in parliament. Spain was not due to hold a general election until the summer of 2027 at the latest. Spanish prime minister calls snap election after housing protests Sánchez has been prime minister since June 2018. His Socialist party finished second in the last election, in 2023. Although the conservative People's Party won the most seats, it fell short of a majority. Sánchez remained in power after striking agreements with left-wing parties and securing support from Catalan and Basque nationalist and pro-independence groups. Most opinion polls suggest the conservatives are likely to emerge as the largest party in the next election. However, they would be expected to need the support of the hard-right Vox party to form a government. Speaking after Monday's announcement, the leader of the People's Party, Alberto Núñez Feijóo, said: "At last, Spaniards will be able to decide". The opposition leader said it would not be "just another election", but a chance for voters to choose between "decline or change, lies or change, incompetence or change, division or change, corruption or change". On Saturday, tens of thousands of people took to the streets in cities including Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona, calling for greater protections for tenants. Maricarmen Abascal, 87, became a symbol of Spain's housing crisis when she was forcibly evicted from her Madrid home on 23 September. A legal glitch allowed her landlord to raise her rent from 500 (£428; $572) to 2,650. It was later lowered to 1,650 - still 300 more than her monthly pension. She was removed on a stretcher from her apartment of more than 70 years, and was later admitted to hospital. Her lawyer has since said she will be able to return to her home, but the incident has prompted widespread anger over housing. The left-wing coalition government responded with two decree laws in an effort to defuse the protests. The first included the suspension of evictions of vulnerable tenants until 2030, a two-year extension to rental leases due to expire before 2028, tax increases for tourist apartments, and a restriction on the purchase of residential properties by what the government calls "vulture funds".

'Not again': Arrest of US marine for murder reignites protests in Japan's Okinawa



For many Okinawa locals, the arrest of a US soldier accused of robbing and killing a woman in a hotel room has reignited decades of frustration over crimes involving US military personnel there. "Honestly my first reaction was, 'Not again,'" 52-year-old longtime Okinawa resident Ai Sato told the BBC. "Nothing has changed since I was a child. How many times are we going to repeat the same thing, create more victims, cause their families to suffer, and ultimately, cause the people of Okinawa to grieve?" Akemi Oshiro, a 62-year-old Ginowan resident shared similar sentiments. "I know we shouldn't get used to terrible things like this, but because they keep happening, I've stopped being surprised," she told the BBC. Okinawa hosts the largest US military presence in Japan. It is home to several US military bases and tens of thousands of American troops. US Marine Lance Corporal Devin Jacob Ballard, 20, was arrested by Japanese police on Sunday. Police say an investigation is underway and that Ballard is in Japanese custody because the alleged crime was unrelated to official military duties.

