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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

Essence of the South

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

22-10-2026



Total pilgrims : 65,113
Tonsures : 26,391
Hundi kanukalu : 3.82 CR
Laddu sale... 3.71 Lac
Annaprasadam.. 1.71 Lac
Ashwini hospital..2,677
Present Situation on 23-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..26

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...10 H.

Inbriefs

Jio Platforms IPO receives over one crore applications, sets global record

New Delhi, Oct 23: Jio Platforms Ltd's initial public offering (IPO) has received more than one



crore applications, setting a new global record for an IPO, according to exchange data on Friday. The issue has surpassed the previous reported record of around 97 lakh applications received by Waaree Energies Ltd, making it one of the most widely subscribed public offerings in terms of investor participation.

SBI data breach: Hyderabad advocate moves NHRC, seeks CBI probe

Hyderabad: A city-based advocate has filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), seeking a CBI investigation into the alleged loss of personal data of a substantial number of State Bank of India (SBI) customers. In his complaint dated October 21, Yennam Balachander Reddy refers to media reports on the issue as well as the bank's communication to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regarding the same. The NHRC has acknowledged receipt of the complaint.



Draw lessons from tribal harmony with nature: Prez Murmu

JAGDALPUR (TSIT)



President Droupadi Murmu on Friday called for drawing lessons from the close relationship tribal communities share with nature, stressing that development must go hand in hand with environmental protection. She was speaking at a public gathering in Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur city during the Bastar Dussehra celebrations. Describing Bastar Dussehra as a reflection of Chhattisgarh's cultural pride and collective faith, Murmu said the festival stood out for the participation of the entire community.

She noted that its rituals brought people from different sections of society together and strengthened their bonds. The President also referred to Chhattisgarh's long struggle with Naxalism. She said coordinated efforts by the Centre and the state government helped the region move beyond Naxal violence and accelerate its progress.

Murmu welcomed efforts to extend financial support to tribal entrepreneurs and improve their access to markets. She expressed confidence that such initiatives would contribute to the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047 through equitable and inclusive development. The President said that tribal communities regard nature as a source of life and worship it.

Their way of living offers lessons for a development model that respects the environment, she added, underlining the need to protect and nurture nature. Prior to the public programme, Murmu interacted with local Manjhi and Chalki representatives at the Muria Darbar. She also visited a rangoli display and a Dussehra exhibition in Jagdalpur.

Earlier, she offered prayers at the Maa Danteshwari Temple.

India urges nationals in Europe to stay alert

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

India on Friday advised its nationals in France, Italy and Belgium to remain vigilant and avoid areas where protests are taking place, saying its missions in these countries are closely following the developments and are in regular touch with the Indian community. Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also urged Indian nationals to follow the advisories being issued by the local authorities. "We have our missions in France, Italy and Belgium.

India has recovered over 650 stolen ancient statues in 12 years: PM Modi

> **Addressing the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan in New Delhi, PM Modi said preserving India's heritage was one of the missions of Swami Chinmayananda, the founder of the Chinmaya Mission.**

NEW DELHI (TSIT):



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India has recovered more than 650 stolen ancient statues over the past 12 years, highlighting the government's efforts to preserve the country's cultural heritage. He also said that a revival of India's cultural centres was taking place from north to south and east to west."There was another mission of Swamiji: the conservation of Indian heritage. You have seen the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. Today, it is a source of inspiration for millions of people visiting from across India and the world," he said.

The Prime Minister cited several examples of India's cultural and spiritual heritage being restored to prominence, including the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the Ram temple in Ayodhya, and the sacred sites of Kedarnath and Badrinath.

"A revival of India's cultural centres is taking place from north to south and east to west. Whether it is the new look of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the grand temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya, or our sacred sites such as Kedarnath and Badrinath, these places are regaining their prominence," he said.

Referring to Kedarnath, PM Modi said a magnificent statue of Adi Shankaracharya had been installed at the site where the philosopher is believed to have attained his final state of existence. "If you visited Kedarnath recently, you would have seen a magnificent and divine statue of Adi Shankaracharya installed at the place where he left his mortal body.

These sites are now returning to their former grandeur," he said.

CM Revanth pushes for Tummidihatti talks

Proposal seeks Maharashtra's approval as CM Fadnavis agrees to talks after October 23; barrage aims to irrigate two lakh acres in undivided Adilabad district

Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU:



Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy on Friday directed irrigation officials to prepare a comprehensive technical proposal seeking Maharashtra's approval for constructing the proposed Tummidihetti barrage at a height of 152 metres. Chairing a review meeting at Bodhi Pavilion, the Chief Minister said Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had expressed willingness to hold discussions after October 23. He asked officials to present Telangana's irrigation requirements with detailed assessments of water availability, diversion capacity and potential submergence.

Engineers informed the meeting that a barrage at 152 metres would submerge approximately 2,300 acres, compared with less than 1,000 acres at 150 metres. Officials stated that villages in Maharashtra would not face submergence.Revanth Reddy directed officials to thoroughly assess the impact in Maharashtra and prepare a proposal that would maximise water diversion. He noted that the previously agreed height of 148 metres would not allow diversion of the required quantity of water.

The proposed barrage aims to provide irrigation to two lakh acres in undivided Adilabad district. Highlighting the needs of tribal and forest-dwelling communities, the Chief Minister said constructive consultations with Maharashtra could help resolve the region's long-standing irrigation problems. He instructed engineers to prepare the water conveyance alignment from Tummidihetti to Yellampalli and initiate land acquisition once clarity emerged on the barrage height. Officials were also directed to compile records of interstate discussions held under the Central Water Commission and promptly furnish information sought by it.Reviewing the Dindi and Achampet lift irrigation schemes, the Chief Minister directed officials to arrange 0.5 TMC of water for Dindi and 0.1 TMC for Achampet from Yedula reservoir.

Kharge questions Centre over China

NEW DELHI (TSIT)



> "Enough clean chits to China. PM Modi must come clean before India!" and posed three pointed questions covering national security, economic security and diplomatic accountability.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has sharply questioned the Union government over its handling of relations with China, demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi take Parliament and the nation into confidence rather than targeting the Opposition.

In a strongly worded post on his X handle, the Congress chief declared, "Enough clean chits to China. PM Modi must come clean before India!" and posed three pointed questions covering national security, economic security and diplomatic accountability. On the issue of national security, Kharge expressed deep alarm over the confirmation by the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police of continuing face-offs with the People's Liberation Army in Arunachal Pradesh.

Recalling the earlier confrontations at Doklam and Galwan, he asked whether another serious confrontation was unfolding. He referred to reports of Chinese incursions near Taksing that emerged in August and noted that even 47 days after Corps Commander-level talks held at Wacha–Damai, reportedly just 180 kilometres away, the confrontations had not ceased. Kharge questioned whether India's patrolling access had been compromised and stressed that Arunachal Pradesh remains an inseparable part of India.

All 14 Indian nationals aboard yacht off Yemen coast safe: Indian Embassy

Aden (Yemen), Oct 23 : The Indian Embassy in Yemen said on Friday that all 14 Indian nationals on board a yacht involved in an incident off the coast of Yemen are safe, and it will continue to work to ensure their well-being.



In a statement shared on X, the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia stated, "Reports suggest that all 14 Indian nationals are safe and located around Hodeidah in Yemen. We will continue to work for ensuring their well being."

Earlier in the day, the Indian embassy said that it has been making efforts to find more details about the incident off the coast of Yemen on October 22 in which apparently there were Indian nationals (sailors) on board a yacht.

It further stated, "Given the prevailing conflict situation exact information is not currently available. We have reached out to different parties to establish circumstances and facts of the incident and hope to update as soon as authentic information becomes available."

On Thursday, Yemen's Houthis claimed that their forces engaged in a rescue operation after Saudi Arabia targeted an Indian yacht carrying 14 Indian nationals near Zuqar Island in the southern Red Sea.

Citing preliminary information, Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said that the Yemeni Armed Forces would provide more details later.

"The Saudi enemy is targeting an Indian yacht near Zuqar Island, carrying 14 people of Indian nationality, according to preliminary information. The Yemeni Armed Forces are rescuing them and will provide more details later. This reckless act by the Saudi enemy in targeting it threatens international navigation in the Red Sea, and the international community must stop the Saudi enemy from these reckless actions," Saree had posted on X.

The latest incident comes after an Indian national was among two people killed, while two other Indian nationals were injured, in an attack on King Fahd International Airport in Saudi Arabia's Dammam on Wednesday, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said.

India on Thursday condemned the continued attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including the attack on King Fahd International Airport and Aramco's Shaybah oil field, while expressing hope that peace and normalcy would return to the region at the earliest.

Over 100 detained as anti-SIR protesters march towards ECI office

The march was halted near the Bangla Sahib Gurdwara, where police put up barricades.

NEW DELHI (TSIT):



A large number of protesters, including representatives from the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, trade unions, student bodies and Left parties, took out a protest march in the capital on Friday, October 23, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Delhi Police detained more than 100 protesters, according to The Indian Express, as demonstrators tried to march towards the headquarters of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Ashoka Road in central Delhi, putting up barricades on the road.The march, called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and the Delhi coordination committee of People Against SIR, a people's collective, began near the Gole Dak Khana, a few hundred metres from the ECI headquarters, with participants carrying the national flag and banners demanding an end to the electoral roll revision exercise.The protesters raised slogans against the chief election commissioner, including "Gyanesh Kumar, resign", "Halt SIR" and "Won't tolerate vote theft", alleging that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise led to the deletion of numerous voters from the electoral rolls.

3.0 earthquake in Bengaluru Rural district, tremors reach 30 km

Bengaluru: An earthquake measuring 3.0 on the Richter scale was recorded in Bengaluru Rural district on Friday morning, October 23, the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) said. According to the KSNDMC report, the earthquake occurred at 9.01 am, with its epicentre located 0.5 km north of Timmojanahalli village in Tubagere gram panchayat of Doddaballapura taluk. The quake originated at a depth of 10 km. The earthquake was recorded at latitude 13° 22° 4.8' N and longitude 77° 33° 46.8' E. The seismic intensity observed in the area was low, and tremors may have been felt within a radius of 20 to 30 km from the epicentre.

Youth Should Participate in the Protection of Heritage : Srinivas

Mulugu, October 23, TSIT: Vice-Chancellor Srinivas of Sammakka Saralamma Central Tribal University urged young people to develop awareness of history, culture, and heritage and to spread knowledge about their significance among others.

He attended the World Heritage Volunteer Camp–2026, being held at Ramappa under the aegis of the Kakatiya Heritage Trust, with the support of the Telangana Tourism Department, as the chief guest on Friday.



District Tourism Nodal Officer Dr. A. Dharma Nayak participated as the guest of honour. A total of 35 volunteers from 10 states across the country are taking part in the 12-day training programme.

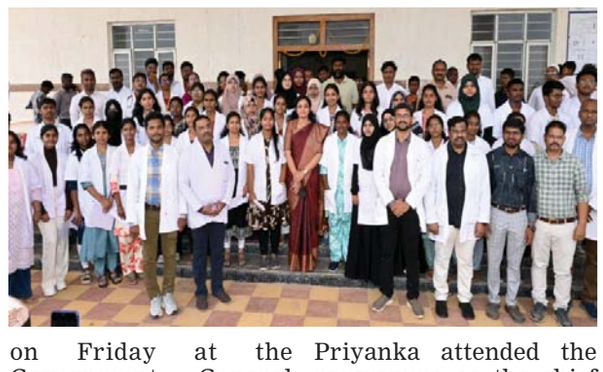
Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas said the camp would help students gain knowledge about various subjects, including tourism, culture, heritage, and geology. He encouraged the youth to make the best use of this opportunity and share what they learn with others.

