SIT PUBLICATIONS PVT LTD | Estd 2009 | VOL No. 17 | ISSUE No. 241 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026 | P-8 | ₹.5/- | PRGI No. TNENG/2008/26176

CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

Essence of the South

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER



INBRIEF

ANTI-CEC STIR: DELHI POLICE ROUNDS UP PROTESTERS ON DAY 2



New Delhi: Delhi Police got cracking yet again as protesters gathered near Jantar Mantar for a second day on Saturday, October 3, seeking the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar over the alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. This comes amid Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder-convenor Abhijeet Dipke's call for an agitation in Delhi on October 10 if the CEC does not step down.The Delhi protesters have responded to All India Students' Association (AISA) national president Neha Bora's call to return to Jantar Mantar. Bora was among those detained on Friday. On Saturday, senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Prashant Bhushan and political activist Yogendra Yadav also joined Bora in the march towards the protest site.

India well placed amid global AI risks, strong fundamentals offer resilience: RBI Governor



New Delhi, Oct 3 : A correction in elevated artificial intelligence (AI)-related valuations in advanced economies could potentially benefit India by diverting capital flows towards domestic markets despite a slowdown in global investment cycle, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Saturday.

Speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave 2026 here, Malhotra said the AI investment boom has been a major driver of global financial markets in recent years.

However, he stated that any moderation in AI-related investment or earnings could lead to a significant repricing of financial assets linked to the sector.While such a correction may pose risks for global markets, it could have a favourable impact on India, the RBI Governor said.

"If corrections in AI-related valuations were to happen in advanced countries, it may have a positive impact in terms of capital inflows," says Malhotra. He further stated that Indian equity markets had already undergone a correction from elevated valuations in recent months but described the adjustment as orderly.

The RBI Governor also identified AI-related valuation excesses as one of five key concerns facing the international financial system. The other risks include elevated global debt levels, leverage in the non-bank financial sector, growing private credit exposures and cybersecurity threats, according to him.

Meanwhile, he stressed that these vulnerabilities do not indicate immediate financial stress.

"It is not that I see any imminent signs of stress, but we need to remain alert to these risks," he says.

The country was navigating a challenging global environment from a position of strength, supported by sound macroeconomic fundamentals and resilient balance sheets across banks and non-bank financial institutions. While acknowledging that the country remains vulnerable to external shocks through commodity prices, global financial conditions and capital flows, he said the domestic financial system continues to demonstrate resilience.

"Strong macroeconomic fundamentals and the resilience of the financial system provide confidence in our ability to withstand these lingering shocks," he said. According to the RBI Governor, the most immediate concern is regarding cyber risk.

ASIAN GAMES

All-round India beat Pak by 19 runs to clinch gold



NISSHIN ■ (TSIT):

Lone warrior Hasan Nawaz kept Pakistan alive with his unbeaten 96 off 51 deliveries but it wasn't enough as India clinched a dominant 19 runs victory to defend their gold medal in the Asian Games men's cricket final match at Korogi Sports Park on Saturday.

Spin duo of Washington Sundar and Axar Patel clinched two wickets each as Shivam Dube in the later part of the run chase clinched two dominant wicket too to help India beat Pakistan.

Earlier, Abhishek Sharma smashed the fastest fifty by an Indian against Pakistan in T20Is before Tilak Varma produced a blazing late assault as India overcame a sluggish surface to post 211/6 in 20 overs.

Abhishek reached his fifty in just 20 deliveries, bettering his own 24-ball effort against Pakistan in Dubai in 2025, while Tilak followed with a 21-ball fifty as the duo took India through contrasting phases of the innings.

Abhishek eventually made 61 off 28 balls, with three fours and seven sixes, while Tilak and Shivam Dube added 62 runs for the sixth wicket to give India a strong finish.

Brief scores: India 211/6 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 61, Tilak Varma 51 not out; Arafat Minhas 2-25, Ahmed Daniyal 2-43) beat Pakistan in 20 overs (Hasan Nawaz 96, Saim Ayub 29; Washington Sundar 2-29, Axar Patel 2-29) by 19 runs.

Our Goal Is to Make AP a Developed State: Lokesh



Visakhapatnam,TSIT : Andhra Pradesh is working with a clear goal of transforming the State into a developed economy and contributing to the vision of a developed India, Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh said at the Pan IIT Summit-2026. Lokesh said the government was focusing on speed, service and stability, with policies designed to withstand the test of time and political changes.

He said entrepreneurs and industrialists were being treated as "nation builders" and assured investors of government support in implementing projects. Highlighting the State's investment initiatives, he said major projects were being developed in horticulture, steel, data centres, space, drones, quantum technology, renewable energy and other sectors. He said the government was focusing on implementation rather than merely signing MoUs.

The Minister said Andhra Pradesh was developing 23 sector-specific clusters, covering areas such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, solar energy, electronics, renewable energy, space and drones. He sought guidance and expertise from IIT alumni to strengthen these clusters. Lokesh said AI was also being used to help officials formulate policies and government orders that could withstand legal and policy changes.

He said the State had added 4.8 GW of renewable energy capacity in a year and was aiming for further expansion. Referring to Amaravati, Lokesh said the government was developing it as an education and research hub and was planning a 5,000-acre greenfield airport.

CJP PROTEST IN MUMBAI:

FIR registered against organisers, 400-500 unidentified persons

The case was lodged on the complaint of a resident of the Shivaji Park area.



MUMBAI ■ (TSIT):

Mumbai police on Saturday registered an FIR against the organisers and 400-500 unidentified persons in connection with Cockroach Janta Party's October 2 Shivaji Park protest.

The case has been registered under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Maharashtra Police Act for unlawful assembly, wilful disobedience of lawful order issued by public servant, and other offences, a Shivaji Park police station official said. The case was lodged on the complaint of a resident of the Shivaji Park area, he added.

INDIA bloc meets in Jammu to chalk out plan against CEC



Jammu: An INDIA bloc meeting was convened in Jammu and Kashmir's Jammu on Saturday, October 3, to deliberate on the Opposition alliance's proposed course of action over its allegations concerning the functioning of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and its demand for action against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.The meeting was presided over by senior Congress leader and former minister Raman Bhalla, with the participants discussing the alliance's action plan in connection with the ongoing campaign on electoral issues and the functioning of the poll panel.The INDIA bloc has alleged that the Election Commission has come under what it describes as "institutional capture" and has called for the removal, prosecution and arrest of CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

Rahul Gandhi launches 'Satyagraha' platform to map protests across India

New Delhi: Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched 'Satyagraha', a digital platform aimed at bringing together protest movements and public grievances from across India. In a post on X, Gandhi urged citizens to share their experiences of what they describe as "injustice" through the platform. Users can submit details about their causes, locate similar movements



through an interactive map and seek support for their campaigns. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of satyagraha, Rahul Gandhi said people across the country were fighting for their rights and often doing so alone. He referred to movements involving Gen Z, students, farmers, tribal communities, Dalits and women, and said the initiative was intended to bring their voices together.

India likely to finalise 114 Rafale fighter jet deal with France by FY27-end: IAF chief



New Delhi, Oct 3 : Air Chief Marshal A P Singh said on Saturday that India is likely to finalise much-awaited multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA) deal by the end of this financial year if plans materialise in time.

At a press conference ahead of Air Force Day, Singh said price negotiations and other critical issues on the proposed acquisition — estimated at about Rs 3.25 lakh crore — are under way.

India in February cleared the proposal to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets in the country's largest-ever defence acquisition push. The deal was formulated under a government-to-government framework with France, nearly two decades after the plan was originally rolled out to boost the Indian Air Force's combat prowess and expand India's Rafale fleet.The agreement once concluded would expand India's total Rafale inventory to 176 aircraft, including the 36 Rafales already operated by the Indian Air Force, along with 26 Rafale-M fighter jets ordered by the Indian Navy for deployment aboard its aircraft carriers.

The Air Chief Marshal also floated the possibility of the force considering the procurement of another platform if the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme faces delays. "Russia has offered us Su-57 jets, but no decision has been made on it," he said.

Responding to a question on the depleting strength of fighter squadrons, Air Chief Marshal Singh said the Indian Air Force (IAF) requires at least 36 to 40 aircraft annually in the next few years.

India needs to further ramp up its air power, which remains crucial in the context of overall military strength. "We have to have an AI-augmented force," Singh said on modernisation of the force, adding that self-reliance is crucial for overall combat readiness. The Chief of Air Staff underlined that India must produce a fighter jet engine in the country.

The deal with France to procure more Rafale fighter jets will help India establish a second fighter aircraft production line while also supporting greater indigenisation of defence manufacturing, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said in September.

"Even as we continue with the Rafale deal, the indigenous LCA Tejas Mark 1A programme will continue. It will be a spiral development model where we increasingly perfect it, fitting in indigenous radars that are better than global peers alongside indigenous weapons," he stressed.

Five Killed in Sri City Boiler Blast

Visakhapatnam,TSIT : Five workers were killed in a boiler explosion at Tablets India Limited in Sri City on Saturday morning. The two-tonne boiler exploded around 8.30 a.m., killing three workers on the spot and two others after they were struck by debris. District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar said Rs.50 lakh compensation would be paid to each deceased worker's family within two days. Sri City management would bear the higher education expenses of the victims' children and provide eligible family members with employment.



CM NAIDU EXPRESSES SHOCK OVER SRI CITY BOILER BLAST



Visakhapatnam,TSIT : Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock over the boiler explosion at a private industry in Sri City, Tirupati district, in which four people were killed. The Chief Minister sought details of the accident from officials. Two people died at the spot when the boiler exploded, while two others succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment at a hospital. Another seriously injured person is receiving treatment, officials said. Chandrababu Naidu conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and directed officials to extend all necessary support to the victims' families.

SCRWWO Hyderabad Division Honours Safai Mitras with Nutrition Kits and Health Camp



HYDERABAD: The South Central Railway Womens Welfare Organisation (SCRWWO), Hyderabad Division, honoured Safai Mitras with Nutrition Kits and hosted a "Safai Mitra Suraksha Seva & Samman" along with a health check-up camp at the Railway Institute in Moula Ali, as part of the "Swachhata Hi Seva – 2026" campaign.

The SCRWWO Hyderabad Division sponsored Nutrition Health Kits containing rice, atta, toor dal, red chena, sunflower oil, and mota chudwa. These kits were distributed to 100 Safai Mitras, demonstrating a holistic approach to their welfare. The health camp focused on providing health screenings to all contract Safai Karmacharis operating within the twin cities areas of the Hyderabad Division. It sought to offer a meaningful tribute to these essential workers for their contributions to maintaining cleanliness and hygiene across Railway premises.

Shri Santosh Kumar Verma, Divisional Railway Manager, and Smt. Asha Verma, President of SCRWWO/ Hyderabad Division, attended as Chief Guests. Sri D.S. Rama Rao, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, and Smt. D.Y. Sunitha, Vice President of SCRWWO, attended as Guests of Honour.

The event was coordinated by Dr. A.V.S.K. Prasad, Chief Medical Superintendent, and Dr. V. Saradha, Additional Chief Medical Superintendent. Executive members of SCRWWO and other senior officials participated in the programme, reinforcing the "Swachhata Hi Seva" message.

ANNAVARAM TEMPLE OFFERS SILK CLOTHES TO KANIPAKAM VINAYAKA SWAMY

KANIPAKAM: On the occasion of the 2026 annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Swamy Temple, Kanipakam, silk clothes (pattu vastrams) were offered to the deity by the Sri Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Swamy Temple, Annavaram.



The offerings were presented by Annavaram Temple Superintendent Lakshminarayana, Chief Priest Subrahmanyam Sharma, Trust Board members, and other temple officials.They were warmly welcomed by Kanipakam Temple Chairman Mani Naidu and Executive Officer Sri Penchala Kishore, who also made darshan arrangements and presented them with tirtha prasadam, residual sacred cloth (shesha vastra), and a portrait of the deity.

