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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

24-10-2026



Total pilgrims : 81,768
Tonsures : 34,018
Hundi kanukalu : 3.57 CR
Laddu sale... 4.35 Lac
Annaprasadam.. 2.48Lac
Aswini hospital ...3,371
Present Situation on 25-10-2026: Waiting Compartments..Outside line at Silathoranam.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...18 H.

YSRCP MP SEEKS PROBE INTO ANDHRA SEC'S POLL FAILURES



WORLD I PAGE

LULA WINS FOURTH TERM AS BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT IN RUNOFF



CINEMA I PAGE

NAYANTHARA JOINS RAJINIKANTH'S 'DHARMAN', RAISES EXPECTATIONS



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

Inbriefs

RAHUL ACQUITTED IN AMIT SHAH DEFAMATION CASE

Sultanpur: A special MP/MLA court in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur district on Monday, October 26, acquitted Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in a 2018 criminal defamation case over his remarks against then BJP president Amit Shah. The court held that Gandhi's remarks were not defamatory in nature. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Shubham Verma pronounced the verdict in Gandhi's presence. The complaint was filed by BJP leader Vijay Mishra on August 4, 2018, over remarks Gandhi made during the campaign for the Karnataka Assembly elections.

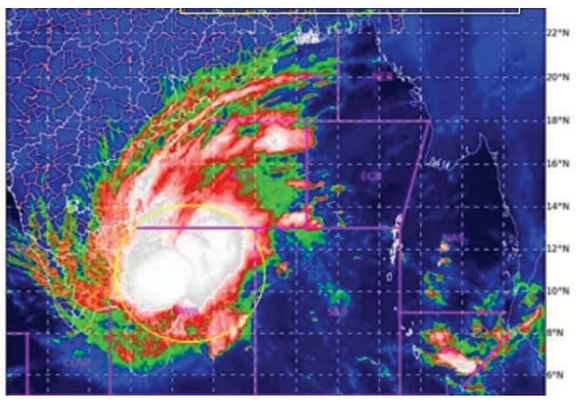
FIRE GUTS 40 SHOPS NEAR JAMMU RAILWAY STATION

Jammu: A massive fire swept through Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station late on Sunday night, gutting around 40 shops and leaving behind extensive destruction. No casualties have been reported, officials said on Monday.The fire broke out at around 10.45 pm on Sunday and continued for more than five hours, destroying shop structures and merchandise and causing substantial financial losses to traders.

Andhra: Deep depression intensifies into Cyclone Arnab, likely to turn very severe by Oct 27

The cyclone lay centred over the eastcentral and adjoining westcentral Bay of Bengal at 5.30 am on Monday, moving westwards at 15 kmph during the preceding six hours, according to the IMD's National Bulletin No. 8.

AMARAVATI: The IMD on Monday said a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal has intensified into Cyclone Arnab and is likely to strengthen into a very severe cyclonic storm by October 27 before crossing the Andhra Pradesh coast the following morning.



The cyclone lay centred over the eastcentral and adjoining westcentral Bay of Bengal at 5.30 am on Monday, moving westwards at 15 kmph during the preceding six hours, according to the IMD's National Bulletin No. 8. "The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal has intensified into Cyclone Arnab and is likely to strengthen further into a very severe cyclonic storm by October 27 before crossing the Andhra Pradesh coast on the morning of October 28," said the Met department in an official press release.

The system was located about 590 km northwest of Sri Vijaya Puram in the Andaman Islands, 650 km east-southeast of Visakhapatnam, 730 km east-southeast of Kakinada, 830 km east of Machilipatnam and 910 km east of Bapatla, it said.

The weather system is very likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a severe cyclonic storm over the westcentral Bay of Bengal by midnight on Monday, before strengthening further into a very severe cyclonic storm on October 27.Thereafter, it is likely to move northwestwards and cross the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam by the forenoon of October 28, with maximum sustained wind speeds of up to 125 kmph and gusts reaching 140 kmph, it said.

Under the influence of the system, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are likely at isolated places over Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema. Heavy to very heavy rainfall, with extremely heavy rain at isolated places, is forecast over Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam on October 27 and 28. Heavy rainfall is also likely in parts of these regions on October 29.

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Managing Director Prakhar Jain said the next three days were extremely crucial and urged people to remain alert and strictly follow safety precautions.

Jain cautioned people against lowering their guard as the cyclone continued to develop over the Bay of Bengal. He advised residents, particularly those in coastal areas, to comply with official advisories and take necessary precautions.

DAC clears Rs.2.12 lac cr defence deals; 82% to be sourced locally



NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Monday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to capital acquisition proposals worth approximately Rs 2.12 lakh crore for the three services, with around 82 per cent of the procurements slated to be sourced from the Indian industry.

The approvals cover a wide range of military hardware and systems for the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, including artillery systems, helicopters, air defence equipment, unmanned aerial systems, surveillance platforms and naval capabilities. For the Indian Army, the council approved proposals for High Mobility Vehicles (HMVs), Self-Propelled Tracked Gun Systems, Gun Shot Response Systems (GSRS), Light Multi Role Helicopters (LMRH), Very Short-Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORADS), platform-based Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS), long-range unmanned aerial systems, surveillance UAVs, integrated surveillance and strike systems, and long-range kamikaze drone systems.

The HMVs are intended to improve mobility, operational capability and logistical support in challenging terrain, while the Self-Propelled Tracked Gun Systems will provide mechanised formations with matching mobility and firepower. The GSRS will act as a force multiplier by providing real-time situational awareness.

China calls border patrols 'normal' amid India's objections

> Responding to a question citing India's assertion that the border situation is disturbed when Chinese forces deviate from established patrolling patterns, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson says the two countries maintained communication through diplomatic and military channels..

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)



China on Monday defended its border patrols as "normal" activities to safeguard its territorial sovereignty, urging India to work with it to maintain peace along the disputed boundary amid differences over patrolling patterns."China strictly abides by the relevant agreements and common understandings reached between the two countries and conducts normal border patrol and control activities to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and stability in the border areas," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a regular press conference.

Responding to a question citing India's assertion that the border situation is disturbed when Chinese forces deviate from established patrolling patterns, Guo said the two countries maintained communication through diplomatic and military channels."We hope that India will work with China in the same direction by jointly implementing the common understandings reached between the two sides and maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas through concrete actions," he said.

The remarks came days after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the situation along the India-China border was disturbed from time to time when Chinese forces deviated from established patrolling patterns. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal made the statement on Friday in response to Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General Shatrujeet Kapoor, who said face-offs between Indian and Chinese forces continued at several locations in Arunachal Pradesh.



H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein and H.R.H. Hereditary Princess Sophie arrived in New Delhi.....

Modi attends BRICS parliamentary forum, meets foreign delegates



NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday participated in the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum and interacted with foreign delegates at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan in the Parliament House complex in New Delhi.

The Forum, which commenced earlier in the day, has brought together parliamentary leaders from BRICS member and partner countries to discuss ways to strengthen parliamentary cooperation and advance people-centric development.

The event brings together Presiding Officers and parliamentary leaders from BRICS member and partner countries, Union Ministers, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh, Presiding Officers of State Legislatures, Members of Parliament and other dignitaries.

Centre notifies 'E100' fuel norms for flex-fuel vehicles

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)



The government has amended the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, introducing changes to vehicle emission and fuel-related standards, including provisions for vehicles using 100 per cent ethanol (E100) fuel in flex-fuel vehicles, effective from Monday.

The government has expanded references to ethanol fuel by replacing several mentions of E85 fuel with E85 or E100 across emission standards and testing requirements, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.However, the government has also clarified that E85 or E100 fuel should be used only in flex-fuel vehicles designed by original equipment manufacturers.The rules revise certain fuel and vehicle classifications, including raising the gross vehicle weight threshold in one emission table to 3,500 kg from 3,000 kg.

Other amendments include updates to references for hydrogen-compressed natural gas (HCNG), gasoline blends containing up to 20 per cent ethanol (E20), biodiesel standards, and technical corrections in emission-testing tables and notes.

Priyank Kharge defends father's remark on PM Modi, accuses BJP of 'double standards'

BENGALURU (TSIT):

> Mallikarjun Kharge made the remarks while addressing a function in Patna to mark the 139th birth anniversary of Bihar's first Chief Minister Krishna Singh.



Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday defended his father and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing the BJP of making an issue out of it while overlooking statements made by its own leaders.

Mallikarjun Kharge made the remarks while addressing a function in Patna to mark the 139th birth anniversary of Bihar's first Chief Minister Krishna Singh.

Tiger Shroff attack: Police custody of 4 extended till Oct 28; voice samples needed, say cops

Responding to a heckler who shouted that Modi would not go, the senior Kharge retorted, "Modi ka baap bhi jayega, baap bhi jayega" (Even Modi's father will have to go).

Priyank Kharge said, "BJP likes to make issues out of non-issues."

He said the context in which the remark was made should first be understood. A BJP supporter at the event had challenged Mallikarjun Kharge, saying that neither he nor his father could do anything to Modi, and that the Congress leader's remark was a retort to the heckler. Priyank told reporters. "That was a retort. And, as all of you are aware, it is generally how people talk, in any language," he said.

Priyank Kharge accused the BJP of double standards, citing remarks allegedly made by Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah about former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and other political leaders. "BJP should also look at their own history. Modi spoke ill about Rajiv Gandhi from the stage where there are thousands of people gathered. Amit Shah had spoken about Indra Gandhi.

, saying, 'Even if your grandmother returns to earth from heaven then also the DNA cannot be changed'," Kharge said.

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Global companies praise UP policies, infra & administrative support, says state govt

LUCKNOW: Global companies on Monday praised Uttar Pradesh's policies, improved infrastructure, talented workforce, and administrative support for investors at the GCC Innovation Summit 2026 in Lucknow, an official release said.

In the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, representatives of LG Electronics, Smartworks, Microsoft and HCL Technologies shared their investment experiences, saying Uttar Pradesh's swift decision-making and industry-friendly environment are attracting global companies, the state government said in the release.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also released a white paper titled 'The True Economics of AI Adoption in GCCs', prepared under the deep-tech innovation collaboration between HCL and IIT Kanpur, the release added.



LG Electronics representative Brijesh Sharma said, "The company is investing Rs 634 crore in its Eco Solutions GCC and aims to begin operations by the end of this year. The centre will focus on HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning), heat pump technology and advanced product development. The company aims to create more than 500 high-value jobs through talent development and training. In the future, research and development will also be expanded in AI-based data center cooling technologies."

Harsh Binani of Smartworks said, "The Uttar Pradesh government had recognized the potential of GCCs in time and accelerated the investment process."

He said that Smartworks manages more than 2 million square feet of office space in Noida, where over 110 companies operate. The company is now expanding into Lucknow. A GCC hub spanning 200,000 square feet has been developed at BBD Times Square.

More than 2.3 million professionals work across over 2,100 GCCs in India.

Expanding these centres in Uttar Pradesh will give young people in cities such as Lucknow, Kanpur and Gorakhpur opportunities to pursue global careers within their own state.

"We have not come here merely to sign MoUs. We have come to deliver results. You have built expressways in Uttar Pradesh, and together, we will build career expressways for the youth," he said.

Rajiv Kumar, a representative of the Microsoft India Development Center, said that talented human resources, employee safety, improved infrastructure, and progressive policies make Uttar Pradesh an attractive investment destination.

CPI(M) welcomes Kerala HC stay on FIRs against Vijayan, kin; BJP terms it unfortunate

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala High Court's stay on VACB FIRs and probe against former Keralam Chief Minister and his kin in the alleged CMRL bribery case for a period of four weeks was welcomed by the CPI(M) on Monday, while the BJP termed it as "unfortunate".

Besides keeping the FIRs and probe in the cases in abeyance, the High Court also stayed the single-judge order of October 9 directing the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) to lodge FIRs against Vijayan, his daughter Veena T and her husband P A Mohamed Riyas based on the information provided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the alleged CMRL bribery case.

CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan welcomed the verdict, terming it as upholding the rule of law.



He also contended that the order has vindicated the party's stand that the alleged Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) bribery case was "fabricated" to target Vijayan and the CPI(M).

"Though the case was initially projected as being against Veena and her now defunct company Exalogic Solutions, it was intended to target Vijayan, Riyas and the CPI(M). The High Court has upheld the rule of law by not believing the false narratives in favour of continuing with the FIRs," he claimed.

Govindan also alleged that the HC verdict has revealed the "Narendra Modi-ED-V D (Satheesan) collaboration" against the CPI(M).

"As we said in the past, we will legally and politically oppose the attacks against the party by this collaboration," he told reporters.

BJP state vice president Shone George, on the other hand, termed the High Court decision as "unfortunate".

George claimed that the state government was responsible for such an order from the High Court.

"From the very start, the state government was thinking of ways to protect Vijayan, Veena and Riyas in the matter. That stand was repeated by the Advocate General who represented the state in the High Court.

"Despite lodging of the FIRs, the AG told the court that the government was in favour of a preliminary enquiry. We strongly oppose the stand," he contended at a press conference here.

George claimed that if the petitioner, advocate K M Shajahan, had not gone to the High Court seeking registration of a case in the matter, there would not have been any FIR at all.

Jamia agrees to hold union polls but students refuse to end stir; Cong extends support to protesters

NEW DELHI: Students protesting for the restoration of the Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union on Monday refused to call off their agitation, demanding that the university announce an election date after it issued an order earlier in the day stating that polls would be held within 15 days of the approval of the union's constitution.

