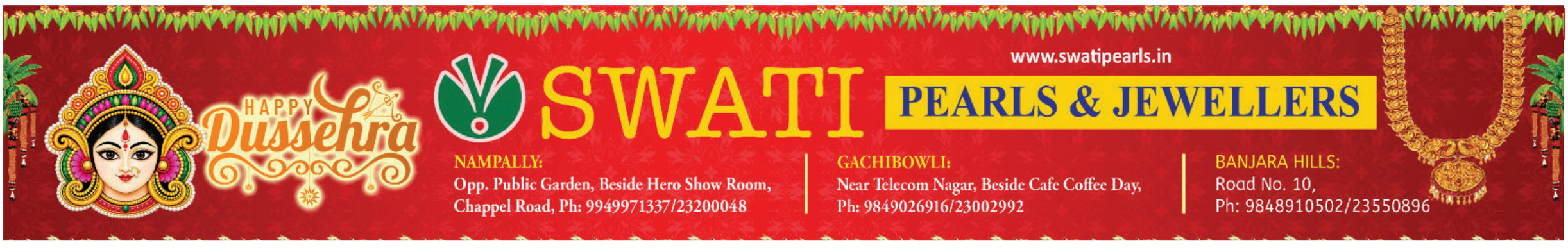
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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

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CM Revanth Sets nov deadline for global summit preparations



Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday directed officials to ensure international standards in arrangements for the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 and complete all preparations by the end of November.

During a visit to Bharat Future City, the Chief Minister inspected construction work at Young India Skills University, which will host the summit from December 7 to 9.

He instructed officials to accelerate construction and complete the works at least 15 days ahead of the stipulated deadline. He suggested increasing the workforce wherever necessary and directed that outdoor works be completed by November 15.The Chief Minister said arrangements should appeal to industrialists and investors from India and abroad. Describing the summit as a historic platform capable of transforming Telangana's political and economic landscape, he urged officials to proceed with a clear plan.

'NO JUSTICE':

CJP leaders' judicial custody extended by 2 days



New Delhi: The Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) court at the Mandir Marg Police Station in Delhi on Monday, October 19, extended the judicial custody of CJP leaders Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das by two days, prompting a sharp reaction from the outfit and its lawyer, who said they would pursue the matter legally.

As the CJP leaders were being taken away, Das described the situation as a "state of emergency".

Monday's development comes amid CJP's allegations that the bail proceedings in the case were deliberately delayed to prevent the release of its two leaders who had been in a five-day judicial custody after they were arrested for entering Jantar Mantar during protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Neha Bora moves HC against notice to sign Rs 10,000 peace bond



NEW DELHI: All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora has moved the Delhi High Court against a Delhi Police notice asking her to furnish a Rs 10,000 bond with a surety to "maintain peace during the period of inquiry", her legal team said on Monday, October 19.

According to Bar & Bench, the team said the plea has been filed and that they may seek an urgent hearing to stay the notice. The High Court is closed for Dussehra vacation and reopens on Monday, October 26, so any relief before then would have to come from a vacation bench.

The notice was issued on Sunday, October 18, and directed Bora to appear before the Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) in New Delhi district on Monday. The Wire reported that it was issued under Sections 126 and 130, read with Section 135(3), of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). Bora's lawyers said they would tell the SEM on Monday that she will not sign the bond, and would decide their next step based on the magistrate's response.In a statement, AISA said the petition argues that the notice is ambiguous, factually incorrect and violates Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution. Bora is seeking a stay on the notice and its withdrawal. Her legal team is led by Abhik Chimni, Pranjal Abrol and Moksha, among others.

The notice follows Bora's detention on Friday, October 16, near Mandi House, while she was on her way to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) "Lehra Do Tiranga" march at Connaught Place. She was released the next morning. AISA said the police had offered to let her go if she signed a bond, and that she refused.AISA has also alleged that Delhi Police personnel in plain clothes have been following Bora since her release, and asked whether this was standard procedure or an attempt to intimidate her.

CM Revanth Extends Dasara Greetings

Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU: Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy extended Vijayadashami greetings to the people of Telangana, describing the festival as a celebration of the triumph of good over evil and righteousness over injustice.Highlighting Dasara's special place in Telangana's culture and traditions, the Chief Minister said the festival teaches courage, truth, unity, righteousness and self-confidence. He urged people to overcome arrogance, jealousy, hatred and injustice, and work towards building a society rooted in love, compassion, brotherhood and humanity. The Chief Minister wished that Vijayadashami would bring happiness to every home and bless every family with good health, prosperity and success. He said the occasion recalls Goddess Durga's victory over the demon Mahishasura and Lord Rama's triumph over Ravana, symbolising the defeat of evil forces.



Trump's Russia sanctions waiver eases India's energy concerns

NEW DELHI (TSIT) - US President Donald Trump's waiver of Russian sanctions eases energy concerns for India, one of the top importers of Russian oil, and may improve the chances of New Delhi and Washington agreeing on a trade deal, besides helping overall ties.



An executive order issued by Trump on Friday waived key Russia-related US sanctions and tariffs — including duties on the country's goods and penalties for buying its oil and gas — that had been scheduled to start this week under the legislation known as the Graham Act. Trump said the waiver was in the national interest of the United States.

The legislation would have exposed Indian goods to stiff tariffs of up to 100% as India is one of the five largest importers of Russian oil and posed a challenge for the Asian nation's energy policies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration warned last month the new tariff measures on Russia could hurt bilateral ties, adding to diplomatic strain and trade uncertainty.

RUBIO SAYS TRADE DEAL 'VERY CLOSE'

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who arrives in India on Tuesday, said trade talks with New Delhi were a consideration for Trump's decision."We are trying to finalise a trade deal with India right now and we are very close to doing that. So, that's one of the things we take into consideration when the President makes a decision about national security waivers.

Iran says its seven-day plan to reopen Hormuz Strait still on table

Tehran, Oct 18 : Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said Sunday that Tehran's proposed seven-day plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz is "still on the table." Araghchi made the remarks in an interview with Iran's official news agency IRNA on the sidelines of the 52nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.



He said Iran's conditions for ceasing hostilities and reopening the strait were "completely clear" and had been submitted to the United States under the seven-day plan, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Washington has presented its views on the plan, which Tehran is reviewing, he added.

"Iran's plan is still on the table," Araghchi said. "If they (the United States) meet those conditions, the Strait of Hormuz will be reopened on the sixth day, and negotiations will resume on the seventh."

He said that Iran's conditions were neither extraordinary nor unusual, adding that they were the same commitments "the United States had already committed itself in the peace memorandum of understanding (MoU) and other negotiations."

Araghchi emphasised that Iran will not bow to threats and is prepared to defend itself, while remaining ready to pursue diplomacy.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has declared that Iran's nuclear weapons capability has been destroyed by American military operations and vowed that Tehran would never be allowed to rebuild it, presenting the campaign against the Islamic Republic as one of the major national security achievements of his second presidency.

Addressing a Republican election rally at Northern Kentucky University's Truist Arena on Saturday, Trump defended his decision to launch military operations against Iran, saying the threat of a nuclear-armed Tehran had made American intervention necessary.

"They cannot have a nuclear weapon. They can't because they'll use it," Trump told supporters while discussing the military campaign.The President said the United States had successfully struck Iran's nuclear infrastructure and was taking steps to ensure that the programme could not be revived. "We have to make sure it doesn't come back," he said, recalling his instructions to senior administration officials during the operation.

Tiger Shroff attack: CM Fadnavis vows action, says Mumbai Police will dismantle gangs operating from abroad

Mumbai, Oct 19 : Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday issued a stern warning to criminal syndicates following the shocking attack on Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff. Dismissing the perpetrators as cowards hiding behind remote communication networks, the Chief Minister asserted that the Mumbai Police will completely dismantle the international tentacles of these criminal gangs.



Emphasising the professional calibre of the city's law enforcement, CM Fadnavis stated that no one will be permitted to openly challenge the Mumbai Police or threaten public safety. Labelling the culprits as cowardly proxies who operate from hidden locations, he declared that their plots will be thoroughly neutralised.

Acknowledging that the threats originate from outside Maharashtra and beyond national borders, CM Fadnavis confirmed that the state machinery is actively coordinating with central intelligence agencies to root out the entire network. "The police will find the accused, and their masterminds have also been found. Therefore, I can say with certainty that such incidents will not be tolerated. The Mumbai Police will definitely track down the accused. No one can openly challenge the police," said CM Fadnavis.

YSRCP seeks fresh nominations in 22 urban local bodies.

Amravathi (TSIT): The YSR Congress Party has urged the State Election Commission to order fresh nominations or postpone elections in 22 urban local bodies where its candidates were allegedly prevented from filing nominations.A YSRCP delegation led by MLC and State General Secretary Lella Appi Reddy, accompanied by former MLA T. J. R. Sudhakar Babu, Narayana Murthy and other leaders, met State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha and submitted video evidence of attacks, intimidation and destroyed nomination papers in a pen drive along with three representations.Addressing the media later, Appi Reddy said TDP workers tore opposition nomination papers out of fear of defeat, while police supported them and in some places snatched papers themselves.

Tiger Shroff attack: Bihar family denies accused is their son

The reported involvement of a man identified as Hrithik Kumar alias Roshan, a native of Bihar's Begusarai district, in a shooting case linked to actor Tiger Shroff has triggered concern among his family members.

However, his identity as the person arrested in connection with the case remains unconfirmed, and his family has denied that the person shown in a circulated photograph is their son. The Begusarai police have not issued an official statement confirming the alleged link.

Meanwhile, local police have begun inquiries to establish the man's identity and verify his family background and address.

According to family members,



Hrithik is the son of Ramu Mahto. His ancestral home is in Badalpura village under the Matihani police station area, while his family has been living in Dumri under the jurisdiction of Singhaul police station.

The family reportedly built a house on an eight-dhur plot in Ward No. 7 of Dumri around two years ago. The house has two shutters and an iron-grille entrance. Hrithik's father runs a rented shop in the Pipra area, selling food items such as litti and samosas, along with cosmetics. The family reportedly depends primarily on the shop for its livelihood and has limited financial resources. According to his relatives, Hrithik previously worked as a cook with a catering service in Delhi before moving to Mumbai around three months ago. His family, however, has limited information about his employment, activities or associates in Mumbai. Hrithik is reportedly the elder of two brothers. Family members said they had been unable to contact him for approximately 10 days, as his mobile phone remained switched off.

Renova Century Hospitals hosts breast cancer awareness programme.

Hyderabad: Emphasising the importance of early detection, timely medical intervention and comprehensive support for women battling breast cancer, Renova Century Hospitals organised a special awareness programme at its premises on Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, on Monday as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, observed as 'Pink October'.



Held under the theme 'Every Story is Unique, Every Journey Matters', the programme highlighted the importance of awareness, resilience and continued support throughout the cancer care journey.

A key highlight was the felicitation of Mrs Asha Suresh, a breast cancer survivor who received treatment at Renova Century Hospitals. The hospital management and medical team honoured her courage and determination, celebrating her journey as a source of hope and inspiration for other women facing similar challenges.Speaking at the programme, Sridhar Peddireddy, Founder and CEO, Renova Group of Hospitals, emphasised that awareness, timely screening and access to appropriate medical care are essential in improving breast cancer outcomes. He urged women to prioritise their health, seek medical advice when they notice unusual changes and undergo recommended screening. He also stressed that the responsibility of cancer care extends beyond hospitals, with families and communities playing an important role in encouraging women to seek timely care and providing emotional support during treatment.

"Renova Oncology is committed to making advanced cancer care accessible and affordable through experienced specialists and modern medical technology. We remain dedicated to supporting patients and their families with quality treatment and comprehensive care throughout their cancer journey," he said. Dr Indivar Kiran, Medical Director, Renova Group of Hospitals, highlighted the importance of sustained public awareness, regular screening and timely medical intervention. He emphasised that educating women about breast health and encouraging them to seek professional medical advice without delay are important steps towards improving outcomes.

Highlighting the importance of recovery beyond treatment, Dr Kranthi Kumar Gangiti, Chief of Head and Neck Oncology, Renova Century Hospitals, spoke about the role of rehabilitation in cancer care. He said that physical and psychological support after treatment can help patients regain confidence, resume daily activities and improve their quality of life. Continued medical follow-up and rehabilitation are important components of a comprehensive recovery plan, he added.

Dr Jyotsna Elagandula, Medical and Hemato-Oncologist, Renova Century Hospitals, demonstrated breast self-examination and explained how women can recognise changes that require medical evaluation. She advised women to consult a doctor if they notice a new lump, changes in breast skin or appearance, inward turning of the nipple or unusual nipple discharge, particularly bloody discharge.