The programme was attended by Kanipakam Temple Trust Board members Krishna Veni, Sunitha, Rajyalakshmi, and Vasantha, along with priests, Vedic scholars, Assistant Executive Officer Dhananjaya, Superintendents Vasu and Kodandapani, and other officials.

RS.10 LAC DONATION TO TTD



Tirumala, October 3, 2026: A devotee from Guntur, Sri Tummala Anand Babu, donated Rs.10,11,116 to the TTD Sri Venkateswara Pranadana Trust on Saturday. On behalf of the donor, TTD Board Member Sri Nannapaneni Sadashiva Rao handed over the donation DD to the Temple Peshkar Sri Rama Krishna at the Ranganayakula Mandapam inside the Srivari Temple

PINDI DEEPOTSAVAM PROCESSION HELD IN A GRAND MANNER IN TIRUPATI



TTD JEO (Education and Health) Sri Prabhala Gopinath said that Pindi Deepotsavam aims to promote spiritual awareness and kindle the light of devotion and knowledge in the hearts of devotees.The Pindi Deepotsavam procession was held on Saturday, the third Saturday of the holy Peratasi month, from the TTD Administrative Building Parade Grounds to Alipiri Padala Mandapam, accompanied by traditional music and Govinda Nama Sankirtana.

He said devotees believe that lighting Pindi Deepam brings happiness and prosperity. The programme was organised under the direction of TTD Chairman Sri B.R. Naidu and EO Sri Muddada Ravichandra.

Hindu Dharma Prachara Parishad Secretary Dr. Medasani Mohan explained the spiritual significance of Pindi Deepam and recalled the devotion of Kurava Nambi and Tondaman Chakravarthy towards Lord Venkateswara.Special rituals were performed to the Pindi Deepam at the TTD Administrative Building before it was taken in procession to Alipiri Padala Mandapam for worship.TTD Board Members Smt. Panabaka Lakshmi, Sri G. Bhanu Prakash Reddy and Sri Dollar Divakar Reddy, SVBC Chairman Sri Sridhar Varma, officials, priests, Srivari Sevaks, staff and devotees participated.

Godavari Harathi to Be Held at Goshpada Kshetram on Nov16



TIRUPATI: TTD JEO (Health and Education) Sri Prabhala Gopinath unveiled the poster for Godavari Harathi at the SVETA meeting hall on Saturday.

The programme will be jointly organised by TTD, Dasa Sahitya Project, and the West Godavari district administration, with the processional deities of Sri Venkateswara Swamy along with Sridevi and Bhudevi.

The harathi will be performed at Goshpada Kshetram near Kovvur in West Godavari district from 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm on November 16, conveying a spiritual message on the protection and preservation of water resources.

TTD JEO invited devotees to participate in the sacred event and seek the blessings of Godavari Matha and Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

Dasa Sahitya Project Special Officer Sri Ananda Teerthacharyulu, HDPP Dr. Medasani Mohan, SVETA In-charge Director Dr. Vema Venkata Ratnam, and other officials participated.The event aims to highlight the cultural and spiritual significance of the Godavari river while promoting awareness about water conservation. Organisers said the programme would feature devotional activities and spiritual discourses, drawing devotees from across the region.

Awareness Programme on Anti-Drug and Anti-Ragging Held at Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam

Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati, organised an awareness programme on "Responsible Youth for a Safe Campus: No Drugs, No Ragging" today under the aegis of Student Affairs. The programme aimed to sensitise students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the serious consequences of ragging, while encouraging them to contribute to a safe and responsible campus environment. Addressing the students, Sreenivasulu, Additional Superintendent of Police, Tirupati District, spoke about the dangers of drug abuse and the measures being taken by the district administration and police to combat the menace. He informed the students about the establishment of Eagle Teams by the government to curb drug-related activities. He urged students to report information regarding the presence or sale of drugs to the concerned authorities and mentioned the helpline number 1972 for reporting such cases.

He also cautioned students against the negative influence of social media and advised them not to fall prey to misleading online content or the influence of unknown persons. Emphasising the importance of self-confidence and responsible decision-making, he urged young people not to sacrifice their future for temporary pleasures and to stay away from drugs and other harmful habits. Smt. Sreelatha, Additional Superintendent of Police, Women Police Station, addressed the students on the issue of anti-ragging. She explained that ragging is a punishable offence and referred to the legal provisions introduced by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to prohibit ragging in educational institutions in 1997. She clarified that ragging includes acts that cause physical or mental harassment, humiliation, or inconvenience to fellow students. She emphasised that even seemingly minor acts of ragging can have serious psychological and social consequences. She urged students to treat one another with dignity, respect, and sensitivity and to ensure that the campus remains free from ragging. The programme highlighted the importance of student responsibility, mutual respect, and collective action in creating a safe, inclusive, and drug-free campus.



AINU Hospital Dilsukhnagar Organises Free Mega Prostate and Kidney Health Camp

Dilsukhnagar, 3rd Oct 2026: On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the Asian Institute of Nephrology and Urology (AINU), Hospital Dilsukhnagar organised a Free Mega Prostate and Kidney Health Camp to promote awareness about kidney and prostate health and encourage people to prioritise preventive healthcare. 300 people including 220 males and 70 females used the opportunity.

As part of the health camp, attendees received a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation featuring a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test, a lab-based Random Blood Sugar test, Serum Creatinine testing, and a Complete Urine Examination, followed by a personalized Doctor Consultation. The health camp provided an opportunity for community members to undergo basic health assessments and consultations related to kidney and prostate health, with a focus on early identification of potential health concerns and timely medical support.

Dr. Srinivasa Narayanam, Head of the department and Senior Consultant Urologist AINU Dilsukhnagar, said, "Kidney and prostate conditions can often progress silently, and many people tend to seek medical attention only after symptoms become significant. Through this free health camp, we want to encourage people to take a proactive approach towards their health. Early evaluation can help identify potential concerns at an appropriate stage and enable timely medical guidance."



Dr. B Sreenivas Rao, Sr. Consultant Nephrologist & Transplant Physician, AINU Dilsukhnagar, said, "kidney disease often progress silently, and many individuals may not experience noticeable symptoms until the condition has advanced. Regular screening of kidney function, blood pressure and blood sugar can help identify risks at an early stage and enable timely intervention. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi, this free mega prostate and kidney health camp is an important initiative to encourage people to prioritise preventive healthcare.

We urge individuals, especially those with diabetes, hypertension, a family history of kidney disease or other risk factors, to undergo regular health checks and seek medical advice when required. Early awareness and timely care can go a long way in protecting kidney health and improving overall well-being."

GITAM Faculty Awarded Ph.D. for Research on AI-Based Diabetes Prediction



HYDERABAD: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, congratulates Dr. Santosh Kumar Bejugam on being awarded a Ph.D. in Electronics and Communication Engineering for his pioneering research on artificial intelligence-based diabetes prediction.

Dr. Santosh Kumar conducted his doctoral research under the guidance of Dr. V. Jyothi, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering (EECE), GITAM. His research, titled "Diabetic Prediction using Hybrid Deep Ensemble Network for Patient Support," focuses on developing an intelligent and reliable framework for early diabetes risk prediction.

The study proposes a Hybrid Deep Ensemble Framework that combines advanced data preprocessing, feature optimisation, and multiple deep learning techniques, including 1D-CNN, LSTM, and Extreme Learning Machine (ELM). The framework addresses challenges such as missing values, outliers, feature redundancy, and model overfitting to improve prediction reliability.

Police Conduct Nakabandi to Curb Crime.



Mancherial, acto3,TSIT : Police conducted special nakabandi checks across Mancherial town on Saturday as part of efforts to prevent crime and curb illegal activities. Checks were carried out at markets, commercial establishments, lodges, banks, gold shops and major roads, with special focus on suspicious persons and vehicles.

DCP A. Bhaskar warned that strict action would be taken against vehicles without number plates or with unclear/altered number plates. He advised motorists to carry valid driving licences, registration and insurance documents, while two-wheeler riders must wear helmets.

Police have also strengthened surveillance along border areas to prevent criminals from fleeing across the Maharashtra border. Town Inspector Pramod Rao, traffic police and other personnel participated in the checks.

Bank of Baroda Organises 'Swachhata Hi Seva 2026' Campaign Nationwide



MUMBAI, OCTOBER 1, 2026: In line with the Government of India's 'Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026' campaign, Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, organised a nationwide cleanliness drive spearheaded by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.

Bank of Baroda employees across its offices and branches throughout the country participated in the campaign. This initiative forms a key highlight of the fortnight-long SHS 2026 programme being observed from September 17 to October 2, 2026.

As part of the campaign, the Bank conducted various cleanliness and hygiene awareness activities across its offices, with the objective of promoting responsible waste management, environmental consciousness, and greater public participation in maintaining clean and healthy surroundings.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sanjay Vinayak Mudaliar, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda, said, "Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026 is a powerful nationwide initiative of the Government of India that brings people together to contribute towards a community goal. Through this drive, Bank of Baroda remains committed to fostering a culture of cleanliness and environmental responsibility."

He added that with active participation across all offices and branches, the Bank aims to inspire community action and build a cleaner, greener future for the societies it serves.

Bank of Baroda reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to social responsibility, environmental sustainability, and national development through the Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign.

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

TVK seeks ECI action against Stalin





CHENNAI: The ruling TVK in Tamil Nadu on Saturday slammed DMK president M K Stalin for allegedly "body-shaming" the party's Dharapuram bypoll candidate P Satyabama and petitioned the EC to revoke the former Chief Minister's star campaigner status.

Chief minister C Joseph Vijay and other TVK leaders slammed Stalin over the "body-shaming" charge, with the former alleging that the DMK president's campaign in the Assembly segment located in the western Tiruppur district was marked by "slander, misogyny and personal abuse."

In a formal complaint submitted to Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam General Secretary for Election Campaign Management and state minister, Aadhav Arjuna, alleged that Stalin blatantly violated the model code of conduct (MCC) during a campaign rally in Dharapuram on Friday.

The petition requested the EC to invoke its statutory powers under the Representation of the People Act to impose a temporary campaign ban on Stalin and direct local election authorities to register an FIR against him under Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Woman Act, 1998. Campaign to the high-stakes October 6 bypoll in Dharapuram, besides Madurantakam, ends at 6 pm on Sunday.

TVK knocked the doors of the EC with the plaint after a sharp criticism earlier in the day by Vijay, who accused Stalin of indulging in personal attacks and body-shaming Sathyabama under the guise of election canvassing. Expressing solidarity with his party candidate as a "son and brother to the women of Tamil Nadu," the chief minister asserted that obscenity and vulgarity have become ingrained in the DMK's political conduct, adding that the electorate of Dharapuram would deliver a fitting response in the upcoming bypoll.

During the DMK's poll campaign, Stalin criticised the TVK candidate ridiculing her for shifting loyalties to the ruling TVK from the AIADMK, and used nicknames like "suitcase" (petti) and "somersault" (balti) implying she switched political camp for financial gain.

In a statement on X, Vijay said: "Under the guise of an election campaign in Dharapuram, the evil force DMK has organised a defamatory and utterly uncivilised meeting under its leader M K Stalin."

MK Stalin accuses CM Vijay of ignoring concerns of common man

Stalin also compared the economic performance of the previous 'Dravidian Model' government with the present administration.



CHENNAI: DMK president MK Stalin on Friday (October 2) questioned Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay over the difficulties faced by people due to the rising prices of essential commodities, asking whether he was aware that people were struggling even to purchase groceries from small shops.

Stalin alleged that the CM was busy with purchasing MLAs instead of addressing the issues faced by the people. During his by-election campaign in Dharapuram, Stalin had visited a grocery shop and enquired about the prices of essential commodities. In a statement, he said the prices of essential goods had increased considerably over the past four months, placing an additional burden on households across the State.