He called upon the participants to actively contribute to heritage conservation by widely promoting the uniqueness and significance of historical sites.

District Tourism Nodal Officer Dr. A. Dharma Nayak said the Tourism Department would extend all possible support for organising the camp.

Compassion and Dedication to Service Are Essential in the Medical Profession

Narayanpet, October 23, 2026 (TSIT): District Collector Priyanka emphasized that compassion, humanity and a spirit of service are essential qualities for every medical professional. She advised medical students to continuously update their knowledge and provide the best possible healthcare services to patients.



The Orientation Day and White Coat Ceremony for the third batch of MBBS students was held on Friday at the Government General Hospital in Appakpally, Narayanpet mandal. District Collector Priyanka attended the programme as the chief guest and addressed the medical students.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that securing admission to a medical course was the result of the students' hard work, determination and perseverance, as well as the efforts and sacrifices of their parents. She noted that the students had worked hard to secure their medical seats, while their parents had overcome numerous challenges to support their children's future. She congratulated all the students as they embarked on their journey towards becoming doctors.

Sindhu Hospitals launches BeyondA1C frontline screening for diabetic complications in India

Hyderabad, October 23, 2026: Sindhu Hospitals, an initiative of Sai Sindhu Foundation, and BeyondA1C, a division of MedicaMetrix, Inc., signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch BeyondA1C testing at Sindhu Hospitals. The Sheffield One-Stop becomes its frontline mass screening test for diabetic complications, with regular BeyondA1C testing potentially becoming a model for diabetic, dialysis and chemotherapy patients—the first launch of these tests in India. Diabetes quietly damages the body's smallest blood vessels, affecting the nerves, kidneys, eyes and feet. Up to half of people with diabetic nerve damage have no symptoms when it is found, and some estimates put the share left undiagnosed in well-developed health systems at up to 80 percent.



The AI-enabled device can deliver testing for three key clinical scenarios. Sheffield One-Stop is a screening test for people at risk of diabetes and those with established diabetes, assessing nerve function, foot, kidneys and metabolic health, screening for several microvascular complications at one appointment. BeyondA1C Onco measures sural nerve function in both legs for chemotherapy patients and compares it with the patient's own baseline, so neuropathy is graded objectively and routed to the oncologist. BeyondA1C Dialysis gives patients on regular dialysis an IWGDF 2023 risk category from 0 to 3, enabling the nephrologist to initiate early intervention.

Robert Rudelius, CEO of MedicaMetrix, said Sindhu Hospitals is the right place to begin in India, and its clinicians and commitment to research will show what earlier testing means for patients. Dr. B. Soma Raju, Consultant Cardiologist and Mentor Director, said finding diabetic complications early should be routine care, and BeyondA1C tests will become part of specialties including oncology and dialysis. Dr. Smitha Nalla, Consultant Endocrinologist, noted that many patients with microvascular complications have no symptoms, which is why point-of-care screening is critical.

Journalist beaten to death over advertisement in Hapur; IFJ demands probe



Hapur: Naseem Ahmad, bureau chief of the Hindi daily Dainik Janvani, was beaten to death on October 18 while seeking an advertisement for his newspaper ahead of Diwali at a flour mill on Jarothi Road in Hapur.

Ahmad entered the mill with three others when the owner, Ashok Kumar Gupta, reportedly refused to place an advertisement and called the group "fake journalists." The argument grew violent when approximately seven to eight unidentified people began assaulting Ahmad, according to local reports. After suffering multiple injuries, Ahmad was transferred to a community health centre where he was confirmed dead.

Police have filed a First Information Report (FIR) and registered a murder case at the Hapur Dehat police station. Paras Malik, House Officer at the station, said they had detained three people for questioning. The identities of those involved and the motivation behind the assault are under investigation.

In a statement, the Indian Journalists' Union (IJU) said the attack reflects the vulnerability of journalists in India working for small or regional newspapers. The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) continues to monitor the case closely.

The IJU said: "The IJU strongly condemns the brutal killing of Mohammad Naseem Ahmed and stands in solidarity with the journalist's family and fraternity. An attack on a journalist is an attack on the freedom of the press and the democratic right to know. Justice must be delivered, and journalists must be able to work without fear of violence or intimidation."

IFJ General Secretary Anthony Bellanger said: "The IFJ strongly condemns the brutal murder of journalist Mohammad Naseem Ahmad. Journalists must never be targeted for doing their jobs. We call on the Indian authorities to secure immediate safety for media workers and launch a swift, transparent, and thorough investigation into this killing."

CARA Team Inspects Child Care Home in Visakhapatnam



Visakhapatnam, TSIT.
A team of representatives from the Central Adoption Resource Authority, functioning under the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, visited the Child Care Home at Marripalem in Visakhapatnam district on Friday to review its functioning and adoption procedures. CARA Southern Region Coordinator Livia Mariam Paul inspected the records of the facility and reviewed the details of children staying at the home. She enquired about the adoption process being followed by the district facility, applications received from prospective adoptive parents and the status of applications on the online portal.
The team also examined the procedures followed during home visits and reviewed the follow-up process to monitor the well-being of children after adoption. The representatives sought details regarding the number of applications received for adoption and the overall functioning of the adoption system. Expressing satisfaction with the services being provided by the Visakhapatnam Child Care Home, Livia Mariam Paul emphasised the need to create wider public awareness about the adoption process.

Kuchipudi Parampara Foundation presents 13th Natya Parampara Utsav 2026





Bengaluru, October 15, 2026: Kuchipudi Parampara Foundation, Bengaluru, is presenting the thirteenth edition of Natya Parampara Utsav 2026. The programme will include recognition and honouring of the works of senior Kuchipudi guru Guru Mahankali Ramchandra Murthy of the traditional Kuchipudi family, and Sri Charles Ma, a Bharatanatyam practitioner from Bengaluru. It will feature a Kuchipudi solo performance by Aiswariya K.R., disciple of Deepa Sashindran, Odissi by Abhaya Lakshmi, and Kapisutra by Kuchipudi Art Academy, Chennai.The event will be held on Thursday, 29th October 2026, from 6.00 pm onwards at Seva Sadan Auditorium, Malleshwaram. Entry is free and all are welcome.
The event is curated by Deepa Narayanan Sashindran, Kuchipudi exponent and Life Trustee of Kuchipudi Parampara Foundation, Bengaluru. The Foundation is a non-profit trust founded by Deepa Narayanan Sashindran, presently offering systematic Kuchipudi dance training and choreography in Bengaluru and globally to bring forth artists of high calibre.

Support alliance candidates who strive for public welfare and city progress: Chittoor MP and MLA



Chittoor, October 23: The election campaign of alliance mayoral candidate Katari Hemalatha is gaining strong momentum across the Chittoor Municipal Corporation limits. As part of this, a large-scale door-to-door campaign was held in Kongareddypalle, where local residents turned up in huge numbers and gave her a grand reception. Along with alliance cadres, Katari Hemalatha visited every household, met the people and sought their votes.

Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao and local MLA Gurajala Jaganmohan participated as chief guests and led the alliance ranks for the candidate's success. Also present were former MLC Dorababu, Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu, former MLA A.S. Manohar, senior TDP leader Chandra Prakash, former Deputy Mayor Rajesh Reddy, senior party leader Kajuri Balaji, and other key alliance leaders and workers in large numbers. On the occasion, the Chittoor MP and MLA stated that comprehensive development of Chittoor city is possible only under the alliance government. They called upon people to support the leadership that works day and night for public welfare and the progress of the city, and appealed to local people to elect Katari Hemalatha with a huge majority to take the Chittoor Municipal Corporation forward on the path of development.

CARE Hospitals Organises Safety Awareness Fair to Strengthen Patient Safety Culture

Hyderabad, 23 October 2026: A missed warning sign, delayed emergency response or a lapse in hand hygiene can put patient safety at risk. Highlighting the importance of early recognition, timely intervention and infection prevention, CARE Hospitals organised Safety Awareness Fair 2026 at its Corporate Office in Hyderabad on Friday. The initiative is part of CARE Hospitals' ongoing efforts to strengthen a culture of safety across its facilities through employee awareness, emergency preparedness and safer healthcare practices.



Organised by the Department of Quality & Patient Safety, Corporate Office Cluster II, in collaboration with the Quality Team of CARE Hospitals, Hitec City, the fair featured interactive demonstrations and practical learning activities covering three key areas — hand hygiene, early recognition of clinical warning signs and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).The programme was attended by Dr. Pawan Kumar, CEO – India II; Shalabh Dang, President – Sales & Marketing; Dr. Vincy Ashok Tribhuvan, Vice President – Nursing Administration; and Rajeev Chouray, Head of Quality and Patient Safety – India II, Aster DM Quality Care Limited, along with doctors, nursing staff, senior officials and employees from various departments.

Healthcare experts highlighted that recognising early signs of patient deterioration can help clinical teams respond before a condition becomes more serious. Sudden breathing difficulties, altered consciousness, unusual changes in heart rate or blood pressure, and falling oxygen levels are among the warning signs that may require urgent medical attention.

Nitin Gokhale delivers guest lecture on India's defence preparedness at KSPP

Hyderabad: Nitin A. Gokhale, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the BharatShakti Group, delivered a guest lecture titled "Preparing for the Wars of Tomorrow: From Three Services to One Fighting Force" at the Kautilya School of Public Policy (KSPP) on Friday.



Gokhale traced the evolution of India's higher defence organisation, discussing the three-tier structure and the establishment of the National Security Guard. He highlighted key milestones in defence reforms, including the Kargil Review Committee's recommendations and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on 15 August 2019 regarding the creation of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). He also outlined the appointment of India's first CDS on 1 January 2020 and the establishment of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).

Explaining the CDS's role, Gokhale emphasised the importance of jointness among the three services, providing single-point military advice to the government, and developing expertise in military affairs and defence matters. He discussed the CDS's responsibilities as Chairperson of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, Secretary of the DMA, and head of tri-service organisations. These institutional changes, he noted, have laid the groundwork for theatreisation, integration and greater operational coordination among the Armed Forces.

The lecture examined key areas of defence transformation, including enhancing combat capability, optimising manpower and resources, modernisation and indigenisation, human resource reforms, women's participation in the Armed Forces, addressing colonial legacies, and strengthening national security efforts. Gokhale also highlighted practical and institutional challenges to integration, including differences in service headquarters, operational requirements, and coordination of military and civilian administrative structures. Outlining the way forward, he stressed the need to establish Integrated Theatre Commands, integrate and operationalise air defence and joint command architectures, develop a long-term vision for the Armed Forces towards 2047, formulate joint doctrines.

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Congress leaders, workers stand firmly behind Chief Minister, says S. Manohar



Bengaluru: Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) general secretary and MEI chairman S. Manohar on Friday criticised Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy for his remarks on the Mysuru Dasara celebrations and the participation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's political colleagues and their family members in the event.

In a joint press statement, Manohar said the grandeur of Dasara and the historic significance of the Jumboo Savari had been appreciated by people across Karnataka and admirers around the world. However, he accused Kumaraswamy of attempting to politicise a traditional cultural celebration. Manohar questioned Kumaraswamy's objections to the participation of the Chief Minister's family members in the Dasara procession, pointing out that Kumaraswamy himself had attended Dasara celebrations with his family when he was the Chief Minister.

"Why are questions of protocol being raised now when similar concerns apparently did not arise during his own tenure?" Manohar asked.

He said political criticism was part of a democratic system, but leaders should maintain consistency in their positions rather than apply different standards to themselves and others.

