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CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

16-10-2026

Total pilgrims : 77,759
Tonsures : 28,977
Hundi kanukalu : 2.96 CR
Laddu sale... 4.08Lac
Annaprasadam.. 6.54Lac
Ashwini hospital..13,540
Present Situation on 17-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..31

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...12 H.



Nation News

CRPF MULLS restoring Army ranks abolished 30 years ago; promotions, Agniveers in focus

Trump waives several Russia sanctions as row with Zelensky intensifies



World News

PRANITHA SUBHASH TURNS HEADS IN LINGERIE STYLE



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

Actor Imran Khan challenges 'leave India' notice in Bombay HC

MUMBAI: Actor Imran Khan, a US citizen and an OCI cardholder, on Saturday filed a petition in the Bombay High Court challenging a notice issued by the Mumbai Police directing him to leave India by October 28 for allegedly violating rules by participating in a political demonstration. The 43-year-old actor, in the plea filed through his advocate Zulfiquar Memon and MZM Legal, termed the notice as "illegal, perverse, drastic and bad in law." The plea requested the High Court to quash the notice and stay its operation in an interim relief. The plea stated that there is no provision under the current law or statutory rules that prohibits an OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) cardholder from participating in a peaceful protest. The plea is expected to be mentioned for an urgent hearing before a division bench comprising Chief Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Justice Advait Sethna. "The notice has been issued without disclosing any reasons, supporting material, or specific statutory contravention. It was issued without inquiry, a show-cause notice, or any opportunity for the Petitioner (Khan) to respond to the alleged violations," the plea said.

CJP founder Dipke gets conditional bail

One of the primary conditions would be for him to ensure there is no breach of peace for a period of one year, said reports.

New Delhi ■ TSIT



The special executive magistrate on Saturday, October 17, released CJP leader Abhijit Dipke subject to a conditional bail bond, eliciting a 'Cockroaches never die' response from the outfit's national organisation in-charge.

Meanwhile, one of the primary conditions would be for Dipke to ensure there is no breach of peace for a period of one year.

CJP national in-charge Ajinka Shinde posted on X: "Cockroaches never die," with a visual of Dipke in the car after being released.

Earlier, CJP legal affairs head Ratna Singh had pointed out that the hearing was set for 12 noon but hadn't happened till 3.38 pm."If this isn't deliberate, then what is? Release Saurav, Ashutosh and Abhijeet along with other detainees. You can't take away people's liberty by delaying the entire process," she posted on X. The Delhi Police had detained Dipke on Friday as soon as he left his accommodation to take part in the 'Lehra Do Tiranga' yatra orchestrated by his outfit. He was detained under Sections 126 and 170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), said the Delhi Police. He was arrested on Saturday morning for allegedly violating a peace bond furnished by him on October 10.

"Based on the assurance given in the peace bond, he was let off. We are awaiting the written order for further details," a senior police officer told PTI.

Meanwhile, YouTuber Dhruv Rathee announced his arrival in London late on Friday. In a post on X, Rathee urged people to join the protest at Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Parliament Square. "International danka bajane ka time aa gaya hai," he wrote, ending the post with "Jai Hind".

TDP gives women 82% share in 2nd municipal candidate list



Amaravati: The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has released its second list of 22 candidates for the upcoming municipal elections in Andhra Pradesh, giving significant priority to women and candidates from BC, SC and minority communities.

The list includes candidates for the Machilipatnam Mayor post and 21 municipal chairperson positions. Of the 22 candidates, 18 are women, accounting for nearly 82% of the list.

The party has also given representation to 16 candidates from BC, SC and minority communities, including six BCs, five SCs and five minorities. Muslim candidates have been fielded in Machilipatnam, Naidupeta, Nandikotkur, Kadiri and Akividu, including four women.

With the first and second lists combined, the TDP has announced candidates for 58 positions, comprising eight corporation posts and 50 municipal chairperson posts. Of these, 37 are women, accounting for nearly 64%.

The combined lists include 22 BC, 20 OC, eight SC, seven minority and one ST candidate. According to party sources, 38 of the 58 candidates are graduates or have higher educational qualifications.

The selections reflect the party's emphasis on women's representation, social diversity and educational qualifications. However, candidate coordination, local support and competition from rival parties will remain important factors in the municipal elections.

CM Revanth Greets Women on Saddula Bathukamma



Hyderabad ■ TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy extended warm greetings to the people of Telangana, particularly women, on the occasion of Saddula Bathukamma. Describing Bathukamma as a symbol of Telangana's culture and traditions, the Chief Minister said the festival celebrates nature and honours women. He wished that women and girls would celebrate with joy, traditional songs and dances around colourful floral arrangements. He expressed hope that the festival of flowers would bring happiness, prosperity, peace and well-being to every household, while preserving Telangana's cultural heritage for future generations. Chief Minister said Bathukamma reflects the State's cultural richness, strengthens unity among women and carries social significance. He expressed happiness over the enthusiastic celebrations held across Telangana during the nine-day festival. Revanth Reddy reiterated that the People's Government remains committed to women's empowerment through welfare and development programmes.

Right to internet is a fundamental right, says SC

The court made the observation while hearing arguments on banning children on the internet.

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)

The right to access and use the internet is a fundamental right of every individual, the Supreme Court has said, adding that children, irrespective of their age, enjoy the same right. According to LiveLaw, a bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice K Vinod Chandran held that the right flows from Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty) read with Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression) of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court's observations came while the bench was hearing an application on child sexual exploitation and abuse material (CSEAM) online when it took up the question of whether children should be kept off the internet and social media altogether.



It said they should not. Cutting children off, the bench said, would be as absurd as claiming that they are too young to have a conscience or a voice. "The safety of our children and their freedom are not at odds with each other. Our children are entitled to both," it said.

The court said that blaming children's presence online for harm caused by platforms that fail to remove abusive content punishes the wrong party. A ban on paper does not keep children offline, it said. They simply drift to unregulated corners of the internet where the risks may be higher. A ban could also push children who are being targeted or threatened to stay silent, out of fear of being scolded for going online.

Online betting: ED conducts searches at 20 premises in Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad

MUMBAI ■ (TSIT)



In fresh action against an online betting/gaming and cyber fraud syndicate, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted search operations at 20 premises located in Mumbai, Pune, Mehsana, Surat and Hyderabad, ED officials said on Saturday.

During the search operations on October 13, the ED's Mumbai Zone-2 seized various incriminating documents, digital devices and other material evidence relating to the layering and diversion of proceeds of crime, the official said in a statement.

In addition, multiple bank accounts of the concerned entities and persons have been ordered frozen under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, the statement said. In the case, the ED had earlier conducted searches at multiple places in Pune, Mumbai and Bengaluru and also arrested Ram U. Ramdhani, founder of Edsom Fintech Private Limited, who remains in judicial custody, it added.

Delhi Police allows Cong to hold rally at Ramlila Maidan on Nov 1

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has allowed the Congress to hold a rally at Ramlila Maidan on November 1 and issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) for the event, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

On September 30, the INDIA bloc finalised a joint action plan over the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) row, including rallies and 'save democracy marches', with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge saying all parties agreed that elections should be held using ballot papers instead of EVMs. Then, Kharge said the party would organise a mega rally in Delhi on November 1.



MP CM Mohan Yadav Meets CM Naidu



Amaravati ■ TSIT

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav paid a courtesy visit to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the latter's camp office. During the meeting, Chandrababu Naidu briefed him on the construction of the capital city Amaravati and various development programmes being undertaken in the state. Minister Nara Lokesh welcomed Mohan Yadav at the Chief Minister's residence. He presented the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister with a copy of the Yuva Galam padayatra book and explained the key aspects of his statewide foot march.

India rejects UN expert's claims of youth retaliation

UNITED NATIONS ■ (TSIT):

India has rejected as "hearsay" a report by a UN human rights expert that has taken note of the "satirical political movement" created by the country's youth, with New Delhi calling on the expert to "verify" before vilifying issues using unverified claims. First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Anuj Swarup delivered the national statement at the 81st Session of the UNGA Third Committee at the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. Children have fundamental right to access internet, can't impose blanket ban on its use: SC

Swarup voiced objection to the report of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association Gina Romero, calling out her assertion that young people in India face retaliation or stigmatisation for discussing mental health or gender justice.

Swarup said Romero merely cites "unnamed submissions" in the footnote."A sweeping charge against the world's largest youth population, resting on anonymous and unverified claims, is not evidence. It is hearsay dressed up as a UN report, and my delegation rejects it outright," Swarup said.



"A mandate holder who relies on anonymous inputs to generalise for 1.4 billion people does a disservice to the very mandate she holds. We urge this Special Rapporteur to verify before she vilifies and to bring the required rigour and fairness in her reports," he said.

In her report, Romero notes that in India, young people created a "satirical political movement", a reference to the Cockroach Janata Party, and said that "young people from India reported retaliation or stigmatisation for discussing mental health or gender justice."

Swarup further emphasised that "this level of arbitrary report writing is precisely the reason that the United Nations and its institutions have lost credibility."

He said that in India, these freedoms, together with freedom of speech and expression, are guaranteed to every citizen under Article 19 of the Constitution, and are protected by an independent judiciary, a free press, and an empowered National Human Rights Commission. India also termed the report ironic, taking note of the "satirical political movement" created by the country's youth.

Malayappa Swamy blesses devotees on Gaja Vahanam

TIRUMALA ■ (TSIT):



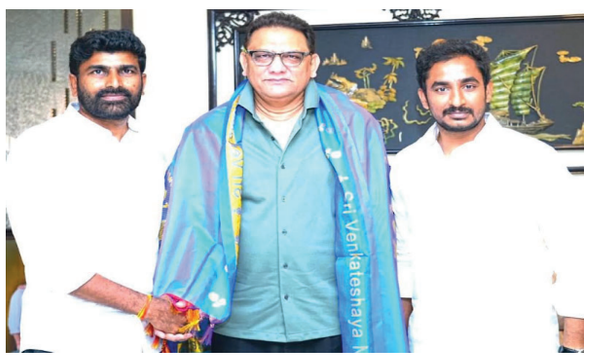
Sri Malayappa Swamy blessed devotees on the Gaja Vahanam on Saturday evening, the sixth day of the annual NavaratriBrahmotsavams at Tirumala.

The procession was held amid traditional music, devotional bhajans, kolatams and the chanting of the Jeeyangars' Goshti. Majestic elephants led the procession as devotees braved the rain to offer camphor haratis and seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara.

The Gaja Vahanam symbolises majesty, royalty, prosperity and abundance. Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu, Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra, Additional EO Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, CVSO Muralikrishna and other officials participated in the event.

Minister Azharuddin Urged to Support Minority Graduate Voter Enrolment

HYDERABAD, (TSIT): Telangana Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises Minister Mohammed Azharuddin was urged to facilitate a special voter registration drive for eligible minority graduates in Hyderabad ahead of the Graduate MLC elections.



Graduate MLC candidate Sama Mohan Reddy and former Rahmat Nagar corporator C.N. Reddy met the Minister and submitted a representation seeking special enrolment camps and awareness programmes.

They highlighted the need to educate prospective voters about eligibility criteria, registration procedures and required documents. They sought the Minister's support for coordinated outreach to ensure that eligible minority graduates are included in the electoral rolls. The leaders appealed to all eligible graduates to enrol as voters and actively participate in the democratic process.

PASS ON BATHUKAMMA HERITAGE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS MINISTER SEETHAKKA



HYDERABAD, (TSIT): Panchayat Raj and Women and Child Welfare Minister Dansari Anasuya Seethakka urged people to preserve Bathukamma's cultural legacy and pass it on to future generations. Participating as chief guest in Bathukamma celebrations at Hyderabad Press Club in Somajiguda, the Minister joined women journalists and their family members in traditional songs and dances around colourful floral arrangements. Seethakka described festivals, customs and cultural values as precious assets inherited from ancestors. She said Bathukamma brings entire communities together, with families preparing floral arrangements and celebrating through songs and dance. Expressing happiness over attending the Press Club's Bathukamma celebrations for the second consecutive year, she appealed to Telangana's women to uphold the festival's traditions. She also extended Bathukamma and Dasara greetings.