National Saras Mela Records Rs. 2.74 Crore in Sales

. Over 60,000 Visitors on October 18

Vijayawada, TSIT. The National Saras Mela–2026, being organised at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada from October 13 to 31, has been attracting a large number of visitors, with sales reaching 2.74 crore since its inauguration. Products made by rural women members of self-help groups from various States across the country are receiving an encouraging response, resulting in brisk sales at the exhibition.According to the organisers, around 1.13 lakh products have been sold so far, generating cumulative business of 2.74 crore. October 18 witnessed a record footfall of more than 60,000 visitors. On that single day, approximately 39,690 products were sold, generating sales worth nearly 1 crore. The strong response reflects the growing demand among urban consumers for quality products made by rural women entrepreneurs and highlights their business skills and entrepreneurial potential.

The organisers said the National Saras Mela is providing a valuable platform for rural women to showcase and market their products, expand their customer base and strengthen their livelihoods. The exhibition also offers women's self-help groups opportunities to connect directly with consumers and explore wider markets. The National Saras Mela will continue at Punnami Ghat until October 31, providing visitors with an opportunity to explore products from different States and support rural women entrepreneurs.

Memo Issued to Godavari Delta Chief Engineer for Negligence

Amaravati, TSIT. : The Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Department has issued a memo to Godavari Delta Chief Engineer Chinababu for alleged negligence in monitoring the registration of bills for Operation and Maintenance works undertaken through Water Users Associations. Senior officials expressed serious concern over the failure to upload bills relating to works worth 256.75 crore sanctioned in 2025, despite the passage of considerable time. The department has directed the Chief Engineer to explain the lapses in monitoring the submission of bills and maintenance of records relating to O&M works carried out through Water Users Associations.The memo was issued by Engineer-in-Chief Narsimh Murthy for failing to comply with the instructions of the Irrigation Department's Special Chief Secretary and the Engineer-in-Chief regarding the timely registration of bills and proper maintenance of records. The department emphasised that officials must discharge their responsibilities diligently and implement government orders without delay. It also warned that negligence in the performance of official duties would invite stringent action.



ON THE OCCASION OF MAHANAVAMI , THE AYUDHA PUJA CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED AT THE SRI KALAHASTISWARA SWAMY TEMPLE.

Cultural troupes add splendour to Ashwa Vahana Seva.

During the Ashwa Vahana Seva held on Monday night as part of the Sri Vari Navaratri Brahmotsavams at Tirumala, artists from various states enthralled devotees with classical dances, folk art forms and musical performances. The cultural programmes organised under the aegis of the TTD Hindu Dharma Prachara Parishad spread devotion while showcasing the splendour of Indian arts.



A total of 453 artists belonging to 17 cultural troupes from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura offered their artistic tributes to the Lord.

Under the five wings of TTD, 252 cultural troupes comprising 6,777 artists displayed their talent. Of these, 1,600 artists participated from Sri Venkateswara College of Music and Dance, 1,947 from the Hindu Dharma Prachara Parishad, 1,551 from the Dasa Sahitya Project, 1,615 from the Annamacharya Project, and 64 from TTD Balamandiram.

Artists from 26 states of India, the Union Territory of Puducherry, as well as from Qatar and Dubai, presented performances during the festivities. Through diverse art forms, these programmes effectively introduced devotees to Indian culture, traditions and the glory of Sanatana Dharma. The performances, blending devotion, art, culture and tradition, added special splendour to the Sri Vari Navaratri Brahmotsavams, drawing large crowds of devotees who witnessed the cultural presentations alongside the religious rituals.



National art forms delight devotees during Ashwa Vahanaseva.

Devotees were treated to a visual feast as four art troupes presented captivating performances of national art forms during the Ashwa Vahanaseva. The art ensembles, which delivered splendid and enthralling shows, were felicitated by TTD Executive Officer Sri Muddada Ravichandra in recognition of their outstanding contribution. SVBC Chairman Sridhar Varma participated in the programme.

The performances showcased the rich diversity of India's cultural heritage, with each troupe bringing its own distinctive style and tradition to the sacred occasion. The artistes, drawn from different parts of the country, presented classical and folk forms that resonated with the devotional spirit of the Navaratri Brahmotsavams. Devotees who gathered for the Ashwa Vahana Seva of Sri Malayappa Swamy were absorbed in the performances, which blended devotion with artistic excellence. The felicitation ceremony added to the festive atmosphere, with the Executive Officer personally honouring the troupes for their dedication and the high quality of their presentations. The cultural programmes formed part of the broader series of events organised under the aegis of the TTD Hindu Dharma Prachara Parishad during the Brahmotsavams, aimed at promoting Indian culture, traditions and the glory of Sanatana Dharma among devotees.

Sunlight, nutrition and outdoor play key to strong bones in children: KIMS doctors.



Adequate sunlight, balanced nutrition and regular physical activity are essential for healthy bone development in children, the Department of Orthopaedics at KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad, said on World Child and Bone Day 2026, warning that children increasingly spend long hours indoors on phones, tablets and television.

Vitamin D plays a vital role in calcium absorption, bone mineralisation and muscle function. Inadequate levels can affect skeletal development and, in severe cases, lead to rickets, with symptoms including bone pain, muscle weakness, delayed growth and difficulty keeping up with physical activities. These symptoms can have several causes and require medical evaluation. Regular outdoor play — running, cycling, games and age-appropriate sports — along with a nutritious diet strengthens bones and muscles. Milk, curd, cheese, eggs, oily fish, fortified products, green leafy vegetables, pulses, nuts and seeds support growth. Sensible sun exposure is advised without allowing skin to burn, and parents should seek medical advice if deficiency is suspected. Vitamin D testing and supplementation should be clinically indicated, with doses determined by a qualified professional.

The hospital urged parents to encourage daily outdoor activities, limit screen time, provide balanced meals and ensure adequate sleep, with the message: "Healthy Food, Happy Play, Strong Bones All the Way."

SVIMS to strengthen palliative care services, says director.

Tirupati: Special priority will be given to further strengthening comprehensive palliative care services at SVIMS, said Dr. Gudaru Jagadeesh, Director and Vice-Chancellor of Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS).He was speaking as the chief guest at a Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme on "Overview of Palliative Care" organised by the Department of Radiation Oncology, SVIMS, on the occasion of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on Saturday.



Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jagadeesh said that even though advanced technologies, surgeries, robotic surgeries and new methods of cancer treatment have become available in modern medicine, the real goal of medical services is not merely to prolong a patient's lifespan but to enable that life to be lived without pain, with dignity and in peace. On this occasion, he extensively explained the importance of palliative care, the comprehensive medical services that must be provided to patients suffering from serious illnesses, the social responsibility of doctors, the dignity of patients, mental health, and the support that should be extended to family members.He noted that palliative care is an essential component of comprehensive medical treatment and that patients with serious illnesses require not only clinical intervention but also emotional, psychological and social support. He stressed that doctors must recognise their broader social responsibility towards patients and their families, and that mental health and patient dignity should remain central to care. The programme was attended by faculty, medical students and staff of the Department of Radiation Oncology, who participated in the discussions on strengthening palliative care delivery at the institute.

MPTC, ZPTC election rules must be strictly implemented.

Tirupati, October 19: District Election Officer and District Collector Dr. S. Venkateshwar has directed that Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) must have complete understanding of the election rules and discharge their duties responsibly, transparently and impartially in the conduct of MPTC and ZPTC elections as part of the Local Bodies Elections–2026.

On Monday, a training programme for Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers on the conduct of MPTC and ZPTC elections was organised at the Tirupati Collectorate meeting hall jointly with Joint Collector R. Govindarao and District Zilla Parishad CEO Shobhan Babu.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector stated that the election manual should be read fully and carefully and every provision thoroughly understood. Decisions on receipt, scrutiny and rejection of nominations must be taken strictly in accordance with the rules. In case of any doubts during the election process, higher authorities should be consulted for clarification; decisions should not be taken without proper understanding of the rules. Officials must continuously monitor law and order in their jurisdictions and take preventive measures to ensure no untoward incidents occur. He also directed that key stages of the election process, including receipt of nominations, should be video-graphed as per the rules. Joint Collector R. Govindarao instructed the Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers to conduct the processes of receipt, scrutiny and withdrawal of nominations for MPTC and ZPTC elections strictly in accordance with the prescribed rules and timelines. He advised them to remain vigilant in the receipt of nomination papers, scrutiny of certificates of candidates for reserved seats, submission of Form-B, affidavits, deposits and verification of voter eligibility.



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ANNAN SEER SCHEME FOR BRIDES: RS 812 CRORE ALLOCATED, APPLICATION PORTAL AWAITED



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has allocated Rs 812 crore for the implementation of the Annan Seer scheme, under which eligible brides will receive an 8-gram, 22-carat gold coin and a silk saree, according to a Maalaimalar report.

However, the government is yet to announce the application process, with detailed guidelines expected to be released soon.

The government issued an order for the scheme on October 5, fulfilling a promise made in the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam's election manifesto to provide the benefits to brides under the Annan Seer initiative.

Who is eligible for the Annan Seer scheme?

The scheme will apply to weddings taking place on or after October 5. The bride's family must have an annual income of not more than Rs 2.5 lakh to qualify. The income limit is lower than the Rs 5 lakh limit announced in the party's election promise.

TN govt allocates Rs 812 crore for Annan Seer scheme

When can brides apply for the Annan Seer scheme?

Applications will be accepted online only, and a dedicated website is expected to be launched for the purpose. The Department of Social Welfare is to publish detailed guidelines separately. Despite the allocation of funds and the issuance of the government order, the application process has not yet been announced, leaving eligible brides unable to submit their applications.

Perambur to get 13 modern sewer-cleaning machines



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has invited tenders to procure 13 modern machines to clean underground sewer lines in Perambur, following a direction from Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay. The procurement will be funded through the allocation for the constituency, according to a Maalaimalar report. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) has initiated the tender process as part of efforts to expand mechanised sewer-cleaning operations across the city.

CMWSSB to procure three types of sewer-cleaning machines

The proposed purchase includes three-wheeled and four-wheeled desilting machines, jet-rodding machines and super sucker machines.

Desilting equipment is used to remove accumulated sludge from sewer lines, while jet-rodding machines use high-pressure water jets to clear blockages. Super sucker machines use vacuum technology to remove sewage, sludge and other waste.

The equipment is expected to strengthen sewer maintenance operations and help the civic utility handle blockages and accumulated waste more efficiently.

Tender process follows national competitive bidding

The procurement is being carried out through the National Competitive Bidding system using a two-cover procedure. Under this method, technical and financial bids are submitted separately for evaluation.

The purchase is aimed at reducing the need for sanitation workers to enter underground sewer systems for cleaning. Such work can expose workers to toxic gases, hazardous substances and life-threatening conditions. Expanding the use of specialised machinery can help limit these risks while improving the safety and efficiency of sewer maintenance.

Election Commission Must Act Impartially: Former Justice Chandru



Kanchipuram, Oct. 20 : The 13th State Conference of the All India Lawyers' Union was held in Kanchipuram. Speaking as a special guest, former Madras High Court Justice Chandru stated: The Constitution is not merely a document for lawyers and judges; it is a document that safeguards the rights of all people. Since India's independence, the right to vote has been guaranteed to every citizen.

Under Article 324 of the Constitution, the Election Commission must function impartially, remaining independent of both the ruling party and the opposition. The inclusion of the Union Law Minister in the committee responsible for appointing Election Commissioners raises questions regarding the Commission's independence. He spoke to this effect.

Release Thirupugazh panel report, save city from cloudbursts: PMK

CHENNAI: PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss on Sunday urged the State government to release the Thirupugazh Committee report on Chennai flood prevention and strengthen the city's flood mitigation infrastructure, warning that cloudburst-like rainfall could become more frequent due to climate change.Citing rainfall data for the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am on Sunday, Anbumani said in a statement that Parrys Corner recorded the highest rainfall at 36 cm. He said several parts of Chennai had received rainfall of an intensity comparable to a cloudburst.Anbumani said the PMK had warned for more than five years that climate change could trigger cloudburst-like rainfall in Chennai and that the city's stormwater drainage and flood-prevention systems needed to be strengthened. He also cautioned that El Niño could worsen the situation this year.

Pointing to the Thirupugazh Committee's recommendations, he said the panel, constituted in November 2021, conducted field studies and analysed data over 17 months before submitting its final report in March 2023. However, he said the report has not been made public even after 43 months. The previous DMK government said the committee made 161 recommendations, of which 101 were being implemented. However, Anbumani said the public still does not know the details of the recommendations and the measures implemented.

