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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

09-10-2026



Total pilgrims :68,187
Tonsures : 23,923
Hundi kanukalu : 4.55 CR
Laddu sale... 4.29 Lac
Annaprasadam.. 1.61 Lac
Ashwini hospital..2,619
Present Situation on 10-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..10.

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

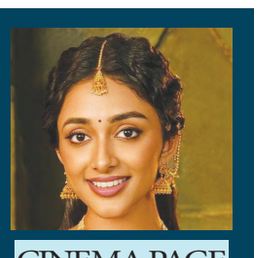
SC directs normal Metro, rail services, uninterrupted internet in Delhi

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT): The Supreme Court on Sunday directed the authorities to ensure normal functioning of Metro and railway services, uninterrupted internet connectivity and free movement of people in the national capital, while making it clear that lawyers should not be obstructed in discharging their professional duties.



A Bench of Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana passed the directions while hearing a clutch of contempt petitions alleging wilful disobedience of the Supreme Court's October 9 order concerning the operation of Metro and railway services ahead of a proposed protest against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

PREITY MUKHUN DHAN BATHES IN GOLDEN SUNLIGHT



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INSHORT

11 Indians injured in attack on Riyadh airport

Riyadh: A total of 11 Indians were injured in the attack on Riyadh airport, the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia said on Sunday. "Embassy of India, Riyadh has been following up on the dastardly attack on Riyadh airport yesterday in which 12 people unfortunately died and more than 300 were injured," the Embassy said on X. "It is learnt that 11 Indians are among those injured in the attack. Embassy has been in touch with local authorities to enquire about their well being. Our officials have also reached out to the hospital authorities. We will provide further updates as they become available," it added. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also noted that the Indian Embassy is doing everything necessary. "Our Embassy is doing everything necessary in this difficult situation. May follow their updates," he said on X, sharing the post of the Embassy.

Govt scared, has turned anti-CEC protests against themselves: CJP

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT): The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Sunday claimed that troops from "Naxal (Maoist)-affected and border areas" have been brought in to enforce curbs in the national capital to restrain protests, as it reiterated its demand for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.



Addressing a press conference hours after being released by a Delhi court following preventive arrest, CJP co-convener Saurav Das said: "The entire city of Delhi has been turned into a cantonment for the last few days."

"Between 30,000 and 40,000 security personnel have been called in. Troops from Naxal-affected areas, Bengal and Kashmir, including BSF personnel from border areas, have been airlifted to Delhi. More than 40,000 personnel have reportedly been deployed, and the city has been placed under heavy restrictions," he claimed.

"This is creating a major problem. If you want to create a negative atmosphere around protesters and a certain movement, you do not just make things difficult for the protesters; you also create problems for ordinary citizens who may not even be participating in the protest. This creates a negative image of the movement, and that is exactly what is happening in Delhi," he stated.

Das added that the closing of metro stations, suspending trains coming to Delhi from other states, and shutting shops are affecting ordinary people.Mentioning that Sunday might have witnessed more footfall at shops, he said: "What purpose does shutting shops serve? The government believes this will create a negative atmosphere against the youth and this movement.

Power bank fire forces IndiGo flight to land in emergency

CHENNAI: An IndiGo aircraft carrying 180 people from Delhi to Chennai was forced to make an emergency landing at Hyderabad airport on Sunday (October 11) after a fire broke out in the overhead baggage compartment mid-air, reportedly from a power bank kept in a passenger's handbag. According to airport sources, the flight from Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, was carrying 174 passengers and 6 crew members and was scheduled to land in Chennai at 4.20 pm.

CEC appointment BJP's new method to win polls: Revanth

Addressing the Congress' 'Goy Rakhon Yatra' in south Goa, Reddy alleged the BJP was attempting to manipulate electoral outcomes by removing the votes of poor people, Dalits, tribals, minorities and educated youth who oppose it.

PANAJI ■ (TSIT):

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Sunday, October 11, claimed the appointment of Gyanesh Kumar as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) was part of the BJP's "new method" to win elections by targeting voters opposed to the ruling party.Addressing the Congress' 'Goy Rakhon Yatra' in south Goa, Reddy alleged the BJP was attempting to manipulate electoral outcomes by removing the votes of poor people, Dalits, tribals, minorities and educated youth who oppose it."The BJP earlier relied on agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Income Tax Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to win elections. "Now, it is using a new method, with Gyanesh Kumar and the Election Commission of India," Reddy alleged.



Modi, Vijay flag off Chennai Metro phase 2 train



CHENNAI ■ (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Sunday flagged off the first train of the much-awaited Chennai Metro Rail's Phase 2 network at Porur Bypass Road Metro station, marking a milestone in the city's expanding public transport system. The inauguration took place during PM Modi's first visit to Chennai since the Vijay government assumed office in Tamil Nadu. The Prime Minister also launched infrastructure projects covering national highways, railways and maritime facilities during his visit.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi arrived at Chennai airport, where Governor Rajendra Arlekar and CM Vijay received him. Ministers, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, BJP leader Nainar Nagenthran and other leaders were present to welcome the Prime Minister. PM Modi and CM Vijay subsequently visited Porur Bypass Road Metro station, where they inspected the facilities before flagging off the inaugural service. The Prime Minister sought detailed information from officials about the Metro network and arrangements for operating the new trains. The newly constructed Poonamallee-Vadapalani corridor was developed at a cost of Rs 750 crore. Metro trains will stop at 11 stations in the first phase of services on the new route.

Before boarding the train, PM Modi purchased a ticket by making a payment through the Unified Payments Interface, or UPI. He then travelled with CM Vijay from Porur Bypass Road Metro station to Poonamallee. During the inaugural journey, officials explained the Metro system's operations and briefed the Prime Minister on the new service.

PM Modi also interacted with students and workers aboard the train. The Metro inauguration was a major part of the Prime Minister's programme, which included the launch of projects across several transport sectors in Tamil Nadu.

Rahul announces Oct 12 march to Supreme Court

The Opposition likened the situation to one worse than the Emergency. "This has gone beyond an Emergency; it has become a Super Emergency," Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Banerjee said.

New Delhi ■ (TSIT):

The Narendra Modi-led Centre thwarted the call for protest at Jantar Mantar to press for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, with the Delhi Police detaining over 7,000 protesters, including Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das, Ashutosh Rana, YouTuber Dhruv Rathee, AISA president Neha Bora, opposition parties with four former chief ministers and scores of journalists, lawyers and citizens.

Dipke, Das and Ranka were detained as soon as the plane touched down at Delhi Airport. In a pre-recorded video message, Dipke said the organisation's in-charge,



Ajinkya Shinde, would lead its protest at Jantar Mantar. The CJP asserted that the protest would continue nationwide, with or without its leaders.The Opposition likened the situation to one worse than the Emergency.

"This has gone beyond an Emergency; it has become a Super Emergency," Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Banerjee said.

Pawan Kalyan Launches Adavi Thalli Bata 2.0

RS.5 CR SANCTIONED FOR TRIBAL VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT



Visakhapatnam ■ TSIT :

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan launched the second phase of the Adavi Thalli Bata programme at Rakota village in Rampachodavaram mandal on Sunday, focusing on road connectivity and basic amenities in remote tribal habitations. He laid the foundation stone for a 3.4-km BT road connecting Kakavada, Rakota, Suvarlavada and Vemulakonda villages at a cost of Rs.2.29 crore.

The road is expected to benefit around 1,400 people. During a Mana Ooru–Mata MantI interaction with tribal residents at Rakota, Pawan Kalyan heard their grievances and announced nearly Rs.5 crore for development works in the surrounding villages. He sanctioned Rs.20 lakh for repairs to the local primary school, Rs.15 lakh for a village health clinic and Rs.20 lakh for developing the local Hanuman temple.He directed officials to repair the damaged road between Cheemagandi and Kakavada and examine the demand to recognise Rakota as a revenue village.

He also instructed them to provide suitable seeds to farmers according to local weather conditions and ensure access to healthcare facilities, including anti-snake venom for emergencies. The Deputy Chief Minister assured support to tribal families engaged in making household articles from bamboo to improve the value of their products and increase their income. He also distributed sports kits to 40 youths.

As part of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0, he launched the distribution of watershed development equipment to tribal farmers. The statewide programme envisages supplying agricultural equipment to 34,000 eligible farmers at an estimated cost of Rs.68 crore. MP Tangella Uday Srinivas, MLAs Shirisha and Pantam Nanaji, senior officials and district authorities participated in the programme.

Musk says Starlink must be affordable in India

NEW DELHI: Tech trillionaire Elon Musk has said Starlink's pricing in India would have to be made affordable, since no one would buy it if it were too expensive, and argued that competition would give consumers more choice. Musk's comments on X, part of a larger post, come as Jio Platforms, the digital arm of Reliance Industries, counts down to what is expected to be India's biggest public offering.

"The reality is that competition would greatly benefit the average citizen in India by giving them more choices, as it always does. Ambani's profits will be lower, but he is not going out of business,"



Musk said.

Musk added: "And, obviously, if Starlink is too expensive in India, no one will buy it, so SpaceX will need to make pricing affordable." In the same post, Musk renewed his attack on Mukesh Ambani over Starlink's entry into India, accusing the billionaire's supporters of indulging in "absurd hypocrisy and hyperbole" in arguing simultaneously that his satellite internet service cannot compete with "amazing low prices offered by Ambani's de facto monopoly in India", and claiming - in the same breath - that it poses a strong competitive threat.

"On the one hand, they say Starlink couldn't possibly compete with the amazing low prices offered by Ambani's de facto monopoly in India and then, in the same breath, they essentially claim that Starlink would be too strong of a competitor! This is absurd hypocrisy and hyperbole," Musk wrote, claiming that the "ridiculous arguments" by Ambani's online supporters made no sense to him.

Trump declares Russia-Ukraine energy ceasefire

Washington, Oct 11 : US President Donald Trump on Sunday announced an immediate "energy ceasefire" between Russia and Ukraine, saying both sides had agreed to stop attacking each other's energy infrastructure, even as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he had not been informed and Moscow offered no confirmation. "Effective immediately, there is an ENERGY CEASEFIRE in the War between Russia and Ukraine. Both parties have agreed. Do not break it! Thank you for your attention to this matter," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The White House repeated the announcement on X about 20 minutes later. "Effective Immediately: An Energy Ceasefire in the War between Russia and Ukraine," it posted.



Trump did not say when the truce was agreed, which facilities it covered, how long it would last, or how it would be monitored.

Neither the Kremlin nor the Ukrainian government issued a formal statement confirming the arrangement in the hours after the post.

Zelensky, speaking to Axios shortly after the announcement, said he had not known about it but would accept a truce if Moscow did. "The ceasefire announcement was news for me. But if Russians agree to an energy ceasefire, Ukraine will agree," Zelensky said.

"If President Trump negotiated it with Putin - please tell us when the ceasefire begins - we are ready and we will accept it," he added.

A senior Ukrainian official told the Kyiv Independent that Kyiv had no information about the ceasefire and doubted that Russia had been informed. Earlier on Sunday, Zelensky had offered a reciprocal halt. "Ukraine will be ready to stop striking Russian oil refineries if Russia stops striking our energy infrastructure," he wrote on X, adding that any de-escalation must be mutual and backed by real guarantees.

The announcement came two days after Trump unveiled an agreement with Russian President Vladimir Putin to release Russian diesel into American and global markets, a move criticised by Ukraine, European officials and US lawmakers from both parties.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued General License 135, authorising certain transactions involving Russian-origin diesel until April 2027.

On Saturday, Trump blamed Zelensky for continuing drone attacks on Russian refineries and said Ukraine should "get a new leader who can make a deal". This is not the first such announcement. Last month, Trump said on Truth Social that Russia and Ukraine had agreed not to hit each other's energy targets. Axios reported that neither side confirmed a deal at the time, and both continued attacking energy infrastructure.

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Kolkata Police serve fresh notice to Abhishek Banerjee



Kolkata, Oct 11: Kolkata Police on Sunday served a fresh notice to Trinamool Congress general secretary and Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee, asking him to appear for interrogation on Monday in connection with the August 27 scuffle involving party workers, police personnel and Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) staff at his Camac Street office in central Kolkata.

The KMC staff, accompanied by police personnel, had visited the office to remove an allegedly illegal billboard.

