SIT PUBLICATIONS PVT LTD I Estd 2009 I VOL No. 17 I ISSUE NO. 262 MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026 I P-12 I ₹.5/- I PRGI No. TELENG/2009/29225

HYDERABAD I BENGALURU I CHENNAI I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

24-10-2026

Total pilgrims : 81,768
Tonsures : 34,018
Hundi kanukalu : 3.57 CR
Laddu sale... 4.35 Lac
Annaprasadam.. 2.48Lac
Aswini hospital ...3.371
Present Situation on 25-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..Outside line at Silathoranam.

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

VERY SEVERE CYCLONIC STORM LIKELY TO CROSS ANDHRA COAST ON OCT 28, SAYS IMD



WORLD I PAGE

ELON MUSK UNVEILS X MONEY FEATURE THAT COULD LET USERS SEND $1 BY LONG-PRESSING LIKE



CINEMA I PAGE

RUHANI SHARMA AS BIJILI IN AAKASAMLO OKA TARA



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

Inbriefs

CM REVANTH, MAHARASHTRA CMS TO DISCUSS TUMMIDIHATTI PROJECT

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will meet his Maharashtra counterpart, Devendra Fadnavis, in Mumbai on Monday to discuss the construction of the Tummidihatti Barrage. A delegation led by Revanth Reddy was slated to leave for Maharashtra on Sunday evening. After an overnight stay, the delegation will call on the Maharashtra Chief Minister at the Sahyadri State Guest House at 11 a.m. on Monday.

MAN ARRESTED FOR USING AI IMAGE TO FAKE DEATH IN COURT

MAU(UP): A murder-accused in Uttar Pradesh's Mau district allegedly used an AI-generated image of a body lying on a funeral pyre to procure a death certificate in an attempt to prove his own demise in court, police said on Sunday. The accused held a funeral of a goat in Ghazipur and, using Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Bhatti invites Korean investments seeks stronger economic ties

Focus on electronics, EVs, tourism and advanced manufacturing to boost jobs and technology partnerships

HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT):

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka invited Korean companies to invest in Telangana, highlighting opportunities in electronics, semiconductors, electric vehicles, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing.

Speaking as chief guest at the K-Harmony Festa–Korea Culture Day 2026 at Shilpakala Vedika on Sunday, he said the government was prioritising partnerships that would generate employment, facilitate technology transfer and strengthen skill development among young people.



Bhatti said investment discussions held during Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to South Korea in August 2024 had laid the foundation for closer economic cooperation. The government would build on those discussions to expand partnerships with Korean companies, he added. He sought greater collaboration among industries, universities, research institutions, startups and small enterprises. South Korea's progress demonstrated the importance of sustained investment in education, skills, infrastructure and technology, he said.

Highlighting tourism opportunities, the Deputy Chief Minister said Telangana's Tourism Policy 2025–2030 aimed to attract Rs.15,000 crore in investments and create three lakh additional jobs over five years. The State's plans also included developing 27 tourist destinations.

He invited Korean investors to participate in tourism infrastructure, hospitality, film tourism, wellness tourism and cultural experiences.

Bhatti said cultural exchanges could strengthen friendship and mutual understanding between India and South Korea. Korean music, cinema and television had attracted young audiences worldwide, reflecting the country's growing cultural influence, he observed.

Drawing parallels between the two societies, he highlighted their emphasis on education, family values, traditions and respect for elders. He also referred to the legend of Queen Heo Hwang-ok as a symbol of historical connections between India and Korea.

Rahul calls 'vote theft' rally on Nov1



NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday urged students, farmers, labourers, women, youth and traders to participate in the 'Save the Vote, Save the Country Jan March and Mega Rally' scheduled to be held at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on November 1, alleging that names had been removed from voter lists and rules and laws had been violated.

In a post on X, Gandhi alleged that votes were being stolen and claimed that people raising questions had faced the use of force. He called on people from different sections of society to join the rally, describing it as a campaign to protect democracy."Our votes are being stolen, and we will not tolerate this quietly under any circumstances," Gandhi wrote.

Kharge's 'baap' jibe at Modi sparks row,

youth thrashed at event

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



A major uproar erupted at a Congress event in Bihar's capital Patna on Sunday, when party President Mallikarjun Kharge lost his cool and made an objectionable remark on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, prompting fierce counter from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Kharge's controversial comment came in response to a person in the crowd, who was heard shouting "Modi nahin jaayega" (Modi won't go/lose power).

Cyclone Arnab: CM Naidu reviews preparedness

AMARAVATI ■ TSIT:

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the state's preparedness for Cyclone Arnab, directing officials to remain on high alert and ensure that people face no inconvenience. Ten NDRF and 11 SDRF teams have been made available for rescue and relief operations.

The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a cyclone by October 26 morning and a severe cyclone by that night, becoming a very severe cyclone on October 27. It may cross the coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam between the morning and afternoon of October 28, with the Konaseema–Yanam–Kakinada coast among the areas under consideration.



Winds of 115–125 kmph, with gusts reaching 140 kmph in some areas, are possible during landfall. Coastal areas may experience strong winds from October 27 morning. North Andhra and central coastal districts may receive heavy to extremely heavy rainfall on October 27 and 28, with isolated areas likely to experience exceptionally heavy downpours. Kakinada, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam, Konaseema and East Godavari are among the districts likely to be affected. Forecast average rainfall estimates include 292.55 mm in Anakapalli, 281.17 mm in Alluri Sitharama Raju, 253.87 mm in Visakhapatnam and 249.18 mm in Srikakulam. The state's five-day average rainfall is estimated at 95 mm, while affected districts may receive an average of 22–29 cm.

The Chief Minister reviewed evacuation plans, relief camps, food supplies, drinking water, medical services and electricity restoration arrangements. He directed officials to ensure all fishing boats return safely to shore, advised fishermen not to venture into the sea and called for measures to utilise anticipated floodwaters to replenish reservoirs. Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad, DGP Harish Gupta, district collectors and officials from the RTGS, Agriculture, Energy, Irrigation, Home, Health, Civil Supplies, Municipal Administration and Panchayat Raj departments participated in the review.

Modi says right environment helps youth excel

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted the innovative work being undertaken by young entrepreneurs and researchers at IIT Madras, saying the country's youth were developing advanced technological solutions across several fields, including financial security, healthcare, defence and transportation.

He also paid tribute to renowned Indian scientist Narinder Singh Kapany, widely known as the 'Father of Fibre Optics', ahead of his 100th birth anniversary on October 31.

Addressing the 139th episode of his monthly radio programme, 'Mann Ki Baat', PM Modi shared experiences from his recent visit to Chennai, recalling his interaction with young people during a metro journey and his visit to IIT Madras.

"It was truly heartening to see how our youth are working on innovative solutions to problems," the Prime Minister said. Highlighting some of the projects being developed by young entrepreneurs, PM Modi said one start-up was working on technology to verify the quality of gold, which could help protect consumers from fraud while purchasing the precious metal.

He also spoke about another team developing a platform aimed at enabling the faster recovery of money lost in bank fraud cases. In the healthcare sector, a separate team is exploring the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in cervical cancer screening.

"The interaction at IIT was entirely focused on 'deep-tech.' These start-ups are being supported by the incubation ecosystem at IIT Madras. Among them is a start-up that is developing an electric vehicle capable of flying over the sea. Another start-up is developing fast-charging batteries for drones and electric vehicles. One team is working on the application of AI in defence technology," he said.

PM Modi noted that the projects demonstrated how young people were exploring advanced technological applications in areas such as mobility, energy storage and national security."Our youth are achieving such extraordinary things today because they are receiving the right environment and support.

Jaishankar urges UN to lead amid global crises



NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):

The United Nations must show leadership and "not be a spectator" to global crises, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday, even as he pitched for the world body to recognise its shortcomings and limitations, and seek improvement. In his address at an event here, he also asserted that the case for "reformed multilateralism" gets stronger by the day. Jaishankar made the remarks in the presence of UN Resident Coordinator in India, Stefan Priesner, who also shared the dais with him. The event held at the Bharat Mandapam marked the 75th anniversary of Chinmaya Mission. Jaishankar said the collective and cooperative instincts of the world were articulated and expressed over eight decades ago in the founding of the United Nations.



150 Join YSRCP in Visakha East

Former TDP Leader Teddu Raju Leads Workers into Party

Visakhapatnam, TSIT.

Around 150 workers joined the YSR Congress Party at a programme held in Jalari Peta, Ward 23, under Visakha East constituency on Sunday. Former TDP leader Teddu Raju joined the party along with his supporters in the presence of senior YSRCP leaders. The joining programme was organised under the leadership of corporator candidate Kari Srilakshmi. YSRCP regional coordinators and former ministers Kurasala Kannababu and Gudivada Amarnath, district party president K.K. Raju, and Visakha East constituency coordinator Molli Apparao welcomed Teddu Raju and the other workers into the party by presenting them with YSRCP scarves.



The joining of Teddu Raju and around 150 workers was a key feature of the programme, with party leaders calling for coordinated efforts to strengthen the party's activities and outreach among local residents. Several local leaders and party workers, including Teddu Polarao, Vadamoddula Teja, Teddu Srinu, Ramolu Polaraju, Olisetti Bujji, Ramolu Nukaraju, Teddu Nalamraju and Teddu Suresh, participated in the programme.

'Save Vizag' Campaign Launched by YSRCP



Visakhapatnam, TSIT : YSRCP leaders have called for a "Save Vizag" campaign, alleging that the TDP-led coalition government is compromising the interests of Visakhapatnam by prioritising the transfer of valuable lands to corporate entities over public welfare.

Addressing a press conference at the party office here on Sunday, former ministers Kurasala Kannababu and Gudivada Amarnath, MLC and mayoral candidate Varudu Kalyani, and district party president K.K. Raju said the forthcoming GVMC elections represented a struggle between public trust and commercial interests. The leaders unveiled the "Save Vizag" campaign poster and contrasted what they described as Chandrababu Naidu's "Sell Vizag" approach with Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's vision of protecting the city's land, environment and public assets. Former minister Kurasala Kannababu questioned the government's development priorities, alleging that publicity events and investment summits had taken precedence over addressing people's problems. He said drinking water shortages and inadequate civic infrastructure continued to trouble residents, while valuable lands were allegedly being allotted to corporate interests at nominal prices. He also expressed concern over hill excavation and environmental degradation.

Referring to the GVMC elections, he alleged that opposition candidates faced obstacles during the nomination process and accused the ruling coalition of attempting to undermine the electoral process through questionable nominations and pressure tactics. Former minister

Medicover Organises 10-Km Cyclothon to Raise Breast Cancer Awareness

Hyderabad, October 25, 2026: With the aim of raising awareness about breast cancer and highlighting the importance of early detection, Medicover Cancer Institute, Financial District, in association with the Bike-O-Holics Cycling Community, organised a 10-km cyclothon on Sunday as part of Pink October. The initiative was held under the theme 'Pedal Against Cancer' to encourage public awareness and promote a healthier lifestyle.



The cyclothon commenced at 5:30 AM, with Ms. Dasyam Geetha Bhaskar attending as the chief guest. The event brought together healthcare professionals and cycling enthusiasts to spread the message of breast cancer awareness, early detection and timely medical consultation.

During the programme, participants were encouraged to recognise the warning signs of breast cancer and seek medical advice without delay if they noticed any unusual changes in their breasts. Doctors emphasised that regular screening, based on age, individual risk factors and medical advice, plays a vital role in the early detection of breast cancer. They also highlighted that early diagnosis and timely treatment can significantly improve treatment outcomes. The 'Pedal Against Cancer' initiative also expressed solidarity with those battling cancer and aimed to encourage people to overcome fear and misconceptions surrounding the disease. Through this initiative, Medicover reiterated the importance of preventive healthcare, awareness and early diagnosis in the fight against breast cancer.Cyclothon Route: The ride began at Medicover Hospitals, Financial District, and proceeded via GT Reddy Circle, Nanakramguda Circle, Narsingi Service Road, ORR Service Road and Wipro Circle before returning to Medicover Hospitals, Financial District, where it concluded.The programme was attended by oncologists Dr. Prithvi Raj, Dr. Kavitha Naragoni and Dr. Ravi Krishna Madala, along with Dr. Swaroop and Sharath Chandra, Centre Heads, as well as other doctors and members of the cycling community. Through initiatives such as this cyclothon, Medicover Cancer Institute continues to promote cancer awareness, emphasise the importance of early detection and encourage people to adopt healthier lifestyles.

Indian Railways to Offer Optional Travel Insurance at Reservation Counters from October 27

Visakhapatnam, TSIT.

Indian Railways will extend its optional travel insurance facility to passengers booking reserved tickets at Passenger Reservation System counters from October 27, enabling those purchasing tickets directly at railway counters to avail insurance coverage. The facility, which is currently available to passengers booking reserved tickets online, will now be extended to counter bookings. Passengers can opt for insurance covering death, permanent disability and injuries arising from rail travel, subject to the applicable policy terms and conditions. The insurance facility is voluntary, and passengers must provide their consent to avail the coverage. Those opting for insurance will have to



provide their mobile number and pay the premium digitally along with the ticket fare. Policy details will be sent to the registered mobile number. Passengers who do not opt for the facility will not be covered under the scheme. The implementation will be monitored by senior railway officials. The Centre for Railway Information Systems and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation will provide the necessary technical and operational support to address any issues.

Premium at 45 Paise per Passenger

As per the existing policy applicable to online ticket bookings, the insurance premium is 45 paise per passenger, inclusive of taxes. This rate has been in effect since February 17, 2024. The same premium and policy conditions will apply to passengers opting for insurance at PRS counters.

Insurance Coverage Details

The policy provides the following benefits, subject to its terms and conditions and applicable provisions of the Railways Act, 1989, as amended from time to time:

Death: Compensation of up toRs.10 lakh.

Permanent total disability: Coverage of up toRs.10 lakh.

Permanent partial disability: Compensation of up toRs.7.5 lakh.

Hospitalisation expenses for injuries: Coverage of up toRs.2 lakh.

Transportation of mortal remains: Up toRs.10,000.

The initiative aims to make optional travel insurance more accessible to railway passengers by extending the facility to those purchasing reserved tickets at railway reservation counters, in addition to online bookings.

SRM University-AP holds symposium on advancing management knowledge in the AI era

Amaravati: Fostering a research-intensive environment connecting management thought with emerging technologies and global perspectives, Paari School of Business (PSB), SRM AP, hosted a symposium on "Advancing Management Knowledge in the AI Era: Research Frontiers and Future," themed "Reimagining Management through AI."



Prof. Soumitra Dutta, Advisor, SRM Group, in his keynote address examined the connection between engineering progress and modern digital ecosystems. He said, "As artificial intelligence advances at an exponential pace, universities must move beyond incremental change and embrace continuous learning, experimentation and innovation." Pointing to the concentration of computing infrastructure within a few wealthy economies, he stressed that developing nations like India need to strengthen technical capabilities and research networks. During a fireside chat on Human Capital, Leadership and Organisational Transformation in the AI Era, Prof. Allan Bird and Prof. Michael Stevens discussed AI's implications for organisational strategy and decision-making. They categorised globalisation into three dimensions—communication ease, systemic interdependency and operational complexity—and examined human volition and cognitive engagement, contrasting the "need for cognition" with "cognitive misers" who rely entirely on automated tools. They cautioned against over-reliance on generative models in research and urged scholars to distinguish between automated generation and AI research assistance, warning that uncritical adoption risks creating learned helplessness.Prof. Ashay Kadam, Dean, PSB, explained how the business school is making the curriculum AI-integrated, embedding AI into departmental workflows and using faculty development programmes to upskill faculty. Prof. Ranjit Thapa, Dean-Research, noted that adapting to intelligent environments is necessary for global research standing, and that academic work must extend past journal publications to bring direct societal value.

Prof. Elizabeth L Rose, Pro-Vice Chancellor, ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad, said AI can make research more efficient but must assist researchers rather than replace their judgement, and that maintaining academic integrity requires careful oversight.

Alliance victory essential for Visakhapatnam's development: MP Sribharat



Visakhapatnam: Visakhapatnam MP M. Sribharat, Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao, MLC Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao and NDA mayoral candidate Dr. Mukka Sravani jointly conducted an intensive campaign in Gajuwaka constituency, appealing to voters to ensure a decisive victory for TDP, Jana Sena and BJP alliance candidates in the GVMC elections.

The campaign began on High School Road in Jagguvanipalem in support of TDP candidate Palla Srinivasa Rao from Ward 83. The leaders subsequently campaigned in Bojjannakonda, Gudivada Appanna Colony and Mindi village for Ward 84 TDP candidate Maliki Anjani Kumari. A roadshow was organised from BC Road Rythu Bazaar in support of Ward 91 TDP candidate Boddu Narasimha Patrudu.The leaders also campaigned in BC Road and ITI Road areas for Ward 89 candidate Prasadula Vijaya Sunitha, Ward 90 candidate Mohammed Rafi, both from the TDP, and Ward 92 Jana Sena candidate Tippala Sreeja.

HMAT and Vijaya Diagnostics Jointly Organise CME Programme in Hyderabad



BY DR. JITHENDER RAO THANUGULA

HYDERABAD: The Homeopathic Medical Association of Telangana (HMAT), in collaboration with Vijaya Diagnostic Centre, Himayatnagar, successfully organised a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme at Jupalli Balamma Auditorium. The programme was held in memory of homeopathy benefactor Smt. Raj Rani Kapoor, with floral tributes offered to her portrait at the outset.Dr. K. Gopalakrishna, President of HMAT, presided over the programme and delivered the welcome address. Dr. G. Durga Prasad Rao, General Secretary of the Association, outlined HMAT's medical and social service initiatives.During the academic sessions, Dr. Afroz Hanif, Biochemist at Vijaya Diagnostics, delivered a lecture titled "Decoding the Cellular Whispers." Dr. Manidrupad, a homeopathic practitioner from Karimnagar, presented "Clinical Cases and Insights into Remedy Patterns," sharing clinical perspectives and insights relevant to homeopathic practice.

The President and General Secretary of HMAT expressed their gratitude to Dr. S. Surender Reddy, Chairman of Vijaya Diagnostics, and Supritha Reddy, CEO, for their support and cooperation in organising the programme in collaboration with the Association.