"With families across Tamil Nadu struggling to manage their household expenses because of the price rise, will people's stomachs be filled by watching reels," he asked. Stalin also compared the economic performance of the previous 'Dravidian Model' government with the present administration.

He claimed that the economic growth had continued to rise under the previous government even when the national economy was witnessing a slowdown.

Tamil Nadu to seek Centre's clearance for Rameswaram Airport

Rameswaram attracts tourists and pilgrims visiting the Ramanathaswamy temple, Dhanushkodi, Arichalmunai and the memorial of former President APJ Abdul Kalam.

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government is preparing to seek the Centre's approval for a proposed airport at Manikaneri in Ramanathapuram district, advancing a project intended to improve access to Rameswaram and strengthen tourism and the regional economy.

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) has decided to apply to the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation for site clearance, the initial approval required for establishing an airport at the selected location.

The proposed airport is planned on approximately 600 acres at Manikaneri. The site was finalised in January this year following inspections by a team from the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Rameswaram attracts tourists and pilgrims visiting the Ramanathaswamy temple, Dhanushkodi, Arichalmunai and the memorial of former President APJ Abdul Kalam.

However, visitors currently depend on road and rail transport to reach the destination. The State government announced the airport proposal in 2025, citing the need to improve connectivity, encourage economic activity and support the development of tourist attractions in and around Rameswaram.

Five locations in Ramanathapuram district were initially identified for consideration: Palankulam, Devipattinam, Kumbaram, Kalari and Manikaneri. Following a preliminary selection process, Kumbaram and Manikaneri emerged as the two shortlisted options. At the State government's request, an AAI team inspected both locations to assess their suitability. Based on that exercise, Manikaneri was selected as the location for the proposed airport.

EV Velu, son file pleas to quash FIR over alleged lake bed excavation

The FIR alleges that soil was excavated from Malappambadi lake bed between November and the first week of December 2025 and transported to the conference venue

CHENNAI: Former highways and public works minister EV Velu and his son Kumaran have moved the Madras High Court, seeking to quash an FIR registered against them over alleged illegal excavation of lake-bed material for a DMK northern zone youth wing conference.

The FIR was registered on September 24 based on a complaint filed by Arappor Iyakkam before the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) on August 14, 2026.

According to the FIR, the conference was held on December 14, 2025, at Kalaignar Thidal in Malappambadi on about 124.56 acres owned by Kumaran. Velu, then the Highways, Minor Ports and Public Works minister, DMK northern zonal in-charge, and Tiruvannamalai (South) district secretary, allegedly supervised the arrangements.



The FIR alleges that soil was excavated from Malappambadi lake bed between November and the first week of December 2025 and transported to the conference venue. It further alleges that Velu misused his official position to facilitate the excavation without obtaining permission from the revenue, corporation or geology and mining departments.

The alleged roles of these departments' officials are also under investigation. The DVAC has registered the case under Sections 61(2), 316(5), 318(3) and 324(5) read with Section 49 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, besides Sections 13(2) read with 13(1)(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Section 12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act has also been invoked against private individuals and others for alleged abetment.

In their petitions, Velu and Kumaran contended that the FIR was baseless. They said its pendency would affect their duties and obligations as MLAs and their rights guaranteed under the Constitution. They also sought an urgent hearing of their petitions and requested the court to dispense with the requirement of producing a certified copy of the FIR. The petitions are expected to be listed shortly before Justice V Lakshminarayanan.

Panchetty villagers demand underpass beneath Chennai-Kolkata NH, cite deaths and safety risks



CHENNAI: Residents of Panchetty and surrounding villages in Tiruvallur district have urged the district administration to build a proper underpass beneath the Chennai-Kolkata National Highway, saying the existing narrow tunnel forces commuters to take a long detour and poses difficulties for school students, patients and pregnant women.

According to a Maalaimalar report, residents from Panchetty, Neduvaram Pakkam, Chennivakkam, Agaram and other areas walk nearly 2 km to reach the tunnel before taking buses or autos to their workplaces and educational institutions. TIDCO sets process in motion for Rs 400 cr Coimbatore FinTech Hub

Similarly, residents of Natham, Pandi, Kavanur, Thangal, Ernavakkam, Dharmapuri and neighbouring villages travelling towards Chennai and Chengundram face difficulties crossing the highway.

The lack of a convenient crossing has also created problems during medical emergencies, residents said. Patients and pregnant women travelling to the government primary health centre are among those affected, while ambulances reportedly face difficulties reaching some surrounding areas. Residents said the narrow tunnel is particularly inconvenient for those dependent on public transport and autos.

Robotics to expand beyond surgery into wider medical care: Jitendra Singh



New Delhi, Oct 3: Robotics is set to expand beyond surgical procedures and become an increasingly important tool across medical specialities, including diagnostics, treatment and therapy, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said on Friday.

Addressing the inaugural session of the International Conference of the Society of Robotic Surgery, Singh said robotics, along with artificial intelligence (AI) and nanoscience, would contribute to a broader ecosystem for precision healthcare and precision medicine. He said robotics should not be viewed as a technology restricted to surgery and would increasingly find applications across different branches of medicine.

"It's a tool. It will happen everywhere," Singh said, adding that while robotic surgery is currently the main focus, the future could see the emergence of robotic medicine, robotic endocrinology and robotic cardiology, similar to the expanding use of AI across medical specialities.

Singh said medicine was entering a new phase driven by technologies including AI, biotechnology, nuclear medicine, quantum technologies, nanomedicine and robotics.

He said precision medicine would increasingly involve tailoring treatment to individual patients, even when they are diagnosed with the same disease. Genetic profiles, environmental conditions, lifestyles and dietary patterns could increasingly influence medical decision-making, he added. Referring to the Genome India Programme, Singh said 10,000 individuals had already been sequenced and expressed hope that India could eventually move towards sequencing the genes of every newborn.

He said genetic sequencing on a population of 1.4 billion would require the optimal use of AI and robotics.

Singh also highlighted the potential of nanomedicine in addressing healthcare challenges. Referring to efforts to develop oral insulin, he said advances at the nanoscale could help overcome some limitations associated with conventional drug delivery and open up new treatment possibilities.

The minister also underlined the potential of tele-robotics in improving access to specialist healthcare, particularly in a geographically diverse country like India. Sharing his experience with robotic ultrasonography, Singh said he had performed an ultrasound on a person located 10,000 kilometres away in Antarctica, demonstrating the possibilities of remotely enabled medical technologies."Instead of the patient being referred to the doctor, it will be the doctor being referred to the patient," he said.Singh said tele-robotics could enable specialist expertise to reach patients across geographical boundaries, reducing the need for patients to travel long distances to access advanced medical care.

He also pointed to India's changing disease profile, where infectious diseases continue to coexist with metabolic and lifestyle-related disorders. Diseases traditionally associated with later stages of life are increasingly being reported among younger people, he said.

Singh said India's scale and diversity make technologies such as AI, robotics and tele-robotics particularly relevant to healthcare delivery and could support the country's transition towards more precise and personalised medicine.

DRC Ebola outbreak eases in some areas, death toll crosses 4,000



Kinshasa, Oct 3: Health authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) said the Ebola outbreak has eased in some areas, with no new cases reported in several health zones for weeks, even as the overall death toll crossed 4,000. "We are no longer talking about outbreaks at the provincial level, but outbreaks concentrated in individual health zones," Health Minister Roger Kamba said at a press briefing in Kinshasa on Friday.

Data released on Friday showed that the outbreak has claimed 4,018 lives among 8,300 confirmed cases across seven provinces, with an overall case fatality rate of 48.4 per cent. A total of 2,162 patients have recovered. Of the 63 health zones affected across the seven provinces since the outbreak began, 12 have reported no new cases for 42 days, Kamba said. "The situation remains highly variable, but we can see that the number of health zones reporting cases has decreased," he said.

Despite signs of localised improvement, international medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) warned on Thursday that the actual toll was likely higher than officially reported due to gaps in disease surveillance and case detection. The Ebola outbreak, declared in May, has become the largest and deadliest ever recorded in the DRC and the second-largest Ebola outbreak globally, after the 2014-2016 epidemic in West Africa.Meanwhile, the United Nations warned that escalating violence in eastern DRC was further hampering efforts to contain the outbreak.

CHANGE OF NAME

I R Rajesh Kumar alias Rajesh Kumar R alias R. Rajeshkumar S/o Ramamoorthy, R/o 4/8, kannadiar street, Vanathirayampattinam, PO: Vanathirayampattinam, DIST: Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu - 621804, have changed my name to Rajeshkumar R

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGINEERING WORK

(1) Tender Notice No.: E-R-T-100-26-27, Date: 01.10.2026. **Name of Work:** Casual renewal of Rail, sleeper and its fittings of turnout and SEJ under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/I/Raipur. **Tender Value:** ₹ 47,45,284/-. **EMD:** ₹ 94,900/-.

(2) Tender Notice No.: E-R-T-101-26-27, Date: 01.10.2026. **Name of Work: (1)** Renewal of CMSC to WCMSC-130 Sets [Planned basis] **(2)** TTR(TWS + WCMSC)-18 Sets (Main line) & 34 Set (Loop line), TTR (WCMSC) - 38 Sets & TTR (DS)-8 Sets. **Tender Value:** ₹ 2,62,10,794/-. **EMD:** ₹ 5,24,200/-.

(3) Tender Notice No.: E-R-T-102-26-27, Date: 01.10.2026. **Name of Work: (1)** Renewal of ordinary/ improved SEJ to TWSEJ with PSC sleepers (Planned Basis) 191 Sets & **(2)** Renewal of SEJ-29 Set and glued joint-333 Set. **Tender Value:** ₹ 3,23,05,222/-. **EMD:**₹ 6,46,100/-.

Submission of Tender: Upto 11:00 Hours on 28.10.2026. Opening of Tender: 11:00 Hours on 28.10.2026.

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. DEN (Co.)/Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Engineer-I

PR/R/ENGG/PCN/224 ***Raipur.***

South East Central Railway @secrail

EDITORIAL

From Swachh To Swasth: 13 Years Of A Campaign, And People Who Make It Matter

Who would have thought that a call from the Prime Minister of India in 2014, an appeal for a cleaner India, would make way for a movement that would grow into one of the nation's longest-running public health campaigns? What started as Banega Swachh India pivoted to Banega Swasth India. And somewhere along that journey, we began to understand that cleanliness was only the beginning. A clean India meant a healthy India, and a healthy India meant a stronger, more productive and more prosperous country. Over the years, I've watched this campaign grow from a call for better hygiene into a much larger conversation about public health, sanitation, nutrition, the environment and the people who make change happen on the ground. The journey has been extraordinary. From the President of India and Union ministers to Padma Shri awardees, Oscar winners, Nobel Laureates, doctors, health workers, ASHA workers and sanitation workers, the campaign has brought together voices from across the country and beyond the borders.Who would have thought that a call from the Prime Minister of India in 2014, an appeal for a cleaner India, would make way for a movement that would grow into one of the nation's longest-running public health campaigns? What started as Banega Swachh India pivoted to Banega Swasth India. And somewhere along that journey, we began to understand that cleanliness was only the beginning. A clean India meant a healthy India, and a healthy India meant a stronger, more productive and more prosperous country. Over the years, I've watched this campaign grow from a call for better hygiene into a much larger conversation about public health, sanitation, nutrition, the environment and the people who make change happen on the ground. The journey has been extraordinary. From the President of India and Union ministers to Padma Shri awardees, Oscar winners, Nobel Laureates, doctors, health workers, ASHA workers and sanitation workers, the campaign has brought together voices from across the country and beyond the borders. Over the years, the campaign has also received several awards and recognitions, a testament to the impact it has made and the work of everyone who has been part of this journey. The partnership between NDTV and Reckitt has been central to this journey, with a shared belief that it needed to be more than just another awareness campaign. It had to translate into action and create lasting change. And, of course, many incredible faces joined us on this journey. From Amitabh Bachchan, who lent his voice to the campaign for nine years, to Ayushmann Khurrana who is the campaign ambassador and several other Bollywood actors, sportspersons and social media influencers, the campaign has had the support of people who have helped take the message to millions. This year, on Gandhi Jayanti, in Mumbai, we celebrated the beginning of Season 13. But more than a launch, it felt like a moment to look back at how far we've come and, more importantly, at the people who have brought us here. The best part of yesterday's launch was seeing the real heroes get their moment. Seventeen teachers from across India were honoured at the Dettol Banega Swasth India Teachers Awards.