The fresh notice directs Abhishek Banerjee, nephew of former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, to appear for questioning at Shakespeare Sarani Police Station on Monday. The police station has jurisdiction over the Camac Street office.On Sunday afternoon, a team from Shakespeare Sarani Police Station visited the Diamond Harbour MP's residence in Kalighat, South Kolkata, and served the notice. Earlier, on October 8, police personnel had visited the same residence to serve a notice for interrogation. However, they could not serve it as Banerjee was in New Delhi at the time.The fresh notice is understood to have been issued following an FIR registered on the basis of a complaint filed by the KMC against several Trinamool Congress leaders, including Abhishek Banerjee.

The MP has already been questioned once in the case for over six hours at Shakespeare Sarani Police Station.Tension erupted on August 27 when KMC personnel, accompanied by police, arrived at Banerjee's Camac Street office to remove the billboard. The civic officials and police personnel allegedly faced resistance from Trinamool Congress workers led by Abhishek Banerjee and other party leaders, resulting in scuffles at the spot.

One killed, houses burnt in clashes between two communities in Nagaland



Kohima, Oct 11: At least one person was killed and another injured, several houses were burnt and dozens of people displaced in clashes between the Yimkhiung and Tikhir communities in Nagaland's Kiphire district, prompting the administration to impose prohibitory restrictions and appeal for peace, officials said on Sunday.

Police said the situation remained tense in parts of Pungro subdivision following the violence on Saturday during celebrations of the Tikhir community's Tsonglak-Nyi festival in villages inhabited by members of both communities.

Additional security forces have been deployed in vulnerable areas to prevent further escalation, officials said.

According to a report from the district administration, the violence affected Pungro town and the villages of Zaonger, Longtsunger and Pokphur. In Pungro town, eight houses were vandalised and six burnt, displacing more than 47 people. In Zaonger village, around 40 houses were burnt or vandalised, forcing residents to flee their homes. At Longtsunger village, one person belonging to the Tikhir community was killed and another injured in a gunfight, officials said.

The extent of damage to houses and the number of people displaced in Longtsunger and Pokphur could not be immediately ascertained.

The district administration and police personnel rushed to the affected areas after receiving reports of violence but initially faced resistance while attempting to enter some locations, according to the administration's report.

The District Magistrate has imposed prohibitory restrictions under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, in parts of Pungro subdivision, apprehending further escalation and a breach of peace. Deputy Commissioner Temsuwati Longkumer, in a public advisory issued on Sunday, appealed to community organisations, village authorities and individuals to exercise restraint and refrain from making provocative statements, engaging in intimidation or circulating unverified information.

The administration urged residents to comply with the prohibitory orders and cooperate with the police and civil authorities. Village councils, tribal organisations and community leaders were also asked to discourage retaliatory action and help resolve differences through dialogue.

The United Sangtam Likhum Pumji (USLP), in a peace advisory issued on October 10, also called for restraint and cooperation with the district administration and law enforcement agencies. The organisation warned individuals and groups against creating tension or disturbing law and order in areas under its jurisdiction in Kiphire district.

Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton, who also holds the Home portfolio, appealed to both communities to maintain calm and cooperate with law enforcement agencies. He stressed that differences could be resolved only through peaceful dialogue.

The Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO), the apex tribal body in the region, also appealed for peace. Its president, Chingmak Chang, urged the Yimkhiung and Tikhir tribal councils to take urgent steps to stop the violence and help restore normalcy.

The district administration said the situation was under control following the intervention of the authorities, although tensions persisted in the affected areas.

DRI seizes 7.8 kg smuggled gold worth Rs 11.5 crore, arrests six



New Delhi, Oct 11: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Sunday said it had seized around 7.8 kg of foreign-origin gold worth over Rs 11.5 crore in a series of intelligence-based operations across eastern India, uncovering smuggling routes linked to the Bangladesh border and arresting six people, including an alleged kingpin of a smuggling syndicate.

The operations exposed the use of road and railway networks to transport smuggled gold from border areas to major markets, particularly Kolkata. In one operation, DRI officers intercepted a four-wheeler at Dankuni Toll Plaza in West Bengal. The vehicle, carrying four occupants, was travelling from Banpur, a town near the Bangladesh border, towards Kolkata.

A search of the vehicle and its occupants led to the recovery of 50 gold bars weighing around 6.8 kg and valued at nearly Rs 10 crore.

Some of the gold bars bore foreign markings. The occupants failed to produce documents establishing lawful possession of the precious metal, officials said.

During questioning, the accused allegedly admitted to smuggling foreign-origin gold into India through Bangladesh. The DRI said one of those arrested was the alleged kingpin of a smuggling syndicate operating in the Banpur border region.

In separate operations conducted on the same day, DRI teams intercepted train passengers at Malda Town Railway Station and New Jalpaiguri Railway Station in West Bengal. Searches resulted in the seizure of around 1 kg of foreign-origin gold valued at approximately Rs 1.5 crore.

The seized gold, in the form of bangles and bars, was allegedly being transported after being smuggled across the India-Bangladesh border through Tripura. The two passengers were arrested after they failed to produce valid documents establishing the legal procurement of the gold. Officials said the latest seizures highlighted the continued use of border areas along Bangladesh, as well as key road and railway corridors connecting the Northeast with eastern markets, to transport smuggled gold.

Single at an Indian wedding? Prepare to be matched, judged and monitored

■ At Indian weddings, somewhere between the pheras and the paneer tikka, singles slip into corners and quiet rooms, scripting their own meet-cutes on someone else's big



Weddings are the oldest dating sites. The bride and groom take the stage, and the dance floor becomes a breeding ground for new love stories—or, for the less romantically inclined, one-night stands. Somewhere between the pheras and the paneer tikka, singles slip into corners and quiet rooms, scripting their own meet-cutes on someone else's big day.

And bridesmaids don't even have to catch the bouquet: the Sima Aunties are perfectly capable of walking up to you, placing the proverbial baton in your hand and announcing, with terrifying certainty, that you're next.

I have been waiting for my moment on the sidelines of the mandap since I was 16. It was my cousin's wedding, and I was wearing the first Anarkali suit of my life. As the bride and groom went round and round the fire, I sat very still, wearing a soft, conspicuous smile for anyone who cared to notice. My older cousins did. They made sure I never heard the end of it.

Now, as I hit past the "right age", they are extremely concerned about my marriage prospects. Well, whose fault is it? If it is mine, then I don't want to hear about it. That's why I have stopped attending weddings of family members. It feels like a tender lamb entering the cave of hawks—nobody lets you flirt with men, and everybody wants to know why you are not married.

Weddings are where the unmarried are put on display, whether they like it or not. For better or worse, Indian shaadis don't have a designated singles table, but the metaphorical one is always there. Mothers crack open their finest saris for their daughters and send them into these great matrimonial fairs. Aunties keep an eye out for eligible boys, collect intelligence on salaries, family backgrounds and these days they also find out Instagram handles.

And then there are the women who have already crossed the invisible deadline: the bride's sister who suddenly discovers an urgent reason to be in the kitchen whenever an aunty comes looking, because she knows the conversation will inevitably end with, "Beta, aapka number kab aa raha hai?" When can we see you on the chopping block?

A bride's sister at one grand Indore wedding spent the entire event on her toes. There were 5,000 errands to run and too many relatives to pamper. Chachaji needed scissors to trim his nose hair, Buaji needed rasgullas packed for the neighbours back home, and every passing guest seemed to develop an urgent need for chai immediately after finishing their last cup. All manageable. What she could not manage were the interrogations about when she planned to "settle down".

"I have a boyfriend. We'll get married two Decembers from now," she told anyone who asked. Given that the groomsmen were available for a chat, shots and twerk on the dance floor, she knew she wasn't exactly lying. She was manifesting.

The handsome, eligible bachelors came through for the weekend, slipping her flowers and booze. Did any of them ask for her hand in marriage? No. But they posed for cosy selfies with her, and those pictures did the trick. An ex watching her Instagram stories straightened up and slid into her DMs, asking to meet. It has been two Decembers since, and there is still no wedding on the cards, but at least they are together.

Being pretty at a wedding rarely goes to waste. Sometimes, it even reels a man back in. Good for the weekend

It's not easy to show up solo to weddings. Watching the happy couple look deep into each other's eyes and celebrate in front of everyone they love can make even the cynics tear up—with equal parts joy and sadness. It makes you want something: love, romance, a quick hookup, anything. The guests are too drunk on whiskey to pretend otherwise.

I, for one, have ugly-cried watching my best friends lock it down with the loves of their lives. There's a chance I want what they have, or at least that's how it feels in the moment. Since none of the relatives conducting surveillance around the venue is mine, I am blissfully anonymous. I am free to feel, laugh and party like an animal.

Sakshi Shivdasani, the host of the Moment of Silence podcast, is also a veteran in attending weddings of friends. Her co-host Naina Bhasin jokes that it is only kind of vacation she's been having. These weddings must be a certain kind of colourful because Shivdesani now wants to ban groomsmen and bridesmaids from having sex. Apparently, they are doing too much of it. The singles performing thumkas on the dance floor want to be looked at, pursued, hit on. So, it happens.

A friend from Mangalore has collected an impressive roster of groomsmen simply by attending weddings. They will probably be watching her Instagram stories for years to come. The sweet boy she was paired with at a Catholic wedding was not her type, but made for excellent company nonetheless. He may have misread the situation, because he left promising to visit her in London. Another eager boy at another wedding offered to take her on a long drive in Dubai.

Every time she needed a napkin or a refill, they were ready to help on their knees. She could easily make bad boys good for a weekend. We should all learn her ways because she can also dodge her relatives by appearing too wobbly with spiked juice in her system.

Now that another friend has sent out invitations for her December wedding, I am back in the ethnic-wear section of Myntra. I must bring my A-game. There will be a beach nearby, a free supply of beer and, if the wedding gods are kind, a healthy population of financially stable men.

Don't get me wrong: I am perfectly happy to play the tail to my soon-to-be-bride friend, patting the sweat off her face, fixing her outfit and being there for her on the biggest day of her life. But I also know that standing next to a bride comes with its own kind of visibility. And I intend to make the most of it.

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DK Shivakumar vows fight to protect voting rights amid SIR controversy



Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday accused the authorities of depriving Dalits, minorities and backward classes of their voting rights in the name of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, describing the alleged exercise as an attack on democracy. He vowed that the Congress would continue its fight to protect every citizen's constitutional right to vote. Speaking to reporters near his residence in Sadashivanagar, Shivakumar said safeguarding voting rights was a responsibility of the Congress, which had played a leading role in India's freedom struggle. He said the Constitution guaranteed every citizen the right to vote and that the party would work to ensure that no eligible voter was excluded from the electoral rolls.

"Taking away the voting rights of Dalits, minorities and backward classes in the name of SIR is an inhuman act. This is not democracy but an authoritarian approach. We will fight against it," he said.Shivakumar claimed that the names of crores of voters had been deleted in Karnataka and said he had a responsibility, as Chief Minister, to protect the voting rights of people in the state. He did not provide supporting figures during his remarks. He also criticised the Union government over what he described as restrictions on democratic protests and criticism. Shivakumar said the Prime Minister should clarify whether democracy was functioning in the country or whether the situation resembled an Emergency.

MLA M.R. Patil books flight tickets for 34 farmers to attend sugarcane growers' meeting in Delhi



Hubballi: In a move aimed at addressing the concerns of sugarcane growers, Kundgol MLA M.R. Patil has arranged flight tickets for 34 farmers to travel to Delhi for a meeting on their demands, including a remunerative support price for sugarcane. The arrangement follows a major protest by farmers in Hubballi, where they laid siege to the residence of Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, demanding the fulfilment of various demands related to sugarcane cultivation and pricing.

During the protest, Kundgol MLA M.R. Patil and Hubballi-Central MLA Mahesh Tenginkai intervened on behalf of Joshi and appealed to the farmers to withdraw their agitation. The legislators urged the protesters to participate in discussions to find a solution to their grievances.

The farmers, however, expressed

One of two Nandi flag poles breaks ahead of Mysuru Dasara inauguration



Mysuru: Preparations for the inauguration of the Mysuru Dasara festival witnessed an unexpected incident at Chamundi Hills when one of the two Nandi flag poles brought for the customary pre-inauguration worship broke during installation.

The Nandi flag puja is a traditional part of the Dasara inauguration ceremony. In keeping with the practice, Mahadevappa of Udigala and his team reached Chamundi Hills carrying two Nandi flags.

The incident occurred near the Mahishasura statue circle as the team attempted to erect the flag poles. One pole broke and fell, leaving the other available for the ritual. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar subsequently offered prayers to the remaining Nandi flag.

The ceremony was attended by several political leaders, religious figures and other dignitaries who had gathered at Chamundi Hills for the formal opening of the festival. Among those present were Koppal Gavisiddheshwara Swamiji, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah, Eshwar Khandre, Shivaraj Tangadagi, K.S. Basavantaappa and Ramalinga Reddy.