At a press conference organised by the Jamia Collective at Syeda Manzil in Jamia Nagar, alumni, members of the university's founding families, artists, lawyers and student representatives extended solidarity with the protesters and called for the restoration of democratic spaces on campus.

The Congress also said it stands in solidarity and support of protesting students who are seeking political empowerment through the revival of their student union, a day after its two MPs were booked on trespassing



and other charges following a complaint by the university registrar.

Congress general secretary, Organisation, K C Venugopal alleged that university authorities had adopted a heavy-handed approach and were "taking instructions" from the central government for "distracting and defaming the protesters".

As the protest entered its 15th day on Monday, the university ordered that students' union elections be held within 15 days of the approval of the union's constitution and revoked suspension and show-cause notices issued to students during the ongoing protest.

The order, issued by Registrar Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi, also provided for the constitution of a committee to inquire into the conduct of security staff during the protest period. The decisions came after the university considered a demand letter submitted by students on hunger strike and their delegates.

According to the order, the protesting students have agreed to issue a public apology at a press conference for defamatory statements, actions or social media posts made against the university administration during the agitation. Such posts are to be taken down from social media platforms with immediate effect. The order stated that the protest will be called off immediately following its issuance.

However, the students, who are demanding the restoration of the students' union, whose elections have not been held since 2006, said it was not enough as the administration has not issued a definite timeline for the polls.

Scuffles broke out between protesting students and paramilitary personnel during the day as security was beefed up and police personnel did not allow the students, who raised slogans against the administration, to enter the campus after the university had shifted classes across all courses to online mode in view of the protest.

BJP holds protests in Haryana over Kharge's remarks against PM Modi

CHANDIGARH: The BJP's Haryana unit held protests on Monday over Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's controversial remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's late father.

Kharge sparked a controversy on Sunday with his "Modi ka baap bhi jayega" remark in response to an audience member's comment that "the prime minister would not go anywhere", during an event in Patna. Kharge was speaking at the programme to celebrate the 139th birth anniversary of Bihar's first chief minister, Shrikrishna Singh. In Ambala Cantonment, Energy, Transport and Labour Minister Anil Vij burned Kharge's effigy. Vij said the country would never tolerate Kharge's 'insult' towards the prime minister.

"Attempts to create anarchy in the country under the slogan of "change the regime" would not be tolerated on Indian soil," he said.

Advising the Congress, he



said, "By all means, engage in politics, but also respect the culture of this country. If opposition leaders want to express their views, they should do so in a dignified and appropriate manner."

After burning Kharge's effigy in Ambala Cantonment, Vij addressed BJP workers and other people present at the site.

Speaking on the occasion, Vij said India is a democracy where different political parties are entitled to hold differing opinions, adding that reviewing the government's functioning and examining its policies are legitimate rights of every opposition party.

However, Vij said, the opposition must also observe certain standards and ethical boundaries.

Vij warned the Congress to exercise restraint in its language, actions and thinking, saying that the country would never forgive those who disrespected its culture.

In Rohtak, state BJP president Archana Gupta joined the protest.

Slamming Kharge, Gupta said targeting someone's family is not in keeping with the decorum of democratic discourse.

Punjab man found dead in Dehradun, police launch probe

DEHRADUN: A 52-year-old man from Punjab was found dead by police near ATS Colony in a building that is under construction here on Monday morning.

Police said they received information about the dead person at approximately 6 am, after which the station house officer of Raipur police station, in charge of the Mayur Vihar Police Outpost, and other police personnel immediately arrived at the scene.

They claimed that the man may have died after falling from the fifth floor of the building, and added that he was found lying on his back, having sustained severe injuries to his head and face.

Police identified the man as Pankaj Mittal, son of Pawan Kumar, aged approximately 52, a resident of Sector 3-A, Gobindgarh, in the Fatehgarh Sahib district of Punjab.

“Given the gravity of the incident, senior police officers inspected the site. A field unit and a forensic team were summoned to conduct a scientific and technical examination of the scene. Preliminary investigations suggest that the death occurred as a result of a fall from the fifth floor of the building under construction,” police said in a statement.

An inquest has been prepared in the matter, and the body has been sent for a post-mortem examination, they said.

Officials said that the exact cause and circumstances of death will be determined based on the post-mortem report, forensic analysis, and other evidence.

Delhi records lowest min temp of month at 16 deg Celsius; air 'moderate'

NEW DELHI: Delhi on Monday recorded a minimum temperature of 16.2 degrees Celsius, the lowest so far this month, and a 'moderate' air quality.

The city recorded a maximum temperature of 31.4 degrees Celsius, 0.4 degrees below normal.

The Air Quality Index at 174 was higher than the previous day's 153.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), an AQI between 0 and 50 is classified as good, 51 and 100 as satisfactory, 101 and 200 as moderate, 201 and 300 as poor, 301 and 400 as very poor, and 401 and 500 as severe.

Of the 57 air quality monitoring stations in Delhi, 18 recorded poor air quality, one station, Ghogha, recorded satisfactory air quality, and the rest recorded moderate air quality.

The highest AQI was recorded at CRRI Mathura Road at 248.

The Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said the ventilation index is expected to remain below 6,000 square metres per second, with average wind speeds below 10 kmph, conditions unfavourable for the dispersion of pollutants.

The city's air quality is likely to deteriorate to poor on October 27 and 28, and improve to moderate on October 29. The outlook for the subsequent six days indicates moderate to poor air quality, the system said.

According to the Decision Support System for Air Quality Management in Delhi, transport emissions contributed 23.8 per cent, the highest, to the city's pollution. Residential sources' contribution to air pollution was 6 per cent, industries' was 4.9 per cent, construction activities' was 3.3 per cent, energy and waste burning contributed 2.2 per cent each, and road dust and other sectors 1.6 per cent each. Among the National Capital Region districts, Sonipat contributed 7.2 per cent, followed by Jhajjar at 6 per cent, Gurugram at 2.5 per cent, and Ghaziabad and Rohtak at 2.3 per cent each. Gautam Buddha Nagar and Baghpat contributed 1.7 per cent each, Jind 1.3 per cent, Meerut 1 per cent, Faridabad 0.9 per cent, Muzaffarnagar 0.8 per cent, and Bulandshahr 0.5 per cent. Stubble burning contributed up to 4.6 per cent to Delhi's pollution, according to the Decision Support System.

Do not release provisional census data to press: RGI to states and UTs

NEW DELHI: The Registrar General of India (RGI) has directed its country-wide units in states and union territories not to use or release to the press any data or population figures collected during the Census 2027.

In a communique to chief secretaries of all states and its directorate, RGI and Census Commissioner Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan also underlined that information collected during Census operations is confidential and protected under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948.

Section 15 of the Census Act states that census records are not open to inspection nor admissible in evidence.

"It needs to be mentioned here that the provisional population figures and/or any census figures, based on the enumeration or any other data contained in the household schedules/abstract should not be released to the press or used by any authority, official non-official until further instructions are issued in this regard by the ORGI," he said.

Narayan said Census 2027 is being conducted digitally, with enumerators

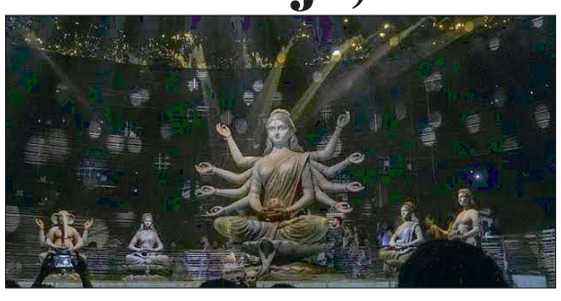


and supervisors using their own mobile phones to collect data and submit it to the central server.

Where the census is done on paper, it should be entered on the dedicated portal within seven days, he added.

"...in cases of operational contingencies such as technical issues, connectivity constraints, or other field-level exigencies, data may also be collected using paper schedules. The data collected on paper schedules shall subsequently be entered into the mobile application by the enumerator," he said.Narayan said in cases where the enumerator is unable to do so, senior officers including charge officer and principal census officer shall facilitate data entry through the designated data entry module on the specialised portal created for the purpose. "The charge officer shall ensure that data entry of all enumeration blocks (EBs), where data has been collected in paper mode, is completed within seven days after completion of the PE period. Wherever required, an enumerator-wise schedule for data entry shall be prepared," he said. Narayan said the record room where data is stored must have adequate protection against fire, flood, rains, dust, rats, etc. "An experienced nodal officer, not below the rank of assistant director, shall be designated as the in-charge of the record room. They will also be responsible for ensuring that all documents are received strictly in accordance with the inventory and dispatch details," he said.

Suvendu to review crowd Mgmt for Kali Puja, Chhath on Oct 28



KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari will review crowd management and emergency preparedness for the upcoming Kali Puja and Chhath Puja on October 28, officials said on Monday.

The meeting assumes significance in the backdrop of the stampede at the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata that killed 19 people.

District magistrates (DMs), superintendents of police (SPs) and other senior administrative officials from several districts are expected to join the meeting through video conferencing, officials said.

"Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari will review the preparations for Kali Puja and Chhath Puja at a meeting at the state secretariat on Wednesday. Emphasis will be laid on crowd management, security and emergency preparedness," a senior official said.

Disaster management measures are also likely to figure in the discussions, he added.

Barasat and Naihati in North 24 Parganas district, and Krishnanagar in Nadia district, are known for their elaborate Kali Puja celebrations, which draw large crowds. This year, Kali Puja will be held on November 8.

Chhath Puja is also celebrated on a large scale in Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, Siliguri, Durgapur and Asansol. The festival will begin on November 13.

"The CM will review arrangements at major Kali Puja pandals, including entry and exit routes, emergency services and lighting, as well as preparations at various ghats for Chhath Puja," the official said.

"We want the festivals to pass off peacefully," the official said, adding that the administration would focus on inter-departmental coordination and measures to prevent accidents during the festivities.

CM Shivakumar calls for amicable solution to sugarcane farmers' demands

BELAGAVI: Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday called for an amicable solution to the sugarcane farmers' incentive demand, saying the state government, the Centre and sugar factory owners must jointly address the issue and protect the interests of both growers and the industry.

Addressing a meeting with sugar factory owners here, he said sugar prices had not increased in the last 10 years, causing mounting losses to farmers, whose demand for an incentive of Rs 1,000 per tonne has triggered protests in the state.

"We are not taking sides. If there are no sugar factories, farmers will suffer; if there are no farmers, sugar factories will suffer. We must protect the interests of everyone," Shivakumar said.

He said the government had earlier decided to provide Rs 50 per tonne, while sugar factories would contribute an additional Rs 250 per tonne following pressure from the state. While about 80 per cent of the factories had complied, some had failed to honour the commitment and approached the courts, he said. Farmers are now demanding com-



pensation somewhere between Rs 5,500 to Rs 6,000 per tonne of sugarcane, citing the lack of a price revision over the past decade and declining yields.

Shivakumar said he had met protesting farmers, along with district ministers and MLAs, at Kittur and heard their grievances. He said he would discuss the matter with all stakeholders and examine the difficulties faced by factory owners before arriving at a decision.

"The responsibility for resolving the issue rests with the sugar factory owners, the Union government and the state government. It is our duty to maintain peace in the state," he said.

Pointing to the industry's concerns over finances, banking, ethanol and electricity costs, he said the issue could not be resolved unilaterally and required consultations with all stakeholders.

"This is not a meeting to engage in politics; there are other platforms for that. We must find an amicable solution to this problem," he said.

According to him, the state government spent Rs 20,000 crore annually on free electricity for farmers' pump sets, with the expenditure expected to rise to Rs 32,000 crore this year amid deficient rainfall and increased power consumption.

He said he had discussed the issue with Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, who had taken note of the concerns of farmers in Karnataka, adding that a national-level decision was required as sugar production had declined and the industry faced domestic and international challenges.

Shivakumar also said he had discussed the matter with the Maharashtra Chief Minister, who agreed on the need to resolve it.

Air pollution is a silent killer, raises risk of heart attacks, strokes and lung cancer: Dr. C. N. Manjunath

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 26: Air pollution has emerged as a major public health concern, significantly increasing the risk of cardiovascular diseases, strokes and lung cancer, Bengaluru Rural MP Dr. C. N. Manjunath said on Monday.



Speaking at a round-table meeting on air pollution and its impact on public health, organised by the Vayu Respiratory Foundation on Church Street in Bengaluru, Dr. Manjunath called for urgent preventive measures to curb pollution and protect vulnerable communities. He emphasised that prolonged exposure to polluted air can damage vital organs, particularly the heart, lungs and brain, contributing to premature deaths. Air pollution can also adversely affect maternal and child health, increasing the risk of low birth weight and developmental problems. Long-term exposure may affect memory and cognitive function, he added. Referring to the scale of the problem in India, Dr. Manjunath cited figures indicating that nearly 2.2 million people died due to air pollution in the country last year. He stressed the need for coordinated action involving government agencies, healthcare professionals, environmental organisations and the public.

The meeting brought together medical experts, environmentalists and policymakers to discuss the health consequences of air pollution and possible solutions. Senior specialists, including pulmonologist Dr. Satish, cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Vivek Javali and Dr. Ravindra Mehta, shared their insights on pollution-related health risks.

Health check-ups were also conducted for high-risk groups, including traffic police personnel and construction workers, who are regularly exposed to polluted air. Truck and autorickshaw drivers are among other occupational groups facing increased exposure. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to its harmful effects.

Vehicular emissions, industrial activities, garbage burning and dust from construction sites are among the major sources of air pollution. Dr. Manjunath called for strengthening public transport, expanding metro connectivity and reducing traffic congestion to bring down vehicular emissions.

