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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

Essence of the South

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

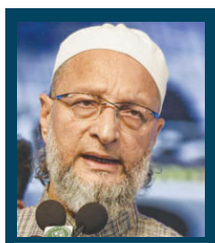
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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA
13-10-2026



Total pilgrims : 84,179
Tonsures : 29,644
Hundi kanukalu : 3.01 CR
Laddu sale... 4.49 Lac
Annaprasadam.. 2.05 Lac
Ashwini hospital..6,269
Present Situation on 14-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..23

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...08 -10 H.



Nation News

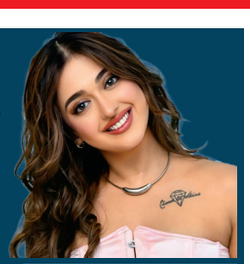
Asaduddin Owaisi files anti-SIR petition in SC

Starlink restrictions in Ukraine war linked to political situation, Zelensky aide says



World News

Gayatri Bhardwaj Joins Sundeep Kishan's Pan-Indian Film Karikaala, Directed by Shambhala Fame Ugandhar Muni



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

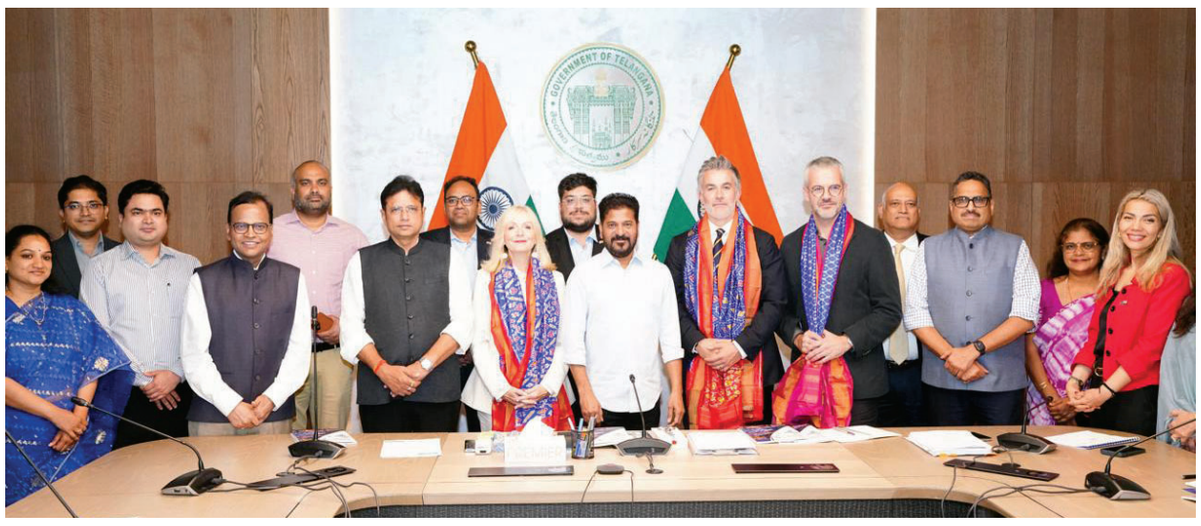
INBRIEF

Two vessels hit in Strait of Hormuz, one sinks

Singapore : Two Singapore-registered container vessels were reportedly struck by unknown projectiles while transiting the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday and Wednesday, Singapore time, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) said Wednesday. The vessel GFS PRIDE sustained damage and caught fire before sinking, the authority said in a statement. All 21 crew members were safely evacuated, and no injuries were reported. The second vessel, GFS GISELLE, sustained hull damage but was able to reach a safe anchorage under its own propulsion. All 22 crew members were safe, with no injuries reported, the MPA said, Xinhua news agency reported. No Singaporeans were aboard either vessel, it added. The authority said it was in contact with the vessels' management company and was closely monitoring the situation. The MPA expressed deep concern over continued attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Meanwhile, the navy of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) announced on Wednesday that a "violating" container ship attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz via an "unauthorised and high-risk" route sank earlier in the day after hitting a naval mine south of the waterway.

MAMATA CONDEMNS THE ARREST OF CJP LEADERS

Kolkata: Former West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, on Wednesday condemned the arrest of Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka on charges of trespassing at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi and also committed to always side with the CJP's movement. "We, and many generations before us, have fought strongly for our democratic rights. We must continue to do so. I strongly condemn the arrest of Ashutosh and Saurav of the CJP. These moments are about us all, pledging and standing up to fight unitedly to protect our great democracy. This is an attempt to intimidate and silence an entire generation. This is unacceptable. We must never surrender our constitutional rights," said the former Chief Minister in a social media message. She also claimed that the "murder of democracy" was happening in many parts of the country.



CM Revanth assures UK investors of policy stability

HYDERABAD
TSIT BUREAU:

- **Telangana prioritises manufacturing and invites UK investors to the Global Summit 2026.**
- **UK delegation explores partnerships in technology, healthcare, aerospace, education and advanced manufacturing.**

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy assured a high-level delegation from the United Kingdom that investments in Telangana were safe and backed by policy continuity, a large talent pool and a conducive business environment. Meeting the Mayors of South Yorkshire, York and North Yorkshire, and West Yorkshire at the Dr. MCRHRD Institute on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said manufacturing would be a major priority for Telangana over the next few years. "Telangana is competing with states across the world. Our biggest focus for the next few years is on manufacturing," he said.

The delegation, led by Mayors Oliver Coppard, David Skaith and Tracy Brabin, discussed strengthening regional partnerships in trade, investment, innovation, education and culture against the backdrop of the recently signed India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Revanth Reddy said Telangana, India's youngest State, had emerged as a dynamic economic centre with strengths in information technology, pharmaceuticals, life sciences, biotechnology, aerospace, defence and electronics manufacturing. He invited UK investors and industrialists to the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026, scheduled for December 7–9 at Bharat Future City.

The Chief Minister recalled the contribution of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair as a knowledge partner in preparing "Telangana Rising 2047," the State's long-term development roadmap launched in December 2025. Global leaders, economists, technology experts and industrialists had helped shape the vision, he said.

The visiting mayors expressed interest in collaboration across advanced manufacturing, healthcare, digital technology, defence, aerospace, technical textiles, skills and research and development.

The delegation indicated its willingness to return to Telangana to pursue concrete trade, investment and institutional partnerships. South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard said Yorkshire's approximately 150,000 businesses across sectors offered significant scope for cooperation with Telangana. He praised the State's digital economy ecosystem and highlighted its talent pool, resources and potential for expansion. West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin pointed to shared interests between the two regions, describing their relationship as one of close affinity.

Explaining the government's emphasis on preparing young people for opportunities in an era of artificial intelligence, Revanth Reddy highlighted Young India Skills University and its focus on industry-led training. He said the master plan for Bharat Future City, a proposed 30,000-acre satellite city, would be unveiled soon.

He also outlined plans to rejuvenate the Musi River and develop economic activity along its riverfront, including a night-time economy. The Chief Minister referred to Hyderabad's hosting of the 72nd Miss World pageant in May 2025 and unveiled the UK–India Business Council report, "UK–India CETA & Regional Synergies."

Rahul, Priyanka join Ankita Bhandari's kin at India Gate sit-in

New Delhi ■ (TSIT):





Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, on Wednesday, October 14, evening, reached India Gate to join the sit-in protest by the parents of Ankita Bhandari, a woman who was found dead in Uttarakhand in 2022, against the appointment of Dushyant Kumar Gautam as the Sikkim Governor.

The Uttarakhand Congress has also spoken out against the appointment, alleging Gautam's name had cropped up in the murder case, even as the state BJP questioned the party's silence over their MP, Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, being accused of sexual harassment by JNU students.

Meanwhile, Ankita's father Virendra Singh Bhandari, said, "Dushyant Kumar should be behind bars... I earnestly request the Honorable President not to appoint Dushyant Kumar as Governor until the CBI investigation is concluded."

His wife, Soni Devi, added, "We were deeply pained when we heard the news on the 12th that he (BJP leader Dushyant Kumar Gautam) has now been named the Governor. I appeal to the Honorable President, who is herself a woman and will surely understand my sentiments, to halt the move to appoint this individual as the Governor until the CBI investigation against him is concluded."

Attacking the Centre over the decision, Congress MP Pawan Khera said, "You granted them immunity. You aren't even waiting for the CBI inquiry. What is the pressure to wrap this up so quickly? Who are you shielding? Is there anyone else you need to protect?"



Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh participated in the first ASEAN-India Defense Think Tank Forum held at Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis (MP-IDSA) in New Delhi/.... PIB PHOTO

India stands with Saudi Arabia, hopes for regional peace

New Delhi ■ (TSIT):



India on Wednesday reiterated its condemnation of attacks targeting civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, terming them as "unacceptable" while expressing solidarity with Saudi Arabia in defence of its sovereignty.

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Wednesday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal expressed hope that peace and normalcy returns to the region soon. When asked about the situation in Saudi Arabia and its impact on Indian nationals, Jaiswal responded, "There have been a string of attacks in Saudi Arabia and we have condemned those attacks.

Yesterday also, there was attack on Aramco headquarters. We condemn all such attacks on civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia and we feel that such attacks need to cease immediately, they are totally unacceptable. We stand in solidarity with the people and government of Saudi Arabia in defence of their sovereignty and we hope that there is return to peace and normalcy in the region soon."

The MEA spokesperson said that the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia has remained in regular touch with the Indian community and also issued advisories. He noted that some of the people travelling between India and Saudi Arabia have been affected by the disruption in flight operations after the attack on airports in Saudi Arabia. "In so far as the situation of our people, we have a large diaspora there.

Saurav Das, Ranka arrested for repeated violations

New Delhi ■ (TSIT):



Delhi Police on Wednesday said that Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were sent to five days of judicial custody, considering their repeated violations of law and in view of the apprehension that, if released, they will again "violate the law and instigate others" to do the same.The police further stated that CJP's Ajinkya Shinde was bound down to maintain "peace and good behaviour" for six months on personal bond and surety of Rs 5000.

"On 13 October 2026, during the morning hours, Sourav Das, Ashutosh Ranka, Ajinkya Shinde and 11 other members of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) reached Jantar Mantar, which has been denotified as a designated protest site, by trespassing through a private premise," the police said in a statement.

According to the officials, police personnel deployed at the spot intervened and attempted to stop them. However, the protesters allegedly obstructed police personnel in the discharge of their official duties.

Doval raises seafarer safety with Iran: MEA

New Delhi ■ (TSIT):



National Security Adviser Ajit Doval raised concerns over the safety of Indian seafarers and tankers during a phone conversation with Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei on October 12, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the two officials discussed bilateral ties, the regional situation and international developments.

The conversation comes amid continuing attacks on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, a key global route for oil and liquefied natural gas supplies. India has repeatedly urged all parties to avoid attacks on commercial vessels and seafarers.

Trump promises $5,000 payout if GOP wins Congress

Washington ■ (TSIT):



US President Donald Trump promised every adult American citizen $5,000 if Republicans keep control of both chambers of Congress, telling a midterm rally in Wasilla, Alaska, that tariff revenue would pay for it.

"If Republicans win the House of Representatives and the Senate, I'm going to give all adult citizens in the United States $5,000. And only Republicans can do that because the Democrats can't, because we're taking in massive amounts of money," Trump said, adding that the money came from tariffs.

He said "the Trump dividend that you get must be spent in the United States of America". He repeated the pledge at the end of the speech.

Trump did not say how the payments would be made, when, or what they would cost. Any such payout would need Congress to approve it. "If the Democrats win, you will have a 1929 style economic depression," he said.

The President was campaigning for Republican Senator Dan Sullivan three weeks before the November 3 elections.

Srivari blesses devotees on Mutyapu Pandiri Vahanam

TIRUMALA ■ (TSIT):



Lord Malayappa Swamy, along with Sridevi and Bhudevi, blessed devotees on the Mutyapu Pandiri Vahanam during the Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavams on Wednesday night.

The Lord appeared as Sri Ramachandra, recalling the Sita Swayamvaram episode, while the consorts were adorned as Sita and Lakshmana. The procession witnessed large gatherings of devotees chanting "Govinda, Govinda" along the Mada Streets, accompanied by cultural performances.TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu, EO Muddada Ravichandra, Additional EO C.H. Venkaiah Chowdary, Jeeyar Swamijis, board members and senior officials participated in the event.

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DMK president Stalin condemns detention of protesters in Delhi

In a statement, Stalin questioned the BJP-led Union government over the continued detention of protesters and asked how many people it could detain and how many young voices it could silence.