Why is Gen Z So 'Unserious'? Practicing Joy in Resistance



Student protests across India have gained momentum. The youth are demanding accountability, a word not very popular in political parties. The recent movement began with the Jantar Mantar protest demanding the resignation of the education minister following the death by suicide of 17 students due to the NEET paper leak. Youngsters are now agitating against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEO) of India over the mass deletion of names from the voter list during the revision of the country's electoral rolls known as the Special Intensive Revision, or SIR. Meanwhile, women are leading more demonstrations across the country, triggered by a horrific gangrape near Lady Shri Ram college, a women's college in Delhi. While the various protests hint at political awakening, it is the ways in which dissent is expressed that has caught the public's attention. The prominence of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), a satirical online account which grew into a national movement, shows us the political discernment of young people today. Distinct ways of registering dissent emerged during the protests – taunting and rhyming slogans, mocking placards, singing and dancing at protest sites, banter with the police, dressing up as super heros, etc. "Sharam nahi hai mardon mein, aurat kyun hai pardon mein" (it's the men who have no shame, why do women have to hide behind a veil), chanted women protesting against gender based violence and discrimination. The slogans went viral on social media as 'vibe', attracted support and prompted netizens to make their own versions. In Bihar, students asking the police to use water cannons for fun caught the attention of the internet. Protestors even asked the police to lathi-charge them, reportedly joking that they had 'FOMO' (fear of missing out). A video of the crowd singing the national anthem to stop the police in Delhi went viral. Protest goers started making GRWM (get ready with me) for the protest reels. Memes became the highlight of the feed and the internet started asking for season two after the resignation of the education minister. The support and sarcasm transcended borders, with many from Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh supporting the youth protests online. A viral reel template mentions "padosi mulk ka protest ek taraf aur hum bhi ussi taraf" (the neighbouring country's protest is on one side and we too are on the same side). Many reels carried titles such as, "they are not afraid of anything", framing the young protesters as fearless and emotionally open, wearing their hearts on their sleeves. While many understood the radicality of joy in dissent, some dismissed Gen Z as unserious, the generation which grew online and has a shrinking sense of future. 'Joy is an act of resistance' Coined by Toi Derricotte, "Joy is an act of resistance" is a relevant concept to understand here. Audre Lorde, a feminist writer and rights activist explains it further through her work that joy gives us the energy to change, "to resist the oppressive structures and status quo that make us tired and apathetic". The perceived unseriousness in protests today is challenging the longstanding expectations that change must be burdened by heaviness, at the expense of mental wellbeing. The dissenters refused to give into the condition and turned fighting for justice into a celebration, a tradition long kept in the line of protest songs and chants. They declared that they're not scared of water cannon or lathi-charges, turning the intimidation tools of the state into a source of laughter. The humour in demanding social justice offsets the state's relentless strategy to drain the emotional and physical energy of protesters. It allows for the unapologetic expression of ones' political identity. Joy is a crucial weapon for the oppressed. However, it never ignores suffering. To the contrary, it means acknowledging pain, anger and grief, while continuing the quest for justice. Protests against sexual violence in Delhi rest on anger and demands for safety, slogans turn this individual anger into a collective voice. The subtle language of taunting and mocking allows protesters to use sharp words, the artistic freedom to criticise. Rhymes are difficult to forget, and not only keep the protests energized but also invite others to join in. The issue is not how people ought to protest. Whether one dissents through satire or anger, the relevant question is what is being demanded, not how it appears. Justice and accountability cannot be won by memes alone, but if the world is scrolling, a trending reel is as great a place as any to begin. If suffering didn't make us stop and watch, rhymes, costumes and songs might, and joy surely can. The young protestors know what they're doing, and it's high time we listened. After all, to borrow Cornel West's phrase, "justice is what love looks like in public", and joy helps sustain that love. Raman Chahal holds a degree in media, communication and development from LSE. Her master's research explored how the media participates in the Hinduisation of Dalit identity and its implications for caste consciousness. She currently works with children with special needs. New Delhi: Hundreds of people have gathered at Jantar Mantar, Delhi, on Friday (October 2) to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over allegations of irregularities during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. In response, the state has deployed around 4,000 police personnel and has clamped down on dissent by shutting down metro stations and detaining protesters. Videos and photographs of protesters being brutally detained by the police have emerged, showing security forces manhandling and dragging citizens to buses. Members of All India Students' Association (AISA), Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), Students' Federation of India (SFI) and Congress's youth group National Students' Union of India (NSUI) have been taken into custody, along with opposition party leaders, activists and protesting citizens. As reported by The Wire earlier, the number of female police officers at central areas like Jantar Mantar and Connaught Place are noticeably few, even as women protesters also being handled roughly and taken into buses. Despite the police crackdown and widespread detentions, protesters have no backed down, raising slogans and demanding accountability. The SIR process has been riddled with controversies, with 13 crore names deleted from the draft voter rolls since June 2025.

Is Akhilesh trying to hit two birds with one stone with Dhanraj Nathwani in UP?

SAURABH VARSHNEY

The Samajwadi Party has sparked a new political debate across the country by nominating Dhanraj Parimal Nathwani for the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh. The SP announced Nathwani's name alongside senior leader Ramgopal Yadav. Ramgopal Yadav is a long-established political figure within the Samajwadi Party, while Dhanraj Nathwani is primarily associated with a business family. This distinction makes this decision unique. Politicians are also interpreting it as a signal for Yogi Adityanath.

It's worth noting that Dhanraj Nathwani is associated with Reliance Industries and is also the president of the Gujarat Cricket Association. His public life has been distinct from traditional socialist politics. Even more interesting is the fact that his father, Parimal Nathwani, is a Rajya Sabha member himself and is seeking re-election from Jharkhand in June 2026 as an independent candidate supported by the National Democratic Alliance. If the father is in the Rajya Sabha with the support of one faction and the son is the SP candidate, questions are bound to arise. The question is whether Akhilesh Yadav's decision is merely a political strategy, or is there also some communication between various centers of power behind it? Should this be considered a sign of a compromise with the central government?

Based on available public information, no evidence of such a secret political deal has emerged. Therefore, calling it the result of a compromise would be speculation at this point. But symbols are important in politics, and Nathwani's candidacy has become one such symbol.

The background of the Nathwani family makes this discussion significant. Parimal Nathwani has long been associated with the Reliance Group and has reached the Rajya Sabha under various political circumstances. His current entry into the Rajya Sabha came with the support of the National Democratic Alliance. Meanwhile, his son has been selected by Akhilesh Yadav for the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh. This development demonstrates that political connections do not always align with family or business ties. Such examples have existed before, but the current circumstances emphasize this importance.

From here, one can try to understand the potential political implications of this decision for Yogi Adityanath and the Bharatiya Janata Party. While it's not appropriate to interpret this as evidence of a compromise, it can certainly be seen that the Samajwadi Party is seeking to expand its reach beyond its traditional social base. Increasing engagement with industry, investment, employment, the business community, and influential groups at the national level can be part of any party's strategy. If the SP combines economic development with the politics of social justice, Nathwani's candidacy could signal that direction.

It's natural to compare Akhilesh Yadav to his father, the late Mulayam Singh Yadav. Mulayam Singh Yadav maintained his ideological identity while engaging with diverse social and political groups. He sought to build a broader political equation beyond his traditional support base. Interaction with various social groups and parties was a hallmark of his political career. The question is whether Akhilesh is returning to this same pragmatic style. In recent years, the social equation of backward, Dalit, and minority communities, i.e., the PDA, has been central to Akhilesh's political career. In such a situation, sending a Reliance-affiliated candidate to the Rajya Sabha sends a different message. Opposition parties have made this distinction an issue. BSP chief Mayawati questioned the selection of Nathwani and Ramgopal Yadav, linking it to the SP's PDA claim. The SP argues that socialism aims at employment, development, and prosperity, and that industry and investment are essential for this.

This debate could be the true political meaning of Nathwani's candidacy. Will the SP make economic development and investment a central message, along with social justice? Increasing engagement with industry doesn't necessarily mean the SP is abandoning its ideological identity. It could also be an attempt to combine social justice and economic development.

Another aspect of this decision is related to the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. Rajya Sabha elections also test the organizational strength of parties, the loyalty of MLAs, and potential alliances. In the ten-seat elections in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party faces limited assured seats, while there is talk of anti-party voting for the tenth seat. In such an environment, Nathwani's selection could also have a broader political message.

The signal for Yogi must be understood in this context. If the SP begins to challenge the BJP's language on industry and investment, it could intensify competition for development in Uttar Pradesh politics. The BJP will have to focus on the opposition's social base as well as its economic expansion. If this strategy succeeds, investment, employment, industry, and development could become more prominent in the opposition's discourse in 2027. However, this is still a possibility, not a fact. It would also be premature to say that Akhilesh is on the verge of a secret agreement with the central government. Family ties, business connections, or support from different parties are not in themselves proof of an agreement. Direct documentation or credible evidence would be required for any conclusion. Such evidence is currently unavailable. Nevertheless, Nathwani's candidacy is difficult to ignore.

MONTHS AFTER SIR AND ASSEMBLY POLLS, ELECTION COMMISSION LAUNCHES SPECIAL DRIVE FOR 'LEFT OUT' VOTERS

New Delhi: Under fire and the target of youth-led protests today, October 2, in two of India's biggest cities, the Election Commission has directed a 'special drive' in 20 states and Union territories where it has already completed the controversial special intensive revision.

The Election Commission has released a letter to Chief Electoral Officers of the states and UTs to say "Commission has instructed to undertake a special drive for enrolment of left-out and first time/young electors." This letter that the ECI has tweeted is dated October 1, but Indian Express reports that the instruction was conveyed in writing on September 29 and repeated at a video conference with all state Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) on October 1. As many as 13 crore names have been struck off the rolls in 30 states and UTs, with wide-ranging implications on the people who were left out from them in terms of access to rations and other welfare schemes, and even the ability to remain in the country. Crucial elections have been conducted on the basis of electoral rolls made after the SIRs, in which the Bharatiya Janata Party wrested Bengal for the first time despite 27 lakh appeals lying in wait.

This letter comes a week after an investigation by The Indian Express on September 23 showed that the question of who makes it onto the voters' list and who is left out was being raised inside the Commission itself, often without a majority vote.

Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had objected on record 14 times in 10 months to decisions taken in the Commission's name without their knowledge, including the change to Form 6 (the form new voters fill) and the centralised control of ECINet, the software on which the electoral rolls were prepared during the SIR and on which every electoral roll now sits. Essaying the process of the SIR, the Election Commission said:

"Voter enrolment is a continuous process and any person not yet enrolled in the electoral roll or whose name has got deleted can apply for enrolment at any point of time. The objective of the special drive is to identify and facilitate such electors."

The letter notes that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) – already overworked in various states – will now compare the current electoral roll with the pre-SIR roll and identify voters whose names were previously included but are missing from the current roll.

BLOs will conduct house-to-house visits to verify the status of these voters and facilitate their re-enrolment through Form 6, covering at least 20–25 voters a week and completing the exercise in about a month. They are also now to assist left-out, first-time and young voters with enrolment. These lists will now be shared with recognised political parties and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs).