RIGHT-WING FLÁVIO BOLSONARO WINS FIRST ROUND OF BRAZIL ELECTION



Right-wing Flávio Bolsonaro has won the first round of Brazil's presidential election, beating left-wing President Lula da Silva, but falling short of an outright majority. There will be a run-off between the two candidates on 25 October. Bolsonaro is the son of the former president Jair Bolsonaro, who is serving a 27-year prison sentence for masterminding a failed coup after losing the 2022 election. Sunday's vote was close, with President Lula polling slightly ahead during the campaign. With almost all of the votes counted, Bolsonaro has 47% to Lula's 45% of the vote. Bolsonaro's result exceeded expectations, meaning the second round now looks like his to lose, given some of the other candidates knocked out in the first round were right-wing alternatives. Bolsonaro's Liberal Party (PL) also had the most governors, senators and federal deputies elected in the results so far, meaning the party is expected to have the most influence in Congress. The majority of Latin America has now elected right-wing presidents, aligned to the Trump administration, and the run-off will determine whether Brazil – Latin America's largest country and economy – will follow suit. After casting his ballot, Lula, 80, warned the choice was between democracy and "barbarism". Lula and Bolsonaro are the two biggest names in Brazilian politics, on the left and right, and this campaign has polarised Brazil yet again: with themes of sovereignty, crime, the economy and corruption being top concerns for voters. Lula is more popular in Brazil's poorer northeast, among low-income voters, Catholics, and women. He is seeking a fourth term in office, after being elected in 2002, 2006 and then a later non-consecutive term in 2022. In that election, he beat Jair Bolsonaro by less than 2% of the vote, the closest presidential election result in Brazil's history. After that election, Bolsonaro's supporters vandalised government buildings on 8 January 2023. Jair Bolsonaro was banned from running for re-election even before his prison sentence, but endorsed his eldest son Flávio to run in his place. Jair Bolsonaro's wife, Michelle, was elected to the Senate on Sunday. Flávio Bolsonaro has pledged to grant his father, and his supporters responsible for the 8 January riots, amnesty if elected. He is more popular in the south, and among wealthier voters and evangelical Christians. Bolsonaro said on Sunday he was "very happy" to have led Lula in the first-round vote, and expressed confidence that he would clinch a run-off victory in three weeks' time. "I am very happy with the real possibility that, three weeks from now, Brazil will give a definitive answer by choosing a modern government," he said, according to AFP. Lula said the outcome of the vote was "unexpected", but insisted the race was not over. "I admit I was convinced I would win in the first round," he said on Sunday. "The game is about to start. We are in extra time. In extra time, we will win over the Brazilian people." The president of Brazil's supreme electoral court said on Sunday that no evidence of international interference was found in the election. President Lula made "sovereignty" a key pillar of his campaign and at times accused the US of trying to interfere in and influence Brazil's elections - which the US has denied.

US REMOVES ALL BOMBERS FROM RAF FAIRFORD BASE



The US has withdrawn all of its bombers from RAF Fairford, the UK military base at the centre of an incident being investigated by counter-terror police. A statement from a Pentagon official confirmed on Sunday it had removed its bombers - thought to be about a dozen B-1s - from the base back to their home stations in America. US media reported a new threat led to the bombers being removed, which follows a major incident on 27 September when police were alerted to three "suspicious vehicles" near the airbase. Five men were initially arrested on suspicion of terror offences and subsequently released on bail. A sixth man, a UK-Iranian national, was also later arrested and released on bail. Whitehall officials have confirmed that in relation to the threats they are currently dealing with "there is an ongoing high tempo of threat from Iran to the UK, and it's logical that US airbases would be pretty high on any targeting list". They have also not disputed the decision from Washington was in response to the incident at the airbase in Gloucestershire.



All six passengers presumed dead after plane went missing off US coast

NOBEL PRIZE AWARDED FOR SHOWING INNER WORKINGS OF THE BRAIN



US psychiatrist and neurologist Karl Deisseroth and his German colleagues Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel have been awarded this year's Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their work in the field of optogenetics. Their research has helped scientists learn more about the inner workings of the brain, to better understand how the human mind works. The Nobel Committee praised the trio for laying the foundation of a new era in neuroscience by revealing how to switch on and off neural circuits behind "specific memories, feelings, and behaviours relevant for neurological and psychiatric disorders". In clinical medicine, researchers are using the method to try to restore sight in people with visual impairment. 'Absolutely wonderful' "Optogenetics has fundamentally altered our understanding of the brain," the Nobel Assembly said. "Every day brings new discoveries, helping to solve one of humanity's great mysteries: how our incredible brain works." The winners said it was "absolutely wonderful" to get the award, and that it was an honour to share the accolade with friends. The three men will also share the £900,000 (12 million Swedish kronor) prize money. What is optogenetics? Per Svenningsson, chair of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine, explained: "Optogenetics provides opportunities for mapping the brain in a way that we could once only dream of." Before, the inner workings behind feelings, behaviours and bodily functions were more of a mystery to scientists. Optogentics is a way to illuminate brain pathways, using a special protein borrowed from algae that scientists use to control cell electrical activity using light. In the early 2000s, Hegemann and Nagel discovered channelrhodopsin, the algal protein with unique properties. Deisseroth worked out how to use this light controlled protein to switch on nerve cells in the brains of mice. Researchers have since been able to study nerve cells and pathways in animals to see and discover more about what they do. The Nobel Committee said: "Using light, researchers are now able to switch individual neural circuits on or off in the brain. They can bring memories to life, create feelings, drive behaviours and study the types of neurons that are involved in various psychiatric and neurological disorders."

