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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA
05-10-2026



Total pilgrims :83,252
Tonsures : 28,683
Hundi kanukalu : 4.56 CR
Laddu sale... 4.58 Lac
Annaprasadam.1.82 Lac
Ashwini hospital..3,068
Present Situation on 06-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..10.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...6-8H.



Nation News

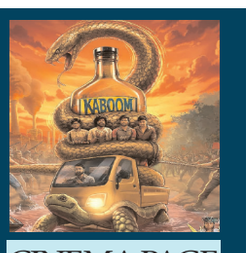
CJI Surya Kant administers oath to three new judges, judges count now 37 in SC

Former German spy chief arrested for espionage and treason



WORLD NEWS

'Husharu 2'Announced With Bigger Ambition And Double The Madness



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

SEVEN IEDS RECOVERED IN CHHATTISGARH

Raipur/Narayanpur : In a major success against potential threats in the sensitive Abujhmad region in Chhattisgarh, a joint team of Narayanpur Police and the 29th Battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has recovered six pressure cooker improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and one pipe bomb IED during an intensive search operation. The recoveries were made on Monday.



Superintendent of Police Sandeep Kumar Patel, ITBP Battalion Commandant Abhishek Sood, and Additional Superintendent of Police (Operations) Akshay Sabdra conducted the operation. Security forces carried out thorough area sanitisation and search operations spanning from the Rainar camp through the Maksoli-Bhatbeda-Rainar belt in Abujhmad. During the search in the Bhatbeda area, personnel spotted suspicious objects, police officials said. The site was immediately secured, and a detailed combing of the surrounding vicinity followed. This led to the recovery of the six pressure cooker IEDs and the pipe bomb IED from a suspicious dump. In addition, materials commonly used in the making of such devices were seized.

INDIA BLOC PROTEST

Rahul, Priyanka detained

Opposition protest turns into day-long face-off with Delhi Police

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)

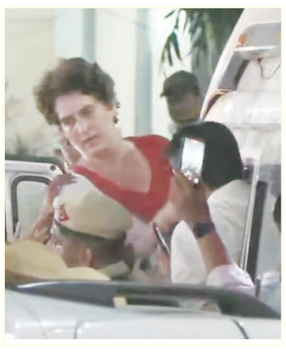




After keeping their protest alive for more than eight hours inside Akashvani Bhawan, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were detained by the Delhi Police on Tuesday evening, bringing the dramatic day-long confrontation between the INDIA bloc and the authorities to a close.

The police also detained several protesters gathered outside the Akashvani premises as the standoff that began after the Opposition's march towards the Election Commission headquarters finally ended with the Gandhi siblings being taken away.

Rahul and Priyanka had moved into the Akashvani Bhawan premises after the police stopped the march of more than 300 Opposition MPs towards Nirvachan Sadan and began detaining leaders. Instead of waiting to be taken away with the other MPs, the two changed course and entered the broadcasting house, turning the road protest into an unexpected sit-in inside the premises.



They remained there for hours, joined by several Congress leaders and workers, demanding that the police either allow them to proceed to the Election Commission or provide them a designated place in Delhi where they could continue their protest.

CM Revanth slams detention of Rahul, Priyanka



Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy condemned the detention of Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders, calling it an act of government arrogance. He alleged that the BJP-led government feared Rahul Gandhi's campaign to protect the Constitution and voting rights. Revanth said the opposition would intensify its fight to safeguard democracy and urged citizens, especially youth, to stand up for their rights.

Rajnath Launches Indigenous Fleet Support Ship 'Surya' at HSL



VISAKHAPATNAM ■ (TSIT)

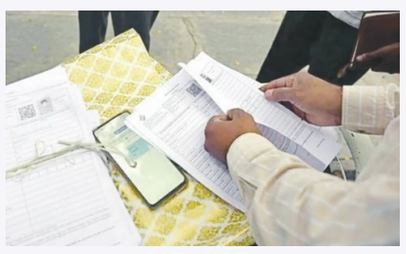
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday launched India's first indigenous Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1), 'Surya', at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam. He also laid the keel for the fifth Fleet Support Ship (FSS-5) and inaugurated the upgraded Slipway-4 and a 300-tonne Goliath Crane.

> **Singh also laid the keel for the fifth Fleet Support Ship (FSS-5) and inaugurated upgraded shipbuilding infrastructure at HSL, including a new slipway and a Gola-Bar crane.**

Describing the three milestones as significant achievements, Singh said, "The launch of FSS-1 is a symbol of achievement, keel laying of FSS-5 is a symbol of resolve and the new Slipway is a symbol of our growing capability." He called for HSL to emerge as a benchmark for quality, productivity and timely delivery.

The Fleet Support Ships are expected to strengthen the Indian Navy's operational reach and endurance in the Indian Ocean Region by providing at-sea replenishment, logistics and maintenance support. Built indigenously by HSL, the vessels will have enhanced cargo and fluid capacity, first-line maintenance workshops, a helicopter deck and self-defence systems.

The upgraded Slipway-4 will enable HSL to build and launch ships of up to 45,000 DWT, while the new 300-tonne Goliath Crane will facilitate faster and more precise handling of heavy ship blocks. Singh said Visakhapatnam should be developed as a major Maritime Industrial Hub, integrating the Eastern Naval Command, Naval Dockyard, HSL and Visakhapatnam Port with MSMEs, universities, startups and technology companies.



UP SIR:

Details of 16.18L new voters missing, says report

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)

An independent analysis of Uttar Pradesh's updated electoral roll has uncovered a major transparency failure, revealing that the application data for 16.18 lakh voters is missing from the state's public portal. Although the Election Commission of India received 88 lakh new Form 6 applications during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), the state Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO's) website hosts records for only 71.38 lakh, an investigative report by The Reporters' Collective showed. The report published on Tuesday, October 6, said it discovered this breach of law "while analysing the voter roll revision in India's most populous state where assembly elections are imminent". Explaining the process, they said they first reviewed how many had applied to be added back, and then they compared this against how many had been added to the final roll. "We found an inexplicable result." Collating all this data with tech support, they found that the ECI had put up details of 71.38 lakh applications from people for inclusion in the voter list, most of them being those deleted from the draft list. However, the ECI went on to add 84.3 lakh voters into the final list.

Bhatti, Uttam Lay Foundation for Kitchen to Feed 60,000 Students



HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT)

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a community kitchen at Munagala that will provide daily breakfast to nearly 60,000 students in 1,029 government schools and junior colleges across Suryapet district.

Being established with the support of the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation, the centralised kitchen will prepare, pack and transport nutritious food to educational institutions. Singareni Collieries Company Limited has contributed Rs.9.60 crore towards the project following requests from Uttam Kumar Reddy and Kodad MLA N. Padmavathi Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhatti said nutritious food was an investment in children's health, education and future. Welfare programmes strengthened families and enabled people to contribute to the State's development, he said.Uttam said students would receive breakfast along with milk and ragi porridge. The kitchen would have modern facilities, with special attention to food quality, nutritional value, hygiene and safe transportation. The programme could also be expanded to provide lunch to selected junior colleges, depending on requirements.

He said he would personally monitor the kitchen's construction and functioning in coordination with Padmavathi Reddy, district officials and implementation partners.

The Ministers also inspected construction of the Rs.200-crore Young India Integrated Residential School at Gaddipalli. Bhatti directed officials and the executing agency to prepare a week-wise construction schedule and complete the campus before the next academic year to enable admissions as planned.

Severe drought conditions in 320 mandals of Telangana

HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT)



Preliminary assessments indicate severe drought conditions across 320 mandals in 18 districts of Telangana due to the El Nino effect, officials said on Tuesday.

Telangana has a total of 621 mandals across 33 districts. Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju directed officials to immediately prepare a comprehensive report on the drought conditions prevailing in the state. He held a review meeting regarding the State Disaster Management Department at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat.

The Chief Secretary instructed officials to gather comprehensive data from various departments—including Planning, Revenue, Groundwater, Agriculture, Panchayat Raj, and Rural Water Supply—and to identify drought-affected mandals in accordance with established norms.He advised that the comprehensive drought report be prepared by taking into account 12 standard parameters, including the rainfall recorded during the Southwest Monsoon season (June to September).

The Chief Secretary directed officials to undertake the process of declaring drought-affected mandals based on government regulations and prescribed standards, and to prepare a comprehensive report on the matter by the end of October.

Owaisi alleges plot to disenfranchise Muslims

HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT)

Voicing concern over misuse of Form 7 during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday alleged that there is a deep conspiracy to delete Muslim voters through fraudulent and bulk submission of applications under it.



The Hyderabad MP complained to the Telangana Chief Electoral Officer, C. Sudharsan Reddy, regarding misuse of Form 7 for targeted deletion of Muslim voters in Goshamahal Assembly constituency in Hyderabad.

He brought to the notice of the CEO that the Goshamahal Assembly constituency, which falls under his parliamentary constituency, has witnessed the apparent misuse of Form 7 applications in a manner that specifically targets Muslim voters. In a letter to the CEO, Owaisi complained that at polling station number 28, Thudumu Janardhan submitted 122 Form 7 applications.

PM Modi marks a milestone in India,

Records name among few global leaders

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)



With his tenure starting from swearing-in as Gujarat Chief Minister on October 7, 2001, to his present-day responsibilities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed 25 years in uninterrupted executive office, joining a relatively small group of leaders who have spent a quarter-century or more continuously as heads of government or in similar leadership roles.

In India, he has already surpassed a record, held earlier by Pawan Kumar Chamling, who was in office as the longest-serving head of an elected government, being the Chief Minister of Sikkim from December 1994 to May 2019. That marked the Sikkim Democratic Front leader's term in office at 24 years and 165 days.

Among other Chief Ministers who have served continuously in office over long periods are Naveen Patnaik in Odisha and Jyoti Basu in West Bengal. In Odisha, the Biju Janata Dal leader served in office between March 2000 and June 2024, totalling 24 years and 99 days. Patnaik, now 79, remains popular among political parties, where he has largely been hailed for a clean image, disaster management capabilities, and promoting women's empowerment programmes.

Jyoti Basu served as the Chief Minister of West Bengal between June 1977 and November 2000, recording 23 years and 137 days in office. He is known to have implemented land reforms with his Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Front government, concentrating on rural development. Globally, Singapore's first and longest-serving Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew was in office from 1959 to 1990, a continuous 31 years, and is often cited as the modern benchmark for democratic executive longevity.

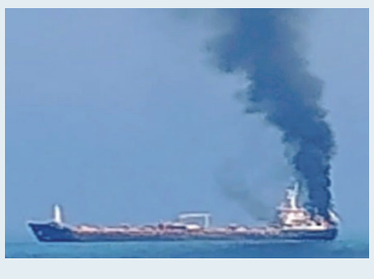
India condemns attack on commercial vessel in Black Sea

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday strongly condemned the attack on M V Royad Mammadov, a commercial vessel in the Black Sea, in which two foreign seafarers were killed and three Indian nationals injured.

"We condemn the attack on MV Royad Mammadov in the Black Sea, in which two foreign seafarers were killed and some members of the crew, including Indian nationals injured. The injured have been rescued by Romanian authorities and are receiving medical attention. The three Indian nationals, who were part crew of the ship, are safe. We thank Romanian authorities for their swift action in this incident," read a statement released by the MEA.

"India views these attacks on commercial shipping and seafarers with grave concern. The targeting of traffic in international waterways is severely undermining global commerce and the welfare of people across the world. We continue to call for dialogue and diplomacy to bring an end to the ongoing conflicts," it added.The Indian Embassy in Romania confirmed that all three Indian nationals were among the crew of MV Royad Mammadov.



Smoke billows from the merchant vessel MT Jalveer after it caught fire following an incident near the Omani port of Shinas

"All three Indian nationals are safe. We have spoken to them. One of them has been injured and is receiving medical attention. We are in close touch with the hospital authorities. We are extending all possible support for the welfare and well-being of the Indian crew members," the Embassy stated on X in the early hours of Tuesday, India time.The Embassy said that Ambassador Manoj Mohapatra spoke with the three Indian nationals receiving treatment at Constan a County Hospital and confirmed that they are in good health. "Amb.

Manoj Mohapatra spoke with the three Indian nationals receiving treatment at Constanta County Hospital. He also spoke with the hospital's Chief Physician, who confirmed that all three are in good health and receiving necessary care. The Ambassador assured them of all possible assistance and support," the Indian Embassy mentioned.Earlier, the Embassy noted that it was in close contact with relevant authorities to ascertain the details regarding the safety of Indian nationals aboard the vessel.

"We have learnt of an attack today on commercial vessel MV ROYAD MAMMADOV in the Black Sea. As per preliminary information, there have been 2 casualties (foreign nationals), while some crew members have been injured and are undergoing medical treatment in Romania. It is further reported that there are three Indian nationals among the crew members.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit appointed new IAF chief, to succeed AP Singh



Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit appointed new IAF chief, to succeed AP Singh

New Delhi (TSIT): The Central government on Tuesday cleared the appointment of Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit as the next Chief of the Air Staff. Ashutosh Dixit will take charge as the nation's 29th Indian Air Force Chief on October 31, with his tenure lasting until December 31, 2028.Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit is presently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff.