3,500 Indiramma houses sanctioned for Husnabad in one year: Ponnam



Husnabad, October 17: Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said 3,500 Indiramma houses had been sanctioned for the Husnabad constituency within a year, including 500 for Husnabad town. He assured that priority would be given to poor and eligible families.

During an inspection of Bathukamma festival arrangements at Yellamma Cheruvu on Saturday, the Minister directed officials to ensure adequate lighting, barricades and safety measures for women participating in the celebrations.

He said Yellamma Cheruvu would be developed as a tourism hub, alongside plans for a glass bridge, an urban forest park and the development of other local lakes.

Ponnam Prabhakar said the government was focusing on education, healthcare, roads, irrigation and sports. Construction of a 250-bed hospital was progressing, while road-widening works and initiatives to establish educational institutions were also being pursued.

He said work on the Gouravelli irrigation project would be accelerated after completion of canal land acquisition. Assuring farmers of power supply until the harvest was completed, he urged them to follow agricultural experts' advice amid El Niño concerns and use water judiciously.

Pensioners suffer without health cards, medical care



Khammam (TSIT): State government pensioners are facing hardships due to delays in issuing health cards, lack of medical care and pending retirement benefits, SGPAT district president Parishapullaiah said on Saturday. Speaking at the district executive committee meeting at Krishi Bhavan, he alleged that the government had failed to issue health cards and provide medical facilities despite deducting health scheme premiums from employees and pensioners for five months. He said allowing corrections and modifications in health card records would benefit thousands of pensioners. Parishapullaiah demanded immediate settlement of retirement benefits pending for employees who retired after March 2024, release of three pending DR instalments and implementation of the PRC report. He urged the government to allow pensioners' DR arrears bills to be processed through treasuries, establish a separate directorate for pensioners and construct pensioners' bhavans in Hyderabad and all district headquarters. He also sought observance of Pensioners' Day on December 17 at State and district levels. State secretary V. Mary Yesupadam criticised the government's indifference, while district general secretary Rayala Ravikumar called upon pensioners to prepare for an agitation.

District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada Extends Greetings to District Judge Nirmala Geethamba



Warangal, October 17, TSIT: Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada paid a courtesy visit to Warangal District Judge B. V. Nirmala Geethamba on Saturday. She presented her with a potted flowering plant and extended her greetings and best wishes.

Yashoda Care Mega Medical Camp at Kollampally Dargah



Free Medical Services to Over 2,600 Devotees

Narayanpet, October 17 (TSIT): A mega free medical camp organized by Yashoda Care Hospitals, Old Gunj, Narayanpet, at Kollampally Dargah as part of the Sarva Dharma Sammelan received an overwhelming response. More than 2,600 devotees benefited from the camp, which was inaugurated by the Dargah's Sajjada Nashin.Doctors provided free medical examinations, including ECG, blood tests and physiotherapy, along with medical advice and free medicines. Specialists from various departments participated in the camp. The hospital management stated that the initiative aimed to make quality healthcare accessible to the public and thanked the Dargah organizers, doctors, staff and devotees for their support.

Legal Awareness Programme on Crop Rotation and Farmers' Welfare Held in Peddajatram



Narayanpet, October 17, 2026 (TSIT): The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Narayanpet, organised a legal awareness programme at the Peddajatram Gram Panchayat office in Utkoor mandal on Saturday at 9:30 a.m., following the instructions of DLSA Secretary Smt. Vindhya Naik. The programme focused on agricultural laws, farmers' welfare schemes, the benefits of crop rotation, and the prevention of child labour and child marriages. Legal Aid Defence Counsel K. Lakshmipathi Goud addressed the gathering and explained the legal rights of farmers, agricultural laws and various welfare schemes implemented by the Central and Telangana State governments.

Over Rs. 2 Cr in Sales; 1,500 Women Entrepreneurs Participate



Vijayawada,TSIT.
The National SARAS Mela, organised for the first time in Vijayawada by the Union Ministry of Rural Development with the support of Andhra Pradesh SERP, is receiving an encouraging response, with sales exceeding Rs. 2 crore so far. Speaking at a press conference at Punnami Ghat on Saturday, NIRD Additional Director Sudheer Kumar said around 1,500 women entrepreneurs from 32 states and Union Territories were participating in the event. The mela features 600 stalls showcasing handlooms, handicrafts and natural food products, along with 50 live food stalls offering regional cuisines. An estimated 40,000 to 50,000 visitors are attending daily.SERP Administrative Director Kalyana Chakravarthy said 600 stalls had been provided free of cost to women's Self-Help Groups, along with free travel, food and accommodation for participants. Special pavilions and training sessions on branding, packaging and marketing have been arranged to help women entrepreneurs expand their businesses.



Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra participated in musical performances alongside artists on the occasion of the Navaratri Brahmotsavams. By joining them in playing instruments, he infused the artists with enthusiasm and energy.

GITAM Pet Show Promotes Animal Welfare and Compassion



Visakhapatnam,TSIT.
GITAM Deemed to be University recently organised a pet show on its campus to promote animal welfare, compassion and social responsibility among students. The event, organised in line with UGC directives encouraging Animal Welfare Societies in higher educational institutions under the National Education Policy 2020, featured Golden Retrievers, Beagles, rescued puppies and cats. The pets attracted students and faculty members, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere. Faculty members highlighted the importance of developing empathy, patience and respect for all living creatures beyond classroom learning. The event also marked a step towards establishing a student-led Animal Welfare Society at GITAM to encourage animal rescue, protection and compassionate care.

Govardhana Giridharidhara enchants on Majestic Pushpa Vimanam



Tirumala : Tirumala came alive with devotion and grandeur on Saturday evening as Sri Malayappa Swamy taking the form of Govardhana Giridhara Sri Krishna accompanied by Sri Devi and Bhudevi in the guises of Rukmini and Satyabhama respectively, giving a rare and divine darshan to devotees.

Seated majestically atop the specially crafted Pushpa Vimanam, the deity showered His blessings on the thousands of devotees gathered along the Mada Streets. The celestial sight was part of the sixth-day celebrations of the ongoing Navaratri Brahmotsavams at the sacred hill shrine of Tirumala.

The Pushpa Vimanam Seva holds special significance, as it is performed only once in three years during the Navaratri Brahmotsavams conducted in the auspicious Adhika Masa.

A Floral Marvel of Devotion:

The highlight of the evening was the magnificent Pushpa Vimanam, an extraordinary creation fashioned entirely from coconut-tree leaves. Standing 24 feet tall, measuring 15 feet in length and 15 feet in width, and weighing nearly one tonne, the vahanam was a breathtaking blend of traditional craftsmanship and devotional artistry.

The structure was adorned with a rich variety of traditional flowers, creating a vibrant canopy fit for the Almighty of the Seven Hills.

Graceful idols of Sri Anjaneya Swamy and Sri Garudalwar embellished both sides of the vimanam, while depictions of deities from the four Yugas added profound mythological depth to the celestial chariot.

Ensure Unhindered Filing of Nominations: State Election Commissioner

Security tightened at nomination centres amid reports of tensions in several areas

Vijayawada,TSIT : State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha has directed district officials to ensure that all eligible candidates can file their nominations freely and without obstruction in the ongoing municipal elections. He ordered enhanced security at nomination centres following complaints from political leaders about attempts to prevent candidates from submitting their nominations. Punetha reviewed the situation over the phone with District Collectors concerned after receiving reports of tension at nomination centres in Rayachoti, Pulivendula, Tirupati, Darsi, Rajampet and Dachepalli, among other places. Election Commission Secretary Dr. Mallikarjuna and Inspector General of Police B. Rajakumari participated in the review.



With the last day for filing nominations for municipal elections approaching, the Commissioner directed officials to remain vigilant, deploy adequate police personnel and take preventive measures to avert untoward incidents. He stressed that every eligible candidate must be provided the necessary security and assistance to submit nominations in accordance with election rules. The Commissioner said ensuring equal opportunities for all candidates and providing a peaceful environment for filing nominations were the responsibility of the election machinery. He warned that any attempt to obstruct the nomination process must be dealt with firmly under the law.

Punetha also instructed District Collectors to immediately install CCTV cameras at nomination centres in compliance with High Court directions and ensure continuous monitoring of the situation. During the review, IG B. Rajakumari directed district police chiefs to strengthen security at nomination centres and respond promptly to any tensions. She emphasised that candidates should be able to file their nominations without fear or intimidation. The Commissioner called upon officials from all departments to coordinate closely to ensure that the nomination process concluded peacefully, transparently and impartially.

Lack of proof warrants honourable acquittal: Madras High Court



MADURAI: The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court dismissed the Tamil Nadu government's appeal against an order directing the appointment of a Jail Warden aspirant, holding that an acquittal for lack of evidence could qualify as an 'honourable acquittal' for recruitment purposes. The aspirant, R Dinesh, faced trial in a case arising from the 2017 Jallikattu agitation, the state's bull-taming sport. A Division Bench of Justices CV Karthikeyan and R Sakthivel, who heard the case, directed the authorities to comply with the single judge's order and appoint him within 12 weeks.

As per the proceedings, the recruitment authorities had rejected Dinesh's candidature under GO Ms No. 1410, which says a person acquitted on the benefit of doubt, or because the complainant turned hostile, shall be treated as having been involved in a criminal case for recruitment purposes.

The Bench, however, held that Dinesh qualified as 'honourably acquitted', noting that the expression appears neither in the Code of Criminal Procedure nor in the Indian Penal Code, but has evolved through judicial pronouncements.

2 college students crushed to death in bike-lorry crash in Thanjavur



TIRUCHY: Two college students were crushed to death in Thanjavur on Saturday after their bike rammed into a lorry parked along the Thanjavur-Pudukkottai National Highway. The police identified the deceased as Vijay (22), a resident of Manja Pettai in Pudukkottai and his friend Sudarsan (19). Both Vijay and Sudarsan were studying in a college in Pudukkottai, according to the police.

They both were proceeding to Sengipatti in Thanjavur by a two-wheeler when the accident occurred on Saturday. Vijay was riding the bike, and Sudarsan was riding pillion. According to the police, Vijay and Sudarsan were travelling to Sengipatti to contest in a Kabaddi tournament. When the duo was nearing Arputhapuram on the Thanjavur-Pudukkottai National Highway, Vijay, who was riding the bike, lost control of the vehicle due to overspeeding and hit a stationary lorry along-



Ho'nble Chief Minister holds bilateral talks with Singapore delegation to strengthen economic ties and attract investments to Tamil Nadu...

Tamil Nadu police ready to handle monsoon, says DGP Aggarwal

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu police is fully prepared to handle emergencies during the coming northeast monsoon, DGP Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal said on Saturday, noting that the Disaster Response Force has been equipped and inter-departmental coordination has been completed.Speaking at a welfare programme organised under the 'Kaaval Kudumbam' scheme at the Avadi Police Commissionerate, the DGP said the force would be deployed wherever required to assist the public during flooding, tree falls and power-related incidents. He added that meetings have been held with revenue, fire, municipal and electricity departments to ensure swift response. He also assured that long-pending feeding allowance dues of police personnel were being examined and would be settled. The event also focused on family welfare. Vanitha Aggarwal, president of Kaaval Kudumbam, inaugurated a daycare centre set up at the SM Nagar police quarters in Avadi. The centre will look after children of police personnel during duty hours, helping women personnel in particular. Later, the DGP inaugurated a comprehensive medical camp organised in association with Apollo Hospitals at the SM Nagar Police Convention Centre. Around 500 police personnel and family members underwent general health check-ups, cardiac, pulmonary, vascular screening and eye examinations. Avadi Police Commissioner T Senthilkumar, deputy commissioners and senior officers participated in the programme.

Opportunist Congress changes SIR stance from state to state: DMK



CHENNAI: The DMK has accused the Congress of initially remaining silent on protests by youths and students against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, and later extending support to the agitation.

The allegations were made in a resolution adopted at a meeting of DMK MPs chaired by party president MK Stalin on Saturday.

Accusing the Congress of adopting a dual stand, the DMK alleged that the party's position on the SIR varied from State to State, despite what it described as errors in the revision exercise across the country.

