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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

26-10-2026



Total pilgrims : 69,697
Tonsures : 25,781
Hundi kanukalu : 4.64 CR
Laddu sale... 3.34 Lac
Annaprasadam.. 1.71 Lac
Aswini hospital ...3,226
Present Situation on 27-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..31

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...8 H.

PM MODI URGES INDIA TO LEAD GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION, WARNS AGAINST BLIND TRUST IN AI



WORLD I PAGE

LULA'S COMEBACK IN BRAZIL DENTS TRUMP'S AMBITIONS FOR LATIN AMERICA



CINEMA I PAGE

SAI PALLAVI AS NITHYA REDDY IN 'OM'– ACTRESS IMPRESSES AS A POWERFUL POLICE OFFICER



SCAN FOR E-PAPER

Cyclone Arnab disrupts life in coastal Andhra

SEA WATER ENTERS UPPADA; TREES UPROOTED IN VISAKHAPATNAM

VISAKHAPATNAM ■ (TSIT)

Cyclone Arnab intensified over the west-central Bay of Bengal, bringing heavy rain, strong winds and rough seas across coastal Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday. Sea water entered houses in Uppada of Kakinada district, forcing residents to move to safer places, while parts of Visakhapatnam witnessed uprooted trees, waterlogging, traffic disruptions and power outages.

The cyclone was centred around 170 km from Visakhapatnam and 180 km from Kakinada, and was expected to cross the coast near Kakinada–Yanam around midnight. Trees fell on the national highway at Sheelanagar and near Old Gajuwaka, disrupting traffic. Power supply was hit after a tree fell near the



Buchirajupalem substation, damaging jumpers connected to 33 kV switches.

Srikakulam district was placed on high alert, with rainfall of up to 60 cm reported and people advised to stay indoors between 8 p.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. Wednesday. Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha directed departments to prioritise public safety and keep SDRF and NDRF teams ready.

Visakhapatnam Collector M. Abhisikth Kishore ordered round-the-clock control rooms, with heavy rain forecast until October 29 and winds of 70–80 kmph, gusting up to 90 kmph. Relief centres, medical teams and machinery to clear fallen trees were kept ready, and fishermen were barred from venturing into the sea.

Emergency Contact Numbers:
District Control Room: 0891-2590100, 0891-2590102;
GVMC: 1800 4250 0009;
APEPDCL Helpline: 1912;
Emergency Helpline: 112.

Andhra CM Urges Caution as Cyclone Arnab Nears

84,396 shifted to safety; 290 shelters set up

VISAKHAPATNAM ■ (TSIT)

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu urged people in cyclone-prone and low-lying areas of coastal Andhra Pradesh to remain indoors or move to shelters, warning of heavy to extremely heavy rainfall under Cyclone Arnab. The system was expected to cross the coast near Yanam in the Kakinada region, affecting districts from Srikakulam to Bapatla.Naidu said 290 cyclone shelters had been arranged and 84,396 people shifted to safety.



Control rooms functioned round the clock, with NDRF, SDRF, Navy and Coast Guard alerted, and over 30,000 fishing boats brought back. Around 5,000 pregnant women were moved to health facilities, and 8,400 electricity personnel mobilised.

550-PLUS FIRMS TO ATTEND T'GANA SUMMIT



HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT)

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Tuesday, October 27, said the state government is inviting more than 550 leading domestic and international companies to participate in the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026' to be held at the Future City here on December 7, 8 and 9. Jaju, who held a meeting with senior officials, said state government is organising the Global Summit prestigiously, with the objective of positioning Telangana as a leading global investment destination, attracting major investments, accelerating industrial development and generating employment opportunities for the youth.He said the curtain-raiser for the Summit would be held in New Delhi on October 29, with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy attending it. Ambassadors, heads of leading companies, prominent industrialists and distinguished personalities from different sectors have been invited to the programme, according to an official release.

BRICS forum opposes unilateral sanctions,

BACKS PALESTINE 2-STATE SOLUTION



NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)

The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum has condemned unilateral economic and secondary sanctions contrary to international law, calling for their elimination and warning of their adverse impact on development, health and food security. The forum also expressed concern over escalating tensions in the Middle East and West Asia, called for restraint and diplomacy, and reaffirmed its unwavering support for a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on a two-state solution.

13 of 17 escaped Tamil Nadu prisoners traced using drones

CHENNAI ■ (TSIT):



Within a day of 17 inmates escaping the Theni District Jail, the Tamil Nadu police managed to nab 13 of them with the use of drone technology by Tuesday evening, October 27. South Zone IG Vijayendra Bidari confirmed the development.The 17 prisoners were in the same cell at the Thekampatti sub-jail. Around 10.30 pm, they called out to the prison guards for help, as they claimed one of the inmates had an epileptic seizure.When the prison guard entered the cell, the inmates allegedly attacked him and fled the premises. Police personnel Thangapandi, who is attached to the jail, sustained a head injury and was admitted to the Government Hospital at G Vilakku.

Omar expands cabinet with 4 new ministers, triggers internal discontent and BJP criticism

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expanded his council of ministers on Tuesday with the induction of four new faces from the Kashmir valley, triggering internal party discontent and protests, even as the opposition BJP hit out at the ruling alliance over "regional and cultural imbalance". The four National Conference (NC) leaders, veteran politician Ali Mohammad Sagar, Mir Saifullah, Shameema Firdous, and Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kalloo), were administered the oath of office by Lt Governor



Manoj Sinha at Lok Bhawan here.With all four inductees hailing from Kashmir, the expansion has shifted the balance of the cabinet in the two-year-old government heavily towards the valley. Seven ministers in the now 9-member council hail from Kashmir, while Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary and Javaid Rana remain the only two representatives from the Jammu region.

Independent MLA from Chhamb, Satish Sharma, was dropped from the cabinet to accommodate the new inductees.Ahead of the expansion, all ministers had formally submitted their resignations to the Chief Minister to facilitate the reshuffle. The maximum allowed strength of the JK council of ministers is nine, adhering to the statutory 10 per cent limit of the 90-member Assembly in the union territory.

New UNSC permanent members without veto would be 'second-class': India

China, France, Russia, the UK and the US are the five permanent members of the 15-nation Security Council and enjoy veto powers

UNITED NATIONS: India has asserted that any reform of the UN Security Council that creates a new category of permanent members without veto powers would effectively relegate them to "second-class" status, leaving the existing five permanent powers in control of the decision-making process.

China, France, Russia, the UK and the US are the five permanent members of the 15-nation Security Council and enjoy veto powers. The Council also has 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, on Monday said the veto must be held by all permanent members of a reformed Council as long as the provision exists, stressing that fairness and justice demand equal rights and responsibilities for all permanent members. "India's position on the veto is principled and well known... We reiterate that as long as the veto exists, it must be held by all permanent members of a reformed Council," he said.

Addressing the Inter-Governmental (IGN) plenary on 'Cluster Debate on the Question of the Veto' in the UN General Assembly, Parvathaneni said a reform that expands the Security Council by "creating another category of long-term members without the veto effectively makes them 'second-class' members and would not change the decision-making dynamic of the P5".

Creating a new category of permanent members, with or without veto powers, would further complicate an already difficult discussion and "entrench the very inequity we are seeking to correct", he said. "Periodic elections and the concept of permanency are fundamentally contradictory," the diplomat said.

"History has a lesson for us," he said, recalling that the only expansion of the Security Council, in 1965, increased the number of non-permanent members from six to 10 while retaining five permanent members. The ratio of permanent to elected members shifted from 5:6 to 5:10, further strengthening the relative power of the P5, Parvathaneni said.

Abhishek's 113 powers India to record-breaking chase, seal series 3-0

Wellington: Abhishek Sharma produced a breathtaking 38-ball 113 as India crushed New Zealand by six wickets in the third T20 International here on Tuesday, chasing down a formidable 199-run target in just 13.2 overs to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

India finished at 199 for four, with 40 balls to spare, after posting a record 118 runs in the powerplay, the highest powerplay total in men's T20 Internationals. The visitors' extraordinary start effectively settled the contest inside the first six overs, with Abhishek and young opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi launching an assault that left the New Zealand bowlers struggling for answers.

Abhishek struck nine fours and 11 sixes at a phenomenal strike rate of 297.37, combining clean



hitting with audacious strokeplay to dismantle the attack. He reached his half-century off just 15 balls and brought up his century in 35 deliveries, making the most of a difficult afternoon for New Zealand's bowlers. The left-hander was particularly destructive through the cover region, repeatedly backing away to create room and sending deliveries over the infield. His assault extended across the bowling attack, with Jacob Duffy, Adam Milne, Michael Bracewell and Kyle Jamieson all coming under sustained pressure. India could hardly have asked for a more explosive start.

Abhishek and Sooryavanshi plundered 26 runs off Duffy in the opening over, immediately putting the hosts on the defensive. The pair maintained the momentum against Milne and Bracewell, racing to 100 in just five overs and taking India to 118 at the end of the powerplay. Sooryavanshi, playing alongside a new opening partner, matched Abhishek's aggressive approach with a 19-ball 45, including four fours and four sixes.

The opening stand yielded 133 runs in just 43 deliveries before Matthew Fisher dismissed the youngster in the eighth over. Daryl Mitchell ran in from long-on and completed a well-judged catch as Sooryavanshi attempted to clear the infield. New Zealand had an opportunity to break Abhishek's charge when he was on 87, but captain Mitchell Santner dropped a difficult catch off Fisher in the eighth over. Running backwards from mid-off, Santner struggled to judge the swirling ball and could not hold on despite getting both hands to it. The reprieve proved costly. Abhishek continued his assault, reaching his century off 35 balls and taking India to 178 in just 10 overs.

EC defends SIR in SC,

says Form 6 unchanged, justifies documentation framework

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Monday strongly defended its Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls before the Supreme Court, maintaining that the exercise was authorised by law and the relevant orders were approved unanimously by all three members of the Commission. Rejecting the allegations that Form 6 had been amended, the poll panel, in its 248-page response to the petition against the chief the election commissioner (CEC) and the decisions taken by it, said that no changes were made to the statutory Form 6 used for voter registration.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant is scheduled to hear on Tuesday petitions against CEC Gyanesh Kumar and the decisions taken by the poll panel during the SIR. In a counter affidavit, the poll



A BENCH HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA SURYA KANT IS SCHEDULED TO HEAR ON TUESDAY PETITIONS AGAINST CEC GYANESH KUMAR AND THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE POLL PANEL DURING THE SIR

body sought summary dismissal of the petitions and called the allegations "misconceived" which rested on a single newspaper report.

"The attempt to make aspersions against the Election Commission is unfortunate," said the affidavit, filed by Deputy Election Commissioner Bhanu Prakash Yeturu on behalf of the Commission. The EC said the affidavit itself had been approved for filing by a unanimous decision of all three members of the Commission.

It said the SIR orders of June 24, 2025, October 27, 2025 and May 14, 2026 were issued on unanimous decisions taken in compliance with Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 18 of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. Section 18 requires the Commission's business to be transacted unanimously as far as possible, and by majority where members differ.

It said the three SIR orders were issued in accordance with decisions of the EC arrived at unanimously and taken in due compliance of Article 324 of the Constitution of India read with Section 18 of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.

The poll body said any suggestion, observation or query raised by a commissioner while a file is being processed "does not constitute a decision" of the Commission. It explained that files move first to one election commissioner, then to the other and finally to the CEC, and that approved decisions bear the signatures of all three. Where urgent orders are needed and members are not available in person, approval is taken by electronic means and recorded on the file later, it said.

Naveen Reddy Urges Graduates to Support BRS Candidate



RANGAREDDY: BRS MLC Naveen Reddy has urged graduates to support the BRS candidate in the upcoming Mahabubnagar–Rangareddy–Hyderabad Graduates' MLC election, alleging that the Congress government had failed to fulfil its promises to unemployed youth. Addressing a preparatory meeting on graduate voter registration at Kosgi in Kodangal constituency, organised by the BRS under the leadership of former MLA Patnam Narender Reddy, Naveen Reddy urged eligible graduates to register their votes before November 6. He alleged that the Congress had failed to fulfil its promises of providing two lakh jobs within a year and unemployment allowances. He also criticised delays in fee reimbursement and scholarships, claiming that students and educational institutions were facing difficulties. Naveen Reddy further alleged that unemployed youth protesting for their rights were facing arrests.

Free health camp held at Nizampet



Nizampet: Sravani, which believes good health is a fundamental right, has been conducting free health camps every day in and around the neighbourhood, reaching out to those in need and providing access to essential healthcare services. As part of these initiatives, a camp was conducted on Tuesday at Nizampet Hightension Road Rachabanda grounds, where more than 50 people attended and received healthcare services. Through such efforts, the organisation remains committed to serving society and making a positive impact on the lives of people in the community. Photographs from the camp were shared for perusal.

Conduct census accurately, officials told



Suryapet: District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar directed officials to conduct the census systematically without errors and appealed to the public to provide accurate information to enumerators and cooperate for its success. A second-phase census training programme was held on Tuesday at the Suryapet Collectorate meeting hall under the District Chief Planning Officer's supervision, attended by district and divisional officials, Tahsildars, MPDOs and Municipal Commissioners. The Collector said Phase-II enumeration will run from January 10 to February 28, 2027, with self-enumeration from January 10 to 24, field operations from January 25 to February 28, houseless enumeration on the night of February 28, and verification from March 1 to 5. Information will be collected through 40 questions.

