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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

23-10-2026



Total pilgrims : 70,496
Tonsures : 29,327
Hundi kanukalu : 3.95 CR
Laddu sale... 3.77 Lac
Annaprasadam.. 2.28Lac
Present Situation on 24-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..Outside line at ATGH

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...12-15H.

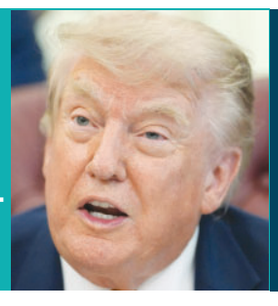
DONALD TRUMP AGAIN CLAIMS CREDIT FOR HALTING INDIA-PAK WAR



Washington: US President Donald Trump once again claimed that he stopped the four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan by threatening both countries with steep tariffs while addressing a midterm election rally in Florida.

WORLD I PAGE

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SUES TO BLOCK CERTIFICATION OF UPCOMING ALASKA ELECTION



CINEMA I PAGE

MEENAKSHI PICKS A SLEEK NAVY GOWN LOOK



SCAN FOR E-PAPER

Inbriefs

CLASS 12 STUDENT DIES AFTER FIRE AT DELHI SCHOOL

New Delhi, Oct 24 : A Class 12 student died on Saturday after allegedly pouring an inflammable substance on herself and setting herself on fire at Sarvodaya Bal/Balika Vidyalaya in East Delhi's Krishna Nagar area, officials said on Saturday.The incident triggered panic among teachers and students on the school premises, prompting the authorities to initiate an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the student's death.

INDIA CONDEMNS JORDAN CHURCH ATTACK

Amman/New Delhi, Oct 24: India on Saturday strongly condemned the attack on a church in Jordan's southern governorate of Karak, which left seven people dead and 34 others injured, and expressed solidarity with the Jordanian government and its people.The shooting took place during a funeral in Karak, according to the Jordanian Public Security Directorate, which reported the casualties on Friday.

4.5-MAGNITUDE AFTERSHOCK HITS TIBET

Tibet, Oct 24: A 4.5-magnitude earthquake struck Tibet in China on Saturday morning, two days after a powerful earthquake killed at least 16 people and injured 76 in the region. The latest tremor was an aftershock of the earlier earthquake, according to reports.According to India's National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the aftershock occurred at a latitude of 31.485 degrees north and a longitude of 93.528 degrees east, at a depth of 10 kilometres.



Pollard named MI head coach for IPL 2027

SPORTS

Uttam blames BRS for El Niño impact

Uttam says pending projects worsened El Niño impact

HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT):



Telangana Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday, October 24, blamed the alleged failures and irregularities in irrigation sector during the previous BRS regime for exacerbating the impact of El Nino on the state's people."Had the BRS government completed the Pranahita Chevella, SLBC and other projects, the impact of El Nino would have been much less severe.

The previous BRS government is responsible for Telangana people suffering more due to El Nino and drought conditions. Had they used the loans secured properly, the adverse effects of El Nino would have been less on people," he told reporters.

He took exception to BRS leaders visiting the Medigadda barrage of the Kaleshwaram project and alleging that the Congress government is allowing the water to flow out of the barrage.

According to Reddy, the Medigadda barrage "collapsed" during BRS regime.The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) had identified deficiencies in its design and construction.

"The Congress government is sincerely making efforts for the rehabilitation of the three beleaguered barrages of Kaleshwaram — Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla – without any political motives, by involving international experts," he said.

"KCR and Company destroyed Telangana irrigation sector. Have they provided one crore of ayacut? Have they provided in Palamuru Ranga Reddy? Sitarama Sagar? Why they have not completed SLBC project? Why did Kaleshwaram collapse?" he asked.

The highest ever paddy cultivation and procurement in the country was recorded during the incumbent Congress regime in Telangana though the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages of had not been in use, he claimed.

Uttam Kumar Reddy had said in July that the state government is targeting completion of rehabilitation works of the barrages of the Kaleshwaram project by July-August next year.

Cong plans 'vote theft' mega rally

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)

All India Congress Committee General Secretary KC Venugopal on Friday said the party held high-level meetings with senior leaders from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to intensify mobilisation for the INDIA bloc's mega rally against "Vote Chori" scheduled for November 1 in New Delhi.

In a post on X, Venugopal said that he, along with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, met AICC incharge for Uttar Pradesh Rajendra Pal Gautam, UP PCC president Aradhana Misra 'Mona' and other senior leaders from the state to discuss strategies for building large-scale participation in the rally.

A separate meeting was also held with AICC incharge Sanjay Dutt, Haryana PCC president Rao Narender Singh and senior leaders from Haryana to strengthen organisational efforts in that state, he said.

Venugopal described the November 1 event at Ramleela Maidan as the culmination of a massive 'Delhi Chalo' march that would converge in the national capital on the same day.

VENUGOPAL MEETS UP, HARYANA LEADERS

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal, party leaders Deepender Singh Hooda and Randeep Singh Surjewala, among others, attend a meeting to discuss preparations for the INDIA Bloc mega rally scheduled for November 1 against alleged vote chori, in New Delhi, on Friday.

CM Naidu slams Jagan over Andhra's image

AMRAVATHI ■ (TSIT)



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday launched a scathing attack on YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of "damaging" the brand image of the state and alleging that he lacks political, moral and family values.

Addressing a press conference, CM Naidu expressed serious concern over "deliberate attempts to damage" the prestige and brand image of Andhra Pradesh. "Jagan Mohan Reddy speaks an incomprehensible language and is consistently working with the sole agenda of claiming that law and order has collapsed in the state, purely to demand President's Rule and extract political mileage," he alleged.

Cong gears up for polls in 5 states

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):

The Congress party has gone into poll mode ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand. The party has appointed chairpersons for its election War Rooms in the five states, with the appointments taking immediate effect. According to a press release issued on Saturday, the proposal for the appointments was approved by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge to oversee the party's election War Room operations in the respective states.



The appointments include Sachin Yadav for Uttar Pradesh, Kannan Gopinathan for Punjab, Imroz Khan for Goa, Biswaranjan Mohanty for Manipur and Krishan Satrod for Uttarakhand.

The party said the appointments had been approved with immediate effect as part of its preparations for the forthcoming Assembly elections. Election War Rooms play a key role in coordinating campaign-related activities, managing communication, monitoring political developments and facilitating coordination among party units during elections.

The appointments are expected to support the Congress' organisational and campaign preparations in the five states as it works to strengthen coordination and election management ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls.The announcement was made through an official press release dated October 24.

Meanwhile, All India Congress Committee General Secretary, K.C. Venugopal earlier on Friday said the party held high-level meetings with senior leaders from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to intensify mobilisation for the INDIA Bloc's mega rally against alleged 'Vote Chori' scheduled for November 1 in New Delhi.

In a post on X, Venugopal said that he, along with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, met AICC in-charge for Uttar Pradesh Rajendra Pal Gautam, UP PCC President Aradhana Misra Mona and other senior leaders from the state to discuss strategies for building large-scale participation in the rally.

RAINS FLOOD 100 HOUSES AT TN REFUGEE CAMP

DINDIGUL: Following heavy rains on Friday night, more than 100 houses at the Sri Lankan Tamils refugee camp in Puliyampatti in this district were inundated.District Collector S Durga Moorthy visited the site and assessed the damage firsthand. More than 100 families residing at the Sri Lankan Tamil refugee camp faced severe hardship after persistent rains flooded their residential area, as reported by Videos.

5 KILLED IN AP CONSTRUCTION SITE FIRE

PINAKOTA (AP): 5 people were killed in a fire at a road construction site in Alluri Sitaramaraju district on Saturday while a pick-up truck was being refuelled, a police official said. Superintendent of Police Amit Bardar said the incident occurred at Pinakota village in Anantagiri mandal, where workers transport diesel in drums to refuel vehicles as the site is around 100 km away. The workers may not have taken adequate precautions while filling the truck's tank, and a spark could have triggered the fire, he said.

India's intentions not right, Pakistan saving Kashmiris: Farooq Abdullah

Jammu: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and ruling National Conference (NC) President, Farooq Abdullah said on Saturday that the intentions of Indian state towards Kashmiris are not "right", and it is due to Pakistan's diplomatic effort that their voice are being heard globally.



While addressing a party workers convention in north Kashmir's Baramulla town, Farooq Abdullah claimed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are surviving because Pakistan is raising the Kashmiris' issue at various international forums.

"Pakistan is going to many places and talking about Kashmiris. That is why the people of Jammu and Kashmir are being saved. Otherwise, India's intentions towards Kashmiris are not right," he said. Abdullah has stirred the hornet's nest by saying that files pertaining to the health sector have been pending with the Lieutenant Governor's Office for more than one year.

> **"Pakistan is going to many places and talking about Kashmiris. That is why the people of Jammu and Kashmir are being saved. Otherwise, India's intentions towards Kashmiris are not right,"**

The octogenarian National Conference President, Farooq Abdullah, on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the present administration in Jammu and Kashmir during his speech. Speaking on the issue of doctors in Jammu and Kashmir, the NC President said that students who study in the Union Territory have to serve for two years in hospitals, and if they fail to do so, they have to pay Rs 40 lakh to the state.

He said this is the only state where a file in this regard has been lying with the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for the past one year and no decision has been taken. Questioning the functioning of medical institutions, the NC President added that earlier the Director and the committee of the medical institutes used to decide what equipment to bring and which doctors to appoint. He alleged that the present dispensation has removed all those powers.

Alluding to the head of the present administration, Farooq Abdullah said, "I asked him that you have finished the autonomy, he admitted it on my face." He also added what justice can be expected from Delhi. Urging people to raise their voice for their rights, Farooq Abdullah said, "Have the courage to face them, if you don't, you will be wiped out."

He said that people are not enemies of the nation, adding: "We will progress with the nation and we will also sacrifice for the nation, but I tell those who are in power today to correct themselves." "If you have really given your blood for this Jamaat (Party), then walk with it with honesty. Do not walk with dishonesty," Farooq Abdullah said.

Trump warns of new strikes on Iran

WASHINGTON ■ (TSIT):

US President Donald Trump has warned that American forces could launch another round of military strikes against Iran if Tehran fails to reach an agreement with Washington, signalling that further military action remains an option despite his claims that Iran has already suffered a decisive defeat. Speaking at a Republican campaign rally in Fort Myers, Florida, Trump suggested that the United States could repeat elements of its military campaign against Iran if diplomatic efforts failed to produce an agreement.

> **If they are smart, they will just say, let's get down to business," Trump told supporters.**



"We may do another little Epic Fury, or they'll agree. The remarks came as the President sought to portray the military campaign as successful while keeping pressure on Tehran to accept an agreement that would prevent it from developing nuclear weapons.Trump referred to two American military operations against Iran, Operation Midnight Hammer and Operation Epic Fury.

, claiming they had destroyed the country's nuclear enrichment capabilities and severely weakened its military and economy.



Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh in a group photograph during the Army Commanders' Conference, in New Delhi..

Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala Along with Minister Ponnam Distributes Housing Pattas to 223 Beneficiaries

Hyderabad, TSIT: Hyderabad District Collector Dr.Priyanka Ala, along with Transport and BC Welfare Minister and Hyderabad District In-charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, distributed two-bedroom housing pattas to 223 beneficiaries at the District Collectorate on Saturday.



Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin and Bahadurpura MLA Mohammed Mubeen participated in the programme.

Addressing the beneficiaries, Minister Prabhakar said the government was committed to providing houses to eligible poor families through a transparent selection process. Eligibility alone would determine selection, irrespective of political affiliation, caste or religion, he asserted.

The Minister said the government planned to provide 3,500 Indiramma houses per Assembly constituency in the first phase and another 2,000 in the second phase, taking the total to 5,500 houses per constituency. Emphasising the importance of housing near employment centres, he said the government was taking steps to construct Indiramma apartments closer to beneficiaries' workplaces. Houses located far from livelihood opportunities had caused difficulties for families in the past, he noted.

Prabhakar highlighted welfare measures, including fine rice distribution, ration cards, free electricity up to 200 units for eligible households, free RTC bus travel for women and enhanced Aarogyasri coverage. He urged eligible families without ration cards to apply.

During the programme, identification cards and certificates were also distributed to orphaned children through the Women and Child Welfare Department. The Minister reiterated the government's commitment to the welfare of vulnerable children and persons with disabilities. Referring to concerns over El Niño, Prabhakar appealed to residents to conserve water and electricity, prevent wastage and construct rainwater harvesting pits wherever feasible. He requested public representatives and officials to organise awareness programmes on resource conservation. District Revenue Officer Dr. Narayana, RDOs Sairam and Ramakrishna, Housing Project Director Kalyan Chakravarthy, tahsildars and beneficiaries attended.

