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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

17-10-2026



Total pilgrims : 83,806
Tonsures : 34,449
Hundi kanukalu : 3.17 CR
Laddu sale... 4.73Lac
Annaprasadam.. 2.41Lac
Ashwini hospital..8,353
Present Situation on 18-10-2026: Waiting Compartments..Outside line at Krishna teja guest house.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...12 H.rs



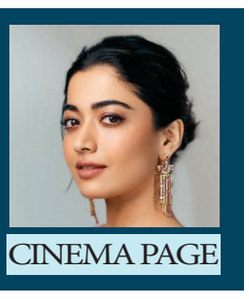
US releases new images of Hardeep Singh Puri, Epstein meeting

ELON MUSK CONFIRMS HE IS CONSID-ERING MERGING TESLA AND SPACEX



World News

RASHMIKA MANDANNA IS BLUE, BOLD AND SPARKLY



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

Inbriefs

Jamia forms panel amid students' indefinite hunger strike

New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia has constituted a committee to draft the constitution of its students' union, which was dissolved in 2006, amid an ongoing student protest demanding restoration of elected student representation on campus. According to a separate notification issued by the Chief Proctor's office on Wednesday, October 21, disciplinary action initiated against protesting students between October 12 at 5.30 pm and October 21 will be reviewed. The notification said students facing such action have been advised to approach the Chief Proctor. However, any cause originating after 5.30 pm on October 21 will invite strict disciplinary action, it added.

All police vacancies to be filled by 2028 CM Revanth

HYDERABAD, TSIT BUREAU :



Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy announced that all vacancies in the Telangana Police Department would be filled by 2028 and that ex-gratia for Home Guards who die in the line of duty would be increased from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh.

Addressing the Police Commemoration Parade at the Police Martyrs Memorial in Goshamahal Police Stadium on Wednesday, he directed DGP C.V. Anand to initiate measures to implement the enhanced assistance.

The Chief Minister said a notification had already been issued to fill 5,000 police posts and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening the department through recruitment, modern technology and welfare measures.Calling for greater sensitivity in handling cases involving women and children, Revanth Reddy stressed that justice should be delivered without delay. He said ensuring women's safety was a collective responsibility requiring public participation.

CJP's Saurav Das & Ashutosh Ranka walk out of Tihar after 7 days in judicial custody

A special executive magistrate ordered their release Wednesday. Earlier in the day, Delhi HC refused to interfere with their judicial custody, asking them to await SEM's decision.

NEW DELHI (TSIT):



Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka walked out of Tihar Wednesday after a Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) ordered their release after their 7th day in judicial custody.

While the Delhi Police had sought a further three-day extension, the SEM ordered the duo's release after they signed an undertaking that they would not call for any protest at Jantar Mantar until it remains a denotified protest site.

They also undertook not to commit any breach of peace and affirmed "full faith in the judiciary and all its instruments including the SEM Court". Das and Ranka were detained after they entered Jantar Mantar, tricolour in hand, after it had been de-notified as a protest site. The duo will be released from Tihar jail, lawyers involved confirmed.

According to Section 187(6) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), an Executive Magistrate is strictly restricted from authorising the detention of an accused for "more than seven days in the aggregate". The duo had completed the same Wednesday.

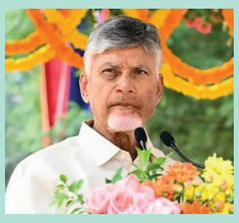
SEM Ritu Raj had on Monday extended their five-day judicial custody by two more days. After the hearing at the Mandir Marg Police Station at 4 pm, the SEM had reserved the order.

Earlier in the day, the Delhi High Court had heard Das and Ranka's plea challenging extension of their judicial custody.

Justice Subramonium Prasad had suggested the duo wait for the SEM hearing and move the high court if they were unsatisfied with the former's decision. Das and Ranka, represented by advocate Abhik Chimni among others, had then withdrawn their plea.

Law & order must for attracting investments, development: CM Naidu

Amaravati (TSIT)



Law and order is a must for attracting investment and ensuring development and creation of jobs, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Wednesday.

Law and order is a must for attracting investment and ensuring development and creation of jobs, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Wednesday. Addressing the Police Commemoration Day parade at APSP 6th Battalion Grounds, at Mangalagiri in Guntur district, he said law and order, development, employment, and welfare of the people are all interconnected.Investments flow only where there is confidence in security; this, in turn, creates employment and job opportunities, he said.

The Chief Minister said entrepreneurs will not come forward to invest in regions plagued by constant turmoil, unrest, and a sense of insecurity. "For this reason, whenever I am in power, I always prioritise law and order," he said.He noted that recently, the Andhra Pradesh Counter-Intelligence wing uncovered conspiracies that posed a threat to the nation's security. This, he said, has further enhanced the reputation of the Andhra Pradesh Police. He commended the state police for playing a pivotal role in national security.

The Chief Minister asked the police force not to tolerate crimes committed under the guise of politics. "Politics must never serve as a shield for criminals. Deal firmly with rowdies who harass the public; show no leniency towards those who act like social psychos."

CM Naidu stated that in police service, humanity is just as essential as courage. "Every individual who walks into a police station does so with the hope that their problem will be resolved. Some arrive in fear, others in tears; their issues must be addressed with a humane approach," he said.

Chandrababu Naidu said the police uniform should serve as a source of reassurance for victims. He remarked that the sight of a police uniform should strike fear into the hearts of criminals, while victims should find a sense of trust and assurance in the police.Stating that the methods used to commit crimes have evolved, he called for improving the methods used for investigation.

Kharge accuses Modi govt of 'Hitler-like rule'

Kharge further questioned the government's performance in education, pointing to shortages of teachers in universities.

Kalaburagi (TSIT):



AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday accused the Narendra Modi-led NDA government of pursuing authoritarian policies, describing its administration as "Hitler-like" and claiming that people were increasingly unhappy with the ruling alliance.

Speaking in Kalaburagi, Kharge alleged that the government was weakening democratic institutions and attempting to consolidate power. He claimed that dissatisfaction within the NDA was growing, with some of its supporters and political allies beginning to reconsider their association with the coalition.

Referring to Andhra Pradesh politics, Kharge cited YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as an example while arguing that leaders who had supported the NDA were now expressing regret. He also alleged that voters were becoming aware of what he described as electoral irregularities.

Kharge directed particularly strong criticism at Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, accusing him of supporting the BJP and the Modi leadership. He claimed that concerns about alleged bogus voting and the functioning of the Election Commission had not received an adequate response from the Prime Minister. These allegations were made by the Congress president as part of his criticism of the government's handling of electoral issues.

The Congress leader also accused the BJP of focusing its political attacks on Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. He drew a comparison with the party's past criticism of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, alleging that Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were repeatedly targeting Rahul Gandhi.

Kharge further questioned the government's performance in education, pointing to shortages of teachers in universities. He alleged that the lack of sufficient attention to education was affecting young people and eroding their trust in the Prime Minister.

Akhilesh says BJP faces public backlash

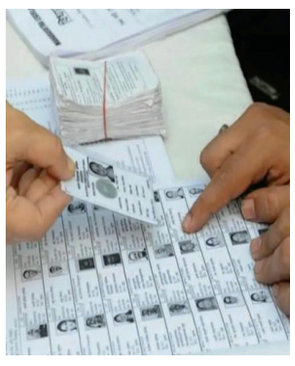
UP (TSIT):

BJP is the real crisis, people and farmers will take away CM's chair, says Akhilesh Yadav Lucknow, Oct 21 : Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday claimed that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's chair was not safe, and that people, including farmers and younger generations, would bring about a change in the state. Speaking to reporters, Akhilesh Yadav said the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would face growing public opposition and asserted that the government was attempting to retain power amid mounting challenges. "Even the Chief Minister's chair is not safe, because the people are going to take it away from him this time. It is not just the people; farmers are also going to take his chair away. Gen Z is keeping a close watch, and Gen Alpha has also arrived. So, this time, his chair is not going to be safe. They can say anything to save it," he said. The Samajwadi Party leader further said the BJP itself was responsible for the problems facing the state and that removing the party from power was the only way to resolve the crisis. "The BJP must be removed.



AP local body polls deferred in 19 municipalities over SC orders

Amaravati (TSIT)



Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha on Wednesday, October 21, said the local body polls will proceed as per the schedule in all the notified municipalities except 19 in seven districts.

These 19 municipalities are located in YSR Kadapa, Annamayya, Tirupati, Anantapuram, Prakasam, Palnadu and Markapuram districts.

"Except 19 municipalities in seven districts, all other (notified) municipalities and corporations will go to polls as scheduled," Punetha said in an official press release, citing orders from the Supreme Court (SC). Add Siasat as a preferred source on Google

The SEC held a video conference with the collectors and superintendents of police (SPs) of these districts on Wednesday and directed them to adhere to the apex court's orders.

However, Punetha noted that the order copy from the SC is yet to be received by the Commission.

■ Public will never accept this

NDA on Uddhav Thackeray's 'saffron identity', 'regime change' remarks



Public will never accept this: NDA on Uddhav Thackeray's 'saffron identity', 'regime change' remarks Mumbai, Oct 21 : The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders on Wednesday strongly hit back at Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray following his recent assertions regarding a "saffron identity" and "regime change" and said that the public will reject this rhetoric. While addressing a massive gathering during the annual Dussehra rally at the historic Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park in Mumbai, Thackeray openly asserted that they were present to change the regime, arguing that any government failing to serve public interest must be replaced. Reiterating his party's claim to the saffron identity, Thackeray said, "Bhagwa (saffron) is our identity; no one can steal our identity." Thackeray remarked that a saffron atmosphere is currently present everywhere, and emphasised that this sacred saffron flag must be hoisted not only at the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly but also on the throne of Delhi. Reacting sharply to these statements, Maharashtra Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA, Ram Kadam, speaking to IANS, stated, "The fear of 'Operation Tiger 3' was clearly visible in Thackeray's speech." He claimed that the deep regret of 'abandoning' Hindutva was thoroughly evident. "Because of this very regret, Thackeray repeatedly pronounced the word Bhagwa and continuously took the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj throughout his address," Ram Kadam alleged. Kadam further questioned what he termed as the "double standards" of Thackeray, claiming that the "nation has witnessed how individuals accused of riots like Umar Khalid, who chant praises for Afzal Guru, are embraced and supported by Thackeray, and how he walks hand in hand with Rahul Gandhi, who repeatedly attacks Sanatan Dharma and links saffron with terrorism."

Chief Secy calls for major publicity of Telangana Global Summit



Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Wednesday, October 21, directed officials to showcase the state's rich cultural heritage through folk and classical art forms at the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026, scheduled from December 7 to 9.Reviewing preparations for the summit, Jaju asked officials to organise a grand cultural carnival during the air show on December 9.

Stressing the need for extensive publicity, he directed them to hold curtain-raiser events in Hyderabad on Oct 24 and in New Delhi on October 29.

Jaju suggested putting up hoardings promoting the summit at international airports in major cities, including New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, according to a press release.

Hoardings should also be installed at Telangana Bhavan and other prominent locations in New Delhi, he said.In Hyderabad, he suggested placing hoardings at major road junctions, prominent locations, star hotels and along the route to the international airport.

Hyderabad Police rescues 4 Indian Rollers caged during Dussehra due to old superstition



Hyderabad: Hyderabad Police rescues 4 Indian Rollers caged during Dussehra due to old superstition Hyderabad, Oct 21 : Hyderabad Police rescued four Indian Rollers, Telangana's state bird, from illegal captivity during Dussehra celebrations. Superstition over the birds bringing good luck if sighted during the festival, has led to widespread cruelty and captivity of the . Police Commissioner, V.C. Sajjanar, said on Wednesday that acting on precise information provided by vigilant citizens, the Hyderabad City Police responded immediately. They conducted raids in three separate locations and successfully rescued four Indian Rollers, all alive. "The Indian Roller (Palapitta)—the state bird of Telangana, which ought to be soaring freely in the skies—was confined in iron cages by some individuals for their own selfish motives during Dussehra. Despite our clear prior warnings that harming voiceless creatures would lead to strict legal action, some chose to ignore these cautions, subjecting these helpless birds to severe distress," the Commissioner said.

Telangana, Keralam CMs attend grand Dasara celebrations in Mysuru



Mysuru: The world-renowned Mysuru Dasara celebrations ended in the palace city on Wednesday, October 21, with a spectacular Vijayadashami procession, the grand finale of the 11-day festivities.

Celebrated as 'Nada Habba' (state festival), the Dasara, or 'Sharan Navaratri', festivities were a grand affair this year, showcasing Karnataka's rich culture and traditions, reminiscent of royal pomp and glory.Keralam and Telangana Chief Ministers VD Satheesan and Revanth Reddy took part in the celebrations at the invitation of their Karnataka counterpart DK Shivakumar. Foreign dignitaries, among them ambassadors, consuls general and high commissioners of various countries, attended as well.