On behalf of HMAT, the organisers felicitated Sri Y. S. V. Prasad, programme sponsor and trustee of Raj Kishore Kapoor Charities, in recognition of his support. Members of the Vijaya Diagnostics marketing team—T. V. Raghavendra, T. Vijender Singh, T. Mallikarjun Reddy and A. S. Arun Kumar—were also felicitated for their contributions to the successful conduct of the event.

Dr. C. V. Swamy, Technical Advisor to HMAT, delivered the concluding remarks, while Dr. Gautam Rallabandi, Organising Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.Members of the HMAT Governing Council, homeopathic practitioners and medical students participated in large numbers, making the CME programme a valuable platform for academic exchange, clinical learning and professional interaction. The programme highlighted the importance of continuing medical education, collaboration among healthcare institutions and the exchange of clinical knowledge to support the ongoing professional development of homeopathic practitioners.

RSS organises Pathasanchalan in Karnataka's Ballari as part of Vijayadashmi celebrations

Ballari (Karnataka) [India], October 25 (ANI): As part of Vijayadashami celebrations, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) organised a Pathasanchalan (route march) in Ballari city on Saturday.



Swayamsevaks dressed in Ganavesh (uniform) marched in disciplined steps, drawing public attention. Organised with the resolve of Bharat's supreme glory and service to the nation, the RSS Pathasanchalan saw enthusiastic participation of swayamsevaks showcasing discipline and organisation.

The march started from Kittur Rani Chennamma School in the city and proceeded via Durgamma Gudi Circle, Royal Circle, Meenakshi Circle and Brucepet Circle. After that, it turned back and was scheduled to reach Kotturu Swamy Matha in front of Prabhat Talkies.

The route march passing through the city's major circles and roads reflected discipline, organisational spirit and the resolve for national service among the swayamsevaks.

Organising a route march on Vijayadashami is part of RSS tradition. It is held against the backdrop of the Sangh's foundation day. The swayamsevaks wear

GITAM alumna Shivali Srivastava creates history with 31 Guinness World Records

Hyderabad: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, is proudly celebrating an extraordinary achievement by its School of Technology alumna, Shivali Srivastava (2016–2020 batch), who has reached a remarkable milestone by securing a total of 31 Guinness World Records.



Recently, Shivali, along with her parents, Kavita Srivastava and Anil Srivastava, officially received one more new Guinness World Record—for the largest display of 3,000 handmade paper dolls—taking their family's tally to an unprecedented 31 titles. With this accomplishment, Shivali has emerged as the individual holding the highest number of Guinness World Records in India. Recognised for her exceptional talent in origami and paper art, Shivali has transformed creativity into a remarkable journey of dedication, precision and perseverance. Together with her parents, she has meticulously handcrafted lakhs of paper creations, earning global recognition for their artistic excellence.

For the Srivastava family, these achievements represent far more than records. Their journey stands as a testament to patience, artistic passion, hard work and the strength of family collaboration. The leadership, faculty and student community of GITAM have extended their heartfelt congratulations to Shivali and her family on this historic accomplishment. The university takes immense pride in her achievements and wishes her continued success as she brings international recognition to India through the inspiring blend of art, innovation and creativity.

CID Registers 3 Cases Over Rice Supply Irregularities14 Millers Arrested

Hyderabad, TSIT: Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) has registered three criminal cases and arrested 14 rice millers in connection with alleged irregularities in the delivery of Sanna Rakam rice to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during Kharif 2025–26. The investigation follows a complaint lodged by the General Manager (Procurement), Telangana Civil Supplies Corporation, on October 24.

According to the CID, certain millers allegedly diverted Sanna Rakam paddy allotted to them to the open market and supplied cheaper coarse rice instead. Some of the substituted rice was allegedly procured from outside Telangana.

Inspections by Enforcement and Task Force teams, followed by laboratory analysis, reportedly found that samples from the deliveries examined did not conform to the Sanna Rakam variety stipulated in the allotments.

In Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Mulugu districts, 16 rice mills allegedly delivered 3,385.820 metric tonnes of Doddu Rakam rice against Sanna Rakam allotments. The CID placed the estimated bonus-related loss from these deliveries at approximatelyRs.1.69 crore.

The department also stated that another 45,414.833 metric tonnes had been allocated for conversion and cited a potential bonus-related financial implication of approximatelyRs.242 crore. According to the press note, timely intervention by Civil Supplies authorities and stoppage orders prevented further potential loss.

The alleged diversion and substitution prima facie indicate violations of the Kharif Marketing Season 2025–26 Custom Milled Rice agreement, criminal breach of trust and a conspiracy to cause wrongful loss to the government, the CID said.

Dattatreya, Chamala Attend Bandru Foundation's Alai Balai Celebrations

Hyderabad, October 25: Telangana's cultural traditions and spirit of togetherness marked the Alai Balai celebrations organised by the Bandru Foundation at Aler under the leadership of former Women's Cooperative Development Corporation chairperson Bandru Shobha Rani. Former Union Minister and former Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and former Minister Motkupalli Narasimhulu attended as chief guests. They appreciated the initiative for promoting unity, goodwill and brotherhood. Speaking on the occasion, Kiran Kumar Reddy said Alai Balai held a special place in Telangana's culture, bringing people together beyond caste, religious and political differences. He commended Shobha Rani and the foundation for organising a gathering that strengthened community bonds. Government Whip and MLC Addanki Dayakar, Arunodaya Cultural Federation president Vimalakka, former MLA Gongidi Sunitha Mahender Reddy, Boreddy Ayodhya Reddy, TPCC women's wing president Errabelli Swarna and Telangana State Women's Commission chairperson Nerella Sharada were among those present. A large number of residents, women and foundation members participated in the festive gathering, exchanging greetings and traditional Alai Balai embraces.



Women Journalists Seek Protection Against Attacks Online Abuse

Hyderabad, TSIT: The National Conference of Women Journalists on Sunday demanded stringent measures to curb attacks on field reporters, workplace harassment and online abuse, urging governments and media organisations to safeguard women journalists' freedom, dignity and professional equality. The two-day conference, jointly organised by the Indian Journalists Union (IJU), MEFI and the Telangana State Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ), concluded in Hyderabad with the unanimous adoption of several resolutions. A total of 135 women journalists attended, including 65 delegates from other States and 70 from Telangana.



The conference condemned physical attacks and police misconduct against women journalists covering events. It demanded prompt criminal cases against offenders, comprehensive legislation for journalists' protection and government-funded legal assistance.

Delegates also sought effective action against cyberstalking, doxxing and deepfake attacks, calling upon law enforcement agencies and digital platforms to respond promptly while protecting victims' privacy.

Addressing the conference, senior journalist and former NDTV South Executive Editor Uma Sudhir expressed concern over attempts to control facts and the shrinking space for independent journalism. She stressed the importance of verification, human judgement and examining perspectives beyond official statements.

NewsMeter Executive Editor Khaniza Garari urged journalists to use artificial intelligence responsibly without compromising professional principles. AI should support reporting and translation, while journalists must independently understand source material and identify errors in generated content, she said.

Professor Padmaja Shaw, former head of Osmania University's Journalism Department, warned that the pursuit of TRPs, clicks and viral content was weakening ethical standards. She emphasised responsible language, careful selection of visuals and protection of the identities of women and children subjected to violence.

Karnataka Media Academy Chairperson Ayesha Khanum said ethical values were fundamental to journalism and urged media professionals to resist sensationalism and preserve credibility.

The resolutions called for strict implementation of workplace sexual harassment prevention provisions, Internal Complaints Committees in media organisations, equal pay and adequate representation for women in editorial leadership.

The conference also sought maternity benefits, one day of paid menstrual leave every month, childcare facilities, health cards, pension coverage and financial assistance for bereaved families. Employment security, fair accreditation and access to housing schemes or house sites were among its other demands. The delegates urged the Central and State governments to initiate immediate protective and welfare measures.

Industrial Pollution: Public Demand for Immediate Action

People Urge CM Revanth Reddy to Act Against PCB Officials' Alleged Negligence

Sangareddy, October 25 (TSIT) Residents of Sangareddy district have expressed serious concern over industrial pollution and the alleged negligence of Pollution Control Board (PCB) officials. Complaints have been raised about air and water pollution in Sangareddy, Sadashivpet, Nandikandi, Kondapur and Budhera.Residents and voluntary organisations have called for a thorough investigation into alleged pollution by industries, including Everest Organics, Blue Craft, SS Organics and Breweries. Concerns have also been raised over possible contamination of the Manjeera water sources and nearby lakes.The public has urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to intervene immediately, order surprise inspections and conduct independent tests of air and water quality. They have also demanded a high-level inquiry into the alleged negligence of PCB officials and strict action against those found guilty.Residents demand accountability, strict enforcement of pollution control norms and protection of public health.



PM SHRI School Dictionary Tender Raises Questions in Medchal District

HYDERABAD (TSIT)
The procurement of English dictionaries and sports equipment for 25 PM SHRI schools in Medchal–Malkajgiri district has come under scrutiny following allegations of irregularities in the tender process. Questions have been raised over the change in the selected dictionary brand, the increase in the quoted price from Rs.140 to Rs.198 per book, the cancellation of an order issued to one firm and the subsequent distribution of orders among four other firms without fresh tenders.



The procurement, intended to provide educational resources and sports equipment to government schools, has triggered concerns over transparency, adherence to tender conditions and the utilisation of public funds. Allegations have emerged that the district-level purchase committee deviated from the original price bids and procurement procedure. The tender records and the explanations provided by the authorities are expected to be crucial in establishing the facts.

For the 2026–27 academic year, a notification was reportedly issued on September 5 for the supply of 11,670 English dictionaries and sports equipment to PM SHRI schools in the district. Five firms from different districts of Telangana, including Adilabad, Warangal, Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda, reportedly participated in the tender process.The price bids were opened in the presence of the purchase committee on September 15, following which a comparative statement was prepared. However, questions have been raised over the non-publication of the complete comparative statement and related tender details.According to the available information, one participating firm quoted Rs.200 for an Oxford dictionary carrying a maximum retail price (MRP) of Rs.445. The same firm quoted Rs.140 for the Shankar Narayana VGS dictionary, which has an MRP of Rs.270. The other four firms reportedly quoted Rs.140 each for the VGS dictionary.

Balavikasa Extends Support to Destitute Elderly

Essential Commodities, Clothing, and Free Medical Check-ups Provided to 40 Elderly Individuals



The South India Times
Husnabad, October 25 : With the goal of supporting destitute elderly individuals—those living alone, deprived of affection and care—an "Elderly Support Day" was organized in the town of Husnabad, Siddipet district. The event was conducted by Balavikasa, with the collaboration of Balakka. During the program, essential commodities, clothing, rice, large storage containers, and fruits were distributed to approximately 40 elderly people. Furthermore, a meal was specially arranged for them, reflecting a spirit of deep humanity. The event was attended by key guests, including Kedam Lingamurthy (President of the Balavikasa Water Plants Federation), Municipal Chairperson Dandi Lakshmi, Vice-Chairperson Chittari Padma, and Councilors Vala Supraja and Pilli Tirupati. Donors, including retired teacher Sandhyavali and Satyam, also participated and contributed to the distribution of necessary supplies.

Free Medical Check-ups and Medicine Distribution for the Elderly

The organizers placed a special emphasis on the health and well-being of the elderly and persons with disabilities, who often face various health challenges in their later years. The medical staff at Samata Nursing Home conducted health check-ups for the elderly and persons with disabilities, and distributed necessary medicines free of charge. This initiative proved highly beneficial for those unable to access medical services due to financial constraints.

Humanity is the truest form of service.

Beyond providing essential supplies to elderly individuals living without family support, the program was distinguished by the time spent interacting with them affectionately and attending to their health needs. The initiative, which underscored society's responsibility toward the elderly, earned widespread praise. The program conveyed the message that it is a social responsibility for everyone to stand by those in distress and offer reassurance to the elderly who have been neglected or abandoned. Organized under the aegis of 'Balavikasa,' this effort extended a helping hand to elderly individuals who lack support.

DOCUMENTS LOST

I am **Naga Bandi Padmavathi, W/o. Late Chandrasekhar,** my original house document No. **2192/1989** lost while coming from Miryalaguda Housing Board to MRO Office on my brother's bike somewhere. If anyone finds please return.

Cell No: 9908311741

CAUTION NOTICE

To Whomsoever it may concern, the general public are hereby informed that **Etikala Dhanush Kumar, S/o. Sri Etikala Sivarama Krishna,** is the owner of the property bearing H.No. 12-8-281/4, Plot No.1, admeasuring 106 Sq. Yards (88.61 Sq. Metres), consisting of Ground and First Floors, situated at Alugadda Bowli, Near Mettuguda, Secunderabad, acquired under Gift Settlement Deed dated 17-09-2010, Document No. **1885/2010,** executed by Smt. Etikala Balamani and Sri Etikala Sivarama Krishna. It is further informed that late Sri Itikala Kistaiah, the grandfather of Sri Etikala Dhanush Kumar, died intestate, and upon his demise, his children succeeded to and shared the properties left behind by him among themselves. The Death Certificate of late Sri Itikala Kistaiah and the legal heir certificate are not available. The said succession and division amongst the family members was affected without obtaining any separate Legal Heir Certificate in respect of the above said schedule property. The owner proposes to avail a loan from Bajaj Housing Finance Limited by mortgaging the said property. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim, lien, charge, mortgage, encumbrance or objection over the said property shall intimate the same with supporting documents to the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the proposed mortgage shall be proceeded with.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY DETAILS

All that the part and parcel of the house property bearing H.No.12-8-281/4, Plot No.1, admeasuring 106 Sq. Yards (88.61 Sq. Metres), consisting of Ground and First Floors, situated at Alugadda Bowli, Near Mettuguda, Secunderabad, S.R.O. Secunderabad, Telangana and is bounded by: **Boundaries: North:** Neighbour's House, **South:** 25'-0" Wide Road, **East :** Plot No.2, **West :** Neighbour's House.

VENKATESWAR RAO PUJARI
Advocate
H.No. 2-1-241, Plot No. 21, Mamatha Nagar Colony, Nagole, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500068.
Cell: 9948480899.

SIR Process Must Be Cancelled: Leaders

Narayanpet, October 25 (TSIT): Former Illandu MLA Gummadi Narsaiah and CPI(ML) Mass Line State Secretary Potu Ranga Rao demanded the cancellation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process of electoral rolls. They called upon youth to protect democratic rights and work towards social justice. Speaking at a meeting organised by CPI(ML) Mass Line, PYL and PDSU at Udmal Gidda village in Damaragidda mandal, the leaders paid floral tributes to Bhagat Singh and urged young people to follow his revolutionary ideals.

Congress Calls for Massive Protest in Delhi on November 1

The South India Times
// Nagarkurnool
AICC observer Ravindra Das has called upon Congress leaders and workers to participate in large numbers in the protest scheduled to be held in Delhi on November 1 as part of the 'Vote Bachao – Desh Bachao' campaign.



Ravindra Das alleged that the BJP was conspiring to delete the names of crores of voters across the country. Claiming that 93 lakh votes had been deleted in Telangana, he said such actions violated the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. He stated that Rahul Gandhi was fighting against the controversial decisions of the Election Commission and demanded the removal of the Election Commission chairman from office.

He urged party leaders to create awareness among people at the grassroots level about voter deletions and submit details of deleted votes to the District Congress Committees. Congress booth-level agents should reach out to voters and educate them about the issue, he said. Calling for 500 leaders from each constituency to attend the Delhi protest.



Guntur-based K.C. Agro Farm Company on Sunday donated Rs. 10,00,116 to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Sri Venkateswara Anna Prasadam Trust.

Timely decisions in emergencies save patients' lives – SVIMS Director and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Gudaru Jagadeesh



Tirupati : The role of anaesthesia and critical care specialists is extremely crucial in the successful conduct of surgeries. Especially in emergency situations, the alertness, presence of mind, correct decisions and collective efforts of doctors play a decisive role in saving patients' lives, said SVIMS Director and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Gudaru Jagadeesh. He was speaking as the Chief Guest at the national-level Continuing Medical Education conference 'Balaji Anaesthesia Post Graduate Update – 2026 (BAPU-2026)' organised by the Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, SVIMS.

Dr. Jagadeesh explained that in modern medicine, anaesthesiology is no longer limited only to administering anaesthesia during surgery. It has expanded from pre-operative assessment of the patient's health condition to post-operative monitoring, pain management, emergency care and intensive care services."While the surgeon treats the disease, the anaesthesiologist safeguards the stability of the patient's vital systems throughout the surgery. Behind every successful surgery lies the collective effort of the surgeon, anaesthesiologist, nursing staff and other medical teams," he said.

Alertness is the main weapon for life-saving in crisis management

Crisis management is an extremely important aspect in the departments of Anaesthesia and Critical Care, Dr. Jagadeesh stated.

During surgery, a patient's condition can change within moments. Sudden drop in blood pressure, respiratory obstruction, fall in oxygen levels, severe bleeding, cardiac problems and serious drug allergies can occur, he explained.

In such situations, doctors must remain calm without panicking, identify the problem early and take appropriate treatment decisions, he advised.

"A doctor's true capability is revealed in emergency situations. Medical knowledge teaches what to do. Experience tells when to do it. Presence of mind and mental composure help implement the right decision," he said.

He emphasised that the best medical practice is to prevent emergencies through early assessment, comprehensive preparedness and continuous monitoring rather than merely reacting after they occur.

Anaesthesiologists' services unforgettable in over four decades of surgical experience

VMRDA Chairman Campaigns for Alliance Candidate in Ward 22

. Pranav Gopal conducts door-to-door campaign in MVP Colony



Visakhapatnam, TSIT : Election campaigning intensified in Ward 22 of the East Assembly constituency on Sunday, with VMRDA Chairman M.V. Pranav Gopal campaigning in support of alliance candidate Golagani Mangaveni. Pranav Gopal, accompanied by TDP candidate Mangaveni, conducted a door-to-door campaign in Sectors 6 and 2 of MVP Colony from Sunday morning, meeting residents and appealing to them to vote for the alliance candidates to ensure the resolution of local issues.

During the campaign, he highlighted the development initiatives undertaken in Visakhapatnam under the coalition government. He said that development and welfare had received priority in the East Assembly constituency under the leadership of MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu. He appealed to voters to support GolaganiMangaveni, whom he described as a leader who remained closely connected with the people, and mayoral candidate Mukka Sravani.