The resolution alleged that the Congress remained a mute spectator when the agitation began and was later compelled to support the protests because it had

India now a member of International Medical Device Regulators Forum

New Delhi: The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), the ministry announced on Thursday. IMDRF is a global network of medical device regulators that promotes regulatory convergence and public health and safety.

The CDSCO had applied for the IMDRF membership in August to achieve global alignment in its medical device regulatory system. The regulator received the approval during the 26th Session of IMDRF held in September in Washington, US.

"Achieving affiliate membership in the IMDRF will provide significant opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities around the world," the ministry said.

Intermittent fasting may boost health of people with heart disease, diabetes



New Delhi: : Finding it hard to manage blood sugar levels? Take heart, limiting your food consumption to a 10-hour window daily may keep your diabetes in check, according to a study.Following the 10-hour eating window, a type of intermittent fasting, can also help you manage metabolic syndrome -- a group of medical conditions that can lead to heart disease, diabetes, and stroke. Risk factors attributing to the syndrome include elevated blood sugar, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol -- key factors for poor heart health.

Researchers led by the University of California San Diego and Salk Institute in the US said the findings may help people looking to address their metabolic syndrome and reduce their risk for Type 2 diabetes.

In the trial, published online in the Annals of Internal Medicine, 108 adult patients with metabolic syndrome were randomised into either a time-restricted eating group or a control group.Both groups continued to receive standard-of-care treatments and underwent nutritional counselling on the Mediterranean diet.

In the time-restricted eating group, each person had to reduce their eating window to 10 hours per day, which began at least one hour after waking up and ended at least three hours before going to sleep.After three months, patients who had completed the time-restricted eating regimen showed significant improvements in key indicators of heart health.

Satchidananda Panda, a professor at the Salk Institute explained that the time of day plays an important role in human bodies' processing of sugars and fats. When people limit their eating window, they "re-engage the body's natural wisdom and harness its daily circadian rhythms to restore metabolism and improve health". The routine also helped people lose body weight, maintain proper body mass index (BMI), and manage abdominal trunk fat -- a type of fat closely linked to metabolic disease, the researchers said. Importantly, participants did not experience significant loss of lean muscle mass.

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Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Invent Assets Securitisation & Reconstruction Private Limited** (hereinafter referred to as **"INVENT"**) by ALTUM vide registered Assignment Agreement dated 29.12.2025 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, had issued a Demand Notice to the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) as mentioned in the table below, calling upon them to repay the amount within the stipulated period.

The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) having failed to repay the dues within the prescribed time, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Physical Possession** of the secured asset(s) under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on the date mentioned in the table below.

The Borrower(s)/Secured Debtor(s) and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the secured asset(s), and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of INVENT for the amount mentioned in the Demand Notice.

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset(s).

Sl. No.	Borrower Details	NPA Date & Outstanding Amount	13(2) Date & Possession Date
1.	Murugesan S (Borrower) Mrs.Hanjiyam Murugesan (Co-Borrower) A/c No. S125204000012	30-09-2024 ₹5,66,658	10-10-2024 15-10-2026

Property Description : Karur R.D, Tharagampatti S.R.D., Kadavur Taluk, Kadavur Panchayat union, Idaiyappatti Keelpagam Village, Kadavur Panchayat Limit, Tho.idaiyappatti keelpagam village in this survey no 1666/1, new survey no 1666/1U, Punjai Hec. 050.5, acre 0.14 cents in this East : Veeramalai gounder land on the, West : South - North Panchayat road on the , South : Vairapperumal House on the North : Ponnammal land on the

STATUTORY NOTICE TO BORROWERS / CO-BORROWERS AND GUARANTORS
Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers(s) and Guarantor(s) are hereby put to caution that the property may be sold at any time hereinafter by way of public auction/tenders and as such this may also be treated as a notice under Rule 6, 8 & 9 of Security (interest) Enforcement Rules, 2002.

Date : 18-10-2026
Place : Tamilnadu
Sd/- Authorized Officer
Invent Assets Securitisation & Reconstruction Private Limited

Northern ARC Capital Ltd
Head Off: 10th Floor – Phase 1, IIT- Madras Research Park, Kanagam Village, Taramani, -Chennai 600113

APPENDIX-IV [Rule-8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas,The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Northern Arc Capital Ltd** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a **Demand Notice dated 13th May, 2025** calling upon the Borrower **(1) M/S. Royal Spinners (Business Name) (2) Mr.Dhakshinamoorthy S (Borrower) (3) Mrs.Dhakshinamoorthy Ambika (Co Borrower) (4) Mr.Saravanababu Babu D (Co Boorrower) & (5) Mr. Venkateshprabu Dhatchanamoort (Co Borrower)** having address at 49D, Nallaiya Raja Street, Rajapalayam, Virudhunagar, Tamil-Nadu - 626117., to repay the amount mentioned in the notice **INR 41,26,803/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Three Only) as 08th May, 2025** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Co Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this possession notice dated **17th October, 2026.**

The Borrower/Guarantor/Co Borrower and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Northern Arc Capital Ltd for an amount of **INR 41,26,803/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Three Only) as 08th May, 2025,** costs, etc. thereon.

DISCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

All That Piece And Parcel In Virudhunagar District, Virudhungar Registration District, Rajaplayam Sub Register Office, Rajapalayam Taluka, Kothankulam Village, S.No - 89A/2A, Hectare 0.22.0 Eastern Side 0.09.0, S. No. 89A/2C, Hectare 0.18.5 Eastern Side Hectare 0.07.5 Total Extent 0.16.5 Hectare, Now New Sub-Division S.No - 89A/2A2 0.09.0 Hectare 89A/2C2 0.07.5 Hectare Total Extent 0.16.5 Hectare Building Door No 1/132A And 1/132B Bounded On The North: East West Pathway; On The East; Railway Land; On The South: Railway Land And Kalaiselvi Land; On The West: Kalaiselvi Land.

Date: 17th October, 2026
Place: Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu
Authorised Officer
Northern Arc Capital Ltd

PUBLIC NOTICE

J. Jegatratsakan (age 39), son of **Jayaraman,** residing at Thiruvalluvar Street, Alancheri Village, Uthramerur Circle, Kanchipuram District. My Great Grandmother **Mrs. Murugammal K/P. Jayaraman** died on 25-03-1980. We failed to register his death due to ignorance. I am currently applying for death certificate. If anyone has any objection, I request them to appear in person at Kanchipuram Revenue Commissioner's office and explain.

J. JEGATRATSAKAN,
Petitioner.

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE I ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE (SENIOR DIVISION) AT: VISAKHAPATNAM I.A.1426/2024 in I.A.633/2023 in O.S.249/2006

Between:
Moparthi Anasuyamma & others
And …Petitioners/Plaintiffs
Smt. D. Ramadasa Kumar & others…Respondents/Defendants

NOTICE

To,
R-4: Smt. S. Kalai Selvi,
W/o. Shri Senthil Kumar,
Residing at D.No.2/43, Pillayar Kovil Street, V.T.V. Puducherry, Sub District Sriperambuur, Kanchipuram, Tamilnadu.

Please take notice that the above named petitioners/plaintiffs filed the above I.A.1426/2024 against you and the above matter stands posted to **04-11-2026** for your appearance. You are hereby directed to appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through duly instructed Advocate on **04-11-2026** at **10:30 A.M** in the above mentioned Hon'ble Court, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence by the Hon'ble Court.

(By Order of the Hon'ble Court)
S. ARUN DEV &
K. RAJA GOPALA RAO
Advocates
Flat No.GF-A2, Dolphin Apartments
Netaji Street, Maharanipeta, Visakhapatnam.
Andhra Pradesh, **Cell: 98485 66903**

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE I ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE (SENIOR DIVISION) AT: VISAKHAPATNAM I.A.1424/2024 in I.A.633/2023 in O.S.249/2006

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Andhra Pradesh, **Cell: 98485 66903**

SOUTH COAST RAILWAY
VISAKHAPATNAM
Follow us on @SCoRailway
Website: scor.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. VSKP-SnT-26-27-WORKS-15

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tender for the following works.

1. Tender No. : VSKP-SnT-26-27-WORKS-15 **Name of Work :** (1) S&T portion of work in connection with Provision of one additional loop line at SNM along with yard modification of VSKP division. (2) S&T portion of work for Provision of turn table along with yard modification in RYD & NCC in WMY of VSKP divin. **Quantity :** As mentioned in Tender Document. **Period of completion:** 12 months **Tender Value: (₹)** 2,95,79,784/- (Rupees Two Crores Ninety Five Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Four only) **Bid Security/Earnest Money to be deposited (₹):** 5,91,600/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred Only) **Cost of tender document (₹) :** (Nil) **Offer validity :** 60 days from date of opening **Type of tender :** Works Tender governed by GCC-2022 for Works **System of Tendering :** Open Tender - Single Packet **Time & Date of tender closing:** 15:00 Hrs of 06.11.2026 **Tender Document and corrigendum:** Visit website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** **Postal Address for Correspondence :** O/o of Sr. DSTE/VSKP, DRM office Building, Dondaparthy, Visakhapatnam - 530004, Andhra Pradesh

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom. Engineer, Visakhapatnam
SCoR-A458

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scor.indianrailways.gov.in

EDITORIAL

Wholesale inflation and the challenge of the economy

Inflation isn't just about rising commodity prices in the market; it's also a test of the economy's productive capacity, the common man's purchasing power, and the government's economic policies. When prices rise sharply at the production and wholesale trade levels, their impact gradually reaches the retail market, household budgets, and industrial activity. Rising wholesale inflation in India points to this broader economic challenge. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rate reaching 11.39 percent in September 2026, if officially confirmed, paints a grim picture of growing pressure on production costs and the supply chain. Rising prices of fuel, food, and manufactured goods further exacerbate this pressure.

The Wholesale Price Index measures changes in the prices of goods traded at the wholesale level. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, it primarily reflects price conditions at the producers' and traders' levels. A rise in wholesale inflation does not necessarily mean a corresponding increase in retail inflation, but if production costs remain high for a prolonged period, the burden may eventually be passed on to consumers.

Rising energy prices are the most significant cause of wholesale inflation. Petroleum products are used not only in vehicles, but also in agriculture, industry, power generation, and freight transportation. The cost of diesel increases, increasing the cost of plowing, irrigating fields, and transporting agricultural produce to markets. Similarly, rising electricity and fuel costs for industrial units make production more expensive. When energy prices rise continuously, it impacts the entire process from the production of goods to their delivery to the end consumer.

Tensions in West Asia, uncertainty in the international oil market, and disruptions in supply routes pose particular challenges for an import-dependent country like India. India meets a large portion of its crude oil needs through imports. Therefore, a surge in international prices could impact domestic production costs, trade balance, and inflation. If fuel and electricity prices have indeed increased by 25.85 percent, it would indicate serious pressure on industrial and transportation costs. However, this specific figure requires official confirmation.

Food inflation in India is linked not only to demand but also to agricultural production, weather, storage, and distribution systems. Irregular monsoons, sometimes with excessive rainfall and sometimes with drought, impact crop yields. Furthermore, pest infestations, lack of irrigation, and post-harvest losses can also reduce market supply. When the availability of vegetables, grains, pulses, and edible oils falls short of demand, their prices rise. This impacts the food processing industry, the hotel business, and the production of other consumer goods. Food inflation particularly impacts poor and middle-class families, as a significant portion of their income is spent on food.

India's economy is deeply integrated with the global market. Crude oil, industrial chemicals, some fertilizers, electronic components, and many other raw materials are purchased from the international market. When global prices for these commodities rise, the costs of domestic industries also increase. This is called imported inflation. Furthermore, a weakening rupee can further exacerbate the problem. If the rupee depreciates against the dollar, it costs more rupees to import the same amount of goods.

Amit Shah, Durga Puja, And An Attempt To Deepen Connect With Bengal's Roots

JAYANTA GHOSAL





Union Home Minister Amit Shah could not visit West Bengal on Mahalaya despite an invitation from Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari to participate in the Durga Puja celebrations on Red Road. He will, however, be in the state on Sunday, and a full-day programme has been planned for him.

The minister will be staying at the Atithi Griha in Alipore, and his Durga Puja engagements will begin at Belur Math, the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. This choice is important because it signifies that he is seeking to connect with a deeper and more enduring aspect of Bengal's cultural identity.