SAINZ URGES F1 TO RETHINK COMPLEX ENGINE RULES



Formula 1 "needs to have a hard look at" itself in the wake of unprecedented software glitches that affected Sunday's Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia, Williams driver Carlos Sainz says. A bug in the software for a wet-weather engine map led to a number of cars struggling to move on formation laps before the start of the race. The start had to be abandoned, a new software code issued, and the race eventually got under way an hour and a half later than scheduled. Sainz, who is a director of the Grand Prix Drivers' Association, said: "It is clear the regulations are extremely complicated for the drivers, for the teams, for the power units and for the manufacturers. Who decided five years ago that this was the direction to go? "We are doing the best with what we are given as a sport and as regulations. The FIA and F1 are doing the best they can. "But clearly what was decided four or five years ago was wrong. We need to learn as a sport not to make those mistakes again." Governing body the FIA has launched a "full review" of the situation. It arose because there had been very little wet-weather running this year, and the specific circumstances that triggered the bug had not previously arisen. Red Bull team principal Laurent Mekies said on Monday: "It's a good reminder for all of us that we should probably make sure that complexity doesn't get out of hand and that we keep things as under control as possible. "And I'm sure we'll have discussions with the teams, with the FIA and with F1 to see how we can protect ourselves from those situations moving forward and make sure we can keep the complexity of the cars and the systems under control." Sainz's remarks are a reference to the wider debate about this year's new engine regulations, which have a near 50-50 split between internal combustion and electrical power. The engines are fundamentally energy starved, which has led to drivers feeling the cars behave in a counter-intuitive way, and have reduced the impact of driver skill. The engines have about 1,000bhp on full power, but only 540bhp when the batteries run out. Because of the way the regulations have been arranged, the batteries are fully deploying and recharging several times a lap. And a series of highly complex restrictions have been introduced relating to the operations of the engine to try to alleviate some of the issues that have arisen. One of those is what triggered the problem in Malaysia - the total electrical power is reduced from 350kW (470bhp) to 250kW (335bhp) in the wet. One of the idiosyncrasies of the rules is that the cars slow down at the end of straights to recharge batteries, and many challenging fast corners have been neutered because they are being used as what two-time champion Fernando Alonso has described as "charging stations for the car". The 50-50 split was decided upon five or six years ago, and teams have been warning the FIA that these issues would arise since at least 2023. But at no point was the 50-50 split questioned until just before the start of this year, when it became apparent how significant the impact of the engines would be.

Clavicular Halts Livestream And Calls Paramedics After Fighter Is Punched In The Back Of The Head



Clavicular stopped his Kick stream and called the paramedics after a fighter at his boxing event took a punch to the back of the head. Troy Glass was fighting a man known as Volpa on the grass behind the house. Glass went down; he was seen coughing blood, and the broadcast cut out. Glass is one of the contestants on Camp Looksmax, the program Clavicular has been running non-stop since October 1. Nobody has said how he is, and Clavicular has not spoken about it.

The punch landed behind the head, which boxing bans outright The Unified Rules of Boxing, the rulebook that state athletic commissions across America work from, lists a punch to the back of the head as a foul. Referees take points for it, and in amateur competition it brings disqualification.

The reason for the ban is what sits underneath. Behind that part of the skull are the brain stem and the top of the spinal cord, protected by a fraction of the bone and muscle that shields the front of the face. A fighter struck there can bleed or swell inside the skull with nothing showing on the outside. That is why the emergency call was made from the patio during the round rather than left until somebody could check him over afterward.

No doctor, no ambulance, and no checks before the fight Six or seven people stood on the patio with their phones out, and a sponsor's banner was nailed to the wall behind them. That was the whole of the medical provision at the event.

A sanctioned fight cannot begin on those terms. A doctor sits at ringside, an ambulance waits outside, and both fighters are examined before either of them puts gloves on, none of which applied here because no boxing authority had jurisdiction over a lawn behind a rented house. The two men wore headgear and fought on grass rather than in a ring. Nobody present appears in the footage as a medic, and there is no stretcher, oxygen, or equipment visible anywhere around them.