Focus on Water Conservation, Drinking Water and Rural Roads : MLA SHANKAR



SHADNAGAR : Shadnagar MLA and State Public Sector Undertakings Committee Chairman Veerlapalli Shankar has directed officials to maximise employment generation under the employment guarantee scheme while prioritising water conservation, drinking water security and rural road connectivity. Reviewing development works with officials at the Farooqnagar Mandal Parishad office, he called for immediate measures to conserve water, recharge groundwater and protect existing water resources.

GITAM NCC cadets selected for national drone competition



Hyderabad: Two NCC cadets from GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, have been selected to represent the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Directorate at the All India Inter-Directorate Drone Competition 2026, to be held at K. S. Rangasamy College of Technology, Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu, from October 23 to November 4, 2026. Only four cadets from Telangana were selected for the national-level competition, of whom two are from GITAM Hyderabad NCC. The selected cadets are JUO A. Abhinav Sai Karthik (Senior Division) and JUO Tammuluri Kavya (Senior Wing). Lieutenant S. Ajay Kumar, Associate NCC Officer, called their achievement a source of pride, while university leadership congratulated both cadets and encouraged them to strive for excellence.

TOLIC Eluru reviews Hindi implementation



Eluru: The half-yearly meeting of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC), Eluru, was held on Tuesday at Hotel Kalyani Landmark, chaired by Shri Nampalli Srinivas, Regional Head of Union Bank of India and TOLIC Chairman. Proceedings were conducted by Shri Bijoy Kumar Choudhury, Senior Manager (Official Language) and Member Secretary. Heads of offices and Official Language personnel from Central Government offices, public sector undertakings, nationalized banks, financial institutions and insurance companies in Eluru attended, along with Official Language Officers from Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. The implementation of Official Language Hindi was reviewed, previous minutes confirmed, and half-yearly reports examined. Discussions focused on promoting Hindi in day-to-day official work and strengthening coordination among member offices. Official Language shields were presented to offices in recognition of their efforts.

CMC Commissioner Srijana Highlights Civic Priorities at CSR Round Table



Hyderabad TSIT:
The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) Commissioner presented the city's civic infrastructure and environmental priorities at the Telangana CSR Round Table 2026 in New Delhi on Tuesday. The event brought together government officials and corporate representatives to discuss opportunities for collaboration through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The Commissioner outlined priorities including public infrastructure, community parks, lake conservation and improvements to public spaces. She highlighted opportunities for corporate partnerships to support environmental sustainability and develop accessible, well-maintained public amenities. The discussions explored potential partnerships between the government and the corporate sector to address local civic needs through CSR funding. The Commissioner said such collaborations could strengthen urban infrastructure, protect water bodies and improve community spaces across Cyberabad.

Telangana Police to Host All India Police T20 Cricket Tournament from December 10



HYDERABAD, October 27: Telangana Police will host the 3rd All India Police T20 Cricket Tournament 2026–27 for men in Hyderabad from December 10 to 21. Around 35 teams from police departments across the country are expected to participate. Director General of Police C.V. Anand reviewed preparations for the national-level tournament with officials from various departments at the DGP office on Tuesday. He directed them to make comprehensive arrangements and work in coordination to ensure the event's smooth conduct.

Six main cricket grounds and two reserve grounds have been identified for the tournament, including grounds at Aziz Nagar in Moinabad, committee members informed the DGP.

Accommodation for visiting players will be arranged at the Telangana Police Academy. The DGP also reviewed arrangements for transport, food, ground maintenance, security and match coordination. Committees have been assigned responsibilities for administration, transport, media publicity, security, technical matters, match coordination and finance. The DGP instructed officials to complete the arrangements on time and make the tournament a success.

Form verification vital to SSR process: Sridevasena



Nalgonda (TSIT) Sridevasena, the Electoral Roll Observer for Nalgonda district—who also serves as the Commissioner of Collegiate and Technical Education—stated that the verification of forms and supporting documents is a vital component of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral roll. She emphasized that the registration of new voters, as well as any deletions or modifications to the electoral roll, must be handled with great care and thorough scrutiny. On Tuesday, she inspected the SSR process at Polling Station No. 171, located at the Mandal Parishad Primary School in Munugode, Nalgonda district. During an interaction with the Booth Level Officer (BLO), Padma, she inquired about the conduct of the SSR process, specifically regarding voter registration, the verification of forms, and the issuance of notices for new registrations or requested changes. She also verified whether the SSR schedule and the examination of supporting documents were being carried out in accordance with the Election Commission's directives. Furthermore, she sought details on the status of new voter applications, the verification process, the handling of unmapped voters, and the methodology used to conduct door-to-door verifications based on the submitted documentation. Additionally, she advised that in cases where a voter is found to be registered in two locations, care should be taken to verify the correct place of residence before proceeding with any deletions, ensuring that the voter's registration is retained in the appropriate location. It was directed that VIP voters must be included in the electoral roll and that their details be recorded separately. Furthermore, it was mandated that any voter who received a notice must be informed of the final decision—whether their inclusion was accepted or rejected—following a hearing. District Collector B. Chandrasekhar stated that for voters who were issued notices, the outcome—regarding whether or not their name has been included in the electoral roll—will be communicated to them directly at their homes following the hearing.

BJP MP questions Singur water wastage



Sangareddy: BJP Medak MP Raghunandan Rao raised serious questions over government negligence in managing Singur reservoir waters at the joint Medak district review meeting held at the Sangareddy Zilla Parishad office on Tuesday. He demanded an explanation over allegations that 25 TMC of water was wasted in the name of repairs, and sought priority for drinking and irrigation water over Hyderabad transfers and industrial supply, including to beer manufacturers. He also questioned why 1,000 acres acquired by TGIIC for industries remained unused. Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar criticised the media's exclusion from the meeting. Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Vivek Venkat Swamy and Damodar Rajanarsimha attended.

Officials trained for census phase-II



Warangal: A training programme for district, sub-district and charge-level officials on Phase-II Population Enumeration under Census-2027 is being held on October 27 and 28, District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada said. Addressing participants as chief guest, she stressed the census's role in development planning and instructed officials to ensure accurate, impartial data collection with transparency. Satish, a training officer from the District Census Operations division in Hyderabad, briefed officials on census procedures, data recording methods, technology use and field challenges. The Collector urged officials to fully understand procedures and be prepared for effective field-level enumeration. Additional Collectors L. Kishore Kumar and Y. V. Ganesh, District Revenue Officer M. Vijayalakshmi, RDOs Suma and Umarani, Chief Planning Officer P. Chandrakala and other officials participated.

KVK Scientists Create Awareness on Sustainable Farming



The South India Times // Nagarkurnool : A Khet Bachao Abhiyan (Save the Soil Campaign) was organised in Vattam village on Tuesday to create awareness among farmers about soil conservation and sustainable agricultural practices. Senior Scientist Dr Shaila from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Palem, attended the programme and explained the importance of soil health, multiple cropping, soil moisture conservation and high-density planting.

She advised farmers to protect soil fertility, use water efficiently and adopt sustainable farming methods to improve crop yields. She also explained the importance of modern agricultural practices and clarified various doubts raised by farmers.

Agricultural scientist Anjaneyulu, Agricultural Extension Officer Bhargav, village secretary Mahesh, Sarpanch Pittala Jyothi and RAWEP students Divya, Tejaswini, Srilatha, Gauthami, Aishwarya and Varalakshmi participated in the programme. Farmers and villagers also attended the awareness campaign.

Congress Workers Urged to Ensure Victory of Graduate MLC



Khammam (TSIT): Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao has called upon Congress leaders and cadres to work unitedly to ensure the victory of party-backed candidate Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy in the Graduate MLC elections. He was speaking at a preparatory meeting held at his camp office in Khammam on Tuesday. He said the selection of Sarvotham Reddy by the AICC and PCC was a good decision, adding that his educational qualifications and political family background would help him understand and address the problems faced by graduates.

The minister asked party leaders and workers to focus on the graduate voter registration process. He urged every worker to reach out to eligible graduates and ensure that they register as voters. He also called for coordinated efforts among party leaders and cadres in Khammam district, in line with the work being carried out by the party in other districts.

K'taka voter count drops by nearly 1 cr after intensive electoral roll revision

SIR cuts electorate from 5.54 crore to 4.55 crore



BENGALURU, : The number of registered voters in Karnataka has fallen sharply after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, with the final list published on Tuesday showing a reduction of 99.32 lakh names.

According to the revised figures, the state's electorate has decreased from 5.54 crore to 4.55 crore, making the exercise a major development in Karnataka's electoral administration.

The revision process commenced on June 30, when Booth Level Officers undertook door-to-door visits to verify voter details and identify discrepancies in the existing records. The Election Commission subsequently finalised the electoral rolls after the verification exercise. Women account for a larger share of the remaining electorate. The final list contains around 2.29 crore women voters and 2.25 crore men. It also includes more than 6.83 lakh voters aged between 18 and 19 years and 2,841 third-gender voters.

The revision process involved a substantial number of notices and applications. The Election Commission issued 43.82 lakh notices to voters over discrepancies in their enumeration forms. Separately, it received 10.42 lakh Form 6 applications from people seeking to register as new voters.

During field verification, more than one crore names were categorised as absent, shifted, dead or duplicate, commonly referred to as the ASDD category.

The final figures have drawn attention to the scale of the changes made to the electoral rolls. While the revision was undertaken to verify and update voter records, the exclusion of 99.32 lakh names is likely to prompt questions about the grounds for removal and the procedures available to eligible voters whose names do not appear in the final list.

9,064 Voters Deleted in Dakshina Kannada SIR



Bengaluru (TSIT) The Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls in Karnataka has been completed, with the final electoral roll of Dakshina Kannada district officially published on October 27, showing 9,064 voters deleted from the list. Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V. said the district now has a total of 16,78,448 voters, including 8,23,198 male, 8,55,232 female and 18 third-gender voters. The draft roll published on August 24 had 16,46,387 voters, and 32,061 were added to the final list. The 9,064 deletions included those who had died and those who permanently relocated. A total of 53,806 correction applications were disposed of. During the claims and objections period, 41,125 new voters were added, including 32,986 Form 6 applications, 357 under Form 6A and 7,782 under Form 8.Among young voters aged 18 to 19, the district has 25,326 voters, of whom 12,908 were newly added. The district has 13,420 voters with disabilities, 14,086 senior citizens above 85 years, 366 NRI voters and 449 service electors.The Deputy Commissioner said all 1,50,131 notices and inquiries received during the revision were completely disposed of, with no cases pending. During the claims and objections period ending September 23, authorities received 1,205 objections, including 879 under Form 7 and 326 informal submissions.

Karnataka Deputy CM Parameshwara Stable After Heart Rate Spike



Bengaluru: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, who was admitted to Vaidehi Hospital in Bengaluru after experiencing a sudden increase in heart rate, is stable and responding well to treatment, hospital doctors said on Tuesday.

Dr. V.K. Srinivas told the media that Parameshwara's heart rate had returned to normal and his ECG results were normal. He said the Deputy Chief Minister was comfortable, having food, and was expected to be discharged within two hours.

According to the doctor, Parameshwara experienced an unusually rapid heartbeat on Tuesday morning. When he arrived at the hospital, his heart rate was above 180 beats per minute. Doctors examined him and administered the necessary treatment, following which his condition stabilised.

Srinivas explained that a sudden electrical disturbance in the heart could cause the heartbeat to accelerate sharply. Such episodes could occur in many people, though some might not notice them while others experience noticeable symptoms.

BJP MP Govind Karjol visited the hospital to enquire about Parameshwara's health. Speaking to reporters, Karjol said the Deputy Chief Minister was doing well and doctors had indicated he could return home later in the evening. He said he had spoken to Parameshwara's family and appealed to people not to worry. Parameshwara had attended a badminton event earlier in the day. As Sports Minister, he inaugurated the India International Challenge 2026 tournament organised by the Karnataka Badminton Association at its indoor stadium. He reportedly appeared fatigued during the programme, prompting his personal assistants and security personnel to take him to the hospital.

SC reserves order on plea challenging bail to Vinay Kulkarni in Yogesh Gowda murder case



New Delhi, : The Supreme Court on Tuesday heard appeals filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Gurunath Gowda, brother of slain BJP leader Yogesh Gowda, challenging the bail granted to Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni in the 2016 murder case.

A Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar and Sree Chandrashekhar heard arguments from both sides and observed that political murders must be treated seriously and those responsible should not be allowed to escape the law. The Bench granted five days to the parties to file written objections and reserved its order.

Appearing for the CBI, Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju argued that established legal principles govern the suspension of a conviction. He contended that the High Court had erred in granting relief to Kulkarni despite allegations that he attempted to influence witnesses and destroy evidence while serving as an MLA.

Raju pointed out that Kulkarni's bail had been cancelled earlier and argued that the allegations warranted a strict approach. He also submitted that a conviction could be based on the testimony of an approver when supported by corroborative evidence. According to the CBI, the High Court had wrongly concluded that Kulkarni had no criminal antecedents, overlooking two previous cases cited by the prosecution.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Kulkarni, opposed the appeals and defended the High Court's order suspending the conviction and granting bail.

Singhvi argued that Kulkarni was not named in the original chargesheet and that the CBI filed a chargesheet against him only after four years. He said the trial had continued in Dharwad for three years and alleged that most witnesses, except witness number 30, had turned hostile.