After visiting Belur Math, he is expected to explore some of Kolkata's prominent Durga Puja celebrations, including traditional household pujas and community-organised festivities. Shobhabazar Rajbari represents the older tradition of aristocratic family pujas, while the Barowari or community puja has a different social history. The Chetla Agrani puja pandal is another prominent destination associated with the city's contemporary Durga Puja culture.

In other words, Shah wants to return, once again, to the cultural foundations of Bengal and connect with what might be called the Bengali DNA.

How Is Amit Shah's Visit Different This Time?

The most obvious difference is that, earlier, the BJP was in the opposition and its political position and its approach to Bengal's cultural life were therefore different.

Consider Santosh Mitra Square, one of Kolkata's well-known Durga Puja destinations. BJP leaders, including MLA Sajal Ghosh, have been associated with its organisation. The BJP has also developed its own presence in the state's Durga Puja celebrations. But the question is whether these festivities should be viewed merely as pujas organised by one political party or as part of a broader cultural tradition that belongs to the people of Bengal. The first criterion should be that the distinction between your puja and our puja must not become the defining feature. Durga Puja is larger than party politics. The festival belongs to the people of West Bengal, and political parties should recognise that it cannot be reduced to a contest between rival political organisations.

The BJP's strategy in Bengal appears to be an attempt to move beyond a narrow political identity and establish a connection with Bengali society through its cultural traditions. This approach has parallels with the political culture of India's Hindi heartland, where Navratri and its associated traditions occupy an important place.

But Bengal's cultural identity has its own distinct history, and the BJP must engage with that history if it wants to establish a lasting connection with the state. Because of this, Shah has prioritised the 'Bonedi Bari Pujo' by planning a visit to the Shobhabazar Rajbari. The tradition was that Durga Puja was celebrated in houses and Shobhabazar Rajbari was the first such puja in Bengal's history. From Rajbaris to Barowari Pujas: The Democratisation of Durga Puja For generations, Durga Puja in Bengal was closely associated with the wealthy and aristocratic families who organised celebrations in their rajbaris. Shobhabazar Rajbari is one of the best-known examples of this tradition. These household pujas were often grand affairs, reflecting the status, wealth and social position of their patrons.

However, the older system also had its limitations. The traditional household pujas could be exclusive, and people from some communities or other religious backgrounds did not always have equal access to the celebrations. The social structure surrounding these events could reflect the inequalities of the time. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose drew attention to the significance of community-organised pujas and wrote a letter saying Durga Puja must be made more accessible by having community pandals to encourage socialisation. The distinction between the old household pujas and the Barowari puja is important because the latter helped make the festival more accessible to a wider section of society. The Barowari tradition represented a form of democratisation. Instead of remaining confined to a particular royal or aristocratic household, Durga Puja increasingly became a collective celebration in which the wider community could participate. The festival's social reach expanded, and its public character grew stronger.

This transformation is an important part of Bengal's cultural history.

Shah's proposed visit to both Belur Math and prominent puja destinations can therefore be understood in this context. He will not merely be visiting a series of pandals, but connecting with the cultural traditions that have shaped Bengal over generations.

THE BJP'S CULTURAL STRATEGY: BOOKS, FESTIVALS AND BENGALI IDENTITY

The same strategy can be seen in the BJP's approach to book festivals and literary events. The party's cultural outreach in Bengal is not limited to Durga Puja. It also seeks to challenge the narrative that the BJP is opposed to Bengali literature, books or the state's intellectual traditions. The CPI(M) and other political opponents have raised concerns about the BJP's cultural approach, suggesting that the party could restrict or undermine activities associated with Bengal's literary life. The BJP has countered this by organising book-related activities and selling books at Durga Puja venues.

This is an example of how political parties use cultural activities to challenge their opponents' narratives. The BJP wants to demonstrate that it can participate in Bengal's cultural life rather than remain confined to electoral politics.

The strategy also has to be understood against the backdrop of the party's earlier political messaging in the state. Before the election, Amit Shah had spoken about the need to strengthen Bengali-medium education and address concerns involving students educated in Bengali.

At the same time, the BJP's relationship with certain cultural and religious organisations has generated controversy. During earlier Durga Puja celebrations, remarks about people who eat non-vegetarian food, including fish and meat, were interpreted by critics as attempts to impose a more rigid version of Hindu identity on Bengal's traditions. Such controversies have sometimes intensified concerns that the cultural approach associated with some Hindu organisations is not fully aligned with the more pluralistic character of Bengali society.

The activities of ISKCON and other Hindu organisations have also formed part of the broader discussion about religious identity in Bengal. Some organisations have adopted a more assertive form of Hindu cultural expression, which has occasionally generated debate about how much space such approaches leave for Bengal's diverse traditions.

Bengal's cultural identity cannot, however, be understood through a single religious or political lens. Swami Vivekananda, for instance, remains a central figure in the state's intellectual and spiritual history. His legacy is part of a Bengali cultural character that developed over centuries through the interaction of religious thought, social reform, literature, philosophy and public life.

Shah and the BJP are attempting to connect with this historical and cultural inheritance. Their challenge is to demonstrate that they understand the distinctive character of Bengali society and can engage with it without reducing its traditions to a narrow political identity.

RAY-BAN'S BILLIONAIRE FAMILY DRAMA IS HITTING NEW LOWS

ANDREA FELSTED



There are car crash interviews, and then there is Leonardo Maria Del Vecchio's podcast appearance this week.

The 31-year-old son of EssilorLuxottica SA founder Leonardo Del Vecchio, one of eight heirs to his fortune, made a series of remarkable revelations on the popular rapper-hosted Pulp Podcast, including his struggles with drug abuse and his extremely active sex life.

This was just the latest episode in a broader corporate drama unfolding at the Franco-Italian company -- owner of Ray-Ban, and partner to Meta Platforms Inc. on AI smart glasses -- which has contributed to a near halving of its share price in the space of a year.

The young Del Vecchio has in effect become an activist stakeholder in his family's firm, railing against its management and trying to become its most powerful investor. He hoped going on the podcast would show his human side, away from the name and money. Instead he deepened concerns about his judgment and wellbeing. The bizarre spectacle has harmed his campaign, even if his representatives insist otherwise.

EssilorLuxottica was already the stuff of Italian capitalist legend. Its creator Leonardo was put into an orphanage by his widowed mother because she could not afford to feed him. He went on to build the world's cal industry. In the years before his death at 87 in 2022, he put in place a structure at the family's holding company, Delfin, which would pay out handsome dividends to his heirs but effectively stop them selling out. Delfin owns roughly a third of EssilorLuxottica, as well as hefty stakes in Italian banks and insurers.

The holding company's ownership is split between eight heirs: six children born to three mothers; Leonardo's widow Nicoletta Zampillo; and Rocco Basilico, her son from a separate marriage. unanimous. That achieving such a consensus was nigh on impossible suited the patriarch. He wanted EssilorLuxotttica to continue unchanged, helmed by his closest adviser, Francesco Milleri, who also chairs Delfin.

This all held together until this year, when tensions between the beneficiaries finally erupted. Some of them are frustrated about not being able to make changes that would let them monetize their holdings or get more of a say in how things are run. Leonardo siblings to make himself a dominant shareholder. His -10 billion ($11.2 billion) plan was approved by a family vote in April, but the financing was complicated by a drop in EssilorLuxottica shares.

Delfin subsequently decided it wouldn't backstop the transaction. And Leonardo Maria's half-brother Basilico has proposed a rival deal: separating the core eyewear stake from Delfin's other financial and insurance holdings, allowing the latter to be sold to raise cash for family members or to reorganize Delfin. With all of this going on, it's hard to see how this week's interview helped Leonardo Maria. He resigned in August from his roles as the group's chief strategy officer and president of Ray-Ban, launching a broadside against Milleri and other top EssilorLuxottica managers.

He doubled down on his complaints on the podcast, indicating that stepping away from day-to-day management had strengthened his own ability to challenge the company's current regime. "I am a shareholder. I took a step up, let that be very clear, I didn't take a step down," he said. EssilorLuxottica "has a name, Del Vecchio, and I cannot put my face behind it when salaries are frozen and shares are dropping 50%."

Alongside comments that his father "gave us all but love," and that "I have filled the gaps I felt with drugs," he revealed that he had -1 bil-

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

GARGI RAWAT



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

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL OPENS ITS BENGALURU CAMPUS, WELCOMING INAUGURAL COHORT OF 300 STUDENTS



Bengaluru October, 2026: The University of Liverpool today officially opened its Bengaluru campus, making it the first Russell Group university campus in Karnataka. Located in Bengaluru's Alembic City, Whitefield, the campus welcomes nearly 300 students in its inaugural cohort.

Guests heard from the Hon'ble Shri M. B. Patil, Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, Steve Rotheram Mayor of the Liverpool City Region and Liverpool Football Club (LFC) legend and University of Liverpool alumnus, Robbie Fowler to celebrate this landmark moment in India-UK higher education cooperation.

Also present to celebrate this significant milestone in India-UK higher education collaboration were Harshbir Sangha MBE FRSA, British Deputy Commissioner to Karnataka; Alison Barrett, Director, British Council India; academic partners; and a range of industry leaders.

FIRST COHORT OF STUDENTS CELEBRATED

The opening celebrations also marked the beginning of an academic journey for the University of Liverpool Bengaluru's inaugural cohort, with nearly 300 students commencing their studies at the campus.

The University of Liverpool Bengaluru is offering an initial portfolio of programmes in Computer Science, Game Design, Business Management, Accounting and Finance, and Biomedical Sciences. Situated in Alembic City, Whitefield, the purpose-built campus provides a flexible and integrated learning environment featuring smart classrooms, research and innovation spaces, collaboration hubs, specialised laboratories and access to Bloomberg terminals.

Students will benefit from a learning experience that combines academic excellence with industry engagement, experiential learning and global exposure. Designed to prepare graduates for the future workforce, the University's programmes emphasise practical application, critical thinking, interdisciplinary collaboration and opportunities to engage with industry leaders and researchers.

LIVERPOOL AND INDIA LINKS CELEBRATED

The celebrations saw Shilpa Nag, Special Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority and Tim Games, Executive Director for Investment and Delivery of Liverpool City Region, mark the intention to build on collaboration between their regions through a Joint Declaration of Intent signing. An economic panel session explored opportunities for growth following the India-UK Free Trade Agreement.

The opening celebrations highlighted the strong and enduring links between Liverpool and India. Guests celebrated the legacy of Indian-born Nobel Laureate, Professor Har Gobind Khorana, who completed his PhD at the University of Liverpool in 1948, with a lecture theatre named in his honour.

Samsung Announces 'Big, Bigger, Biggest' Celebrations This Diwali with Festive Offers on Big Screen TVs



GURUGRAM, India – October , 2026 – Samsung India today announced its 'Big, Bigger, Biggest' campaign for consumers, offering exciting deals on its range of Vision AI-powered big-screen TVs during this festive season. Built around the spirit of celebrations, family gatherings and shared evenings, the campaign makes it easier for consumers to upgrade to Samsung's latest AI-powered televisions for a more immersive viewing experience.

As part of the festive offers, consumers purchasing select Samsung TVs can avail a free Samsung Soundbar worth up to INR 110990 or a free Samsung Vision AI TV worth up to INR 159990. The offer also includes up to 20% cashback, zero down payment options and a 3-year comprehensive warranty, making it easier for consumers to upgrade their home entertainment experience this festive season.

Customers buying eligible Samsung Vision AI televisions within municipal limits can get their Samsung products installed within four hours of registering a request, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

"Diwali is a time when families and friends come together to celebrate, share joyful moments and create lasting memories. With our Vision AI-powered big-screen TVs, Samsung is bringing larger, smarter, and more immersive home entertainment experiences to consumers. With exciting festive offers, flexible payment options, cashbacks, and value-added services, we are making it easier for families to bring home a bigger screen and enjoy an enhanced entertainment experience this festive season," said Viplesh Dang, Vice-President of the Visual Display Business, Samsung India. Samsung's Vision AI-powered TVs bring intelligent features to the big screen, helping enhance picture and sound while offering a more personalized viewing experience. The range is designed to make everyday entertainment more immersive, whether consumers are watching their favourite shows, movies, sports or festive programming with family and friends.