CHENNAI: DMK president MK Stalin on Wednesday condemned the continued detention of protesters in Delhi who are agitating against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and demanding his removal.In a statement, Stalin questioned the BJP-led Union government over the continued detention of protesters and asked how many people it could detain and how many young voices it could silence.Chennai, districts receive showers as northeast monsoon onset nears; heavy rain forecast across TN

He said that detaining more young people would not suppress dissent but could prompt more ordinary citizens without political affiliations to take to the streets and demonstrate the power of the people.

Stalin criticised the Union government for its handling of the protests, asserting that the voices of young people and ordinary citizens should not be silenced through detention.

Expressing solidarity with the protesters, the DMK president said his party stood ready to extend all necessary legal assistance and support to those detained.

The DMK reiterated its support for the protesters and said it would provide legal representation to help them pursue their cases. During the protests in Chennai, DMK functionaries also expressed solidarity by joining the protesters in a sit-in demonstration.

Turmeric price hits Rs 20,799 per quintal in Erode amid lower production

Turmeric prices have risen steadily from around Rs 15,000 per quintal at the beginning of last month

CHENNAI: Turmeric prices in Erode have surged to Rs 20,799 per quintal, rising by nearly Rs 2,800 in the past two weeks, as reduced cultivation and declining stocks contribute to tighter market supplies. According to a Daily Thanthi report, at the auction held on Tuesday (October 13) at the Erode Cooperative Marketing Centre, finger turmeric fetched between Rs 19,419 and Rs 20,799 per quintal, while bulb turmeric was sold for Rs 17,849 to Rs



19,111 per quintal.

Madurai Corporation tax scam: Ex-zone chief's husband heldTurmeric prices have risen steadily from around Rs 15,000 per quintal at the beginning of last month. The price increased from Rs 17,969 on the first of the month to Rs 20,799 on Tuesday. In just two weeks, the price rose by nearly Rs 2,800 per quintal.

The price surge comes amid a decline in turmeric cultivation in Erode district, Tamil Nadu's leading turmeric-producing region. Cultivation is estimated to have fallen by half compared with last year, primarily due to inadequate rainfall and insufficient irrigation water. Water from the Bhavanisagar dam is normally released into the Lower Bhavani, Thadapalli-Arakkankottai and Kalingarayan canals to irrigate thousands of acres in the district. However, insufficient water availability in the dam has prevented the release of irrigation water this year, affecting turmeric cultivation.With production expected to be lower and farmers' turmeric stocks declining, farmers are bringing their stored produce to market as prices continue to rise.

Southern Railway warns of penalties for loud mobile phone use on trains



CHENNAI: Southern Railway has warned passengers against playing music, watching videos or reels, and playing games on mobile phones at high volume without headphones on trains and at railway stations. Violators may face a fine of Rs 1,000, imprisonment of up to six months, or both, under the amended Railway Act, according to a member of the Southern Railway Users' Advisory Committee.

According to a Daily Thanthi report, the move aims to prevent public nuisance and ensure a comfortable journey for fellow passengers, many of whom have complained about disturbances caused by loud mobile phone usage.

Jafar Ali, a member of the Southern Railway Users' Advisory Committee, said that some passengers listen to music, watch videos and reels, or play games on their mobile phones without using headphones, disturbing others in railway stations and trains.

Fine of up to Rs 5,000

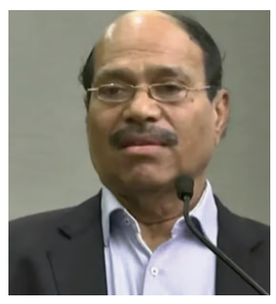
Under the revised provisions, passengers who continue to cause disturbances may face a fine of up to Rs 5,000 if they ignore warnings and persist with the nuisance.

An order has reportedly been issued to all railway divisions in this regard. Ticket inspectors and senior commercial officials have been authorised to collect the fines.

Passengers advised to use headphones

Passengers have been advised to use headphones or earphones while listening to music or watching videos on their mobile phones and to keep their voices low while speaking on calls to avoid inconveniencing others.

Veeramani arrested in suicide abetment case



CHENNAI: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Pocso allegations against granite baron Veeramani (84) formally arrested him in a case of abetment of suicide of a minor girl in 2004.

Veeramani is facing seven cases, including the abetment of a minor girl's suicide. The girl's mother, who had filed a complaint several years ago, approached the police again after complaints about Veeramani surfaced again.

Turmeric price hits Rs 20,799 per quintal in Erode amid lower production

So far, police have identified 10 survivors who were allegedly sexually abused by the businessman.

Earlier, Police had also summoned and enquired three police officers, including former GCP Commissioner A Arun and IGs N Kannan and A Radhika, after media reports emerged that allegations against the granite baron were brought to the notice of the top brass of the city police as early as November 2024.

A pendrive with the video was sent to the city police's Immoral Trafficking Prevention Unit in October 2025, and a case was registered on October 7, 2025. However, the city police filed a closure report in February 2026 stating that the video was unclear. This was rejected by the special court judge, after which the police began the investigation again and identified the man in the video as Veeramani.

The real SIR failure may lie in newsrooms, not only in the Election Commission

Hyper-virality and poor data literacy can amplify half-baked claims; the media's inability to analyse context ruins public perception and democracy.

Sometimes, it is worth stepping back from the controversies of the day to understand why democracies fail to grapple with real issues. In a democracy, information is more freely available than in autocracies. But information is only as good as its source, and how rigorously it has been researched, in order to come as close as possible to the truth.

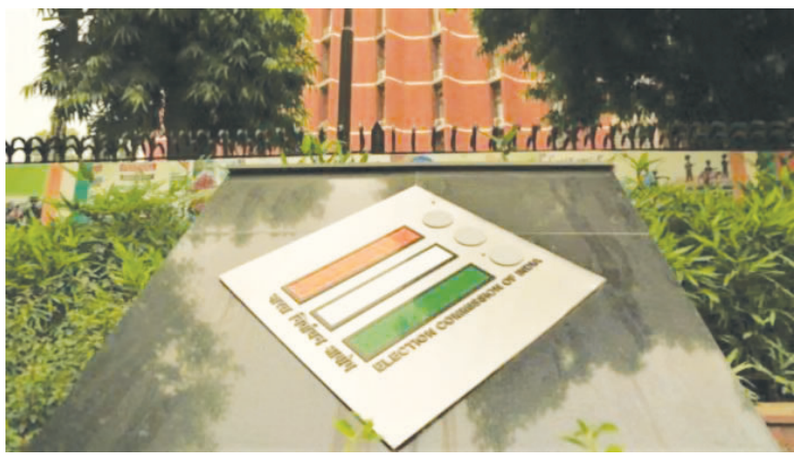
In the current-day cacophony of social media voices (where practically anyone with a smartphone can be a "journalist"), and adding the shrill attempts of TV anchors and even newspapers to create clickbait headlines in order to compete with instant social media virality, it is highly unlikely that the average citizen can come anywhere close to real "facts". Consider the typical human tendency to listen more to people they like than those they dislike, add the social media algorithms that feed the same echo chamber, and voters are more likely to be influenced by shrillness and "feel" rather than the underlying reality, or the truth. In this article, I am going to argue that data-illiterate journalists are more guilty of peddling flawed narratives than the Election Commission is of wrongly deleting voter names in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which is even now not without remedies. But the journalistic deficit in numeracy is a real crime against the truth.

The problem begins with the core advice budding journalists get when they start out on their careers: find an angle, find out what makes a story. An "angle" is, by definition, a limited, even slanted, view of reality. We get to define an elephant by the part we get hold of, not the whole of it. In the real world, truth comes in shades of grey, not black and white. And in today's hyper social media world, the focus is on "narrative" and "virality", not truth at all. Just look at the sheer number of young people at Jantar Mantar trying to generate viral video content on their smartphones.

Forget the amateurs. Today's "journalists" themselves are not numerate by and large. Three or four incidents strung together make a trend, as we saw in 2014-15 when a few untoward events involving churches led to a narrative that Christians were under attack. It was only later, when the police said similar things were happening with much more regularity in temples and gurudwaras, that the narrative was quietly buried, and even so it is more than likely that it was not "facts", but the rape of an aged nun in West Bengal – which the media hoped was done by a Sanghi – turned out to be an illegal Bangladeshi migrant. Media embarrassment over how the rape was reported was what buried the story, not facts.

Given the essential gullibility of journalists, and their lack of data numeracy, you can grab the headlines if you make the wildest claims in terms of numbers. This is why when someone says "13 crore voters" were knocked off the electoral rolls during the SIR exercise, everyone takes notice without giving this headline number the scrutiny it requires. Once the number is repeated 10 times in the media, it becomes the accepted figure in terms of public perception.

Psychologists call this the anchoring effect of initial numbers. If you are in a shop bargaining with the salesman, the latter will deliberately indicate a high price initially so that even after bargaining you still end up paying more than you should have. Having created a



mental anchor with a high number, the bargain hunter has lost the game from the word go. Then there is the other psychological phenomenon of fear of losses. Given a choice between gaining Rs 5 and losing Rs 5, most people forgo the option to gain and focus on likely loss to make their decisions. This is why vested interests, with something to lose, tend to be more vocal and more influential in policy choices than much larger beneficiaries. In the current controversy surrounding voter deletions in the SIR, the one fearing a deletion is likely to be more vocal and active than the overwhelming majority who have not faced a deletion.

These two mind traps, the anchoring effect and the fear of loss, are key to understanding what happens in the policy sphere, since politicians who have to make those choices also have to worry about how voters will see an issue. Data-illiterate journos often end up amplifying a false or half-baked narrative.

Consider how the anchoring effect influenced policies in the past. When Comptroller and Auditor General Vinod Rai gave us the figure of Rs 1,76,000 crore "presumptive loss" in the award of telecom licences in 2008 without an auction, he gave us three more (lower) estimates of presumptive losses to the exchequer, but only the biggest number became a political football. It didn't matter to the opposition or TV debaters that a notional loss can never be real. Also, there can be good reasons for giving out spectrum at low prices, but the high loss figure made everything look suspicious. The fact that there was a real possibility of favouritism in the award of telecom licences got subsumed in the massive loss figure, which then made it impossible for any future government to consider selling spectrum without setting super high base prices.

The same goes for other large numbers that are uninformed by other nuances. One is the massive public sympathy for farmers. Politicians with a vested interest in the farm vote always talk up farm suicides to prevent us from thinking about the underlying implications for extending large loan waivers or raising minimum support prices well above market prices. According to a study by Down To Earth, between 1995 and recent years, some 3,90,000 farmers committed suicide, and probably around 10,000 continue to die annually by taking their own lives even today.

While this is certainly a human tragedy worth noting and doing something about, it hides the fact that this number was always bound to be huge given the fact that 45-46 percent of the Indian workforce is dependent on agriculture or related activities, which means over 600 million people. A cumulative suicide total of 3.9 lakh on a base of multiples of billions of population is not that significant (Note: it is not just the current population which is the denominator in calculating the suicide rate of farmers, but a much larger denominator that has to be arrived at by adding the total farming population in each year since 1995). Suddenly, the farmer suicide issue will be seen in the right perspective – a human tragedy, but nothing as significant as to skew subsidy and loan waiver policies in unsustainable directions.

Consider a reverse fact where the numbers are real, but no one cares. Data shows that the male suicide rate in India is two-and-a-half times that of women, but no one is rushing to declare a male mental health emergency as yet. This is because we are programmed to discount male suffering since patriarchy still rules and women visibly suffer more than men. We do not want to know why men kill themselves when it is obvious that women suffer more. Both facts can be true, but we want to believe only one.

Now let us come to the big number that is evoking such visions of a catastrophic democratic slide in India: the proposed deletion of 13 crore names from the voters' list by the Election Commission in the ongoing SIR exercise. In my Business Standard column in September 2026, I offered two other contrasting figures to show why the deletion number may not actually be that large. India has a large domestic migrant population of around 45 crore; and upto one crore people die every year from natural and other causes. Between the last SIR exercise in 2002-04 and today, at least 10-12 crore citizens would have died, and most may still be on the voter lists because deletion is not something one worries about (why bother, when the dead anyway can't vote). The 13 crore figure has got former election commissioners and even sitting and retired judges excited about the possibility of a large-scale attempt to disenfranchise voters. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, speaking at Nalsar the other day, claimed "millions and millions" of Indians had been disenfranchised, and another former judicial worthy, Rohinton Nariman, went further and alleged that 90 lakh voters were knocked out in West Bengal so that the BJP could win. This is utter nonsense, and it is a travesty that a former Supreme Court judge is saying this. First, not all 90 lakh voters were necessarily citizens with a legal right to vote, as many of those deleted were either dead or had migrated permanently. In the current 13 crore figure of deletions (and these can be restored through an appeals process), some 2.8 crore were listed as dead, and 6.3 crore as possible permanent migrants, and one crore had duplicate registrations. Some three crore were absent from homes when the SIR surveys were done. The figures on the dead and migration are not inconsistent with the actual levels of people dying or migrating for work nationally. But the media narrative is about the figure that gets mentioned again and again: 13 crore deletions.