Booth-level camps will also be organised, including special camps for homeless and marginalised people, the Election Commission now claims. Crucially, would-be voters will be able to use a Form 6 without the question linking it to the SIR which was added to it in July 2026 – a question which the two Election Commissioners had been formally against, and which needed a parliament approval in the first place.

This letter also says: "CEOs, DEOs and EROs will undertake appropriate awareness and mobilisation activities through educational institutions, local-level outreach, SVEEP activities, regular press briefings and other suitable platforms to ensure that every eligible citizen is made aware of the opportunity to get enrolled."

And:

"The progress and regular review of the drive may be closely monitored at the level of CEO, DEO and ERO."

The removal of local authorities in favour of the centralised control of the ECI in Delhi had been one of the points flagged by the two Election Commissioners.

RBI Remains Cautious On Crypto, Backs Underlying Technology



India has maintained a cautious approach towards cryptocurrencies while promoting the underlying technologies such as distributed ledger technology and tokenisation, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Saturday. Malhotra said India supports innovation in technologies underlying crypto assets, including distributed ledger and tokenisation, but remains cautious about cryptocurrencies due to concerns over monetary sovereignty, monetary policy and capital flows. "So, our approach has been to promote the underlying technologies, and we are using some of these in the central bank and outside in PPP (public-private partnership) mode. But insofar as crypto is concerned, it has been a cautious approach," he said at the Kautilya Economic Conclave. Expressing concerns about cryptocurrencies, the RBI Governor said it is related to the 'singleness of money' and their potential implications for monetary policy, particularly in emerging market economies, where capital flow restrictions are in place. "The problem that you are trying to address is primarily not so much of domestic payments, because domestic payments within our country and in many countries now are quite fast, cheap and convenient," he said. The more significant challenge is cross-border payments, for which other solutions, including central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), can be explored, he said. On rising public debt and hardening bond yields globally, Malhotra said the yield movement is essentially a function of demand and supply, with government and private-sector spending rising, including on account of artificial intelligence (AI). "Money is scarce, spending has increased, both by the government as well as private enterprises, led by AI, and so that's what is leading to the hardening of the bond yields and debts," he said. Malhotra said the RBI's monetary policy primarily focuses on domestic growth-inflation dynamics. But global interest rates also have implications for India, including through their impact on real interest rates in the country. Concern over cryptocurrencies The concern over cryptocurrencies is related to the 'singleness of money' and their potential implications for monetary policy, particularly in emerging market economies, where capital flow restrictions are in place, he said. "The problem that you are trying to address is primarily not so much of domestic payments, because domestic payments within our country and in many countries now are quite fast, cheap and convenient," he said. He said the significant challenge lies in cross-border payments, where alternative solutions such as central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) could be explored. The remarks come as central banks worldwide continue to explore digital currencies and tokenisation while evaluating the monetary and financial stability risks associated with privately issued crypto assets, as per ANI. In India, the RBI has been developing and testing the digital rupee, its central bank digital currency (CBDC), while taking a cautious approach to regulating private cryptocurrencies. Elevated global bond yields Globally, a cycle of monetary tightening by central banks has contributed to higher bond yields, and on the rising public debt and higher bond yields globally, Malhotra said the yield movement is essentially a function of demand and supply, with government and private-sector spending rising, including on account of artificial intelligence (AI). "Money is scarce, spending has increased, both by the government as well as private enterprises, led by AI, and so that's what is leading to the hardening of the bond yields and debts," he said. Malhotra said the RBI's monetary policy primarily focuses on domestic growth-inflation dynamics. But global interest rates also have implications for India, including through their impact on real interest rates in the country. "That is something that we need to take care of," he said.

BGMI HOT DROP LANDS IN VISAKHAPATNAM, TURNING INORBIT MALL INTO A SIX-ZONE BATTLEGROUND ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4



Visakhapatnam, 2026: BGMI HOT DROP, KRAFTON India's real-world Battlegrounds experience, comes to Inorbit Mall, Visakhapatnam, on Sunday, October 4, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

The day is built around six interactive zones that visitors can explore at their own pace: leaving their mark on the HOT DROP-themed Graffiti Wall, testing their aim at the Red Dot Target, racing to flip and match in Memory Match, identifying BGMI weapons by sound at Weapon Sound Match, going head-to-head in Survivor's Arena, and stepping into the look of their favourite BGMI character at Cosplay Fit. Beyond the zones, the venue will feature themed photo spots for fans to capture the day, and visitors will get the chance to meet popular content creators from the gaming community.

Entry is free and open to all. Visitors can pre-register by scanning the QR code on the event posters, and walk-ins are welcome on the day. Every visitor can walk away with something. A personalized BGMI lanyard is created from each player's in-game stats, and the giveaways include BGMI posters, sticker packs, thumb grips and badges. Players who perform well in the on-ground challenges can unlock exclusive BGMI merchandise. Rewards and merchandise are limited and subject to availability.

Srinjoy Das, Director - Marketing and BGMI Product Management, KRAFTON India, said: "Every BGMI player remembers their first hot drop, the rush of landing with the squad and not knowing what comes next. With HOT DROP in Visakhapatnam, we want to bring that feeling out of the game and into the city. Come to Inorbit Mall on October 4, take on the zones, meet fellow players, and see what you can win."

HOT DROP is part of KRAFTON India's mission to take BGMI beyond gameplay and into the cities and communities where its 260 million players live and play. The experience celebrates the gaming culture that has made BGMI a nationwide phenomenon, bringing players together through entertainment, immersive activities, and real-world experiences.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Sunday, October 4, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Venue: Inorbit Mall, Visakhapatnam

Entry: Free and open to all

Registration: Scan the QR code on the event posters to pre-register; walk-ins welcome, subject to activity capacity and organiser discretion

What to bring: A fully charged phone and your BGMI in-game stats for a personalised lanyard; bring your squad for the full experience

Key Terms & Conditions

Entry is free and open to all Participants below 13 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian Fair play and respectful conduct are mandatory Participation in activities does not guarantee prizes or rewards.

Mankind Pharma To Give Rs 1 Crore To Flydubai Captain Smit Machchhar, Family For Averting Flight Disaster



Acknowledging the courage and composure displayed by Capt. Smit Machchhar during the crisis, Mankind Pharma announced that it would contribute Rs 1 crore to the pilot and his family as a gesture of appreciation for the responsibility and leadership he demonstrated in the face of danger. The company, in their LinkedIn post, said the contribution was meant to recognise Capt. Smit's conduct during the crisis, particularly his efforts to protect the passengers and members of his crew. Capt. Smit's response helped ensure the safe diversion of a Flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv after his co-pilot allegedly attacked him with a knife and attempted to force the aircraft downward. Despite sustaining serious injuries, the Indian-born pilot responded to the attack and opened the cockpit door, allowing cabin crew and passengers to intervene and restrain the alleged attacker. The aircraft was subsequently diverted to Tabuk in Saudi Arabia, where it landed safely. Rajeev Juneja, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Mankind Pharma, conveyed the company's appreciation in a letter addressed to Capt. Smit. "Some moments leave an impression on an entire nation," Juneja said in the letter, adding that the captain's "extraordinary courage, composure and sense of responsibility" had touched people in India and abroad. Juneja said Mankind Pharma believed that expressions of appreciation should be accompanied by concrete action. The Rs 1 crore contribution, he said, was the company's "humble way" of giving substance to its gratitude. Juneja also said the contribution could not equal the value of the lives protected during the crisis or the inspiration generated by the captain's actions. "A leader is not tested when everything is going well," Juneja wrote, saying leadership is tested during moments of extreme pressure when decisions can affect the lives of others.

Stars unite for The Earthshot Prize 2026 Awards Night in Mumbai, to stream exclusively around the world on Prime Video

MUMBAI, INDIA, 3 October 2026: The Earthshot Prize, the world's most prestigious environmental award, today reveals the global stars across music, fashion, film, and sport taking to the stage for its 2026 Awards Night in Mumbai on November 17, 2026. Sachin Tendulkar, Alia Bhatt, Rami Malek, Shreya Ghoshal, Sonam Kapoor, and Simone Ashley will join the Awards Night host, Karan Johar, and Earthshot Ambassadors Robert Irwin and Nomzamo Mbatha, along with 5,000 distinguished guests in Mumbai, for a historic celebration of environmental leadership. More exciting stars who will be part of the Awards Night, sponsored by the Serum Institute of India, will be announced in the coming weeks. For the first time ever, the Awards Night will reach an unprecedented global audience across more than 240 countries and territories in 40+ languages on Prime Video, the exclusive streaming partner, in November. Founded by Prince William in 2020, The Earthshot Prize drives a decade of environmental action. The Awards Night will celebrate the incredible people at the heart of The Earthshot Prize: scientists, entrepreneurs, community changemakers, indigenous leaders, and young innovators addressing the most urgent challenges facing our planet. Karan Johar, one of India's most prominent filmmakers, producers, entrepreneurs, broadcasters, and hosts, including for Prime Video's The Traitors India, said: "To host The Earthshot Prize Awards in Mumbai is a privilege that fills me with immense pride. Prince William's vision for The Earthshot Prize has ignited a global movement of hope, innovation, and urgent action, and India, with its boundless creativity and resilience, is the perfect stage for that mission. I'm honored to welcome brilliant minds and bold changemakers whose ideas can reshape our planet's future. This is more than an awards ceremony; it is a celebration of humanity's determination to heal the world, and India is ready to shine." Sachin Tendulkar, one of the world's most celebrated cricketers and a longstanding advocate for social causes, said: "Some of the greatest challenges are overcome when people unite with a shared purpose and the determination to make a difference. The Earthshot Prize celebrates people who are doing exactly that for our planet – turning bold ideas into meaningful action. It is inspiring to see innovators from India and around the world developing solutions that can create lasting change.



ICICI Prudential Life Insurance is leading the average death claim paid to families at Rs.15 lakh in FY2026

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance paid an average individual death claim of Rs.15 lakh to families in FY2026, continuing to lead for a second consecutive year and underlining its commitment to timely financial support.

Publicly available industry data over the last six financial years indicates that the Company's average individual death claim paid value has increased from about Rs.10 lakh in FY2021 to Rs.15 lakh in FY2026, with the average claim remaining consistent around Rs.14-15 lakh over the last four years. As incomes, loans and family responsibilities change, these findings highlight why policyholders should periodically review their life cover to ensure it matches their evolving needs. Mr. Sarang Gokhale, Chief - Underwriting and Retail Claims, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "Life insurance is built on a simple promise to provide financial security to families when they need it the most. In FY2026, we settled Rs. 5,149 crore of death claims. Furthermore, our claim settlement ratio of 99.3% in FY2026, with an average turnaround time of just 1.1 days for non-investigated individual claims from last document received date at the overall company level, reflects our commitment to fulfilling the promise made to our customers and their families. We continuously simplify claim processes and offer tech-enabled servicing, so families receive the help they need without delay. We also encourage customers to review their cover regularly to make sure it reflects their changing life stages and goals."

Notably, ICICI Prudential Life has consistently reported high claim settlement ratio over the years, honouring its commitment to pay timely claims. Policyholders seeking a review or support can visit www.iciciprulife.com or call the customer care number.