He also stressed the importance of scientific waste disposal and ensuring that garbage is transported in properly covered vehicles to prevent dust and pollutants from spreading. Construction sites, he said, should strictly implement effective dust-control measures.

The adoption of electric vehicles, cleaner fuels and appropriate emission-control technologies could further help reduce air pollution and carbon emissions. "Air pollution has emerged as a silent killer, posing a serious threat to public health. Protecting people from its harmful effects requires immediate preventive action, sustainable transportation, scientific waste management and collective responsibility. We must work together to reduce pollution and safeguard the health of present and future generations," Dr. Manjunath said.

Gold bracelet goes missing during police search at JDS worker's house in Siddaramaiah sting case

Bengaluru: A police search at the residence of JDS worker Mohan Gowda in Byadarahalli, Bengaluru, in connection with the alleged sting operation involving former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reportedly took an unexpected turn after a woman police inspector discovered that her gold bracelet was missing. The police team had visited Mohan Gowda's residence with a court-issued search warrant as part of the investigation. Inspectors Mukharam and Kavitha, along with other personnel, were involved in the operation.



According to the complaint, a confrontation broke out when police attempted to seize a mobile phone for investigation. Mohan Gowda's wife, Pavithra, and another woman identified as her friend allegedly refused to cooperate with the search. An argument reportedly escalated into a scuffle between Inspector Kavitha and Pavithra when the latter allegedly refused to hand over the phone.

During the altercation, a gold bracelet weighing approximately nine grams, which Kavitha was wearing, is alleged to have come off her wrist and fallen. The inspector reportedly realised that the jewellery was missing only after the police team returned to the station following the search.

Kavitha subsequently returned to the residence and searched for the bracelet. She also questioned Pavithra, who reportedly said that neither a gold chain nor a bracelet had been found at the house.

The inspector later lodged a formal complaint at Byadarahalli police station over alleged obstruction of official duty and the missing jewellery during the search.

Police initiated action on the complaint and began efforts to trace the missing bracelet and investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident. According to the report, Pavithra allegedly locked the house and left after fearing arrest.

The Byadarahalli police are searching for the woman and investigating the allegations. The incident has drawn attention because it occurred during a search connected with the politically sensitive sting operation case involving Siddaramaiah.

BJP leaders detained during protest against Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks on PM Modi



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

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

Bengaluru records 5,459 road accidents in 2025 as traffic deaths climb to 999



Bengaluru : Bengaluru has witnessed a steep rise in road accidents over the past five years, with the number of crashes increasing from 3,213 in 2021 to 5,459 in 2025. The increase of nearly 70 per cent has been accompanied by a substantial rise in fatalities, according to traffic police data.The city recorded 3,822 accidents in 2022, followed by 4,974 in 2023. The number dropped to 4,769 in 2024 but rose again in 2025. Road accident deaths also increased from 654 in 2021 to 772 in 2022 and 915 in 2023. After declining to 894 in 2024, fatalities touched 999 last year. The latest figures indicate that the problem has continued into 2026. From January to September, 4,702 accidents were reported, resulting in 836 deaths and injuries to 4,111 people. Of the reported crashes, 808 were classified as fatal accidents.

Overspeeding, unsafe lane changes and driving on the wrong side are among the major causes identified by Director General of Police M.A. Saleem. The growing number of two-wheelers, expanding suburban areas and conflicts between fast-moving vehicles and pedestrians have also contributed to the challenge. A joint study by NIMHANS, Johns Hopkins University's Injury Research Unit and Bengaluru traffic police assessed vehicle speeds at 25 locations. It found that 30.6 per cent of the vehicles observed were travelling above the prescribed safe speed. Higher speeds were noticed on national highways and in rural stretches, particularly during late-night and early-morning hours.Police have stepped up action against traffic violations, including drunk driving, riding without helmets, using mobile phones while driving and jumping signals. Violators' driving licences are being referred to regional transport offices for suspension where applicable. Radar-based speed cameras have also been installed at selected locations along the Outer Ring Road. Authorities face the challenge of combining strict enforcement with safer road design, improved pedestrian facilities and faster emergency response to prevent further loss of life.

Bengaluru Metro's Pink Line faces cost escalation, deadline extended to 2027

Bengaluru, : Bengaluru's ambitious Pink Line Metro project is facing mounting scrutiny after its estimated cost rose from Rs 8,730 crore to Rs 17,346 crore, almost twice the original figure. The increase comes amid construction delays, expensive underground works and rising prices of building materials.



The 21.26-km corridor is intended to connect Kalena Agrahara in south Bengaluru with Nagawara in the north. The route includes 13.76 km of underground track and 7.5 km of elevated infrastructure. The project's completion, initially expected much earlier, has now been pushed to 2027.

Underground construction is the most expensive component, accounting for Rs 13,876 crore of the revised estimate. The elevated section is projected to cost Rs 3,470 crore. The scale of tunnelling and the technical challenges associated with underground stations have contributed significantly to the expenditure.

The project has also been affected by delays in construction, equipment rental expenses and shortages of labour. Prices of key materials, including steel and cement, have reportedly increased by approximately 40 per cent, adding to the financial pressure. Interest costs arising from the extended construction period have also been included in the revised estimate.

Platform screen doors, planned at underground stations to improve passenger safety, form another component of the overall project expenditure.

Despite years of work, the corridor remains incomplete, with around 70 per cent of construction reportedly finished. The delay has disappointed commuters who expected the line to provide an alternative to congested roads and improve travel between southern and northern Bengaluru.

The near-doubling of the project cost has renewed questions about the reasons behind the prolonged construction schedule and the management of public infrastructure expenditure. Residents are now looking for clear timelines and faster execution to ensure that the benefits of the Metro corridor are delivered without further delays.

Prove 600-crore Contract Allegation or Resign, Congress Tells Kumaraswamy

BENGALURU: The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has challenged Union Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy to produce evidence to substantiate his allegation that a 600-crore contract had been offered to eliminate his family, or resign from his post.



In a joint press statement, KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar and party leaders criticised Kumaraswamy for making what they described as sensational and politically motivated allegations against Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. They said such statements lowered the standard of political discourse and appeared aimed at gaining political mileage. The Congress leaders alleged that Kumaraswamy had repeatedly raised issues relating to NICE, the Bidadi project and the alleged sting operation without presenting conclusive evidence. They claimed that his statements were diverting public attention from other controversies and allegations involving him. Challenging Kumaraswamy to disclose the evidence, the Congress leaders urged him to submit relevant documents to the appropriate authorities and seek an impartial investigation by agencies, including the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Income Tax Department.

They said Kumaraswamy, as a Union Minister, had a responsibility to uphold public accountability and substantiate serious allegations with credible evidence rather than political rhetoric.

The Congress leaders further said that if Kumaraswamy failed to prove his allegations against Shivakumar, he should withdraw his statements and apologise to the people of Karnataka.

Tamannaah Fine Jewellery expands retail presence in Bengaluru with Khazana

BENGALURU : Tamannaah Fine Jewellery, founded by actor and entrepreneur Tamannaah Bhatia, has expanded its retail presence to Bengaluru through its collaboration with Khazana, Taj's curated luxury retail destination. The Bengaluru launch marks the next phase of a 10-city retail rollout across India. Following its debut in New Delhi, the collaboration aims to introduce the brand to a wider audience through Khazana's hospitality-led retail experience. The partnership brings together Khazana's curated luxury offering and Tamannaah Fine Jewellery's contemporary approach to fine jewellery.



Built around the philosophy of "Beyond the Occasion", Tamannaah Fine Jewellery focuses on versatile designs that can be worn in everyday settings while retaining the craftsmanship and refinement associated with fine jewellery.

"Bengaluru has always been a city that embraces individuality and contemporary expression, making it an exciting market for us. With Tamannaah Fine Jewellery, I wanted to create pieces that go beyond traditional occasions and become part of how people express themselves every day. Our association with Khazana allows us to bring this philosophy to a wider audience, and I'm delighted to continue this journey in Bengaluru," Tamannaah Bhatia said.

The partnership seeks to offer luxury consumers a distinctive retail experience centred on design, craftsmanship and individual expression. At Khazana, the collection has been selected to appeal to discerning Taj guests, with an emphasis on contemporary aesthetics and versatility.

Faisal Momin, vice-presi dent of Khazana, Bengaluru, said the brand was working towards establishing its presence across most Taj hotels by 2030. "Our vision is to bring the finest expressions of Indian craftsmanship, artistry and heritage closer to our guests, drawing upon the trust, legacy and distinction of Taj hospitality while preserving Khazana's own core identity. We see this as a natural extension of the Taj experience, creating greater visibility and opportunity for India's exceptional artisans and craftspeople," he said.

Isuzu Motors India marks 10 years of manufacturing at Sri City plant



BENGALURU, October 26: Isuzu Motors India (IMI), a subsidiary of Japan-based Isuzu Motors Limited, has completed 10 years of vehicle manufacturing at its Sri City facility in Andhra Pradesh, marking a decade of its Make-in-India journey and expansion into international markets. Inaugurated in April 2016, the plant has emerged as a key manufacturing base for the company's domestic and overseas operations, guided by Isuzu's monozukuri philosophy, which emphasises manufacturing excellence, quality and continuous improvement. Vehicles manufactured at the facility cater to the Indian market as well as export destinations in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Jordan, and Asian markets such as Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE: Bajaj Auto Limited Complex, Mumbai - Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune – 411035, **BRANCH OFFICE:** Bajaj Finance Ltd, 1st Floor, Aurum Panikkath Complex, Patturaikal Junction, Trichur, Kerala-680022 , **Authorized Officer's Details:Name:** Mr. Amjith P k, Email ID: amjith.pk@bajajfinserv.in, **Mob No.** 7907222373.

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
e-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI Act 2002

Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("ACT")
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Mortgagor(s) in respect of below mentioned secured asset which is mortgaged with Bajaj Finance Limited ("BFL"), and possession of which had been taken by undersigned Authorised Officer of BFL under the provisions of the ACT will be sold by Auction for recovery of the amount mentioned hereunder and further applicable interest, charges, and costs etc.
The secured asset described below is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS" under Rule No. 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules ("the Rules") for recovery of the dues detailed as under : Particulars of E-auction.

Name & Address of Borrower & Co-Borrower's	**COLOUR CENTRE (BORROWER), AT:** XV/701&702, BEACH ROAD, VATANAPPALLY, TRICHUR-680614, **DINESH K D (CO-BORROWER), BHAVANA RAJ N R (CO-BORROWER), BOTH AT :** KANDANCHAKKY HOUSE, VADANAPALLY, VEDAVYASA NAGAR, TRICHUR-680614
Loan Account Number	4360HL25665663
Statutory Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) Date & Amount	Notice dated 21 -Nov-24 Demand amount ₹. 26,05,704/-
Outstanding Amount as on 21.10.26	**Rs. 32,86,082.97/- (Rupees Thirty - Two Lakh Eighty - Six Thousand Eighty - Two and Paise Ninety-Seven Only)**
Description of Immovable Property	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING RE SY.NO.406/18 ADMEASURING AREA 2.63 ARES (6.50 CENTS) OF VADANAPPALLY VILLAGE CHAVAKKAD TALUK THRISSUR DISTRICT ALONG WITH BUILDING THEREON BEARING DOOR NO. V/158-A. BOUNDED AS EAST: - PANCHAYAT ROAD, NORTH: - PARAMBU, WEST: - PARAMBU, SOUTH: - 3 FEET WAY
Reserve Price in INR	₹ 21,15,000/-
EMD	₹ 2,11,500/-
E-auction date and time	17/11/26 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
E- auction Portal	https://bankauctions.in
Last date of submission of EMD	16/11/26
Bid Increment Amount in Rs.	₹ 25,000/-
Encumbrance Known to Secured Creditor	Not Known
Date of Inspection of Property	From 26/10/26 to 16/11/26 on working day between 9.30 AM to 5 PM with Prior appointment

Public in General and Borrowers in particular please take notice that if in case auction on date scheduled herein fails for any reason whatsoever then secured creditor may enforce security interest by way of sale through private treaty, at the discretion on of the secured creditor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link https://bankauctions.in and https://www.bajajfinserv.in/sarfaesi-auction-notices

Date - 27.10.2026 , Place - TRICHUR **Authorized Officer, For M/s BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED**

EDITORIAL

How Durga Puja Has Changed Over 60 Years

I have been observing Durga Puja in Kolkata for more than six decades. Like every cultural phenomenon, Durga Puja is not static. It changes constantly; it is dynamic and remains in a state of flux. However, Durga Puja 2026 has been distinctly different and represents a new cultural phenomenon.

One noticeable change has been the role played by the film industry, particularly Tollywood and television celebrities, in inaugurating Durga Pujas. With the BJP coming to power in West Bengal under Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, the festival has also acquired a different political and cultural character.

In previous years, celebrity appearances, especially those of actors and actresses, often became major attractions on the eve of Durga Puja. Their presence was accompanied by enthusiastic dancing, and during idol immersion, DJ music and loud, often raucous songs were almost obligatory. Compared with those earlier celebrations, this year's festivities appeared less dominated by such a film-oriented culture.

If Suvendu Adhikari and other BJP leaders repeatedly attempt to reshape Sanatani Durga Puja according to their own cultural preferences, they must remember that the festival is deeply rooted in Bengali society. For the Bengali middle class, Durga Puja has long been an integral part of its cultural identity, with roots that go back to the period when Kolkata was the capital of British India in the nineteenth century. During the more than 34 years of government by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), or CPM, Durga Puja was never banned or deliberately stopped. However, from an ideological standpoint, a committed communist was expected to be an atheist. Such a person could be a humanist, but not a ritualistic Hindu. Consequently, Durga Puja was often presented as an autumn festival, with greater emphasis on its social character than on religious rituals.