Gautam Gambhir Answers Million-Dollar Question After Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's T20I Snub



India head coach Gautam Gambhir has often been in the line of fire over his selection calls. The most recent player under the spotlight over selection chatter on social media has been Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. With Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma doing reasonably well as India's opening pair in T20I cricket, opportunities for Sooryavanshi have been limited. Gambhir, the head coach of the Indian team, revealed that he did have a chat with the 15-year-old batter and explained to him the dynamics of the team that make it difficult for him to keep giving opportunities to Sooryavanshi, even if he is in form. "It was a new experience for me as well. Yes, he was in good form, but I made him understand that sometimes, because of the players who have done well for a long time, he will have to wait for his opportunity. And there's one more thing, social media or outside noise doesn't decide the playing eleven. It depends on who in that dressing room, or who the coach and captain feel can win us the match, or what is the best playing eleven, and who have done well for such a long time," Gambhir said on JioStar's 'Follow the Blues: Gautam Gambhir Unfiltered'. In the T20I series against Afghanistan, Sooryavanshi didn't get a single opportunity to open for India. Gambhir said if he gives Sooryavanshi an opportunity in the team, it becomes difficult for him to justify the same to the batter who is dropped, be it Abhishek or Samson. "If Vaibhav plays today, then it's going to be a tough conversation between me and whoever we leave out, whether it's Abhishek or whether it's Sanju. So, we can't suddenly ignore a combination that has created such an impact over the last one and a half or two years, and after three or four failures, drop them and play a young player who is very talented, who is also in very good form.

USA Pacer Ali Khan Bowls Delivery 'That Cannot Exist', Stunned Cricket World Has Questions



The semi-final match between Toronto Sixers and Mississauga Masters in the Canada Super60 tournament witnessed a bizarre moment that left fans and commentators stunned. Playing at BC Place in Vancouver, Toronto posted 130/4 in 10 overs, with Kieron Pollard smashing 40 off just 16 balls. In reply, Mississauga Masters put up a spirited fight, thanks largely to Alex Lees' blistering 39 off 11 deliveries. However, they eventually fell short by nine runs as Toronto Sixers booked their place in the final. During Toronto's innings, a delivery from Mississauga pacer Ali Khan became the talking point of the match. In the ninth over, Khan bowled a bouncer that sailed over both Pollard and the wicketkeeper before landing directly in the stands. The commentators were left shocked and initially called it a wide and a six, as such an incident is rarely, if ever, seen in cricket. However, the umpire signalled only a wide and awarded five runs to Toronto, despite the ball crossing the boundary rope on the full. According to MCC Law 19.7, a batter can be credited with a six only if the ball has been struck by the bat.

Detailed rule

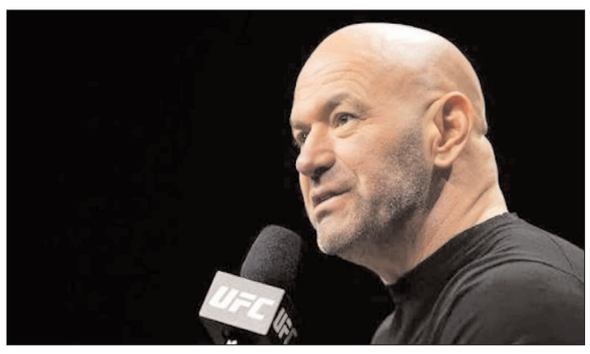
19.7.1 says a Boundary 6 will be scored if and only if the ball has been struck by the bat and is first grounded beyond the boundary without having been in contact with the ground within the field of play. This shall apply even if the ball has previously touched a fielder.

19.7.2 says a Boundary 4 will be scored when a ball that is grounded beyond the boundarywhether struck by the bat or not, was first grounded within the boundary, or has not been struck by the bat.

Hence, a wide that the batter never touches, even if it clears the rope on the full, is a boundary 4. The one-run wide penalty is separate and still stands (Law 22.6), so the total is 5 wides, not 7.