Referring to the alleged sting operation targeting former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Manohar condemned what he described as an objectionable and unethical practice. He said the Congress party would oppose any attempt to undermine Siddaramaiah, irrespective of who was behind it or their political affiliation.

"Siddaramaiah does not need Kumaraswamy's support or sympathy. Congress leaders, party workers and our government stand firmly behind him," Manohar said.

He added that the people of Karnataka had witnessed Kumaraswamy's political conduct and that the Congress did not require his support or sympathy for Siddaramaiah.

The statement was jointly issued by S. Manohar, KPCC general secretary and MEI chairman; A. Anand Puttaraju, party leader; and Kushal Haruvegowda, vice-president of the Bengaluru West District Congress Committee.

Siddaramaiah alleges journalist, Krupa Alva behind sting operation, calls it blackmail conspiracy



Mysuru: The controversy surrounding the alleged sting operation targeting former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has taken a fresh turn, with the Congress leader accusing a journalist and Krupa Alva of Mangaluru of being behind the operation. Siddaramaiah alleged that the exercise was part of a systematic conspiracy to blackmail him and tarnish his reputation through false allegations. Speaking to the media at the Suttur branch mutt in Mysuru on October 23, Siddaramaiah said the matter came to his notice in September this year. He said he had voluntarily approached the police to ensure that the truth came out and maintained that the allegations against him were baseless.

The controversy has escalated into a political flashpoint, with statements from Congress leaders and the Opposition adding to the uncertainty over who was behind the alleged operation. Siddaramaiah's son and minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah has alleged that members of the ruling Congress itself may have organised the sting operation to damage his father's image.

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has also renewed his criticism of Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar amid the controversy. Meanwhile, KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad has said that if the involvement of Congress members is established, notices will be issued and action will be taken against them.

Siddaramaiah rejected the suggestion that he needed political or moral support to defend himself. Referring to his eight years as Chief Minister, he said he had never faced such allegations during his long political career. He accused some people of resorting to blackmail tactics in the current political climate and asserted that he had committed no wrongdoing.

"I have not done anything wrong. Since I have committed no mistake, I do not need anyone's moral support, nor is there any need for anyone to stand by me," he said, according to the account of his remarks.

Flight crisis leaves 500-plus Karnataka Umrah pilgrims stranded in Mecca, Medina

BENGALURU, : More than 500 Umrah pilgrims from Karnataka are facing difficulties in Saudi Arabia after flight disruptions and the closure



of major airports amid attacks by Houthi rebels. The pilgrims, who are in Mecca and Medina, have reportedly been unable to return home for nearly two weeks as several airlines suspended their services.

The absence of a clear response from some private tour operators who arranged their pilgrimage has added to the distress. Families in Karnataka are increasingly anxious about the safety of their relatives and are appealing to the authorities to arrange their early return.

Abdul Azeem, former chairman of the Karnataka State Minorities Commission, has called for urgent intervention to bring the pilgrims back. He urged the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to allow IndiGo, Akasa Air and Air India to operate flights to Riyadh or Jeddah so that stranded travellers could be brought to India.

Financial constraints have emerged as a major concern. Several pilgrims had booked low-cost packages, and sources said their tickets were not eligible for refunds. With the existing travel arrangements disrupted, many are being forced to consider buying fresh tickets.

Neuberg Anand launches six wellness centres in Bengaluru



BENGALURU : Neuberg Anand Health Checkups, in association with NM Medical, has launched six comprehensive health checkup and wellness centres across Bengaluru as part of its push towards preventive healthcare and personalised wellness.

The centres are located in Shivaji Nagar, Old Airport Road, Kasturi Nagar, HSR Layout, Electronic City and Whitefield.

The initiative aims to shift the focus from symptom-based treatment to predictive healthcare, enabling individuals to identify potential health risks early and adopt personalised strategies for disease prevention and long-term well-being. The centres will integrate radiology, pathology, cardiology, gastroenterology, dental care, ophthalmology, audiometry and genomics. The multidisciplinary approach is expected to provide a more comprehensive assessment of individual health risks and support early diagnosis and preventive care.

The initiative combines Neuberg Anand's diagnostic capabilities with NM Medical's experience in medical imaging and comprehensive health checkups. The company is also preparing to introduce Atlas Longevity in Bengaluru, a predictive wellness initiative focused on personalised health insights, healthy ageing and long-term well-being.

Bengaluru hosts ELECRAMA 2027 roadshow, highlights Karnataka's role in power sector



Bengaluru : The Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA) hosted a preview meet for ELECRAMA 2027 in Bengaluru on Thursday, highlighting Karnataka's growing contribution to India's electrical manufacturing industry and its role in advancing renewable energy and technological innovation.

The event underscored the potential of the southern region in strengthening India's electrical and power sector, estimated at $90 billion, and building momentum for ELECRAMA 2027, billed as the world's largest standalone electrical show.

The five-day exhibition will be held from February 20 to 24, 2027. The upcoming edition is expected to be the largest in the event's history, with more than 1,100 exhibitors, 500,000 visitors, over 25,000 business-to-business meetings, more than 500 hosted buyers and participation from over 10 country pavilions. Germany will be the partner country.With the theme 'Harnessing the Power of I', the exhibition will showcase advances in electrical and electronics manufacturing, energy transition and emerging technologies, while connecting Indian manufacturers with international markets.Speaking at the event, ELECRAMA Chairman and Hartek Group Chairman Hartek Singh said the exhibition provided a major platform for industry leaders, innovators and stakeholders to collaborate on the future of India's electrical and power sector.

The theme would highlight India's manufacturing capabilities and leadership in the energy transition, he said, adding that the organisers expected substantial international participation, including from Germany and other countries. ELECRAMA Vice-Chairman and Polycab Director and CEO Shashi Amin said India's evolving power infrastructure offered significant opportunities for innovation and growth.

Kia India crosses 150 Green Workshops, strengthens sustainability drive



BENGALURU : Kia India has crossed the milestone of 150 Green Workshops across its nationwide dealer network, reinforcing its efforts to integrate sustainable practices into aftersales operations. The company said solar power systems have been installed at 151 workshops, with a cumulative capacity of 11.885 MW. The initiative aims to improve energy efficiency, conserve water and promote responsible waste management across its service network.

Kia India's Green Workshop programme has expanded steadily since 2023, when it began with three facilities and a combined solar capacity of 165 kW. The network grew to 60 workshops with 5.494 MW of installed capacity in 2024. In 2025, the company crossed the 100-workshop mark, reaching 106 facilities with 8.442 MW of capacity. The addition of 45 workshops in 2026 took the total to 151.

Water conservation is a key component of the programme. The company has prescribed steam washing or dry washing at its facilities. While dry washing eliminates water use in the washing process.

Bengaluru Skater Anjana Anand Wins Gold, Silver at CISCE Nationals



BENGALURU : Anjana Anand, a student of Carmel High School, Basaveshwaranagar, has won a gold and a silver medal at the 7th CISCE National Sports and Games skating competition held in Virar, Mumbai.

Competing in the Under-17 girls' category, Anjana clinched gold in the 500-metre event and silver in the 1,000-metre event. The achievement marks her fifth consecutive year of winning medals at the CISCE National Skating Championship.

Anjana began skating at the age of five and has been training under Srinivas G.K., coach at K.G. Skaters Club, Bengaluru. Her consistent practice, discipline and dedication have contributed to her success at the national level.Representing Carmel High School, Anjana has brought pride to her school, coach and family. She has also continued to balance her sporting commitments with academics, demonstrating determination and effective time management. Her consistent performances over the years underline her potential in skating and serve as an inspiration to young sportspersons. With her continued commitment to the sport, Anjana will be looking to build on her achievements in the coming years.

Karnataka explores clean energy partnership with China



Bengaluru : Karnataka is exploring opportunities for collaboration with China in biofuel production, renewable energy and green technology, following a meeting between Karnataka State Biofuel Development Board (KSBDB) chairman S. E. Sudheendra and Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihang. The meeting was held at the VIP lounge of Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on October 22, where the two sides discussed potential areas of cooperation, technological exchange and joint research in sustainable energy.

Sudheendra briefed the ambassador on Karnataka's potential for biofuel production and the adoption of environment-friendly technologies. He highlighted the need to strengthen international partnerships to promote ethanol and biodiesel production using agricultural waste and biomass.

He expressed Karnataka's interest in collaborating with China, a major player in renewable energy technologies, to explore joint research initiatives and industrial opportunities in the green energy sector.

Xu Feihang appreciated the Karnataka government's initiatives and expressed a positive response to proposals for technical assistance, knowledge sharing and cooperation in clean energy projects, according to the board.

The discussions come amid growing global efforts to address climate change and accelerate the transition to cleaner energy sources.

Anuradha, Deputy Commissioner (Rural), Bengaluru, and other senior officials of the board were present at the meeting.

Bengaluru's new-age homebuyers seek lifestyle beyond four walls



Bengaluru: Bengaluru's residential market is witnessing a shift in homebuyers' preferences, with a growing emphasis on lifestyle, wellness and community living rather than property size and location alone, writes Suresh H.A., Managing Director, Sanjeevini Group.

For a new generation of technology professionals, entrepreneurs, senior corporate executives and affluent households, a home is increasingly seen as an extension of their lifestyle, personal aspirations and social lives. As the city's work culture evolves, expectations from residential communities are also changing. Buyers are increasingly looking for developments that combine connectivity with quality living environments, recreational facilities and modern conveniences.

Traditional considerations of location, carpet area and specifications remain important, but amenities such as fitness facilities, landscaped gardens, sports infrastructure, pet-friendly spaces and technology-enabled comforts are gaining prominence. This has brought the concept of amenity-rich residential communities into sharper focus.

Wellness is emerging as an important consideration in residential planning. Outdoor fitness areas, landscaped gardens, walking paths, water features and recreational zones can provide residents opportunities to unwind amid urban pressures. Sports facilities including badminton, tennis and pickleball courts reflect growing interest in active lifestyles. Community interaction is another factor influencing design—an amphitheatre can host cultural programmes and neighbourhood gatherings, while dedicated children's play areas and pet parks cater to diverse households.

Bleeding After Menopause Is Never Normal, Warn Doctors

Bengaluru: Bleeding or spotting after menopause should never be dismissed as a normal part of ageing, doctors have warned, urging women to seek prompt medical evaluation to rule out serious conditions, including uterine cancer. Although menopause marks the end of menstrual periods, some women may experience vaginal bleeding months or even years after their last period. While the cause may be benign conditions such as thinning of the vaginal or uterine lining, polyps or infections, medical experts stress that every unexplained episode of postmenopausal bleeding warrants attention.

According to GLOBOCAN 2024 estimates, India recorded around 28,308 new cases of corpus uteri cancer and 6,362 deaths from the disease in 2024. Corpus uteri cancer affects the body of the uterus, with endometrial cancer being its most common type. Unlike some cancers that remain undetected until advanced stages, endometrial cancer frequently presents with abnormal vaginal bleeding. Studies indicate that approximately 90 per cent of women diagnosed with endometrial cancer experience postmenopausal bleeding.

Warning signs to watch for

Symptoms may include a few drops of blood, light spotting, pink or brown vaginal discharge, blood-stained discharge, bleeding after sexual intercourse or heavier-than-usual bleeding. Even a single episode should not be ignored. Some women may also experience pelvic discomfort or pressure.

However, postmenopausal bleeding does not necessarily indicate cancer. Benign conditions, including vaginal or endometrial atrophy and polyps, are also common causes. A medical examination is necessary to determine the underlying reason.