As part of the campaign, Pranav Gopal and Mangaveni visited several apartment complexes and interacted with residents, urging them to cast their votes in favour of the alliance candidates using the bicycle symbol and ensure their victory with a substantial majority. They also participated in prayers at several local churches during the campaign. Local leaders, including Golagani Pola Rao, Masenu, Kari Rama Rao and Nukaraju, along with other alliance leaders, participated in the campaign.



YSRCP Mayor Candidate Varudu Kalyani Intensifies Campaign

Visakhapatnam, TSIT : YSRCP Mayor candidate and MLC Varudu Kalyani participated in an extensive election campaign across Visakhapatnam on Sunday, visiting the Fishing Harbour, offering prayers at a Jain temple and attending meetings of the Reddy and Kalinga Vysya communities. At the Fishing Harbour, she campaigned alongside former MLA Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar, Ward 33 candidate Chenna Shailaja and Ward 30 candidate Venu, interacting with local residents and party workers.

Later, Kalyani visited the Panth Bhavan Jain temple near Dolphin Hotel and offered special prayers. She received blessings from Jain religious elders and emphasised the importance of peace, communal harmony and mutual respect for the city's development. She also attended a Reddy community meeting at Radha Krishna Function Hall in HB Colony, along with YSRCP district president KK Raju and East constituency coordinator Mulli Apparao. At another meeting held at Hotel Daspalla's Executive Court, Kalinga Vysya community representatives expressed their support for Kalyani's candidature and pledged to work towards her victory in the GVMC elections. Party leaders, corporator candidates and community representatives participated in the programmes. Kalyani highlighted the need for public welfare, inclusive development and the participation of all sections of society in Visakhapatnam's progress.

Two ZPTC nominations rejected after appeals in Chittoor district



Chittoor, October 25: District Collector Sumit Kumar stated that in the appeals against rejection of ZPTC nominations, two ZPTC nominations were rejected. On Sunday, at the meeting hall of the local Zilla Parishad office, the District Collector examined the process relating to appeals against rejection of nominations for the second ordinary elections to Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTC) – 2026. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that as per the election schedule, nominations were received from 21.10.2026 to 23.10.2026, and scrutiny of nominations was completed on 24.10.2026. The examination of appeals was taken up on Sunday. According to the schedule, disposal of objections is on 26-10-2026, and withdrawal of candidature is allowed up to 3:00 p.m. on 27-10-2026.

Vigilance Essential at Every Stage of Vote Counting: GVMC Commissioner

. Election officials trained on counting procedures and guidelines



Visakhapatnam, TSIT.

GVMC Commissioner and Additional Election Authority Ketan Garg has directed election officials to ensure that the vote-counting process for the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Second Ordinary Elections is conducted without errors, with complete transparency and in strict accordance with the rules and guidelines prescribed by the Election Commission. He participated in a training programme on vote-counting procedures for Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Sectoral Officers and Master Trainers at Dr Lankapalli Bullayya College in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. Along with GVMC Additional Commissioner Ramesh, he briefed the officials on counting procedures, their responsibilities and the precautions to be taken to ensure the smooth conduct of the process.

Addressing the participants, Ketan Garg said vote counting was one of the most crucial stages of the electoral process. Every official assigned counting duties should have a thorough understanding of their responsibilities and strictly follow the prescribed election rules, he said. He stressed the need for vigilance at every stage, from the commencement of counting to the declaration of results, to prevent errors and ensure accuracy. Officials should be well-versed in the arrangements required at counting centres, the procedures for counting votes, the rules to be followed during counting and the proper recording of counting details.

15 Candidates in Fray for GVMC Mayor's Post

. Final list announced by Returning Officer B. Dayanidhi

Visakhapatnam, TSIT : A total of 15 candidates are in the fray for the post of Mayor in the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Second Ordinary Elections–2026, Mayor Election Returning Officer B. Dayanidhi announced on Sunday. He said that 29 nominations were received for the Mayor's post, of which eight were rejected during scrutiny. Of the remaining 21 valid nominations, six candidates withdrew their nominations on October 21. Following the notification issued by the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission on October 22, the final list of candidates contesting the Mayor's post was announced on October 25, as directed by the Commission.

Candidates and Election Symbols
The 15 candidates contesting the Mayor's post are:

1. Karanam Keerthana Grace (Bahujan Samaj Party) – Elephant
2. Devara Nag Sunanda Devi (Indian National Congress) – Hand
3. Mukka Sravani (Telugu Desam Party) – Bicycle
4. Varudu Kalyani (YSR Congress Party) – Fan
5. Nammmi Bhavani (Bharatiya Chaitanya Yuva Jana Party) – Battery Torch
6. Francinamma Attili (Independent) – Bottle
7. Gompa Venkata Padmavathi (Independent) – Cup and Saucer
8. Shailaja Talupula (Independent) – School Bag
9. Priyanka Dandi (Independent) – Air Conditioner
10. Pakruthi Devika (Independent) – Ring
11. Bora Santoshi (Independent) – Cauliflower
12. Likhitha Landa (Independent) – Candles
13. Vandrasi Shanti Kumari (Independent) – Palanquin
14. Viyyapu Uma (Independent) – Flute
15. Shaik Daulatunnisa (Independent) – Cupboard



Six Candidates Withdraw Nominations

The six candidates who withdrew their nominations were Venkat Lakshmi Jarripothula and Usnara Parveen of the Indian National Congress; Senapathi Vasantha of the Telugu Desam Party; Pedada Ramani Kumari and Tippala Venkat Vijaya Kumari of the YSR Congress Party; and independent candidate Pulicherla Rajeswari.

The Returning Officer stated that polling for the GVMC Second Ordinary Elections–2026 will be held on November 1, while counting of votes is scheduled for November 3.

Arrangements complete for CII Regional Summit at Sri City Krea University on October 26



Tirupati, October 25: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar announced on Sunday that all arrangements have been completed for the Regional Summit to be held in Tirupati on October 26 as part of the 31st CII Partnership Summit.

The Regional Summit will be held at Sri City Krea University, Tirupati, and will focus on investment opportunities and industrial development in Tirupati district along with Chittoor, Annamayya, YSR Kadapa and SPSR Nellore districts. More than 65 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) are expected to be signed during the summit, which will open avenues for employment generation for thousands of youth.

Investments will be promoted in sectors including electronics, food processing, space sector, tourism and hospitality, automobile components, pharmaceuticals, solar products, logistics, packaging and recycling, and footwear manufacturing, among others.

Special emphasis will also be laid on the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Programmes will be organised to provide opportunities to local entrepreneurs, resolve banking-related issues, showcase products and promote exports.This Regional Summit is being organised as a preparatory event for the 31st CII Partnership Summit scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13. It is expected to contribute significantly to attracting investments, promoting industrial growth and creating employment.

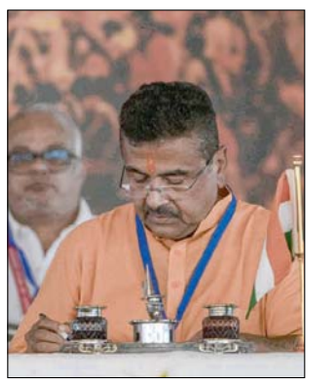
BJP accuses Raut of creating 'fake' audio clip; he says leak came from within saffron party

MUMBAI: The BJP on Saturday launched a counteroffensive over the sensational audio clip claiming a Rs 500 crore payout to Maratha quota leader Manoj Jarange, alleging that Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut had created the fake clip using AI to push Rahul Gandhi's agenda and trigger a rift between the ruling allies.

Raut, for his part, claimed that a BJP MLC leaked the audio clip, a result of the "cutthroat competition" within the saffron party.

Jarange, who has denied that he received any money, said that Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and his deputy Eknath Shinde must go to the root of the controversy.

BJP spokesperson Navnath Ban demanded the registration of a case against Sanjay Raut if necessary, and a probe



into whether he received funding from Rahul Gandhi for the alleged conspiracy.

"Sanjay Raut orchestrated the conspiracy from a war room in Navi Mumbai's Vashi. The contract to defame the BJP has been taken by Raut from Rahul Gandhi. Raut has been consistently pushing Gandhi's agenda over the past few days," Ban claimed.

He further alleged that Raut had been working on the audio clip for nearly two months, using artificial intelligence to combine voice samples available on YouTube.

"Raut scripted the purported conversations at the (Sena UBT mouthpiece) Saamana's office and initially considered an allegation involving Rs 100 crore before raising the amount to Rs 500 crore to attract greater media attention," Ban alleged.

He claimed that the audio was designed to tarnish the reputations of BJP leaders, Shinde and Jarange, and trigger a conflict between them.

On Friday, CM Fadnavis ordered a forensic probe into the audio clip amid allegations by Shiv Sena's Ramdas Kadam that BJP insiders were colluding with Jarange to "finish off" Sena chief Eknath Shinde.

Jarange on Thursday released the audio clip alleging that a conspiracy was hatched to silence him and weaken the Maratha agitation.

In the viral recording purportedly featuring BJP functionaries, a woman is heard claiming that Rs 500 crore had been delivered to Jarange through Shrikant Shinde, Eknath Shinde's son and Sena MP.

Speakers are also heard discussing strategies to counter Jarange's growing political influence in the Marathwada region ahead of the 2024 assembly elections.

Ban said that CM Fadnavis had announced an SIT probe into the matter, but demanded that investigators specifically examine Raut's alleged role and the operations of the purported "war room".

BJP backs Keralam Guv in vegetarian food row, slams Cong



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: BJP Keralam president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Saturday defended Governor Om Prakash Mathur amid the controversy over a reported decision to make the Lok Bhavan kitchen strictly vegetarian and accused the Congress of diverting attention from pressing public issues.

In a post on X, Chandrasekhar said it was the prerogative of the occupant of a house, in this case the Governor, to decide the food served according to his culture and preferences.

He asked whether the Congress could similarly insist on serving pork at a "Muslim Malayali's house".

"Now, can the Congress party insist that they go to a Muslim Malayalee's house and ask for pork? It is the prerogative of the occupant of a house, in this case the @KeralaGovernor, who occupies Lok Bhavan, to decide the food served according to his culture and his preferences," he said.

Chandrasekhar alleged that the Congress was avoiding discussions on the five guarantees and the 'Puthu Yuga Keralam' promise, as well as the problems faced by the state's youth and families affected by medicine shortages.

Instead, it was focusing on the food habits of the new Governor, he said, alleging that this was part of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "fraudulent politics".

He also criticised the Congress, saying it had become a group of people talking "nonsensical stuff", and asked what people had gained after 150 days of the V D Satheesan-led government.

The remarks came a day after Mathur, who was sworn in as the 29th Governor of Keralam on Friday, faced criticism from the ruling Congress and opposition CPI(M) over reports that he had directed that non-vegetarian food should not be prepared or served in the Lok Bhavan kitchen.

The two parties accused the Governor of promoting the Sangh Parivar's agenda.

Congress leader and AICC general secretary K C Venugopal alleged that the decision had gone too far and that the Governor had overstepped his authority by directing that only vegetarian food be prepared in the kitchen.

Sundarbans neglected in TMC regime, our govt allocates Rs 1,200 cr: Bengal CM

KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Saturday accused the TMC dispensation of neglecting the development of Sundarbans, and asserted that his government has made a special allocation of Rs 1,200 crore in the budget to serve around 1.24 lakh people in the region.

Addressing a programme in Sundarbans, a mangrove forest area, after an administrative meeting, Adhikari said Kakdwip district will be carved out of South 24 Parganas district.

"South 24 Parganas is a big district. When it is divided through an administrative process, we will make Kakdwip a separate district. We will do it even if it takes two years," Adhikari said.

The chief minister said he would visit Sagar Island after December 10 to oversee the progress of work for Gangasagar



Mela, and will inaugurate the annual fair on January 10.

"The government aims to elevate the Gangasagar Mela to an international standard," he said.

Adhikari slammed the TMC government over corruption charges, claiming that works worth only about Rs 200 crore were carried out in the 2025-26 financial year against an allocation of Rs 600 crore for the region, and that 80 per cent of the fund was "siphoned off".

"You know what the previous government did. The Sundarbans was neglected," he said, while addressing the gathering.

Adhikari said those who looted Awas Yojana funds and relief materials after the Amphan cyclone and committed atrocities after the 2021 assembly elections would not be spared.

The chief minister said, "The BJP government has made a special allocation of Rs 1,200 crore in the budget...Tenders have been floated for 553 works in the first phase. Work on all these projects will commence soon."

He also said 2,649 projects will be taken up in the second phase.

Adhikari said 1,169 road projects worth Rs 1,406.34 crore have been planned, along with drainage works and the construction of 110 culverts.

He said the government would build five concrete jetties and a RoRo-cum-LCT jetty to improve connectivity to remote islands in the Sundarbans region.

Adhikari said Rs 100 crore has also been earmarked for electric-powered boats to reduce the carbon footprint of tourism in the region.

On the social sector, he said Rs 17 crore has been set aside for fisheries, and 1,931 people are being trained in crab fattening.

In agriculture, 13,877 farmers will get battery-operated sprayers to raise farm productivity, he said. Accusing the previous government of misleading people about the proposed bridge over the Muriganga river, the CM said, "I promise you that I will inaugurate it in 2029." The CM said he had told the South 24 Parganas district magistrate and the Kakdwip SDO to ensure that the citizenship certificates were issued quickly to refugees who had applied under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Activist ends protest against Ken-Betwa Link Project on MP Cong leader's request

PANNA: Activist Amit Bhatnagar on Saturday ended his 27-day protest against the Ken-Betwa Link Project after senior Madhya Pradesh Congress leader Umang Singhar visited Panna and assured him of the opposition party's support.

Bhatnagar ended his stir by having coconut water at the request of Singhar, the Leader of Opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly.

Tribal farmers and villagers affected by the Ken-Betwa Link Project, under the leadership of Bhatnagar, have been staging a protest for the past 42 days demanding compensation and rehabilitation, among other demands. The protesters have raised issues related to displacement, proper rehabilitation, alleged irregularities in compensation, and violations of the Forest Rights Act.

Taking part in the 'Save the Constitution, Save Democracy' march organised by the project-affected people, who submitted a memorandum at the Collectorate, Singhar said the Congress will always lend strong support in their fight for rights, justice, dignity, and fair compensation.

"The BJP government, which considers tribals, Dalits and farmers as orphans, should remember that the Congress is still alive. The Congress will continue to fight for the rights and justice of the affected families, from the streets to Parliament. No family should be subjected to injustice in the name of development," he said.

Singhar said he had raised the demands of the protesters in the assembly after visiting them on July 14.

"Chief Minister Mohan Yadav had directed a resurvey of the affected families and an investigation into the status of compensation. But no concrete action has been taken by the government so far. Where is the report of the resurvey? How many of the left-out families have been compensated, and how many are still awaiting payment?" he said.

The MP government must address the problems of the affected families in a timely manner instead of just making announcements, Singhar added. Singhar also visited the Panna District Jail, where he met with protester Divya Ahirwar, who has been held there for the past 28 days. Terming the cases against "satyagrahis" as fake, he sought Ahirwar's immediate release. Those who are raising their voices for rights are being jailed by the government, which, instead, should be taking effective steps to ensure justice for the affected tribal families, Singhar added. "The Congress stands with the tribal farmers, villagers, and displaced families affected by the Ken-Betwa Link Project.

Shrikant Shinde dismisses 'Rs 500 crore' allegation



MUMBAI: In his first reaction to the viral 'Rs 500 crore' audio clip, Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde on Saturday denied that he had received any money meant to be paid to Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange. Even he was searching for the person who had been allegedly given to the money to pass on to him, said Shrikant, son of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. "I am also looking for the man who was given Rs 500 crore....The money did not even reach me. I have the same question as Jarange," Shinde told reporters. "We were wondering how would (a stash of) Rs 500 crore look and how many vehicles it would need (to transport)," he jokingly added.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has ordered a probe which will make everything clear, the Sena MP said.

Jarange on Thursday released an audio clip alleging that a conspiracy was hatched to silence him and weaken the Maratha agitation.

In the viral recording purportedly featuring BJP functionaries, a woman is heard claiming that Rs 500 crore had been delivered to Jarange through Shrikant Shinde. Speakers are also heard discussing strategies to counter Jarange's growing political influence in the Marathwada region ahead of the 2024 assembly elections.

Keralam to set up world-class campus for Kudumbashree: Shaji

MALAPPURAM: Keralam Local Self-Government Minister K M Shaji on Saturday said a world-class academic campus would be established for the Kudumbashree to support the growth of the women's self-help network and its entrepreneurial activities.

The campus would help women find academic solutions to their entrepreneurial needs and challenges, he said, describing Kudumbashree as a major movement that had grown from poverty eradication to bringing quality products to the market.

Shaji was speaking after inaugurating a meeting to form the organising committee for the Kudumbashree National Saras Fair, scheduled to be held here from December 22 to 31. He



said the fair would be a historic success as it brought together one of India's largest women's networks. An all-women network, the Kudumbashree's initiatives aimed to bring women confined to their homes into the economic mainstream and encourage them to take up entrepreneurship, he said. The minister also stressed the need for young women with a clear understanding of business and modern marketing strategies to join hands with Kudumbashree. The national fair, organised to promote entrepreneurship, women's empowerment and cultural exchange, will feature more than 300 product and food stalls from different states, officials said. A major attraction will be a food court showcasing traditional cuisines and fusion dishes from 14 states. Live demonstrations of pottery and handicraft-making, along with special training activities for children, will also be organised. The fair will feature talk shows with prominent personalities, traditional cultural programmes, an open canvas, open mic, photo booth and reels competition. An amusement zone featuring traditional games and a safe children's corner will also be set up, they added.

Multiple mudslides bring Nilgiris to knees; bus buried, driver killed

UDHAGAMANDALAM: Very heavy rains in Nilgiris district triggered multiple mudslides on Saturday, and a bus was buried in one such incident, killing its driver, while over 100 students from Kerala had a providential escape as their vehicles halted about 300 meters behind.

As mud, uprooted trees, and rocks tumbled down the slopes amidst heavy downpour, the government bus was buried, and rescue personnel pulled out the driver and conductor from neck-deep slush after slogging for hours.