"With the approval of the President, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, PVSM, AVSM, VM, VSM has been appointed as the next Chief of the Air Staff in the substantive rank of Air Chief Marshal, with effect from the afternoon of 31st October, 2026, with a tenure up to 31st December, 2028," said a government notification. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit will succeed incumbent Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, who superannuates on October 31, 2026.Air Marshal Dixit is a qualified flying instructor with over 3,500 hours of flying experience and has held key operational and strategic appointments, including CISC, HQ IDS and AOC-in-C, Central Air Command.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Defence Staff Service College (Bangladesh) and National Defence College. He has more than 3500 hours of extensive flying experience on various aircraft, including, to name a few, Mirage-2000, variants of MiG, Kiran, Jaguar, IL-78, HAWK and Tejas.

During his illustrious career spanning approximately four decades, he has been actively involved in numerous operations and exercises, including Op-Sated Sagar, Op-Rakshak and Op Sindoor. He has held a number of significant field and staff appointments. He commanded a front-line fighter air base in Western Sector and a premier fighter training base in Southern Sector.

He was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2006, Vishisht Seva Medal in 2011, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2023 and Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2026 in recognition of his exemplary and distinguished service.

He was commissioned into the fighter stream of IAF on 06 December 1986 and is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy. Prior to assuming charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Dixit has served as Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) at Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command.

Dixit, having seen the induction and advancement of indigenous LCA Tejas and other aircraft programmes closely, is set to steer the government's Aatmanirbharta push in defence.

CJI SURYA KANT ADMINISTERS OATH TO THREE NEW JUDGES, JUDGES COUNT NOW 37 IN SC



NEW DELHI: Chief Justice Surya Kant on Tuesday administered oath of office to three new judges elevated to the Supreme Court, taking its working strength to 37, one short of the sanctioned 38. Justices Sunita Agarwal, Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Aparesh Kumar Singh took oath in the auditorium of the new Supreme Court block. All the Supreme Court judges, judicial officers and officials from different high courts were present on the occasion.



MINISTER INVITED TO SRISAILAM DASARA MAHOTSAVAMS

Srisailam: The Dasara Mahotsavams will be celebrated with great splendour at the Srisailam Mahakshetram from 11 October to 20 October. An invitation card was presented to the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resources Development, Information Technology and Communications, Sri Nara Lokesh, inviting him to the Dasara Mahotsavams.Sri Budda Rajasekhar Reddy, Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Srisailam constituency; Sri Pothugunta Ramesh Naidu, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Sri M. Srinivasa Rao, Executive Officer of the Devasthanam; along with archakas and Vedic scholars, met the Hon'ble Minister and invited him to the Dasara Mahotsavams. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Minister was presented with Sesha vastrams, prasadam, and a portrait of Sri Swami and Ammavaru, accompanied by Vedic blessings.

ANGANWADI SUPERVISORS TOLD TO WORK RESPONSIBLY



Chittoor, October 6: District Collector Sumit Kumar has directed CDPOs to visit Anganwadi centres at the field level. On Tuesday, the District Collector, in his capacity as Special Officer of the District Zilla Parishad, held a review meeting with CDPOs on the functioning of Anganwadi centres at the CEO Chamber in the local Zilla Parishad office. In-charge ICDS Project Director Syam Suguna Kumari participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector directed that good nutritious food must be provided to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children below six years of age. He instructed that special attention be given to children with severe underweight and severe acute malnutrition and that quality food be ensured for them. He stressed that the growth of children under five years must be monitored by regularly measuring their height and weight, stating that this responsibility rests with the officers. Continuous supervision of the performance of Anganwadi workers at the centres must be maintained, he said.

The Collector directed every Anganwadi Supervisor in the district to identify an average of ten children and work for their development. He informed that special plans are being taken up in coordination with all departments from tomorrow for the development of Anganwadi centres. He asked the CDPOs to prepare reports on the funds required for the construction of incomplete Anganwadi buildings in the district. During field visits, stocks at the Anganwadi centres must be thoroughly inspected, he ordered. Only when quality nutritious food is provided will the officers earn respect in society, he noted, adding that proper discharge of duties by the department will bring a good name to the district.

He reviewed the status of incomplete Anganwadi buildings, toilets and drinking water connections and directed that pending works be completed on a priority basis. The progress of AI screening under the Navachetana programme was reviewed, and instructions were given to ensure screening of all eligible children.

TGNPDCL's first indoor substation charged in Karimnagar



Karimnagar: Chairman & Managing Director of TGNPDCL Sri Karnati Varun Reddy stated that indoor substations would significantly help overcome the acute shortage of land in urban areas while ensuring quality and reliable power supply to consumers. As part of strengthening the power infrastructure in Karimnagar city, CMD Sri Karnati Varun Reddy technically charged the 33/11 kV Indoor Substation constructed at Telangana Chowk on Tuesday. He stated that this is the first indoor substation constructed in Karimnagar under the TGNPDCL jurisdiction.

Speaking on the occasion, CMD Sri Karnati Varun Reddy said that, keeping pace with the increasing power demand, TGNPDCL is developing a modern power supply network through technologically advanced indoor substations. These substations enable high-capacity power infrastructure within limited space while ensuring improved, quality and uninterrupted power supply to consumers. He stated that another indoor substation would also be established at the Collectorate in Karimnagar, keeping in view the city's development and growing power requirements. Necessary provisions have already been made for future expansion of the indoor substation capacity and feeders, he added.

The modern indoor substation has been constructed at a cost of Rs.6.92 crore within an area of just 484 square yards. The ground floor houses the control room along with modern switchgear panels, while the first floor accommodates the Sub-Division and Section offices.The substation is receiving 33 kV power supply from the 132 kV Vavilalapalli and Padmanagar substations. An additional 33 kV feeder has also been kept ready for future extension to other substations. Initially, power supply will be provided through six 11 kV feeders, while provision has also been made for installation of another two 11 kV feeders to meet future requirements.

With the commissioning of this indoor substation, the electrical load on the 33/11 kV SRR, Bhagatnagar and Saptagiri substations in Karimnagar city will be reduced, thereby improving the overall power supply capacity and reliability in the urban area.

MSME seminar held for B. Com students in Warangal



Warangal: A seminar on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) was successfully organized by A.V.V. Degree & P.G. College, Warangal, for the benefit of B.Com students. The programme was aimed at creating awareness among students about entrepreneurship, self-employment opportunities, business development and the significant role played by MSMEs in the economic development of the nation. The seminar was formally inaugurated by our Honourable Principal, Dr. E. Sathyanarayana Garu, who appreciated the initiative and encouraged the students to develop entrepreneurial skills, innovative thinking and leadership qualities.Speaking on the occasion, the Principal emphasized the importance of practical knowledge along with academic education. He encouraged students to explore new business opportunities, understand government support available for MSMEs and consider entrepreneurship as a promising career option.The seminar provided students with valuable insights into MSME development, entrepreneurship, business opportunities, financial planning, marketing strategies, innovation and employment generation. Students actively participated in the programme and interacted enthusiastically with the organizers and faculty members. The programme was successfully coordinated with the support and guidance of Dr. Janga Venugopal Yadav, Dr. Jakkoju Srinivas, Dr. Thota Ravinder, Dr. Goddeti Kalyani, Aaisha Begum and Dr. Puli Saroja. The organizers expressed their special and heartfelt thanks to the Honourable Principal, Dr. E. Sathyanarayana Garu, for extending his full support and encouragement towards innovative and student-centric activities.

Village health clinics inaugurated in Srikalahasti



Srikalahasti: Under the special initiative and directions of Srikalahasti MLA Sri Bojjala Sudheer Reddy, new Village Health Clinic Centres for B.V. Puram and Akkurthi villages were officially inaugurated today in virtual mode from the Collectorate premises by the Hon'ble District Collector along with public representatives.

With the lofty objective of delivering quality healthcare services to the doorsteps of rural people, these health centres have been brought into operation under the guidance of MLA Sri Bojjala Sudheer Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders stated that these Village Health Clinic Centres will be of great help in ensuring that rural residents do not suffer due to health issues and that immediate primary treatment is readily available. They further noted that MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy is progressing with the comprehensive development of the constituency as his goal. The inauguration programme was attended virtually by the Hon'ble Collector along with Market Committee Chairman Chenchayya Naidu and leaders including Dorai Rajireddy, Venkatasubba Reddy, Chandra, Siva Sudarshan Reddy, Satish, Raghavareddy, Raghu and others, making the event a grand success.

Students set up AI learning centre at Hyderabad school



Hyderabad: Three Class 11 students have launched a digital self-learning centre at Mandal Parishad Primary School (MPPS), Kokapet, offering a year-long programme in digital literacy and artificial intelligence (AI) to 10 government school students. The initiative, started by Balling Beyond, a student-led initiative founded by Aryan Nadimpalli, Akshay Sandhyala and Bollineni Rana. The trio began the initiative while in Class 9 by providing sports equipment and a water filter to a government school in Gandipet. They later expanded it to weekend classes in English, Mathematics and Science.

Oakridge International School, Gachibowli, donated 30 refurbished laptops to the initiative on August 1. Ten laptops have been provided to the Kokapet school, while the remaining devices will be used for a secondary school programme scheduled to begin later this month. The 10 students for the pilot programme were selected by the school headmaster. The curriculum will use platforms such as Khan Academy and Brilliant for Mathematics, Science and coding fundamentals, with AI concepts introduced progressively during the year.

The AI sessions will be conducted under adult supervision, with facilitators operating the tools on behalf of the students. Kognovate, which mentors the three founders across their initiatives, is providing guidance to the programme. "Learning content is only the first step. We want these students to become innovators who can look at problems around them and use AI as a tool, not as a crutch," Aryan Nadimpalli said.

Akshay Sandhyala said the objective was to encourage students to identify challenges in their communities and develop practical solutions instead of merely consuming technology. Bollineni Rana said the long-term aim was to make the initiative self-sustaining. "The goal is to make ourselves unnecessary — so that these students can teach themselves and eventually teach others," he said.

The founders said setting up the centre had involved several challenges, including reliable Wi-Fi, availability of a dedicated classroom, faculty supervision after school hours, adequate power points, software updates, parental consent and student safety. They also said teaching the children in Telugu had influenced their approach to the programme.

The school principal said the initiative would provide the selected students with access to digital tools and guidance that were otherwise not readily available to them and hoped they would serve as role models for their peers.

Kognovate mentor Karthik Mangu said the students had moved beyond conducting classes to creating a system aimed at developing independent learners.

Oakridge International School CAS Coordinator Shalini Samuel attended the launch, and the school has indicated its willingness to support further infrastructure requirements. The organisers plan to conduct fundraising events to meet operational expenses and subscription costs. If the pilot proves successful, Balling Beyond hopes to replicate the model in other government schools across Hyderabad and Telangana.

SCoR Reviews Crowd Management Ahead of Festive Season



Visakhapatnam,TSIT : South Coast Railway General Manager Shri Sandeep Mathur reviewed crowd management arrangements across all divisions ahead of the Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath festive season. The General Manager directed officials to ensure 24/7 monitoring and security, enhanced ticketing and passenger assistance, real-time dissemination of train information, and adequate passenger amenities, catering and drinking water facilities. To meet the expected holiday rush, SCoR is operating special trains to various destinations and augmenting existing weekly and long-distance trains with additional coaches. The Railway administration appealed to passengers to follow safety guidelines and avoid footboard travel, crossing railway tracks and boarding trains from the non-platform side. Passengers were also advised against unnecessary alarm-chain pulling and occupying coaches reserved for women and Divyangjan passengers. Officials were directed to ensure coordinated arrangements for the safe and smooth movement of passengers during the festive season.

Three children drown in Chikkamagaluru lake



Chikkamagaluru: A festive holiday outing ended in tragedy at Marle village in Chikkamagaluru taluk after three schoolchildren drowned while swimming in a lake. All three victims were 12 years old and belonged to the same village.

The children, who were studying in Class 6 at different schools, had gone to the lake during the Dasara vacation. What was intended to be a recreational outing ended in tragedy when they reportedly entered a deeper part of the water and were unable to return safely.

The children were swimming near the stone platforms built along the lake where villagers generally wash clothes and utensils. Their sudden disappearance alerted others, and efforts were made to locate them in the water. News of the deaths spread quickly through Marle, prompting a large number of villagers to gather at the lake. The grief of the families was evident as the bodies were recovered and kept at the spot. Residents struggled to come to terms with the loss of three children from the same village.

Villagers said the lake had undergone desilting work last year, which had resulted in an increase in its depth. They believe the children may not have realised how deep the water was when they entered the lake.

The incident has renewed concerns about the absence of adequate safety measures around village water bodies. Residents have called for steps to prevent children from entering deep areas of lakes, especially during school holidays when they have more free time.

Police from the rural station reached the spot after receiving information about the incident. They inspected the location, gathered preliminary details and registered a case. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the sequence of events and determine how the children drowned.

Revanna questions notice to Hassan SP

Hassan: Former minister H.D. Revanna has questioned Deputy Commissioner Latha Kumari's decision to issue a notice to Hassan SP Subhanvita over the Pendal Ganesha immersion issue. Revanna said he had not received any notice and wondered why the SP had been asked to explain the matter.

Referring to the administration's handling of Ganesha festivities, Revanna said celebrations had been held for nearly 72 years and questioned why permission was denied for immersion at Devigere. He also asked why permission was allegedly granted to others while restrictions were imposed on Pendal Ganesha.

Revanna said the district administration should maintain peace and told MLA Swaroop Prakash to write to the Chief Secretary about the developments. He also referred to the court and Lokayukta as available avenues if required.