The dignitaries also performed special worship to Goddess Chamundeshwari, whose temple on the hill holds a central place in Mysuru's religious and cultural traditions.

More than 200 religious leaders from different faiths participated in the programme. Their presence added an inclusive dimension to the celebrations, bringing together representatives of various religious communities for the important cultural event.

Mysuru Dasara is celebrated annually with considerable public participation and is regarded as one of Karnataka's signature festivals. The ceremonial inauguration at Chamundi Hills is an important part of the celebrations, which honour Goddess Chamundeshwari and symbolise the triumph of good over evil.

Durga idol procession turns fatal; three youths die in highway crash



Chikkodi: Navaratri celebrations turned into mourning in Hangyanatti village of Belagavi district after three youths were killed when a truck collided with a tractor carrying a Durga idol on National Highway 48 near Managutti village in Hukkeri taluk. More than eight people were seriously injured in the accident, which occurred around 6 am on Sunday.

The youths had travelled to Belagavi city to collect the Durga Mata idol for installation in their village as part of the Dasara festivities. They were returning in a tractor, looking forward to the celebrations and the planned Durga Devi Daud programme, when the journey ended in tragedy.

According to police, a truck travelling behind the tractor allegedly approached at high speed and rammed into it. The force of the collision badly damaged the tractor, throwing its occupants onto the road. Three people died at the scene from their injuries.

The deceased were identified as Prakash Wasedar, 28, Danappa Jaganure, 26, and Shivappa Khanapure, 30. All three belonged to Hangyanatti village. Doctors said two of the injured youths were in critical condition.Several injured passengers, including Akash Yaragatti, Shivanand Jaganure, Sunil Suresh Labbi, Sunil Shankar Labbi, Umesh Hanji, Mallikarjun Sankeshwari and Nandesh Dangi, were taken to BIMS hospital in Belagavi and nearby private medical facilities.Sunil Gabbi, one of the injured passengers, said approximately 20 people were travelling in the tractor when the truck struck from behind. He said three people died immediately and two sustained severe injuries, while others suffered minor injuries and were being treated at the district hospital.News of the deaths devastated Hangyanatti. Families and villagers who had been anticipating the religious celebrations were overcome with grief as the preparations gave way to mourning. Yamakanamaradi police personnel reached the accident site and conducted an inspection. The damaged vehicles were cleared from the highway to facilitate traffic. Police have registered a case and initiated further legal proceedings to investigate the circumstances of the crash.

Hiriyur bypoll and local elections dominate Karnataka BJP core committee meeting



Bengaluru, : The Karnataka BJP has begun preparations for the Hiriyur Assembly by-election and forthcoming local body polls, with its core committee discussing candidate selection, district-level election management and the party's strategy concerning the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The meeting, held at the BJP headquarters in Malleshwaram, considered whether the party should field its own candidate in Hiriyur while taking its alliance with the JD(S) into account. After discussing the possible benefits and challenges of the move, the committee empowered state president B.Y. Vijayendra to draw up a list of three or four prospective candidates.

KSBDB Chairman S. E. Sudheendra briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of biofuel initiatives in Karnataka



Bengaluru: KSBDB Chairman S. E. Sudheendra briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of biofuel initiatives in Karnataka, including the formulation and implementation of a new State Biofuel Policy to promote the production of biobriquettes, biopellets and Compressed Biogas (CBG) by harnessing the State's abundant biomass resources in consultation with Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre.

Held during a high level Meeting with Kerala Minister for Agriculture T. Siddique, He also apprised the Chief Minister of discussions held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. U. T. Khader on establishing a systematic collection and storage mechanism for Used Cooking Oil (UCO), supported by the necessary infrastructure and an efficient supply chain for biodiesel production. The discussion also focused on developing a comprehensive framework for sustainable interstate cooperation, with particular emphasis on addressing connectivity and developmental priorities in the border regions of Wayanad and Malabar.

Key Infrastructure and Connectivity Initiatives.

1.Nilambur–Nanjangud Railway Line: The participants discussed the importance of advancing the proposed railway connectivity project, including the examination of environmentally responsible engineering solutions, such as tunnels, to minimise ecological disturbance.

WHITELION OPENS ITS FIFTH EXPERIENCE CENTRE IN INDIA WITH SOUL STUDIO AND LAUNCHES AIRQUBE IN BENGALURU



Bengaluru : Whitelion, a premium Indian lifestyle automation brand, announced the opening of its second experience center in Bengaluru and fifth in India, The Stanza by Whitelion, in partnership with Soul Studio, alongside the launch of its new AirQube series. The new center is led by franchise owners Keshav Agarwal, Akshay Agarwal and Hrithik Gupta. It creates a dedicated destination for homeowners, architects, interior designers and builders to explore how automation can complement both the design of a home and the routines of the people living in it. The opening advances Whitelion's focus on making everyday living easier and more comfortable through thoughtfully designed, easy-to-use home automation.

At the heart of Whitelion's approach is a simple purpose: empowering people to focus on what truly matters. The Stanza brings this purpose into a physical experience, while AirQube expands the solutions available to create a more connected home.

The Stanza by Whitelion: Experience Everyday Ease

The Stanza helps visitors understand home automation through familiar moments: opening curtains in the morning, adjusting lighting for a relaxed evening, managing room comfort and bringing multiple controls together in a personalized scene.

These experiences connect technology with practical needs, helping visitors understand what could work best for their own homes.

For homeowners, The Stanza offers an opportunity to experience different solutions before making a decision. For architects, interior designers and builders, it provides a space to explore automation alongside room layouts, finishes, interiors and the way each family lives. mLighting, curtain automation, climate control, smart locks and connected controls come together within an immersive environment, showing how individual functions can contribute to a more convenient home. A Partnership with Soul Studio The new experience center brings together Whitelion's home automation ecosystem and Soul Studio's commitment to establishing a dedicated destination for the brand in Bengaluru. Led by Keshav Agarwal, Akshay Agarwal and Hrithik Gupta, the franchise partnership creates a local space where homeowners and design professionals can experience the solutions, discuss their requirements and explore automation for their homes and projects.

The opening takes The Stanza's network to five experience centers across four cities: Surat, Jaipur, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, including two locations in Bengaluru.

AirQube: Connected Solutions for More Comfortable Living

Launched alongside the new experience centre, AirQube expands Whitelion's home automation offering across smart switches, smart displays, smart locks, curtain automation, sensors, infrared control and smart drivers. The series is designed to bring compatible devices and home functions together, helping homeowners manage everyday routines through coordinated controls and automation.Its focus is practical: easier access to frequently used functions, settings that suit different moments of the day, and controls that complement the home's interiors. For people building or upgrading a home, AirQube broadens the choices available to plan automation around their needs, preferences and lifestyle.

Thoughtful Design, Grounded in Indian Engineering Founded in 2014, Whitelion brings together in-house research and development, software capabilities and manufacturing in Surat. This foundation supports its approach to developing home automation for Indian homes, with attention to how products look, how people use them and how individual solutions work together.The Stanza connects these capabilities with hands-on demonstrations, giving homeowners and design professionals a clearer

SC/ST Atrocity Case Registered Against GBA Official K.T. Manjunath



Bengaluru : A serious case has been registered at the Siddapura Police Station against K.T. Manjunath, a Range Forest Officer (RFO) working with the Bengaluru South Mahanagara Palike (GBA), on charges of casteist abuse, demanding a bribe, and issuing death threats. Background of the incident: The complainant, Srinivasa V., is a Class-1 civil contractor (registered with the Public Works Department and Forest Department). A Dalit contractor belonging to the Scheduled Caste community and hailing from Kanakapura Taluk, he has been executing stormwater drain and tree maintenance works in the BBMP/GBA South Zone for the past 15 years.According to the complainant, outstanding bills for his work totaled Rs.42.39 lakh. Although the official had already received Rs.2 lakh to process a 'part bill,' he continued to delay the payment and harass the contractor. It is alleged that last Monday (the 5th), at 1:11 PM, when the complainant went to the terrace of the GBA Jayanagar South Zone office to inquire about a bill, RFO officer K.T. Manjunath demanded a bribe of Rs.50,000.

When the complainant stated he could not pay the money, the officer allegedly became enraged and verbally abused him based on his caste in public—using derogatory terms like "low-caste Holeya-Madiga" and "you arrogant son of a..."—grabbed him by the collar, dragged him around, and threatened to kill both him and his family; these details are recorded in the FIR.

FIR Registration:

Distressed by this incident and delayed due to existing health issues (high blood pressure and diabetes), the complainant, Mr. Srinivasa V., filed a complaint at the Siddapura Police Station last Friday (the 9th). An investigation is underway, and the FIR was forwarded to the 4th Additional CMM Court at 8:55 PM last Friday (the 9th). Pro-Dalit and progressive organizations have demanded justice, urging the state government to take immediate and uncompromising action—including suspension, arrest, and legal proceedings—against K.T. Manjunath. Manjunath, a government gazetted officer and the accused in this case, has committed a serious offense by repeatedly harassing a Dalit contractor for bribes and subjecting him to caste-based abuse.

The Krishnaveni-Bhojaraj Family's Dasara Doll Festival: A Legacy Spanning Five Generations



Bengaluru : The Dasara doll festival hosted at the home of Krishnaveni and Bhojaraj—located at Gangothri Circle in BTM Layout (1st Stage)—stands as a testament to tradition, devotion, sentiment, and the family's cultural heritage, having been celebrated continuously for five generations. Featuring thousands of dolls, this unique exhibition unveils themes from mythology and history while showcasing the diversity of Indian culture.

A prized family heirloom—a doll dating back 132 years—serves as the exhibition's main attraction. Preserved with care across generations, this doll is adorned annually with a silk saree and traditional jewelry.

Key scenes from the Ramayana, the Dashavatara (ten incarnations) of Vishnu, the Ashta Lakshmi, the Samudra Manthana (Churning of the Ocean), Sri Krishna's Vishwaroopa, and various forms of Goddess Durga and Lord Ganesha are displayed in a captivating manner. A replica of the Mysuru Dasara's 'Jamboo Savari' (grand procession) is another special highlight; the palace, caparisoned elephants, and the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari evoke the grandeur of the Mysuru Dasara. Younger family members have created various models—including a marketplace, a rural village scene, a zoo, and an aquarium—using paper, cardboard boxes, and old toys. This reflects the creativity of the new generation.

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EDITORIAL

Thoughts stuck on the female body, dreams of becoming a world leader!

Social media has given everyone the opportunity to express their views, opinions, and connect with the world. It can become a powerful medium for disseminating knowledge, science, literature, art, and social concerns on a wide scale. But the question is: what are we using this medium for? To understand scientific discoveries, to read literature, to reflect on national and global problems, or to search for body parts in others' photos and make obscene comments? This question is not only about social media use, but also about our mindset, interests, and social priorities.

A woman complains that her photos repeatedly receive comments asking why she shows her backside in every photo. Such comments have appeared hundreds of times. This situation raises many questions. What is the perspective of the person commenting on the photo? Why do they focus on a particular part of a woman's body instead of considering her entire image, her personality, her work, or her achievements? Has a woman's presence on social media become simply a means of public comment on her body?

This woman's response is sharp. She says that when some people are interested in such photos, she shows them those because their interest and understanding level doesn't seem to go beyond that. Her response is full of sarcasm, anger, and even contempt for those who limit a woman's photo to her body rather than her personality. However, the most important aspect of this entire incident is not the woman's photo or her response, but the mentality that considers it normal to constantly objectify women and make obscene comments about their bodies.

A fundamental point needs to be understood here. What a woman chooses to portray in her photo is her personal decision. Some may like her photo, others may not. But likes and dislikes do not justify posting obscenity, making derogatory comments, or attacking someone's character. Freedom of expression does not mean the right to trample on another person's dignity. There is a clear distinction between expressing disagreement with someone's photo and insulting them.

The other side of this issue is even more serious. When a post is shared about the achievements of Nobel Prize-winning scientists in chemistry, it often doesn't receive the expected response. Not even a hundred people like the post, and not even fifty people express their opinion. Meanwhile, images that center the body seem to garner far more interest. If this is the experience of any social media user, it should be considered where our collective interests are headed. However, the intellectual capacity of an entire society cannot be judged based on the likes and comments received on a single post. Social media algorithms, the timing of a post, its presentation, subject matter, and audience interest also influence its reach. Nevertheless, if we repeatedly find that entertainment and materialistic content garners greater response, while science, research, and critical thinking are ignored, it is a fitting opportunity to review our digital culture. We want India to lead the world in science and technology. We want our scientists to make new discoveries, our universities to become world-class research centers, and our young generation to break new ground in medicine, space, artificial intelligence, and chemistry. We aspire to surpass the technological achievements of countries like the United States, China, and Israel.