Asaduddin Owaisi files anti-SIR petition in SC



HYDERABAD — AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi has filed a petition against Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the Supreme Court in light of what he called recent disclosures revealing serious irregularities in the Election Commission of India's decision-making process. The Hyderabad MP said that the purpose of filing a petition and a review petition is that the Election Commission should work in accordance with the law, and it should also be clarified whether the decisions related to SIR were taken with the consent of all or if someone had given a different opinion.

Owaisi told media persons that the Election Commission is legally required to function as a collective body, but it is unclear whether the decisions taken were unanimous or if there was any dissenting voice.

He said the review petition was filed because the Supreme Court had previously dismissed the earlier petition about SIR. "We are unable to comprehend the changes made to the statutory enumeration forms, and we lack material information regarding this," he said.The AIMIM chief has sought a review of the judgment dated May 27, whereby the Supreme Court disposed of the writ petition, along with other connected petitions, and upheld the SIR order of the Election Commission dated June 24, 2025."The present Review Petition is necessitated by the subsequent disclosure of material revealing serious irregularities in the Commission's decision-making process, including decisions allegedly taken without the requisite approval of the Commission, in violation of Section 18 of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 ('2023 Act').



Bathukamma Upholds Telangana Women's Self-Respect Minister Seethakka

HYDERABAD, Oct. 14: Minister Seethakka participated in Bathukamma celebrations at Gandhi Bhavan along with Mahila Congress president Errabelli Swarna, Rekha Goud and Indira Shobhan Ramya Rao
Addressing the gathering, Seethakka said Bathukamma reflects the self-respect and cultural identity of Telangana women. She said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's support had enabled grand celebrations across the State and noted that Bathukamma festivities had earned Guinness World Records recognition. She said the Chief Minister wanted women to grow into positions of leadership and decision-making, adding that the government was constructing self-respect buildings for women.
Seethakka urged people to preserve ancestral traditions, describing Bathukamma as a festival of flowers, affection and family bonds, celebrated enthusiastically by Telangana women across India and abroad.
"Wealth and positions may be regained, but lost culture and traditions cannot easily be restored," she said.

Special voter registration drive on October 15, 16



Jagtial, October 14: District Collector B. Satya Prasad announced that a special voter registration drive would be conducted on October 15 and 16, following Election Commission of India directions.Eligible citizens, particularly youth who have attained 18 years of age, have been urged to register as voters. Those whose names are missing from the voter list or whose details require correction can utilise the opportunity.The Collector said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) would be available at all polling stations on both days. He urged citizens to verify their names and details in the draft electoral roll and ensure that no eligible voter

Collector reviews Bathukamma arrangements

Siddipet, October 14: District Collector K. Haimavathi inspected Saddula Bathukamma arrangements at five water bodies in Siddipet and directed officials to ensure cleanliness, drinking water, lighting, security and medical facilities.She stressed coordination among municipal, police, tourism and electricity departments, and ordered barricades and warning signboards at immersion points to prevent accidents. She also instructed officials to provide dustbins and ensure regular waste removal for safe and peaceful celebrations.

Vysyaraju Jewellers inaugurated its 3rd branch showroom in Kukatpally





Hyderabad, Oct. 14: Vysyaraju Jewellers inaugurated its new showroom on KPHB Road, Kukatpally, beside South India Shopping Mall, on Tuesday, marking its third branch in Hyderabad.

The showroom was inaugurated by South India Shopping Mall Founder and Director Potti Venkateswaralu and Vysyaraju Jewellers Managing Director Seerana Rajamouli. Jami Bhojaraju made the first purchase on the occasion.

Managing Director Vysyaraju Bhadragiri Raju said the showroom offers a wide range of gold and diamond jewellery, along with silver articles and designer collections.

Special inaugural offers include flat 6% wastage on 22-carat gold jewellery, IGI-certified diamonds starting at Rs.49,500 per carat, and zero wastage and making charges on regular silver articles. The company also announced GST benefits on silver purchases, discounts of up to Rs.15,000 per kilogram on silver articles weighing one kilogram, and a promotional offer to win an equal weight of gold on gold purchases, subject to specified conditions and a maximum benefit of Rs.4 lakh per person.

Chairman Vysyaraju Phalgunaraju, Directors Vysyaraju Naresh Raju and Vysyaraju Kiran Kumar Raju, and other dignitaries attended the inauguration.

Hyderabad Police cautions citizens against digital arrest fraud

Hyderabad Police cautions citizens against digital arrest fraud Hyderabad, Oct 14 : After a 72-year-old woman in Hyderabad lost Rs 2.20 crore to fraudsters who threatened her with money laundering charges and displayed fake arrest warrant, Hyderabad Police has issued a fresh advisory cautioning citizens to stay alert against digital arrest fraud. The woman, a resident of Nampally, received a video call from someone claiming to be a CBI officer, alleging that a parcel containing illegal drugs has been booked in the victim's name and that a bank account linked to the victim is involved in money laundering. The caller displayed a fake arrest warrant and threatened to arrest her. On the pretext of security deposits, the victim was forced to transfer multiple amounts to different mule accounts. The victim suffered a total financial loss of Rs 2.20 crore. After this and a couple of other cases in which the victims lost Rs 3.15 crore, the police have strongly advised the general public to remain vigilant and not fall prey to cyber criminals.



33 Grams of Suspected Ganja Seized in Keshampet



RANGAREDDY : Police seized around 33 grams of suspected ganja from a room at Arkan Minerals stone crusher on the outskirts of Vemula Narva village in Rangareddy district. A case has been registered against Ramakrishna Patel (31), a native of Chhattisgarh.

According to police, on October 13, Shadnagar SI Addakula Srikanth, along with police personnel, a clues team and panch witnesses, searched the room following information about suspected ganja. The material, found in a black cover hanging on the wall, was seized in the presence of witnesses. Keshampet SI B. Paramesh is investigating the case. Police urged the public to report information about the illegal storage, transportation, sale or consumption of narcotic substances and cooperate in efforts to curb drug-related activities.

TUWJ Leaders Console Bereaved Journalists' Families



Hyderabad TSIT: Telangana State Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ) State president K.Virahath Ali and general secretary K. Ramnarayan visited Khammam district on Wednesday to console two bereaved journalists' families.

The leaders visited the residence of Namasthe Telangana staff reporter and TUWJ State executive committee member Venugopal Rao in Khammam following the recent death of his father, Srirama Rao, from a heart attack. They garlanded his portrait, paid floral tributes and conveyed their condolences to the family.They later travelled to Sathupalli and consoled senior journalist and TUWJ Khammam district vice-president Khader Pasha, who recently lost his wife.TUWJ State executive committee member A.Rajesh, district president Enugu Venkateshwar Rao, secretary Papa Rao, former district president Vanam Venkateshwarlu and senior union leader Ravindra Seshu accompanied them.

Minister Seethakka Joins TGO Bathukamma Celebrations Calls for Collective Efforts for Telangana's Progress



HYDERABAD, October 14: Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Women and Child Welfare Danasari Anasuya Seethakka called upon government employees to contribute to Telangana's development and help improve people's living standards.

Speaking at Bathukamma celebrations organised by the Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association women's wing at TGO Bhavan, Gruhakalpa Complex, Nampally, she urged everyone to work together to place Telangana among the leading States in the country.

The celebrations were organised under the leadership of women's wing chairperson Dr. Deepa Reddy, with coordination by convenor J. Sujatha and treasurer Shanthasri. Women employees and gazetted officers participated enthusiastically, celebrating Telangana's cultural heritage.Colourfully arranged Bathukammas adorned the venue as women gathered around the floral displays, singing traditional songs and celebrating the festival together. The event reflected Bathukamma's significance as a symbol of Telangana's cultural identity and women's self-respect.

TGO Association State president Eluri Srinivasa Rao and general secretary B. Shyam extended festival greetings to women employees. They highlighted women's role in preserving Telangana's traditions and said cultural gatherings strengthened unity and fellowship among employees.

The organisers appealed to participants to pass on Telangana's cultural traditions to future generations. They said employees should continue to preserve and celebrate their heritage while fulfilling their professional responsibilities.

Delegations from Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Medchal–Malkajgiri districts attended in large numbers.

Participants included Shirisha, Dr. Naveen Jyothi, Poonam, Kiranmayi, Jayashree, Anjula Reddy, Gadwal Anitha, Sabitha, Lavanya, Sunitha Joshi, Alivelu, Kavitha, Goreti Aruna, Srileela, Ramadevi and Sheila. Upender Reddy, Ramakrishna Goud, Dr. Rama Rao, M.B. Krishna Yadav, Ganduri Venkateshwarlu, Shaukat Hussain, Srinesh Kumar, Niranjan Reddy and Harikrishna were also present.

Battery Show India to Spotlight Energy Storage Opportunities



Hyderabad TSIT: Industry leaders called for stronger domestic battery manufacturing, research and smart-grid capabilities at a roundtable organised by Informa Markets in India ahead of The Battery Show India. Speakers highlighted the importance of battery energy storage systems in renewable energy integration, grid reliability and electric mobility. The organisers cited a Rs.50,000 crore incentive scheme for 50 GWh of battery storage deployment as a major opportunity for the sector. The fourth edition of The Battery Show India will be held from October 22 to 24 at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, alongside the Renewable Energy India Expo, bringing together manufacturers, researchers, investors and policymakers.

EDITORIAL

SAUDI-HOUTHI CONFLICT IN YEMEN

The conflict between Saudi Arabia and Houthi rebels is one of West Asia's most serious security challenges. The conflict is a result of Yemen's long-running civil war, political instability, regional power struggles, and international strategic interests. The conflict escalated after Houthi rebels seized the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, in 2014. The intervention of a Saudi-led military coalition in March 2015 transformed the conflict from a domestic political crisis to a regional security challenge. Although diplomatic efforts have attempted to de-escalate tensions, the conflict remains a serious threat to humanitarian security, maritime trade, and regional stability. The primary cause of this conflict is Yemen's political instability and weak governance. Widespread protests during the 2011 Arab Spring forced President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down. His successor, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, failed to establish an effective and inclusive regime. Corruption, unemployment, economic inequality, and weak government institutions weakened the political system. As a result, competition increased among various armed groups and political forces, creating favorable conditions for the expansion of the Houthi movement.

The second major reason is the Houthi movement's political and social grievances. The Houthi movement, also known as Ansar Allah, emerged from the Zaidi Shia community in northern Yemen. Its supporters protested political neglect, economic underdevelopment, and religious-cultural marginalization. Over time, the movement evolved into a powerful armed organization. Although its roots lie in Yemen's domestic environment, its military expansion and conflict with rival political groups further exacerbated the country's instability.

The Houthis' capture of the capital, Sana'a, in 2014 marked a turning point in the conflict. They subsequently expanded their influence in several other areas of the country, weakening the internationally recognized Yemeni government and disrupting the political transition process. Saudi Arabia viewed this development as a serious security challenge near its southern border. Sharing a long border with Yemen, Saudi Arabia feared that the Houthi expansion could impact its regional security and strategic interests.

Saudi Arabia's security concerns are another significant factor in the conflict. The Houthis' missile and drone attacks on Saudi territory, targeting military installations and critical infrastructure, have escalated tensions between the two sides. In March 2015, Saudi Arabia intervened militarily to curb the Houthis' growing power and support the recognized Yemeni government. While the stated objective of this intervention was to restore the Yemeni government, the prolonged military campaign further complicated the resolution of the conflict.

A broader geopolitical factor in this conflict is regional competition between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Iran has provided various levels of political, technical, and military support to the Houthi movement. Saudi Arabia views this as a threat to growing Iranian influence near its southern border. Although the Houthi movement has its own domestic roots and independent political priorities, the Iran-Saudi rivalry has given the conflict a broader regional dimension. Thus, Yemen has become a major center of internal political conflict as well as power competition in West Asia.

The conflict has had serious consequences for regional peace and security. Its most visible impact is the humanitarian crisis.

Starlink, India, And Why Elon Musk Must Know His Billionaire Tantrums Won't Work

Harsh V Pant

Elon Musk's public tirade against India's regulatory establishment is a revealing demonstration of the entitlement that increasingly characterises the world's most powerful technology billionaires. Frustrated by the delay in securing final approvals for Starlink's commercial launch in India, Musk has chosen to portray a sovereign government's regulatory process as an obstacle to technological progress and consumer welfare. His intervention reveals less about the merits of Starlink's application than about his own understanding of power, privilege, and market access.