Resolve forest boundary disputes and speed up land resurvey works: CCLA Lokesh Kumar

Suryapet, October 24 (TSIT): Chief Commissioner of Land Administration and Revenue Department Secretary Lokesh Kumar directed officials to resolve forest boundary disputes and expedite land resurvey works. He instructed Revenue and Forest Department officials to work in coordination and continuously monitor survey activities at the field level.



During a video conference on Saturday, Lokesh Kumar reviewed the progress of land resurvey, formation of survey teams and resolution of forest boundary disputes. District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar participated from the video conference hall at the Suryapet Integrated Collectorate.

Lokesh Kumar instructed officials to inform concerned farmers before commencing resurvey operations. Farmers residing in other areas must also be informed in advance about the dates scheduled for surveying their lands to ensure their participation in the process. He emphasised that field-level registers must be maintained properly and all survey-related details recorded regularly.

The Chief Commissioner directed Revenue and Forest Department officials to inspect forest boundary disputes at the field level and resolve them through mutual coordination. He also instructed officials to constitute the necessary survey teams and continuously monitor staff performance to ensure smooth conduct of resurvey operations.

Lokesh Kumar stated that the government would provide an adequate number of additional rover equipment required for resurvey operations. He also announced that a dedicated portal for resurvey activities would be introduced on the lines of the Bhu Bharati portal. He instructed officials to make effective use of available staff and technical equipment and complete survey works efficiently within the stipulated time.

Delhi trip for Class 10 toppers, Minister to bear all expenses: Collector

Nalgonda: District Collector B. Chandrashekhar has announced that students of the Komatireddy Prateek Primary and High School in Bottuguda, Nalgonda, who secure top ranks in their Class 10 examinations, will be taken on a trip to Delhi, with all expenses covered by the Minister for Roads, Buildings and Cinematography, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy.

The Minister will bear the costs of air travel, other incidental expenses and even shopping, while also providing an opportunity for students to visit prominent tourist attractions in Delhi.

On Saturday, the Collector conducted a surprise visit to the Komatireddy Prateek Government School in Bottuguda to assess students' learning capabilities, academic standards and the school's infrastructure. He interacted directly with Class 7 students, inquiring about their studies and any challenges they face; the students said their teachers are teaching them well.Later, while visiting the Class 10 classroom, he encouraged students to study hard, achieve high marks and set ambitious goals. He posed questions on topics related to 'reflection' and 'non-reflection' and observed how students explained their answers on the blackboard. He instructed school principal Suresh Kumar to identify students in Classes 8, 9 and 10 who are lagging academically and conduct special classes for them, advising that specific goals be set and instruction tailored to help them achieve better results. Students' examination answer scripts were reviewed.



Mahesh Kumar Goud Stresses Advocates' Protection and Welfare

Hyderabad TSIT: TPCC president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud said the government was giving priority to advocates' protection and welfare and would discuss their concerns with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in November. Addressing the TPCC Legal Cell executive committee meeting at Indira Bhavan in Gandhi Bhavan, Goud said the legal profession was highly respected but involved several challenges. He noted that many advocates had made significant contributions to politics and recalled that he, too, had once aspired to become a lawyer.



The meeting was chaired by Legal Cell chairman Ashok Goud. AICC secretary Sachin Sawant, former MP Madhu Yashki Goud, MLAs Madhusudhan Reddy and Nayini Rajender Reddy, former MLA Eeravathri Anil and graduate MLC candidate Sama Rammohan Reddy were among those present.

Goud said the government had brought in an Advocate Protection Act, describing the initiative as unprecedented in the country. He stressed the need to address advocates' problems, enhance stipends and strengthen welfare measures. A special meeting with the Chief Minister in November would focus on these concerns and the steps required to resolve them, he said.

Mancherial Viswanatha temple to be rebuilt with Rs.10 crore



Mancherial, Oct. 24 (TSIT): The long-pending aspiration of the people of Mancherial to see the historic Viswanatha temple in the town rebuilt on a grand scale is set to be fulfilled, with reconstruction and development works being taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.10 crore. The project is being undertaken with the special initiative of Mancherial MLA Kokkirala Prem Sagar Rao, with the objective of developing the temple into a prominent spiritual destination.

Endowments Commissioner Hanumantha Rao, District Collector Kumar Deepak, Mancherial RDO Srinivas and Municipal Corporation Mayor Darne Madhukar visited the temple, offered prayers and inspected the ongoing reconstruction works. Officials said the first phase of the reconstruction would be taken up with an allocation of Rs.5 crore.

The officials later inspected the ongoing development works at the Godavari Pushkaram ghat on College Road. With the Godavari Pushkarams scheduled to be held in 2027, reconstruction and development works are also being undertaken at the Viswanatha temple in Mancherial and the Sri Satyanarayana Swamy temple at Gudem. The State government is expected to make necessary arrangements to provide improved facilities to devotees visiting the temples and the river ghats during the Pushkarams.

Free coaching for police job aspirants: Narayanpet SP



Narayanpet, October 24 (TSIT): Narayanpet District SP Dr. G. Vineeth inaugurated a free coaching programme for Sub-Inspector (SI) and Constable aspirants at the Lions Club in Narayanpet on Saturday.

A total of 130 candidates were selected on merit from among 413 applicants who appeared for the qualifying examination. The selected candidates will receive free accommodation, quality coaching from experienced faculty, study materials and physical fitness training.

Speaking on the occasion, the SP said the initiative aims to support talented youth from economically weaker backgrounds who cannot afford private coaching. He urged candidates to attend classes regularly, maintain discipline, prepare thoroughly for written examinations and practise consistently for physical tests.

He warned that indiscipline and violations of programme rules could lead to removal from the training programme. He expressed confidence that the candidates would make the best use of the opportunity and bring pride to their families and Narayanpet district. DSPs Mahesh, Nallapu Lingayya and Kajal, along with police officers and the selected candidates, attended the programme.

Resolve Forest Boundary Disputes and Expedite Land Resurvey: Lokesh Kumar

Mulugu TSIT: Commissioner of Land Administration and Revenue Department Secretary Lokesh Kumar directed officials to resolve forest boundary disputes and expedite land resurvey works. He instructed officials from the Revenue and Forest Departments to work in coordination and monitor the progress of work at the field level. During a video conference held on Saturday, he reviewed the progress of land resurvey operations, formation of teams, forest boundary disputes, and other related issues.District Collector Borkhade Hemant Sahadevrao attended the video conference from the conference hall at the Mulugu Integrated Collectorate.Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh Kumar instructed officials to form the necessary teams to ensure the smooth implementation of resurvey operations and continuously monitor their progress.



He directed officials from the concerned departments to inspect forest boundary disputes at the field level and take necessary steps to resolve them.He emphasized that farmers must be informed before the commencement of resurvey operations.

Collector stresses prompt care for accident victims



Nagarkurnool: District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil has directed officials to expedite the registration of eligible hospitals under the PM-RAHAT scheme and create widespread awareness to ensure timely, cashless medical treatment for road accident victims. On Saturday, following a video conference conducted by Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju from Hyderabad, the Collector held a review meeting with officials at the Collectorate and stressed the need for coordination among the Medical and Health, Police, Transport, and Roads and Buildings departments. The Collector directed officials to identify 40 hospitals in the district for treatment under the scheme and complete the necessary approvals and online registration through the National Informatics Centre (NIC). He said eligible road accident victims could receive cashless treatment up to Rs.1.50 lakh under PM-RAHAT, subject to applicable guidelines. He instructed officials to ensure that victims were shifted to the nearest empanelled hospitals without delay and emphasised prompt FIR registration and compliance with the applicable reporting timelines. He also called for awareness campaigns, particularly in accident-prone areas, and strict monitoring to prevent misuse of the scheme.

GITAM Inaugurates Rotaract Club Leadership Team

Hyderabad: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, inaugurated the Rotaract Club's 2026–27 term, reaffirming its commitment to fostering student leadership, community service, and social responsibility. The ceremony marked the formal beginning of a new chapter for the club, bringing together students, faculty, and distinguished guests in a celebration of service and leadership. The ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Chief Guest Dr. G. S. S. Prakash, District Rotaract Chair, and Guest of Honour Rotarian J. Yogeshwar Reddy, along with other distinguished Rotary and Rotaract dignitaries. The lighting of the lamp, a symbolic gesture rooted in tradition, set a solemn and inspiring tone for the proceedings, signifying the dispelling of darkness and the ushering in of knowledge and service.

The event marked the induction of new members and the formal installation of the club's leadership team, followed by board pinning and the unveiling of the annual year plan. These milestones signified the beginning of a new chapter of student-led initiatives focused on community engagement, service, and leadership development. The board pinning ceremony formally entrusted the newly installed office bearers with their responsibilities, while the unveiling of the year plan outlined the club's roadmap for the coming term, detailing planned service projects, outreach programs, and leadership development activities.

Supported by the Rotary Club of Iris Hyderabad, the Rotaract Club at GITAM Hyderabad aims to provide students with meaningful opportunities to develop leadership skills, engage in community-oriented initiatives, and contribute positively to society. Guided by the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self," the club seeks to inspire a spirit of volunteerism, teamwork, and social responsibility among students. Through its various initiatives, the club hopes to cultivate a culture of active citizenship and encourage students to become agents of positive change in their communities.



The ceremony was attended by DVVSR Varma, Resident Director, and Ambika Philip, Director – Hospitality & Campus Life, along with other distinguished guests and members of the Rotary and Rotaract fraternity. Their presence underscored the university's strong support for the Rotaract Club and its recognition of the important role such organizations play in shaping well-rounded, socially conscious graduates.

The inauguration marked the beginning of a promising year for the newly installed leadership team, with a renewed focus on empowering students to become responsible leaders and active contributors to society. With a clear vision for the year ahead, the leadership team is expected to build on the club's existing strengths while introducing fresh ideas and initiatives that align with the Rotaract movement's broader goals of service and fellowship.The Rotaract Club at GITAM Hyderabad continues to serve as a vital platform for students to develop essential leadership and organizational skills, build lasting relationships, and make meaningful contributions to the community. As the new term gets underway, the club stands poised to carry forward its legacy of service while embracing new opportunities for growth and impact, further strengthening GITAM's commitment to holistic education that extends beyond the classroom.

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BharathCloud, Tatarstan IT Park sign AI, cloud MoU



BENGALURU : BharathCloud, an Indian sovereign AI cloud service provider, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the High-Technology Technopark IT-Park in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russia, to promote collaboration in artificial intelligence (AI), cloud infrastructure, investment and cross-border business partnerships.

The MoU was signed at the second Russia–India Business Forum, "TIME: Russia–India Mutual Efficiency Business Forum 2026", which brought together businesses and industry representatives to explore opportunities for cooperation in technology and digital infrastructure.

The agreement provides a framework for the two organisations to explore joint ventures, facilitate business partnerships and identify opportunities for digital infrastructure collaboration. The initiative also aims to develop tailored AI and cloud infrastructure solutions for businesses across sectors and of different sizes.

Rahul Takkallapally, co-founder of BharathCloud, was invited by the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan to participate in the forum's "IT Bridge: Technologies Connecting Russia and India" session, which focused on opportunities for bilateral cooperation in AI and cloud technologies.Under the MoU, the organisations will explore ways to connect businesses in India and Tatarstan, support companies operating within the IT-Park ecosystem and organise industry events, training programmes, workshops and business delegations to facilitate knowledge exchange.

The framework also provides for discussions on infrastructure support, expert assistance and joint projects. BharathCloud has proposed the concept of "cloud embassies" to strengthen cross-border digital infrastructure.

"Businesses looking beyond their home markets need access to the right AI and cloud ecosystem and local business networks. This MoU provides a platform to engage with partners in Tatarstan, identify areas of mutual interest and explore future opportunities for Indian and Russian technology companies," Takkallapally said.

NU Hospitals Unveils Three Initiatives to Strengthen Patient-Centric Care



Bengaluru: NU Hospitals, a specialty healthcare provider in urology, kidney care, fertility, and kidney transplantation, on Friday unveiled three initiatives aimed at enhancing patient care through advanced technology and digital services. The announcements mark a significant step in the hospital group's ongoing efforts to combine cutting-edge medical innovation with patient-focused service delivery.

The initiatives include the AMS EDGE Robotic Surgical System, the NU mobile application, and The Link 2024–26, an annual publication documenting the hospital group's achievements and institutional journey. Together, they represent the institution's commitment to advancing clinical excellence, improving patient convenience, and celebrating its organizational milestones.

Actor, director, and television presenter Ramesh Aravind, who attended the launch as the chief guest, said technology must go hand in hand with compassion to bring meaningful change to people's lives. He commended NU Hospitals for taking concrete steps toward integrating technological advancements with patient-focused healthcare, noting that the balance between innovation and empathy is what truly transforms the patient experience.