However, the driver, identified as Janagaraj, succumbed to injuries, and the conductor, Kesavan, is being treated at a hospital.

The incident happened on the intervening night of October 23-24, and the bus was headed to Mettupalayam from Coonnoor.

At least two buses carrying students, headed towards Mettupalayam --on their way back home to Palakkad in Kerala-- though narrowly escaped. They were later stranded due to the mudslides, like the over 200 vehicles across the mountainous highway.

The students were among those safely rescued and brought to a shelter.

Speaking to reporters at the hospital, Kesavan said only he and the driver were caught in the horrifying mishap.

A video clip widely shared on social media showed the bus hanging precariously on the hillside, buried under mud, debris and branches of trees. Earthmovers were being used to clear the debris.

"A violent torrent of heavy mud, dislodged rocks, and massive uprooted trees that crashed down directly onto the vehicle made it difficult for the rescue team to free the bus crew," an official said.

The sheer force of the mudslide severely crushed the roof and portions of the bus, causing it to tilt dangerously toward the edge of the mountain road.

The mud smashed through the windows, filling the inside of the bus with a thick wave of debris and heavy slush.

The driver was tragically pinned inside the crushed cabin under the weight of the mud and fallen trees, while Kesavan suffered severe injuries before rescuers could break through the wreckage to pull him out.

As the government bus stood on the rain-soaked ghat road, the heavily saturated hillside above gave way and tree branches fell on the bus twice, making it difficult to step out of the vehicle, Kesavan said.

Police said the bus had three passengers, who disembarked shortly before it reached Burliar, where the incident occurred, and only the two ill-fated souls were on board when the tragedy struck.

"The driver was completely trapped in his seat beneath the heavy debris. We searched the entire bus and initially found no other passengers, which was a huge relief, though tragic for the crew," a Fire officer said.

As vehicles and passengers were stranded for several hours and in view of heavy rains, authorities have fully barred access to tourist spots in the district. A cargo vehicle carrying poultry toppled, and a dwelling was heavily damaged.

Gurugram Police conducts combing operation in Surat Nagar, railway station



GURUGRAM: Gurugram Police on Saturday conducted a special combing operation with the assistance of a dog squad in Surat Nagar Phase 1 and Phase 2 and at the Gurugram Railway Station to strengthen security and check suspicious activities, officials said.

The operation involved the dog squad, personnel from the concerned police stations and special police teams, which searched lanes, public places and the railway station premises, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) YVR Shashi Shekhar said the operation aimed to ensure public safety, curb anti-social elements and identify suspicious objects or individuals.

The dog squad checked railway station platforms, waiting halls, circulating areas and crowded locations in Surat Nagar for explosives, narcotic substances and other objectionable materials. Police teams also searched several sensitive locations, he said.

Shekhar said the operation was part of the special drives being conducted by Gurugram Police for routine security checks, surveillance of sensitive locations and crime prevention.

No suspicious objects or undesirable activities were found during the operation, he said, adding that such drives would continue to maintain law and order and ensure public safety.

BJP's Sangeet Som accuses Yadav of conspiracy to kill him

MEERUT: BJP leader and former Sardhana MLA Sangeet Singh Som has accused Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav of conspiring to have him killed, an allegation the SP has described as politically motivated.

Som, known for making controversial statements, reportedly made the allegation during a recent podcast, claiming that an alleged plan involving a person named Titu Yadav could not be executed.

Reacting to the allegation, SP MLA and former Uttar Pradesh cabinet minister Shahid Manzoor declined to comment directly. He said Som should seek additional security from the government if he apprehended a threat to his life.



"He is a BJP leader, a former MLA and a firebrand leader. His party is in power. If he faces a threat to his life, he should apply to the government. If 26-27 security personnel are not enough, he can take 50-100 personnel. If even Z-plus security is insufficient, he can seek NSG protection," Manzoor told PTI.

Manzoor also asked Som to check how many security personnel the Akhilesh Yadav government had provided him when he was an MLA.

Suggesting that the allegation could be politically motivated, Manzoor said, "Perhaps someone is saying such things to increase his TRP. It is also possible that he is doing this to secure his ticket. I do not want to comment on it."

Attempts by PTI to contact Som for his response were unsuccessful, as his mobile phone was switched off.

Som has previously accused the Akhilesh Yadav-led SP government of filing serious criminal cases against him and other leaders during its tenure.

Before joining the BJP in 2011, Som was associated with the SP and contested the 2009 Lok Sabha elections from Muzaffarnagar on an SP ticket.

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'Mann Ki Baat' marks 12 years; PM Modi says journey no less than pilgrimage

New Delhi, Oct 25 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday reflected on the 12 years of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', calling it a journey equivalent to that of a "pilgrimage" and a way of hailing the "extraordinary work" done by the countrymen across various sectors.

He also thanked the listeners for the "warmth and affection" they have shown throughout this journey.

The first episode of PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' event was aired on October 3, 2014, coinciding with the festival of Vijayadashami. It was broadcast across All India Radio (Akashvani) and Doordarshan networks.

Addressing the 139th episode of his monthly radio programme, PM Modi said, "Twelve years ago, on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami, we began 'Mann Ki Baat'. Since then, our journey has continued uninterrupted. All of you have been both fellow travellers and inspiration of this journey."

"For me, Mann Ki Baat has been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the hard work, courage, commitment, dedication and spirit of service of the common man



of our country," he said. "Our country has had a tradition of pilgrimages for centuries. For me, 'Mann Ki Baat' is not less than a pilgrimage to closely understand the efforts of people of the country and to pay tributes to their contributions. People who live for society and country are themselves like places of pilgrimage," the Prime Minister added.

Over these 12 years, he said that many such people from every corner of the nation have come forward whose "extraordinary work" goes unnoticed by society; however, through 'Mann Ki Baat', he said that these "inspiring stories" are presented before the nation.

"Through this programme, I, in a way, pay homage to the power of the people of our country. It gives me an opportunity to connect with every family across the nation. I receive hundreds of such messages in which people tell me that after listening to 'Mann Ki Baat', they feel as though I am sitting among them like a family member and speaking to them," he said.

"The warmth and affection of all you listeners is truly an invaluable asset for me," he added.

Naveen Sajju to play truck driver in 'Subba Nimmalobba'



BENGALURU: Singer-turned-actor Naveen Sajju is set to explore a new side of his acting career with Subba Nimmalobba, a film centred on the struggles, aspirations and everyday life of a middle-class Kannada truck driver. The film's muhurat ceremony has been held, and shooting has commenced.

Produced by S.T. Uday Kumar and Arun Kumar C. under the banner of Unique Productions LLP, the film is written and directed by Vinay Krishna. Actress Shruthi Gowda, who hails from Chikkamagaluru, plays the female lead opposite Sajju. The film was launched with the blessings of Vinay Guruji, who attended the muhurat ceremony. Production began the following day.

A story of everyday struggles

Subba Nimmalobba revolves around the life of an ordinary truck driver navigating the challenges of everyday existence. The narrative explores the aspirations, setbacks and struggles of a middle-class man striving to make a living and realise his dreams.

The makers aim to portray the extraordinary struggles of an ordinary individual through a story rooted in the lives of common people.

A new avatar for Sajju

Known for his distinctive singing style, Sajju made his transition to lead acting roles with Lo Naveena, which marked a new phase in his film career earlier this year.

After portraying a village youth in his previous film, Sajju is now preparing to take on a different role in Subba Nimmalobba. His portrayal of a truck driver is expected to offer a new dimension to his on-screen persona, with the actor looking to establish himself in action-oriented roles as well.

For Sajju, the film presents an opportunity to expand his presence in Kannada cinema beyond his identity as a popular singer.

Shooting across three cities

Shruthi Gowda has been cast as the female lead. The chemistry between the two actors and the significance of her character in the narrative are among the aspects that audiences will be watching for.

The production team plans to shoot in Bengaluru, Chennai and Mysuru. Details about the supporting cast and technical crew are expected to be announced later.

With its focus on the life of a working-class truck driver, Subba Nimmalobba seeks to bring an everyday story of ambition and perseverance to the screen. The film will also mark another step in Sajju's attempt to establish himself as a lead actor in the Kannada film industry.

RSS organises Pathasanchalan in Karnataka's Ballari as part of Vijayadashmi celebrations



Ballari (Karnataka) [India], October 25 (ANI): As part of Vijayadashami celebrations, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) organised a Pathasanchalan (route march) in Ballari city on Saturday.

Swayamsevaks dressed in Ganavesh (uniform) marched in disciplined steps, drawing public attention. Organised with the resolve of Bharat's supreme glory and service to the nation, the RSS Pathasanchalan saw enthusiastic participation of swayamsevaks showcasing discipline and organisation.

The march started from Kittur Rani Chennamma School in the city and proceeded via Durgamma Gudi Circle, Royal Circle, Meenakshi Circle and Brucepet Circle. After that, it turned back and was scheduled to reach Kotturu Swamy Matha in front of Prabhat Talkies.

The route march passing through the city's major circles and roads reflected discipline, organisational spirit and the resolve for national service among the swayamsevaks.

Organising a route march on Vijayadashami is part of RSS tradition. It is held against the backdrop of the Sangh's foundation day.

18 achievers honoured with Shikshana Ratna awards



BENGALURU: Eighteen achievers from education, dance, yoga, sports, journalism and other fields were honoured with the Shikshana Ratna Puraskara 2026 at a programme held at Nayana Auditorium on J.C. Road on October 15.

The event, organised to mark International Teachers Day, was jointly organised by Ambika C, Guinness World Record achiever and founder of Art Culture Education Enlight Foundation, and B.K. Prasanna, chief editor of Shikshana Ratna Monthly Magazine.

The programme was presided over by K.S. Vijayakumar, educationist, president of the Karnataka State Teachers Development Council and honorary editor of Shikshana Ratna Educational Monthly Magazine.The awardees were recognised for their contributions to education and other fields. They included Basanti Goswami R.L., Chetana Sundaresh, Deepa V., Geetha, Gopi D., Hemalatha T., Kavya S., Latha Tasin, N. Madhu, Nagalakshmi, Lion G. Prashanth Rao Jagthap, Roopa D.N., Roopashree N.R., Shama Taj, Shankarappa, Shihan M. Lourd Swamy, Shrikanth D. and T. Upendra.

The awardees represented diverse fields, including education, dance, yoga, Scouts, fitness, Garbha Sanskara, journalism, early childhood education, law, karate and sports.

The event also featured cultural performances, including Ganesha Stuti, a Bengali-style Kali dance and Durga dance. Dr. Nandini N. compered the programme.

Modi highlights global prospects of Kalaburagi tur dal under Vocal for Local campaign

Bengaluru : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted Kalaburagi's tur dal as an Indian agricultural product finding new markets worldwide, saying the Vocal for Local movement is helping domestic products reach global consumers. Addressing the 139th episode of Mann Ki Baat, Modi said people were increasingly choosing Indian-made products, particularly during the festive season.

The Prime Minister cited Bihar's makhana and tur dal from Kalaburagi in Karnataka as examples of Indian products gaining international recognition. He also referred to tribal products from



Maharashtra, which are attracting attention through packaging that showcases the region's rich tribal art and culture.

Modi said the growing popularity of khadi was supporting artisans who have preserved traditional skills over generations. He urged people to strengthen the Vocal for Local campaign by purchasing goods made by local artisans and producers.

Kalaburagi is known for its association with tur dal cultivation, and the Prime Minister's reference to the product brought the region's agricultural produce into the national spotlight. The mention also highlighted the opportunities available for regional products to reach wider markets and create better prospects for farmers and local businesses.

The programme also marked 12 years of Mann Ki Baat, which began on Vijayadashami. Recalling the journey, Modi said the programme had provided an opportunity to recognise the hard work, courage, commitment and service of ordinary citizens. He described listeners as companions and guides throughout the programme's journey.

Modi also called for cleanliness ahead of Diwali and Chhath, stressing the importance of keeping surroundings clean during the festive season.Highlighting traditional farming practices, he spoke about the Nav-Trinjan initiative in Punjab's Malwa region, where the Kheti Virasat Mission is promoting organic farming and natural cotton cultivation without chemicals.

He also cited community efforts to revive the Haewal river in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal region through rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and tree planting. Modi urged people to support local products, preserve traditional skills and participate in environmental conservation

Karnataka dams receive fresh inflows after rain in Cauvery basin

BENGALURU : Heavy rainfall over the past two days in the Cauvery basin and Kodagu district has increased inflows into several major reservoirs in Karnataka, bringing relief to farmers and residents concerned about declining water levels. The water level at the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir has risen, while Kabini and Harangi have also recorded fresh inflows.At KRS reservoir in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district, the inflow stood at 9,457 cusecs on Saturday. Against the full reservoir level of 124.80 feet, the water level reached 102.98 feet. The reservoir held 25.235 TMC of water, while the outflow was 1,589 cusecs.The Kabini reservoir in Mysuru district recorded an inflow of 10,477 cusecs. Rainfall of 55 mm was reported in the reservoir's



catchment area. Against its maximum level of 84 feet, the water level stood at 71.61 feet, with storage of 12.48 TMC. The outflow into the river and canals was 500 cusecs.In Kodagu district, rainfall has increased inflows into the Harangi reservoir near Kushalnagar. The reservoir received 2,812 cusecs of water, and its level stood at 2,846.45 feet against the stated maximum level of 2,859 feet.The Lal Bahadur Shastri Sagar, popularly known as the Almatti reservoir, in Nidagundi taluk of Vijayapura district stood at 516.23 metres against its full reservoir level of 519.60 metres. No inflow was recorded, while the outflow stood at 7,743 cusecs.

Kharge questions RSS funding and accountability, Ashoka counters with questions on Congress finances

Bengaluru : Home Minister Priyank Kharge has once again targeted the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), raising questions about its registration status, sources of funding and financial accountability. His remarks have prompted a strong counterattack from Karnataka BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka.

Kharge, in a social media post, said the RSS appeared particularly uncomfortable with the idea of formal registration. He argued that registration would subject the organisation to legal scrutiny and require greater disclosure of its finances, along with transparency and accountability. The minister questioned who funds the RSS, where the money comes from, how it is spent and who audits its



accounts. He also asked who would be held responsible for the organisation's financial affairs.Kharge's central argument was that an organisation with nothing to conceal should have no reason to hesitate to make its accounts available for public scrutiny.

The latest exchange follows the controversy over Kharge's recent remarks concerning the RSS Vijayadashami route march in Karnataka. His comments had drawn criticism from BJP leaders, intensifying the political debate over the organisation's activities in the state. Ashoka responded by turning the spotlight on the Congress's own funding. He asked where the Congress received its funds and provocatively questioned whether money was coming from Pakistan or the United States.

Defending the RSS, Ashoka said its volunteers could explain the sources of its funding. He accused Kharge of making remarks against the organisation while serving as a minister and questioned the duration of his political authority. Ashoka further challenged Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to address the issue directly. He asked why the Chief Minister had remained silent and argued that the RSS should be allowed to continue its activities without unnecessary obstacles.

According to Ashoka, RSS route marches are conducted across the country, with the Karnataka event traditionally held around Vijayadashami. He said the organisation had been conducting such marches for years in the name of national service.

Kittur Utsav exhibition showcases prison-made goods, floral art and modern farm equipment

BELAGAVI, : Products manufactured by prisoners, elaborate floral creations and displays of agricultural crops and machinery have become major attractions at the exhibition being held as part of Kittur Utsav.

The exhibition at the Kittur Fort premises has brought together 100 stalls covering agriculture, health and horticulture, besides 37 food stalls serving a variety of snacks and dishes. Large numbers of visitors have been arriving throughout the day, with particularly heavy crowds during the evening and night.

One of the most popular attractions is the stall selling handmade products from Hindalga Central Prison and Dharwad Prison. Visitors have shown keen interest in



khadi towels, handkerchiefs, bedsheets, chair mats and floor mats produced by inmates. Prison staff are selling the items, giving visitors an opportunity to purchase products made by prisoners while supporting their rehabilitation efforts.

Vinay Malloli, a first-grade instructor at Hindalga Central Prison, said the prison had participated in Kittur Utsav in 2021, when its stall recorded a turnover of Rs 80,000. The authorities are expecting sales of around Rs 1.5 lakh this year.

He said customers were responding positively because of the quality of the products. The prison has also participated in the Dharwad agricultural fair and Mysuru Dasara exhibition. According to Malloli, products worth nearly Rs 2 lakh manufactured at Hindalga were sent to Mysuru Dasara this year.

Nearly 100 inmates at Hindalga prison are involved in making household articles. Their wages depend on the products they manufacture, and an inmate generally earns between Rs 5,000 and Rs 6,000 a month. The earnings are deposited directly into their bank accounts, from where they can send money to their families.

Prisoners are also trained in bakery operations, carpentry, tailoring and other skilled occupations. Malloli said the training was designed to equip them with practical abilities that could help them establish their own businesses and become self-reliant after completing their sentences.

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Cyclone warning: No 1 signal hoisted at 9 ports in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

According to a Daily Thanthi report, the ports where the warning signal has been hoisted are Chennai, Ennore, Kattupalli, Cuddalore, Thoothukudi, Pamban, Puducherry, Nagapattinam and Karaikal.



CHENNAI: Cyclone warning signal no. 1 has been hoisted at nine ports in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry as strong winds prevail amid the likelihood of a cyclone forming over the Bay of Bengal, according to officials.According to a Daily Thanthi report, the ports where the warning signal has been hoisted are Chennai, Ennore, Kattupalli, Cuddalore, Thoothukudi, Pamban, Puducherry, Nagapattinam and Karaikal.

The low-pressure area that formed over the central and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal intensified into a well-marked low-pressure area on Saturday. It is expected to strengthen into a depression and subsequently a deep depression on Sunday before developing into a cyclone on Monday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The system is forecast to move west-northwestwards and intensify further. It may cross the coast near Andhra Pradesh over the central-west Bay of Bengal on the morning of October 28.

Cyclone warning: No 1 signal hoisted at 9 ports in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

TN rains HIGHLIGHTS | Red alert for Theni, Dindigul and Madurai; No 1 cyclone warning signal at 9 portsNo 1 cyclone warning signal: What it meansCyclone warning signals numbered 1 to 11 are hoisted at ports to indicate potential weather threats and their severity. A No 1 signal indicates that weather conditions favourable for the formation of a cyclone exist, with strong winds expected in the vicinity, but the port itself is not expected to be affected. During the daytime, warning signals are displayed using cone-shaped structures made of bamboo, while coloured lights are used at night.