Seoulmate Soju brings Seoul-inspired flavours

Bengaluru: Seoulmate Soju, a spirit inspired by Seoul's vibrant nightlife and social drinking culture, is offering Indian consumers a flavour-forward alternative for casual gatherings and celebrations. Launched in October 2025, the brand combines a smooth, lighter profile with youthful packaging and experimental flavours.

Made from premium rice distillate and produced and bottled in Goa, Seoulmate has an alcohol content of 15.5 per cent. The 375 ml bottle is priced at Rs.650 and is currently available in Goa, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka and Mumbai.

The brand's flavour portfolio includes Original, Strawberry Mint, Pink Guava Chilli, Cola Vanilla, Watermelon Bubblegum, Black Grape and Peach Iced Tea. The variants range from subtly sweet and refreshing profiles to tropical, spicy and nostalgic flavours.

Seoulmate is positioned as a versatile drink that can be consumed neat or used as a base for cocktails. Its smooth texture and balanced sweetness are designed to appeal to consumers looking for lighter and easy-drinking options. The brand said its product is intended for a variety of occasions, including brunches, social gatherings, bar outings and home celebrations, while reflecting the energetic and experimental spirit associated with Seoul.

Poor hostel conditions trouble KRIMS medical students

Karwar: Medical students who recently secured admission to Karwar Institute of Medical Sciences (KRIMS) after clearing NEET are reportedly facing poor living conditions at the institution's hostel. The men's hostel is alleged to have unclean rooms and toilets, rusty windows, damaged doors and cracked walls. Sewage flowing near the building has also reportedly created a foul smell, raising concerns over students'

Karnataka Hosts GIA Meet to Drive Global Tech Partnerships



Bengaluru, [Date] – The Department of Electronics, IT & Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka, hosted the GIA Meet at Hotel Four Seasons to promote the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026 (BTS 2026) among its partner countries and international trade mission representatives.The event was attended by Priyank Kharge, Hon'ble Minister for Home, IT & BT and E-Governance; Dr. Manjula N, IAS, Chairperson, BWSSB and Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T; Dr. Avinash Menon Rajendran, IAS, Managing Director, KITS & KEONICS; Dr. E. V. Ramana Reddy, IAS (Retd.), Chairman, Karnataka Skill Development Authority; and Jagdish Patankar, Event Curator, BTS 2026, along with representatives from over 40 countries.

Speaking at the Meet, Shri Priyank Kharge said, "GIA 2.0 is about moving from engagement to execution, from MOUs to outcomes, and from delegations to enduring partnerships." He added that success under GIA 2.0 will be measured by startups entering new markets, jointly developed technologies, launched research programmes, pilots becoming businesses, and investments and jobs created.The Global Innovation Alliance (GIA), launched in 2017 under the Karnataka Unit for International Cooperation (KUIC), has expanded from 10 countries in 2018 to over 40 formal partner countries by 2026, engaging with more than 90 countries globally.

As part of its next phase, Karnataka is introducing a new GIA Engagement Framework across four tracks: Global Startup Mobility and Market Access; International Institutional Partnerships; Global Visibility and Strategic Engagements; and Governance through a dedicated International Desk. The state is also developing GIGA – the Global Innovation and Growth Alliance – a permanent landing and collaboration space in Bengaluru for partner-country startups, innovation agencies, delegations and institutions.

BTS 2026 will be held at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) from 17–19 November 2026, expecting 90,000+ attendees, 1,000+ tech startups, 1,000+ investors, 25,000+ delegates, 700+ speakers and 1,800+ exhibitors, with participation from 75+ countries. Aligned with the theme 'AI & Beyond', the Summit will feature 16 tracks and country sessions from 16+ nations.

BJP chief Vijayendra hits out at Congress over voter-list revision

Dharwad : BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Tuesday launched a fresh attack on the Congress government over the ongoing SIR exercise, alleging that the ruling party was creating unnecessary controversy around Form-7 applications and using the issue to target opposition workers.

Speaking to reporters in Dharwad, Vijayendra questioned allegations that thousands of AHINDA voters were being removed from electoral rolls in each Assembly constituency. He said Form-7 was part of the election process and asked why the government was blaming the Election Commission over a mechanism that was legally available for electoral-roll revision. Vijayendra also pointed out that Booth Level Officers involved in the verification process function under the State government administration. He questioned the basis of claims that the exercise was being controlled by the Centre.

Taking aim at Minister Priyank Kharge, Vijayendra said the BJP would not be intimidated by threats of legal action. He accused the minister of having considerable influence over administration in Kalaburagi and alleged that attempts were being made to silence critics through money and pressure. These allegations have not been independently established. On the proposed increase in public transport fares, Vijayendra cited the reported Rs.6,500 crore dues owed by the State government to KSRTC and said the corporation had warned that its financial position could affect salary payments if the arrears were not cleared.



He accused the Congress government of relying heavily on excise revenue to fund its guarantee programmes and alleged that Karnataka was being pushed towards greater dependence on liquor revenue.

Vijayendra also criticised the registration of cases against BJP workers in connection with the electoral-roll controversy, alleging that police stations were being used for political purposes. Responding to questions about BJP leader B.Y. Yatnal supporting independent candidate Kanta Kumar, Vijayendra said Yatnal was currently not part of the BJP and that the party had no rebel candidate in the election. He expressed confidence in BJP candidate Sankanoor in the Western Graduates' constituency. The seat covers Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri and Uttara Kannada districts. Vijayendra said the party's organisation and the prevailing political atmosphere were favourable and predicted a decisive victory for Sankanoor, who is seeking a third term as MLC.

Canaries: from wild to captivity



Bengaluru: Canaries (Serinus canaria) originate from the Canary Islands, Azores and Madeira. They grow to 4–8 inches and weigh under 1 ounce, living 5–15 years. Spanish sailors brought the wild green and yellow Atlantic finch to Europe in the 15th century. Wild canaries have grey-brown striped plumage with dull yellowish-green breasts. Domestic breeds include song, colour-bred and type canaries, in colours like red, yellow and pink.In the wild, they inhabit open woodlands, shrublands, grasslands and agricultural areas, feeding mainly on seeds and insects, plus fruits and berries. They are diurnal, spending days feeding, preening and bathing. Males sing elaborately; females mainly chirp. Canaries stop singing during moulting. In captivity, they need quiet, spacious cages, varied perches, 35–45% humidity, and a balanced diet of seeds, soft food, fruits, vegetables and cuttlefish bone. Hygiene is vital: clean food and water bowls daily, cages fortnightly. Sick birds appear dull, inactive or sit in corners. Common issues include bumble foot and bacterial infections.Nest cups should be 4–5 inches wide, 2–3 inches deep, placed high, using coconut husk or jute. Proper care keeps canaries healthy and active.

Karnataka traffic fines pile up as Rs.3,006 crore remains unpaid



Bengaluru : Despite repeated 50 per cent discounts offered by the Karnataka government to encourage motorists to clear pending traffic penalties, a huge backlog of unpaid fines continues to remain a concern. As many as 5.53 crore traffic violation cases out of 8.16 crore registered across the State between 2019 and August 2026 are yet to be settled, with unpaid penalties estimated at Rs.3,006.70 crore. Bengaluru accounts for the largest share of the outstanding cases. Of the 5.85 crore traffic violations recorded in the city during the period, more than 3.72 crore remain pending. The resulting unpaid fine amount in Bengaluru stands at around Rs.2,048.56 crore, according to a report. The mounting backlog has assumed significance after the Supreme Court recently expressed concern over the large number of unpaid e-challans across States. The court has suggested stronger measures to recover outstanding penalties, including action against vehicles with unpaid fines and restrictions on certain online transport-related services. Director General and Inspector General of Police M.A. Saleem said the department was examining several options to make payment of traffic penalties more effective. One proposal under consideration is to make clearance of pending traffic fines a prerequisite for obtaining a vehicle Fitness Certificate (FC). Authorities are also exploring amendments that could prevent renewal of vehicle insurance when traffic penalties remain unpaid.Another option being examined is linking traffic fines with electricity bills, following a suggestion from the Supreme Court.

Dr. Sunita Agarwal Wins Two Gold Medals at Asian Masters Swimming Championship

Bengaluru: Dr. Sunita Agarwal of Agarwal Hospital won gold medals in two categories—the 100m and 100m freestyle events—at the Asian Masters Swimming Championship.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sunita Agarwal emphasized the importance of staying healthy and urged everyone to incorporate yoga, meditation, and sports activities into their lives.

She advised dedicating one or two hours daily to activities like walking, exercising, and swimming to ensure mental and physical well-being, noting that this leads to a better quality of life.

She also recommended a healthy diet rich in millets, vegetables, and fruits, while advising people to cut down on junk food and deep-fried items.



Highlighting the benefits of swimming, she mentioned that it provides a workout for the entire body and improves blood circulation.

Youth Are the Architects of India's Future: M. Venkaiah Naidu

Bengaluru : The future of India rests in the hands of its youth, and students must use education not merely to secure degrees and jobs but to develop knowledge, character, skills and a strong sense of social responsibility, said M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Vice President of India and Padma Vibhushan awardee.He was speaking as the Chief Guest at the 96th Year Commemoration Address organised by Seshadripuram First Grade College, Yelahanka New Town, on Tuesday.The programme commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by a welcome address and introduction of the Chief Guest. On the occasion, Seshadripuram Educational Trust felicitated Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu in recognition of his distinguished public service and contribution to the nation.



Addressing the students, Shri Venkaiah Naidu said that India's young population is its greatest strength and that today's students have a vital role in shaping a strong, developed and progressive India."Education should go beyond classrooms and textbooks. It must build character, confidence, creativity, leadership and a sense of responsibility towards society," he said.He urged students to dream big, work hard and continuously upgrade their skills to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. With advancements in technology, artificial intelligence, science and innovation, students should remain future-ready while staying firmly rooted in Indian values and culture.

Jail DIG Somashekar arrested over alleged fake Supreme Court order used to free life convict

Bengaluru : The ongoing controversy over the revision of electoral rolls has taken a new turn in Bengaluru, with Jayanagar police registering an FIR over allegations that Form-7 applications were used to seek deletion of 5,698 voter names from the constituency.



The complaint was filed by former Jayanagar MLA and KPCC women's wing president Sowmya Reddy. She has alleged that the large number of applications raised serious questions about the process through which the names were proposed for deletion.

Reddy has further alleged that personal information belonging to individuals was used without their consent while preparing some of the Form-7 applications. The complaint specifically refers to C. Ramesh and Roopa, whose names were allegedly used in the documents.

Police have booked five people based on the complaint. BJP functionaries Ramakrishna and Yogesh are among those named, while Jayanagar MLA C.K. Ramamurthy has also been mentioned in the complaint. Police are yet to establish the allegations and are conducting an investigation into the matter.Reddy has provided video recordings and other material to the police, seeking detailed verification of the documents and the circumstances surrounding the filing of the applications. The alleged Form-7 submissions were not evenly distributed across the constituency. Gurappanapalya ward reportedly accounted for 4,327 applications, making it the largest concentration. Bairasandra wards recorded 525 and 719 applications respectively, while 54 applications were reported from Halsuru. Jayanagar wards 177, 178 and 179 together accounted for 82 applications.The development comes at a time when political parties in Karnataka are engaged in a heated debate over the electoral roll revision process. Allegations of attempts to delete genuine voters through Form-7 applications have been raised in different places, while authorities have maintained that applications have to be verified before any deletion is carried out.

Form-7 is used under the electoral roll process to request deletion of a voter's name or object to an existing entry. The Jayanagar police are now expected to scrutinise the applications, verify the personal details mentioned in them and examine whether the applicants actually submitted the forms. The investigation will also establish the roles, if any, of the persons named in the complaint.

Karnataka hikes Asian Games medal rewards, announces sports quota and incentives

Bengaluru : Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Deputy Chief Minister and Youth Empowerment and Sports Minister G. Parameshwara felicitated Karnataka athletes who won medals at the Asian Games 2026 during a ceremony at Vidhana Soudha.



The State government announced a major increase in cash incentives for Asian Games medal winners, along with financial assistance, employment opportunities and training support for sportspersons.

Under the revised reward structure, gold medallists will receive Rs.1 crore, up from Rs.35 lakh earlier. The reward for silver medallists has been increased from Rs.25 lakh to Rs.75 lakh, while bronze medallists will now receive Rs.50 lakh instead of Rs.15 lakh. Eight Karnataka athletes will benefit from the revised medal rewards. Each of these eight medal winners will also receive an additional Rs.5 lakh incentive for participating in the Asian Games.

The government has extended financial support to athletes who competed at the Games even without winning medals. Twenty Karnataka sportspersons who qualified for and participated in the Asian Games 2026 will receive Rs.5 lakh each.

Parameshwara said the decision recognises the importance of representing the State at an international sporting event and aims to encourage more athletes to compete at the highest level.

