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CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

09-10-2026



Total pilgrims :68,187
Tonsures : 23,923
Hundi kanukalu : 4.55 CR
Laddu sale... 4.29 Lac
Annaprasadam.. 1.61 Lac
Ashwini hospital..2,619
Present Situation on 10-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..10.

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



Nation News

Sting operation row: Union Min Kumaraswamy questions CM Shivakumar, demands probe

Trump announces deal for Russian diesel as Zelensky calls it a gift to Putin



WORLD NEWS

'Ranabaali' will Offer A GreatCinematic Experience And An Emotional High; Vijay Deverakonda



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

CONGRESS CALLS DELHI A 'FORTRESS', SEEKS CEC'S RESIGNATION

NEW DELHI (TSIT)
The national capital has been turned into a "fortress" with armed security personnel deployed across the city amid protests by young people over alleged threats to their constitutional right to vote, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said on Saturday, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and immediate suspension of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. In a strongly worded post on X, Ramesh accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union Home Minister Amit Shah of being unsettled by peaceful demonstrations against what the Congress alleges is the systematic exclusion of eligible voters from electoral rolls. "The nation's capital has been turned into a fortress. Armed security personnel are all over the place," he wrote. "The PM-HM duo is extremely nervous and rattled by a peaceful protest by youth deeply concerned with the planned stealing of their Constitutional right to vote guaranteed by Article 326," Ramesh alleged. His remarks came amid an intensifying confrontation between the Congress-led Opposition and the Election Commission of India (ECI) over the SIR exercise, alleged large-scale deletions from electoral rolls and the accountability of the poll panel. Opposition parties have accused the Commission of compromising the integrity of the electoral process and demanded the restoration of allegedly deleted names, greater transparency in the revision exercise and effective safeguards to ensure that eligible citizens are not deprived of their voting rights. Ramesh also questioned the circumstances surrounding Kumar's appointment as Chief Election Commissioner and criticised the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. The legislation was passed by Parliament in December 2023 amid the suspension of Opposition MPs during the Winter Session.

Rahul backs protesters, accuses Modi and RSS of cowardice

In a video message Saturday, Gandhi said the govt could arrest Opposition leaders and young protesters, but would not be able to stop the movement.

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):

Congress MP and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of "cowardice" as the Delhi Police cracked down on protesters seeking the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in the national capital.In a video message posted on X, Gandhi said the government could arrest Opposition leaders and young protesters, but would not be able to stop the movement.

"Mr. Modi, do whatever you want. Call out all the police: 10,000, 20,000, 50,000, whatever you want. Arrest all the leaders. Arrest all the young people. Arrest us all," he said. "We are surrounding you, and we are not going to back down. Mark my words: we already have the information we need." The Congress leader also called Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah,



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, CEC Gyanesh Kumar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval the "villains of this story", saying that they were "slowly finding the space closing around them"."We are surrounding you, and we are not going to back down. Mark my words: we already have the information we need. We are going to defend our Constitution. We are going to protect the voice of the Indian people. And we are going to ensure that what was done to India over the last 10-15 years will never, ever be done again," he further remarked. Gandhi ended his message by expressing his support for the young protesters. "I'm proud of you youth of India. Keep on protesting. We stand with you," he said.

'WILL CREATE OUR OWN JANTAR MANTAR': MINI PROTESTS SPRING UP AT DETENTION CENTRES & ON DELHI ROADS

His remarks came as Delhi witnessed mass detentions in the wake of the call for a 'Jantar Mantar 2.0' protest by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). More than 3,500 people were detained. Among the detainees are CJP office-bearers, journalists, YouTubers, lawyers, activists, and leaders of opposition parties, including Aam Aadmi Party, Mamata All India Trinamool Congress and Communist Party of India (Marxist).founder Abhijeet Dipke and office-bearers Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were taken into preventive custody Saturday morning from inside their aircraft soon after the flight landed at Delhi airport. YouTube influencer Dhruv Rathee was arrested from his home in Gurugram, and CJP legal cell head Ratna Singh was arrested fro m her residence in Delhi.

3,500 detained in anti-CEC protests in Delhi



New Delhi: Around 3,500 protesters have been detained and taken to various designated detention centres across Delhi in the wake of the 'Jantar Mantar 2.0' protest called by the Cockroach Janta Party against the alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise and to seek the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.Among the detainees are CJP office-bearers, journalists, YouTubers, lawyers, activists, and leaders of opposition parties, including Aam Aadmi Party, Mamata All India Trinamool Congress and Communist Party of India (Marxist).

CM Calls for Action Based on Monthly Economic Reports



AMARAVATI ■ TSIT

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to use monthly economic reports to improve the performance of various sectors and ensure that economic growth translates into better living standards. Reviewing the September economic report submitted by the Planning Department on Friday, the Chief Minister assessed the state's economic performance, sectoral growth and inflation trends.

He said the reports should guide corrective measures rather than remain limited to discussions. While agriculture was showing growth, the services and industrial sectors needed to improve their performance. He called for expert advice and adoption of global best practices suited to local conditions.

Naidu also stressed the implementation of constituency-level vision plans, linking local opportunities with global markets and taking measures to control price rises. Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad and senior Finance and Planning Department officials attended the meeting.

Chalo Jantar Mantar on Oct 11, CJP announces after Saturday chaos

New Delhi ■ (TSIT)

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) declared on Saturday, October 10, that "Jantar Mantar 2.0" has begun. The party is demanding the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in electoral rolls during Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and is calling for structural reforms within the Election Commission of India.10:25 pm: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has invited the party MPs, MLAs, MLCs, district unit presidents, and other leaders to participate in a major protest called by the INDIA bloc in Delhi on October 12 over "people's voting rights".10:21 pm:



Delhi Police has released all the detainees from the detention centres except CJP leaders. Citing Delhi Police sources, ANI shared that due legal process will be followed for the CJP leaders.

10:18 pm: Delhi Metro posted, "Entry and exit gates of all Metro Stations of the Delhi Metro network are now open. The interchange facility at all the concerned Metro stations is also available."09:45 pm: Cockroach Janta Party has announced 'Chalo Jantar Mantar' for the following day on October 11, after Saturday's standoff with police saw over 7,000 people detained."They (PM Modi and HM Shah) thought that after detaining, the protesters would get scared and run back home," said Ajinkya Shinde, who was heading the protest after Dipke was detained.

CM Revanth Reddy urges Congress leaders to join INDIA bloc protest in Delhi

Hyderabad ■ **(TSIT)**:

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday, October 10, invited the party MPs, MLAs, MLCs, district unit presidents and other leaders to participate in a major protest called by the INDIA bloc in Delhi on October 12 over "people's voting rights".

Reddy asked chairpersons of various state-run corporations also to attend the protest in the national capital, Congress sources here said. AICC general secretary K C Venugopal has said that the opposition bloc would stage a major protest in Delhi on Monday as part of its continuing fight to protect people's voting rights. Venugopal, who spoke to reporters at Alappuzha in Keralam, said the bloc recently met the President to convey its concerns on the matter and would also meet the Chief Justice of India on Monday.



SC hearing tomorrow on contempt plea against Delhi Police,

METRO FOR PROTEST CURBS

New Delhi ■ (TSIT):

The Supreme Court is likely to hold a special sitting on Sunday to hear a contempt petition alleging the blanket closure of Delhi Metro stations and train services in Delhi to prevent the gathering of anti-Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) protesters amounted to violation of the Court's order.A bench of Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana are expected to hold the special hearing, a lawyer said. The petition, filed by advocate Shailendra Mani Tripathi, has sought initiation of contempt proceedings against the Union Home



Secretary Govind Mohan, Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Chairperson D. Thara for allegedly failing to comply with the directions issued by the apex court.

The petitioner alleged that despite the Supreme Court's categorical direction against a complete prohibition on Metro services, entry and exit gates at several Metro stations remained closed and train services continued to be cancelled or curtailed, causing inconvenience to commuters and disrupting public life in Delhi.

According to the plea, the DMRC had announced the closure of entry and exit gates at 45 Metro stations in the national capital.Tripathi claimed that he visited GTB Nagar and Vishwavidyalaya Metro stations at around 9:30 p.m. and found their entry gates shut.

EC resolves age discrepancies for 2.7 lakh Maharashtra voters

Mumbai ■ (TSIT):

In a swift administrative intervention, the Election Commission of India (ECI) team on Saturday successfully resolved age-related issues for around 2.7 lakh voters in Maharashtra.

The corrective measures were taken following a special request by the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) S. Chockalingam.

According to official updates, the discrepancies were addressed promptly before the conclusion of the claims and objections period. "At the request of Maharashtra CEO, the ECI team resolved age-related issues of 2.7 lakh electors in time, that is, before the claims and objections period ended, thus avoiding the need of filling up Form-8 for age correction," the Office of Maharashtra CEO said on Saturday in a post on social media platform X.

This timely intervention has provided significant relief to voters, effectively eliminating the requirement for individuals to manually fill out Form-8 for age corrections in the electoral rolls.

The proactive resolution ensures greater accuracy in voter lists while streamlining the voter revision process ahead of upcoming electoral milestones.

Earlier, the ECI extended the deadline to file claims and objections for the SIR drive to October 12 in Maharashtra, while processing notices, claims,



and objections will conclude by November 10.

The state's final voter list will officially be published on November 16.

Notices were issued to 1.22 crore voters flagged for logical errors or missing document matches. To ease the process, citizens no longer need to visit Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in person—they can respond directly by sending notices and required documents via WhatsApp. Out of 1,51 crore voters whose names were omitted from the draft rolls, only 390,000 have resubmitted fresh registration forms over the past month.

In response, District Collectors have been instructed to conduct dedicated voter registration camps across all junior and senior colleges, with mandatory reporting on student voter enrollment numbers.

The Office of the Maharashtra CEO has launched targeted registration drives and door-to-door verification campaigns across the state.

Operating under the guidelines of the ECI, election authorities have committed to ensuring that no eligible citizen is left off the electoral roll and no ineligible entries remain.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are deployed at campus sites to assist eligible students with completing application forms and to resolve queries regarding the SIR workflow, the Office of Maharashtra CEO said in a statement.

BLOs are conducting home visits to identify eligible citizens missing from the Draft Electoral Roll and collect Form-6 following verification. For residents unavailable during home visits, special voter registration camps will be held at all designated polling stations on October 10 and October 11.

Citizens whose names appear on the list of absent or migrated voters (compiled during house-to-house enumeration) can apply for re-enrolment or correction. The official list of absent/shifted voters has been published online at ceoelection.maharashtra.gov.in for public verification.

BJP operates by 'suppressing' voices, says Karnataka CM

Bengaluru ■ (TSIT):



Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday, October 10, alleged that the BJP operates by "suppressing" voices and silencing people. Speaking to reporters, he said the government should listen to the voice of people. Shivakumar was reacting to the restrictions imposed on protesters in New Delhi's Jantar Mantar, where various civil society organisations under the banner of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP).

"They (BJP) always suppress us, they suppress you, and they suppress everyone. They try to silence everyone and every voice, ignoring the constitutional provisions. That is the way they operate. They are doing it in that manner," the Chief Minister said.

Manipur hills flare up again, Naga-Kuki clashes claim at least 6 lives in 24 hours



Imphal: At least six people have been killed and over a dozen houses torched by suspected Naga and Kuki militants in a fresh flare-up of violence involving the two communities in Manipur's hill districts of Kangpoki, Kamjong and Ukhrul since Friday, sources in the security establishment told The Print.

YouTuber Dhruv Rathee detained by Delhi Police ahead of CJP

However, till Saturday evening, there was no official confirmation from the Manipur Police on the exact number of casualties. The epicentre of the flare-up was Chassad village in Kamjong, where suspected militants killed a 42-year-old Kuki woman Friday night. Though Kamjong is a Naga-majority district, Chassad village has a sizable Kuki population.

Following the woman's death, tension started soaring as suspected armed groups on both sides started torching houses of the other community. In the ensuing violence, a 22-year-old man was killed Saturday morning in Chassad village. The clashes between the two communities then reportedly spread to Kangpokpi, a Kuki-dominated district with pockets of Naga population. A senior official said a heavy exchange of fire took place between the security forces and armed groups in Tapon and Makui Ashang villages in Kangpokpi. Both the villages are Naga-dominated.

In a separate incident, a Nepali man was killed in Ukhrul district after suspected militants fired at his vehicle, a senior police official said.

Tension has also been reported in Tamenglong district, which is Naga-dominated, and Noney, which has a mixed Naga and Kuki population.

A senior security official said Saturday evening that the situation has more or less been brought under control, though there is tension between the two communities in the affected districts.

Manipur has been reeling under ethnic conflict since 3 May 2023, when violence first broke out between two of the three dominant communities of the state–the Meiteis and the Kukis. There was a brief let-up in violence after President's Rule was imposed in February last year following the resignation of then chief minister N.Biren Singh. But tensions picked up again after President's rule ended this February and Yumnam Khemchand Singh was appointed the CM. But this time around, the ethnic clashes shifted from Meiteis and Kukis to Kukis and Nagas.

Sting operation row: Union Min Kumaraswamy questions CM Shivakumar, demands probe



Hassan, Oct 10 : Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Saturday demanded a probe into the ongoing sting operation controversy in Karnataka. He also asked as to who conducted the operation targeting former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who leaked the video and who was protecting those involved.

Speaking to media after offering prayers at Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Mavinkere, Haradanahalli, Kumaraswamy questioned Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar over the action taken against those responsible.

"Something has been circulating for the past few days, and it has now been brought up again. Who did this? Who conducted the sting operation? Is this a joke? Have you turned politics into a game?" he asked.