Even TVK voters in distress: Stalin slams L&O failure



CHENNAI: DMK president and former Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday accused Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay-led coalition government of failing to maintain law and order, alleging that rising prices, power cuts, drug proliferation and crimes against women had left even its own voters distressed. Addressing a wedding ceremony hosted by former minister KKSSR Ramachandran at the Ramachandra Convention Centre in Tiruvanmiyur here, Stalin hit back at Vijay's repeated description of the DMK as a "theeya sakthi" (evil force), saying people now knew who the real evil force was.

Tamil Nadu to stop accepting physical pension applications from November"When our government was formed, I wanted its welfare measures to reach not only those who voted for us but also those who did not. But under the present government, even those who voted for it are in distress," Stalin said.

Alleging that incidents of murder, robbery, theft and sexual assault continued to make headlines, he recalled his earlier criticism of the government over sexual crimes and power cuts.

From Rajini to new actor, BJP plans political turmoil in TN: Manickam Tagore



MADURAI: Congress leader Manickam Tagore on Sunday alleged that the BJP and the RSS were working on a 'Plan C' to bring an actor into Tamil Nadu politics, indirectly hinting at actor Dhanush's possible political entry. His remarks came as hundreds of women from across the State gathered in Chennai in the evening for a meeting of the actor's women's wing.

Speaking to reporters in Madurai after attending a wedding, Tagore alleged that the BJP's various operations over the years, including the present one, 'Plan C', were aimed at creating political turmoil in the State under the direction of the party's leadership in Delhi.The BJP's main target was to capture the AIADMK's vote bank, as the party's DNA is strongly associated with cinema, he said.Tagore said the BJP and RSS had first tried 'Plan A' with AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami and AMMK leader TTV Dinakaran, but the people rejected them. They then tried to persuade actor Rajinikanth to launch a political party, but that did not materialise.

Stalin's sandals ruling TN now; TVK government may last just 14 weeks or months: Leoni

Leoni also expressed confidence that the DMK would bring the TVK government's tenure to an end and return to power



CHENNAI: DMK leader Dindigul I Leoni has triggered a political controversy by likening the ruling TVK government to the sandals of Lord Ram, predicting that Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's government may last only '14 weeks or 14 months'.

Speaking at a family wedding of former minister KKSSR Ramachandran here on Sunday, Leoni invoked the Ramayana to highlight the continuing benefits of welfare schemes introduced by the previous DMK government.

Tamil Nadu to stop accepting physical pension applications from November

"Just as Lord Ram's sandals ruled Ayodhya, the sandals you left behind are ruling Tamil Nadu today," he said, addressing Stalin.

Leoni cited the KMUT scheme for women, the breakfast scheme for school children and Metro Rail projects to argue that people continued to benefit from initiatives associated with the previous regime.

"People continue to remember you while benefiting from these schemes. In that sense, your sandals are ruling Tamil Nadu," he said.

Turning his attack on the TVK government, Leoni drew a parallel with the Ramayana episode in which Bharata placed Ram's sandals on the throne and governed Ayodhya during his elder brother's 14-year exile.

"Do not mistake the person in power for Bharata. Just as the sandals ruled for 14 years, this government will not last that long. It may survive for 14 weeks or 14 months," he said. Leoni also expressed confidence that the DMK would bring the TVK government's tenure to an end and return to power, invoking the party's rising-sun (Udhayasuriyan) symbol.

In-service teachers seek uniform pass mark of 60 for TNTET

Teachers said that the existing system of different pass marks based on community has resulted in thousands of candidates narrowly missing the qualifying mark, with at least 10,000 teachers reportedly failing the exam this time by marginal marks.



CHENNAI: The in-service teachers are demanding for a uniform pass mark of 60 for all candidates appearing for the Special Tamil Nadu Teacher Eligibility Test (TNTET) next year, arguing that the same qualifying threshold should apply to everyone, irrespective of their community.Teachers said that the existing system of different pass marks based on community has resulted in thousands of candidates narrowly missing the qualifying mark, with at least 10,000 teachers reportedly failing the exam this time by marginal marks.Teachers' representatives said that a uniform qualifying mark would ensure fairness for those already working in schools and preparing for the eligibility test while continuing to discharge their teaching responsibilities. They also argued that reservation-based relaxation could be applied to fresh candidates appearing for the regular TET, rather than extending different qualifying thresholds to in-service teachers.

S Neelakandan, Tiruchy district secretary of TN Elementary Teachers Organisations-Joint Action Committee (TETO-JAC), said, "In-service teachers are facing difficulties preparing for the exam alongside their regular work. They have to take classes, complete academic responsibilities and prepare for the TET simultaneously. A uniform pass mark of 60 would be a fair approach for all in-service teachers, regardless of their community. The government should consider their working conditions and provide a level playing field."

H5N1 detected in Gentoo Penguins on Heard Island, first avian case in Australian External

Australia : Gentoo penguins have become the first bird species confirmed to be infected with the highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza in an Australian external territory, after testing positive on Heard Island, the Australian government has announced.

The virus has also been detected in southern elephant seals and Antarctic fur seals on the remote sub-Antarctic island. While southern elephant seals were confirmed to have contracted the disease in November 2025, the latest findings mark the first known infection of birds in Australia's external territories.

The deadly H5N1 strain (clade 2.3.4.4b) has infected and killed millions of seabirds, wild birds and poultry worldwide. Preliminary testing was conducted at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness. Samples were collected during a research voyage to Heard Island on February 3, 2026. According to a government statement, Heard Island lies more than 4,000 kilometres south-west of Perth and about 1,700 kilometres north of Antarctica in the Southern Ocean, making it one of Australia's most remote territories. Authorities said the additional detections do not substantially increase the risk to mainland Australia beyond current elevated levels. Australian Chief Veterinary Officer Beth Cookson said preliminary laboratory results indicated that species beyond southern elephant seals had been impacted. "Preliminary laboratory results indicate that species beyond southern elephant seals have been impacted by H5 bird flu, with a small number of confirmed additional detections in species including the southern elephant seal, Antarctic fur seal and gentoo penguin from the second voyage," she said.

However, scientists aboard the RSV Nuyina reported no signs of ongoing mass mortality events in the areas visited.The government noted that the findings were consistent with current scientific understanding of how H5N1 spreads among wildlife populations.

Officials stressed that Australia's H5 bird flu-free status for mainland poultry remains unchanged. Nevertheless, the detections highlight the need for continued vigilance, coordinated biosecurity measures and preparedness.The government said it is investing more than A$100 million to strengthen national bird flu preparedness and response capabilities, including rapid response equipment across all states and territories and targeted measures to protect vulnerable native species.

Lifelong learning may cut dementia risk by nearly 40%, study finds

New York: Reading, writing and learning new languages throughout life could reduce the risk of dementia by nearly 40%, according to a new study that suggests millions of people may be able to delay or even prevent the condition through sustained mental activity. Dementia is among the world's fastest-growing health challenges, with the number of people living with the condition projected to triple to more than 150 million globally by 2050. Experts warn that it poses a major and escalating burden on health and social care systems worldwide.

Researchers in the United States found that individuals who consistently engaged in intellectually stimulating activities — such as reading books, writing, visiting libraries or learning a foreign language — were less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, and experienced slower cognitive decline. The study, led by Andrea Zammit of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, suggests that cognitive health in later life is "strongly influenced" by lifelong exposure to mentally enriching environments.

"Our findings are encouraging, suggesting that consistently engaging in a variety of mentally stimulating activities throughout life may make a difference in cognition," Zammit said. She added that public investments in early education programmes and access to libraries could play a significant role in reducing dementia incidence. The study tracked 1,939 participants with an average age of 80 who did not have dementia at the outset. They were followed for an average age of eight years and completed surveys about cognitive activities during childhood, midlife and later years. Early-life enrichment — before age 18 — included being read to, reading books, access to newspapers and atlases at home and learning a foreign language for more than five years. Midlife enrichment involved income level at age 40, access to resources such as magazines, dictionaries and library cards, and cultural activities like visiting museums. Later-life enrichment, beginning at around age 80, included reading, writing, playing games and financial stability.During the study period, 551 participants developed Alzheimer's disease and 719 developed mild cognitive impairment (MCI), an early stage of memory loss. Among those in the highest 10% for lifetime cognitive enrichment, 21% developed Alzheimer's disease, compared with 34% in the lowest 10%. After adjusting for factors such as age, sex and education, researchers found that higher lifetime enrichment was associated with a 38% lower risk of Alzheimer's disease and a 36% lower risk of MCI.

Participants with the highest enrichment levels developed Alzheimer's at an average age of 94, compared with 88 among those with the lowest levels — a delay of more than five years. Similarly, mild cognitive impairment developed at an average age of 85 in the high-enrichment group, compared with 78 in the low-enrichment group. Autopsy data from participants who died during the study also indicated that those with higher lifetime enrichment maintained better memory and thinking skills and experienced slower cognitive decline before death.

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EDITORIAL

Indian Police and its Spectacular Failure at Policing Protests

The recent widespread protests, concentrated mostly in Delhi, have exposed the ineptness and insensitivity of the Indian police forces in tackling protests. The regime-centric nature of the police across the country, causing brutal handling of protests, is increasingly alienating it from society and the people. Consequently, the institution views protesters as enemies of the regime, and hence of the state.

The regime is also happy to reinforce a ruthless image of the law enforcement agencies to deter dissenters and opponents. Therefore, the police and security agencies are not only given orders to unleash fierce force, they are also given a free hand to use merciless violence against protesters. This was evident during the October protests led by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), the Congress and other opposition parties.

RULE OF LAW AND PROTEST POLICING

Policing in general, and protest policing in particular, is performed according to the principles of the rule of law. Noted scholar of law Upendra Baxi defines the rule of law as a principle which "is always and everywhere a terrain of peoples' struggle incrementally to make power accountable, governance just, and [the] state ethical."

Internationally, the United Nations places rule of law as "a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the state itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights and norms and standards." Hence, the principle of accountability built into the rule of law creates a great responsibility upon the state and its "law enforcing" agencies to be humane, just and ethical. For, a protest may not necessarily be anti-government or anti-regime.

The principles of the rule of law, has accountability innate to it, and safety and security of citizens that it inheres are enshrined in Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India. Article 21, in Part III of the Constitution dealing with Fundamental Rights, which states "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law", is basic to ensuring physical safety not only to citizens of India but to any person within the territory of the Republic of India.

Importantly, the debates in the Constituent Assembly raised apprehensions that the empowerment of the Indian parliament with the principle of "procedure established by law" could be misused. To allay that fear, a full section of the erstwhile Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was incorporated in Article 22 to limit the policing powers of the Indian state by providing additional safety to an arrestee. Thus, when we look at the recently enacted Bharatiya Nyay Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to replace the CrPC, its relevant sections regarding the policing powers of the Indian state may conform to constitutional principles. However, in practice they are violated by the state by issuing verbal orders of harsh, even brutal, police practice. For example, Sections 148 to 151 of the BNSS empower police and civil/armed forces to disperse unlawful assemblies that threaten public peace.

A Jolt For Trump? How The US May Be Staring At A 'Blue' Wave

Brig Anil Raman



On November 3, Americans will vote in the midterm elections that are held midway through a President's four-year term. They will be voting for all 435 members of the House of Representatives, the lower house, a body similar in status to India's Lok Sabha. There will also be elections in 35 of the 100 seats of the Upper House, known as the Senate. Unlike Rajya Sabha members, senators are elected directly by voters.

Indian state elections are frequently interpreted as a vote about the government in New Delhi, and similarly, American midterms are often viewed as a judgment on the President. Just as the Lok Sabha is elected one district at a time by the first-past-the-post system, so is the US House. As Indian readers know, a party can win a majority of seats with a modest share of the vote; in 2014, the BJP secured an absolute majority of 282 seats with only 31% of the national vote. Donald Trump is now in the final two weeks of the campaign and is deeply unpopular. The Democrats are comfortably ahead in all the national surveys, and the media are talking about a "Blue Wave". The evidence now points firmly to a Democratic majority in the House. The only real surprise is the Senate, which was thought to be safe for the Republicans a month ago but is now in doubt. Whether this becomes a wave will be decided in states that Trump won comfortably in 2024.

Decoding The Generic Ballot

The key figure mentioned in the campaign is what is known as the "generic congressional ballot". This type of ballot asks voters to indicate which party they would like to have representing them in Congress without listing any candidates, thereby reflecting the national mood. According to the most recent figures from the Takshashila US Midterm Election Observer, the Democrats have 49.3% and the Republicans 41.7%. The Democratic point lead is simply the difference between these two figures, amounting to 7.6 percentage points; this is what is understood by a "point". It is frequently confused with a percentage: when the support of the two parties is compared directly, the Democrats have approximately 18% more supporters than the Republicans. The other 9% of voters are undecided or back smaller parties.Because a single survey has a margin of error of around three points, poll trackers combine dozens of polls, most of which give the Democratic Party a lead ranging from seven to nine points, which is its biggest lead this cycle.

■ **WHAT A 'WAVE' LOOKS LIKE**

To obtain a majority and to take advantage of a political wave are two completely different matters. To take control of the House, a party needs 218 seats. Since the Republicans currently have a narrow majority, the Democrats only have to win a small number of seats in order to reach that threshold. As for the Senate, the Republicans have 53 seats, which means the Democrats need a net gain of four, the Republican Vice President being able to break a tie when the vote is 50-50.

A genuine wave election cracks the opposing party's traditional strongholds. Recent history sets the benchmark. In 2006, amid strong public opposition to the Iraq war, the Democrats won about 30 House seats and took control of the Senate. In 2010, the Tea Party movement gave the Republicans 63. In 2018, at the first midterm of Trump's presidency, the Democrats won 40. By that historical standard, a genuine blue wave means Democratic gains of 30 or more House seats along with control of the Senate.

■ **THE 8-POINT LEAD**

The first barrier is the distribution of votes: since the Democrats are concentrated in large metropolitan areas, their candidates win there by large margins. Any vote that goes beyond the winning margin contributes to the party's total number of votes nationally without producing an additional seat.

The next obstacle is redistricting. In India, the boundaries of the constituencies are determined by an independent Delimitation Commission, whereas in most US states, the party that holds power in the state legislature draws the map to gain a partisan advantage. This is called gerrymandering. The Republicans have control of more state legislatures. In Texas, the map was redrawn halfway through the decade, and this year, a Supreme Court ruling weakened the protections for minority-majority districts in the conservative southern states. California has produced a map that favours the Democrats, but overall, the Republicans are in a more advantageous institutional position. Analysts think that the Democrats now need a national lead of several points just to win half the House.

■ **THE MAP IS SHIFTING**

The clearest signal is where the parties spend their money, since campaigns spend where they fear defeat.

The leading Republican super PAC for House races, a political fund that can raise and spend unlimited sums, has cancelled over $13 million worth of advertising in four constituencies. This includes some of the suburban areas in Iowa and New Jersey, and that money has been redirected to districts that Trump won by narrow margins. As for the Democrats, they are raising funds with a view to running campaigns in traditional Republican areas that were previously seen as out of reach, such as Miami, the suburban areas of St. Louis, and Little Rock. A party fighting to hold its own ground while its opponent advances is the classic pattern of a wave election.

The same pattern is even more clearly seen in the Senate. The Republicans are now spending heavily in traditional Republican states with $100 million in Texas and more than $90 million in Ohio. They are injecting additional funds into Kansas, South Carolina, and Alaska. They have even allocated $15 million to Nebraska, a state that Trump won by more than 20 points. They have also pulled out of North Carolina, seemingly giving up the contest to Democrats.

The election calculation remains challenging. The Democrats must maintain their position in their closely contested seats in Georgia and Michigan, win North Carolina, and then secure three more from states that Trump won comfortably. It seemed highly unrealistic a month ago; it is now a real possibility.

■ **READ THE SIGNALS**

Early voting has given rise to talk of a wave. In the United States, nearly all states allow people to vote before Election Day, either in person at early voting centres or by sending in a postal ballot. Nevertheless, each state has its own rules regarding eligibility and its own deadlines. In many states, voters are recorded by party at the time of registration, so it is possible for officials to say how many registered Democrats and Republicans have returned their ballots, though not how anyone voted. At present, registered Democrats are returning their ballots at a higher rate. However, Democrats have in the past depended on postal ballots, while Republicans generally vote in person on Election Day, which is why early figures tend to show a Democratic advantage. The true test will be whether the Democratic early-vote margin runs well ahead of 2018 and 2022. The fact that there are reports of disputes among members of Trump's inner circle regarding the allocation of funds and the choice of candidates shows that the campaign is under stress, but the changes in spending are the more substantial evidence.

How much will the 'Dilli Chalo' rally change the political scenario?

Saurabh Varshney

In Indian democracy, elections are not just a means of electing a government, but also a foundation for public trust, the impartiality of constitutional institutions, and the expression of civil rights. Therefore, when questions are raised about the election process or the accuracy of the voter list, their significance is not limited to any one political party or alliance. It becomes a matter of democracy's credibility. In this context, the India Coalition has prepared to intensify its political campaign against the Election Commission. The Coalition's proposed "Dilli Chalo" rally and the announcement of a symbolic "people's impeachment" against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar have once again brought electoral transparency, constitutional accountability, and opposition politics to the forefront of discussion. The SIR's intention was to revise the voter list, despite the system's repeated failures. It remains to be seen how the India Coalition's "Dilli Chalo" rally will change the political landscape.

Regarding the India Coalition, according to their proposed program, a symbolic "people's impeachment" against the Chief Election Commissioner will be held on October 30th, while a "Dilli Chalo" rally will be held at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on November 1st. According to Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal, through this program, the party will present its case to the public demanding the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner from his post. The Coalition alleges irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process of the electoral roll. However, the veracity of these allegations must be assessed based on the relevant facts, documents, and the Election Commission's response.

In a vast democracy like India, preparing and regularly updating the voter list is a challenging task. It is the responsibility of the electoral system to ensure that eligible voters are included in the list and ineligible ones are removed. However, any complaint regarding the omission, incorrect deletion, or other errors of an eligible citizen's name should be taken seriously.