IS MODI IN TROUBLE?

Vidya Krishnan



It is said that if you pluck a chicken one feather at a time, nobody notices. That is how some people deceive themselves into believing that small wrongs will never catch up with them.

The trouble with this method is that, one fine day, the truth stands bare, impossible to ignore. This October, Indian democracy resembles a plucked chicken, stripped of its plumage, as protesters who ironically call themselves "cockroaches" swarm our streets. A lot of feather-plucking went on for 12 years before Prime Minister Narendra Modi found himself cornered, retreating behind barricades, facing the wrath of students for whom the slow erosion of democracy has left little to lose and even less to fear.

Confronted with a major protest on October 10 demanding the reversal of a purge of the voter rolls, he went on a self-incrimination spree. His government imposed measures reminiscent of the emergency era: no trains to New Delhi, paramilitary forces deployed at protest sites, the internet disrupted.

Ahead of the demonstration, leading figures linked to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest movement – Ratna Singh, Abhijeet Dipke, Dhruv Rathee – were detained. Many other known activists, including Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson Tushar Gandhi, were also detained.

Regardless, demonstrators poured into the streets of New Delhi, trying to reach designated protest sites, in a scene that repeated in city after city across India. Through the day, the police played an endless game of whack-a-mole with the protesters, who kept resurfacing across the capital city, reassembling in one corner after another, driven from the designated protest sites but unwilling to disappear. By the evening, at least 2,500 protesters and 15 journalists were detained across the city and taken to detention centres set up in various locations. Many have since been released.

These acts further erode the tenuous position Modi is in, prompting more rebuke from critics who now question his fitness to occupy the office of the prime minister. On Friday, the opposition parties, led by Rahul Gandhi, met President Draupadi Murmu and submitted to her that the government had subverted India's democratic framework.

Under Modi's watch, problems have accumulated like barnacles on the side of the ship. Every time he has been challenged, he has gone farther away from the democratic principles on which this nation was founded.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls – the last feather he plucked – was an exercise in bureaucratic fascism. There is simply no other way to frame an event that strips 130 million Indians of their right to vote. The fact that this process helped sway elections is no longer up for debate. That the chief election commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, who oversaw SIR, is not resigning – out of shame – is astonishing. Even more so now that a corruption case from 2006 against him has resurfaced.

The chaotic, angry, defiant tableaux in the streets of New Delhi and beyond represent a reckoning that has been long in the making. The young, diverse protesters are a stark contrast to Modi and his cabinet – old, humourless men, who have bet on a strategy of demonisation and exclusion to succeed. His cabinet is filled with men full of self-importance, who had, mistakenly, wagered that crimes of elected officials should be tolerated and that a country can be governed indefinitely by creating fissures and manufacturing enemies.

We have now seen what happens when breakers of the law become makers of law. Criminal behaviour has been the organising principle of the party, and together, the values of these people have defined the years that Modi has ruled India. In the process, he has presided over the shredding of the Constitution of India.

Now that all this has come back to haunt him – in the form of "cockroaches" he is unable to exterminate – Modi has turned New Delhi into a fortress and unleashed all the power he has at his disposal on unarmed protesters. This is consistent with his policy of pretending to aspire to peace but unerringly generating conflict throughout his tenure: with neighbouring nations as well as among neighbours within cities.

October 10 is just an opening salvo. Over the next few weeks, Modi's troubles will likely deepen. The CJP has announced protests will continue. Opposition parties have said they will protest on Monday. The "cockroaches" seem to have resolved any remaining questions regarding Modi's utter ineptitude as prime minister. They have laid bare the hollowed-out democracy that India holds up to the world as exemplary.

As his rule draws to a close — for now, the writing is on the wall — it can be safely said that history books will cast Modi in his proper role as the man who caused an entire generation of Indians to lose all respect for the government, the army, the Delhi Police, as well as the whole structure of governance.

New Delhi is temporarily suspended in a transition between a suffocating present and a promising future. This particular scrap of time, no matter how hard, will pass.

When that dust settles, what will become of all the institutions destroyed by regulatory capture and right-wing ideology – only those on the streets today will answer. This understanding is implicit in everything the "cockroaches" do. Because the whole point of it is power to the people.

HOW THE ICC CAN BE SAVED

SERGEY VASILIEV AND TRIESTINO MARINIELLO



The sanctions the United States has imposed on the International Criminal Court threaten to degrade its capacity to function, leaving it to die a slow institutional death. Its continued operation as an international organisation, let alone a court of law, would become impossible. The international community has responded with weak statements of condemnation. States Parties have had more than 20 months since US President Donald Trump came to power to prepare for this move. Efforts should have been made to strengthen the court's institutional resilience. Still, it is not too late to act. The grace period offered by the US should be used not to engage in fruitless negotiations, but to undertake immediate measures to protect the court. Impact of sanctions The sanctions block the ICC's assets and other property interests in the US or in the possession or control of US persons. Subject to exemptions and licences issued by the US Department of the Treasury, US individuals and companies are prohibited from doing business with the court. US banks, insurers, IT firms, and other businesses cannot supply the ICC with goods or services or receive payments from it without risking penalties. Many non-US businesses will overcomply and withhold their services out of fear of being sanctioned themselves. Cutting the court off from suppliers and service providers could paralyse its investigative and prosecutorial activities across all situations. The sanctions, however, come with a "grace period" of 180 days to allow for maintaining or winding down the ICC operations. This covers States Parties' payments to the ICC, salary payments, health insurance, and medical services for its employees or contractors, and payments for rent, utilities, and routine services. Separate licences permit the provision of certain telecommunication, cloud and software services, the processing of ICC pension payments, and services needed for the benefit of specified ICC detainees.Washington has presented the "grace period" as an opportunity for States Parties "to demonstrate meaningful progress on diplomatic and legal resolutions" addressing US objections. Yet, in essence, it is an instrument of overt political coercion designed to force States Parties into compliance. No space for 'dialogue' After the sanctions announcement, numerous States Parties once again reaffirmed their support for the court and criticised the US. At this point, however, the ICC cannot be defended with statements alone. Performative support rings hollow unless accompanied by a coherent, coordinated strategy for countering US coercion and protecting the ICC's independence. Declarations will not prevent banks from closing ICC accounts, insurers from withdrawing coverage, tech companies from discontinuing their services, or other businesses from abandoning the court out of fear of US retaliation. The European Union has repeatedly affirmed that the ICC is a cornerstone of international justice and that its independence from external pressure must be protected. On October 10, EU High Representative Kaja Kallas reiterated this position, calling attacks or threats against the court, its officials, and those cooperating with it "not acceptable". Beyond these statements, however, the EU has remained passive, seemingly out of fear of further antagonising Trump and triggering US tariffs. It is troubling that some States Parties and the EU have welcomed the humiliating "grace period" as creating "scope for dialogue" and "space for diplomacy" with Washington. What meaningful compromise is possible when the US objective, stated in unequivocal terms, is to destroy the court? Over the past 20 months, the US has steadily escalated its war on the ICC. For States Parties and the EU to expect a different outcome now is an exercise in self-deception that betrays, in equal measure, obsequious deference to Washington and a lack of self-respect. Appeasing bullies only emboldens them. Dialogue under such coercive conditions opens the door to pressure on the ICC to retreat from its mandate in Palestine in exchange for sanctions relief. Accepting US demands, in particular sacrificing the Palestine investigation to appease the rogue regime in Washington, would destroy the court as an independent and impartial institution. It would reinforce the perception that international justice operates selectively, depending on the political power of those within its purview. Betraying the ICC's mandate and victims' pursuit of justice would mean an intolerable loss of legitimacy for the court and discredit the very idea that no one is above the law.

CONGRESS' NEW ELECTORAL FORMULA IN UTTAR PRADESH

Bharti Mishra Nath



Uttar Pradesh has always been the ultimate test of political arithmetic. For any opposition formation hoping to challenge the BJP in the state, the question is not merely whether individual parties have pockets of influence. It is whether their votes can be combined without their organisations, ambitions and social coalitions pulling in different directions. The recent selection of Aradhana Misra Mona as Uttar Pradesh Congress president and Imran Masood as working president seems less like a routine organisational reshuffle and more like an attempt to balance Samajwadi Party honcho Akhilesh Yadav's PDA (Pichhda, Dalit and Alpsankhyak) arrangement. In other words, Congress appears to stand in tandem with SP as far as caste and community equations are concerned in UP. It is in a way a signal to SP to consolidate its backward-class and minority base while Congress will try to add sections, which SP finds difficult to reach- Brahmins as well as some urban and unaligned voters. However, symbolism can open a political conversation, it cannot substitute for votes at the booth. With seat-sharing talks still in limbo, can the INDIA alliance strategy actually work in assembly elections? Real test of relationship The political significance of Brahmin support is known to political parties. More so, since 2007, when Mayawati's Bahujan Samajwadi Party pulled off one of UP's most successful experiments in caste-based social engineering. Otherwise, the BJP has traditionally enjoyed strong support among Brahmins in UP. But for 2027, both SP and now Congress are seeking to make inroads into this influential vote base - roughly 10% of the electorate. Misra, a three-time MLA from Rampur Khas, is the daughter of veteran Congress leader Pramod Tiwari. She brings in a Brahmin face with a long-standing organisational base in eastern UP, where Brahmins have significant presence. Masood gives the party a prominent Muslim leader with influence in western UP. However, his appointment can create misunderstandings with the SP, which has traditionally relied heavily on Muslim-Yadav support. The party has also included an OBC and Dalit representation in its senior organisation. Congress may seem like rebuilding its social coalition in a state where its traditional support base has progressively weakened. Yet indirectly, it is also hoping to garner Brahmin votes for the alliance which have been elusive until now. Indeed, Congress is also pushing for an early seat-sharing arrangement and says it wants to identify winnable seats, while SP has its own organisational ambitions. Congress has pushed for a much larger share of seats, with reports putting its demand around 150-200 (total 403 seats), while SP is reluctant to concede such a large number. Every other day, leaders of both the parties (including Masood) are sparring over quality and quantity of seat sharing. Hundreds of local Congress-SP workers fight over who gets the ticket. That makes seat-sharing considerably more complicated than simply saying 'we are allies'. That tension matters because assembly election is fundamentally different from a Lok Sabha election. A party needs functioning booth-level organisation, credible local candidates and a clear understanding of constituency-level social equations. Simply adding together SP and Congress' 2024 vote bases cannot automatically reproduce the 2024 result. This is possibly the biggest danger to INDIA in UP- not ideological disagreement, but competition between allies for tickets and political space. In this context, Congress' new appointments are also a bargaining tool with the SP. Changed political equation In the 2022 assembly election, Congress won just two of 403 seats and polled 2.33% of the vote. The BJP won 255 seats polling 41.29% votes, while the SP won 111 seats with 32.06% vote share. However, the 2024 Lok Sabha election changed many misconceptions of the political parties.

Elon Musk says Starlink must keep India pricing affordable



New Delhi: Tech trillionaire Elon Musk has said Starlink's pricing in India would have to be made affordable, since no one would buy it if it were too expensive, and argued that competition would give consumers more choice. Musk's comments on X, part of a larger post, come as Jio Platforms, the digital arm of Reliance Industries, counts down to what is expected to be India's biggest public offering. "The reality is that competition would greatly benefit the average citizen in India by giving them more choices, as it always does. Ambani's profits will be lower, but he is not going out of business," Musk said. Musk added: "And, obviously, if Starlink is too expensive in India, no one will buy it, so SpaceX will need to make pricing affordable." In the same post, Musk renewed his attack on Mukesh Ambani over Starlink's entry into India, accusing the billionaire's supporters of indulging in "absurd hypocrisy and hyperbole" in arguing simultaneously that his satellite internet service cannot compete with "amazing low prices offered by Ambani's de facto monopoly in India", and claiming – in the same breath – that it poses a strong competitive threat. "On the one hand, they say Starlink couldn't possibly compete with the amazing low prices offered by Ambani's de facto monopoly in India and then, in the same breath, they essentially claim that Starlink would be too strong of a competitor! This is absurd hypocrisy and hyperbole," Musk wrote, claiming that the "ridiculous arguments" by Ambani's online supporters made no sense to him. The latest post comes amid Musk's scathing criticism of Ambani, over what he saw as a persistent delay in the launch of Starlink satellite broadband services in India. Reliance has not publicly responded to Musk's allegations, while the government has maintained that the country's authorisation framework for telecom and satellite services is "fair and non-discriminatory" and that any suggestion that it was being applied selectively is "baseless and misconceived". At the India Mobile Congress this week, as Musk's dramatic confrontation and swipes played out on X in the backdrop of India's swanky annual showcase of its telecom prowess, Reliance Jio Infocomm Chairman Akash Ambani declined to comment on the ongoing debate over satellite communication services, saying the company was focused on delivering value to Indian consumers. On Friday, Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia asserted that India does not permit monopolies in any sector, and that despite the buzz around one particular company, three players – in fact – have received satcom licences and can start operations after meeting the security requirements and milestones. Three entities – Musk's Starlink, Reliance Jio's satellite venture Jio Satcom, Bharti-backed Eutelsat OneWeb – have already secured licences, while Amazon's Project Kuiper has expressed interest and will need to follow the established procedure.