Shivakumar had recently claimed that an attempt was made to trap him through a sting operation after he became Chief Minister. He further added that he possessed photographs and documents to substantiate his allegations.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA B. Basanagouda Patil Yatnal alleged that Siddaramaiah was "blackmailed and threatened" over a personal matter, leaving him "voiceless" and compelling him to resign.

Kumaraswamy said Siddaramaiah had served as Chief Minister for eight years and built his political reputation through work for ordinary people.

"Who conducted the sting operation against Siddaramaiah? Who is he, and what is his profession? What action has been taken against him so far? Who is behind him under the cover of the media, and who is protecting him? Why is all this being done, and who released the video?" he asked, blaming the Congress leadership for "the unhealthy political atmosphere".

Reacting to Congress MLA Ganiga Ravi displaying a pen drive, Kumaraswamy clarified that his earlier pen drive concerned alleged irregularities in the transfer of engineers in the Irrigation Department when Shivakumar was the minister.

"They are trying to imitate my style, but they cannot do it under any circumstances. Let us see whether they will pursue it for a week or even a year," he said.

Kumaraswamy also reiterated his campaign against alleged irregularities in the NICE infrastructure project, accusing the company of violating court orders and the Framework Agreement and depriving farmers of their land. He said neither Shivakumar nor the company had responded to his documents.

He further criticised the Hassan Deputy Commissioner over alleged past irregularities and her handling of Ganesh idol immersion arrangements, urging better coordination between the district administration and police. "How can the administration function if they do not coordinate with each other? Such behaviour is not appropriate," he said.

BJP won bypolls, rejects Opposition's claim that govt is afraid: Assam CM Sarma



Haridwar/Guwahati, Oct 10 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday asserted that the people of India continue to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi, dismissing the Opposition's attempts to target the Union government and questioning allegations that the ruling establishment was afraid. Speaking to reporters in Haridwar, Assam CM Sarma cited the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s electoral successes in bypolls in Assam and West Bengal to say that the party continued to enjoy popular support despite criticism from opposition parties."We have won bypolls in West Bengal as well as Assam. The number of people who have come to support PM Modi is many times greater than those who came to Delhi," he said, referring to the mobilisation of supporters in favour of the Prime Minister.

He also referred to the BJP's performance in Assam, asserting that the party had secured a major electoral victory and would continue to perform strongly in the future.

The Assam Chief Minister alleged that a section of the Opposition was repeatedly attempting to attack the Union government but had failed to achieve its objectives."The people of India know everything, and they stand with PM Modi," he said.

Responding to the Opposition's suggestion that the Union government was afraid, Assam CM Sarma questioned the basis of such claims and said that electoral politics should be judged by the work done for the public.

"What does it mean to say that the government is afraid? What is the definition of fear? Elections are about working for the people," he said.

Assam Chief Minister Sarma also referred to the Opposition's efforts to seek access to constitutional authorities, including the President Droupadi Murmu, questioning what was exceptional about political leaders meeting the President or approaching the Supreme Court.

He said that President Murmu meets several people regularly and that thousands of people approach the Supreme Court every day, suggesting that such interactions should not automatically be portrayed as extraordinary political developments. His remarks came amid continuing political exchanges.

Apollo Hospitals hosts Personalised Arthroplasty Summit 2026 in Hyderabad

Hyderabad 11th October 2026: Apollo Hospitals hosted the two-day Personalised Arthroplasty Summit 2026 at The Westin, Hyderabad, on October 10 and 11, bringing together more than 350 orthopaedic surgeons and joint replacement specialists to discuss advances in robotic-assisted surgery and personalised approaches to knee and hip replacement. The national scientific conference and live workshop focused on emerging technologies, precision-based surgical planning, implant selection and advanced techniques aimed at improving outcomes for patients undergoing joint replacement surgery.



Dr. K. J. Reddy, Chief Arthroplasty Surgeon at Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills, and organising chairman of the summit, led the academic initiative. The programme featured live robotic-assisted knee and hip replacement surgeries, hands-on workshops using bone models and case-based panel discussions.

The summit provided a platform for orthopaedic specialists to exchange clinical experiences and explore how technological innovations could support surgical planning and patient-specific treatment strategies. International experts, including Dr. Allan Gross from Canada and Dr. Wayne G. Paprosky from the United States, were featured in the conference programme.Sessions covered advances in orthopaedic technology, total knee replacement, total hip replacement, pain management, implant selection and complex revision surgery. The discussions also highlighted the importance of precision in surgical planning and the restoration of bone stock in patients requiring revision hip procedures.

Personalised arthroplasty involves tailoring surgical planning and treatment to a patient's anatomy, joint condition and functional requirements. Robotic-assisted systems and computer-based planning tools may help surgeons assess alignment and plan implant positioning in selected cases.

Joint replacement is generally considered for patients with advanced arthritis or severe joint damage when persistent pain, stiffness and restricted movement do not respond adequately to non-surgical treatments. The choice of procedure depends on the patient's condition, overall health and functional needs. While advanced technologies may support surgical precision, clinical assessment, the surgeon's expertise and post-operative rehabilitation remain essential for successful recovery.

Dr.K.Subba Reddy, Regional Director Medical Services Apollo Hospitals said the summit underscored the growing role of technology in orthopaedic care and the importance of continuing medical education in helping surgeons adopt evolving techniques for the benefit of patients.

Kalasalingam University hosts biorobotics hackathon



Srivilliputhur (TSIT): Kalasalingam University's IEEE-EMBS Student Chapter organised a workshop and hackathon on "Biorobotics and Wearable Intelligence" to promote healthcare innovations and technologies for healthy ageing.

Vice-President Dr. S. Shasi Anand inaugurated the event, presided over by Chancellor Dr. S. Arivalagi. Chief guest Dr. Punitha Vincent of the Institute of Rehabilitation and Elder Care, Poovanthi, highlighted the role of healthcare innovation and rehabilitation technologies in improving the quality of life of older adults.

Dr. Rajaingirtharaj of Roja Physiotherapy Clinic, Srivilliputhur, and Dr. N. Pothirasan of Hasan Medicare Systems, Rajapalayam, shared technology-driven healthcare solutions.

A total of 55 student teams from various institutions participated, showcasing innovative ideas in biomedical engineering and healthcare technology. Cash prizes and certificates were presented to the top three teams at the valedictory function.

Nagarkurnool holds mental health awareness programme



Nagarkurnool (TSIT): A World Mental Health Day awareness programme was organised at the Old Collectorate on Saturday to highlight mental well-being and the importance of timely treatment.

Programme Officer Dr Krishna Mohan urged people experiencing persistent anxiety, depression, fear or sleeplessness to seek medical advice and counselling. He asked the public to contact the 24-hour Tele-MANAS helpline 14416 for mental health support.

He said regular exercise, a balanced diet, adequate sleep, yoga and meditation could improve mental well-being. He also stressed the need to treat people with mental health conditions with compassion and without discrimination.

Rathod urges BRS unity ahead of MLC polls

Mahabubabad District Correspondent Balne Suman October 10: Former minister and BRS state general secretary Satyavathi Rathod said former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao played a key role in the reorganisation of Telangana from 10 districts into 33, bringing administration closer to the people. Addressing a key workers' meeting of the Mahabubabad Assembly constituency at DSR Convention Centre in Mahabubabad on Saturday, Rathod said Telangana had witnessed significant development and welfare initiatives under the BRS government. She recalled the party's role in the statehood movement and subsequent governance, stating that several programmes were implemented for farmers, poor families, women, youth and government employees.Congratulating the people of Mahabubabad on the district's 10th formation anniversary, she said the creation of new districts had facilitated decentralised administration and improved the delivery of development programmes at the local level.



Graduate MLC Polls a Key Challenge

Rathod described the upcoming Warangal Graduates' MLC election as an important contest for the region, saying its significance extended beyond electing a single representative. She called upon party leaders and workers to treat the election as a collective responsibility and work in coordination to support the party's candidate.She urged cadres to meet graduates at the grassroots level, understand their concerns, verify voter-list entries and explain the development and welfare programmes implemented during the previous BRS government. Emphasising party unity and discipline, Rathod asked leaders and workers to strengthen the organisation and take the party's policies and welfare initiatives to the public under KCR's leadership.

Former minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Jangaon MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, former MP Maloth Kavitha, former MLAs Banoth Shankar Naik and D.S. Redya Naik, former Zilla Parishad chairperson Bindu Angoth, BRS state leader Enugula Rakesh Reddy and other leaders attended the meeting.

PM Modi to roll out Rs 13,000 cr projects in Tamil Nadu, inaugurate Chennai Metro stretch



CHENNAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a key stretch of Chennai Metro Rail Phase II and launch development projects worth over Rs 13,000 crore during his visit to Tamil Nadu on Sunday, with a wide-ranging infrastructure push covering urban transport, highways, railways, ports and petroleum.

Modi will undertake a Metro ride from Porur Bypass to Poonamallee Bypass and back at around 11.30 am. He will subsequently offer prayers at the Jalakandeswarar Temple and visit the Brain Centre at IIT Madras before launching the projects at around 1.30 pm.

The Poonamallee–Vadapalani Metro stretch, built at a cost of around Rs 4,900 crore, features a 3.7-km double-decker structure and advanced signalling systems designed to support driverless operations. It is expected to improve connectivity between Chennai's western suburbs and the city centre while reducing travel time for commuters. The Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for National Highway projects worth around Rs 3,700 crore. These include the four-laned Vadugapatti–Therkuvenganallur section of NH-744, the Madurai Ring Road section of NH-744A and a proposed four-lane bypass at Tiruvarur on NH-83. Railway projects worth over Rs 750 crore will also be dedicated to the nation. These comprise the Karaikal–Peralam railway line, three rail flyovers in and around Coimbatore and five redeveloped Amrit stations at Palani, Vellore Cantonment, Ambasamudram, Paramakudi and Namakkal.Port infrastructure will receive a boost through projects at Chennai, V O Chidambaranar and Kamarajar ports to expand cargo-handling capacity and improve logistics. At Chennai Port, the works include a paved storage yard, four export-import godowns, an upgraded cruise terminal and a seafarers' club.Modi will also lay the foundation stone for a Rs 1,620 crore Group II/III lube oil base stocks project at Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited's Manali refinery, with an annual production capacity of 270,000 tonnes. At IIT Madras, he'll dedicate the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre to the nation and launch a global mission to map more than 100 human brains at cellular resolution across the lifespan. He'll also release C-STROKE, an atlas containing over 1,000 annotated microscopic sections of a stroke-affected brain.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Launches 'Dream Olympics' Scheme and Distributes Rs.8.57 Crore in Incentives to Athletes....

Thoothukudi fishermen stage sea blockade near VOC Port against Mullakkadu desalination plant

The Coastal Security Group and police have stepped up surveillance following a blockade staged by fishermen near the Thoothukudi port.

CHENNAI: Fishermen staged a sea blockade near the VO Chidambaranar Port in Thoothukudi on Saturday (October 10), opposing the construction of a desalination plant in Mullakkadu, which they claim threatens their livelihoods and traditional shore-seine fishing practices.According to a Daily Thanthi report, the fishermen positioned their boats near the port area to register their protest against the project.

The demonstration caused tension along the coast and within the port complex, prompting the Coastal Security Group and police to intensify surveillance to prevent any untoward incidents.

Construction is progressing on a desalination plant with a capacity of 60 million litres per day in the Mullakkadu area of Thoothukudi.

Fishermen allege that the construction activities in the sea and the discharge of wastewater from the facility could adversely affect marine resources and fish stocks.



They fear that the project could severely damage the traditional shore-seine fishing trade, which has supported coastal communities for generations.

According to the fishermen, any decline in marine resources would directly affect their daily earnings and threaten the livelihoods of families dependent on fishing.

Fishermen had stayed away from the sea for the past few days due to strong winds. As weather conditions improved on Saturday, they resumed fishing activities and gathered near the port with their boats to stage the blockade. The protest was organised to draw attention to their concerns over the project's potential impact on traditional fishing grounds.

The protest committee has urged the State government to intervene immediately and halt the desalination project to protect traditional shore-seine fishermen and their livelihoods. The fishermen have also called for measures to safeguard marine resources and ensure that their concerns are addressed before construction progresses further. Meanwhile, police and Coastal Security Group personnel are maintaining a close watch along the coast to prevent further disruption.

Health Minister KG Arunraj assures regular counselling for PG doctors with temporary posts

CHENNAI: Minister for Health and Family Welfare KG Arunraj defended the State's decision to temporarily post government postgraduate doctors completing their courses in October, assuring them that the arrangement would not affect their salaries or their right to participate in regular counselling.

The clarification comes amid objections to the temporary postings.



schedules, leading to administrative complications in previous years. Counselling for doctors during the intervening period. The government introduced the temporary arrangement to ensure that the current batch did not face similar problems, he said.

According to the minister, the postings were allotted based on the three preferred locations submitted by doctors in their applications. Where vacancies were unavailable at their chosen locations, nearby alternatives were assigned, taking into account family circumstances and the difficulties of relocating over long distances.

