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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

Essence of the South

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER



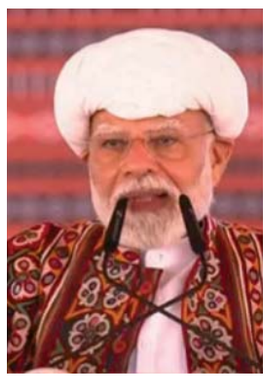
Inbriefs

RAHUL GANDHI BACKS IDBI STAFF, QUESTIONS BANK SALE TO FAIRFAX



New Delhi, Oct 30: Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday extended support to IDBI Bank employees opposing the proposed disinvestment of the lender, questioning the government's decision to sell a majority stake in the profitable public sector bank to Canada's Fairfax Financial Holdings. In an open letter addressed to IDBI Bank employees, Gandhi said public sector banks were not assets to be sold but institutions built with public money to serve the nation. He recalled that a group of employees had met him at Parliament House in March last year and questioned why the government was planning to sell a bank they had helped turn profitable.

PM Modi recalls 2001 Banaskantha rally record claim



Bhildi, Oct 30 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday recalled his first major public programme as Gujarat Chief Minister in Banaskantha in 2001 and said the district had once hosted a gathering of three lakh people, as he addressed a large 'Khatla Sabha', where people sat on traditional village cots.

Addressing the gathering in Bhildi, PM Modi drew attention to the unusual seating arrangement, saying the revival of the traditional village practice had made the event distinctive.

He suggested that the gathering could have found a place in the Guinness World Records had the organisers approached the record-keeping organisation in advance.

"Perhaps the people of the world would be surprised to see that everyone in this gathering is sitting on charpoys. Banaskantha has kept this great tradition of our villages alive today," he said.

The Prime Minister also linked the visit to the completion of 25 years of his public service, recalling that his first major public programme after becoming Gujarat Chief Minister in 2001 had been held in the same region.

He said the programme, a Lok Kalyan Mela, had attracted around three lakh people and expressed the belief that the record had not been broken since. "Where I began my journey, I have got an opportunity today to give an account of 25 years of service," PM Modi said.

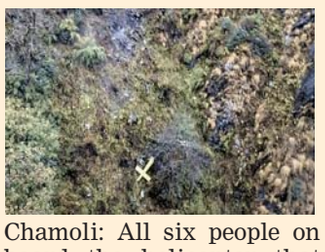
He also recalled his association with Gujarat and said his first visit to Banaskantha after completing 25 years in public life had coincided with the current programme.

Beginning his address with greetings to the gathering, PM Modi acknowledged that farmers from every district of the country and every village of Gujarat were connected to the event through technology.

He also welcomed the chief minister and ministers who were participating in the programme. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi and Assembly Speaker Shankar Chaudhary were among those present.

UTTARAKHAND:

CHOPPER CRASHES NEAR JOSHIMATH, ALL 6 ONBOARD DEAD



Chamoli: All six people on board the helicopter that crashed into a hillside in Joshimath have died, and their bodies were found, police said on Friday, October 30, evening. The privately run chopper crashed about an hour after it took off from Badrinath on its way to Dehradun.

The six people on board the Trans Bharat Aviation Pvt. Ltd.'s helicopter were identified as Capt. Himanshu and five male passengers: Prathapa, Arun, Shankar Gowda, Sudheer K, and H S Natraja. All of them were from Bengaluru.

The bodies have been found but not yet recovered, said Chamoli Superintendent of Police Surjit Singh Panwar.

CM Revanth welcomes Miyapur verdict, says ₹50,000 crore saved



HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT):

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict on Miyapur lands, saying it had helped Telangana protect government property valued at approximately 50,000 crore. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, the Chief Minister said the government had presented a strong legal case and instructed officials to take appropriate steps to recover possession of the lands following the favourable judgment.

Revanth Reddy alleged that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, Damodar Rao and "Goldstone" Prasad were involved in attempts to encroach upon the lands. He further alleged that costly cars and kickbacks had been offered in connection with the transactions.

The Chief Minister said the government was considering selling the recovered lands and using the proceeds for irrigation, education and healthcare projects. The proposal would be examined by the Cabinet subcommittee on resource mobilisation before the Cabinet took a decision, he added.

Claiming that his government had protected land worth 1.50 lakh crore since 2023, Revanth Reddy cited legal battles involving properties in Manchirevula, Gachibowli, Mamidipally and other locations.He alleged that K.T. Rama Rao, in association with builders from Rayalaseema, had attempted to encroach upon 143 acres at Manchirevula. The government had protected the property and established a school for children of police personnel there, he said.Revanth Reddy also alleged attempts to take over IMG lands and said the government had successfully defended its interests through legal proceedings.Referring to forest land disputes, the Chief Minister said legal action had helped protect properties at Gurramguda, in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district and in Bhadradri Kothagudem district.

Final voter lists in Telangana, Andhra to be published on Nov 30

HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT):

With the Election Commission of India (ECI) again revising the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) schedule in both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the final electoral rolls in both states will now be published on November 30.



For Telangana, the Election Commission has extended the deadline for notices and disposal of claims and objections to November 26. In Andhra Pradesh, the deadline has been extended till November 20. The final electoral rolls in both the Telugu states are now scheduled for publication on November 30.

The schedule has been revised at the request of the Chief Electoral Officers of both states.

In separate communications to the CEOs, the Commission informed them about its decision to revise the schedule.

The ECI has directed the CEOs to inform all officials about the revised schedule and ensure wide publicity through all available media. Political parties must also be informed of the modified schedule in writing.

VARIOUS PROJECTS



PM lays the foundation stone, inaugurates and dedicates to the Nation various projects at Banaskantha, in Gujarat..

Pawan Kalyan seeks permanent solution for fishermen's issues

AMRAVATHI ■ (TSIT):



Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Environment, and Forests, Pawan Kalyan, has called for finding a permanent solution to the problems faced by fishermen in coastal areas. He emphasised that instead of relying on temporary measures whenever cyclones occur, steps must be taken to ensure long-term protection for the people living in coastal areas.

He directed officials to examine the feasibility of providing insurance coverage for fishing boats and to prepare appropriate proposals. Pawan Kalyan asked officials in Kakinada district to formulate plans aimed at providing permanent solutions to the challenges faced by coastal fishing communities. He stated that he would visit the fishing villages after Diwali to personally assess their concerns.

The Deputy CM held a virtual meeting with the Kakinada district administration and residents of the coastal villages to review the impact of Cyclone Arnab, the status of relief operations, and the assistance being provided to those affected. On this occasion, the District Collector inquired with fishermen from the coastal villages about the damage caused by the cyclone and the details of the relief operations.

Delhi HC denies prayers at Race Course Masjid over safety risks

HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT):



The Delhi High Court on Thursday declined to direct authorities to allow worshippers access to the Race Course Masjid in New Delhi, citing safety concerns over demolition work in the surrounding area.

The court also recorded the Centre's assurance that no coercive action would be taken against the mosque for four weeks while the Land and Development Office (L&DO) considers a representation submitted by the Delhi Waqf Board.

Justice Anish Dayal noted the ongoing demolition work around the religious structure and questioned who would be responsible if someone were injured. "If somebody gets injured, who is going to pay compensation?" the judge asked.

> The court declined to direct authorities to restore worshippers' access to the mosque, citing safety concerns over demolition work nearby, while the Centre assured that no coercive action would be taken for four weeks as the L&DO considers the Delhi Waqf Board's representation.

Union government standing counsel Ashish Dixit told the court that the authorities would decide on the Waqf Board's representation within four weeks. He opposed allowing worshippers to enter the mosque at this stage, arguing that access would be unsafe because of the demolition activity in the surrounding area.

Sitharaman hits back at Rahul over IDBI Bank deal, recalls Congress-era bad loans

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)

Uion Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday defended the Centre's proposed sale of a majority stake in IDBI Bank, hitting back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his criticism of the disinvestment move.She accused previous Congress-led governments of interfering in the functioning of public sector banks and influencing lending decisions, which, she alleged, contributed to the accumulation of bad loans. In a post on X, Sitharaman alleged that political pressure was frequently used during Congress rule to push banks into extending loans without adhering to established lending practices.Citing historical instances, she referred to the removal of former State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman R.K. Talwar in 1976 after he allegedly resisted pressure to ease lending conditions for a company associated.

Nagpur win gives beleaguered Congress face-saving foothold in MLC polls



MUMBAI ■ (TSIT):

The Congress has reasons to celebrate the lone victory in the biennial Legislative Council (MLC) elections held for 28 seats across four states, though the strike rate converts into a meagre 3.57 per cent, with many of its regional allies faring better. In these elections across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, the Congress won only one seat, in Maharashtra's Nagpur Graduates' constituency. It has thus avoided a complete washout, a fear writ large before the Nagpur result was official, even as several leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made snide, sometimes amusing, social media comments on its "zero" achievement. The Congress can now argue that it still holds "pockets of support", with Abhijeet Wanjari having retained the Nagpur "bastion". So what if in Karnataka it was wiped out despite being in power, where the Bengaluru Teachers' constituency was perhaps the highest-profile Congress loss.

Though faring comparatively weaker in general polls of late, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) constituent Janata Dal (Secular) candidate A. P. Ranganath defeated sitting Congress MLC Puttanna by around 900 votes. Losing an incumbent seat in the capital region was a major setback, with Puttanna being a veteran leader and the sitting member of the Council. Nagpur was the proverbial sobering balm for another loss.

Konda Surekha withdraws remarks against KTR, issues apology



Hyderabad: Warangal East MLA and former minister Konda Surekha on Thursday, October 29, withdrew her remarks against Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao and expressed regret, saying she did not mean to hurt him or his family. In October 2024, Surekha had linked KTR to the divorce of actors Naga Chaitanya and Samantha Ruth Prabhu. She had also made allegations about drug use and the blackmail of film personalities. KTR and Nagarjuna (Naga Chaitanya's father) had filed defamation cases against the Congress MLA.

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Congress Spreading Misinformation on SIR Fearing Electoral Defeat: Venkataramana

Mulugu, October 30, TSIT: BJP State Spokesperson Dr. Vannala Venkataramana criticized the Congress party, alleging that whenever it faces electoral defeat, it refuses to accept the people's mandate and attempts to discredit democratic institutions.



On Friday, Venkataramana and BJP State MLC Co-Convenor Edla Ashok Reddy attended the Loktantra Bachao – Arajakata Hatao – Citizens for Democracy programme as chief guests. The event was organised under the leadership of BJP Mulugu District President Sirikonda Balaram at Royal Plaza in Mulugu town. Speaking on the occasion, Venkataramana said it was unfortunate that the Congress party was portraying the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, being conducted constitutionally by the Election Commission of India, as an attempt to steal votes.He explained that correcting errors in electoral rolls and verifying details of deceased voters, duplicate voters and those who had permanently migrated to other places were legitimate procedures carried out by the Election Commission.He said the main objective of SIR was to identify changes in electoral rolls over the past two decades and ensure that every eligible citizen received the right to vote. He pointed out that previous Congress governments had also undertaken similar electoral roll revision exercises, and accused the party of adopting double standards by opposing the same process for political gains.

Teachers' Issues Must Be Resolved

Mulugu, October 30, TSIT : Teachers working at Bandarupalli Model School in Mulugu mandal staged a protest on Friday during the lunch break by wearing black badges, demanding the resolution of their long-pending issues.



Speaking on the occasion, Model School JAC union leaders raised several demands, including:

Providing compassionate appointments to the family members of deceased teachers, Clearing pending Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears from 2023 onwards, Merging Model Schools into the School Education Department,

Paying teachers' salaries through the 010 budget head, Granting Junior Lecturer pay scales to PGTs, Providing promotions without further delay,

Allocating teachers to new zones as per GO 317, Granting notional service to TGTs. The union leaders stated that although the government had been served a notice 20 days ago demanding the resolution of Model School teachers' issues, not even a single issue had been addressed so far.They appealed to the government to respond immediately and resolve the teachers' problems.

Indira Gandhi's death anniversary observed at Gokarna



BENGALURU: The death anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, popularly known as the 'Iron Lady of India', was observed at Gokarna by a team led by V. Girish Kumar, president of the Bengaluru South Social Media Wing.