Advanced Robotic Surgery

The AMS EDGE Robotic Surgical System features high-definition 3D visualization with more than 10-fold magnification, a four-arm robotic platform, AI-assisted imaging, and indocyanine green fluorescence technology. The system is designed to help surgeons perform complex procedures with enhanced visualization, precision, and instrument control. It also incorporates technology intended to support telesurgery, opening possibilities for remote surgical assistance in the future.

Compared with conventional open and laparoscopic procedures, robot-assisted surgery can offer greater flexibility and precision in suitable cases, potentially reducing blood loss, post-operative discomfort, and hospital stays, while supporting faster recovery. These benefits can significantly improve patient outcomes and overall surgical experiences.

NU Hospitals Managing Director and Senior Consultant Paediatric Urologist Dr. Prasanna Venkatesh M.K. said providing advanced specialty healthcare with patients at the center remained the institution's foremost priority. The adoption of robotic surgical technology would complement the expertise of its medical teams and further enhance the quality of treatment, he said.

Congress seeks police action over alleged 'sting operation' targeting Siddaramaiah



Bengaluru : The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has approached senior police officials seeking action over an alleged sting operation involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and other Congress leaders.

In a complaint, KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar wrote to Siddaramayya, IPS, the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), and the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP), Karnataka, requesting appropriate action in connection with the matter.

The representation refers to the alleged "sting operation" and raises concerns over the circumstances surrounding its conduct. It also mentions the possibility of violations of legal provisions and seeks scrutiny of the matter by the police.

The Congress has urged the authorities to examine the issue and take appropriate action in accordance with the law.

Dubai Property Expo Opens Investment Opportunities for Bengaluru Buyers



BENGALURU : Bengaluru residents interested in investing in overseas real estate can explore residential properties in Dubai at a two-day property expo organised by Siddhi Enterprises at Taj MG Road on October 24 and 25.

The expo brings prospective buyers, real estate advisers and representatives of leading Dubai property developers under one roof, offering visitors an opportunity to understand the market and identify properties suited to their budgets and long-term financial goals.

With Dubai attracting interest from Indian investors looking to diversify their property portfolios, the event features information on residential apartments, ongoing developments, payment plans and potential rental income.

Visitors can also interact with property experts through personalised consultations to understand available projects, locations and investment requirements before making a decision.Siddhi Enterprises, which operates in Bengaluru and Dubai, is offering a Fly-In Programme to facilitate visits to shortlisted properties. The initiative allows prospective buyers to visit developments, interact with developers and assess locations before committing to a purchase.

Himanshu Gupta, CEO of Siddhi Enterprises, said the company aims to make international property investment more accessible through transparent guidance and personalised assistance.The expo seeks to help Indian buyers better understand the opportunities and considerations associated with purchasing property overseas. While potential returns may include rental income and long-term appreciation, these depend on market conditions, property selection, associated costs and other investment risks.

Brand World Summit South to Return for Second Edition in Chennai on November 26

CHENNAI : ET BrandEquity.com, the marketing and advertising platform of The Economic Times, will host the second edition of Brand World Summit South at Taj Wellington Mews, Chennai, on November 26, 2026. Sponsored by Samsung Ads, the summit will bring together marketing professionals and industry leaders to discuss emerging trends shaping brand growth across South India.

The event is expected to feature more than 400 marketers, 50-plus speakers and over 20 sessions, bringing together chief marketing officers, brand custodians, founders, advertising agency executives and media leaders from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The inaugural edition attracted more than 400 attendees and featured representatives from established brands, including Nalli, Thangamayil Jewellers, Preethi Appliances, Cholayil and SLN Coffee. South India, with its diverse languages, consumer preferences and business ecosystems, presents distinctive opportunities for brands. While traditional family-owned businesses continue to draw on generations of consumer trust, digital-first startups in Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad are building brands with national ambitions.

Three seriously injured in cylinder explosion at Bengaluru warehouse



Bengaluru: A cooking gas cylinder explosion at a warehouse in Rajarajeshwari Nagar left three people, including a nine-year-old boy, seriously injured on Friday morning. The injured include Bablu, originally from Bihar, and Lakshmamma, who lives in a neighbouring house.

The three victims were taken to a private hospital for treatment. Fire and police personnel visited the scene and began examining the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Bablu, who has reportedly lived in Bengaluru for around 20 years, had rented a separate warehouse to support his pani puri business. Preliminary information suggests that gas may have leaked from a cylinder inside the premises during the night.

The leaked gas is suspected to have accumulated inside the closed warehouse. When Bablu arrived in the morning and opened the door, an explosion occurred, causing serious injuries to him and the two others. Emergency personnel rushed to the location after the incident and brought the resulting fire under control.

KPSC scam: Shivakumar approves IAS officer's prosecution



Bengaluru: Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has approved prosecution of IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar in the alleged question paper leak case involving the Karnataka Public Service Commission's recruitment examination for veterinary officers. The development comes as the CID's Special Investigation Team and the Enforcement Directorate continue their separate investigations into the alleged recruitment irregularities and financial transactions.

In a statement posted on X, Shivakumar said the government would not tolerate corruption or any act that jeopardised the future of young people. He reiterated the government's commitment to transparency and integrity in public recruitment, stating that corruption affecting the credibility of the selection process would not be accepted.The ED's investigation allegedly revealed that the examination question paper, complete with answers, was leaked one day before the test. Gangwar, who was reportedly the examination controller at the time, is accused of abusing his official position and handing over the confidential paper to prime accused Basavaraj Kannale. According to the allegations, Kannale and his associates arranged for selected candidates to stay at a resort outside Bengaluru, where they could study the leaked questions and answers before appearing for the examination. The accused allegedly organised transport to ensure the candidates reached their examination centres the next day without delay.

The alleged price for securing recruitment was initially fixed at approximately Rs 80 lakh per candidate. Following negotiations, the amount was reportedly reduced to Rs 30 lakh to Rs 40 lakh. Investigators said advance payments were allegedly received in cash and through bank transfers, while signed blank cheques and promissory notes were collected to secure the outstanding amounts.

Bihar man dies after car drags him for 100 metres in Bengaluru



Bengaluru: A 25-year-old man from Bihar died after a car allegedly hit him and dragged him for nearly 100 metres following an altercation over speeding in Pragathinagar, within the Electronic City police station limits, around midnight on October 21.

The deceased, Ranjit Kumar Sahu, worked as a cook at a paying guest accommodation in BTM Layout. He was initially admitted to a private hospital in Madiwala with serious injuries but succumbed during treatment, police said.According to a complaint filed by his friend Nitish Mukhiya, Sahu had come to Electronic City to celebrate the Dasara festival. After celebrating with friends, he was walking with them towards the house of the complainant's brother in Pragathinagar, where they planned to stay overnight.

While crossing the road, they noticed a white Swift Dzire approaching at high speed. Sahu allegedly signalled the driver to slow down, which reportedly angered the occupants of the car. The vehicle went ahead before allegedly taking a U-turn, after which its occupants attacked the group, according to the complaint. Nitish reportedly alerted other friends, who arrived at the spot. An argument then broke out between the two groups.

The car occupants allegedly attempted to run their vehicle into the group. While some friends managed to move aside, the car hit Sahu, ran over his legs and dragged him for around 100 metres before leaving him on the middle of the Hosur service road.

The accused allegedly fled from the scene. Sahu suffered multiple serious injuries, including to his head, chest and right leg.

Despite medical treatment, he died. Electronic City police have registered a case against unidentified persons based on the complaint and launched an investigation to identify those involved.

Rotary launches polio awareness drive in Bengaluru



Bengaluru : Rotary District 3191 organised a series of awareness programmes across Bengaluru and neighbouring regions on World Polio Day on Friday, highlighting the importance of vaccination and the global mission to eradicate polio.

The campaign featured a bike rally, a walkathon, a cycle rally and educational programmes for schoolchildren, with participants calling for sustained efforts to ensure that every child receives life-saving polio vaccine. Around 40 bikers took part in a rally from Town Hall to Ramanagara, carrying the message "End Polio Now". A walkathon from Town Hall to Lalbagh attracted nearly 600 participants, including school and college students and Rotary members. Another 50 cyclists participated in a cycle rally to spread awareness about polio eradication.

Speaking on the occasion, Aravind Naidu, chair of the Rotary District PolioPlus Committee, said the fight against polio would continue until the disease was completely eradicated.

"Ensuring that every child receives the polio vaccine and creating public awareness are our primary objectives. Rotary remains committed to permanently eliminating polio from the world," he said.

Rotary International and its global partners have been working towards polio eradication for more than four decades. Their efforts have reduced polio cases worldwide by 99.9 per cent. However, wild poliovirus remains endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan, underlining the need for continued vaccination and surveillance. Rotary International has contributed more than $2.6 billion towards global polio eradication and helped immunise over three billion children in 122 countries.

Complaint alleges fake certificates in Karnataka MVI promotion process



Bengaluru : The promotion process for Motor Vehicle Inspector posts in Karnataka's Transport Department has come under scrutiny following allegations that employees submitted forged educational and work-experience certificates to obtain promotions. Social activist Parashurama Neel Nayak has reportedly approached the Governor, Chief Secretary and Transport Commissioner with a complaint supported by documents.

The complaint states that 12 Motor Vehicle Inspector posts are available under the in-service quota and that 46 existing employees have applied. Under the eligibility rules cited in the complaint, candidates should have completed a regular diploma or engineering course in mechanical or automobile engineering before entering government service. Employees pursuing the qualification after joining service are reportedly required to take three years of leave to complete their studies.

The complainant alleges that some Group C and Group D employees have claimed to possess evening-college qualifications without fulfilling the prescribed conditions. The complaint also questions the authenticity of experience certificates allegedly submitted by applicants to establish employment in private industries or factories, a requirement said to apply to evening-college students.

Another allegation concerns the non-submission of departmental no-objection certificates to educational institutions. The complaint claims that certain employees kept these documents from their colleges while pursuing qualifications used to support their promotion applications.

Senior officials have also been accused of changing eligibility conditions in ways that allegedly favoured the applicants. The complaint refers to an increase in the maximum age limit from 50 to 55 years and a change to the rule requiring three years of service after obtaining a diploma.

It further raises suspicions of large financial transactions linked to the posts, though no independently verified evidence of such dealings was provided in the report.

EDITORIAL

Neha Bora Refuses to Sign Peace Bond, Calls it 'Contradiction to Right to Democratic Dissent'

New Delhi: A day after the Delhi high court refused to grant relief to All India Students Association (AISA) national president Neha Bora's plea challenging the Delhi Police notice which asked them to execute a bond of Rs 10,000 with a surety in order to maintain peace during the period of inquiry before a special executive magistrate (SEM), the student leader said that they would not sign the peace bond.

Addressing a press conference at the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation (CPI(ML) (Liberation)) Parliamentary office in New Delhi, Bora said that the bond as it stands is in contradiction with the right to dissent. "The courts of the land will see that the execution and interpretation of peace bonds is in contradiction to our fundamental right to democratic dissent," said Bora.

"In the coming days however we will fight this (demand for Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar's resignation), for this, it is essential for democratic protests not to be called breach of peace. The peace bond as it is being interpreted today will not be signed by AISA (All India Students' Association), will not be signed by me as it stands now it is in contradiction to our right to democratic dissent." The notice was issued to Bora on October 17, a day after they were detained by the Delhi Police during the Tiranga march in the national capital. The protests were a part of the ongoing agitation demanding CEC Kumar's resignation and the irregularities in the conduct of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls.

Bora, who had challenged the notice in the Delhi high court, questioned on Saturday (October 23), whose peace are they being asked to be kept through such bonds. "If we do not ask the government any questions, whose peace are we keeping?"

Later on Saturday, when Bora went to the Mandir Marg police station, they alleged that dozens of right-wing goons had surrounded the police station and were chanting slogans against them.

"Outside a police station there is a crowd of 50-60 goons, but the police do nothing to disperse the crowd. That is not a breach of peace? But when common people raise slogans against Gyanesh Kumar, to halt the SIR, that is called breach of peace. Is this the peace that we are supposed to keep? That right wing goons have the right to block streets, to stop women lawyers from going inside the police station but democratic protest is a breach of peace. Is this the peace that I am supposed to keep and the government wants to keep?" said Bora.

AGRICULTURE UNDER A GATHERING CLOUD OF CRISES



BY Amaravaji Nagaraju

Global conflicts, energy price volatility and climate change are converging to threaten farm-sector stability. India needs a comprehensive strategy to protect farmers' incomes, strengthen agricultural resilience and safeguard food security.