With a vast lineup from 32" to 115", Samsung Vision AI TVs cater to diverse consumer needs, featuring sleek, lifestyle-integrated designs and SmartThings solutions for enhanced connectivity. Samsung's 'Made for India' Plus Benefits (Samsung TV Plus, Samsung Care+, Samsung Art+, Samsung Sound+, Samsung Finance+, and 7-year OS upgrade) ensures that every aspect of your TV ownership experience is enriched.

Samsung TV Plus offers free access to 200+ streaming channels, Samsung Sound+ gives immersive sound experience, Samsung Care+ provides extended warranty, and with Samsung Finance+, customers get flexible, paperless financing options. With Samsung Art+, customers get 3-month free access to the Samsung Art Store, transforming their homes into personalized art galleries. Customers buying Samsung Vision AI TVs also benefit from up to seven years of OS upgrades, ensuring long-term entertainment and satisfaction. About Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.

Samsung inspires the world and shapes the future with transformative ideas and technologies.

Infrastructure and power sector expected to attract funding in H2FY27: Brickwork Ratings



17th October 2026, Mumbai: According to Brickwork Ratings (BWR), infrastructure and power are expected to attract funding in the second half of FY27, supported by project execution and timely payments. Commercial real estate is likely to drive funding flows in services, while gold loans and loans against property will support non-banking financial company (NBFC) lending. However, small NBFCs with significant microfinance exposure remain stressed.

Public spending, steady domestic demand supported credit profile resilience

India Inc's credit profile remained resilient in H1FY27 despite elevated crude oil prices, deficient monsoon rainfall and tighter global monetary conditions. Data from major Indian rating agencies showed 2.7 upgrades for every downgrade during April-September 2026, compared with 2.4 a year earlier. Downgrades declined 11%, while upgrades remained steady. "Infrastructure, power, capital goods, auto components and secondary steel led upgrades, supported by public spending and steady domestic demand. Textiles, ceramics, diamonds and specialty chemicals faced pressure from weak exports and competition from cheaper imports," said K. H. Patnaik, Chief Ratings Officer, BWR.

BWR-rated companies recorded 3.3 upgrades for every downgrade, with upgrades accounting for 35% of rating reviews. Corporate debt relative to equity declined to approximately 0.7 times in FY25 from 1.1 times in FY20, providing companies with greater borrowing headroom. "The lesson for companies is simple: a strong credit rating is now a funding asset," added Patnaik, highlighting the importance of creditworthiness as financing conditions tighten.

Services credit growth driven by commercial real estate; weak rainfall hurt discretionary demand

Non-food bank credit grew 18.8% year-on-year in August 2026, compared with 10.2% a year earlier, while corporate bond fundraising declined 34% during April-June. During the same period, services credit grew 24.3%, with commercial real estate among the key drivers. In this segment, Hyderabad could benefit from its strongest-ever first half for office leasing.

Meanwhile, exporters face renewed US tariff risks, while rural and discretionary demand could weaken, particularly in southern India, where rainfall was 24% below normal.

Friends Adult Pants Unveils New Campaign on the Silent Struggle of Incontinence Among Middle-Aged Women



October 2026: Nobel Hygiene Limited's adult diaper brand, Friends, has launched a new television commercial (TVC) that reframes the conversation around adult incontinence among middle-aged women. Moving beyond the familiar narrative of destigmatising incontinence itself, the campaign zeroes in on a more immediate barrier to category adoption: hesitation of first-time trials.

In India, one in three women above the age of 45 lives with chronic urinary incontinence, often in silence, quietly restructuring her life around the condition rather than seeking a solution - from limiting where she goes and how long she stays out to changing what she wears and even who she meets. Over time, this takes a toll on their physical, mental and social well-being, shaping everyday choices in ways that go largely unspoken.

Incontinence carries its own stigma, but adult diapers introduce a second, less obvious barrier. Widely perceived as products for the elderly or bedridden, they can trigger embarrassment and hesitation among middle-aged women who don't identify with that image. Concerns on whether the product will reliably prevent leakage, and discretion, compounded by deeply ingrained stigma, continue to distance them from the product.

Commenting on the campaign, Kartik Kamal Johari, Chief Marketing & Growth Officer, Nobel Hygiene Limited, said: "With women accounting for nearly 70% of chronic urinary incontinence sufferers in India, which is an estimated 14 million middle-aged women. This is too large and too underserved an audience to overlook. Urinary incontinence quietly influences how women navigate everyday life at different stages. While conversations around the condition itself are opening up, the stigma attached to adult diapers remains a significant barrier to adoption. Our focus with this campaign is to reposition adult diapers as a practical enabler, one that lets women travel, socialise and stay active with confidence by building trust in both the product and its performance."

Conceptualised by Sideways, the TVC tells the story of a middle-aged woman preparing to travel with friends. On their recommendation, she agrees to try an adult diaper for the first time before the trip but despite their reassurance, she remains apprehensive about whether it will hold up when she needs it most. Her hesitation captures a familiar first-time-user concern: whether the product can be trusted to manage sudden, involuntary leakage once she steps outside the comfort of home.

Speaking on the campaign, Abhijit Avasthi, Founder, Sideways, said, "We wanted to approach a sensitive category through a moment that feels positive, familiar, and human. At the heart of the campaign is a simple idea: with friends, you feel more reassured. From there, it was about seamlessly integrating this idea with the product."

Trust plays two roles. First, in the advice of loved ones, and, ultimately, trust in the product's performance. The new tagline, "Bharose wali Dosti," captures the shift by positioning "Trust" as the bridge between the reassurance of loved ones and confidence in the product.

The campaign also promotes occasion-based travel alongside everyday usage among middle-aged women, positioning adult diapers as lifestyle-enabling products that support dignity, independence and mobility, rather than a marker of age or dependency.

Rising Inflation, Super El Niño and Geopolitical Risks to Weigh on Markets; PL Capital Sets NIFTY Target at 27,589

- NIFTY has declined 8.2% over the past six weeks, with near-term weakness likely before market consolidation; a V-shaped recovery appears unlikely
- A 13% monsoon deficit, the likelihood of a very strong El Niño and rising commodity prices pose risks to inflation, rural demand and corporate earnings

Mumbai October 2026: PL Capital, one of India's most trusted financial services organisations, in its latest India Strategy Report titled "The Perfect Storm: Rising Macro and Geopolitical Risks," believes that escalating geopolitical tensions, rising inflation, deficient monsoons and higher interest rates are likely to keep Indian equity markets under pressure in the near term. While domestic economic growth and corporate demand have remained resilient, the brokerage cautions that mounting macroeconomic headwinds could weigh on consumption, earnings and foreign investor flows. PL Capital has revised its 12-month NIFTY target to 27,589 from 27,133 earlier, while expecting markets to remain volatile and potentially move lower before entering a consolidation phase.

According to report, the NIFTY is down by 8.2% during the last six weeks and 6% year-to-date, thereby making India one of the weakest performing economies among the major economies of the world. This is primarily due to continuous selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) on account of fears relating to the effect of inadequate monsoon rains, rising cost of crude and agricultural commodities, high bond yields, and the growing Iran-US conflict, which has now spilled into the broader Middle East region. PL Capital believes that such a scenario may increase uncertainty in the stock market.

Regarding earnings, PL Capital expects sales growth of 16.2% and EBITDA growth of 14.7% on YoY basis in 2QFY27 without Oil & Gas. In terms of coverage universe, the brokerage firm is forecasting sales growth of 24.1%, EBITDA growth of 10.4% and Profit before Tax growth of 8.6%. On the contrary, the pressure from cost side of the business is rising with 16 out of 27 industry segments showing lower EBITDA margins. As highlighted by PL Research, firms are gradually starting to face the brunt of higher-cost inventories which were purchased during the period when crude oil and other input costs were high.

The report cites the poor monsoon and the possibility of a very strong El Nino as the risks to inflation and consumption. The monsoon season of India finished with a 13% deficit in rainfall, which is seen in 17 out of 36 meteorological subdivisions, accounting for 42% of the country's total geographical spread. The water reservoirs also stood at 21% lower than the levels last year, putting soil moisture and the coming Rabi crop season in danger. PL Capital suggests that the effects might not be restricted to the domestic agriculture alone, as the El Nino-induced climate disruptions around the globe might affect the production of agriculture produce like soybeans, coffee, cocoa, and palm oil. Given that food accounts for around 40% of the inflation basket of India, high prices of agricultural commodities can maintain the level of inflation.

Monetary policy support to growth is also becoming less favorable. The RBI increased the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50%, which was its first rate increase since February 2023, and the RBI changed its monetary policy stance to "Calibrated Tightening". The RBI revised its inflation forecast for FY27 to 5.2%, with inflation seen at 6.0% in Q3FY27 and 5.7% in Q4FY27. PL Capital feels that continued high oil prices, inflation in agriculture commodities, and supply chain disruptions might cause sustained inflation pressure, with further chances of more rate increases based on the inflation-growth trajectory. Higher interest rates, along with higher prices of essential and discretionary items, may dampen consumer spending momentum after the festivals.

Rare pink diamond goes on display in France 100 years after amateur heist



A rare pink diamond is going on display in France for the first time since it was stolen almost 100 years ago to the day - the last time it was shown to the public. The nine-carat, pear-shaped gemstone known as the "Grand Condé" was pilfered in an overnight raid on the Château de Chantilly in October 1926 and concealed in a hollowed-out apple. The diamond - one of few royal jewels to survive the French Revolution - was recovered a few weeks later when a hungry maid at the hotel in which the thieves were staying took a bite of the apple. It will once again be on display in the Condé Museum at the Château de Chantilly until 3 January. The museum's director Mathieu Deldicque said that while the apple story may sounds far-fetched, it was widely covered by newspapers at the time. Deldicque has faced questions about whether the exhibition may be tempting fate, especially given the string of heists on European cultural institutions in the past 12 months, including the daring daylight robbery of jewellery from the Louvre museum in Paris. While he declined to reveal to CNN how much the diamond was insured for, he noted that extensive academic study into the properties of the diamond had taken place to make it uniquely identifiable. The results of this analysis, as well as previously unseen archive material about the gem's history and theft, form part of the exhibition, according to the museum.

Naturally occurring pink diamonds are exceptionally rare and often sell for tens of millions of dollars. The highest price ever fetched for one at auction was $71.2m (£53.6m) in 2017, according to Sotheby's. The exact origins of the Grand Condé remain a mystery. It was first mentioned in 1740 in an inventory of Louis Henri de Bourbon, Prince of Condé, drawn up following his death, the Château de Chantilly said. It then became part of the collection of Queen Marie-Amélie of Bourbon-Sicily, the wife of French King Louis Philippe I, and then her son, Prince Henri of Orléans, the Duke of Aumale. He bequeathed it to the Institut de France, which now owns the Château de Chantilly, 50km (31 miles) north of Paris, along with thousands of artworks and manuscripts which became the Musée Condé collection.