In another significant move, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games medal winners will be eligible for direct recruitment to Group-B government posts. Eligible athletes will be selected through a committee headed by the Chief Secretary. The State has also included four athletes — M.R. Poovamma, Sneha S.S., Shreyanka Patil and Shilpa K.S. — under its Olympics-focused scheme for 2026-27. Each will receive Rs.10 lakh for training, Olympic

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EDITORIAL

Wildlife Conservation: Securing the Future with Nature

Wildlife is not just a country's natural wealth; it is also a vital link in its ecosystem. Forests, grasslands, wetlands, rivers, and marine ecosystems can remain balanced only when the diverse species inhabiting them are protected. India is among the world's most important countries in terms of biodiversity. It is home to a diverse range of habitats, from the Himalayas to the Western Ghats, the Thar Desert to the Sundarbans and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Therefore, wildlife conservation is not just an effort to save a few rare species, but also a question of protecting natural resources and human life. The efforts to scientifically reintroduce the captive-bred Great Indian Bustard (Great Indian Bustard) to its natural habitat in Rajasthan are an example of India's emphasis on scientific interventions alongside traditional conservation measures. The first and most obvious importance of wildlife conservation is protecting biodiversity. Every species plays a role in the ecosystem. The extinction of a species is not simply the loss of a single individual, but can also affect many biological processes associated with it. The conservation of a critically endangered species like the Great Indian Bustard is important because its survival is linked to the protection of its entire grassland habitat. Similarly, the conservation of the tiger has promoted the protection of large forest areas, prey species, and the entire food chain in India. Therefore, the conservation of an 'umbrella species' can provide a protective shield for many other species.

Wildlife also plays a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. Predatory species control herbivore populations, pollinators aid plant reproduction, and many birds and small creatures contribute to seed dispersal. Weakening a crucial link in the food chain can have devastating effects on the entire ecosystem. Healthy forests and grasslands also contribute to water conservation, soil quality, and carbon sequestration. Thus, wildlife conservation is directly linked to climate and environmental security.

Wildlife conservation also ensures numerous ecological services for human society. Conservation of forests and wetlands helps conserve water, recharge groundwater, control floods, and moderate temperatures. Conservation of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators is linked to agricultural productivity. Similarly, natural habitats contribute to carbon storage and help mitigate the effects of climate change. Therefore, protecting nature is not just an environmental responsibility; it is also fundamental to food, water, and livelihood security. Wildlife conservation is also of no small economic importance. National parks, sanctuaries, and tiger reserves promote nature-based tourism, creating employment and income opportunities for local communities. If tourism is developed with local participation and within environmental constraints, conservation and livelihoods can complement each other. Furthermore, wildlife is part of India's cultural and natural heritage. It is our generation's responsibility to ensure that future generations see tigers, elephants, great Indian boas, rhinoceroses, lions, and numerous bird species in their natural surroundings. However, the challenges facing wildlife conservation are serious. The most significant challenge is habitat degradation and fragmentation.

Uttar Pradesh's New Political Grammar:

THE CALCULUS OF CASTE VS RULE OF LAW

VISHAL PANT



As we head close to the assembly elections early next year, the political discourse in Uttar Pradesh is caught between two competing models of mobilisation. On one side is chief minister Yogi Adityanath's emergent governance calculus, where the state's role is defined by the delivery of security and welfare, decoupled from identity. On the other is a regression to caste arithmetic driven by Opposition leader Akhilesh Yadav, framed as 'PDA' (Backwards, Dalits, Minorities), driven by selective outrage and historical amnesia.

The opposition's strategy relies heavily on highlighting law-and-order incidents through a caste-based prism. By selectively amplifying cases where victims belong to specific communities-such as the cases of Pawan Kumar Yadav in Prayagraj, Shishpal Yadav in Raebareli, or Saurabh Yadav in Varanasi-the attempt is to engineer inter-caste resentment. The objective is clear: consolidate a coalition of grievances. However, this rhetoric obfuscates the opposition's own track record of institutional capture, where caste was not just an electoral tool, but an administrative apparatus.

Data from the previous Samajwadi Party (SP) regime reveals a systemic conflation of caste and governance. In June 2014, state home department data indicated that in key districts, nearly 60 per cent of police station in-charges belonged to a single caste. In Badayun, 72.7 per cent of station heads were Yadavs; in Kannauj, 55.5 per cent. This structural bias in policing birthed an era of selective protection. The manifestations of this breakdown ranged from the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots and the Jawahar Bagh massacre to the unchecked reign of syndicates led by figures like Atiq Ahmed and Mukhtar Ansari. The suspension of IAS officer Durga Shakti Nagpal for acting against the sand mafia, the brutal burning of journalist Jagendra Singh for exposing corruption, and the shielding of cabinet minister Gayatri Prajapati despite serious allegations of sexual assault, underscored a model where political utility trumped the rule of law. Governance was tethered to vote banks, leaving marginalized communities outside the favoured caste radius to fend for themselves.

In stark contrast, the current Yogi government has sought to depoliticise the state machinery. The defining principle has shifted from identity-based postings to rule-based postings, and from selective protection to a uniform application of the law. The administration's data reveals a strict zero-tolerance policy toward crime, irrespective of the perpetrator's political affiliation or caste. The state's law enforcement trajectory includes decisive action against its own. An analysis of the state's action register reveals a pattern: Kuldeep Sengar (Thakur, Unnao), Chinmayanand (Thakur, Shahjahanpur), Ashish Mishra (Brahmin, Lakhimpur Kheri), and local leaders like Shrikant Tyagi and Ashok Chandel. Across the board, the determinant for action is the nature of the crime, not the caste or the political proximity of the accused. When a ruling dispensation allows its police to act against its own MLAs, MPs, and affiliated leaders across caste lines, it signals a structural shift from partisan policing to institutional autonomy.

This ethos extends beyond law and order into the realm of welfare delivery and administrative reform. The opposition's PDA narrative posits that caste-based segmentation of state resources is the sole metric of social justice. The current administration counters this with community-wise beneficiary data that demonstrates universal delivery. Housing, ration, and healthcare schemes are implemented based on socio-economic vulnerability rather than caste quotas. By bypassing local middlemen and digitising the welfare pipeline, the state has structurally disabled the patronage networks that previously filtered benefits through a caste lens.

However, the data suggests a maturing of the electorate's expectations. The structural reforms in UP's policing and the universalisation of welfare delivery have disrupted the traditional arithmetic of caste mobilisation. This shift is not merely rhetorical; it is embedded in the state's administrative DNA. To dismantle historical nepotism in public sector recruitments, the Yogi administration introduced operational guardrails like anonymized, blind-coded grading processes, completely hiding candidate names and castes from interviewers. Interviews for Group C and D positions were eliminated altogether to root out human bias. Under the Mission Rozgar initiative, over 9.5 lakh government appointments were processed through digitized, transparent workflows. Official data reveals that over 60% of state recruitments since 2017 have been secured by OBC, SC, and ST candidates-a testament to merit over patronage.

Furthermore, the state has actively scrubbed caste indicators from governance and public spaces. It formally banned the mention of caste in police FIRs and arrest memos to eliminate investigative bias. Overt assertions of caste dominance were curbed by enforcing strict penalties against caste-based stickers on vehicles, and caste-driven political rallies were prohibited to transition discourse toward development.

What are the political implications of the Supreme Court's strictness on changes in Form 6?

SAURABH VARSHNEY

Elections in India are not just a constitutional process for the transition of power, but also the basis for the most important right of citizens in a democracy: the right to vote. Therefore, any change, amendment, or new process in the voter list cannot be considered merely an administrative decision. It involves the law, transparency, and the credibility of constitutional institutions. Therefore, the Supreme Court's strong comments regarding the alleged change in Form 6, used for voter registration during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), are extremely significant.

The Supreme Court has clarified that it did not approve any such change to Form 6. The court expressed its desire to know at whose level this change occurred and what the entire decision-making process was. CJI Surya Kant's comment that if any illegality has occurred, consequences must be faced, clearly demonstrates the seriousness of the matter. The most important question here is: if a change was made to a form used in a statutory process, under what authority was it made? Was this decision taken collectively at the Election Commission level? Was it agreed upon by all Election Commissioners? Was the prescribed procedure followed? And most importantly, was this change publicly disclosed?

In a democracy, the strength of a constitutional institution like the Election Commission lies not only in its powers, but also in its impartiality and public trust. The suspicion that the Election Commission is influenced by any political party or government is a serious concern for democracy. Therefore, transparency of the process in every decision of the Commission is as essential as its final outcome. The issue of Form 6 is also sensitive because it relates to the registration of new voters. If any additional declaration, document, or condition is added to this process, it could directly impact a citizen's right to vote. Denying an eligible citizen the right to vote solely due to the complexity of the process cannot be considered appropriate for a democratic system.

There's already political controversy surrounding the SIR. Opposition parties are questioning the process and alleging that it could impact a significant number of voters. On the other hand, the Election Commission's argument stands. In such a climate, if ambiguity arises over changes to even a basic document like Form 6, it naturally fuels suspicion.

Another important aspect raised by the Supreme Court in this case is the institutional decision-making process. The Court wants to know whether the decisions related to SIRs were taken solely by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar or whether they were approved by the Election Commission by majority or unanimous consent. This question is not limited to the current controversy. It also touches upon the collective decision-making process and constitutional accountability within the Election Commission.

The Election Commission is not an individual body. It is a constitutional body, and its decisions must be institutionalized. If consensus cannot be reached on a matter, the prescribed decision-making process, as provided by law, must be followed. If a significant decision is made solely by one individual, and the role of other members is minimized, questions about institutional balance will naturally arise.

However, it would be inappropriate to jump to conclusions about this matter. The Supreme Court has currently declined to grant an interim order suspending the Chief Election Commissioner. The court also clarified that no order can be passed based solely on newspaper reports. This judicial restraint sends an important message for democratic institutions.

The court has sought records from the Election Commission. These records will now reveal the true picture of this dispute. If the records prove that all decisions were taken in accordance with the rules and prescribed procedures, a large part of the dispute will automatically be resolved. But if the records reveal that a significant decision was implemented without the necessary institutional consensus, then the question will not be limited to Form 6 alone.

This case could also pose a litmus test for the Election Commission's credibility. The public will want to know the process behind these crucial decisions regarding the voter list. Is the Election Commission's power based on law or administrative discretion? And if any changes are made, where is their legal sanction?

Today, the need is to resolve every dispute related to the electoral process not through political accusations and counter-accusations, but based on documents, law, and a transparent process. Whether in power or in the opposition, no one should be allowed to compromise the credibility of the Election Commission.

The voter list is the foundation of democracy. As significant as the inclusion of an incorrect name is, the omission of an eligible voter is equally serious. Therefore, if a process is being undertaken to purify the voter list, every step of it must be clear, transparent, and fair.

The Supreme Court has only raised the question: who made the changes to Form 6? But behind this question lies an even bigger question about democracy: should every decision made in the electoral process be held accountable to the public through institutional and legal scrutiny? The answer is undoubtedly yes. Elections are not just a day to cast votes. They encompass the entire process, in which citizens' trust must be maintained at every step, from the voter list to the polling booths and the vote count. Any breach of this trust harms not just one political party but the entire democratic system. Therefore, all eyes are now on the Election Commission's record, which will be presented before the Supreme Court.

It Is Time India Had a Men's Commission

By Binish Thomas

When India talks about gender justice, the conversation is understandably dominated by the safety, rights and welfare of women. But there is another question that the country has increasingly avoided asking: who listens when men become victims? Behind the statistics on India's suicides, family disputes, marital breakdowns and criminal cases is another largely invisible population - men who may be struggling with domestic conflict, allegations, separation, financial pressure or mental-health problems, but have few institutions specifically designed to hear their grievances. It may therefore be time for India to seriously consider a National Commission for Men. The argument is not that men face the same problems as women, nor is it an argument for weakening laws designed to protect women from domestic violence, dowry harassment, sexual assault or other crimes. It is an argument for something much simpler: gender justice cannot mean that one gender has institutional protection while the other has nowhere comparable to turn.

India's suicide statistics provide perhaps the starkest reason to examine the issue. According to the National Crime Records Bureau's 2023 data, 1,71,418 suicides were reported in India, with men accounting for 72.8 per cent of the victims and women 27.2 per cent. Family problems were the leading reported cause, followed by illness, while marriage-related issues accounted for another 5.3 per cent. The numbers become particularly striking in Kerala. A Kerala government analysis covering 1996–2021 found that 73.7 per cent of reported suicides in the state were men, with family problems one of the leading causes of male suicides. More recent reporting based on State Crime Records Bureau figures showed that Kerala recorded 10,972 suicides in 2023, of which 8,811 were men, with family issues identified as the major reason. These numbers do not prove that marital disputes are responsible for every male suicide.

They do, however, demonstrate that men's vulnerability is a serious public issue. And yet, where is the institution specifically tasked with examining it?

Marriage can become complicated when relationships break down. Domestic violence laws, dowry laws and other criminal provisions exist because genuine abuse must have consequences. There is no argument against that principle. But the justice system must also distinguish between genuine criminality and the misuse of criminal law. The question is not simply how many cases are filed against men, but what happens to the men caught inside them. In its 2017 judgment in Rajesh Sharma v. State of Uttar Pradesh, the Supreme Court recorded NCRB data showing that 1,97,762 people were arrested under Section 498A in 2012, including 47,951 women, yet the conviction rate was only around 14.4 per cent. The Court also expressed concern about cases in which multiple family members were implicated through vague or exaggerated allegations. The Government itself has acknowledged that some cases registered under Section 498A were subsequently found to be false or based on a mistake of fact or law. According to data provided by the National Crime Records Bureau to the Ministry of Home Affairs, 10,193 cases in 2011, 10,235 in 2012 and 10,864 in 2013 were classified in this category after police investigation, and in 2014 and 2015, a further 8,144 and 7,458 cases respectively were classified as Final Reports False. These figures do not mean that every man acquitted in a matrimonial case was innocent, nor that every complaint made by a woman is false, since an acquittal can occur for several reasons, including failure to establish guilt beyond reasonable doubt. But the numbers raise a legitimate question: where is the institutional mechanism that studies the impact of such cases on men and their families? A man who is falsely accused can face arrest, social stigma, financial losses, damage to his career and prolonged litigation even before a court reaches a conclusion. And sometimes the consequences extend beyond the accused.