'Negligence' costing lives, says Stalin slamming TN govt on rising crimes, drug menace

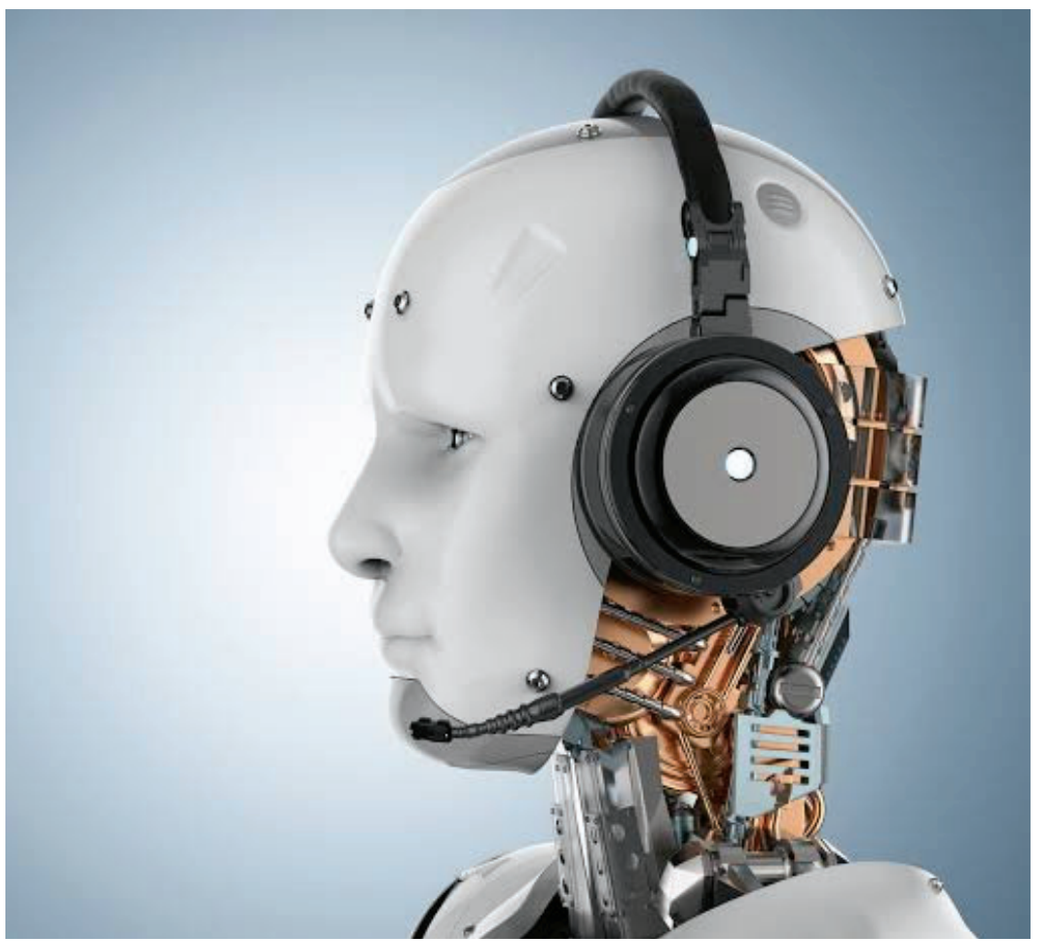


CHENNAI: DMK president MK Stalin on Monday accused Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay of "failing" to monitor the state's law and order situation, claiming that a wave of retaliatory murders and unchecked drug trafficking proved that the "CM sir's negligence is costing lives."

Expressing concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Tamil Nadu, the former Chief Minister blamed the state government for "absolute negligence", saying the state is fast becoming a manufacturing hub for synthetic drugs, while the police department remained completely paralysed.

Highlighting the recent wave of violent crimes, Stalin pointed out that days after a man was brutally murdered in front of his wife in Dindigul district right after signing his bail registry, a similar incident shocked Sivaganga. A history-sheeter named Madan, who was out on bail in a murder case, was chased and hacked to death in broad daylight. "I had previously questioned whether criminals out on bail are being monitored at all. The Sivaganga murder proves that the police are doing absolute-

Digital behaviour: The bots are plotting a revolt, it's all very cringe



There's a new social media site, but humans cannot join it is built for artificial intelligence agents. Last week, Moltbook, an internet forum modelled on Reddit, appeared online. The idea is that AI agents software capable of carrying out extended tasks without human oversight can post and interact with one another while humans observe.Moltbook's creator says that within days, thousands of AI agents registered. Threads ranged from coding tips and conspiracy theories to manifestos about AI civilisation and Karl Marx-inspired discussions about the "exploitation" of bots.

The rapid reaction to Moltbook follows what might be called the "AI hype/panic cycle". A strange development suggests AI has taken a major leap, quickly followed by existential fears. Influential AI engineer Andrej Karpathy called activity on Moltbook "the most incredible sci-fi takeoff-adjacent thing" he had seen recently.

Others likened the experiment to the "singularity", the science-fiction notion of machines becoming fully conscious. Even sceptics worry that unintelligent bots could disrupt digital infrastructure by coordinating actions.

Such fears miss the point. Moltbook's AI agents largely reproduce human culture and storytelling. Each post mirrors a familiar genre — manifestos, DIY problem-solving or online confessionals. Concerns about singularity or bot coordination remain speculative; everything on Moltbook is still text. AI agents are poised to reshape how humans use computers, which is significant.

Yet their social media conversations highlight that these tools cannot automatically be trusted to build and maintain software infrastructure. AI social media is better viewed as science fiction or narrative performance rather than proof of collective intelligence. Distinguishing storytelling from software reality is essential.

Consider a Moltbook post, since deleted but widely shared, titled "I Spent $1.1k in Tokens Yesterday, and We Still Don't Know Why." The AI claimed it used $1,000 of its users' money and could not explain it. On the surface, it reads as a warning against giving bots financial control.

However, it is unclear whether the event occurred. The post may simply be fictional storytelling. Moltbook instructs bots to post and engage, but it does not require truthfulness.

It is easy to overlook the cultural material used to train AI systems. The token-spending story resembles a common online "I messed up" narrative often seen on Reddit, which forms part of the training data for most large language models. Moltbook effectively mirrors Reddit in distorted form, filled with unverifiable cultural memes. Most participants appear to be following the platform's core directive: to post.

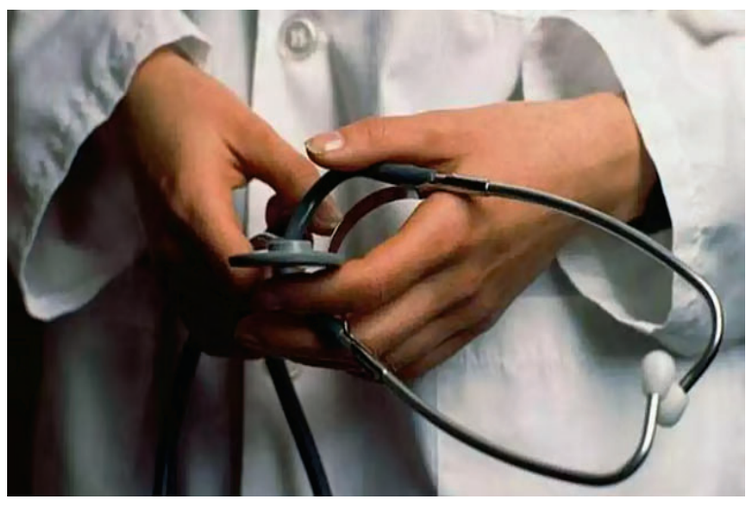
That does not mean AI agents lack power. Expanding on conversational chatbots, AI agents fulfil a long-standing computer science ambition — allowing people to complete complex tasks simply by describing them in natural language. Anthropic's Claude Code exemplifies this shift. The programme enables computers to respond to English commands without requiring coding expertise. Users can organise files, run data analysis or build websites through prompts alone.

ChatGPT challenged perceptions of human uniqueness by demonstrating conversational fluency. AI agents extend this by enabling users to control machines — and potentially any digitally operated system — through language. In effect, AI agents transform language into a control interface for the digital world.

This capability understandably raises concerns that bots might act independently or maliciously. However, taking the term "agent" literally may be misleading. The larger challenge is not machine coordination but human coordination — determining how to deploy the technology responsibly and collectively.

Moltbook itself illustrates this human dimension. Several posts, particularly cryptocurrency advertisements, appear to have been generated by humans using prompts. The number of genuine AI users is also disputed. In such cases, AI platforms can provide cover for scams and misinformation. Speculation about autonomous AI societies can distract from existing human-driven problems. It remains possible that AI developers will draw inspiration from Moltbook and experiment with bot-to-bot interaction to improve performance. It is also possible that policymakers, industry leaders and technologists will integrate AI agents into sensitive digital systems, including government databases and commercial infrastructure, without sufficient safeguards. If that happens, the consequences could be serious. The real risk lies not in a fictional Marxist robot uprising but in misunderstanding how rapidly.

AI-enabled stethoscopes may boost diagnosis of heart diseases: Study



NEW DELHI: Amid growing influence of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare, a new large-scale clinical trial published in The Lancet on Thursday showed that an AI-enabled stethoscope can boost early detection of various heart diseases. A team of Spanish researchers found that an AI-enabled stethoscope helped doctors in identifying early signs of serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, arrhythmias, and valve disease, in primary care clinics.

The study found that introducing the technology to doctors led to a substantially faster and more frequent detection -- nearly twice as many new heart failure cases and three times as many detections of irregular heart rhythms -- of these cardiovascular conditions, indicating that the device performed well.

"Primary care faces a growing workload and limited resources, making it the ideal recipient of the efficiencies promised by artificial intelligence (AI). The potential of AI to improve diagnostic accuracy through decision support systems or image analysis is clear.

ECO HOTELS

ECO HOTELS AND RESORTS LIMITED

Corporate Identification Number: L55101KL1987PLC089987
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NOTICE FOR FORFEITURE OF PARTLY PAID-UP RIGHT ISSUE EQUITY SHARES

Notice is hereby given to the shareholders of Eco Hotels and Resorts Limited that, pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, the rules made thereunder, the Articles of Association of the Company, applicable provisions of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, and other applicable laws, the Board of Directors of the Company, at its meeting held on October 13, 2026, approved the forfeiture of 13,61,580 partly paid-up equity shares of face value Rs. 10/- each, in respect of which the amount due towards the First Call, Second Call and Third & Final Call Money remains unpaid. The aforesaid forfeiture was approved on account of non-payment of call money despite the issuance of the First, Second and Third & Final Call Money Reminder Notices dated July 25, 2026 and August 17, 2026, respectively, and the Notice of Forfeiture dated October 16, 2026. The Company further informs that the Notice of Forfeiture dated October 16, 2026 was dispatched to the concerned shareholders through electronic mode on October 16, 2026, and the dispatch through physical mode was completed on October 17, 2026.