BJP Seeks Lokayukta Probe into Waste Tenders



Bengaluru: BJP leader and Karnataka Assembly Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka has sought a Lokayukta probe into alleged irregularities in tenders worth Rs.133 crore for garbage and waste transfer centres in Bengaluru.

In a letter to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Ashoka alleged the tender process proceeded despite instructions from the Finance Department. He called for a detailed investigation into the decisions taken, examination of tender documents and legal action against those found guilty.Ashoka said the allegations raised serious questions about transparency in a project intended to strengthen the city's waste disposal infrastructure. He cited alleged violations of eligibility conditions, non-collection of additional security deposits and disregard of financial department instructions. He said he had earlier presented documents at a press conference to support his concerns.

The BJP leader highlighted the alleged failure to collect additional security deposits for two packages. Package 2, with an estimated cost of Rs.55.04 crore, was said to require an additional security deposit of around Rs.76.79 crore. For Package 5, the required amount was reportedly Rs.15.99 crore. According to Ashoka, the total amount in question was approximately Rs.112.99 crore. He asked the government to explain why work orders were issued without collecting the deposits and who should be held accountable.

IIT Kanpur's UpStart 2026 regional rounds conclude

The Entrepreneurship Cell of IIT Kanpur has concluded the regional rounds of its flagship startup pitching competition, UpStart 2026, in Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, connecting early-stage ventures with investors and venture capital firms.

BENGALURU : The Entrepreneurship Cell of IIT Kanpur has concluded the regional rounds of its flagship startup pitching competition, UpStart 2026, in Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, connecting early-stage ventures with investors and venture capital firms. The Delhi-NCR round, held on October 10 at the SIIC office of IIT Kanpur's Outreach Centre in Noida, saw 20 shortlisted startups pitch their business models to representatives of AdvantEdge, GrowX, Titan, IAN and Dynamic Orbits.

The Bengaluru and Hyderabad rounds were conducted online simultaneously on October 24, with 15 early-stage ventures engaging with 15 investors and venture capital representatives. Participants interacted with industry representatives from Hyderabad Angels, Impel Ventures, Venture East, ADP, NoQ Digital and IAN Ventures.

The participating startups represented sectors including fintech, health technology, deep technology, Web3 and cybersecurity. Besides pitching their ideas, founders received mentoring, expert feedback and networking opportunities, with scope for immediate funding discussions.

Shortlisted startups will undergo an intensive, multi-week mentorship programme led by industry experts to refine their business models and develop strategies for scaling up ahead of the national finale.

"Early-stage founders require more than capital to succeed. They need structured validation, hands-on mentorship and direct market access," said Gunjan, manager of events at the Entrepreneurship Cell, IIT Kanpur. The institute would focus on evaluating business fundamentals and connecting promising ventures with investors, Gunjan added.

Following the completion of its Seoul chapter in South Korea, UpStart 2026 will hold its final regional round in Mumbai on December 5. The national finale is scheduled to take place at the IIT Kanpur campus on January 23, 2027, with a total prize pool of Rs.18 lakh. More details are available at www.ecelliitk.org/upstart/.

4 Indians Picked for Australian Open Ballkids



Kia India has selected four young participants to represent the country as official ballkids at the Australian Open 2027 in Melbourne, following national trials held at the R.K. Khanna Tennis Stadium in New Delhi on October 24 and 25.

The trials brought together 60 shortlisted participants from Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru who had progressed through city-level selection rounds. Of these, 24 advanced to the final stage of assessments, from which four participants were selected for the AO27 Ballkids Programme.Candidates were assessed on agility, coordination, focus, responsiveness, communication and teamwork — qualities essential for supporting matches at a Grand Slam tournament. The selected participants will experience the Australian Open and gain first-hand exposure to the discipline, precision and teamwork required at the highest level of the sport.Atul Sood, senior vice-president, sales and marketing, Kia India, said the company's longstanding association with the Australian Open reflects its commitment to celebrating tennis and inspiring the next generation. He congratulated the selected participants and said the company looked forward to seeing them in Melbourne.

BWH Hotels Unifies 4,000-Plus Properties Under WorldHotels

BWH Hotels, the US-headquartered hospitality group behind Best Western, is bringing its portfolio of more than 4,000 hotels across 100 countries under WorldHotels as its global master brand, aiming to improve brand visibility, simplify bookings and expand international reach.

The transformation brings 18 brands, loyalty programmes and digital platforms under a unified identity, while allowing individual properties to retain



their existing names and distinct identities. The portfolio spans luxury, boutique, upscale, extended-stay and economy accommodation.

Kharge Focuses on Party Rebuild, Social Justice

AICC COORDINATOR REVIEWS FOUR YEARS



Bengaluru, : BJP leaders and workers staged a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday, demanding an apology from AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge for his controversial remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The protest turned tense when demonstrators attempted to march towards Vidhana Soudha and were stopped by police.

Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka, MLC Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and MLAs N. Ravikumar, C.K. Ramamurthy and Dr C.N. Ashwath Narayan were among those detained along with party workers.

Some protesters attempted to climb over barricades after police blocked their march.

The BJP accused Kharge of crossing the limits of political discourse and demanded that he apologise publicly to the Prime Minister and the people of the country. Protesters raised slogans against the Congress leader and criticised his remarks.

Addressing the gathering, Ashoka launched a sharp attack on Kharge, alleging that his statements reflected the Congress leadership's declining political standards. He said two leaders bearing the Kharge surname, referring to Mallikarjun Kharge and Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge, were enough to damage the Congress party. Ashoka also questioned the language used by the AICC president and alleged that his remarks against Modi were inappropriate for a senior political leader. He accused Kharge of repeatedly targeting the Prime Minister through personal attacks.

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy also criticised Kharge's comments, describing them as derogatory and a violation of political decorum. He alleged that bringing the Prime Minister's father into political criticism was unacceptable and said the remarks reflected poorly on the Congress.

Kumaraswamy said Kharge's long experience in public life should have been reflected in his choice of words. He termed the remarks regrettable and accused the Congress of reaching a low point in political discourse.

The BJP maintained that Kharge should withdraw his remarks and apologise. The protest highlighted the growing political confrontation between the BJP and Congress over personal attacks and the standards expected in public debate.

Short Film Festival Comes to Bengaluru

Mysuru: Mysuru Cinema Society will organise a two-day short film festival, 'Gandhadagudi Cine Habba', in Bengaluru for the first time on November 21 and 22. The event will be held at Sir M. V. Auditorium in the FKCCI building on KG Road, Gandhinagar.

More than 30 films will be screened over the two days, with a total screening duration of 12 hours and 35 minutes. The festival logo was unveiled at a preliminary event by emerging Kannada actor Tejaswini Sharma and N. R. K. Vishwanath, president of the Kannada Film Directors' Association.

Tejaswini Sharma said organisations such as Mysuru Cinema Society played an important role in promoting Kannada films and cultivating an audience for meaningful cinema. Such platforms also help emerging actors and technicians gain recognition, she said, expressing hope the festival would be a success.

Vishwanath welcomed the initiative, noting it marked an expansion of the society's activities from Mysuru to Bengaluru. He said the initiative should eventually reach other parts of Karnataka and grow into a larger platform for filmmakers.

The society has been organising a short film festival titled 'Paridrishya' in Mysuru. After five years of work in the film sector, it has expanded to Bengaluru to provide a platform for emerging talent. Society president Chetan M., secretary Jayashekar V. R., treasurer Suresh Chandra M. R. and members were present at the event, outlining the organisation's activities and festival plans.

FORM NO. INC-26

[Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another
Before the Regional Director
SOUTH WESTERN REGION, BANGALORE

In the matter of sub-section 4 of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule 5 of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of M/s. Vijayjyothi Financiers Private Limited having its registered office at XII/K 333 Near Post Office Ollur, Trichur, Kerala-680306 India, Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Regional Director under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General meeting held on 23rd October 2026 to enable the company to change its Registered office from "Kerala to Maharashtra".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadana, Kormangala, Banglore-560034, Karnataka within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

XII/K 333 Near Post Office Ollur, Trichur, Kerala-680306 India
//Certified true Copy//

For **Vijayjyothi Financiers Private Limited**
Sd/-
Name: Sunil Ramrao Shelke
Designation: Director
DIN: 02641291

Date: 27.10.2026
Place: Trichur

EDITORIAL

India's Bond Market Is Bleeding, And The 'Savers' Are Losing

Oil, war, and a hawkish central bank have made Indian government bonds cheaper than at any point since early 2023. The damage to existing holders is real. So is the opportunity for new ones.

The 10-year yield, which ended 2025 below 6.6%, touched about 7.46% on October 23. The Reserve Bank of India raised the repo rate to 5.50% on October 7, its first increase since February 2023, and moved its stance from neutral to "calibrated tightening". Minutes of that meeting hinted at more to come. Retail inflation reached 5.54% in September, while wholesale inflation hit 11.39%, the highest in the current series. Several gilt funds recorded their worst twelve-month returns since at least 2014 in the year to May. In the United States, where the 10-year Treasury yield reached 5.3% this month for the first time since 2007, a growing view holds that rising yields lay the groundwork for better returns. The argument applies to India too, though local conditions shape who benefits.

Start with the arithmetic. A bond's yield acts as a buffer against price losses. The benchmark 10-year paper has a modified duration of close to seven years, so a one percentage point rise in yields cuts its price by about 7%. At today's yield, rates would have to rise by about 1.2 percentage points in the next twelve months before a buyer ended the year with a loss. For a five-year government bond yielding above 7%, the buffer is closer to 1.7 points. In 2021, when the 10-year hovered around 6.2%, it was nearer to 0.9 point. Bank deposits tell a different story. Bond prices adjust within minutes of a policy surprise, while deposit rates lag by months. SBI's highest fixed deposit rate is 6.40%. The five-year government bond yields more than 7%, and 10-year AAA corporate bonds were near 7.8% at the end of September. SBI's chairman said this month that banks may not raise deposit rates for two to three months, citing ample liquidity.

Banks park much of their deposits in government securities that now yield above what they pay savers. Through RBI Retail Direct, gilt funds or target maturity funds, a household can earn that difference for itself. The cost falls hardest on rural India, where September inflation was 6.08% against 4.88% in cities, and households rely on bank deposits.

Gains on debt mutual funds bought since April 2023 are taxed at slab rates without indexation, the same as FD interest. One advantage remains. FD interest is taxed every year as it accrues, while fund gains are taxed only when units are sold. That deferral compounds over time.

The bigger force on Indian bonds this year has been oil. India imports close to 90% of the crude oil it uses. After US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the Indian crude basket rose from $69 to $117 a barrel within weeks. Brent was above $113 on October 22 after Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Most of this year's rise in yields traces back to crude. Expensive oil lifts inflation and pushes the RBI towards higher rates. It swells the import bill and weakens the rupee, and defending the currency drains cash from the banking system.

Will Israel 'Dump' Netanyahu? Why His Future Hangs In The Balance

Aishwaria Sonavane



Israel goes to the polls on October 27, in an election extensively framed as a referendum on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. That assessment, however, limits a more crucial political contest to the fate of one leader, thereby missing a critical chapter of what Israeli politics looks like in the aftermath of the October 7 Hamas-led attack in 2023. The question that demands greater attention is whether the country's political center of gravity will shift if Netanyahu fails to secure an electoral mandate. Would a leadership change alter the country's strategic direction amid a heavily security-driven environment?

Before offering assessments of Israeli elections and their potential outcome, it remains important to understand the electoral process itself. Israeli citizens do not vote directly for the prime minister on the ballot; instead, they vote for parties to the 120-member Knesset, or the Israeli parliament, allocated through proportional representation. The country essentially functions as a single constituency, and any party surpassing the 3.25% threshold receives seats broadly proportional to its vote share. The result, therefore, remains less dependent on the number of seats each party secures and more on its ability to form a coalition to govern. The alliance is required to command the support of at least 61 lawmakers to win a parliamentary majority. In comparison with Indian parliamentary elections, an Indian voter picks an individual member to be elected to the Lower House of the parliament, and the first one past the post generally gives the largest party or a coalition a clear mandate. Whereas, an Israeli citizen votes for a party, instead of a candidate, and the order of candidates on that list remains predetermined. In simpler terms, a vote for the Likud party is not a vote for Netanyahu. A party can lead polls, yet fail to form a government. Meanwhile, a smaller party could win fewer votes but become indispensable in reaching a majority of 61 seats.

The system, as such, is essentially rooted in coalition-building and less in ideological alignment of parties. The political polarisation and trauma of the October 7 attack seem to be dominating the political plank, as demonstrated in the broader consensus on security-related issues. The key divisive issues are based primarily on two questions: who should govern and how the state should be governed.

ISRAEL'S POLITICAL SPECTRUM

The characteristics of Israeli politics are reflected in the parties contesting the polls, and a closer examination of these parties reveals how these entities hardly fit the conventional political spectrum of right-wing and left-wing. The Netanyahu blocs can be understood as an alliance of distinct right- and far-right-leaning parties and religious constituencies. For instance, Netanyahu's Likud party represents nationalist-conservative politics, with a focus on security-related issues, Jewish national identity, and a strong executive. The ultra-Orthodox parties, including Shas and United Torah Judaism, have prioritised religious education, welfare, and preserving the current religion-based status quo. The far-right parties, including Minister of National Security of Israel Itamar Ben-Gvir's Otzma Yehudit, take a hardline position on territory, Jewish settlements, and Palestinian statehood. While these parties have overlapping consensus on security and national identity, acute differences remain in how they view military services, the relationship between state and religion, judicial reform, and economic policy. They remain both strains and allies for Netanyahu.