The underlying message is difficult to miss. Musk appears to believe that because Starlink possesses advanced technology, operates across much of the world, and promises to connect underserved populations, India should expedite its entry on his terms. When New Delhi does not oblige, the implication is that the regulatory system must be dysfunctional or obstructive. This is a familiar playbook: elevate a commercial dispute into a moral crusade, cast the entrepreneur as the champion of ordinary citizens, and portray the host government as an impediment to progress. It may generate headlines and rally supporters on social media. It is no substitute for engaging with the sovereign requirements of the Indian state. India must reject this framing unequivocally. Its regulatory institutions do not derive their legitimacy from Elon Musk's approval, nor do they require validation from a foreign billionaire who mistakes global commercial influence for political authority. India is an independent country, not a market in which powerful technology executives can demand preferential treatment and publicly pressure the government when they encounter regulatory resistance.

The Indian government's response has been appropriately firm. The Ministry of Communications has maintained that the satellite communications authorisation framework is fair and non-discriminatory. Starlink, Reliance Jio's satellite business, and Bharti-backed Eutelsat OneWeb are broadly at the same regulatory stage, with mandatory security assessments still to be completed before spectrum can be assigned. Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has reiterated that India does not permit monopolies and that commercial operations can begin only after the necessary security requirements are met and spectrum charges are finalised. This is not an unreasonable position. It is the basic responsibility of any government that takes national security seriously. If Musk believes that Starlink has fulfilled every requirement, he should demonstrate as much through the appropriate institutional channels. What he cannot reasonably expect is that India will dilute its regulatory standards because his company has a powerful global brand or because he can mobilise public opinion against the government.



What Musk Has Got Wrong

The presumption that India must accommodate Musk is itself the problem. India's economic rise has been accompanied by a growing determination to exercise control over the terms of its engagement with global capital and technology. The days when access to the Indian market could be treated as a concession extracted through diplomatic pressure or corporate lobbying are over. India welcomes investment, innovation, and competition, but it does so on the basis of its own laws, security requirements, and strategic priorities. Market size is not an invitation to disregard these conditions. Nor does technological sophistication confer a right to operate without regulatory approval.

Musk's intervention is particularly misplaced because satellite communications is not an ordinary commercial sector. It is a strategic domain in which connectivity, data governance, defence preparedness, and territorial security intersect. Low-Earth-orbit satellite networks offer substantial benefits, especially in remote and underserved regions, but they also present complex questions concerning terminal activation, control of satellite beams, data routing, network oversight, and potential dual-use applications.

For India, these are not abstract concerns. The country confronts security challenges along sensitive borders and across strategically important maritime spaces. Reports of Starlink terminals being recovered during sensitive operations in Manipur and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have reinforced the importance of establishing robust controls. They underscore why the government cannot treat the deployment of satellite communications infrastructure as a purely commercial matter. Musk may insist that Starlink has developed India-specific safeguards, established local infrastructure, and made arrangements for data localisation. These claims deserve technical assessment, not automatic acceptance. The responsibility for determining whether security conditions have been met rests with the Indian authorities. It cannot be transferred to the company seeking market access, much less settled through the public pronouncements of its chief executive.

The Thing About Credibility

Indeed, Musk's rhetoric risks undermining his own credibility. By reducing outstanding security and spectrum questions to an alleged failure of the Indian system, he has effectively suggested that the government's concerns are obstacles to be overcome rather than legitimate requirements to be addressed. That is an extraordinary assumption for a foreign company to make about a country whose cooperation it needs. A company that wants to operate in India must understand that trust is earned through compliance, transparency, and sustained engagement, not through public denunciations of the institutions responsible for granting permission.

There is also a troubling double standard in Musk's argument. The billionaire presents himself as an advocate of consumer choice and technological disruption, yet appears unwilling to accept that the Indian state has its own legitimate obligations and priorities. His preferred narrative pits an innovative outsider against an allegedly obstructive establishment. But India's interests cannot be reduced to the commercial ambitions of a foreign technology entrepreneur.

Nor is it India's responsibility to resolve Musk's commercial frustrations by granting him political accommodation. Starlink is a private enterprise seeking access to a commercially attractive market. It is not performing a charitable service for which India must set aside its own requirements. Rural connectivity is an important national objective, but it is not an argument for exempting any provider from the rules. If Starlink can help bridge India's digital divide, it should be encouraged to do so within a framework that applies equally to all operators.

The satellite broadband debate must be situated within India's broader strategic priorities. Connectivity is essential to economic growth, financial inclusion, education and access to public services. Satellite technology can complement terrestrial networks, particularly in geographically difficult regions where conventional infrastructure is expensive to deploy. Starlink's capabilities may therefore have a useful role to play in India's digital transformation.

But the desirability of a technology does not settle the terms on which it should enter the market. India must retain the ability to determine how critical infrastructure is deployed, how sensitive data is handled, and what safeguards are required to prevent misuse. These are sovereign responsibilities, not regulatory inconveniences that can be dismissed whenever they conflict with a company's commercial timetable.

There is a larger geopolitical dimension to this question. The global technology landscape is increasingly shaped by private corporations whose economic resources, communications platforms, and infrastructure networks give them influence extending well beyond conventional commercial activity. Satellite constellations, cloud infrastructure, and digital networks can acquire strategic significance because the entities controlling them possess capabilities that states cannot simply ignore. Strategic autonomy does not mean technological isolation. It means retaining the freedom to choose the terms of engagement rather than allowing external commercial pressures to determine national priorities. This is precisely why India must resist attempts to turn regulatory disagreements into public contests of influence. If criticism from a globally powerful executive becomes a means of accelerating approvals, it risks establishing a damaging precedent. Indeed, a confident state should be able to welcome competition while remaining entirely unmoved by corporate intimidation.

Musk's approach has instead allowed a question of licensing and security to become a contest over his expectations of India. That is a strategic miscalculation. The larger lesson extends well beyond Starlink. Global technology companies increasingly operate in an environment where infrastructure, data, and connectivity are inseparable from questions of national power.

What Lies Behind India's Silence on Nobel Peace Prize for Navi Pillay?

New Delhi: Four days after South African jurist Navanethem "Navi" Pillay was awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize, the Narendra Modi government had yet to issue a publicly congratulatory message, despite her Indian Tamil ancestry and her family's historical connection to the indentured labour system that took thousands of Indians to colonial plantations in Africa. Pillay, 85, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on October 9 for her efforts to promote peace and international law. Her life and work have been spent fighting genocide and apartheid. She served as a judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda from 1995 to 2003, including four years as its president, and as a judge of the International Criminal Court from 2003 to 2012. From 2008 to 2014, she was the UN high commissioner for Human Rights. During her tenure, Pillay repeatedly raised concerns about alleged human rights violations in Kashmir, including disappearances, extrajudicial killings and unmarked graves, putting her at odds with New Delhi's resistance to international scrutiny of the region. More recently, she chaired the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory which concluded in September 2025 that Israel had committed genocide in Gaza. Israel rejected the commission's findings. The Israeli government had immediately denounced Pillay being awarded the globe's foremost peace prize, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claiming that Norwegian Nobel Committee had "lost its moral compass." He also described Pillay as "the woman who propagated the demonization of Jews". The Wire has asked the Ministry of External Affairs whether the Indian government intends to congratulate Pillay on the award. Pillay's achievement has been celebrated in Tamil Nadu, with Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay and other political leaders extending congratulations. Pillay's Gaza findings and India's Israel policy Since 2014, the Narendra



Modi government has been more visibly aligned with the Isreli government. India's response to Israel's military operations in Gaza has drawn scrutiny from human rights advocates, particularly after the scale of civilian deaths and destruction became apparent. As Marcy Newman most recently essayed for The Wire, India manufactures weapons components for Israel, collaborates on water with Israel's state-run water supply company which has been accused of exploiting Palestinian water resources, and has had numerous points of overlaps in military production. Modi had also notably visited Israel earlier this year at the invitation of Netanyahu, who faces an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. The visit had been in the midst of gathering war clouds – and just days before United States and Israel started the second Iran war. While India's position had been more aligned towards Israel in the initial months of both the Gaza war and the Iran war, with no condemnation of Israel, it had to subsequently adopt a more nuanced position, reiterating support for a two-state solution and expressing concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza. During the conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States, India has had to balance its strategic relationship with Israel against regional stability and its own economic interests. When India launched its campaign for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2028-29 term, external affairs minister S Jaishankar specifically highlighted its support for the Palestinian cause and the two-state solution, amid widespread international criticism of Israel's actions in West Asia. Therefore, it is a bit inexplicable to see the complete absence on any congratulatory message for Pillay. However, sources familiar with the matter have disputed the suggestion that India's silence is linked to Pillay's findings on Gaza and her criticism of Israel. They point instead to her record as UN Human Rights chief, when she repeatedly raised concerns about alleged human rights violations in Kashmir, including disappearances, extrajudicial killings and unmarked graves. Her interventions on Kashmir are more of a sensitive issue for New Delhi, sources asserted. A question of recognition The absence of a congratulatory message for Pillay also recalls earlier occasions when Modi did not publicly acknowledge major international awards won by prominent Indians critical of the establishment.

LURED BY SALARIES, FED TO WAR:

HOW INDIA'S JOBLESS YOUTH HAVE BECOME CANON FODDER

Saaransh Mishra

As per India's Ministry of External Affairs, 259 Indian nationals are believed to have been drafted into the Russian armed forces. Out of these, 139 have obtained an early discharge, while information remains to be sought about 69 others who may reportedly still be serving, or whose statuses remain undetermined.

This raises a pertinent policy question: why and how were Indian citizens in the civilian overseas-employment market able to get into a foreign military force without prior identification? Moreover, the matter exposes the frailty of overseas-employment regulation, highlighting questions about the credibility of recruitment agents and emphasising the gravity of wage disparities, making a high-risk foreign military job appear unignorably enticing.



Why People Take The Risk

Latest reports from Telangana, where youth workers were trapped by allegedly being offered salaries of about Rs 2 lakh a month, along with insurance and an additional bonus, highlight the pivotal role of financial incentives in understanding the recruitment process. Additionally, one worker paid Rs. 2.5 lakh a month to an agent to secure employment in Russia.

These foreign salaries, albeit associated with tremendous risks, can matter a great deal to workers from extremely low-income backgrounds as they present the opportunity to alter their economic status. The informal nature of local employment, coupled with irregular or poor salary structures, makes this sort of overseas employment seem even more lucrative despite being surrounded by incomplete information regarding the work conditions and expectations. This environment acts as a breeding ground for predatory agent behaviour, where they do not necessarily need to conceal the perils of such overseas employment opportunities. Rather, they end up presenting any risks of this as temporary, manageable, and financially justifiable. Moreover, the worker may even be deceived into believing that the job involves roles related to security, logistics, or other support work rather than war-zone combat. Hence, the promised payout inadvertently becomes the most prominent part of the equation.

The predicament of the workers in Russia, as highlighted by the Ministry of External Affairs and the news reports from Telangana, demands stricter regulation of overseas employment through stern enforcement against fraudulent agents and more accessible employment opportunities within India.

Under Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983, it is mandatory for recruiting agents to acquire registration from the Protector General of Emigrants before recruiting Indian citizens overseas. This law is intended to curb fraud and exploitation by safeguarding recruitment through identifiable and liable intermediaries. The Ministry of External Affairs mandates that the operation of recruitment only through a valid registration certificate and an online platform known as the eMigrate portal is used for the allotment of these certificates. There also exists a publicly available published list of registered recruiting agents. Furthermore, according to a July 2026 parliamentary response, there are roughly 3,505 unregistered agents on the portal. The framework obliges the registered agents to provide detailed employment records, maintain a faultless record of contracts and advertisements, issue all receipts of payments, etc. It also forbids the usage of sub-agents for recruitment while limiting the service fee payable by an emigrant to the equivalent of 45 days of wages, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000.

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This festive season, taneira's solah shringaar finds beauty in a ritual every woman understands



The house of tata brand captures a familiar ritual of self admiration shared by woman across cultures and generations , : Across India, shringaar has always been deeply personal. Its expressions may change across regions, communities and generations, but some rituals are instinctively understood by women everywhere. One of them is that final glance at yourself before stepping out.

It happens amid the familiar rush of getting ready for a celebration. In a mirror at home, an elevator, a car window or a glass door. A pallu is adjusted, a piece of jewellery gently set right, a strand of hair tucked into place. Or sometimes, nothing changes at all. For that fleeting minute, she simply pauses to take herself in. Not to become someone else, but to appreciate who she already is, before returning to the world around her.

It is this unspoken language of self-admiration that Taneira, from the House of Tata, celebrates with Solah Shringaar, its new festive campaign and collection. Rooted in India's rich traditions of adornment, the campaign brings a contemporary perspective to shringaar, celebrating not just the beauty of getting ready, but the joy of taking a moment for yourself.