"Women should not ignore bleeding simply because it is light, occurs only once or appears as spotting. There are several benign causes of postmenopausal bleeding, but it is important to identify the underlying reason. A timely consultation with a gynaecologist and appropriate investigations can help rule out serious conditions," said Dr Sunitha Mahesh, medical director and senior consultant in reproductive medicine and maternal-fetal medicine at Milann – Fertility and Birthing Hospital, Bengaluru.

Risk factors

Age is an important risk factor for endometrial cancer. Others include overweight and obesity, Type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome, prolonged exposure to oestrogen without adequate progesterone, certain hormone therapies after menopause and the use of tamoxifen.

EDITORIAL

Home Ministry Extends Deployment of 273 CAPF Companies in Delhi

New Delhi: The Union home ministry has extended for the second time the deployment of 273 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) companies in the national capital till October 31.

The Press Trust of India reports, quoting unnamed official sources, that the extension comes in view of the possibility of "flash protests" by citizens. The news has broken on a day when farmers, lawyers, academics, activists, youth leaders and students were stopped on their way to the Election Commission's office in New Delhi. The citizens were protesting against the special intensive revision of the electoral rolls, which have left 13 crores out of the voter lists, and are calling for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

PTI reported that the extension was approved "at the request of the Delhi Police, which informed the ministry about the possibility of flash protests by political and other outfits at various sensitive locations across the national capital." "Officials said the continued deployment was essential to ensure proper law and order," the agency noted. The protests against Kumar and the SIR he has spearheaded took off on October 2, at Jantar Mantar. On that day, around 4,000 police personnel including companies of central forces and other paramilitary forces were deployed in Delhi. Subsequent days have been spirited protests even though security forces have left no stone unturned to ensure they do not take off – from denial of permission followed by denotification of a protest site, to closure of metro stations and mobile internet services, detentions of youth and student leaders and halting of railway services. The deployment of the CAPF had been extended in mid-October as well. The PTI report says that of the 273 companies that will remain deployed in Delhi alongside the local police, 125 belong to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), including 20 women personnel units. The deployment also includes 20 companies from the Rapid Action Force (RAF), 46 from the Border Security Force (BSF), 39 from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), 31 from the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and 12 from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). A day ago, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)'s director general, Shatrujeet Kapur, said that Indian and Chinese forces are locked in standoffs at more than one location along the Arunachal Pradesh frontier. The extension comes in view of the possibility of "flash protests" by citizens, PTI reports. A day ago, the ITBP head said that Indian and Chinese forces are locked in standoffs at more than one location along the Arunachal Pradesh frontier.

Jamnagar, Rubio, And Why The US Wants India To 'Obey', Not Negotiate

Ashok Sajjanhar



The year 2026 has emerged as a defining litmus test for the strategic partnership between the United States and India. Characterised by an intricate dance of macro-economic friction, anti-Indian commentary, and deep-rooted defense collaboration, the bilateral relationship is navigating a cycle of real structural turbulence. No single series of events captures this paradox better than the high-stakes diplomatic itineraries of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Following a critical repair mission in May 2026 to stabilise relations jolted by trade tariffs, Rubio's tour in October 2026 to the financial, industrial, technology, and energy hubs of Mumbai and Jamnagar underscores a relationship shifting away from an all-encompassing strategic partnership towards hyper-pragmatic, transactional diplomacy.

To appreciate the current state of India-US ties, one must look back to the spring of 2026. The bilateral relationship entered the year under severe stress. The second Trump administration had introduced a series of aggressive economic manoeuvres, including the imposition of a 50% import tariff on certain Indian goods in August, 2025. Compounding these economic shocks were geopolitical grievances: Washington had renewed diplomatic engagement with Pakistan - which New Delhi viewed as insensitive to its counterterrorism challenges - and public praise from the White House for Pakistan's military leadership had caused a severe trust deficit. From the 'repair mission' of May 2026 when Rubio worked aggressively to reassure India of its status as a vital strategic partner, extended an invitation to PM Modi on behalf of President Trump to visit the White House, sought to address the 50% penalty import tariffs and trust deficit, pushed the "Mission 500" to increase bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030, and reaffirmed Quad cooperation in New Delhi, Rubio's objectives in October, 2026 represented a transactional shift which coincided with a pause in the Sanctions of Russia and Iran Act seemingly triggered by broader U.S. conflicts with Iran and Russia.

IT'S BUSINESS, SILLY

The October visit has been defined by hard, transactional realism. In a move that unnecessarily ruffled feathers among some political opposition circles in India, Rubio skipped the traditional diplomatic reception in New Delhi entirely. Instead, the State Department mapped an itinerary focused squarely on the economic and financial muscle of Mumbai and the energy infrastructure of Jamnagar in Gujarat - home to the world's largest oil refining complex.

The backdrop to Rubio's October arrival was the looming threat of the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act. In a significant diplomatic decision just prior to Rubio's departure, the Trump administration paused these sanctions as they applied to any country. Speaking on his way to India, Rubio stated directly that India is an "important ally" whose energy needs must be meticulously factored into US foreign policy calculations. Rubio equated energy security with national security and declared that America's keenness to stop the Russia-Ukraine conflict has to be balanced with the impact that such measures might have on other countries. This argument sounds somewhat hypocritical, as such thinking seems to have been nowhere under consideration when penalty tariffs of 25% on account of India's purchases of Russian oil were imposed in August 2025, while the largest importer of Russian oil and gas, China, was left untouched because of varying strategic considerations. It would have been tactless for Trump to have imposed sanctions on India on the eve of the Rubio visit. This would have totally left Rubio bereft of any negotiating leverage on what he sought to achieve.

Moreover, it appears that the US today desperately wants more diesel to flow into the global markets to control the prices. In this context, the Reliance Refinery at Jamnagar, the world's largest and one of the few with the capacity to refine the hard, sour crude from Venezuela, can meet the current US needs. It is in this context that Rubio was compelled to speak of India as a "Refining Superpower". Rubio's dash to India and to Jamnagar was to seek immediate reprieve for the shortage of diesel that the world is currently experiencing, and Trump's hope that India could help in ameliorating the situation and thereby help him in his mid-Term performance.

ALWAYS A 'CATCH'

However, this relief comes with an explicit American counter-demand: Rubio emphasized a 60-day window for India to actively diversify its energy supply away from Moscow and toward American energy exporters, declaring that Washington "will not let Iran hold the global energy market hostage". The bilateral economic domain continues to remain a persistent battlefield. Long-running efforts to finalise an interim bilateral trade agreement have repeatedly stalled over market access, agricultural barriers, and tariff structures.

Yet, ahead of his October meetings with Jaishankar, Rubio injected a burst of optimism into the narrative, telling media outlets that negotiations were in their "last inches" and that a breakthrough was imminent. This push is tied to a broader political timeline: Washington is leveraging the trade agreement to set the stage for an official presidential visit by Donald Trump to India early next year. This could also be timed with PM Modi's anticipated visit to Miami, Florida, for the G20 Summit in December 2026. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has highlighted that India wants to be assured of a position of comparative advantage relative to its global trade competitors. However, the path to a finalised deal remains complicated by domestic policy incoherence in Washington. While the State Department attempts to cultivate India as the premier alternative to Chinese manufacturing supply chains, simultaneous crackdowns on Indian technology firms by US immigration authorities have severely strained the relationship. These immigration restrictions - implemented just as delegations attempt to pitch technology partnerships under the TRUST Initiative - have raised concerns in New Delhi about America's predictability as an economic partner. While public and media attention naturally gravitates toward high-profile tariff disputes and diplomatic scheduling snubs, an entirely separate reality is unfolding at the operational level. Beneath the turbulence, functional cooperation in defense, artificial intelligence, and semiconductor fabrication is accelerating at an unprecedented pace.

THE TECH TRAIN

The American private sector has decoupled its long-term strategic investments in India from the erratic cycles of official trade negotiations. Major US tech giants pledged a significant $68 billion in AI infrastructure investments in India over the past year. Furthermore, tangible components of the tech alliance are rapidly materialising:

Micron Technology officially opened its first semiconductor assembly and testing facility in India on February 28, executing a landmark supply chain diversification commitment.

Silicon Valley equipment heavyweights Applied Materials and Lam Research announced massive capital infusions into India's emerging semiconductor ecosystem, providing the hardware foundation for New Delhi's electronics manufacturing ambitions. Simultaneously, the defence-industrial relationship has proven remarkably resilient against political volatility.

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



BY MR. NAVEEN KUMAR S

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

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

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

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

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

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Aramco To Venezuela: The Oil Concession Comes Full Circle

Milinda Moragoda



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

OIL SPILL WASHES UP ON UAE BEACHES AFTER TANKER STRIKE



An oil spill from a tanker attacked near the Strait of Hormuz is spreading along the United Arab Emirates (UAE) coastline, forcing the closure of some beaches and coastal areas. Satellite images from Monday show the beginnings of the oil spill from a ship matching the location and dimensions of Gem No.2, which was damaged between 9 and 10 October during a record surge of vessel strikes by Iran. The slick of oil had spread more than 35km (22 miles) from the tanker by Wednesday, the satellite imagery showed. UAE authorities said on Thursday that the incident is affecting beaches near the northern city of Umm Al Quwain and verified video from Friday shows the oil washing ashore, colouring the water black. The UAE's Ministry of Climate Change and Environment said on Thursday that it "immediately began containment" in order to "limit environmental impacts". Prof Steve Widdicombe, director of Sharjah Marine Science Research Centre in the UAE, told BBC Verify it was "inevitable that there will be an impact", but researchers caution it is too soon to assess extent of the damage. Initially a much smaller oil leak could be seen emerging from the ship on 19 October. But the slick appears to have rapidly spread over two days, according to radar satellite imagery reviewed by BBC Verify and intelligence firm MAIAR. Oil spills can cause immediate deaths of marine animals and other organisms, for example by physically trapping turtles, smothering the feathers of seabirds or damaging the gills of fish. They can also cause longer-lasting damage, Prof Widdicombe said, if species remain exposed to toxic compounds from the oil which could impact their ability to reproduce. Researchers have cautioned the environmental impact at this stage is very uncertain, as it depends on factors including the volume and type of oil spilled, how quickly it evaporates or breaks down and the effectiveness of the clIranian state media shared footage of a ship matching Gem No.2 which appeared to show the vessel on fire with burning oil spilling into the sea. The ship had been attempting to exit the Strait of Hormuz via an "unauthorized and dangerous route", according to state media. All 22 Indian crew members were rescued, the Indian consulate in Dubai said on 11 October. Gem No.2 is one of a record number of ships that reported being attacked in and around the Strait of Hormuz at the start of October. Security experts told BBC Verify this was part of an Iranian effort to assert greater control over the strait, in response to the US military successfully escorting more vessels through the vital shipping lane. Tankers and other commercial vessels have come under attack from both Iranian and US forces in and around the Strait of Hormuz amid the conflict between the two countries. Another major oil slick washed up on the shores of Iran's Qeshm Island in August, which experts said threatened wildlife, protected ecosystems and fishing communities. ean-up operation. But the spill does extend towards Siniyah and Khor Al Beidah islands, a globally recognised Key Biodiversity Area containing habitats like corals, seagrasses and saltmarshes.