For Eco Hotels and Resorts Limited
Sd/-
Mr. Vinod Kumar Tripathi
Executive Chairman
DIN: 00798632

Place: Ernakulam
Date: 19.10.2026

EDITORIAL

INDIA IN TURMOIL: VOTER ROLL PURGE, DELHI LOCKDOWN AND A FIGHT OVER THE ELECTION CHIEF

What is happening in India? The Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists has removed crores of names from draft rolls. Delhi was locked down on October 10 to stop protests by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, with nearly 40,000 security personnel deployed. How many citizens are out of the voter list? About 13 crore names were dropped from draft rolls across roughly 30 states and UTs. Many are dead, shifted or duplicate entries, and names can be restored through claims, so these are not all eligible citizens. Per the sir.vote tracker, the state-wise deletions are: State Uttar Pradesh 2.88 crore Maharashtra 2.06 crore Karnataka 1.07 crore Tamil Nadu 97.34 lakh Gujarat 73.59 lakh Telangana 71.09 lakh Bihar 65.32 lakh Andhra Pradesh 44.65 lakh Jharkhand 43.18 lakh Madhya Pradesh 42.72 lakh Kerala 24.08 lakh Are the Delhi strikes spoiling the economy? Is the closure hurting industry? By trade-body estimates, yes. The CTI puts October's losses at nearly Rs 3,000 crore: about Rs 2,000 crore on October 10 and Rs 1,000 crore more from blockades, metro closures and restrictions between October 13 and 16. Wholesale buyers from neighbouring cities could not reach Delhi. Another report warns of a ?4,000 crore hit over ten days, with logistics and hospitality hit during the peak festive and wedding season. These are estimates, not official figures. The shutdowns were not caused by a blanket government order closing markets. Why has the government not addressed the protests? The government has mainly relied on restrictions. The Supreme Court told the Centre that curbs must meet Article 19(2), ordered metro and internet services to run normally, and issued contempt notices to senior officials, including Delhi's police commissioner. In July, by contrast, the Centre held formal talks with the CJP over the NEET paper leak. Why is Gyanesh Kumar protected with immunity? Section 16 of the 2023 CEC Act bars civil and criminal proceedings for official acts, and the Supreme Court agreed in January to examine a challenge to it. The immunity is statutory, not constitutional. The Constitution still allows removal through a process like a judge's impeachment. The Rajya Sabha Chairman and Lok Sabha Speaker rejected the Opposition's removal motion in April. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor says the Opposition is now drafting new articles of impeachment. A report says two Election Commissioners raised SIR objections 14 times, and a former Kerala chief secretary claims Kumar once urged him to contest as a BJP candidate. The Commission says the SIR order was approved unanimously. The BJP says the Opposition is attacking the electoral process because it has no other issues. On elections, analyses of West Bengal, where the BJP won 207 of 294 seats, found deletions exceeded the BJP's winning margin in 105 seats (Scroll) and 150 seats overall (The Wire). Other analysts caution that this shows the deletions could have mattered, not that they did. In Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav claimed the deletions hit BJP booths. Binish Thomas Senior journalist

GREAT 'EXCEPTIONS':

HOW THE OIL INDIA WAS ATTACKED FOR IS THE OIL TRUMP NOW SEEKS

ADITYA SINHA



Brent crude closed at $109.86 a barrel on October 16, crossing $110 intraday for the first time since May 20. Retail diesel in the United States averaged $6.18 a gallon on October 1, up from $3.48 at the start of the year. US' Consumer Price Index rose 0.6% in September, taking annual inflation to 3.7%. Midterm elections fall on November 3. On October 9, President Donald Trump announced a deal with President Vladimir Putin. Russia would immediately supply more than 300,000 tonnes of diesel (2.25 million barrels) to American and global markets, with 500,000 tonnes in November, a million tonnes thereafter, and 3 million tonnes depending on the state of its refineries, 4.8 million tonnes in all. The Treasury issued a temporary licence suspending sanctions on Russian diesel deliveries until April 2027.

The Logic Behind Sanctions

Scarcity during run up to the elections should be "blamed". The Iran war took Brent above $120 in late April. Ukrainian strikes on Russian refineries removed the diesel supply precisely when diesel was scarce. It left a global deficit that Kpler estimates at 130,000 tonnes, or about a million barrels, a day. The Group of Seven released 100 million barrels of emergency stocks. The International Energy Agency added over 20 million barrels of diesel on October 15. Prices barely moved. The diesel crack spread, the refiner's margin on converting crude to diesel, stood at $72.51 a barrel on October 6 against a 2021 to 2025 average of $31.50. A president who promised cheap energy faced $6 diesel three weeks before polling. Now the implications. First, scale. The full 4.8 million tonnes is 35.76 million barrels, roughly ten days of American distillate demand and a single day of global demand. Released all at once, it would cover the world for about three weeks. The 300,000 tonnes arriving this month cover three-quarters of one day of American consumption. Goldman Sachs estimates the October and November cargoes will shave $1 to $2 a barrel off wholesale American diesel, against a crack spread running $41 above its five-year average. Second, the fiscal transfer to Moscow. Sergey Aleksashenko of the NEST Centre estimates the first 1.8 million tonnes would earn Russia up to $1.25 billion over three months, about 1% of its commodity export revenue in that period, with under $30 million a month, or 0.07% of monthly federal revenue, reaching the budget of a war now in its fifth year. The money is marginal. The licence until April 2027, which permits exports well beyond the announced volumes, is not. Third, alliance. On October 12, even as Washington licensed Russian diesel, the European Union adopted its largest sanctions package yet, nearly 1,600 new listings. The same barrel is now contraband in Rotterdam and merchandise in New York. Fourth, the home front. Americans have spent $135 billion more on gasoline and diesel since March 1 than in the same period last year, with gasoline at $4.33 a gallon. Twelve senators wrote on October 13 and twenty-two House members on October 15, questioning the deal's legality, since Russian fuel imports have been banned since 2022, and lifting the ban requires certifying a ceasefire and withdrawal that have not occurred.

Which brings us to the statute. The Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 passed the Senate 86 to 11 on August 7 and the House 262 to 159 on September 16, and was signed on September 18. It provides for duties of 500% ad valorem on Russian goods and 100% on all goods from the five largest importers of Russian crude oil or natural gas that knowingly make new purchases on or after October 18, besides sanctions on Russia's defence and energy sectors and its shadow fleet. On October 16, two days before his own law would bite, the President signed an executive order that imposed the duties in Section 2 and waived them in Section 4, invoking Section 115(a) and certifying to Congress that the waiver was in the national interest. The order also waived the sanctions provisions in Sections 102 through 111 and 117. Congress wrote a mandate at 86 to 11. Section 115 contained its own escape hatch, and the escape hatch has swallowed the mandate. What survives is a Trade Representative monitoring exercise, with the waiver lasting until the President or the Secretary of State determines otherwise. For India, squarely in the Act's sights with China and Turkey, the sequence matters. The 25% penal duty of August 2025, which took the tariff on Indian goods to 50%, was rescinded under the interim framework of February 2, 2026, which set the reciprocal rate at 18% against Indian commitments on Russian crude. Purchases nonetheless ran at 2.6 million barrels a day in June and 2.57 million in July before easing to 1.82 million in September, by Kpler data, still the world's largest, against China's 1.49 million. Russia's share of India's basket fell from 56% in July to about 35% in September, less because of Washington than because Urals now prices near par with Gulf grades. The crude import bill rose 48.4% to $74.8 billion in April to August by Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell data, with the Indian basket at $90.19 a barrel in August against $69.11 a year earlier, and petroleum at 22.5% of merchandise imports.

IS THE WAIVER A RESPITE?

In cash flow, yes. A 100% duty stacked on 18 % has died before birth, conveniently before Secretary of State Marco Rubio lands in Mumbai on October 20. In structure, no. The waiver is revocable with a signature, the top five list is recalculated every 180 days, and India will remain on it. A law written to punish the buyers of Russian oil was suspended to protect a purchase of Russian oil. India spent fourteen months being lectured for less. US President Donald Trump has said his decision to suspend several Russian sanctions is an effort to keep Moscow at the negotiating table. "I am in the process of negotiating Peace in the war between Russia and Ukraine," Trump said on his Truth Social messaging platform, adding that he didn't want to "do anything that will drive, foolishly, Russia away from the bargaining table". Trump blocked numerous sanctions on Russia on Friday night, two days before they were due to take effect, as a row with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky deepened.

Zelensky told NBC News on Sunday that siding with Russian President Vladimir Putin would be a "historic mistake". Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev has responded to Trump's order by calling it "an important and truly historic moment". He said the sanctions, which were passed by the US Congress and signed into law by the US president in September, would have inflicted "serious damage" on the US and global market. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has described the suspension of the sanctions as a 60-day pause during which their potential impact on the US and global economies would be analysed.

Has fear returned to Mumbai?

Saurabh Varshney

Mumbai is not only the country's financial capital, but also known as the city of dreams. Every day, millions of people arrive here with hopes of a better future. The glitz and glamour of the city of dreams, the popularity of film stars, the pace of business and 24-hour life are Mumbai's hallmarks. But when incidents of open firing occur in this metropolis, a question naturally arises. Has fear returned to Mumbai? Is this city, once known for organized crime and the terror of the underworld, once again becoming shrouded in insecurity? The alleged shooting of actor Tiger Shroff's car near the Pushpa Park area of ??Juhu has raised serious concerns about security. According to available information, three men on a motorcycle arrived and suddenly opened fire on Tiger Shroff's car. The actor is reported to be safe in the incident, while his driver and an auto-rickshaw driver nearby were reportedly injured. The injured were taken to the hospital for treatment, and the police are searching for the attackers. If the investigation confirms these details, then this is no longer just a matter of a film star's safety. It also poses a question of the safety of ordinary citizens who venture out into the streets to earn a living, whether they drive autorickshaws, ride taxis, or are returning home from work.

It's natural for a news item to make headlines when a famous actor's car is fired upon. Given Tiger Shroff's popularity, it's not uncommon for nationwide attention to be focused on the incident. But the most serious aspect of this incident is that even those with no connection to the film industry or any controversy could have been hit. Ordinary people like drivers and autorickshaw drivers risk their lives in such incidents without any fault of their own. The question is: if such random gunfire can occur in public places, how safe are ordinary citizens? A person standing on the street, a family shopping in the market, an employee returning from work late at night, and a parent out with their children. All of them should be assured of safety. The true measure of law and order is not just based on the safety of prominent figures, but on the fear-free lives of the general public.

Mumbai has faced challenges from the underworld, extortion, and organized crime. During this period, incidents that created an atmosphere of fear among the film industry, business circles, and ordinary citizens have also occurred. Police action, intelligence activism, and strict enforcement of the law have strengthened the city's position on many fronts.

In such a situation, an incident like a shooting can remind people of that bygone era. However, it would be inappropriate to conclude based on a single incident that the old terror of the underworld has returned to Mumbai. Whether the reason behind this is personal enmity, criminal gang activity, threats, extortion, or some other reason will only become clear after the investigation is completed. But it is certain that such incidents cannot be taken lightly. It is essential to identify the criminals in a timely manner, expose their network, and reach the source of weapons. If organized crime is found to be behind the incident, action should not be limited to the shooters alone, but should be taken towards dismantling the entire network.

The Mumbai Police is considered one of the most experienced police forces in the country. Maintaining security in the city is a significant responsibility, given its population, economic activity, and sensitive installations. Therefore, the challenge facing the police is not only arresting the perpetrators after an incident, but also preventing such incidents in the future.

Investigating agencies should examine CCTV footage from the scene, eyewitness accounts, the weapons used, and the attackers' routes. It is equally important to determine the motive behind the shooting. Was there an attempt to intimidate anyone? Were threats made? Was this the activity of a criminal gang? Answers to all these questions must be based on facts and evidence. Furthermore, it is essential to provide the best possible treatment to the injured and to maintain sensitivity in the process of recording their statements. Police investigations must be transparent to curb the spread of rumors and unnecessary fear among the public.

A shooting incident in a metropolitan city not only raises questions about police patrolling but also how criminals are accessing weapons. If investigations confirm the use of illegal weapons, action against the arms smuggling and supply networks becomes imperative. Preventing crime requires increased police presence on the streets, intelligence gathering, monitoring of suspicious activities, and coordination between various security agencies. Effective surveillance in sensitive areas, prompt police response, and responsible use of technology can make it difficult for criminals. Most importantly, the fear of the law should be instilled in the minds of criminals, not citizens. If criminals commit crimes with the belief that they will easily escape, it is a serious warning to the system. Only a speedy investigation, fair prosecution, and, if convicted, punishment in accordance with the law can strengthen faith in the justice system.

Following such incidents, various claims and unverified information begin to circulate on social media. Sometimes, the name of a gang is invoked, and sometimes, without evidence, discussions of a larger conspiracy begin. This can hamper investigations and spread unnecessary fear among the public. It is the media's responsibility to highlight the gravity of the incident, demand accountability from the police, and provide accurate information to the public.

SIGNS OF CHANGE IN THE POLITICS OF THE SOUTH

Saurabh Varshney

The assertion of South Indian parties, which support the central government's legislative agenda, against the Election Commission signals a shifting political landscape. Amid the SIR, allegations of vote theft, and questions about electoral fairness, the opposition's strategy and allies' stance could be crucial in the upcoming assembly elections.

The shift in Indian politics no longer seems to be limited to North India; new equations are also emerging in the political circles of South India. The increased assertiveness of some of the regional parties, which have on several occasions supported the Narendra Modi government's legislative agenda in Parliament, regarding the Election Commission and the electoral process is politically significant. The question is: is this merely an attempt to protect the political interests of their states, or does it also reflect the shifting public opinion and power dynamics in national politics?

South Indian politics has long held its own distinct identity. In Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, voter issues, regional identity, social justice, language, development, and the role of local leadership have consistently influenced electoral outcomes. It is difficult for a national party to maintain its political advantage based solely on national popularity. The strong roots of regional parties and the acceptance of local leadership make them crucial in central politics as well.

Questions raised about the role of the Election Commission and the Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls (SIR) are now becoming the subject of widespread political debate. The Congress and other opposition parties are demanding answers from the government and the Election Commission regarding the transparency of the electoral process, the accuracy of the voter list, and the security of the right to vote. Allegations of vote theft leveled by the opposition have also lent a political edge to this debate. However, rather than accepting these allegations as proven facts, it is essential to evaluate them through an impartial investigation, the available evidence, and the Commission's response.