The philosophy that finds expression in Taneira's Solah Shringaar festive collection, draws inspiration from India's diverse traditions of adornment and reinterprets them for the contemporary woman. Spanning luxurious silks, organzas, tissues, tussars and festive weaves, the collection brings together intricate craftsmanship from renowned weaving clusters with Taneira's distinctive in-house design language. Rich motifs, thoughtful detailing and contemporary interpretations of traditional artistry come together in sarees that celebrate the beauty of Indian textiles.

To make festive shopping even more special, Taneira is offering customers exclusive gift vouchers on purchases during the campaign period, applicable across stores, pan-india. Terms and conditions apply.

Much like shringaar itself, a Taneira saree is not intended to define the woman wearing it, but to complement and enhance her natural beauty. Whether styled with treasured heirloom jewellery, a contemporary drape or her own personal touches, each saree becomes an extension of her individuality. The saree adds to her beauty, but it is she who makes the saree, and every shringaar, complete.

At the heart of the campaign is Taneira's festive thought, Aap se hi poora, har shringaar. It reflects a simple yet meaningful belief: shringaar is not about becoming someone else, but about feeling a little more like yourself. While traditions, styles and adornments may differ, it is the woman who brings them to life. Her individuality, her choices and the way she sees herself are what make every shringaar complete.

The film follows five women across different cultures and stages of life as they navigate the familiar festive rush. Their worlds, rituals and expressions of shringaar may differ, yet each finds that same private pause. Later, at a celebration, they notice an older woman catching her reflection and making one final adjustment. A knowing smile passes between them. No words are exchanged because none are needed.

Ampere Expands Retail Footprint in Hyderabad with New Experience Centre

- AMPERE BRINGS BHARAT KI SMART RIDE PORTFOLIO CLOSER TO CUSTOMERS IN THE REGION WITH SALES AND SERVICE SUPPORT



Hyderabad, 14 October 2026: Ampere today inaugurated SANSTECH Automotive at Tadban – Bahadurpura Main Road, strengthening its retail and service presence in Hyderabad. The new Ampere Experience Centre will provide customers with a comprehensive sales and service experience under one roof, making electric mobility more accessible and convenient for customers in the region.

The new Experience Centre will showcase Ampere's electric scooter portfolio, designed to address a diverse range of mobility needs and customer segments. At the heart of the portfolio is the Ampere Nexus EX+, with new 5 kW powerful motor and backed by multiple national and international records demonstrating its performance across some of India's most challenging terrain.

For families and value-conscious customers, the Magnus GMax brings together everyday practicality, connected technology and affordability, while the Magnus Neo has been designed with a focus on ergonomics and comfortable everyday city riding. The recently launched Ampere Reo Vyb extends the portfolio to younger riders, including students and college-goers.

The Ampere Nexus EX+ and Magnus GMax are also available in variants with 30+ Intelligent features powered by Intellipack and bringing connected, smart technology to riders. The portfolio is backed by Next-Gen LFP battery technology and up to a 5-year/75,000 km standard battery warranty, reinforcing Ampere's focus on making electric mobility dependable and accessible.

Ampere's 'Bharat Ki Smart Ride' is backed by real-world engineering and validation across the length of the country. The Magnus GMax with Intellipack recently completed the Ultimate Endurance Ride, covering nearly 4,000 km in 15 days from Dong Valley in Arunachal Pradesh to Guhar Moti in Kutch, across mountains, plains and desert. The Nexus platform has also conquered the 70 hairpin bends of Kolli Hills and reached Shipki La Pass at 13,200 ft, demonstrating its performance across varied Indian terrain.

Designed as a modern and interactive retail destination, the new Ampere Experience Centre will enable prospective customers to explore the portfolio, engage with trained product specialists, understand the benefits of electric mobility and make informed purchase decisions in a comfortable environment.

The opening of the new dealership is part of Greaves Electric Mobility's continued effort to expand Ampere's retail and service presence across key markets and bring products and ownership support closer to customers. The latest addition in Hyderabad marks another step towards deepening local customer engagement and improving access to electric mobility.

Getfive Funds receives SEBI nod for Rs. 500 Crore Getfive Opportunity Fund II to back Bharat's next-generation emerging companies



New Delhi, 14 October, 2026: Getfive Funds today announced that it has received market regulator SEBI's nod for Getfive Opportunity Fund II, a ?500 crore Category-I Alternative Investment Fund, to invest in high-growth Indian SMEs. This will be the second fund from Getfive Funds. The fund will focus on emerging companies across Bharat's Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets, besides Tier 1. It will cover sectors including Defence, Aerospace, Space-tech, Deep-tech, Precision Engineering, Manufacturing, Healthcare, Pharma, Technology, Financial Services, Consumer & Retail, Agritech, Logistics & Supply Chain, Energy & Renewables, Education, and Waste Management.

Getfive Opportunity Fund II will follow the same V3 (V cube) Framework i.e. Vision Through Promoter, Value Through Company and Velocity Through Industry and Growth Investing philosophy by the Fund Manager, Shrikant Goyal that shaped Fund I for long-term value creation. Fund I continues to focus on SMEs, and Fund II widens that mandate with greater scale.

The fund will be managed under the vision of Mr. Shrikant Goyal, who brings close to two decades of experience across capital markets, corporate fundraising and structured finance. Under his leadership, Getfive has grown into a SEBI-registered Merchant Bank with a 40+ member Merchant Banking team, and he has personally steered the raising of over ?1,500 crore across 40+ debt deals. He also founded the Getfive Opportunity Fund, a SEBI-registered Category I AIF (Venture Capital Fund), extending Getfive's role from advisory to long-term capital partnership with India's SMEs.

Commenting on the development, Mr. Shrikant Goyal, Managing Director, Getfive Funds, said, "SME investing has matured, and the opportunity ahead is significant. India already has at least 250 opportunities, and we expect around 400 SME companies to list on BSE SME and NSE Emerge over the next three to four years.

A Century of Heritage & Legacy in Every Design: P N RAO introduces collections inspired by The Art of Kanjivaram





Bengaluru, October 2026: P N RAO Fine Suits, a 'design-led' legacy brand that has a history of over 100 years of journey, introduced the masterpiece collection "Weaves of Legacy"—Timeless Art of the Kanjivaram today. The collection draws deep inspiration from Kanchipuram, India's historic temple town renowned for its distinct architecture and the centuries-old origin of the 'Queen of Sarees'. By bringing the intricate designs and cultural significance of Kanjivaram into contemporary menswear, P N RAO seamlessly merges classical heritage with sharp, modern power-suiting. The launch featured showcasing the new collection through a curated fashion show with a captivating live Carnatic music performance.

Founded in 1923, the current P N RAO management is the 3rd generation that is carefully and thoughtfully taking the reins and craftsmanship of the legacy and heritage thus far. With 'Weaves of Legacy,' the house enters a new chapter—distinctly design-led, rooted in its heritage yet driven by a contemporary point of view.

At the heart of Weaves of Legacy: Timeless Art of the Kanjivaram is a deep affection for the visual poetry of South India. Inspired by the richness of Kanjivaram, the collection features Dravidian motifs in vivid hues along with intricate patterns and the timeless artistry found in temple architecture and sculpture in the region. The Yazhi motif, peacock, lotus, elephants, and intricate ornamentation found in centuries-old temple carvings are reinterpreted through a contemporary menswear lens. Rather than simply borrowing from tradition, P N RAO captures its spirit—transforming familiar symbols, colours and textures into expressive silhouettes and unexpected details. Each piece becomes a quiet celebration of where we come from, interpreted with a modern, design-led sensibility.

On the launch of the collection, Mr Ketan Pishe, Partner, P N RAO, Fine Suits, said, "Weaves of Legacy" reflects our dedication and commitment to our business journey and contribution to the suit segment, with Kanjivaram's opulence, artistry, and visual language translated through the signature sensibility of P N RAO. We have explored its vivid palette, intricate geometry, and cultural symbolism to create a new chapter for contemporary menswear. AW 2026 represents a defining shift for us—more experimental, more design-conscious, and deeply rooted in craftsmanship. Every look is intended to feel assured yet effortless, bringing together tradition and modernity with nuance, sophistication, and a distinctly individual character." The philosophy is particularly fitting for a house whose own story spans generations. For P N RAO, Autumn Winter 2026 marks an exciting evolution into a more design-led house, with a distinctive visual language rooted in heritage, craftsmanship, and considered design.

Kotak Solitaire Restaurant Week India Goes National This October On The District App

Mumbai, October 14, 2026: Restaurant Week India (RWI) organised by the Dining Collective in partnership with Kotak Solitaire, Kotak Mahindra Bank, is now going national. Having launched in three cities in April, the festival returns for its Autumn Edition from October 16 to November 1, 2026, featuring over 100 leading restaurants nationwide.

The Summer Edition proved the concept: more than 6,000 diners, over ?1 crore in revenue for participating restaurants, and nearly 1,700 people still on the waitlist when bookings closed. The Autumn Edition responds to that demand with more cities, more restaurants, a longer run of seventeen days across three weekends, and two new formats.



THREE WAYS TO DINE

Prix-fixe menus. Participating restaurants will serve curated three-course menus that showcase their signature dishes and culinary style. Lunch menus start at ?1,300, while dinner menus range from ?1,600 to ?2,200, plus applicable taxes. 'One Service Only'.During the festival, selected food-forward bars will put their kitchens in the spotlight with a three-course menu created exclusively for the occasion. Each evening will offer two sittings with limited seats. A special drinks menu only for RWI customerswill be available to purchase separately at the venue.

All reservations are prepaid and to be made on the District app.

KOTAK CARDHOLDERS GET FIRST ACCESS

All Kotak Mahindra Bank Credit Card holders will receive a 48-hour priority booking window on October 13 and 14, 2026 before general reservations open on October 15, 2026. Kotak Solitaire cardholders will receive additional benefits: a specially curated extra course at every participating restaurant, and first access to the 'One Service Only' evenings as they are announced, alongside Solitaire-only access at select participating restaurants.

Jyoti Samajpati, Executive Vice President, Head of Propositions and Retail Bank Marketing, Kotak Mahindra Bank, said: "Kotak Solitaire is delighted to be associated with Restaurant Week India for its second edition as we join hands to celebrate India's vibrant culinary landscape. We are proud to offer early access to all Kotak Credit Card holders. Kotak Solitaire Credit Card holders get exclusive access to limited edition drops and a curated additional course. This collaboration reflects our commitment to unlock unique and exciting experiences for our customers."

WHAT THE SUMMER EDITION REVEALED

The Summer Edition marked Restaurant Week India's return after a ten-year gap. Over ten days in Mumbai, Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru, it brought more than 6,000 diners to participating restaurants through 2,100-plus bookings, generating over ?1 crore in revenue for restaurants. Demand outstripped supply, with nearly 1,700 waitlist requests that could not be accommodated. Some users made multiple bookings during the festival. 81 users booked three or more times within the ten days, an early sign that RWI is building a repeat audience. "Restaurant Week India's second edition reflects how much is happening in Indian restaurants right now. This edition covers the country, with restaurants from Ahmedabad to Kolkata and NCR to Bengaluru. As with the last edition, the goal is to get diners to rediscover their city and find new favourites," said Aatish Nath, co-founder of RWI.

US inflation rises more than expected - here's what is happening with prices

US inflation rose by more than expected in the year to September, according to official figures, in the final data release before the midterm elections next month. The pace of price rises increased to 3.7%, up from 3.4% in the 12 months to August. Inflation was above forecasts, driven by higher gasoline prices which have risen following disruption to Middle East energy supplies due to the US-Israel conflict with Iran. The elections are being fought over cost of living pressures across the US.

What is inflation? Inflation is the rate at which the price of products or services increase over time. For example, if a bottle of milk costs $1 but rises to $1.10 a year later, then annual inflation for bottled milk is 10%.

Officials from the Bureau of Labor Statistics measure inflation through the consumer price index (CPI). It tracks the price changes of hundreds of day-to-day items including fresh food, gasoline and medical services to work out the overall level of inflation in the US economy. The bureau updates this so-called basket of goods over time as peoples' spending and lifestyle habits change. What causes inflation? There are several factors that can cause inflation to rise. If demand for a product outstrips its supply, that can lead to producers raising prices - the craze for Labubu dolls in recent years and the high resale prices are an example. Higher incomes can also lead to higher demand, for example, which in turn pushes up prices. Supply can also affect inflation. If supply of a product is reduced, but demand remains constant, that can cause prices to rise. A good example of this is crude oil, which is used to make gasoline and diesel. Before the US-Israel war with Iran began, it was trading at just over $70 a barrel but when the conflict constricted crude supplies, the price quickly rose and is currently over $100. What is the current rate of inflation? Inflation has risen to 3.7% in the year to September, which is a higher-than-expected increase fuelled by gasoline prices. Car fuel prices jumped by 34.2% over 12 months. In September alone, they jumped by 9.1%, accounting for more than half of the increase in inflation, according to the Bureau or Labor Statistics. Overall, energy inflation was up by 20.4% over the year as prices for fuel oil, energy services and electricity climbed. Fuel oil, used in home heating, was up 74.2% over the year.