NESTLE DEFENDS LOW FAT DAIRY WHITENER AFTER FSSAI CALLS IT 'UNSAFE' AND 'SUBSTANDARD'



Nestlé India has said its "Low Fat Dairy Whitener" is safe to consume and complies with applicable regulatory requirements after a sample of the product was classified as "unsafe" and "substandard" by the FSSAI in a food safety laboratory report. Nestlé India told NDTV Profit the product is safe to consume and complies with all applicable regulatory requirements. The company spokesperson said phosphorus is naturally present in milk and milk-based products and argued that the laboratory findings cited by the regulator reflect total phosphorus without distinguishing between naturally occurring phosphorus and phosphorus added as a food additive. According to Nestlé, the product complies with the prescribed limits for added phosphorus under the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, including on an "as consumed" basis. The response comes after FSSAI said a sample of Nestlé's Low Fat Dairy Whitener, collected from the premises of Bharat Hotels Ltd., which operates The Lalit in Connaught Place, New Delhi, was found to be non-compliant during laboratory testing. FSSAI said the sample had been declared "unsafe and substandard" and that the laboratory analysis report had been provided to the food business operator for necessary action. The regulator also directed the operator to prohibit the sale of the identified product and said an opportunity to appeal against the Food Analyst's report was available under the applicable provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. ALSO READ | FM Sitharaman Seeks Greater Certainty In Global Trade, Flags Risks Of Market Fragmentation Nestlé said it has shared data relating to other similar milk-based products with the authorities as part of its response to the issue. The company said it remains in continuous engagement with the authorities as part of the process established under law. FSSAI's public communication did not specify the particular laboratory parameter or finding that resulted in the "unsafe" and "substandard" classifications.

Amazon launches ultra-fast delivery service Amazon Now in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh

Amazon today announced the launch of its 'delivery-in-minutes' service Amazon Now across cities of Andhra Pradesh & Telanagana. Customers across the city can get access to a wide selection of tens of thousands of daily essentials from groceries (including fruits & vegetables and frozen food), personal care, fashion and beauty products to small appliances, home and kitchen products and more - all delivered within minutes.

Amazon revealed that popular categories on Amazon Now are everyday essentials such as fruits & vegetables, milk, bread, dry grocery such as cooking oil, ghee, biscuits and confectionery among others. Interestingly, customer demand in cities is reflecting a growing preference for premium products alongside everyday needs. Demand is strong for premium chocolates, personal care and home care.

"We are delighted to bring Amazon Now to Anantapur, and the early response has been terrific with customers turning to us for quick delivery of their daily essentials – from grocery staples to premium chocolates, personal care and home care. This reflects a broader trend we are seeing nationally. Amazon Now has crossed $1 billion in annualized gross sales in India, with orders doubling every quarter since launch, making it the fastest-growing e-commerce business unit in Amazon India's history. As we scale to 100 cities by Diwali, customers in Anantapur can look forward to the same promise we have built over the past decade – speed, value, selection and trust – now delivered in minutes," said Srikant Sree Ram, Everyday Essentials.

Amazon Now has expanded to 4X as many cities in less than 10 weeks, taking delivery-in-minutes to over 60 Indian cities and towns ahead of the festive season, including tier II & III towns such as Padubidri, Tirupati, Guntur, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Vellore, Dharwad, & Anantapur. Amazon Now is on track to reach 100 cities by Diwali. These orders are delivered within minutes through a specialized network of over 750 micro-fulfilment and urban fulfilment centers. Customers in Andhra Pradesh continue to enjoy fast delivery, with over one million products available same-day, over four million the next day, and millions more with unlimited, free Prime delivery.

This Amazon Great Indian Festival starting October 8, customers can get access to exciting deals on Amazon Now. On Amazon.in, customers can get great deals on a wider selection of products including smartphones, electronics, fashion, beauty, home essentials and grocery. Customers will get a 10% instant discount on SBI Credit & Debit Cards and EMI transactions. Prime members will get up to 10% extra savings.

To check if Amazon Now is available in your location, go to your Amazon shopping app and look for the 'Now' banner on top.

'ANGER IN THE STREETS':

TENS OF THOUSANDS PROTEST IN SPAIN OVER HOUSING CRISIS



Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets across Spain calling for greater protections for tenants after the government failed to get emergency housing legislation through parliament on Friday. About 50 planned marches are taking place on Saturday in cities including Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona. "There is a lot of anger in the streets," said a spokesperson for the Valencia Tenants' Union, where a demonstration has already started. Clashes have taken place between some protesters and police in the city. The measures put forward by Pedro Sánchez's leftist coalition government on Friday followed public outcry over the eviction of an 87-year-old woman from her home last month after she was unable to afford a sharp rent increase. Her eviction triggered nationwide protests across Spain with protesters demanding lower rents, an end to evictions, and a ban on investment funds - or "vulture funds" as the government has termed them - buying property. Sanchez's defeat in Congress on Friday heightens speculation that he might call an early general election, which was not due until next summer. His coalition government, made up of his ruling Socialist party and junior partner the Sumar alliance, does not command a majority in parliament. Spanish PM Sánchez loses key housing crisis vote after eviction of woman, 87 Photographs showed protesters in the east coast city of Valencia clashing with police officers on Saturday near arts centre Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía, which was hosting a real estate summit. Several protesters removed barriers and threw objects at officers, who responded with rubber bullets, Spanish media reported. Public broadcaster RTVE said nine police officers were injured and five people were arrested. One of the biggest demonstration is happening in the capital, Madrid. Estimates of the number of participants varied widely, with the city's Tenants' Union putting it at 500,000, while government officials put the figure at 70,000. Demonstrators have been camping in one of the city's main squares, Puerta del Sol, for days. One protester, David, told RTVE ahead of the protest: "We're not here for pleasure or comfort. We're here out of conviction." Another protester, 26-year-old librarian Marcos Sainz, told AFP news agency that he used to share a two-bedroom flat with friends, paying 900 euros (£766) a month in rent. Today, he said a one-bedroom flat often costs 1,000 euros. Sainz said he would protest against rent rises "until someone dares to regulate it all", or "we'll all have to leave Madrid". On Friday night, Madrid's Tenants' Union said that although the government's proposed measures were insufficient, the rejection of the proposed legislation "exacerbates the housing crisis which is costing the working class their lives". It is calling for a general strike over the housing crisis. The legislation put forward in Congress on Friday was divided into two separate decrees. The first decree included the suspension of evictions of vulnerable tenants until 2030, a two-year extension to rental leases due to expire before 2028, tax increases for tourist apartments, and a restriction on the purchase of residential properties by so-called "vulture funds". The second decree included the automatic renewal of rental contracts, a major demand of many on the left and the Tenants' Union. MPs rejected the first decree by 178 votes to 172 and voted against the second by 184 to 166. Prior to the vote, the conservative People's Party (PP) and far-right Vox had already said they would vote against both initiatives, leaving the minority government depending on the support of smaller nationalist parties in Catalonia and the Basque Country. However, by the eve of the parliamentary session, the centre-right, pro-independence Together for Catalonia (JxCat) had signalled its opposition to both laws, condemning them to failure.

Republicans watch with alarm as Trump's approval rating sinks in their own internal polling



Four weeks to Election Day, a growing number of House Republicans privately fear their chances of holding onto the majority are vanishing and have begun focusing on how to limit the size of a potential Democratic wave. Inside the House GOP, Republicans have watched with alarm as President Donald Trump's approval ratings have sunk in their own internal polling — including on traditionally red turf — over the last two weeks, according to more than a dozen people familiar with the discussions. Now, the House GOP is entering triage mode. Republicans are discussing pulling money from once-competitive races they see as too difficult to win, including Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks in Iowa, Rep. Tom Kean in New Jersey and an open seat in Nebraska, according to three people familiar with the talks. But the GOP does have a huge cash advantage, and not all Republicans are pessimistic. Speaker Mike Johnson is "absolutely still convinced" that he can hang onto the House and is not taking any seats "off his board," according to a political aide. Johnson just returned from New Jersey and is planning a rally with Miller-Meeks in Iowa next week, according to his team. The House GOP's campaign arm, too, strenuously denies that the majority is lost. "Thirty days out, House Republicans are on offense, and we're outspending Democrats in the final stretch in every race," National Republican Congressional Committee spokesperson Will Kiley said in a statement, adding, "House Republicans are going to defy history, and we're going to win." The rising anxiety among Republicans, though, reflects a grim national environment that has triggered alarm bells up and down the ballot, with Senate Republicans suddenly forced on defense in red seats like Kansas — with control of both chambers of Congress up for grabs. Trump, too, is on a nationwide campaign swing, with stops in a more competitive part of Ohio, as well as deep-red territory like Texas, Oklahoma and Alabama. "There's a lot of close races, and it's hard to make a prediction," retiring GOP Rep. Dan Newhouse said this week of his party's chances, but acknowledged, "Affordability is a big deal. People see the gas prices every single day." While Newhouse said his party has worked to address cost of living issues, he noted, "There's just a lot of things making it tough right now for rural America — which I can speak to specifically — but for Americans all over the country." Many Republicans acknowledge to CNN that the souring national environment — fueled by soaring diesel prices, stubborn inflation and hardening opposition to the Iran war — are largely out of their control this late in the race. They say their strategy is now focused on how to limit Democrats to the slimmest majority possible — in a bid to make governing all but impossible for a potential House Speaker Hakeem Jeffries next year. Johnson's historically nar

Tennessee prison chief to resign after Christa Pike's failed execution, governor says



The head of prisons in the US state of Tennessee is resigning after the failed execution of death row inmate Christa Pike on Wednesday. Governor Bill Lee announced the change on Saturday, sharing the news in a joint statement with Tennessee Department of Correction Commissioner Frank Strada. Strada said that his stepping down is "in the best interests" of the state, and called the ongoing investigation into the incident "entirely appropriate and necessary". Pike, who was sentenced to death in 1996 for the murder of Colleen Slemmer, survived two lethal injections and is now in critical condition at a Tennessee hospital as her lawyers seek to commute her sentence. "Commissioner Strada has served with integrity, and I appreciate his willingness to put the interests of Tennesseans first during this difficult moment," Lee said. Lee has ordered an independent review into Pike's attempted execution and he halted all executions in the state for the year. Pike is being treated at a hospital in Nashville, Tennessee where doctor are attempting to clear the drugs used during the execution from her body, according to legal filings. She was injected with two lethal doses of pentobarbital on Wednesday but remained alive. She was then sent to hospital in an ambulance. While receiving the two doses, "she could be heard crying, whimpering, and breathing loudly throughout the procedure", her lawyers said. As of Thursday night, she was unconscious, intubated and on a ventilator.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ASKS COURT TO LET TRUMP REINSTATE WHITE HOUSE PRESS BAN



The Justice Department argued that President Donald Trump should be allowed to reinstate his White House ban of CNN, MS NOW and Politico in a court filing late Friday ahead of a hearing next week in the lawsuit from the news companies. "[T]he President determined that Plaintiff news networks had published stories that adversely affect national security, including publishing possibly classified or sensitive information," the Justice Department argued. "In doing so, these outlets each demonstrated their willingness to publish information that undermines national security. Restricting access to the White House removes one avenue for these outlets to obtain such harmful information." In a court filing Monday night, the news organizations argued that the stories Trump was objecting to were just the type of reporting the Constitution's framers intended to protect. They called the ban an "unlawful assault on the most fundamental First Amendment freedoms." Judge Timothy Kelly is currently considering whether to extend a two-week order restoring the outlets' access to the White House – an order that expires at the end of next week. Kelly will hold a hearing Thursday on the news outlets' request for a preliminary injunction, which, if granted, would last for a longer period of time while the case plays out. The White House has claimed that the media companies published news stories that put national security at risk – an argument that Kelly initially rejected last week. Friday's filing did not offer any new evidence that the outlets had threatened national security in the stories they had published. The Justice Department said that it was not required to show that the outlets "actually published classified information" to justify the ban, and it leaned into the idea that spreading "misinformation" is itself a national security risk. The Justice Department also stressed that the president had determined that the outlets had failed to meet standards of "professionalism" expected for journalists who are given the "privilege" to cover the president from the White House grounds. The relevant court precedent, the Justice Department argued, did not "prevent the President from concluding that bona fide journalists would identify sources instead of relying on anonymous sources, commit to factual accuracy, and provide the White House an opportunity to comment." The news organizations are challenging Trump's press ban on First Amendment grounds. They also argue that the administration violated their due process rights with how the White House implemented it. Trump announced the White House ban for the three outlets last month via a social media post, and in comments after, indicated he was doing so because of his general frustration with their coverage. However, the White House has since claimed that the news organizations had posed a national security threat with stories they published about the Iran war, the East Wing ballroom construction and the GOP midterm convention.