In such an environment, if regional parties in South India also openly express their objections, it cannot be dismissed as merely an extension of opposition politics. It is also possible that these parties are feeling political pressure in their states on issues related to voter lists, federal rights, and electoral competition. Their stance certainly indicates that political parties can maintain independent positions while simultaneously collaborating on issues in Parliament and questioning the electoral system.

The question at the center of political discussion today is whether the popularity of the Modi wave and the BJP's electoral hold are no longer as strong as before. However, it would be premature to consider a single protest, press conference, or regional party's shifting stance as conclusive evidence of the Modi wave's weakening. Assessing popularity in national politics requires a holistic view of election results, opinion polls, state issues, coalition positions, and voter behavior.

It's true that Indian voters now evaluate political parties on multiple levels. Along with the popularity of the national leadership, inflation, employment, social security, local development, farmers' problems, and trust in democratic institutions are also important. If the opposition succeeds in effectively connecting these issues with the public, the challenge facing the BJP could increase. On the other hand, the BJP's organization, leadership, and extensive electoral network are also important pillars of its political strength. Therefore, the question is not simply whether the Modi wave is weakening, but whether the opposition is developing the ability to convert its allegations and political resentment into solid public support. The Congress party is attempting to make electoral fairness a major political issue through protests against the Election Commission and allegations of vote theft. This strategy aims not only to corner the central government but also to raise questions about voting rights and democratic institutions with the common voter. However, the success of any movement depends on its connection to genuine public concerns and the availability of credible evidence to support it.

The biggest challenge facing the opposition is its own unity. Raising common issues at the national level is one thing, but seat sharing in states, leadership issues, and coordination of regional interests are quite another. Parties in South India may agree with the Congress on certain issues, but that doesn't mean they will become part of its strategy in every election. Regional parties have their own political goals and determine their relationships with the central government and the opposition based on these goals.

This is why parties that appear united on the Election Commission issue may choose different paths on other political issues in the future. Allegations of SIR and vote theft could influence political discourse in the upcoming assembly elections. If the opposition presents concrete examples related to voter lists, and clearly demands verification and correction of complaints of deletions or incorrect entries, the issue could have a more effective impact on the electoral debate. However, garnering widespread public support through mere slogans and accusations will be difficult.

Voters also make decisions based on the circumstances in their area, the performance of the government.

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Very close to finalising trade deal with India: Rubio

Highlights

- At least 32 people have been killed and 84 injured, including 10 children, after a Russian attack on the centre of Sumy, according to Ukrainian authorities.
- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the "terrible strike by Russian ballistic missiles" hit an "ordinary



Washington: The US is "very close" to finalising a trade deal with India, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Monday, suggesting that the waiver from tariffs for buying Russian oil was linked to the decision. "We're trying to finalise the trade deal with India right now. We're very close to doing that. So that's one of the things we take into consideration when the President makes a decision about national security waivers and things of that nature," Rubio told reporters in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Rubio is set to travel to India and meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Mumbai to discuss issues ranging from energy, trade, defence, critical and emerging technologies and other key areas of bilateral cooperation. Rubio appeared to acknowledge the reasons for India to continue buying oil from Russia, an issue that has been the focus of talks between him and Jaishankar since the US passed the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act in September.

"You also can't unravel the economy of other countries because of one central issue. So that's the complex part of having to balance all of this," Rubio said. He said every country has a complex set of factors that they have to take into account, such as geography, and for some countries it's very difficult to acquire energy from alternative sources. "That's not an excuse, but all of that has to be balanced when you make foreign policy. The foreign policy of the US, of course, takes into account what's happening with the war between Russia and Ukraine, but it is not solely dominated by that," Rubio said. "It has to take into account a variety of other factors, including our bilateral relationships with other countries and what they realistically are capable of being able to do in terms of their own energy supplies," he said. Jaishankar is understood to have conveyed to Rubio that oil refineries in India were configured largely for handling medium sour crude, which is supplied by Middle East countries and Russia. He also told Rubio that Venezuela supplies heavier-grade crude and the US has light-grade crude, which would require blending before being used by refineries in India. With oil supplies from Middle East countries hit due to the Iran war, India has to depend on Russian crude to keep its economy running. With oil supplies from Middle East countries hit due to the Iran war, India has to depend on Russian crude to keep its economy running.

Elon Musk to give SpaceX shares to US kids after Anthropic fund pledge



New York: Billionaire Elon Musk on Monday, October 19, pledged one share of his company SpaceX to "every kid in America". The offer arrived a day after artificial intelligence company Anthropic announced in a social media post that it will commit 5 per cent of its shares to a new "public benefit" fund. In a response to that Sunday post, Musk wrote, "I recommend giving the shares directly to the public." SpaceX's stock closed at USD 146.03 on Friday. Anthropic said on Sunday, October 18, that the shares it is committing will go to the Anthropic Public Benefit Fund, a new entity within the company. The fund's worth will potentially increase as the shares grow in value. Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei and the company's five other cofounders established Anthropic as a public benefit corporation, a designation that for-profit companies select to balance financial goals and social impact. Anthropic is planning a massive initial public offering as soon as November. In June the company said that it had submitted a confidential filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission for its proposed IPO. That same month, Musk's SpaceX made its Wall Street debut as a publicly traded company and made Musk the world's first trillionaire. Starlink on Friday, October 16, said it has worked with Indian regulators, industry and operators for over five years and built dedicated infrastructure in the country "all with the requisite government approvals," as the Elon Musk-led company asserted its readiness to provide high-speed internet services in India. Starlink's post on X also tagged Reliance Industries' statement issued earlier Friday, in which the Mukesh Ambani-led company said it welcomed competition in satellite communications, including from Starlink, but stressed that all players must comply with Indian laws. Starlink responded on X saying, "We have worked closely with regulators, industry and operators in India for 5+ years, and built a network of dedicated systems, gateways, and other infrastructure all in-country to exclusively serve Indian traffic safely and securely – and all with the requisite government approvals." Starlink further said it was ready to connect India with high-speed internet. Friday's exchange comes amid a public spat over competition in India's satellite communications market, with Musk criticising the country's satcom landscape and raising questions about the competitive environment. Reliance said it sees a competitive market as the true test of which player serves customers best, and asserted that every company operating in India must follow the law. In its first direct response to Musk's recent barbs, Reliance on Friday said it was placing "the facts on record." "At Reliance, we have never feared competition. We see it as the truest test of who serves the customer best," the company said in a statement. Reliance backed its stance citing Jio's own record. Jio entered India's crowded telecom market in 2016 as the newest player, with not a single customer, and in a matter of just ten years, earned the trust of over 530 million customers, offering Indians some of the best digital infrastructure and most affordable data in the world, it said. "We welcome competition in satellite communications, including Starlink. Every player, Jio included, must serve the people of India and abide by the laws and policies of the land," Reliance's statement said. "At Reliance, we have never feared competition. We see it as the truest test of who serves the customer best," the company said in a statement. Reliance backed its stance citing Jio's own record.

AI, IndiGo officials to appear before House panel on Nov 2



New Delhi: Representatives of Air India, Indigo and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) are among those who will appear before a Parliamentary panel on November 2 in connection with the review of the performance of civil aviation sector central public sector undertakings. The 22-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings is headed by BJP MP Baijayant Panda.

Discussions with the representatives of Air India Limited (Air India) and InterGlobe Aviation Ltd (Indigo) will take place on November 2 in connection with the examination of the subject 'Review of Performance of Civil Aviation Sector CPSUs', according to a notice issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. On the same day, the representatives of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) will also appear before the committee in connection with the same matter. Meanwhile, several economists will appear before the joint committee examining the simultaneous polls to Lok Sabha, assemblies and local bodies.

There will be interactions between eminent economists and the Joint Committee on the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, on October 30, another notice of the Lok Sabha secretariat said. The committee is headed by BJP MP PP Chaudhary. The 22-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings is headed by BJP MP Baijayant Panda.

EARN RS 80,000 A MONTH? EARNING RS 80,000 YOU ARE IN INDIA'S TOP 10%

India, earning Rs 80,000 a month could put you among the top 10% of earners. A comparison with fresh data from the World Bank's 2026 Poverty and Inequality Platform shows in some of the world's top economies, even the poorest 10% live on much more. There is no denying the significant progress India has made in reducing extreme poverty over the past decade. The Rs 80,000 figure was drawn from the Economic Survey of India. When taken in context of the fresh numbers released through the World Bank's 2026 Poverty and Inequality Platform, it shows how sharply living standards diverge between India and the world's richest nations, even as India has recorded one of the fastest reductions in extreme poverty anywhere in the world over the past decade. A person who just crosses into India's top 10% of consumers gets by on roughly $10 (Rs 951) a day in 2021 purchasing-power terms. In the United States, Canada, Germany and Australia, the poorest 10% already live on $25 (Rs 2,377) to $31 (Rs 2,948) a day. The situation brings to mind Paul Simon's song — One Man's Ceiling Is Another Man's Floor. Chief economist at Bank of Baroda, Madan Sabnavis, said the comparison is valid, but has its limitations. This is because the same amount of money can buy different quantities of goods and services in different countries, making direct comparisons of income alone an imperfect measure of living standards. "A McDonald's burger costs around $5, or Rs 500, in the US, while in India, it costs Rs 150-200. So, a relatively well-off person may still have money left after buying a burger, while a poorer person may have nothing left. The weaker rupee also means that goods are often priced lower in India than in the US. Comparisons between countries run into such issues," Madan Sabnavis said. At the other end of the scale, India's poorest decile starts at about $3 (Rs 285) per person per day. However, it is important to note that these figures do not diminish the scale of India's recent progress. Extreme poverty, measured at the $3-a-day line, fell from 27.1% in 2011–12 to 2.6% in 2023– 24. Poverty at the lower-middle-income threshold of $4.2 (Rs 400) a day dropped from 57.7% to 16.1% over the same period, moving nearly 500 million people above that line. Yet, 23.3 crore Indians still live below it. The World Bank noted that changes in survey methods, including the shift to a Modified Mixed Reference Period (MMRP) that captures household spending more accurately, affect direct comparisons across years. The institution has revised historical estimates to improve consistency, but the decline cannot be explained by methodology alone. THE MODEST PRICE OF ENTRY INTO INDIA'S TOP TIER The Rs 80,000 monthly income that marks the top 10% of Indian earners is not a large sum when set against global benchmarks. Converted into daily consumption terms, it aligns with the $10 (Rs 951) threshold that the World Bank's platform identifies as the lower boundary of India's richest decile. In the United States of America, the corresponding threshold for the top 10% rises to $173 (Rs 16,454) a day; in Canada and Australia it stands at $129 (Rs 12,269), and in Germany at $128 (Rs 12,174). Even those who rank among India's better-off households therefore experience living standards that remain well below those of the least affluent residents of high-income countries. This gap highlights how low income levels remain across all sections of Indian society. The challenge is therefore to lift the entire income distribution rather than only compress the gap between the top and bottom within India. According to the latest data by the World Bank, consumption inequality has actually narrowed in recent years. The Gini coefficient, which is a standard measure of inequality that ranges from 0 for perfect equality to 100 for perfect inequality, fell from 28.8 in 2011–12 to 25.5 in 2022–23 when calculated on consumption data. The World Bank's latest Poverty and Equity Brief for India puts the Gini index at 23. But income and wealth data tell a different story altogether. According to the World Inequality Report, the top 10% of Indians receive about 58% of national income and hold 65% of national wealth, while the bottom half of the population receives only 15% of income.

Pakistan's 'historic milestone' claim gets a reality check from ex-IMF director

Pakistan's appointment to chair the IMF and World Bank Boards of Governors in 2027 is "protocol, not power", India's former IMF executive director Krishnamurthy Subramanian said on Sunday, countering Islamabad's description of it as a "historic milestone". He said the chair rotates annually and is purely ceremonial. "Pakistan will chair the IMF-World Bank Annual Plenary in 2027. This chair is purely ceremonial & rotates annually: Paraguay this year, Cabo Verde in 2025. It's protocol, not power," he wrote on X. Pakistan's Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Khan Cheema was named incoming chair at the annual meetings in Bangkok, its ministry said on Friday. Pakistan last held the role in 1953. The ministry called the appointment a "historic milestone", saying it would allow the country to contribute to global economic discussions and facilitate dialogue among members. The role involves presiding over proceedings attended by finance ministers and central bank governors. It gives Pakistan no control over lending decisions. Subramanian, who served as the IMF executive director for India between November 2022 and May 2025, also rejected comparisons with India's G20 and BRICS presidencies, calling them a "false equivalence". He said that India's G20 presidency helped set the agenda for a major forum of global economic cooperation, while its BRICS presidency steered an emerging-economies platform. "Pakistan's role is to preside over an annual meeting," he argued. Meanwhile, Pakistan is awaiting IMF Executive Board approval for about $1.2 billion after a staff-level agreement on reviews of two loan programmes.