Starlink restrictions in Ukraine war linked to political situation, Zelensky aide says



New restrictions on the speed at which some of Ukraine's weapons can travel and stay connected to the Starlink internet network have disrupted Ukraine's battlefield "missions", President Volodymyr Zelensky's adviser has warned. Serhiy Beskrestnov said Ukraine had not been told about speed limits set overnight at 100mph (160km/h) by Elon Musk's SpaceX company. Starlink is a vital tool allowing Kyiv to effectively guide drones to Russian targets and also protect Ukrainian skies. Beskrestnov said SpaceX's move "cannot be a coincidence and is related to the current political situation". The firm has not commented. In Wednesday's post on Telegram, Beskrestnov said that SpaceX had "implemented overnight a speed limit on Starlink terminals" and this had already resulted in "the disruption of a number of missions". In a follow-up post, the adviser stressed that Starlink was the most effective tool for enabling interceptors to shoot down Russia's newly developed jet-propelled drones. It comes as at least 600,000 people across Ukraine were left without electricity after deadly overnight Russian missile and drone strikes, Zelensky said. Pictures from Kyiv showed residents, some dressed in their pajamas, with bloodied faces. He added that "critical" energy infrastructure had been hit in Kyiv and the capital region, and in the northeastern city of Kharkiv – despite US President Donald Trump's claim on Sunday that an "energy ceasefire" was in place between Russia and Ukraine. Three people were killed in Kyiv, local officials reported. Russia said its "massive" strikes had hit communications and energy facilities used by Ukraine's military. Later on Wednesday, at least six people were killed in a Russian drone strike on a warehouse in the north-western city of Lutsk, local officials said. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and Moscow currently controls about 20% of Ukrainian territory. A source in the Ukrainian defence ministry later told the BBC: "Last night, we detected restrictions affecting Starlink connectivity at speeds above 160 km/h." The source added that the "root cause" of the issue was being investigated. Defence ministry sources later explained that "once a vehicle or asset exceeds this [160km/h] threshold speed, the terminal loses its connection". They told the BBC that this made it more difficult to carry out drone operations, "specifically interceptors and middle-strike drones", and also degraded "capabilities for front line logistics, reconnaissance, and signal relaying". In February, Musk's decision to deny Russian forces access to Starlink blunted Moscow's advance in Ukraine and caused confusion among Russian commanders. Musk's SpaceX has not commented on the reported speed restrictions. Zelensky has said that the US threatened to restrict intelligence sharing if he did not sign up to Trump's energy ceasefire. On Tuesday, Trump denied that Washington was withholding intelligence. Ukraine relies on US satellite systems to track Russian missiles in order to issue alerts and to try to shoot them down. But over the past two nights, missiles have struck targets in the Ukrainian capital without any warning, before air raid sirens could be sounded. According to Ukraine's air force, Russia launched 39 ballistic and cruise missiles and 128 drones overnight. Four of those missiles and 115 drones were shot down, it said. It was the second night in a row that Kyiv was hit by Russian missiles, and came as Zelensky prepared to meet UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham at Downing Street on Wednesday to discuss accelerating air defence supplies to Kyiv. Meanwhile, the Russian defence ministry said 902 Ukrainian drones had been shot down overnight over a number of Russian regions, including the capital Moscow and Crimea - Ukraine's southern peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014. On Sunday, Trump wrote on Truth Social: "Effective immediately, there is an ENERGY CEASEFIRE in the War between Russia and Ukraine.

WORLD'S OLDEST SHIPWRECK FOUND OFF COAST OF TURKEY



The world's oldest shipwreck has been discovered off the coast of Turkey, archaeologists say. They have dated it to between 4,400 and 4,700 years old, which is the Early Bronze Age, and is around the same time that the Great Pyramid was being built. The ship's wooden structure has not survived, but the ceramic storage pots it was carrying were lying on the sea floor and, remarkably, some still contain traces of what they held inside. The archaeologists who found the ship say it was about 10m in length and was a trade vessel carrying cargo across the Mediterranean Sea. "The shipwreck is a time capsule at the bottom of the sea," said Prof Hakan Öniz, from Akdeniz University in Turkey, who led the Mediterranean Archaeology Association expedition. The wreck is close to the shore of Kekova Island in Antalya, Turkey. The artefacts lie scattered across an underwater slope, just 30m beneath the waves. Three large stone anchors were found, as well as more than 30 ceramic storage pots, called amphorae. The fact that none of the ship's wood remained meant techniques like radiocarbon dating - which measures a form of carbon in organic materials - could not be used to determine its age. Instead, archaeologists analysed the shape of the amphorae. Because pottery styles have changed over time, different styles are linked to particular periods. The Kekova ceramics are distinctive, with two handles, a ridge in the middle and a flat base.

Öniz said this design matched other amphorae unearthed in Egypt and the Middle East that were known to be 4,400-4,700 years old. "Comparing the decoration techniques… we can definitely say our wreck is Early Bronze Age. This is 100%." Divers from the expedition brought the pots up to the surface, where they are now being carefully conserved after so many thousands of years underwater. Dr Karin Sowada, an archaeologist from Macquarie University, Australia, examined the amphorae after they were recovered. Some were intact and she was surprised to see they still contained a viscous, glossy residue. "I looked inside and nearly fainted. I could not believe how much [residue] was visible. It wasn't just like spots…. a lot of this material was still remaining," she said. The team is now working to find out exactly what was being carried in the amphorae. "It could be olive oil, it could be wine, it could be tree resins," Sowada said.

"It's possible that [the residue] could actually be the result of reuse of the jars. I mean, these jars are huge - they're not things that you just ship away and then never see again. People would have emptied these jars on arrival and potentially used them for many, many, many years." The wreck and its cargo are also shedding light on trade in the ancient world. The archaeologists say the ship started its voyage from somewhere along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean.

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST-EVER MICHELIN STARS GO TO 11 RESTAURANTS IN ONE STATE



Australia has been awarded its first Michelin stars, with 11 restaurants in the state of South Australia receiving the distinction. Magill Estate Restaurant in Adelaide was the only venue to receive two stars, while 10 others were awarded one star each. South Australia's government paid for incognito inspectors to visit the state, according to national broadcaster ABC, which is why no spots have been recognised in other parts of the country. The announcement comes more than a century after the Michelin Guide was first published in France and following years of unsuccessful attempts to bring it to Australia. Michelin has approached the national tourism board several times about bringing the guide to the country with no success. South Australia decided to go it alone and pursued its own deal. The state government has not disclosed how much it paid, but Tourism Minister Emily Bourke defended the investment in an interview with ABC News. "It is enabling us to create a tourism destination and put us on the world map," she said. The move follows Michelin's expansion into New Zealand, which became the first destination in Oceania to feature in the guide in July, agreeing to pay NZ$6.3m (£2.7m; $3.5m) over three years for its inclusion.Australia has been awarded its first Michelin stars, with 11 restaurants in the state of South Australia receiving the distinction. Magill Estate Restaurant in Adelaide was the only venue to receive two stars, while 10 others were awarded one star each.

Germany puts Ukrainian on trial accused of blowing up Nord Stream pipelines



A Ukrainian man has gone on trial in Hamburg accused of blowing up Russia's Nord Stream gas pipelines to Germany, four years after one of the most dramatic acts of sabotage in modern European history. Prosecutors say Serhii Kuznetsov played a leading role in a team of saboteurs that destroyed the pipelines, accusing him of a war crime. His defence has called for the case to be dismissed. The case is highly sensitive in Germany, one of Ukraine's closest allies since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, seven months before the attacks took place. Extradited to Germany last year, Kuznetsov denies the charges, as does a second suspect who is fighting extradition from Croatia. Kuznetsov became the first suspect to go on trial for the blasts on Wednesday morning, and a packed public gallery looked on as he entered the courtroom, appearing relaxed. He even smiled at times, including during initial exchanges where he spoke to confirm personal details such as his name and place of birth. He had previously only been identified by German prosecutors as Serhii K and pictured with his face blurred, before the court lifted an anonymity order on Wednesday. Kuznetsov, 50, wore a pair of headphones and appeared to listen intently to a translation of proceedings in Ukrainian, as the prosecution read out the charges against him of ordering divers and an explosive expert to attack civilian infrastructure. The defence outlined their case, telling the court that only circumstantial evidence had emerged in the four years since the Nord Stream blasts. "[Prosecutors] made a thorough investigation of four years," Italian defence lawyer Nicola Canestrini told the BBC outside the courtroom. "They did not find one single witness, they did not find no forensics, no DNA, no fingerprints - nothing!" Canestrini and his colleagues argued that as a soldier the defendant was bound to secrecy, and therefore he could not have a fair trial as he was unable to defend himself. "Let's say he has an alibi, he was on another secret operation, how can you prove that if he's [not able] to tell us as defence attorneys where he was and which witnesses we could summon?" Prosecutors argue the case falls under Germany's code of crimes against international law as a war crime, as an "attack by military means against civilian objects". The defence told the court his extradition to Germany was flawed as no mention had been made at the time of the war crime allegation. In the months after explosives destroyed three of the four gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea off the island of Bornholm on 26 September 2022, Western suspicion looked towards Moscow without directly apportioning blame. Russia had already shut off the flow of gas to Germany in Nord Stream 1 weeks before the attack, and Nord Stream 2 had never been turned on. Berlin had frozen the multi-billion dollar project shortly before the invasion and there were reports of suspicious Russian naval movements before the blasts.

TURKISH POLICE RAID OPPOSITION TV STATION, HALTING LIVE BROADCASTS



Turkish police have raided the headquarters of one of the country's most-watched news channels, halting its live broadcasts. Reports in Turkish media said financial crimes police were searching the building of Halk TV, a pro-opposition channel, and that 11 people had been taken into custody in a raid linked to the channel's owner. The government also appointed a new administrator to run the channel. It is the latest in a series of crackdowns on news sources deemed to be critical of Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his government. Halk journalists were initially unable to get into the building, although they later were allowed in, several reporters said on X. There was a heavy police presence in the building, they said. Halk's news channel and live broadcasts on its YouTube page were both offline early on Wednesday. The channel has been seen by many in the country as being close to the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP). It often voices criticism of Erdogan's ruling AK party. Prosecutors said arrest warrants had been issued for 17 people as part of the investigation into Halk chairman Cafer Mahiroglu on allegations of bribery, rigging tenders and money laundering, Turkish media reported.



Hundreds of thousands of workers on strike across Republic of Ireland

POPE WALKING AND RECOVERING 'AS EXPECTED' AFTER SURGERY, DOCTORS SAY



Pope Leo XIV's recovery from surgery to remove a lower lobe of his lung is "progressing as expected", his doctors have said. The 71-year-old pontiff has started to walk and has "resumed a normal diet" following the roughly 90-minute procedure, the medics said in an update shared by the Vatican. The Pope was diagnosed with lung cancer after the surgery at Rome's Gemelli Hospital on Tuesday afternoon, which the Vatican said had been "successful" and proceeded without complications. Blood tests and an X-ray early on Wednesday showed his recovery was "proceeding normally", the doctors said, and he has also undergone respiratory physiotherapy. The whole lower lobe of the Pope's right lung was removed "to ensure the procedure was radical", the Vatican said following the surgery. "After the operation, the Pope awoke normally and returned after a brief period of observation to his room," it said earlier, before spending a "peaceful night" at the hospital. The pontiff is expected to remain there for about a week as he recovers. He had announced that he would be admitted for the operation during his weekly Sunday prayers, telling the crowd in St Peter's Square that doctors had found a "well-contained" nodule on his lung "at an early stage" and advised him to have it removed.

Nodules are quite common and not necessarily cancerous, but after it was examined the medical team confirmed it was, "as suspected by pre-operative tests", the Vatican said. He was diagnosed with lung adenocarcinoma. A Vatican source told news agency AFP that further tests were carried out to see whether the cancer had spread.