Ukraine says Starlink still restricted after Trump says limits lifted



Ukraine is still recording issues with the Starlink network, sources within the defence ministry say, after Donald Trump said limits on the satellite uplink had been reversed by Elon Musk. The sources told the BBC that instances of drones experiencing connection loss at speeds of 161km/h (100mph) were being recorded, hampering military operations. The US president had denied instructing the tech billionaire to restrict connectivity to Starlink's military-grade counterpart, Starshield, before saying on Thursday that Musk had "put it back". Musk previously said he was not behind the slowdown, which affected Ukraine's ability to use attack drones and co-ordinate defensive operations. The Ukrainian defence ministry sources said the military was constantly monitoring the performance of both the Starlink and Starshield networks. They added that there was "currently no confirmation that these restrictions have been lifted". Last week, Kyiv said uplink speeds to the low Earth orbit satellites had been restricted, affecting the speed at which drones could travel. Any drone travelling faster than 100mph lost its connection, officials said. Shortly after, Musk said that Starshield, which Ukraine uses for some of its operation, was controlled by the US military and suggested that the Pentagon could be behind the issues. The White House has since repeatedly denied deliberately placing limits on the network in Ukraine. Trump refused to say whether he had called Musk to ask him to lift restrictions to the service when asked about reports to that end on Thursday, but said: "Bottom line, he put it back." Ukraine uses both the civilian service Starlink and the more secure Starshield, depending on what communications are needed. The networks use 10,000 satellites to provide connectivity, particularly in remote areas and on the battlefield. Starshield allows Ukrainian drone operators to see targets in real time, as well as operate interceptor drones. Russia is not authorised to use Starlink, so when Ukraine sends long-range missiles deep into Russia to hit oil refineries, the network does not work. One Ukrainian soldier said there was "simply no alternative" to Starshield, adding that earlier in the week, connectivity had been cutting out when his unit had been travelling in a car at 80km/h (50 mph). "I'll tell you this much: God forbid they shut it off completely - it would be an absolute catastrophe," he told the BBC. "We need a backup option for securing communications and internet." Another soldier said they had reverted to the "proven algorithms" they used before they had Starlink when it initially started playing up, but stressed that Ukrainian forces did need the network, citing its speed. "Even one or two seconds is critical when we can transfer data and orders faster," she said. "You can really feel that advantage on the battlefield." Ukrainian reports of a slowdown to the service came during a tense diplomatic row between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky about Ukrainian strikes on Russian oil infrastructure. Faced with midterm elections next month, Trump has waived some sanctions on Russia and agreed a deal to import Russian diesel for the US market - a move criticised by Ukraine and its European allies. Trump said the strikes on Russian oil refineries, which Kyiv says are crucial to stemming the main revenue source for Moscow's war effort, have pushed global prices higher. While the attacks have had an impact on global fuel prices, rises seen this year have primarily been due to the Iran war.

SBI SAYS CUSTOMER FUNDS UNAFFECTED AFTER DATA BREACH



New Delhi: India's largest lender — State Bank of India (SBI) — on Friday stated that account balances and funds of customers remain safe following a recent cyber incident that led to exposure of 3,897 customer records on the dark web. In a statement that was shared on social media platform X, the lender said, "Further to our earlier post regarding the recent cyber incident, the lender has individually informed all customers whose data was identified as being involved through email and/or WhatsApp. We reiterate that your account balances and funds are safe with us." The bank advised customers to follow safe digital banking practices, never share OTP, PIN or password with anyone and remain vigilant against suspicious calls, messages and emails. The statement came after India's largest lender clarified earlier this week that it had experienced a data breach, with 3,897 customer records found exposed on the dark web. Earlier in the week, the bank said it had received communications from its Threat Intelligence Service Provider, the Defence Cyber Agency and CERT-In regarding an alert concerning suspected exposure of customer data. During preliminary analysis of approximately 375,000 records available on the dark web, 3,897 customer records containing Personally Identifiable Information (PII) were identified, the bank had said in an exchange filing. The exposed information reportedly included customers' registered mobile numbers, dates of birth, names, gender, email addresses, residential addresses, branch and CIF identifiers, lead IDs and metadata associated with loan or lead records and other related files, it added. The state-owned lender said it promptly activated its cyber incident response and containment protocols and engaged an independent CERT-In-empanelled cybersecurity agency to conduct a comprehensive assessment and investigate the nature and extent of the alleged compromise.

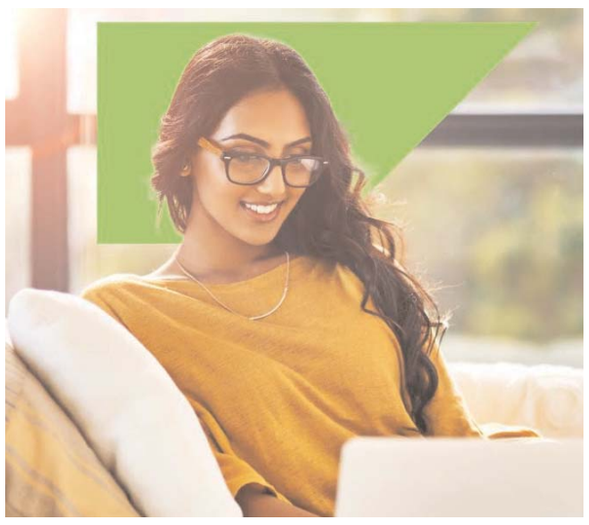
ZUCKERBERG MAKES META DEAL TO COVER POTENTIAL BILLIONAIRE TAX



Sacramento: Mark Zuckerberg made a deal with Meta's board to help him pay a proposed California tax on billionaires without losing his ownership stake in the company he founded, according to regulatory filings published this week. If passed by voters in the November 3 election, the measure would levy a one-time 5 per cent tax on the wealth of Californians whose net worth exceeds USD 1 billion. Zuckerberg is the sixth-richest person in the world with a net worth estimated at more than USD 220 billion, according to Forbes. That would put his tax liability at more than USD 11 billion. Actions announced by the tech giant on Wednesday will keep Zuckerberg as the majority owner of the company — and also give him the ability to sell some of a new class of non-voting shares "for any reason", including to pay potential bills from the wealth tax. The compromise came after Zuckerberg told the board he was considering selling his Palo Alto home last month in anticipation of the proposed tax. But he later struck the deal and committed to staying in California for eight years, unless "material unforeseen circumstances" arise that make it "prudent or advisable for him to reside elsewhere", according to the filings. A few hundred billionaires live in California, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office. The tax would apply to anyone with a primary residence in the state as of January 1, 2026. Most of the money would be used to backfill federal funding cuts to healthcare, and 10 per cent of it would go toward education and food-assistance programmes. Proponents, including SEIU United Healthcare Workers West and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, say it would help ensure the ultra-rich pay their fair share. But opponents, including California Governor Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, have warned it could prompt the state's wealthiest to leave the state. That could cause budget problems down the line because the state relies heavily on the rich for income tax revenue. SEIU United Healthcare Workers West said the Zuckerberg deal proves opponents wrong. "This is the nail in the coffin to months of scare tactics claiming that billionaires are fleeing California," Suzanne Jimenez, the union's chief of staff, said in a statement. Zuckerberg's deal with Meta offers another glimpse into how the ultra-wealthy are bracing for the proposed tax, which targets the main way they make money, through their investments, instead of by raising taxes on the paycheck they receive from work. Other billionaires have taken a different approach by starting to cut ties with the state, including Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page. Brin and other tech moguls and venture capitalists have poured millions into a political action committee opposing the proposed tax and backing other ballot measures designed to nullify it. The committee, Building a Better California, has raised more than USD 333 million, 30 per cent of which has come from Brin. By comparison, the "Yes on 40" campaign has raised USD 32.7 million. Zuckerberg has taken a salary of USD 1 each year since 2013 as Meta's CEO. In its regulatory filings, Meta maintained that Zuckerberg would not receive additional compensation — and argued that he would "effectively be paying to serve as the company's chief executive officer while residing in California" if the state's wealth tax is enacted. The company said the new stock he will be allowed to sell — representing 10 per cent of his overall economic stake in the company — would help mitigate that.

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51 Mercedes-Benz cars delivered in Hyderabad in Navratri season



Hyderabad: As many as 51 Mercedes-Benz cars were delivered in Hyderabad during the Navratri season this year by the authorised dealer, Mercedes-Benz Silver Star. The festive season, including Diwali, Dussehra and Navratri, is associated with new beginnings and considered auspicious in India. During this period, automobile purchases increase as customers schedule them according to the aforementioned festivals. "Mercedes-Benz Silver Star, Hyderabad, celebrated 51 Mercedes-Benz deliveries during Navaratri, marking a strong festive season and reflecting the continued trust of customers across the city," the dealership said in a statement. Mercedes-Benz Silver Star said each delivery brought together the excitement of purchasing a new car and the opportunity to celebrate with family. According to the dealership, the sale of 51 Mercedes-Benz cars also reflects its emphasis on ensuring a good after-sales experience and strengthening customer relations. The 51 deliveries represent more than a festive milestone for Silver Star. Each delivery signifies a customer's aspiration, a family's happiness, and a relationship built on trust. From the excitement of receiving a new vehicle to memorable moments shared with loved ones, the celebrations brought together the spirit of the festive season and the experience of luxury ownership, the release added. The management of Mercedes-Benz Silver Star said, "This milestone inspires us to continue raising the bar in customer experience and service excellence."

SBI data breach:

HYDERABAD ADVOCATE MOVES NHRC, SEEKS CBI PROBE



Hyderabad: A city-based advocate has filed a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), seeking a CBI investigation into the alleged loss of personal data of a substantial number of State Bank of India (SBI) customers. In his complaint dated October 21, Yennam Balachander Reddy refers to media reports on the issue as well as the bank's communication to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regarding the same. The NHRC has acknowledged receipt of the complaint.

He said he himself has been an SBI customer for over a decade. Listing them as respondents, Reddy has also sought an action-taken report from the following: the CBI, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India, the Data Protection Board of India, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), and the Defence Cyber Agency.

ON SBI DATA BREACH

Citing media reports from October 21, Reddy said, "According to information disclosed by the bank to the SEBI, about 375,000 customer records had been exposed on the dark web in the data breach, to be true and correct."

He said that the bank acknowledged a data-loss incident after receiving communications on October 16 "concerning the suspected exposure of customer data on the dark web. Preliminary analysis reportedly identified approximately 3.75 lakh records, including 3,897 customer records containing personally identifiable information (PII).

According to the bank, it received communications from its Threat Intelligence Service Provider, the Defence Cyber Agency and CERT-In regarding an alert concerning suspected exposure of customer data earlier in the week. "Preliminary analysis reportedly identified approximately 3.75 lakh records, including 3,897 customer records containing personally identifiable information (PII)," he said.