This was different from the way Navaratri was celebrated in North India and the Hindi-speaking heartland, where the festival had a stronger religious character. In Bengal, Durga Puja developed into a broader social and cultural celebration. During Mamata Banerjee's 15 years in power, this social dimension became particularly prominent. UNESCO recognised the festival's social bonhomie by inscribing Kolkata's Durga Puja on its Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Under Mamata Banerjee, however, the celebrations also acquired a carnival-like character, particularly through the Durga Puja Carnival on Red Road. Film stars, actresses and other celebrities became prominent participants. Some of them would dance on stage to Rabindra Sangeet, while others would dance to Hindi songs. Over time, such performances became a familiar part of the festivities.

The Suvendu Adhikari government has approached Durga Puja differently this year. There are two sides to this change, and both deserve consideration.

On the one hand, I do not believe there is anything inherently wrong with emphasising the Sanatani Hindu character of the festival. I have lived in Delhi for 40 years and have observed how Navaratri is celebrated there. Understandably, people may want Bengali Durga Puja to reflect some of the dignity and religious significance associated with Navaratri.

BJP Rules Out Trinamoolisation' Ahead Of Civic Polls, But Can It Afford To?

JAYANTA GHOSAL



BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya has made the party's position clear, saying that the BJP will contest the Kolkata Municipal Corporation election independently and does not need any other party's support. According to this position, there will be no coalition or electoral adjustment with any faction of the Trinamool Congress. However, on the occasion of Lakshmi Puja on Sunday, Adhikari visited the North Kolkata residence of MP and NCPI leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay at his invitation. He was accompanied by Transport Minister Arjun Singh. The BJP had so far been maintaining a distance from the TMC. Former BJP state president and Union Minister of State Sukanta Majumdar had also said that dissident Trinamool workers may ring the BJP's doorbell, but the party will not open the door to them.

The BJP's public position is therefore unambiguous: it intends to fight the civic elections on its own and does not want to be seen as accommodating disgruntled Trinamool leaders simply to strengthen its electoral prospects.

But how much of this confidence reflects the party's actual internal assessment, and how much is intended to shape public perception before the elections? The BJP believes it can perform exceptionally well in the coming civic polls, drawing confidence from its recent electoral performance, including the Assembly by-elections. The real question is whether this confidence is backed by a detailed understanding of the ground situation or is primarily part of the party's public messaging.

The internal electoral strategy will be crucial in determining whether the BJP can translate its political momentum into victories at the municipal level.

SEVEN CIVIC BODIES IN THE FIRST PHASE

The upcoming contest is not limited to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. According to the election preparations reported so far, the first phase is expected to cover seven urban local bodies: the Kolkata and Howrah municipal corporations, along with the municipalities of Bally, Haldia, Dhupguri, Kalimpong and Kurseong. The State Election Commission has been preparing for the polls, although the final schedule remains subject to official notification.

The elections are politically significant because municipal bodies deal directly with the everyday concerns of urban residents. They also provide parties with an opportunity to assess their organisational strength beyond Assembly and parliamentary elections.

For the BJP, therefore, the civic polls will be a test not only of its popularity but also of its ability to identify suitable candidates, manage local political equations and address issues that directly affect voters.

Is the Trinamool Losing Touch with the Ground?

The BJP's assessment is that the Trinamool Congress leadership in Kalighat, associated with Mamata Banerjee, has become increasingly disconnected from the realities on the ground. According to this view, the anti-incumbency that has accumulated over 15 years of Trinamool rule remains a significant factor in the political atmosphere.

The BJP believes that this discontent extends to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, where dissatisfaction with the existing administration could create an opportunity for the opposition. One of the central themes of the BJP's campaign is the historical and cultural identity of Kolkata and its municipal leadership. The party points to figures such as Chittaranjan Das and Subhas Chandra Bose, who served as mayors of Calcutta, to argue that the city has a distinguished political and intellectual legacy that should be reflected in its civic administration. The BJP's argument is that Kolkata deserves a mayor who embodies the city's Bengali identity, middle-class aspirations and historical association with the nineteenth-century Bengal Renaissance.

Bobby Hakim, who served as mayor of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, has become part of this political debate. The BJP's campaign narrative links his prominence to what it describes as Mamata Banerjee's excessive dependence on Muslim votebank politics. The party argues that, given Kolkata's Hindu majority, the city's municipal leadership should better reflect its broader Bengali, middle-class and urban character.

This is the political thesis the BJP is attempting to advance. It wants to project a Bengali, educated, middle-class and urban face for the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, one that can be associated with the city's historical legacy and intellectual traditions.

The mayor of Kolkata is, in effect, the city's first citizen. The BJP therefore sees the choice of its mayoral candidate as more than a routine electoral decision. It wants the nomination to symbolise a return to the civic pride and intellectual traditions associated with nineteenth-century Kolkata. However, whether this strategy will resonate with voters remains to be seen. The city's electoral preferences cannot be determined by cultural symbolism or demographic arguments alone.

THE ELECTORAL CALCULATION BEHIND THE BJP'S PUBLIC POSITION

Despite its ideological emphasis and its public rejection of political accommodation with the Trinamool Congress, the BJP faces a practical electoral question: can it afford to ignore influential Trinamool councillors who may have strong local support? Several sitting TMC councillors remain politically active and have established their own local networks. They continue to hold their positions after the Assembly elections, and some may have personal support bases that do not depend entirely on the popularity of the Trinamool leadership.

This creates a dilemma for the BJP. Should it maintain a strict policy of keeping all Trinamool dissidents at a distance, or should it consider making room for individuals who could improve its chances of winning particular wards? There is also a broader question about whether the BJP should engage with dissident groups or political figures associated with different factions of the Trinamool Congress. Names mentioned in this context include Ritabrata and national-level Trinamool leaders such as Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar. Whether any such arrangement is politically feasible and what form it might take remains uncertain. The more immediate development, however, concerns individual councillors rather than a formal party-level understanding. The information available suggests that several TMC councillors have been approaching BJP leaders independently, rather than negotiating as a group or on behalf of the Trinamool Congress. This distinction matters. The BJP may publicly reject any arrangement with the Trinamool Congress while still having to decide how to respond when individual councillors seek entry into the party.

SUVENDU ADHIKARI'S ROLE IN CANDIDATE SELECTION

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari is likely to play an important role in these electoral calculations. Having previously been associated with the Trinamool Congress, he is familiar with many of its leaders, organisational networks and local political equations. That experience could help the BJP assess which candidates have a realistic chance of winning and which constituencies require a different approach. A principle frequently emphasised by Union Home Minister Amit Shah during elections is the importance of winnability. Political loyalty and ideological alignment matter, but a party must also consider whether its candidates can actually win.

Jantar Mantar banned, yet protests continue on the streets

SAURABH VARSHNEY

The movement, which began with allegations of vote theft, is raising several questions before the democratic system, including the accountability of the government, the role of the opposition and the restlessness of the youth.

The movement that began in the country demanding electoral transparency and alleged "vote theft" shows no signs of abating. The political atmosphere surrounding these protests, which began on October 2nd, remains increasingly heated. Despite administrative restrictions and restrictions on demonstrations at designated locations like Jantar Mantar, the movement's voices are now being heard on the streets. The participation of youth alongside opposition parties and the activism of YouTubers and digital journalists who express their views freely have given the issue a new dimension. The question is: should this movement be viewed solely as a political protest, or should it also be understood as a concern about public trust in the democratic system? India is the world's largest democracy. Here, elections are not just a means of forming a government, but also the most important opportunity to express the will of the people. Voters, through their votes, accept power and, if necessary, have the right to change it. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the democratic system to seriously address questions raised about the fairness and transparency of the electoral process. However, it is equally important to evaluate serious allegations like vote-rigging based on evidence and facts. Making allegations and proving them are two different things. The strength of democracy lies in the fact that neither those who ask questions are dismissed without hearing them, nor are allegations accepted as final without proof.

Any democratic government faces the challenge of dealing with protests. Maintaining public order is the responsibility of the administration, but in discharging this responsibility, it is also essential to respect citizens' right to peaceful protest and freedom of expression. If restrictions related to security, traffic, or law and order are imposed in any location, they must be clearly justified and enforced fairly.

It is not appropriate to label everyone who criticizes the government as anti-establishment. Similarly, breaking the law or infringing on the rights of ordinary citizens in the name of protests is also not justified. In a democracy, responsible conduct is expected from both the government and protesters.

If the movement creates the perception that the government wants to suppress dissenting voices, it could increase political distrust. On the other hand, if the protesters make claims based solely on emotions rather than facts, their credibility is also compromised. The best approach is to conduct impartial investigations into election complaints, ensure that the relevant institutions respond with facts, and clarify the situation with the public.

The opposition's role is not only to criticize the government, but also to ensure accountability of democratic institutions and to present alternative policies to the public. If the opposition alleges irregularities in the electoral process, it must present concrete evidence, systematic complaints, and factual arguments. Public trust cannot be maintained over time through mere slogans and political accusations.

At the same time, the government must understand that dismissing every criticism from the opposition as a political conspiracy is not the solution to the problem. In a democracy, the ruling party and the opposition are certainly rivals, but both are ultimately accountable to the public. The credibility of a constitutional institution like the Election Commission lies in maintaining public confidence in its decisions, processes, and grievance redressal system. The role of YouTubers and independent digital journalists is particularly striking within this movement. Previously, mainstream media outlets had a greater influence on news and political discourse, but the internet and social media have given ordinary citizens a wider range of opportunities to express their views. Today, young people can share videos from the scene, investigate government claims, and highlight issues that may not receive adequate coverage.

This shift presents both an opportunity and a challenge for democracy. Independent digital journalism can be useful in questioning power and highlighting public concerns. But not every YouTuber automatically becomes a journalist. Credible journalism requires verifying facts, listening to both sides, verifying sources, and avoiding the spread of misinformation. Going viral and being credible are two different things.

Therefore, it is unfair to dismiss voices emerging from digital media solely based on their political preferences. Their content must be verified based on facts. Independent journalism is truly valuable only when it questions the ruling party and objectively investigates the claims of the opposition. The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered youth the promise of development, employment, opportunities, and a better future. Today, a segment of youth is vocal about issues such as employment, competitive exams, inflation, education, and political accountability. Therefore, it would be an incomplete analysis to consider youth participation in any movement solely as a result of political party influence.

Middle Power Myths, And Why The West Needs To Stop Putting India In A 'Box'

KANWAL SIBAL



Canada has faced insults and contempt from US President Donald Trump as well as economic pressure. This has goaded Prime Minister Mark Carney to widen his country's geopolitical and economic options. At the Davis Economic Forum, he spoke of "middle powers" joining together to carve out a more autonomous role for themselves at the international level. This has triggered discussions on many platforms on the international role of "middle powers" in the light of huge geopolitical, economic, technology and security disruptions caused by the Trump administration. There is no agreed definition of the attributes of "middle powers". It would seem that major European countries, such as the UK, Germany and France, are now seen as "middle powers". Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in a panel discussion at the recent Munich Security Conference in Delhi on "middle powers" was comfortable with the idea of the UK being a "middle power". Japan, Brazil, Turkey and Indonesia are also classified as such in the current discourse.

The genesis of this "middle powers" concept is essentially the disarray in the western world because of the manner in which the Trump administration is bullying Europe and its other allies. Trump has discomposed the NATO alliance at a time when the alliance is deeply involved in a proxy war against Russia in Ukraine. Trump, Vance and others are openly interfering in the internal political affairs of Europe, attacking personally some European leaders, supporting right wing parties, lambasting European policies on uncontrolled migration to the point of wondering whether the European allies can remain dependable when political power slips eventually into the hands of Muslim migrants. With Trump's hectoring of Europe and a growing recognition that Europe faces a structural change in its relations with the US, Europe sees the necessity of re-ordering its ties with the non-western world. Drawing closer to India is an option, which explains the FTA with India as well as an intensive engagement of India by major European countries. This, of course, is in India's interests too as the Trump administration has delivered serious blows to bilateral ties on a number of issues. Once again the issue of trust has arisen in India-US ties, which in the last couple of decades had begun to dissipate.

Is India a "middle power" is a question now being discussed in think tank and other circles. The question got attention when at the Munich Security Conference organised in New Delhi, a "middle powers" panel was organised in which India participated.

India is obviously not a "great power" yet. It is not a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It is, however, a nuclear and missile power as well as a space power. It possesses large and strong military although its domestic defence manufacturing base is still deficient. India exercises strategic autonomy but it still has many vulnerabilities and external dependencies.

But India is not a "middle power". Its status is sui generis. It is the biggest country in the world population-wise. It has a young population. Its economy is growing, with a general international consensus that it will be the third largest economy in the world in a few years. In PPP terms, India is already the third largest. It has very considerable human talent, which in scale is a big national and even an international asset.

The big European countries are still powerful but they are not rising powers. They are declining powers, with a declining population, and the issue before them is to manage their decline and preserve their prosperity. Unlike India they are dependent on their security on the US. Germany hosts several US bases and US nuclear weapons are stationed on its soil. In a sense, Germany is still an occupied country.