United Breweries' Telangana Value Chain Supports Rs. 7,700 Crore in Value Added and 41,300 Employment Opportunities, Finds Independent Study

Hyderabad | October 2026 : United Breweries Limited (UBL), part of the HEINEKEN Company, today announced the launch of its Telangana State Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) report. The independent study by Steward Redqueen finds that UBL's value chain supported approximately 7,700 crore in value added and 41,300 employment opportunities across Telangana in FY2024-25, demonstrating the company's contribution well beyond its own operations. The study also records 37 million cases of UBL beverages sold in Telangana during the year.

Vivek Gupta, MD & CEO, United Breweries Limited, said, "Telangana is an important part of UBL's footprint in India, with strong linkages across manufacturing, suppliers, trade and distribution. What this assessment demonstrates is how these connections extend beyond our own operations to support employment, businesses and public revenues across the state. We value the partnerships we have built in Telangana and, with the support of the government and our stakeholders, remain committed to strengthening these linkages and contributing to the state's continued economic development."

■ ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION EXTENDING ACROSS TELANGANA

According to the study, UBL's economic contribution in Telangana extends across its full value chain, from local procurement and manufacturing inputs to distribution, retail and on-trade outlets. The assessment estimates 7,700 crore in total value added, equivalent to 0.5% of Telangana's state GDP.

• 7,700 crore value added supported across Telangana's economy

• 41,300 employment opportunities supported across UBL's value chain

• 1,200 crore worth of goods and services purchased from suppliers in Telangana

• 5,900 crore supported in tax payments across the value chain

• 37 million cases of UBL beverages sold in Telangana in FY2024-25

■ SUPPORTING EMPLOYMENT ACROSS THE VALUE CHAIN

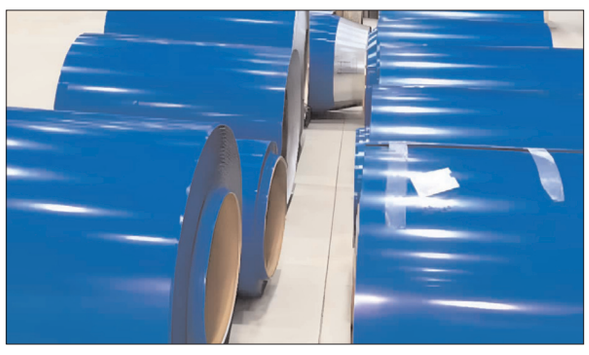
The study estimates that UBL's operations and associated value chain support approximately 41,300 employment opportunities in Telangana. This includes 1,341 direct jobs at UBL, 5,000 upstream employment opportunities supported through suppliers and related activities, and 34,900 downstream opportunities linked to distribution, retail and on-trade sales and their suppliers.

For every person directly employed at UBL in Telangana, the study estimates that an additional 30 employment opportunities are supported across the wider state economy. Of these, four are supported upstream through the procurement of goods and services and 26 are supported downstream through the distribution and sale of beverages.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL SUPPLY CHAINS

UBL's local procurement is a significant contributor to economic activity in Telangana. The study finds that the company purchased approximately 1,200 crore worth of goods and services from suppliers in Telangana in FY2024-25, equivalent to 18% of UBL's total domestic procurement.

BMW INDUSTRIES FORAYS INTO COLOUR COATED STEEL MANUFACTURING



New Delhi: BMW Industries has begun manufacturing colour-coated steel to meet growing domestic demand from key sectors such as infrastructure, auto and consumer goods, the company's Managing Director Harsh Bansal said. The new colour-coated steel line, commissioned on Monday, is part of the company's ongoing Rs 800-crore expansion plan at Bokaro in Jharkhand, aimed at offering special steel products, Bansal said.

Kolkata-based BMW Industries has until now manufactured steel coils, sheets, pipes and TMT rebars. "We have commenced the first phase of our greenfield downstream steel complex with the colour coating line. With this, we have joined the select group of producers in India. The line has been set up as part of the government's PLI Scheme for Speciality Steel," he said. Launched in 2021 by the steel ministry with an outlay of Rs 6,322 crore, the first round of the PLI Scheme aims to promote the manufacturing of value-added steel grades in the country and help the Indian steel industry mature in terms of technology and move up the value chain.

Colour-coated steel is a pre-painted metal product having structural strength with a protective metallic and organic paint coating for superior corrosion resistance. Bansal said the demand for the high-end product is growing in sectors such as infrastructure, construction, consumer goods, automobile, renewables and defence.

"Presently, we cater to the domestic market, and based on market opportunities and demand assessment, we may explore and tap international markets in due course," the MD said. He added that more coated capacity lines will come online in the near future under the ongoing 5 lakh-tonne greenfield downstream steel complex project. During January-March 2026, the company entered into a partnership with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to the Bokaro plant. Kolkata-based BMW Industries has until now manufactured steel coils, sheets, pipes and TMT rebars.

QUICK INDIA MOVEMENT RETURNS TO INSTAMART, BIGGER ON ASSORTMENT AND DEALS



October, 2026: Ahead of the festive season, Instamart, India's pioneering quick commerce platform, announced the return of its flagship Quick India Movement (QIM) sale. Live now on both the Instamart app and the Swiggy app, it brings discounts of up to 50-90%* from various sellers, covering everything from everyday essentials to premium products.

Quick commerce has moved well beyond top-up shopping, and QIM puts that on display at scale. Customers can expect significant markdowns across electronics, kitchen and dining, beauty and personal care, and toys.

From smartphones to home upgrades, they can discover deals from some of the country's most popular brands, including Apple, Samsung, OnePlus, realme, OPPO, Motorola, boAt, JBL, Bergner, L'Oréal Paris, LEGO and Barbie. New launches and limited-period offers from sellers add to the mix.

■ LOWEST PRICES ON ELECTRONICS, SMARTPHONES & LAPTOPS

Consumers can pick up the Apple iPhone 17 Pro 256GB at 1,19,999, Samsung smartphones starting at 10,999*, and Apple MacBooks starting at 66,900. This also includes a wide range of everyday gadgets and home appliances, including great deals on the Bosch Mixer Grinder at 2,499, JBL Speaker at 3,999, and MagSafe Power Bank at 999, Ninja Portable Blender at 2999* among other offers from various sellers. Shoppers can also unlock up to 5,500 off using HDFC Bank Credit Cards on select items.

■ UP TO 80% OFF* OFF ON BEAUTY & PERSONAL CARE

Beauty and personal care shoppers can discover deals from leading brands like Simple, Wishcare, Plum, Vaseline, Dove, Pantene, Dot & Key, and more, with face washes starting at 99, shampoos and conditioners at up to 80% off*, perfumes at up to 60% off*, and exclusive deals on the winter collection.

■ EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS STARTING AT 9

From everyday snacking to festive needs, consumers can find deals on energy bars starting at 29, ice cream tubs at 50% off, cleaning essentials from 70, Navratri needs from 89, and dry fruit chikki, energy bars and laddoos starting at 9.

■ UP TO 90% OFF* OFF ON HOME, KITCHEN & DINING

Consumers can refresh their homes with deals by sellers from brands including Home Centre at up to 50% off and Raymond Home bedsheets starting at 299*, with bedsheets starting at 99*, Bergner Stainless Steel Cooker at 999/-*, home décor starting at 49*, and kitchen essentials available up to 50-90%* off.

■ TOYS STARTING FROM 89

The sale will feature toys from popular brands including Lego at up to 50% off*, Barbie at 199/-*, with soft toys starting at 89*, with sellers offering consumers a range of options for festive gifting and everyday play.

JIO PLATFORMS AMONG DOZEN COMPANIES SET TO TAP PRIMARY MARKET IN OCT



New Delhi: A dozen companies, including Jio Platforms, Zetwerk Manufacturing Business, and Avaada Electro, are set to tap the primary market in October to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs), extending 2026's strong fundraising momentum.

Other companies expected to launch their maiden public offerings this month include Fusion CX, HD Fire Protect, Tonbo Imaging, Bonfiglioli Transmissions, Sahajanand Medical Technologies, Paras Healthcare, NDR InvIT Trust, Gujarat Victory Forgings and SFC Environmental Technologies, according to merchant bankers.

The proposed offerings span sectors such as technology, healthcare, renewable energy, defence and precision manufacturing, reflecting continued interest in businesses with long-term growth prospects. The companies plan to raise funds through a combination of fresh equity issues and offers for sale (OFS), with proceeds from fresh issues intended to finance business expansion, capital expenditure, debt repayment, working capital requirements and general corporate purposes. The pipeline comes after companies raised over Rs 1.1 lakh crore through 96 IPOs so far in 2026, including 35 issues launched in September alone. "India's primary market momentum continues into the second half with a robust pipeline. While secondary-market volatility and geopolitical developments may induce selective launch windows, the underlying appetite for quality paper remains structural," Neha Agarwal, Managing Director and Head of Equity Capital Markets at JM Financial Ltd, said. She said institutional demand for primary issuances remained supported by deep domestic liquidity pools and selective foreign capital, even as foreign institutional investor flows in the secondary market fluctuated.

JM Financial secured the top spot in terms of IPO deal volume managed in the first half of FY27, with 22 issues, according to the Prime Database league table for H1FY27. Among the upcoming offerings, Jio Platforms, the telecom and digital services arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, is scheduled to open its IPO for subscription on October 21 and close it on October 23, sources said. The offering is expected to be India's largest IPO to date. HD Fire Protect, a manufacturer of fire protection equipment and systems, has fixed a price band of Rs 258-271 per share for its Rs 712-crore IPO. The issue, entirely an OFS by promoters, is scheduled to open on October 13 and close on October 15.

Fusion CX, an AI-powered customer experience solutions provider, has fixed a price band of Rs 275-289 per share for its Rs 702-crore IPO. The issue will open on October 14 and close on October 16. Zetwerk, a technology-enabled manufacturing platform, is planning to raise around Rs 5,000 crore through its IPO. The proposed issue comprises a fresh issue of Rs 2,600 crore and an OFS of up to 9.68 crore equity shares. The issue is scheduled to open on October 15 and close on October 19.

Tonbo Imaging, which manufactures thermal imaging and related defence technology systems, has proposed an OFS of up to 1.22 crore equity shares.

Its IPO is scheduled to open on October 15 and close on October 19, according to its Red Herring Prospectus (RHP). Bonfiglioli Transmissions, the Indian subsidiary of Italy-based Bonfiglioli Group, has proposed an OFS of up to 4.32 crore equity shares. Its issue will also be open from October 15 to October 19, RHP showed.

Sahajanand Medical Technologies' IPO, an OFS of 1.38 crore shares, is scheduled to open on October 15 and close on October 19, it added. Zetwerk, Tonbo Imaging, Bonfiglioli Transmissions and Sahajanand Medical Technologies are expected to announce their IPO price bands and other details on Monday. Avaada Electro plans to raise Rs 7,600 crore through an IPO, while Paras Healthcare Ltd is looking to raise Rs 1,800 crore and NDR InvIT Trust Rs 750 crore.

Gujarat Victory Forgings has proposed an IPO of up to 1.97 crore shares. All four IPOs comprise a combination of a fresh issue and an OFS. Further, SFC Environmental Technologies, a wastewater treatment solutions provider, has proposed an IPO comprising a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 150 crore and an OFS of 1.23 crore equity shares.

Agarwal said the market had the depth to absorb multiple large offerings simultaneously, provided issuers maintained pricing discipline. "Investor behaviour is shifting from momentum-driven to quality-and valuation-driven," she said, adding that companies with earnings visibility, sound corporate governance and capital efficiency were likely to attract stronger investor interest. On OFS-heavy transactions, she said institutional investors were not necessarily opposed to promoter or early-investor dilution, as such offerings could enable private equity and growth capital providers to realise gains after scaling businesses.