At the palace, in keeping with tradition, erstwhile royal family scion Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, in grand attire, took out the 'Vijaya Yatra' from Amba Vilas Palace to the Bhuvaneshwari Devi temple within the premises earlier in the day. He performed a special pooja to the 'Shami' tree there.

Telangana: Unit 5 of Yadadri Thermal Power Station synchronised to grid



Telangana: Unit 5 of Yadadri Thermal Power Station synchronised to grid Hyderabad, Oct 21 : The fifth unit of Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS) in Telangana was synchronised to the grid on Wednesday. Dr S. Harish, Chairman and Managing Director of Telangana Power Generation Corporation Limited (TGGENCO), congratulated the combined efforts put in by the teams of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and TGGENCO in achieving the milestone of synchronisation of Unit 5. TGGENCO is establishing YTPS with 5 units each of 800 MW with a total installed capacity of 4,000 MW at Veerlapalem Village, Damaracherla Mandal, Nalgonda District. The project consists of two units of 800 MW each in Stage-I and three units of 800 MW each in Stage-II. Four units (Unit1, Unit2, Unit 3 and Unit 4) were already commissioned and put into commercial operation. On Wednesday, Unit 5 was synchronised to the grid at 11:06 hrs and was handtripped for taking further COD operations, said an official release. This significant milestone was achieved under the able guidance of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Special Chief Secretary to the Government (Energy), Navin Mittal, and Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), TGGENCO, Harish. YTPS is claimed to be the largest State-run thermal plant in independent India. The project was launched in 2017, and its revised estimated cost is Rs 36,131 crore. The commercial operation of Unit 5 is likely to start. This is expected to boost the efforts of TGGENCO to meet the increasing electricity demand due to El Nino conditions. The electricity demand has soared to 20,003 MW against the normal level of around 15,000 MW for October. According to officials, there has been an increase in electricity demand of 5,000 MW mainly due to increased use of agricultural pump sets. The electricity consumption by the domestic sector has also gone up as the temperatures typically seen in March are being experienced in October. Last month, the state government decided to procure G-9 grade coal from Mahanadi Coalfields and Coal India for YTPS. The Chief Minister had taken a serious note of the stoppage of power generation due to coal shortage. Deputy Chief Minister Vikramarka, who is also the Energy Minister, had stated that due to the ill-considered decisions of the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government, the plant was constructed far from the pit head, resulting in an additional burden of approximately Rs 40,000 crore on the state for coal transportation.

SCR steps up water quality checks at Charlapalli station



South Central Railway (SCR) has intensified inspections, maintenance, and water-quality monitoring at Charlapalli Railway Station in Secunderabad Division to ensure safe and potable drinking water across its network. The checks cover groundwater sources, municipal supply, storage facilities, chlorination processes, and distribution systems.Monitoring has been strengthened through daily residual chlorine checks and regular bacteriological testing for possible E. coli contamination. Water samples collected at the station from 12th to 18th September 2026 were found satisfactory across all parameters. General Manager Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava has directed officials to maintain continuous monitoring and ensure drinking water meets Indian Railways Medical Manual standards.

15 Candidates in Fray for GVMC Mayor's Post

Visakhapatnam, TSIT: A total of 15 candidates are in the fray for the post of Mayor in the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Second Ordinary Elections–2026, Mayor Election Returning Officer B. Dayanidhi announced on Wednesday. According to a press release issued by the GVMC Election Media Centre, the candidates include Karanam Keerthana Grace of the Bahujan Samaj Party, allotted the elephant symbol; Devara Naga Sunanda Devi of the Indian National Congress, allotted the hand symbol; Mukka Sravani of the Telugu Desam Party, allotted the bicycle symbol; and Varudu Kalyani of the YSR Congress Party, allotted the fan symbol.

Nammi Bhavani of the Bharatha Chaitanya Yuvajana Party has been allotted the battery torch symbol.

The independent candidates and their allotted symbols are Fancy Namma Attili (bottle), Gompa Venkata Padmavathi (cup and saucer), Shailaja Talupula (school bag), Priyanka Dandi (air conditioner), Pakruthi Devika (ring), Bora Santoshi (cauliflower), Likhitha Landa (candles), Vandrasi Shanthi Kumari (palanquin), Viyyapu Uma (flute) and Shaik Daulatunnisa (cupboard).

The Returning Officer also stated that six candidates had withdrawn their nominations for the Mayor's post.

Those who withdrew included Venkat Lakshmi Jarripothula and Usnara Parveen of the Congress; Senapathi Vasantha of the TDP; Pedada Ramanakumari and Thippala Venkat Vijay Kumari of the YSRCP; and independent candidate Pulichintala Rajeswari.

With the completion of the withdrawal process, 15 candidates remain in the contest for the Mayor's post in the GVMC elections.

Police Martyrs' Sacrifices Remain Immortal: SP Sangram Singh G. Patil



The South India Times // Nagarkurnool : The sacrifices and services of police martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation and the protection of people would remain unforgettable, said District SP Dr Sangram Singh G. Patil, IPS. Police Commemoration Day was observed solemnly at the Nagarkurnool District Police Parade Grounds on Wednesday. The SP, who attended as the chief guest, hoisted the national flag and paid floral tributes at the martyrs' memorial. Later, a rally was organised from the police parade grounds to Ambedkar Chowrasta in honour of the martyrs.

The SP said October 21 was observed every year as Police Commemoration Day to remember police officers and personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. He recalled that 10 Indian police personnel were killed in a Chinese attack in the Hot Springs area of Ladakh on October 21, 1959. He said police personnel continued to serve the public by maintaining law and order, preventing crime, combating terrorism and assisting people during disasters. Their courage and sacrifices remained an inspiration to everyone, he added.

Recalling the sacrifices of police personnel in the erstwhile united district, the SP referred to the tragic incident at Somasila on November 14, 1993, in which nine police personnel lost their lives at the hands of Maoists. The deceased included then united district SP Paradesi Naidu, IPS, Sub-Inspectors Kishore Kumar and Shiva Prasad, Head Constable Rangareddy, and constables N. Prasad, Subhan, Jahab Iqbal, Jaya Ramulu and Shaik Haider. He assured that the Nagarkurnool district police department would always stand by the families of the martyrs. Providing better and safer services to the public would be the true tribute to their sacrifices, he said.

Later, police officials posed for a group photograph with the families of the martyrs near the memorial established in front of the Nagarkurnool SP's office. Additional SP N. Venkateshwarlu, family members of the martyrs, DSPs, Circle Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Armed Reserve personnel and Police Welfare Association president Chinnu Naik participated in the programme.

SCoR GM Conducts Safety Review; Four Employees Receive Safety Awards



Visakhapatnam, TSIT. South Coast Railway General Manager Sandeep Mathur conducted a comprehensive safety review meeting with Principal Heads of Departments and Divisional Railway Managers four divisions to assess and strengthen safety measures and crowd management arrangements across the zone.

The meeting focused on strengthening railway safety, implementing effective crowd management strategies and expediting the redressal of passenger grievances through the Rail Madad system to ensure safe and hassle-free journeys.Addressing the officials, Mathur reviewed the existing operational plans to manage the anticipated rush during festival periods. He directed officials to ensure adequate deployment of staff and make proactive arrangements to facilitate passengers. He also stressed the need for prompt and effective resolution of complaints received through the Rail Madad portal.On the occasion, the General Manager presented the *Employee of the Month Safety Awards for September 2026* to four frontline railway employees in recognition of their exceptional alertness, presence of mind and dedication to duty.The awardees were T. Suresh, Loco Pilot/Goods, Vijayawada Division; K. Mary, Technician-I/C&W, Guntur Division; S.K. Mukhtiyar, Pointsman, Guntakal Division; and T. Ram Prasad, Track Maintainer-I, Visakhapatnam Division.

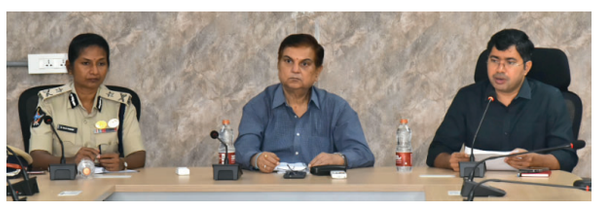
Hi Life Exhibition brings festive glamour to Bengaluru this Diwali



Bengaluru: This Diwali, make your celebrations a statement of style, glamour and elegance. Hi Life Exhibition is bringing an extraordinary shopping experience to Bengaluru with an exquisite collection of designer wear, bridal wear, festive couture, dazzling jewellery and statement accessories.

From glamorous Diwali ensembles to elegant outfits for weddings and special occasions, visitors can discover the season's most coveted styles and add a touch of luxury to every celebration.The exhibition will be held on 23rd, 24th and 25th October. Organisers invite fashion lovers to join and make this Diwali truly stylish and unforgettable.

Implement SC directives strictly: AP Election Commissioner



Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha has directed Collectors and Superintendents of Police of seven districts to strictly implement the Supreme Court's orders and take necessary precautions to ensure peaceful conduct of local body elections.

The State Election Commission held a video conference with officials of YSR Kadapa, Annamayya, Tirupati, Anantapur, Prakasam, Palnadu and Markapuram districts in the wake of the Supreme Court's interim directions. According to the SEC, a copy of the interim order was yet to be received. Punetha said appropriate action would be taken immediately after receiving the order, based on its directions and reports from district Collectors and SPs. He clarified that the election process in all municipalities and municipal corporations would continue as scheduled, except for 19 municipalities in the seven districts concerned.

The Commissioner directed officials to prevent a recurrence of incidents reported during municipal elections during the ongoing MPTC and ZPTC nomination process. He instructed the police department to provide adequate protection to candidates filing nominations and ensure the process remains peaceful, transparent and in accordance with election rules.

The SEC also clarified that candidates contesting MPTC and ZPTC elections need not compulsorily submit No Objection Certificates or No-Dues Certificates while filing nominations, as no such mandatory requirement exists under the election rules. Following complaints from political parties that some Returning Officers and Election Officers were insisting on these certificates, the Commission directed officials not to impose additional conditions contrary to the rules. SEC Secretary Dr. A. Mallikarjuna, Additional Director General of Police S. Madhusudhana Reddy, Inspector General of Police B. Rajakumari and the Collectors and SPs of the concerned districts participated in the video conference.

RSS Should View Rahul's Remarks on Women's Representation with an Open Mind: Dr Anand Kumar



Bengaluru : Dr Anand Kumar, National Coordinator of the AICC Scheduled Caste (SC) Department and in-charge of Maharashtra, has urged the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to consider Rahul Gandhi's remarks describing it as a male-dominated organisation from a broader perspective, saying the debate should focus on women's empowerment, equal opportunities and representation in leadership.

In a statement issued during Navaratri, Dr Kumar said women's empowerment should extend beyond speeches, slogans and the worship of goddesses to ensure equal participation in decision-making, leadership and positions of authority. He alleged that the RSS had not provided adequate opportunities for women and oppressed communities, and questioned its historical position on the national flag, national anthem and the freedom struggle. He also criticised what he described as the organisation's adherence to Manusmriti-based ideology.Rather than dismissing Rahul Gandhi's remarks as political criticism, senior leaders of the Sangh Parivar should examine the issues raised and consider whether organisational reforms were necessary, Dr Kumar said. He stressed that respecting women meant more than assigning them roles as followers or supporters. Women should be recognised as leaders capable of making independent decisions and influencing organisational policies.

"Women's participation and their authority to make decisions are two different things," he said, arguing that the real measure of equality lay in the representation of women at the highest levels of leadership.

Dr Kumar said that while women in India were widely worshipped as embodiments of divine power, questions remained about the extent to which they enjoyed equal authority, independent decision-making powers and leadership opportunities in institutions.He said women associated with RSS-affiliated organisations participated in social activities and promoted their ideology, but their role in formulating policies, selecting leaders and shaping organisational strategies needed closer examination.

The existence of separate organisations for women sharing the RSS ideology, he argued, did not by itself resolve questions about equal representation within the principal organisation. Greater clarity was needed on the responsibilities assigned to women and their participation in key decision-making processes.

Dr Kumar said the debate should extend beyond the RSS to include social organisations, religious institutions and public bodies. He called for a wider discussion on the gap between the cultural worship of feminine power and the practical empowerment of women.Education, employment, economic independence, property rights, political participation and access to leadership positions were important indicators of genuine empowerment, he said.

Bulgaria to Send Ministerial Delegation to Bengaluru in November to Explore Clean Energy Partnerships



Bengaluru: Bulgaria will send a high-level delegation comprising government ministers and senior officials to Bengaluru in November to explore partnerships with Karnataka in bioenergy, renewable energy and clean technology. The proposed visit, scheduled to coincide with the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS), was discussed during a meeting between Bulgarian Ambassador to India Dr. Nikolay Yankov and S.E. Sudheendra, Chairman of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSBDB), in Bengaluru.