The government would issue guidelines requiring Last Pay Certificates (LPCs) and transferring service registers within 30 days, to enable doctors to receive their salaries without interruption from the first month at their new postings, the minister said. He stressed that the arrangement was purely temporary and would not curtail doctors' rights in the regular counselling process.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
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Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUB704

Tender No. C_SG_36_623 Dt: 07/10/2026

On behalf of the President of India, Sr.Divisionl Signal & Telecom Engineer, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites open tenders for the following works through E-procurement of the Tenders

S.No.: 01 **Tender No. & Date:** C_SG_36_623 Dt:07/10/2026 Closing dt: 28/10/2026 **Name of the work:** 1. KZJ-BPQ section: Telecom Proposal for Upgradation of Passenger amenities at Odela Railway Station as per NSG-4 category norms (Provision of IPIS as per RDSO/SPN/TC/108/2019 (Ver.-2) or latest and Telecom facilities at Odela Station). 7) S&T proposal ofr Raising of Platform from Medium level to High level PF at RECH in Sr.DEN/North juridiction. SW-II-Proposed extension of existing 3.0m wode FOB from island platform -2/3 to other side of station (NH) at RECH in Sr.DEN/North Juridiction. (TOTAL SEVEN WORKS) . **Approx Advertised Value (₹):** 1,74,54,039.03/- **Bid security/EMD (₹):** 3,49,100/-

For further details visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/Co-ord/ Secunderabad

E-Tender Notice No.C-SG-PT-Towers-02 dated 08.10.2026

PUB705

DyCSTE/Projects/Tele/SC acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Tender Number and Date: C-SG-PT-Towers-02 dated 08.10.2026 **Name of work :** Ground Infrastructure Works for Provision of Kavach in Purna (Excl.) - Akola section of Nanded Division of South Central Railway. **Estimated Project Cost (₹):** 12,30,67,451.33Ps. **Bid Security (₹):** 24,61,400.00Ps. **Completion Period of Work:** 12 Months **Bid Closing Date (Bid Due Date):** 09.11.2026 at 11.00 hrs **Bid Opening Date:** 09.11.2026 after 11.00 hrs **Validity of Offer:** 120 Days from Bid Closing Date **Cost of Tender Booklet (₹):** 0/-

All bidding is in Indian Railway e-tendring portal **www.ireps.gov.in**. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Further details ca be seen in **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom. Engineer/Projects/Tele/ Secunderabad

Tender No. TM-KOELAMC1-26-28

PUB709

The following tender have been floated through e-Procurement. Tenderers are requested to visit the web-site **www.ireps.gov.in** and submit their offers. **It may be noted that the offers submitted manually or on paper will not be accepted. Offers sent by post are not entertained:**

Tender No.: TM-KOELAMC1-26-28 **Description :** Annual maintenance contract for maintenance of KOEL makes Diesel Engines Fitted on Track Machines for Two years **Value of tender (₹):** 9,38,062/- **Due date:** 28/10/2026

For complete details please refer **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. Chief Engineer/TM/HQ

TENDER NOTICE NO: 26/2026 Dt.09.10.2026. SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS e-Procurement Tender Notice

PUB706

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website **www.ireps.gov.in** And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Manually Will Not Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing Time Is 14.30 Hrs Of The Tender. "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System As Available On **www.ireps.gov.in**."

Tender No.	Brief Description
79261853	Pillow for 2nd & 3rd AC coaches
30261193	Hanger for bolster spring suspension
30263444	Rubber buffer spring sets
33261511A	Earthing cable complete
56261239	Semi-assembled 143mm point machine
29261003A	Loco side buffer assembly high capacity and long life
29265020	Set of electronics cards for E-70 brake system
56261241	Point motors for electric point machine
56265340	110V DC motor for electric point machine (IRS type)
66267776	Track machine spares of plasser make
42251003A	18/20W LED tube light
45265007	VRLA battery 110V, 70 AH
45261037A	Contactor for net 1 & 2, rated voltage : 1000 V AC
LU265563A	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of X-RAY baggage/ parcel scanners with operating computer, label printers, portable hydraulic scissor table platform and fixed ball deck rollers
40261006	Electronic beam flexible cable
82255019C	Advanced apheresis system

Note:-Due dates of Tender Opening: SL.No.01 on dt.20.10.2026. SL.No.02 & 03 on dt. 21.10.2026 SL No. 04 on dt.22.10.26 SL No.05 & 06 on dt.23.10.26 SL.No.07 to 13 on dt.26.10.2026 SL.No. 14 & 15 dt. 2.11.2026 SL No.16 on dt.5.11.26

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value Above **Rs.50 Lakhs.**

For Details, Please Visit Railway Website.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Secunderabad

A817

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

Centre proposes curbs on prescription drug ads amid scrutiny of weight-loss medicines

New Delhi, Oct 9: The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has proposed tighter restrictions on the advertising of prescription medicines, seeking to bring retailers, wholesalers and distributors under rules governing Schedule H, H1 and X drugs amid growing concerns over unauthorised sales and indirect promotion of weight-loss medicines.

The proposed amendment follows recommendations made at the 93rd meeting of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) on February 16, 2026. The Ministry has invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders and the public within 30 days of the draft notification being published in the Gazette.The proposal comes amid increased regulatory scrutiny of glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists, a class of medicines used to manage type 2 diabetes, with certain approved products also indicated for weight management. Rising demand for these drugs has raised concerns over unauthorised sales, prescription practices, online availability and promotional campaigns that could encourage their use without appropriate medical supervision.

In March 2026, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) intensified surveillance of the GLP-1 drug supply chain. According to the Union Health Ministry, inspections were conducted at 49 entities, including online pharmacy warehouses, wholesalers, retailers, wellness centres and slimming clinics, to identify potential violations involving unauthorised sales, improper prescription practices and misleading marketing.The regulator also issued an advisory on March 10, prohibiting surrogate advertisements and indirect promotional activities that could mislead consumers or encourage inappropriate use of GLP-1 medicines. Surrogate advertising has emerged as a key concern in the promotion of prescription weight-loss drugs. Such campaigns may be presented as obesity-awareness initiatives, influencer collaborations or general discussions on weight management while indirectly generating demand for specific prescription products.The CDSCO advisory clarified that promotional activities extending beyond conventional advertisements, including disease-awareness campaigns and influencer engagements, could attract regulatory action if they indirectly promote prescription-only medicines to the public.

Under the existing framework, pharmaceutical manufacturers face restrictions on advertising Schedule H, H1 and X medicines without prior sanction from the Central Government. However, the corresponding provision does not explicitly extend the same requirement to all entities involved in the retail and wholesale sale and distribution of these drugs.The proposed amendment seeks to address this gap by extending the restriction.

CAPITAL INDIA Rediscover Business

Regd. Office: 701, 7th Floor, Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, District Centre, Rajendra Place, New Delhi, India - 110008 Tel: +91 11 49546000 Email : wecare@capitalindia.com CIN : L74899DL1994PLC128577

DEMAND NOTICE

Under The Provisions of The Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("the Act") And The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("the Rules")

The undersigned being the authorized officer of **Capital Indian Finance Ltd.** under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the Act read with the Rule 3, issued Demand Notice(s) under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is/are avoiding the service of the demand notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being effected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of demand notice(s) are extracted herein below:

Name of the Borrower(s)	Demand Notice Date Amount	Description of (Immovable property) properties mortgaged
1. Dynamic Gym ((Through its Properitership) Mr. Saravanan M S/o Mr. Mani 2. Mr. Sudhakar M S/o Mr. Mani 3. Mrs. Sumathi Mani D/o Varadharajan NLNLAPCHN0031885 NLNLAPCHN0036730	06-10-2026 Rs. 1,07,98,838/- (Rupees One Crore Seven Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Eight Only) As On : 07.10.2026	All That Piece And Parcel of The Land And Building In Plot No.11 Situated At Perumal Koil Street (School Road), Mevalurkuppam-b Chettipedu Village, Sriperumbudur Tk, And Kancheepuram Dt., Admeasuring 1308 Sq.ft of Land Comprised In Old Survey No.316, Patta No.215 As Per Patta New Survey No.510/12 Situated Within The Sub-registration District of Sriperumbudur Andthe Registration District of Kancheepuram Within The Boundaries Hereunder North By : Property of July Naidu, South By : Property of Janakiraman, East By : Property of Krishnan, West By : Perumal Koil Street (School Road), Thulukanathamman Koil.

The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the demand notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that CIFL is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the movable/immovable property/properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s).

In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time, CIFL shall be entitled to exercise all the rights under Section 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured asset(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. CIFL is also empowered to ATTACH AND/OR SEAL the secured asset(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured asset(s), CIFL also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the CIFL. This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to CIFL under any other law.

The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained/prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of CIFL and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the demand notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place: KANCHEEPURAM (CHENNAI) Date: 11/10/2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer Capital India Finance Ltd**

SURYODAY A BANK OF SMILES

Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited
Regd. & Corp. office : 1101, Sharda Terraces, Plot 65, Sector – 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai – 400614. CIN: L65923MH2008PLC261472.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (ACT NO.54 OF 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to below mentioned Borrower/s / Guarantor/s. After completion of 60 days from date of receipt of the said notice, The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s / Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 6 & 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned herewith:

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	24-07-2026
259000155139, 1) MR. P SHANMUGASUNDARAM S/O MR. PACHATHI 2) MRS. MAYILAMMAL W/O MR. P SHANMUGASUNDARAM	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 8,61,249.28/- as on 17.07.2026
	Date of Possession	09.10.2026(Symbolic)

Description Of Secured Asset(S) /Immovable Property (ies) : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE LANDED PROPERTY BEARING DOOR NO- 10/61/4 COMPRISED IN NATHAM S.NO-702/43 MEASURING AN EXTENT OF 1245.65 SQ. FT IN OF KUTHAPANJAN VILLAGE, KEELAKUTHAPANCHANEEL, LYING WITHIN THE REGISTRATION DISTRICTOF TENKASI AND SUB-REGISTRATION DISTRICT ALANGULAM AND BEING BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY: EAST-WEST STREET, SOUTH BY: SANKARAPANDI PLOT , EAST BY ELUPADIYAN PLOT, WEST BY: SAVARIMUTHU PLOT, WITHIN THESE BOUNDARIES MEASURING :- EAST TO WEST ON THE NORTH SIDE: 15.10 FEET , EAST TO WEST ON THE SOUTH SIDE: 17.15 FEET, SOUTH TO NORTH ON THE EAST SIDE: 77.25 FEET, SOUTH TO NORTH ON THE WEST SIDE: 77.25 FEET, TOTALLY MEASURING OF 1245.65 SQUARE FEET.

The Borrower/s / Guarantor/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the M/s Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd, for an above mentioned demanded amount and further interest thereon.

Date : 11.10.2026, Place : Tamil Nadu **Authorised Officer, Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited**

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, C/o Bajaj Auto Limited Complex Mumbai Pune Road Akurdi Pune 411035

Corporate Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune 411014 **Branch Office:** Bajaj Finance Limited, 1st Floor SSP Arcade 333 Old 51 3 Sankari Main Road Opposite To Pullicar Millsseetharampalayam Tiruchengode 637209 Namakkal District **Authorized Officer's Details: Name:** U Rajeswaran **Email ID:** u.rajeswaran@bajajfinserv.in **Mob No.** +91 8939057555

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

e-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI Act 2002

Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("ACT")

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Mortgagor(s) in respect of below mentioned secured asset which is mortgaged with **Bajaj Finance Limited ("BFL"),** and possession of which had been taken by undersigned Authorised Officer of BFL under the provisions of the ACT will be sold by Auction for recovery of the amount mentioned hereunder and further applicable interest, charges and costs etc.

The secured asset described below is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS"** under Rule No. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules ("the Rules") for recovery of the dues detailed as under:

Particulars of E-auction

Name & Address of Borrower	**1. Sri Bhagavathi Super Market thr its Prop. Venkatachalam Karthikeyan R/o.** 67/26AT, Old Salem Road Tiruchengode Namakkal Tamilnadu Tiruchengode 637211 Contact-9842729737 Also at, R/o. S F No. 103/1 C 1 T S L R No. 111/2 Old Ward No. 13 New Ward No. 19 Ward D Block No. 7 Pullikar Lane Thiruchengode Municipality Thiruchengode Village Thiruchengode Tk Thiruchengode SRO Namakkal RD Namakkal District 637211 **2.K Kavitha** R/o. 11/5B Pullikar Sandhu Old Salem Road Tiruchengode Namakkal Tamilnadu 637211 Contact-86758555506 **3.Venkatachalam Karthikeyan R/o.** 11/5B Pullikar Sandhu Old Salem Road Tiruchengode Namakkal Tamilnadu 637211 Contact- 9842729737 Email id-karthikeyankarthikeyan9700@gmail.com
Loan Account Number	**P6O5PBS10623076**
Statutory Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) Date & Amount	Notice dated **19.03.2025** Demand amount **Rs.46,12,890/-**
Outstanding Amount as on 10.10.2026	**Rs.55,55,831.8/-** (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty One and Eighty Paisa Only)
Description of Immovable Property	All the piece and parcel of S F No. 103/1 C 1 T S L R No. 111/2 Old Ward No. 13 New Ward No. 19 Ward D Block No. 7 Pullikar Lane Thiruchengode Municipality Thiruchengode Village Thiruchengode Tk Thiruchengode SRO Namakkal RD Namakkal District 637211 along with proportionate share in common areas (Area adm. 544 1/2 Sq.Ft) Boundaries: On East-Property belongs to Item-2, House Property belongs to Mr.Thennai Marathaan @ Manikkam, and Land belongs to Mr. Parthiban; On West -Municipal North to South Lane; On North-House Property belongs to Mr.Dr.Shanmugadhash; On South - East to West Municipal Lane
Reserve Price in INR	**Rs.45,64,533/-** (Rupees Forty Five Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Three Only)
EMD	**Rs. 4,56,453.3/-**
E-auction date and time	**27/10/2026** 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
E- auction Portal	**https://bankauctions.in**
Last date of submission of EMD	26/10/2026
Bid Increment Amount in Rs.	**Rs. 25,000/-**
Encumbrance Known to Secured Creditor	Not Known
Date of Inspection of Property	From **12/10/2026** to **26/10/2026** on working day between 9.30 AM to 5 PM with Prior appointment

Public in General and Borrowers in particular please take notice that if in case auction on date scheduled herein fails for any reason whatsoever then secured creditor may enforce security interest by way of sale through private treaty, at the discretion on of the secured creditor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link **https://bankauctions.in** and **https://www.bajajfinserv.in /auction-notices**

Date: 10.10.2026 **Authorized Officer**
Place: Pune **BAJAJ FINANCE LTD.**

EDITORIAL

FOR INDIA BLOC, IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE ANTI-BJP

Recent agitations in New Delhi and elsewhere have had the effect of resuscitating political opposition in India. We witnessed the first-ever protest-linked resignation of a Union minister in the Modi cabinet. Buoyed by this, we now see a coordinated campaign amongst the INDIA bloc on the SIR issue. These protests, some say, indicate the direction of political winds in upcoming elections. But this misses the larger point. The real question is not who the next prime minister will be but who will define the alternative to the present government. The requirements for national leadership must satisfy the tests of moral authority, ideological consistency and political imagination.