There is another dimension that cannot be ignored: children. When marriages collapse amid prolonged conflict, criminal proceedings and bitter custody disputes, children can become collateral victims.

The question should not simply be who wins the legal battle between husband and wife. It should also be: what happens to the child? If a child loses meaningful access to one parent, suffers prolonged emotional trauma or grows up amid years of litigation, the consequences can last well beyond the original dispute. Any future men's commission should therefore not be designed simply as a body for men seeking revenge against women. Its mandate should include family welfare, child protection, counselling, mediation and early intervention. The objective should be to prevent family disputes from becoming permanent battles.

The nature of relationships has also changed dramatically. Social media, dating applications and messaging platforms have made it easier for people to meet, communicate and form relationships. They have also created new avenues for harassment, blackmail, impersonation, cyberstalking and exploitation. The audio underlying this article specifically raises concerns about college WhatsApp and social-media groups, where contact details can circulate and subsequently be misused. This is not merely a men's issue, as women face these dangers too, but that is precisely why the response needs to be gender-neutral and technologically relevant. The government needs stronger mechanisms to deal with the misuse of private information, circulation of personal numbers, online harassment and digital blackmail. Live-in relationships have also become increasingly visible in India. The Supreme Court has recognized the autonomy of consenting adults to live together, while also making clear that not every live-in relationship automatically acquires the same legal status as marriage. Freedom of choice is important, but freedom must also come with responsibility.

WILL INDIA BAN SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UNDER-18S?

Govt Says Not Yet; Talks Ongoing With Experts

The Centre is not currently looking to ban social media for minors but is "committed" to finding solutions for issues that may crop up due to it, according to sources on Tuesday. The government is not actively working on any proposal to limit access to social media for minors under the age of 18. It is, however, engaging in active discussion with industry, academia and psychology experts on the issues surrounding social media. As per sources, the Indian government is finding the "right solution" to address concerns around cyberbullying, social anxiety and depression. On Sept 29, the centre had informed the Supreme Court that it will amend the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules to stop children under 18 from opening social media accounts, making it a statutory obligation for platforms to block such registrations. This will likely no longer be the case after its recent clarification. This development has come after a global push to restrict or ban social media access to minors, with countries such



as Australia, Malaysia, Brazil, Indonesia and Turkey enforcing legal restrictions. Organisations such as the European Union have also proposed legislation, dubbed the "EU KIDS Act", which would ban children under 13 from accessing social media, while allowing limited and supervised access for teenagers aged 13 and 14. Prominent countries based in Europe, such as the United Kingdom, announced a ban for social media usage with regards to children under the age of 16. New Zealand introduced the Online Safety (Minimum Age and Child Safety Risk Assessment) Bill to its Parliament on Aug. 24, 2026. This bill would require high-risk social media platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat and Facebook to take reasonable steps to check users are over the age of 16. The country's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon told reporters that one in three children between the ages of 13 and 17 spends at least five hours on social media a day, exposing themselves to harmful content, addictive technology and pressures they are not equipped to deal with. He stated this behaviour was affecting their family life, mental health, sleep and education. The social media problem The topic of banning, or restricting, social media for teenagers comes amid growing concerns over mental health. The Economic Survey 2025–26 flagged social media addiction among those aged 15-24. The survey stated that social media addiction was strongly associated with "anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and cyberbullying stress." The concerns have been heard around the world. Earlier this year, Meta, which runs Instagram and Facebook, agreed to pay $18 billion in settlement in the US over a lawsuit. The lawsuit alleged that the two platforms had harmed children. Though the company denies any wrongdoing. Cybersecurity expert Mukul Kumar says he has seen teens and families being affected first-hand. "Cyberbullying, mental health damage, digital footprints that follow children for life. These were not hypothetical risks (of teens being on social media). These were things parents were calling me about because they had nowhere else to turn," he tells India Today Tech. Kumar explains that social media was never designed with children in mind. Yet today, they have become a way for engagement on various platforms. "Children are not just users.

Samsung Galaxy A08 Brings Everyday Essentials Together with Improved Chipset, 50MP Dual-Camera System and 6000mAh Battery

■ Designed to support everyday tasks, Galaxy A08 smartphone combines dependable performance, versatile photography and extended software support



GURUGRAM, India – October , 2026 – Samsung today announced the launch of the Galaxy A08 in India, a device designed to deliver reliable performance for everyday activities such as social networking, video streaming, casual gaming, and photography. Designed as an accessible yet feature-rich smartphone, the Galaxy A08 introduces AI-assisted everyday experiences, ensuring users stay connected and productive effortlessly. At the heart of the Galaxy A08 is its commitment to long-term value. Samsung offers up to six generations of OS upgrades and six years of security updates, ensuring the device remains secure and up-to-date for years to come.

■ **ENGINEERED FOR SMOOTH MULTITASKING & GAMING**

Powered by the MediaTek Helio G99+ mobile chipset, the Galaxy A08 delivers up to 84% higher single-core CPU performance, 43% higher multi-core CPU performance, and 60% higher GPU performance compared to its predecessor, the Galaxy A06. This translates to faster app launches, smoother multitasking, and stutter-free performance for social media browsing, video streaming, casual gaming, and everyday AI-related tasks.

The Galaxy A08 comes equipped with 4GB RAM and 64GB internal storage, expandable up to 2TB via microSD cards. Additionally, the smartphone also supports RAM Plus, which allows users to allocate a portion of internal storage to virtual memory for faster processing.

■ **HI-RES CAMERA SYSTEM FOR EVERYDAY PHOTOGRAPHY**

The Galaxy A08 features a versatile camera system tailored for everyday moments. The 50MP wide-angle rear camera with an f/1.8 aperture is ideal for capturing people, food, travel, pets, and family moments. Supported by a 2MP depth camera with an f/2.4 aperture, it enhances portrait photography by separating the subject from the background. The 8MP front camera with an f/2.0 aperture ensures crisp selfies and clear video calls.

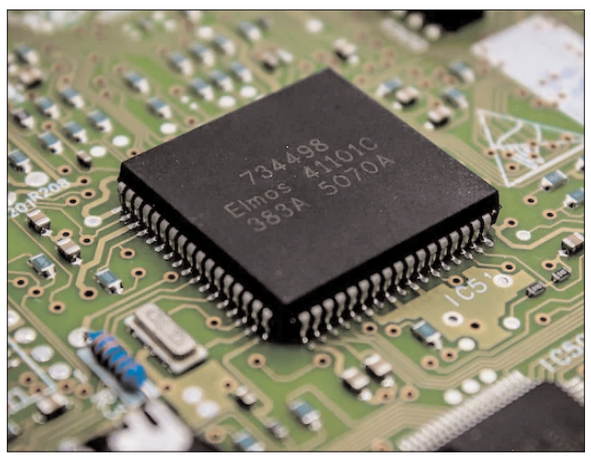
Chip Stocks In Red:

SK Hynix, SanDisk And Intel Shares Buck Wider Trend Amid Investor Caution

Shares of semiconductor stocks such as SK Hynix and SanDisk Corp. commenced trade in the red after the opening bell of the US stock market, amid investor caution with regards to the cyclical peak in memory pricing.

SK Hynix started trading with a downturn of 3.02% at $189.14 apiece, while SanDisk Corp. saw a decline of 1.59% to $1,677 after markets opened. Outside of memory pricing concerns, investors also seemed to note slowing growth as well as broader macroeconomic trends such as the US Treasury Bond yield hitting its highest level since 2002.

Intel also indicated volatility in early trade, with a downturn of 0.05% to $116.13. Other chip stocks traded at a marginal uptick, with Advanced Micro Devices's share price being up 1.36% to $640.34. Shares of Micron



were up 0.15% to $1,065.52. Nvidia trade the highest with its stock price climbing 1.54% to $242.57.

This development comes after Nasdaq had closed with a fresh high in the previous day's trade up 1.05% to 27,544.07.

US stocks opened higher on Tuesday, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite gaining as lower oil prices and softer bond yields offered some relief to investors. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 197.67 points, or 0.39%, at 51,465.57 at 9:36 a.m. EDT, according to market data. The S&P 500 rose 36.53 points, or 0.47%, to 7,810.48, while the Nasdaq Composite advanced 151.35 points, or 0.55%, to 27,628.662.

Brent Crude futures were down 2.06% to $98.25 per barrel at 7:30 p.m., while the West Texas Intermediate was down 1.65% to $87.95.

Ai+ Smartphone Drops Big Billion Days Pricing Across the Nova and Pulse Series

New Delhi, October 2026: Ai+ Smartphone today announced festive pricing for the Nova and Pulse series on Flipkart's Big Billion Days 2026. Starting at 8,999,the lineup brings clean design, lasting power, and everyday performance — built in India, powered by NxtQuantum OS.

Nova and Pulse are designed for how people actually use their phones: long days, clear cameras, smooth displays, and prices that stay within reach. From Pulse 2 to Nova 2 Ultra, and NovaFlip for those who want something new, every model is a reason to upgrade — not a compromise.



■ **THE NOVA AND PULSE SERIES**

Pulse 2 — 8,999 · 6000mAh · 50MP AI camera

Pulse 2 FE — 8,999 · MediaTek G81 · 50MP

Nova 2 5G — 11,999 · 6000mAh · 50MP AI · dual 5G

Nova 2 Neo 5G — 12,999 · Dimensity 6300 · Sony IMX582

Nova 2 Power 5G — 15,999 / 16,999 · 7000mAh · dual-colour design

Nova 2 Pro 5G — 16,999 / 17,999 · Dimensity 7100

Nova 2 Ultra 5G — 18,999 · 1.5K AMOLED · IP68 · Dimensity 7400

NovaFlip 5G — 49,999 · foldable · dual AMOLED · 50MP

Including bank offers. Offers valid while stocks last. Available for a limited period on Flipkart during Big Billion Days 2026.

■ **ABOUT AI+ AND NXTQUANTUM SHIFT TECHNOLOGIES**

NxtQuantum Shift Technologies is a deep-tech Indian company building secure, sovereign digital platforms for a digital-first world. Founded by Madhav Sheth, the company develops NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign operating system, and is committed to building technology that is designed, engineered, and developed in India while remaining globally competitive.

■ **ABOUT AI+ SMARTPHONE**

Ai+ Smartphone is a next-generation brand built in India, delivering reliable and high-performance mobile experiences. Powered by NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign mobile operating system. The brand focuses on delivering a clean design, ensuring long battery life, and maintaining trusted software performance, all while keeping prices accessible without compromising the user experience.

From redefining smartphones to pioneering AIoT products as part of the company's Connected Ecosystem, Ai+ Smartphone is creating a new standard for trust, immersive experience, and accessibility. Rooted in a privacy-first architecture and a commitment to equitable access, Ai+ Smartphone stands for more than specs — it stands for India's next era of user-owned, future-ready technology.

WHAT SAMSUNG'S 30-YEAR BET ON INDIA HELPED BUILD BEYOND ITS BUSINESS

India's transformation over the past 30 years, from a market opening to the world to an economy aspiring to achieve Viksit Bharat by 2047, has been shaped by companies that invested in its future. Samsung has been one of them, contributing to India's manufacturing, employment, research, innovation and skilling ecosystem since entering the country in 1995.

Three decades later, the outcome is visible in factories supplying overseas markets, Indian engineers developing technology for global use and community programmes that Samsung says have reached more than 15 lakh people. Its investment has helped establish capabilities that extend from industrial production to preparing young people to create technology themselves.

"Thirty years ago, many global companies came to India because they saw a large market. Samsung came because we saw something much bigger — we saw potential," said JB Park, President & CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia.

The company has built manufacturing facilities in Noida and Chennai, along with three R&D centres at Samsung's three R&D centres and a design centre and has filed more than 14,000 patents in India.

Manufacturing provided the foundation. Samsung's Noida plant, one of the world's largest smartphone manufacturing facilities, has grown into a major export hub. Together with its Chennai factory, it anchors the company's production presence in India. Samsung is also looking to deepen its component footprint, potentially extending local activity further into the electronics supply chain.

The more consequential evolution has been in the work undertaken by Indian engineers. Samsung's three R&D centres and design centre place research and design alongside manufacturing, giving its Indian operations a role in developing what the company sells worldwide. Designing for 1.4 billion people with different languages, abilities and levels of digital familiarity tests on whether



technology is intuitive and inclusive. Solutions developed around these needs can serve consumers elsewhere, making India's diversity an asset in Samsung's global innovation work.

Engineers in Bengaluru have worked on language models for Galaxy AI. Samsung's Noida research centre has partnered with IIT Madras on AI for Indian languages, healthcare and generative AI, connecting corporate research with academic expertise.

"But more importantly, we evolved from bringing technology to India to creating technology with India," he added.

Building the skills to sustain that transition extends beyond Samsung's workforce. Under its vision of "Together for Tomorrow. Enabling People", the company supports pathways from school education to technical training, workplace experience and youth innovation.