The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation through technology transfer, sustainable investments and joint initiatives in bioenergy and renewable energy. The two sides also explored opportunities to connect Bulgaria's industrial biotechnology expertise with Karnataka's biofuel research and demonstration infrastructure.

During the meeting, Sudheendra highlighted Karnataka's efforts to promote international partnerships in the renewable energy sector. He referred to an 11-member delegation he led to Germany last year, during which discussions were held with senior diplomatic officials at the Consulate General of India in Frankfurt to explore opportunities for clean technology collaboration.

The German visit resulted in a memorandum of understanding with academic institutions, including Fachhochschule Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts. The delegation also facilitated an investment framework with Hamburg Invest, a German investment promotion agency, with a projected investment of Rs.1,000 crore in Karnataka's bioenergy infrastructure.

Sudheendra said the German experience demonstrated the importance of combining diplomatic engagement, academic collaboration and private-sector investment to advance clean energy initiatives. Karnataka is prepared to adopt a similar approach to develop partnerships with Bulgarian academic institutions, industrial research centres and technology companies, he added.

Toyota launches mobile computer bus for digital literacy in Surat schools



Surat: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), in collaboration with the Surat District Panchayat, has launched 'Toyota-E-Kaksha', a mobile computer education programme aimed at improving digital literacy among students in government schools across the district.

The initiative was launched by Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi in the presence of Surat District Development Officer Devendra Prakash Meena and senior TKM officials.

Under the programme, a mobile classroom equipped with 21 computers, internet connectivity, educational software and interactive digital learning tools will travel to government schools, giving students hands-on exposure to information technology. It is expected to benefit 1,000 Class 8 students annually across 50 government schools, following an MoU signed between TKM and the District Panchayat on March 11, 2026. Sanghavi said digital literacy was essential for children's future and stressed equal learning opportunities for students in urban and rural areas. He said the mobile classroom would bring computer education directly to government school students and strengthen the state's efforts to improve education quality. Vikram Gulati, Country Head and Executive Vice-President, Corporate Affairs, TKM, said access to technology should not be determined by a student's school or geographical location.

Ramesh Babu urges Governor to make Lok Bhavan accessible to public



Bengaluru : Former Karnataka Legislative Council member Ramesh Babu has urged Governor Dr. Sudha Yadav to uphold constitutional values, promote social justice and strengthen public engagement with Lok Bhavan.

In an open letter congratulating the Governor on assuming office, Babu expressed hope that her tenure would be marked by impartiality, democratic accountability and inclusive development, with particular attention to the aspirations of backward classes, Dalits, minorities, women, farmers, workers and other disadvantaged sections.

He said Karnataka had a strong legacy of social reform, progressive thought and equality, and stressed the importance of ensuring equal opportunities, dignity, representation and access to education and employment for historically disadvantaged communities.Babu also emphasised the need to respect the elected mandate and established constitutional conventions governing relations between the Governor and the elected State government. Upholding constitutional morality, federalism, secularism and democratic accountability would help strengthen public confidence in democratic institutions, he said.

Recalling the initiatives associated with former Governor V.S. Ramadevi to make Raj Bhavan accessible to the public, Babu urged Dr. Yadav to continue and expand the practice of organising visits to Lok Bhavan.

Such visits, particularly for students, educational institutions, social organisations and citizens from different districts, would promote constitutional awareness and help younger generations understand the role of democratic institutions, he said.

Kia India opens skill development centre in Mumbai



New Delhi: Kia India, in partnership with the Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC), has inaugurated an automotive skill development centre at Don Bosco ITI in Kurla, Mumbai, as part of an initiative to train 360 candidates across four cities.

Supported under Kia India's CSR programme, the initiative aims to improve youth employability and develop an industry-ready workforce. The programme covers Mumbai, Faridabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata. Mumbai and Faridabad centres will be exclusively dedicated to Kia India, while Bengaluru and Kolkata will also cater to other manufacturers.

The Mumbai centre will train 150 candidates in three roles—four-wheeler service technician, automotive service adviser and automotive sales executive. Faridabad will accommodate another 150, while Bengaluru and Kolkata will train 30 each. Training is free of cost and combines classroom instruction, hands-on sessions and workplace exposure.

Atul Sood, Senior Vice-President, Sales and Marketing, Kia India, said skill development was essential for inclusive growth and the industry's long-term advancement. The modules cover vehicle maintenance, diagnostics, repairs, customer advisory and automotive sales.

ASDC Chairperson Vinkesh Gulati said the initiative would help bridge the skills gap through industry-aligned training. FADA Vice-President Amar Sheth said automotive retail expansion required a steady supply of trained professionals. Kia India said the four-centre model is being implemented as a pilot, with potential for expansion to other locations.

Rising pollution, delayed diagnosis fuel growing asthma burden in India



New Delhi, : India is witnessing a growing burden of asthma cases, particularly in urban areas, with experts warning that poor awareness, delayed diagnosis and worsening air pollution are leaving many patients undertreated.

A nationwide study published in 2015 found that a majority of Indians diagnosed with asthma did not have their symptoms adequately controlled and experienced poor quality of life. Medical experts believe the actual number of asthma sufferers could be significantly higher, as many cases remain undiagnosed or are labelled under terms such as "allergic bronchitis", "seasonal bronchitis" or "chronic cough".

Doctors point out that asthma symptoms often fluctuate, especially in the early stages, leading many patients to underestimate the seriousness of the condition. The stigma associated with using inhalers has also contributed to underdiagnosis and lack of proper treatment. Contrary to common perception, asthma does not always present as severe breathlessness. Experts say persistent coughing after viral infections, difficulty climbing stairs, discomfort in closed spaces, wheezing at night and coughing triggered by strong smells such as perfumes or incense fumes can all indicate asthma.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER DETERIORATING AIR QUALITY IN INDIAN CITIES, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO AGGRAVATE RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES. ACCORDING TO POLLUTION DATA, CITIES LIKE MUMBAI RECORDED ONLY A HANDFUL OF DAYS WITH "GOOD" AIR QUALITY DURING

Health professionals have expressed concern over deteriorating air quality in Indian cities, which is expected to aggravate respiratory illnesses. According to pollution data, cities like Mumbai recorded only a handful of days with "good" air quality during recent winter seasons.Pulmonologists warn that increasing pollution levels, sudden temperature fluctuations and extreme weather conditions are making asthma harder to control and could lead to a rise in cases in the coming years.

Medical experts emphasise that asthma diagnosis requires spirometry testing and cannot be confirmed solely through X-rays, CT scans or blood tests, which may often appear normal. They also stressed that inhaled corticosteroids, commonly used to treat asthma, are safe and effective in controlling symptoms and reducing hospitalisations and deaths linked to the disease. On the occasion of World Asthma Day, doctors urged people not to ignore recurring cough, wheezing or breathlessness and called for greater awareness and early diagnosis to prevent long-term complications.

Irregular bedtimes during midlife may increase heart disease risk: Study



Helsinki, : Frequently going to bed at different times during midlife could significantly increase the risk of serious heart problems later in life, according to a new study conducted by researchers at the University of Oulu in Finland.

The study found that people with highly irregular bedtimes, particularly those spending less than eight hours in bed, faced nearly double the risk of major cardiovascular events compared to individuals with more stable sleep schedules.

Researchers noted that irregular wake-up times, however, did not show a strong link with heart-related complications.

The cardiovascular events examined in the study included serious medical conditions such as myocardial infarction and cerebral infarction that require specialised treatment and hospital care."Previous research has linked irregular sleep patterns to heart health risks, but this is the first time we've looked separately at variability in bedtime, wake-up time and the midpoint of the sleep period — and their independent associations with major cardiac events," said postdoctoral researcher Laura Nauha from the University of Oulu.The researchers monitored sleep patterns using activity trackers that recorded the amount of time participants spent in bed and their sleep timing habits. According to the findings, maintaining a consistent bedtime appeared to play a particularly important role in long-term heart health. "Our findings suggest that the regularity of bedtime, in particular, may be important for heart health. It reflects the rhythms of everyday life — and how much they fluctuate," Nauha explained.The long-term study tracked 3,231 people born in Northern Finland in 1966. Participants' sleep habits were recorded over a one-week period when they were 46 years old, and their health outcomes were then monitored for more than a decade using healthcare registry data.Researchers said the findings highlight how daily routines and lifestyle habits can significantly influence cardiovascular health over time. "Maintaining a regular sleep schedule is one factor that most of us can influence," Nauha added.

ECO HOTELS AND RESORTS LIMITED

Corporate Identification Number: L55101KL1987PLC089987
Registered Office: 67/6446, Basin Road, Cochin, Ernakulam High Court, Ernakulam 682031, Kerala, India.
Corporate Office: Block No 4, Second Floor Raj Mahal Building, Veer Nariman Road, Churchgate, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, 400020; **Tel:** +91 22 44550546;
Contact Person: Ms. Heena Supadia, Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
E-mail: investor.relations@ecohotels.in; **Website:** www.ecohotels.in

CORRIGENDUM TO NOTICE FOR FORFEITURE OF PARTLY PAID-UP RIGHT ISSUE EQUITY SHARES

Shareholders are hereby informed that, due to a technical error in the Notice published on October 20, 2026, the number of shares mentioned therein may be disregarded. The correct number of forfeited shares is **16,31,580 Partly Paid-up Right Issue Equity Shares of ₹10/- each**, as approved by the Board of Directors on October 13, 2026. All other contents of the Notice remain unchanged. The Company regrets the inconvenience caused.

For Eco Hotels and Resorts Limited

Sd/-
Mr. Vinod Kumar Tripathi
Executive Chairman
DIN: 00798632

Place: Ernakulam
Date: 21.10.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE (S.D) THANE AT THANE

Spl. Civil Suit No. 345 of 2024 **Exh-14**
Mr. Mohan Baliraj Gupta
R/At 403, Om Shree Bhavesh Plaza,
Navghar Phatak Road, Near Vimal Dairy,
Kashi Nagar, Bhayander (E) Dist. Thane **..... Plaintiff**
V/S
MRS. JACINTHA PRAVIN JAGTAP,
residing at KN/166,Kooranplanjudy House, Angamaly
P.O.Kallupalam Nagar,Angamaly, Ernakulam, Kerala-683572.

WHEREAS the Hon'ble Court is pleased to allow the Application of the Plaintiff U/0, 5. Rule 20 of CP.C. for publication as service in daily local newspaper against the said Defendant.

AND WHERAS you the Defendant is hereby requested to attend the Hon'ble Court on dated 14/12/2026 at 11.00 A.M. either personally or through your pleader. Please note non-compliance of this shall be presumed that you are not interested to contest the matter and in default the Hon'ble Court shall proceed EX- PARTE in the matter. Given under the hand & seal of the court this 16th day of 10/2026.

Sd/
Jr. Clerk

court seal

by Order
Sd/-
Asst. Superintendent
Civil Court, S.D. Thane

EDITORIAL

Searching for the Historical Role of Indian Women in Rakhigarh

History is not just an account of kings, wars, empires, and political changes. It is also the story of the lives, labors, beliefs, relationships, and cultural contributions of countless men and women who built civilizations. Yet, for a long time, the role of women has been relatively limited in popular history books. They have been presented sometimes as protectors of the family, sometimes as bearers of traditions, and sometimes as silent participants in power struggles, while not enough questions have been raised to understand their true contribution to the formation of society and culture. The archaeological site of Rakhigarhi, located in Hisar district of Haryana, offers an opportunity to reread this incomplete history.

Rakhigarhi is one of the largest known archaeological sites of the Harappan or Indus Valley Civilization. The planned settlement, drainage system, mud and baked brick structures, seals, beads, pottery, artifacts, cemeteries, and human remains discovered here shed light on various aspects of contemporary society. According to the Haryana Archaeological Department, evidence of cultural phases ranging from the Early Harappan to the Advanced Harappan period has been found here. The significance of these discoveries is not limited to understanding ancient town planning or economic life; they also address questions related to women's social existence, burial rites, jewelry, craft traditions, and cultural identity.

Viewing Rakhigarhi from a woman-centered perspective does not mean declaring that society there was necessarily matriarchal. Its real purpose is to recognize women as independent historical subjects in the study of civilization, and to attempt to understand their lives and contributions through archaeological evidence.

Rakhigarhi: A Civilization's Memory Preserved in Soil

Rakhigarhi's identity has steadily expanded with modern archaeological research. Excavations here reveal that the Harappans lived in planned settlements. Residential structures, streets, drainage systems, craft products, and standardized weights and measures point to their technical proficiency and organized social life. Clay toys, beads, seals, metal objects, and various types of jewelry also reveal the artistic tastes and production skills of the time. Among these remains, human burials hold special significance because they allow us to question the life and death rituals of those whose individual voices have not survived history. Pottery, jewelry, and other objects found in graves can help us understand the beliefs, social practices, and attitudes toward the dead of contemporary communities. However, it would be inappropriate to draw conclusions about the social structure of an entire society based on a single object or burial tradition.