MEDICAL PLANE WITH 6 ON BOARD MISSING OFF MASSACHUSETTS COAST



US authorities are searching for six people after a medical plane bound for Boston, Massachusetts went missing early Saturday morning. The Federal Aviation Administration told the BBC that it lost contact with the Gulfstream G-100 plane and put out a search and rescue notice just after 1:00 local time (6:00 GMT). An air and water search is underway off the coast of Nantucket, a Massachusetts island, according to the US Coast Guard's Northeast District. The plane departed from Bermuda's L.F. Wade International Airport at 23:40 local time, according to flight data from FlightAware, and was slated to land at Boston's Logan International at 1:30 EDT (6:30 GMT). According to the tail number released by the Coast Guard, the plane belonged to Latitude Air Ambulances, a company that provides international medical flights for patients returning home. FlightAware's tracker shows the aircraft significantly dropped in altitude before its communications went dark, plummeting from around 7,300m (24,000ft) to 3,300m (11,000ft).



Ukraine says it forced 250 Russian soldiers to surrender in daring operation

RUSSIA HITS SECOND MAJOR BRIDGE IN UKRAINE'S CAPITAL KYIV



A Russian strike has hit a second major bridge in Kyiv, Mayor Vitaliy Klitschko has said, as Moscow ramps up attacks on critical infrastructure in Ukraine's capital. The attack on Saturday morning injured two people, and damaged the road surface and overhead trolleybus wires on the Pivnichnyi (Northern) Bridge, Klitschko said, causing traffic jams. It comes after the Pivdennyi (Southern) Bridge was hit multiple times by Russian drones this week, with Klitschko warning that "the enemy is tearing Kyiv apart". Russia said its drones had hit the two bridges used to transfer Ukrainian troops and military cargo. Moscow again urged foreign citizens, including diplomats, to leave Kyiv. The two Kyiv bridges across the Dnipro River link the western and eastern parts of the capital and had not been hit before Thursday. The Russian strikes have severed road, rail and trolleybus links across the wide river. The ongoing drone threat means restrictions on other routes, bringing traffic jams to the city's roads for a second day - though Friday's gridlock has not been repeated to the same level. Many of the city's residents - which number about three million - rely on the metro to travel across the city every day. The fear is this new Russian tactic will result in sustained attacks which could effectively cut the city in two. Writing on Telegram on Saturday morning, Klitschko said "emergency services are on their way" after the Pivnichnyi Bridge was hit. "Traffic on the bridge from the left to the right bank is currently blocked," he added. Earlier attacks on the Pivdennyi Bridge prompted Kyiv's defence council to hold a crisis meeting on Friday. Klitschko warned afterwards that the city was now in a "very dramatic situation" as Moscow was battering its "critical infrastructure, logistics, housing" and other key facilities. Experts say Russian drones are unlikely to bring down the bridges - but repeated attacks will force their closure and risk weakening their structure, making them unusable. More powerful weapons could collapse the bridges, some of which are reported to be in poor condition after years carrying heavier traffic than they were designed for.

Aman Sehrawat stuns reigning world champion to win 57kg wrestling gold

Nagogya, Oct 3 : India's Aman Sehrawat added another feather to his growing medal cabinet as he clinched a gold medal in the men's 57kg wrestling final at the Asian Games 2026, stunning the reigning world champion Han Chong-song 11-7.

Aman registered a strong win in what was a roller-coaster final at the Nagoya City Inae Sports Center against the North Korean grappler and has become the first Indian to clinch the gold medal in the men's 57kg freestyle division.

The Indian grappler was 6-1 up in the second half of the bout, but the world champion made a comeback with three two-pointers to lead 7-6. With time running out, Aman then picked up four points with a takedown and then from a roll.

The North Korean challenged for the points but was unsuccessful as he lost a point to make Aman lead 11-7. The Indian grappler fended off the last 30 seconds to clinch the gold.

Earlier, Sujeet Kalkal had won a gold in men's freestyle 65kg. This is now the first time since 1978 that India have won two gold medals in the men's freestyle category.

Aman is already an Olympic medallist, having won a bronze in the Paris Games. He also won a bronze in the 2023 Hangzhou Games and has now upgraded his medal.

Aman came into the final on the back of a comeback victory in the semifinal. The Indian began the day with a 20-9 technical superiority win over Japan's Yamato Ogawa before beating Kazakhstan's Nurdanat Aitanov 12-1 in the quarterfinals.

In the semifinal against Tajikistan's Aiaal Belolyubskii, Aman trailed 2-6 after the opening period but turned the contest around spectacularly, scoring 12 points in the second period while conceding only two to win 14-8.

Earlier, Sujeet ended India's wait for a wrestling gold at the Asian Games 2026 with a stunning comeback victory in the men's freestyle 65kg category, overcoming Tajikistan's Abdulmazhid Kudiyev 10-9 in a dramatic final.

For most of the match, the 23-year-old Indian was behind 2-9, but then pulled off a remarkable late rally by scoring eight consecutive points in the final stages and won from Kudiyev to secure India's first wrestling gold at the Games.



Aman registered a strong win in what was a roller-coaster final at the Nagoya City Inae Sports Center against the North Korean grappler and has become the first Indian to clinch the gold medal in the men's 57kg freestyle division.

Deepak Punia into SF, Sagar, Manisha, Antim, Aman reach QF



Nagoya, Oct 3 : India made a strong start to its wrestling campaign at the Asian Games on Saturday, with Deepak Punia advancing to the men's freestyle 97kg semifinals while Sagar Jaglan, Antim Panghal, Aman Sehrawat and Manisha Bhanwala booked their places in the quarterfinals in their respective events.

Deepak had a straightforward route through the opening rounds. He began his campaign with a commanding 10-2 victory over China's Zhou Junpeng in the round of 16, taking a 6-2 lead in the opening period before shutting out his opponent 6-0 in the second to secure the win by technical superiority.

The Indian then progressed to the semifinals without having to wrestle his next bout. Hong Kong China's Wui Fung Vincent Li forfeited their contest, sending Deepak directly into the last four.

In the men's freestyle 74kg category, Sagar Jaglan also produced a comfortable opening-round victory, defeating Mongolia's Tulga Tumur-Ochir 8-1 in the pre-quarterfinals. He will now face Iran's Yones Emamichoghaei in the quarterfinals for a place in the semifinals.

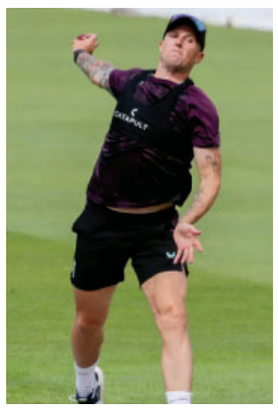
Aman Sehrawat, meanwhile, beat Japan's Yamato Ogawa in the men's 57kg freestyle 20-9 by technical superiority. He will face Nurdanat Aitanov of Kazakhstan next in the quarterfinals.

India also registered two victories in the women's events. Antim Panghal, the bronze medallist from the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games, dominated Kazakhstan's Shugyla Omirbek 9-0 in the women's 53kg pre-quarterfinal. She will meet Uzbekistan's Sakibjamal Esbosynova in the quarterfinals.

Manisha, meanwhile, began her women's 57kg campaign with an 8-0 victory over South Korea's Kwon Youngjin, winning by fall to move into the quarterfinals. Her next challenge will be a major one, with Japan's Akari Fujinami awaiting in the last eight. Fujinami, a dominant force in the 53kg category, has moved up to 57kg for the Asian Games. With Deepak already through to the semifinals and three other Indian wrestlers progressing to the quarterfinal stage, India has four wrestlers remaining in contention for medals as the competition moves into the knockout rounds.

Carse charged over nightclub incident

London, Oct 2 : England fast bowler Brydon Carse has been charged by the Cricket Regulator for bringing the game into disrepute following a late-night incident in Derby in August. Carse, 31, was arrested and subsequently de-arrested on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly in the early hours of August 23 while out with his county side Durham teammates. Later, a video circulating on social media showed him in handcuffs.



While Derbyshire Police had launched an inquiry into an allegation of assault stemming from the same night, that investigation was closed last month without charges. But the game's domestic watchdog has now charged Carse with a breach of Regulation 3.2 of the ECB Professional Conduct Regulations.

"The matter will now be referred to the independent Cricket Discipline Panel for adjudication. As the process is ongoing, no further comment will be made," further said the Cricket Regulator in its statement on Friday.

As per Regulation 3.2, it says, "No Participant may conduct themself in a manner, do any act or make any omission at any time which is improper or which may be prejudicial to the interests of cricket or which may bring the ECB, the game of cricket or any cricketer or group of cricketers into disrepute."

Pranavi Urs scripts history to clinch Golf gold, women team bag silver



Kasugi, Oct 3 : Pranavi Urs has etched her name into the history books as she became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal in the individual stroke play with a superb performance during the four-day event at the Kasugai Country Club East Course. Pranavi shot an even par 70 on the final day of the event to finish with 15-under 265 to win the gold medal. Pranavi also played a crucial role in helping the women's team bag a silver medal with 14-under 546 after the four days.

While Pranavi won the gold, other Indians in the fray, Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar, finished 14th and joint 23rd, respectively. Aditi shot three-under 67 on Day 4 and ended two-over 282 at the end of the event, while Diksha carded seven-over on Day 4 and remained 12-over overall. Yin Ruoning of China and Shannon Tan of Singapore bagged a joint silver medal for finishing on 14 under par.

Pranavi came into the final day with a three-stroke lead over the second-placed Tan. She had a horror outing on the third hole where she carded a triple bogey, which saw her drop to second place. Pranavi then staged a comeback with three birdies on the sixth.

Kumkum Mohod clinches historic gold in nervy shoot-off, secures LA28 Olympics quota



Okazaki, Oct 3 : 17-year-old Kumkum Mohod became the first Indian woman to win an Asian Games medal of any sort in the individual recurve event after beating South Korea's Yejin Oh in a shoot-off to claim the gold medal on Saturday. The Indian teenager prevailed 6-5 after the final was tied at 5-5 following five sets. With the gold medal decided by a single arrow, Oh shot an 8 before Kumkum responded with a 10 to seal the title.

The victory also earned India an individual quota place for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, with both Kumkum and Oh securing one quota each for their respective countries.Kumkum had to fight back from an early deficit in the final. Oh won the opening set 29-27 to take a 2-0 lead, while the second set ended 29-29, leaving the South Korean ahead 3-1.

Abhishek Sharma completes 400 T20 sixes, surpasses Gayle in twin records



Nisshin, Oct 3 : India star opener Abhishek Sharma registered a couple of major milestones during his stroke-filled innings of 61 against Pakistan in the Asian Games gold medal clash at the Karogi Sports Park here on Saturday.

Abhishek displayed a jaw-dropping performance during his 28-ball 61, which featured seven sixes and three fours. During his knock, the Southpaw completed his 400 T20 sixes as he went past legend Chris Gayle in a major record list. Abhishek became the second-fastest player to hit 400 maximums in the shortest international format (in terms of balls taken).The Indian star took only 3513 balls to reach the milestone, while Gayle was the previous second-quickest to the milestone when he hit his 400 maximums in 3557 deliveries. Meanwhile, Andre Russell (3027 balls) remains the quickest player to get to 400 maximums.

Abhishek registered another major record during his outing. He also completed 100 T20 sixes in 2026 and became the second fastest player to reach 100 maximums in a calendar year.

The Indian opener took 651 balls to hit 100 maximums this year, going past the likes of Dewald Brevis and Chris Gayle. Russell is the fastest player in this list too.