For the past three to four years, the anniversary had been observed at the Sangama in Srirangapatna under the leadership of Girish Kumar of Padmanabhanagar. This year, the team visited the coastal pilgrimage town of Gokarna and conducted the commemorative programme with traditional rituals. Those who participated included Shivanna of the Seva Dal, Ittamadu leaders Ramakrishna Gowda and Shankar H, Social Media Block President Balaji Singh, Ward President Ravikumar, Labour Wing member Bhimesh M, scholar Haribhargava Ramashastri, Mahendra Gowda M and Raja Guru Koppal, among others.

Grand Inaugural Ceremony of National level Student Technical Symposium "SUMSHODHINI'26" Held at KITS Warangal Campus

Hanumakonda, October 30, TSIT : The Indian Society for Technical Education(ISTE) KITSW student chapter, Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal (KITSW) in association with Technical Club, Student Activity Center(SAC), all the 11 departments jointly organizing a national level student technical symposium named as "SUMSHODHINI'26" for two days, 30th and 31st October, 2026 held at Silver Jubilee Seminar Hall, KITS Warangal campus told by the Chairman SUMSHODHINI'26 & Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy.



Today, It is jointly inaugurated by chief guest of the inaugural function, Hyderabad, TGNPDCL Chairman and Managing Director, Karnati Varun Reddy, IAS, and the guest of honor, Region Head - Academic Alliances (Hyderabad), TCS, Richard King Chatragadda in association with the KITSW additional secretary & former MLA, V. Satish Kumar, KITSW Management member & Industrialist E. Venkatram Reddy, Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy and fest organizing team by lighting the lamp.

On the eve of inauguration the former Rajya Sabha MP, KITSW Chairman, Capt. V. Lakshmikantha Rao and Treasurer P. Narayana Reddy has congratulated and appreciated them for the grand success of national tech. fest-SUMSHODHINI'26.

On this occasion the chief guest, Hyderabad, TGNPDCL Chairman and Managing Director, Shri Karnati Varun Reddy, highlighted that the students have to focus on work culture, values, sound knowledge on fundamentals by active learning of text books, micro targets and macro targets to achieve self esteem and to build the negotiation and communication skills. Being physically and emotionally connected with people. Application and Solution oriented approach. He suggested the students come up with innovative ideas, start-ups which lead them to be good leaders in technology, successful entrepreneurs and scientists.

He concluded by advising to develop critical and diversity of thinking, avoiding usage of destructive technology with AI and being open minded.

On this occasion the guest of honor, KITSW proud alumnus (1990), Region Head - Academic Alliances (Hyderabad), TCS, Shri Richard King Chatragadda implied that the problem solving skill is the most important, changing complicated things to solvable things, life skills are way essential while real skills matter in securing a job. He ended by stating that its not about winning but about practicing and finding areas to develop

According to the KITSW Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy, the sumshodhini'26 theme is "Beyond conventional thinking". This platform is for the real technical presentation to inculcate the technical skill as well as effective communication and leadership qualities. The Eleven (11) engineering departments which includes Computer Science and Engineering-Network (CSN), Computer Science and Engineering-AIML (CSM), Civil engineering(CE), Mechanical Engineering (ME), Electronics and Communication Engineering(ECE), Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE), Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE), Electronics Communication and engineering -VLSI (ECV), Information Technology (IT) and MBA. During these two days- 12 workshops, technical events such as Paper presentations are common activity for all branches and 50+ technical events will be organised to create start-up culture among the student community, he added.

On this occasion KITSW additional secretary & former MLA, V. Satish Kumar gave the presidential remarks. advised that the students must have self discipline and concentration. There were 1707 student participants from 52 colleges. Exploring to learn and share the ideas will lead to an assembly of brilliance. Larger your skill set, the better package you will get. Create, Collaborate and Innovate for start-up culture and entrepreneurship.

The fest convener and Dean student affairs Prof. K. Sridhar announced that there were a total of 4500 student participants. The students update their knowledge by using copies of research journals facilitated in the library worth Rs. 45 lakhs per annum.

CARE Hospitals, Hitech City, Organises Breast Cancer Awareness Talk, Felicitates Survivors

BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS AND PATIENTS JOIN AWARENESS PROGRAMME AS DOCTORS HIGHLIGHT EARLY DETECTION, WARNING SIGNS AND ADVANCES IN TREATMENT

Hyderabad, October 30, 2026: As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, CARE Hospitals, Hitech City, organised a Breast Cancer Awareness Talk, bringing together breast cancer survivors, patients, doctors and healthcare professionals to raise awareness about early detection, warning signs and advances in treatment. The programme also included a felicitation ceremony honouring breast cancer survivors, recognising their courage and resilience through their cancer journey.



The programme brought together specialists from the hospital's oncology team, including Dr. A. Venugopal, Senior Consultant Medical Oncologist, Hemato-Oncologist & BMT Physician; Dr. Ramu Damuluri, Senior Consultant – Surgical Oncology, Breast & Women Cancer Surgeon; Dr. Kandra Prasanth Reddy, Senior Consultant – Radiation Oncologist; Dr. Praveen Adusumilli, Senior Consultant – Medical & Hemato Oncology; Dr. Ajay Chanakya Vallabhaneni, Senior Consultant – Surgical Oncologist & Robotic Surgeon; Dr. Rahul Reddy Levaka, Consultant – Surgical Oncologist; Dr. Sai Madhuri Chenna Reddy, Consultant – Radiation Oncologist; and Dr. Suneel Kumar Malipedda, Consultant – Nuclear Medicine, along with Dr. Pramod Gupta, Chief Operating Officer, CARE Hospitals, Hitech City.

Breast cancer does not always begin with a painful lump, and having no family history does not mean a woman is free from risk. Doctors cautioned that these common misconceptions often lead women to ignore early warning signs or postpone medical consultations. Detecting the disease at an early stage can significantly improve treatment options and outcomes, they pointed out. Highlighting the importance of early diagnosis, Dr. Ramu Damuluri, Senior Consultant – Surgical Oncology, Breast & Women Cancer Surgeon, expressed concern over women delaying medical consultations due to fear or embarrassment. "Not every breast lump is cancer, but every unusual change needs medical attention. When breast cancer is detected early, treatment may be less extensive, and the chances of successful outcomes are generally better. Women should never ignore changes in their breasts," he emphasised. A lack of awareness about breast cancer symptoms remains a concern. Apart from a lump in the breast or underarm, changes in breast size or shape, skin dimpling, nipple inversion, spontaneous nipple discharge, particularly if bloody, and unusual thickening of breast tissue may require medical evaluation. Doctors stressed that women should not wait for pain or severe symptoms before seeking medical advice. Dr. A. Venugopal, Senior Consultant Medical Oncologist, Hemato-Oncologist & BMT Physician, cautioned that breast cancer was not limited to older women and could also affect younger age groups. "Many women delay seeking medical advice because they have no pain or assume the changes are harmless. Advances in targeted therapies and immunotherapy have improved treatment options, but early detection remains one of the most important factors in achieving better outcomes," he explained.

Advances in cancer care have expanded treatment options, including breast-conserving surgery, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and modern radiation techniques. Specialists noted that treatment is increasingly tailored to the characteristics of each patient's cancer, with multidisciplinary teams playing an important role in treatment planning.Explaining the role of radiation therapy, Dr. Kandra Prasanth Reddy, Senior Consultant – Radiation Oncologist, noted that misconceptions about side effects often created unnecessary fear among patients. "Modern radiation techniques allow us to target cancer more precisely while limiting exposure to healthy tissues. Radiation therapy plays an important role in breast cancer treatment for many patients, particularly after surgery. Fear of treatment should not lead to delays in care," he observed.

Family history is another area where misconceptions persist. While inherited genetic changes can increase breast cancer risk, most women diagnosed with the disease do not have a strong family history. Doctors advised women to understand their individual risk factors and discuss appropriate screening with healthcare professionals.

Addressing these misconceptions, Dr. Praveen Adusumilli, Senior Consultant – Medical & Hemato Oncology, pointed out that breast cancer could develop without pain or a family history. "Many women believe they are not at risk because no one in their family has had breast cancer. That is not true. Women should be aware of unusual breast changes and discuss appropriate screening with their doctors. Early diagnosis gives us more treatment options," he noted. The felicitation of breast cancer survivors was a key part of the programme, drawing attention to the importance of emotional support, continued follow-up care and life after cancer treatment. The presence of survivors and patients also reinforced the need to address the fear and stigma that can prevent women from seeking timely medical attention. Emphasising the need for continued awareness beyond October, Dr. Pramod Gupta, Chief Operating Officer, CARE Hospitals, Hitech City, highlighted the importance of encouraging women to speak openly about breast health. "Many women still hesitate to discuss breast health or postpone medical consultations.

SRM University-AP hosts Early Career Researchers' Publishing Boot Camp



Amaravati: In a concerted effort to cultivate high-impact scholarship and empower emerging academics, Paari School of Business (PSB) at SRM University-AP, in collaboration with the Academy of Management Community Accelerator and The Kozai Group, Inc., successfully hosted an intensive five-day Early Career Researchers' Publishing Boot Camp.

World-renowned management scholars Prof. Allan Bird, Goa Institute of Management, and Prof. Elizabeth L Rose, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Senior Professor at ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad, spearheaded the initiative, equipping doctoral candidates, postdoctoral fellows and early-career faculty with tailored mentorship, structured writing sessions and rigorous peer-review frameworks designed to polish near-ready manuscripts for premier international journals.

Throughout the workshop, mentors emphasised that manuscript submission and acceptance are not a zero-sum game, but rather a collaborative dialogue aimed at advancing field knowledge. The sessions guided participants on setting long-term research goals, managing co-authorship dynamics effectively and navigating referee feedback constructively. Scholars were also provided with practical strategies to break down research papers into key components, focusing on specific do's and don'ts to successfully overcome desk rejections.

Highlighting the core philosophy of academic writing, the experts stressed quality over quantity, reminding scholars that research impact is determined by clarity and rigour rather than sheer length. Prof. Bird and Prof. Rose noted that the primary purpose of a manuscript is to disseminate meaningful ideas and structured arguments, not merely to demonstrate technical complexity. Participants were encouraged to refine their use of words, craft critical arguments and present findings clearly and free from unnecessary jargon so that concepts remain accessible to broader audiences.

A distinguishing feature of this paper development initiative was that it functioned as an active writing lab. Participants engaged in dedicated writing blocks, direct mentor consultations and peer-review exercises with assigned partners, allowing scholars to receive immediate feedback and implement structural refinements directly into their manuscripts.

Participants expressed high praise for the workshop, noting that exposure to top international management scholars provided crucial clarity and helped them get back on track with their publication goals. Many attendees highlighted how the programme created a thriving, enabling environment for research.

Congratulating SRM University-AP for its well-designed organisation and warm hospitality, participants lauded the University's commitment to research excellence. By building global academic networks and providing practical mentorship, Paari School of Business continues to establish itself as a vibrant hub for transformative management research.

Swami Chidanand Saraswati opposes 'fatwa' against Sara Ali Khan for Kedarnath visit



Spiritual Head of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Swami Chidanand Saraswati, on Friday, opposed the 'fatwa' issued by a Muslim cleric against Bollywood actress Sara Ali Khan for offering prayers at the Kedarnath Temple in Uttarakhand, saying that such rulings should not be issued against anyone following the "path of virtue".

All India Muslim Jamaat National President Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Barelvi issued a fatwa against Sara Ali Khan, declaring her visit and offering of prayers at the Kedarnath temple in Uttarakhand, as 'haram (forbidden)' and 'najayaz (impermissible)' under Sharia law. Addressing reporters in Haridwar, Swami Saraswati said, "I believe 'fatwas' should not be issued against anyone. If a person has committed a sin, one can understand the concern.

But issuing a 'fatwa' against someone who is following a path of virtue is difficult to understand." "I do not know all the details, but I would say that anyone who does something good, follows a positive path, works for the welfare of society or helps others should be appreciated, not targeted with 'fatwas'," he said. Meanwhile, Swami Jitendranand Saraswati, General Secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti, added, "This is a matter for Muslim clerics.

They can stop women of their community (from visiting temples). "We have clearly said that if Islam believes Muslim boys should participate in our Dandiya celebrations, then why only boys? Why shouldn't their entire families participate? Why shouldn't their daughters join as well?" Citing the Madras High Court's ruling that Agamic Hindu temples are not tourist destinations but places of pilgrimage, the seer said, "As for Sara Ali Khan... people can visit if they have faith, but they must demonstrate that faith."

Notably, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has ruled that non-Hindus sporting religious markers of other faiths and not affirming reverence for the deity concerned cannot be allowed into the premises of Agamic temples, extending existing restrictions beyond the areas around the flagstaff.