The significance of Rakhigarhi lies in this broad perspective. Each archaeological site here opens the door to new questions rather than providing final answers about the past. These questions, which include topics such as the role of women, division of labor, family structure, craft production, and social status, can help make history more inclusive.

HOW BJP'S COUNTER-OFFENSIVE IS TAKING SHAPE

Rahul Shrivastava



Politicians are extremely tenacious. Their footwork can sometimes be so sublime that a change in tactics is hard to decipher. It's being highlighted yet again by how, in a climate of setbacks, Delhi's ruling party seems to have discovered a chance for a comeback. The political narrative since July has been unfavourable for the BJP. A satirical platform mobilised masses and claimed the scalp of a central minister, forcing none less than PM Narendra Modi to launch an outreach to a voting group that stood up and said they cannot be ignored.

For much of October, India's political narrative was dominated by the Opposition led by a consistent Rahul Gandhi. The government faced a high opposition-unity index and serious questions delivered not through press conferences but via an agitation. The national capital echoed with war cries like "vote chori" and "Gyanesh, it's done bro!", with the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation on the demand charter. With 12 years of incumbency weighing heavily, the saffron party had its back to the proverbial wall like never before. Till a few days ago, the BJP and the government it leads were openly contesting "vote chori" but were feeble in response on the CEC issue. On Dussehra, through speeches, two of the most influential men in Delhi's ruling matrix -- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP's ideological mentor, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat -- like Hansel and Gretel from a famous German fairy tale, dropped a trail of breadcrumbs for their voters to find their way back home. It can be said that the Opposition's "vote chori" charge now has "regime loot" as the BJP's counter in the works.

One speech was delivered by PM Modi at a Ravana effigy-burning event in Delhi. Bhagwat spoke in Nagpur.

Both had elements that form a congruent narrative.

PM Modi said that "inspired by Lord Rama", India is moving towards being "viksit" and "atmanirbhar", developed and self-reliant. That part was familiar.

Then he warned, "There are people who hate our cultural heritage. And the enemies of Maa Bharti (Mother India) need to be defeated."

At the Nagpur headquarters of the RSS, Mohan Bhagwat performed the customary 'shastra puja' (ritualistic worship of weapons). It's inspired by a mention in the Hindu epic Mahabharata that the Pandavas during their exile had hidden their weapons on a Shami tree, and they recovered them on Vijaydashami.

"India's rise has made our country the prime target," Bhagwat said.

"A storm is coming from the West. There are people who hold conclaves to find how to dismantle India and the union. They get support. Lure of power drives ambitious leaders," he added.

He went on to say, "Problems persist, and agitations happen. But agitations should aim at solutions. It should not lead to ill-will in society. Movements demanding regime change have not necessarily improved conditions." A 'Foreign' Bogey, A Loaded Past

The two speeches indicate a two-pronged attack.

The first thrust is via the "foreign hand" bogey. It's not new. In post-Independence India, this argument figured for the first time in Kerala in 1959. Then it became one of the alibis for Indira Gandhi to impose the Emergency in 1975. Amid mounting corruption allegations surrounding the Bofors defence deal, Rajiv Gandhi accused an "invisible foreign hand" of trying to destabilise India. Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister attributed grassroots protests against nuclear plants to foreign-funded NGOs. An American hand was alleged behind the Anna Hazare-led anti-corruption movement in 2011 by Congress leaders. Since 2014, the BJP and government voices have repeatedly blamed an "international toolkit" for every major domestic disruption or protest. But this time there's something different too: the BJP has videos of anarchy on the streets of Paris to point out and say, "See, this is what they want to unleash in India."

■ THE BANGLADESH MENTION

The cycle started with the Opposition mounting pressure, holding potent protests, and petitioning the Supreme Court on the CEC issue. Then came a 39-second undated video in which All India Students' Association (AISA, the CPI-ML student wing) head Neha Bora was heard saying, "Gen-Z movement in Bangladesh showed us the way." The BJP grabbed the video with glee. Bora had become a prominent anti-government face after she walked with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in their 'Supreme Court chalo' march with thousands of supporters.

Later, at a press conference, she was seen sitting next to lawyer-activist and one-time AAP founder Prashant Bhushan when he said, "We all want a regime change," and questioned what was wrong with that demand.

The BJP instantly put together Prashant Bhushan's "regime change", Neha bora's "inspired by Bangladesh", and her constant showcasing by Rahul Gandhi to construct a narrative: that the opponents of the Modi government are plotting a Bangladesh- and Nepal-like violent and destructive change of regime.

In July, the anti-NEET paper leak protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) were different. The BJP felt threatened not just because the crescendo was rising or the Opposition was uniting on the issue. Most victims of exam paper leaks came from the upper castes, the BJP's core vote bank. That's why the BJP backtracked.

But the call for a regime change on the lines of Bangladesh is something the BJP thinks it can exploit.

In Bangladesh, the July 2024 movement began as a peaceful student protest against government job quotas. It rapidly evolved into a national uprising that forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee. Islamist groups capitalised on the security vacuum and unleashed communal violence against minority Hindus.

■ THE US-VS-THEM PLAY

The narrative being built now indirectly says that "assisted by the foreign hand", a regime-change attempt will end up hurting the majority. This fits the BJP's cultural nationalism agenda. With polarising issues like Ram Temple fading away, the issue can be pushed to create an us-versus-them narrative. The party will amplify the regime-change charge to frame ongoing protests -- triggered by electoral roll revisions -- as a foreign-backed conspiracy to destabilise India.

Top leaders of the party, including president Nitin Nabin, have already alleged "a hidden agenda to destabilise the country in collusion with external forces".

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has accused Opposition parties of attempting to instigate youth-led unrest similar to developments in Bangladesh, branding the movement as "an effort to spread anarchy".

The Opposition's discomfort is visible. Congress leaders, including P Chidambaram and Shashi Tharoor, have rejected the regime-change charge as a defensive distraction by a government rattled by democratic dissent.

A bitter critic of the BJP, actor and activist Prakash Raj had to come out and say that the people of India will bring down the regime in Delhi "by voting only". "We are not Nepal. We are not Bangladesh," he added.

Emotional Intelligence in AI Filmmaking: Teaching Machines to Tell Human Stories



BY MR. NAVEEN KUMAR S

Artificial intelligence is transforming filmmaking, moving beyond visual effects and automation towards a more nuanced approach to emotional storytelling. Emerging AI film-generation tools, such as Google Flow, enable filmmakers to translate creative ideas into visual sequences using text prompts, reference images and cinematic instructions.

Emotional intelligence in AI filmmaking refers to the ability of these systems to generate visuals that communicate human emotions through facial expressions, body language, lighting, colour, camera movement and composition. For instance, a scene depicting grief may employ subdued colours, restrained movements and close-up shots to convey emotional vulnerability, while a moment of joy may use brighter lighting, expressive gestures and dynamic framing.

However, AI does not experience emotions as humans do. It identifies patterns in learned data and generates visual representations that may appear emotionally convincing. The effectiveness of such storytelling depends significantly on the filmmaker's understanding of human psychology, cinematic language and audience perception.

Tools such as Google Flow can support this process by helping creators develop scenes from carefully structured prompts and maintain visual continuity across sequences. Yet, technology alone cannot guarantee emotional depth. The filmmaker's creative judgement remains essential in shaping authentic, meaningful narratives.

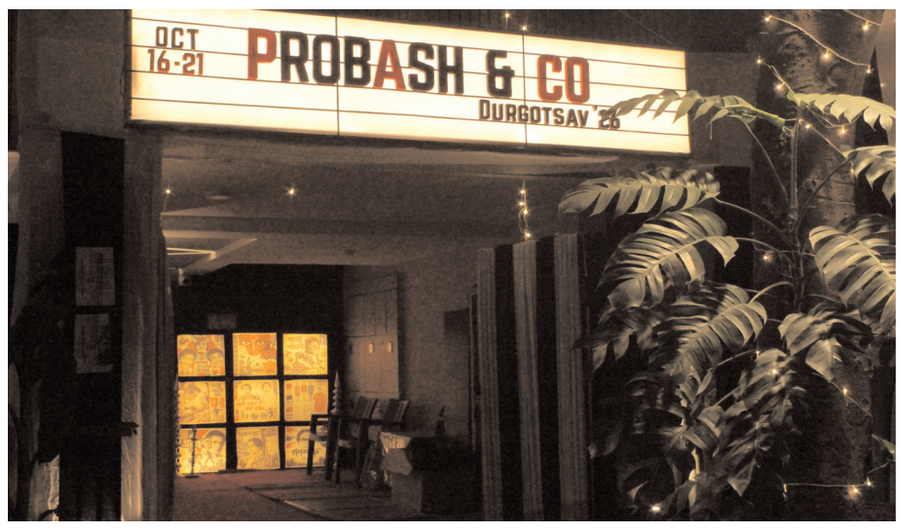
As AI-generated cinema evolves, the real challenge is not merely to create visually impressive films, but to produce stories that resonate with human experiences. The future of AI filmmaking may ultimately depend on how effectively technology serves the emotional intelligence of the storyteller.

The Writer is Assistant Professor, Department of Digital Journalism and 3D Animation, Loyola College, Chennai



Away From Kolkata, A Delhi Home Keeps The Spirit Of Durga Puja Alive

TANUSHKA DUTTA



Probashi is a term coined for Bengalis who reside outside their native homeland of Bengal. Four years of living in Delhi and I'm already resonant with the likes of this term. When you're a Bengali living away from home, you're always on the lookout for tiny pieces of home. Be it the Bengali girl you moved into a rented flat with, or the corner shop uncle who speaks your language, or especially those five days of the year of pure joy and Pichhutan during Durga Pujo. Much is the same for a group of friends, lawyers by profession who got together in Delhi, away from their homes in Kolkata, and began Probash & Co.- a Barir Pujo in the quieter lanes of Chittaranjan Park. Away from the crowded hustle bustle of CR Park pandals, lies this homely Durga Puja, quite literally at Priyadarshi Banerjee's rented apartment in I-Block. He fondly told me, "The Pujo moves with us, wherever we go, the Pujo will happen there. The whole intention is that Maa stays at home with us, and renting a community hall is just not the same." Banerjee, a practicing lawyer, is a part-time Purohit (Priest) who learnt to conduct rituals through years of observation, reading and practice, rather than formal training. "Having watched priests perform pujas since childhood, I grew curious about their mantras, gestures and the reasoning behind each ritual. I read their manuals and sought explanations from senior priests," he said. He alongside his law-school batchmate Snigdhaneel Satpathy, always talked about the idea of a Puja at home. "We came to Delhi and realised that we really missed home," said Satpathy. Banerjee and Satpathy had wanted to organise a Durga Puja but, as Banerjee recalls, law school left them with little time, money or space to make it happen. After graduating, some friends scattered across the country; others eventually found their way back to Delhi. The plan resurfaced, but it took time to turn it into a reality. The first puja was held in 2018, on a modest scale. Satpathy remembers the gap between what they hoped to raise and what they actually managed, "the budget was estimated at 60 to 70 thousand rupees, but we could raise only nearly Rs 25,000."

They went ahead anyway.

What followed was not simply the organisation of an annual religious event. It was the gradual making of a household out of a group of friends. The work extended beyond the rituals: from planning and preparing for the puja to arranging the decor and cooking the bhog. "You need a village to raise a child; you need to have a village to have a Durga Puja," said Banerjee, describing an effort that was never meant to rest on one person.

The group has grown, but the demands have not necessarily become easier. The five days of the puja mean early mornings, late nights and a great deal of coordination. Satpathy says the core group that started off with four to five people now includes around 18 individuals and their kids too. "Friends have today become family," said Banerjee. In the five days of festivity, this home in CR Park becomes a community that has travelled different distances to get there. For some, it is a way to reconnect with Kolkata, the city they left behind. For others, it is an introduction to a culture they did not grow up with. And for those who put the puja together, it is an undertaking that begins months before the rituals and brings friends, partners and families into the same fold.

For Banerjee, the name Probash & Co. reflects that intention. The group wanted to retain a connection to its Bengali roots without choosing a name that might make others feel they did not belong. The "and Co." was a way of signalling that the puja was not only for Bengalis, but for everyone who wanted to be part of it.

Ananya Ghosh, another batchmate from law-school who has seen the pujo since its inception said, "We always wanted to have the puja in a way where we tried to welcome each and every person. It doesn't matter who you are." The way Ghosh puts it, one doesn't need to sign up, be invited through a member or pay a hefty donation to become a part of Probash & Co.