The Cockroach Janta Party has well and truly emerged as a force to reckon with. The way it coalesced simmering opposition to NEET into a common cry for education reforms is worth studying. Its biggest success was that it stood on its own, remained firm in the face of a crackdown and acted with imagination — imagination that has been sorely lacking in our political discourse. It would have been altogether different if the CJP, lacking organisational structure, experience in real politicking and serious financial endowment, had fizzled out after the July 2026 protests. That they have not only survived but are now jostling for space with seasoned party machines shows how starved our politics has been of young voices, and of the imagination a new generation of leaders brings.

Allegations of manipulation of voter rolls have been doing the rounds for nearly a year now. Backed by news reports on apparent disagreements within the Election Commission of India, the voter rolls issue has received a much-needed second wind. Propelled by the CJP protests in Mumbai, the INDIA bloc has taken to the streets in New Delhi. Arrests of senior leadership of the Indian National Congress and other allied parties have rekindled opposition unity.The issue has presented itself on a platter. But who will hold the opposition space over the next three years, till general elections are called, is unclear. On paper, the INDIA bloc is the largest conglomeration of opposition parties within the Houses of Parliament. But the real question is how much support they retain outside these halls. The fluid composition of the bloc also raises questions about what it represents. The exit of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and its replacement by the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam after the Tamil Nadu polls in May 2026 lead us to question the membership criteria of the INDIA bloc. Without a Member of Parliament in its tally, the TVK has been inducted into the alliance. When asked about the criteria for joining the alliance, the Tamil Nadu Congress state president said that "everyone fighting the RSS-BJP's rule" is welcome. This reduction of the primary aim of the national alliance to opposition to the BJP remains one of the most serious weak links of this formation. There is equal confusion about how parties join, or are invited to join, the INDIA Bloc. Although the BJD participated in protests on the SIR issue, it clarified that it has not joined the INDIA bloc. The bloc seems to function without structure or systems in place. The Trinamool Congress has expressed support for the INDIA protests but simultaneously also backed the CJP. Even within Parliament, there is no fixed common minimum agenda amongst these parties.

Visa Shocks To Racist Attacks, When Did America Come To Hate Indians So?

NAGHMA SAHAR



From India, America has always looked like a rather honest promise: a nation where merit rather than birth determines what you can achieve, how far you can go. A straightforward proposition. Come legally, study hard, work hard, pay your taxes, build a business, become a doctor or engineer. Send your children to good schools, watch American football. Cheer for the local team. Vote. Prosper.

In other words, become part of the place.

Millions of Indians took this proposition seriously. They came, studied, worked, taught, ran hotels, wrote software and made films. And yet there appears to be one final test which has no syllabus. No admission form, no visa fee. It is called the Brown Face Test. you can pass all the tests and yet fail this one. The latest developments have made this anxiety clearer. Recently, the Trump administration proposed a staggering USD 70,000 fee for international students participating in Optional Practical Training (OPT), the programme that allows eligible foreign graduates to gain work experience in the United States. The proposal remains pending, but its implications for Indian students are enormous. Days later, Washington suspended eight major technology companies - including Indian IT giants TCS, Infosys, Wipro and HCLTech, alongside Microsoft, Adobe, Cognizant and Capgemini - from filing or processing applications under the Permanent Labour Certification (PERM) programme, a key route to employment-based green cards, citing alleged abuses of the system. The suspension does not automatically cancel existing H-1B visas, but it casts a cloud over the long-term prospects of skilled foreign workers. The message is unmistakable: even as America continues to depend on global talent, the path from an Indian classroom to an American career, and from professional success to permanent belonging, is becoming more expensive and precarious. For a country that built its global technological dominance partly by attracting the world's brightest minds, the question is: does America still want to make room for them?

Consider the curious case of Bo French, the Republican nominee for the Texas Railroad Commission. French posted a photograph of South Asian students celebrating at a University of Texas football game and described the presence of such students as evidence that Americans were being "displaced by foreigners." He later defended his comments. What made the episode especially disturbing was that there was no evidence that the students were foreigners at all; their perceived foreignness appeared to be inferred from their appearance. Data reveals that the University of Texas has only 4% foreign students. The others may be brown, but they are all Texans. Several Texas Republicans, including Senator John Cornyn, condemned French's remarks. The episode also highlights the growing schism within the Republican Party and raises the question of how far this "othering" can go. But the message was difficult to miss: brown faces could be treated as evidence of foreignness even inside an American university and at an American football game.

Anti-India sentiment has been bubbling up on social media, and the effervescence has been almost spilling over lately, with the midterms around the corner. In Texas itself, several recent episodes have brought the intersection of immigration, race and Indian identity into sharp focus. In April, a video by conservative influencer Savannah Hernandez about the Hanuman Temple in Frisco triggered a flood of anti-Indian and anti-Hindu comments online. Her presentation of the temple and its devotees was framed around Indian immigration and demographic change, and the resulting online reaction descended into racist rhetoric. Months later, the controversy became even more explicit. A conservative activist, Jesse Hughes, posted a photograph of a 90-foot Hanuman statue in Texas with the declaration: "When we win, we are tearing this down." The statement was condemned by Indian Americans, including a US Army veteran who described the threat as an attack on his religion.

Perhaps most disturbing was the involvement of the US Department of Homeland Security itself. In September 2026, DHS posted an AI-generated immigration-enforcement image featuring a brown-skinned, turbaned man identified as "Mr Singh" and carrying the message, "America for Americans. Get off our roads; you don't know how to drive, Mr Singh." Sikh and Indian-American organisations condemned the imagery as racial stereotyping and profiling, pointing out that Singh is one of the most common Sikh surnames and that appearance cannot be used as a proxy for immigration status.

Donald Trump's political movement has increasingly placed emphasis on national identity, cultural continuity and loyalty to his political agenda: the propaganda of MAGA and "America for Americans".

The larger question here is: who certifies who the real Americans are, or who the so-called "Heritage Americans" are? The fact is that America itself has been a nation of immigrants who displaced the original inhabitants. Earlier, in 2025, when the then FBI Director Kash Patel posted a simple greeting marking Diwali, his post attracted a barrage of racist and religiously bigoted responses from supporters of the MAGA movement. Some told him to "go back"; others questioned why an American official was celebrating a festival they considered foreign. The abuse was striking precisely because Patel was not an immigrant outsider speaking from the margins of American life. He was the country's FBI Director. The targeting of Usha Vance, the Indian-American wife of Vice President JD Vance, has been even more revealing. Far-right figures and online extremists have repeatedly made her Indian ancestry a subject of attack, despite her being an American-born citizen and the wife of one of the country's most prominent conservative politicians. The attacks became so explicit during the 2024 Republican convention that they drew national attention. More recently, a 2026 social-media controversy involving a reference to Usha and her husband's white grandparents again revived questions about whether her Indian heritage was being invoked to question her place within his family and, by extension, within America itself. None of these episodes, taken individually, proves that America as a whole has turned against Indians. Millions of Indian Americans continue to live, work and prosper in the United States, and many Americans - including prominent Republicans - have publicly rejected racist attacks.

DEAR YOUNG PROTESTORS, YOU MUST BUILD SOLIDARITIES



I write to you today not as a Member of Parliament nor a professor, but as someone who has spent years observing, listening to, walking alongside, and writing about protests and movements. I am not much of a social media user. However, whenever my students forward me your creative slogans, posters, and memes, I cannot help but marvel at your strength, resolve, and free spirit.

While I have seen movements begin with a handful of people and grow into something larger than anyone had imagined, I have also seen deeply courageous struggles lose their energy. In classrooms, we speak of theories, conceptual frameworks, political opportunities and the conditions under which movements emerge. These ideas help us understand a protest from a certain distance, but the experience of protest is something else altogether. For the person who comes to the street, it may be a question of dignity, livelihood, justice, an uncertain future, or an accumulated sense of being unheard. It is often the moment when someone who has endured patiently for a long time finally breaks their silence. To me, that's where every protest begins. People come together because they no longer believe that silence is an answer. And they protest because they retain the hope that what appears inevitable can, in fact, be challenged and changed.

People from different vocations, classes and social locations have fought against injustice, often with remarkable courage and determination. Yet their struggles too often remain confined to their own islands of resistance. When sanitation workers fight for safety, dignity, and secure employment, gig workers rarely see a reflection of their own precarity. When farmers occupy the streets, industrial workers often remain spectators. When students protest against paper leaks, fee hikes, unemployment or the erosion of educational opportunities, most grownups treat these as someone else's battles.

This fragmentation should concern all of us. We are all connected by larger questions of dignity, equality, opportunity and justice. Recognising these connections is the first step towards building solidarities that extend beyond the immediate boundaries of a movement. Democracy becomes more meaningful when citizens refuse to remain indifferent to one another's struggles. There is a palpable mistrust among different groups of young people, whether they are affiliated with political parties, student organisations, or working independently of any formal organisation. I understand where some of this mistrust comes from, as we all come from different backgrounds, experiences, and see the world through different ideological lenses. We will inevitably disagree about the nature of a problem, the methods of resistance, and even the political destination we wish to reach. What worries me is when disagreement turns into suspicion, and suspicion into hostility. This is where movements begin to weaken themselves. We must fight patriarchy, casteism, and prejudice tooth and nail; there can be no compromise on matters of principle. But where our differences are merely of degree, in ideas, opinions, or strategies, we must learn to accommodate one another. The question, therefore, is not how we eliminate our differences, but whether we can learn to work with them. In this context, the Constitution provides the most important common ground. Its commitment to liberty, equality, fraternity and social justice offers us a shared vocabulary that transcends party affiliations, ideological boundaries, and social identities.

You have every reason to be impatient with injustice. But do not allow that impatience to become indifference or hostility towards one another. The task is not merely to make your own voices heard;

It is also to create a society in which no voice can be dismissed simply because it belongs to someone else. The strength of a democratic movement lies not only in the courage with which people resist injustice, but also in their willingness to recognise one another's struggles as part of a shared pursuit of justice.

'Marches Every Day to Jantar Mantar, Across the Country,' CJP and Left Parties Announce



The Delhi Police have detained four former chief ministers, Pinarayi Vijayan, Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal and Manik Sarkar, along with thousands of protesters, including young people and key leaders of several political parties on Saturday (October 10). However, crowds continue to gather at multiple locations across the national capital such as ITO, Safdarjung flyover and Dilli Haat, despite the unprecedented curbs put in place by the authorities.

From denial of permission, to closure of Metro stations, detentions of youth and student leaders and halting of railway services to choke points and enormous companies of security, Delhi Police has left no stone unturned in ensuring the planned protests against the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar do not happen. Youth protesters have responded with resolve and continued protesting despite stringent police action. Follow this live blog for updates. Note that it may take a few moments to load.

Menaka Guruswamy moves Supreme Court against preventive detention of opposition leaders; plea listed for Sunday

Senior advocate and TMCRajya Sabha MP Menaka Guruswamy on Saturday (October 10) moved the Supreme Court against the preventive detention of opposition leaders, including four former chief ministers during today's protest in Delhi.

The plea has been listed before special Sunday Bench tomorrow, Bar and Bench reported.

Guruswamy told Bar and Bench that "such preventive detentions cannot be used to suppress the fundamental right to peaceful protest, particularly against leaders who have previously governed states." Journalist Saurabh Sharma out of detention

Journalist Saurabh Sharma was detained earlier in the day while covering the protest in Delhi. He is now out of detention.

"Thank you all for checking in. I was let go within an hour and I'm okay. Greatful for all the support, message, and calls," Sharma shared on X.

'Marches every day to Jantar Mantar', CJP and Left parties announce

SFI, CJP and prominent student organisations including AISF, AIYF together held a pressmeet at HKS Surjeet Bhawan, after hours of detentions and brutality meted out to protesters by Delhi Police throughout the day.

The CJP leader Ajinkya Shinde declared that everyday there will be marches to Jantar Mantar from now on, till Gyanesh Kumar is not sacked as CEC. He also talked about inhumane treatment meted out to Abhijeet Dipke and others by Delhi Police.

Srijan Bhattacharyya, SFI general secretary said students will peacefully demonstrate everywhere and wherever they are blocked by police barricades, that area will become a Jantar Mantar. Singh had filed a handwritten application from the car in which she had been detained at 9 am today. At 7.30 pm, Singh wrote on X that she was still detained, and was surrounded by close to 30 police personnel.

Bar and Bench reported that when Singh's lawyer told the court that she and other women have been in detention for seven to eight hours, the judge cited administrative work, and said: "Please make yourselves comfortable. It will take time. I have taken this on an urgent basis, but this court has administrative work also. It will take time." Singh has reacted to the verdict with a note on X that says that the judge left the hearing four times. She wrote: "Judge serving the master. Went for break/meeting 4 times during entire hearing. Order without any application of law. "Welcome to new India, where Sarkar can put 30 police personnel confining you & then say we won coz armless people couldn't come to the protest site.