On Thursday, Maulana Barelvi, who issued the 'fatwa' to the Bollywood actress, defended his decision. Speaking to IANS, the cleric said, "I have received information that film actress Sara Ali Khan visited Kedarnath (Temple) and performed acts of worship. If she truly did this from the heart, then the rulings of Sharia apply to her, because she is a Muslim, and for a Muslim, visiting a temple and engaging in acts of worship falls under the category of shirk (polytheism); it is 'najayaz' (impermissible) and 'haram' (forbidden)."

Paapori Harsh's 'The Jugni Story' draws full house in Gurugram



BENGALURU : Bengaluru-based vocalist Paapori Harsh's The Jugni Story – The Paapori Harsh Project Live performed to a sold-out audience at Epicentre in Gurugram, with music lovers joining in the performances, dancing to upbeat numbers and demanding encores.

The concert, part of Harsh's 2026 tour that began in Bengaluru, brought together shayari, ghazals, Punjabi tappa, Rajasthani folk, Sufi compositions and popular Bollywood melodies.

Structured around five chapters, the production explored themes of life, relationships, friendship, spirituality and self-discovery. At its heart was the idea of Jugni, a free-spirited woman who observes life and discovers meaning through people and experiences.

The programme also explored the emotional journey of women, the poignancy of a daughter's bidai and the enduring bonds of friendship.

The five chapters — Jalsa: Of Raags, Roots & a Little Rebellion, Zindagi, Yaman Aur Dosti, The Call of the Divine and Leaving with a Thumka! — took audiences through diverse musical traditions, moving from reflective compositions to celebratory performances.

The audience response was particularly enthusiastic during the energetic numbers, with several attendees taking to the dance floor and calling for encores.

The sold-out Gurugram performance marks another milestone in the ongoing journey of The Jugni Story, which seeks to bring together India's diverse musical traditions through poetry, folk influences and contemporary live performance.

R Ashoka questions DK Shivakumar over delay in drought compensation



BENGALURU, : Opposition Leader R Ashoka has questioned the Congress government's commitment to farmers, alleging that it has failed to distribute drought compensation even four months after the monsoon failed.

In a strongly worded statement on X, Ashoka targeted Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, asking why the government had not completed the assessment of crop damage and identification of beneficiaries despite the passage of several months.

"What was your government doing all these days without collecting crop-loss details and preparing the compensation list?" he asked, accusing the administration of finding excuses to postpone relief payments.

Ashoka further alleged that the government had introduced multiple procedural requirements, including FRUITS registration, Aadhaar linking, bank account verification and RTC documents, making the process difficult for farmers.

He said farmers who had lost their crops were being forced to visit government offices repeatedly instead of receiving financial assistance.

The BJP leader termed the government's approach irresponsible and said resolving technical glitches in the FRUITS software and Aadhaar-linked records was the responsibility of the administration.

He also criticised the Congress government for allegedly repeating mistakes made during earlier drought-relief and crop-loss compensation exercises.

Ashoka questioned whether the government lacked the financial resources or political will to provide relief. If the treasury was empty, the government should admit it openly rather than burden farmers with a series of conditions, he said.

Demanding immediate action, he called for the finalisation of the eligible farmers' list and speedy transfer of compensation through DBT.

"Farmers are seeking their rightful compensation, not charity. Do not test their patience," Ashoka said. He further demanded that the government apologise and step down if it could not fulfil its responsibility towards the farming community.

New SIT chief appointed to lead fresh probe into Soujanya murder case



Mangaluru, : The Karnataka government has appointed Chetan Singh Rathore as the new head of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) conducting a renewed probe into the rape and murder of Soujanya. The incumbent SIT chief, IGP N. Shashikumar, has been relieved of the assignment, and Rathore is set to continue the investigation with immediate effect.

In another change, ACP Srinidhi has replaced ASP Venkatesh Prasanna in the investigation team.

As the SIT steps up its inquiry, several police personnel associated with the original investigation have been summoned for questioning. Former ASI Kalimar, head constable Sundar Shetty and head constable Savitha Shetty appeared at the SIT office in Mangaluru on Friday. Investigators are gathering details from them about the handling of the case. The SIT has reportedly made arrangements to record the questioning using compact cameras and collar microphones. The team had questioned former Belthangady police inspector Bhaskar Rai and CID DySP Rudramuni on Thursday, with the examination continuing until about 9 pm.

Rudramuni is understood to have told the SIT that the CID investigation had relied on the material and evidence collected during the initial probe by Belthangady police.

He reportedly rejected allegations of investigative lapses, stating that he was not the investigating

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE: Bajaj Auto Limited Complex, Mumbai - Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune – 411035, **BRANCH OFFICE:** Bajaj Finance Ltd, First Floor 28 424 A Deira Building Kannur Road, Union Bank Upstairs, Koyilandy, Kozhikode, Kerala 673305 . **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	**SUDHINDRAN R (BORROWER), SUJATHA C (CO-BORROWER), BOTH AT :** RAGHU NIVAS PUTHUPARA PARAMBA ARAKKINAR BEYPORE, KOZHIKODE, KERALA - 673028.
Loan Account Number	5C90HL39409910 & 5C90HL39410226
Statutory Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) Date & Amount	Notice dated 14 -Jan-26 Demand amount ₹. 36,29,006/-
Outstanding Amount as on 23.10.26	**Rs.39,39,564.66/-** (Rupees Thirty-Nine Lakh Thirty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Four and Paise Sixty-Six Only)
Description of Immovable Property	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF 6.29 CENTS OF PROPERTY COMPRISED IN RE SURVEY NO-76/2,3 AND SITUATED AT BEYPORE VILLAGE, KOZHIKODE TALUK, LYING IN SUB REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF MEENCHANDHA AND IN THE REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF KOZHIKODE AND THE HOUSE COMPRISED THEREIN BEARING KOZHIKODE CORPORATION ASSESSMENT NUMBER - 12/631-A BELONGING TO R. SUDHEENDRAN.
Reserve Price in INR	₹ 44,50,000/-
EMD	₹ 4,45,000/-
E-auction date and time	26/11/26 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
E- auction Portal	https://bankauctions.in
Last date of submission of EMD	25/11/26
Bid Increment Amount in Rs.	₹ 25,000/-
Encumbrance Known to Secured Creditor	Not Known
Date of Inspection of Property	From 28/10/26 to 25/11/26 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 - 31.10.2026 , Place - KOZHIKODE **Authorized Officer, For M/s BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED**

Jowar prices double in two months, consumers in North Karnataka feel the pinch



Kalaburagi : The drought in Karnataka has triggered a steep rise in white jowar prices, with the staple grain of North Karnataka touching an unprecedented Rs 10,000 to Rs 11,000 per quintal in some market transactions.

The price escalation has come as a shock to consumers, particularly families that depend on jowar rotis as their regular food. While farmers with available stocks are benefiting from the higher market rates, ordinary households are facing mounting expenses.

At the Kalaburagi APMC, jowar prices have witnessed a dramatic increase in recent months. The grain was selling at Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 per quintal until August. In September, the price rose to around Rs 5,500 per quintal before climbing to approximately Rs 9,200 in October.

Market sources attribute the sudden increase to reduced arrivals caused by drought and poor crop production. With supplies shrinking, traders are witnessing a continuous upward movement in prices. The situation has caused considerable anxiety among consumers in the region, where jowar is not merely another food grain but an important part of the traditional diet.

Small everyday movements can reduce health risks of sedentary lifestyle

New Delhi, Oct 30: Spending an entire day sitting has become increasingly common, with people often remaining seated for hours at work, while travelling in cars and relaxing on sofas at home. By the end of the day, many realise they have hardly engaged in any physical activity. Several global studies have linked sedentary lifestyles to an increased risk of serious health conditions. Reducing the amount of time spent sitting and incorporating more movement into daily routines can therefore play an important role in maintaining overall health.

One simple way to achieve this is through incidental exercise, which refers to physical movements performed outside planned or structured workouts. Also known as 'non-exercise activity thermogenesis' (NEAT), it includes the energy expended through everyday movements other than sleeping, eating or deliberate ex ercise. Anantha Narayanan, a research fellow at Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand, said incidental exercise includes even simple activities such as tapping one's feet while sitting or washing dishes.

"Smaller movements like shifting posture, rolling the shoulders or flexing the feet count too," he said. Incidental activity is increasingly being recognised as an effective way to protect health. It can help burn additional calories, reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and potentially lower the risk of premature death.

With greater awareness, people can incorporate more such movements into their daily routines through a few simple lifestyle changes.

Fidgeting can help

Leg fidgeting is one example of how small movements can contribute to better health. While children are often discouraged from fidgeting because it is considered a sign of boredom or lack of attention, research suggests that such movements may offer health benefits.

During prolonged periods of sitting, the muscles in the legs remain relatively inactive. This reduces the regular muscle contractions that help remove glucose from the bloodstream and maintain healthy blood circulation, Narayanan explained.

Fidgeting increases muscle activity and helps burn more calories than sitting completely still, according to a recent study."Some earlier research suggests that leg fidgeting may help maintain blood vessel function and improve blood sugar control," Narayanan said, adding that standing while performing such movements could enhance the benefits.A small study also found that habitual leg shaking, a form of fidgeting, burns approximately 16 per cent more energy than sitting still.Unlike structured exercise, incidental physical activity does not require a gym membership or dedicated time for workouts.Routine household activities such as cooking, gardening and vacuuming can also help reduce sedentary time and increase daily energy expenditure.

Karnataka plans three-year ban on new private PU colleges amid rising vacant seats



Bengaluru : The Karnataka government is planning to impose a three-year moratorium on granting permission for new private pre-university colleges, citing the growing number of vacant seats in existing institutions.

Under the proposed move, no new private PU colleges will be permitted to commence operations during the academic years 2027-28, 2028-29 and 2029-30.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has issued a draft notification proposing amendments to the Karnataka School Education Department (Pre-University) (Academic, Registration, Administration and Grant-in-Aid) Rules, 2024. The government has invited suggestions and objections from the public, educational institutions and other stakeholders within 15 days of the notification. The proposal follows concerns over the increasing number of unoccupied seats in PU colleges across Karnataka. Despite the state having more than 6,000 PU colleges, several institutions are struggling to attract students and fill their sanctioned intake. The Karnataka State Pre-University College Lecturers' Association had earlier urged the government to stop granting permission for new private PU colleges. The association argued that allowing more institutions when existing colleges were already facing low enrolment could further aggravate the situation.

The government's proposed restriction is aimed at preventing unnecessary expansion of private PU institutions and ensuring better utilisation of existing educational infrastructure.

The move is also expected to trigger discussions among private educational institutions and stakeholders, particularly those planning to establish new colleges in the coming years. The proposed three-year restriction will come into effect from the 2027-28 academic year if the government finalises the amendment after considering the objections and suggestions received during the stipulated period.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Mangalore Branch
K2 habitat ,Mangala Devi temple road
Pandeshwar ,Mangalore, Phone No: 08258-232444

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical /constructive / Symbolic (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken on 28.11.2025 by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Mangalore branch,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 20.11.2026, for recovery of **Rs. 81,15,695/- (Rupee Eighty One Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Five only) as on 29.10.2026** and the said amount carries further interest and charges at the agreed rate from 30.10.2026 till date of repayment) due to the Indian Bank, Mangalore branch, from Secured Creditor, **1. M/s Akrithi Trading Corporation,** 1st floor Nanditha Building ,Door no 3-T-28/2(8) Malemar raod Kottara ,Mangalore-575013 (F-19,1st floor Commercial complex ,Empire Mall bulding ,M G Road Mangalore 575001). **2.Mr.Hemachandra** S/o Datta Suvarna , 7-9-1015/1 Sesamma Compound Near Bockkapatna Church Gate ,Kodialbail Mangalore 575003 (GUARANTOR). **3.Mrs.Veenakshi** W/o Gokul Das ,House Anuraksha ,BRB Compound ,Bhagwati Temple Road ,Uppala Gate ,Manjeswara Kasargod 671322(PARTNER/GUARANTOR) **4.Gokul Das** S/o Rajiva Bappange ,House Anuraksha ,BRB Compound ,Bhagwati Temple Road ,Uppala Gate ,Manjeswara Kasargod 671322(PARTNER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR).