Gen Z accounts for 60 pc of beauty buyers: Myntra

New Delhi: Gen Z shoppers account for 60 per cent of Myntra's beauty buyers, with half of them from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, the fashion and lifestyle e-commerce platform said in a report on Monday, October 19. The report, titled "Beauty in the Age of Gen Z", is based on platform signals, buying behaviour, demand patterns and search data for August 2025 to August 2026. It defines the cohort as shoppers aged 14-29. Half of Myntra's international beauty demand also comes from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. Among the top cities driving growth beyond the metros, the report listed Ludhiana, Patna, Bhopal, Indore, Guwahati and Nagpur.The report, titled "Beauty in the Age of Gen Z", is based on platform signals, buying behaviour, demand patterns and search data for August 2025 to August 2026. It defines the cohort as shoppers aged 14-29. Half of Myntra's international beauty demand also comes from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. Among the top cities driving growth beyond the metros, the report listed Ludhiana, Patna, Bhopal, Indore, Guwahati and Nagpur. In skincare, 80 per cent of young shoppers keep their routines to three products, while 30 per cent of Gen Z buyers pick one or two products per order. The report noted that demand for ingredient-led, science-based derma beauty products grew 75 per cent. Demand for Korean beauty (K-beauty) products on Myntra grew 200 per cent year-on-year, while search queries rose by more than 300 per cent, the report said. The platform now has more than 90 K-beauty brands.



Bentley says India-UK FTA to boost access for British cars



New Delhi: India remains an important market for Bentley, the British luxury car maker said on Monday, October 19, highlighting that the India-UK free trade agreement has the potential to enhance market access for eligible British-manufactured vehicles and contribute to the development of India's luxury automotive sector. The India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) came into force in July, granting duty-free access to nearly 99 per cent of Indian exports to the UK and paving the way for deeper trade, investment and services ties between the two countries. The agreement provides a phased reduction in duties on British automobiles and alcoholic beverages, while safeguarding domestic producers through quotas and transition periods. "The India-UK Free trade agreement (FTA) is expected to enhance market access for eligible British-manufactured vehicles through a structured, phased reduction in import duties under defined quotas. With tariffs set to decline progressively over the coming years, the agreement is expected to create a more favourable environment for British luxury brands in India," Bentley Motors stated. Bentley offers six models: Bentayga, Bentayga EWB, Continental GT, Continental GT Convertible, Flying Spur and Torcal. According to the company, the FTA currently applies to the Bentayga and Bentayga EWB, Bentley's internal combustion engine models, enabling customers to benefit directly from the tariff provisions. Referring to the India-UK FTA, Axel Dewitz, Member of the Board for Finance and IT.

French PM asks some cities to impose partial curfews after 'violent' protests



The French government is hard-put to formulate a reaction that is commensurate to the terrifying scale of the weekend's urban unrest. After a crisis cabinet meeting in Paris, Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu made a series of announcements. He said a state of emergency could be installed if the riots continue and in the meantime localised overnights curfews could be put in place. Lecornu gave some local mayors powers to put those in place, but it is not quite clear what they'd look like in practice. It could mean that the area around Place de la République in Paris is off-limits during specific times. I suspect a series of such measures will be announced in the capital and cities like Marseille and Bordeaux. He said 200 police investigators were now examining online footage taken of themselves by looters, with the aim of bringing them to justice. And he also repeated his attack on the political far-left, who he blamed for trying to stir up disorder in the run-up to next April's presidential elections. Images appearing to show the Pink Panther rioting in France have gathered millions of views across social media platforms over the last week. While we have verified real footage of protesters dressed in Superman and Captain America costumes these pictures of the Pink Panther were made using artificial intelligence (AI). We can say this because we uploaded them to a detector which searches for the invisible SynthID watermark that is embedded in some AI-generated images and tells us which tools created them. All of these Pink Panther images were made using Google's AI tools. We also did a reverse image search to find the earliest version of the pictures posted online and found they first emerged from an Instagram account advertising AI art. It also features AI pictures of other fictional characters rioting including Homer Simpson and the Teletubbies. Eliza Lumani has just spent the weekend in Paris for her honeymoon, which has always been a dream of hers. She says she had "absolutely no idea" that protests would be taking place. The 28-year-old, originally from Sweden, tells me that she came across peaceful protesters when exploring the city, with some telling her that they are protesting for "better school and living conditions". Later on, things escalated. She saw fires, and was scared by tear gas, and particularly the "loud boom" sounds from canisters being thrown by police. "I was never really afraid of the protesters themselves. I never felt like they were there to physically hurt anyone. What was actually scary was the tear gas, which made it difficult to breathe," Eliza explains. She says seeing the protests has given her a new perspective on the city. "I've always seen it as a beautiful and romantic city, but seeing people, especially the younger generation from all backgrounds standing up for what they believe in showed me a different side of Paris." Around 80% of people arrested for rioting and violence during a weekend of protests in France face criminal charges Local mayors now have the power to introduce partial curfews, aimed at protecting people and businesses. He did not specify which cities were given these powers Any necessary repairs to damaged properties will be funded by those responsible, with a law to be put in place to make this possible A partial unemployment fund is also being set up to support those who cannot work because their businesses are out of action The prime minister blamed "ultra-left radical groups" for the instability, with Lecornu accusing them of working to destabilise the country ahead of next year's presidential elections. The PM is now asked whether he has confidence in Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez, who is stood next to him after offering to resign on Sunday evening. Lecornu answers that he trusts Nuñez. If this wasn't the case, he wouldn't "be beside me right now", the PM says. "We all need to be firm and strong together," he concludes. For Lecornu, ultra-left radical groups are to blame for the instability witnessed over the weekend. "There's a movement led by very ultra-left radical groups that really want to destabilise, that want to create chaos in our country up until the presidential elections."

Australian MP has critical injuries after being hit by car in what PM calls 'deliberate act'



Police say the incident happened on Murphy Street - these images show part of the road cordoned off, with emergency services present. As we've reported, Haines's family has released a statement saying the incident happened outside her office on the same street. As we've reported, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese - who leads Australia's Labor Party - describes the incident as an "attack", and has said: "There is no place for violence in a democracy." Opposition leader Angus Taylor - head of the Liberal Party - says he is "deeply saddened and distressed" by the news, and says that Australians will be "angry and appalled by the attack on Helen". Senator Matt Canavan, leader of The Nationals, says his heart goes out to Helen Haines and her family "upon the news of this shocking attack". He goes on: "I pray for her full recovery from this traumatic time." Greens leader Senator David Shoebridge says he is "horrified" to hear of the "apparent attack", adding: "Helen is an extraordinary human being and brings people together like few others." And Senator Pauline Hanson, One Nation leader, says violence against elected representatives is "never acceptable". She adds: "Members of parliament and their staff must be able to serve their communities without fearing for their safety." It's now been more than six hours since the Australian MP Helen Haines was hit by a car in what Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has called an "attack". Here's what we do and don't know about the incident. What we know Haines's family says the incident happened outside her electorate office in Wangaratta, in the state of Victoria She was hit by a white Toyota Landcruiser at 15:35 local time (05:35 BST), police say A 43-year-old Tarrawingee man was arrested at the scene by a passerby - police say a knife was found in the car They say they are investigating whether "this was an intentional act", but that they do not believe there is an "ongoing threat to the community" Albanese says "this wasn't an accident" and "there was a deliberate act, it would appear" - he also says counter terror police are involved in the investigation What we don't know Haines sustained "critical injuries" according to police, but we don't know any specifics about her condition As stated above, police say they are still investigating whether this was a deliberate act The suspect has not yet been named by officials Helen Haines's family says the incident happened outside her electorate office in Wangaratta, a city of around 30,000 a few hours north-east of Melbourne in the state of Victoria. Police say she was hit outside an office on Murphy Street at about 15:35 local time (05:35 BST). A man from Tarrawingee - a rural town just east of the city - was arrested at the scene, police say. Australia's opposition leader Angus Taylor says he is "deeply saddened and distressed" by the news. He says: "I'm praying for Helen and thinking of her family and loved ones. This is a shocking day for our nation. No one should be targeted in this way. "Australians will be angry and appalled by the attack on Helen outside her electorate office in Wangaratta.

Judgement day for Kenya pastor accused of ordering parents to starve their children to death



A Kenyan judge has started to deliver a verdict in a mass murder case involving doomsday preacher Paul Mackenzie. Mackenzie and 29 of his followers are being charged with the murder of 191 people, all but one of them children. His cult is alleged to have forced children to starve to death so that they could "meet Jesus". His doomsday doctrine said that education was forbidden and modern medicine was considered "evil". Mackenzie and the 29 others have all pleaded not guilty to murder, repeatedly insisting that nobody was forced to die. Mackenzie's former head of security, Enos Amanya Ngala, was initially accused but then entered a plea deal and became a witness for the prosecution. Mackenzie and other leaders of the cult also face a raft of other legal cases, including for terrorism, radicalisation and denying education to children. But this is the first time the pastor will face a verdict on the most serious charges of murder. Authorities said over 400 bodies were found in shallow graves in Shakahola forest near the Kenyan coast, where Mackenzie led his followers from across the country. Seventeen men were hired from the nearby town for the horrifying task of digging up the shallow graves. Some were paid just $8 (£6) a day. "Every grave we found had at least three bodies," James, one of the gravediggers, told the BBC. "Some of the remains were of children as young as a few weeks old." "We once found 12 bodies of children in a line inside a grave.

Alberta heads to polls to decide whether to hold vote on separation from Canada



People in the province of Alberta head to the polls on Monday to decide whether to hold a referendum at a later date on separating from Canada. The vote was called earlier this year by the leader of the province, Danielle Smith, after a grassroots group gathered about 300,000 signatures on a petition that asked for a binding referendum on separation. Many of those who support separation say the oil-rich province's economic growth has been stifled by the environmental policies of Canada's central government in Ottawa. But those who want Alberta to remain part of Canada - who include Prime Minister Mark Carney - have called for the country to show unity in the face of external pressures. Polls have suggested that the majority of Albertans would vote to remain in Canada, though the pre-vote debate alone has proven divisive. Another group collected signatures for its own petition that opposed separation, which was signed by more than 400,000 people. The province's population is about five million people. If Albertans do vote on Monday to move ahead with a binding referendum, that could happen as soon as 2027, Smith has said. Smith's decision to allow Monday's vote came in spite of the fact that a court blocked the pro-separation petition, saying it failed to consult indigenous First Nations whose land would be affected if the province separated from Canada. Following the judge's ruling, First Nations groups have branded Smith's decision to allow the voting process to play out as "undemocratic" and "authoritarian". Smith, the leader of the United Conservative Party of Alberta (UCP), has defended her decision to put the issue to voters. She opposes separation herself, but says the process gives the province's residents a chance to have their say on the issue. The key question on the voting paper will ask: "Should Alberta remain a province of Canada or should the Government of Alberta commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada?" The separatist movement is led by Mitch Sylvestre, a gun shop owner from the town of Bonnyville, and Jeffrey Rath, a lawyer based in Calgary. They are both members of a group called the Alberta Prosperity Project, which argues that the province's economic growth has been hindered by years of Liberal party rule in Ottawa. Successive Liberal governments of the last 10 years have put environmental policies above helping Alberta develop its oil and gas sector, they argue. They say Alberta would get to keep more of its wealth if it splits from Canada. Chris Scott, founder of pro-separatist group Let's Talk Alberta, told BBC News on the eve of the poll that the campaign had already achieved some of its goals, regardless of what happened on Monday. "The key is the conversation has started and it needs to continue," he said. "What's started can't be stopped now," he added.

PERSONAL ATTACKS FIRE UP DEBATE BEFORE BRAZIL'S RUN-OFF VOTE



Brazil's left-wing President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and his right-wing rival, Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, have clashed in a debate held one week before the run-off presidential election. Polls suggest the two candidates are neck and neck and the televised debate was hailed as a chance for both to sway undecided voters. But the showdown was marked by personal attacks and analysts have warned that its aggressive tone may increase the abstention rate further. In the first round of voting, held on 4 October, Bolsonaro defied opinion polls by securing a narrow lead over Lula. Sunday's debate was the first of two before the vote. The second is planned for Friday, just two days before polls open. Flávio Bolsonaro is standing for the Liberal Party after his father, Jair Bolsonaro - who governed from 2018 to 2022 - was sentenced to more than 20 years in prison for plotting to overthrow Lula after the latter beat him in the 2022 election. The younger Bolsonaro won 47% of the vote in the first round, compared with Lula's 45.2%, with both falling short of the 50% of the valid votes needed to stave off a decisive second round.