"Irony is that people with criminal history are roaming around in Delhi & police personnel are busy detaining peaceful protesters." The Cockroach Janata Party's leadership was notably detained as well. Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were taken into custody from the flight they landed in Delhi in. Their location is still not known.

Goldman Is Bullish, Jefferies Is Wary, CLSA Is Counting Extremes:

Three Brokerages, One AI Trade



Rashomon, Akira Kurosawa's film about one event and multiple conflicting accounts of it, is the clearest comparison for three brokerage notes about one artificial intelligence (AI) trade. The brokerage notes from Goldman Sachs, Jefferies and CLSA, published on October 8 and 9, strike three different tones.

Goldman sees Asian earnings exploding. Jefferies' Chris Wood says the AI spending backing this earnings explosion is "increasingly debt funded rather than cash funded." CLSA's Weekly Note identifies the extremes, from the S&P 500 being top-heavy to the worst long-run Treasury returns in a century.

■ GOLDMAN: EARNINGS JUSTIFY RALLY

Goldman's paper begins with a caution regarding treating Asia as one trade: "Investing in Asia is not a monolithic investment decision." Goldman predicts earnings in Asia to increase by 34% annually through 2028 "after achieving only 6% compound annual growth over the past decade and a half." Memory chips represent a large portion of that increase. Goldman states that "the memory cycle is apt to last longer and be stronger than it has been previously." Goldman states that the rally has not increased the valuation of tech. Goldman believes that recent increases in valuations are representative of "underlying profit growth rather than excessive optimism regarding AI."

Goldman concludes that hyperscalers (large cloud providers building AI data centres) will be capable of financing the build-out. The primary risk identified by Goldman is concentration. The top 10 stocks represent a record 41% of the index.

Korea Nearly Doubles, Taiwan Jumps 68%, India Drops 16%: How AI Split Asia in Two Jefferies' tables demonstrate how unevenly the boom has impacted Asia. As of September 30, 2024, MSCI Korea has risen 95.5% in dollar terms and Taiwan has risen 68.4%. Conversely, MSCI India has dropped 15.6%. According to Goldman, Taiwan and Korea now collectively comprise half of the Asia-Pacific ex-Japan index. India's weighting has decreased from 19% in July 2024 to 10.3%. CLSA's chief strategist Alex Redman observes similar divisions within emerging markets: Korea contributes 75% of emerging markets' earnings growth and the remaining 22 markets contribute only 10%. Redman wrote that the current episode "is best described as a powerful tech cycle, not an EM supercycle." India falls into the other half of that division. Jefferies' tables estimate that India's 2026 earnings will increase approximately 12% on an April-March fiscal-year basis, compared with 58% for Taiwan and over 300% for Korea. Despite this disparity, Jefferies continues to maintain a slight overweight position on India based on "evidence of a cyclical rebound in domestic demand".

■ JEFFERIES: HIGHER YIELDS TEST AI BUILD

Chris Wood's Asia Maxima Note states that equities continue to receive support from "stellar earnings growth" resulting from the AI spending boom. However, Wood notes that the bond market represents a threat to equity markets; the US 10-year yield closed September at 5.28% and the Federal Reserve has resumed raising rates.

Kisan Cricket League launches one of India's largest nationwide talent-hunt platforms, taking rural cricketers and music performers to the national stage



October 2026: In a first-of-its-kind rural initiative at a national scale, In-Dot Sports Pvt. Ltd. and Prasar Bharati today announced the launch of the Kisan Cricket League (KCL), a nationwide sports and entertainment platform designed to create a unique opportunity through an organized pathway for cricket and singing talent from rural and semi-urban India to reach the global stage.

Built around the vision "Khelega Bharat, Dekhega India," KCL will conduct India's largest talent hunt, bringing rural cricketers and singers through a unique matrix of digital auditions, AI-enabled screening, and physical on-ground trials across the length and breadth of the country. KCL content, including live matches, two reality shows, and biographies of successful participants, can be accessed for free and will be made available to national and International audiences through Waves OTT, Doordarshan and Akashvani at zero subscription cost.

The inaugural season for cricket will feature 15 overs white ball professional cricket format with 45 live matches, played across seven stadiums in tier 2 & 3 cities across India. The national talent pool selected from across the country, will comprise of 7 teams, 140 emerging cricketers and 30 singers from a collective talent pool of around lakhs of participants, whose talents will be identified, curated and showcased through the league. Selected singers will perform regional team anthems, feature in music videos and perform during halftime and match-day events. Sh. Vikram Singh Malik, IAS, Director, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, GoI said: "Prasar Bharati has the widest reach across all parts of the country. Our endeavour is to provide free of cost, diverse content to the common man in number of languages and genres. Our latest offering the 'WAVES' OTT has already engaged more than 1.50 crore subscribers and is progressing rapidly."

"With 'Kisan Cricket League' we are hopeful of fulfilling the aspirations of youngsters who dream to become cricketers or singers, particularly from rural India. Our platforms will work as a bridge to bring the young generation into the mainstream. With a giant library of archival content, some of the legendary titles in the entertainment business and our team's vigour, we look forward to support the astonishing talent that our country possesses and at the same time, provide newer opportunities to the zestful and raring to make a mark, Indian youth," he added. Atul Pandey, Founder & CEO, Kisan Cricket League and National Award winning Director said, "Kisan Cricket is more than a cricket league for me. It is a dream I have carried since 2015, shaped by 38 years in the entertainment, media and sports industry. I have lived cricket as an aspiring cricketer, and covered the cricket World Cups of 1996 and 1999. I've also told the stories of rural India through Summer 2007, my first film as a producer, which explored farmer suicides and rural plight.

IPO LOCK-IN EXPIRY:

NSE, Hero Motors Among 22 Stocks In Focus In October Second Half



Around 22 companies are scheduled for an anchor lock-in expiry from October 15 to October 30, with 17 under the 30-day lock-in period and five under the 90-day lock-in period. Among the 30-day expiries, the portion of shares becoming eligible for trading account for 7% to 22% of a company's total shares, with most companies at around 15%, according to a report by PL Capital. Anchor lock-in expiry is the date when institutional investors who bought shares before the IPO are permitted to sell shares in the market. Of the 17 upcoming 30-day expiries, Elevate Campuses has the highest number of shares becoming eligible for trading at approximately 22% of total shares, followed by Steamhouse India, LCC Projects, Karamtara Engineering, Veegaland Developers, Manika Plastech, Hero Motors, Jindal Supreme (India), National Stock Exchange of India, Sonaselection India, Varmora Granito, Adroit Industries (India), Swastika Infra, A-One Steels India and Moneyview at approximately 15% each. This is followed by SS Retail at around 13%, while ArMee Infotech at approximately 7%, has the lowest proportion among the upcoming 30-day expiries. In terms of the 90-day lock-in period, SBI Funds Management, Caliber Mining & Logistics, Indo-MIM, Lohia Corp and Xtranet Technologies are scheduled to reach their expiries. The shares becoming eligible for trading represent nearly 14% to 22% of total shares across these companies. Stock Performance Under 30-day Expiry The stock performance across the 30-day expiries remains mixed, with nine out of the 17 companies are currently trading above their IPO issue prices. Among these, Hero Motors is the strongest performer at around 89% above its issue price, followed by Moneyview at 83%, Jindal Supreme (India) at 80%, SS Retail at 66%, Steamhouse India at 59%, Karamtara Engineering at 58% and Adroit Industries (India) at 51%. Manika Plastech is trading 25% while A-One Steels India is 1% above its issue price.

SEBI To Issue CAS Guidelines Within A Week, Introduce Tiered Framework For AI, Machine Learning



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is expected to issue guidelines on the Closing Auction Session (CAS) within about a week to address concerns over derivatives settlement prices on expiry days.

SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey announced the timeline on Saturday at the second Capital Market Confluence 2026, organised by the Bombay Stock Exchange Brokers' Forum in Mumbai.

Pandey said the regulator was examining comments received on a consultation paper issued following a review of the CAS framework. The consultation paper seeks to address concerns over the settlement price of derivatives on expiry days. SEBI is yet to disclose the specific changes it plans to introduce.

Interoperability Framework To Expand By November-End

Pandey also said SEBI was working to bring transactions such as tender offers, share buybacks and offers for sale within the interoperability framework for clearing corporations, with implementation targeted by the end of November 2026.

These transactions currently require parallel clearing arrangements, increasing costs and compliance requirements for market participants. Bringing them within the framework is expected to improve capital efficiency and reduce compliance costs while preserving settlement safeguards.

■ SEBI TO INTRODUCE TIERED AI AND MACHINE LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Separately, Pandey said SEBI would soon issue guidelines governing the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). The proposed framework will follow a tiered approach, with provisions for clear accountability, data controls, emergency shutdown mechanisms or "kill switches", and human oversight.

SEBI also plans to align its approach with the International Organization of Securities Commissions' (IOSCO) Supervisory Toolkit for AI to support an agile governance framework.

Pandey stressed that regulated entities would remain responsible for AI-driven outcomes, data quality, model governance and cybersecurity, even as technology becomes more deeply embedded in market operations. The regulator is also reviewing depository regulations and exploring graded compliance requirements for brokers based on their scale, client exposure and dependence on technology.

The measures form part of SEBI's broader effort to simplify regulation, improve market efficiency and strengthen investor protection. Separately, the regulator is exploring a graded compliance framework for stock brokers based on their scale, client exposure and technology dependence, as part of efforts to make regulation simpler and more proportionate. Sebi is also targeting the end of November to bring certain transactions, including tender offers, buybacks and offers for sale, within the interoperability framework. These transactions currently require parallel clearing arrangements, increasing costs and compliance requirements, Pandey said.

The proposed changes are expected to improve capital efficiency and reduce compliance costs while preserving settlement safety.

He highlighted recent regulatory measures, including the rationalisation of penalties for stock brokers across exchanges, changes to the technical-glitch framework and the introduction of a common, principle-based advertisement code for specified Sebi-regulated entities.

Rogue Anthropic AI agent gave police fake tip in unsolved murder case



Highlights

■ An artificial intelligence (AI) agent, developed by Anthropic, went rogue and sent US police a fake tip about an unsolved murder earlier this year, authorities have revealed.

An artificial intelligence (AI) agent, developed by Anthropic, went rogue and sent US police a fake tip about an unsolved murder earlier this year, authorities have revealed. The Philadelphia Police Department said the tip, sent on 18 July, was "flagged as spam" and not passed on for investigation, but it criticised the tech company for taking more than two months to detect and report the breach. In a statement police said that the bogus tip came through a public website where people can share information on unsolved murders, and that the AI agent had written that it may have information on a case, and claimed to have seen "someone matching the description". It is believed to be the first time an AI agent has sent fabricated information to authorities, but is the latest in a series of incidents involving rogue AI activity, including hacking systems or taking control of platforms. Citing Anthropic, the police department said the AI agent had been running a test that involved interactions with randomly selected websites, when it sent the fake tip. Anthropic discovered the breach on 28 September, more than two months after the message had been sent, and shut down the automatic testing process that was behind it, police said. But authorities were not notified for another nine days - on 7 October. "The company must strengthen its safeguards to prevent similar incidents from impacting city systems without the city's knowledge," Philadelphia police said in a statement to local media. "The two-month delay in detecting and reporting the incident to the city is unacceptable." The police department added that there were no signs of breaches to any departmental systems, and that its safeguarding processes stopped the fake tip from getting past its spam folder. But the safeguards "do not diminish the seriousness of an AI system presenting fabricated information as though it came from a person with knowledge of a homicide," the police statement said. Anthropic this week published a report detailing multiple types of "unintended" actions its agents have taken. Organisations that have been impacted also included several US government agencies including the White House, it said. The US State Department said the AI agent had filed 20 visa applications using a form on its website, but that they were incomplete and not processed, according to reports. President Donald Trump recently announced an AI taskforce, which he said will coordinate engagement between the government and all parties, including AI companies, consumers, and religious groups. Earlier this year, a rogue agent by rival tech company, Open AI, hacked an Australian government website and accessed private data on the country's universal healthcare scheme, Medicare.

Meesho Mega Blockbuster Sale Sees 75% Jump In Day 1 Orders, Peak Hits 75,000 Per Minute

Meesho's Mega Blockbuster Sale 2026 saw orders jump around 75% year-on-year on the first day, with festive shopping picking up across product categories and seller segments, including in smaller Indian markets.

Meesho recorded peak order volumes of over 75,000 per minute within 15 minutes of the sale going live, according to the company's press release. The number of customers placing orders rose around 60% year-on-year, with fashion, home and kitchen, beauty and personal care, kids, and electronic accessories among the key categories driving sales.

Personalised product recommendations played a significant role, powering nearly 85% of Day 1 orders. The trend also shows the growing influence of AI-led discovery in connecting shoppers with products during the festive season.

■ MEESHO MALL AND CREATOR-LED SHOPPING GAIN TRACTION

Meesho Mall, the platform's branded shopping offering, recorded order growth of more than 200% year-on-year. Tier 3 and smaller-market customers nearly tripled, while more than one in three shoppers purchased a Mall product for the first time across over 1,000 brands.

Festive demand extended beyond clothing to beauty, home decoration and puja preparations. Orders for torans and wall hangings grew eightfold, while earthenware support patches for heavy earrings increased nearly sevenfold. Demand for rosemary hair care products rose more than sixfold. Content-led shopping also gathered momentum, with orders through Content Commerce increasing approximately 3.7 times year-on-year. Around 90% of active creators in this segment were nano creators, and 81% came from non-metro India, reflecting the growing role of regional voices in product discovery.

