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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

06-10-2026



Total pilgrims :73,629
Tonsures : 27,525
Hundi kanukalu : 5.33 CR
Laddu sale... 3.91 Lac
Annaprasadam.1.75 Lac
Ashwini hospital..3,334
Present Situation on 07-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..31.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...12 H.



Nation News

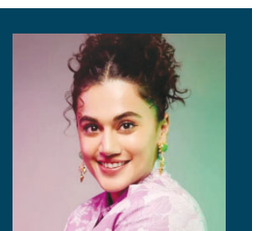
Mithun Chakraborty appointed advisor to Information & Cultural Affairs Dept

France halts use of stun grenades after boy's hand blown off in student protests



WORLD NEWS

Taapsee Pannu Serves Sparkle In Stunning Looks



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

4 STUDENTS DIE AFTER ENTERING WATER TANK

Mathura : At least four students died, and another was critically injured after they entered a 12-foot-deep water tank at Vrindavan Gurukulam in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district, with toxic gas suspected to have caused the deaths. The incident took place at Vrindavan Gurukulam, a residential institution where children stay and study. According to the information available, five students entered the tank and were subsequently pulled out after they failed to come back. All five were taken to the hospital, where four were declared dead, while one student is undergoing treatment. Police teams are present at the spot, and authorities are investigating the circumstances that led to the incident.

RBI TO ANNOUNCE REPO RATE DECISION

New Delhi : The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) – led by Governor Sanjay Malhotra – is set to announce its bi-monthly interest rate decision on Wednesday amid challenging factors, including rising inflation and crude oil prices above $100 a barrel driven by Middle East tensions. The six-member committee will conclude its three-day review against a backdrop of escalating domestic inflation and shifting global macroeconomic pressures. Moreover, experts and economists have expected an increase in the repo rate for the first time since February 2023. However, the central bank has kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent. Economists expect the RBI to begin a rate-hiking cycle, bringing forward their earlier call for a December hike.

Rahul, Priyanka, other MPs detained after being forcibly removed from protest site

Gandhi and other MPs and leaders were headed in buses to the Jantar Mantar protest site after they were stopped by the police from proceeding further.

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were forcibly removed on Wednesday by police and were detained after they along with other leaders staged a sit-in at the roundabout near Shangri-La hotel in central Delhi. Gandhi and other MPs and leaders were headed in buses to the Jantar Mantar protest site after they were stopped by the police from proceeding further.

They staged a sit in at the roundabout itself, with Priyanka Gandhi lying on the road along with other women leaders, while carrying a copy of the Constitution.

Security personnel gathered in large numbers at the site and they first forcibly removed Rahul Gandhi, and put him inside a police bus after carrying him on their shoulders.Some of the Congress leaders including Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and Udai Bhanu Chib alighted atop the bus carrying Rahul Gandhi, while Mumtaz Patel sat on its bonnet.

A large posse of women police personnel then started removing Priyanka Gandhi and other women who were lying on the road. They were forcibly removed and put into buses and were taken away from the site.

Opposition MPs earlier held a lunch meeting at a restaurant in central Delhi, from where they headed to the Jantar Mantar protest site in buses. Several other opposition MPs were also detained by the police.

Delhi police stop CM Revanth over Rahul support



NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):
Delhi Police arrested Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and took him to Barakhamba Police Station, according to the information shared.Police also stopped Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy while he was on his way to express solidarity with Gandhi. The developments came as the "Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao" agitation continued for a second consecutive day in the national capital.

Revanth vows to continue fight to protect democracy

HYDERABAD TSIT BUREAU:



Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the struggle to protect the Constitution and people's voting rights would continue from the streets to Parliament until the Opposition's demands were addressed.

He alleged that the BJP-led Union government was attempting to divide citizens into those with voting rights and those without them. He further alleged that the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process was being conducted at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's direction to serve political interests.

Revanth Reddy condemned the arrests of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, describing them as an attack on democracy. He said the government was targeting Opposition leaders instead of addressing the issues raised by them, including the demand for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation.

Drawing a parallel with the historic "Simon Go Back" movement, the Chief Minister said the present agitation under the slogans "SIR Go Back" and "GK Go Back" would continue until Gyanesh Kumar stepped down.