Trump waives several Russia sanctions as row with Zelensky intensifies



Donald Trump has blocked numerous sanctions on Russia two days before they were due to take effect, as a row with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky deepens. The sanctions were passed by the US Congress and signed into law by Trump in September. But the US president issued an executive order on Friday night saying that suspending some was in the US "national interest", prompting a backlash from US lawmakers. Zelensky said it was unfortunate the US has decided to "completely disregard" the sanctions. Relations between Washington and Kyiv frayed after the US struck a controversial deal to import Russian diesel. Ukraine then accused the Trump administration of withdrawing key military support. Trump and Zelensky have exchanged sharp words about one another. Ukraine's president declared it was nice to be among "real leaders" while addressing an EU summit, after Trump said Zelensky was "more difficult to deal with" than Russian President Vladimir Putin. The new US sanctions law took aim at Russia's economy, giving Trump broad powers to levy tariffs of up to 100% on imports from the top five purchasers of Russian oil and gas – most significantly China and India. It also included sanctions against senior Russian figures, including Putin, as well as Russian financial institutions and Moscow's so-called "shadow fleet" of vessels used to circumvent existing embargoes. Many of these provisions have now been waived by Trump. Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev called the waiver "an important and truly historic moment". Posting on X, he said the sanctions would have inflicted "serious damage" primarily on the US and global market, and that economic cooperation benefits both nations. Democrats including the Virginia Congressman Don Beyer have criticised the move, accusing Trump of capitulating to Moscow and turning his back on Kyiv and Zelensky. "Trump's latest surrender to Putin again betrays our Ukrainian partners and defies clear congressional intent of legislation designed to punish Russia for its illegal war of aggression," Beyer wrote on X. The move is likely to draw further anger from Ukraine, where Zelensky has long stressed the need for stringent sanctions to limit funding Russia can use in its war effort. Zelensky said on Saturday morning that the sanctions "could have helped enormously" and that the law was "supposed to impose truly effective pressure on Russia to bring this war to an end". He pointed to Russian overnight attacks on 15 Ukrainian energy facilities that had caused power cuts in several regions and said: "Russia is trying to cause a blackout in Ukraine – right before winter." Zelensky said was "important that everyone in America also sees what is really happening" on the ground. He later told reporters that he believed the Trump administration would lift more sanctions against Russia. He also said negotiators Ukrainian spoke to their US counterparts on Friday and that both teams could meet next week. Trump was initially criticised by Zelensky and Ukraine's European allies for temporarily suspending some US sanctions to import Russian diesel in a bid to bring down US energy prices, which have skyrocketed during the Iran war. Trump has spent months grappling with the political consequences of the Middle East conflict, which has sent fuel costs soaring ahead of the US midterm elections. Rising inflation has soured Trump's standing with the American public. Zelensky suggested the deal was tantamount to the US investing in Russia's war effort. A few days later, Trump claimed that both Russia and Ukraine had agreed to an "energy ceasefire" to facilitate the export of Russian diesel. Both nations have been intensively striking one another's energy infrastructure. Kyiv says this is to limit revenue for Russia's war machine, while Moscow claims it only targets facilities used by the Ukrainian military. Zelensky initially expressed surprise at Trump's announcement, and said Kyiv would stop the strikes if Russia did the same. After three days which saw several fresh attacks from Russia, Kyiv resumed its strikes on Russian oil refineries. This prompted scathing condemnation from Trump, who called the strikes a "disgrace". Zelensky replied that he was "only standing up for Ukraine's interests". Concerns that Trump is siding with Russia have been heightened by disruption to a US-provided satellite system used by Ukraine. Last week Starlink suddenly and unexpectedly restricted the speed at which drones could fly while still maintaining internet connection. This disrupted some battlefield missions, Ukraine said, and hampered Kyiv's ability to protect itself from incoming Russian attacks. During the slowdown, Russia launched several deadly strikes on Ukraine, with residents and the government saying these came with no prior warning. Zelensky said on Friday that Starlink speeds had still not been fully restored. Trump has denied halting intelligence-sharing and deliberately slowing down Ukraine's Starlink network. Ukrainian authorities have confirmed that at least nine people have been killed and around 60 injured in Russian strikes across the country over the past 24 hours.

KATIE ZACHARIA LEAVING WHITE HOUSE ROLE LESS THAN FIVE DAYS INTO JOB



Katie Zacharia will be leaving her post as White House press secretary, just five days after her shaky public debut. US President Donald Trump told reporters moments before news of her exit was announced that he had told her "you don't have to do this if you don't want to" and "honestly, if I were you, I'd reconsider". Zacharia faced heavy criticism for her first press briefing on Tuesday, which lasted less than 15 minutes and included only three questions from reporters. The 42-year-old spent the days following playing defence, fielding tough questions from news outlets about her credentials and preparedness for the job. Trump hinted at her impending exit early on Friday afternoon, during an impromptu news conference in front of the Marine One helicopter. "I said, 'Is this for you, Katie? Because honestly, you don't need this'," Trump said. "You don't have to be treated this badly," he continued, adding that he believed she had been treated "pretty nastily" by the media. Hours later, she praised Trump as "kind, wonderful, gracious, thoughtful, enthusiastic, and the most hardworking man" on X, writing that it had been an honour to work for him. As the November midterm elections, which will decide who controls the US Congress, draw closer, Democrats are seizing on Zacharia's abrupt departure as a sign of failure in the Republican White House. "The White House Press Secretary is gone. Maga extremists continue to fall apart," the top Democrat in the House of Representatives, Hakeem Jeffries, posted on X. Zacharia appeared visibly nervous during her inaugural White House press briefing, in which she read talking points from a notebook, answered only a few questions and referred to her husband as the president. During the briefing, a reporter asked Zacharia - who had been called an attorney by Trump and others and who graduated from Pepperdine University's law school - about where she passed the bar exam. To practise law in the US, an attorney must be admitted to a state's bar association by passing a rigorous exam. "When I was in China," she replied. After intense scrutiny and digging by the media, Zacharia admitted on Thursday that she did not pass the bar exam. She did say in a statement that she had practised international transaction law in China with the "appropriate credentials". Questions about her legal credentials became a major talking point throughout the week, with Sean Hannity, from conservative-leaning Fox News, lobbing particularly pointed questions at her during an interview on Thursday. When she said she had not passed the bar, he replied: "Why didn't you just say, 'I never practiced law?'" Zacharia also described how quickly she had taken on the press secretary role - having been hired less than a week before her debut - prompting him to ask: "Am I hearing that you think the staff should have better prepped you?" When she appeared on Fox & Friends, which Trump often watches, on Friday, Zacharia faced a similar line of questioning. She told the show's hosts that she did not disclose to Trump that she was not an attorney because "those questions weren't asked", saying she was hired for a communications role, not a legal one.

Three men jailed for 158 years each for murdering Australian and US surfers in Mexico



A Mexican judge has sentenced three men convicted of murdering Australian brothers Jake and Callum Robinson and their US friend Carter Rhoad to 158 years and nine months in jail each. The Robinsons and Rhoad were killed in an apparent botched robbery of their truck on a secluded beach in Baja California in 2024 while they were on a surfing trip, the court heard during the trial. The murders sent shockwaves around the world, particularly in Australia, as the area is usually safe from the violence seen in other parts of Mexico. The guilty verdict was handed down last week. Debra Robinson, the brothers' mother, told the courtroom that her sons' murders had taken "the future we had imagined with them". The convicted killers' full names were not given for legal reasons, meaning they were only identified as Jesús Gerardo, Irineo Francisco and Ángel Jesús. In November last year, the girlfriend of the alleged ringleader, Jesús Gerardo (alias "El Kekas"), was sentenced in a separate trial to 20 years in prison. She had admitted to involvement in the robbery. The court heard that the bodies of the victims were found dumped down a well with gunshot wounds to their heads.

NURSERY OWNER IN CHINA JAILED FOR LIFE AFTER HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN POISONED



Highlights

- A report into the incident found that chefs at Heshi Peixin had used inedible paint to "enhance the look" of its meals to attract more students - despite the paint being being clearly marked as such.

A nursery owner and five members of her staff have been jailed after they were found to have poisoned more than 200 children with lead-tainted food. Li Huifang, who operated the Heshi Peixin Kindergarten in Tianshui, in the Gansu province, was sentenced to life in prison for producing and selling toxic and harmful food, according to Chinese state media. In July 2025, 247 pupils and staff at the nursery were found to have abnormally high blood lead levels after children began falling ill. A report into the incident found that chefs at Heshi Peixin had used inedible paint to "enhance the look" of its meals to attract more students - despite the paint being being clearly marked as such. In addition to the sentence, the Lanzhou Intermediate People's Court also ordered the confiscation of 500,000 yuan (£56,200; $74,700) of Li's personal assets, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Nursery executive principal Zhi Jinglin was sentenced to 15 years in prison and fined 300,00 yuan. Four other members of staff who worked in the nursery's kitchen received sentences of between six to eight years, according to state media. The court found the four had been instructed by Li and Zhi to add toxic and harmful ingredients to food served to children and staff. Food samples were later found to contain lead 2,000 times in excess of China's national safety limit. The investigation into the poisoning began after 235 children from Heshi Peixin nursery had to be treated for lead poisoning after eating steamed red date cakes and sausage corn buns. Investigators found that the red date cake and the corn sausage rolls had lead levels of 1052mg/kg and 1340mg/kg respectively, both of which far exceed the national food safety standard limit of 0.5mg/kg. Lead poisoning is "particularly harmful to young children" and can "severely damage the brain and central nervous system", according to the World Health Organization. Officials later found that dozens of provincial officials and hospital staff attempted to cover up the incident by tampering with blood tests and accepting bribes from a nursery investor. China has since published a set of national guidelines for the provision of meals on campuses. Among the measures is the requirement for every new batch of food to be tested, and for flour, rice and cooking oil to be purchased from centralised procurement points only.

Oregon teacher fought school attacker before armed dad shot suspect 'multiple times'



A female teacher in the US state of Oregon tackled a teenage shooter who entered her classroom and tried to wrestle the gun from his grasp, police have said. The teacher, who has not been named, threw her mobile phone before trying to disarm the 16-year-old on the floor of a classroom at Silver Rail Elementary in the city of Bend. The attacker killed three children and a teacher after shooting his way into the building on Thursday. He was shot dead by a father with two daughters at the school, who was driving past as the attack started to unfold and, armed with a pistol, ran in to confront the suspect. Police said the attacker used to be a student at the school. His motive remains unclear. He had been armed with about 44 more rounds of shotgun ammunition when he was stopped, police said. He fired as many as 15 rounds in the class. "To the people who showed courage in the face of such violence and intervened to prevent this tragedy from being any worse, we owe you a debt of gratitude," Bend Police Chief Mike Krantz said. Police used a news conference on Friday to identify two of the four victims of the school shooting. They were five-year-old Rhoam Summer and 25-year-old teacher Meghan Lambert.



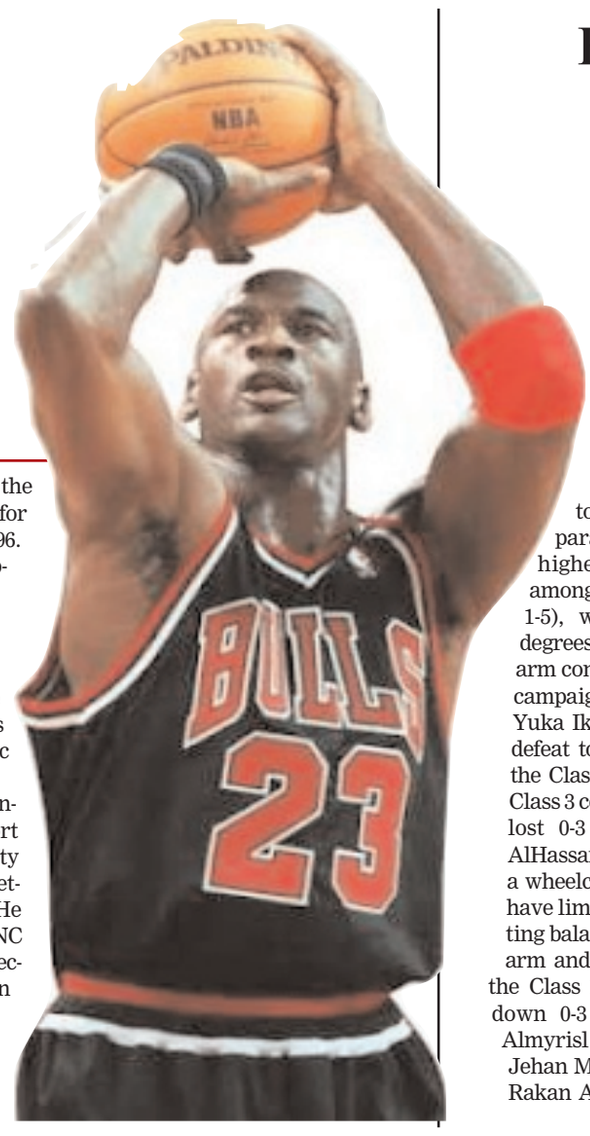
Major protest march held in Paris as more than 160 arrested across France

BRAZIL SEES RECORD FALL IN AMAZON DEFORESTATION AS KEY ELECTION LOOMS



Brazil's government says deforestation rates in the country's Amazon and savanna regions have fallen to record lows ahead of a presidential election run-off in which the rainforest's future is a key issue. Left-wing President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, when he assumed office three years ago, pledged to end deforestation by 2030 in the Amazon. It had surged under his right-wing predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro. Lula will face Bolsonaro's son Flavio in the run-off on 25 October, with polls suggesting a neck-and-neck race. Flavio is expected to continue his father's policies if he wins, though he has pledged to fight organised crime in the Amazon. Satellite data shows that in the year to July 2026, the deforestation rate fell by 41.8% in the Amazon - the biggest drop since records began in 1988. The fall in the Cerrado, Brazil's savanna region, was 23.8%. The Amazon rainforest - the world's largest - is a crucial buffer in the global fight against climate change and 60% of it is located in Brazil. Jair Bolsonaro promoted mining in indigenous lands in the Amazon and forest clearances soared at the same time as resources to protect the forest were cut. During Bolsonaro's presidency from 2019 to 2022, the Amazon lost nearly 60% more in forest lands compared to the previous four years, news agency AFP reported, citing official data. Lula reversed his policies and oversaw deforestation rates drop to a six-year low during his first year in office. Lula tightened up environmental monitoring and penalties for illegal logging. "Our goal is to achieve zero illegal deforestation by 2030," he said in a post on X on Friday. Tropical rainforests like the Amazon are home to millions of species. In a healthy state, they absorb vast quantities of planet-warming carbon dioxide, helping to keep the Earth cool. But they have come under increasing pressure from decades of deliberate land clearance for agriculture and logging, as well as climate change, which scientists warn can create conditions for wildfires. Brazil's Environment Minister Joao Paulo Capobianco described the decline in Amazon deforestation as "absolutely stratospheric". It was an "historic achievement" for Brazil, said Marcio Astrini, executive secretary at climate advocacy group Observatorio do Clima.