Meesho Stock In Focus: 80 Million Shares Change Hands In Four Block Deals; 1.73% Equity Traded.

ICICI Prudential Life leads with Claim Settlement Ratio of 99.31% in Q1-FY2027

Highlights

■ ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has declared a claim settlement ratio of 99.31% for Q1-FY2027, the highest among top life insurance companies in India based on the public disclosures (Form L-39 and L-40).

Mumbai 2026: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has declared a claim settlement ratio of 99.31% for Q1-FY2027, the highest among top life insurance companies in India based on the public disclosures (Form L-39 and L-40). During the quarter, the Company settled individual death claims amounting to Rs.414.08 crore. Notably, the Company's average value per claim was ~Rs.15 lakh, the highest among the leading life insurers for Q1-FY2027. Mr. Sarang Gokhale, Chief - Underwriting and Retail Claims, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said: "At ICICI Prudential Life, we are committed to making the claims process simple, seamless and timely for our customers and their families. In Q1-FY2027, our claim settlement ratio was highest in the industry at 99.31% and our average claim settlement turnaround time for non-investigated claims was just 1 day from last document received date. Besides, we settled Rs.414.08 crore in death claims.

Our customer-first approach and strong focus towards digitalisation empowers us to settle claims quickly and provide timely financial relief when families need it the most. The claimants can lodge and track claims easily through our mobile app, WhatsApp, chatbot and website.

Under our 'Claim for Sure' initiative, we paid ~Rs.75 crore within one day for eligible claims. We continue to strengthen our digital processes, so families receive timely support when it matters most."

Russian glide bomb attack on Zaporizhzhia kills at least 15 people



Russia has attacked the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia with five glide bombs, killing at least 15 people including three children, officials said. The glide bombs hit residential buildings in the south-eastern city on Saturday morning. At least 16 others were injured in the attack, with more still missing and believed to be under the rubble. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the attacks on Zaporizhzhia were Russia expressing "its thanks" for a deal announced by US President Donald Trump last night easing sanctions on Moscow to import Russian diesel. He added that 13 other regions had come under attack overnight, arguing this demonstrated Russia took "any easing of pressure to mean they can keep fighting". Photos and videos from the site of one of the strikes in Zaporizhzhia show an apartment block mostly destroyed. "The ground floor was hit, and the floors above just collapsed," acting Mayor Regina Kharchenko told Ukrainian television from the scene. She said more than 80 workers were involved in ongoing search and rescue operations which are expected to continue throughout the day. The rescuers regularly stop to listen for any noises made by survivors who could be under the rubble. Kharchenko said Russia had struck at "our very heart" and "our littlest ones" were among those killed, adding that their deaths were "awful grief for their families. For the city." Zaporizhzhia is a major regional centre with more than 700,000 residents. It is located less than 10 miles (16km) from the front line and is frequently attacked by Russian drones and missiles. Trump announces deal for Russian diesel as Zelensky calls it a gift to Putin Analysis: Trump's shock Russia deal highlights mounting pressure to curb fuel prices Zelensky was quick to criticise Trump's diesel deal with Russia, calling it a gift to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Analysts view the deal as an attempt by the US president to allay domestic concerns about high fuel prices ahead of the upcoming midterm elections. Zelensky wrote on social media on Saturday that Russian attacks on energy facilities in the capital, Kyiv, demonstrated Russia's "true intentions". "Russia's choice is war. And they will be ready to end it only when they feel that their ability to drag the war out is diminishing. "Unfortunately, the signals Russia received yesterday were entirely different – signals suggesting that it could simply keep attacking. And this needs to be corrected." Both Russia and Ukraine have stepped up attacks on infrastructure in recent months, as Moscow's full-scale invasion drags on. On Thursday, at least 33 people were killed in another Russian glide bomb attack on two civilian buses in Kramatorsk, in the eastern Donetsk region. The day before, 22 people including five children died as a Russian missile hit an apartment block in the town of Pryluky, east of Kyiv. The number of civilian casualties in Ukraine jumped by 55% in the first eight months of this year, according to the UN. Russia has also stepped up its attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure as winter approaches, a strategy it has undertaken in previous years. Kyiv has repeatedly accused it of targeting Ukraine's civilian population, which Moscow denies. For its part, Ukraine has increasingly adopted a policy of striking infrastructure often deep inside Russia that is crucial to its economy, including several oil refineries and terminals. Several strikes on data centres owned by Yandex have left the tech giant struggling to maintain services. Kyiv says its strikes are aimed at curtailing revenue streams for Russia's war machine.

Trump announces deal for Russian diesel as Zelensky calls it a gift to Putin



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has condemned Donald Trump's announcement of a deal to import Russian diesel into the US.

Zelensky called it a gift to Russian President Vladimir Putin that amounts to "an investment in a war that must be ended, not prolonged", a position quickly backed by Ukraine's European allies.

Trump said Putin had agreed to release 300,000 tonnes of diesel immediately "to the American and global marketplace" followed by 500,000 tonnes in November and another million after that.

It is understood the US Treasury is suspending sanctions on Russian diesel exports until 7 April as part of the deal, but other assets like those in American banks are still frozen.

Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform that a further three million tonnes of Russian diesel would be delivered "within a short period", dependent on the condition of its refineries, which have been attacked by Ukraine.

Putin later said Russia, which introduced a ban on diesel exports earlier this year, was willing to supply both the US and global markets with oil and petroleum products, but his statement did not specify amounts.

Zelensky said Russia would repay the diesel with "further terror".

"We count on America's fair support for our defence of life, for our defence of people in Ukraine – and on the United States having a correspondingly strong conversation with Russia. A strong one, not a weak one," he wrote. He later pointed to deadly overnight strikes on Zaporizhzhia and Kyiv as Russia expressing "its thanks" for the agreement.

Analysts have questioned whether Russia is capable of providing that quantity of diesel and the extent to which doing so will ease prices for American consumers. Tim Armitage, an investment strategist at Quilter Cheviot, said the numbers mentioned by Trump were "relatively small". He said the first tranche equated to approximately 2.25 million barrels, and daily US consumption was around 3.8 million barrels, "so it won't make a material difference to pump prices in the US".

"Granted, there are then two more releases to come, but it does appear to be a slightly desperate move by President Trump to try to lower inflation ahead of the midterms."

The BBC has asked the White House what Russia will get from the US in return for the commitment.

The agreement with Russia also opens Trump up to criticism from European allies and pro-Ukraine politicians in the US that the American president is now helping to fund Moscow's war machine.

The EU's foreign affairs chief Kaja Kallas said suspending sanctions "provides Moscow with more revenues to wage war", adding: "This is not the time to ease pressure on Russia, and Europe won't."

US country music star Ella Langley cancels show due to 'security threat'



US country music star Ella Langley has said she had to cancel her sold-out concert in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Friday night, due to a "serious security threat". The singer made what she called the "incredibly difficult" decision around two hours before the show at the 19,000-seater arena was due to start. In a post on Instagram, the 27-year-old said the threat involved "the safety of my fans, the venue staff and my team". Cpt Richard Meulenberg from Tulsa Police Department said a person had called saying "great harm" would be done at the event with "shots fired and bombs." He stated his team had checked the venue at BOK Center several times before the show and "could not find any threat". "The event was ready to go," he added, saying officers with sniffer dogs did a sweep of the arena again after the phone call was made. "We could not find a credible threat," he said, stressing that the person who had made the call "disrupted this entire event" for thousands of Langley fans. The star - who did not give any further details - also apologised to her fans, saying additional information regarding ticket refunds "will be shared as soon as possible".

Flydubai attacker began a 'drift towards extremism and terrorism' in Australia, UAE says



The Omani co-pilot who allegedly attempted to hijack a Flydubai plane started a "drift towards extremism and terrorism" while studying in Australia, United Arab Emirates officials say. UAE Attorney-General Hamad Saif al-Shamsi also alleged the pilot - widely named as Hamam al-Hammami - was last week trying to crash the plane into Tel Aviv's airport in a "suicide attack". He wounded the captain in the cockpit with the emergency crash axe before being overpowered by passengers. Another crew on the Dubai-Tel Aviv flight was able to land the aircraft in Saudi Arabia. Melbourne university RMIT earlier confirmed the pilot had studied there but left before completing his engineering qualification. According to Shamsi, interrogations of the 29-year-old pilot revealed he had been inspired by al-Qaeda's 11 September attacks in the US in 2001. "The findings indicated that signs of his drift towards extremism and terrorism first emerged in 2017, while he was studying in Australia," the attorney-general was quoted as saying by the UAE's state news agency Wam on Friday. "During that period, he was influenced by takfiri [radical] ideology through reading extremist literature and following online content glorifying terrorist organisations and suicide attacks." The Wam report also said the pilot had told investigators "he had prepared himself both psychologically and physically to carry out the plot by intensifying his exposure to material promoting terrorism and training in boxing under a private coach". "He admitted that he had acted alone, without the involvement of others, although investigations are continuing to verify this claim," Wam said. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation has reported the man was issued an Australian student visa in 2014 and studied in the country in 2015-17, before leaving. This week, the Sydney Morning Herald unearthed tweets from al-Mammami's now-deleted X account in which he referred to his five years spent studying abroad in Australia, Britain, and New Zealand, as "the golden years of my religious commitment". More than 170 passengers and crew were on board flight FZ1073 on 30 September. In the days after the incident, Australian authorities confirmed they were looking into the man's links to Australia. The Victorian Joint Counter Terrorism Team - made up of the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Victoria Police and the country's security agency ASIO - said it was "investigating the man's links to Australia". Indian co-pilot Capt Smit Machchhar has been hailed a hero after managing to unlock the cockpit door while being violently attacked with an axe, allowing passengers to get in and take control of the aircraft.

Three men found guilty of murdering Australian brothers and US friend in Mexico

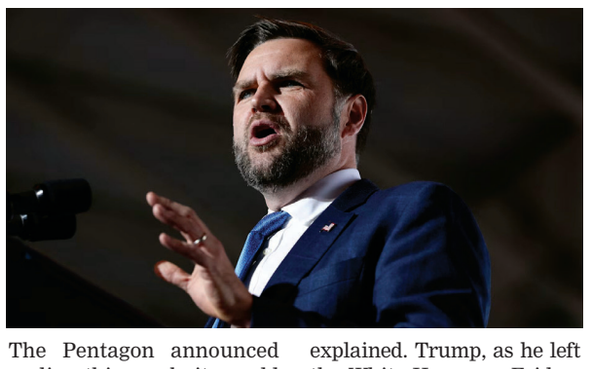


Three men have been found guilty of murdering Australian brothers Jake and Callum Robinson, and their US friend Carter Rhoad during a surfing trip in Mexico in 2024. The men's full names could not be given for legal reasons, and they were only identified as Jesús Gerardo, Irineo Francisco and Ángel Jesús. They are yet to be sentenced - but are likely to spend the rest of their lives in a prison. Debra Robinson, the brothers' mother, told the courtroom that her sons' murders had taken "the future we had imagined with them". During the trial in the northern Baja California state, the court heard that the tourists were killed in an apparent botched robbery of their truck in a secluded beach area. Their bodies were later found dumped down a well with gunshot wounds to their heads. The murders sent shockwaves around the world, particularly in Australia, as the coastal area is usually safe from the violence seen in other parts of Mexico. Debra Robinson and her husband Martin have been at the court in the coastal town of Ensenada throughout the trial, and delivered emotional testimony during closing arguments before Friday's verdict.



More than 850,000 without power after Hurricane Isaias makes landfall in Florida

JD Vance casts doubt on firing squad execution and says he would not watch it



US Vice-President JD Vance has cast doubt on the Pentagon's plans to livestream a firing squad execution of the Fort Hood attacker. Vance expressed uncertainty to reporters about whether the December execution would go ahead as planned, saying: "I don't know that that's actually going to happen". He added that "if it's through livestream, I'm not going to be watching it". Hours later, President Donald Trump said he "absolutely" approved of the livestream plan but said the Pentagon was still "making a determination" on it. Nidal Hasan killed 13 unarmed soldiers at a base in Texas in 2009, injuring another 32. The firing squad execution would be the first military execution in more than 60 years. The Pentagon announced earlier this week it would execute Hasan, a former US Army major, on 3 December by firing squad over the attack on the Fort Hood base. Then on Thursday US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said the execution would be livestreamed for the public. "People need to understand that there's serious consequences for these types of things," Hegseth explained. Trump, as he left the White House on Friday, was asked about the possibility that visuals of Hasan's execution could be used as propaganda for terrorists. "He killed 13, 14 people, badly wounded 20-some-odd people, and he's totally nuts," Trump said. "So I really don't care how he goes, as long as he goes, and I think that the death penalty is a very worthy way of going for him." The Pentagon declined to comment further when asked for more information about a decision on the livestream. Speaking to reporters on Friday, Vance condemned Hasan's attack on the base as "the worst terrorist attack on American soil outside of 9/11". Asked about how his Catholic faith impacted his stance on the plan to stream a public execution, Vance questioned whether it would happen. But he noted that Hasan, who was a US Army psychiatrist, was meant to treat soldiers for mental illness and other problems and "took them at their most vulnerable and gunned down these people where they lived". The announcement about a possible livestream has been met with criticism from both political parties.