Recalling the farmers' agitation that led to the withdrawal of the farm laws, he said sustained public pressure could compel the government to accept the Opposition's demands. He warned that an escalation of the movement could ultimately put pressure on the Prime Minister to resign.

Revanth Reddy asserted that nobody could take away the voting rights guaranteed to citizens under the Constitution. He alleged that, after using the Enforcement Directorate, CBI and Income Tax Department against political opponents, the Union government was now using the Election Commission for political advantage.

Congress would resist any attempt to delete voters' names and manipulate electoral outcomes, he said. He also alleged that the police treatment of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi reflected the intolerance of Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah towards dissent."This is not merely a Congress agitation.

CM Naidu Meets FM Nirmala in Delhi

Visakhapatnam ■ TSIT:



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during his visit to New Delhi and discussed various issues concerning the State.

The Chief Minister discussed the action plan to be taken district-wise to take forward the Global Horticulture Hub project. He thanked the Union Finance Minister for attending the launch of the GHH project and for taking special interest in its implementation.

Naidu and Sitharaman also discussed issues relating to the Centre-State funding pattern for Externally Aided Projects and the respective financial contributions of the Union and State governments. State Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav and MP Sri Krishnadevarayalu accompanied the Chief Minister during the meeting.

India seeks early anti-terror pact adoption

United Nations ■ (TSIT):



While calling for the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), India has stressed the importance of legal measures to act against all those behind the Pahalgam terrorist massacre.

BJP MP Biplab Kumar Deb said on Tuesday that it was essential to hold to account the perpetrators, organisers, financiers, and sponsors of cross-border terrorism like last year's Pahalgam attack that killed 26 innocent civilians.

The Resistance Front, a proxy of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, took responsibility for the attack. Speaking at the General Assembly's Sixth Committee that deals with international legal matters, Deb strongly reiterated India's right to defend its people against cross-border terrorism.

India has said that Pakistan is a state sponsor of cross-border terrorism, and after the Pahalgam attack, retaliated against terrorist bases operating there under its protection.

An early adoption of the CCIT that has been languishing for 30 years is required to strengthen the international legal framework against terrorism, Deb said. The CCIT proposed by India in 1996 has been blocked by some countries that make an invidious distinction between "good terrorists" and "bad", claiming it should not cover "freedom fighters" who they claim are under the first category.

Deb said that a distinction cannot be made between "good" and "bad" terrorism, and there can be no justification for targeting civilians.

'Politics means nation building to him': Rajnath Singh on PM Modi's 25 years in public service



Ghaziabad, Oct 7 : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public service, stating that for PM Modi, politics is not about forming the government but rather about "nation building".

The Defence Minister made the remarks while addressing the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha' in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad.

"For PM Modi, the meaning of politics was that politics should not be pursued merely to form a government. Rather, politics should be pursued to build the nation and to build society," he said.

He added, "Before Modi ji came to power, the word politics had lost its meaning and essence. Over the last 12 years, the way PM Modi has given it all to serve the people, he has proven that politics is not just a medium to form the government, rather it is a medium to build the nation." Rajnath Singh further said: "You will not find any Prime Minister in the world who has not taken a few days off within a year or two or has not gone on a picnic with his family...I have known Prime Minister Modi for the last 25 years, and I can say with confidence that during these years, whether as Chief Minister or Prime Minister, he has not taken a single day off or stopped working for even a single day. This is his greatest quality."

"I believe that the country needs this kind of a leader today because we intend to transform India into a developed nation, 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047," he asserted.

Singh underlined that India has undergone a massive economic growth in the past 12 years. "Earlier, India used to be at 11th or 12th position in the world. But under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India today stands among the top five economies of the world," he said. "I believe that under PM Modi's leadership, the country will soon be counted among the top three economies of the world," he added.

Pointing to the global economic crisis resulting from the West Asia conflict, the Defence Minister emphasised that the BJP-led government did not allow the country's economic growth to slow down even during this period.

"While the economies of the major countries and major powers of the world are growing at rates of 2 per cent, 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent, even after such a major crisis emerged globally, India's economy is still growing at a rate of 7.8 per cent. This is not an ordinary achievement. I believe this is a remarkable feat in itself," he said.