MICHAEL JORDAN DONATES $10 MILLION TO UNC



Michael Jordan, the popular NBA legend, remains indomitable on the court. But his effort for the community is as incredible as his performance. A few years back, he announced a massive grant to Novant healthcare. And now the veteran made a major contribution to the University of North Carolina to honour his mom, Deloris Jordan. The NBA legend donated $10 million to UNC's School of Social Work. The gift is the largest in the school's history and will help support students preparing for careers in social work. Michael Jordan's $10 Million Gift Will Support Social Work Students

The donation will fund the new Jordan Family Scholars program. Ten Master of Social Work students will receive scholarships worth $12,500 each as the program's first recipients.

In a statement, Jordan opened up about his decision. He said, "My mother has always believed in the power of helping children, families and communities, and she has spent her life putting that belief into action."

He further made an emotional remark "North Carolina will always be home," adding that he hoped the gift would help more students pursue work that supports families and communities.

Prior to this, back in 2017, Novant Health announced a $7 million gift from Jordan to open two health clinics for families in the city. The clinics were intended to serve some of the city's most at-risk communities.

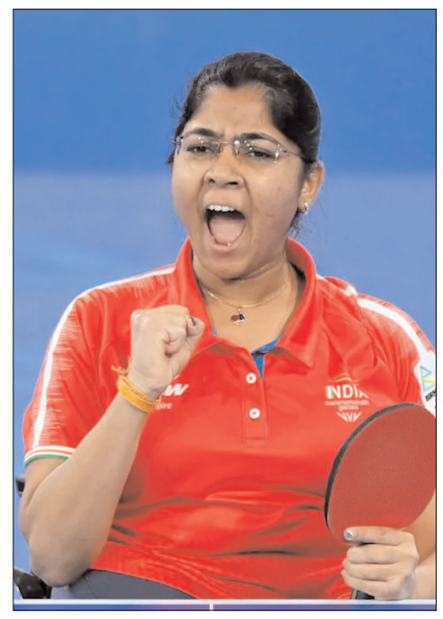
Then Novant Health reported that the two clinics had given patients more than 9,000 visits in 2023 alone. These moves sort of depicts Jordan's full commitment to the society.

■ MICHAEL JORDAN'S CONNECTION TO UNC GOES BEYOND BASKETBALL

Jordan's latest gift adds to a relationship with UNC that began long before his NBA career took off. He played for the Tar Heels from 1981 to 1984 and hit the winning shot in the 1982 national championship game against Georgetown. His family also established the Jordan Institute for Families in 1996. The institute supports work involving maternal health, caregiving, mental health, home visiting programs and economic assistance.

The legend has continued to support the university beyond its basketball program. He has also helped UNC maintain its connection with Jordan Brand, which became the school's apparel partner.

Bhavina Patel Continues Winning Run At Asian Para Games



Paralympics silver medallist Bhavina Patel continued her winning run at the Asian Para Games, defeating Jordan's Faten Eleimat in the women's para table tennis competition on Saturday. Bhavina brushed aside Eleimat 11-6, 11-7, 11-4 in the women's singles Class 4-5 Group A match in just 17 minutes to finish on top of Group A. Classes 4 and 5 in para table tennis represent the higher-functioning categories among wheelchair athletes (Classes 1-5), where players have varying degrees of sitting balance and trunk or arm control. Sonalben Patel began her campaign with a 3-0 win over Japan's Yuka Ikeyama but then suffered a 0-3 defeat to South Korea's Migyu Lee in the Class 3 event. In the men's singles Class 3 competition, Shubham Wadhwa lost 0-3 to Saudi Arabia's Ibrahim AlHassan. Class 3 in para table tennis is a wheelchair category for athletes who have limited trunk control and poor sitting balance but normal or near-normal arm and hand function. Competing in the Class 1 category, Ekta Bhyan went down 0-3 to Saudi Arabia's Maryam Almyrisl in the women's singles, while Jehan Madan lost 1-3 to Saudi Arabia's Rakan Alsalmi. Class 1 is the category for athletes with the most severe physical impairments among wheelchair competitors. It includes players who have no sitting balance and a severe reduction in playing-arm function, typically due to a spinal cord injury or polio. Dattaprasad Chougule lost 0-3 to local paddler Koyo Iwabuchi in a men's singles Class 9 group-stage match. Class 9 in para table tennis is a standing category for athletes with mild physical impairments affecting their legs or playing arm, or severe impairments affecting their non-playing arm.

INDIA EYE STRONG PARA ASIAN GAMES CAMPAIGN DESPITE REDUCED CONTINGENT



India will look to build on its record-breaking performance at the last Asian Para Games, but a much smaller contingent and selection disputes in two disciplines could make matching its 111-medal haul a challenge when the competition begins on Sunday. India finished fifth in Hangzhou in 2023 with 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze medals, its best-ever haul at the continental multi-sport event. The challenge in Aichi-Nagoya will be different, with the country fielding around 168 athletes across 11 disciplines, compared to 303 in China. Tighter participation quotas and changes to the events on offer have contributed to the reduction. With fewer athletes competing, matching the previous overall tally will be difficult, and much will depend on how India's established medal-winners perform and whether its emerging athletes can make their mark on the continental stage. India's campaign at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games got underway on Saturday, with action beginning in para-badminton, para-table tennis, boccia and blind football ahead of Sunday's official opening ceremony. India missed out on fourth place in Hangzhou to South Korea by just one gold medal. Improving on that position will be a challenge, and a strong gold-medal tally, backed by podium finishes across disciplines, would make for a successful campaign even if India fall short of its record 111-medal haul. Para-athletics, India's biggest contributor in Hangzhou with 55 medals (18 gold, 17 silver and 20 bronze), will again be central to the campaign. However, the number of Indian competitors in the discipline has fallen from 123 to 62, a reduction of nearly 50 per cent that leaves the team with less depth across track and field events. Paralympic champion and world-record holder Sumit Antil, who competes in the F64 javelin throw, will be among India's leading medal prospects.

2 Australians In Mumbai Indians' 5-Man Head Coach Shortlist As Mahela Jayawardene Quits: Sources



As Mahela Jayawardene leaves the Mumbai Indians, the hunt for the franchise's next head coach has already started. On Saturday, Mumbai Indians announced that Jayawardene has decided to step down from his role, after about a decade of association with the franchise. Sources within the Mumbai Indians have revealed that the owners have prepared a 5-man shortlist for the head coach's role, with the interview process set to begin from Sunday. Among the 5 names shortlisted for the role, there are two Australians, including former Chennai Super Kings batting coach Michael Hussey. Sources told NDTV that other than Hussey, Aaron Finch, Adrian Birrell, Mark Boucher and Eoin Morgan are the names who will start giving interviews. With the IPL 2027 auction not too far, it wouldn't be a surprise if the name of Jayawardene's successor is announced in the coming days. Michael Hussey is undoubtedly among the strongest contenders, having held a coaching position with the Chennai franchise for a period of 9 years. Known as "Mr. Cricket," his calm, methodical approach is excellent for player development and stabilising high-pressure environments. He understands Indian pitches, conditions, and opposition strategies intimately, which makes him an asset. Aaron Finch, who led Australia to the 2021 T20 World Cup title, might also be an interesting candidate. Over the years, he has demonstrated clear strategic foresight and leadership to deliver under pressure. His experience of playing for multiple IPL franchises also gives him a thorough understanding of the tournament's landscape and Indian conditions. As for Eoin Morgan, he is the man who revolutionised England's white-ball culture with an aggressive, data-driven approach that aligns with MI's brand of high-octane cricket. He is regarded as one of the finest modern tactical minds in white-ball cricket, someone who excels in matchups, resource management, and situational tactics.

Mega Changes At Mumbai Indians Begin, Coach Mahela Jayawardene Steps Down



Mahela Jayawardene stepped down as the head coach of Mumbai Indians, the update was shared by the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise on social media on Saturday. He served in the role for the side in two stints. The first was from 2017 to 2022, while the second lasted from 2024 to 2026. The resignation of Jayawardene marks the beginning of MI's massive transition that was around the corner. MI sources earlier confirmed to NDTV that the franchise is looking to trade its captain, Hardik Pandya, ahead of IPL 2027 and is open to proposals.

Talking about Jayawardene's decision, MI sources told NDTV that the management has started the process of finding a replacement for Jayawardene. The interviews will begin on Sunday, with the focus on bringing fresh eyes and minds to the team. Mahela has been much more than a Head Coach to Mumbai Indians. Under his leadership as Head Coach, Mumbai Indians won 3 IPL titles. Under Jayawardene as head coach, MI won three of their five titles, but the side performed poorly during the Sri Lankan's second stint. They finished at the bottom of the IPL 2024 points table. The following season, MI reached Qualifier 2 before ending IPL 2026 in ninth place.

"Some unforgettable moments": Here's what Jayawardene said

While talking about the big decision, Jayawardene said, "Mumbai Indians has been a very special part of my journey for over a decade now.

28-Year-Old Former AEW Star Eyes Chelsea Green's WWE Women's

Blake Monroe has made her interest in Chelsea Green's WWE Women's Championship pretty clear. The 28-year-old star touched the title during a backstage segment on the October 16 episode of SmackDown, and then she shared a picture of that moment on social media without adding any caption. Monroe was speaking with Nick Aldis about her ongoing issues with Giulia when Green entered the scene. Before leaving, Monroe pointed at the championship and told Green that her reign had lasted longer than she expected. It was a brief exchange, but Monroe hardly tried to hide where her attention is going.