A similar lens can be applied to the opposition bloc, which does not represent a conventional left-wing or a drastic opposition to the Netanyahu camp. The political plank of Gadi Eisenkot, known to be the biggest opponent in the ongoing polls, also rests on his security credentials as the former chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). He argues that Israel can remain security-centric without Netanyahu, while campaigning around issues of greater accountability, democratic institutions, and corruption concerns. Other key figures in the anti-government opposition bloc occupy distinct policy spaces - former Prime Ministers Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid form a centrist-to-center-right alliance focused on security and governance reform, while Avigdor Liberman champions defense hawkishness alongside strict secularism. Meanwhile, the liberal-left, headed by Yair Golan, represents a smaller, distinct constituency.

With that logic, the upcoming Israeli government, even if without Netanyahu, is unlikely to have a softened stance on the question of Palestine and regional security. Despite consensus on the security approach, the issue of military services has emerged more prominently in the discourse. Israel is a citizen army, with conscription closely tied to the country's social contract. Historically, the Haredi, ultra-orthodox community has been exempt from military service. However, heavy reserve mobilisation and exacerbated concerns of security have made this exclusion a central political debate. For secular and religious parties, this remains a matter of sharing an equal burden; meanwhile, Haredi parties regard this exclusion as a way of preserving their distinct religious lifestyle.

Predictably, the October 7 attack has disproportionately dominated electoral campaigns over other national issues. The incident produced two competing arguments – how the security breach occurred under Netanyahu's watch, and who Israelis can trust to protect them in the future.

Therefore, any anti-Netanyahu vote or sentiment should not be misread as a desire for a different Palestinian policy, with neither bloc campaigning on the issue of a two-state solution or against the disproportionate use of force in Gaza in 2023, or increasing settlement-related violence in the West Bank. The election contest may not alter Israel's strategic or regional direction in the foreseeable future; however, a change of leadership can carry significant domestic consequences. The prime minister heads to the polls facing criticism from much of the world and an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes, but with the backing of Donald Trump. "When you go to the Polls please remember that Bibi [Netanyahu] has been an outstanding Warrior Prime Minister!" the U.S. president said on Sunday, before suggesting that together they would launch another war against Iran: "We have to finish the job that we started!"

Netanyahu faces a heterogeneous bloc of Jewish opposition parties that represent half the country and range from traditional right to socialist left. Aware of the moment's importance, they have put aside their differences to try to defeat the prime minister. Together they could add up to about 56 seats. The two Arab lists (which represent Palestinians with Israeli citizenship, one-fifth of the national population) are expected to be the kingmakers the opposition will need if the arithmetic does not go their way, after the opposition largely refused during the campaign to make deals with them. Together they could win 15 seats, thanks to unprecedented mobilization by their voters, who feel discriminated against and treated as second-class citizens in Israel, especially since the 2023 attacks. In Israel's electoral system — which consists of a single constituency where voters almost always back their own parties — a handful of votes can change the landscape, due to the 3.25% electoral threshold. This is the percentage of votes a party needs to win seats. If a party falls short of this threshold, it is excluded from the Knesset and all its ballots are discarded.

The challenge of Islamic NATO: How much loss, how much potential for India?

Saurabh Varshney

In the changing geopolitical landscape of the world, the emergence of new strategic alliances is not limited to the security of a single country, but also impacts regional stability, international trade, energy security, and diplomatic relations. Recent developments in defense cooperation between Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey, as well as strategic coordination among Muslim countries, have raised new questions for India's foreign policy. Some analysts are calling the emerging defense cooperation between these countries an "Islamic NATO." However, it would be premature to consider this a formal, integrated military alliance like NATO. The real question for India is how this changing equation could impact its security and national interests.

NATO is a formal military alliance with membership, institutional arrangements, and clear commitments regarding collective defense. In contrast, defense agreements and cooperation initiatives among Muslim-majority countries require an understanding of their terms, military commitments, and actual functioning before they can be considered an alliance of the same level. Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey may share common interests on many issues, but their priorities are not the same on every subject.

Saudi Arabia's priority is to protect its regional security, energy assets, and economic development. Pakistan seeks to strengthen its military and diplomatic position, while Turkey aspires to expand its role in regional politics. The extent of these countries' future cooperation will depend on their ability to translate shared interests into concrete security arrangements.

India's primary concern is Pakistan's role. India's relations with Pakistan have long been affected by terrorism, cross-border infiltration, and security disputes. Any new defense cooperation that provides Pakistan with additional military resources, technical assistance, intelligence cooperation, or diplomatic support could increase India's security challenges. However, it would not be fair to conclude that allies will support Pakistan's every move based solely on defense agreements.

Another concern is the potential diplomatic mobilization against India on Kashmir and in international forums. If some countries adopt a united stance in favor of Pakistan, India may have to exert more diplomatic efforts to clarify its position. However, it would be wrong to consider Muslim countries as a single political group. Countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have trade, investment, and energy ties with India, which are of separate importance from their relations with Pakistan.

The third aspect concerns defense and strategic balance. If joint military exercises, supplies of advanced weapons, or extensive intelligence sharing between these countries increase in the future, India may have to review its strategy in West Asia and the Indian Ocean region. India will need to continuously strengthen its maritime surveillance, defense production, cybersecurity, and counterterrorism capabilities.

The fourth concern is energy security. India sources significant amounts of oil and gas from West Asian countries to meet its energy needs. If regional competition escalates into conflict, it could put pressure on oil prices, maritime transport, and insurance costs. This could have a direct impact on India's economy, inflation, and the pockets of ordinary consumers.

There is another side to this changing equation. The primary benefit could be that India further accelerates its defense preparedness and strategic self-reliance. Increasing investment in indigenous weapons manufacturing, modern surveillance systems, missile defense, and maritime security will be in the long-term national interest to address any potential challenge. This will enable India to strengthen its position in response to its broader security needs, not just in response to a single alliance.

The second opportunity is diplomatic. India has deep ties with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and other Gulf countries, spanning energy, trade, investment, and the Indian diaspora. India's partnership with these countries is not based solely on religious or political dynamics, but on mutual economic interests. Therefore, it will be essential for India to ensure that its relations with Pakistan do not overshadow its bilateral relations. The third advantage lies in strengthening India's strategic autonomy. India maintains relations with the United States, Russia, Europe, Japan, and West Asian countries in accordance with its interests. The emergence of a new regional alliance could further strengthen India's multilateral diplomacy. Additionally, it could enhance dialogue with partner countries on issues of counter-terrorism cooperation, security of maritime trade routes, and regional stability.

The fourth opportunity is that India may have a chance to clarify its role in West Asia. If India remains a reliable partner in economic cooperation, investment, technology, energy sharing, and regional peace, it can remain relevant regardless of any new strategic alignment.

India should neither unnecessarily raise fears about this potential alliance nor underestimate its impact. Foreign policy should be guided not by emotions or religious identity, but by facts, national interests, and long-term strategy.

Baruipur To Gaighata, Inside Suvendu Adhikari's Zero-Tolerance Approach To Crime

Jayanta Ghosal



From Baruipur in the South 24 Parganas district to Gaighata in North 24 Parganas, a new political culture is emerging in West Bengal. Although both districts are adjacent to Kolkata, the developments in these areas have become part of a wider political message. Suvendu Adhikari has adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards rape, making it clear that there will be no dilution of the government's position and no attempt to go soft on such crimes. That is the message his government has sought to convey through its actions. The first incident took place in July, after Suvendu Adhikari took over as Chief Minister in May. Now, in October, another incident has brought the issue into sharp focus. There is little doubt that, through this approach, Suvendu Adhikari is gaining considerable support among women in West Bengal, as well as among hardline Hindus. More broadly, he is drawing significant public sentiment around the question of humanism and justice for victims. West Bengal has a legacy of communist political culture. The Left has traditionally argued that excessive use of force and militarisation can lead to human rights violations. However, Suvendu Adhikari has adopted an issue that lies at the core of the BJP's national ideological position and reflects its traditional value system. Yogi Adityanath has become popular among his supporters for his encounter-based approach to crime. Similarly, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has taken a strict approach against criminals and insurgents. Suvendu Adhikari's approach places him within this broader political framework. Three decades ago, when Lal Krishna Advani was the Union Home Minister, I remember him proposing at the Home Ministers' Standing Committee that there should be no compromise when it came to rapists. He advocated a zero-tolerance policy and argued that rape should attract capital punishment. At the time, however, the chairman of the Home Ministers' Standing Committee was the communist leader Indrajit Gupta, who opposed the proposal. Gupta maintained that strong action should be taken against rapists, and there should be no leniency or political considerations in dealing with them. However, he did not believe that capital punishment was necessary to address the crisis. Several countries, after all, do not recognise the death penalty as a legal option. The world has long been divided between these two approaches to punishment. Advani, therefore, could not implement his proposal, although it reflected the BJP's position under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. After Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, the BJP adopted a strong approach towards crime and law enforcement. Amit Shah, too, has supported a tough stance on encounters, particularly in situations involving the self-defence of police and paramilitary personnel. From this perspective, encounters have been presented as another option available to the security forces. In Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath has brought the activities of mafia groups and criminal strongmen under control, according to the BJP's assessment of his governance. During Mulayam Singh Yadav's tenure as Chief Minister, a perception had grown that the state was witnessing mafia raj, with allegations that sections of the political establishment, including Yadav leaders, and the police were allowing criminals to escape punishment. This remains one of the BJP's principal allegations against its political opponents in Uttar Pradesh, including in the run-up to state elections. Yogi Adityanath has sought to counter that perception through strong action against criminal elements. Suvendu Adhikari has now adopted a similar national political line in West Bengal. For the BJP's core constituency, this approach is likely to be particularly appealing. At the same time, the issue could also benefit the party by generating political debate and wider public discussion. Even if the response is controversial, the resulting attention may work in favour of both the BJP and Suvendu Adhikari. CPM leader Sujan Chakraborty has already said that his party is opposed to rape but does not believe that encounters are always necessary. He has also raised concerns that encounters can create a perception that evidence is being tampered with. However, in the incident under discussion, the accused rapist was being transported in a police jeep when the police took action. The circumstances surrounding the incident have consequently become part of the wider debate over the government's approach to crime and punishment. Through this approach, Suvendu Adhikari stands to gain in at least three ways. First, he is receiving considerable support from sections of the West Bengal public.

MODI GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES MAJOR CRACKDOWN ON DRUG TRAFFICKING

Amit Shah Announces Action Across 38 Locations Under 'Operation Trident'



The dense forests of the Northeast, the difficult terrain of remote areas and the country's multiple international borders have long provided safe havens for drug traffickers. These very routes, which once enabled the unchecked movement of narcotics, have now come under the government's scanner as part of its determined campaign to safeguard India's youth. The crackdown signals that the fight against drug trafficking is no longer confined to sporadic raids. Instead, the government is pursuing a coordinated strategy to strike at the very networks that sustain this illegal trade.

At the centre of this strategy is Union Home Minister Amit Shah, whose reputation as a firm administrator and astute political strategist has been reflected in the government's latest anti-narcotics offensive. Acting on his directions, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), in coordination with central and state agencies, carried out simultaneous raids at 38 locations across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur on October 23, 2026, under an operation codenamed 'Operation Trident'. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the strategic guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Operation Trident saw coordinated action by the NCB alongside agencies operating in sensitive areas such as Aizawl, Champhai, Zokhawthar, Churachandpur and Cachar.

The operation delivered a clear message to international drug syndicates, particularly those operating across the Myanmar border: their networks would no longer be allowed to function with impunity. Eighteen individuals were arrested, 500 detonators and 12 lakh in cash were seized. This was no ordinary enforcement exercise, but a concerted attempt to dismantle the entire network, from the smuggling routes and financial channels to the individuals facilitating the illegal trade. The investigation also exposed the financial reach of these criminal networks. Acting under Shah's strategy, Operation Trident uncovered hawala transactions worth 100 crore, led to the freezing of 1,424 bank accounts and resulted in the seizure of assets valued at 17.82 crore. Routes used by traffickers in Myanmar's Sagaing region were also shut down. In accordance with the Narcotics Control Bureau's Vision Document (2026–2029), the campaign is being taken forward through coordinated action, intelligence-sharing and financial investigations. The significance of this crackdown extends well beyond a single operation. Shah has resolved to eliminate drug trafficking networks at their roots by December 31, 2029, and Operation Trident represents a major step towards fulfilling that commitment. His vision of a drug-free India rests on a clear principle: the offensive against narcotics must continue until the last smuggling network has been dismantled. The campaign to protect India's youth and secure its borders has now gathered renewed momentum. The Modi government's vision of a drug-free India is not merely a law-enforcement initiative. It is equally a commitment to protecting the country's younger generations and safeguarding the fabric of society. The coordinated operations across the Northeast send an unmistakable message to international drug syndicates: India will offer neither refuge, nor respite to those engaged in the narcotics trade.