Indian agriculture stands at a critical juncture. Geopolitical conflicts, fluctuations in crude oil prices and the growing impact of climate change are combining to create unprecedented uncertainty for the farm sector. From the availability of raw materials for fertiliser production to the cost of cultivation and crop yields, the consequences are being felt across the agricultural value chain. These challenges cannot be addressed in isolation. They are interconnected crises that demand a coordinated and forward-looking policy response. Safeguarding agriculture from global disruptions is essential not only for farmers' livelihoods but also for India's long-term food security. In the decades immediately following Independence, Indian agriculture depended largely on animal power, organic manure and traditional cultivation practices. The Green Revolution transformed the sector through high-yielding crop varieties, chemical fertilisers, pesticides and mechanisation. Foodgrain production increased substantially, enabling India to make significant progress towards food self-sufficiency. However, this transformation also made agriculture increasingly dependent on energy-intensive inputs.

Diesel powers tractors and other farm machinery, electricity runs irrigation pumps, natural gas is a critical input in fertiliser manufacturing, and petroleum fuels the transportation of agricultural produce. Energy is therefore woven into almost every stage of the farming cycle. When international oil prices rise or supply chains are disrupted, the consequences inevitably reach the farm. If cultivation costs increase without a corresponding improvement in crop prices, farmers' margins shrink and their financial vulnerability deepens. This growing exposure to external shocks makes farming an increasingly uncertain economic activity.

Wars and the Fertiliser Challenge

The Russia-Ukraine war and continuing tensions in West Asia have underscored the vulnerability of global energy markets and supply chains to geopolitical disruptions. Rising prices of crude oil and natural gas can increase fertiliser production costs, with direct implications for agriculture. Natural gas is a key feedstock in the manufacture of urea, while sulphur and other industrial inputs are important in the production of phosphate-based fertilisers. Disruptions in the availability of these materials, or a steep increase in their import costs, can place considerable pressure on domestic supplies.

India depends on overseas sources for several critical fertiliser products and raw materials. A surge in international prices can increase the government's fertiliser subsidy burden while exposing the agricultural economy to higher input costs and supply uncertainties. Keeping fertilisers affordable is important, but affordability alone is not enough. Their timely and uninterrupted availability is equally crucial, particularly during the sowing season.

Strengthening domestic manufacturing capacity, diversifying import sources, developing alternative nutrient inputs and maintaining appropriate strategic reserves should form part of a broader strategy to improve fertiliser security. Greater efficiency in fertiliser use can also reduce dependence on external supplies and make agriculture more resilient to global price shocks.

The Food-versus-Fuel Dilemma

Reducing dependence on imported petroleum has made biofuels an important element of energy policy across the world. Ethanol blending in petrol and the production of biodiesel from vegetable oils are among the initiatives aimed at diversifying energy sources. India has also expanded ethanol production using feedstocks such as sugarcane, maize and rice. These efforts can contribute to energy security and help reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.

However, the growing demand for biofuels raises an important question: how can the country pursue energy self-reliance without compromising food security?

Food consumption, livestock feed, industrial use and fuel production all compete for agricultural resources. If these competing demands are not carefully balanced, they can put pressure on food supplies and prices. The risks become particularly acute when poor rainfall or other adverse weather conditions reduce crop output.

Biofuel policies must therefore be designed with due regard for the country's nutritional requirements and agricultural priorities. Greater investment in technologies that convert agricultural residues, crop waste and other non-food feedstocks into biofuels can help ease the competition between food and fuel. Energy diversification is necessary, but it must not undermine the fundamental objective of ensuring adequate and affordable food for the population.

Climate Change Compounds the Crisis

Geopolitical instability and energy market fluctuations are not the only challenges facing Indian agriculture. Climate change is adding another layer of uncertainty. Irregular rainfall, rising temperatures, droughts and floods are increasingly affecting crop yields and threatening farmers' incomes. Climate phenomena such as El Niño can influence monsoon patterns under certain conditions, although their effects vary across years and regions. Agricultural planning must consequently rely on scientific assessments, local weather forecasts and region-specific risk analysis rather than generalised assumptions.

Agricultural analyst Harish Damodaran, in his article, refers to the severe challenges encountered by Indian agriculture during 1979-80. Historical experiences offer an important lesson: when energy disruptions and adverse climatic conditions coincide, their combined impact can be significantly more damaging than that of individual shocks. Rising input costs, reduced crop yields and disruptions in supply chains can reinforce one another, placing farmers under severe financial strain.

India's agricultural system has expanded considerably since that period, but the risks have also become more complex. The country must prepare for a future in which international conflicts, volatile commodity markets and unpredictable weather may increasingly overlap. Strengthening the ability of farmers and agricultural institutions to anticipate and respond to such disruptions is no longer optional; it is an economic and strategic necessity.

Structural Reforms for Sustainable Agriculture

Short-term relief measures can provide immediate support during a crisis, but lasting resilience requires structural reforms. Excessive fertiliser use, the indiscriminate exploitation of groundwater and overdependence on a limited range of crops have made parts of Indian agriculture vulnerable to economic and environmental stress. Soil-test-based nutrient management must be encouraged to promote balanced fertiliser application and improve soil health. Integrated pest management, crop diversification and sustainable farming practices deserve greater attention. Expanding solar-powered irrigation pumps, drip irrigation and other water-efficient technologies can reduce dependence on conventional energy sources while conserving scarce water resources. Investment in agricultural research is equally important. Climate-resilient crop varieties, quality seeds, improved farming technologies and stronger extension services can help farmers adapt to changing conditions. Timely access to reliable weather information would enable them to make better decisions about sowing, irrigation and harvesting. Risk management must also extend beyond the farm. Crop insurance needs to provide effective and timely protection against losses. Remunerative prices, scientific storage facilities, efficient transportation and stronger market linkages are essential to prevent farmers from bearing the entire burden of rising costs and fluctuating market conditions. Improving these systems would help reduce post-harvest losses, stabilise farm incomes and strengthen the agricultural supply chain.

India may have little control over international conflicts or global energy prices, but it can significantly reduce their domestic consequences through advance planning, diversified supply chains, technological innovation and sound agricultural policies.

Agriculture is far more than an economic activity measured by crop output. It sustains millions of rural households and underpins the country's food security. Farmers' welfare, energy security and the conservation of natural resources are closely interlinked. Policies that overlook these connections risk addressing immediate problems while allowing deeper vulnerabilities to persist.

The need of the hour is to move beyond crisis management towards crisis preparedness. Instead of responding only after disruptions occur, India must build an agricultural system capable of anticipating risks, absorbing shocks and recovering quickly. Coordinated action by governments, research institutions, agricultural organisations and farmers can help achieve this objective. A resilient agricultural sector must ensure that farmers receive the support they need, natural resources are used responsibly and food supplies remain secure even during periods of international uncertainty. By placing these priorities at the centre of agricultural policy, India can protect rural livelihoods, strengthen self-reliance and build a more sustainable farming future.

ARAMCO TO VENEZUELA: THE OIL CONCESSION COMES FULL CIRCLE

MILINDA MORAGODA



More than a century ago, William Knox D'Arcy made a bargain with the Shah of Persia that helped create the modern oil industry. The deal gave D'Arcy exclusive rights to explore for, produce and sell oil across most of Persia for 60 years. In return, the Persian government received £20,000 in cash, £20,000 in shares and 16% of annual net profits. At the time, nobody knew how valuable the oil would become. That uncertainty was central to the early oil concession. Foreign companies supplied capital, technology and the willingness to take exploration risk. Governments possessing the resource supplied access. As the value of oil became clearer, however, that bargain was repeatedly renegotiated. A century later, a new Venezuelan oil agreement raises the possibility that the concessionary model is entering another phase. The North American Blue Energy Partners arrangement is striking not simply because of its scale, but because of the unusual roles assigned to the company and the U.S. government. The agreement covers 17 Venezuelan oil fields and gives NABEP 100-year rights over fields associated with approximately 65 billion barrels of proven reserves. The company plans to invest close to $100 billion and raise production substantially. But the unusual feature is the role assigned to the United States. The Pentagon's Office of Strategic Capital has been granted rights to a 35% equity interest in NABEP's corporate parent. The U.S. Department of State has the right to purchase 20% of production at cost, as well as a right of first refusal over the remaining 80%. Washington also has veto power over board appointments, while a majority of the board must be U.S. citizens. The 35% interest is structured through warrants designed to protect the U.S. position from dilution as the venture raises capital. The structure has an extraordinary historical echo. But it also reverses part of the direction in which the oil industry has travelled. The early concessionary era was not confined to Persia. In Iraq, the Turkish Petroleum Company received a 75-year concession in 1925. The arrangement eventually became a multinational enterprise involving British, French, Dutch and American interests. In Kuwait, the Kuwait Oil Company was established in 1934 as a joint venture between Anglo-Persian Oil Company and Gulf Oil. Commercial production began after the discovery of the giant Burgan field. Kuwait subsequently nationalised its oil industry. These cases illustrate the basic pattern of twentieth-century petroleum history. Foreign capital and expertise initially dominated the industry. Resource-rich states subsequently demanded a greater share of the proceeds and, eventually, greater ownership and control. Saudi Arabia provides perhaps the clearest example. In 1933, Standard Oil of California received a concession from the Saudi government to explore for oil. Commercial quantities were discovered in 1938. The original arrangement therefore involved genuine geological and financial uncertainty. As Saudi Arabia's oil wealth became apparent, the bargain changed. In 1950, Aramco agreed to a 50-50 profit-sharing arrangement, following a model that had already emerged in Venezuela. Over the following decades, Riyadh acquired progressively greater ownership of Aramco, ultimately reaching full ownership in 1980. The history of Aramco therefore became a history of the transformation of a concession. A foreign company initially supplied capital and expertise.

The resource-owning state progressively acquired a larger share of the value and eventually control of the enterprise. Venezuela's new arrangement begins from a very different position. The resource is already known. Venezuela possesses the world's largest proven oil reserves, while much of its production infrastructure has deteriorated after years of underinvestment and economic and political turmoil.

Indian Govt Bonds Record Worth Losing Streak in Last Three Decades



New Delhi: For the tenth straight week, Indian government bond yields saw an increase, recording the worst losing streak in the last three decades, reported Business Standard. The yield on the benchmark 10-year government bond settled at 7.47% against the previous close of 7.46%. On Friday (October 23), the benchmark 6.94% 2036 bond ended at 7.4740%, against 7.4596% in the previous session, reported Reuters. During the week, the yield rose 9 basis points, after increasing 62 bps in the previous nine weeks. This is the steepest rise since 1998. Bond yields move inversely to prices. Meanwhile, in wake of increasing geopolitical tensions and chances of further disruption to global energy supplies, the benchmark Brent crude remained around $115 a barrel, which is its highest in almost six months. The Wire had previously reported that foreign investors are withdrawing capital from Indian government bonds and moving to developed countries for safer, comparable returns as global interest rates rise. The narrowed yield differential – the smaller gap between the interest rates offered in India and developed nations – has reduced the incentive for emerging market investment. Till September this year, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) had sold government bonds worth Rs 987 crore.Indian government bond yields rose for the tenth straight week, logging the worst losing streak in three decades, as elevated crude oil prices and rising global yields affected sentiment. The yield on the benchmark 10-year government bond settled at 7.47 per cent against the previous close of 7.46 per cent. During the week, yields rose by 10 basis points. The rupee also fell for a second consecutive session as crude oil prices and risk aversion weighed on the domestic currency, offsetting support from easing expectations of further US Federal Reserve rate hikes. The local currency settled at 94.94 per dollar, against the previous close of 94.83 per dollar. The currency opened marginally higher at 94.79 per dollar, but weakened during the session to touch a low of 94.98. The rupee moved marginally in the week, up 0.02 per cent, after rising 1.4 per cent the previous week. Brent crude rose to a more than five-month high, following attacks in Saudi Arabia by Yemen's Houthis, fuelling concerns of further disruptions of energy supplies. Brent was trading around $116 per barrel at 8.45 pm IST, and was on course for its third consecutive weekly gain. Another factor weighing on the currency was the risk aversion in global markets as investors pulled back from technology stocks amid concerns over elevated valuations of companies linked to artificial intelligence (AI). The sell-off in equities and increased demand for safe-haven US Treasuries added to pressure on emerging-market currencies. India's foreign exchange reserves fell $5.01 billion to $721.02 billion in the week ended October 16, according to the latest RBI data. In the past six weeks, reserves have fallen $65 billion after touching a record high of $785.7 billion in the week ended September 4. During the reporting week, foreign currency assets, the largest component of reserves, declined $5.76 billion to $591.85 billion. Gold reserves rose $706 million to $105.80 billion, while Special Drawing Rights edged up $30 million to $18.58 billion. India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund rose $11 million to $4.79 billion. "The rupee slipped for a second straight session as higher crude prices and a stronger US dollar kept pressure on emerging-market currencies. Risk-off flows and market unwinding added to the weakness, though the currency later steadied and moved in a narrow band in the later part of the day," said Dilip Parmar, senior research analyst at HDFC Securities. "In the near term, the spot rupee is capped at 95.30, with initial support at 94.70," he added. The rupee has appreciated by 0.93 per cent so far in October, whereas it has depreciated by 0.14 per cent in the current financial year. The rupee had strengthened to a six-week high of 94.30 per dollar on Thursday, supported by the unwinding of dollar-long positions following the RBI's recent forex measures and residual flows linked to Jio Platforms' initial public offering. However, dollar purchases by importers and renewed demand for the greenback pared the gains. Market participants said dollar purchases by state-owned banks on behalf of oil marketing companies, reportedly for the RBI, kept the dollar well bid after the initial support from IPO-related flows faded. "SBI has been buying dollars for oil companies on behalf of RBI keeping the dollar well bid once the fall in rupee came after the initial IPO euphoria," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, head of treasury and executive director at Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP.