The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed description of the Property	All the part and parcel of Residential building bearing Door no 2/92 ,""ANURAKSHA"" BRB Compound ,Bhagavathi Temple road ,Uppala Gate ,Uppala Village Manjeshwara Taluk Kasargod ,Kerala-671322, belongs to Mr.Gokuldas. Sy no 63/2 (part) Area – 13 cents **Boundaries:** East: Road South: Remaining portion of same sy no ,Tiled rood house West: Portion of the same sy no ,Vacant Land, North: Portion of the same sy no , Vacant Land The above said property Door no 2/92 with right of way, water and easement rights and every thing attached thereto.
Encumbrances on property	Nil
Reserve Price	Rs. 48,80,000/-
EMD Amount	Rs. 4,88,000/-
Bid incremental amount	Rs.50000/-
Date and time of e-auction	20.11.2026, 11AM to 4pm.
Property ID No.	IDIB6674478078

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://www.ebkray.in)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to **support.ebkray@psballiance.com.**

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://www.ebkray.in and for clarifications related to this portal, **please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.**

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://www.ebkray.in**

Date: 30.10.2026
Place: MANGALORE **Authorised Officer**

EDITORIAL

SHOULD CINEMA IMPROVE SOCIETY OR SPOIL ITS THINKING?

Indian cinema is not merely a source of entertainment, but a powerful cultural force that influences society's thinking, sensibilities, beliefs, and behavior. In a multilingual, multi-religious, and diverse country like India, cinema plays a vital role in building social consciousness, strengthening cultural identity, and shaping public opinion. The stories portrayed on screen sometimes challenge societal stereotypes, and sometimes inadvertently reinforce them. Therefore, cinema should be evaluated not solely on the basis of its popularity or commercial success, but on the basis of its broader impact on society. The most positive role of cinema is to bring social issues into public discussion. Many problems exist in society that people perceive as personal experiences, but fail to understand their broader social implications. Films highlight these issues through human stories and inspire reflection. Aamir Khan's film Taare Zameen Par played a significant role in increasing sensitivity towards learning difficulties like dyslexia in children. It sent a message to the education system that every child has a unique ability and learning style. It is important to recognize children's unique talents rather than compare them. Similarly, Padman played a role in breaking the social silence and raising awareness on issues like menstrual hygiene.

Indian cinema has also made significant interventions in the areas of women's dignity, equality, and rights. The film Pink focused on the question of consent, making it clear that a woman's clothing, social behavior, or presence in a given space cannot substitute for her consent. Similarly, Thappad raised questions about domestic violence and the importance of respect in marital relationships. Such films challenge social notions that expect women to endure injustice in the name of family prestige. While films cannot bring about social change on their own, they can certainly lay the ideological groundwork for change.

Cinema also plays an important role in raising awareness against caste discrimination and social inequality. Anubhav Sinha's Article 15 effectively presented caste discrimination, social deprivation, and institutionalized inequalities. It allowed audiences to understand that despite constitutional equality, the challenges of discrimination in social behavior can persist. When films feature the struggles, aspirations, and experiences of marginalized communities, they also bring voices to a wider audience, often lacking adequate representation in mainstream discourse.

Cinema is also an effective medium for strengthening national unity and collective identity. Chak De! India conveyed the message of cooperation, discipline, and national pride through a team of women athletes from diverse regional and cultural backgrounds. Rang De Basanti inspired youth to reflect on issues such as civic responsibility, corruption, and democratic participation. Such stories demonstrate that patriotism need not be limited to slogans, but also manifest through raising voices against injustice and taking responsibility in public life. Regional cinema is also important in this regard. Kantara brought coastal Karnataka's local traditions, folk beliefs, and cultural connections with nature to a wider audience. This could increase interest in regional languages and folk cultures. But the other side of cinema is equally serious. In the pursuit of entertainment and commercial success, some films replicate social prejudices rather than challenge them.

WHY IS THERE NO FEAR OF LAW FOR CRIMINALS?

Saurabh Varshney



As much as digital technology has simplified life, it has also opened up new avenues for cybercriminals to defraud. Sometimes, people's savings are looted by posing as bank officials, and sometimes, people are intimidated by posing as officers from the police, CBI, Enforcement Directorate, or other investigative agencies. Using fake uniforms, government office-like backgrounds, and purported arrest orders on video calls, keeping individuals under psychological pressure for hours or even days and forcing them to transfer money is a dangerous form of this new crime. This is commonly referred to as "digital arrest." In reality, this is neither a legal arrest nor a prescribed legal process, but rather an organized fraud perpetrated through fear, confusion, and the misuse of technology.

The Supreme Court's designation of cyber fraud through digital arrest as "digital robbery" underscores the gravity of this crime. The need for a stricter stance against such crimes by a bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant clearly demonstrates that this problem can no longer be dismissed as simple online fraud. It poses a serious threat to citizens' financial security, as well as their peace of mind, social standing, and faith in law and order. The most worrying feature of digital arrest is that criminals exploit the victim's vulnerability, social standing, and respect for the law. A person is informed via phone or video call that an illegal parcel has been sent in their name, that their bank account has been used for money laundering, or that they are a suspect in a serious criminal case. Then, a fake police officer or investigating agency representative threatens them with arrest, imprisonment, and family disrepute. The victim is instructed not to speak to anyone, to remain at home, and to remain on constant video calls. Ultimately, lakhs of rupees are extorted from him in the name of alleged investigation, verification or bail.

This crime isn't merely a theft of money. It involves mentally intimidating individuals to the point where they surrender years of savings, retirement money, and sometimes even their family's financial security to criminals. In many cases, victims are left unable to exercise their own judgment and discretion. This is why it's essential to understand digital arrest as a form of organized financial plunder through psychological pressure, rather than simply a technical crime. Incidents of elderly individuals being targeted in this crime are of particular concern. Senior citizens, who have secured their life savings, often have deep faith in the law and government institutions. When someone posing as a police officer threatens arrest, many elderly individuals panic and believe their words. Criminals exploit this fear. It's essential to reinforce the belief in society that no genuine investigative agency has the right to fake an arrest over a video call and force a citizen to deposit money into a personal bank account. Nor can any legitimate authority arbitrarily detain someone online and force them to transfer money. Invoking fear in the name of government institutions is also an attack on their reputation. Therefore, action against such criminals should aim not only at recovering money but also at eliminating artificial fear from the minds of citizens. Gaurav Kumar Saha and Nidhi Bhandari's petition before the Supreme Court sought to consolidate 35 cybercrime cases registered in 12 states. According to available information, the allegation is that their company's bank account was used to deposit and forward fraudulent funds. The petitioners claimed that they themselves were victims of fraud and that their accounts were used without their knowledge. This case also raises an important legal question. Cyber ??fraud proceeds often pass through multiple bank accounts. Criminals use other people's accounts, companies, and fake identities, making it difficult to reach the true beneficiaries. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to automatically assume the operator of an account is guilty simply because suspicious funds are deposited into an account. It is also essential that investigating agencies conduct an impartial investigation into the actual user of the account, the source of the funds, the nature of the transactions, digital evidence, and the role of the person involved. On the other hand, simply claiming that the account was used without knowledge cannot automatically absolve a person. Cooperation in the investigation, scrutiny of available evidence, and tracing the flow of funds are essential. The Supreme Court's observation that victims cannot be called to Delhi for the convenience of the accused and that investigations underway in different states cannot be influenced points to an important principle of justice. The judicial process aims to protect the interests of victims and ensure a fair investigation, rather than the convenience of the accused. However, the question of clubbing cases or coordinating investigations in different states should be decided based on facts and applicable law. Strictness does not mean denying an accused the opportunity to present their case. Strict action and impartial justice are not contradictory but rather two essential pillars of an effective justice system. Time is the most crucial factor in digital fraud cases. Once the defrauded funds are transferred from one account to another, they are transferred through multiple layers and then withdrawn. If investigating agencies fail to freeze suspicious funds in a timely manner, it becomes extremely difficult for victims to recover their funds. In this context, taking action to legally freeze suspicious assets or accounts based on solid evidence can be crucial.

However, this power must be exercised with clear legal grounds, adequate materials, and due process. Prolonged freezing of an innocent individual or legitimate business's account without reasonable grounds can cause serious financial harm. Therefore, action must be accompanied by a timely review, legal remedies available to affected individuals, and transparency in the investigation. Asset freezing should be an effective tool for investigation, not a means of punishing an individual without a hearing. In this context, any pre-trial punishment system requires special caution. Seizing the proceeds of crime, securing property, and convicting and sentencing an individual are distinct legal processes. Under the Constitution and the rule of law, final punishment must be based on due process and judicial decision. Regardless of the gravity of the offense, the presumption of innocence and the principles of a fair trial must be protected.

It is important to consider defining digital arrest as a separate crime and prescribing stringent punishments for it. Existing laws provide for action in many cases through provisions related to fraud, impersonation, criminal intimidation, misuse of identity, and cybercrime. However, given the specific nature of digital arrest, there is no denying the need for clarity in the law, standards of investigation, and strengthened coordination between various agencies. However, simply enacting a new law will not solve the problem. Cybercriminals constantly develop new techniques and methods to evade detection.

China's Mega-Dam on the Brahmaputra: A "Water Bomb" at India's Doorstep?

By Binish Thomas
Senior Journalist



India faces a new strategic worry along its northeastern frontier. China has begun building what is meant to be the world's largest hydropower project on the Yarlung Tsangpo river, the upper stretch of what India calls the Brahmaputra. The site is in Medog (Motuo) County in Tibet, close to Arunachal Pradesh. The border dispute between the two countries has never been fully settled, so a project this large and this close adds to the tension.

The River and the Project

The river rises on the Tibetan plateau as the Yarlung Tsangpo, makes a sharp U-turn at the "Great Bend" near Medog, then enters Arunachal Pradesh as the Siang. In Assam it becomes the Brahmaputra, and in Bangladesh it is called the Jamuna. The dam is being built near that bend. The project is planned at 60,000 megawatts, nearly three times Three Gorges, and is designed to exploit the roughly 2,000-metre drop of the river around the Namcha Barwa massif. China announced the plan in December 2024, and work reportedly began in July 2025. It is a series of five cascade hydropower stations, projected for completion in the 2030s. Cost estimates run to roughly 1.2 trillion yuan (about US$167 billion).

Why Is It Seen as a Threat?

1. Location and geology. The dam is in a seismically active region of Medog County, bordering Arunachal Pradesh. Earthquakes, landslides and glacial lake bursts are real hazards in this part of the Himalayas, and a failure upstream would send a huge surge downstream with little warning.

2. Control over the flow. Sources in India's power ministry have said China could divert Brahmaputra water once the dam is built, which could cause shortages or flood-like conditions in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. There is no water-sharing treaty between India and China, so India depends largely on data sharing and goodwill. Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu has called it a "water bomb".

3. Border tension. The dam's closeness to the contested border ties water security to the territorial dispute. Any sudden release or restriction of water could also be read as a strategic signal.

What If There Is an Accident or Sudden Release?

The most exposed areas would be:

- Arunachal Pradesh: the Siang valley, including Tuting, Upper Siang, Siang and East Siang districts, would be hit first and hardest by a flash flood.
- Assam: the Brahmaputra valley is already flood-prone every monsoon, with erosion and displacement. A surge would worsen this.
- Meghalaya: one assessment lists Meghalaya among the areas whose people could be affected.
- Bangladesh: the river continues there as the Jamuna, so it is a downstream victim too.

The river system supports nearly 130 million people and about six million hectares of farmland.

Impact on Farming in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

- Dry-season shortage: the dam could reduce water availability in the dry season and worsen flood risk during the monsoon. That would hurt irrigation for winter and spring crops.
- Loss of silt: reduced sediment flow could seriously affect soil fertility in the floodplains of Assam and Bangladesh. The river's silt is what keeps the valley's farmland fertile.
- Fisheries and livelihoods: Assam's opposition leader Debabrata Saikia has warned of worse flooding and soil erosion, threatening agriculture, fisheries and rural livelihoods.
- Hydropower and drinking water: flow changes could also affect hydropower generation and drinking water, especially in the northeastern states.

The Other Views

- The Brahmaputra is not fed by Tibet alone. Most of its water comes from Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh and rainfall in Assam. The monsoon, not Tibet, supplies the bulk of the flow in Assam.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in July 2025 that the dam may even help Assam. China has defended the project.

This is a contested area of analysis. The real impact depends on dam design, how it is operated, and whether China shares data.