Israeli forces begin demolishing Palestinian buildings in Hebron



The Israeli military has begun demolishing Palestinian buildings in the city of Hebron, after two Israeli soldiers were killed in an attack by two Palestinian gunmen. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the military would "destroy" the neighbourhood where the two attackers came from, and that Israel was ready for "extensive action" in the occupied West Bank. Three other soldiers were wounded in the attack at a checkpoint outside Hebron, before the gunmen were shot dead, officials say. The attack comes at a time of high tensions, with extremist Jewish settlers targeting Palestinians during the annual olive harvest, and Israel's general election taking place in four days' time. Footage verified by the BBC shows an intense gun battle between soldiers and the gunmen. Unverified CCTV footage shows two gunmen exit a car armed with what appears to be a handgun and an assault rifle and start firing on soldiers at the checkpoint, before coming under return fire. The attack has already begun to influence the ongoing election campaign, with Netanyahu - who has built his campaign on the promise of security - saying that his Likud party would cancel campaign events which had been set for Friday morning. Speaking later from the scene of the attack, Netanyahu said that the military would "demolish this place and completely transform it," referring to the Hebron neighbourhood where the attackers are said to have come from. It is common for Israeli forces to demolish the homes of Palestinians who are suspected of carrying out attacks on Israelis - a practice Israeli rights groups have criticised as "collective punishment". Netanyahu also said he had reviewed plans for the largest military operation in the West Bank in decades - though did not say when it could be carried out. He added that he had imposed cordonNetanyahu also said the military would forcefully evacuate the area of the attack and "transform it completely," employing the plan used in the Jenin, Tulkarm, Nur Shams, and Al-Far'a refugee camps in early 2025, which led to the displacement of thousands of Palestinians and the evacuation of entire neighborhoods. By Friday afternoon, Israeli forces had started demolitions in the Farsh al-Hawa area of Hebron. In video obtained by CNN, an Israeli soldier tells residents of a housing complex: "You have five minutes to evacuate." around the city of Hebron - which has around 200,000 residents - and the nearby city of Halhul. Netanyahu's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich called for Israel to launch a campaign in the West Bank "exactly like in Gaza or Lebanon," while far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir called for Israel to dismantle the Palestinian Authority. On Thursday, Foreign Minister Israel Katz accused opposition leaders of undermining the government by criticising Netanyahu's warnings of an attack ahead of the election, saying they would be "responsible" for any future attack on the country. Opposition chiefs, including frontrunner Gadi Eisenkot and former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, offered their condolences to the families of the killed troops and praised those who killed the attackers. The Israeli military said it had found a large quantity of ammunition in the attackers' vehicle, and that they believe the gunmen had intended to carry out a much larger attack on the nearby Route 35, but ran into the checkpoint - so instead decided to open fire there. At least 96 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank since the start of the year, according to the UN. Four Israelis, both security forces and civilians, have been killed by Palestinians there over the same period, the UN says - not including those killed in Friday's attack. Israel began demolishing buildings and forcing residents to evacuate a neighborhood in the occupied West Bank on Friday, hours after two Palestinian gunmen opened fire on an Israeli military checkpoint, killing two soldiers.

WHITE HOUSE SAYS MELANIA TRUMP BROKERS TRUCE FOR UKRAINE CITY 'ON BRINK OF DISASTER'



US First Lady Melania Trump has "successfully secured" a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine in the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky, the White House has said.
The statement said the truce in the "front-line war city on the brink of disaster" would begin on 29 October. "Oleshky's remaining population is comprised primarily of elderly residents who urgently need medical attention, medicine, food, and clean water," it added. Ukraine and Russia later confirmed the ceasefire was agreed.
Oleshky, in the Kherson region, was seized by Russian forces during the first days of Moscow's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Remaining residents have recently resorted to eating garden weeds to survive. The White House statement said Melania Trump and her representative had worked "directly with Russian and Ukrainian leadership to define the terms of the localised ceasefire".
"Non-military, civilian leaders from both countries will work together to visit Oleshky residents in their homes and determine the level of assistance they require," she is quoted as saying.
"Residents who wish to evacuate will receive coordinated support and transportation to their preferred destination. I anticipate some will want to go to Russia, and some to Ukraine." Melania Trump added that Oleshky residents "have limited electricity, live amid mined roads, and endure regular military attacks" and that "without my intervention, the possibility to bring humanitarian aid into the city and to evacuate the elderly would be impossible".
The statement did not say how long the ceasefire would be in place for.
Davyd Arakhamia, a Ukrainian MP who heads President Volodymyr Zelensky's party in parliament, later said "an operation to unblock the settlement of Oleshky and its surroundings will begin in the near future".
"To achieve this goal, a ceasefire will be achieved in the near future, as announced by the First Lady of the United States, Melania Trump," he said.
In Russia, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman confirmed the truce had been agreed.
"The military is currently working to coordinate the timings of a ceasefire," Dmitry Peskov said. "Those who wish to do so will be able to leave this settlement." Last month, some of the remaining Oleshky residents told the BBC harrowing accounts of how they were surviving in the city that was being constantly shelled and cut off from food and water. They said that children remaining in wider Oleshky were suffering from malnutrition, a lack of medical services and were "degrading" without access to education.
Many also told the BBC there was only one hospital partially operational, opening a few days a week to perform critical amputations. The local population was living under a "full blockade" by Russian forces, according to Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha.
Ukraine says it has attempted to deliver supplies to the area but has not had success in recent months. The Kremlin in September acknowledged that Oleshky was facing "a critical situation" and "problems with supplies of food and medicine", but added that "Russia's military was working to resolve them" and blamed Kyiv. Oleshky is trapped between the Dnipro River, which separates it from Ukrainian positions, and Russian forces.

Denmark to ban mink farming in government U-turn



Mink farming will end in Denmark by August 2029 after the government decided to drop plans to pursue an exemption to an EU-wide ban on the practice. Denmark was once the largest producer of mink fur in the world, but the industry has declined due to global bans on fur farming, a decline in the fur trade and an earlier outbreak of a Covid strain in the nation's mink population. The ban is due to come into effect on 7 August next year, and is followed by a two-year transition period to phase out the practice. Danish Nature Minister Christian Rabjerg Madsen said the government had chosen animal welfare. "A business should not continue just because it has existed for a long time. It should also make sense for society, for the economy and for the animals," he said. The Danish government had initially sought an exemption for its mink industry when the EU added the mammal to its list of invasive species in 2025, prohibiting people from keeping them. However, the current coalition government, elected in June, reversed this decision and decided not to proceed with the application on Friday. Social Democrat MP Brigitte Vind said it was "a good day for animal welfare". "It is absolutely the right decision not to apply for a special scheme for mink breeding in Denmark," she said.

Deadly shooting near Paris investigated as 'crime of terrorism', minister says



One person has been killed and five others wounded - three seriously - in a gun attack in a Parisian suburb which authorities are investigating as "terrorism". Several drive-by shootings took place on Friday - first in Trappes to the south-west of Paris, and then in nearby La Verrière. The rampage lasted almost 15 minutes, said Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez. A12-year-old girl is among the wounded. The suspected attacker has been arrested. The motive remains unclear, but the National Anti-Terrorist Prosecutor's Office (PNAT) said the incident appeared to be "murder in connection with a terrorist enterprise". Nuñez told reporters in Trappes: "It's clearly a terrorist crime, that's what [the prosecutor] has said." The Mayor of Trappes, Ali Rabeh, said that "an individual fired shots from his vehicle at several people he encountered" on Friday morning. The gunman drove through several neighbourhoods in a grey Renault Clio, according to witnesses. Rabeh said he had "fired randomly" with the seeming intent of causing "as many casualties as possible... he wanted to cause carnage", he said. The mayor said people had been targeted at a petrol station, a medical centre and a playground in Trappes before the attacker had driven on to nearby La Verrière. A police union official said the suspect had been detained in La Verrière on the main N10 road that runs through the town. Asked what the motive for the shootings may have been, the mayor of Trappes said that the victim who had died was of African origin and one of those in a critical condition was of North African descent. The attack had a "racist, probably Islamophobic overtone", he said. In its own statement, the anti-terror prosecutor called for caution regarding the identity of the victims. However, among the alleged offences covered by the investigation, the prosecutor listed "murder in connection with a terrorist enterprise" with the aggravated circumstance of acts committed because of "real or perceived membership of a particular race, ethnicity, nation or religion". The attacker reportedly travelled down a main road, shooting intermittently out of his car window. A local police chief told BFMTV that the suspect had used "an older-style semi-automatic weapon" with bursts of fire. Le Parisien reports that the gun dated back to World War Two. Rabeh said the shooter had hit a health centre, a petrol station and several vehicles during the spree. The suspected attacker was then arrested at the nearby town of Coignières, local media report. The interior minister said the motive of the attacker remained unclear. The suspect, a 39-year-old, was known to police but not to France's intelligence services, local media report. PNAT said their investigation also includes "possession of a Category A weapon" - which includes military-grade weapons or weapons capable of firing in bursts. The anti-terrorist office also said its investigation is looking into "conspiracy with a terrorist group for the purpose of preparing crimes against persons".

Cyprus police open investigation into financial affairs of Roman Abramovich



Police in Cyprus have opened an investigation into the financial affairs of Roman Abramovich, following revelations by BBC Panorama that accountancy firm Deloitte helped in falsifying documents to hide his wealth and evade tax. Serious questions about the integrity of some of Abramovich's professional advisers were raised earlier this month in a joint report from the BBC and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (TBIJ). A Cypriot Ministry of Justice official told MPs this week that the report's findings would be looked at as part of a new investigation by the police's Financial Intelligence Unit. Lawyers for Abramovich have said that he denies evading tax or concealing his fortune. Deloitte Cyprus said it acts "in compliance with applicable laws". The police investigation was announced at a parliamentary committee meeting in the Cypriot capital, Nicosia, held to discuss the combating and prevention of money laundering. The Ministry of Justice official told MPs the police would try to determine whether any criminal acts had been committed. Last week, the report from the BBC and TBIJ detailed how accounts signed off by Deloitte in Cyprus in 2006 meant assets such as superyachts, mansions and private jets worth $672m (£508m) vanished from Abramovich's company accounts. Deloitte, which is the world's largest accountancy firm, also appears to have advised on a scheme to evade a huge tax bill on the oligarch's wealth.



Six shot dead by gunmen at church funeral in Jordan, officials say

US justice department investigating Corey Lewandowski over DHS role



The US Department of Justice (DOJ) is investigating whether Corey Lewandowski, who was a top aide to former Department ?of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kristi Noem, personally profited from his role, according to the BBC's US partner CBS News. Lewandowski worked closely with Noem as a special government employee until March, when the two were both ousted after a series of controversies, including the fatal shootings of US citizens by immigration officers. The probe is related to contracts the agency signed under Noem's leadership, a source told CBS. The BBC has contacted Lewandowski's attorney, who told CBS his client denies any wrongdoing. "Mr Lewandowski has not been contacted by the justice department regarding any investigation," his attorney, Adam Trigg, said. Asked about the investigation on Thursday, President Donald Trump told reporters he had heard about it but did not know the details, adding, "I want my people to be honest". "And if they're not going to be honest, they have to be prosecuted," he said. Lewandowski served as a campaign manager to Trump during his first presidential run in 2016 and helped advise his 2024 campaign.
DHS officials told Reuters that Lewandowski had approved some DHS contracts despite not having the legal authority to do so as a special government employee. He also allegedly put certain grants and contracts on hold, including some involving the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the officials told Reuters. Special government employees serve as temporary advisers to federal agencies and are given strict limits on how much they can work and what they can do. The justice department took on the investigation after receiving a referral from the DHS inspector general's office, which is made up of lawyers charged with monitoring the agency's conduct and operations. At DHS, Lewandowski served as Noem's de facto chief of staff. Noem also faced a contract controversy. Shortly before she left office, lawmakers pressed her about the process she had used to award a $220m (£164m) advertising contract to two companies with ties to her and people in her inner circle.

Cleveland Coach Kenny Atkinson Candidly Revealed Depression Over LeBron James' Philadelphia 76ers Move

Kenny Atkinson made an honest confession about heartbreak over LeBron James. Before Thursday's tipoff, the Cleveland Cavaliers coach said he was depressed when LeBron picked the Philadelphia 76ers over a second homecoming in Cleveland. The game itself was no kinder. His team built a 29-point lead in Philadelphia, then lost 114-106. James walked off with the win, and Atkinson walked off with another reason to think about the summer. The Sixers needed only the second half to flip a game that looked finished at halftime, and they did it in front of their home crowd.

CAVALIERS COACH KENNY ATKINSON REVEALS HEARTBREAK OVER LEBRON JAMES' MOVE

Kenny Atkinson spoke to reporters before the Cavaliers met the Sixers, and he did not soften the answer. Cleveland had been among the leading contenders for LeBron James once the four-time MVP entered unrestricted free agency and passed on a return to the Los Angeles Lakers. A second homecoming in Cleveland was on the table. James took a two-year, $8 million deal with Philadelphia instead. "We were anticipating and excited and then you have that. Having gone through free agency a lot, when you're expecting something to happen and it doesn't happen, that first day or two, you're just like, you're depressed, quite honestly," Atkinson said, per ESPN's Dave McMenamin.