Samsung Innovation Campus has trained more than 26,500 young people in AI, Big Data, IoT and coding, including 20,000 last year, nearly half of them women, since its India launch in 2022. DOST's expanded sales programme aims to train 13,000 youth from underserved communities, combining classroom instruction with five months of paid workplace training in retail stores.

At school level, DigiArivu brings STEM laboratories, digital learning and teacher development to 3,000 students across 10 government schools in Tamil Nadu's Kancheepuram and Ranipet districts.

The clearest sign that AI is spreading beyond the metros comes from this year's Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition, which received applications from 648 cities and held 184 design-thinking workshops across 135 cities. More than half of its 20 finalist teams come from towns such as Sundargarh in Odisha, Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh and Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh, five are building solutions under an "AI Living for India" theme, and all are working with mentors at IIT Delhi and Samsung's research centres ahead of an October finale that carries Rs 2 crore in incubation grants.

"For us, investing in people is not philanthropy. It is nation-building," Park says.

That ambition takes practical form when young participants gain access to researchers, prototyping support and incubation. Across three decades, Samsung's engagement has expanded from building its own operations in India to supporting capabilities in universities, schools and communities.

AI Pressure, Weak Discretionary Spending Keep Sector Under Watch

The September quarter is unlikely to offer meaningful relief for Indian IT stocks, with weak discretionary spending and continued pressure from artificial intelligence-led efficiency gains expected to keep growth and pricing under pressure.

The cross-read from Accenture suggests that client discretionary spending has not meaningfully improved, raising concerns over the pace of recovery for Indian IT services companies. At the same time, AI-led productivity gains are emerging as a potential headwind for traditional technology services, as clients look to achieve more with fewer resources.

Brokerages will closely track AI revenue, deal wins and the pace of "AI deflation," the potential pressure on billing and revenue growth as AI improves productivity, during the quarter ended September. BofA Global Research has also warned that the broader IT sector could face guidance cuts.



TCS, INFOSYS, HCL TECH, WIPRO, TECH MAHINDRA

Bloomberg estimates point to relatively modest sequential revenue growth for the large IT companies. Tata Consultancy Services is expected to report 1.04% quarter-on-quarter revenue growth in quarter ended September, while Infosys is estimated to grow 1.92%. HCL Technologies is expected to lead the tier-1 pack with 2.80% growth, followed by Tech Mahindra at 1.67% and Wipro at 0.94%. On the earnings front, HCL Technologies is expected to report the strongest EBIT growth at 7.06%, followed by Wipro at 4.56%, TCS at 2.82%, Tech Mahindra at 2.45% and Infosys at 2.41%.

Net income growth is estimated at 14.43% for Tech Mahindra, 5.43% for HCL Technologies, 3.29% for TCS and 1.76% for Infosys. Wipro is expected to see a 1.38% decline.

WHAT TO WATCH

For TCS, investor focus will be on commentary around data centre and AI revenue, along with changes in headcount. The company's ability to translate AI demand into incremental revenue will be closely watched amid broader concerns about AI-led deflation. Infosys could see a mixed stance on its guidance. While UBS expects the company to retain its existing guidance, Nuvama expects a 100-basis-point cut.

For HCL Technologies, brokerages are expecting a cut to the upper end of its services revenue growth guidance, which currently stands at 1.5%-4.5%.

French police fire tear gas at school protesters as officer charged over student hit by projectile



A police officer who fired a projectile launcher that injured a high school student during protests in Saint-Ouen-l'Aumône last week has been charged, multiple French outlets are reporting. The students are complaining about lack of investment in education, but how does France compare to other developed countries in the money it spends on schools and universities? According to the European Union, France's spending on education relative to GDP is the fifth highest in the EU27, behind Sweden, Finland, Belgium and Denmark. The absolute amount it spends per student in education is just below the EU average. According to the OECD, France spends close to the OECD average per student – but with strong differences depending on the age group. It spends below the average for primary and lower secondary education. But it spends 24% more than the average for upper secondary – i.e. lycées. The French vocational training minister Sabrina Roubache says "we must listen to what young people are telling us", but adds they should understand they are "lucky". "We are in France, we are a very great country," she tells BBC's Newshour. "We are lucky, we have high school free, university free, school free, the health [care is] free in France." Roubache adds that France has a social model that is "maybe the best in the world". She says she has been out to listen to young people today, dismissing concerns police are responding too harshly to protesters. Roubache says there is a lot of "very high violence from young people" and cannot ask police officials to do nothing in response. L'Union Etudiante, a student body helping organise the protests, says 450,000 protesters have taken to the streets throughout France today, which it says is "absolutely historic". We reported earlier that an estimated 86,000 protesters were demonstrating in areas outside the Paris region, according to France's interior ministry, which has been providing separate figures. Kate Deegan, 20, has just started teaching at a secondary school and college in Arcachon - a seaside resort 40 minutes from Bordeaux. The British student studying at Edinburgh University is living in France for her year abroad, and tells BBC Your Voice that a majority of students at the college are protesting. "On Friday many of them were affected by tear gas outside the school, including a teacher. We were given face masks to wear as the tear gas came into the grounds of the school too," she says. Deegan says she felt sorry for the students, some of whom were coughing and crying from the tear gas while studying in class. She adds that her lessons have been cancelled at both institutions over safety risks today. The demonstration in Rennes is now over - but not before protesters lit a large fire in Place Sainte-Anne, according to the prefect of Brittany and Ille-et-Vilaine. Earlier, pictures from AFP showed riot police officers using a water cannon and tear gas in the Place de la Republique during clashes with protesters. In a statement, the prefect said this was used to disperse a "hostile group" that had thrown "numerous projectiles at the police officers" and tried to break through a police cordon. A later statement said the march had continued to the Place Sainte-Anne, where some protestors lit a "large garbage fire". Firefighters intervened under police protection, the prefect added. All through the day, thousands of protesters have moved around this city, stopping momentarily to chant, only then to move on as the police have changed direction. A few moments ago, we watched as a group of masked protesters grabbed bollards and bins and tried to barricade themselves off from police. Riot officers fired tear gas, and the protesters dispersed. I can feel it in my throat and eyes here. Tear gas lingers in the air for some time. It's a sign of how volatile this situation is - and how, for the moment, the government response hasn't contained this. A sudden excitement in the crowd at the Place de la République – then the chant goes up: "Mélenchon Président!" It's the veteran head of the France Unbowed (LFI) party Jean-Luc Mélenchon. He is lionised by this young left-wing audience, and as he moves about people press round for a glimpse. This is the man accused by the government of fomenting trouble for electoral ends. Right now he is either second or third-placed in the presidential race, depending on the polls.

Former German spy chief arrested for espionage and treason



Former German spy chief August Hanning has been arrested on suspicion of espionage, treason and obtaining classified information for a foreign power, the German Federal Prosecutor's Office says. Hanning headed the Federal Intelligence Service (BND) from 1998 to 2005 and has since been working as a private consultant. Prosecutors allege that he used classified intelligence to "draft an analysis" for one foreign intelligence service and maintained contact with another foreign spying service. Investigators have not disclosed which foreign powers were involved. Police also arrested former BND employee Manfred D, accusing him of passing Hanning about 2,000 classified documents for money. Manfred D, who was Hanning's bureau chief and remained in the BND until this year, is charged with aiding and abetting attempted treason and treasonous espionage. Local media reported Hanning was arrested at his home in Nordwalde near Münster while Manfred D was arrested in Bavaria. Hanning is due in court on Wednesday and Manfred D will appear on Tuesday. Prosecutors say Manfred D, who also served as the chief of staff for Hanning's successors between 2012 and 2026, used his role to gain access to highly confidential information which he then passed on to Hanning "in exchange for remuneration". "The current findings suggest that, over the years, Manfred D provided Hanning with approximately 2,000 documents, many of which contained classified information to be used exclusively by the Federal Intelligence Service for internal purposes," the statement says. "On one occasion, Hanning used classified intelligence ... to draft an analysis for an officer of a foreign intelligence service," prosecutors said, noting it was not clear if "the material reached the intended recipient". Hanning is also accused of being "in close contact with a representative of another foreign intelligence service, to whom he passed on political information, partially based on material provided by Manfred D, for several years". Local media say Hanning's alleged possession of intelligence documents came to light during a separate case relating to German steakhouse heiress Christina Block. Hamburg public prosecutor's office accused Block of orchestrating the kidnapping of her two youngest children in 2023 due to a custody dispute. Investigators allege Hanning was involved in an earlier attempted kidnapping of the children, which he denies. State criminal police officers reportedly discovered an electronic data storage device containing sensitive information including recent BND documents. It is not the first time the BND has faced similar controversy. A high-ranking German intelligence officer was charged with treason in 2023 for allegedly passing state secrets to Russia. Prosecutors alleged Carsten L shared intelligence about the war in Ukraine and the Wagner mercenary group and received roughly 400,000 ($450,000; £340,000). His trial is ongoing.

Lawyer for one of Cornell 7 calls for special prosecutor to be removed over previous comments



A lawyer for one of the seven men accused of participating in a Cornell University gang rape has called for the special prosecutor on the case to recuse herself over past public comments. The lawyer had said a social media post from New York Attorney General Letitia James throws into question her investigation's "integrity and independence". In the 28 September post, James wrote that "what this young woman has been forced to endure is horrific and unacceptable" and told survivors that "we stand with you". The university's administration is under fire over its alleged mishandling of the October 2024 incident and, according to US media, now faces a no-confidence vote by Cornell faculty. The university's Faculty Senate, a governing body comprised of professors and other academic staff, will vote on a resolution of no confidence next week, according to reports. Cornell is an Ivy League university, alongside Harvard and Yale, and its faculty includes Nobel laureates and other distinguished researchers. A majority no-confidence vote would be a largely symbolic gesture, signalling the broader faculty's discontent and applying pressure on university leadership to act. The BBC has reached out to Cornell University for comment. Allegations made in a lawsuit against seven men and the university have rocked the campus in New York state, with hundreds of students and faculty members gathering there on Monday in protest, and sparked anger across the country.

SHIP SINKS AND CREW MISSING AFTER BLACK SEA DRONE ATTACK



A civilian cargo ship has sunk and its crew is missing after being attacked by drones in the Black Sea, Bulgarian officials say. A second vessel - carrying grain - was also hit within Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone, Prime Minister Rumen Radev said. Its 18 crew were rescued. Radev did not say who was behind the attacks, which come as Russia intensifies strikes in the Black Sea, particularly the eastern side, as part of its war against Ukraine. Moscow has not commented on the latest incident, a day after it was accused by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky of striking a civilian vessel carrying corn. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the attacks were "unacceptable". Air and sea drones were involved in the attacks at about 03:00 (23:00 GMT), some 70 miles (112 km) off the coastal town of Byala in eastern Bulgaria, Radev said. The sunken ship was flying under the flag of Togo, he said. Named the Alfa Watan, it was a Turkish-owned general cargo ship and was reportedly heading for Sulina, Romania. It is not clear what the Alfa Watan was carrying or how many people were on board. A Bulgarian vessel was close by, but when they arrived all they saw was an overturned boat and rafts as well as life jackets. A search operation has been launched. Radev said Bulgarian sailors had rescued the crew members from the second ship - including two who were injured in a fire on board. Eleven were Turkish and seven Indian nationals. That ship, the Able, was flying the flag of Palau and transporting grain. Its last reported position was five nautical miles (9km) from the Alfa Watan. Radev condemned the strikes as "a flagrant violation of maritime law". He told reporters: "Such an attack within the Bulgarian exclusive economic zone is absolutely unacceptable." He did not accuse Russia of carrying out the strikes, but referred to the war in Ukraine, saying: "As I have long maintained, if this war is not halted in time, it will continue to expand its geographical reach and increase risks, including the risk of a global conflict." European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen wrote on X: "The situation in the Black Sea is increasingly concerning. "Commercial ships – and innocent crews – are being targeted, with lives already lost at sea," she said. "While exact circumstances of these incidents are still being established, the developments are very concerning." "Attacks on civilian shipping are unacceptable." Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone in the Black Sea is just over 29,000 sq km (11,197 sq miles), about 6% of the total size of the Black Sea. A separate attack on Tuesday, near Odesa, saw a crew member killed and seven more injured. The ship was flying the flag of the Marshall Islands, according to Ukrainian media.

'GHOST PARTICLES' FROM SPACE TELESCOPE WINS PHYSICS NOBEL



Belgian-born physicist Prof Francis Halzen has won the Nobel Prize in Physics for his pioneering work on an observatory that detects particles from space, shedding light on the distant universe. Halzen led the development of IceCube at the South Pole, which uses a cubic kilometre of Antarctic ice fitted with light sensors to detect particles called neutrinos. These carry information about violent, high-energy processes in the cosmos. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said "his vision and scientific leadership have been fundamental for the IceCube Neutrino Observatory". He first presented his vision for detecting neutrinos at the South Pole in 1988. Halzen, who is now a US citizen at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, told a news conference that he was surprised his idea worked so well. "I have to emphasise how lucky I was. Because when we started this project, everybody realised this was maybe a good idea, but very few thought it would work, including myself." Belgian-born physicist Prof Francis Halzen has won the Nobel Prize in Physics for his pioneering work on an observatory that detects particles from space, shedding light on the distant universe.