Unlike most of the other "middle powers" which are compelled by alliances to operate in blocs, India engages all sides, be it US, Russia and even China. Europe today has essentially cut off ties with Russia. How many "middle powers" have the capacity to straddle the rich North and poor South. India has more geopolitical manoeuvrability. That India has dependencies does not make it a "middle power", as we are not unique in this regard in this interdependent and connected world.

Jawa Yezdi and BSA strengthen spare-parts access with an authorized distribution network across India

Highlights

- Jawa Yezdi and BSA Motorcycles are strengthening ownership support across India by expanding access to genuine spare parts through an authorised distribution network.



Pune, October 26, 2026: Jawa Yezdi and BSA Motorcycles are strengthening ownership support across India by expanding access to genuine spare parts through an authorised distribution network. This initiative will make genuine spare-parts more readily available to customers, workshops and service partners, enabling convenient sourcing beyond the dealership network. The move marks an important step in the brands continued efforts to enhance the ownership experience and address one of the most important expectations of motorcycle owners: timely access to genuine spare-parts. By improving availability beyond dealerships, Jawa Yezdi and BSA aim to support faster procurement, improved parts availability and quicker service turnaround times for customers across urban, semi-urban and emerging markets. The initiative is being rolled out through authorised distribution partners across multiple strategic locations nationwide, further strengthening access to genuine spare parts across regions.

As Jawa, Yezdi and BSA continue to grow their motorcycle portfolio and Nomad Kommuniti, the expanded distribution network reinforces the commitment to listening to customer feedback and continuously improving their ownership journey. Wider access to genuine spare parts not only enhances convenience but also provides greater assurance of quality, reliability and compatibility throughout the ownership lifecycle.

Mr. Anupam Thareja, Co-founder, Classic Legends, said, "As more riders choose Jawa, Yezdi and BSA, delivering a seamless ownership experience remains a key priority for us. Easy access to genuine spare parts is an important aspect of that experience and expanding our authorised distribution network is an important step towards making them more accessible across India. We have consistently listened to customer feedback and invested in strengthening our ownership ecosystem, with a focus on making support more accessible and convenient for our riders. This initiative reflects our commitment to building greater confidence and peace of mind throughout the ownership journey."

More than a distribution initiative, this reinforces Jawa Yezdi and BSA Motorcycles continued focus on strengthening the ownership experience. By bringing genuine spare parts closer to customers across India, the brands are making ownership more convenient, dependable and confidence-inspiring for riders across the country.

ICICI LIFE GUARANTEED INDEXED PENSION PLAN LAUNCHED, COMBINING LIFELONG GUARANTEED INCOME WITH INDEX-LINKED GROWTH POTENTIAL

Mumbai, October 26, 2026:

· Guaranteed income1 that is fixed for life

Variable income2 linked to NIFTY 50 Total Return Index that enables customers to participate in the market and provide an upside potential for retirement income

Offers options of joint-life benefits4, return of purchase price3 along with other flexibilities to manage retirement incomeICICI Life Insurance Limited has launched ICICI Life Guaranteed Indexed Pension, a retirement income product that offers customers a combination of Guaranteed Annuity1 and Variable Annuity2. While the guaranteed component offers income stability to customers, the variable component helps them protect against inflation through index-linked income.

A key feature of the product is the flexibility to choose a guaranteed annuity component ranging from 60% to 100%, with the remaining portion is linked to the NIFTY 50 Total Return Index, enabling customers to participate in the market and provide an upside potential for retirement income in their golden years.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer, ICICI Life Insurance, said, "With increasing life expectancy, individuals need to plan for a longer retirement period. Rising living expenses and changing financial priorities make it crucial to have retirement solutions that provide stability while also offering the potential for market-linked income growth.

With ICICI Life Guaranteed Indexed Pension, customers can choose the level of guaranteed income they are comfortable with along with the opportunity to benefit from market performance. This flexibility enables them to make informed choices and plan their retirement years with greater confidence and financial security.

The product offers single-life and joint-life options with return of purchase price3. Upon unfortunate demise of the annuitant or the last surviving annuitant, death benefit equal to total premiums paid would be returned to the nominee."

The product also offers additional flexibility for immediate liquidity needs of customer with 'Annuity Advance' feature5. The feature allows customers to receive up to 99% of up to next five years of guaranteed annuity1 in advance as a lump sum, offering immediate liquidity when needed the most. Customers can choose to receive annuity payouts on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly basis, depending on their financial requirements.

Additionally, the product also offers value-added services to customers, helping them to access health management and wellness services to support their broader needs as they prepare for and navigate retirement.

With this product launch, ICICI Life Insurance continues to strengthen its retirement solutions portfolio, offering customers greater choice and flexibility in planning for their long-term financial needs. The product reflects the Company's broader commitment to making financial planning simpler, enabling customers to secure their future with greater confidence, in line with its brand promise of making 'Har Kal Aasaan' for its stakeholders.

Ampere Expands Retail Footprint in Hanumakonda with New Experience Centre

Hanumakonda, October 2026: Ampere today inaugurated Ramagiri E Bikes at Hunter Road, strengthening its retail and service presence in Hanumakonda. The new Ampere Experience Centre will provide customers with a comprehensive sales and service experience under one roof, making electric mobility more accessible and convenient for customers in the region. The new Experience Centre will showcase Ampere's electric scooter portfolio, designed to address a diverse range of mobility needs and customer segments. At the heart of the portfolio is the Ampere Nexus EX+, with new 5 kW powerful motor and backed by multiple national and international records demonstrating its performance across some of India's most challenging terrain.

For families and value-conscious customers, the Magnus GMax brings together everyday practicality, connected technology and affordability, while the Magnus Neo has been designed with a focus on ergonomics and comfortable everyday city riding. The recently launched Ampere Reo Vyb extends the portfolio to younger riders, including students and college-goers.

The Ampere Nexus EX+ and Magnus GMax are also available in variants with 30+ Intelligent features powered by Intellipack and bringing connected, smart technology to riders. The portfolio is backed by Next-Gen LFP battery technology and up to a 5-year/75,000 km standard battery warranty, reinforcing Ampere's focus on making electric mobility dependable and accessible.

Ampere's 'Bharat Ki Smart Ride' is backed by real-world engineering and validation across the length of the country. The Magnus GMax with Intellipack recently completed the Ultimate Endurance Ride, covering nearly 4,000 km in 15 days from Dong Valley in Arunachal Pradesh to Guhar Moti in Kutch, across mountains, plains and desert. The Nexus platform has also conquered the 70 hairpin bends of Kolli Hills and reached Shipki La Pass at 13,200 ft, demonstrating its performance across varied Indian terrain. Designed as a modern and interactive retail destination, the new Ampere Experience Centre will enable prospective customers to explore the portfolio, engage with trained product specialists, understand the benefits of electric mobility and make informed purchase decisions in a comfortable environment.

The opening of the new dealership is part of Greaves Electric Mobility's continued effort to expand Ampere's retail and service presence across key markets and bring products and ownership support closer to customers. The latest addition in Hanumakonda marks another step towards deepening local customer engagement and improving access to electric mobility.

SRM AP Hosts PRARAMBH Demo Day (IGNITE) 2026, Showcasing 34 Student Startup Ventures

Reinforcing its commitment to nurturing entrepreneurial talent and translating innovative ideas into impactful solutions, SRM University–AP, Amaravati, organised PRARAMBH Demo Day (IGNITE) 2026. Spearheaded by the Directorate of Innovation Entrepreneurship (DoIE) through the Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (CEL), the day-long event brought together student innovators to showcase their entrepreneurial vision through 34 startup pitches before an expert jury comprising industry leaders and venture mentors. From sustainable energy and quantum-powered cybersecurity to circular economy solutions, the ventures reflected the university's growing culture of innovation, where student-led ideas are encouraged to evolve into scalable, technology-driven enterprises addressing emerging societal and industry needs. Among the standout pitches were



Bharrat Energy, developing green hydrogen-based solutions as a cleaner alternative to conventional LPG systems; Tsiphrion, focused on advanced quantum encryption for enhanced digital security; and OpenBin, leveraging waste-to-wealth technologies to advance circular economy principles. Speaking on the transformative journey of campus entrepreneurship, Prof. Soumitra Dutta, Advisor, SRM Group emphasised the importance of resilience, teamwork, and active mentorship. A year ago, there was a vision to foster a culture of entrepreneurship across the university, and today we see the tangible results of that vision through the hard work of our students, faculty, and mentors, he remarked. He urged student founders to view constructive feedback as a key learning tool to refine their business models and build robust teams. Addressing the audience, Mr Srinivasan Thirumalai, Director – Entrepreneurship Innovation, SRM AP, lauded the quality of the startup pitches and commended the students' enthusiasm, commitment, and problem-solving approach in developing innovative solutions to real-world challenges. Mr Vijay N, the innovation advisor of the Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, praised SRM University–AP for its dedicated efforts to foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem. He noted that registering nearly 3,000 students for the startup initiative reflects a significant institutional milestone, adding that this event represents the beginning of a long-term commitment to student-led innovation. The Demo Day marked the culmination of the PRARAMBH incubation and mentoring journey. Participating teams delivered structured pitches followed by interactive QA sessions with the jury members, receiving critical feedback and strategic direction to scale their ventures. The event culminated in jury evaluations and strategic roadmap sessions, further strengthening SRM University–AP's commitment to nurturing aspiring entrepreneurs, fostering industry-relevant innovation, and empowering student-led ventures to translate promising ideas into impactful, scalable enterprises.

UJJIVAN SFB Q2 PAT JUMPS 200% TO RS. 365 CRORE, DEPOSITS CROSS RS. 50,000 CRORE

Quarterly Disbursements cross 10,000 Cr, reaching 10,495 Cr, up 32% YoY Board approves Capital infusion through Preferential allotment of Rs. 409 Cr Highest-ever Quarterly PAT at Rs. 365 Cr up 200% YoY Deposit surpasses Rs. 50,000 Cr, reaching Rs. 50,643 Cr, up 29% YoY Secured book grew to 23,803 Crore up 47% YoY resulting in Secured book share reaching at 52.1% Affordable Housing tops 10,000 Cr reaching 10,056 Crore up 31% YoY Healthy Asset Quality with GNPA / NNPA at 2.10% / 0.31% down 35 bps / 36 bps YoY Received first tranche of 500 Cr for Direct Assignment Bengaluru, Oct, 2026: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank ltd. [BSE: 542904; NSE: UJJIVANSFB], today announced its financial performance for the quarter ended Sep, 2026. Summary of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Business Performance – Q2FY27: Deposits · Deposits crossed milestone of 50,000 Cr, reaching 50,643 Crore, up 29.2% YoY / 5.2% QoQ · CASA at 13,176 Crore up 22.2% YoY with CASA ratio at 26.0% · CoF for Q2FY27 at 6.9%, down 0.4% YoY · Bank launched ASBA facility for the customers in the quarter Assets · Gross loan book at 45,699 Crore, up 32.1% YoY / 6.5% QoQ · Highest quarterly disbursement at 10,495 Crore up 32.3% YoY · Secured book at 23,803 Crore, taking secured book share to 52.1% · Affordable Housing crossed 10,000 Crore mark, reaching 10,056 Crore up 31.4% YoY Collection and Asset Quality · Portfolio at Risk at 3.57% (Sep'26) versus 4.44% (Sep'25), Down 88 bps YoY · GNPA / NNPA improved YoY to 2.10%/0.31% vs 2.45%/0.67% · Provision coverage ratio increased by 12% YoY to 85% · Group and Individual Loan Bucket-X collection efficiency improved to 99.71% for Q2FY27 Financials · Highest PAT of 365 Crore up 199.9% YoY and 15.3% QoQ · Highest ever quarterly NII at 1,244 Crore up 35% YoY, NIM stable at 8.4% up 55 bps YoY · Improved Cost to Income to 62% improving by 4.9% YoY and 0.5% QoQ · RoA at 2.4%, up 1.4% YoY with RoE at 19.7% up 12% YoY Capital and Liquidity · Capital adequacy ratio at 20.69% · Strong liquidity with Average Daily LCR for Q2FY27 at 131% Ms. Carol Furtado, Whole Time Director & Interim CEO, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank said "to continue the growth momentum, board approved fund raise through Preferential Issue of 409 Cr from – International Finance Corporation, Bajaj Life Insurance Ltd., HDFC Life Insurance and Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance, subject to shareholders approval. Since fund raise is being done at a premium to current BVPS, it will lead to accretion of ~0.8 per share as of Sep' 26. Additionally, the bank has enhanced its funding mix, by increasing the securitization pool by 500 Cr in Oct month. Based on his request on health grounds, Mr. Sanjeev Nautiyal retired early, the NRC is actively engaged to ensure timely submission of MD candidate to the regulator. The Bank delivered highest quarterly PAT of 365 Cr, with RoA and RoE at 2.4% and 19.7%, respectively. This performance is supported by robust credit expansion, a growing deposit franchise, an increasing share of secured assets and all-round financial discipline. The Bank remains on track to achieve the upper end of our guidance at 2.0% RoA. Bank will continue to invest in distribution, technology and customer engagement. On the key operational performance total deposits increased by 29.2% year-on-year to 50,643 crore, crossing the 50,000 crore milestone, with CASA constituting 26.0% of deposits. The Bank maintained its cost of funds at 6.9%, supported by deposit repricing, although funding costs are expected to increase gradually. During the quarter, Ujjivan also introduced the ASBA facility to expand its suite of customer services. The gross loan book grew by 32.1% YoY to 45,699 crore, with secured share increasing to 52.1%. Micro Banking assets reached 22,037 crore, with X bucket collection efficiency remaining strong at 99.71% for the Quarter. The business added approximately 2.0 lakh customers during the quarter, up 19% QoQ. Growth across secured businesses remained healthy at 47% YoY. Affordable Housing reached 10,056 crore, while Micro Mortgages grew 85.7% to 2,031 crore.