IDFC First Bank Q2 Results: Net Profit Jumps Multifold To Rs 1,045 Crore, NII Up 21%



IDFC First Bank announced July to September for fiscal 2027 on Saturday, October 24. The lender's net profit climbed 196.8% to Rs 1,045 crore in the second quarter of the current financial year from Rs 352 crore in the corresponding period previous year. The bank's net interest income (NII) rose 21% to Rs 6,184 crore in the quarter from Rs 5,113 crore in the same quarter last year. Asset quality improved as gross NPA declined to 1.32% from 1.51% in the preceding quarter and net NPA dropped to 0.40% from 0.44% sequentially.

Provisions slipped to Rs 1,137 crore in the period under review from Rs 1,452 crore in Q2FY26. IDFC First Bank's total deposits surged 25.9% YoY and 11.8% QoQ at Rs 3,48,583 crore. Current account and Savings account ratio stood at 48.4% in Q2 FY27. The slight decline from 50.1% was primarily due to the large mobilisation of FCNR(B) deposits during the quarter. Loans and advances, including credit substitutes and FCNR(B)-backed loans, grew 30.1% YoY to Rs 3,46,913 crore. Except loans secured by FCNR(B) deposits, loan growth was 22.2%, gross of IBPC. Incremental cost-to-income ratio stood at 55% in H1 FY27. The core cost-to-income ratio, excluding trading gains improved to 70.16% in Q2 FY27 from 70.73% in same quarter previous year.

Speaking on Q2 show, IDFC First Bank Managing Director and CEO V Vaidyanathan said, "Our PAT crossed Rs 1,000 crore for the second quarter in a row, in both Q1 and Q2 FY27.

American Express Is Cutting 3,500 Jobs Globally



American Express is cutting around 3,500 jobs globally, or about 5% of its workforce, as the credit card giant looks to streamline operations, improve efficiency and prepare for wider adoption of artificial intelligence (AI). The move comes even as the company reported a sharp rise in quarterly profit, highlighting how workforce reductions are increasingly being driven by organisational restructuring rather than weakening business performance. The New York-based company reported a third-quarter net profit of $3.71 billion, up 28% from a year earlier. Revenue rose 9% to $20.06 billion, while earnings stood at $5.42 per share, according to its earnings release. American Express had nearly 77,000 employees at the end of 2025. The latest move marks its first major workforce reduction in roughly a decade, according to the Associated Press. The company recorded a $336 million pre-tax restructuring charge in the third quarter. Why Is American Express Cutting Jobs? Chief Executive Officer Stephen Squeri told analysts that the job cuts were part of a broader strategy to make the organisation more agile and efficient while directing resources towards business priorities. "We have got good momentum, but to accelerate innovation and win over the next few years, we needed to become a more agile and efficient organisation," Squeri said, as quoted by The Wall Street Journal. Chief Financial Officer Christoph Le Caillec also told CNBC that the restructuring was aimed at making American Express leaner, more agile, and also to prepare for AI. The company plans to reduce organisational layers and widen spans of control, creating a structure better suited to automation and the use of AI tools in the coming quarters and years.

White House lifts tariffs on some Canadian goods as midterm elections loom



The Trump administration is lifting some of its 50% tariffs on Canadian goods two weeks before the midterm elections, after a Republican candidate in a key US Senate race said she had lobbied for the change. From 30 October, tariffs will be eased on products including "plywood sheets, some paper products, certain machinery and refrigeration equipment", the White House said on Friday. Republican Senator Susan Collins, who is in a tight race to keep her seat in Maine, first announced the exemptions, saying they would help her state's agriculture industry. The US imposed a 50% levy on $20bn (£15bn) worth of Canadian goods after trade talks between the two countries collapsed in August. Canada has imposed a series of countermeasures in response to the US tariffs, which Prime Minister Mark Carney said were "necessary to protect our workers". Last month, Carney matched the US tariffs "dollar for dollar" after the breakdown in talks. Trump had imposed them for what he called "unequal treatment" of US car, dairy and alcohol exports. The White House said that, while tariffs would be lifted from some items, including some packing crates and boxes, they would be introduced on other items such as carpets and "waste products". It said the action reflected US President Donald Trump's "continued efforts to defend American workers and ensure fair trade". Trump "continues to address Canada's discriminatory treatment of US commerce", White House spokesman Matthew Middleton said. Canada's internal trade minister Dominic LeBlanc said: "While we assess these latest steps, Canada stands ready to work constructively and in good faith towards a more mutually beneficial trading relationship that respects Canada's interests." The White House's announcement comes less than a fortnight before the US midterm elections, which will determine whether Trump's Republican Party or Democrats will control Congress, impacting the remaining two years of his term. Collins said she had repeatedly asked senior Trump officials for tariff relief and that she would "continue working directly with administration officials to seek additional relief and encourage a broader trade agreement with Canada, our neighbour, ally and largest trading partner". The US-Canada trade war in 5 charts She wrote on X that the tariff exemptions were on products that were "crucial to Maine's agricultural industries, including blueberry, potato, apple, and seaweed producers". Collins' Democratic challenger, Troy Jackson, responded: "Trump's trade wars have made life harder and more expensive for Mainers. Susan Collins enabled this chaos, voted to confirm the people behind it and now wants credit for bringing a cup of water to put out the fire." Maine borders the Canadian provinces New Brunswick and Quebec. Its economy, as well as that of other border states, is deeply linked to Canada and they have felt the effects of the months-long trade war. Michigan lawmaker Mike Rogers, also a Republican, has called on Trump to end the standoff after spending months supporting the policy in recent advertisements airing in his trade-reliant state. Also on Friday, Trump said Canada was "working very hard" on a ?trade ?deal with the US. Carney, who has sought closer ties with Europe since the tariff war erupted, said that Canada was open to a mutually beneficial deal, but was willing to wait it out.

Ukraine says Starlink connection 'now stable' after network limits



Ukraine now has a "stable connection" to Starlink, its defence minister has said, after its military suffered days of restricted connectivity on the satellite internet network. Kyiv relies on the Starlink and its military-grade counterpart Starshield for piloting drones and operations within Ukraine, but last week accused US President Donald Trump of telling owner Elon Musk to place limits on it. This meant drones would lose connection when travelling at 161km/h (100mph) or more, it said. Trump denied doing so before saying Musk had "put it back". Defence Minister Yevhenii Khmara said that speeds of more than 400km/h were now possible on the network, indicating that full capability had been restored. "This result is above all important for our front, for our soldiers, for the operation of drones, for logistics and for communications," he said in a statement on Saturday. Ukraine's military uses the network of 10,000 low Earth orbit satellites extensively for military operations, particularly in remote areas on the battlefield. Ukraine uses both the civilian service Starlink and the more secure Starshield, which Musk said was controlled by the US military when he suggested the Pentagon could be behind the recent issues. Russia is not authorised to use Starlink, so when Ukraine sends long-range missiles or drones deep into Russia to hit oil refineries, the network does not work. The debacle over Starlink began last week, and emerged during a broader diplomatic row between Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky over Ukrainian strikes on Russian oil infrastructure. Faced with midterm elections next month, Trump has waived some sanctions on Russia and agreed a deal to import Russian diesel for the US market - a move criticised by Ukraine and its European allies. Trump said the strikes on Russian oil refineries, which Kyiv says are crucial to stemming the main revenue source for Moscow's war effort, have pushed global prices higher.

OPPO India raises the bar for premium flagship smartphones with the All-New OPPO Find X10 Series



New Delhi October 2026: OPPO India launched the all-new OPPO Find X10 Series, comprising OPPO Find X10 and OPPO Find X10 Pro Max, marking the 10th generation of its innovative and premium flagship OPPO Find X Series. Built to set a new benchmark for the premium smartphone experience, the Find X10 Series brings together breakthrough true-to-life imaging, uncompromising performance, exceptional battery endurance and refined design. All this, along with the new ColorOS 17, aiding superior and smooth user software experience. OPPO also expanded its flagship connected ecosystem with the OPPO Enco X4 and OPPO Pad Mini, so that users can capture, create and share in one flow. Together, the flagship portfolio elevates everyday experience, so every shot, edit and share feels authentic and true to the moment.

At the heart of the OPPO Find X10 Series is a camera system designed to deliver images closer to how they are seen in real life. The OPPO Find X10 features a Dual 200MP Camera System, while the OPPO Find X10 Pro Max introduces the revolutionary Triple 200MP Camera System, bringing 200MP resolution across all three rear cameras. Co-developed with Hasselblad, it is paired with the new LUMO True Image Engine and Second-Generation True Colour Camera for natural colours, tones and details, while LUMO Color Palette lets users build a personal style on top of that natural starting point. Video gets cinema-grade tools, including 4K Cine-Grade HDR Video, Dolby Vision and Open Gate Capture.

The all-new ColorOS 17 brings AI Mind Pilot with Agent Mode, which can work with photos and files on the device to complete multi-step tasks. The series is backed by up to an 8000mAh battery, the 2nm MediaTek Dimensity 9600 Pro on the Find X10 Pro Max, and a new Borderless Design.

Complementing the OPPO Find X10 Series is the OPPO Pad Mini, the brand's first compact 8.8-inch tablet, combining flagship performance with AI-powered productivity in an ultra-portable design, and the OPPO Enco X4, featuring a premium audio experience co-developed with Dynaudio for exceptional sound quality. Together, these devices extend OPPO's flagship experience beyond smartphones, enabling seamless connectivity, productivity, creativity and entertainment across everyday moments. Commenting on the launch, Goldee Patnaik, Head of Communications, OPPO India, said, "For ten generations, the OPPO Find X Series has pushed the boundaries of smartphone innovation. With the OPPO Find X10 Series, we are solving what creators struggle with most: pictures that drift from what the eyes see, results that change with the light, and AI that adds steps instead of removing them. The Pad Mini brings a new form factor from OPPO, compact and creator-friendly, and with the Enco X4, it completes a connected ecosystem that lets users capture, create and share in one flow."

A NEW BENCHMARK FOR MOBILE IMAGING

Developed in collaboration with Hasselblad, the OPPO Find X10 Series brings together high-resolution camera hardware and OPPO's latest computational photography technology. The LUMO True Image Engine is designed to retain natural colours, tonal depth and finer details, helping images stay faithful to the original scene rather than appearing overly processed.

MAHINDRA LAUNCHES XUV 3XO ZNG. A WHOLE LOT OF ZING. UNMISTAKABLY MAHINDRA DNA



Mumbai, October, 2026: Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., India's leading SUV manufacturer, today announced the launch of the XUV 3XO ZNG, its first mainstream CNG passenger vehicle, at a starting price of ? 9.99 lakh (ex-showroom).

The XUV 3XO ZNG brings the thrill of driving to the CNG segment without compromise. Powered by a turbocharged engine delivering 82 kW power and 200 Nm torque in both CNG and petrol modes, it combines spirited performance with certified efficiency of 24.7 km/kg, giving customers the flexibility to choose lower running costs without sacrificing driving excitement. Across the range, the XUV 3XO ZNG delivers more than just CNG efficiency, bringing together turbocharged performance, bold design, generous space, advanced technology, comfort and safety, all at compelling price points that make it an irresistible proposition for CNG SUV buyers. The XUV 3XO ZNG makes SUV ownership more accessible, especially for first-time SUV aspirers looking for a powerful, feature-rich upgrade. Even from the entry variant, it comes equipped with premium features such as a 26.03 cm HD touchscreen, cruise control, rear AC vents and a 60:40 split rear seat, ensuring customers enjoy the XUV 3XO's distinctive character, technology and practicality alongside the everyday economy of CNG, with no compromise on the thrill of driving.