India's Response: The Siang Upper Multipurpose Project India is pushing an 11,000 MW hydropower and flood-control dam on the Siang in Arunachal Pradesh, in response. Arunachal's deputy chief minister has argued it could help regulate downstream flows and reduce flood risk. The project is controversial locally. Sections of indigenous communities oppose it over displacement, environmental and livelihood concerns, and protests escalated on October 23 with a 12-hour bandh. The unrest reportedly turned violent, with buildings torched. Some villages have given consent for survey work.

What India Should Do

- Push for a binding water-data sharing agreement, with year-round hydrological data, not just monsoon-season data.
- Build flood early-warning systems and strengthen disaster preparedness in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- Commission independent environmental and seismic assessments of its own dams, and win local consent before building.
- Raise the issue with Bangladesh to build a joint downstream position.

The dam is a serious concern, but it is not yet a proven weapon. The main risks are an accident in a quake-prone zone, reduced silt and dry-season flow, and the lack of any trust-based water agreement. India's best answer is a mix of diplomacy, preparedness and carefully planned infrastructure that also respects its own tribal communities.

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❑ Cyclone Arnab: people airlifted from villages

Cooperation Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma expressed gratitude to CM Saini for announcing Rs 450 per quintal for sugarcane



Chandigarh , October 30. Haryana's Cooperation , Prisons , Tourism , Elections and Heritage Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for announcing an increase in sugarcane prices for the next two years. He said that this announcement by the Chief Minister will directly benefit thousands of sugarcane producing farmers in the state. It will also help in expanding the scope of sugarcane cultivation and providing adequate quantities of sugarcane to cooperative sugar mills. Cooperation Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma said that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has announced an increase in the price of sugarcane from Rs. 415 to Rs. 430 per quintal for the 2026-27 crushing season . This is an increase of Rs. 15 per quintal compared to last year. Additionally, the Chief Minister has announced an increase in the price of sugarcane to Rs. 450 per quintal for the next crushing season, 2027-28 . Thus, the price of sugarcane will increase by a total of Rs. 35 per quintal over two years.

Dr. Arvind Sharma stated that, as announced by the Chief Minister , this increase in sugarcane prices is expected to increase farmers' income by 10,000 to 11,500 rupees per acre per season. He added that receiving a profitable price for their crop will increase farmers' interest in sugarcane cultivation. This will ensure adequate sugarcane availability for the state's cooperative sugar mills, improving their efficiency and financial situation. The Cooperative Minister stated that the state government is continuously striving to protect the interests of sugarcane farmers and make cooperative sugar mills self-reliant. Work is also underway to modernize sugar mills , establish ethanol plants , better utilize available resources, and ensure timely payment to farmers.

UP GOVT TO DENY JOBS OVER INVOLVEMENT IN 'REGIME CHANGE' ACTS



AGENCY

New Delhi: Candidates found involved in violent attempts at "regime change" can now be denied Uttar Pradesh government jobs, under tightened character verification rules that also bar rejection based on political beliefs alone. The Yogi Adityanath government has revised the norms for candidates selected through direct recruitment. The move comes amid a controversy over calls for "regime change" during recent protests. The order says authorities cannot reject an applicant merely because a First Information Report (FIR) has been registered against them or because an investigation is pending. Nor can a candidate be disqualified for holding a particular political view. Any decision must rest on the circumstances covered by the verification rules, including involvement in violent activities. According ot a Hindi News Portal, Prabhasakshi, the order was issued by M Devraj, Principal Secretary of the Appointment and Personnel Department. It covers departments, corporations, councils, authorities and local bodies.

SC seeks clarity on 100 pc ethanol supply for E100 run vehicles

AGENCY



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday, October 29, sought to know from the government that if permission has been given to have 100 per cent ethanol-run vehicles, then how will the supply be made. On October 26, the Road Transport Ministry notified changes to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, allowing flex-fuel vehicles that can run on up to E100 (nearly pure ethanol). E100 fuel allows vehicles to run on nearly pure ethanol. On October 27, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Centre has no immediate plan to increase the ethanol blending in petrol beyond the current 20 per cent. While hearing pleas concerning ethanol allocation for Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025-26, the apex court on Thursday referred to recent media reports on the issue. "Day before yesterday, we saw some newspaper reports wherein it is stated that 100 per cent ethanol-driven vehicles are permitted," a bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Prasanna B Varale said. "Academically, we want to know if the permission is given, how will you make the supply?" it asked.

Cyclone Arnab: HM Amit Shah speaks with CMs of affected states



New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday, October 29, spoke with the chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Odisha and Chhattisgarh in the wake of Cyclone Arnab, and assured all assistance to mitigate the hardships of the people. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had said in a bulletin on Wednesday night that the severe cyclonic storm over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and the adjoining Bay of Bengal had moved slowly at around 8 kmph over the preceding six hours and weakened into a cyclonic storm.

BIG SPENDING, RUSHED PREPS: NASHIK KUMBH AIMS TO OUTMATCH PRAYAGRAJ'S



PROBE AGAINST GYANESH KUMAR OVER 2006 ROAD PROJECT ONGOING: MINISTER

AGENCY



Thiruvananthapuram: Keralam Public Works Department Minister P K Basheer on Thursday, October 29, said a preliminary inquiry by the VACB ordered in connection with allegations of corruption in a road project undertaken two decades ago when CEC Gyanesh Kumar was the PWD secretary was ongoing and its report is not yet available. Basheer was responding to queries, during the question hour in the state Assembly, by BJP MLAs B B Gopakumar, V Muraleedharan and Rajeev Chandrasekhar regarding the status of the vigilance probe initiated in the matter. The minister also said that the preliminary enquiry was ordered as there were certain discrepancies in the probe conducted into the matter in 2006 by the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB). He also told the House that a loss of Rs 700 crore was caused to the government due to the alleged irregularities committed by officials in connection with the project.

The minister was referring to the alleged corruption in the Kerala State Transport Project (KSTP), undertaken in 2006 when Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar was serving as Public Works Department secretary.

In 2006, the KSTP undertook a World Bank-funded project worth Rs 215 crore to reconstruct the MC Road from Angamaly to Thiruvananthapuram.

CONGRESS QUESTIONS BJP OVER RAM TEMPLE DONATION THEFT CASE

AGENCY



New Delhi: The Congress on Thursday, October 29, attacked the BJP after charges reportedly could not be framed against the accused for the third time in the Ram temple donation theft case, asking why are former temple trust officials like Champat Rai and Anil Mishra witnesses instead of accused and when will the role of "big people" be investigated. The opposition party also asked why Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is "always at the forefront of taking credit" for the temple, now backing away from accountability. In a post in Hindi on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "'Chanda Chori, Aastha Dhokha'. We have been stating from day one that the BJP government wants to protect the real big thieves. Now, in the Ram Mandir donation theft case, charges could not be framed against eight accused for the third time either. The accused appeared via video conferencing, but the demand to provide video footage and audio remains pending." "The question is, whose secrets will be exposed if the full video footage and audio of the Ram Mandir come to light? There is suspicion in the minds of the people of the country that the complete footage and audio could reveal crucial secrets related to the theft of donations and the complicity of 'big people'," Ramesh said.

RAHUL URGES PEOPLE TO JOIN 'CHALO DILLI' MARCH TO 'SAVE DEMOCRACY'

Highlights

- Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday, October 29, asserted that the opposition INDIA bloc's November 1 march is to save democracy, put an end to "vote theft", and protect the Constitution, as he urged student groups, regardless of their political affiliation, to join it.



AGENCY

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday, October 29, asserted that the opposition INDIA bloc's November 1 march is to save democracy, put an end to "vote theft", and protect the Constitution, as he urged student groups, regardless of their political affiliation, to join it. In a video on X, Gandhi said it is a singular protest for the nation. "The 'Chalo Delhi' Ramlila March is a march to save democracy, to put an end to the theft of votes, and to protect the Constitution," the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said. This is not a march for any single political party; it is a march for the very soul of India, he asserted. "To all those who are fed up with Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Gyanesh Kumar, and everyone who wishes to save democracy and defend the Constitution, I invite you all to join," Gandhi said. Don't worry about police, don't worry about lathis. The BJP will not have the guts to try any of their antics, he said. "Come march with us – we will walk together to protect the Constitution, to protect the Indian nation," he said. "I urge all student groups, regardless of your political affiliation – if you feel that India is under attack, if you feel you are under attack, your expression, your ideas, your way of thinking is under attack, come and join us," he said. "It will be a fantastic march, and it's a march for the soul of this country," Gandhi said. "Looking forward to seeing all of you there," he added. The INDIA bloc will be holding a "public impeachment" proceeding against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on October 30 at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's 10, Rajaji Marg residence, over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. After the public impeachment, there will be 'Dilli Chalo March' against "vote chori" culminating at Ramlila Maidan on November 1, and a rally will be held there.

Residents leave devastated Russian-occupied Oleshky as evacuation corridor opens



The evacuation of the Russian-occupied Ukrainian city of Oleshky is under way, Russian and Ukrainian authorities have confirmed. A ceasefire, brokered by US First Lady Melania Trump, has been in force in the entire frontline region of Kherson since Tuesday, allowing for the road out of Oleshky to be demined. Residents of Oleshky who wished to leave had a four-hour window to do so. A convoy of 25 buses was brought in to allow up to 750 people to leave the town until 14:00 (12:00 GMT), along with ambulances for people with limited mobility. Several hundred people are understood to have decided to stay, despite the widespread devastation and the lack of gas, electricity and running water. "Everyone who wishes to leave Oleshky will be given the opportunity to do so safely," Ukraine's human rights ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets said. "At the same time, those who decide to remain will be able to stay and will receive all the necessary humanitarian assistance." Ukrainian territory lies 5km (3.1miles) from Oleshky, but the evacuees will first have to travel into Russian-occupied territory and then to the southern Russian city of Anapa. They will board a Russian government plane to Gomel in Belarus, and then drive across the border into Ukraine's Chernihiv region. Lubinets and his Russian counterpart Yana Lantratova travelled to Oleshky together on Friday, setting off from Armiansk, in the Russian-occupied Crimean peninsula. Lubinets is the first Ukrainian official since the start of the war to visit Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine. He will also become the first to visit Russia when he escorts the evacuees back into Ukraine on Saturday. The Oleshky ceasefire has required close cooperation with Lantratova, which Lubinets said he carried out in the interests of saving lives. But some in Ukraine have recoiled at the sight of him standing beside a representative of the Russian occupying power which has killed so many of the city's residents and made life unbearable for the rest. Both Lubinets and Lantratova posted videos from Oleshky on their social media channels, saying people were given the chance to form two groups depending on whether they wanted to be taken to Russian-controlled territory or to Ukraine. In one video, Lubinets can be seen meeting tearful locals. "The problem is that a lot of people are staying," he can be heard saying. "I was told that it was their own choice, we will do everything possible for the humanitarian aid to arrive." Russia said on Thursday that it had prepared "dozens of tonnes" of aid for the residents who do not wish to leave, including food, medicine, hygiene products and fuel for generators. An Oleshky resident told the BBC she had decided against leaving because "they wouldn't take my animals, so that's it." Olena, who now lives in Kyiv, said her grandmother and wider family in Oleshky were also staying behind. "The older generation does not want to leave," she told the BBC. "I've barely managed to persuade my father - and only because I've just had a baby, who he would never see otherwise." Olena's grandmother's sister died in Oleshky last winter. "She lost her legs after stepping on a landmine, covered in snow... People took her to the hospital in a garden wheelbarrow," Olena said. "That's how locals transport all wounded and dead people in Oleshky to the hospital and the hospital's morgue: in garden wheelbarrows." The ceasefire is due to be in force until the end of Sunday 1 November. It has provided the first few days of peace in the Kherson region since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Residents of Kherson told the BBC they were "overjoyed" by the ceasefire. However, they are concerned the truce has given Russia time to build up its military presence on the banks of the Dnipro river, which could result in a renewed assault once the ceasefire expires. On Friday, the Kremlin made it clear that the success of the Oleshky ceasefire should not be interpreted as willingness to extend the truce to the rest of Ukraine. A handful of foreign journalists have been invited to witness the evacuation of the town, which Moscow is expected to present as a humanitarian mission conducted with mercy to protect the people of Oleshky. Many Ukrainians suspect Russia's real intention is to earn credit with the White House, and to provide US President Donald Trump with a boost ahead of next week's midterm elections.