While a process like SIR may aim to make voter lists more accurate, its success will depend not solely on administrative data, but on transparency and citizen trust. If a voter fears their name will be deleted or excluded, they should have an effective opportunity to file an objection, submit documents, and receive a timely resolution. The system should be particularly simple for the poor, migrant workers, the elderly, and citizens with limited resources to obtain the necessary documents. The India Coalition has made alleged irregularities in this process its primary issue. The crucial question now is whether the opposition will be able to back up its allegations with solid evidence, and whether the Election Commission will provide a clear and factual response to each complaint. In a democratic system, the opposition has the right to make allegations, but these allegations must be investigated and conclusions drawn based on facts.

The Election Commission is a constitutional institution whose credibility is crucial to a democratic system. Its responsibility is not only to conduct elections, but also to ensure that the entire process is fair, transparent, and in accordance with the law. If public confidence in the Commission is weakened, the acceptability of election results and the stability of the political system may be affected. Therefore, instead of dismissing opposition criticism as mere political allegations, the Election Commission should respond with facts where necessary. Publicizing information related to voter list revisions, the process of removing names, the disposal of claims and objections, and the processing of complaints could be a useful step in this direction. On the other hand, it would not be appropriate to accept the allegations leveled against a constitutional functionary as proven. Demanding the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner is the opposition's political right, but the process of removal from office can only be in accordance with constitutional and legal provisions. Symbolic 'people's impeachment' may be a means of conveying a political message to the public, but it is not, in itself, a substitute for the formal legal process of removing a constitutional functionary.

The proposed rally at Ramlila Maidan will also be an opportunity for the India Alliance to demonstrate its unity. The opposition is attempting to bring various parties together on the issue of electoral transparency. If the alliance, instead of limiting its campaign to mere slogans and accusations, integrates complaints from affected voters, documentary evidence, and concrete suggestions for reform, it could garner widespread public support. However, the opposition faces the challenge that its credibility with the public cannot be built solely by criticizing the government or the Election Commission. It must explain what practical measures it seeks to correct errors in the voter list and its clear action plan to protect citizens' voting rights. It is also essential for political parties to raise their grievances in the relevant statutory forums and utilize available legal remedies. The ruling party and the Election Commission are also expected to take steps to strengthen public trust rather than dismissing this issue as mere opposition politics. In a democracy, the reputation of institutions is strengthened not by criticism, but by transparent functioning, accountability, and impartial conduct.

FAIR ELECTION IS NATIONAL, NOT CONGRESS'S, CONCERN

SANJAY K. JHA



The nation can't brush aside a Prime Minister's lament. A lament that is not personal. Imagine the anguish Narendra Modi must have felt seeing some people trying to destroy India's pride! Those poignant words, "Ye log Bharat ki pratishtha ko hi mitti mein milaane par tule huye hain (These people are hell bent on ravaging India's pride)". Modi unbosomed his pain at a "global" summit organised by his tycoon friend Gautam Adani's television channel on October 22.

National pride resides in the majesty of constitutional democracy. The pride dissipates when the nation can't protect citizens' rights and freedoms; it flourishes in the salubrious environment of equality and justice, of harmony and accountability. What are the people the Prime Minister accused of ravaging the nation's pride actually doing? They are demanding removal of the Chief Election Commissioner who has been caught manipulating the voters' list and stealing elections. Just that – they are peacefully asking for the resignation of a bureaucrat against whom the evidence of wrongdoing is piling up. And who are these people so contemptuously portrayed as anti-national by the Prime Minister? These are law-abiding people including leaders of opposition parties, members of Parliament, intellectuals, students and conscientious citizens who believe free and fair elections necessary for survival of democracy in the country. Does it look like a national tragedy that the Prime Minister has identified such right-thinking people as the nation's enemy? The Prime Minister quickly shifted from "some people" to the leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi, bitterly arguing that the voices of even genuine critics of his government were drowned in the anarchic noise created by the Congress leader.

Let's exclude Rahul Gandhi, Modi's pet aversion, from the discourse for a moment. Let's recall what others – perhaps the genuine critics in the eyes of the Prime Minister whose views could benefit the government – are saying:

Rarely in the annals of Indian constitutional history have two key institutions, the Supreme Court and the Election Commission, acted in tandem with such shameless disregard for the constitutional purpose of their office, inflicting administrative cruelty on citizens and disenfranchising them: political scientist Pratap Bhanu Mehta The Election Commission is opaque and unaccountable. It doesn't work according to the Constitution. The commission has to be dissolved, disbanded: Parkala Prabhakar, economist and husband of Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman

The common man, the heart of our Constitution and democracy, is at great peril today: Rohinton Nariman, retired Supreme Court judge

If any process results in disenfranchising millions and millions of Indian citizens, making them second class citizens without voting rights, such a process is intrinsically arbitrary. No amount of whataboutery can justify it: Ujjal Bhuyan, sitting Supreme Court judge

SIR (special intensive revision) is a scam and the election commission should be criminally prosecuted: S.Y. Quraishi, former Chief Election Commissioner of India EC has to act under the law. EC changing Form 6 is wholly illegal and unconstitutional: Dushyant Dave, senior lawyer and constitutional expert

Dissent is not an interruption of patriotism but one of the ways citizens take part in the life of the Republic. The Republic was not founded on the proposition that citizens would surrender their judgment: Manoj Kumar Jha, professor and parliamentarian.

We are not a democracy. We are a nation held captive by a bunch of fascist thugs: Mahua Moitra, MP and former investment banker. The Prime Minister said the Congress party's multiple attempts to relaunch a failed leader had done tremendous harm to other critics whose voices could help the government. The nation knows an assorted group of people is speaking the same language that the Congress is speaking. Cut the Congress out. But Modi must tell the nation when he is inviting those people to discuss issues central to the survival of constitutional democracy in India. After all, he also said the need of the hour, when the world order is changing, is conversation, not agitation.

GHUSPAITHIYA HOAX

Home minister Amit Shah has declared that the Congress will not be able to return to power in the next 30 years. Will he explain to the nation why the people should sustain the BJP government for 30 years more? For leaving social harmony in tatters, for the stunning administrative failure in Manipur, for isolating India in the global community, for breaking parties and hollowing out institutions?

Zuckerberg makes Meta deal to cover potential billionaire tax

Sacramento: Mark Zuckerberg made a deal with Meta's board to help him pay a proposed California tax on billionaires without losing his ownership stake in the company he founded, according to regulatory filings published this week. If passed by voters in the November 3 election, the measure would levy a one-time 5 per cent tax on the wealth of Californians whose net worth exceeds USD 1 billion. Zuckerberg is the sixth-richest person in the world with a net worth estimated at more than USD 220 billion, according to Forbes. That would put his tax liability at more than USD 11 billion. Actions announced by the tech giant on Wednesday will keep Zuckerberg as the majority owner of the company — and also give him the ability to sell some of a new class of non-voting shares "for any reason", including to pay potential bills from the wealth tax. The compromise came after Zuckerberg told the board he was considering selling his Palo Alto home last month in anticipation of the proposed tax. But he later struck the deal and committed to staying in California for eight years, unless "material unforeseen circumstances" arise that make it "prudent or advisable for him to reside elsewhere", according to the filings. A few hundred billionaires live in California, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office. The tax would apply to anyone with a primary residence in the state as of January 1, 2026. Most of the money would be used to backfill federal funding cuts to healthcare, and 10 per cent of it would go toward education and



food-assistance programmes. Proponents, including SEIU United Healthcare Workers West and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, say it would help ensure the ultra-rich pay their fair share. But opponents, including California Governor Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, have warned it could prompt the state's wealthiest to leave the state. That could cause budget problems down the line because the state relies heavily on the rich for income tax revenue. SEIU United Healthcare Workers West said the Zuckerberg deal proves opponents wrong. "This is the nail in the coffin to months of scare tactics claiming that billionaires are fleeing California," Suzanne Jimenez, the union's chief of staff, said in a statement. Zuckerberg's deal with Meta offers another glimpse into how the ultrawealthy are bracing for the proposed tax, which targets the main way they make money, through their investments, instead of by raising taxes on the paycheck they receive from work. Other billionaires have taken a different approach by starting to cut ties with the state, including Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page. Brin and other tech moguls and venture capitalists have poured millions into a political action committee opposing the proposed tax and backing other ballot measures designed to nullify it. The committee, Building a Better California, has raised more than USD 333 million, 30 per cent of which has come from Brin. By comparison, the "Yes on 40" campaign has raised USD 32.7 million. Zuckerberg has taken a salary of USD 1 each year since 2013 as Meta's CEO. In its regulatory filings, Meta maintained that Zuckerberg would not receive additional compensation — and argued that he would "effectively be paying to serve as the company's chief executive officer while residing in California" if the state's wealth tax is enacted. The company said the new stock he will be allowed to sell — representing 10 per cent of his overall economic stake in the company — would help mitigate that. Beyond securing Zuckerberg's future in California, Meta's new class of shares is intended to boost the company's ability to raise capital for its investments in artificial intelligence infrastructure, according to the filings. Meta also said it established the new shares for employee compensation and acquisitions, among other reasons.

Musk says SpaceX restricted Ukraine's Starlink connection as service restored



Elon Musk has said his company SpaceX restricted Ukraine's Starlink internet service, after Ukrainian officials said connectivity issues appeared to have been resolved. The tech billionaire accused Ukraine of violating its terms of service by using it for military activity - but denied being responsible for a simultaneous issue with its US-run, military-grade counterpart Starshield. Kyiv has not officially commented on Musk's latest claim but Ukrainian presidential adviser Serhii Beskrestnov said his post was "very strange". Musk had earlier denied deliberately throttling Ukraine's connection, which it says hampered its ability to conduct defensive operations for more than a week. The issue first emerged last week during a broader row between Washington and Kyiv over Ukrainian strikes on Russian oil infrastructure. Musk's latest comments, and the seeming restoration of the service, came after US President Donald Trump said he had told the Tesla and X owner to "put it back", having repeatedly denied instructing him to limit the service. "Using Starlink, a civilian commercial service, for offensive drone strikes to kill people has never been allowed, nor should it be," Musk wrote on X on Saturday. "Ukraine['s] military violated Starlink terms of service and used it for offensive drone strikes to kill people. That loophole was closed last week." He went on to say that SpaceX had "done more to defend Ukraine than any private company on Earth" and reiterated his stipulation that Starshield was a different system and controlled by the US government, adding: "What they decide to do is up to them." He added in a later post: "[Starlink] can be used for infrastructure that is military, but it cannot be used for unequivocally offensive strikes that make it fair game to be struck back." Reacting to Musk's post, Beskrestnov said that drones operating via Starlink in Ukraine had a speed restriction of 70-90km/h (43-56mph) and did not work on Russian territory. "Therefore, we physically cannot use commercial Starlink for deep strikes and medium-range strikes," he wrote on Telegram. "It is very strange that Elon Musk is not aware of Starlink restrictions in Ukraine." There was no immediate comment from Ukraine's defence ministry. Ukraine uses both the civilian service Starlink and the more secure Starshield, depending on what communications are needed, both of which run on networks of low Earth orbit satellites launched by SpaceX. Starlink allows military units to co-ordinate, particularly in remote areas on the battlefield, while Starshield allows Ukrainian drone operators to see targets in real time, as well as operate interceptor drones. Russia is not authorised to use Starlink, so when Ukraine sends long-range missiles or drones deep into Russia to hit oil refineries, the network does not work. Ukraine's Defence Minister Yevhenii Khmara said earlier on Saturday that the military was now recording a "stable connection", with drones now able to reach speeds in excess of 400km/h. Kyiv previously said the connection would cut out above 161km/h. "The speeds are now where they need to be," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on Telegram. Musk did not disclose in his post why SpaceX had chosen to make the change to its service last week, when Ukraine's extensive use of Starlink had been known for several years.

TOP 10 FIRMS lose Rs 1.56 lakh crore in market value last week



Mumbai: The combined market capitalisation of eight of India's 10 most valuable listed companies declined by Rs 1.55 lakh crore last week as a broad-based sell-off in equities weighed on valuations, with HDFC Bank and Bajaj Finance accounting for the largest share of the losses. The decline came during a holiday-shortened trading week in which the benchmark indices witnessed significant pressure. The Sensex dropped 1,605.44 points, or 2.15 per cent, while the Nifty fell 546.15 points, or 2.36 per cent.

Reflecting the weakness in the broader market, the total market capitalisation of all BSE-listed companies fell by Rs 20.79 lakh crore over four trading sessions, ending at Rs 451.83 lakh crore compared with Rs 472.62 lakh crore on October 16. Among the top 10 most-valued firms, eight companies together lost Rs 1,55,671.9 crore in market value. In contrast, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) were the only companies in the elite club to end the week with gains in their market capitalisation.

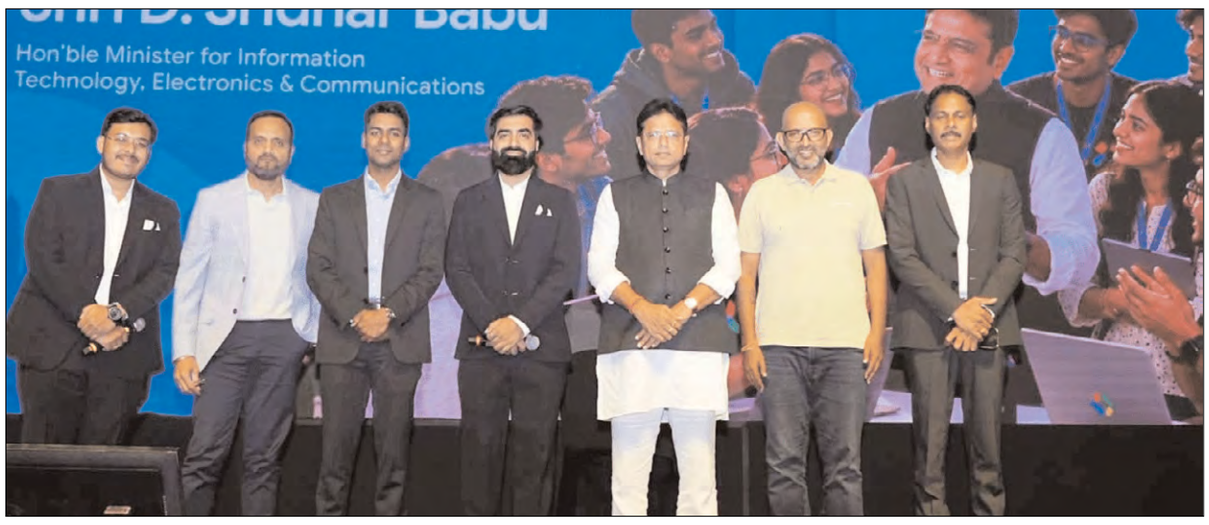
HDFC Bank recorded the sharpest erosion in value, with its market capitalisation declining by Rs 55,506.95 crore to Rs 10.67 lakh crore. The lender's shares fell around 5 per cent during the week.

Bajaj Finance was the second-largest loser as its valuation dropped by Rs 34,180.51 crore to Rs 5.77 lakh crore. Reliance Industries also witnessed a substantial decline, with its market capitalisation falling by Rs 27,065.08 crore to Rs 16.10 lakh crore. The valuation of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) decreased by Rs 21,062.24 crore to Rs 4.81 lakh crore.

Telecom major Bharti Airtel saw its market value shrink by Rs 9,360.75 crore to Rs 11.79 lakh crore, while State Bank of India's valuation fell by Rs 4,338.46 crore to Rs 8.83 lakh crore.

Similarly, the market capitalisation of Infosys declined by Rs 2,881.38 crore to Rs 4.69 lakh crore, while ICICI Bank's valuation slipped by Rs 1,276.53 crore to Rs 10.02 lakh crore.

DevFest unveils Telangana IT Minister's AI avatar



Hyderabad: Telangana on Saturday, October 24, unveiled an AI avatar of IT Minister D Sridhar Babu at the DevFest 2026 event organised by Google Developer Group (GDG) Hyderabad. In a live on-stage interaction, the 'AI Minister' engaged with Gen Z attendees and answered their questions, including queries on Telangana's vision and technology-led growth in both English and Telugu. The demonstration highlighted how emerging AI technologies can make information about the state's priorities, initiatives and ambitions more accessible while creating new avenues for citizen engagement with public leadership, an official release said. "A key highlight of the event was the unveiling of Telangana's AI Minister, the first pre-AGI avatar of D Sridhar Babu, Minister for Information Technology, marking its first-ever live on-stage launch," it said. The event also featured Sridhar Babu, addressing the gathering virtually with a keynote on "Innovation at Scale". 'Telangana set to be global AI hub' Sridhar Babu said as Telangana works towards becoming a global AI hub, the government want the young innovators to be at the centre of that journey. "We have the talent and ambition; our focus is on building an ecosystem where young people can turn their ideas into solutions and take them to the world," he said. The next big breakthrough in AI could come from a student, a startup or a young developer, and the government wants Telangana to be the place where those ideas get the opportunity to grow, the minister added. TensorGo's HumAIN developed initiative The initiative was developed by TensorGo's HumAIn, an enterprise-grade platform for deploying pre-AGI AI teammates, under the guidance of Sai Krishna, IT Advisor to the Minister. Telangana's AI Minister marks a new approach to citizen engagement, demonstrating how emerging AI technologies can create new ways for people to interact with public leadership, it said. Centred around the theme "Build, Secure, Scale: Developers and Builders in the Agentic Era," DevFest 2026 featured hands-on learning sessions led by over 30 industry experts, alongside interactive experiences designed to connect talent with industry. DevFest 2026 brought together over 3,300 developers, students, engineers, architects and founders. TensorGo is an AI technology company specialising in enterprise-grade AI solutions. Its HumAIn platform enables organisations to deploy pre-AGI AI teammates for real-time, interactive and multilingual engagement, the release added.