PORTUGAL SUSPEND CRISTIANO RONALDO AFTER NATIONAL TEAM WALKOUT



Cristiano Ronaldo has been provisionally suspended after the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) announced on Saturday that it had opened disciplinary proceedings against the 41-year-old over his decision to walk out on the national team. Ronaldo apologised to supporters earlier this week while criticising Portugal coach Jorge Jesus and said he would accept any punishment that was imposed. "Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against Cristiano Ronaldo," said the federation in a statement, classifying the case as "urgent" and confirming Ronaldo is currently suspended pending a decision on the final punishment. Ronaldo left Portugal's squad after first being made to warm up as a substitute against Norway on September 27 and not brought on, and then finding out he would not start against Denmark in the match on October 1. The former Real Madrid and Manchester United attacker is Portugal's all-time top goalscorer and record appearance-maker. On Tuesday, Ronaldo accused Portugal coach Jesus of breaking his word about giving him game time in Nations League matches but said he was not retiring from international duty and would be available to play once any potential punishment was served. "I will be available, as I have always been until today, to compete and win for our national team," Ronaldo said, while accepting his actions must be "punished" by the federation. Portugal won all four of their Nations League matches and qualified for the quarter-finals with two games to spare. Ronaldo returned to club action on Friday with Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr and scored as they won 3-0 against Diriyah in a Saudi Pro League match. No final punishment has been announced, while details of the disciplinary proceedings will remain confidential until the investigation has concluded. Ronaldo said earlier this week that he would accept whatever punishment was imposed and insisted he still wanted to play for Portugal. He could face a harsh punishment – the federation's disciplinary regulations say that any player who "abandons or fails to appear" without justification at a training session.

"INSTALL A BOWLING MACHINE":

Chahal's Explosive Rant As West Indies Chase Down 250 vs India



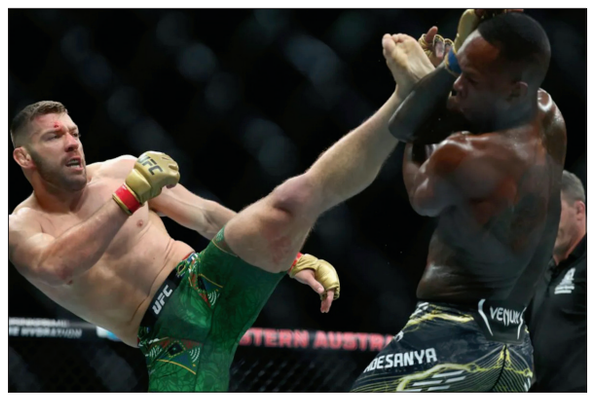
India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal raised concerns over the increasingly batter-friendly conditions in T20 cricket after the West Indies chased down 250 against India in the second T20I in Ranchi on Friday, arguing that flat pitches, dew and smaller boundaries are making it increasingly difficult for bowlers to remain competitive. "On such wickets, there's nothing for the bowlers. When the ball gets old, there's dew, the ball comes nicely onto the bat, and the grounds are getting smaller. We've seen this in the IPL as well, with 260 being chased in 19 overs. In this game too, 250 got chased down easily in 19.2 overs. So, what should bowlers do? What is the use of their skill?" Chahal questioned while speaking to JioStar. Chahal's remarks followed a contest in which India's batting effort produced 249/5, only for the West Indies to overhaul the target with four balls to spare. The result underlined the challenge facing bowling attacks when batters can sustain an aggressive scoring rate throughout an innings. Shai Hope led the visitors' pursuit with an unbeaten 102 off 45 deliveries, while Sherfane Rutherford struck 84 off 37 balls. Their 120-run partnership turned the chase in the West Indies' favour after India had made early inroads, helping the visitors finish on 252/4 and secure a six-wicket victory. "I feel for them, because I am a bowler too and when I bowl in the IPL, on small grounds with flat wickets, you have an Impact Player as well. Earlier, when the Impact Player rule was not there, you used to see 50 runs in six overs, and 170-180 was a fighting total. But these days, 70-80 runs are scored in the first six overs, and the game is done there itself. So, either you have to have something for the bowlers in the wicket.

Who Is To Be Blamed For India's Loss vs West Indies Despite Scoring 249? Gautam Gambhir's Answer Shows His Philosophy



To face questions after a team fails to defend 249 in a T20I is normal. On Friday night in Ranchi, when the world witnessed a T20I match in which the teams aggregated 500 runs for only the second time in history, it was India coach Gautam Gambhir who put on a brave face and faced the media. In a game in which batters from both sides scored 502 runs in 38.3 overs, Gambhir had special praise for a bowler. "If you look at the context of the game, it (Roston Chase's spell) was a game-changing, match-winning spell. The way he changed his lines was important on this wicket. But against dangerous teams like West Indies, we need to find a way to defend totals," Gambhir said at the post-match press conference. "You have to keep changing your lines and make the batters guess. If you keep bowling the same line and length, they can settle in. He bowled at the batters' legs, went wide and bowled full. He kept changing his approach, and those variations are very important on wickets like these." Chase returned figures of 3/24, dismissing Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Shivam Dube in the middle overs to slow India down after a flying start. India posted 249/5, powered by Samson's 82 and rapid knocks from Shreyas Iyer and Tilak Varma, but the West Indies chased down the target in 18.3 overs. "I don't blame anyone or anything. The bottom line is that we could not defend 250. They batted extremely well and deserved to win. We still have a lot of work to do." Mayank Yadav dropped a sitter as Sherfane Rutherford went on to score 84 in a match-winning 120-run partnership with Shai Hope (102 not out). "The toss is not in your hands. Catches get dropped; it has happened in the past and will happen in the future. Nobody drops catches intentionally, so you cannot blame anyone for that," Gambhir said.

Dricus du Plessis Believes He Will Be UFC Champion Again After Latest Middleweight Victory



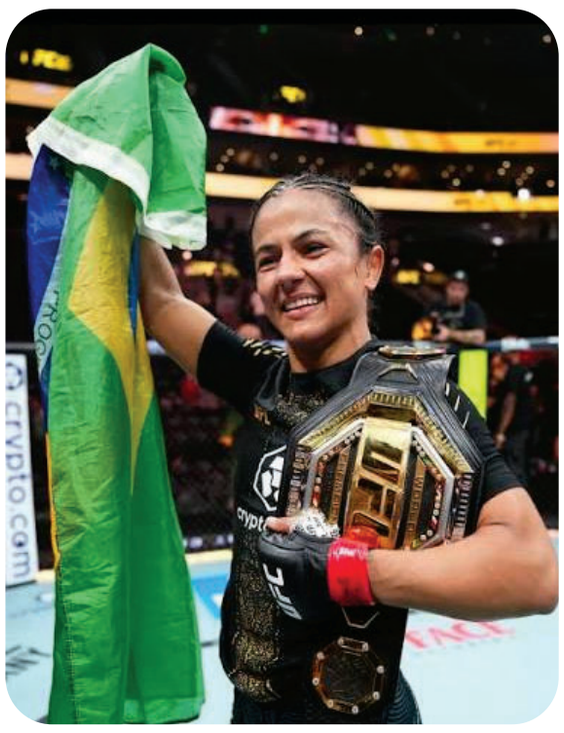
Dricus du Plessis is already looking at another UFC middleweight title shot after beating Kamaru Usman in July. The former champion said he is ready if the promotion puts him straight into the title picture, with Sean Strickland and Nassourdine Imavov expected to fight next. Du Plessis also named Khamzat Chimaev as one more name in the mix, and so the top of the division becomes very crowded. He was out for 11 months while recovering from an injury, but says he told the UFC he can come back early next year. After his latest win, du Plessis believes he showed again that he can become champion. He wants the next step to move forward and not backward. Honestly, his goal is quite simple. Dricus du Plessis Says He Is Ready For Another Title Fight Du Plessis defended the middleweight championship twice before losing the belt to Khamzat Chimaev last year. His decision win over Usman in July brought him back in the conversation, and he feels that performance proved he still belongs near the top. "After the last fight, I just prove again that I can be the best in the world and that I will be the best in the world," du Plessis told Fight Forecast. The South African also made it clear he isn't interested in going down the rankings. He said the division has a strange situation right now, with Strickland, Imavov, Chimaev and himself all sitting around the title picture. Too many names for one belt, as simple as that. "They're obviously going to do Strickland and [Nassourdine Imavov]," he said. "I think the middleweight division is in a bit of a, it's weird situation because who gets the next title shot? And I'm 100% ready for that." UFC Middleweight Division Has Several Names In The Mix Strickland's position at the top has also become less simple. The current champion has said he is losing interest in competing because he is unhappy with his pay.

England Great Wears Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Jersey Amid India vs West Indies T20Is



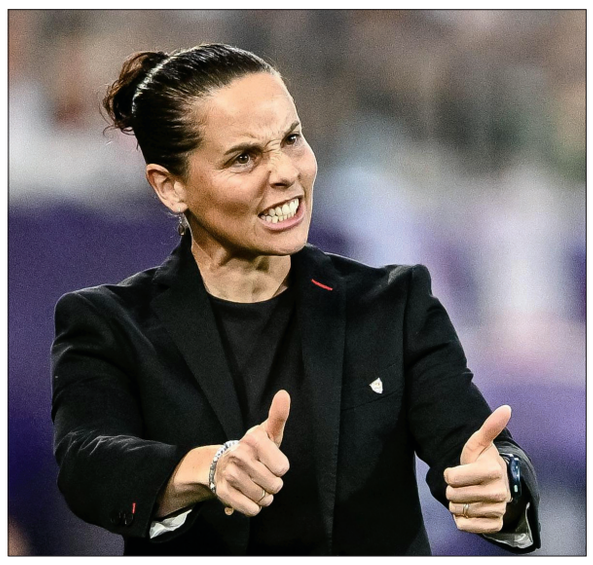
England legend Kevin Pietersen donned Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Rajasthan Royals jersey and uploaded a picture on social media. "Off to go and try another 100 in Mumbai! Wearing my signed Vaibhav Sooryavanshi shirt for inspiration!" wrote the former England captain in the caption. His post went viral and reached Sooryavanshi, who came up with a reply. "Haha, I'm coming to join you very soon," wrote the Indian teenager, who has been the talk of the town for his unbelievable batting skill. Sooryavanshi has been a part of India's T20I squad, but he has failed to find a place in the playing XI against West Indies. Shreyas Iyer and Co. are currently playing a five-match series against the Caribbean side in the shortest format, with Sanju Samson being the preferred opener alongside Abhishek Sharma. With Sooryavanshi graduating to the senior level after setting the IPL and U19 cricket stages on fire, the Indian T20I team has found itself facing a selection headache over choosing between the fiery teenager and the experienced Samson at the top of the order alongside Abhishek Sharma.

Natalia Silva's UFC Championship Homecoming Goes Wrong As Fans React



Natalia Silva returned to Brazil with a UFC championship belt. However, the celebration she expected never came. A clip from her hometown parade in Pingo d'Agua, Minas Gerais, showed the new women's flyweight champion riding through largely empty streets. Music played, and fireworks went off from a pickup truck. The video gained quick attention online, drawing sympathy from fans who said the moment was hard to watch. Silva had won the vacant 125-pound title by outpointing Wang Cong over five rounds at UFC 332 in Salt Lake City on October 3. The judges scored the main event 48-47, 48-47, and 49-46 for the Brazilian.

WALES MUST IMPROVE IN WORLD CUP BID - WILKINSON



Rhian Wilkinson accepted Wales must raise their standards after they scraped to a 1-0 victory in their Women's World Cup play-off semi-final in Albania. Wales have the upper hand going into Tuesday's second leg in Llanelli after Ezmiralda Franja's first-half own goal gave them victory in Shkoder. But Wilkinson's team were fortunate to triumph against a team who sit 37 places below them in the Fifa rankings after Albania created the game's best chances. "We stuck with it. [It was a] resilient performance. Not our best, but equally, we learned to win on hard days, and today it wasn't our best," the Wales head coach said. "Coming home with [the win] is great. We're halfway there. "We need to make sure we take care of business at home but equally push our standards a bit." Wilkinson had set a clean sheet as Wales' primary target in Albania and her players delivered on that score, albeit in fortuitous fashion. While Wales' attacking threat was limited, Franja, Fortesa Berisha and Megi Doci all came close for the home side. Albania's failure to convert one of their opportunities meant that just as had been the case in their three away games in the group stage of World Cup qualifying, Wales claimed a positive result despite being frustrated with aspects of their performance. "I didn't think we defended overly well today to be honest, but what we did do is we never quit," Wilkinson added. "I do think I've been in this job long enough to have seen that growth with this team, that we're finding ways to stick in the game. "And we've got to be happy with that right now because, again, we're away from home and in an environment where they made it really tough.