OPPO India Launches F35 Series, Bringing India's Group Selfie Expert to a New Generation

October 2026 – As the OPPO F Series marks a decade in India, OPPO today announced the launch of the new OPPO F35 Series, comprising the OPPO F35 Pro and OPPO F35. Building on 10 years of the F Series' imaging legacy and its enduring connection with Indian consumers, the F35 Series marks the next chapter in this journey with a renewed focus on capturing and sharing moments together. At the heart of this evolution is the 50MP Ultra-Wide Natural Selfie Camera with a 100° field of view, bringing more people and more of the moment into every frame and introducing the Group Selfie Expert to a new generation of consumers.



Commenting on the Launch, Mr. Goldee Patnaik, Head of Communications, OPPO India, said, "Over the last 10 years, the F Series has evolved alongside the changing ways in which consumers in India capture, connect and share their lives. As social experiences become increasingly centred around shared moments, group photos and spontaneous content, the F35 Series builds on this shift with the 50MP Ultra-Wide Natural Selfie Camera and 100° field of view, bringing more people into the frame without compromising on the quality of the moment. With the Group Selfie Expert, we are taking the F Series' imaging legacy forward in a way that feels relevant to how consumers experience and share moments today. This evolution reflects our continued commitment to understanding emerging consumer trends and translating them into meaningful smartphone experiences."

GROUP SELFIE EXPERT: BRINGING EVERYONE INTO THE FRAME

The F35 Series is built around a 50MP Ultra-Wide Natural Selfie Camera with a 100° FOV, featuring a 1/2.88-inch sensor, f/2.1 aperture and autofocus. Its 0.6x ultra-wide lens creates a wider perspective, helping bring more people and more of the surrounding moment into a single frame, while the AI Auto Wide-Angle Switch makes it easier to capture everyone together. The wider field of view also enhances spatial depth and creates stronger subject-background separation, making group selfies and shared moments more expressive across family gatherings, celebrations, travel, weddings and everyday social occasions. The OPPO F35 Pro 5G further elevates the imaging experience with Natural Tone 2.0 and a 50MP main camera with a 1/2-inch sensor, f/1.8 aperture, autofocus and OIS, while the OPPO F35 5G features True-Tone optimisation and a 50MP main camera with a 1/2-inch sensor, f/1.9 aperture and autofocus.

The F35 Pro also introduces a new Portrait Mode, with enhanced subject segmentation, edge precision, natural depth transitions and improved light rendering for more expressive portraits. It also features an 8MP ultra-wide rear camera for wider perspectives, while the F35 focuses on its 50MP main rear camera. For low-light photography, the F35 Pro's upgraded Ultra-Bright Dual Rear Flashlight delivers wider scene coverage and more balanced illumination, while the imaging engine optimises flash metering to preserve natural textures and detail.

Instamart Quick India Movement Sale:

Apple, Nothing, Ninja, Bergner Among Top Deals to Shop Before the Sale Ends

October 21, 2026: With the festive season underway, Instamart's Quick India Movement Sale is bringing together offers across electronics, home and kitchen, personal care, food and everyday essentials. From smartphone upgrades and headphones to kitchen essentials, dinner sets and snacks, shoppers can explore deals on products from participating brands and sellers before the sale concludes on October 18.

Whether you're planning a tech upgrade, getting ready to host friends and family, or stocking up on everyday essentials, here are 10 deals to explore.

1. Apple iPhone 18 Pro: A premium smartphone upgrade

For shoppers considering a smartphone upgrade, the Apple iPhone 18 Pro (256GB) features a 48MP Pro Fusion camera, a 6.3-inch display and up to 34 hours of video playback.

DEAL PRICE: 1,62,900 | MRP: 1,64,900

2. CMF by Nothing Headphone Pro: For music on the go

Featuring 40dB active noise cancellation and up to 100 hours of playtime, the CMF by Nothing Headphone Pro is an option for music lovers and frequent travellers.

DEAL PRICE: 4,999 | MRP: 9,999

3. Ninja Crispi 1700W Clean Crisp Glass Air Fryer

From preparing snacks to making everyday meals, the Ninja Crispi Glass Air Fryer offers a convenient addition to the kitchen, with a glass cooking container that lets you keep an eye on your food as it cooks. Microwave, Freezer and Dishwasher safe.

DEAL PRICE: 14,999 | MRP: 19,990

4. Bergner TriPro Tri-Ply Stainless Steel Kadai: Ready for festive cooking

With a 3.1-litre capacity, a lid and an induction-compatible base, this kadai is a useful addition for everyday meals and festive cooking alike.

DEAL PRICE: 999 | MRP: 2,670

5. Raymond Home Double Bedsheet: A festive bedroom refresh

The Raymond Home Multi Floral Polyester Double Bedsheet comes with two pillow covers, offering an easy way to refresh your bedroom ahead of festive gatherings.

Deal price: 299 | MRP: 1,499

6. La Opala Novo Dinner Set: For festive hosting

The 21-piece La Opala Novo Dinner Set in Blue Florets is worth exploring for those looking to refresh their serveware before welcoming friends and family home.

DEAL PRICE: 799 | MRP: 3,295

7. Giva Rose Gold Pendant with Link Chain (Drop Wreath): A festive touch of jewellery

Looking to add a little sparkle to your festive wardrobe The Giva Rose Gold Pendant with Link Chain is a versatile jewellery pick for everyday wear or dressing up for festive occasions.

Deal price: 1799 | MRP: 5799

8. Ninja Blast Portable Blender: Blending made convenient

Featuring BlastBlade technology in a portable design, the Ninja Blast 1.0 High Performance Portable Blender is an option for preparing drinks at home or on the go.

DEAL PRICE: 3,499 | MRP: 6,530

9. The Whole Truth Unflavoured Whey Protein Concentrate (1kg): A protein staple for your daily routine

For those looking to add more protein to their daily diet, The Whole Truth Unflavoured Whey Protein Concentrate offers a straightforward option that can be mixed into shakes and smoothies or added to everyday recipes.

DEAL PRICE: 3724 | MRP: 4499

10. Beardo Ape-X EZ Beard Trimmer: An everyday grooming upgrade

The Beardo Ape-X EZ Beard Trimmer features a 7,000 RPM motor, up to 110 minutes of runtime and Type-C charging.

DEAL PRICE: 449 | MRP: 995

Explore the QIM Sale on Instamart

The Quick India Movement Sale runs until October 18, with offers across electronics, home and kitchen, personal care, food and other everyday essentials. Shoppers can explore products from participating brands and sellers on Instamart through the Swiggy app.

Samsung Announces Exciting Diwali Deals for Consumers on Bespoke AI Appliances

Gurugram, October , 2026: Samsung India is bringing the festive spirit home this Diwali with exciting offers on its range of home appliances, designed to make everyday living more convenient and connected. Samsung is inviting consumers to experience its latest innovations while enjoying attractive benefits and flexible financing options this festive season.

As part of the festive offer, consumers can avail up to INR 20000 cashback on select Samsung products. They also benefit from low EMIs starting at just INR 888, zero down payment and easy financing through Samsung Finance+, making it easier to bring home Samsung's latest innovations. Consumers can also get up to 3 years of additional warranty at no extra cost with Samsung Care+, when they purchase a 1-year warranty, subject to applicable terms and conditions. "Samsung's 2026 Bespoke AI appliance range is designed to be the True Home Companions, helping consumers simplify routines and deliver more personalised experiences. We hope to make celebrations even more special this Diwali with our exciting offers across our Bespoke AI range of appliances," said Ghufran Alam, Vice President and Head of Digital Appliances Business, Samsung India.

To celebrate the festive season, Samsung also announced the Triple Zero Offer, enabling consumers to buy Bespoke AI Digital Appliances with zero down payment, zero processing fee and zero interest EMIs on 6 to 10-month tenure. Samsung has partnered with IDFC FIRST Bank, HDB Financial Services and TVS Credit to bring this exciting offer for consumers this festive season.

Samsung's Bespoke AI appliances bring hyper-personalised, energy-efficient, and secure smart home solutions for modern Indian households. With the inclusion of Generative AI in Samsung's Family Hub Refrigerator, the range of recognisable food types - including processed items - has expanded. The AI Food Manager tracks the fridge's inventory in real-time, enabling SmartThings Food recipe suggestions, step-by-step cooking instructions, and seamless integration with compatible ovens or induction cooktops. It also manages expiration dates, suggests recipes for soon-to-expire items via Bixby, and helps maintain shopping lists. Knox Security ensures enterprise-grade data protection, while SmartThings connectivity offers effortless control of your home ecosystem. These features provide a tailored, efficient, and secure smart home experience.

Consumers can explore these offers via Samsung.com, leading e-commerce platforms, and retail stores across India until November 15, 2026, giving them the opportunity to upgrade their homes with Samsung's latest appliances and experience the convenience of connected and AI-powered living.

JSW MG Motor India announces winners of MG Developer Program Season 6.0 focused on Innovation in Automotive

Hyderabad, October, 2026: JSW MG Motor India today announced the winners of the sixth edition of the MG Developer Program (MGDP), its flagship startup engagement initiative aimed at fostering innovation in mobility and emerging technologies. Following a multi-stage evaluation process, Nayan Technologies, Technod8.AI, LiveNSense, LW3, Smaartbrand by Acquink Solutions, Fitsol, Cautio, and Meta Materials Circular Market have been selected as the winners of MGDP Season 6.0.

Through MGDP Season 6.0, JSW MG Motor India invited startups to showcase innovative solutions under the theme "Innovation in Automotive". Startups were encouraged to addressing key opportunities that can transform mobility, manufacturing, customer experience, sustainability, and industrial operations through emerging technologies. The eight winning startups will now work closely with JSW MG Motor India and its partners to explore pilot projects and real-world deployments over the coming months.

Anurag Mehrotra, Managing Director, JSW MG Motor India, said, "We are entering an era where the boundaries between mobility, data, and artificial intelligence are rapidly converging. The next wave of transformation in the automotive industry will be driven by innovators who can connect these ecosystems and create solutions with real-world impact. Through the MG Developer Program, we are committed to providing startups with a platform to collaborate, experiment, and scale breakthrough ideas. The winning startups of Season 6.0 represent some of the most promising innovations across automotive technology, sustainability, industrial intelligence, and mobility services. We look forward to partnering with them to explore pilot deployments and unlock new possibilities for the future of mobility."



JSW MG Motor India introduced MG Developer Program and Grant 6.0 in partnership with DPIIT, Startup India, JSW, NCPI BHIM, Jio, Gulf Oil India, TiE Delhi NCR, iCreate, Allianz Partners India, The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, LICO Materials, and Pulse Energy. The programme received over 130 entries, from which more than 40 startups were shortlisted for the presentation rounds and 18 startups progressed to the final jury round.

THE WINNING STARTUPS FOR MGDP SEASON 6.0 ARE:

Nayan Technologies - AI-powered, vision-based road intelligence platform

Technod8.AI - Full-stack agentic physical AI startup, building an agentic AI Brain

LiveNSense - Industrial AI platform for heavy industry

LW3 - AI and blockchain-powered compliance platform for EV battery supply chains

Smaartbrand by Acquink Solutions - Native AI Decision Intelligence platform for customer voice

Fitsol - AI-driven supply chain decarbonization platform

Cautio - India's first unified mobility intelligence platform

Meta Materials Circular Market - Digital infrastructure for India's automotive circular economy

Since its inception in 2019, the MG Developer Program (MGDP) has emerged as a key platform for fostering innovation within India's mobility ecosystem. Over the years, the programme has attracted more than 1,680 startup entries across themes spanning connected mobility, electric vehicles, artificial intelligence, sustainability, and next-generation automotive technologies.

Fifth edition of the MICHELIN Guide Dubai sees Trèsind Studio and Björn Frantzén retain three MICHELIN Stars

October,2026: MICHELIN unveiled the fifth edition of its annual MICHELIN Guide Dubai during a ceremony at the recently awarded Three MICHELIN Key hotel Atlantis the Royal Dubai which saw both Trèsind Studio and Fzn Björn Frantzén retain three MICHELIN Stars.

This year's MICHELIN Guide Dubai, dedicated to showcasing the city's leading dining venues and talents, includes a total of 122 restaurants, indicating a 77% percentage rise since the Guide's inaugural edition in 2022 when 69 outlets were recognised. With the results determined by MICHELIN's inspectors, who are sworn to anonymity, the increase in selected restaurants reflects Dubai's fast-growing and diverse culinary scene.



The MICHELIN Guide Dubai selection 2026 at a glance:

· 2 restaurants with Three MICHELIN Stars

· 4 restaurants with Two MICHELIN Stars (1 promotion)

· 14 restaurants with One MICHELIN Star (2 new)

· 22 Bib Gourmand restaurants (4 new)

· 80 MICHELIN selected restaurants (13 new)

(See list of restaurants below.)

Spanning 38 types of cuisines, the 122 restaurants featured in the MICHELIN Guide Dubai 2026 reflect the breadth and character of Dubai's culinary landscape, from internationally recognised fine-dining establishments and ambitious homegrown concepts to neighbourhood restaurants and accessible eateries. Together, they offer experiences for a wide range of tastes, occasions and budgets, while reinforcing the role of gastronomy in Dubai's tourism and economic ecosystem. The MICHELIN Guide provides an important benchmark for culinary excellence, demonstrating the strength of a food culture that has been built over time by the people who have created, invested in and championed it.