IPOS TO OPEN NEXT WEEK;

COMPANIES EYE CLOSE TO RS 2,600 CR



New Delhi: Five companies, including EAAA India Alternatives, SFC Environmental Technologies, and M K Sons Fine Jewels, are set to launch their initial public offerings (IPOs) next week, seeking to raise close to Rs 2,600 crore from the primary market. BLS Polymers and Bombay Coated and Special Steels would also float their maiden public offerings during the week. Separately, several other companies, including Gujarat Victory Forging, Milestone Gears, Avaada Electro, Swara Baby Products, Integris Medtech and AGS Health, are in the pipeline for IPO, according to merchant bankers. These companies are expected to announce price band declarations and launch plans by November 5, ahead of the extended Diwali holiday period in Gujarat, where markets and business activity are likely to be affected by the post-Diwali observance of Labh Pancham from November 6 to 15, they added. The upcoming issues follow a busy month for the primary market, which saw Jio Platforms launch the country's biggest-ever public issue worth Rs 30,213 crore. As many as 104 companies have raised over Rs 1.4 lakh crore through IPOs in 2026 so far, suggesting continued activity in the primary market. The five upcoming IPOs will open for subscription between October 26 and October 29, offering investors exposure to sectors such as alternative investments, polymers, steel processing, wastewater treatment and jewellery retail. These offerings are expected to keep the primary market active as companies tap investor demand to raise funds for business expansion, working capital requirements and debt repayment, while some existing shareholders seek to monetise their holdings. EAAA India Alternatives, an arm of Edelweiss Financial Services, will open its Rs 1,200-crore IPO on October 26 and close it on October 28. The company has fixed a price band of Rs 1,585-1,665 per share, valuing it at Rs 10,765 crore at the upper end. The issue is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) by the Edelweiss Group, meaning the company will not receive any proceeds from the offering. EAAA India Alternatives has already raised around Rs 360 crore from anchor investors ahead of the public issue. SFC Environmental Technologies, a wastewater treatment solutions provider, will launch its Rs 668-crore IPO, with the subscription closing on October 29. The company has fixed a price band of Rs 313-330 per share, valuing it at around Rs 3,233 crore at the upper end. The issue comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 150 crore and an offer for sale of up to 1.57 crore shares by promoters and existing shareholders. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for debt repayment and working capital requirements. M K Sons Fine Jewels Ltd will open its Rs 275.4-crore IPO on October 28 and close it on October 30. The company has fixed a price band of Rs 153-162 per share. The IPO comprises a fresh issue of 1.36 crore equity shares and an offer for sale of 34 lakh shares by promoter selling shareholder Ramchand Murlidhar Raimalani. The jewellery retailer plans to use the net proceeds to fund inventory requirements for setting up a new showroom in Maharashtra and expanding an existing showroom in Gujarat, besides repaying or prepaying certain borrowings and meeting general corporate expenses. BLS Polymers Ltd will launch its Rs 255-crore IPO on October 27, with the issue closing on October 29. The company has fixed a price band of Rs 142-150 per share. The issue comprises a fresh offering of 1.7 crore equity shares. The company plans to utilise Rs 77.56 crore from the proceeds to expand its manufacturing facility and increase production capacity, while Rs 89.5 crore will be used to meet working capital requirements. The remaining amount will be utilised for general corporate purposes. Bombay Coated and Special Steels Ltd will open its Rs 183.1-crore IPO on October 29, with the issue closing on November 2.

Gabon says access to social media restored after eight-month ban



Gabon says it has lifted a ban on social media imposed eight months ago - a move that triggered widespread criticism at the time. The High Communication Authority (HAC) announced the U-turn on Saturday in a televised statement. The BBC has approached the country's media regulator for comment. The ban had been introduced on 17 February, with the HAC saying that online content was fuelling conflict and deepening divisions in the country. The move came as a shock to the central African nation of about 2.5 million people, where social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, YouTube and Instagram have been particularly popular with younger people who use it for business as well as pleasure. Many turned to VPNs in order to continue accessing social media sites following the ban. The ban had been imposed at a time when the Gabonese President Brice Oligui Nguema was facing a wave of social unrest less than a year after his election. Teachers and civil servants had staged strikes over what they said were low pay and poor working conditions. The opposition said the suspension was an abuse of power. Nguema won last year's elections with more than 90% of the vote, two years after his coup had ended more than five decades of rule by the Bongo family. At the time he pledged to reform Gabon, a small, oil- and timber-rich country, where digital blackouts were used by the previous governments to control information. Popular social media platforms are operational again as of Saturday, to the country's High Authority for Communication.

KEY DETAILS:

The government originally suspended the platforms in mid-February to curb the spread of fake news and illegal content, citing national defense and public order concerns.

The restrictions were lifted following the modernization of social media legislation. In October, Gabon introduced mandatory identity verification for all local users.

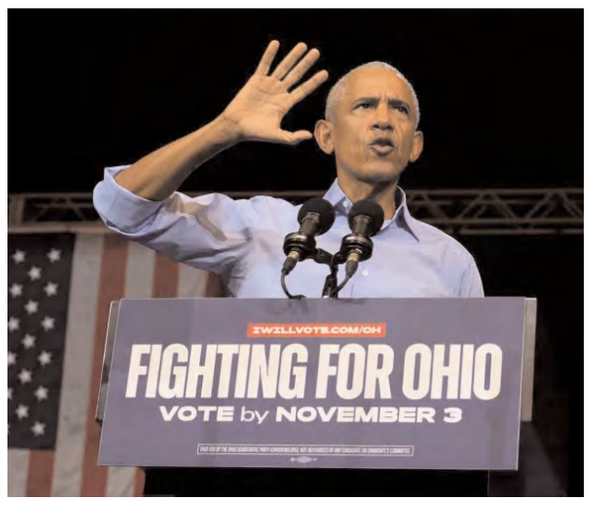
Authorities stated they have now established cooperation with the management of major global platforms to improve content moderation.

More than 1,300 arrested as clashes follow another day of mass protests across France



More than 1,300 arrests were made as hundreds of thousands of people took part in another day of protests across France on Saturday that were followed by some clashes later in the day, officials have said. After largely peaceful demonstrations, police fired tear gas and water cannon to disperse protesters in a number of cities including Paris, while barricades were set alight in Marseille and people ripped boards from a shop in Bordeaux. Officials have so far managed to avoid rioting and looting on the scale seen last weekend, which resulted in some of the worst scenes of disorder in France's modern history. The interior ministry said an estimated 410,000 people protested on Saturday, while the unions put the number at about 800,000. Katya Adler: France divided over who to blame for riots and what to learn from them Some 70,000 police officers were deployed and restrictions imposed in several cities to prevent the latest protests over the cost of living and poor school conditions from descending into the kind of chaos which saw officers outnumbered, hundreds of businesses looted and buildings torched. The interior ministry said 53 officers were hurt in clashes across the country on Saturday. French President Emmanuel Macron had decreed earlier this week that only demonstrations organised by a recognised trade unions would be permitted. Hundreds of people have been jailed for vandalism, arson and looting after fast-track court hearings. Clashes between protesters and riot police in Paris erupted at the end of a peaceful march from the city's Porte d'Italie towards Porte de Vincennes, where the police operation included an elite unit that usually deals with organised crime and counter-terrorism. Some protesters were seen erecting makeshift barricades and pelting officers with projectiles, while police baton-charged groups of masked youths who were smashing the windows of a car dealership. French Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said that "several thousand radical activists gathered at the rear of the march, including around 500 individuals identified as rioters", news agency AFP reported. The Interior Ministry said 142 people were arrested in the French capital on Saturday, less than half of the number arrested on the same day last week. In the southern port of Marseille, rubbish bins were set ablaze and metal sheets used to block streets. A law enforcement vehicle was seen driving through a burning barricade in France's second-largest city. Meanwhile, some protesters in dark clothing and face coverings were seen taking boards off a building to build a street barricade in the southern city of Bordeaux. In Lyon, police used tear gas grenades to disperse a crowd which had reportedly gathered in an area deemed off-limits by the local prefecture. "There were around 150 of us, mostly secondary school and university students. Then the tear gas came almost immediately. You could barely see anything in the street," said one protester in France's third-largest city. Nuñez also said two people had been "seriously injured": one in the south-western city of Toulouse and another one in Clermont-Ferrand, central France. He said the number of arrests across the country would likely rise. The man in Toulouse, a 20-year-old protester, had several fingers torn off one hand when a nearby explosive went off, Franceinfo reported, citing the medic who treated him. As the unrest continued into the early hours of Sunday morning, authorities in Bouches-du-Rhône, the region in which Marseilles sits, said seven businesses had been "looted or damaged". Earlier, a peaceful protester in Paris who gave her name as Zelie told the BBC people had taken to the streets because they were "really frustrated" and had been "suffering a lot" since Macron came to office. "They keep us quiet. They take our money, they tax us a lot and we can't say anything. Today we are in the streets because it's been too long, it's been too much," the 26-year-old said. Two masked teenage protesters, who did not want to give their names, also said their generation was in despair and felt abandoned by the government. "I think looting is really not good," one of the demonstrators said of last Saturday's disorder. "But it's because of poverty and the violence of the police." He added that the protests would end "when we have a response to our demands. We really want a change in France". Meanwhile, some 13,000 people joined a rally against the hard-right National Rally (RN) party in the north-central city of Orléans, which proceeded peacefully. The recent unrest has played out against a backdrop of a polarised political landscape, with France preparing for what could be the most divisive election period in a generation.

OBAMA ATTACKS TRUMP AS HE CAMPAIGNS FOR DEMOCRATS AHEAD OF MIDTERM ELECTIONS



Former US President Barack Obama has attacked the Trump administration over the Iran war and high consumer prices as he hit the campaign trail for Democrats ahead of the US midterm elections. "This election is our last best chance to at least rein in some of the foolishness of this administration," Obama told crowds in Ohio on Saturday. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump touted his administration's immigration and tariff policies at a rally in Georgia, telling supporters "we're in the golden age of America". The midterm elections on 3 November will decide which party controls Congress for the rest of Trump's term, and therefore how easy it is for the president to carry out his plans. Early voting has already begun and Trump cast his ballot on Saturday in Florida alongside his wife First Lady Melania Trump. Obama targeted Trump and his cabinet members while speaking on Saturday in Ohio and Michigan, at one point mocking the president's attempt to redecorate the White House. "After two years of chaos and cruelty and corruption and incompetence, the likes of which we have not seen in the modern era, you get a chance to say, 'enough is enough'," the former president said in Cleveland. Obama said he sympathised with voters who rejected Democrats in 2024 over economic and inflation concerns following the Covid pandemic. But he said Trump had only himself to blame for the current state of the economy. "If you thought everything was too expensive before 'you know who'," he said, referring to Trump without using his name, "everything is more expensive now". Trump, meanwhile, acknowledged that oil prices were "temporarily high" but said "our country is getting stronger and stronger all the time, and those pump prices are going to come down". The Republican president has faced significant pressure to lower fuel prices, which have jumped due to the wars in Iran and Ukraine. Talking up the economy, Trump told the crowd in Perry "we're taking in massive amounts of money through tariffs" and repeated his pledge to offer every adult American a $5,000 (£3,700) payout if Republicans win both chambers of Congress. He also took aim at the Democrats, telling the crowd they would "loot your wealth" and "annihilate your borders". Using derogatory language, he accused the Democrats of trying to open up immigration from Libya, Yemen, Haiti and Somalia - countries which he described as "terror-infested". Describing a previous meeting with several senators, he recalled: "I said, 'Why do we always have to take people from shithouse countries? Why can't we take people from, like, well... Norway, Sweden? Why not Denmark?'" In Ohio, the current president faced an attack from his predecessor over the war in Iran, with Obama telling Democrat supporters the conflict had given Tehran "veto power" over the Strait of Hormuz. When asked about the war earlier in the day, Trump said: "I've done it very effectively and I may have to finish it off, or maybe they'll make a deal, but I'm not sure.

MAN ARRESTED AFTER FIRE AT HITLER'S MOUNTAINTOP EAGLE'S NEST RETREAT



Police in the southern German state of Bavaria have detained a 33-year-old German man during a fire at Adolf Hitler's Alpine mountain retreat, the Kehlsteinhaus, also known as the Eagle's Nest. Dispatchers in Traunstein received a fire alarm from the building at 21:15 local time (19:15 GMT) on Friday and firefighters found it engulfed in flames. Some 200 emergency personnel were deployed to the scene where the blaze was still burning early on Saturday, as police said difficult terrain hindered efforts to bring the fire under control. Police said they apprehended the man riding a motorcycle near the scene, German media reported. A criminal investigation has been launched.

There is currently nothing to suggest the involvement of further suspects, police official Gerhart Holzinger told a press conference on Saturday afternoon. Public prosecutor Rainer Vietze said a psychiatric report had concluded the 33-year-old man showed signs of possible mental illness and diminished responsibility might therefore be assumed. Vietze said a possible political motive was also being considered, but stressed the investigation was in its early stages.

Israel to close West Bank crossings on election day as crackdown escalates



All West Bank land crossings will be closed during Tuesday's election in Israel, the country's military says, and Palestinian workers will be barred from entering all settlements. The restrictions come amid a crackdown in the occupied West Bank after Palestinian gunmen killed two Israeli soldiers in the territory. The Israel Defense Forces announced a "ban on the entry and exit of Palestinian workers throughout Judea and Samaria and the Jordan Valley, including industrial zones, as well as the closure of all land crossings" on Tuesday. It said most workers would also be barred from settlements from Sunday, with the exception of industrial zones and a limited number of other areas. Before the Hamas-led October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, more than 100,000 Palestinian workers were permitted to enter Israel. Since then only a small fraction have had their permits restored. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a major operation on Friday in response to the killing of two Israeli soldiers by two Palestinian gunmen in an attack on a checkpoint. Three other Israeli soldiers were injured, and the gunmen were also killed. The Israeli military have been demolishing homes and businesses in the city of Hebron, with hundreds of families having been displaced. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said about 2,000 residents had been displaced by the operation, which has led to at least one whole street appearing to have been flattened, according to footage shared online. Even before the entry and exit bans on workers were announced by the IDF on Sunday, the military had cordoned off the city, heavily restricting the movement of its 200,000 residents. It is common for Israeli forces to demolish the homes of Palestinians who are suspected of carrying out attacks on Israelis in the West Bank - a practice Israeli rights groups have criticised as collective punishment. Friday's shooting came during a tense time for the region, just days ahead of Israel's election taking place on Tuesday. In an interview with Israel's i24 television channel released on Saturday, Netanyahu threatened a "very big surprise" for the Palestinian Authority (PA), which governs parts of the territory. Hebron Mayor Youssef al-Jaabari said the operation was being "driven by the elections" and that Netanyahu and his ministers were attempting to secure the votes of the far right and the settlers. On Saturday, thousands gathered in Tel Aviv for a large anti-government demonstration. The protest was organised by the October Council, a group founded by the families of victims and hostages taken by militants on 7 October 2023, to demand accountability for the failure to prevent the Hamas-led attack.

El Salvador president says bodies found in Haiti are not those of hostages



Four bodies handed over to special forces on a mission to Haiti to recover Salvadoran hostages are "not our men", El Salvador's president has said. Nayib Bukele said a nongovernmental organisation delivered the human remains to one of Haiti's airports claiming they were four El Salvadoran air technicians, but that one of the corpses was a child's and another was wearing a different country's army uniform. He had dispatched a military contingent, reportedly of hundreds of soldiers, on Thursday after the four men vanished after being ambushed by "heavily armed criminal groups". The hostages had been part of the UN-backed Gang Suppression Force (GSF), which is tasked with tackling worsening gang violence in Haiti. The men had been travelling back to their camp in an armoured vehicle when they were attacked in an area of the Caribbean island nation controlled by armed groups called Croix-des-Bouquets. No gang has so far claimed responsibility. Bukele previously said the Salvadoran military operation in Haiti had the sole purpose of returning the four men alive. Bukele said the bodies the mission had received included one of a man of "considerably greater height than that of our air technicians", a person "who was wearing part of a uniform from an army that is not ours", and that among the remains were identification cards and uniforms from other countries.



Gunmen kill at least 10 villagers and loot shops in north-east Nigeria

Vanessa Trump says she is cancer-free six months after revealing diagnosis



Vanessa Trump, the former wife of Donald Trump Jr, has announced that she is cancer-free following her breast cancer diagnosis earlier this year. Trump, 48, who has five children with US President Donald Trump's eldest son, said that her recent tests results "came back clear, so I'm finally cancer-free", in a short video on her 19-year-old daughter Kai's Instagram account. Vanessa and Kai Trump then released a longer video on Saturday, in which they discussed breast cancer awareness, early detection and prevention. Vanessa Trump separated from Trump Jr in 2018 and announced last year that she had begun dating US pro golfer Tiger Woods. "October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about early detection, education, and support for those affected by breast cancer," Kai Trump wrote on Instagram. "I sat down with my mum and Dr Nicole Saphier to talk about my mum's journey with breast cancer and learn more about prevention and early detection." Kai's post received over 20,000 likes and hundreds of comments from people offering support and well wishes, including from US singer and media personality Mary Millben. Vanessa Trump explained in the YouTube video that she experienced arm pain for several months before discovering a pea-sized lump in her breast, which testing confirmed was a cancerous tumour. "It's a process you have to deal with," she said of the days spent waiting for her test results. "You have to be mentally strong for yourself because you're going to need the strength to fight whatever challenge it is that's coming towards you." Trump said she was first diagnosed with breast cancer in April. She publicly announced the diagnosis in May, saying in a social media post that she had undergone surgery and was working on a treatment plan with her medical team. She eventually had a lumpectomy and radiation treatments, she said.

The average risk of a woman in the US developing breast cancer is about 1 in 8, or 13%, according to the American Cancer Society. The disease also accounts for 30% of all new female cancers every year, it says.

MERCEDES DRIVER KIMI ANTONELLI EARNS SURPRISE POLE FOR THE US GRAND PRIX AS HE CHASES THE F1 TITLE



Antonelli came to the United States Grand Prix with his sights set on a Formula 1 world championship that appears to be drawing closer with every race. On Sunday at the Circuit of the Americas, he'll have the clearest opportunity yet to move towards that goal. And it could come quickly. The Mercedes championship leader earned a surprise pole position on Saturday, edging out Red Bull's Max Verstappen. If he can convert that into a victory, and results elsewhere go his way, the 20-year-old Italian could secure the title and become Formula 1's youngest-ever world champion. Verstappen had been the favourite for pole position. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton also appeared quicker than Mercedes throughout all three practice sessions. But Antonelli produced a stunning lap late on Saturday at COTA to secure his first pole position since the Belgian Grand Prix, ending a seven-race wait. "It was surprising," Antonelli said. "I'm just going to try to do the best race I can, try to win and see what happens." The mathematics of the championship still require help from other results, but the scenario remains achievable. First, Antonelli must win. If he does, and Mercedes teammate George Russell finishes ninth or lower, and Hamilton finishes outside the top four, Antonelli will be crowned champion. Hamilton will start fourth, while Russell qualified sixth. "Just get a good start and see from there what we can do," Antonelli said. That will be his first challenge.