Corporate Actions This Week: TCS, Ola Electric, Anand Rathi & More In Focus



Several listed companies such as Tata Consultancy Services, Ola Electric Mobility, Anand Rathi Wealth and Canara Robeco Asset Management Company are set for major corporate actions in the coming week, with ex-dates between October 12 to October 16, 2026.

These corporate actions include dividend payout, bonus issue, right issue, stock split and shares consolidation. TCS will trade ex-dividend of Rs 12 per share on Wednesday, October 14.

Vedanta will trade ex-dividend of Rs 5 per share on Wednesday, October 14.

Anand Rathi Wealth will trade ex-dividend of Rs 4 per share on Thursday, October 15. Canara Robeco Asset Management Company will trade ex-dividend of Rs Rs 2 per share on Friday, October 16.

■ RIGHT ISSUE OF EQUITY SHARES

A rights issue of equity shares is a corporate action when listed firm raises capital by offering the right to purchase additional shares to the existing shareholders at a discounted price in proportion to their shareholding. The ex-date for Ola Electric Mobility's right issue of equity shares is Tuesday, October 13.

Continental Controls's ex-date for right issue of equity shares is Wednesday, October 14.

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Children among 109 dead after boat capsizes off Djibouti, UN says



At least 109 migrants including 15 children have died and dozens more are still missing after a boat sank off the coast of Djibouti, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has said.

The boat was travelling from Djibouti to Yemen with 350 people on board, when it capsized near the port town of Obock on Thursday night. Around 80 people were rescued, the IOM said.

IOM's Djibouti mission chief Alexandre Coissac called the tragedy a "stark reminder" of the dangers migrants face while seeking a new life elsewhere.

Tens of thousands of migrants from the Horn of Africa make the perilous journey each year hoping to reach Gulf countries for safety and work, according to the UN agency.

In a statement on Friday, the organisation said 52 men, 42 women, nine girls and six boys were among the bodies recovered.

"This is a devastating loss of life," Coissac said.

"Our thoughts are with the survivors and the families who have lost loved ones or remain without news of their relatives," he added.

Local authorities are also arranging burials for those who have died, while the survivors - all Ethiopian nationals - have medical care readily available to them. Yemen remains engulfed in a devastating civil war which has lasted more than a decade. Despite this conflict - and growing instability across the wider region - migrants still cross the Bab el-Mandeb Strait to Yemen driven by poverty, insecurity and the growing impacts of climate change.

Since 10 September, the IOM said its Displacement Tracking Matrix has observed more than 20,000 "movements" from Ethiopia to Djibouti. IOM said it is providing assistance to 64 of the survivors at its response centre in Obock, including healthcare and support to "restore contact with their families".

The UN agency is working in "close collaboration" with local authorities to help migrants and "prevent deaths at sea and on land", it added.

Among the 109 bodies recovered after the ?boat capsized, 52 are men, 42 women and 15 children including nine girls and ?six boys, the IOM said.

"Our teams are on the ground alongside local authorities to provide emergency assistance," said IOM Chief of Mission in Djibouti Alexandre Coissac.

"This tragedy is a stark reminder ?of the dangers faced by migrants along this migration corridor as they seek ?economic opportunities," Coissac said.

Djiboutian authorities are continuing search and rescue operations, the IOM statement said, ?adding ?that local authorities are also providing medical care to survivors and arranging burials for the deceased.

According to IOM figures, more than 900 migrants died or went missing taking the same route in 2025, with an 18% increase in the number of people attempting the journey. In March 2026, nine people were killed and 45 were missing after a similar incident. The Djibouti government could not be immediately reached for comment. Yemen is experiencing the most serious escalation in fighting between Saudi Arabia-backed government forces and the Iran-backed Houthis ?since a UN-brokered ?truce largely halted ?cross-border attacks in 2022. The renewed conflict could reshape control in Yemen, with implications for Red Sea shipping lanes.

IOM described ?the crisis sparked by the fighting as alarming, with displacement ?figures surging ?to 200,000 from 76,000 in mid-September, according to data released by the IOM last week.

More than 3,700 people have fled Yemen by sea to Djibouti as of last ?week, ?according to the IOM.

Fighting also broke out in ?Ethiopia last month in the biggest escalation of violence since the Tigray war.

US JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATES TV NETWORKS OVER TRUMP POOL COVERAGE



The US justice department (DoJ) has said it is investigating several TV networks over whether they broke federal competition laws when they recently suspended pool coverage of President Donald Trump. Last month, five networks paused their presidential coverage for several days in response to the Trump administration withdrawing the credentials of reporters from CNN, MS Now and Politico. The justice department asked ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC and Fox News to hand over communications related to the pool and said that the boycott could violate the Sherman Act, referring to a law that bars companies from engaging in monopolistic business practices. Pool members usually share their material with the wider media. A DoJ spokesperson said: "The Antitrust Division is simply investigating to determine whether these ?news organisations have violated the antitrust laws." The television networks have not yet commented.

Trump blocked CNN, MS Now and Politico from the White House last month after accusing the organisations of writing "fiction or lies" about his team. The White House later reinstated their access after a ruling from a judge. The three outlets had sued the Trump administration, arguing the restricted access violated their First Amendment rights. The First Amendment forbids the government from "abridging" the freedom of the press - language that courts have traditionally interpreted as preventing the government from discriminating against the media based on the content of their coverage. The Trump administration has taken a number of legal actions against news publications in the US, including lawsuits over coverage of the president. In February, the White House announced it was taking control of the press pool which has access to Trump and had for more than a century been managed by the White House Correspondents' Association. The same month, the Trump administration moved to bar Associated Press (AP) reporters and photographers from spaces where access is limited, such as the Oval Office or Air Force One, because of the outlet's usage of the term "Gulf of Mexico" instead of "Gulf of America". AP filed a lawsuit and the case remains ongoing.

Expedition hopes to find aviator Amelia Earhart's plane on remote island



A team of researchers are on their way to a remote island to inspect what they think could be the plane wreckage of famed aviator Amelia Earhart. The group, from the US-based Archaeological Legacy Institute (ALI) and Purdue University, are expected to arrive at Nikumaroro Island in the Pacific Ocean by Monday in the hopes of solving the mystery of her disappearance. The American pioneer vanished while attempting to circumnavigate the globe in 1937, spawning decades of speculation on her fate. The team are aiming to find what has been called the Taraia Object, first spotted sitting on the edge of a lagoon off Nikumaroro in satellite imagery in 2020. Purdue University said the object had since been confirmed to have been visible in aerial photography of the area dating back to 1938. The researchers are currently roughly halfway through their journey to the remote atoll aboard the Marin Mainiku, a Kiribati National Shipping Line vessel. They departed the capital of Kiribati on Wednesday to begin the 830-mile journey to Nikumaroro, which is also part of the multi-island country. When they eventually arrive.

Houthis warn airlines and passengers not to use Saudi Arabian airports after deadly Riyadh attack

Russia has condemned Saturday's attack on King Khalid International Airport. In a statement shared by the foreign ministry, it calls on "all parties to the conflict... to completely refrain from attacks on civilian infrastructure". There are no Russian victims of the strike, according to preliminary information.

The foreign ministry says "there is no alternative" to resolving the crisis in the region "through political and diplomatic means". Following the attack on King Khalid International Airport, Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authority said it "temporarily suspended" airport operations "pending the completion of damage assessments and safety inspections".

With travel plans now disrupted, these images from yesterday show people gathered outside a metro station on the road to the airport: The UK Foreign Office is advising against all travel to parts of Saudi Arabia.

IT ADVISES AGAINST:

All travel to within 10km of the border with Yemen

All but essential travel to Aseer province, Riyadh province, Najran province, Jizan province and Taif city and Taif International Airport

Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband earlier said he was "appalled" by the attack on King Khalid International Airport



in Riyadh, adding "we stand in solidarity with those affected".

He told British nationals to avoid the airport, following Saudi authority advice, and to follow the government's travel advice, external. This morning we saw the fresh warning from the Houthis, warning people against using Saudi airports and airspace. The latest warning shows that Houthi signalling towards Saudi civilian aviation is part of the pressure campaign against the Saudis to try and end their blockade of Houthi controlled areas in Yemen.

This type of warning is really intended to amplify the psychological and economic impact. We've already seen hundreds of flights cancelled or delayed by airlines, so it does have a major impact. It will make travellers and insurers more wary too, so it is intended to cause a lot of damage beyond physical damage.

We'll likely see an increase in the diplomatic lobbying for countries to either condemn the Houthi escalation against Saudi airports or for an intervention from Pakistan and Turkey - the two other signatories of the Mecca pact, a joint defence agreement. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has condemned Saturday's attack on its neighbour Saudi Arabia.

These attacks are a "flagrant violation of the sovereignty" of Saudi Arabia, says the foreign ministry in a statement. It says it reaffirms its "full solidarity" with Saudi Arabia and "support for all measures aimed at safeguarding the Kingdom's security and stability".

The clips show a smoke plume rising over the airport building, a man walking among damage, dust and debris, a passenger walking between gates as sirens blare and emergency vehicles at the terminal entrance with people gathered nearby. At least one appears to have blood on his clothes. But footage of a strike at Dubai International Airport earlier in the year is also circulating on social media misleadingly claiming it shows the Riyadh strike.

Pope Leo to have surgery after lump found on lung



Pope Leo XIV has announced he will be operated "in the coming days" after a nodule was found on his lung during a medical check up. "The doctors found an early, well-localised nodule on my lung," he told the public during his weekly Sunday prayers in St Peter's Square in Rome. The 71-year-old pontiff said his medical team "believe it would be right to intervene" and he had agreed to the operation. Pope Leo reassured pilgrims that the mass was "well-contained" and caught "at an early stage". He concluded his Angelus prayer by thanking everyone for their "spiritual closeness" and said he entrusted himself to their prayers. Holy See Press Office spokesperson Matteo Bruni told the media that "the operation is scheduled for the first days of next week". Bruni added that the Pope is expected to take about a week to recover. Vatican News, the Holy See's news portal, said the operation will take place at Gemelli Hospital in Rome. The hospital set up a special Papal suite following the failed assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II's life in May 1981, which is still in use today. Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni expressed her "personal solidarity" to the Pope in a post on X as he "faces the ordeal ahead in the coming days". She was echoed by Italian President Sergio Mattarella, who offered "my sincerest wishes for a peaceful recovery and a speedy and full return to health". Isaac Herzog, the president of Israel, also wished the pontiff "a full and speedy recovery". Pope Leo, born Robert Francis Provost, succeeded Pope Francis in 2025.



Homes and bridges swept away as fresh floods hit Nepal

US murderer Christa Pike discharged from hospital 10 days after failed execution

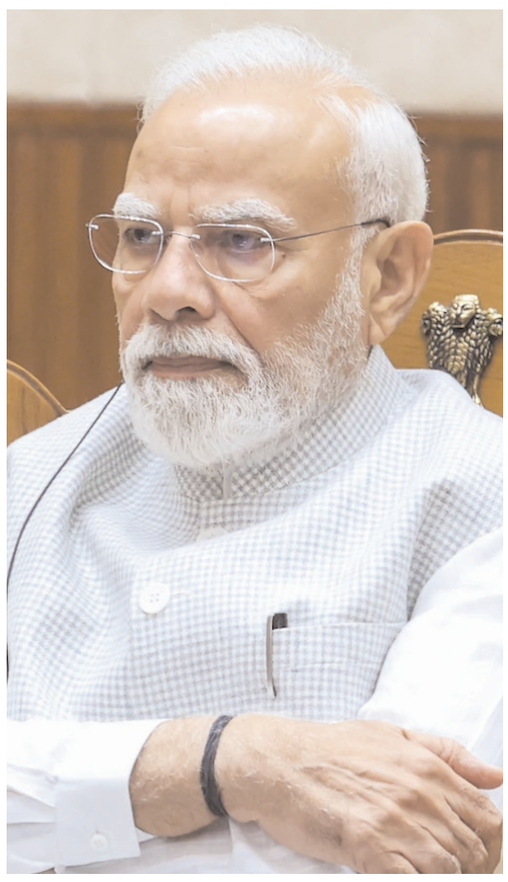


US death row inmate Christa Pike has been discharged from hospital following her botched execution at the end of last month, her lawyers have said. Pike, 50, has been sent back to the prison where she has spent the last 30 years and is continuing to receive medical care, according to a statement from her lawyers on Saturday. She survived two lethal injections of the drug pentobarbital on 30 September, which left her in a critical condition. Pike regained consciousness earlier this week and began speaking - stunning experts, medical staff and her lawyers. Her case is now in uncharted territory as she is thought to be the only person to have survived an execution attempt by lethal injection. Pike's lawyers said in their statement that she was "grateful to the first responders and her medical team for their care in these extraordinary circumstances". It is unclear what medical care Pike is receiving now that she is back in prison but her lawyers previously said she faced a "long road to recovery". The Tennessee Department of Correction is yet to say why the execution did not go as planned, though it has defended the method it used. At a court hearing on Wednesday, Tennessee Assistant Attorney General Will Ayers told the judge he did not know whether the state intends to try to execute her again. The judge ordered the state to preserve all evidence related to the failed injections. That evidence could lay the groundwork for a future lawsuit against the state. Pike was 18 when she and her then-boyfriend, Tadaryl Shipp, beat, tortured and killed 19-year-old Colleen Slemmer, whom they had met at a job training camp for low-income young people. Shipp was spared the death penalty because he was not legally an adult when the crime was committed. He remains in prison. Pike was the first woman scheduled to be executed in the state of Tennessee in over 200 years. Her lawyers have spent decades appealing her case. In the days leading up to her scheduled execution, both the US Supreme Court and Tennessee Governor Bill Lee declined to block the execution. Since it failed, Pike's lawyers have renewed their calls for her sentence to be commuted to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