His Excellency Issam Kazim, CEO of the Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing, part of the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (Visit Dubai) said: "The fifth edition of the MICHELIN Guide Dubai is an important milestone in our city's journey as a global culinary destination. When the first edition arrived in 2022, our ambition was clear: to give the extraordinary depth, diversity and quality of our culinary scene the global recognition it deserved, while welcoming an internationally respected benchmark that would challenge our industry to continue raising the bar." "Since then, Dubai has firmly established itself among the world's great culinary cities, with a dining landscape that spans exceptional homegrown concepts and local talent, internationally renowned chefs and restaurants, and authentic cuisines shaped by a city of close to 200 nationalities. The breadth of restaurants recognised by the MICHELIN Guide, across cuisines, categories and price points, reflects what has always made Dubai distinctive: excellence here is not defined by one style or experience."

Swarnim Bharat Expo 2026 to Be Inaugurated by Jharkhand Governor Shri Santosh Gangwar and Hon'ble MP Shri Aditya Prasad in Ranchi

Ranchi, Jharkhand | October 2026: The Swarnim Bharat Expo 2026, a three-day national-level exhibition celebrating India's achievements, technological advancements, government initiatives and development journey, will be organised from 22nd to 24th October 2026 at Ranchi Club Ltd., Ranchi, Jharkhand.

The exhibition will be inaugurated at 10:00 AM on 22nd October 2026 by Shri Santosh Gangwar, Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand, and Shri Aditya Prasad, Hon'ble Member of Parliament. Organised by Parichit Foundation, the expo is being held with the vision and initiative of Shri Aditya Prasad to promote public awareness of government schemes, institutional achievements and the nation's development priorities. Inspired by the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India, the exhibition aims to bring government departments, public sector undertakings, scientific institutions and development organisations together on a common platform to showcase their contributions to India's growth.

Leading Government Departments and Public Sector Organisations to Participate

The Swarnim Bharat Expo 2026 will feature participation from several prominent government departments, national institutions and public sector undertakings representing diverse sectors of the Indian economy.

THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS INCLUDE:

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)

National Commission for Women (NCW)

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)

Tea Board India

NTPC Mining Limited

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Central GST and Central Excise, Ranchi

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Several other government departments, public sector undertakings and institutions are also expected to be part of this national-level exhibition, making it a comprehensive platform for showcasing India's scientific progress, industrial capabilities, public welfare initiatives and development achievements.

Showcasing India's Progress Across Key Sectors

The exhibition will highlight achievements and initiatives across healthcare, scientific research, agriculture, food processing, quality standards, energy efficiency, coal and mineral resources, space technology, infrastructure, tribal development.

MACRON ACCUSES FOREIGN LEADERS OF EXPLOITING FRENCH RIOTS



French President Emmanuel Macron has accused foreign leaders of exploiting the riots which erupted across the country on Saturday for electoral purposes. Without naming them, he said they were campaigning for forthcoming elections "at France's expense" with their comments on the violence, which erupted on the fringe of cost-of-living protests. Speaking on a visit to the Middle East, he referred to them as "leaders who are in campaign mode, whether here in the region or on the other side of the Atlantic". It was an apparent swipe at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces parliamentary elections next week, and US President Donald Trump, for whom mid-term polls fall next month. Macron said the unnamed leaders had been influenced by fake videos generated by AI about the riots. Nearly 150 people have been jailed and more than 800 brought before the courts since the riots which gripped Paris and other cities including Lyon, Marseille and Nice. Video of running battles between masked rioters and police, as well as property being destroyed and stores being looted, spread across social media. The government admitted the police had "lost control" during the violence, which came after weeks of protests by students over conditions in high schools. Macron vowed afterwards that the authorities would be "uncompromising" towards "agitators from ultra-left fringe groups", which he blamed for much of the trouble. Speaking in the Qatari capital Doha, the French president said: "For me, there is no visible foreign interference in the events that took place. On the other hand, there was foreign manipulation of information afterwards, yes, and that gave rise to unacceptable and stupid comments from many people, including foreign leaders... "We had people claiming that we had been invaded by hordes of migrants and Islamists, which is completely false." On Tuesday, Netanyahu said in an interview for Israel's i24 channel that France, which has Western Europe's largest Muslim minority, had been hit by an "invasion of extremist Islam". He said he had told Macron after the Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October 2023: "If we do not eliminate them here, you will have them in Paris." "That is exactly what is happening," he added. Also on Tuesday, Trump blamed the riots on mass immigration to France. "When I look at France, when you look at Italy, when you look at all the turmoil and the hatred, that's not about school," he said. "That's about people coming into the countries that hate the country." According to a report in the UK's Financial Times newspaper, EU regulators are examining possible foreign online interference and disinformation campaigns around the French riots and similar recent outbursts of unrest in EU states. It quotes unnamed security officials as saying that pro-Russian and far-right social media accounts linked to previous disinformation campaigns have spread violent videos in an attempt to sow more chaos. Iran and Algeria are also suspected of being behind some of the messaging, the paper adds. David Colon, a researcher at France's Sciences Po university who specialises in disinformation, was quoted as saying that "pro-Kremlin influencers" linked to the Russian campaign Storm-1516 had "amplified the events and spread a number of false narratives". France is one of Ukraine's most vociferous military supporters in its ongoing war with Russia, while Algeria is a former French colony with bitter memories of its war to achieve independence in 1962, and French relations with Iran have been strained by its war with the US and Israel this year. BBC Verify has reviewed more than 15 examples of fake news videos on social media which researchers at the US-based dTeam say are the work of a Russian disinformation operation known as Matryoshka. The videos feature near-identical branding to real news outlets in France, including Le Monde, Euronews and France 24. The individual impact and reach of videos made by Matryoshka appear to be limited, but experts have said the focus on amplifying unrest is consistent with known Russian disinformation tactics. Separately, BBC Verify has traced one of the most viral AI-generated images circulating on social media, which supposedly shows an elderly couple being robbed and left in their underwear in Paris, to an obscure website.

US CITIZEN STEPHEN HUBBARD FREED BY RUSSIA AS TRUMP ENVOY MEETS PUTIN



Russia has released a 74-year-old American citizen who was jailed for allegedly fighting on behalf of Ukraine, as President Vladimir Putin met US envoy Steve Witkoff in St Petersburg for talks. Stephen Hubbard has been taken to the city's Pulkovo Airport, Putin said during the meeting early on Wednesday. President Donald Trump later said the former teacher was "on his way back home" and "there was no 'swap' necessary". Hubbard was sentenced to almost seven years in a penal colony in 2024. He was accused of serving in a defence unit in Izyum, eastern Ukraine, when he was captured by Russian forces shortly after Moscow's full-scale invasion in 2022. Writing on social media after Russian state media reported the release, Trump said it had followed a request he "made directly" to Putin last week. Some other releases of detained Americans from Russia have been obtained through prisoner swaps. Trump also appeared to defend his recent decision to suspend sanctions on Russia two days before they were due to come into force, writing that "if sanctions would have been placed", negotiations for Hubbard's release "would have come to a complete and total halt". The US state department had previously classified Hubbard, from Michigan, as "wrongfully detained" and the US president had suggested on Tuesday that his release may be imminent. "Watch what happens," Trump told reporters, "we have been focused on Hubbard". CBS News, the BBC's US media partner, reported that Hubbard had been in poor health and was expected to be flown to Texas for treatment. Witkoff praised Putin for releasing Hubbard: "You talk so much about my president, President Trump, being a humanitarian - you are a humanitarian also sir, and I salute that. I commend you." Hubbard was later seen thanking Witkoff as they met separately. Putin's financial adviser Kirill Dmitriev was also present. Witkoff, who had attended talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Oslo the previous day, also asked Putin to consider a number of proposals agreed in the Norwegian capital, including renewing trilateral peace talks with Ukraine to try to end the war. Putin has not publicly commented on whether any of the proposals would be acceptable for Moscow. The Russian leader has so far rejected all proposals from Ukraine and its European allies to freeze the vast front line as it is and start peace talks. He thanked Putin for the deal struck with Washington earlier this month to import Russian diesel, saying Trump was "deeply grateful" for it. The first shipment under the agreement will leave Russia "in two to three days", Putin said during the meeting, as quoted by state news agency TASS. The diesel deal infuriated Zelensky and triggered a tumultuous few weeks of deteriorating relations during which Trump suspended a number of sanctions and said it was time for Ukraine to elect a new leader. Ahead of the US midterm elections in November, Trump has also sought to blame fuel prices, which have risen since the start of the US-led war on Iran, on Ukrainian strikes against Russian energy sites.

Gambia to pay victims of Yahya Jammeh's rule from proceeds of his seized US mansion



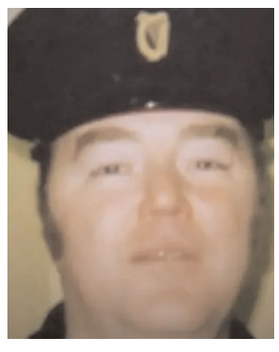
The Gambia will use funds received from the US from the forfeiture of long-time ruler Yahya Jammeh's property to pay victims of his rule, authorities have said. The Gambia's Reparations Commission said it received $2.5m (£1.86m) from the sale of a mansion in Maryland owned by former leader of the West African nation. The US had in 2022 secured the right to sell the property on grounds that it was acquired through "criminal proceeds and misappropriated Gambian public funds". Jammeh ruled The Gambia for more than 20 years after taking over in a coup in 1994 - a time marked by allegations of human rights abuses forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. On Tuesday, the Gambia Reparations Commission said it was "pleased to inform victims, survivors and the public that it has received a total of $2,573,414.10" from the sale of Jammeh's property. It said it was committed to ensuring the funds were managed responsibly and transparently, "with due regard to the rights and needs of victims and survivors". Jammeh lost to Adama Barrow in the election of 2016, first accepting defeat and then rejecting the results. He eventually stepped down in 2017 amid intense regional and international pressure. Troops from several West African nations, including Senegal, had been deployed to The Gambia, threatening to drive Jammeh out of office. In the end he agreed to step down and went into exile Equatorial Guinea.

AUSTRALIAN MP LOSES BOTH LEGS AFTER ALLEGED CAR ATTACK, HUSBAND SAYS



Helen Haines, the Australian MP who was hit by a car in what authorities say was a deliberate attack, has lost both her legs, her husband has confirmed. Phil Haines said the "horrendous incident" caused his wife significant injuries but "her heart and her mind are in good shape". He added that the "good news in all this is that she's alive". The alleged attacker, 43-year-old Brendan Nugent, faces multiple charges and appeared in court for the first time on Wednesday. Nugent was arrested moments after he allegedly drove his Toyota LandCruiser into the independent MP outside her electorate office in the regional town of Wangaratta, about 240km (150miles) northeast of Melbourne. Haines' "road to recovery will be long and difficult, but we know she is a fighter," her husband said at a press conference in Melbourne where she is being treated. "She is a determined person who will do her best, with our support and love, to recover. And that is what we hope for." He thanked hospital staff and people, both in Australia and internationally, who have shown their concern for Haines, and urged those who want to show their support to donate to the Save the Children fund. "Please keep sending Helen your love," he added. Earlier on Wednesday, Nugent appeared at the local court to face three charges: dangerous driving causing serious injury, intentionally causing serious injury, and causing harm to a Commonwealth public official. Police said more charges may be laid, including attempted murder. Nugent - a local from the nearby town of Tarrawingee and known as an environmental campaigner - remained silent and emotionless during his brief court appearance. He did not apply for bail and is due back in court in February. Court documents show he was also charged with cultivating and possessing cannabis. In court, Nugent's lawyer said that his client had "mental health concerns" but did not give any further detail. The court also heard that Nugent has a rare neurological condition - idiopathic transverse myelitis - caused by inflammation of the spinal cord. Victoria Police said its investigation, with support from the Australian Federal Police (AFP), remains ongoing and a motive is yet to be established. "His motivation for this - what we allege is a deliberate attack - is very much a centrepiece of the investigation," said Victoria Police Commissioner Mike Bush. "Our people will continue to explore every element, angle and avenue to work that out.