SPAIN TRANSPORT MINISTER SAYS HE WON'T RESIGN OVER HIGH-SPEED RAIL DISASTER



Spain's transport minister says he won't resign over the high-speed rail collision that has left at least 69 people dead. Óscar Puente told a news conference in Madrid he had "nothing to hide" while repeating the government's vow to get to the bottom of the disaster, saying many questions needed to be answered. "My duty right now is not to talk about whether I should remain in my position, but to resolve the problem," Puente said. The transport minister has been facing calls to step down in the aftermath of the tragedy, including from political rivals, a trade union and demonstrators who protested outside the transport ministry on Wednesday night. Dozens were killed and many more injured when a state-operated Renfe high-speed train smashed into the back of another stationary train operated by the Iryo company near the town of Urda, in the central Toledo province, on Wednesday morning. A preliminary report released by transport investigators late on Thursday found the Renfe train was travelling between 160km/h (99.4mph) and 200km/h when the collision occurred, causing its front carriage to become embedded in the tail of the stationary train. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said earlier on Friday that public trust in Spain's high-speed rail network had been broken and repeated it was "unacceptable" that there had been two similar tragedies within a year. In January a collision on the same Madrid-Seville route killed 46 people in Adamuz in southern Spain. Wednesday's tragedy was one of the worst rail disasters in Europe's modern history, and Spain's worst crash since 2013. Puente said on Wednesday a computer failure at about 08:30 that morning led to the initial halt of six moving trains, including the two trains that subsequently collided. Leaked audio recordings published in Spanish media revealed conversations between train drivers and a control centre just minutes before the crash. Three audio recordings between Madrid's control centre and two train drivers appear to show that one high-speed train was given clearance to move even though another train had stalled on the track, about 25km (15 miles) ahead. Puente had said that the decision to instruct the trains to move again, without any speed restrictions, was "inexplicable". The leaking of the audio recordings has been criticised by some Spanish politicians, with Alberto Ibáñez, a member of Congress for the left-wing Sumar platform, writing on X that they were "despicable". Meanwhile, Irene Montero - the prime ministerial candidate for the left-wing Podemos party - said responsibility for the crash should not be placed on one worker, adding that train drivers and experts have been warning against the liberalisation of the railway sector for years. On Friday Puente said he was "not going to use any worker as a shield". But he said "many questions" arose as a result of the tragedy and he wanted to look at them "one by one". "If the investigation shows there is human error we will act in consequence of that," he said. The conservative People's Party joined calls for Puente's resignation after trade union CSIF called for the same earlier this week.

US inmate Christa Pike says she woke up 'confused and in pain' after failed execution



US death row inmate Christa Pike has released her first public statement since her botched execution in September. "There hasn't been a moment since that night when I haven't been in pain," she said in the statement. "My body hurts. My arms hurt. My hands hurt. My throat hurts. I still struggle to speak. And the pain isn't just physical. There is pain in my mind and in my soul." Pike, 50, was discharged from hospital at the end of last month after surviving two lethal injections of the drug pentobarbital, which left her in a critical condition. She has since been sent back to the prison where she has spent the last 30 years for murdering Colleen Slemmer in 1995. Pike is thought to be the only person to have survived an execution attempt by lethal injection. "I am recovering, and I know that I am getting stronger," she said in her statement on Friday. "But healing is not the same as being okay." Her lawyers previously said she had suffered from pneumonia following the attempted execution, had significant swelling on her arms and was also unable to swallow. Pike was 18 when she and her then-boyfriend, Tadaryl Shipp, beat, tortured and killed 19-year-old Slemmer, whom they had met at a job training camp for low-income young people. Shipp was spared the death penalty because he was not legally an adult when the crime was committed. He remains in prison. Pike's botched execution captivated and shocked the world last month and shocked Pike, too.

Democratic senator blames Egypt press crackdown on US military aid decision

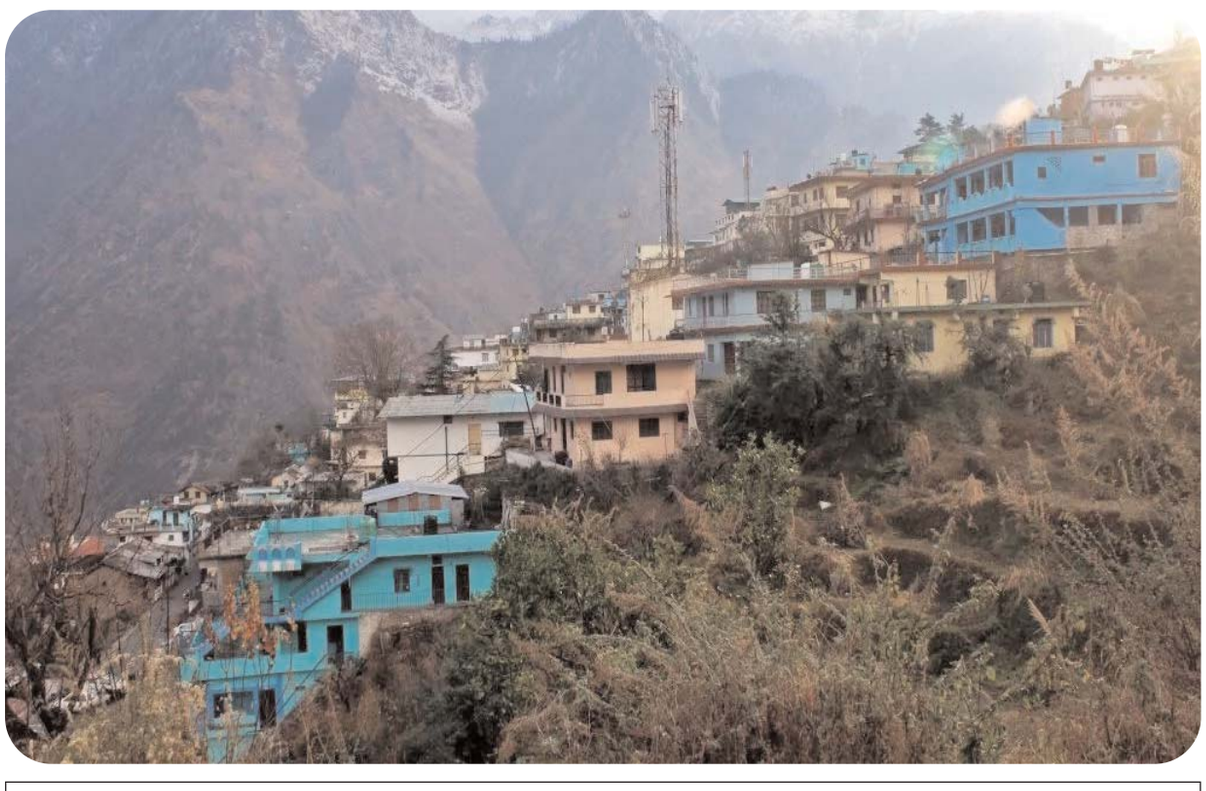


A top Democratic senator has blamed a crackdown on independent journalism in Egypt on a decision by the Trump administration to waive human rights conditions on US military funding to the country. Chris Murphy, who sits on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, accused the US government of "abandoning" the Egyptian people after it lifted restrictions relating to more than $300m of defence assistance. Over the last month a series of arrests has taken place of journalists at two of the few remaining independent news outlets in Egypt, where newspapers and TV stations are closely controlled by the authorities. The US State Department told the BBC it waived conditions on a portion of military aid to Egypt in September due to the country's "importance to US national security interests". Murphy, speaking at the Middle East Institute (MEI) in Washington this week, said he was in no doubt the two were linked. "The minute that money was released, the crackdown began in an absolutely devastating way," he said. On Tuesday a court in Cairo ordered the closure of the news website Madr Masa and fined its editor-in-chief Lina Attalah in what Amnesty International called "a crushing blow to press freedom". Earlier this month, authorities arrested six journalists at the independent fact-checking platform Matsda2sh and charged them with belonging to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. Cairo has remained a close regional ally of the US despite what human rights groups say are widespread abuses under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's government, including torture and enforced disappearances. Sisi denies there are political prisoners in Egypt. He has previously said stability and security are paramount, adding authorities have promoted rights by trying to provide basic needs such as jobs and housing. Washington sends Egypt £1.3bn ($1.73bn) per year, making it one of the world's biggest recipients of US military assistance. US law allows up to £320m of the funding to be withheld, conditioned on Egypt meeting democracy and human rights requirements. But these restrictions can be waived by the administration on national security grounds. In September, Secretary of State Marco Rubio waived human rights conditions on $320m of military aid in light of Egypt's role since the launch of the US war with Iran, according to a letter addressed to various Congressional committees. Egypt assisted negotiations between the US and Iran. Exercising the waiver authority was "essential" for the US-Egypt relationship, "particularly in light of Egypt's helpful role following Operation Epic Fury," according to the September 4 memo seen by Reuters which bore Rubio's signature. Asked by the BBC about the move in light of this month's arrests of journalists, the State Department said the waiver was "due to Egypt's importance to US national security interests, the concrete security cooperation Egypt provides to the United States, and the need to maintain that cooperation to address regional security challenges". It added it maintained dialogue with Cairo on a "full range of issues" but would "not comment on private diplomatic conversations".

PROMINENT RUSSIAN NEWSPAPER SHUTS DOWN UNDER PRESSURE FROM AUTHORITIES



For the last three decades, Novaya Gazeta has been one of the most high-profile independent news outlets in Russia. Now it's shutting down - and it has accused the Russian authorities of the "murder" of a newspaper. "They've killed us," reads a statement on the Novaya Gazeta website. "The newspaper is no more. The Russian authorities and Russian special services have forced the paper to stop its work." Novaya Gazeta has received an eviction order. Crucially, at the same time, the system that had allowed the paper to receive donations from readers was disabled. That leaves no way to fund the publication. Novaya Gazeta had developed a reputation for fearless investigative reporting on subjects such as corruption, human rights violations and abuse of power by officials and bureaucrats - dangerous topics in Russia. The paper said that over time six journalists connected with the paper were killed for "fulfilling their professional and civic duty." Those reporters include Anna Politkovskaya, who was shot dead in the stairwell of her apartment block 20 years ago this month. Among the subjects she had reported on were the wars in Chechnya.



Six dead after helicopter crashes in northern Indian state

US tech stocks see sharp falls over AI cost fears



US stocks have continued to slide as concerns continue to intensify over the increasing costs of the artificial intelligence (AI) build out. Shares in Intel continued their overnight slide into early trading on Friday, falling as much as 30% after the chip maker warned of a weaker computer market even as it plans to increase spending on AI. Amazon shares fell as far as 6% before recovering after its reported earnings on Thursday evening fell short of investors' expectations. The tech-heavy Nasdaq stock exchange opened on Friday at its lowest level in more than two months, down 2.5%, as other tech stocks including Reddit and Roblox continued to fall. The losses follow the value of Google owner Alphabet plunging by more than $500bn on Thursday after it revealed its own AI summaries were affecting its core search advertising revenue. Alphabet stock continued to fall in early trading, down 1% after Thursday's massive slide. The bigger losses on Friday were elsewhere, with Intel on track to lose more than $130bn in value after its earnings update rattled investors. On Thursday, Intel's finance chief David Zinsner said the firm did not expect to bring in more cash than it spent this year, and forecast lower-than-expected revenue for its fourth quarter. "Looking ahead, we see the PC slowdown continuing at least through the first half of next year," he said in the chip maker's third quarter earnings report. In the earnings call, he said the firm had significantly ramped up investment in equipment in the third quarter and expected that to be "even more significant" in the following three months. Reddit stock was down by 26%, after the social media platform revealed weaker-than-expected daily user figures and warned that Google's growing AI-driven search was hurting referral traffic. Stock in online game platform Roblox also fell, down by nearly 20%, as its daily active user numbers dropped. Several major tech firms have reported earnings this week, including Microsoft, and analysts said there were questions about the payout from the huge investments in AI. Chris Low, from investment management firm FHN Financial, said the bulk of what was happening in the stock market was in reaction to some of the biggest tech players such as Amazon and Google. He told Reuters the companies were "showing some pretty significant growing pains as they aggressively pursue the AI build-out".