He further said that earlier, India was not taken seriously on international platforms, "but today if India says something, the world carefully notes what we have to say". "Earlier, small nations, including India, were afraid of hurting powerful nations, but PM Modi never stressed about such things and instead focused on doing whatever it takes for the development of the country," he added.

Trump launches $6.6 billion US shipyard project



Washington, Oct 7 : US President Donald Trump and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth announced a $6.6 billion public-private investment to develop what the administration says will be the largest new shipyard built in the United States since World War II, expanding production of nuclear submarine components and autonomous underwater vessels.

PM Modi gives new slogan for Viksit Bharat 2047

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday gave a new slogan -- "We Will Do It" -- for realising the dream of making India a developed country by 2047, saying the goal will be achieved through visionary policies and hard work.

Addressing the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha' on his completion of 25 years as head of government, Modi also said that one of the biggest challenges the country faces is the division of society along the lines of votes.

> *But when a farmer's field lacks water, does the problem affect only one caste? When there is no electricity, does darkness fall only on one community? The answer is no. If the problem belongs to everyone, the solution must be for everyone,"*

The prime minister said the dream of a developed India that people are seeing today will surely come true. "There is no reason for India to stop. A hundred years ago, there were less than 40 crore of us; today, we are more than 140 crore. The 140 crore citizens together will build a developed India by 2047, and we certainly will. We Will Do It," he said.

"Viksit Bharat by 2047: We Will Do It. Top 3 Economy: We Will Do It. Self-reliant: We Will Do It. Global Manufacturing Hub: We Will Do It. Hosting the Olympics: We Will Do It. Step into space: We Will Do It.

This energy, this enthusiasm, this confidence is extraordinary," he said. Highlighting his government's achievements in different sectors, Modi said what once seemed unimaginable has become possible. Who would have thought that 25 crore people could rise out of poverty within a decade, yet India made it happen, he said.

10 Ahmedabad schools get bomb threats, students sent home early

Ahmedabad, Oct 7 : At least 10 schools in Ahmedabad received bomb threats on Wednesday, prompting authorities to send students home early and deploy police, fire department personnel and bomb detection and disposal teams to the affected campuses. Most of the schools that received the threats are located in the western part of the city. School administrations alerted the authorities after receiving the threats, following which security teams were dispatched to various locations to conduct checks.

Among the schools reportedly affected is Zydus School in the Vejalpur area. The school released students ahead of the departure time after receiving the threat, while police and fire department vehicles were sent to the campus as a precautionary measure.

Schools also began informing parents about the early dispersal of students. Authorities have been carrying out the security checks at the campuses, while further details about the nature and source of the threats were awaited.

Bengal: Mithun Chakraborty appointed advisor to Information & Cultural Affairs Dept



Kolkata, Oct 7 : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Mithun Chakraborty was officially appointed on Wednesday as Advisor to the West Bengal Information & Cultural Affairs Department.

The state government issued an official notification on Wednesday announcing the appointment.

The notification also clarified that the post carries a status equivalent to that of a state Cabinet Minister.

An indication in this regard was given by West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari last month while addressing a programme marking the birth centenary of Bengali screen legend Uttam Kumar.

An official notification on the matter was issued by the state government on Wednesday evening.

The notification stated that the appointment takes immediate effect and will remain in force until further orders.

The notification, signed by the state's Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Agrawal, said that Chakraborty was appointed by order of the Governor and with the approval of the competent authorities.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari is himself in charge of the Information & Cultural Affairs Department.

However, from the notification issued on Wednesday evening, it is not clear what responsibilities Chakraborty will perform as Advisor to the department.

Chakraborty, a former Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member, had severed all ties with Trinamool and also resigned from the Rajya Sabha after several leaders of the party were named in the multi-crore Saradha and Rose Valley chit fund controversies.

He later joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and has since played an important role in campaigning for BJP candidates in various elections, especially the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly elections earlier this year.