Global Edge to Bring UAE Property Grand Expo 2026 to Hyderabad

Hyderabad, October 2026: Hyderabad will host the UAE Property Grand Expo 2026 on October 31 and November 1 at JRC Conventions and Trade Fairs. The event is being organised by UAE-based Global Edge Advertisements LLC, with support from the Dubai Land Department and the Ajman Land Department.

The exhibition will bring together established UAE property developers, government representatives and real estate specialists, giving Indian investors a direct opportunity to discover overseas property options and learn more about the UAE market.

INDIAN INVESTORS' ROLE IN DUBAI REAL ESTATE

According to estimates shared by the organisers, Indian investors account for around 20–22% of Dubai's property investment market, with annual investments of more than AED 30 billion. Property sales in Dubai exceeded AED 286 billion in the first half of 2026.

Hyderabad's strong technology sector, expanding entrepreneurial base and growing community of high-net-worth individuals make it an important market for international real estate investment.

A GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED GATEWAY TO UAE PROPERTY

Support from the Dubai and Ajman Land Departments lends institutional backing to the expo. Visitors will be able to explore premium residential projects, luxury homes and emerging investment destinations across the UAE. Participants can meet developers and learn about property ownership rules, investor protection measures, financing options, possible rental returns and Golden Visa pathways for eligible investors.

The India–UAE Real Estate Forum will bring government representatives and industry professionals together to discuss investment prospects, regulatory transparency and developments in the UAE property sector.

CEO'S STATEMENT

Mr. Raghu, CEO of Global Edge Advertisements LLC, said: "Hyderabad is becoming a destination for investors and entrepreneurs with international ambitions, alongside its established technology strengths. Through the UAE Property Grand Expo, we aim to introduce this growing investor community to the opportunities available in the UAE real estate market.

"For more than 15 years, Global Edge has worked to build connections between businesses and markets. With the support from the Dubai and Ajman Land Departments, we are creating a reliable platform for developers and investors to meet. We expect the initiative to encourage investment, strengthen India–UAE business ties and enhance Hyderabad's position as a gateway to the UAE property market."

LULA WINS A RECORD FOURTH PRESIDENTIAL TERM



Prominent figures from the right in Brazil, closely allied with Flávio Bolsonaro, have been posting on social media contesting the election result. Silas Malafaia is a conservative evangelical pastor with millions of followers online. He is close to the Bolsonaros and had been campaigning for Flávio ahead of the runoff. Last night, he posted an angry message to his Instagram saying that Lula had in fact "lost the election", and was trying to win through "legal manoeuvring". He added: "What is happening in Brazil is shameful." Meanwhile, Nikolas Ferreira, a 30-year old congressman who has also been crucial in Bolsonaro's campaign, posted a picture of Bolsonaro writing "until things are cleared up, Lula is not my president". In an earlier post he had said "Brazil will not concede". The language from both Bolsonaro and some of his prominent supporters - who have millions of followers online - has raised concerns about potential unrest following Lula's victory last night. It's not a surprise to close watchers of Brazilian politics that Flávio Bolsonaro has rejected this result. His father did the same, so his party has form for this. But his challenge is unlikely to succeed. Firstly, the challenge seems to centre on the decision by the Supreme Court justice Cristiano Zanin to extend voting hours nationwide by two hours. Some Bolsonaro fans are pointing out that Zanin was once Lula's lawyer and alleging bias. But while Lula's party requested extensions in some states due to public transport issues, Bolsonaro's own campaign petitioned the court for extensions in 17 municipalities too. Both knew every vote would count and didn't want their side missing out. There is undeniably frustration that some polling stations had already closed. But the president of the Supreme Electoral Court Kassio Nunes Marques – who was appointed by Flávio's father Bolsonaro, so is hardly a Lula ally – confirmed the victory and said that the voter extension did not change the outcome of the race. There was a substantive and definitive margin of defeat, and Bolsonaro's team announced this challenge without providing concrete evidence of any irregularities. Earlier this month, Brazilians went to the polls and gave Flavio Bolsonaro a first-round lead of 2.2 million votes over Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. But three weeks later, Lula won the presidency by a margin of four million votes. The scale of the turnaround was remarkable. Between the two rounds, Lula gained around 11 million additional votes. So, how did he do it? Three factors help explain: First, turnout increased. More than 2.3 million additional voters cast ballots in the second round compared with the first Second, Lula appears to have won over many voters who either abstained or declined to back a candidate in the first round. The number of blank and spoilt ballots fell by about 1.8 million Third, he succeeded in persuading some voters who had previously backed Flavio Bolsonaro or other candidates to switch sides Things felt tense here in the capital, Brasilia, after the results came in and Flavio Bolsonaro rejected the result. There are concerns about whether this could trigger unrest with his supporters. Many remember the scenes of his father Jair Bolsonaro's supporters storming government buildings and the Supreme Court here ahead of Lula's 2023 inauguration after they did not recognise the last election result. So far, things are calm here. And there are a few differences to 2022's result that suggest it would be harder to try something similar. Firstly, I remember covering Bolsonaro senior's coup trial here last year and it was striking how much the evidence revealed about how he tried to use the machinery of the state – and senior figures within it – as president, to cling on to power. Because President Lula is the incumbent this time, Flavio Bolsonaro can't try that. Secondly, this result was not as close as 2022, so it would be a lot harder to claim irregularities. While Bolsonaro shares a lot of his father's traits, he has framed himself as the more "moderate" Bolsonaro, the "vaccinated" one even – so would he really go there? He has seen the consequences such rhetoric and actions had for his father. To give you a sense of how social media mobilised Lula's base ahead of the second round – one WhatsApp group that translates as "Lula's army" had nearly 11 million followers. It was used in the build-up to the final vote to share information about his campaign, mobilise supporters to turn out, and share news and updates. To give a sense of scale, about 124 million people voted for Lula or Bolsonaro in this election. I met many supporters of Lula's in the last week at demonstrations who specifically mentioned this group, and the president himself said he'd never seen anything like the campaign that had happened in the last few weeks. The winner: Brazil's left-wing President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has won a fourth term in office, defeating his right-wing challenger Flávio Bolsonaro. What was the margin? Lula won 51.79% of the vote, while Bolsonaro had 48.21% - that's a difference of more than 4 million votes.

DUBAI IS BACK OUTDOORS: SIX WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE COOLER SEASON



Mumbai, 26th October 2026: As temperatures begin to ease, Dubai's beaches, parks, trails and open-air venues are bringing a different energy to the city. From early-morning runs along the coast and fitness sessions by the beach to weekend markets, mountain adventures and dinners under the open sky, the cooler months offer visitors more ways to experience Dubai outdoors. Whether it's an active day out with family or a spontaneous evening by the water, the city's outdoor calendar has plenty to explore.

1.Spend the day at Kite Beach: With its running tracks, water sports, beach volleyball courts and casual dining spots, Kite Beach brings together several of Dubai's favourite outdoor pursuits along the Jumeirah coastline. Visitors can start the day with a run by the sea, try kitesurfing or paddleboarding, or settle in for a relaxed afternoon at one of the beachfront cafés. The return of Kite Beach Market for its 22nd season adds to the experience, with 15 kiosks featuring beachwear, accessories and gifting options. With views of the Burj Al Arab and plenty to do beyond the shoreline, Kite Beach is a destination in its own.

2. Get moving with Dubai Fitness Challenge: Returning from 31 October to 29 November 2026, Dubai Fitness Challenge marks its tenth edition with a citywide invitation to complete 30 minutes of physical activity every day for 30 days. The programme brings fitness into public spaces through community hubs, classes and sporting events. At Kite Beach, the DP World 30x30 Fitness Village will offer activities spanning yoga, Pilates, spinning, padel and team sports. Flagship events including Dubai Ride on 1 November, Dubai Stand Up Paddle at Hatta Dam on 7–8 November, Dubai Run on 22 November and Dubai Yoga on 29 November will give residents and visitors opportunities to take part in the city's active season.

3. Trade the cityscape for mountain trails: For an outdoor escape beyond the city, Hatta offers a change of scenery amid the Hajar Mountains. Visitors can kayak on Hatta Dam, explore hiking trails or try mountain biking and adventure activities at Hatta Wadi Hub. Those looking for a longer break can also consider the destination's camping and glamping options. Closer to Dubai, Al Qudra Cycle Track offers a route through the desert landscape, while Al Qudra Lakes provides opportunities for birdwatching and time outdoors.

4. Make weekends about outdoor markets: Dubai's seasonal markets offer a mix of food, shopping, independent businesses and family activities.

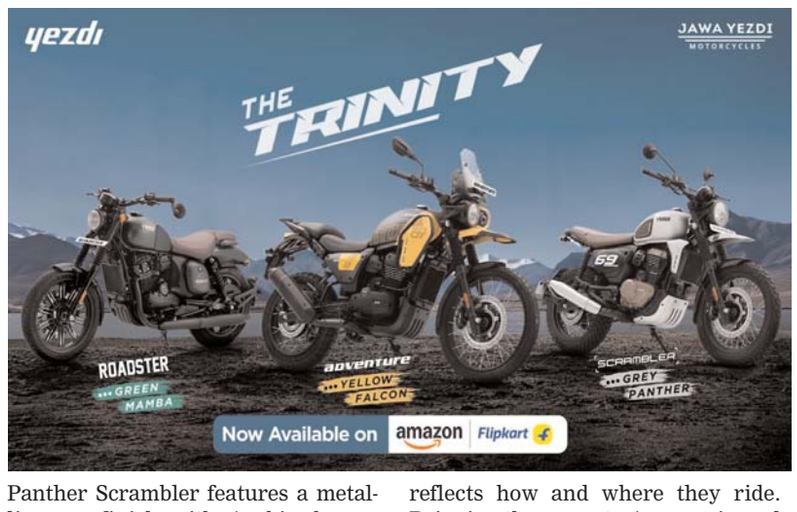
AI GIANT ANTHROPIC UNVEILS PLANS FOR BLOCK-BUSTER SHARE LISTING



Artificial intelligence (AI) firm Anthropic has revealed details of its business ahead of its plans to sell shares to the public in what will likely be the largest stock market debut in history. The company behind AI chatbot Claude revealed losses of more than $80.7bn (£60.5bn) in the first half of the year. It said it generated revenue of $16.3bn over the same period. The number of shares to be released and their price range is yet to be determined. Anthropic's valuation when it goes public has been expected to exceed that of SpaceX, which this summer was the biggest-ever stock listing at an initial valuation of about $1.8 trillion. Anthropic said it will often make forward investments "that may seem irresponsibly large at first glance". "In order to fully capture the opportunity in front of us, we need to invest more aggressively than would a business that operates in a more slowly changing technological regime," the firm said. "In general, we will aim to be bold but sane, and to win trust with a track record of successful bets." Anthropic said it will list on the Nasdaq under the symbol ANT.

Yezdi Makes Festive Motorcycle Buying Easier, Bringing the Trinity to Amazon.in and Flipkart

Mumbai October 2026: Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles brings its 2026 Yezdi range to Amazon.in and Flipkart this festive season, making the Yellow Falcon Adventure, Green Mamba Roadster and Grey Panther Scrambler more accessible to riders across the country. With new colourways, rider-focused upgrades and distinct personalities, the range continues Yezdi's focus on purpose-built motorcycles designed for different ways of riding.



The Trinity brings together three purpose-built motorcycles designed for different ways of riding. Whether it is taking on long journeys with the Adventure, everyday roads with the Roadster or exploring beyond the tarmac with the Scrambler, each motorcycle stays true to Yezdi's spirit while offering a distinct riding experience.

The Yellow Falcon Yezdi Adventure introduces tubeless cross-spoke wheels, one of the most requested upgrades from riders, while continuing with the 334cc liquid-cooled Alpha2 engine producing 29.6 PS and 29.8 Nm. The Green Mamba Roadster receives a distinctive matte green finish complemented by Arabica-brown seats and signature copper decals, while retaining the 334cc Alpha2 engine with a six-speed gearbox and assist & slipper clutch. The Grey Panther Scrambler features a metallic grey finish with Arabica-brown seats and matching tank pads, powered by the 334cc KATAR engine delivering Yezdi's signature 30-30-30 formula of 30 PS, 30 Nm and 30 km/l.

Anupam Thareja, Co-Founder, Classic Legends, said, "Yezdi has always attracted riders who prefer to do things their own way. The 2026 range builds on that spirit through three purpose-built motorcycles, each with its own character and purpose. The Yellow Falcon Adventure, Green Mamba Roadster and Grey Panther Scrambler give riders more ways to choose a motorcycle that reflects how and where they ride. Bringing the range to Amazon.in and Flipkart is another step towards making Yezdi more accessible and giving riders another way to discover and book their preferred motorcycle this festive season."

With the refreshed 2026 range now available on Amazon.in and Flipkart, riders can explore motorcycles on e-commerce and take the next step towards ownership. The move complements Jawa Yezdi Motorcycles' 450+ dealership network, giving prospective customers another way to discover the range and complete the purchase online.