HOW LEBRON JAMES' MOTHER, GLORIA, RAISED HIM THROUGH ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT PERIODS OF HIS CHILDHOOD

LeBron James is a well-known basketball player and a four-time NBA champion. Gloria was very young when she became a mother and raised LeBron on her own as his father was not around. They faced many challenges in his early days, like financial problems and a struggle to find a steady home. Even during their most challenging time, she tried to give her son a better life. His story was shaped by Gloria's efforts and the people who supported them. How Gloria James Raised LeBron as a Single Mother Gloria worked to provide for her son despite the problems she faced. The situation became even harder when they lost her mother, Freda James Howard, who had helped them. As a young woman finding her own way she tried her best to make sure her son had everything he needed. She always encouraged and inspired him to do better when he started playing. LeBron James' Early Life and Childhood Struggles LeBron James grew up in Akron, Ohio. His mother was only 16 years old when she gave birth to him. She did not have a particularly stable job which made it tough for them to afford housing, so they moved around a lot. Although they initially lived in a house that belonged to Gloria's family, they later had to move out after Gloria's mother passed away. How Moving Between Homes Affected LeBron's Childhood When LeBron was around nine years old, he missed around 100 days of school because of unstable housing. After that, one of his youth coaches, Frank Walker, invited him to stay with him and his family. This arrangement gave LeBron a stable home environment and gave his life the schedule and discipline kids need while growing up. Walker introduced him to basketball and encouraged him to pursue the sport. It was a tough adjustment but it gave him the chances he had been missing out on. His interest in basketball helped him be more consistent at school and he spent more time developing his skills. How Gloria James Helped Shape LeBron's NBA Journey Basketball soon became a major part of LeBron's life. With encouragement from Frank and Gloria, he spent his time practising and learning the game. During his years at St. Vincent–St. Mary High School, his performance drew the attention of the big leagues. In 2003, LeBron was the overall first pick for the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA Draft.

Virat Kohli's Arrival Causes Chaos At Auckland Airport, Fans Go Berserk



Virat Kohli is truly a global cricketing superstar. As the veteran batter reached the Auckland airport, ahead of the ODI series against New Zealand, fans turned up in huge numbers just to get a glimpse of the Team India superstar. Requests for selfies, autographs, and handshakes made the situation quite chaotic, prompting even some officials to get involved and create space for Kohli to walk out of the airport. A total of 5 security personnel were assigned for fan management, but the sheer number of people who turned up to see Kohli made the situation a little difficult to manage. Some even reportedly jumped security for a picture or an autograph with him. A few videos that have surfaced on social media suggested that fans have been at the airport for several hours, some even for a couple of days, just to see Kohli. Some female fans even started to cry upon seeing Kohli, prompting the India batter to oblige their requests. Kohli is a part of the ODI series against the Kiwis, which starts on November 04. India play a total of 5 matches against the hosts in the 50-over format, before the 2-match Test assignment begins. Other members of India's ODI team, including KL Rahul, Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma, have also reached Auckland. Gill, in fact, was even spotted training with the Indian T20 team in Auckland on Thursday. Gill, India's ODI captain, was even seen wearing a fitness-tracking device called 'temple' on his forehead during the training session. Wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul and pacer Gurnoor Brar have also joined the Indian squad. Gill was seen engaged in a conversation with Abhishek Sharma, his close friend and India's T20I opener, who smashed 113 off just 38 balls in the third T20I at Wellington while chasing a target of 199. India have an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the series. At the nets, Ishan Kishan, who is recovering from a groin injury, and Rahul also had a batting session. The India skipper had a conversation with batting coach Sitanshu Kotak as well before taking his turn in the nets.

Gautam Gambhir Targeted By 4 IPL Teams For Coach's Role, Discussion Held With One: Report



Team India head coach Gautam Gambhir's term with the national side currently runs until the 2027 ODI World Cup, but several Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises are reportedly already attempting to court him. Reports suggest that four IPL franchises have held internal discussions regarding bringing Gambhir back in a mentorship role. Gambhir is currently in New Zealand with the national team, where India holds an unassailable 3-0 lead in an ongoing five-match T20I series. While his contract with the Indian team runs until the end of the 2027 World Cup, an extension through the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics has not been ruled out. Before succeeding Rahul Dravid as India's head coach following Kolkata Knight Riders' (KKR) IPL victory in 2024, Gambhir served as a mentor for both Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and KKR. It was with these two franchises that Gambhir built his reputation as a master tactician who orchestrates matches effectively from behind the scenes. According to a report in Dainik Jagran, four franchises are keen to secure his services ahead of the IPL 2028 season. Should the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) offer him a contract extension, franchises may have to delay their plans. The report indicates that alongside his former franchise KKR, representatives from Gambhir's camp recently engaged in preliminary discussions with Rajasthan Royals. Additionally, two additional franchises have expressed interest in recruiting him as a coach or mentor for 2028. According to the publication, one franchise ranks among the IPL's most successful teams, while the other has yet to open its title account. While Gambhir's red-ball credentials continue to draw scrutiny, his acumen in white-ball cricket remains widely respected.

Prasidh Krishna Out Of ODI Series Against New Zealand, BCCI Announces Updates



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has confirmed that pace bowler Prasidh Krishna has been ruled out of India's upcoming five-match ODI series against New Zealand after failing to clear his fitness test in time. In a statement, the Indian board said that the right-arm fast bowler, who is currently undergoing rehabilitation for a hamstring injury, requires further time to safely build up his bowling workload for competitive cricket. Subject to passing a Return to Play (RTP) assessment, Prasidh will link up with the India A squad for their third and final four-day match against New Zealand A to gain vital match fitness ahead of the upcoming Test series. Meanwhile, fellow pacer Mohammed Siraj is set to join the India A squad for the second four-day fixture against New Zealand A, which commences on October 31, 2026. Additionally, the BCCI has confirmed that all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy will remain with the senior national team for the first ODI against New Zealand on November 4, 2026. Following the opening fixture, Nitish will join the India A squad for the third four-day match against New Zealand A to get valuable match practice prior to the two-match Test series against New Zealand, starting November 19, 2026. Updated India A squad for the second four-day match: Dhruv Jurel (Captain & Wicketkeeper), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Yash Rathod,Mukesh Choudhary, Mukesh Kumar, Manav Suthar, Kumar Kushagra (Wicketkeeper).

PV Sindhu Cruises Into Hylo Open Semi-Finals, To Face Compatriot Anmol Kharb



Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu continued her impressive run, cruising into the women's singles semifinals of the Hylo Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a commanding win over Germany's Amalie Schulz, on Friday. Sindhu will next face compatriot Anmol Kharb in the semifinals after the latter knocked out sixth seed Unnati Hooda in a hard-fought three-game contest. The semifinal clash will thus ensure an Indian finalist in the women's singles event, with Sindhu and Anmol both eyeing a place in the title round. The former world champion Sindhu, who finished runner-up at French Open recently, needed just 27 minutes to get past Schulz 21-12, 21-10 and book her place in the last four.

Sindhu was in control throughout the contest, winning 42 of the 64 points played. She also won six consecutive points at one stage, twice as many as her opponent's best run of three points.

The Indian made a strong start in the opening game and maintained her advantage to take it 21-12. She continued in the same manner in the second game, giving Schulz little room to fight back before closing out the match 21-10.

Anmol prevailed 21-17, 18-21, 21-16 in a match that lasted one hour and eight minutes.

'People Like You With Your Passport': Sri Lanka Great Kumar Sangakkara Reveals Alleged Remark By Airport Staff

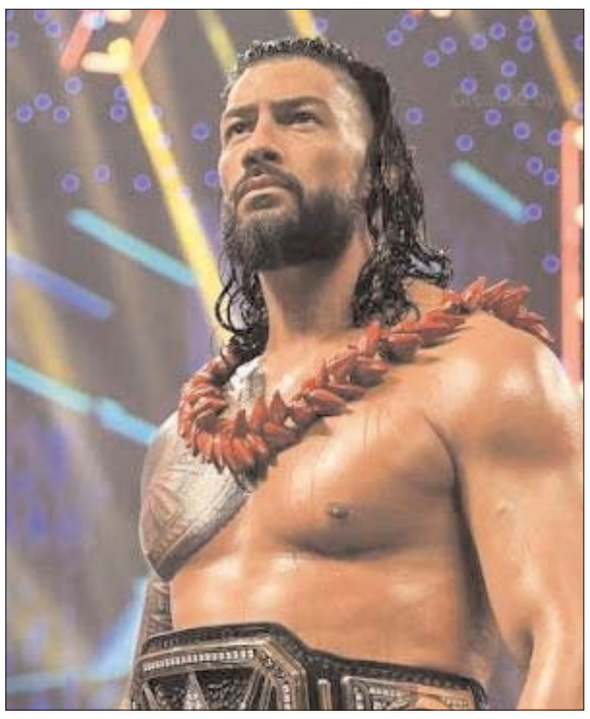
Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara recently alleged that Ryanair staff at Dublin Airport behaved in a "discriminatory" and "threatening" manner towards him and his family while they were travelling. In a post on X on Wednesday, Sangakkara alleged that Ryanair gate personnel at Dublin Airport behaved in a discriminatory and threatening manner towards him and his family, citing their tone and mishandling of procedures. He described the experience as unacceptable and said it was his first bad experience in Dublin.



PRANAVI URS PICKS UP PACE, EYES TOP 10 FINISH AT WISTRON OPEN



Indian golfer Pranavi Urs carded an impressive 4-under 68 in the second round to move to 6-under par (70-68) after two rounds at the Wistron Ladies Open. She carded five birdies against one bogey and gained 21 positions to head into the weekend at T-12. It gave her an opportunity to record her third top-10 result of the season. The leader after the second round is local player Cheng-Hsuan Shih with a score of 12-under par (66-66), followed closely by PK Kongkraphan of Thailand at 11-under par (70-63). Hannah Screen of England was third at 10-under par (67-67). The Order of Merit leader Casandra Alexander of South Africa (64-71) is in T-4 alongside Juliana Hung of Taipei (69-66), resulting in a cluttered leaderboard after the two rounds. Pranavi has been in fine form since bagging her historic individual gold medal and the team silver at the recent Asian Games in Japan. In the second round Pranavi, who is supported by Hero, made five birdies and one bogey for her score of 4-under 68. Having begun her second round on the back nine Pranavi opened with a birdie on the 10th hole but instantly dropped the shot with a bogey on the 11th. However, this early bogey would be her only one for the round as she picked up shots on the 15th and 18th holes before finding another two birdies on the fourth and ninth holes to put herself within touching distance of another top 10 result on the Ladies European Tour. Pranavi showcased her fine form during the second round as she made the green in regulation on the 13 of the 18 holes after having found the fairway off the tee on every single hole. Cheng-Hsuan began her second round on the back nine and produced her second consecutive round of 6-under 66 to take the lead after 36 holes. She made seven birdies and one bogey in the second round. Kongkraphan produced the low score of the week as she shot a 9-under 63 which included 10 birdies and one bogey to gain 31 positions and put herself into the lead group in the third round. Order of Merit leader Casandra Alexander carded 1-under 71 following her opening round of 8-under 64 to fall to T-4 on the leaderboard.



Roman Reigns Receives A Warning From 946 Leader Royce Keys

Royce Keys wants Roman Reigns' World Heavyweight Championship and he's not hiding it. The 946 leader told Bleacher Report he'd like a singles match with The Original Tribal Chief, and he added that nobody is safe from him. All of this lands while 946 keeps feuding with The Bloodline on Monday Night RAW, and the two groups could end up facing each other at Survivor Series: WarGames on November 28. Royce Keys makes his World Heavyweight Championship ambitions clear while discussing a potential match against Roman Reigns Royce Keys Names the World Heavyweight Championship as His Biggest Target in WWE Bleacher Report asked Keys about going after Reigns for the World Heavyweight Championship. The former AEW star answered right away, no real pause. "I'm after the grand prize. Nobody's safe," Keys said. So Reigns is clearly in his sights, but WWE hasn't officially announced a singles match between them. Keys has been building his spot on RAW through 946, the faction he runs with Bronco Nima, Lucien Price, Jaida Parker and Carmelo Hayes. Because of how the group came together, the shared background came up in the interview too. "I knew everybody before we actually all got together. So, 946 is us. We've taken parts of how we grew up and where we're from and put them together, so it's something that's authentic and real." He also talked up his teammates, mostly Hayes and Parker. Keys called Hayes "a little pit bull" and said Parker "hits harder than some of the dudes." The Bloodline Rivalry Could Lead to a Major WarGames Match at Survivor Series Before any title match happens, Keys and his faction have unfinished business with Reigns' family. The 946 and Bloodline rivalry has grown on RAW, and the two groups keep going after each other.

First look of Rakul Preet Singh as Janasthan princess Surpanakha from Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Namit Malhotra's 'Ramayana' released



The makers have released the look of Rakul Preet Singh, who is playing the role of Surpanakha from Namit Malhotra's prestigious 'Ramayana'. The poster, which introduces the character as "Janasthanki Rajkumari.. Surpanakha", is impressive. Rakul Preet Singh looks regal with her golden jewellery and royal costume.