Fear and disruption for Ukraine's rail passengers as Russia escalates drone attacks

White House defends Trump comment to let Iran 'take out' LA and San Diego



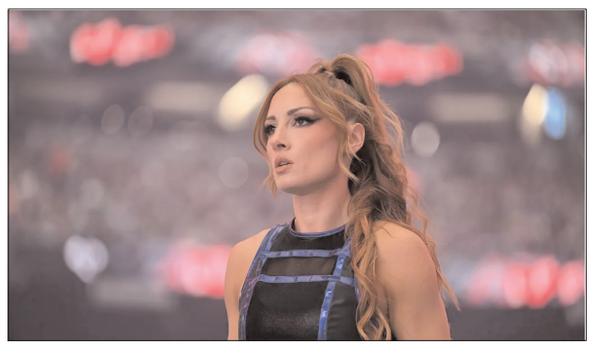
Donald Trump's remark that Iran could "take out" Los Angeles and San Diego has sparked fierce backlash from California politicians - and a strongly worded rebuttal from the White House. California Governor Gavin Newsom condemned the comment - made by Trump at an election campaign rally in Nebraska - as "deranged and dangerous," while LA Mayor Karen Bass described them as threats and an attempt to "encourage attacks on American lives". According to the White House, however, Trump was saying that American cities would have been threatened by Iran had he not launched a war there earlier this year. Both LA and San Diego house major US military installations including Navy ports and Air Force bases. While speaking in Nebraska about the Iran conflict, he said: "It's a small price to pay for keeping the world safe, keeping our country safe. They can take out a city. Let them take out Los Angeles, let them take out San Diego." There were cheers from sections of the audience as the comments about the two Californian cities were made. San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria wrote that the city was not collateral damage in a post on X, while demanding Trump keep it out of his "reckless war talk". In a second post on his official governor of California X account, Newsom shared an article on the comments from the Los Angeles Times saying it was "disgusting and disqualifying". Trump is yet to respond to the statements made by California's leaders. In a post on X, White House Communications Director Stephen Cheung described the "media freakout" over Trump's comments as "not rooted in reality". "He was clearly stating US cities would have been threatened if a nuclear Iran hadn't been stopped," Cheung wrote. "America is safer because of the President. Iran has no nuclear, no navy, no air force, and no money". The president and other administration officials often claim that disrupting Iran's nuclear programme was essential for US national security, and that any issues that have stemmed from the conflict were necessary. A separate X post, from the official White House rapid response account, described journalists from the Los Angeles Times reporting on the comments as "buffoons" and again pushed back on the characterisation of the comments by Newsom and others.

SOUTH AFRICA HOPE TO HOST FIRST AFRICAN OLYMPICS



The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has confirmed South Africa have shown an interest in becoming the first African host of the summer Olympics in 2036. Hungary, India, Qatar and Turkey are also working towards becoming first-time hosts, while Germany and South Korea are in discussions with the IOC having held previous summer Games. The IOC stated that the seven countries are engaged in "continuous dialogue" with the governing body and have set a deadline of 31 October for submissions of stated interest. Virtual presentations will be given by interested parties to the body's future host commission in November, with IOC feasibility assessments to be carried out by March 2027. After that, the national Olympic committees, all of whom have previously announced an intention to explore hosting bids, will enter strategic dialogue with the IOC. The South Africa proposal involves hosting between three cities - Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. Durban had been set to host the Commonwealth Games in 2022, but withdrew in 2017. Ahmedabad, which will welcome the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and has bid for the 2038 Asian Games, will be the host city in India's bid. The city has also staged four of the last five finals in cricket's Indian Premier League at its Narendra Modi stadium, which is reported to have a capacity of 132,000 and is named after the current prime minister of India, who hails from the city. Budapest and Doha, the capital cities of Hungary and Qatar respectively, are the hosts in their country's bids. Qatar hosted football's 2022 World Cup, with multiple stadia in the capital, while Budapest has staged the 2022 World Aquatics Championships and 2023 World Athletics Championships. Istanbul is the nominated city in Turkey's bid, having previously bid unsuccessfully for the 2000, 2008 and 2020 Games. The largest city in Turkey will host the 2027 European Games. Germany has hosted the Olympics in 1936 and 1972, in Berlin and Munich respectively, while the latter city is bidding again for 2036. Meanwhile South Korea capital Seoul, which hosted the Games in 1988, is part of a bid that also involves the province of North Jeolla. The IOC also confirmed that a number of national Olympic committees are taking part in non-committal talks with the IOC about hosting future Olympic Games beyond 2036. The UK government said in May that it is in "discussions about supporting potential bids" for the Olympics and Paralympics in the 2040s. The 2028 Games will be held in Los Angeles, while Australia will host the Olympics for the first time in 32 years when Brisbane stages the event in 2032.

Stephanie Vaquer Posts Bold Photo After WWE RAW As Becky Lynch Sends Warning To Women's Champion



Stephanie Vaquer had more than one reason to celebrate after WWE RAW, and she showed it pretty clearly when the show was over. The Women's World Champion put a non-PG photo on her Instagram Story, with the title around her waist and Two Feet's "Go F*ck Yourself" playing as the soundtrack. It came after a chaotic main event with Becky Lynch and Liv Morgan, where Vaquer ended up attacking both women. Then she got Adam Pearce to make a Triple Threat Match for Money in the Bank. And Lynch also had a message ready for the champion backstage. Stephanie Vaquer Posts Non-PG Photo With WWE Title The Instagram Story came after a rough night for Vaquer. Lynch and Morgan were fighting in a No. 1 Contender's Match, and Vaquer stepped in when The Judgment Day got involved. She wanted the match to stay fair, but things went sideways very quickly. Lynch accidentally took out Vaquer during the contest. For La Primera, this was enough, and her patience was gone. Vaquer attacked both Lynch and Morgan, so the referee had to stop the match. Later, she went looking for Adam Pearce and demanded to face both women for the Women's World Championship. Pearce agreed. He booked Vaquer vs. Lynch vs. Morgan for Money in the Bank. Her Instagram post then showed Vaquer with the championship around her waist. The song choice was quite direct: "Go F*ck Yourself" by Two Feet. She added no separate written message to the Story. Still, a song like this speaks without words, especially after her clash with Lynch and Morgan. Vaquer is the champion after she defeated Morgan at a WWE Live Event in Santiago, Chile. Lynch was the guest referee for that match, and she played a role in the title change. Becky Lynch Warns Vaquer Ahead Of Money In The Bank Lynch didn't leave RAW without talking about what happened. In a backstage promo, The Man admitted she was not exactly sure how she feels about Vaquer after the attack.

Suryakumar Yadav Dropped By Mumbai, Selectors Name Teenage Star As New Vice-Captain For Ranji Trophy



After being left out of all three of Team India's squads in international cricket, Suryakumar Yadav's career hit an all-new low as he was dropped from Mumbai's Ranji Trophy squad for the opening clash against Chandigarh. The bold call was taken by the selectors despite the fact that Suryakumar made himself available for selection. Mumbai, who are set to begin their Ranji Trophy campaign on October 11, have picked teenage batter Ayush Mhatre as the vice-captain of the side for the curtain-raiser. According to a report in Cricbuzz, the selectors aim to groom the 19-year-old as a future captain following his success in leading India to the Under-19 World Cup title, despite his limited experience of just 13 first-class matches over two years. Meanwhile, Indian opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has been named in the 16-man squad led by Siddhesh Lad after confirming his availability for the opening fixture. However, former India T20I captain Suryakumar was left out, with the selectors reportedly not being convinced of his red-ball form. The report further claimed that Suryakumar did send a message to the Ramesh Powar-led Mumbai selection committee, yet wasn't considered. Suryakumar, who last featured in a competitive match in June during the Mumbai T20 league, is running out of options to revive his career. Earlier this year, he was sacked as India's T20I captain despite winning the World Cup in the format and was replaced by Shreyas Iyer. "He is obviously a big-match player and a proven performer for Mumbai. We just want him to get into rhythm by playing a few red-ball matches. Surya hasn't played a red-ball match for the last 18 months, so we want him to have a few games under his belt, and then he can get into the team," Pawar said, explaining Suryakumar's absence from the Ranji Trophy team. It was interesting to see that Sarfaraz Khan, a proven performer for Mumbai over the years and a senior name.

Ganguly Lands IPL Head Coach Job, Delhi Capitals Make Grand Announcement



Sourav Ganguly, one of the greatest captains India has produced, has taken up his first assignment as the head coach of an Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise, having been appointed for the role by the Delhi Capitals (DC) ahead of the IPL 2027 season. Ganguly, who previously served as the franchise's Director of Cricket and mentored the side in past editions, takes over following the departure of the coaching setup led by Hemang Badani. Ganguly previously served as part of the coaching staff at DC when Ricky Ponting was the head coach of the franchise. Having recently taken on his maiden coaching assignment with SA20's Pretoria Capitals, Ganguly brings a wealth of tactical acumen and administrative experience, including past tenures as BCCI President as well as the head of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB). His familiarity with the core squad, coupled with his reputation as an aggressive leader, is expected to give the franchise a new direction in the hunt for its maiden IPL title, having failed to taste glory since the inaugural edition of the T20 league in 2008. Making the grand announcement, the Delhi Capitals shared a video on social media, confirming that 'Dadagiri' is going to rule the franchise in the IPL 2027 season onwards. In the video, Ganguly said that the time for him to watch from the sidelines is over. He now wants a real piece of action as the head coach of the franchise. "You think there comes a time when you've done enough, seen enough, achieved enough, when you can step back, watch from the sidelines, guide, believe, and for a while, that's enough. At least, that's what I thought. But every now and then, something reminds you why you started. For me, this team did. Delhi has been waiting for its time. It's time now for Delhi. Tiger is back," Ganguly can be heard saying in the video. Delhi Capitals chairman and co-owner Parth Jindal welcomed Ganguly's appointment while also highlighting his long-standing association with the franchise and his leadership credentials.

Coco Gauff Calls Out Online Racism Following China Open Video Review



American tennis star Coco Gauff said Tuesday she faced an "insane" amount of online racist abuse after defeating Chinese teenager Sun Xinran in a match that included a video review. During Monday's China Open match against 16-year-old Sun Xinran in Beijing, the former US Open champion requested a video review over flickering LED lights, prompting some boos from the crowd. "Hey everyone, you can dislike me or disagree about what happened without being racist," Gauff wrote on X. "The amount of racist comments and messages I've received in the last few hours is insane," her post read. The umpire agreed for the point to be replayed, and 22-year-old Gauff went on to win the match 7-5, 6-1. Responding on X to a post containing a racial slur that was flagged as potential "hateful content", the Black American player clarified in a separate post that she challenged the point before Sun's return when she noticed the lights flicker a second time. "I think it's weird I'm getting hate for following the rules," she said, explaining that players are instructed they can challenge points after play has concluded. "Xinran is an incredible talent and player. I apologised for the situation at the end of the match, and she completely understood," she added. By Tuesday morning, the hashtag "Gauff apologised to Sun Xinran after the match" had hit 4.5 million views.

Former World No 1 Rohan Bopanna Returns as Tennis Premier League Unveils Marquee Stars

Former world No. 1 Rohan Bopanna and 2023 Australian Open men's doubles winner Rinky Hijikata were on Tuesday revealed as the marquee players of their respective teams in the Tennis Premier League (TPL) ahead of the player auction on October 12 in Mumbai. Bopanna will represent the Gurgaon Grand Slammers. "Every year, the league gets stronger, and I love the team environment and energy the format brings. This year, the competition will be very high, with a great mix of experienced players and young Indian talent," said Bopanna.



"Ask for Forgiveness": Rio Ferdinand Explodes At Portugal Boss Jorge Jesus Over Cristiano Ronaldo Treatment



Former England and Manchester United legend Rio Ferdinand launched a scathing attack on Portugal boss Jorge Jesus, accusing him of mistreating legendary striker Cristiano Ronaldo and saying that he must "ask for forgiveness". The Al Nassr star left the national team camp early after a breakdown in communication during the UEFA Nations League, with the 41-year-old's role under Jorge, who was also part of Al Nassr's trophy-winning set-up with Cristiano, coming under question. Tensions reached their peak when Portugal played Norway. Ahead of the match, Cristiano was instructed to warm up with the expectation of featuring later in the contest. However, Jorge eventually decided against bringing him on, leaving the legendary striker frustrated on the bench. While Jorge claimed that Cristiano was left out for tactical reasons, it only added to the growing rift between the once-close coach-player pair. Ferdinand, Cristiano's teammate at Manchester United from 2003 to 2009, jumped to the legend's defence, saying on his 'Rio Presents' podcast, as quoted by Goal.com: "Cristiano Ronaldo was put in a very bad situation and was treated in an inappropriate way. He has an enormous history in football. Jorge Jesus did not deal with Ronaldo well and chose to treat him in that way, but I cannot find any explanation for it. This manager thinks he is Alex Ferguson or Pep Guardiola." "I do not know why he puts himself among the great managers. I cannot find an explanation for it. He should have shown Cristiano Ronaldo the respect he deserved," he added. Ferdinand argued that the fallout between Cristiano and Jorge was rooted in poor management and a failure to give the superstar a clearly defined role. He said it had created an environment of uncertainty that mirrored previous struggles within the team's dressing room during major tournaments.