Venezuelan opposition leader María Machado returns after months in exile



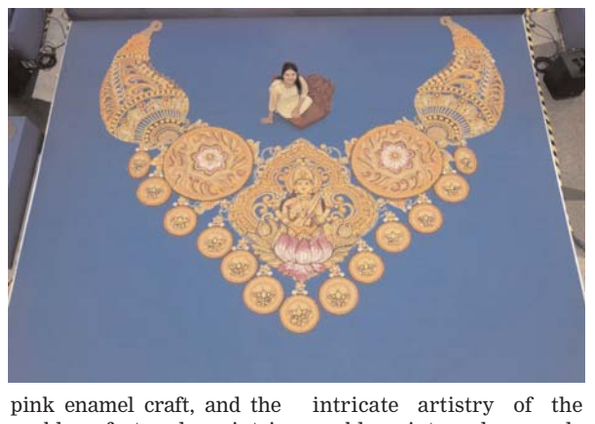
Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado has returned home to a fraught political landscape after more than 10 months in exile. "I am here. With you," Machado wrote on X on Sunday. Her return comes after repeated prior efforts to re-enter the country came to no avail. In January, a month after Machado left Venezuela on a speedboat under cover of darkness to accept the Nobel Peace Prize in Norway, the US seized her opponent, President Nicolás Maduro. The Trump administration then backed his deputy, Delcy Rodríguez, as leader and she was sworn in as interim president, later signing an oil deal which granted very favourable terms to the US. Machado was photographed on Sunday attending Mass at a church in the Venezuelan state of Lara, surrounded by supporters hugging her and clasping her hands. She then began travelling to the capital Caracas in a caravan of cheering supporters. More supporters have lined the route of her journey to the capital. She was photographed smiling as she leaned out of the sunroof of a car as she entered Caracas late on Sunday night. "Night of reunion in our Caracas. For the reunion of each family, for the Freedom of each political prisoner, for the Freedom of Venezuela," she wrote on X. Her ally, former presidential candidate Edmundo González, confirmed her arrival, writing in a statement: "I am thrilled to announce to you that our leader, my dear María Corina, is on Venezuelan soil."



Celebrations in Serbia after veteran ruler Vucic loses election to student-led protest movement

Indriya, Aditya Birla Jewellery unveiled India's largest sustainable jewellery Rangavalli, as a tribute to our rich cultural heritage

Bangalore, 26 October 2026: Indriya, Aditya Birla Jewellery, on unveiled India's Largest Sustainable Jewellery Rangavalli, crafted from grains, at Orion Mall and Shri Sathya Ganapathi Shirdi Saibaba Temple on in Bengaluru, as a tribute to our rich cultural heritage and enduring festive traditions. Spanning 400 sq. ft. at Orion Mall and 1,600 sq. ft. at the temple, the large-scale Rangavalli installations, inspired by an iconic jewellery design from Indriya's latest festive collection, Padmika, transform the intricate artistry of fine jewellery into magnificent expressions of a cherished cultural tradition steeped in devotion, craftsmanship and community spirit.



Padmika crafted in 22KT gold celebrated the revival of Gulabi Meenakari, a rare pink enamel craft, and the necklace featured an intricate nakshi floral detailing alongside the auspicious motif of Goddess Lakshmi seated on a lotus, symbolising prosperity, abundance and new beginnings. Reimagined as a magnificent Rangavalli using eco-friendly materials including rice, millets and seeds, the installation translated the intricate artistry of the necklace into a large-scale tribute to our cultural heritage. Bringing together thousands of individual elements, the artwork reflected the precision, patience and craftsmanship shared by both jewellery-making and Rangavalli creation. Created using grains, millets and seeds, the installation celebrated the enduring beauty of traditional art forms while offering visitors a distinctive and immersive festive experience. Rooted in cultural authenticity, the initiative drew on the expertise of the renowned Rangoli artist Shikha Sharma popularly known as the "3D Rangoli Queen." and creator of record-breaking Rangoli artworks. By translating the detailing of an iconic temple jewellery design into Rangavalli, Indriya celebrated two art forms that shared a deep appreciation for intricate patterns, craftsmanship and the coming together of individual elements which created something extraordinary. Sustainability was integral to the initiative, and it extended the purpose of the installation beyond the festive celebration.

ALEXANDER VOLKANOVSKI BREAKS JOSE ALDO'S ICONIC UFC RECORD



Alexander Volkanovski is now ahead of Jose Aldo in UFC featherweight history after stopping Movsar Evloev at UFC 333 in Abu Dhabi. The Australian's second-round technical knockout was his ninth win in a UFC featherweight championship bout. He surpassed Aldo's previous mark of eight. The 38-year-old retained the 145-pound title on Saturday night at Etihad Arena after stopping the unbeaten Evloev at 4:54 of round two. Volkanovski knocked Evloev down with a right hook, then finished off his opponent with ground-and-pound as referee Marc Goddard intervened with six seconds left in the fight. José Aldo's record falls as Volkanovski claims featherweight history

The win was Alexander Volkanovski's second successful defence since he reclaimed the vacant featherweight championship back in April 2025. He first lost the belt to Ilia Topuria at UFC 298 in February 2024 before returning to the top of the division a year later.

Aldo was the champion of the featherweight division after having won eight championship bouts and successfully defended his title seven times. Volkanovski has now matched that defence total with seven, but his nine title-fight victories put him alone at the top of the division's all-time list.

Unlike Aldo, whose title win came in one continuous reign. Volkanovski's record spans two separate championship runs. He first defended the belt from 2019 to 2024 but later regained it after Topuria vacated the championship to switch to lightweight.

Volkanovski's record became 29-4 overall and 16-3 in the UFC. However, Evloev's record became 20-1, having lost the first bout of his professional career even as the No. 1 contender in featherweight.

DANA WHITE BACKS VOLKANOVSKI'S DREAM SUPERFIGHT

The Australian has again raised the possibility of a lightweight superfight with Justin Gaethje. He said such a bout could serve as a retirement fight for both champions, with the winner potentially vacating the belt to allow younger contenders to move forward.

Dana White appeared open to the idea after UFC 333. The UFC CEO said, "When you've accomplished what he's accomplished, there's not much we're going to say no to with him." He added, "So we'll see how this whole thing plays out."

For now, Volkanovski's legacy at featherweight is secure. The record-breaking win over Evloev strengthened the argument that he is the greatest 145-pound fighter in UFC history, while also leaving the division's next generation to fight for the opportunity to challenge him.

HARIS RAUF CLASHES WITH WILL JACKS, TENSION ESCALATES IN PAKISTAN VS ENGLAND MATCH



The tri-series clash between England and Pakistan turned into a heated affair on Sunday after Haris Rauf was involved in a verbal altercation with all-rounder Will Jacks. Playing at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, England were bowled out for 241 after being put in to bat. In reply, Pakistan kept losing wickets at regular intervals, but Shadab Khan held firm with an unbeaten 113 off 96 balls to guide the hosts to a thrilling one-wicket victory. The win was Pakistan's third successive triumph in the series and secured their place in the final. The incident occurred during the 46th over of Pakistan's chase.

Sam Curran banged in a short delivery to Shadab, who was batting on 99 at the time. While Shadab appealed for a wide, the cameras shifted focus to Haris Rauf at the non-striker's end, where he was seen exchanging words with Will Jacks. As the argument escalated, Rauf aggressively moved towards Jacks with his bat in hand. The on-field umpire quickly stepped in to diffuse the situation and prevent it from worsening. Moments later, England veteran Joe Root also intervened, acting as a peacemaker and escorting Rauf away from the confrontation. Talking about the match, Shadab Khan's maiden century rescued Pakistan from a dire situation and took them to a stunning one-wicket victory over England in the ODI in Lahore on Sunday, booking the hosts' spot in the final of the tri-series. Defending a modest 242-run target, England were on the cusp of victory with the home team reduced to 154-9, but Shadab's unbeaten 113 condemned Harry Brook's side to a third defeat in five days in the series, which also involves Sri Lanka.

India Coach's Clear Message To Bhuvneshwar Kumar On Underwhelming T20I Return



Indian bowling coach Morne Morkel spoke on the message given to veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar following his return to the Indian setup after four years, with him having told the 36-year-old to "not chase anything and just be himself" and urged that he be allowed to find his feet back into the team for a few games. The 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar, who played a massive role in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) back-to-back IPL title wins in the 2025 and 2026 seasons, returned to the Indian side for New Zealand T20Is to the delight of many Indian fans. However, with figures of 0/49 and 1/50 in the first two T20Is, the 'Swing King' has not delivered as per expectations after a blockbuster IPL 2026, where he emerged as the joint second-highest wicket-taker, taking 28 scalps in 16 matches. Speaking to reporters about Bhuvneshwar's return, Morkel spoke of the expectation factor and the amount of time Bhuvneshwar had to train for his return to international cricket after four long years.

"I have got a lot of sympathy for his return. You know, the reason why I say that is that there will be expectations after 4 years to come out. He has done exceptionally well in the IPL; he has bowled really well. One is to block the expectation factor out. Leading into, you know, his selection. I mean, there was a month of cricket where, yes, he trained, but this is a different beast coming and playing international cricket where the margins are small. So he had to come in with limited training because of the schedule, get himself ready," he said.

"So the skill and, you know, his experience, everything is there, but at the end of the day, you know, you have to respect the game of cricket, and you have to be able to allow him to just find his feet in some of the games. And for me, that has been the message from the start when he joined the squad: you know, do not chase anything, just be you."

"I Would Like To Take It With Zoil Instead": Fan Leaves Cinna Embarrassed During Photo Request



Cinna is used to fans asking for pictures, but one request this week didn't go the way she expected. While she was out with fellow streamer Zoil, a fan walked up for a photo, and Cinna got ready to pose with both of them. The fan then made it clear he only wanted Zoil in the picture and asked her to step out of the frame. Cinna was visibly embarrassed, and the moment was shared widely online soon after. Zoil gets the photo as Cinna steps aside Cinna had already moved into the shot when the fan stopped her. "I would like to take it with Zoil instead," he said. She stepped out, visibly embarrassed, and the fan got his photo with Zoil alone, without her in the frame. Zoil is a British streamer who built his audience on Twitch through gaming and Just Chatting streams, and he's known to a lot of viewers as a close friend of xQc. Plenty of people online still couldn't believe the fan picked him over Cinna, especially after the month-long run she had on Twitch this summer. Most subscribed woman on Twitch gets left out of the frame Cinna started Cinnathon on August 1, 2026, and streamed 24 hours a day for 31 days with one clear goal: to become the most subscribed woman on Twitch. By the end of the run, she had 140,451 active subscribers at her peak, the highest active count of any woman on the platform at the time. Ironmouse is still often named as the record holder among women when all-time peaks are counted, and Kai Cenat holds the overall record, with 1,095,265 subscribers during his Mafiathon 3 in September 2025. The subathon also brought in sponsors. On August 2, just a day into the stream, Bang Energy announced it had signed her, with almost the entire month of Cinnathon still to go. She's nominated for Best Marathon Stream at The Streamer Awards for that broadcast, and she's also up for the Sapphire Award. The ceremony, which QTCinderella hosts every year, is on November 12 in Los Angeles, and Cinna is one of the bigger names heading into the night.

Pokimane Reveals She Feels Unsafe When Atrioc Appears On Her Screen Years After 2023 Deepfake Controversy



Imane "Pokimane" Anys says Brandon "Atrioc" Ewing showing up in her Twitch community still shakes her, nearly four years after the deepfake controversy that involved several female streamers. On an October 25, 2026, livestream, she told viewers that running into Atrioc's name or face without warning brings the uncomfortable feelings right back, even with blocked and muted terms set up to avoid it. The OfflineTV co-founder also talked about why she kept quiet for so long, admitting that trying to deal with it alone hadn't helped her.

Out On 199, Devdutt Padikkal's Reaction On Controversial Dismissal Goes Viral



Devdutt Padikkal stood firm like a wall and rescued India A on Day 3 of the first unofficial Test against New Zealand A at Bert Sutcliffe Oval in Lincoln. India A had finished Day 2 at 106/2 in their second innings, with Padikkal unbeaten on 56 and Sai Sudharsan on 39 at stumps. Resuming on the third day, Padikkal continued his fine form and scored a magnificent 199 before being caught behind by wicketkeeper Mitchell Hay off Zak Gibson's bowling. Having fallen just one run short of a double century, Padikkal appeared visibly disappointed with the umpire's decision, arguing that there was a huge gap between the bat and the ball. Padikkal not only anchored the innings but also stitched together a crucial 215-run partnership with Sudharsan, who made 91. He then added another valuable 142-run stand with Yash Rathod (66) as India A recovered strongly after being bowled out for just 113 in their first innings.

Padikkal's Fiery Form

Padikkal's 199-run knock has provided a significant boost to India's Test squad ahead of the upcoming two-match series against New Zealand. The series begins on November 19, and Padikkal is expected to play a key role for the visitors. The left-hander was also in excellent form during India's two-Test series against Sri Lanka in August.

In the first Test, which India won by 165 runs, Padikkal scored 167 and 44. He followed it up with another impressive performance in the second Test, scoring 117 in a match that ended in a draw.

Paige Shares Unfortunate Update After Her Flight and Train Plans Fall Apart



=Paige is stuck in Scotland with no clear way back to the United States, and it's all because of canceled flights and trains ahead of WWE RAW. The former Divas Champion had been at Comic-Con Scotland, and the trip home went sideways fast when her flight got canceled. Next she tried a seven-hour train to London so she could catch another flight, but that fell apart too. She laid it all out on X, blaming the airline and the storm-related cancellations for leaving her stranded, and the whole mess lands right in the middle of her ongoing feud with Nikki Bella. Paige's Flight Was Canceled After Her Seat Was Given Away at the Airport Paige said the trouble started before she ever got on the plane. According to her post, the airline told her it had handed her seat to passengers from a flight that was delayed earlier. She wrote: "Got up early to catch my flight, got there, they GAVE MY TICKET AWAY." It got worse from there, because the flight itself never left. Storm Boelo hit Scotland with severe weather and disrupted air travel and rail services over weekend, and National Rail warned passengers about cancellations and delays from the storm. So Paige went looking for another route. Her backup was that seven-hour train ride to London, where she hoped to get another flight. Canceled as well, which left her unable to keep going with her original plans.