INDIA LANDS HISTORIC HOSTING RIGHTS FOR 2029 WEIGHTLIFTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Ahmedabad will host the Senior Weightlifting World Championships in 2029, the sport's international governing body announced on Sunday following its Executive Board meeting in Ningbo, China. It will be the first time that India hosts the senior Weightlifting World Championships. The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) awarded the hosting rights for the 2029 and 2030 Senior World Championships during the meeting. Russia's capital Moscow was confirmed as the host city for the 2030 edition. The IWF Executive Board also awarded the 2028 World Youth Championships to Prishtina, Kosovo, while Caracas, Venezuela, will host the IWF World Junior Championships. "All the bids we received were excellent and we are sure that the Championships in your respective countries will be a huge success," IWF General Secretary Jose Quiñones & said following the Executive Board vote. "It is also worth noting that three of these four countries will be organising an IWF world event for the first time -- Kosovo, Venezuela and India. This demonstrates our sport is growing worldwide and the staging of our competitions is highly desirable for many nations around the planet."

The IWF said it took the decision to award four world championships together in order to strengthen and streamline its international calendar in the coming years. Ahmedabad is also scheduled to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games. The city is additionally India's proposed host venue should the country secure the right to stage the 2036 Olympic Games.

"Went Into Depression For 1.5 Years, Had Nobody To Talk To": Ex-India Star's Gut-Wrenching Revelation



Former India cricketer Amit Mishra has revealed that he battled depression during the early years of his career. Shortly after making his ODI debut in 2003, the leg-spinner found himself out of the Indian team. It was at this point, Mishra revealed, that he entered a dark chapter. In a candid interaction with former India opener and reputed commentator Aakash Chopra, Mishra shared that he went through this desolate phase for more than a year. During this time, he had no one to turn to. "I went into depression for a year and a half. I kept thinking about what my mistake was. I was playing everywhere, but the only question in my mind was that, 'what did I do wrong?'," said Mishra. From the high of making his India debut, Mishra's career went downhill in the next few years as he found himself out of domestic teams too, and also ended up hitting a rut of bad form. "I had played for India but got dropped. Then I was not in the Duleep Trophy. I was not in the India A team for zonals. I could not understand what was happening with me. One season went badly. "Then a selector told me that I was not performing. sat down and thought, and I understood that I was thinking of playing for India itself but not performing in domestic cricket," Mishra stated. In an honest revelation, Mishra further revealed that he did not have anyone with whom he could talk to at that moment. He shared that he could not tell his family as they'd get even more worried. "I had nobody to talk to during my bad time, to be honest. I could not tell my family either. I could not discuss these things with anyone. I was on my own. But I realised that until I perform, things would not work. I was told to work on batting as well, and I did that too. I did decently well in one season, then I was picked for the Duleep Trophy. Then I realised this is how things will work.

IRS Officer Ekta Vishnoi Wins 3 Gold Medals At World Masters Powerlifting Championship



Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Ekta Vishnoi, who is presently serving as Joint Secretary in the Government of India's Department of Biotechnology, has won three gold medals in the World Masters Classic and Equipped Powerlifting Championships held in Nevada, USA. She won the top honours in the M2 (50-59 years), 57kg category after lifting a combined 362.5kg in a field that featured competitors from Canada and Japan. Vishnoi lifted 130kg in squat, 72.5kg in bench press and 160kg in dead-lift and finished ahead of competitors from Canada, who recorded a total of 330kg, and Japan, whose total was 325kg. Vishnoi's golds came in squat, dead-lift and in the final overall weight. Vishnoi previously led the Fit India Mission and served as Deputy Director General (DDG) of the Sports Authority of India (SAI). "Winning three gold medals at the World Masters Championships and representing India on the international stage is a moment of immense pride for me. A total of 362.5kg is the result of years of discipline, perseverance and hard work," Vishnoi was quoted as saying in a Sports Authority of India press release. "I hope my journey inspires more women, particularly those in their 40s and 50s, to pursue their sporting dreams and believe that age is no barrier to excellence," she added. Vishnoi acknowledged the crucial role of her coach, Sunil Kumar, in preparing her for the championship. "His technical expertise and belief in me have helped me push my limits. This achievement is the result of our collective commitment and hard work," she said. The World Masters Classic and Equipped Powerlifting Championships bring together masters athletes from across the world to compete in different age and bodyweight categories. The competition comprises three disciplines -- squat, bench press and dead-lift -- with the combined weight lifted determining the athlete's total.

WWE SmackDown Sees Major Women's Tag Title Change As Nattie Celebrates B-Fab's First Championship On SmackDown



KMichin and B-Fab walked out of the October 23 episode of SmackDown as the new WWE Women's Tag Team Champions, beating Alexa Bliss and Tatum Paxley. Nattie has reacted on X and singled out B-Fab for the work she has put in at The Dungeon, which is the Hart family's training space. It's B-Fab's first championship in WWE, and she has been with the company since 2019. Also on the show, Michin and B-Fab Capture the WWE Women's Tag Team Titles After Jade Cargill Interferes Bliss and Paxley had only recently won the titles, so this was their first defense, and it

"NOT HIS CUP OF TEA":

R Ashwin's Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Verdict Has A Message For Team Management



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's long wait to find a spot in the playing XI finally ended in the second T20I against New Zealand, as he took the No. 3 spot in place of the injured Ishan Kishan. However, it was a role that the teenage batter was not accustomed to. Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma continued to occupy the top two spots, with the management once again asserting that India's opening combination is firmly set. Coming in to bat in the sixth over, however, Sooryavanshi looked like a "fish out of water" to former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, struggling to impose his usual game before being dismissed for four runs off eight balls. Ashwin, speaking to the broadcaster after the end of the match in Christchurch, was asked about the 'hits and misses' of the game. When asked to share his opinion on Sooryavanshi, Ashwin said the teenage batter was a 'miss', as he was given a role that is "not his cup of tea".

"That is a miss. For a

UFC 333: Rizvan Kuniev Sent For Precautionary X-Rays Following Unanimous Decision Defeat



Rizvan Kuniev lasted all three rounds against Alexander Volkov at UFC 333, but his night ended with a trip to hospital. The heavyweight was sent for precautionary X-rays on his leg after Saturday's unanimous decision defeat in Abu Dhabi, according to MMA Mania. Volkov's leg kicks had taken their toll during the bout at Etihad Arena. Kuniev kept fighting through to the final bell, losing on scores of 29-28, 30-27 and 30-27. The hospital report did not include the results of those scans or a confirmed diagnosis.

VOLKOV KEEPS KUNIEV AT RANGE BEFORE LATE SUBMISSION ATTEMPTS

Volkov made Kuniev work to get anywhere near him. His jab and kicks kept the shorter man at range, and closing that distance did not guarantee Kuniev much relief. Volkov also had success in the clinch, an area where Kuniev usually does some of his best work.

There were openings for Kuniev, including a spinning backfist in the third round. He pressed forward and traded, but Volkov answered with a sharp combination before taking the fight down.The closing stretch belonged to the veteran. Volkov took Kuniev's back and spent the final 90 seconds looking for a submission. Kuniev defended the rear-naked choke attempts and reached the horn, though he could not turn that escape into a late rally.

PV Sindhu Reveals Where It Went Wrong In French Open Final vs An Se Young: "Should've Maintained Lead"



Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu on Sunday said there is still plenty of room for improvement despite reaching another final of a Super 750 badminton tournament. Sindhu put up a spirited fight before going down 21-16, 11-21, 12-21 to Olympic champion and world No. 1 An Se Young of South Korea to finish runner-up at the USD 950,000 French Open. "I'm happy with this, but there's a lot of space, a lot of room still there. So I'm looking forward to it," said Sindhu, who claimed the Japan Open Super 750 in July. Reflecting on her match against An Se-young, Sindhu said winning the opening game was important but admitted she could not sustain her advantage in the decider. "I fought for every point, and of course, I could win the first game, and I was happy about it," she said. Sindhu felt the match turned in her opponent's favour after the scores were level in the second game. "In the third set, I felt that I should have maintained the lead from 8-5. But unfortunately, she converted that into 11-9, and then we changed courts. That's where I felt the difference was," she said. The Indian shuttler, however, said there were several positives to take from the contest and that she would work on the areas that needed improvement. Against a top player like An Se-young, Sindhu said, maintaining intensity throughout the match was crucial. "When you're playing with the top athletes, you have to be at your 100 per cent on every single point. I know it's not going to be easy, and you have to fight for every point," she said. Sindhu also pointed to the long rallies, saying she could have changed the outcome had she converted more of them into points. She acknowledged that the drift on one side of the court affected her game to some extent, leading to a few unforced errors, but said adapting to such conditions was part of the sport. "It's part of the game. We need to control it no matter what," she said. Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu on Sunday said there is still plenty of room for improvement despite reaching another final of a Super 750 badminton tournament.

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu on Sunday said there is still plenty of room for improvement despite reaching another final of a Super 750 badminton tournament.

'RANGULU RANGALE'

CELEBRATES RAMA–SITA'S ETERNAL LOVE

The song 'Rangulu Rangale', which wonderfully reveals the love story of Sri Rama and Sita from 'Ramayana', has been released
Another beautiful musical gift from Namit Malhotra's prestigious 'Ramayana', the song 'Rangulu Rangale' has been released. The love story of Sri Rama and Sita is revealed with wonderful visuals and the sweet moments of their journey are shown in this song. Raghav Kaushik and Vaishali Samant have lent their voices in Telugu, while A.R. Rahman has composed the music. Rakendu Mouli has provided the Telugu lyrics.

Introducing the world of 'Ramayana' with another musical experience, Namit Malhotra's song 'Rangulu Rangale' shows the beautiful moments of the journey of Lord Rama and Seethamma. The magnificent natural scenery, the magnificent palaces, and the scenes related to the wedding ceremony of Lord Rama and Seethamma are the special attractions of this song. These visuals beautifully reveal the beauty and emotions of their relationship.

The song, which stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama and Sai Pallavi as Goddess Sita, is currently available on World of Ramayana and T-Series YouTube channels. It has also been released on all music streaming platforms. The song has been released simultaneously in Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam languages.

The splendor of the royal palaces, the sacred wedding ceremonies, the journey beyond Ayodhya... various episodes in the lives of Lord Rama and Sita are shown in this song. The scenes of Lord Rama with a bow, arrow, and sword add more charm to the visuals. The vast landscapes wonderfully reveal the world in which their story unfolds.

The bond between Lord Rama and Sita is also beautifully depicted in this song. While their wedding ceremony exudes purity and happiness, the scenes of their exile reveal another dimension of their bond. This song more closely depicts their journey of starting a new life of virtue, faith, and virtue, away from the grandeur of the royal palaces.

The music for this song was composed by A.R. Rahman, while the Hindi lyrics were written by Dr. Kumar Vishwas. Arijit Singh and Shreya Ghoshal provided the vocals for the Hindi version. The song was composed with the respective singers and lyricists in each language. With this, the makers tried to provide this musical experience to the audiences of different languages ??across the country. In the Telugu version, Raghav Kaushik and Vaishali Samant sang the songs, while Rakendu Mouli provided the lyrics.

Speaking about composing music for 'Ramayana', A.R. Rahman said, "Ramayana is a story that has been alive in the hearts of people for generations. Recreating such a story through music is a very special experience for me. There is a purity and tenderness in the bond between Lord Rama and Sita. I wanted to reflect those feelings in music.



Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi bring the timeless love story of Lord Rama and Sita to life in 'Rangulu Rangale', composed by A.R. Rahman.

Vijay Antony's Nanna Kutti Begins Musical Promotions With Heartwarming First Single Nannala Lokamulo



Vijay Antony, known for his distinctive choice of subjects and content-driven films, is gearing up to entertain audiences with Nanna Kutti, an emotional action drama directed by Mu. Maran. Centered on the beautiful bond between a father and daughter, the film promises a compelling blend of action, family emotions, and intense drama.

The makers have now kick-started the film's musical promotions with the release of the first single, 'Nannala Lokamulo', a soulful number that celebrates the unconditional love of fathers. Composed by Vijay Antony, the song captivates listeners with its beautiful melody and soothing instrumentation. Bhashyasree's heartfelt lyrics beautifully portray the sacrifices fathers make, the hardships they endure, and their unwavering commitment to securing a better future for their children. Moushmi Neha's expressive rendition further enhances the song's emotional appeal, making it a touching musical experience that strikes a chord with listeners.

Produced by Meera Vijay Antony under the Vijay Antony Film Corporation banner, with Ramanjaneyulu Javvaji of Sarvanth Ram Creations as co-producer, the film features an ensemble cast including Preethi Asrani, Lithanya, Bhagavathi Perumal, Haripriya Isai, Aruvi Madhan, Chitra Lakshmanan, Sreeja Ravi, Vettai Muthukumar, Jenson Dhivakar, Muruganandham, Munnar Ramesh, Lissy Antony, Kumar Natarajan, Vijayan, Praveena, Haritha, Haripriya, and others.

Rajeev Raajendran has handled the cinematography, while Vijay Antony is also in charge of the editing. A. Raja serves as the production designer.

Nanna Kutti will arrive in theatres on November 6, coinciding with the Diwali festive season. With 'Nannala Lokamlo' setting an emotional tone for its musical campaign, the film has begun building anticipation for its exploration of the profound bond between a father and daughter. The song's heartfelt appeal offers a promising glimpse into the emotional world of the film.

RUHANI SHARMA AS BIJILI IN AAKASAMLO OKA TARA

Introducing Ruhani Sharma As Bijili From Dulquer Salmaan's Aakasamlo Oka Tara- Directed By Pavan Sadineni, Presented By Geetha Arts & Swapna Cinema, Produced By Lightbox Media, Theatrical Release On November 20, 2026 Versatile star Dulquer Salmaan is all set to captivate audiences with Aakasamlo Oka Tara, a distinctive and uplifting emotional drama directed by Pavan Sadineni. The film is produced by Sandeep Gunnam and Ramya Gunnam under the banners of Geetha Arts, Swapna Cinema, and Lightbox Media. Satvika Veeravalli makes her debut as the female lead, while Shruti Haasan plays a significant role. Today, the makers unveiled another prominent character from the film.

Introducing Ruhani Sharma as Bijili, the makers revealed her first-look poster, which captures her in a simple yet captivating avatar. Seated beside a window, she sports a traditional look with a maroon printed blouse, a small bindi, and minimal accessories. Her gentle, contemplative expression, complemented by the warm lighting, lends the poster an intimate and emotionally evocative feel. The understated presentation adds an intriguing dimension to her character, while Ruhani's natural charm makes the first look all the more appealing.

Ruhani Sharma's Bijili is the unexpected spark in entering the world when everything seems to be moving in a different direction. A chance encounter that brings warmth, spontaneity and a beautiful unpredictability to a journey neither of us could have planned.

The film's teaser, unveiled recently, offered a glimpse into its central characters and storyline. The narrative revolves around a village girl with big ambitions and the unwavering support she receives from the male protagonist as she strives to realise her dreams.



Romeo Juliet' is a crazy fun entertainer.. will definitely connect with everyone: Harshit at the song launch event



Harshit and Visakha Dhiman starrer 'Romeo Juliet' is gearing up for its theatrical release. Written and directed by Bhargav Macherla, the film is being presented by ETV Win and produced by Sundeep N and Venkateswara Rao Challagulla under the banner of Navarasa Entertainments. The promotional content has already created good expectations. 'Romeo Juliet' is set to hit the theatres on November 13. On this occasion, the makers launched the song Sorry Baby.

Speaking at the song launch event, hero Harshit said, "Everyone supported the movie Deewana. I request your support for 'Romeo Juliet'. Our movie glimpses have received a good response. Thank you to Prabhas garu on this occasion. His posting on Instagram has given us all a lot of encouragement. Bhargav presented this story in a very entertaining way. I have never seen such a character in Telugu cinema. Thank you to our director for bringing me such a crazy movie. Love is very powerful. Even a silent man can become violent. No matter what topics are discussed in it, it will be very entertaining. It will be enjoyed in theaters on November 13. The movies 'Shubham' and 'Deewana' are movies that give a good experience in theaters.

MEENAKSHI PICKS A SLEEK NAVY GOWN LOOK

F Veteran Actress Zarina Wahab to Lead Deepak Baldev Thakur's Social Drama "Tu Bekhabar" Hindi and Telugu—

Veteran actress Zarina Wahab, acclaimed for her roles across Indian cinema including recent performances in The Raja Saab and Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, steps into the central role for the upcoming social drama feature film, Tu Bekhabar.

Described by the makers as a poignant narrative that addresses pressing contemporary issues, Tu Bekhabar is touted as a



ACTRESS TAAPSEE PANNU RAISES THE GLAM BAR

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Taapsee looks great in this new shoot. She wears an ivory bustier top with a glossy black peplum waist, paired with a burgundy patent leather midi skirt. Black pointed pumps and red sole stilettos complete the outfit. Big bouncy curls, soft pink lips and pearl earrings keep the look fun and polished.



Next, Taapsee will be seen in the comedy Zamana Kya Kahega, with Fardeen Khan and Ammy Virk in the cast. She is also reported to be in talks for Aitraaz 2, which is being produced by Subhash Ghai.

Printed & Published by Chiluka Venugopal Reddy on behalf of SIT PUBLICATIONS PVT LTD and printed at SREE SESHA SAI ENTERPRISES, PLOT NO 98/PART 1, CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PHASE-II, GANDHI NAGAR, Medchal Malkajgiri District,HYDERABAD,500037. And published from 6-3-553, FLAT NO .G2, CLASSIC COURT Anexa, OPP NKM GRAND HOTEL, ERRAMANZIL COLONY HYDERABAD-500082, Telangana. Editor : Chiluka Venugopal Reddy ,PRGI No: TGTEL/26/A2380 , Phone No: 9000657700 ,Reproduction in Whole or in Part Without Written Permission of the Publisher is Prohibited.