Harmanpreet Quits As Indian Women's Team Captain In All Formats After BCCI Meeting



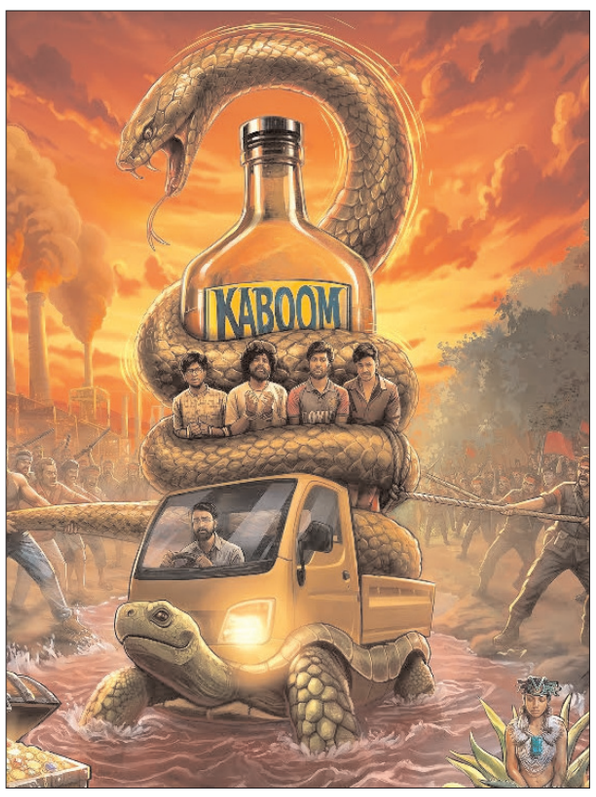
Indian women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur has officially stepped down as captain in all formats. The decision marks the end of a defining era that delivered historic breakthroughs, including India's ODI World Cup victory and Asian Games gold, while opening the door for long-time vice-captain Smriti Mandhana to usher in a new leadership phase. The big announcement came after a Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) review meeting in Guwahati to evaluate the team's performances in the past few months and the roadmap for the future. Chaired by BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, the meeting was attended by Harmanpreet, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana and head coach Amol Muzumdar. While it isn't known if Harmanpreet was persuaded to take such a decision in the meeting, the timing of the decision does leave the cricket fraternity guessing.

In a lengthy post on social media, Harmanpreet shared that it was not an easy decision but the time had come for her to step down, having given everything to the national team for years. It was in 2016 that Harmanpreet first took on the responsibility as India's captain, having previously filled the role on a temporary basis.

"Today, I step down as captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team across all formats. This is not an easy decision. It carries years of memories, emotions, sacrifices, and moments that will stay with me for the rest of my life. "I have given everything I had to this team and to Indian women's cricket - my blood, my sweat, my time, and many times, a part of my own game and personal ambitions. There were moments when I had to put my individual performance, my own growth, and what I wanted for myself aside, because I believed the team had to come first," she wrote in the post.

FROM CULT BOYS TO A CRAZY NEW WORLD:

‘HUSHARU 2’ ANNOUNCED WITH BIGGER AMBITION AND DOUBLE THE MADNESS



The boys are back — but this time, they are taking their madness somewhere no one expected. The makers of the 2018 youth favourite ‘Husharu’ have officially announced ‘Husharu 2’, bringing the cult franchise back with a fresh story, a larger world and a completely new adventure. With Sree Harsha Konuganti returning as writer-director, the sequel promises to retain the friendship and youthful energy of the original while pushing the entertainment into a more unexpected space. The title announcement poster itself sets the tone. A truck carrying the familiar Kaboom beer is caught in an extraordinary visual spectacle, with a giant snake coiling around it, a turtle beneath it, a treasure chest overflowing with gold and a factory looming in the background. The five friends find themselves right in the middle of this madness. The imagery even brings to mind the legendary Samudra Manthan, making the poster an intriguing first clue to the strange and colourful world the sequel is creating.

At the heart of ‘Husharu 2’ are five ambitious friends who find themselves at a low point after losing everything during COVID. Looking for a way to turn their fortunes around, they venture into Chittragunj with an audacious business idea involving an agave-based tequila distillery. What begins as an attempt to build a future for themselves soon opens the door to a world of unexpected complications, giving the friends another wildly unpredictable journey to navigate. The sequel brings back the creative force behind the original, with Sree Harsha Konuganti once again writing and directing. His return ensures that the franchise's signature combination of friendship, contemporary humour and youthful chaos remains at its core, while the new setting allows the filmmaker to take the concept in a fresh direction.

The film features Rahul Ramakrishna, Ashok Galla, Ravi Anthony, Dinesh Tej, Sasidhar Kocharlakota, Vidhi Yadhav, Abhignya Vuthuluru, Bhagwan Tiwari, Jatin Goswami and Rajai Rowan.

Produced by Rahul Varma, K. Veena Rani and K. Hanumant Raju, with Komatireddy Sharan Reddy as co-producer, the film is backed by Caveman Stories, HK Films and Kaliyuga Vaaradha Creations.

’Haiku’ Trailer Embellishes the Feel-Good Rom-Com with Heartwarming Emotions and Charming Humour



Aegan, Sridevi and Femina George-starrer promises a delightful blend of romance, humour and an underlying message.

The season of feel-good Rom-Coms continue to find favour with audiences, bringing stories filled with warmth, humour and emotions to the big screen. Joining the list is Haiku, an endearing romantic comedy that promises to strike a balance between youthful fun and a meaningful emotional core. Starring Aegan, Sridevi and Femina George in the lead roles, the film is written and directed by Yuvaraj Chinnaswamy and produced by Dr. D. Arulanandhu and Mathewo Arulanandhu under the banner of Vision Cinema House. With the film scheduled to hit theatres worldwide on October 23, its trailer has now been unveiled and is receiving a warm response. Running for 145 seconds, the trailer introduces audiences to a vibrant college setting, picturesque visuals and a love story at its centre. The film's intriguing premise revolves around Mano, the only boy in a women's college, setting the stage for a series of humorous and unexpected situations. The trailer gives glimpses of the chemistry, comic situations and emotional undercurrents that shape the narrative.

Sridevi, who made a notable impression with Court: State Vs Nobody, catches the eye with her natural screen presence, while Femina George adds another layer of charm and elegance to the proceedings. Together with Aegan, the lead cast brings an engaging energy to the film, with the trailer offering glimpses of the relationships and situations that drive the story.

Speaking about Haiku, actor Aegan says, “It’s a feel-good rom-com, but there is a deeper layer beneath it. After watching #Dorothy, many people have changed their perception and started looking at the choices and individuality of others with greater respect. Similarly, Haiku conveys a beautiful message about how men can change their perception towards women and understand the importance of respecting them. However, the film is not going to preach anything. It is a fun-filled entertainer with a message woven into the narrative, and I believe it will leave a lasting impression on audiences after they step out of the theatres.”

While Aegan, Sridevi and Femina George headline the film, the ensemble cast also includes Adirchi Arun, Subramaniya Sethu, Adhiyaman, Mime Gopi and Indhumathi Manigandan, among others.

Srichakraas Entertainment and Mahayana Banners Unveil the Title and First Look Poster of “Attahaasam”



Srichakraas Entertainment, the production house behind the blockbuster film KA, is joining hands with Mahayana to produce Attahaasam, directed by Venkatesh Maha, who made the superhit film C/O Kancharapalem. The film is presented by Chinta Varalaxmi and produced by Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy and Rajashekar Reddy Chinta, with Chinta Vineesha Reddy serving as co-producer.

Venkatesh Maha, Karthik Ratnam, Pavani Karanam and Sravanthi Peepakayala are playing the lead roles in the film. The makers unveiled the title and first look poster of Attahaasam today. The intriguing captions on the poster immediately sparked curiosity about the characters and the situations they find themselves in. Attahaasam is being made as a real, rooted and authentic entertainer. The film is set to have its theatrical release in Summer next year.

‘JIM JIM THAARA SONG’: ‘PARNASHALA’ TEAM’S MIND-BLOWING MARKETING STRATEGY!



One song creates a social media buzz for the ‘Parnashala’ team In an era where filmmakers often rely on massive promotional budgets, star power, social media influencers, reels and promotional events to generate buzz ahead of a film’s release, the team of a small film has chosen a completely different route.

With just one creative idea, the team has managed to cut down on heavy promotional expenses while taking the film directly to the audience. The innovative marketing strategy by the team of ‘Parnashala’, produced under the SLT Films banner, is now attracting attention in Tollywood circles. The horror-comedy film’s song ‘Jim Jim Thaara’ has become a talking point in the industry. As part of the film’s promotions, the makers came up with an unconventional promotional idea that has received an unexpected response. After getting Lakshmi Devi to sing the song, the team decided to make ‘Jim Jim Thaara’ the central weapon of their promotional campaign.

The promotional move has now triggered an interesting conversation on social media. ‘Jim Jim Thaara’ reaches people even before the reels! One of the biggest advantages for the ‘Parnashala’ team is that the song is reaching audiences without relying heavily on paid promotions or expensive influencer campaigns.

Anil Ravipudi Launched Highly Entertaining Teaser Of National Award-Winning Director Vegesna Satish’s Saripoyaru Iddaroo



National Award-winning director Vegesna Satish, known for delivering wholesome and family-oriented entertainers such as Shatamanam Bhavathi, is back with another promising entertainer, Saripoyaru Iddaroo. Young actors Meghamsh Sri Hari and Yashwin Vegesna play the lead roles, with Riddhi Kumar and Megha Chowdhury essaying the female leads. Veteran Actors Dr. Rajendra Prasad and V.K. Naresh is set to appear in prominent roles. The film is produced by Sadath and Muni Shiva under the Happy Ox Entertainment & MS Varahi Creations and Satamaanambhavati Arts banners. Today, blockbuster director Anil Ravipudi launched the film’s teaser.

The teaser introduces two youngsters who are poles apart and seemingly cannot stand each other. It opens with a high-energy fistfight between the protagonists, immediately setting up their intense rivalry and promising plenty of entertainment. Adding an interesting twist to their equation, both youngsters have their respective love interests. Their romantic tracks bring a lighter and more colourful dimension to the story, while their rivalry forms the core of the narrative. However, the conflict is not restricted to the younger generation. Their fathers, played by Dr. Rajendra Prasad and V.K. Naresh, too shares a strained relationship and is equally hostile towards one another. The teaser therefore hints at a story where the rivalry between two youngsters is closely intertwined with a long-standing feud between their fathers. With humour, romance, action, emotions and family dynamics coming together, Saripoyaru Iddaroo promises to be a wholesome entertainer with something for audiences across age groups.

Director Vegesna Satish, who has a proven knack for blending humour and emotions in a relatable manner, appears to have once again focused on keeping the narrative engaging and entertaining. The teaser maintains a lively pace while offering glimpses into the characters, their relationships and the conflicts that drive the story.

Meghamsh Sri Hari and Yashwin Vegesna bring plenty of energy and enthusiasm to their respective roles. Their chemistry as rivals comes through strongly in the confrontation scenes, while the teaser also showcases their romantic sides. Riddhi Kumar and Megha Chowdhury make a convincing impression as the female leads and add further colour to the narrative.

“MAYOOKHA” SET FOR A GRAND WORLDWIDE THEATRICAL RELEASE ON THE 9TH OF THIS MONTH



Mayookha” is an upcoming thriller starring Payal Chengappa in the lead role. The film is produced by Sasidhar Nalla under the Prashvitha Entertai9ment banner and directed by Sri Tej S.K. “Mayookha” is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on the 9th of this month. The makers have recently announced an exciting update regarding the film’s overseas release. Cognier Cine Creations will be releasing “Mayookha” overseas on a grand scale. Presented as a unique thriller, “Mayookha” has already captured the audience’s attention with its promotional content.

‘ANAKAPALLI’ WILL BE A DASARA DHAMAKA – LAGADAPATI SRIDHAR



The raw and rustic film ‘Anakapalli’, produced by Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina under the banners of Bhavya Sri Movie Makers and Nakkina Narratives, is receiving an excellent response following its release on October 2. Vikram Sahidev, Sandhya Vasishta and Tarak Ponnappa play key roles in the film, which is directed by Khagesh Tammineni. Kandregula Kumar Raja is the co-producer, while Thrinadha Rao Nakkina has provided the story and screenplay. A Thank You Meet was organised on Tuesday to celebrate the film’s encouraging response.

Comrade Kalyan Trailer Promises A Fun-Filled, Yet Revolutionary Period Drama

King Of Entertainment Sree Vishnu is coming up with Comrade Kalyan that brings together period flavour, romance, comedy, emotion and a revolutionary backdrop. Directed by Janakiram Marella and presented by Kona Venkat, the film is produced by Venkata Krishna Karnati and Seetha Karnati under Skanda Vahana Motion Pictures LLP. The movie is slated for a theatrical release on October 9th, and following the curiosity generated by its glimpse, teaser and songs, the makers have now released its theatrical trailer.

Kalyan owns a local theatre, while his mother is a die-hard fan of Nandamuri Balakrishna. His otherwise simple and cheerful life takes an interesting turn when he falls in love with an Odia girl, but the language barrier becomes a major hurdle in their relationship. The biggest twist arrives when the police start hunting for Kalyan, who is revealed to be a most-wanted Naxalite. In a daring move, Kalyan and his gang kidnap a powerful politician, seeking the release of their Naxalite comrades from prison.



This unexpected turn gives the story a serious and intriguing dimension, especially considering its otherwise lighthearted setup.

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