10,000 plus women participated in the 4th edition of Mutual Funds Sahi Hai Pinkathon Day



The 4th edition of Pinkathon Day witnessed strong participation of women across Ranchi, bringing them together through a shared commitment to physical fitness. Organised by Pinkathon, India's biggest women's running movement, the event saw participants take part in a 3 km run beginning at 6:00 AM, encouraging women to incorporate physical activity into their everyday lives. Mutual Funds Sahi Hai was the Title Partner of this year's edition.

Mr. Venkat N. Chalasani, Chief Executive, Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), "Through our association with Pinkathon Day, we aim to encourage women to take an active role in managing their finances and securing their financial future. Just as regular physical activity contributes to long-term health, informed financial decisions and disciplined investing can help build financial resilience and enable women to pursue their long-term goals with confidence. With participants coming together across 168 locations in 65 cities and three countries, Pinkathon Day provides a valuable platform to connect women's physical well-being with financial awareness. At AMFI, we believe that financial inclusion goes beyond access to financial products; it is about equipping women with the knowledge, confidence and opportunity to make informed financial decisions, participate meaningfully in the financial system and work towards greater financial security and independence."

Milind Soman, Founder of Pinkathon, said, "Every edition of Pinkathon Day is an opportunity to see how local communities can come together around a shared goal. The participation across cities reflects the efforts of our ambassadors, volunteers and running groups who encourage women to take that first step towards fitness. What matters now is for participants to carry this momentum into their everyday lives and find ways to stay active beyond the event. Building a healthier lifestyle is a continuous journey, and we hope Pinkathon Day inspires more women to make it a priority."

The city's participation was part of a wider effort that brought together over 10,000 participants across 168 locations in 65 cities in three countries: India, Bangladesh and the Netherlands. The initiative continued Pinkathon's efforts to build local running communities and encourage women across age groups and fitness levels to embrace an active lifestyle.

Family participation was another highlight of this year's edition, with major participants across the initiative joining alongside their family members. Among the participants was a 96-year-old woman who took part with her family, demonstrating how fitness can bring generations together.

As Title Partner, Mutual Funds Sahi Hai supported the initiative in extending the conversation around women's well-being to include financial awareness and planning. The association highlighted the importance of informed financial decisions and long-term preparedness alongside physical health.

The event was supported by Pinkathon's network of ambassadors, volunteers and local running communities, who helped bring participants together across locations. Through these community-led efforts, Pinkathon continues to encourage women to begin their fitness journeys and sustain healthier habits beyond organised events.

'Kya Saans Khuli, Kya Hawa Chali': Mentos Fresh Action Unveils a Refreshing New TVC



27th October 2026: Mentos, a flagship brand from the house of Perfetti Van Melle, has unveiled a playful new TVC for its recently launched Mentos Fresh Action Candy , bringing the new product's intense cooling freshness to life through an unexpected, larger-than-life moment. Built with the tagline, "Kya saans khuli, kya hawa chali" the film uses humour and visual exaggeration to transform a simple product experience into a memorable expression of freshness in true Mentos style.

At the heart of the campaign is a humorous film set inside a flour mill. The mill owner finds himself covered in flour from head to toe, just as his wife reminds him of the wedding they both have to attend. With no time to change, he turns to the boy working at the mill who pops a Mentos Fresh Action. The intense burst of freshness unleashes a powerful gust of air that blows the flour off the owner, revealing a perfectly pressed sherwani underneath. The film's twist comes a beat later: all that flour has landed on his wife standing behind him.

The powerful gust becomes a larger-than-life expression of Mentos Fresh Action's intense freshness, while the reveal brings together wit, energy and playfulness in a narrative designed to resonate with young consumers. By blending humour with playful exaggeration, the campaign makes the intensity of the product experience entertaining, relatable and memorable.

Speaking about the campaign, Gunjan Khetan, Director - Marketing, Perfetti Van Melle India, said, "With Mentos Fresh Action, we wanted to introduce an intense cooling freshness that adds a new dimension to the Mentos portfolio. The thought 'Kya saans khuli, kya hawa chali' gave us an engaging way to bring this experience to life, using humour and exaggeration to capture its intensity. By turning a simple product experience into an unexpected and entertaining moment, the TVC reflects the playful spirit of Mentos"

Parachute Advansed Gold Urges Women in Andhra Pradesh to Rediscover the Joy of Girlhood with 'Feel Like a Girl Again'



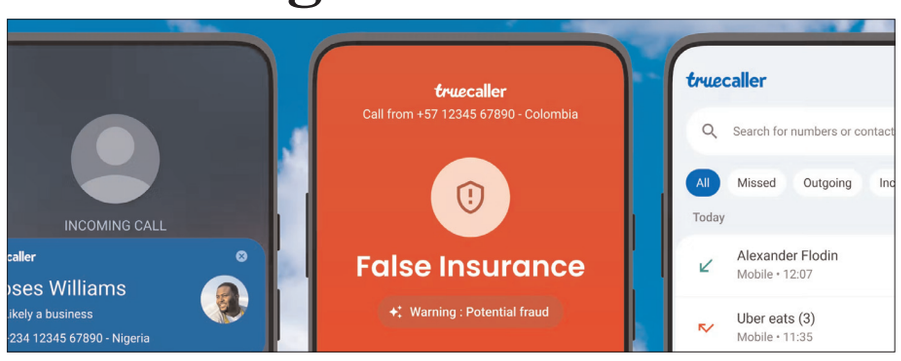
Hyderabad, 27 October 2026: Rooted in the cherished memories of long hair, friendship and carefree childhood days, the brand invites women to reconnect with the girl within.

Bringing together some of South Indian cinema's most celebrated talent, the film is directed by Gautham Vasudev Menon, known for his iconic and timeless songs over 25 years.

Remember the carefree days of girlhood, when long braids, endless laughter with friends and little moments of play brought the greatest joy? While growing up brings new responsibilities, the little girl within every woman never truly fades. Celebrating these cherished memories, Parachute Advansed Gold Coconut Hair Oil has unveiled 'Feel Like a Girl Again', a heartwarming new brand campaign, celebrating the joy, freedom and friendship that many women associate with their girlhood years. Commenting on the campaign, Vikram Karwal, CMO - India, Marico Limited, said, "Today, consumers seek brands that understand not just their needs, but also the emotions and memories that shape their lives. 'Feel Like a Girl Again' is built on the insight that long hair often serves as a powerful connection to cherished memories of girlhood. Through this campaign, we celebrate that emotional bond using a culturally resonant story to bring alive the confidence, beauty and freedom that beautiful long hair can inspire. The campaign reflects our continued focus on creating meaningful stories that connect deeply with consumers while staying true to the brand's core promise." At the heart of this cinematic celebration is Gautham Vasudev Menon, whose signature storytelling and memorable portrayals of women have made him one of South Indian cinema's most admired filmmakers. Bringing his distinctive emotional touch to the campaign, Gautham tells the story of three friends who take a break from their everyday routines to relive the joy of girlhood, capturing them running, dancing and playing by the sea, with their long braids swaying freely. Sharing his experience, Gautham Vasudev Menon said, "What drew me to this campaign was the beautiful simplicity of its message. There is a little girl in every woman who deserves to laugh, play and feel free, regardless of age. I wanted to capture that emotion through friendship, nostalgia, music and the familiar beauty of Andhra Pradesh. I'm proud to have brought 'Feel Like a Girl Again' to life with such an incredible team of artists and to be part of a campaign that celebrates women in such a joyful, heartfelt way." Adding to the magic is a powerhouse creative lineup featuring Karthik's original composition, Swetha Mohan's soulful vocals and Anantha Sriram's evocative lyrics. Renowned choreographer Brinda Master lends her signature touch with graceful choreography rooted in traditional dance, completing a musical experience filled with warmth, nostalgia and joy. With 'Feel Like a Girl Again', Parachute Advansed Gold invites women across Andhra Pradesh to let their hair down, relive those carefree moments and celebrate the little girl who still lives within them.

NO ROOM FOR SCAMMERS:

Truecaller Lite Brings Powerful Caller ID and Spam Blocking to India in Just 10 MB



Bengaluru, Oct 27 – Truecaller today announced the launch of Truecaller Lite in India, a new app that brings the protection people rely on most, knowing who is calling before they pick up and blocking unwanted calls, to Android phones with limited storage and memory. At about 10 MB, Truecaller Lite installs in moments, opens quickly and runs smoothly on phones with up to 4 GB of RAM.

The launch comes as India heads into its busiest shopping season, when scam calls spike: fake delivery calls, too-good-to-be-true offer calls and KYC fraud. For millions of people, the phone they use for payments, deliveries and staying in touch with family is also one that is short on space, with little room left once festive photos, videos and forwards pile up. Many of them have asked for a lighter Truecaller, and Truecaller Lite is designed so that protection no longer competes for that space.

Truecaller Lite is not a cut-down version of the main app. It is a separate, native Android app built from the ground up for phones with less memory and processing power. It draws on the same Truecaller database and detection systems and follows the same privacy standards. This means that the protection against spam and fraud calls offered by Truecaller Lite is the same as the main app.

WITH TRUECALLER LITE, PEOPLE CAN:

Know who is calling with caller ID, before they answer.

Block spam and fraud calls powered by signals from Truecaller's global community. Use it as their dialer, with call history, contacts and number search in one place. See who they just spoke to on the after-call screen, for both incoming and outgoing calls. Truecaller Lite stays light by focusing on the essentials. It takes up little storage, uses less memory and data, and stays responsive even when a phone is running low on space. Features such as messaging, voicemail, Family Protection and AI assistant are not part of Truecaller Lite, which keeps the app small and fast.

"Scammers don't check what phone you have before they call, and protection should not depend on it either," said Rishit Jhunjhunwala, CEO, Truecaller. "I have seen many people with older or basic Android phones struggling with heavy apps. Plus, so many people in India told us they wanted Truecaller but they either did not have the storage space for it or that didn't work smoothly. Truecaller Lite is built for exactly those phones: it's the same protection from spam and fraud, in an app small enough to fit and fast enough to stay out of the way."

AVAILABILITY

Truecaller Lite is available to download for free from the Google Play Store in India, on Android phones with up to 4 GB of RAM. The app is rolling out in phases and will reach eligible devices over the coming weeks. Truecaller Lite is available on Android only.

ABOUT TRUECALLER

Truecaller is an essential part of everyday communication for over 500 million active users worldwide, with more than a billion downloads since launch and 68 billion spam and fraud calls identified in 2025 alone. The company is headquartered in Stockholm and has been publicly listed on Nasdaq Stockholm since October 2021. For more information, visit www.truecaller.com.

HCLTECH SCALES CLIMATE ACTION GRANT TO 24 COUNTRIES, STRENGTHENING GLOBAL ACTION AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

NOIDA, India, Oct. 26, 2026 – HCLTech, a leading global technology company, today announced the expansion of its flagship Climate Action Grant program to 24 countries worldwide to support a wider pool of non-profit organizations (NPOs) combating climate change and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity.

In 2023, the company launched the HCLTech Grant for Climate Action in the Americas to support locally relevant solutions that address pressing climate and environmental issues. HCLTech initially committed $5 million over five years to eligible NPOs in 10 countries in the Americas and has disbursed $3 million over the past three editions.

Encouraged by the success of the program in the Americas, HCLTech is expanding the program to 24 countries globally. These countries include Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam.

The winners will be announced on June 5, 2027, following a rigorous screening process. One winner will receive $500,000, while three runners-up will each receive $250,000.

"Great ideas can come from any community, and solutions developed in one place can create possibilities in another.

The HCLTech Global Grant for Climate Action has evolved through our experience in India and the Americas, and taking the Grant global is the next step in that journey. By creating a broader platform for climate innovation, we want to support locally rooted ideas and help solutions with potential for wider impact reach further," said Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Global Head of CSR at HCLTech.

HCLTech has a sharp focus on sustainability and is committed to achieving net-zero by 2040. The company has been named to TIME World's Most Sustainable Companies list for the second consecutive year. It also achieved EcoVadis Gold rating and MSCI AA (Leader) ESG rating for the second consecutive year in FY26.

HCLTech's corporate social responsibility initiatives, delivered through HCLFoundation in India, have impacted over 8.8 million lives, 54% of whom are women. It has planted over 3.6 million saplings, greened 74,000 acres of land and harvested more than 155 billion liters of water to date.