Cleveland moved fast on Peyton Watson, who left the Denver Nuggets in a four-year, $88 million sign-and-trade. Atkinson liked the speed. "I loved how quickly we just switched gears and the push to get Peyton in the fold and everything we had to do to do that. I mean, that was a complicated maneuver. But it's kind of what Dan Gilbert and Koby and those guys, they're aggressive," Atkinson said. He added, "They don't stand pat, and I love it. We take risks, we take swings. It was a great switch to what was a tough blow for us in the beginning."

THE PHILADELPHIA 76ERS SECURE A STUNNING 114-106 VICTORY OVER CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

Cleveland looked comfortable for most of the first half. The Cavaliers led 69-40, and the game seemed settled. James was making his home debut at Xfinity Mobile Arena. Then the Sixers flipped it. Tyrese Maxey led the team with 32 points and sparked a 15-0 run in the fourth quarter that took the lead from Cleveland.



FEATS LIKE PRANAVI URS' ASIAN GAMES GOLD WILL MAKE GOLF BIGGER IN INDIA: KAPIL DEV



Mumbai: PGTI president Kapil Dev on Friday said individual triumphs such as Pranavi Urs' gold medal in the recent Asian Games would give golf a much needed push in the country. Pranavi became the first Indian female golfer to win the individual gold medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games earlier this month. "We think golf is played by the elite, but not anymore. Every young boy (now) wants to play golf, and that is what we are trying to do. Our job as administrators is to bring in more tournaments," Kapil, India's cricket World Cup winning captain said at the launch of the Shri Shashi Ruia Memorial Golf Championship. "Let's hope that one day, we will produce a Sachin Tendulkar, or a Virat Kohli, or a Sunil Gavaskar, out of these (golf) players. We are just hoping for one big kick, and (if) they win the world championship or something. Look at our girls; not even 300 girls play in India. We won the Asian gold medal. What else do we want? I think these type of feats are going to make this game much bigger than we can ever imagine," Kapil added. The Shri Shashi Ruia Memorial Golf Championship will be held here at the Willingdon Sports Club from January 12-15 next year. PGTI said the championship will be held in a five-year partnership with the Essar Foundation and organised annually till 2031. "The tournament will feature a prize purse of Rs 2 crore, with the Pro-Am event scheduled for January 10, 2027," the organisers said. Kapil, meanwhile, remarked that there is more interest among young players to take up batting and not bowling. "What can one do if everyone wants to become a batsman? In cricket, they say a batsman is an officer and the bowler is a worker," he said.

Virat Kohli Assured Me "Get Fit, You're There", Then No Reply: Retired India Star Amit Mishra



Former India leg-spinner Amit Mishra's international career ended on a sour note. The T20I against England in 2017 turned out to be his final game for India, but Mishra feels that if it were not for an injury he sustained in that match, he might have gone on to play more for the national team. Crucially, Mishra claimed that he was given explicit comeback assurances by both the then head coach Anil Kumble and captain Virat Kohli. However, when he regained full fitness, the latter did not even respond to his calls and messages. Mishra made the revelation during an episode of the podcast Baith & Bol with former India cricketer Aakash Chopra. He claimed that the assurances from both Kumble and Kohli fell flat, with the England match in Bengaluru turning out to be his final game for India in international cricket. "I got my leg injured during that time in Bangalore. And when I was leaving after getting injured, Anil Kumble was the coach. So I told Anil Bhai, I said, 'Anil Bhai...'. He said, 'Don't worry. As soon as you get fit, you automatically... you will come back,'" Mishra claimed during the podcast. "Then, Virat Kohli became the captain after this. I also asked Virat Kohli, I said, 'Brother, what needs to be done?' He said, 'You don't worry. Get fully fit and comfortable, and you are there [in the team],'" he added. Once Mishra had recovered, he messaged Kohli to ask about the situation regarding his return to the national team. The veteran leg-spinner claimed that Kohli promised to get back to him within seven to ten days but never responded. "So, I went to him. I asked, 'Brother, what's the situation?' So he said, 'I will let you know in a week to ten days.' Then brother, one week passed, two weeks passed, three weeks passed, there was absolutely no update from him. I called him... so, he did not pick up the call. I messaged him, but there was no reply," Mishra said, accusing Kohli of failing to keep his promise.

Temba Bavuma Reacts To Viral Steve Smith Catch Video, Explains Why He Turned His Back



South Africa registered a historic victory over Australia in the second Test of the two-match series on Thursday at St George's Park in Gqeberha. After declaring their first innings at 425/9, the Proteas bundled Australia out for just 99 and enforced the follow-on. In their second innings, Australia tried their best to stage a comeback but were eventually bowled out for 295, losing the match by an innings and 31 runs. With the win, Temba Bavuma and Co. levelled the two-match Test series 1-1. Skipper Bavuma was named Player of the Match for his brilliant knock of 179, which helped South Africa build a massive lead. Apart from producing a match-winning performance with the bat, the Proteas captain also treated fans to a hilarious moment on the field. The incident occurred in the 83rd over of Australia's second innings when Steve Smith mistimed a shot off Kagiso Rabada's bowling. Smith attempted a big hit but only managed a thick top edge, sending the ball high into the air. Matthew Breetzke, stationed at mid-wicket, initially fumbled the catch but managed to hold on, providing South Africa with a crucial breakthrough. Replays later showed that as Breetzke was attempting the catch, Bavuma had turned his face towards the crowd, refusing to watch the moment unfold. The gesture left the commentators in splits, with many joking about it after the match. Speaking during the post-match press conference, Bavuma later explained the reason behind his reaction. He revealed that he was nervous because of the windy conditions and felt Smith's wicket was extremely important for South Africa. "I was very nervous at that time. High catches here at St George's can be tough, especially when the wind is blowing like that. I couldn't see who was under the catch. So, definitely it's not a case of me not having any faith in that individual," he said. "It just felt like a big moment in the game. Steve Smith, what an important cog he is withing their batting lineup.

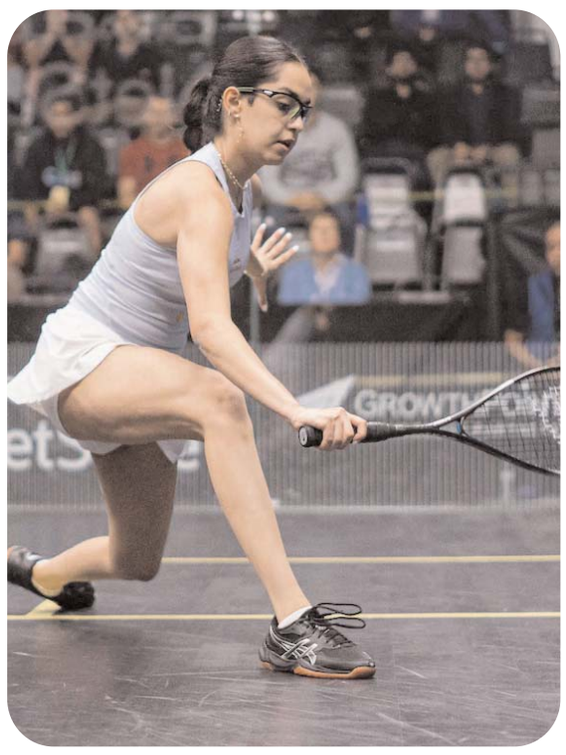
Los Angeles Olympics Cricket Qualifiers In January-February 2028: Report



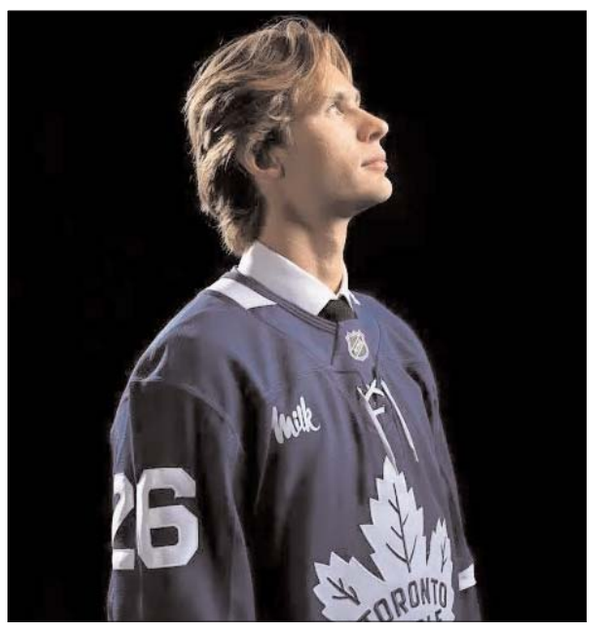
New Delhi: The qualifiers for the Los Angeles Olympics' cricket competition will take place in January-February 2028, a media report has stated. According to 'Cricinfo', the window for the qualifiers for both men and women "feature in a global events list that the ICC shared with its member boards after meetings in October in Dubai." It also said that the 2029 World Test Championship final will take place in England from June 8 to 12. "Overall, there are 12 men's, seven women's and five Under-19 events (including qualifiers) currently scheduled between the 2027 and the 2031 ODI World Cups. "While several marquee events were already finalised by the ICC in 2021, multiple tournaments have now been assigned dates even as some dots remain to be connected," the report said. Cricket would be returning to the Olympics after over 100 years in the 2028 Games. Australia, India, South Africa and Great Britain have already qualified for the women's event as the highest-ranked teams from their respective continents based on thei"If the host (USA) does not meet the ranking criteria by 31 Dec 2026, that spot is reallocated based on the ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 standings (cut-off 1 March 2027)," Cricinfo quoted the ICC communication to member countries in October. The qualifiers will each feature eight countries to be finalised by ICC based on the international rankings.

Anahat Singh Scripts History, Becomes First Indian To Reach Gold Event Semifinal

Indian squash sensation Anahat Singh continued her fairy-tale run at the Silicon Valley Open, adding another major milestone to her resume by storming into her first-ever PSA Gold semi-final. The World No. 15 showcased extraordinary grit to overcome Egypt's World No. 14 Salma Hany in a captivating five-game marathon. Demonstrating immense character to fight back twice after falling behind, Anahat eventually sealed the victory with a scoreline of 4-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-2, 11-5, becoming the first Indian in the history of the sport to reach a Gold event semifinal. The dramatic encounter highlighted Anahat's tactical maturity under pressure.



Gavin McKenna Earns High Praise From Toronto Maple Leafs With Impressive Assessment



Gavin McKenna has barely settled into his first NHL season, yet the conversation around him keeps growing. The No. 1 pick from the 2026 draft is already one of the most discussed players on the Toronto Maple Leafs roster, and not just for what he does on the ice. Toronto has won back-to-back games, beating San Jose 3-1 on October 19 and routing Columbus 6-2 on Tuesday. Ahead of Thursday's matchup against the New York Rangers, analysts are closely watching how the rookie handles everything this city throws at him.

MCKENNA'S NHL DEBUT SEASON IS DRAWING SERIOUS ATTENTION

Most 18-year-olds arriving as the top pick spend their first few weeks just trying to keep up. McKenna has done more than that. He scored a game-winning goal recently that wasn't just lucky positioning. He drove to the net on his own read, finished, and skated back like it was Tuesday practice. For a kid still learning NHL pace, that kind of decision-making under pressure is not standard. On the October 22 pregame edition of Daily Faceoff's "The Leafs Morning Take," hosts Nick Alberga and Matt Larkin broke down what they have seen from McKenna so far. Alberga opened with this: "On Gavin McKenna, what have you made of the last week? Like Rosie (Jay Rosehill) and I, and others, have been commending how this kid has handled everything, from going first overall, with Justin Bieber announcing Mr. McKenna to the stage.