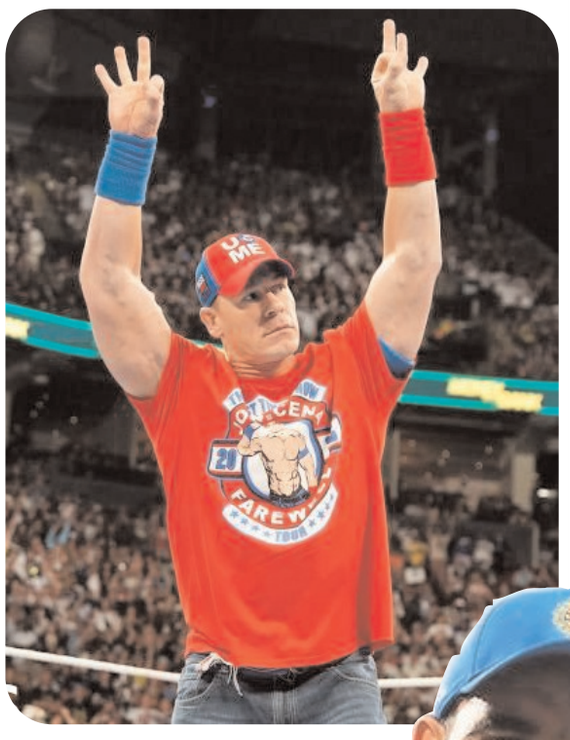
Talking about the match, Toronto Sixers defeated Mississauga Masters by nine runs in the semi-final to advance to the final. In the other semi-final, Vancouver Anchors defeated Brampton Blitz by six wickets.

"I Love The Idea Of That": Dana White Gives Green Light to Potential Topuria-Pimblett TUF Showdown



UFC CEO Dana White has thrown fresh fuel on the Ilia Topuria-Paddy Pimblett rivalry. White has revealed plans to pair the two as opposing coaches in a future season of The Ultimate Fighter before they finally meet in the Octagon. "I love the idea of that… I don't know. We'll see how the timing plays out, but that would definitely be a good one." White told reporters at the UFC 332 post-event press conference, while adding that timing, title fights and broader booking plans will dictate whether it happens. The concept gained momentum after Pimblett publicly pitched it, arguing six weeks of TUF would let him "get under [Topuria's] skin" before a fast finish. White's comments suggest the UFC is at least entertaining the storyline as it maps out its 2027 lightweight calendar. Paddy Pimblett Reveals His Wild TUF Plan for Ilia Topuria Paddy Pimblett, 31, has been clear about his vision. In an interview with Kolos MMA ahead of UFC 332, he said a season with Ilia Topuria would be "very entertaining". Pimblett expected he would "beat him just as fast as Conor McGregor beat Jose Aldo," referencing McGregor's 13-second KO at UFC 194. He framed TUF as both a platform and a weapon: a prolonged, high-stress environment to unsettle Topuria before the final. The bad blood is already personal. Pimblett previously drew criticism for a since-deleted social media post that invoked the 2008 Russia-Georgia war in a shot at Topuria, who has Georgian and Spanish roots. Topuria later posted a screenshot of the deleted message on X.

John Cena Set For Major Radio Appearance After Retirement And New Chapter Outside The Ring



John Cena is going back into the WWE media space. The 17-time world champion is announced for an appearance on Busted Open, which is part of the newly launched WWE Radio channel. This show comes after WWE partnered with SiriusXM, and it gives Cena one more big WWE-related role after retiring from in-ring competition. His last major WWE program appearance was at Backlash, where he introduced the fan-voted John Cena Classic tournament. The Busted Open appearance may also tell viewers more about the tournament, but no further details are given yet.