To apply for the HCLTech Global Grant for Climate Action, visit globalgrant.hcltech.com/

Turnout so far highest on record as Israelis vote in pivotal election



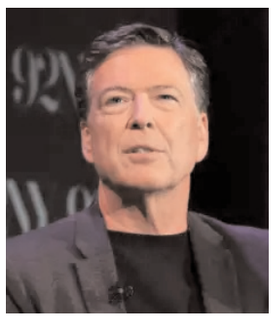
Turnout so far is at record levels, as Israelis vote in what many view as one of the most pivotal elections in the country's history. Polling published on Friday suggests incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu is almost neck-and-neck with former military chief Gadi Eisenkot in the race to become prime minister. But neither of their political blocs are projected to win the 61 seats needed to form a majority government - meaning weeks or months of political wrangling may lie ahead. The campaign has been shaped by the issues of democracy and security, and the election is widely being seen as a referendum on Netanyahu's rule. Many leading parties complained on Tuesday morning of alleged irregularities at polling stations across the country - but Israel's Central Election Committee (CEC) says there is no evidence of systematic tampering with ballot slips. Israel's proportional representation system means governments have always been coalitions - and the race to power can, and has, produced unexpected alliances. But this election looks especially tight - and lines in the sand have already been drawn. Eisenkot, who leads the newly formed Yashar Party, is the main figure in the so-called "change bloc", a collection of parties who have ideological differences but share the goal of ousting Netanyahu. Other leaders in the bloc include former prime minister Naftali Bennett and Avigdor Lieberman - both right-wingers who take hardline positions on security - and Yair Golan, a left-leaning former general. For Netanyahu, a titan of Israeli politics who first served as prime minister in 1996, a return to power will hinge on another alliance with the far-right and ultra-Orthodox parties that make up his current governing coalition - the most right-wing in Israel's history. There are two Arab party blocs in the running too, as about one-fifth of Israel's population is Arab - many of whom describe themselves as Palestinian citizens of Israel. In theory, they could prove kingmakers. But all but one of the leading Jewish parties have ruled out working with them. The campaign has been dominated by the issue of security - with the opposition bloc hammering Netanyahu for the unprecedented security failure that led to the 7 October Hamas-led attacks on Israel, in which nearly 1,200 people were killed and 251 taken back to Gaza as hostages. They have pushed for an independent commission of inquiry into the attacks - something Netanyahu has long resisted, insisting it would be biased against him. They also point to what they see as threats to democracy under Netanyahu, who faces an ongoing trial on corruption charges - which he denies - and is still pursuing contentious plans for reforms to the judicial system, which led to mass protests before the 7 October attacks. Despite the opposition's attack lines, Netanyahu has once again framed himself as "Mr Security" - pointing to what he says are strategic victories in Israel's wars across the Middle East and his close relationship with US President Donald Trump. On Sunday, Israel's Channel 12 reported that Netanyahu had pushed for last-minute military action that could trigger a confrontation with Iran prior to the elections - but was opposed by his own military chief Eyal Zamir. The following day, CNN reported that he had also tried to persuade Trump to carry out new strikes on Iran, but that Trump had refused to give the green light. Netanyahu denied both reports. He also made headlines in the final days of his campaign for posting an AI-generated image of a nuclear bomb hitting Tel Aviv, warning that he is the only leader who can protect Israel "if the Iranians acquire nuclear weapons". Eisenkot called him "hysterical". Another dominating issue has been conscription, with Netanyahu's government failing to enforce a Supreme Court ruling that ultra-Orthodox Jewish men in full-time religious study should be conscripted to the military - a highly divisive move as thousands of others have been conscripted to fight in recent wars. Eisenkot takes a broadly similar position to Netanyahu on Gaza, and has pledged to end Hamas rule in the territory within 18 months, through a US-led peace plan or, if necessary, military means. Israel has continued to strike Gaza almost every day since a ceasefire was agreed last year, saying it is targeting Hamas operatives. The Israeli military has killed more than 74,000 people since the start of the war, according to Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry whose figures are considered reliable by the UN. Israel has faced growing international condemnation over its conduct in the war, and relations with its allies around the world have deteriorated. Eisenkot largely supports Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank - which are illegal under international law - but wants to crack down on extremist Jewish settlers whose attacks are at an all-time high, according to UN figures. He has also spoken about creating the conditions for "autonomy or a state-minus" for Palestinians - under ultimate Israeli security control. The two-state solution - the creation of an independent Palestinian state in peaceful coexistence alongside Israel - has all but disappeared from mainstream Israeli politics.

NORWAY AND FINLAND LEADERS HOLD RARE CALL WITH PUTIN



The leaders of Finland and Norway have held a joint call with Vladimir Putin - a rare contact between the Russian president and European leaders. The aim was looking at "future negotiations to help to end the war" in Ukraine, the offices of President Alexander Stubb and Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said. Their initiative was not on behalf of "Europe as a whole". After the call, Putin said "confrontational" EU and Nato policies were prolonging the war which began when Russia launched a full-scale invasion in 2022. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has spoken to the two Nordic leaders after their conversation with Putin. Last week, Zelensky met them as well as US special envoy Steve Witkoff in Oslo. The Ukrainian leader said he was grateful for the "active support" of his Finnish and Norwegian counterparts. Tuesday's 90-minute phone call was held from the Finnish capital Helsinki, and showed "big differences in views", Støre said. Finland and Norway, which border Russia, initiated the call to "discuss Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the diplomatic efforts to end the war and promote peace and stability in Europe", the leaders' offices said. The call was "frank and substantive", Stubb said, explaining that the war's outcome will "have a direct impact on our and the broader European security". Støre added: "The war comes with enormous human and material costs... The suffering and destruction will impact generations." The Kremlin said Putin told the leaders that "a just and lasting peace" would only be possible if Russia's interests were considered. He - like Stubb and Støre - had agreed to continue their direct phone communication, the statement added. Støre said all their allies had been informed of the call ahead of time. Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said she was "very sceptical" of Tuesday's dialogue, telling Danish broadcaster DR, it had not been "co-ordinated with any of the rest of us". Meanwhile, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Stubb had informed him that Europe's position on the upcoming talks in the United Arab Emirates, was "moderately optimistic". Relations between the US, Ukraine and its European allies have been souring since US President Donald Trump agreed to lift some sanctions from Russia - allowing it to export oil to the US. But last week, Stubb, Støre and Zelesnky met with Witkoff in the Norwegian capital, before the US special envoy travelled on to St Petersburg to meet Putin. Following the talks, Ukraine, Russia and the US agreed to resume three-way negotiations that Russia had stopped for months. After speaking to the two Nordic leaders, Zelensky said part of their discussions with Putin had centred on November's trilateral talks to be held in Abu Dhabi.

EX-FBI CHIEF JAMES COMEY FACES FEDERAL CHARGES FOR THIRD TIME



Federal prosecutors have taken steps to charge ex-Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director James Comey with leaking national defence information, according to a court filing. It marks the third time the justice department has moved to bring criminal charges against Comey, a longtime critic of President Donald Trump. Few details are provided about the two counts in the three-page filing, but Comey's lawyers said in separate court papers that the case stemmed from an alleged disclosure of classified information to the New York Times in October 2016, while he was head of the FBI. Comey denied any wrongdoing in a video posted on Substack on Monday, calling the charges an "appalling abuse". "It would almost be funny if it weren't such an appalling abuse of the department of justice, one that we cannot become numb to," he said in the clip. "Nothing's changed with me - I'm still innocent, I'm still not afraid of these people and I still believe in the independent federal judiciary." Comey was charged in Washington DC through a criminal information, which is a formal written charging document filed directly by a prosecutor. This is different to a criminal indictment, which must be approved by a grand jury, a group of citizens sworn in to review if evidence is strong enough to prosecute. Comey's lawyer, Patrick Fitzgerald, said in a statement that two different teams of prosecutors had investigated the alleged disclosure to the New York Times a decade ago during the first Trump administration.

TRUCE BEGINS IN UKRAINE CITY WHERE RESIDENTS ATE WEEDS TO SURVIVE



A truce has begun in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian city of Oleshky, where residents have been trapped without food, water and electricity. Ukrainian officials and Russia's defence ministry say the limited ceasefire is being respected. The truce, which the White House said was secured by US First Lady Melania Trump, is meant to allow aid deliveries and a civilian evacuation on Friday. Oleshky, along the front line in the Kherson region, is trapped on one side by the Dnipro River, which separates it from Ukrainian positions, and on the other by Russian forces. Many residents have resorted to cooking garden weeds to survive, telling the BBC they are suffering extreme hunger and want to leave. There are concerns that the truce will not hold, with one resident saying: "I don't believe in Russia's humanity." Up to 6,000 people, including 200 children, remain in Oleshky and its surrounding areas, Kyiv believes, with only 1,700 still living in the city itself. Before the war it was home to 24,000 people, but it was seized by Russia during the first days of its full-scale invasion in February 2022. Conditions have become so desperate that not only is getting supplies into the city extremely difficult, but escape is highly dangerous because the routes out of Oleshky have been mined and subject to drone attack. Pope Leo XIV appealed earlier this month to Russia's President Vladimir Putin to allow food and medical aid into Oleshky as well as a safe evacuation, and urged his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky to co-operate with Moscow over a ceasefire. The current truce is supposed to allow supplies in and enable roads to be cleared of mines to allow people safe passage out in an evacuation planned to take place on Friday. One woman told the BBC she had stepped on a land mine and was currently in hospital where she had undergone two operations. "I don't know how long I will have to spend there," she said, worried about not being able to join the evacuation. Many told the BBC last month there is only one hospital partially operational, opening a few days a week to perform critical amputations. It is hard to make contact with people in Oleshky as communication is patchy and many are reluctant to speak of the situation in fear of reprisals from the Russians, making it difficult to verify reports the ceasefire is being implemented. Many details on the evacuation plans are unclear, initially including how and where to register for it.

Jay-Z to perform at Super Bowl half-time show



Rapper Jay-Z will perform at the Super Bowl half-time show in February, the NFL has announced. Jay-Z's company Roc Nation has produced the half-time show since 2019, and he plays a key role in selecting each year's performer but he has not performed before at the NFL championship game. "Anticipation as to who Jay-Z might have guest star at halftime for the big game will now kick off," the NFL said in a statement. "Of course, his wife, Beyoncé, will be atop the list." Next year's Super Bowl LXI will take place on 14 February near Los Angeles. The hip-hop star will follow in the footsteps of other recent half-time performers including Bad Bunny, Kendrick Lamar, Usher, Rihanna and The Weeknd. The musical performance draws global attention while the sport is watched by tens of millions of people in the US. Kendrick Lamar's 2025 performance was the most watched Super Bowl half-time show in history and won the Emmy award for outstanding music direction. The announcement was made after Jay-Z, whose real name is Shawn Carter, performed two shows last weekend at the Los Angeles stadium where the Super Bowl will be played. The LA shows were part of a tour to celebrate the 30th anniversary of his debut album Reasonable Doubt. "From 'Reasonable Doubt' to standing on the Super Bowl halftime stage, this has been a journey," said Jay-Z. "Thirty years of music, work, and culture on the world's biggest stage. This run continues to be a dream come true."



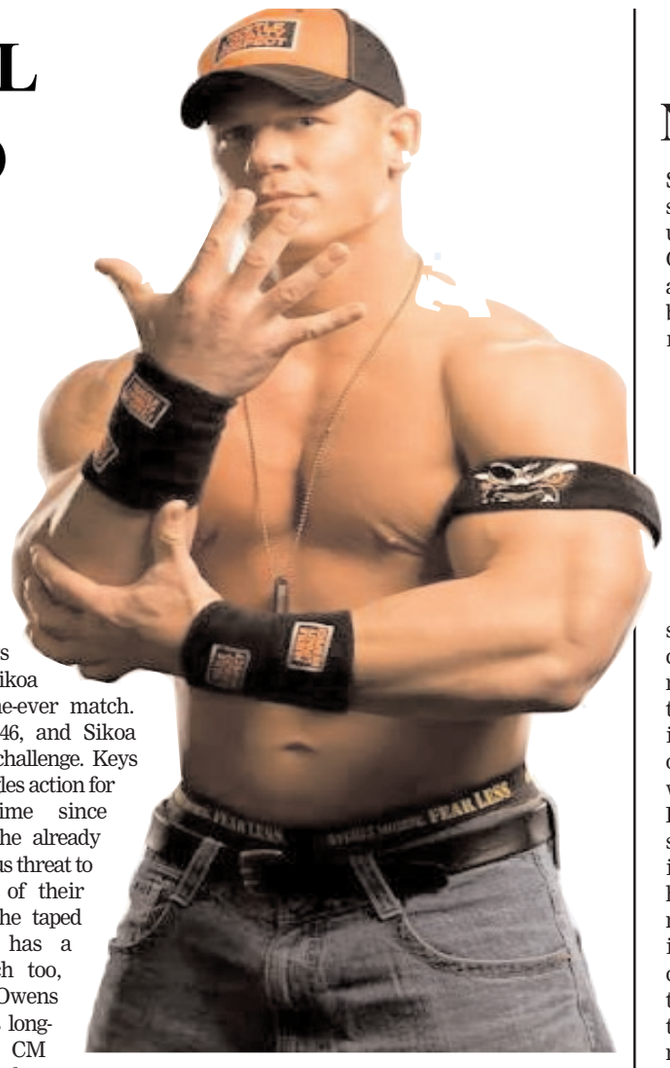
Jordan carries out deadly strike in Syria in retaliation for church attack

LULA'S COMEBACK IN BRAZIL DENTS TRUMP'S AMBITIONS FOR LATIN AMERICA



"Brazil will not accept being anyone's backyard," Brazil's left-wing President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva declared in his election victory speech, a message squarely aimed at Washington. Domestic elections are rarely won on foreign policy, and this one was no different. But Lula's defiance against what he has described as US interference in Brazilian affairs evoked a patriotic spirit that proved an effective campaigning tool. It also chimed with his wider brand of politics as a former union leader: standing up to powerful figures. Paradoxically, it seems to have earned him President Donald Trump's respect. "I like Lula, we get along well," Trump said, responding to the result. "I didn't take sides," he added, before calling the election "terrible" and "rigged". If that sounds muddled, it is because the relationship between the two men is not straightforward. Trump did not explicitly endorse Lula's rival Flávio Bolsonaro, who refused to recognise the result. But Trump was a close ally of Flávio's father, the former President Jair Bolsonaro. When I spoke to Lula at his residence about a year ago, relations had hit rock bottom. He told me he had "no relationship" with Trump, that they had never spoken, and that he had no intention of picking up the phone. Trump had recently imposed punitive tariffs on Brazil, largely as a political response to Jair Bolsonaro's coup trial, which the US president called a "witch-hunt". He made fiery speeches invoking Brazilian sovereignty, attacked US interference in the judicial process, and took to wearing a blue cap reading "Brazil belongs to Brazilians". His approval ratings jumped. He accused the Bolsonaro family, who had lobbied for the tariffs, of being unpatriotic – a blow to a political right that so often claims patriotism as its terrain. Even some in the agricultural lobby, typically strong Bolsonaro supporters but reliant on US trade, thought Lula had a point. The US eventually backed down and reduced the tariffs, although they have since risen again. Relations then improved. The two men spoke at the United Nations and later met in the Oval Office, where Trump called the talks "very good" and Lula said he left "very satisfied".