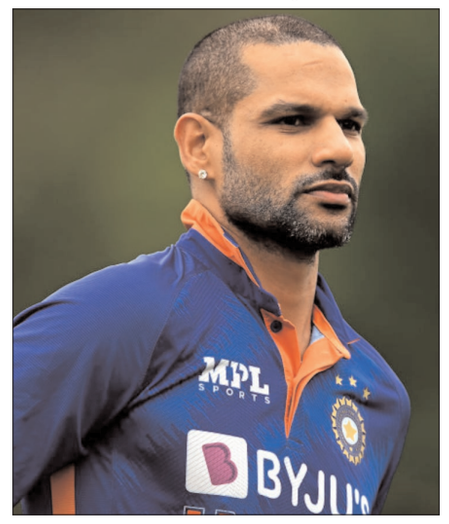
The Vatican has stressed that the Pope, who is generally thought to be fit, had no symptoms of infection or illness. The news has shaken Catholics worldwide, many of whom will have recent memories of Pope Francis's hospital visits. Pope Leo's predecessor, who died last year, also had part of his lung removed in his youth before suffering a series of respiratory infections later in life. What is lung adenocarcinoma? Adenocarcinomas develop in cells that produce mucus and are one of the most common types of lung cancer.

"We Still Need To Improve": New India Captain Smriti Mandhana Gets Honest



Newly appointed captain Smriti Mandhana on Wednesday said India may have won the ODI World Cup recently, but the team still needs to work hard in the shortest format, with the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy set to be held early next year. India will host the six-team T20 tournament at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium and the BCA Stadium in Vadodara from February 14 to 28. Mandhana is set to lead India in her first assignment as full-time captain when the hosts take on Zimbabwe in a three-match T20I series starting on Friday, followed by three ODIs in Vadodara. She succeeded Harmanpreet Kaur as captain. Mandhana said India would look to make the most of the six T20Is ahead of the Women's Champions Trophy. "The first bilateral series with Zimbabwe, I think, is very exciting. It is our first time playing them," Mandhana told reporters. "Sometimes, playing against Zimbabwe and other Associate nations, it feels like you can learn a lot from them as well because they enjoy playing their cricket. "Sometimes, we get caught up in a lot of things professionally. You can learn a lot from them. But again, we have six T20 matches before the Champions Trophy as an Indian team, so we will look to set standards as to how we approach the next three months leading up to the Champions Trophy," Mandhana added. Mandhana said there were several areas in which the Indian team needed to improve in the shortest format. "We have won the World Cup in the last one-and-a-half years, but there were a few things we needed to work on in the T20 format, especially," she said. "But I would say our strength has been the players who have come in. They have done extremely well. On the first day, I wouldn't really want to talk about weaknesses. "There are a lot of things we need to work on. We need a lot of things to fall into place. But I think today is the day to talk about good and positive things," Mandhana said. Mandhana said she had been part of India's leadership group for a long time and that full-time captaincy would not be an entirely new challenge. "I have been the vice-captain for almost 10 years. So, I have been part of the leadership group and I wouldn't say it is an entirely new thing. But, for sure, it is something to look forward to and hopefully I can do justice to the role," Mandhana said. The India captain expressed confidence in the young talent coming through the ranks. "Jemimah (Rodrigues) has been injured for the last two months. But I think we have some exciting players. Anushka (Sharma) and Niki (Prasad), who have done really well for India A, and of course G Kamalini, who batted at No. 3 in the Asian Games," Mandhana said. "We have a lot of options and I am really positive that they will do well," she added. Mandhana was part of a review meeting with BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, head coach Amol Muzumdar and Harmanpreet Kaur a day before the former captain stepped down from the role across formats.

Shikhar Dhawan Angry, Warns Of Legal Step After Cricket Tournament Names Him In Team With Pakistan Players



Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan on Tuesday vowed to take legal action against the organisers of the World T20 Continent Cup after his name was included in the tournament's list of participants. Taking to social media, Dhawan slammed the organisers and urged fans not to be misled by or circulate any false reports regarding his participation. The former Punjab Kings captain was reportedly set to represent Asia Warriors in the competition, a team that also features several players from Pakistan. However, Dhawan has categorically denied any association with the tournament and distanced himself from the event.

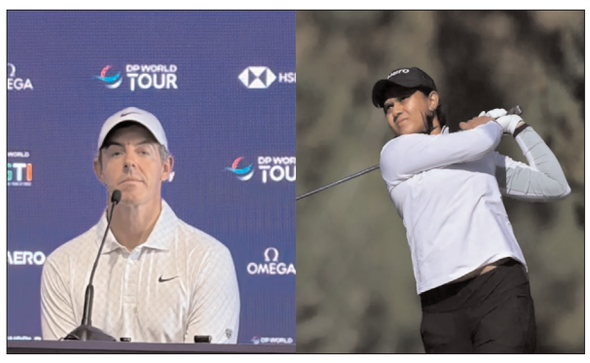
Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Dhawan wrote, "I have come across my name as a participant in the World T20 Continent Cup. My name has been used by the organisers without my knowledge or permission, and my team will be taking the appropriate legal steps to address this. I request the media and my fans to not report or rely on any unauthorised announcements. Thank you for your continued love and support."

Interestingly, Dhawan was not the only Indian cricketer named in the Asia Warriors squad. Former India players Rahul Sharma, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, and Abhimanyu Mithun were also listed among the team's members. Several Pakistani cricketers were included in the 24-member Asia Warriors squad as well, including Sohail Tanvir, Iftikhar Ahmed, and Muhammad Imran Khan, among others.

News of Dhawan's reported inclusion in a team featuring Pakistani players came as a surprise to many fans. The left-handed batter had maintained a strong stance against Pakistan during Operation Sindoor in 2025 and was particularly vocal during the heightened tensions that followed the Pahalgam terror attack.

"India takes a stand against terrorism. Bharat Mata Ki Jai," Dhawan had tweeted. "Ghatiya desh ne fir apna ghatiyapan poori duniya ke aage dikha diya. #Pakistan #Ceasefire," Dhawan had written in another tweet.

Rory McIlroy Hails Pranavi Urs' Resilience As He Returns To India For DP World Championship



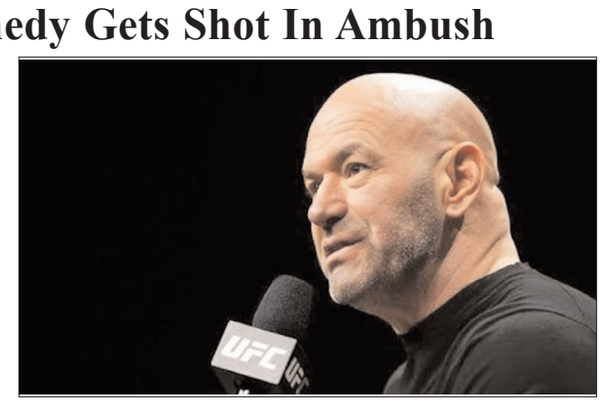
Rory McIlroy was struck by the resilience Pranavi Urs showed on her way to winning gold at the Asian Games, praising the Indian golfer when the two met at the DP World India Championship on Wednesday. The meeting came as the four-time major champion returned to India for the second time. The Northern Irishman also spoke warmly about the welcome he has received and the challenge posed by the golf course. "Yeah, look, I think an amazing achievement winning the Asian Games. I think showing the resilience and character she showed to go on after having that early triple like you said," McIlroy said. The reference was to Pranavi's recovery from an early triple bogey en route to her Asian Games triumph. McIlroy said he enjoyed meeting her and was impressed by the young golfer, who is preparing for the Women's Indian Open next week at DLF. "And it was a delight to meet her. She is a wonderful young woman. She said she was nervous, but didn't seem like she was." Pranavi had walked a few holes with McIlroy before telling him she needed to return to practice ahead of the next tournament on her schedule. "She told me she's got the Women's Indian Open next week at DLF, so she walked a few holes and said she needed to go practice and prepare," he said. "I think her partner is playing this week as well in this tournament, so, yeah, amazing accomplishment, and I'm glad I had the chance to meet her." For Pranavi, the meeting brought her face to face with one of the biggest names in world golf after her Asian Games success. For McIlroy, it was an opportunity to acknowledge an achievement built on the ability to recover from a difficult start. The golfer's second visit to India has also reinforced his appreciation for the country beyond the golf course.

'It Was About Getting Me Out': India Veteran's Explosive Claim On Ex-State Team Coach



Team India selections can never make everyone happy in India. In a country where the sport is dominant over other disciplines, there are numerous followers, coaching institutes and competing states in domestic cricket. It is only natural that there is no shortage of talent either. Until about a decade ago, one would have said that India lacked a battery of top pacers. Even that is now a thing of the past. Umesh Yadav belongs to a generation that witnessed the emergence of talented Indian pacers. He regularly bowled at over 140 kmph. Umesh Yadav went on to play 57 Tests, 75 ODIs and nine T20Is. The 38-year-old, who will turn 39 on October 25, is still an active cricketer in Indian domestic cricket and continues to harbour dreams of making an India comeback. "Look, I don't think it's ever too late. It depends. I feel any selection should be based on a player's performance and fitness, not age criteria. Because if you feel that a guy's age is 37 or 38, and he can't run or bowl, then it's okay to say straightforwardly, 'Brother, you can't do it anymore; neither is your ball doing the talking, nor are you bowling as fast, and in the field too, you don't look as fit as you used to.' You can say that straight away," the 38-year-old told Times Now. Umesh Yadav last played for India in a Test in 2023. Since then, injuries and the emergence of younger prospects have dented Yadav's chances. His career path is somewhat similar to Mohammed Shami's. The pacer has not featured for India since the Champions Trophy. Injuries and younger pace options have hurt his chances too. Umesh called for greater clarity from BCCI selectors to make life easier for players. "If you, as a selector, have thought of something, pass it on to the player. That's much better than not communicating and leaving them unsure whether you'll select them. Just speak clearly; that's much better than living in false hope that it will happen.

Dana White Left In Shock After Ex-UFC Star Tim Kennedy Gets Shot In Ambush



Former UFC middleweight Tim Kennedy is recovering in the United States. He was shot three times in the leg during an ambush in the Democratic Republic of Congo last month. UFC CEO Dana White was unaware of the incident. When asked about it, he said he hoped the former fighter made a full recovery. Kennedy, a 47-year-old former US Army Green Beret, was wounded on September 17 in South Kivu province. He was working with private security firm Vectus Global. He has since been treated at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland after being evacuated from the region. Dana White addresses Tim Kennedy's shocking shooting Dana White recently addressed the issues; while speaking in a Contender Series post-fight press conference, White said he did not know about Kennedy's injuries.

"No. I don't know anything about it," White said. "Yeah, I don't know about that. Obviously, I hope he heals up," before asking reporters where the former UFC fighter had been shot. When told Kennedy had suffered three gunshot wounds to the leg, White responded with concern, "Oh, legs.

I wish him well." The UFC chief did not comment on the circumstances surrounding the attack or Kennedy's reported work in Congo. Tim Kennedy's past feud with Dana White adds another layer to his story According to Reuters, Tim Kennedy's team was travelling between locations when it came under attack.

Jason Kelce Explains Why Taylor Swift's Folklore Is Perfect For Halloween



Jason Kelce did not need a song about ghosts or monsters to find a Halloween connection in Taylor Swift's music. The former Philadelphia Eagles center brought up his sister-in-law's music while talking about the holiday's famous songs with his brother, Travis Kelce, on their New Heights podcast on October 14. Their conversation turned to a question about Swift's own Halloween music, and the answer led Jason to an album that carried a different kind of spooky feeling. Because for him, the clues were in the world Swift created around Folklore.

Kelani Jordan Reacts To Carmelo Hayes Joining Royce Keys' 946 Faction After His WWE Television Return



Kelani Jordan had a short message for Carmelo Hayes after he came back to WWE television and declared himself the newest member of 946 on RAW. Jordan reacted to Hayes' Instagram post with "HES BACKKKKK," celebrating his return after around two months away from WWE television. Hayes was part of the SmackDown roster and was involved in the United States Championship picture before his absence. On RAW, he joined Royce Keys and his crew in their fight against The Bloodline. His arrival came during a major six-man tag team match, where 946 faced The Bloodline in the main event of the show.

Kelani Jordan Reacts To Carmelo Hayes Joining 946 On WWE RAW

Jordan kept her reaction very brief, leaving the two-word message "HES BACKKKKK" under Hayes' Instagram post. The former WWE NXT Women's North American Champion was reacting to Hayes' return to television, and the SmackDown star is now appearing alongside Royce Keys and his crew.

Hayes did not appear on WWE television for two months. His return came with a new association, as he helped Keys and Out The Mud take on The Bloodline. The group had already added Jaida Parker to its ranks, with Parker playing a role in taking Jacob Fatu out of the equation by running him over with a car.

Hayes was previously involved in the United States Championship picture alongside Trick Williams and Baron Corbin.