Defending Champion Carlos Alcaraz Advances To Japan Open Final



Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz advanced to the final of the Japan Open on Monday after securing a hard-fought 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 victory over fellow Spaniard Jaume Munar in Tokyo. The world No. 3 clinched the win despite struggling with errors, particularly towards the end of the first set, while his 49th-ranked opponent put up a brave fight. Alcaraz unleashed a barrage of big serves and aggressive returns to keep Munar off-balance and pinned behind the baseline, occasionally mixing in delicate drop shots that wowed the packed crowd at the Ariake Colosseum. Munar maintained his composure to stay competitive, especially late in the opening set, as Alcaraz hit shots wide and long and racked up four double faults in that set alone.

Nevertheless, Alcaraz kept the pressure on his opponent, peppering him with precise forehands, crisp volleys and drop shots, breaking Munar's serve in the first, third and ninth games of the second set.

Alcaraz dominated the final set, wrapping up the match in two hours and 31 minutes. In the final, Alcaraz will face either Jiri Lehecka of Czechia or Valentin Vacherot of Monaco, who are set to square off in the other semi-final later on Monday.

"No Point": Mohammed Shami Delivered Big Setback In India Return Hopes



Veteran India pacer Mohammed Shami last played international cricket in 2025. Sometimes injuries, sometimes fitness, and on other occasions, some unknown reasons saw the seamer being ignored by the national selection committee. Even as Shami continues to perform in domestic cricket, the hopes of his comeback to the national team are fading with every passing day. Dinesh Karthik, former India cricketer and an active pundit at present, asserted that the national team has moved on from Shami and there is "no point" in going back to him, even if the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) chief selector Ajit Agarkar is no longer holding his seat. The Indian team endured a torrid run against West Indies in the ODI series, even as they won 2-1. While there is no doubt that the wickets were batting friendly, bowlers' repeated struggles left fans, pundits and even former cricketers disappointed. Yet, Karthik does not feel handing Shami a recall would be the right call.

"No, I feel there are other pacers," Karthik said when asked about Shami's place, in a video with Cricbuzz. "India moved beyond him. There is no point in going back. So I wouldn't be looking at Shami, even though he has bowled very well," he added.

In the bowling unit, India has the likes of Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna among the established stars, while the likes of Gurnoor Brar, Aquib Nabi, Anshul Kamboj, etc. are being gradually given more opportunities.

In comparison, however, Karthik is keen to see the likes of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli continuing to play for the national team. In fact, Karthik also feels that the future of ODI cricket looks bleak after the veteran duo bid adieu to the game, potentially after next year's World Cup. "Yes, because they are two of the biggest names, and India being at the epicentre of where world cricket is, if we lose two of the best cricketers, it is going to have an effect," he said.

VENKATESH–TRIVIKRAM'S 'AK47' RELEASE POSTPONED DUE TO POST-PRODUCTION DELAY

"Though It Arrives a Little Late, 'Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47' Will Be 100% Satisfying for Venkatesh Garu's Fans": Producer Suryadevara Naga Vamsi



Victory Venkatesh and the 'Wizard of Words' Trivikram Srinivas are collaborating on the much-awaited family entertainer 'Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47 (AK47)'. Produced by S. Radha Krishna under the prestigious Haarika & Hassine Creations banner, the film has generated tremendous anticipation among audiences.

The film, which was originally scheduled to release worldwide in theatres on October 9, 2026, has been postponed due to a delay in post-production work. Producer Suryadevara Naga Vamsi officially announced the postponement at a press meet.

Speaking on the occasion, Naga Vamsi said, "Even three or four days ago, we were extremely confident that the film would release on October 9. That is why we had even opened overseas bookings. However, as of yesterday morning, we were still not in a position to submit the content for overseas censor formalities. We have fallen behind by three to four days in terms of post-production work.

"Instead of rushing the film to meet the date, we felt it was better to postpone the release, check everything thoroughly and bring the film to audiences with the best possible quality. We also did not have sufficient time for promotional activities.

"We will look at a suitable date after two or three weeks, discuss it with Venkatesh Garu and announce the new release date. We will release the remaining songs and the trailer and conduct extensive promotional activities over the next two to three weeks. We will come before audiences as soon as possible.

"Though 'Aadarsha Kutumbam' is arriving a little late, I can assure you that it will be a film that gives 100% satisfaction to all of Venkatesh Garu's fans."