WWE CONFIRMS SPECIAL RAW START TIME AHEAD OF JOHN CENA'S RETURN TO WWE



WWE has moved next week's RAW up by two hours, and the reason is a double shift in Brooklyn. The show now starts at 6 PM ET/3 PM PT on Netflix from Barclays Center, with SmackDown getting taped the same night. It's the last RAW before Crown Jewel in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on November 7, and John Cena is on the show. The company confirmed the new time on Monday, ahead of RAW's usual 8 PM ET start time. WWE moves RAW to an earlier start time to tape SmackDown before Crown Jewel Its post pushed the slot alongside Cena's return: "CENA IS BACK @JohnCena. John Cena returns to #WWERaw NEXT WEEK in Brooklyn SPECIAL START TIME 6 ET/3 PT only on @netflix." WrestleVotes connected the change to the November 6 SmackDown, which gets recorded right after RAW goes off the air so talent can travel to Riyadh. Barclays Center's own listing bills the night as "Two Shows," with doors opening at 4 PM ET. An earlier RAW also means the Brooklyn crowd isn't stuck waiting until late for the taping, which is how Cageside Seats described the thinking. The listing advertises Roman Reigns and Sami Zayn too, the two champions who meet at Crown Jewel with the Men's Crown Jewel Championship on the line. So the night is packed, and that's before anyone talks about the card. WWE won't get another live show to build toward Saudi Arabia once RAW ends. John Cena returns while Royce Keys and Solo Sikoa prepare for a first-time match Cena's appearance got confirmed through a video vignette that aired during this week's RAW. He retired from in-ring competition after losing to Gunther at Saturday Night's Main Event in December 2025, but he's still involved as a WWE ambassador, and earlier this year he hosted WrestleMania 42 in Las Vegas. Brooklyn will be his first appearance on WWE programming since Backlash. Nothing has been announced about the John Cena Classic, though the visit could bring some news on the competition. Beyond Cena, WWE booked Royce Keys against Solo Sikoa in a first-time-ever match. Keys leads 946, and Sikoa accepted his challenge. Keys is back in singles action for the first time since August, and he already issued a serious threat to Sikoa ahead of their showdown. The taped SmackDown has a notable match too, with Kevin Owens set to face his long-time rival CM Punk in a grudge match.

Big Blow For Sri Lanka As Pathum Nissanka Ruled Out Of Pakistan Tests



Sri Lanka have suffered a setback ahead of their upcoming ICC World Test Championship series against Pakistan, with star batter Pathum Nissanka ruled out as he continues to recover from injury. Lahiru Udara has been drafted into the squad as Nissanka's replacement for the two-match Test series, which begins in Rawalpindi on November 9, according to the ICC. Nissanka was initially named in Sri Lanka's Test squad subject to fitness clearance but has failed to regain full fitness in time for the Pakistan tour. The injury had also ruled him out of Sri Lanka's recent white-ball assignments in Pakistan, including the T20I series and the ODI tri-series involving England and the hosts. Sri Lanka recently made headlines by completing the second-highest successful run chase in ODI history against England during the tri-series. Udara will now link up with the Test squad after being part of Sri Lanka's ODI outfit for the tournament. The wicket-keeper-batter has previously represented Sri Lanka in Test and T20I cricket and recorded a career-best 188 during the World Test Championship series against the West Indies earlier in 2026. Under the captaincy of Kusal Mendis, Sri Lanka will begin their two-Test campaign against Pakistan at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on November 9. The second Test will be played in Lahore from November 17. Sri Lanka Test Squad Kusal Mendis (captain), Anjala Bandara, Dinesh Chandimal, Dhananjaya de Silva, Sonal Dinusha, Asitha Fernando, Prabath Jayasuriya, Lahiru Kumara, Dilshan Madushanka, Eshan Malinga, Kamindu Mendis, Keshara Nuwantha, Milan Rathnayaka, Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Lahiru Udara.

Abhishek Sharma Surpasses Virat Kohli After 38-Ball 113 vs New Zealand, Need 3 More To Surpass Babar Azam In Elite List



Abhishek Sharma overtook Virat Kohli to become the Indian batter with the most T20 centuries on Tuesday. The explosive left-hander achieved this milestone during the third T20I against New Zealand in Wellington, scoring 113 off 38 balls, with nine fours and 11 sixes at a strike rate of 297.37. Now, Abhishek, with 11 T20 centuries, has overtaken Virat's tally of 10 T20 centuries, becoming the Indian with the most T20 hundreds. Only West Indies great Chris Gayle (22) and Pakistan batter Babar Azam (13) are ahead of him, making him the third-highest centurion in T20 cricket. Abhishek now has four T20I centuries, the joint second-highest in T20I history, levelling with stars like Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav and England's Phil Salt. Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell (5) holds the record for the most T20I centuries. In 70 T20Is and 69 innings, Abhishek has scored 2,240 runs at an average of 33.43 and a strike rate of 196.83, with four centuries and 14 fifties. His best score is 135. This year, in 37 T20Is, Abhishek has scored 1,125 runs at an average of 31.25 and a strike rate of 206.42, including two centuries and eight fifties, with a best score of 113. He is 40 runs away from breaking Suryakumar's record for the most T20I runs in a calendar year by an Indian (1,164 runs in 2022). This is the seventh time Abhishek has hit 10 or more sixes in a T20I innings; only Chris Gayle (18 times) has done so more often. Among T20I batters, he has surpassed Gayle in this aspect, having achieved the feat three times compared to Gayle's two. Austria's Karanbir Singh has hit 10 or more sixes in a T20I innings five times. With this assault, Abhishek is only the third Indian to reach 150 T20I sixes, currently sitting on 158 sixes, behind Suryakumar (179) and Rohit (205). Coming to the match, India won the toss and opted to bowl first. After Tim Seifert (2) was removed early, an 86-run stand for the second wicket between Finn Allen (40 off 25 balls, with five fours) and Daryl Mitchell brought New Zealand back into the game.

Abhishek Sharma-Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Break 2 World Records, Equal 1 In Wellington Carnage vs New Zealand



Abhishek Sharma and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi breathed fire from the word go as they opened the batting in the third T20I against New Zealand in Christchurch on Tuesday. Chasing a target of 199 runs, the pair paid little attention to who was bowling, shifting straight into fifth gear right from the start. Abhishek smashed a 15-ball half-century as India brought up their team fifty in just 2.2 overs, equalling the world record of scoring the fastest team fifty in T20 internationals. Later, India broke the record for scoring the fastest team hundred in the shortest format. Among Test-playing nations, India's team fifty is the fastest ever scored. Across all T20I-playing nations, India equalled the joint-record held by Papua New Guinea (against Vanuatu) and Romania (against Serbia). The previous record for the fastest team fifty by a Test-playing nation was 2.4 overs, held by New Zealand (achieved against both Scotland and England) and South Africa (against the West Indies). Later in the innings, India made the T20I world record entirely their own by reaching the team hundred mark in just 5 overs (30 balls). The previous overall record was held by Romania, who reached 100 in 32 balls (5.2 overs) against Serbia in 2021. Among Test-playing nations, South Africa previously held the record, having reached their century in 5.3 overs against the West Indies. The Indian team also broke the world record for the highest-ever powerplay score as they put 118 runs on the board from the first six overs of the 199-run chase. The figure is the highest-ever score for a team in the powerplay, going past the previous highest of Romania, who had aggregated 116/0 against Serbia in a T20 international match in 2021. Abhishek departed after completing his century in just 35 balls. Sooryavanshi, on the other hand, 19-ball 45 before returning to the dressing room. Abhishek Sharma scored a 15-ball half-century as India broke the world record for the fastest team hundred in T20Is at 5.0 overs.

"I'm Not Done Yet": Jarmanpreet Singh Dismisses Retirement Talk



Defender Jarmanpreet Singh is in no mood to retire just yet despite being among four senior players that Hockey India reportedly plans to phase out after the Asian Champions Trophy, with the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics firmly in his sights. Earlier this month, Hockey India sources had informed PTI that Jarmanpreet, Mandeep Singh, Amit Rohidas and Nilakanta Sharma, all members of India's Paris Olympics and Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games medal-winning squads, are set to feature in their final assignment for India at the Asian Champions Trophy, which begins on Tuesday. The move is understood to be part of Hockey India's long-term transition strategy with an eye on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, for which India qualified by winning gold at the recent Asian Games. "I want to continue playing and perform well at the Los Angeles Olympics. I want to do my best for the team," the 30-year-old defender from Amritsar told PTI. "Qualifying for the Olympics by winning the gold medal at the Asian Games is a big achievement for our team. It is a great opportunity for us, and we are well prepared for the Los Angeles Olympics. "After this tournament, we will begin our preparations for LA. I want the team to perform well there and win the gold medal," he added. India captain Harmanpreet Singh also rubbished the retirement speculation, describing it as a "rumour".

Sami Zayn Reveals He Dislocated His Shoulder Twice During His John Cena Match

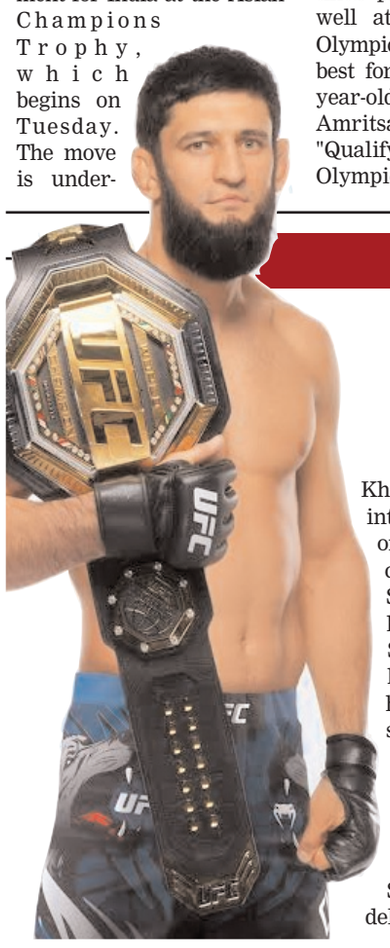
Sami Zayn dislocated his shoulder twice in his first main roster match and still finished it. The former NXT star challenged John Cena for the United States Championship in 2015, and the shoulder was already acting up before the match properly got going. It happened again inside the ring, but he kept wrestling anyway. On a recent appearance on INSIGHT with Chris Van Vliet, the WWE Champion talked about that night, including when he realised the injury was worse than he first thought. It started during his entrance. While pumping up the Montreal crowd, Zayn had what he later called a subluxation, which means the shoulder slipped out of the joint and went back in almost right away.



BAYLEY RENAMES WWE AFTER HER NO DQ VICTORY OVER LYRA VALKYRIA ON RAW



Bayley took to X after RAW and swapped World Wrestling Entertainment for "Women's Wrestling Entertainment." The post landed right after she beat Lyra Valkyria in a No Disqualification match, and it fit a card where three of the five matches featured women. She had a reason to feel good about the night. This was Bayley's first win over Valkyria in their series, which now stands at 2-1 after she lost the first two. The two used to team up before the feud started, so there was some history in the ring. Bayley calls WWE "Women's Wrestling Entertainment" after her No DQ win over Lyra Valkyria Bayley finished it by trapping Valkyria in a crossface with a kendo stick, and Valkyria had no choice but to submit. Her post was short, just the new name where the company's usual full name would go. The rest of the card gave her something to point at. Liv Morgan defended her Women's World Championship against Becky Lynch, a match that only happened because Stephanie Vaquer was ruled medically unable to compete. Vaquer was supposed to face Lynch in a No. 1 Contender's Match. Morgan kept the title when the main event ended by disqualification. IYO SKY and Raquel Rodriguez also met in a non-title match, so women's wrestling got a good share of the night from top to bottom. Bayley also returned to Big Time Wrestling for its 30th anniversary show in San Jose Away from RAW, Bayley went back to where it all began.