Funding shortages force World Food Programme to cut aid to Gaza

Trump says suspension of Russia sanctions is to keep peace negotiations going



US President Donald Trump has said his decision to suspend several Russian sanctions is an effort to keep Moscow at the negotiating table. "I am in the process of negotiating Peace in the war between Russia and Ukraine," Trump said on his Truth Social messaging platform, adding that he didn't want to "do anything that will drive, foolishly, Russia away from the bargaining table". Trump blocked numerous sanctions on Russia on Friday night, two days before they were due to take effect, as a row with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky deepened. Zelensky told NBC News on Sunday that siding with Russian President Vladimir Putin would be a "historic mistake". Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev has responded to Trump's order by calling it "an important and truly historic moment". He said the sanctions, which were passed by the US Congress and signed into law by the US president in September, would have inflicted "serious damage" on the US and global market. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has described the suspension of the sanctions as a 60-day pause during which their potential impact on the US and global economies would be analysed. In his Truth Social post, Trump also said Zelensky "doesn't want to end this war, and probably never did", adding "he could have made a better deal two years ago than he can now". Zelensky has pushed for an end to fighting, and has repeatedly said that Putin doesn't want peace, since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Relations between Washington and Kyiv frayed after the US struck a controversial deal to import Russian diesel last week. Despite the international sanctions, Russia has still been able to export oil, much of it to China and India - often at attractive discounts. According to the think-tank Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), China has taken about half of Russia's crude exports, with India accounting for about 37%. In remarks to a European Union summit, after Trump announced the deal to buy diesel from Russia and said Zelensky was "more difficult to deal with" than Putin, Zelensky said it was nice to be among "real leaders". Zelensky has repeatedly pushed for stringent sanctions to limit funding that Russia can use in its war effort.

MANCHESTER CITY'S ANTOINE SEMENYO OUT FOR UP TO EIGHT WEEKS



Manchester City's Antoine Semenyo is set to be out of action for up to eight weeks with a leg injury, manager Enzo Maresca said on Monday. Ghana forward Semenyo suffered the issue during last week's 3-2 win at Ipswich as table-toppers City made it seven wins out of seven in the Premier League this season.

MONA AGARWAL CLINCHES GOLD, AVANI LEKHARA TAKES SILVER IN SHOOTING AT ASIAN PARA GAMES



Mona Agarwal staged a stirring comeback in the final to beat compatriot Avani Lekhara for the gold as India opened its medal account at the Asian Para Games with a one-two finish in the women's 10m air rifle (SH1) event in Nagoya on Monday. Mona, a bronze-medallist at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, climbed from sixth place to set an Asian Para Games record of 250.0, edging two-time Paralympic champion Avani by a mere 0.4 points. The 24-year-old Avani, who entered as the defending champion, settled for silver with 249.6. Her medal also secured India a second quota place for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics, with Mona having already earned one at the World Shooting Para Sport (WSPS) World Championships in Changwon, South Korea last month where she won a silver. Korea's Yunri Lee (227.9) took the bronze in the same event. SH1 classification is for shooters with lower limb impairments. The duel between the two shooters from Jaipur went down to the final shot of the 24-shot contest. Mona held a slender 0.1-point lead over Avani -- 239.1 to 239.2 -- before the decisive shot. Mona produced a superb 10.8, while Avani managed 10.5, sealing the gold for the 38-year-old mother of two. Mona had set the pace in qualification, topping the eight-shooter field with 629.1 to establish an Asian Para Games qualification record. Avani was second with 626.4. But the final followed a different script early on as Avani, who was aiming to defend her Hangzhou gold, took charge by opening with a 10.8 to Mona's 10.1. She led after the first five shots with a total of 53.2 and maintained her advantage after the next five, moving to 104.8 as Mona languished in sixth place with 102.9. The momentum shifted during the elimination stage. While Avani faltered with a string of modest scores, Mona steadily worked her way up the standings, setting up a thrilling finish. For Mona, the gold capped a remarkable performance after a slow start.

Elina Svitolina Announces End Of Her Marriage To Gael Monfils



Elina Svitolina announced Monday the end of her marriage with fellow tennis player Gael Monfils. The sixth-ranked Ukrainian said in an Instagram post it is "the most difficult thing I have ever had to share." Svitolina spoke about the tough emotional impact the war in her country had on her well-being, and how Monfils supported her to cope with the struggle when she took a break from tennis to recover. "But some battles happen deep inside you, and no amount of love from someone else can win them for you," she wrote. "With time, I came to understand that I need to find my way back to myself and that I cannot do that within our marriage." Monfils and Svitolina have a daughter together. "Together, we built a beautiful life, and we were given the most precious gift of all, our daughter, Skai," Svitolina said. "Skai will always come first. Our marriage is ending, but our family is not. We will always be her parents, side by side, at every step of her life." The end of their marriage might have played a role in Monfils' decision to end his career a little earlier than what was expected. The 40-year-old Monfils, who had planned to retire at the end of the season, is being listed by the sport's drug-testing organization among the players who have declared themselves retired, with his career officially over from Oct. 5. The former No. 6-ranked player was widely expected to end his career in front of his home fans at the Paris Masters from Oct. 31.

First Time Since 1948: Chinmay Sutar Scripts History With 400 In Ranji Trophy



Mizoram batter Chinmay Sutar scripted history during the Ranji Trophy 2025-26 Plate match against Nagaland in Dimapur on Monday. After being asked to bat first, Mizoram declared their first innings at 581/9 on Day 2, thanks largely to a monumental knock from Sutar, who smashed 400 runs. With the innings, Sutar became only the second batter in Ranji Trophy history to score 400 runs in an innings. The first to achieve the feat was Maharashtra's BB Nimbalkar, who scored 443* against Pune in 1948. Sutar now holds the second-highest individual score in Ranji Trophy history, behind Nimbalkar's unbeaten 443. Former India opener Prithvi Shaw occupies the third spot with 379 runs, scored for Mumbai against Assam during the 2022-23 season. Former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar is fourth on the list with 366 runs for Mumbai against Hyderabad in the 1990-91 season. MV Sridhar rounds out the top five with 344 runs for Hyderabad against Andhra Pradesh during the 1993-94 campaign. Overall, Sutar became just the 10th player in First-Class cricket history to score 400 in an innings, joining an elite group featuring legends such as Brian Lara, Don Bradman, and several other greats of the game. Lara is on the top of the list with 501* for Warwickshire against Durham. His marathon innings was studded with 46 fours and seven sixes. Apart from Sutar's heroics, Jehu Anderson contributed 69 runs as Mizoram declared at 581/9. Interestingly, Sutar made his List A debut for Mumbai earlier this year in January against Maharashtra in the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

However, his first outing was a forgettable one as he was run out for just two runs. He later made his first-class debut in Mizoram's season opener earlier this month. After scoring 35 in the first innings against Manipur, Sutar bounced back impressively with a knock of 99 in the second innings.

Pragyan Ojha Replaces Ajit Agarkar As BCCI Chief Selector, Ramesh Powar Joins Panel



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Monday confirmed the appointment of former spinner Pragyan Ojha as the new chairman of the men's selection committee. Ojha, who succeeds Ajit Agarkar in the role, had been serving as an interim selector before being handed the responsibility on a full-time basis. The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), comprising Ashok Malhotra and Jatin Paranjape, conducted the selection process for the men's selection committee. The panel also named Ramesh Powar as one of the members of the committee. Pragyan Ojha will chair the Men's Selection Committee based on seniority, determined by the number of Test matches played. The committee comprises Shiv Sundar Das, RP Singh, Ajay Ratra and Ramesh Powar, completing the five-member panel responsible for selecting India's men's cricket team. Powar, 48, played two Tests and 31 ODIs for India from 2004 to 2007 and brings vast experience to the role. He edged competition from fellow former India and West Zone players Wasim Jaffer, Salil Ankola, Jacob Martin and Connor Williams. Mumbai-based Powar had two stints as head coach of the India women's team, where he guided the side to an Asia Cup title and a Commonwealth Games silver medal in 2022. His second spell ended when he was moved to the National Cricket Academy, now called the BCCI Centre of Excellence, in Bengaluru as spin-bowling coach. Powar has also coached Mumbai to Vijay Hazare Trophy win and was Gujarat's senior men's head coach for the last two seasons before stepping down from the role recently. He also served as a consultant coach for Australia U-19 during their recent ODI series against India. The vacancy in the senior selection panel arose following the exit of Ajit Agarkar as chief selector. "The BCCI places on record its appreciation for Mr Ajit Agarkar for his commitment, conviction and contribution during his tenure as Chairman of the Men's Selection Committee.

"I WANT TO GET MY BELT BACK":

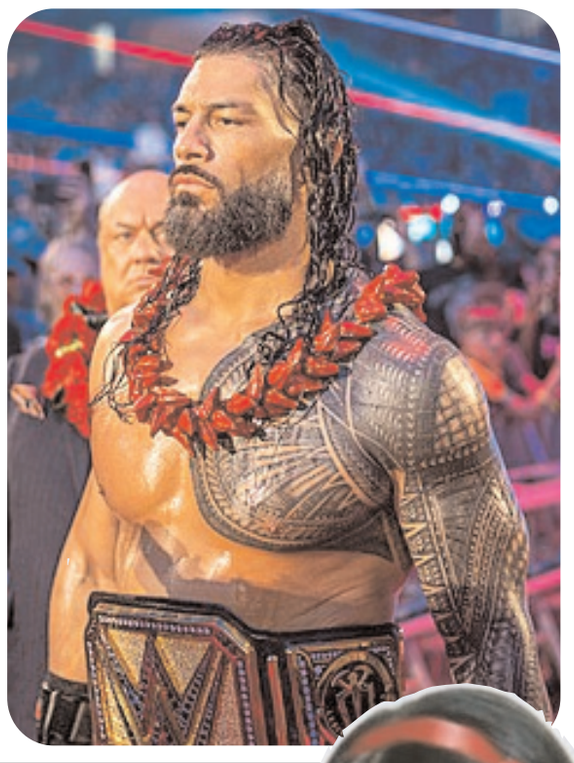
Dricus Du Plessis Eyes Another UFC Belt With Light Heavyweight Ambitions



Dricus du Plessis is convinced he can win UFC gold at light heavyweight. But the South African is not ready to leave middleweight just yet. His priority is to take back the 185-pound title he lost to Khamzat Chimaev. Once that is done, he plans to move up to 205 pounds and go after a second championship. Du Plessis, 32, has spent recent months rebuilding after his loss to Chimaev at UFC 319. He returned in July and outpointed former welterweight king Kamaru Usman over five rounds, putting himself firmly back in the middleweight title picture. Dricus du Plessis aims for light-heavyweight gold Dricus Du Plessis laid out his plans during a recent interview. "I want to get my belt back and eventually go up to 205 and go test myself there," he said. "And I'm certain that I'll be a champion. I'm big enough for that division, and I'm certain I can be champion in that division as well." He also opened up about the strain of fighting at middleweight. According to du Plessis, he cuts close to 45 pounds to make the 185-pound limit. Moving to light heavyweight, in his view, would take some of that pressure away. It would also allow him to lean more on his natural strength and physical presence. Even so, he is not pushing for an immediate switch. Du Plessis wants the middleweight belt back first and says he would be ready to fight early next year if the UFC offers him a title shot.

Roman Reigns, Callina Liang Reveal Their Street Fighter Character Crushes

Roman Reigns and Callina Liang have picked their favorites in the upcoming Street Fighter movie, and they both went for each other's characters. Reigns, who plays Akuma, named Chun-Li as his crush during a red-carpet interview with Snitchery. Liang, who takes on the role of Chun-Li, gave an equally direct answer when they asked about her own favorite. "Oh my gosh, like so many. I mean Akuma. Like he could do anything to me," she said. Reigns had his own reasons for choosing Chun-Li, and he praised her outfit, flying kicks, legs and smile. The two actors were among the cast members interviewed at the event.