The teaser of 'Aadarsha Kutumbam – AK47', which was released earlier, has received an encouraging response. Venkatesh is seen portraying a middle-class family man, while the teaser promises a blend of family emotions, comedy and action. It has already crossed 20 million views across digital platforms.

Written and directed by Trivikram Srinivas, the film features Venkatesh alongside Srinidhi Shetty, Nara Rohith, Nivetha Pethuraj, Rao Ramesh, Sathya, Brahmaji and Vennela Kishore in key roles.

Music for the film is composed by Thaman S. The first single, 'Narayanamma', released recently, has received a strong response from music lovers. The remaining songs and the trailer will be released soon, followed by an extensive promotional campaign.

JAILER 2 TRAILER IS OUT NOW

The wait is over! The much-awaited trailer of Superstar Rajinikanth's #Jailer2 is out now in Telugu, promising a high-voltage theatrical experience packed with action, attitude, humour and Nelson Dilipkumar's trademark quirky world.

Directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, Jailer 2 brings back Rajinikanth as the iconic Muthuvel Pandian, whose larger-than-life presence and unmistakable style once again take centre stage. The trailer hints at a fresh conflict, bigger stakes and a world that looks even more expansive than its predecessor, while retaining the humour and madness that made Jailer a blockbuster.

Joining Superstar Rajinikanth is a stellar ensemble featuring S. J. Suryah, Vidya Balan, Shivarajkumar, Mohanlal, Ramya Krishnan, Yogi Babu, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Mirnaa and others. The film promises a powerful mix of action, entertainment and memorable characters, with Nelson bringing his unique flavour to this much-awaited sequel.

The technical team includes Anirudh Ravichander as the music director, Vijay Kartik Kannan as cinematographer and R. Nirmal as editor. Produced by Kalanithi Maran under Sun Pictures, Jailer 2 is gearing up for a massive worldwide theatrical release.

The excitement around Jailer 2 gets bigger in the Telugu states as Sithara Entertainments brings the film to audiences across Andhra Pradesh & Telangana in Telugu Language.



With Superstar Rajinikanth's unmatched screen presence, Nelson Dilipkumar's distinctive brand of entertainment and the promise of a bigger Jailer universe.

GRAND RELEASE ON OCTOBER 15TH!

'POTIREDDYPALLI' MOVIE LAUNCHED WITH CHOCOLATE STAR PAWAN IN LEAD ROLE

The new horror-thriller film 'Potireddypalli', starring Chocolate Star Pawan in the lead role, was formally launched with traditional pooja ceremonies at Ramoji Film City?

Correction: The film was launched at Rama Naidu Studios, Hyderabad, on October 5 at 9 a.m.

Produced by Jeram Vishnu under the banner of Aradhya Creations, the film features Mounika and Siri as the female leads and is directed by Ashok Royya.

The launch ceremony was attended by several prominent personalities from politics and the Telugu film industry. Former Deputy Chief Minister Rajayya, former Medical and Health Minister Lakshma Reddy, National BC Welfare Association President and Rajya Sabha MP R. Krishnaiah, and senior actor Babu Mohan were among the chief guests. They conveyed their best wishes to the entire team.



POOJITHA PONNADA TO IMPRESS AUDIENCES AS A NARTHAKI IN THE FILM



Director Sridhar Gade, who impressed audiences across all sections with his directorial debut SR Kalyanamandapam, is now gearing up for his next film. Produced by Venkat Talari under the banner of Sri Aishwarya Lakshmi Movies, this marks the production house's third venture. The producer has previously backed films such as Chuttalabbayi, starring Aadi Sai Kumar, and the unique thriller Highway, starring Anand Deverakonda.

The upcoming film features Eshwar Rachi Raju, known for Committee Kurrollu, as the protagonist, while Nandu and Likhitha play the female leads. Talented actress Poojitha Ponnada and Sindhu Kasaram are also playing key roles. The film is currently progressing with its regular shoot at a brisk pace.

Poojitha Ponnada will be seen in the role of a dancer in the film. On the occasion of her birthday today, the makers unveiled a special first-look poster featuring her character while extending their warm birthday wishes to the actress.