"WE WILL MAKE THIS MATCHUP":

Khamzat Chimaev Vows To Chase Sean Strickland Across Weight Divisions For Rematch

Khamzat Chimaev has intensified his pursuit of UFC middleweight champion Sean Strickland. He says he will follow Strickland to light heavyweight or heavyweight if necessary to secure a rematch. Chimaev's comments come as Strickland remains in a contract dispute with the UFC. Strickland has delayed a proposed title defence against Nassourdine Imavov. Chimaev lost a close decision to Strickland at UFC 328 in May. He believes the result was affected by his difficult weight cut. He has since demanded another opportunity and argued that Strickland should accept the fight if he wants a larger payday. Khamzat Chimaev says he's willing to chase down Sean Strickland wherever the middleweight champion's next move is "We will make the matchup. Don't worry. Light heavyweight, heavyweight, wherever he goes, we go after him. I'm the hunter. He's a chicken running away," he told Red Corner MMA. — Red Corner MMA (@RedCorner_MMA) October 26, 2026 Chimaev threatens to follow Strickland to heavyweight Khamzat Chimaev told Red Corner MMA. "We will make this matchup, bro; don't worry, if I've got to light heavyweight, heavyweight, wherever he goes, I will go after him." He added, "Yeah, I'm the hunter, and he's a chicken running away. If he goes, I will go up. Who cares, I don't care, bro, so for the pay I'm here." The 'Borz' believes the dispute gives him leverage. He claimed he earned five times more than Strickland from their first fight. He stressed that the champion should take the rematch if money is his priority. Sean Strickland signed a new six-fight contract before defeating Chimaev at UFC 328. The American has since demanded revised terms before agreeing to face Imavov. But Dana White has rejected a renegotiation because the deal was signed only months ago. Strickland has threatened to fight out his contract, vacate the middleweight title and explore opportunities elsewhere if the UFC does not improve his pay. White has pushed back, saying the champion must honour the agreement he signed.

R. Narayana Murthy Says 'Hushaaru 2' Will Make You Laugh and Think



He Gave Me Such a Great Role That There Was Nothing to Convince Me About; 'Hushaaru 2' Will Make You Think as Much as It Makes You Laugh," Says People's Star R. Narayana Murthy at Hushaaru 2 Movie Teaser Launch Event

The boys who once set out to make their mark are back, this time with a tequila venture that takes them into the unfamiliar territory of Chittragunj and a forest where their ambitions collide with a dangerous set of adversaries. The teaser for Hushaaru 2, written and directed by Sree Harsha Konuganti, offers a glimpse into this unpredictable adventure, culminating in the striking appearance of People's Star R. Narayana Murthy.

The teaser launch brought together the film's cast, crew, and special guest R. Narayana Murthy, whose address highlighted the social concerns underlying the film's entertainment-driven narrative.

Art Director Srikanth Ramisetty: "This is a very friendly and talented team. Harsha garu tells interesting, peculiar, and unique stories. I was the production designer for his previous successful film, and it was a pleasure coming back to work for him. Working with legendary people like Narayana Murthy garu alongside my friends has been a great experience."

Actress Vidhi Yadav: "I hope you all liked the teaser. It is my first time watching it, and I am mind-blown. We made this movie with a lot of hard work and love. In this film, you will learn what true friendship, true love, and true comedy are. I had a lot of fun shooting with this cast and crew."

Producer Rahul Varma: "Hushaaru 1 is one of my favorites, and Part 2 has shaped up to be a great script about friends. We made this film on a grand scale without compromising anywhere. Having Murthy garu on board is a blessing. I strongly believe you will all enjoy this movie."

Actor Sashidhar: "Harsha garu brought me in from small films and plays and placed me on a massive canvas. Hushaaru 2 is an adventurous story told through a thousand jokes. The entire team gave everyone the space to act and improvise. Our producer, Rahul Varma garu, looked after the set single-handedly and ensured everything ran smoothly."

Actor Dinesh Tej: "It feels like traveling back eight years to when we released Hushaaru 1. However much you liked the first part, I am confident this movie will be ten times more than that. Our family has extended and gotten bigger, and working with Narayana Murthy garu is a true blessing."

Actor Ashok Galla: "We are coming with double the fun, madness, and craziness. All four leads have incredible space in the film, and Murthy garu acts as a big mentor to us. All the fun you saw in the teaser will be there throughout the entire film." Writer-Director Sree Harsha Konuganti: "I worked on the script for two years before shooting. In my real life, my B.Tech friends and I went to central India to start a business, and this story is based on those real-life adventures. Rahul Ramakrishna's character has a beautiful arc and runs throughout the movie. When you see our four leads, they look exactly like best friends. Having Narayana Murthy garu on set brought a special energy that will explode on the big screen."

People's Star R. Narayana Murthy: "When people ask how Sri Harsha garu convinced me, what is there to convince? He gave me a great role. As much as he made you laugh in Hushaaru 1, he will make you think just as much in Hushaaru 2. He touches upon the burning issue of unemployment and how the youth's freedom and rights are impacted today. My character stands by these young boys as a friend and mentor while they try to build something meaningful for society. A film that makes you think while making you laugh will definitely be embraced by the audience. Sri Harsha garu is a director who works without compromise until a shot is 100% complete. I request the media to promote Hushaaru 2 grandly."

Written and directed by Sree Harsha Konuganti, Hushaaru 2 stars Rahul Ramakrishna, Ashok Galla, Ravi Anthony, Dinesh Tej, Shashidhar Kocharlakota, Vidhi Yadav, Abhignya Utuluru, Bhagawan Tiwari, Jatin Gosami, and Rajai Rowan, with R. Narayana Murthy in a pivotal role.

Produced by Rahul Varma, K. Veena Rani, and K. Hanumanth Raju, with Komatireddy Sharan Reddy as co-producer, the film is backed by Caveman Stories, HK Films, and Kaliyuga Varadha Creations. The technical crew includes cinematographer G. Srinivas Reddy, music director Sunny M.R., additional music director Ram Miriyala, editor Vijay Vardhan Kavuri, and art director Srikanth Ramisetty.

"KILLER WILL SHOCK AUDIENCES WITH ITS UNIQUE SCI-FI CONCEPT," SAYS DIRECTOR POORVAAJ

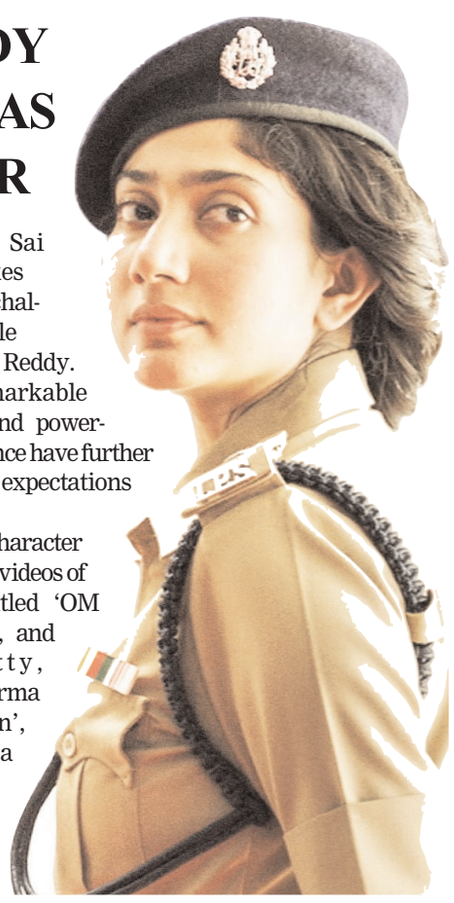


After watching KilleR, audiences will be thrilled to see how a film can be written and made with such a diverse approach" – Director, Producer and Actor Poorvaaj

The sensational sci-fi thriller Killer stars Jyoti Poorvaj and Poorvaaj in lead roles. Manish Gilada, Chandrakanth Kollu, Ayyinabathina Dasarath Madhav, Vishal Raj, Archana Ananth and Gautham Chakradhar Koppishetti play other important roles. Produced by Poorvaaj and Padmanabha Reddy A. under the banners of Think Cinema and AU & I Studios, with the blessings of Dhyanam Nannagaru, the film is presented by Urvish Poorvaj and directed by Poorvaaj. Killer is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 30. OMG Pictures is distributing the film overseas. In a recent interview, director, producer and actor Poorvaaj shared several highlights about the film. - KilleR is a film with rich content, and its censor formalities have been completed. The film has received a U certificate. After watching it, the members of the censor board appeared pleased, which made us feel that they liked our film. There is no bloodshed in Killer. I feel dizzy even at the sight of blood. Even if a story involves violence, I believe it should be conveyed through what the characters experience rather than showing them being subjected to torture. We have treated the vampire character in a way that makes the film accessible to everyone. The terrorist character appears for just ten minutes and does not return. The spy and vampire characters are also presented in a similar manner, without appearing again elsewhere in the film.

- Some members of our team have compared Killer to Christopher Nolan's Odyssey. That might sound like an exaggeration, but after watching our film, audiences may find themselves making that comparison. However, comparing Killer to Odyssey itself could be a spoiler. A few years ago, I wrote a story based on a concept called Screwed, but I could not make it with the resources available to me at the time. I have now adapted that script to suit the tastes of today's audiences and developed it into Killer. As a filmmaker, I believe everything audiences see on screen should have high visual quality.

SAI PALLAVI AS NITHYA REDDY IN 'OM' – ACTRESS IMPRESSES AS A POWERFUL POLICE OFFICER



The character introduction video of Sai Pallavi from 'OM – Chapter 1: Udhiram – The Blood Wood', a massive pan-India action entertainer starring Versatile Star Dhanush in the lead role and directed by Rajkumar Periasamy, has been released. In the film, Sai Pallavi will be seen playing a police officer named Nithya Reddy. The actress impresses in a distinctive role unlike anything she has portrayed before, drawing the attention of fans with her commanding screen presence as a powerful police officer.

Talking about Sai Pallavi's character, Nithya Reddy is introduced as a young police officer known for her intelligence, honesty and experience. Having previously worked with the CBI and Interpol, she leads 'Operation OM', an initiative aimed at curbing the illegal smuggling of red sandalwood. In the character introduction video, Sai Pallavi impresses with her powerful and intense look. Her authoritative body language, determination to achieve her mission and the different dimensions of Nithya Reddy's character are showcased in the video. Known for captivating audiences with her natural performances and expressive acting, Sai Pallavi takes on another challenging role with Nithya Reddy. Her remarkable makeover and powerful performance have further heightened expectations for the film.

Earlier, the character introduction videos of Dhanush, titled 'OM First Strike', and Mammootty, titled 'Burma Karthikeyan', received a tremendous response from fan.

"Not a Killer, But a Lover" – Shah Rukh Khan's Striking New Look from 'King' Grabs Attention



*A new poster from *King* has been unveiled, featuring Shah Rukh Khan in a striking new avatar that blends action, intensity and a touch of romance. With a rose held between his lips and an intense, piercing gaze, the Bollywood Badshah commands attention with his powerful look. The latest poster offers a glimpse of Shah Rukh Khan's appearance in this grand action entertainer, which promises a blend of action, emotions and romance. The new poster has further heightened expectations for the highly anticipated film.*

*The latest poster of *King* has raised the excitement surrounding the film to another level. With its powerful visual appeal and Shah Rukh Khan's impressive new look, the poster has further increased fans' anticipation of seeing the superstar in a completely different avatar on the big screen.*

*Directed by Siddharth Anand, *King* is jointly produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and Marflix Pictures. The film is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on December 24, 2026.*

BACK TO THE SPOTLIGHT DIVYAVANI SET TO REFOCUS ON CINEMA



Popularly known as "Bapu Bomma" in the film industry and "Puttadi Bomma" on television, Divyavani has made her mark in politics as well. At the same time, inspired by the motto "Pay Back to Society," she has been actively involved in various social service initiatives, contributing her bit towards the betterment of society. Now, she has firmly resolved to focus on the film industry once again, with renewed energy and enthusiasm! With memorable films like Pelli Pusthakam and Edurinti Mogudu – Pakkinti Pellam, Divyavani carved a special place for herself in the hearts of Telugu audiences.

IS RAAG MAYUR TOLLYWOOD'S NEXT BIG THING WITH 'GARIVIDI LAKSHMI'?



Sollywood has always celebrated actors who bring an effortless mix of energy and style to the screen. But when an actor seamlessly sheds his true self to inhabit a character completely—bringing distinct physical variations, regional authenticity, and intense emotional depth—the audience is bound to take notice. Right now, Raag Mayur is doing exactly that, and his performance as Sattibabu in the upcoming film Garividi Lakshmi is rapidly becoming the talk of the town.

Five Shades of Sattibabu: A Masterclass in Versatility

Playing a character with five distinct shades in a single film is no walk in the park. It demands more than just changing makeup or costumes; it requires a deep understanding of human psychology, body language, and voice modulation for each phase of life. Raag Mayur's portrayal of Sattibabu is a testament to this rigorous process. Transitioning effortlessly across different age brackets, he ensures that the impulsive energy of youth gradually gives way to the deliberate, measured movements of age. A shift in age is conveyed through subtle nuances—the pace of a walk, the droop of a shoulder, the depth of a stare, and the steadiness of dialogue delivery. Mayur's ability to distinctly map out these variations while retaining the core soul of the character is drawing immense appreciation.

The Srikakulam Slang and the Burrakatha Challenge

Beyond the physical transformation, Garividi Lakshmi posed another massive challenge: authenticity. Sattibabu is a Burrakatha artist from the Srikakulam region. Mastering the tricky Srikakulam dialect and delivering dialogues with native fluency is a daunting task in itself. But coupling that with the highly expressive, physically demanding, and culturally rooted art form of Burrakatha takes the challenge to a whole new level. Wearing heavy traditional attire, matching the distinct vocal pitch required for the art form, and getting the body language just right demands sheer dedication.

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