Dr Velusamy R, President, Automotive Business, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., said, "The XUV 3XO ZNG comes with a clear promise: Zero Compromise. Customers today want the space, technology, safety and driving experience of an SUV, along with the lower running costs of CNG. With category-leading torque, turbocharged performance and impressive efficiency, the XUV 3XO ZNG brings together the practicality of CNG and the excitement of an SUV, setting a new benchmark for customer expectations from a CNG SUV."

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Full turbo performance. Full-on Zing. In either fuel mode

- Zero Compromise on Performance: The 1.2-litre mStallion TCMPFi turbocharged engine delivers the same 82 kW power and 200 Nm torque in both CNG and gasoline modes. Optimised turbocharger calibration and ECU mapping ensure identical power and torque regardless of fuel choice, bringing the full performance, thrill and Zing of the XUV 3XO to every drive.
- Category-Leading Torque: With best-in-class 200 Nm torque among CNG passenger vehicles in India, available from 1,500–3,500 rpm, the XUV 3XO ZNG delivers effortless acceleration, confident drivability and responsive performance across city and highway conditions.
- Quick Off the Line: The XUV 3XO ZNG accelerates from 0-60 km/h in 4.9 seconds and 0-100 km/h in 11.8 seconds in CNG mode.

Go further. Go with Zing.

- Efficiency Without Compromise: Certified efficiency of 24.7 km/kg combines lower running costs with the turbocharged performance customers expect from the XUV 3XO.
- Seamless Multi-Fuel Flexibility: Choose between CNG and petrol modes, with automatic switching to petrol when CNG runs low, ensuring uninterrupted journeys and keeping the Zing going.
- Designed for Convenience: Average and instantaneous fuel economy displays provide real-time consumption insights, while the NGV fast-filling valve enables quicker and more convenient refuelling and more time enjoying the Zing.

Maharashtra vs FSSAI:

Why The State Has Moved Bombay HC Over Food Safety Rules



Maharashtra has approached the Bombay High Court challenging several food safety regulations issued by the Centre and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), alleging that the rules have created a parallel enforcement system that encroaches on the state government's statutory powers. The petition, filed through the State Commissioner of Food Safety, argues that the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, was designed to decentralise food safety enforcement, with state authorities responsible for inspections and implementation. However, subsequent amendments and regulatory changes have gradually weakened this framework, the state has contended. According to the plea, the Centre and FSSAI have steadily dismantled the decentralised enforcement mechanism by introducing provisions that shift powers away from state officials. The petition also challenges the FSSAI chief executive officer's authority to create posts such as Central Food Safety Officer and Central Licensing Authority, arguing that these positions are not envisaged under the original statutory framework. According to multiple media reports, the state has asked the high court to strike down the amendments and regulations it considers unconstitutional. It has also sought a stay on a May 2023 order that restricts state food safety officers from inspecting food businesses holding central licences. A bench comprising Bombay High Court Chief Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Justice Advait Sethna took up the matter on Friday. The court scheduled the next hearing for November 26. The dispute centres on who can inspect food businesses and under what conditions. Maharashtra's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials say they want to restore the state's authority to inspect food business operators as and when required, without having to seek prior approval from the central regulator. Mutliple media reports citing senior FDA officials said that currently, businesses with an annual turnover of Rs 50 crore or more fall under the jurisdiction of FSSAI's Central Licensing Authority.

Trump administration sues to block certification of upcoming Alaska election



The Trump administration wants to block the certification of the Senate election in Alaska if Republican Senator Dan Sullivan loses, arguing that another candidate with the same name may confuse voters. The justice department said in a federal lawsuit filed on Thursday that the inclusion of another Dan Sullivan on the ballot could lead some to mistakenly cast their votes for the wrong candidate. Polls suggest the race between Senator Sullivan and Democrat Mary Peltola is tight, with Peltola holding a narrow lead in the final days before the 3 November vote. The US government wants the judge to bar the state from certifying the results if Senator Sullivan loses by a margin less than the other Sullivan. "Tm the one that said do it," US President Donald Trump told reporters when asked for his thoughts on the lawsuit after he landed in Florida for a campaign rally on Friday. Trump has referred to the second Sullivan's candidacy as a "scam" and said his administration was looking at "powerful legal options" to end it. The retired teacher previously denied his candidacy had an ulterior motive. Previous efforts to remove that Sullivan, a retired teacher, from the ballot have already been rejected by the Alaska Supreme Court. For the 3 November midterm election, the senator will be listed on the ballot as the Republican incumbent. Alaska's ranked-choice voting system means that voters could select both Sullivans if they are unsure at the ballot box. In court documents, the justice department said Alaska "will fail in its obligation to protect the integrity of its elections" if it includes "any electoral results tainted by the inclusion on the ballot of Daniel J Sullivan". The second Sullivan, who was also a US Forest Service worker, was reportedly once a member of the Alaska Independence Party before registering as a Republican earlier this year. In the filing, Associate Attorney General Stanley E Woodward Jr asserted that the sole purpose of his candidacy was to benefit Peltola's campaign by reducing the number of votes for the senator. "Given the substantial likelihood that the inclusion of Dan J Sullivan will confuse or mislead voters looking to cast a vote for Senator Sullivan and thus distort the will of Alaskan voters, there is a substantial likelihood that a certification of the election will reflect an electoral process that lacked integrity," Woodward argued. Dan J Sullivan has repeatedly denied those claims, telling the local Petersburg Pilot newspaper earlier this year that he "wouldn't even know who to speak to" in Peltola's campaign. He said separately to Courthouse News that it was his "sincere hope that people know who and what they are voting for but, ultimately, choice is good and voters' intent will be as varied as the candidates who are running". In the event Peltola wins, and the margin of loss suggests possible confusion, the lawsuit calls for certification to be delayed pending an investigation into whether voters were mixed up on the names as well as any "necessary and appropriate" steps to determine what would have happened had the second Sullivan been kept off the ballot. Neither candidate has so far commented on the lawsuit. The Senate race in Alaska - which Trump won by 14 percentage points in 2024 - is among the most closely watched in the upcoming midterm elections. The president's approval ratings in the state have been badly hit by voter disapproval of rising prices and the war in Iran. The Department of Justice sued to prevent Alaska state officials from certifying election results if Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan loses in November, an escalation of the Trump administration trying to use the power of the federal government to influence the midterms. In a lawsuit filed Thursday, DOJ argued that the presence of an independent candidate also named Dan Sullivan constitutes a purposeful effort to mislead voters. "Given the substantial likelihood that the inclusion of Daniel J. Sullivan will confuse or mislead voters looking to cast a vote for Senator Sullivan, and thus distort the will of Alaskan voters, there is a substantial likelihood that a certification of the election will reflect an electoral process that lacked integrity," DOJ wrote in its complaint. The Trump administration is seeking to delay certification if the incumbent senator loses until an investigation determines "whether votes cast for Daniel J. Sullivan were meant to be cast for Senator Sullivan." The Alaska Supreme Court permitted the other Sullivan to remain on the ballot in a June ruling. The incumbent is in a tight reelection fight with former Democratic Rep. Mary Peltola. The lawsuit is the latest in a string of high-profile matters filed by the Justice Department's third-ranking official, Stanley Woodward. President Donald Trump foreshadowed the lawsuit earlier this week, saying his administration was weighing "powerful legal options" to remove the non-Republican Sullivan from the ballot. The suit seeks to block certification if the result may have been "impacted by voter confusion," which DOJ defines as the incumbent losing, and if all the votes for the independent were reallocated to the Republican, he would have won. The case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Sharon Gleason, a 2012 appointee of former President Barack Obama. Peltola spokesperson Harry Child said in a statement that the lawsuit was a "despicable political threat to overturn an election.

Seven missing after multi-storey building collapses in Kenya's capital



Highlights

- A search and rescue effort is under way to find seven people feared trapped under rubble after a building collapsed in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

A search and rescue effort is under way to find seven people feared trapped under rubble after a building collapsed in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. Dramatic footage shows the bottom floor of the block, thought to have been 16 or 18 storeys, giving way before the rest of the building crumples, sending a plume of dust into the surrounding streets. Dozens of builders had been working on the upper floors when it collapsed, but managed to emerge largely unscathed. Those missing were thought to have been in shops that had opened at the base of the building. The incident has raised fresh concerns about construction standards and regulations in Kenya. The block was under construction when it collapsed on Friday afternoon, with footage showing scaffolding still wrapped around the outside of the building. Officials said 11 shops had already opened on the bottom floors. Interior ministry official Kipchumba Murkomen said 66 of the 67 construction workers in the building at the time had been able to get out unharmed, while the other had suffered injuries that were not life-threatening. Images from the scene, in Nairobi's Eastleigh area, show the concrete floors of the building piled on top of one another, as rescue workers saw through metal to get to those believed to have been stuck underneath. Rescue efforts have been complicated by concerns that excavation using diggers could limit the supply of air to those trapped, prompting emergency responders to cease using them, according to the Daily Nation newspaper. Questions have emerged about why the building suddenly collapsed and whether it met planning regulations. Kenya's National Construction Authority said in a statement that it had identified the company behind the development, as well as the architect and structural engineer, but did not say whether the site had been inspected before Friday. Nairobi Governor Sakaja Johnson told local media that the owners of the building did not have the required paperwork for the building to be occupied. He urged the national government to give local authorities greater powers to penalise "developers who disregard approved building plans and safety standards". Building collapses are not uncommon in Nairobi, with poor construction or improper planning often cited as contributing factors.

STUDENT MOVEMENT TAKES SERBIA'S VUCIC TO THE WIRE IN NECK-AND-NECK ELECTION



If Sunday's parliamentary elections really are a battle for the heart of Serbia, then who better than a cardiologist to be one of the leading figures in the race. Ilija Srdanovic appears an unlikely opponent for Serbia's long-serving leader, Aleksandar Vucic, arriving for an interview by motorbike sporting a fluorescent yellow jacket emblazoned with pro-student slogans. He has been selected as top candidate for an opposition movement posing the most serious challenge to Vucic since the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) entered government in 2012. The Student List has emerged from almost two years of anti-corruption protests led by young Serbians, outraged by the deaths of 16 people when a railway station's canopy collapsed in Serbia's second city Novi Sad. What you need to know about Serbia's pivotal election Instead of running for office themselves, student-led assemblies at the country's university faculties have chosen 250 candidates to stand in the parliamentary election, with Srdanovic, professor at Novi Sad University, heading the list. "It is absolutely normal to stand with my students to help them in their fair struggle," Srdanovic told .

ARREST MADE AFTER FIRE AT HITLER'S MOUNTAINTOP EAGLE'S NEST RETREAT



Police in the southern German state of Bavaria have detained a suspect during a fire at Adolf Hitler's Alpine mountain retreat, the Kehlsteinhaus, also known as the Eagle's Nest. Dispatchers in Traunstein received a fire alarm from the building at 21:15 local time (19:15 GMT) on Friday and firefighters found it engulfed in flames. Difficult terrain was hindering efforts to extinguish the blaze and it was still burning early on Saturday, police said, with some 200 emergency personnel deployed. There were no reports of injuries. The retreat, above the town of Berchtesgaden, was one of several buildings in the area used by the Nazi dictator and his entourage during World War Two. Hitler and top Nazi officials used his nearby Berghof residence to plan the invasion of the USSR in 1941 and the whole complex was considered one of his headquarters. He also used the area as a backdrop for propaganda films portraying him as a lover of animals and nature. A criminal investigation is under way to determine whether the suspect is connected to the fire. Completed by the Nazis in 1938, the Eagle's Nest, which sits at an elevation of around 1,800m (5,900ft), escaped destruction after their defeat in 1945. Since then, it has become a popular tourist destination and houses a mountain inn. It serves as "a cautionary reminder of the abysses of the inhumane Nazi dictatorship", according to its official website. During WW2, Hitler and his followers were responsible for the deaths of tens of millions of people, including the mass murder of European Jews. Homosexuals, gypsies, the disabled and ethnic minorities were sent to concentration camps and put to death. There has been a wider debate in Germany and Vienna over whether to preserve, repurpose or demolish buildings connected to Hitler. While some say these buildings should be preserved for historical reasons, others have raised concerns that they could be used as monuments or places of pilgrimage for neo-Nazis and far-right extremists. In June, Berlin authorities announced they would tear down one of Hitler's bunkers - described at the time as "the power centre of Nazi Germany" - to build flats and offices on the site. Those critical of the plans said the bunker had "significant historical value" and that it should have been turned into a museum and memorial site with an exhibit about the end of the war.