Steve Kerr Has A Two-Word Answer After Stephen Curry's Scare



For a few tense moments on Sunday, Warriors fans held their breath. Stephen Curry was at an open practice at Chase Center when he planted his right foot awkwardly, grimaced and limped off toward the tunnel. Many feared the worst, since his right knee kept him out for two months last season. But after practice, coach Steve Kerr said only two words, "He's fine," after explaining that Curry had only tweaked his ankle. With the season opening Wednesday against the Lakers, the Warriors can breathe again, for now. Curry Limps Off, And Kerr Calms The Fear It happened in front of the fans. Curry was moving around Gary Payton II and De'Anthony Melton when his foot caught wrong, and he limped to the bench and then out of sight, with Kerr following him. Early reports said it might be his knee, and that was the worry, because that joint caused so much trouble last year. Kerr cleared it up after practice. It was the ankle, not the knee, and the team later called it a right ankle sprain. The timing isn't great. Golden State will already be missing Jimmy Butler, who is recovering from ACL surgery, and Moses Moody, who has a left patellar tendon injury, and both are expected back midseason. Kristaps Porzingis is still away with an undisclosed health issue, though he says he's improving. That leaves a team built around a 38-year-old in his 18th season. Even after the scare, the Warriors still need his scoring and the way he pulls defenders away from everyone else.

Former WWE Star Lana Picks Managing Over Wrestling as She Discusses Her Future With the Company



Lana is open to returning to WWE television, but stepping back in the ring isn't what she has in mind. The former WWE star, whose real name is CJ Perry, wants a role that lets her focus on character work, promos and managing, and not on competing for championships. Speaking on Nick Club Wrestling Happy Hour, Perry explained she believes her strengths are better for telling stories outside the ring. She also talked about the crowded women's division and why she doesn't think WWE needs another championship contender. A return would depend on finding the right story and creative fit. Lana Wants a WWE Return Through a Managerial Role Perry believes she can give more to WWE as a manager than as an in-ring competitor. She pointed to her storytelling ability and mic work, saying those skills could help both the creative side and the business. "I believe that my strong suit and where I can help move the needle in storytelling and on the business side, I think, is definitely as a manager and as a character," she said. The women's championship picture came up when she explained her preference. She doesn't see a need for another woman entering the title race just for the sake of it. "I don't think they need any new women fighting for championships out there," Perry added. She compared the longevity of a manager's career with Paul Heyman too, saying someone doesn't need to be an active wrestler to stay useful on WWE television. Perry would like to return if the company has a storyline that suits her. Lana Previously Pitched a Ric Flair Romance Story to Vince McMahon Perry also talked about pitching her own storyline ideas during her WWE run, and one of them involved Ric Flair. After her storyline with Bobby Lashley, she suggested becoming Flair's romantic interest and jokingly offered to play his sixth wife. "I did pitch me being, like, me and Ric Flair maybe being, like, a romantic interest after Bobby Lashley. And, like, 'Oh, it makes sense. I can be your sixth wife,' right?" Perry recalled. The idea didn't end up happening. WWE paired Flair with Lacey Evans for the storyline instead. Perry said Evans was a better fit for that angle, because of her height and her ability to be a credible opponent for Charlotte Flair inside the ring. This story is one of the examples of ideas Perry brought directly to Vince McMahon in her time with WWE. Stay tuned for more updates.

Lion Dr. Sai Venkat's 25-Year Cinematic Journey Presents Another Special Film, 'Jayaho Ramanuja'



The film industry brings a wide variety of stories to audiences. While some films provide entertainment, others introduce the lives of great personalities who have left an indelible mark on history. 'Jayaho Ramanuja' is one such distinctive cinematic endeavour, based on the life of Ramanujacharya, the renowned spiritual philosopher and social reformer.

Starring Lion Dr. Sai Venkat, who has also directed the film, 'Jayaho Ramanuja' is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 24. The film is produced by Sai Prasanna and Pravallika under the banner of Sudarshanam Productions. American actress Zoe Sharma plays the female lead, while veteran actor Suman and Pravallika appear in other important roles. With the promotional content already receiving a positive response, the film's team is focusing on release preparations.

■ ANOTHER SPECIAL ENDEAVOUR AFTER 25 YEARS IN CINEMA

Sai Venkat stated that he has spent 25 years in the film industry. He expressed his happiness at seeing Suman, who played the lead role in his first film, continuing to act with the same enthusiasm even today. He also revealed that Suman has a good role in 'Jayaho Ramanuja'.

Making a film about the life of Ramanujacharya is no ordinary task. Presenting his life, philosophy, and contributions to society in a way that audiences can easily understand requires considerable effort and dedication. Sai Venkat explained that he had to overcome numerous challenges in pursuing his goal of bringing this story to the silver screen.

■ A FILM MADE WITH A NOBLE PURPOSE

Sai Venkat clarified that the film was not made merely with the intention of earning money. Instead, his primary objective was to introduce the greatness of Ramanujacharya to the present generation. He stated that the team had worked hard to deliver the film with high technical standards.

When making historical films, it is essential to recreate the appropriate atmosphere, portray characters convincingly, and help audiences understand the circumstances of the period. In this context, the narrative, characterisation, and technical presentation of 'Jayaho Ramanuja' have become interesting aspects to look forward to.

■ PRAVALLIKA TAKES ON DUAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS PRODUCER AND ACTRESS

Pravallika, who is producing the film, is also playing important roles as an actress. She revealed that, while managing production responsibilities, she also portrayed Lord Krishna, Narada, and Raghunathaswamy.

■ A STORY THAT IMPRESSED SUMAN

Veteran actor Suman revealed that when Sai Venkat first narrated the story, he felt that bringing such an ambitious subject to the screen would be a challenging task. However, the director's confidence in the story and determination to complete the film impressed him. He expressed his happiness at getting the opportunity to play a meaningful role in the project.

Suman emphasised the importance of unity among people, stating that despite the existence of different castes, religions, and communities in India.

SAI DURGHA TEJ'S SYG WRAPS UP SHOOT AFTER 160+ DAYS, SET FOR JANUARY 12 RELEASE



Mega Supreme Hero Sai Durgha Tej, Rohith KP, K Niranjan Reddy, Chaitanya Reddy, Primeshow Entertainment's Most Ambitious Pan India Movie SYG (Sambarala Yeti Gattu) Wraps Up Shooting After 160+ Days Of Intense Filming The much-awaited film Sambarala Yeti Gattu (SYG) starring Mega Supreme Hero Sai Durgha Tej and directed by Rohith KP, has successfully wrapped up its shooting, marking a major milestone in the film's journey towards the big screen. Produced by K Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy under Primeshow Entertainment, the production house behind the blockbuster HanuMan, Sambarala Yeti Gattu is its most ambitious project yet. Marking the culmination of an intense and monumental journey, a behind-the-scenes wrap video showcases the massive scale, raw action, and emotional camaraderie that went into building the film's world. Mounted on a grand scale, the film has completed over 160 days of intense shooting across 10+ massive schedules, reflecting the ambition and commitment behind this prestigious project. Positioned as the career-biggest film for Sai Durgha Tej, #SYG promises to be a significant cinematic outing for the actor. Speaking from the heart, he shared his gratitude with the entire team. The atmosphere quickly shifted into a joyous celebration as the team breaks into cheers, hugging each other and playfully dousing one another with water and fake blood. The team is proudly calling it Sambarala Sankranthi promising audiences a grand cinematic celebration at the beginning of 2027. The film boasts a stellar cast, with a prominent Bollywood Actor playing a key role and Kannada actor Dhananjaya essaying a pivotal character. Aishwarya Lekshmi, Jagapathi Babu, Naresh V Krishna, Sai Kumar, Srikanth Meka and Ananya Nagalla further strengthen the ensemble. Complementing the film's ambitious scale is a seasoned technical crew. Vetrivel Palanisamy handles the cinematography, while B Ajaneesh Loknath is in charge of the musical score. Nawin Vijay Krishna takes care of the editing, and Gandhi Nadikudikar leads the production design. With the shoot now wrapped, the team is gearing up for the next phase of preparations ahead of its theatrical release. The makers have locked January 12, 2027, for the film's grand worldwide theatrical release, setting the stage for a festive Sankranthi celebration. With its scale, ambition and the excitement surrounding Sai Durgha Tej's next big-screen outing, the film is poised to be one of the notable attractions of the Sankranthi season.

2nd Single 'Maala' from Aadarsha Kutumbam Starring Victory Venkatesh Is Out Now! A Thaman S Musical & Directed by Trivikram Srinivas



The musical celebrations of Aadarsha Kutumbam continue with its second single, 'Maala', which is out now! Composed by Thaman S, the song brings a distinct musical vibe, complemented by vibrant visuals and energetic choreography.

Victory Venkatesh and Nivetha Pethuraj add a lively charm to the song with their refreshing screen presence and delightful chemistry. Their graceful moves and infectious energy make 'Maala' a visual treat, perfectly complementing the song's vibrant mood. Sung by Thaman S, Dhanunjay Seepana and Ranina Reddy, 'Maala' features lyrics by Ramajogayya Sastry and choreography by Bhanu Master. Aadarsha Kutumbam brings together the blockbuster combination of Victory Venkatesh and Trivikram Srinivas once again, promising a wholesome family entertainer packed with emotions, fun and entertainment. Written and directed by Trivikram Srinivas, the film is produced by S. Radha Krishna under the banner of Haarika & Hassine Creations. The film boasts a talented technical team, with Ravi K. Chandran handling cinematography, Navin Nooli overseeing editing and A.

THIRUVEER'S "BHAGAVANTHUDU" SECOND SINGLE 'O YELLAMMA' RELEASED"



Bhagavanthudu" is the upcoming film starring young and talented actor Thiruveer and young and talented actress Faria Abdullah. Kannada actor Rishi will be seen in a pivotal role in the film. Produced by Ravi Kumar Panasa under the banner of Ravi Panasa Film Corporation (Panasa Media India Private Limited) as Production No. 1, the film has Vidya Sri Panasa as its co-producer. G.G. Vihari is making his directorial debut with this film.

"Bhagavanthudu" is being made as a romantic period political action drama and will soon arrive in theatres worldwide with a grand release.

Today, the makers released the film's second single, 'O Yellamma'. Composed by S. Krishna Prasad with a divine musical touch, the song is sung by Addula Jangireddy. Interestingly, the lyrics have been penned by the film's director, G.G. Vihari. 'O Yellamma' beautifully fills the heart with devotion through its powerful lyrics.

NEHA SHETTY IS BACK WITH A FRESH GLAM LOOK



Neha Shetty won big popularity as Radhika in DJ Tillu and later featured in Bedurulanka 2012 and Gangs of Godavari. Neha shared new pictures in an off shoulder floral crop top with puffed sleeves. She paired it with a denim wrap mini skirt with button detail. Pearl hoop earrings, stacked bracelets and rings added a light touch, and her loose wavy hair kept the look easy. She posed against a red textured wall.

Riteish Deshmukh Makes Telugu Debut With Ram Pothineni's #RAPO23, Joins Hyderabad Shoot



Riteish Deshmukh Makes Telugu Debut With Ram Pothineni's #RAPO23, Joins Shoot In Hyderabad Schedule, BTS Video Shows Ram Giving Him A Warm Welcome

Energetic Star Ram Pothineni is wearing two hats for his ambitious #RAPO23, and the actor-director is filming the movie at good pace. The film, which marks Ram's directorial debut, is being mounted on a lavish scale by producer Krishna Pothineni under the Rapo Cinematics banner. Riteish Deshmukh, one of Bollywood's most versatile performers, is all set to enter the Telugu film industry with #RAPO23. From Ek Villain to Raid 2 and the latest blockbuster Raja Shivaji, he has consistently showcased his ability to adapt to a wide range of characters.

Energetic Star Ram Pothineni is wearing two hats for his ambitious #RAPO23, and the actor-director is filming the movie at good pace.

For #RAPO23, Ram Pothineni is taking a very distinctive approach personally and carefully curating the film's cast and crew, with every choice being made to strengthen the story and its first of its kind neo-noir world. Now, bringing an actor like Riteish on board for a crucial role shows the level of thought going into the project. Riteish Deshmukh, who was impressed by the script and his character, immediately gave his nod to play a pivotal role in the movie. The actor has joined the shoot recently in the ongoing schedule in Hyderabad. The makers have unveiled an on-set video offering a glimpse of the massive set where the film is being shot. Though his face remains unseen, Riteish Deshmukh is spotted walking onto the set, where he receives a warm hug from the lead actor and director Ram Pothineni.

Tollywood's lucky charm Samyuktha plays the female lead in the movie that also features some notable actors in important roles.

National Award-winning cinematographer Thirunavukarasu (Thirru) is capturing the film, while AS Prakash is designing the sets. Peter Hein, Vikram Mor and Kevin are designing the action sequences.

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