FAMILY OF PRISON OFFICER KILLED BY IRA RECEIVES STATE APOLOGY

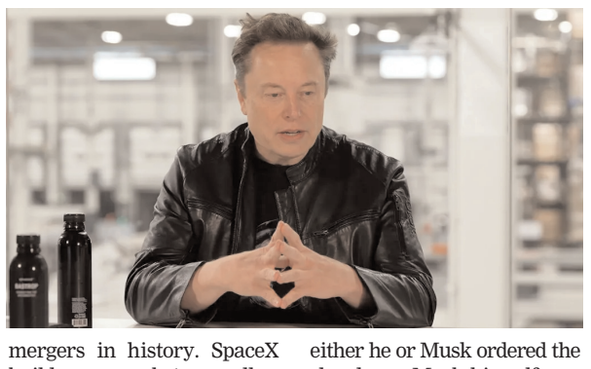


The family of a senior Irish prison officer murdered by the IRA has received a state apology on Wednesday for failings in investigations into his killing. Brian Stack, a father of three, was crossing a street in Dublin, after leaving a boxing match in 1983, when he was shot in the back of the neck. Stack, who was the chief prison officer at the high-security Portlaoise Prison, was left paralysed and died 18 months later, aged 49. There were three separate garda (Irish police) investigations into Stack's death, but no-one was brought to justice for his killing. The Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister) Micheál Martin offered an apology on behalf of the state during a sitting of the Dáil (Irish parliament). Stack's wife Sheila and her sons Austin, Kieran and Oliver were in the chamber for the apology. Martin said the Provisional IRA is "still in the possession of all the facts" on this case. "It's a great sense of comfort, to particularly my mother and to myself and my two brothers, because the state is officially owning up to the errors and the missions that happened," he said. He went on to say that the serious crime review team looked into the first investigation and "they found 194 errors and omissions". "So I have, and my family have, met with several ministers for justice down through the years and we have a requested sight of that report. "And every time we've requested it, we've been told that it's an internally valid document and that we cannot see it."



Borneo burning: Life on the frontline of South East Asia's toxic haze

ELON MUSK CONFIRMS HE IS CONSIDERING MERGING TESLA AND SPACEX



Elon Musk has said he is actively considering merging Tesla and SpaceX, his two biggest companies. "Do I think it would be a good idea? Yes," Musk said during a call with financial analysts to discuss SpaceX's latest results on Tuesday. While Musk noted it could not be assumed a merger will go ahead, and it would need shareholders' support, he said special committees within both companies had been formed to examine the move. "The special committees have not reached agreement on terms of any transaction and there's no guarantee that they will," he said. "But I do think there is a lot of merit to merging and a lot to be gained." With Tesla valued at roughly $1.5 trillion (£1.1 trillion) and SpaceX at $2 trillion, a combination of the two companies would mark one of the largest mergers in history. SpaceX builds space rockets as well as Starlink internet satellites and provides a secured satellite network for governments, including the US, through its Starshield business. That part of the business is currently facing scrutiny over claims Ukraine's access to the network has been limited, leaving it vulnerable to deadly strikes by Russia. US President Donald Trump has denied either he or Musk ordered the slowdown. Musk himself suggested the US government might have been behind the restrictions. Starlink's total revenue rose to $5.2bn in the three months to 30 September from $3bn in the same period last year. It is dwarfed by SpaceX's expansion into offering cloud compute capacity for other tech companies, such as Anthropic and Google. The business generated revenues of $7.5bn over the three months, up from $813m last year. 'Tap dancing through a minefield' Musk, who became the world's first paper trillionaire after the SpaceX stock market debut earlier this year, said he is not included in either of the special committees considering the mega-merger. He described himself as a "conflicted party" as the chief executive of both Tesla and SpaceX. Even commenting on the possibility of combining the two companies, Musk compared it to "tap dancing through a minefield". A merger would ultimately be decided by shareholders, he added. At least 50% of Tesla's shareholders would need to approve a combination, which Musk described as "quite a high hurdle to achieve". Shareholders have supported Musk's desires before.

ISLAM MAKHACHEV'S MANAGER BREAKS SILENCE ON UFC 336

TITLE DEFENCE RUMOURS



Islam Makhachev's proposed return at UFC 336 in Toronto is still far from confirmed. His manager, Rizvan Magomedov, has downplayed the reports. Reports have linked the welterweight champion to a January 30 title defence against Carlos Prates. But Magomedov told Russian outlet Ushatayka that the matchup remains "just rumours and talk." Negotiations are ongoing, though no date or opponent has been agreed. Makhachev has expressed a desire to fight again before Ramadan begins in early February. UFC 336, scheduled for January 30 in Toronto, had emerged as a possible landing spot. Makhachev's manager casts doubt on the January return Islam Makhachev has made no secret of wanting to fight again before Ramadan. This is expected to begin in early February 2027. After defeating Ian Machado Garry by unanimous decision at UFC 330 in August. He said he needed to return either before the end of 2026 or in January, leaving UFC 336 as the obvious landing spot. Rizvan Magomedov, however, was careful not to commit to that plan. "As of now, it's not close to becoming a reality," he said, adding that confirming a specific date and opponent was "still far from realistic." He did admit that talks over Makhachev's next welterweight defence are continuing. Carlos Prates emerges as Makhachev's most dangerous welterweight challenge Carlos Prates has become the leading name in those discussions. The Brazilian has surged quickly through the welterweight division. With knockout victories over Geoff Neal, Leon Edwards and Jack Della Maddalena, he is on the title radar. Javier Mendez, Islam Makhachev's long-time coach, has already treated the possibility seriously. He described Prates as a dangerous contender and said Makhachev's team would not underestimate him. Even while praising the challenger's brash persona. A fight between Makhachev's grappling and Prates' knockout power would make one of the most compelling welterweight title bouts in recent memory. But until the UFC announces it, Makhachev's camp wants expectations kept in check.

India Storm Into Top Five After Stunning Medal Haul At Asian Para Games



India's track-and-field contingent went on a rampage, collecting 22 medals, including five gold, to propel the country to fifth place in the overall standings, with sprinter Simran, high jumper Praveen Kumar and shot-putter Sachin Khilari also creating new Games records in their respective events. Apart from Simran (women's 100m T12), Praveen (men's high jump T44/64) and Sachin (men's shot put F46), the other gold medallists for India were Dilip Gavit (men's 100m T47) and Ayush Verma (men's shot put F53). Medals also came from para-archery, para-swimming and powerlifting as India steadily moved towards a strong overall performance in the eight-day extravaganza that will end on Saturday. But none of the performances came remotely close to the power-packed show put on by India's athletics contingent, which accounted for 13 of the 14 gold medals that the country had secured so far at the Games. India have also claimed 22 silver medals (14 from athletics) and 26 bronze medals (15 from athletics) for an overall tally of 62. Simran was among the star performers as the visually impaired runner clinched the 100m gold to add to her 200m triumph. Both podium finishes came with Games records within the space of 24 hours, despite the fatigue she is battling due to limited dietary options as a strict vegetarian. Armless compound archer Sheetal Devi, who is on course for multiple medals, picked up a women's doubles silver with Payal Nag after the pair lost to China in the final. In swimming, visually impaired Ravi Kartik Budigina won his second silver of the Games, claiming the men's 100m backstroke medal in the S13 category.

Temba Bavuma Breaks India Great's Long-Standing Record, Ends 76-Year Wait For Rare Feat



South Africa captain Temba Bavuma entered the history books following his monumental 179 against Australia in the second Test at Gqeberha on Tuesday. The Proteas began the day in deep trouble after Scott Boland stunned the top order following a lengthy rain delay. Bavuma picked up the pieces, stitching together crucial partnerships with Ryan Rickelton, Marco Jansen and Simon Harmer for the fifth, seventh and eighth wickets respectively. Bavuma's marathon knock eventually came to an end late on Day 3, before South Africa declared their first innings at 425/9. However, he broke several records in the process, leaving several greats of the game behind. Oldest captains to score 150 or more vs Australia in Test cricket: Temba Bavuma (South Africa) - 179, 36 years 154 days, Gqeberha, 2026 Mohammad Azharuddin (India) - 163, 35 years 38 days, Kolkata, 1998 Wally Hammond (England) - 240, 35 years 5 days, Lord's, 1938 Mike Denness (England) - 188, 34 years 69 days, Melbourne, 1975 Andrew Strauss (England) - 161, 32 years 136 days, Lord's, 2009 Bavuma became the oldest captain in Test cricket to score 150 or more against Australia, breaking the previous record held by former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin. Bavuma, at 36 years and 154 days, is also the oldest captain and the first since Australia's Arthur Lindsay Hassett to score 150 or more in a Test innings in South Africa. Incidentally, Hassett's knock of 167 against South Africa came at the same venue in 1950.

Shreyas Iyer's "Sweet Headache" Message Amid Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Selection Debate



India T20 captain Shreyas Iyer on Wednesday said young batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi cannot "walk" into the playing eleven just yet as Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson are scoring consistently at the top, insisting that the teenager will get his chances in due course. Since being picked for the England and Ireland tour earlier this year, Sooryavanshi has featured in only eight of the 21 T20Is India have played so far as regular openers Abhishek and Samson have been performing consistently. Both of them played a key role in India defending their T20I World Cup title earlier this year. "It's important that a talent like him (Sooryavanshi) should always be happy around the dressing room," Iyer said on the eve of a five-match series against New Zealand here. "He is very young, he has more years to get opportunities. It's not like he can walk in right now, because our openers are scoring consistently, and they have won the World Cup." At the Asian Games, Samson dropped down to number three to accommodate Sooryavanshi, allowing the youngster to open the innings. Iyer, however, believes the youngster's exposure to overseas conditions will help him prepare better for future assignments. "So, if you see, when he is coming overseas, he will get a fair idea how to play on these particular wickets. "Next time, whenever he comes in these conditions, he will be very well-prepared. And he can also instruct the other team members, whoever comes here for the first time." India have arrived in New Zealand following an intense scheduling block that included back-to-back home series against Afghanistan and the West Indies, alongside participation in the Asian Games over the past month. "We've done that in the past, especially after finishing the Afghanistan series. We went to Ireland, and we got a couple of more matches in between.

Mitchell Santner Reacts To India's Decision Of Benching Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Then A Big Praise



India's teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi heads into the T20I series against New Zealand as one of the most daunting players for the opponents to face. After failing to feature in a single game for India during the five-match series against the West Indies, Sooryavanshi cannot be sure of an opportunity against the Kiwis. While New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner admitted that competition in the Indian team is fierce, he did not shy away from heaping immense praise on the 15-year-old opening batter. As Santner arrived at the press conference on the eve of the T20I series opener, questions around Sooryavanshi and the potential threat he carries were bound to be asked. Santner, who kept a close watch on India's T20I assignment against the West Indies, said that his teammates already know how good Sooryavanshi is. "Looking at India's squad and their last series, obviously he didn't play, but we have seen first-hand how good he is," he told reporters. "With the IPL and the power at the top that India possess, players like Sanju and Abhishek have done really well. We know how good he is, even while the guys currently playing are also performing very well. He has a huge part to play for India in the future, whether it is in this series or not," he added. Santner has come up against Sooryavanshi in the Indian Premier League (IPL) multiple times. While the decision to play him or not rests in the hands of the Gautam Gambhir-led team management, Santner said that his team has plans ready for the teenage opener if he plays.

WWE Report Reveals A Disappointing Update On Jordynne Grace's Current Status



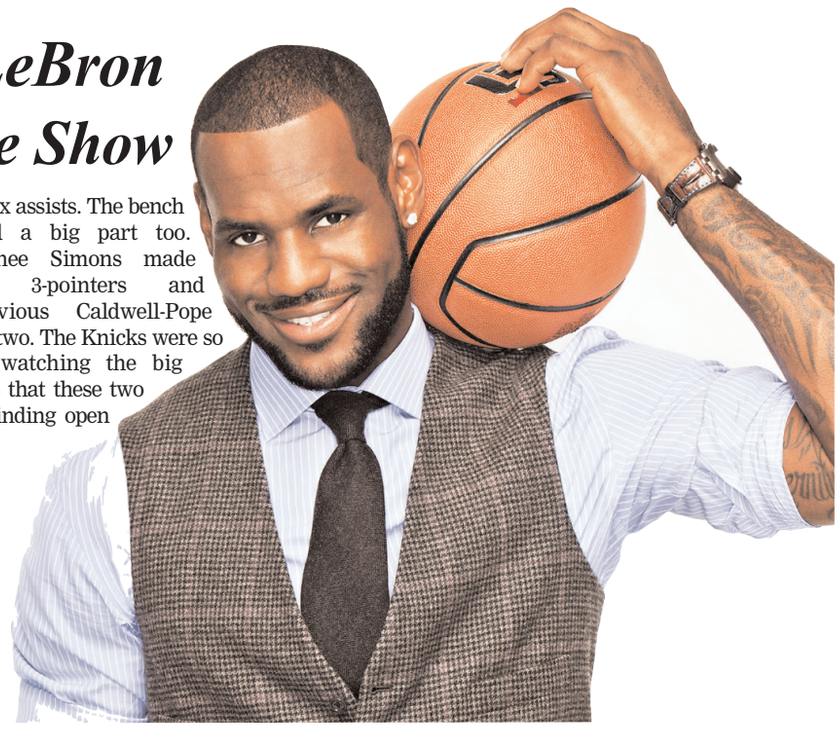
Jordynne Grace is reportedly not dealing with an injury during her ongoing WWE absence, but the update on her status is still disappointing. According to WrestleVotes, WWE currently has no creative plans for the former TNA Knockouts World Champion. Grace hasn't wrestled on SmackDown since April 17, when Tiffany Stratton defeated her. Her most recent match for the company came on WWE Main Event on June 12, where she lost to Kiana James. There was talk of Grace teaming with Ivy Nile, but that idea didn't become reality yet. The reason for her continued absence is undisclosed.