Father who killed Oregon school gunman describes anguish over children he couldn't save



A father who fatally shot a gunman at his daughters' school in the US state of Oregon has described his anguish over being unable to save more pupils after "hearing children pleading for their lives". Three students and a teacher were killed by a 16-year-old former student at Silver Rail Elementary School earlier this month. The attacker was then killed by Kaylub Giamanco. "I want to apologise for not saving their babies," Giamanco, who has been hailed as a hero, said of his thoughts for the parents of the children killed, in an interview with Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) that aired on Friday. "The gratitude for saving people's children is awesome, but there were ones that I didn't save." Giamanco, 36, said he wanted to meet the victims' families and "cry with them and hold them". He credited a teacher who fought the attacker with giving him the chance to intervene without losing his own life. "I would love to give her a hug because that's a real true hero," he said. The students who were killed were all boys, aged five, eight and 11. They were among six people in total who were shot in a classroom at the school, police said. Alongside the teacher who was killed, another child and a teacher were wounded. Giamanco told OPB that the day of the attack began with breakfast and making packed lunches. He and his wife had spent extra time getting their daughters ready because it was school picture day.



French police arrest 135 people, as tens of thousands protest across country

AUSTRALIAN MP'S CONDITION IMPROVES AFTER ALLEGED CAR ATTACK



The condition of Helen Haines, the Australian MP hit by a car five days ago in north-east Victoria, has improved from critical to serious but stable. The independent MP, 65, had both her legs amputated after what authorities say was a deliberate attack outside her electorate office in Wangaratta, north-east of Melbourne, on Monday. In the latest update on Saturday morning, the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne said Haines was in a serious but stable condition, the first improvement since she was airlifted there. Her alleged attacker, 43-year-old Brendan Nugent, was arrested shortly after the incident and has since appeared in court on three charges. The politician's husband, Phil Haines, said on Wednesday that the "horrendous incident" had caused his wife significant injuries but "her heart and her mind" were "in good shape". Nugent, who was arrested moments after he allegedly drove his Toyota LandCruiser into the MP, appeared in 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 might be laid, including attempted murder. His lawyer said his client had "mental health concerns" but did not give any further detail. Victoria Police has said its investigation, with support from the Australian Federal Police, remains ongoing and a motive is yet to be established.

Investigators are looking into whether drug use or medication played a part in the incident. Nugent's family has said they were long-time friends with Haines. Shortly after the alleged attack, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told ABC television that there had been a "rise in temperature" and "too much shouting, not enough discourse" in Australia. Haines, known for stances such as supporting stronger climate action, entered parliament in 2019 after working as a nurse and midwife.

KHABIB SENDS POWERFUL MESSAGE TO MOVSAR EVLOEV BEFORE UFC 333



Khabib Nurmagomedov has supported Movsar Evloev publicly. This happened just hours before Movsar Evloev challenged Alexander Volkanovski for the UFC featherweight title. Their fight headlines UFC 333 in Abu Dhabi. It is Evloev's first championship opportunity in the UFC. The retired lightweight great wrote via Instagram Stories and urged Evloev to stay composed and move forward. The retired lightweight great urged Evloev to stay composed and move forward. Khabib called on him to keep his head cool and "only go forward, brother." Evloev enters the fight with an undefeated record of 20-0, with 10-0 in the UFC. Khabib backs Evloev ahead of UFC 333 Khabib Nurmagomedov shared,

"I really hope that this person will be happy tomorrow," writing alongside a photo with Evloev. "Keep your head cool and only go forward, brother." The message carries weight in Dagestani MMA circles. Nurmagomedov retired undefeated with 29 wins and 0 losses and is still considered one of the icons of the sport. While Evloev has continued on the same path of patient grappling, discipline, and unbeaten momentum. Movsar Evloev enters Saturday's main event at 20-0, including 10-0 in the UFC. He has long been viewed as one of the most difficult stylistic tests available t… Volkanovski, even if his decision-heavy approach has divided fans. Volkanovski and Evloev set for a five-round war Alexander Volkanovski, 28-4, is making the second defence of his second reign as featherweight champion. He arrives after consecutive title-fight wins over Diego Lopes, while Evloev has waited years for the opportunity now in front of him. Both men made weight on Friday. Volkanovski registered 144.5 pounds, with Evloev hitting the 145-pound featherweight limit exactly, confirming their five-round main event. The champion has acknowledged Evloev's strengths but dismissed the challenger can take his belt. Evloev, in turn, has promised to prove he can "do anything" inside the Octagon. A historic double championship card sets the stage for UFC 333 UFC 333 also features Petr Yan's bantamweight title defence against Merab Dvalishvili in the co-main event, completing a rare double championship card. For Evloev, Khabib's backing adds another layer to a fight already rich with meaning.

Tilak Varma's Unbeaten 51 Fuels India's Four-Wicket Win In 2nd T20I



Tilak Varma made an unbeaten 51 from 26 balls to guide India to a four-wicket win over New Zealand with only one delivery to spare Saturday in the second Twenty20 cricket international. India took a 2-0 lead in the five-match series. It won the opener by four wickets with two balls remaining. The second match appeared to be slipping away from India when New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner took 4-21 through the middle of the innings but the tourists again found a way to win against the odds. Tilak came to the crease with 112 runs still needed to overtake New Zealand's total of 180-5. He put on 42 for the sixth wicket with Naman Dhir (31), then guided India home in an unbeaten stand of 69 with Nitish Kumar Reddy for the seventh wicket. India showed off its depth after losing hard-hitting opener Sanju Samson early and teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi getting out for only 4 in his first T20 innings in the Southern Hemisphere. With five overs to go, India needed 68 runs to win with four wickets in hand and the odds seemed to favor a New Zealand victory. But as Varma and Reddy stayed composed in pursuit of victory, New Zealand's bowling and fielding faltered in the last few overs. India took 13 from the 16th over, nine from the 17th, 17 from the 18th and 18 from the 19th over as Tilak struck the last ball of the over for six. That left the tourists needing 11 runs to win from the last over. Tilak hit a boundary from the second ball bowled by Jacob Duffy and, after a wide made the batters' task easier, India completed its chase with a ball to spare. "I feel that every individual in our game is a match-winner," India captain Shreyas Iyer said. "Today we saw the example of that. "Honestly speaking, when we lost consecutive wickets we thought that the game was going away from us but Tilak and Reddy showed immense character." Earlier, Glenn Phillips and Bevon Jacobs made half centuries in a 116-run, fourth-wicket partnership which allowed New Zealand to reach 180-5 after a poor start. New Zealand lost three wickets in the first, six-over power play, including those of openers Tim Seifert (7) and Finn Allen (16).

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Included In India's Playing XI vs New Zealand But Gets New Batting Position



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi on Saturday finally made a return to India's playing XI. After playing for India in the semi-final and final of the 2026 Asian Games, the youngster warmed the bench during the five-match T20I series against West Indies. He also sat out the first T20I against New Zealand. Just when it seemed that the teenager would continue to remain on the sidelines, Ishan Kishan was ruled out of the second game against the Blackcaps due to injury, prompting the Indian team management to make space for the 15-year-old. India captain Shreyas Iyer won the toss and opted to bowl first against New Zealand in the second T20I at Hagley Oval, Christchurch. While talking about the team changes, the skipper revealed that Sooryavanshi would bat at the No. 3 position. "Ishan is injured, so Vaibhav comes in for him. He is going to bat at number three," said Iyer. The India skipper further revealed that Prince Yadav replaced Mayank Yadav as the second change in the playing XI. "Prince comes in for Mayank, which is just a tactical change," Iyer said. Meanwhile, New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner said, "They (India) are a very good team, and I think we missed the mark slightly (in the first T20I). That comes from the way they approach their game. It was a great game of cricket in the end. Losing in the last over is disappointing, but there were obviously many positives. We need to execute the small details better and see what happens." Talking about the team changes, Santner said, "(Jacob) Duffy comes in for (Adam) Milne. With the number of games we have coming up, not just T20s but one-day internationals as well, there will be some rotation among the senior players, especially with a lot of Test cricket coming up. It is nothing to do with performance; it is just a bit of rotation, and we will see what Duffy can do tonight."

Bodhana Sivanandan Scripts History, Becomes Youngest Female International Master



Sivanandan, who hails from Harrow in north London, needed only a few rating points to qualify for the open IM title and break Polgar's record, while also securing a place among the 10 youngest IMs of all time.

Indian-origin English chess player Bodhana Sivanandan has become the youngest female International Master (IM) at the age of 11, breaking a 38-year-old record set by Judit Polgar. Sivanandan, who hails from Harrow in north London, needed only a few rating points to qualify for the open IM title and break Polgar's record, while also securing a place among the 10 youngest IMs of all time. "Congratulations to 11-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan on becoming an International Master with a final-round win at the European Women's Chess Club Cup 2026!" the European Chess Union wrote on X. "Bodhana delivered a fantastic performance, scoring 5.5/7 on Board 1 for She Plays to Win Lionesses, making her the youngest female player in history to earn the IM title," it added. At this week's European Women's Chess Club Cup, Sivanandan came close to drawing her opening-round match against Russian Grandmaster Aleksandra Goryachkina before defeating Belarusian International Master Olga Badelka in the third round to take her rating to 2399.4. She then drew against Georgian Grandmaster Nino Batsiashvili in the following round. However, her 32-move victory over Sweden's Woman International Master Viktoria Johansson helped her achieve the distinction and join the list of the 10 youngest IMs of all time. The list includes India's R Praggnanandhaa and D Gukesh, Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Argentina's Faustino Oro, Turkey's Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus and Russia's Roman Shogdzhiev.

"WE TAKE BOWLERS AS VICTIMS":

BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR'S REFRESHING VERDICT ON MODERN T20 CRICKET



India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar said having no expectations from himself and focusing on the work at hand helped him navigate his four-year absence from international cricket, adding that his preparation never suffered despite being away from the national team. Bhuvneshwar returned to the national setup after a four-year absence earlier this month when he was called up for the fifth T20I against the West Indies in Bengaluru as a replacement for injured Arshdeep Singh. However, the match was abandoned due to rain. He finally got a chance to bowl in the first T20I against New Zealand. Speaking in a video shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the experienced pacer said the key to his approach over the last three to four years had been staying in the present rather than worrying about the future. "The headspace I am in is very simple. I have no expectations of myself. I think that's how things worked out for me in the last 3-4 years. No expectations; just keep doing your work. Generally, we talk about being present; we don't think about the future. I think that's the headspace I am in right now. And that has happened in the last 3-4 years," he said.

Marc Marquez Wins Australian Sprint As Jorge Martin Crashes Out



Marc Marquez stormed home from pole position to win the Australian MotoGP sprint race on Saturday and seize control of the world championship from Jorge Martin, who crashed out while challenging for the lead. turn3search22 The reigning seven-time world champion, who dominated qualifying, had too much pace onhis Ducati as he surged to the chequered flag ahead of his brother Alex in the 13-lap contest. turn3search21 The victory put him 10 points clear of fellow Spaniard Martin in the standings ahead o the final MotoGP race ever at the waterfront Phillip Island circuit on Sunday.

"COMPARING US TO BARCELONA IS UNFAIR": JOSE MOURINHO AHEAD OF EL CLASICO



Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho said it was unfair to compare his side to Spanish champions Barcelona ahead of Sunday's La Liga Clasico. Hansi Flick's Barca have won back-to-back La Liga titles and lead the top flight, in which they are unbeaten, while Mourinho arrived this summer after Madrid went two seasons without a major trophy. The panorama has changed slightly after Barca suffered their first defeat of the season against Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday, while Madrid have won their last four matches. Madrid are third in La Liga, trailing Barca by six points before Sunday's meeting at Camp Nou. "I think the people who thought a week ago Barca would thrash us will keep thinking the same thing," Mourinho told reporters on Saturday. "I don't think that just because of the Paris game, or Madrid's 4-1 win against RB Leipzig, they will change their way of thinking." Mourinho highlighted that he has only been at the helm for a few months, in comparison to Flick, who arrived at Barca in 2024. "People look at us like a finished product, but finished products in football are difficult because they are never finished... but they look at us like we're in an advanced phase of the process," continued Mourinho. "We've been working for three months. Out of that, you can take pre-season when the players were arriving back from the World Cup, and the recent international break.