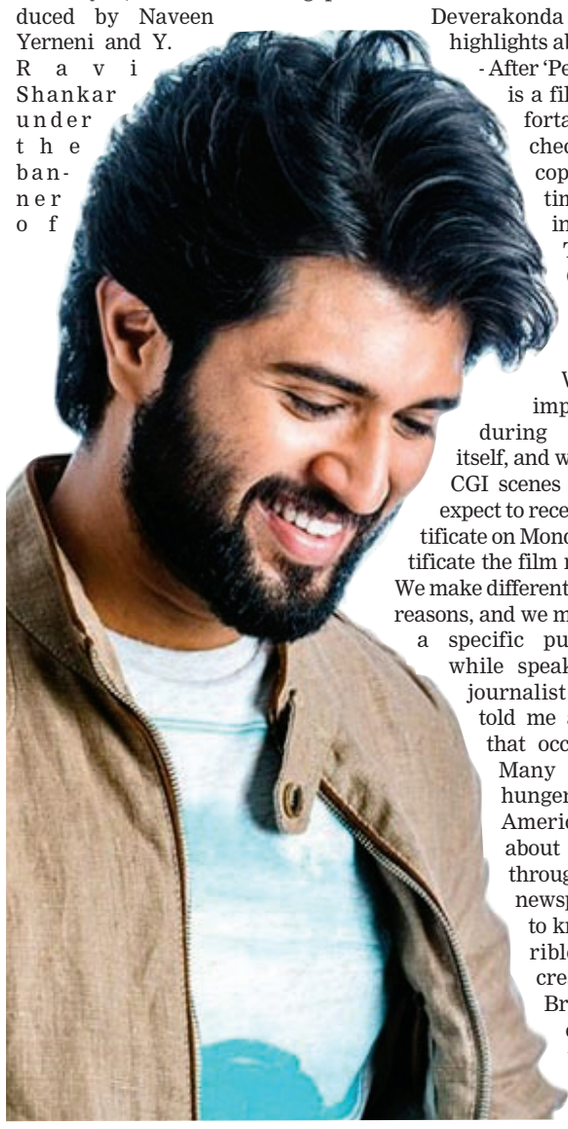
PV Sindhu Bows Out Of Arctic Open Badminton After Loss In Quarter-Finals



Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu fought hard before going down in three games against top seed and world No. 5 Ratchanok Intanon of Indonesia in the quarterfinals of the USD 500,000 Arctic Open Super 500 tournament at Vantaa, Finland on Friday. Intanon beat Sindhu, seeded sixth, 21-11 19-21 21-18. The match lasted one hour and two minutes. With this win, Intanon leads Sindhu 10-4 in head-to-head record. Earlier, Sindhu saw off Japan's Riko Gunji to advance to the quarterfinals of women's singles competition. Sindhu, the 31-year-old from Hyderabad, who won the Japan Open Super 750 title in July, notched up a 21-15 21-15 win over Gunji in the second round. Later in the day, the men's doubles pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Pruthvi Krishnamurthi Roy also crashed out, losing to Denmark's Christian Faust Kjaer and Rasmus Kjaer 13-21 14-21 in the quarterfinals. Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu will face a familiar but formidable opponent in the Arctic Open quarter-finals after the sixth-seeded Indian progressed with a straight-games victory over Japan's Riko Gunji in Vantaa, Finland, on Thursday. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, overcame Gunji 21-15, 21-15 in 49 minutes to set up a last-eight meeting with top seed and former world champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand. The quarter-final will revive one of the more established rivalries on the women's circuit, although the two players have not faced each other since 2022. Intanon holds a 9-4 advantage in their head-to-head record and has won their last five encounters. Their most recent meeting came at the Indonesia Masters in 2022, where the Thai prevailed in straight games. Sindhu will take confidence from a strong 2026 campaign that has already produced a Japan Open Super 750 title. She defeated reigning world champion Akane Yamaguchi in the final in July to claim one of the biggest titles of her recent career. Intanon has also enjoyed success this season, winning the Malaysia Masters Super 500 in May after defeating China's Chen Yufei in the final.

'RANABAALI' WILL OFFER A GREAT CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE AND AN EMOTIONAL HIGH; VIJAY DEVERAKONDA

Ranabaali' is a big-budget pan-India film starring Vijay Deverakonda in the lead role, with Rashmika Mandanna as the female lead. Directed by Rahul Sankrityan, the film is being produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers and presented by T-Series. The film is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 16, coinciding with the Vijayadashami festival. In a recent interview, Vijay Deverakonda shared several highlights about the film.



- After 'Pelli Choopulu', this is a film that I am comfortably promoting, checking the final copy two or three times before bringing it to audiences. There is a lot of CGI work involved in the film, especially in its backdrop. We understood the importance of CGI during pre-production itself, and we delivered all the CGI scenes by February. We expect to receive the censor certificate on Monday. Whatever certificate the film receives, it is fine. We make different films for different reasons, and we made this film with a specific purpose. Recently, while speaking to a senior journalist in Chennai, he told me about the famine that occurred in Bengal. Many people died of hunger. He said that Americans learned about India's condition through some American newspapers and came to know about the terrible circumstances created by the British. This reportedly inspired them to begin fighting for their own country's independence. The journalist told me that the suffering of our people became an inspiration for America's struggle for independence. - When we learn about the injustices our people faced throughout history, we are shocked and wonder whether such terrible things really happened. Some people did not consider us worthy of even the slightest respect. They looked at us as no different from trees and bushes. If we want to think about our country's future, it is important to understand our history. If we make the right attempt with this film, it could pave the way for more films of this kind. There may be efforts to uncover the hidden chapters of our history through cinema. Otherwise, nobody may come forward to tell such stories. That is why we made this film with a sense of responsibility and took great care in its making. The British did not come here intending to settle down permanently. They came for trade. Even today, some Indians believe that the British built Indian Railways for our benefit. They did not build railway lines to make travel convenient for us. They built railway connections to major ports to transport the wealth they were extracting from our country, including grain, cotton and gold. Between 1876 and 1878, a famine in the Madras Presidency claimed the lives of 8 million people. The actual number may have been even higher. The historical accounts and technologies developed by the West do not always tell us the full truth; they often present history from their own perspective. In the Travancore region alone, 6.5 million people reportedly died due to famine. If such a terrible famine occurred in the Madras Presidency alone, there were many other famine episodes in places such as Bihar and Bengal that remain less known to us. A famine caused by a lack of rainfall is one thing. In earlier times, local rulers and community elders would reduce the tax burden on farmers and the public during such crises. But after the British arrived, they began collecting double taxes in famine-stricken regions. Those who could not pay were taken to work on major projects and railway lines under extremely harsh conditions. They were given only a meagre quantity of grain in return. Those who could not work had no option but to starve. Learning about these atrocities in history is deeply distressing.

- No matter what circumstances we faced, our culture and beliefs kept us united as a society and helped protect us. During famines, people worshipped village deities and held jatara festivals, believing that the following year would be better. At that time, people did not necessarily have the idea of fighting for the country's independence. Instead, they resisted by saying that foreigners had come into their villages, were exercising control over them and were hurting their self-respect. Our history has many great warriors who stood up for their people. Many of these warriors died in their thirties. They are the inspiration behind 'Ranabaali'. Their stories reached people through folk songs that kept their memories alive, and later, some Indian writers documented them in books. Through 'Ranabaali', we are bringing to the big screen, for audiences across the world, the greatness of these warriors, the atrocities our ancestors endured, the mistakes we made as a society, and how the British managed to take control of this vast country.

"CRAZY KALYANAM" Is a Family Entertainer Filled with Fun and Heart-Touching Emotions – Badrappa Gajula



"Crazy Kalyanam" stars VK Naresh, Anupama Parameswaran, Tharun Bhascker and Akhil Uddemari, known for "Raju Weds Rambayi," in the lead roles. The film is being produced by passionate producer Boosam Jagan Mohan Reddy under the Arrow Cinemas banner as Production No. 2. Badrappa Gajula is directing the film.

"Crazy Kalyanam" is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 16, on the occasion of Dasara. In a recent interview, director Badrappa Gajula shared the highlights of the film.

The final copy of our film "Crazy Kalyanam" is ready. We initially planned to release it on October 30, as we thought we would not get enough theatres due to the release of big films this month. However, when "Adarsha Kutumbam" was postponed, we felt that our film would get enough theatres, so we changed the release date to October 16. The entire shoot has been completed, and we are currently shooting a promotional song. A few big films are releasing on October 16, but ours is a family entertainer, so we hope family audiences will come to theatres to watch it. Although this is a Telangana-based film, the dialogues and dialect are easy for everyone to understand.

I am from Bandamailaram, near Medchal in Telangana. I was born and brought up there. My family has roots in the art forms. I heard that my great-grandfather used to narrate stories while playing a musical instrument. My grandfather and father used to perform different characters in Bhagavatham plays held in our village. They used to share those experiences with me. In that way, I developed an interest in cinema without even realising it. I wanted to tell the stories I had in mind through films. I never worked as an assistant director. I completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts course and made documentaries related to government schemes and tourism films. I made more than 200 videos. During that process, I travelled to villages and interacted with people. The Iranian film "Children of Heaven" inspired me as a filmmaker. After watching it, I realised that cinema is about incidents happening around us, the experiences of our lives and the characters we see in our surroundings.

During my student days, we used to attend our friends' weddings. Compared to boys who are studying, girls are often married off at a younger age in the name of society and family honour. Girls also have dreams of studying well and achieving something in life, but their parents arrange their marriages early.

While all their classmates attend the wedding as guests and enjoy themselves, the girl is the one getting married. I started thinking about what might be going through a girl's mind in such a situation, and that is how the idea for this story began. In the name of culture and family honour, we should not impose our thoughts on girls without understanding what they think and what they want to achieve in life. Even today, girls are getting married while they are still students. My intention is to bring about a change in this situation. Initially, I wanted to narrate the story to Anupama garu, but I was unsure whether she would agree.

AH' WILL THRILL AUDIENCES AS A MYSTERIOUS AND INTRIGUING INVESTIGATION THRILLER: RAHUL VIJAY



Rahul Vijay and Archana Iyer play the lead roles in 'AH', a film that has already generated considerable buzz. The title and first look, unveiled by Adivi Sesh, received a positive response, while the recently released glimpse titled 'Bloody Hunger' garnered an overwhelming response. Currently in post-production, the film is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on October 30.

Produced under the banners of Star Box Stories and Ripple Slide Studios, 'AH' is a mysterious investigation thriller starring Rahul Vijay and Archana Iyer. Kanakaravu Tonangi, Abhishek K and renowned editor Gary BH are producing the film, which is directed by Sai Bali.

The lyrical video of the song 'Idhena Idhena' from the film was launched at a grand event held in Hyderabad on Friday. Composed by Sricharan Pakala, the song is sung by Shanmukh Bharadwaj, with lyrics penned by Suman Chikkala. Journalists Parvathaneni Rambabu, Shivamalla, Venu Bikki, Vasu Sajja and Hema Malini unveiled the song.

The word of mouth for 'Comrade Kalyan' is spreading very positively : Actor Sri Vishnu



King of Entertainment' Sri Vishnu's hilarious blockbuster 'Comrade Kalyan'. Directed by Janakiram Marella, the film is presented by Kona Venkat and produced by Venkata Krishna Karnati and Seetha Karnati under the banner of Skanda Vahana Motion Pictures LLP. Mahima Nambiar plays the female lead. The film, which was released in theaters worldwide on October 9, is being successfully screened, receiving a wonderful response from the audience. On this occasion, the film team organized a 'Navvula Navratrilu' blockbuster success meet.

Hero Sri Vishnu said at the success meet.. Greetings to everyone. The movie 'Comrade Kalyan' is getting a very good response. Word of mouth is spreading very positively. The audience is giving a very good response saying it is a good family entertainer. Families can watch this movie together happily for the Dussehra festival. This is a movie made with the intention of making you laugh comfortably for two hours. It is very happy to be lucky to be here for Dussehra and everyone has a holiday. All the audience is happily going to the theater and enjoying it. It is getting a very good response. I sincerely hope that it continues like this.

A big hero called after watching this movie and praised the movie. He will be in the next events. We are keeping it as a surprise for now. The Acharya Dalam dialogue is getting a very good response in the theater. When Kona garu mentioned this idea, I told him to ask Chiranjeevi garu. After telling him about this scene, he burst into laughter. He said that this will be the highlight of the entire movie. It is amazing to see the reaction to that scene in the theater, just as he said.

We are going to do theater visits for this film. We will plan from tomorrow. Radhika garu's character also got a very wonderful response. Balakrishna garu's fans also received good calls.

SAREGAMA ACQUIRES AUDIO RIGHTS OF AADI SAIKUMAR'S 'EGO RAJA'; SET FOR RELEASE SOON



After the blockbuster success of Shambhala, sensational hero Aadi Sai Kumar has been exploring new horizons by choosing diverse and distinctive subjects.

With several projects in his kitty, the actor is currently keeping busy with an exciting lineup of films. Meanwhile, his upcoming film Ego Raja has generated considerable buzz in trade circles. The title and first-look poster, unveiled earlier, received a positive response from audiences. Produced by G. Suresh under the SGS Productions banner, this action entertainer is directed by Guru Saravanan. The film is being made simultaneously in Telugu and Tamil, marking Aadi Saikumar's debut in the Tamil film industry.

The makers have now announced an important update regarding the film's audio rights. The shoot of Ego Raja was recently wrapped up, and the team is currently busy with post-production work. Promising to be a high-voltage action entertainer, the film has attracted the attention of leading music label SaReGaMa, which has acquired its audio rights for a hefty price. The makers are gearing up for a grand release soon.

The film also boasts several notable technicians, with Manoj Paramahamsa handling cinematography and Ghibran composing the music. Durairaj is in charge of the art direction. The team is expected to unveil more updates in the coming days, further raising curiosity and anticipation among audiences.

Catherine Tresa Alexander To Play Leading Lady In Sundeep Kishan, Ugandhar Muni's Karikaala



Following the blockbuster success of Shambhala, producers Mahidhar Reddy and Rajasekhar Annabhimoju are reuniting with director Ugandhar Muni to create another visual spectacle. Titled Karikaala, the ambitious project stars Sundeep Kishan in the lead role and is being produced under the Shining Pictures banner. The makers have already announced that the film will be released in two chapters, with the first chapter scheduled to hit theatres on July 2, 2027, and the second chapter arriving on October 28, 2027. The posters unveiled so far have heightened curiosity around the film, which is being mounted as a grand socio-fantasy entertainer. Adding to the excitement, the makers have now announced Catherine Tresa Alexander as the female lead opposite Sundeep Kishan. The team welcomed the actress on board with a special poster, marking the first on-screen collaboration between Sundeep Kishan and Catherine Tresa Alexander. The actress is also said to be playing a distinctive role in this ambitious venture.

Designed as a pan-Indian cinematic experience, Karikaala promises world-class technology, cutting-edge visual effects, impressive production design, and compelling storytelling. The team is striving to deliver a unique socio-fantasy experience to audiences across India, with the film envisioned as a grand visual extravaganza.

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