Dressed as a traditional dancer against the backdrop of a majestic palace, Poojitha Ponnada's look in the poster is captivating. The first look has already created curiosity around her character, with expectations that the film will bring her further recognition as an actress.



VIJAY DEVERAKONDA'S PAN-INDIA FILM "RANABAALI" TRAILER TO RELEASE ON OCTOBER 8

Starring Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna in the lead roles, the much-awaited Pan-India film "Ranabaali" is directed by Rahul Sankrityan. Presented by T-Series and produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the Mythri Movie Makers banner on a huge budget, the film is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 16, coinciding with the occasion of Vijayadashami.

The makers have announced the trailer release date of "Ranabaali" today. The highly anticipated trailer will be unveiled on October 8. Expectations are already high among movie lovers, with the teaser and songs receiving a tremendous response. Meanwhile, the promotional interviews featuring Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna have gone viral and are trending across social media. The trailer is expected to take the buzz and excitement around "Ranabaali" to the next level.

Set against the backdrop of the 19th century, "Ranabaali" is based on real historical events that took place during the British rule between 1854 and 1878. With its unique period setting and grand scale, the film has generated strong anticipation among movie lovers across the country.

418', WILL RELEASE ON OCTOBER 23RD

Pan India production house Mythri Movie Makers is foraying into the darker genre with '418'. The film is being touted as an intense horror thriller that will showcase fear in a new light with a serious and unsettling narrative.

Presented by director Prashanth Neel, this film marks the debut of Keerthan Nadagowda as a director. He has also written the story. Naveen Yerneni and Yelamanchili Ravishankar are producing the film. Chaitra Achar, Surya Raj, Charan Lakkaraju, Preethi Pagadala, and Shashank Patil are playing key roles.

The makers have recently announced the release date. The film will have a grand release on October 23rd on the occasion of Dussehra in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi languages.



The trailer of this movie, which has already been released, has created a sensation with its horror and mystery. With stunning visuals, chilling performances, haunting score, and supernatural thrills, '418' is going to offer a gripping horror experience.

I am very happy to debut in Telugu with 'Comrade Kalyan': Mahima Nambia

King of Entertainment' Sri Vishnu is going to entertain with 'Comrade Kalyan' as a period elements, humor, romance, and emotional entertainer. Directed by Janakiram Marella, the film is being presented by Kona Venkat. Produced by Venkata Krishna Karnati and Seetha Karnati under the banner of Skanda Vahana Motion Pictures LLP. Mahima Nambiar is the heroine. With the already released glimpses and teaser songs, expectations have increased on the film. 'Comrade Kalyan' is going to be released in theaters worldwide on October 9. On this occasion, heroine Mahima Nambiar shared the features of the film at a press conference.

This is your first Telugu film, isn't it? How did it feel to act in Telugu?

Acting in Telugu is a new experience. I can learn any language quickly. I understand Telugu. Also, I ask the director for the meaning of each line. That helps me even more.

How did it feel to act with Sri Vishnu?

Srivishnu garu is a very spontaneous actor. He improvises a lot on set.



'DUE DATE' REGULAR SHOOT BEGINS IN HYDERABAD

Lomesh Pudipeddi and Jayashree starrer commercial courtroom drama begins its regular shoot

The upcoming Telugu film 'Due Date', starring Lomesh Pudipeddi as the hero and Jayashree as the heroine, has officially commenced its regular shooting today in Hyderabad. Produced by Pawan Tharigopula and Eluru Sreenu under the banner of Varish Studios, the film is directed by Anand K. Praneetha Patnaik and Vignani are playing key roles in the film. Following the recently held grand pooja ceremony, the makers have now begun the first shooting schedule. Key scenes featuring the lead actors and other prominent cast members are currently being filmed in Hyderabad. The first schedule will continue for 15 consecutive days.

Speaking on the occasion, the producers said, "Due Date is a commercial courtroom drama woven around a contemporary and burning issue. The story revolves around a 'due date' that every individual remembers every month, and the film blends this unique concept with strong commercial elements. From the title to every aspect of the film, we are bringing something fresh and engaging for the audience."



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