Fastest to 100 T20 sixes in a calendar year (balls taken):

5India opted to bat first against Pakistan in the cricket final. The Men in Blue went with an unchanged team for the gold medal clash as Arshdeep Singh, Yash Thakur and Vipraj Nigam remained on the bench. Pakistan came into the final with one change as batting all-rounder Saad Masood gets a game ahead of fast bowler Mohammad Wasim Jr.

Kirti Sharma recounts tense final after India's historic recurve women's team gold

Nagoya, Oct 3 : India's women's recurve archery team produced a historic upset at the Asian Games 2026, defeating South Korea 5-3 in the final to end the Korean powerhouse's 44-year dominance in the event.

Kirti Sharma, who teamed up with Ankita Bhakat and Kumkum Mohod in the gold-medal winning trio on Friday, said the Indian archers relied on their process and mental composure to negotiate a high-pressure final. "We were not thinking about our opponents. We were just focused on our own performance and following the process we went through during training," Kirti Sharma told SAI media in Japan.

The Indian team had earlier produced another statement victory in the semifinals, defeating China 5-1 to set up a final against South Korea.

Kirti said controlling their emotions and maintaining faith in each other proved crucial as India attempted to break South Korea's long-standing hold over the Asian Games event.

"All three of us had to control our emotions and believed in each other. We didn't think about the results and just gave our 100 percent," she added.



The Hazaribagh-based archer, who hails from Haryana and trains under coach Udham Singh at the SAI training centre in Hazaribagh, said the Indian trio were aware that even a small lapse could change the complexion of the contest."We knew that our opponents can take the game away if we commit even a small mistake. But we stood strong and maintained the same intensity from the first arrow that we fired to the last one," Kirti said.

India's victory came after the country's compound archers had already made a major impact at the Games, winning the men's, women's and mixed team gold medals at the Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park.Kirti said that unprecedented success had provided additional motivation to the recurve squad before their own competition began. "Our confidence took a big boost after the compound events. The day we won three consecutive gold medals was a lucky day for India. It motivated us a lot. We wanted to emulate their feat," she said.

"We Believe Our Film Will Create Wonders Even Amidst Competition from Big Films":

Producer Venu Donepudi at 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' Trailer Launch Event



'Baa Baa Black Sheep' is a new-age crime comedy being made with a different concept to entertain audiences across all sections. Presented by Donepudi Chakrapani and produced by Venu Donepudi under the Chitralayam Studios banner, the film is directed by Guni Manchikanti. The movie is set for a grand theatrical release on October 9. Tinnu Anand, Upendra Limaye, George Maryan, Akshay Lagusani, Vishnu oi, Karthikeya, Vismaya Sri, Malvi Malhotra, Kashyap, Shubhalekha Sudhakar, Raja Ravindra and others play key roles.

The trailer launch event of the film was held grandly recently. On this occasion... Actor Upendra Limaye said: "First of all, I would like to sincerely thank my close friend Sandeep Reddy Vanga. He was the one who introduced me to the Telugu film industry with my own voice. What he told me at the time literally came true. Later, I got the opportunity to act in Hit Machine Anil Ravipudi's 'Sankranthiki Vasthunam'. Wherever I go, I can never forget the love and affection showered on me by Telugu audiences.

When Vaishakh and Guni narrated the story of 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' to me, I found it very different and interesting. I always give more importance to the story than my character. I accept a film only when the content is good. This is my first full-fledged role in Telugu, which is why this film is very close to my heart.

It is a great pleasure to be part of a project made under a prestigious banner like Chitralayam Studios. Working with young Telugu actors like Vishnu, Samriddhi, Malavika and Akshay was a wonderful experience. Though this is Guni's debut as a director, the way he wrote the story and brought it to the screen is remarkable.

Generally, food, clothing and shelter are considered basic necessities of life. But in South India, especially for Telugu people, cinema is also a basic necessity. I hope all you passionate movie lovers will watch 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' in theatres and thoroughly enjoy it."

Actor Vishnu Oy said: "I would like to thank everyone who supported the trailer launch of our 'Baa Baa Black Sheep'. I thoroughly enjoyed the story when I first heard it. The film features several talented actors, including the Nepalese actress who plays my pair.

It was a great experience working with National Award winner Upendra Limaye garu. Coming from a theatre background, his performance is like a masterclass. My longtime friend Akshay Lagusani has also done an excellent job in this film. I strongly believe he will reach greater heights in the coming days. While shooting in Meghalaya, the people and the local atmosphere extended tremendous support to us. Cinematographer Ajay has done excellent work in terms of visuals. This first collaboration between my good friend and director Guni and producer Venu garu is arriving in theatres on October 9. I sincerely wish the film great success and thank everyone from the bottom of my heart."

RANABAALI – NEVER FORGET THE TRUTH DOCUMENTARY SERIES: THIRD EPISODE 'THE MEN WE FORGOT' RELEASED



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

As part of the four-episode documentary series titled Ranabaali – Never Forget The Truth, the third episode, 'The Men We Forgot', is now streaming on YouTube.

In this episode, director Rahul Sankrityan reveals that the character of Ranabaali was inspired by several legendary historical warriors from Rayalaseema who fought for their motherland.

Director Rahul Sankrityan said, "Rayalaseema is a land that has given birth to many brave warriors. The heroic stories of Seema Palegars such as Budda Vengal Reddy, Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy and Gadekal Bobbili Nagireddy continue to be narrated through traditional ballads even today. When you visit the villages of Rayalaseema, people still speak with great pride about their courage and contributions.

"When I first heard about Gadekal Bobbili Nagireddy, the idea for this story began taking shape. He was known for riding horses and was even believed to communicate with the gods. He was eventually killed as a result of conspiracies. While researching the period of the great famine, I came across the story of Budda Vengal Reddy. During the famine, he sold all his assets and established gruel centres, saving the lives of thousands of people. Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy fought against the British and became a formidable force for them. "I am also from the soil of Rayalaseema. During my childhood, I witnessed many people who displayed extraordinary courage and determination to do good for society. These warriors were physically strong and known for their bravery and fearlessness. I drew inspiration from all of them while designing the character of Ranabaali."

The makers will announce the streaming date of the fourth and final episode, 'The Last Load', soon.

Neha Shetty Glows In Gold Traditional Charm



Neha Shetty, still adored as the viral Radhika, continues to win hearts with her traditional looks.

Dressed in a shimmering gold tissue half saree with a soft lilac tint, she looks like a vision under the night sky. The pleated skirt catches the light beautifully, while the sheer pallu drapes gracefully over her arm. A matching lilac blouse with delicate embroidery completes the look. A maang tikka, stacked bangles and loose wavy hair add just the right festive touch. With her gaze lowered and a soft smile, she poses against a warm wall and blooming bougainvillea, and the gold truly steals the show.

On the work front, Neha has not had a lead film in a couple of years. Fans are waiting to see how 2026 will end for her.

After a Phenomenal Hindi Run, Hanuman Ansh to Release in Telugu on October 9



Some films find their audience instantly. Others grow with every passing day, carried by word of mouth and a connection that goes beyond the screen. Hanuman Ansh belongs to the latter.

The Hindi film, inspired by the life and teachings of revered spiritual master Neem Karoli Baba, popularly known as Maharaj-ji, has emerged as one of the year's most successful surprise performers. What began as a modestly mounted film went on to find a strong audience across India, with its story of faith, devotion and transformation striking a chord across generations.

Written and directed by Dr. Vishal Chaturvedi, Hanuman Ansh brings the extraordinary spiritual journey of Neem Karoli Baba to the screen. The film features Shobinaw Satyaa in the lead role as Neem Karoli Baba, along with Chandan Anand and Purnima Tiwari among the principal cast. The film's music is composed by Shreyas Dharmadhikari, with Rishi Pathak also credited as music director, complementing the film's spiritual and deeply rooted narrative. Following its successful theatrical journey in Hindi, the film is now set to reach Telugu-speaking audiences. Hombale Films, which previously took Hanuman Ansh to international audiences through its overseas distribution arm, has now acquired the theatrical rights for the South Indian languages. The Telugu version will release theatrically on October 9, marking the next chapter in the film's journey.

For Hombale Films, the association with Hanuman Ansh has evolved from taking the film beyond Indian shores to bringing its story to audiences across the South. Known for taking Indian stories to audiences across languages and geographies, Hombale Films is now extending the film's theatrical footprint across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam markets.

At the heart of Hanuman Ansh is a story that transcends language. Neem Karoli Baba's teachings and philosophy have found followers across the world, and the film attempts to capture that universal spiritual connect through an intimate cinematic journe With the film already creating a strong impact in Hindi, Hanuman Ansh now arrives in Telugu with the hope of finding an entirely new audience and carrying Maharaj-ji's story to even more people.

Grand Audio Launch of Gemini Suresh's 'Aathmakatha' Held in Hyderabad



The grand audio launch event of "Aathmakatha – An Untold Story", starring Gemini Suresh and Roopa in the lead roles, was held in Hyderabad amid the presence of prominent film personalities and industry members. The event also marked the launch of the new audio label "Hanuman Music."

Produced by Somesh under the banner of Varahi Entertainments Pvt. Ltd., the film is written and directed by Srinivas Gundreddy.

The movie features an ensemble cast including 30 Years Industry Prithvi, Sammeta Gandhi, Shakalaka Shankar, Thagubothu Ramesh, Dhanraj, Naga Mahesh, Balagam Vijayalakshmi, Srinivas Naidu and others.

RIDDHI KUMAR SLAYS CUTOUT LOOK LIKE BOSS



Riddhi Kumar is giving fashion fans a skyline-high lesson in understated glam. The actress stands against floor-to-ceiling glass, with the city stretching out behind her in golden light.

All eyes, however, land on her black top with a bold front cutout. A small metal ring sits right at the centre of the keyhole, adding a sharp, edgy touch to the sleek, body-hugging fit. Thin straps keep the neckline clean and the look sultry without trying too hard. She pairs it with high-waisted black trousers and a silver western buckle belt that ties the outfit together beautifully.

AADI PINISETTY'S 'MARAKATHAMANI 2' SHOOTING COMPLETE - POST-PRODUCTION WORK UNDERWAY AT A RAPID PACE



Aadi Pinisetty starred in the blockbuster 'Marakathamani'. Now the makers have announced that the shooting of the sequel to this film 'Marakathamani 2' has been completed. Currently, the post-production work is going on at a fast pace.

The original film, which released in 2017, was a blockbuster success in Tamil and Telugu. The film has given many fond memories to the fans of the franchise that are still remembered. This film also holds a special place in the career of Aadhi, who has impressed audiences across languages ??with his performance. Ever since the sequel was announced, fans as well as the trade community have been eagerly waiting for it. These expectations are increasing day by day.

Director ARK Saravan, who directed the original film, continues with this franchise. He has been a partner in every step of this journey. He has worked hard to make the second part meet the expectations that fans have for the sequel.

The film is being produced by Sudhan Sundaram, Manish Singhal, Durgaram Choudhary, Dev, KV Durai. The film is being made under the banners of Passion Studios, Dangal TV, RDC Media, Access Film Factory, and Good Show. Aadi, Sathyaraj, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Nikki Galrani Pinisetty, Munishkanth, Anandraj, Daniyeh, Arunraja Kamaraj, Muruganandam and others are playing key roles in the film.

Edited,Published,Printed & owned by BUCHI BABU VUPPALA ,PRINTED AT MEERA OFFSET PRINTERS, NO.104, V,R,PILLAI STREET,TRIPLICANE,CHENNAI-600005,TAMIL NADU,PUBLISHED AT ,OLD NO 31,NEW NO 58,NAGAPPA MUDALI STREET,PUDUPET,CHENNAI-600002, TAMIL NADU. EDITIOR: BUCHI BABU VUPPALA, RNI: TNENG/2008/26176 . CELL:9000657700, MAIL.Info.southindiatimes@gmail.com .RNI :TNENG/2008/26176 .