Sophie Cunningham Criticises Angel Reese Over 'Dangerous' Play Before WNBA Finals

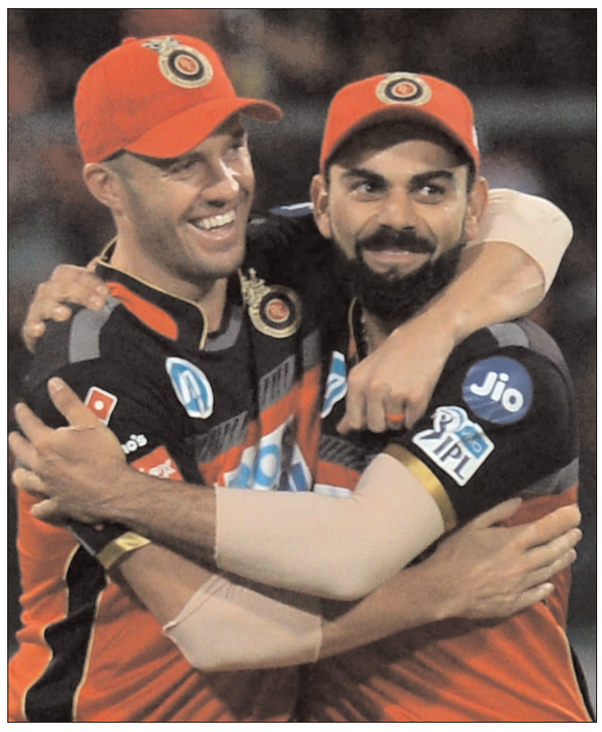


Sophie Cunningham has questioned why Angel Reese was not penalised for her actions during the WNBA semifinals, saying one of the plays was dangerous and could put other players at risk. The Indiana Fever guard spoke about Reese's confrontation with Sabrina Ionescu and her contact with Breanna Stewart during the Atlanta Dream's series against the New York Liberty. On her No Hesitation podcast, Cunningham said she understood Reese's desire to defend her teammates and praised her willingness to fight for the ball. However, she argued that playing hard should not mean putting opponents in danger. Reese's Atlanta side has since booked its place in the WNBA Finals.

Sophie Cunningham Says Angel Reese Should Have Received A Technical Foul Against Sabrina Ionescu

One incident that bothered Cunningham involved Ionescu during Game 3 of the semifinals. After the Liberty guard was called for an offensive foul on Atlanta's Iosbel Borlase, Reese followed her and got in her face. Cunningham said she respected Reese for standing up for a teammate, but believed the officials should have stepped in.

"Now, here we go … Angel, I appreciate her having her teammate's back. I think that just shows that she care and that she has love for her teammates," Cunningham said.



AB DE VILLIERS ADMITS KOHLI WAS "ARROGANT AND COCKY", REVEALS WHAT CHANGED HIM

There are few cricketers in world cricket who can boast a bond with Virat Kohli that extends as far beyond the field as AB de Villiers' does. Ever since the two first met on the pitch, they have been close friends. Their friendship truly blossomed when they began playing together for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Over the years, De Villiers' admiration for Kohli as both a cricketer and a person has grown manifold, but that does not change the fact that the former South Africa captain initially found the Indian stalwart "arrogant and cocky" when they first met. During a podcast with Prakhar Gupta, De Villiers was asked about his perception of Kohli when they first met. When asked if he really found Kohli "arrogant and Cocky", De Villiers responded saying: "Yeah, and I think he'll agree with that."

When asked to explain why that was the case, De Villiers said that the arrogance came from the fact that Kohli exuded a huge level of self-confidence.

"Just a high level of confidence and he's always played his cricket that way. It gets misinterpreted sometimes. In my case, that's what happened as well. He came across as overly confident," he said. "I mean, that was my first impression. It's always tongue-in-cheek when I say that, but I think he'll agree with that. He was a very confident youngster at the age of 19, 20, 21. Early days. That's also what's necessary to achieve great success. You really need to believe in your own ability and you just learn to manage that over the years," he added.

The South Africa great further explained that Kohli's arrogance gradually faded away as he climbed the ladder of success in the sport.

HAIKU' IS A SINCERE LOVE STORY THAT EXCITES US: KONA VENKAT



Starring Aegan, Sridevi (of Court fame), and Femina George as leads, the romantic entertainer 'Haiku' is being produced under the Vision Cinema House banner. Written and directed by Yuvaraj Chinnasamy, the film is produced by Dr. D. Arulanandu and Mathew Arulanandu. The movie is scheduled for release on October 23. Renowned writer and producer Kona Venkat and Director Ram Jagadeesh (of Court fame) attended the release press meet organized in Hyderabad on Saturday as chief guests. On this occasion... Heroine Sridevi said: This movie connected very deeply with my heart. As soon as I heard the story, I liked it immensely and immediately gave my nod. Whether you are in love, in a relationship, or a married couple, this film will appeal to everyone. You will see all the complications that exist in love in this movie. Aegan is very down-to-earth; it was a pleasure working with him. A big thanks to the director for handling me so calmly. Our entire team was extremely supportive. This is my debut. I hope you all enjoy it in theaters on October 23.

Hero Aegan said: I am new to the industry. Haiku is very close to my heart. We worked very hard on this film. I am extremely confident about it. Music director Sidhu Kumar has delivered the best music. I have known director Yuvaraj Chinnasamy for ten years, and we have now made a film together. We will 200% meet again in Hyderabad for the Haiku success meet. Director Ram Jagadeesh said: The Tamil film Haiku is now arriving in Telugu. My personal special interest in Haiku is Jabili (Sridevi). This marks her Tamil debut. She can speak any language with her eyes. She worked very hard for this film. The final output of the film has turned out very pleasant. The youth will strongly connect with this movie. All the best to the team.

Kona Venkat said: Haiku is releasing on October 23. As soon as I watched the trailer, it felt cool and refreshing. Selling the rights to an OTT platform first and then starting the shoot is truly commendable. The fact that they narrated the story to Netflix and made Haiku shows how much the script impressed them. This story will definitely excite everyone; it is a sincere love story.

OUR BELIEF HAS PAID OFF: SURIYADEVARA NAGA VAMSI EXPRESSES HAPPINESS OVER THE PHENOMENAL SUCCESS OF 'JAILER 2' IN TELUGU STATES



The phenomenal box-office performance of Superstar Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 in the Telugu states has brought immense joy to producer and distributor Suryadevara Naga Vamsi, who expressed his happiness over the film's encouraging response and strong theatrical performance.

The 2023 blockbuster Jailer, starring Superstar Rajinikanth and directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, created a sensation upon its release. Now, its sequel, Jailer 2, has arrived in theatres amid huge expectations. Produced by Kalanithi Maran under the Sun Pictures banner, the film was released on October 15 and received a positive response from audiences across sections right from its opening shows, with strong box-office collections.

The Telugu states' distribution rights were acquired by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi, head of the prominent production house Sithara Entertainments. The film has been performing strongly at the box office across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Against this backdrop, Naga Vamsi held a press meet to share his happiness over the film's performance. Mythri Shashi of Mythri Movie Distributors, who distributed the film in the Nizam region, also attended the event.



TRIPTI DIMRI KILLS IT IN KOREAN STYLE

Tripti Dimri is known for her natural acting and a fast growing fan base across India. She shot to wider fame with Animal, and has also won praise for Bulbbul, Qala, Bad Newz and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3.

Tripti shared pictures from Los Angeles in a relaxed Korean style street look. She wore a brown and white striped oversized tee with baggy light wash jeans and white sneakers. A beige cap, slim sunglasses and a black chain bag completed the outfit. She posed outside a Victoria's Secret store.

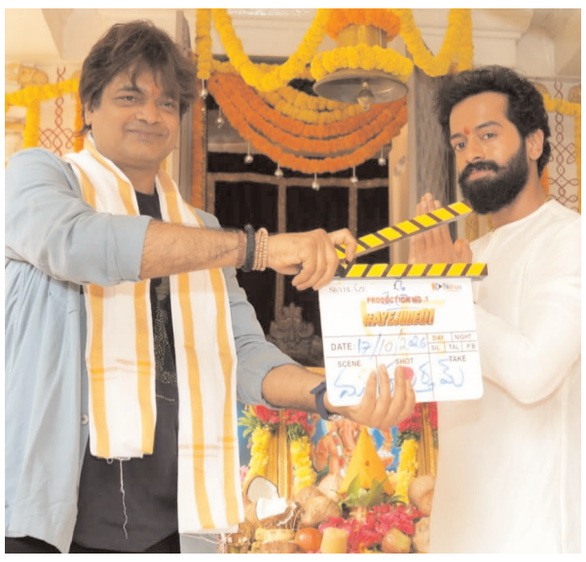
Tripti has the biggest film of her career in hand with Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and starring Prabhas. The film is a pan India police action drama, and fans are waiting to see her in a fresh new role opposite the big star.Tripti Dimri is known for her natural acting and a fast growing fan base across India. She shot to wider fame with Animal, and has also won praise for Bulbbul, Qala, Bad Newz and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3.

Keerthy Suresh's Birthday Special Poster Unveiled from Vijay Deverakonda's Rowdy Janardhana



A special birthday poster of actress Keerthy Suresh from the upcoming film Rowdy Janardhana, starring Vijay Deverakonda, has been unveiled on the occasion of her birthday. The film is being produced by star producers Dil Raju and Shirish under the prestigious banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations and is directed by talented young filmmaker Ravikiran Kola. Featuring Keerthy Suresh as the female lead, Rowdy Janardhana is being mounted as a grand pan-India project against the backdrop of a rural action drama. The birthday special poster showcases Keerthy Suresh in a beautiful traditional look, capturing attention with her elegant appearance. The makers unveiled the poster while extending their warm birthday wishes to the actress, adding to the excitement surrounding the film. With its rural action drama backdrop and Vijay Deverakonda in the lead, Rowdy Janardhana has generated considerable anticipation among his fans and movie lovers, who are eagerly waiting to experience the film on the big screen. The film is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release this December.

YouTube Sensation Ajay (Aye Jude) Begins His Next Film with a Grand Pooja Ceremony



Production officially commenced today for the upcoming feature film starring youtube sensation Ajay (popularly known as Aye Jude). The film will be directed by Ramu Koppula and produced by Nexus Sridhar and Deepak Musthyala under their respective banners Nexus Cinemas and Skyblaze Silver Screen. The technical crew features music by Chaitan Bharadvaj, cinematography by Fahad Abdulmajeed and art direction by Kranthi Priyam. The film held a traditional opening pooja ceremony at Ramanaidu Studios which was attended by cast, crew, and special guests. Director B Gopal gaaru switched on the camera, while Director Harish Shankar gaaru gave the first clap and Director Buchi Babu Sana gaaru directed the first shot. The event was also graced by distinguished guests Bezevada Prasanna gaaru, Thomas Reddy Aduri, Dr. Pruthviraj gaaru (Kranthidal), Srinivas Dasari gaaru (Kaloji TV), Raghu Ganji gaaru (Toli Velugu), Babu Degala gaaru and Satyam Rajesh gaaru.

'I HATE MARRIAGE' TEASER RELEASED



Sugi Vijay and Jupsi Bhadra (making her debut) play the lead roles in the upcoming film 'I Hate Marriage', produced jointly by Madham Dayanand and Karthik Vempati under the Arya Cinema banner. Parmesh Renukuntla is making his directorial debut with this film.

The film's recently released lyrical video of the song 'Appude Pella?' received an unexpected response, trending on social media. The makers have now released the film's teaser. Speaking on the occasion, director Parmesh Renukuntla said, "This film attempts to portray the thoughts, ideologies and perspectives of today's Gen Z generation, who aspire to balance love, marriage and career while also wanting to live independently. The film naturally explores the emotions and decisions that young people face in their lives. Every young person will be able to relate to the characters in this film.

Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga Hails Vijay Deverakonda as India's Next Action Superstar



From Now On, Vijay Deverakonda Will Be the Face of Action Heroes in Indian Cinema" – Sensational Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga on Ranabaali*

Sensational director Sandeep Reddy Vanga has praised Vijay Deverakonda's action and fierce performance in Ranabaali, stating that Vijay will be the name that comes to mind when people talk about action heroes in Indian cinema. After watching the film, the director shared his thoughts on social media, expressing his admiration for Vijay's unique action sequences and intense screen presence.

Sharing his reaction, Sandeep Reddy Vanga said, "Vijay, your action and fierce performance are outstanding. Watching your fights on screen, we could truly feel the intensity. From now on, when people talk about action heroes in Indian cinema, they will talk about you. Congratulations, Vijay."

He further praised Rashmika Mandanna for her portrayal of Jayamma, noting that her performance felt realistic and engaging. He also highlighted Ajay–Atul's music as another major strength of the film. Sandeep Reddy Vanga congratulated director Rahul Sankrityan for choosing an intriguing historical backdrop and bringing it to the screen. He appreciated the filmmaker's effort to explore a chapter of history that has not found a place in our textbooks, making Ranabaali a film that brings lesser-known historical events to the attention of audiences.

PRANITHA SUBHASH TURNS HEADS IN LINGERIE STYLE



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