REAL MADRID CENTURY 'JUST A DETAIL' FOR KYLIAN MBAPPE AFTER EL CLASICO WIN



Kylian Mbappe said reaching a milestone 100 goals for Real Madrid during the 2-1 Clasico win over Barcelona in La Liga on Sunday was "just a detail" compared to the team's victory. The French forward hit a brace to bring up his century for Los Blancos across all competitions since joining in 2024. Mbappe's double, either side of a Raphinha strike for the hosts at Camp Nou, brought third-place Real Madrid within three points of the La Liga leaders and reigning Spanish champions. "I'm very happy, I think everyone knows I like to score goals, I like to help the team with that, but I think today it's just a detail, because... the most important thing is the team's win," Mbappe told Real Madrid TV. "Honestly, the real star of the game today is the team, the group, because we knew we had to play a big game, a team game... "We know that in the end it was a great game, but it still only counts as three points, and we need to pick up a lot of points to win La Liga." Jose Mourinho's Madrid have now won five matches in a row and seem to be coming into strong form. "It doesn't mean anything, we have to continue, because five games for us is nothing, we want to win every game," added Mbappe, 27. "(Winning) is a good message today, but we can't think the season is done -- next week (at Racing) Santander we have to put in the same intensity."

The 27-year-old, the second-best La Liga scorer this season, is building on a remarkable performance last campaign, which saw him finish as La Liga and the Champions League's top scorer, the World Cup Golden Boot winner and the all-time leading World Cup scorer. Those statistics have made him one of the frontrunners for the Ballon d'Or ahead of Monday's gala in London. Defeats to Real Betis and Atletico Madrid last month shook Real's top-flight campaign, but recent results reflect stability. Real have now won five matches in a row – three in La Liga and two in the UCL – and seem to be coming into strong form. Even though Sunday's victory was just a second in eight games against Barcelona, Real are slowly reducing the gap on Barca this season, with just over a quarter of the season played. After 10 matches, they are third in the league standings on 24 points, three points behind Barcelona, while Atletico are sandwiched in between, sitting second with 25 points.

'Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47' Is Different from Trivikram's Previous Films: Says Srinidhi Shetty



Victory Venkatesh and the wizard of words, Trivikram Srinivas, have joined hands for the prestigious film Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47. Produced by S. Radha Krishna (Chinababu) under the Haarika & Hassine Creations banner, the film features Srinidhi Shetty as the female lead. Bringing the festive spirit of Diwali a little early, the film is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 30.

Coming 20 years after Venkatesh and Trivikram last collaborated, Aadarsha Kutumbam has generated considerable expectations. The recently released trailer has further raised the excitement surrounding the film. With the release date fast approaching, the promotional activities are gaining momentum. In this context, heroine Srinidhi Shetty recently interacted with the media and shared several interesting insights about the film.

WHAT EXCITED YOU ABOUT SAYING YES TO THIS FILM?

I had always wanted to work in a film directed by Trivikram garu. So, receiving a call from him made me extremely happy. Moreover, this is a new genre for both Trivikram garu and Venkatesh garu. If you look at Trivikram garu's filmography, Aadarsha Kutumbam is completely different from his previous films. That is why, after hearing the story, I immediately felt that I had to be a part of this film.

Although I play a mother in the film, I never once considered turning down the offer. Films and characters like these come along very rarely. The combination of Trivikram garu and Venkatesh garu is special in itself. Getting an opportunity to be part of such a wonderful film featuring these two stalwarts is truly a privilege.

HOW IS YOUR CHARACTER? HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT DOING COMEDY?

As Trivikram garu explained, this is a crime comedy with elements of dark humour. This is the first time I have played a full-fledged comedy-oriented character. My character loses money in a chit fund scheme and ends up getting into debt.

Since I had never played a role of this kind before, I initially had some doubts about how I would pull it off. However, after seeing the final output, I felt extremely satisfied with my performance.

TRIVIKRAM GARU IS KNOWN FOR HIS BRILLIANT DIALOGUES. HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT DELIVERING HIS LINES?

Trivikram garu's dialogues carry a great deal of depth and meaning. So, before delivering each dialogue, I made an effort to understand its underlying meaning. The film has several wonderful dialogues, and his magic as a writer is evident throughout. The dialogue in the trailer, "What is the war that can be won without an army dying, sir?" particularly impressed me. It is a line that I loved, and I believe audiences will appreciate it just as much.

WERE YOU DISAPPOINTED BY THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE FILM'S RELEASE?

When you have worked hard on a film for nearly a year and a half, and there is still an opportunity to improve the final output, I believe it is better to take a little more time rather than rush into releasing it. Producer Naga Vamsi garu also explained the same point. The release date was moved from October 9 to October 30 to ensure a better output. I feel that these additional three weeks have helped make Aadarsha Kutumbam even better.

WHY DO YOU DO RELATIVELY FEW FILMS?

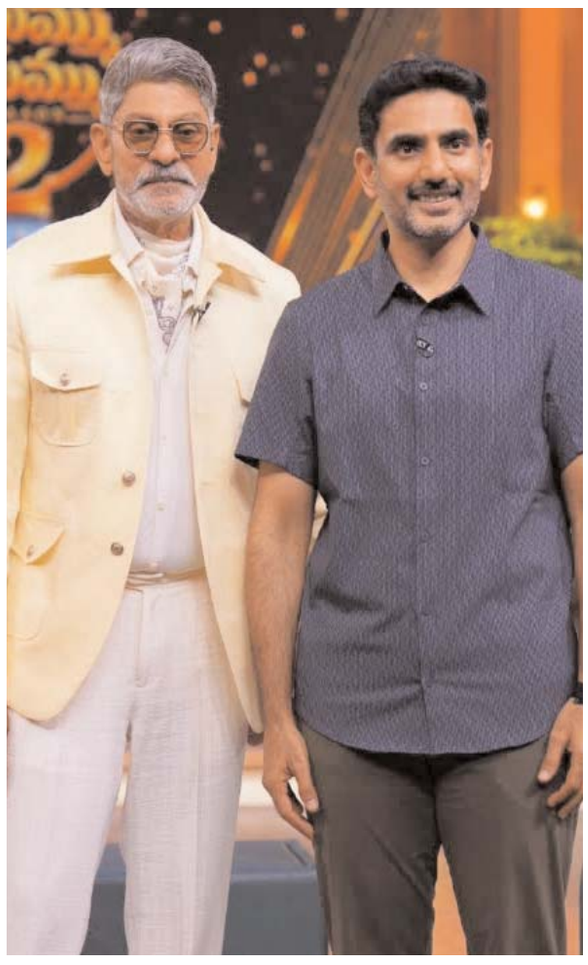
I have been choosing films based on the content and whether the stories appeal to me. Aadarsha Kutumbam is also a film I selected because I genuinely liked it.

However, the big-budget films I work on often take a year or two to complete. That is why it may seem as though I am doing fewer films. I joined the sets of Aadarsha Kutumbam in July 2025, and more than a year has already passed since then.

DID YOU TRY TO MATCH VENKATESH GARU'S PERFORMANCE?

Venkatesh garu is an extraordinary actor. His comic timing is fantastic, and his performances in emotional scenes are equally remarkable. Matching him is not something that can easily be done, but I made an honest effort from my side.x

NARA LOKESH'S DEEPAVALI SPECIAL BRINGS FAMILY ANECDOTES, SCHOOL-DAY CONFESSIONS AND A 'LEGEND' MOMENT TO 'JAYAMMU NISHCHAYAMMU RAA – SEASON 2'



A familiar film dialogue, an unexpected childhood confession and a family anecdote that takes a humorous turn the latest episode of 'Jayammu Nishchayammu Raa with Jagapathi' – Season 2 promises a different kind of festive conversation. Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh joins host Jagapathi Babu for the show's third episode, bringing personal recollections and a playful exchange of stories to the Deepavali special.

The season began with Sai Pallavi, whose appearance opened the series of celebrity conversations, before bringing together director Trivikram Srinivas, composer Thaman S and special guest Sunil for its second episode. The upcoming instalment moves into a different sphere, with Lokesh offering glimpses of the person behind his public responsibilities through stories that are as amusing as they are personal. One of the conversation's lighter moments revolves around his school years. Looking back at his time as a student, Lokesh recalls an impressive distinction of sorts: being the recipient of more punishments than his classmates. What could have remained an ordinary childhood memory takes a comic turn when the conversation draws in his uncle, Nandamuri Balakrishna. Lokesh's response suggests that mischief, in this family, makes for an entertaining subject of comparison. His recollections of the period surrounding his wedding bring another amusing exchange to the fore. Lokesh remembers Balakrishna addressing him as 'Alludugaru'. Rather than taking the affectionate form of address at face value, he recalls instinctively wondering what was being planned for him. The anecdote turns a simple family interaction into a moment of comic suspicion, offering a glimpse of their dynamic away from the screen. The conversation also circles around the contrast between Balakrishna's formidable cinematic image and his life beyond it. Lokesh hints at the existence of one person who can leave the actor apprehensive, setting up a revelation that the promo deliberately holds back.

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 - 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.

G. V. Prakash Kumar said, "Magi is a very relatable guy who finds himself in a situation he never expected." What I enjoyed about the character is that he keeps discovering things along with the audience. There is a sense of curiosity, fear and uncertainty running through his journey, and that made the role exciting for me. I am happy that audiences can now experience Immortal on Sony LIV and discover the mystery for themselves.



Mysterious and Intriguing Investigation Thriller 'AH' Set for Grand Theatrical Release on November 12

The upcoming mystery investigation thriller 'AH', starring Rahul Vijay and Archana Iyer in the lead roles, has already generated considerable buzz among audiences. The film's title and first-look poster, unveiled by Adivi Sesh, received a positive response, while the glimpse titled 'Bloody Hunger' garnered an impressive reaction. The recently released lyrical video of the song 'Idhena Idhena' has also been creating a buzz on social media.

Currently in the post-production stage, the film was initially planned for a theatrical release on October 30. However, the makers, committed to delivering the best possible output without compromising on quality, have decided to release the film grandly on November 12. The concept video announcing the new release date has become a talking point on social media, further building curiosity around the film.



Produced by Kanakarao Tonangi, Abhishek K and renowned editor Garry BH under the banners of Star Box Stories and Ripple Slide Studios, 'AH' is directed by Sai Bali. The film promises a gripping investigative narrative filled with mystery, suspense, emotion and unexpected turns.

Speaking about the film, director Sai Bali said, "With everyone's support, I believe we have delivered our best possible output. The story revolves around a girl, her disappearance and the search that follows, with suspicion, crime and inhumanity forming the core of the narrative. Rahul Vijay will be seen as a sincere police officer, bringing a commanding screen presence to this investigative drama. I am confident that the film, releasing on November 12, will receive a positive response from audiences."



ANUPAMA MAKES WAVES IN GOLDEN FISH LOOK

Many heroines are not regular on social media, but Anupama Parameswaran keeps nailing her looks and surprising fans every time. Her new golden fish look is simply amazing, and this one is a pure treat for her followers online.

For this shoot, Anupama wore a mustard gold dress with heavy beadwork on a fitted body. Sheer organza ruffles flowed down one side and rose around the high neck. A thigh slit added movement, while gold cuffs and gold strappy heels matched the shade. Her curly updo kept the look fresh.



Nayanthara Joins Rajinikanth's 'Dharman', Raises Expectations



Superstar Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan, Ashwath Marimuthu, and lady superstar Nayanthara in RKFI's 'Dharman'

The makers of Superstar Rajinikanth's 'Dharman' have given another interesting update. They have released a new poster announcing the addition of lady superstar Nayanthara to this prestigious project. With Rajinikanth and Nayanthara teaming up once again, the expectations on the film have increased even more. This pan India entertainer, which is being produced by Raj Kamal Films International, is being directed by Ashwath Marimuthu while Kamal Haasan and R. Mahendran are producing it. The film has already caught everyone's attention with its first look, which has already been released. In it, Rajinikanth is seen in a different avatar called 'The Deadly Doctor' as a mysterious doctor, with a blood-stained scalpel in his hand.

In the recently released poster, Rajinikanth and Nayanthara are seen standing opposite each other in front of a huge window. Their silhouettes are impressive amidst the golden light emanating from the window. Along with the visuals in this poster, the curiosity about what their roles will be like in the film has also increased.

This is the fifth time that Rajinikanth and Nayanthara have acted together. Previously, they have acted together in the films 'Chandramukhi', 'Kathanayakudu', 'Darbar' and 'Peddanna'. Now, as they are coming before the audience once again with 'Dharman', this crazy pair will be the main attraction of the film.

Rockstar Anirudh Ravichander is composing the music for the film, while Niketh Bommi is handling the cinematography. Pradeep E. Raghav is editing. Renowned stunt choreographers Anbariv are creating the action sequences of the film. The first look, which introduced Rajinikanth as a mysterious doctor, and now with the entry of Nayanthara, interest in 'Dharman' has increased further. With a diverse storyline, a combination of top stars and technical experts, this film is increasing curiosity among the audience.

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