Angel Reese Reveals Kim Mulkey's Message After Atlanta Dream's WNBA Finals Win

Angel Reese, the popular Dreams star, has two wins left before she can call herself a WNBA champion. Her ex LSU coach, Kim Mulkey, was in the crowd when the Atlanta Dream defeated the Golden State Valkyries 97-71 in Game 3 on Oct. 21. After the win, Reese shared what Mulkey told her, although she kept most of their conversation private. The two have already won a college championship together, and Reese now wants to do it again with Atlanta. Kim Mulkey Has Two Words for Angel Reese: Keep Going In the post game presser after Dream's Game 3 win, Reese revealed that Mulkey urged her to keep pushing. The pro player added, "Her words, I can't share. But she just kept telling me to just go get it. like, go get it, don't stop, and just two more.". Atlanta now leads the best-of-five series 2-1. The Dream needs one more win to reach the championship threshold in this series format? Reese also spoke about what another title would mean after her previous run with Mulkey at LSU. "I won a championship with her, and I remember how that felt, and being able to do it again with this group is going to feel even more special," Reese added. Reese transferred to LSU in 2022, pointing to the program's winning culture as one reason for her decision. She and Mulkey won the NCAA women's basketball national championship in 2023, giving LSU its first title in the sport. Now, Reese is trying to win at the professional level with Atlanta. DeWanna Bonner Praises Angel Reese's Playoff Run Reese has averaged 21.7 points and 13.3 rebounds per game in the Finals, according to the report. She has also recorded a double-double in each of the first three games. Teammates DeWanna Bonner, a two-time WNBA champion with 17 seasons of league experience, has been impressed by Reese's postseason performances. In another interview with a local Atlanta news programme, Bonner said Reese's impact ranked among the better playoff performances she had seen especially from a player making her first postseason appearance. "You always need that dominant force," Bonner said, adding that Reese's play had left her "at a loss for words." Reese is a three-time WNBA All-Star and the league's Defensive Player of the Year, according to the report. Atlanta's 26-point win has put the Dream in front, but the series is not over yet.

PRABHAS AND PRASHANTH NEEL REUNITE FOR SALAAR 2



A Special Day & A Special Reunion- The DINO-mite Duo- Violent Man Prabhas & Sensational Director Prashanth Neel For Salaar 2, In Hombale Films Banner

The DINO-mite Duo – Violent Man Prabhas and sensational director Prashanth Neel delivered one of the biggest blockbusters in Indian cinema with Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire. Produced by Vijay Kiragandur under the prestigious Hombale Films banner, the high-octane action entertainer featured Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan, Jagapathi Babu, Bobby Simha, and Sriya Reddy in pivotal roles.

On the occasion of Prabhas' birthday, the makers have reaffirmed the excitement surrounding the franchise by announcing the sequel, Salaar 2. Director Prashanth Neel is expected to begin work on the film's pre-production after wrapping up his ongoing project Dragon, starring Young Tiger NTR. Meanwhile, Prabhas continues to juggle multiple exciting projects in his busy lineup.

Renowned for his ability to craft larger-than-life action spectacles and present leading stars in powerful, mass-appealing avatars, Prashanth Neel has established a distinctive style that resonates with audiences across the country. The phenomenal success of Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire, coupled with the explosive combination of Prabhas and Neel, has significantly heightened expectations for the next chapter. Fans are eagerly looking forward to witnessing the duo reunite for another action-packed cinematic experience. Further details about Salaar 2, including its production timeline, are awaited.

Kareena Kapoor Rules Abu Dhabi Black Leather



Kareena Kapoor, who recently went viral on Kapil Sharma's show with husband Saif Ali Khan, has clicked in Abu Dhabi for IIFA in a stunning look.

She wore a black leather co-ord set. The fitted blazer has a deep V neckline, strong shoulders and a peplum waist, paired with a matching midi skirt with a high thigh slit. Slim black sunglasses, stud earrings, rings and gold nails finished the look, with her hair left loose and windswept.

Meanwhile, Kareena was last seen in Daayra, which flopped. She has now got a cameo in Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film King. Born into the legendary Kapoor family, Kareena made her acting debut in 2000 with J.P. Dutta's Refugee opposite Abhishek Bachchan, winning the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut. She quickly rose to stardom with hits like Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham (2001), the critically acclaimed Chameli and Omkara, and the iconic Jab We Met (2007), for which she earned the Filmfare Best Actress award. Over two decades, she has delivered memorable performances in films ranging from 3 Idiots to Udta Punjab and Jaane Jaan.

Her recent projects include the investigative thriller Daayra (2026) opposite Prithviraj Sukumaran, directed by Meghna Gulzar. She is also set for a special appearance in Shah Rukh Khan's King (December 2026), featuring in the song "Daddy Cool." Looking ahead, Kareena will perform at IIFA 2027 on Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, in January. With her enduring charm and versatile career, Bebo continues to reign as one of Bollywood's most celebrated stars.

MARIYAPPAN CHINNA'S DIRECTORIAL DEBUT IMMORTAL TO PREMIERE ON OCTOBER 30 ON SONY LIV



A chance encounter, a mysterious woman and a secret that refuses to stay buried. Tamil film -tv Immortal explores the darker side of attraction as an ordinary connection turns into a terrifying mystery. Blending romance, mystery and supernatural horror, Immortal, written and directed by debutant *Mariyappan Chinna* premieres on *October 30, 2026, on Sony LIV in five languages Tamil, Telugu, Malyalam, Kannada and Hindi.

Set in present-day Chennai, Immortal follows Magi (played by *G. V. Prakash Kumar*), a printing press worker looking for an affordable place to stay. He meets Sindhu (played by *Kayadu Lohar*), a mysterious woman who offers him a room in her luxurious apartment at a surprisingly low rent. What seems like a lucky break soon turns unsettling as strange events draw Magi deeper into Sindhu's world, leading him to a mystery that dates back much further than he imagined.

FILM SET FOR A GRAND WORLDWIDE THEATRICAL RELEASE ON DECEMBER 11



The film "Idupu Kayitham" is being produced by Bunny Vas and acclaimed director Sukumar under their banners Bunny Vas Works and Sukumar Writings, with Priyadarshi playing the lead role. Naga Durga, who has earned recognition through folk songs, plays the female lead. Young director Vamsi Reddy Dondapati is crafting the film as an entertaining drama set against a family backdrop. The film is scheduled for a grand worldwide theatrical release on December 11.

Vijay Shankar, Siri Chowdary and Khayyum Starrer Mr Deyyam Launched with a Grand Pooja Ceremony



The upcoming Telugu film, 'Mr Deyyam', starring Vijay Shankar, Siri Chowdary and Khayyum in lead roles, was grandly launched with a traditional pooja ceremony on Friday. Directed by Sanjana Anne and produced under the Anne Creations banner, the film is presented by Shourya Arya. The launch ceremony was attended by several prominent personalities, including Manchu Manoj, Ali, Vijay Kanakamedala, RP Patnaik, Patnam Mahender Reddy, Ramesh Puppala, Sameer, Chintu, Veera Shankar, Raja Vannem Reddy, VN Adithya, Jyotsna, Labour Commissioner Gangadhar and choreographer Vijay Polaki, who graced the occasion as special guests.

Manchu Manoj sounded the clapboard for the auspicious muhurtham shot, while Ali switched on the camera. Vijay Kanakamedala directed the first shot, and VN Adithya and RP Patnaik handed over the script to the team, marking an auspicious beginning for the project.

'OSCAR MISSING' MOVIE OPENS WITH POOJA CEREMONIES



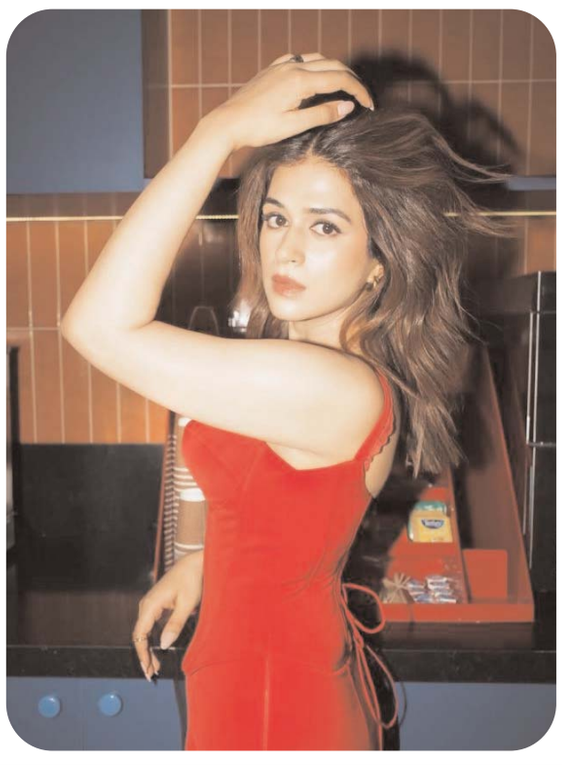
Oscar Missing' is a film directed by Chandramouli PG and starring Radha Krishna and Shivani in the lead roles under the banner of Bhumata Arts under the presentation of Srimati Mata Rajeshwari. The film was launched with a grand pooja function under the direction of Pawan Mata and Nithin Mata as producers.

On the occasion of the launch of Oscar Missing, the film's directors and producers said that the film will entertain the audience as a good comedy entertainer,

and that it will also feature some real-life characters. The film is humorous throughout and is designed with the sole aim of making the audience laugh.

The film team said that the film will be completed in two schedules and will be released soon after the shooting is completed by the end of December. Ali, Chitram Srinu, Bitthiri Satti, Jabardasth Phani, Ramu, Durga Rao, Shobha and others have played key roles in this film.

SHRADDHA DAS GOES BOLD WITH RED LACE-UP



Shraddha Das clicked promoting her Netflix series Khakee: The Bengal Chapter.

She wore a red corset-style dress with a sweetheart neckline and lace trim on the straps. The back had lace-up detailing, and the fitted skirt followed the line of the bodice. The red stood out against the blue backdrop. Gold hoop earrings, pink nails and tousled waves with dewy makeup completed the look.

She was last seen in Telugu film Lechindi Mahila Lokam, which underperformed.

MEENAKSHI CHAUDHARY SETS VIETNAM ON FIRE AGAIN



Meenakshi Chaudhary always has a love for travel. After Japan, she is now in Vietnam, and her new pictures are too crazy. She shared a fresh set of frames from the trip. She wore a blue floral cheongsam style dress with a high collar, cap sleeves and a side slit. She held a conical hat in every frame and tied her hair in a ponytail. Gold bracelets and a watch added a simple touch. The temples and green hills made the pictures look special. Meenakshi will next be seen in Vrushakarma with Naga Chaitanya, and she is also reportedly doing the Hindi film Force 3 with John Abraham.

Raj Dasireddy at New York fashion week 2026, representing dream, passion, spirit of India



In 2025 he made to oscars, he gained significant attention in media and fan circles for being invited to attend the 97th Academy Awards (Oscars 2025) celebrations in Hollywood. Raj Dasireddy has made a high-profile appearance at New York Fashion Week (NYFW) 2026, capturing significant attention on the global fashion stage. Hailing from Telugu roots in India, his journey to NYFW has been celebrated heavily across social media platforms More details of his latest multilingual movie will be announced soon, Which is in shooting process!!

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