India "Moving Forward With The Dream Of Hosting 2036 Olympics": PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India is moving forward with the dream of hosting the 2036 Olympic Games, expressing confidence that the country's youth would take Indian sports to new heights as the nation prepares to host major international sporting events. Addressing the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Jaigopal Garodia Hindu Vidyalaya, PM Modi said hosting the world's biggest sporting events in India would provide young athletes with a platform, better facilities, and the support needed to pursue their ambitions. "India is preparing to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games. We are also moving forward with the dream of hosting the 2036 Olympics," PM Modi said. "In the coming years, when the world's biggest sports events will be held in India, the youth of India will have a platform, potential, and support," he added. PM Modi said opportunities for young people in sports were expanding as the country developed new facilities and strengthened training and support systems for athletes. "Every youngster has their own unique dreams and talents. For example, I am sure there are many of you who want to make sports their career. This is why the country is ensuring that sports should not be limited to entertainment only," he said. PM Modi said young players were receiving better training and support, while India's position in international sports was also improving. "It means the opportunities are endless. I am confident that your generation will take India to new heights in the world of sports," PM Modi said. India is among seven interested parties currently in dialogue with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) over hosting the 2036 Olympic Games. The other interested parties are Germany, Hungary, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, and Türkiye. India formally expressed its interest in hosting the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games by submitting a Letter of Intent to the IOC's Future Host Commission on October 1, 2024. The IOC has outlined a multi-stage selection process, with its Executive Board expected to shortlist interested parties for the next stage by March 2027. The host is scheduled to be elected by IOC members in mid-2029. India is also preparing to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, which will provide the country with another opportunity to stage a major international sporting event. PM Modi is in Chennai on Sunday for a series of engagements, including the inauguration of development projects in Tamil Nadu. Earlier, PM Modi and Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay flagged off the first train on the Chennai Metro Rail Phase II network and travelled on the inaugural service from Porur to Poonamallee.

> Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India is moving forward with the dream of hosting the 2036 Olympic Games



BCCI Can't Afford To Ignore Gautam Gambhir's Warning Again. Cricket Might Have To Pay A Huge Cost



Following the Indian cricket team's disappointing tours of Ireland and England, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has faced the brunt of the criticism. Overseas pitches provided a balanced contest between bat and ball, whereas Indian tracks over the last couple of years have been overwhelmingly stacked in favour of batters. After the West Indies successfully chased down a 250-run target against India in Ranchi, head coach Gautam Gambhir voiced his frustration for the second time since the Caribbean side's arrival in the country, warning that this persistent trend of flat pitches places the future of Indian bowlers in serious jeopardy. "You don't want a good bat-and-ball competition?" Gambhir asked reporters during the post-match press conference in Ranchi, as reported by ESPNcricinfo. "What you want to see is also what we want to see. We want an even contest." "These bowlers belong to us, not anyone else. Their careers are at stake; they have worked tirelessly to earn their place in this dressing room. If there is a fair contest, we will witness a far superior game of cricket," he added.

In recent years, a clear pattern has emerged across Indian cricket: state boards preparing pitches that outrightly favour batters, particularly in white-ball formats. Why has this become the norm?

From the perspective of a traditional cricket fan, the modern game has grown increasingly commercialised and data-driven. A higher frequency of sixes and non-stop boundary hitting drives viewership-a fact that is no secret. Consequently, pitch curators and stadium authorities have prioritised producing high-scoring 'entertainment' over quality cricket. While this strategy delivers immediate short-term rewards, it risks undermining the sport's integrity over time.

NEW ZEALAND ANNOUNCE 2 SQUADS FOR ODI SERIES AGAINST INDIA, RACHIN RAVINDRA RETURNS



Finn Allen, Lockie Ferguson, Rachin Ravindra and Tim Seifert have been named in New Zealand's ODI squad for the upcoming five-match series against India, with Mitchell Santner set to lead the side. The ODI series will begin on November 4 at Eden Park in Auckland, following the five-match T20I series scheduled from October 22 to November 1. The BLACKCAPS will look to build on their historic 2-1 ODI series victory over India in January, which marked the first time New Zealand had won an ODI series against India on Indian soil. Allen and Ferguson last featured in an ODI in 2023. Ferguson's most recent appearance came in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup semi-final against India in Mumbai. Seifert last played an ODI around 18 months ago during New Zealand's home series against Pakistan. Ravindra, who was ruled out of New Zealand's T20I squad due to a shoulder injury, will return for the first three ODIs. Notably, seven additional players will join the squad for the fourth and fifth ODIs, as some members of the team travel to Wellington after the third match to prepare for the upcoming Test series, according to the New Zealand Cricket website. The squad for the first three matches includes Santner, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Ravindra, Nathan Smith, Blair Tickner and Will Young. For the final two ODIs, Santner will be joined by Allen, Bracewell, Chapman, Kristian Clarke, Duffy, Matt Fisher, Ferguson, Mitch Hay, Nick Kelly, Seifert, Tickner and Young. New Zealand will announce its 14-member Test squad for the series against India in early November. New Zealand Squad for ODIs 1-3: Mitchell Santner (C), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher, Lockie Ferguson, Mitch Hay (WK), Nick Kelly, Tim Seifert (WK), Blair Tickner, Will Young.

Ravichandran Ashwin Blasts West Indies Skipper For Big Mistake vs India: 'Serving Goat To Hungry Lion'



Former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin criticised West Indies captain Shai Hope for his tactics during the second T20I against India on Friday. Playing at the JSCA International Stadium Complex in Ranchi, India posted a massive 249/5 in 20 overs, powered by Sanju Samson's explosive 82 off 41 balls. However, the visitors turned the game around in the chase, with Hope leading from the front through an unbeaten 102 off 45 deliveries to guide West Indies to victory with nine balls to spare. During India's innings, the West Indies bowlers appeared to have no answer to Samson's onslaught, particularly spinner Akeal Hosein. The left-arm spinner leaked 46 runs in his three overs, including an over in which Samson struck him for two sixes and two fours.

Despite Hosein's struggles, Hope persisted with the spinner and handed him three consecutive overs before eventually deciding against using him again later in the innings. Ashwin questioned that move, stating that the West Indies skipper should not have continued with a bowler who was consistently being targeted by Samson.

"Samson looked scratchy because he was not in a run-scoring phase. However, Shai Hope also made a mistake today. You cannot keep using spinners from one end in an attempt to build pressure on Sanju Samson. Bowling three consecutive overs from Akeal Hosein during the powerplay was like serving a hungry lion a goat on a platter. Samson simply took advantage of the opportunity and went after Akeal Hosein," said Ashwin on his YouTube channel, Ash Ki Baat.

"It is not easy to maintain that attitude. It is human nature that when you are in danger and know that you might be dropped, self-preservation becomes the top priority. Yet, he continues to take risks for the team. And it is this great attitude of his that seems to be bringing him some luck as well.

Jaylen Brown Trolls VJ Edgecombe After Rookie Names His Favourite NBA Hoopers



Jaylen Brown and VJ Edgecombe shared a funny moment while talking about their favourite basketball players, with the Philadelphia 76ers rookie surprising his teammate with an unexpected answer. During Brown's Twitch stream, Edgecombe was asked to name his top five hoopers of all time. Instead, he shared separate lists for high school, college and the NBA. The funniest part came when Edgecombe included Brown among his favourite NBA players, only to take it back moments later. Brown called him out for the praise, and Edgecombe quickly replaced him with Kyrie Irving. The exchange showed the playful side of their growing connection as teammates.

VJ Edgecombe Names His Favourite Hoopers From High School To The NBA

Edgecombe named Collin Sexton, Sharife Cooper, Jalen Green, Anthony Edwards and Cade Cunningham among his favourite high school players. For college, his picks were Buddy Hield, Ben Simmons, Paolo Banchero, Zion Williamson and Cam Reddish. He even made sure Brown was not included in that group, joking, "deff not JB chat". When it came to the NBA, Edgecombe picked LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Damian Lillard, Dwyane Wade and Brown. That last name quickly caught the veteran's attention, as he was not convinced the rookie was being completely honest.

Brown responded, "man get yo ass out of here W glaze". Edgecombe then revealed that he was joking, saying, "sike na nigga Kyrie".

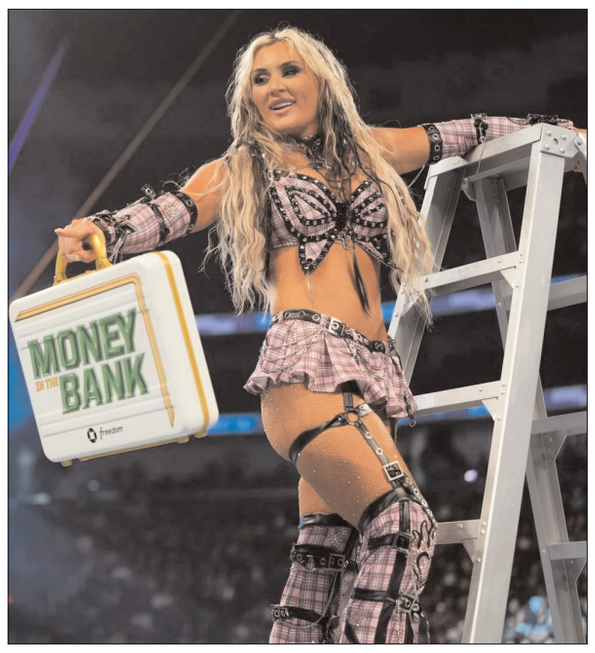
Chelsea Gray Praises A'ja Wilson's 'Legendary' Talent After Record MVP Win And Las Vegas Aces' Playoff Collapse



Chelsea Gray called A'ja Wilson "legendary" after her Las Vegas Aces teammate won her fifth WNBA MVP award on October 8. Wilson is the first player in league history to win the award three years in a row. Gray's praise came after the Aces were knocked out of the playoffs by the Golden State Valkyries, who completed a 3-0 sweep in the semifinals on October 9.

"Legendary. I get to play with the best every single day… I'm super proud of what she's been able to do. MVP, man… She can hoop yall," Gray said in comments shared by ClutchPoints on October 10.

Tiffany Stratton Offers Health Update After Scary Money In The Bank Fall And Reveals Briefcase Plans



Tiffany Stratton gave WWE fans a much-needed update after a nasty fall at the MITB 2026 matchup. The former WWE Women's Champion took a hard landing during the women's ladder match. This incident has raised concerns about her head after a risky move. Amid all doubts and speculation, the superstar finally opened up during a backstage appearance on streamer Cinna's livestream. She also opened up about her plans for her newly won Money in the Bank briefcase. The particular moment occurred during the match at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans. Stratton launched herself from a ladder with a Senton Bomb toward the competitors outside the ring. Her head seemed to hit the floor on landing, making the spot particularly frightening. Even after the rough landing, she continued to fight and later paved her way to another incredible WWE win. Tiffany Stratton Addresses Her Painful Landing After Winning the Briefcase Stratton later revealed some good news to her fans during her backstage discussion with Cinna. The champion also revealed how painful it was. The popular WWE champion said, "That hurt really bad." That remark offered the much-needed update after the scary moment. But she did not reveal anything about her complete medical assessment. WWE fans had reason to worry after seeing her head appear to strike the floor.