Ash Dykes' Team Loses Contact With Explorer For Over 16 Hours During Congo River Expedition



Ash Dykes set off on October 8 to kayak the Sangha River through what he called "the most remote rainforest on Earth," and now his support team has lost contact with him. On Wednesday, October 21, the team said on his official social media accounts that nobody had heard from the Welsh explorer or his crew for more than 16 hours, calling the gap "concerning." The team has not said where Ash Dykes was last heard from or why contact was lost. Attention It's been more than 16 hours since we last heard from Ash and the team which is concerning. We will endeavour to keep you posted and let you all know as soon as we hear more. Ash Dykes' support team asks followers to wait for news The update was signed by Matt, a member of the support team, and it was short. "Please bear with us, it's been more than 16 hours since we last heard from Ash and the team," the statement read. The team promised to share more as soon as it could. "We will endeavour to keep you posted and let you all know as soon as we hear more," it said. Nobody has confirmed that Ash Dykes or the two people traveling with him, a local guide and a videographer, are hurt or in danger. The team has not said whether the problem is with their satellite equipment, which the crew relies on to send updates from that part of the Congo Basin. Short gaps are expected on a trip this remote, but the team chose to flag this one publicly.

New York Knicks Raise Banner, But LeBron James And Philadelphia 76ers Steal The Show



The Knicks waited 53 years for this night. On Tuesday, Madison Square Garden threw its party. A championship banner went up, and the players who won the title got their rings. Jalen Brunson told the crowd he would love to bring back the joy the city felt this summer. But the visitors had other plans. LeBron James, playing his first game for a new team, came to spoil the fun, and the night went a way few people expected. LeBron on his debut: "Good win for us" After the game, a reporter asked James what he took from his first game with Philadelphia, which is now 1-0 on the season. His answer was short and happy. "I liked the way we played," he said. "Good win for us." Then came the question that mattered most on a night all about the Knicks: did it feel good to win on their ring night? James answered right away. "It's pretty special," he said. He didn't score much, finishing with 14 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Still, he started his 24th NBA season, an NBA record, with a win. He is the NBA's career scoring leader, and he left the Lakers to join a Sixers team that had traded for Jaylen Brown in the offseason. How the 76ers pulled it off Philadelphia started badly. The first half was full of fouls and missed shots, and the Knicks led by as many as 10. By halftime, their lead was only 58-54. Then the Sixers turned it around. They ended the third quarter on an 11-0 run, and Brown hit his second three in a row at the buzzer to make it 83-76. Early in the fourth, Tyrese Maxey made a three-point play and the lead grew to 87-78. Maxey led all scorers with 28 points. Brown had 19 points, eight rebounds and six assists in his first game since the trade from Boston. Karl-Anthony Towns cut the Knicks' deficit to 96-95, but Joel Embiid hit a big three right back. He finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds, plus six assists. The bench played a big part too. Anfernee Simons made three 3-pointers and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope made two. The Knicks were so busy watching the big names that these two kept finding open shots.

AADARSHA KUTUMBAM #AK47 – HOUSE NO. 47 SET TO HIT THEATRES ON OCTOBER 30!



The much-awaited family entertainer Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47 is all set to arrive in theatres on October 30, promising audiences a festive treat filled with family emotions, entertainment and action.

Bringing together the blockbuster combination of Victory Venkatesh and Trivikram Srinivas after 20 years, the film has already generated considerable buzz. The two songs released so far, along with the teaser, have set the tone and established the film's unique vibe, hinting at an entertaining blend of middle-class family moments, humour, emotions and action. With its relatable family setting and the promise of a wholesome entertainer, Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47 is shaping up to be a perfect big-screen experience for audiences of all generations. Arriving just ahead of the Diwali weekend, the film promises to bring families together for a festive celebration at the cinemas.

Written and directed by Trivikram Srinivas, the film stars Victory Venkatesh alongside Srinidhi Shetty, Nara Rohith, Nivetha Pethuraj, Rao Ramesh, Satya, Brahmaji, Vennela Kishore and others in pivotal roles.

Produced by S. Radha Krishna under the banner of Haarika & Hassine Creations, the film features cinematography by Ravi K. Chandran, editing by Navin Nooli and art direction by A. S. Prakash. Thaman S is composing the music.

With excitement building around its songs, teaser and the much-loved Venkatesh & Trivikram combination, Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47 promises a wholesome family entertainer with a festive dose of fun, emotion and action.

Rudravanam PS' Trailer Unveils a Dark Crime Mystery as ZEE5 Original Premieres on October 30

A missing man, a headless corpse, and an investigation that leads into the darker corners of power and prejudice set the stage for Rudravanam PS. The trailer of the upcoming ZEE5 Telugu Original is out now, offering a glimpse into a crime thriller where disturbing discoveries raise more questions than they answer. Starring Naresh Agastya as SI Sivakumar, the series is set to premiere on ZEE5 on October 30, 2026 .



Set against the backdrop of a police station grappling with unsettling cases, the trailer introduces a reported robbery involving gold worth ?25 lakh before hinting at a far more disturbing chain of events. References to multiple killings and the discovery of a body in the forest deepen the mystery, drawing the investigation into territory where the truth may be more complicated than it first appears. As the clues begin to accumulate, the question is no longer simply who committed a crime, but what connects the incidents and what remains concealed.

At the centre of the investigation is SI Sivakumar, played by Naresh Agastya, whose role places him amid a web of unanswered questions and conflicting circumstances. Joining him in the police station's investigative setup are Banerjee as CI Venugopal, Shiva Alapati as ASI Madhav, Sugali Siloni as ASI Nirmala, and Ramesh Konambhotla as Head Constable Sundar. Together, the ensemble brings the police procedural dimension of the story into focus as the investigation unfolds.

Directed by Sasidhar Munnangi and produced by Dr. Surya Kanthi Kuchibhotla and Ramesh Puppala, Rudravanam PS builds its atmosphere through a combination of investigative tension and ominous visual storytelling. Cinematographer Ashkar lends the trailer a dark visual texture, with shadowy forests, flashlight-lit searches, tense exchanges, and glimpses of disturbing crime scenes reinforcing the uncertainty surrounding the case. The contrast between the police station and the surrounding wilderness adds to the sense that the answers may lie beyond the obvious leads.

Rather than revealing its central mystery, the trailer gradually expands the scale of the investigation, leaving viewers to piece together the clues. The missing man, the disturbing discovery in the woods, and the suggestion of deeper power dynamics establish a narrative in which each revelation could alter the direction of the case. The result is an investigative thriller that builds anticipation through unanswered questions rather than easy explanations.

With Rudravanam PS, ZEE5 Telugu adds another crime-driven original to its slate, bringing together a police investigation, an unsettling mystery, and a story shaped by the relationship between crime and power.

Rudravanam PS premieres on *ZEE5 on October 30, 2026*. With its trailer now unveiled, the series invites audiences into a world where the search for answers may expose far more than the crimes themselves.

Tholisari Mimmalni Choosindi Modalu" Movie Poster Launched by MLA Naveen Yadav on Vijayadashami



Bhargav, widely recognized as 'Supreme Star' in the Kannada film industry, is playing the lead role and directing a new film titled 'Tholisari Mimmalni Choosindi Modalu'. Featuring Aariya Menon as the female lead, the film is being made simultaneously in Telugu and Kannada languages. Bandi Nagaraju is producing the film under the banner of Kosala Creative Works Pvt. Ltd., while Maddineni Ramesh serves as the Executive Producer. The movie is currently undergoing regular shooting, with 70% of the filming already completed. On the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, the movie poster of 'Tholisari Mimmalni Choosindi Modalu' was launched at the hands of MLA Naveen Yadav.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Naveen Yadav said: "I am very happy to launch the poster for this movie. Three-fourths of the shooting has already been completed, and the film is set to hit the screens in December. My best wishes to hero-director Bhargav, producer Nagaraju, and the entire team working hard for this movie. I wish the film completes without any hurdles and achieves great success upon its release."

Producer Bandi Nagaraju said: "I am very happy that MLA Naveen Yadav garu garu launched our movie poster today and extended their best wishes to us.

TRIVIKRAM, SUNIL AND THAMAN REUNITE FOR FUN CHAT

From Panjagutta Memories to Musical Miracles: Trivikram, Sunil and Thaman Bring Friendship and Laughter to 'Jayammu Nischayammu Raa – Season 2'

Celebrity conversations become memorable when they move beyond film promotions to reveal the friendships, struggles and personal experiences behind familiar public figures. That is the space Jayammu Nischayammu Raa with Jagapathi explores in its second season. Hosted by Jagapathi Babu, the Zee Telugu talk show brings leading personalities from the Telugu film industry into a relaxed setting where nostalgia, candid revelations and spontaneous humour take centre stage. The latest episode brings together acclaimed director



Trivikram Srinivas, popular actor Sunil and music director S.S. Thaman. The newly released promo offers glimpses of an interaction that moves between personal memories and the creative relationships shaping Telugu cinema, feeling less like a conventional celebrity interview and more like a gathering of familiar personalities sharing stories beyond the spotlight.

Laya Unveiled as Goddess in 'Son of Kanakadurgamma' Poster on DussehraIs this conversation helpful so far?



enowned Producers Ashwini Dutt ,Swapna Dutt Unveils Powerful Poster of Laya as Goddess in 'Son of Kanakadurgamma' on the Occasion of Dussehra

On the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, the team of 'Son of Kanakadurgamma' unveiled a powerful poster featuring actress Laya as the Goddess. The poster was unveiled by renowned producers Ashwini Dutt & Swapna Dutt extended their best wishes to the entire team.

Starring Laya, Anuroop Katari and Akanksha Thiagarajan in lead roles, the film is being jointly produced by Vani Shankar and Thilothama under the banners Thilothama Productions & Raagaa Movies banner. Directed by Durga Phanidhar Lanka, the film's story has been penned by Kakarla Govardhan Rao.

The makers are crafting 'Son of Kanakadurgamma' around the intriguing concept of treasure hunting, promising a fresh blend of action and adventure.



ACTRESS RASHMIKA MANDANNA IS BLUE, BOLD AND SPARKLY

Rashmika Mandanna's period drama Ranabaali, her first film with husband Vijay Deverakonda after their wedding, has collected Rs 36 crore in India in five days. She plays Jayamma, the wife of the lead hero, in the film.

She celebrated Diwali at a Swarovski event in an Amit Aggarwal outfit that had a strapless corset bodice in deep blue with crystal work and a draped satin skirt with a slit. A matching satin drape with gold woven borders flowed behind her. She added a layered crystal necklace, hoop earrings, bracelets and rings, and kept her hair straight and centre parted.

Next, she will be seen in Mysaa, a Telugu action drama directed by Rawindra Pulle, and fans are waiting for her next big role. Rashmika Mandanna recently revealed that she was the one who brought up marriage repeatedly for a year before the couple decided to get married. The revelation comes in the trailer for the upcoming episode of Koffee With Karan 9, where the newly married stars share some candid moments with host Karan Johar. Vijay Deverakonda even stated that Rashmika Mandanna asked him to marry her '100 times', which has drawn a lot of flak online.

INTERNET REACTIONS

One user wrote, "When he mentions that she asked him to marry her 100 times, it's so sad. Does he even realise what he is saying when he opens his mouth? He's basically saying he settled for her. I mean, it's just terrible to announce it." One person wrote, "Why is this giving Ranveer and Deepika 3rd copy? Too similar a look to when they came on the last season." "To be honest, Rashmika is far more successful in her career than V. Konda, and her asking him for an entire year makes this even worse," said someone else. One comment read, "Literally the Ranveer-Deepika blueprint." Another comment read, "Dude, Vijay sounds so problematic, it's insane." "He is such a red flag. He embarrassed her," wrote another user.

One user commented, "She asked him for an entire year to get married, and it's supposed to be cute?"

About The Upcoming Episode The episode will feature Vijay and Rashmika talking about their relationship, marriage and professional lives. In the trailer, Karan asks the couple whether Vijay proposed to Rashmika. While she shakes her head, Vijay offers a different version of how things unfolded.

"She said let's get married," he says, before adding, "You asked me like a 100 times."

When Karan turns to Rashmika to check if she really asked Vijay to marry her a hundred times, she admits, "I asked him for a year."

The revelation leaves Karan surprised, while Vijay is quick to defend himself. "I'm not an a*****e," he says, drawing attention to the lighthearted exchange between the couple. Marriage is not the only topic that comes up during the episode.

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