The film, which brings one of the world's most popular epics, Ramayana, to the silver screen on a grand scale, stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Goddess Sita, Rocking Star Yash as Ravana, Sunny Deol as Hanuman, and Ravi Dubey as Lakshmana.

The film, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, is being produced by Namit Malhotra's Prime Focus Studios, eight-time Oscar winner DNEG, and Yash's Monster Mind Creations.

The first part of this epic, which is being made in two parts, will be released worldwide on November 5, 2026. The second part will be released in front of the audience on Diwali 2027. The film will be released in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam in India.

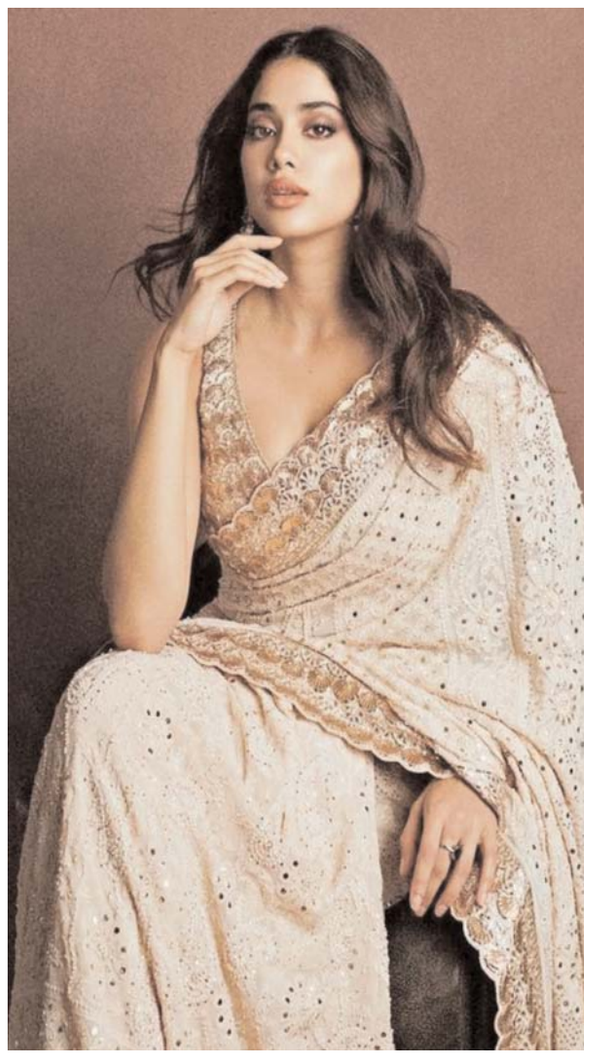
The film will also be released in IMAX format. The film will have a grand release in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana through the renowned distribution company SVC. Sony Pictures is distributing the film worldwide except India, while Dharma Productions is handling the distribution in the Hindi market.

Dear Astronaut' Will Stand Out as a Great Cinema: Director Sekhar Kammula at Song Launch Event



The upcoming film Dear Astronaut is written and directed by Karthik Bhagyaraja and presented by Yuvaan Krishna Entertainments and Manasvini Bhagyaraja. Featuring Soumith, Sreyasi Sen, Kamal Kamaraju, Geetha Bhascker, and Chaitra in lead roles, the movie is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on November 20. The makers unveiled a new song from the film on Thursday in Hyderabad at a launch event graced by director Sekhar Kammula as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Sekhar Kammula commended the core concept of the project, stating that weaving a narrative around an aspiration to become an astronaut is a refreshing idea. He appreciated the performance of the female lead and noted that the film delivers a strong message encouraging audiences to dream big and work toward achieving those ambitions. Observing that the production values and technical standards look remarkably rich, he expressed confidence that Dear Astronaut will stand out as a memorable cinematic attempt.

Janhvi Kapoor Can Not Act Innocent About Camera Angles



Janhvi Kapoor finally responded to the Peddi controversy on Koffee with Karan Johar. Calling it a Fiasco, she said it is definitely objectification and promoting sexual assault.

While saying she would also take ownership of the issue, she indirectly blamed the director. She further added that there are no bound scripts in South Cinema and you can not know camera angles from the scripts.

It is true that scripts, at least in Telugu Cinema, do not include camera angles. But that cannot be Jahnvi Kapoor's escape route.

Even though scripts don't include camera angles, actors are shown monitors on location and can object to or reject a shot if necessary. The smaller actors may not have that privilege but big heroes and heroines definitely will. In fact, stars have special staff to monitor these things. The stars will even summon the Online Editors to their carvans to check their shots. If Jahnvi Kapoor says she was completely in the dark, she is only trying to escape the blame.

Moreover, Jahnvi Kapoor is the daughter of Sridevi and Boney Kapoor. She is a star Bollywood actress who charges upwards of ?5 Crores. She can not act innocent. Janhvi admitted she was initially reluctant to address the controversy because of the hard work put in by the film's cast and crew. Nevertheless, the actor acknowledged the validity of the concerns raised regarding how her character was depicted.

"I felt many things, Karan. I feel the reason I was so apprehensive to talk about it was that many people worked very hard on that film. And I really didn't know what to say or if there was anything really to say even."

"Because it's important that I take ownership for my half of whatever that fiasco was, because it weighs heavily on my conscience, the sort of negative impact a narrative like that can have on our society. Specific to my gender, right? And I think that shame I'll always carry with me," Janhvi added. Janhvi also admitted that she could have brought up the concerns she had about the scenes.

ORI NAYANO' BEGINS ITS JOURNEY ON A GRAND NOTE IN HYDERABAD!



Popular Producer Vamsi Nandipati Gives the First Clap for the Muhurtham Shot; Dr. Anil Vishwanath Directs the First Scene

'Ori Nayano' is all set to bring another interesting and entertaining film to Telugu audiences. Produced by S. Sai Abhishek under the banner of Veeranjaneya Productions and directed by Mani Teja Gondi, the film has officially commenced its shooting with a grand muhurtham ceremony in Hyderabad.

Popular producer and distributor Vamsi Nandipati garu sounded the first clap for the muhurtham shot, officially kick-starting the film's shoot. Renowned director Dr. Anil Vishwanath, who gained recognition for his work in the Polimera franchise, directed the first scene.

SINGER M.M. SREELEKHA UNVEILS 'JINAKA CHIKA' SONG FROM VARUN SANDESH'S 'YADBHAVAM TADBHAVATI'



The peppy, high-energy mass number sung by Rahul Sipligunj promises to be a hit at festivals, weddings and celebrations The upcoming Telugu film Yadbhavam Tadbhavati, starring Varun Sandesh in the lead role, is gearing up for its theatrical release. Directed by Ramesh Jakkala and produced by Prasanna Lakshmi Bhumireddy under the banner of Prasanna Bhoomi Entertainment, the film features Inaya Sultana and Renu Sri as the female leads.

ACTRESS PREITY ZINTA LOOKS STUNNING AT 51



Preity Zinta stayed away from films after 2018. This year she made a comeback with two films, Batwara 1947 and Vibe. Both films underperformed at the box office. Even so, the actress is grabbing attention for how stunning she looks at 51. In her latest shoot for L'Officiel Arabia, Preity wore a black velvet strapless gown with crystal bow detailing at the waist and a high slit. She added a diamond necklace and styled her hair in soft side waves.

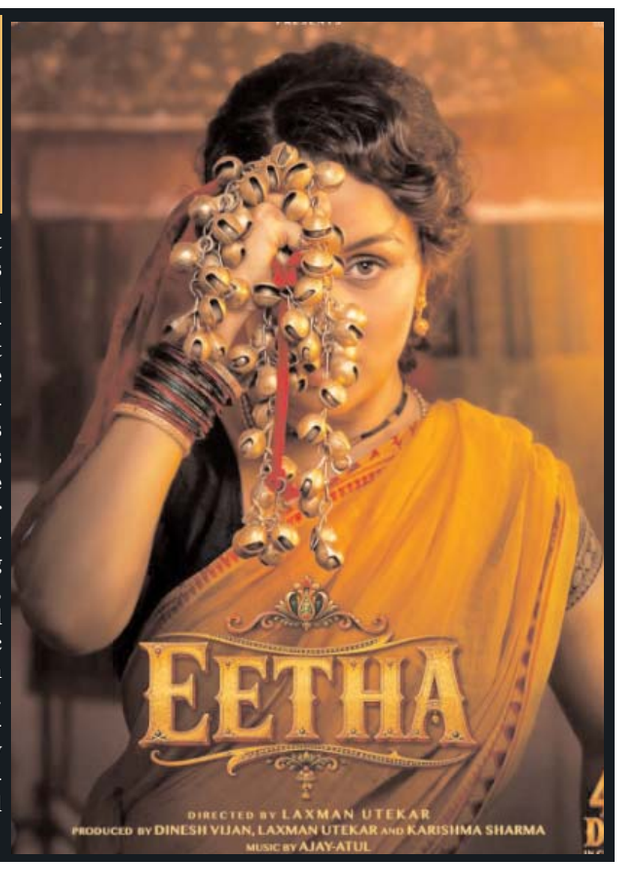
In another look, she chose a silver sequin gown with blue floral work, paired with an emerald choker, matching earrings and a sleek hairdo with feather-like twists.

Serving classic siren energy, Preity Zinta slayed in a strapless black velvet gown with a sweetheart neckline and a dramatic front slit. The dress featured three sparkling crystal bow buckles stacked along the front. She paired it with cascading diamond necklaces, matching drop earrings, a chunky bracelet and rings.

High-octane sparkle

Preity pivoted to shimmering drama in a strapless, floor-length sequined dress. The metallic ensemble featured subtle blue floral embroidery. With her hair sleekly pulled back into a sharp updo, her emerald choker necklace, dangling emerald earrings, and matching bracelet took centre stage. In breathtaking close-ups, the actor highlighted her features with subtle winged eyeliner, shimmery eyeshadow, and a soft pink lip. Holding her hands to her head, she showed off a chunky emerald-and-diamond ring alongside a stacked emerald cuff.

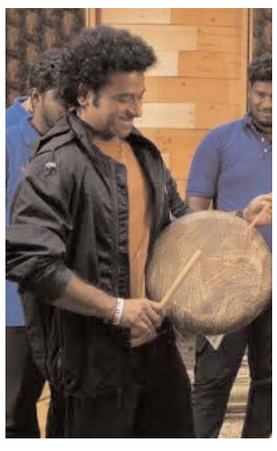
Eetha Trailer: Promising Story Wrapped In A Familiar Template



After staying away from the big screen for a long period following Stree 2, Shraddha Kapoor is back with Eetha, a film directed by Laxman Utekar, who delivered the blockbuster Chhaava last year. The trailer has created curiosity as Eetha is based on the life of legendary Maharashtra Lavani and Tamasha performer Vithabai Narayangaonkar. The trailer introduces Shraddha as a passionate artist who rises to fame despite facing betrayal and personal struggles.

It showcases colourful stage performances, energetic dance sequences, and the difficult life faced by Eetha. Randeep Hooda and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub are also seen in important roles. The biggest positive is the film's setting. Lavani and Tamasha offer a fresh backdrop, while Shraddha has put considerable effort into the role. Her expressions, costumes, and dance movements look promising. Ajay-Atul's music also adds energy to the trailer. However, the trailer follows a familiar biographical drama template, moving between an artist's struggles, emotional setbacks, and eventual rise. Some dramatic dialogues and elevation moments feel predictable. The real challenge will be presenting Vithabai's journey with depth rather than relying only on grand visuals and emotional scenes.

Rockstar DSP records with 100 folk rythm players from all over India for Yellamma Title song



Ever since its announcement and first look, the film has sparked huge excitement. Now, Rockstar Devi Sri Prasad is bringing the raw power of folk music alive, recording the YELLAMMA song with 100 traditional folk rhythm players representing diverse cultures from across India! With Rockstar DSP making his acting debut and Balagam fame Venu Yeldandi at the helm, this ambitious project, presented by Dil Raju and produced by Shirish, is raising expectations sky-high! 100 Folk Rhythm Players. One Powerful Musical Explosion!

The YELLAMMA song is gearing up to strike a massive chord. Get ready to witness this musical storm… SONG OUT SOON! YELLAMMA GRAND WORLDWIDE RELEASE ON MARCH 5, 2027, IN TELUGU, TAMIL, HINDI, MALAYALAM & KANNADA!

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