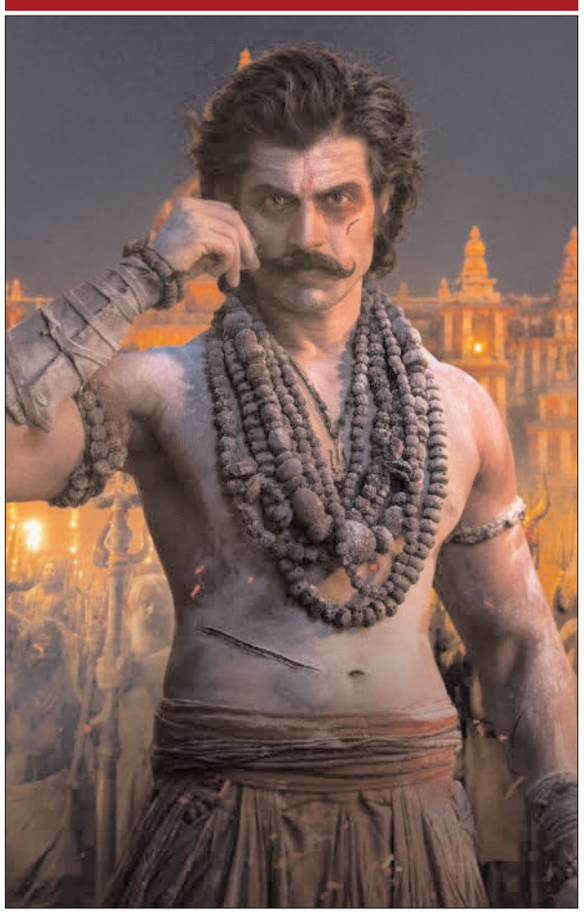
Allen submits Duncan to derail Briton's title hopes



Brendan Allen submitted Christian Leroy Duncan in the fifth round in Las Vegas to derail the Briton's middleweight title aspirations. Duncan, 31, came into the fight on a five-fight win streak and had said that he was eyeing a title bout next should he beat Allen in convincing fashion. After a back-and-forth encounter which left both fighters hopeful of securing victory in the final round, it was Allen who got his hand raised after securing a rear-naked choke. It is the 30-year-old American who is now targeting Sean Strickland's belt after he extended his winning streak to four. "I think we'll be rewarded next," said Allen. "I'm doing what I need to do. Where's the champion? If not, where's Dricus [Du Plessis]? He's been running for a while." Duncan came into the contest 10th in the UFC's middleweight rankings after earning a victory over former title challenger Jared Cannonier in July. Duncan was the busier striker of the two throughout, landing 138 shots to Allen's 80, but the American prevailed in most of the grappling exchanges. An eye poke in the second round which led to a deducted point likely meant Duncan needed a finish in the final round, but it proved non-consequential anyway as Allen secured his eighth submission in the UFC. Victory extended the fifth-ranked middleweight's record to 28 wins and seven defeats, while Duncan suffered the third loss of his 18-fight career.

There was victory for fellow Briton Jai Herbert in the co-main event as he secured a unanimous decision win over Brazilian lightweight Matheus Camilo. It was the 38-year-old's third win in four UFC fights, while Camilo suffered his second defeat in the promotion after triumphing in his two previous encounters.

'KOBALI' LYRICAL SONG FROM VIJAY DEVERAKONDA'S RANABAALI RELEASED



Ranabaali is a grand pan-India film starring Vijay Deverakonda in the lead role. The film is directed by Rahul Sankrityan, with Rashmika Mandanna playing the female lead. Presented by T-Series, the film is being made on a huge budget under the Mythri Movie Makers banner by producers Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar. Ranabaali is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 16, on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami. The makers released the lyrical song 'Kobali' from Ranabaali today. Ajay–Atul have composed a powerful tune that promises to give listeners goosebumps, while Kesavaditya has penned impactful lyrics. V.M. Mahalingam has delivered a mesmerising rendition.

A PAKKA PAISA VASOOL COMBINATION- CRIME MAHARAJA RAVI TEJA



After months of anticipation, the exciting and pakka paisa vasool combination of Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja and acclaimed filmmaker Vivek Athreya is finally coming to life with #RT78. Bringing together Ravi Teja's trademark energy and Vivek Athreya's distinctive storytelling, the film promises a refreshing blend of crime, drama and entertainment. Ravi Teja, who is currently riding high on the success of the blockbuster Irumudi, is set to explore a new dimension with this intriguing project. Produced by Laxman and Srini Rao under the banner of Bridge Productions, the film is bringing together two creative forces with contrasting yet compelling strengths.

The makers have unveiled 'The Title Documentary,' an innovative announcement video that reveals the film's title through Vivek Athreya's characteristic storytelling style. My Home Ram has done the honours of releasing the title documentary video. The video takes audiences through the fun, chaotic and thoroughly entertaining process behind the selection of the intriguing title-Thulabharam, offering a glimpse into the quirky creative world of the filmmaker.

The video also introduces the key characters, with Anil Karella as Jadeja, Ravi Anthony as Robin, Anaswara Rajan as Sound, Tharun Bhascker as Devaraj, JD Chakravarthy as Sivaji Rao, and Priyanka Mohan as Krishnaveni.

For decades, Ravi Teja has been synonymous with the title Mass Maharaja, representing his unmatched energy and entertaining screen presence.

With Thulabharam, however, the actor is all set to embrace a new identity. As the video puts it, it is time to strike off Mass Maharaja and welcome 'The Crime Maharaja.' Introducing a new chapter as 'Nava Ravitejamu,' the title announcement sets the tone for a completely different avatar of the star, sparking curiosity about what this unique collaboration has in store.

Ramayana Part 1 Set for Worldwide Release on November 5, 2026; Advance Bookings Open on Dussehra



Ramayana Makers Announce Worldwide Release Of Part 1 On 5th November 2026 With New Ensemble Poster Featuring Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Ravie Dubey And Rocking Star Yash "Yeh Ram Ke Yug Ka Aarambh Hai": Ramayana Unveils New Ensemble Poster On The First Day Of Navratri, Announces 5th November 2026 Release; Advance Bookings To Open This Dussehra

Marking the first day of Navratri with a special announcement, the makers of Ramayana have unveiled a new ensemble poster featuring Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Ravie Dubey as Lakshman and Rocking Star Yash as Ravana, while announcing that Part 1 of the two-part epic will release worldwide on 5th November 2026. The announcement celebrates the beginning of a new era with the message, "Yeh Ram Ke Yug Ka Aarambh Hai," and confirms that advance bookings will open this Dussehra.

The poster captures Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama alongside Sai Pallavi as Sita and Ravie Dubey as Lakshman in the foreground, while Rocking Star Yash's Ravana towers over them, creating a visual contrast between the characters at the heart of the story. The elaborate sets, costumes and detailing offer a glimpse into the world being brought to life for the two-part epic.

Taking to social media, the makers shared the announcement with the caption:

"On the auspicious occasion of Navratri, we celebrate the beginning of a new era. Yeh Ram ke Yug ka Aarambh hai.

Namit Malhotra's Ramayana Part 1: In cinemas WORLDWIDE, across all premium formats, from 5th November.

Advance bookings open on Dussehra." Bringing one of the world's most revered epics to the big screen, Ramayana features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Rocking Star Yash as Ravana, Sunny Deol as Hanuman and Ravie Dubey as Lakshman.

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra's Prime Focus Studios in collaboration with 8-time Oscar-winning DNEG and Yash's Monster Mind Creations, Ramayana is envisioned as a two-part epic. Part 1 will release worldwide on 5th November 2026, followed by Part 2 in Diwali 2027, in Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam across India. The film will release in IMAX, with Sony Pictures distributing the film globally (excluding India), while Dharma Productions will act as distributors for the Hindi-speaking market.

VIJAY ANTONY'S NANNA KUTTI SET FOR A DIWALI RELEASE ON NOVEMBER 6



Vijay Antony, known for entertaining audiences with films featuring distinctive concepts and content-driven narratives, is all set to arrive with Nanna Kutti. Directed by Mu. Maran, the film stars Vijay Antony in the lead role and revolves around the emotional bond between a father and daughter.

BLENDING ACTION, family emotions and intense drama, the film is being produced by Meera Vijay Antony under the Vijay Antony Film Corporation banner. Ramanjaneyulu Javvaji of Sarvanth Ram Creations serves as the co-producer.

The makers have now announced the film's release date. Nanna Kutti is scheduled to hit theatres on November 6, coinciding with Diwali. The release appears to have been planned to capitalise on the festive holiday season. The posters released so far indicate that the father-daughter relationship and its emotional depth will be central to the narrative.

The film features an ensemble cast comprising Preeti Asrani, Lithanya, Bhagavathi Perumal, Haripriya Isai, Aruvi Madhan, Chitra Lakshmanan, Sreeja Ravi, Vettai Muthukumar, Jenson Dhivakar, Muruganandham, Munnar Ramesh, Lissy Antony, Kumar Natarajan, Vijayan, Praveena, Haritha, Haripriya and others in prominent roles.

Rajeev Raajendran has handled the cinematography, while Vijay Antony has composed the music and also taken charge of the editing. A. Raja is the production designer.

With action, family emotions, an engaging narrative, soulful music and an appealing screenplay, Nanna Kutty promises to offer an emotionally compelling cinematic experience.

The makers will intensify the promotional activities, as the release date is less than a month.

Cast : Vijay Antony, Preeti Asrani, Lithanya, Bhagavathi Perumal, Haripriya Isai, Aruvi Madhan, Chitra Lakshmanan, Sreeja Ravi, Vettai Muthukumar, Jenson Dhivakar, Muruganandham, Munnar Ramesh, Lissy Antony, Kumar Natarajan, Vijayan, Praveena, Haritha, Haripriya and others.

TECHNICAL CREW:
Writer & Director: Mu. Maran
Producer: Meera Vijay Antony
Co-Producer: Sarvanth Ram Creations (Ramanjaneyulu Javvaji)
Music: Vijay Antony
Cinematography: Rajeev Raajendran
Editor: Vijay Antony
Production Designer: A. Raja
Costumes: G. Anusha Meenakshi
PRO: Sai Satish

JD Chakravarthy Wins Best Actor at Norway International Film Festival for 'Dahini: The Witch'



Versatile actor JD Chakravarthy has added another international honour to his credit, winning the Best Lead Actor award at the Norway International Film Festival for his performance in Dahini:The Witch. The film has also bagged the Best Film award at the prestigious festival, marking a significant achievement for Indian cinema. With around 150 nominations from across the globe, JD Chakravarthy's win in the Best Lead Actor category is a remarkable accomplishment. Competing alongside several acclaimed actors from different parts of the world, the Indian actor has brought international recognition to Indian cinema.

Satyadev, Ramya Krishna, Faria Abdullah, Sharat Marar, Northstar Entertainment's 'Trial and Error' begins with a grand pooja program



Producer Sharath Marar's Northstar Entertainment is coming up with another interesting project. The series 'Trial and Error' starring Satyadev, Faria Abdullah and Ramya Krishna in the lead roles started with a grand opening ceremony. Popular producer Allu Aravind was the chief guest at the event. Rajesh Selva, who directed the stylish thriller 'Cheekati Rajyam' starring Kamal Haasan, is directing this series. Satyadev, who impresses with his unique acting in different roles, is playing a challenging character in this series. Ramya Krishna is playing a key role in this. She will bring more intensity to the story with her unique screen presence. Faria Abdullah will also be another main attraction in this project. Viraj Ashwin, Chaitanya Krishna, Varsha Bollamma, Yash Puri, Sampath Raj, and Subbaraju are playing key roles in this series.

Produced by Northstar Entertainment and directed by Rajesh Selva, 'Trial and Error' is set to provide a new experience to the audience with a combination of talented actors.

PREITY MUKHUNDHAN BATHES IN GOLDEN SUNLIGHT

Preity Mukhundhan is winning hearts with her latest pictures, and this soft, golden-hour look is proof.

Dressed in a mint green and white saree with delicate floral embroidery, she looks effortlessly elegant with soft curls, pearl earrings, and warm, glowing makeup. The natural light adds a dreamy touch to the frames, making them instantly stand out.

On the work front, Preity has been having a great run. She impressed audiences with Blast, both in theatres and later with her OTT role as Nila. Her recent film, Idhayam Murali, co-starring Atharvaa, has also done well, earning over Rs. 17 crore worldwide in just five days, a steady success at the box office. She has an exciting line-up ahead too, with Emo Emo Idi and Dashamakan in the works, along with her Hindi debut film Naagzilla, arriving in 2027.

■ Preity Mukhundhan is winning hearts with her latest pictures, and this soft, golden-hour look is proof.



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