"We Are Here To Win The Championship": Yuvraj Singh Reveals Mission With Delhi Capitals

As he prepares to embark on his first formal coaching assignment in the Indian Premier League (IPL), former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh is clear about what he wants to achieve with Delhi Capitals: build a team that believes in itself, competes under pressure and has the conviction to win the championship. Appointed Assistant and Batting Coach ahead of the upcoming IPL season, Yuvraj returns to the Delhi franchise with a renewed sense of purpose, joining Head Coach Sourav Ganguly, with whom he shares a long-standing relationship dating back to the early years of his international career. Revealing how the opportunity came about, Yuvraj said, as quoted in a press release, "Dada told me, 'Would you be my assistant?' And I was like, 'I have been your assistant for the last 25 years, so I will probably be doing the same job!' "I was very happy to do it. I have been building myself up over the last three to four years for this opportunity. I have worked with players individually, but being part of the entire team environment will be a different experience, and I'm really excited about it." For Yuvraj, the reunion also presents an opportunity to work alongside Ganguly once again, this time in a coaching setup. Having made his international debut under Ganguly's captaincy, the former India all-rounder believes the ability to create a strong team environment remains one of his former captain's greatest strengths. "The best thing I learnt from Dada was how to create a good team environment. When he was captain and I made my debut, he kept us together. He made us believe that we could become a great team and win tournaments outside India. "He has always been like a big brother to me, whether it was helping me understand selection, mentoring me or showing me what it takes to become a good international cricketer. I am looking forward to working with him, understanding his insights and sharing mine," he said. A two-time World Cup winner and one of the key architects of India's triumphs at the 2007 ICC Men's T20 World Cup and the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup, Yuvraj brings extensive experience of performing on the biggest stages. As he transitions into coaching, he believes instilling self-belief in players will be central to his approach. "At this level, everybody is skilled and brings something different to the table. But I come from a place where self-belief is extremely important. If a franchise has selected you and given you a position in the squad, it means they believe in you. "You have to believe that you belong there.

'Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47' Trailer Out Now! A Gripping Blend of Comedy, Action and Suspenseful



Victory Venkatesh: "I'm sure you will all love Aadarsha Kutumbam"

Trivikram Srinivas: "Aadarsha Kutumbam is a film that takes a different direction from what you might expect"

The much-awaited trailer of 'Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47', the prestigious collaboration between Victory Venkatesh and the acclaimed writer-director Trivikram Srinivas, is now out, raising expectations for the film. Produced by S. Radha Krishna (Chinababu) under the banner of Haarika & Hassine Creations, the film has generated considerable buzz. The teaser and the songs 'Narayanamma' and 'Maala' have already received an encouraging response, and the trailer has further heightened audience curiosity.Packed with hilarious moments, gripping action sequences and intriguing drama, the trailer promises a complete entertainer that blends family entertainment with crime-thriller elements.

Written and directed by Trivikram Srinivas, the trailer offers a glimpse into his distinctive storytelling and strong writing. Moving beyond conventional family entertainment, it combines comedy, action and suspense in an engaging manner, building expectations that the film will appeal to audiences across all sections.

Victory Venkatesh stands out with his trademark comic timing and charismatic screen presence. His energy in the action sequences adds to the excitement, while the engaging narrative and entertaining moments make the trailer even more compelling. Thaman S's background score further enhances the impact, intensifying the action and elevating the suspense throughout.

GRAND TRAILER LAUNCH AT MALLA REDDY VISHWAVIDYAPEETH

The grand trailer launch event of 'Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47' was held at Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth in Hyderabad, in the presence of the film's cast and crew.

VICTORY VENKATESH SAID:

"I'm delighted that we are celebrating this occasion at Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth. I hope you all liked the trailer, and I'm very happy to see your wonderful response. I have many fond memories of my college days, and those days will never come back. Make sure you create beautiful memories of your own, too, and work towards fulfilling your dreams. "College is not just about earning a degree or getting a job. It is also about developing a good character and becoming a better person. Our film is releasing on October 30, and I hope all of you watch it and enjoy it."

TRIVIKRAM SRINIVAS SAID:

"'Aadarsha Kutumbam' is a film that may take a different direction from what you expect. Instead of a conventional romantic comedy, we have explored several different elements. We have experimented with genres such as crime comedy and black comedy. This is a first-time attempt for both Venkatesh garu and me, and the entire process of making this film was very interesting for all of us. I hope audiences will find it equally engaging.

"We will meet you all in theatres on October 30. I would like to thank every technician and actor who worked on this film, especially Venkatesh garu. Thanking producer Chinababu garu is like thanking our own family, and I extend my gratitude to everyone on his behalf as well. "Thaman has delivered wonderful music, and his background score is particularly fantastic. There are nearly seven to eight musical pieces featured in the background score, and we will be releasing them soon. Thank you. Namaskaram."

ACTRESS SRINIDHI SHETTY SAID:

"I'm very happy to celebrate this occasion among students. We all make many plans in life, but life often has a different plan for us and continues to surprise us. Similarly, our film keeps you curious about what will happen in the next scene. Every scene has an element of surprise, and I'm confident that audiences will thoroughly enjoy the film. "I'm grateful to Trivikramgaru for giving me an opportunity to be part of such a wonderful film and for creating memories that I will cherish forever. It is an honour to share the screen with a legend like Venkatesh garu. Producer Chinababu garu has been a strong pillar of support for all of us. Thaman garu has delivered excellent music. Like all of you, I'm eagerly looking forward to October 30."

MUSIC DIRECTOR THAMAN S SAID:

"'Aadarsha Kutumbam' is a very special film for me. My favourite film is 'Nuvvu Naaku Nachav', and I enjoy every scene whenever I watch it. I have been waiting for this combination for a long time. "Sometimes, you feel that certain stories should be written by particular people, spoken by certain actors and performed by certain artists. My wish to see the combination of Jr. NTR and Trivikram garu came true with 'Aravinda Sametha'. Similarly, I have always wanted to see the combination of Trivikram garu and Venkatesh garu.

'Mamma Mia' Full Song Released from Romantic Comedy 'Feel Good'



The makers of the upcoming romantic comedy Feel Good have released the full song 'Mamma Mia', offering music lovers a vibrant and refreshing musical experience that captures the fun, excitement and sweetness of young love. Featuring Suchiith and Aditi Tripathi, the song blends catchy music, melodious vocals and youthful lyrics to create an energetic romantic number.

Produced under the banner of Vishwarupa Films, Feel Good is written, scripted and directed by Dayanandh, with Suchiith serving as the producer and one of the lead actors. The newly released song is designed to appeal to young audiences with its contemporary musical style and relatable portrayal of romance.

Composed by Sandilya Pisapati, 'Mamma Mia' features vocals by Tushara Nilaya and Sandilya Pisapati, while the lyrics are penned by Kadali Satyanarayana. The song stands out for its lively rhythm, catchy expressions and modern vocabulary, incorporating words such as 'Vibe', 'Sync', 'Trend' and 'Hype'. These elements lend the track a contemporary flavour, reflecting the language, energy and sensibilities of today's youth.

The song captures the playful side of falling in love, highlighting the excitement, friendship, confidence and positive energy associated with young relationships. With its upbeat composition and engaging presentation, 'Mamma Mia' aims to connect with younger listeners and music enthusiasts.

Apart from Suchiith and Aditi Tripathi, the film features Ravuri Priyanka, Likith, Randhir Vasudev, Saiphani and Divya Mohan in key roles.

The technical team includes Mahikanth as the Director of Photography, Dayanandh as the editor and Ramgopal Reddy as the art director. Vamshi has handled the publicity design, while Phoenix Studios is responsible for PR marketing.

Currently in the post-production stage, Feel Good is gearing up for release soon. The makers are hopeful that the release of 'Mamma Mia' will further build audience interest in the film, particularly among young moviegoers who enjoy contemporary romantic entertainers.

With its youthful musical appeal and refreshing romantic vibe, 'Mamma Mia' is expected to serve as an engaging musical introduction to the world of Feel Good.

TRIPTII DIMRI STUNS WITH HER ELEGANT CHARM



Tripti Dimri, who is coming up with Spirit starring Prabhas, has built a loyal fan base with performances that balance quiet intensity and range. Bulbbul and Qala earned her strong critical praise, while Animal made her a national name. Bad Newz and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 added more hits to her list.

She clicked at an event , she wore an ITRH saree in an icy blue shade that fades into soft lilac, covered in fine sequins. She paired it with a strapless sweetheart corset blouse in purple, richly embellished with crystals. The pallu falls over one arm, while her long dark hair flows in loose waves. Soft, glowing makeup and a couple of rings finish the look.

Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, is her next big release, and fans are eagerly waiting. For the Maa Behen trailer launch, Triptii embraced timeless ethnic dressing in a striking royal blue ensemble by Anjana Bohra. She wore the label's Mrigesha Anarkali Set, priced at 36,000, and the look was nothing short of regal. The flowing floor-length anarkali featured soft gathers, a flattering sweetheart neckline and full sleeves that added graceful structure to the silhouette. However, the true highlight of the ensemble was the richly woven Banarasi dupatta draped alongside the outfit. Detailed with intricate silver motifs and ornate borders, the dupatta added depth, texture and old-world charm to the monochrome blue palette. The backless detailing of the kurta, finished with dramatic tassel accents and gold embellishments, brought a playful contemporary twist to the otherwise classic silhouette. The movement of the tassels paired beautifully with the fluidity of the outfit, creating a look that felt festive, elegant and youthful all at once.

Rayavalasa Makes a Splash at New York's Times Square; Vishwak Sen Launches Maa Ooru Rayavalasa Song



Produced by Gopi Krishna Jayanthi under the Raysun Productions banner, Rayavalasa is directed by Radhika Jayanthi. The film features Karthik Jayanthi and Sreesha Nulu in the lead roles, alongside noted actors Anita Chowdary, Ravi Varma, Jayaprakash, Kasi Viswanath, and others in pivotal roles. The film's first single, 'Ringudu Ringudu', an authentic Andhra folk number, has received an encouraging response on social media. Sung by popular playback singers Dhanunjay and Sahithi Chaganti, the song has already garnered over 1.2 million views, continuing to gain traction among music lovers. The makers have now unveiled the film's second single, 'Maa Ooru Rayavalasa', with Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen launching the song. Adding to its appeal, the track has been rendered by Rahul Sipligunj, the celebrated singer who lent his voice to the Oscar-winning song 'Naatu Naatu'. Speaking after launching the song, *Vishwak Sen said,* "The content of Rayavalasa is good, and the song is fantastic. Rahul has sung it brilliantly. My best wishes to the entire team." Taking the vibrant sounds of rural Andhra Pradesh to an international audience, Rayavalasa has made a notable impression with its promotional campaign. The visuals of the film's first single, 'Ringudu Ringudu', were showcased on a billboard at the iconic New York Times Square, bringing the rustic charm of an Andhra folk song to one of the world's most celebrated landmarks. This innovative promotional initiative is particularly noteworthy for a film marking the debut of both its lead actor and director. With its distinctive approach to promotions, the Rayavalasa team is striving to carve out a unique identity in the industry. Arjun Bala has composed the music, while the story is written by Rakhi. Kittu has handled the cinematography, and renowned editor Garry BH is in charge of editing. Set against a rural backdrop, Rayavalasa weaves together love, friendship, family bonds, and heartfelt emotions.

KRITHI SHETTY'S NATURAL CHARM WINS HEARTS



Krithi, who is coming up with the Telugu film January 12 Vidudala, the Tamil film Genie and Hindi debut Hum Tere Pyaar Mein, has built her fan base with natural acting and an easy, friendly presence. In this sunlit picture, Krithi wears a bright pink ribbed knit cardigan over a black top. She adds dainty hoop earrings with pearl and turquoise stones and lets her long wavy hair fall loose, smiling with her eyes closed. Her last couple of years have brought a few flops, so every release now matters a lot for her career. With January 12 Vidudala, Genie and Hum Tere Pyaar Mein lined up, the big question is whether any of them will actually turn into a hit.

MEENAKSHI PICKS A SLEEK NAVY GOWN LOOK



Fresh from her Vietnam holiday, Meenakshi Chaudhary is back in glam mode in a navy blue gown with ruched detailing and a sweetheart neckline. A sash wraps around her neck and falls down one arm, while a side drape adds movement. Sparkling hoop earrings, a slim bracelet and soft waves complete the look.

Meenakshi will next make her Hindi debut opposite Akshay Kumar in the comedy sequel Bhagam Bhaag 2. She also has the Telugu mythological thriller Vrushakarma with Naga Chaitanya, where she plays an archaeologist.

VISHWADEV TO HEAD A NEW FILM, PRODUCTION NO. 1 OF SRI TULASI CREATIVE WORKS



Vishwadev, who shot to fame with the film "35 Chinna Katha Kaadu," is all set to headline another new project. The film will be produced under the banner of Sri Tulasi Creative Works as its Production No. 1. Gangadhar, known for the film "Mukhachitram," will be producing the project, while Narsi Rajagiri makes his debut in Tollywood as a director with this film.

The makers announced the project today. Featuring a fresh and unique concept, the film is being helmed by the talented newcomer Narsi Rajagiri and is expected to capture the audience's attention.

It is noteworthy that Gangadhar, who earned recognition and appreciation for directing the distinctive film "Mukhachitram," is now stepping into the role of a producer with this project.

The makers will reveal more details about the film soon.

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