Pereira's sister, Aline, misses out on UFC contract



Aline Pereira - the sister of former UFC two-division champion Alex - has missed out on a UFC contract after losing on Dana White's Contender Series. Former kickboxer Pereira was hoping to follow in her brother's footsteps in joining the UFC but suffered a unanimous decision defeat by Sweden's Smilla Sundell. Pereira, 36, won on the Ronda Rousey v Gina Carano undercard on Netflix in May, but was overwhelmed by Sundell's pressure and volume of punches. The Brazilian's defeat means she has three wins and three losses on her MMA record since turning professional in 2022. After the fight, UFC president Dana White said he was unsure about offering 21-year-old Sundell a contract despite her victory because of her inexperience, before being convinced by his team. "I was scared but I believe everything happens for a reason and I'm really happy it worked out," said Sundell. Pereira's 39-year-old brother Alex is one of the most successful fighters in UFC history, having won titles at middleweight and light-heavyweight. In June he attempted to become the first fighter to win a belt in a third division, but lost to heavyweight champion Ciryl Gane. Elsewhere, White responded to Sean Strickland's claim that UFC fighters are not paid enough by pointing to the middleweight champion signing a new contract in May. Last week, Strickland said his "heart isn't in MMA any more" and he would prefer a move to boxing because there is "more money to be made". "When isn't Sean Strickland upset about something or doesn't have something to say?" said White. "Sean Strickland just signed a new contract in May. It is what it is. "If we were in a situation where he'd been under the same contract for a year, two years, but he just signed a contract in May."

"RANABALI" WILL BE A FILM THAT THE TELUGU FILM INDUSTRY WILL BE PROUD OF - HERO VIJAY DEVERAKONDA



Ranabali" is a huge Pan India movie starring Vijay Devarakonda as the hero. This movie is directed by Rahul Sankrityan. Rashmika Mandanna is playing the heroine. Producers Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravishankar are producing the movie "Ranabali" under the banner Mythri Movie Makers under the T Series offering with a huge budget. The film "Ranabali" is getting ready for a world wide grand theatrical release on the occasion of Vijayadashami on 16th of this month. Today, the pre-release event of this film was held in Hyderabad.

Vijay Devarakonda said;

Thanks to all my directors who came to the event today. Worked with some of them. Are you going to do it with others? It is because of good directors like you that I go to the shoot everyday happily. Tirupati Brahmotsavam, Bathukamma festival in Telangana, festivals started in Vijayawada, holidays started for children. There is a festive vibe throughout. Ranbali is coming on 16th of this month to make the Telugu film industry proud. When Rahul wanted to make his next movie a rural periodical action movie, he went to the village and listened to stories, watched fairs and festivals. He learned about the heroes of the fair by listening to the folktales and folktales. He envisioned a movie with a huge background from them. While working on this film, Rahul learned about some hidden chapters in history. Then this Ranbali movie had a great purpose. Had Rahul made a rural mass film or a historical action film with me, it would have been so much fun. Rahul made Ranbali, a period action film that he wanted to say, scripted beautifully without leaving out any element of purpose. Rahul doesn't make films to further his career, he makes films to tell some great stories. Recently, CM Revanth Reddy spoke about the effect of Super El Nino. He asked people to be careful. Super El Nino occurred exactly 150 years ago. That is the Great Madras Famine. Due to the atrocities committed by the British at that time, that great famine caused the death of 80 lakh people.El Niño repeats like a cycle, but we should not see the same suffering as our ancestors. That is why we should be careful not to waste water, electricity and food. The CM said that it is a very important matter. Take care everyone. Our Indians have the guts to move forward no matter how many difficulties they face. We enjoyed the movie Taxiwala a lot. But the release time faced many problems. By then my Nota movie was not playing properly. I wrote a letter saying that I will bounce back. Keeping that promise, I spoke at Taxiwala's success meet.

Naga Chaitanya, Vijay Sethupathi, Dulquer Salmaan Unveil 'Don't Sleep' Teaser



Naga Chaitanya, Vijay Sethupathi, Dulquer Salmaan launch Indra Ram, Sham Dutt, V Chudamani, V Dream Films psychological thriller 'Don't Sleep' edge of the seat teaser 'Don't Sleep' is a movie with a very new story. I am sure it will be a super hit: Hero Indra Ram at the teaser launch event

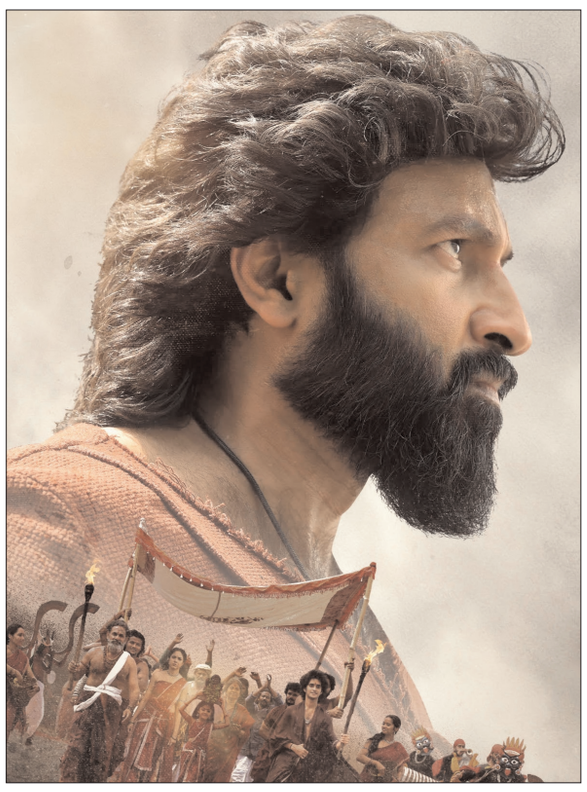
Malayalam director Sham Dutt and young hero Indra Ram's psychological thriller 'Don't Sleep' is gaining interest among the audience. Cinematographer Sham Dutt, who made his directorial debut with the Malayalam-Tamil bilingual thriller 'Street Lights' starring Mammootty, is making his Telugu directorial debut with this film. Indra Ram, who made his debut with the film 'Chaurya Patham', is playing the lead role in this film. Produced by V Chudamani under the banner of V Dream Films, this film is production number 2 for the company.

Naga Chaitanya, Vijay Sethupathi, and Dulquer Salmaan have released the teaser of this film. After marriage, the protagonist's life, who is living a happy and peaceful life, undergoes an unexpected development in the form of a dream. His life turns upside down when one of his dreams starts coming true. A mysterious person who is trying to kill him is constantly chasing him. As his life is in danger, the protagonist has to stay alert and fight to save himself. The film is increasing the suspense with the tagline '"The longer you sleep, the closer he gets.' Director Shamdutt is making this film with a never-before-seen concept. The edge-of-the-seat narrative, captivating voice-over, and unique visual treatment make the teaser even more interesting. Shamdutt has also shown his talent as a cinematographer. He has enhanced the mood and suspense of the film with stunning visuals. The background music provided by Gokul Harshan is increasing the suspense in the scenes and making the audience immerse themselves in the story.

Monica-Ramakrishna, who worked on 'Pushpa: The Rise' and 'Rangasthalam', are in charge of the production design of this film. State award winner Manoj is editing. Sajeer Baba and Luna, who worked on Dulquer Salmaan's 'I Am Game', have provided the story. Indra Ram impressed with his natural acting. Ravindra Vijay made a strong impression in the role of the villain. Especially in the last scene, the diversity in his acting is visible. Taba Reema, Joyita Banerjee, Sunil Thapa, Aadukalam Naren are playing other key roles.

With a unique plot, visuals, and a thrilling narrative, the 'Don't Sleep' teaser is raising expectations for the film. With an innovative concept and high-tech production standards, this film will provide an interesting theatrical experience to the audience.

'BHARATA VARSHA' UNVEILS DIVINE NAVDURGA SONG 'AMMA KADHILI VACCHE' ON NAVARATRI



Welcoming & Worshipping Navdurga In A Spiritually Elevating Song-Amma Kadhili Vacche From T Gopichand, Sankalp, Srinivasaa Chitturi, Srinivasaa Silver Screen's Bharata Varsha

Macho Starr T Gopichand's ambitious historical action epic Bharata Varsha, directed by Sankalp and produced by Srinivasaa Chitturi under Srinivasaa Silver Screen, with Pavan Kumar as presenter, had already captured attention through its visually stunning glimpse, title teaser set in 642 AD, and powerful first song Veera Jayadheera. The second song from T Gopichand's ambitious historical epic Bharata Varsha was released today on the auspicious occasion of Navaratri.

Titled Amma Kadhili Vacche, the song, scored by Anudeep Dev, beautifully captures the grandeur of Goddess Durga's worship and the spiritual fervour surrounding the festivities.

As the title suggests, the song depicts the ceremonial procession of Shoolambha Amma, the revered deity worshiped by the people of the region. The visuals showcase the grand celebrations as devotees bring the goddess in a festive procession, with elaborate rituals performed for the consecration of her idol. The devotion, enthusiasm, and collective joy of the people add to the song's spiritual splendor.

The song also celebrates the nine divine manifestations of Goddess Durga, portraying her various forms, including Shailaputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayani, Kalaratri, Mahagauri, and Siddhidatri. The depiction of the goddess in her fierce, formidable form, resembling an erupting volcano engulfed in flames, stands out as one of the song's most striking visual highlights.

Lyricist Kalyan Chakravarthy Tripuraneni brings out the divine magnificence and fierce power of the goddess through evocative and powerful words. Singer Skanda Veluvali, accompanied by a group of singers, elevates the devotional fervour with his powerful rendition, creating an immersive spiritual experience.

Gopichand and Ritu Varma are featured amid the festivities, while the happiness and devotion reflected on the faces of the people add authenticity and emotional depth to the visuals. The grand presentation, coupled with the vibrant depiction of traditional rituals and divine celebrations, makes Amma Kadhili Vacche a visually captivating and spiritually uplifting song from Bharata Varsha.

A skilled technical team is shaping Bharata Varsha into a visually spectacular period epic. Cinematographer Soundar Rajan lends a striking visual appeal to the film, capturing its vast landscapes. Chinna's detailed production design recreates the world of 7th-century India with meticulous attention to authenticity, while Anudeep Dev's stirring musical score further amplifies the film's epic canvas.

With the production progressing towards completion, Bharata Varsha is steadily building anticipation, promising an immersive cinematic experience rooted in history and presented on a grand scale.

SARA ALI KHAN FLOATS IN IVORY TULLE



Gayatri Bhardwaj Joins Sundeep Kishan's Pan-Indian Film Karikaala, Directed by Shambhala Fame Ugandhar Muni

Sundeep Kishan is playing the lead in Karikaala, an ambitious cinematic venture directed by Shambhala fame Ugandhar Muni and produced by Mahidhar Reddy and Rajasekhar Annabhimoju under the Shining Pictures banner. Following the success of Shambhala, the director and producers are gearing up to create another visual spectacle with this ambitious project.

The makers have planned Karikaala as a two-part film, with the first chapter scheduled for release on July 2, 2027, and the second chapter arriving in theatres on October 28, 2027. The posters unveiled so far have generated considerable buzz and heightened curiosity about the film. Recently, the makers announced that Catherine Tresa and Sakshi Mhadolkar would be part of the project. Now, Gayatri Bhardwaj has joined the cast in a pivotal role. Welcoming her on board, the Karikaala team unveiled a special poster announcing her inclusion in the film. Mounted on a grand scale, Karikaala is envisioned as a pan-Indian spectacle featuring world-class technology, cutting-edge visual effects, spectacular production design, and compelling storytelling. The team is striving to deliver a distinctive socio-fantasy experience for audiences across India. The film's music is being composed by Sricharan Pakala. The grand pooja ceremony for Karikaala is scheduled to take place on October 15, with several prominent personalities expected to attend the auspicious occasion.



HAINDAVA POWER-PACKED MYSTICALLY THRILLING TEASER UNVEILED, THEATRICAL RELEASE ON NOVEMBER 27

Following the blockbuster success of Kishkindhapuri, Action-Hulk Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas is all set to enthral audiences with an intriguing thriller, Haindava. Directed by debutant Ludheer Byreddy and produced by Mahesh Chandu under the Moonshine Pictures banner, the occult thriller is nearing completion with its production, while the post-production work progressing simultaneously. The makers have kick-started the film's promotional activities by unveiling its teaser today.

Set in the village of Rangapuram, the story takes a mysterious turn when all the idols from an ancient temple go missing and a villager is found murdered. Adding another fascinating layer to the mystery, the temple priest believes that all the idols will return within a stipulated timeframe. An atheist police officer is assigned to investigate the unusual case, setting the stage for a compelling clash between faith, reason, and the unexplained.



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