Navaratri celebrations announced at Srikalahasti temple



Srikalahasti: Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy Temple has announced that Devi Navaratri festivals will be celebrated with grandeur at Sri Kanakadurga Devi Temple, an affiliated temple situated on Kanakachalam. Local MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy released the publicity brochure related to the programmes on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA expressed the desire that the festivals be conducted with devotion, dedication and grandeur, and suggested all necessary arrangements be made to ensure devotees face no inconvenience. Temple Executive Officer B.K. Venkatesulu stated that arrangements are being made in accordance with the scriptures. Facilities such as darshan, prasadam, drinking water, sanitation and other essential amenities will be provided to devotees during the festivals. Temple Chairman Kotte Sai Prasad, Board Members Gurrappa Setti, TDP leaders, temple officials, staff and others participated in the programme.

AMARAVATI LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2026 CELEBRATES THE POWER OF STORIES



Amaravati: The second edition of the Amaravati Literature Festival (ALF) 2026, hosted by Easwari School of Liberal Arts (ESLA), SRM University–AP, brought together writers, scholars, translators, educators and young minds around the theme of stories and changing times. Inaugurating the festival, Guntur Collector C M Saikanth Varma said every person who walks into his office carries a story, noting the region has been telling stories for over 2,000 years. Tejaswi Podapati, Chairperson, Andhra Pradesh State Creativity and Culture Commission, emphasised the enduring power of words beyond screens. Vice Chancellor Prof. Ch Satish Kumar announced two literary awards from next edition, one national and one for Telugu literature. Keynote speaker Mini Krishnan highlighted translation as a bridge between India's languages. Day one featured conversations with Purnima Tammireddy, Avineni Bhaskar, Madan Meena and Sheela Tomy, alongside book stalls and creative engagements.

Seminar on Digital and AI Technologies for Railway Safety Held



Visakhapatnam, TSIT. South Coast Railway, in association with L2MRail, organised a seminar on the "Use of Digital and Artificial Intelligence Technologies for Railway Safety" at the Zonal Headquarters in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. The seminar was presided over by South Coast Railway General Manager Sandeep Mathur, with Principal Heads of Departments and senior officials participating in the discussions.L2MRail, an IISc-origin deep-tech company specialising in railway safety technologies, made a detailed presentation on the application of digital and AI technologies for improving railway safety.

GITAM, Pfizer Offer Education and Jobs to Rural Women



Visakhapatnam, TSIT. GITAM Deemed University and Pfizer Healthcare India Ltd have jointly launched another batch of a B.Sc. Chemistry programme aimed at providing higher education and employment opportunities to women from rural areas of North Andhra. As part of the initiative, 50 women were selected from around 500 intermediate-qualified candidates through a series of interviews and screening processes. The selected candidates were given admission letters and employment appointment letters at a programme held at GITAM on Wednesday in the presence of their parents. The programme, being conducted under the Pfizer Autonomous Teams initiative, allows students to pursue a B.Sc. Chemistry degree while simultaneously working with Pfizer. The company will bear the students' educational expenses and support them until completion of the degree.

GITAM Registrar Prof. D. Gunasekharan said providing employment along with higher education would encourage more rural women to pursue advanced studies and become economically self-reliant. He appreciated Pfizer for supporting the educational and career aspirations of rural women. Pfizer Healthcare India Ltd Visakhapatnam head Katta Ravichander said candidates were selected purely on merit and would receive full financial support for the course along with employment opportunities. More than 350 women have already benefited from the initiative and secured employment with the company, he said.

GITAM School of Science Director Prof. Chandu Kavitha and Chemistry Department Head Prof. N.V.S. Venugopal appreciated the collaboration and urged Pfizer to extend similar support to GITAM postgraduate programmes. Programme coordinators Dr. G. Ravikumar and Dr. Alice Rinky Robert, along with Pfizer representatives Muralidhar Sharma and Ravikiran, participated in the programme.

Father's Name Should Not Be a Barrier to a Child's Future



Visakhapatnam, TSIT. No child should be denied education, identity documents, welfare benefits or government services due to the absence or non-disclosure of the father's name, Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights member Undavalli Gandhi Babu said. Addressing a national-level meeting organised by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and Children of India Foundation in Bengaluru, he called for a uniform, child-friendly policy to protect the rights, dignity and privacy of children.Gandhi Babu said children whose fathers are unknown, unavailable or cannot be disclosed often face difficulties in obtaining birth certificates, school records and government benefits. Administrative procedures should not become barriers to their fundamental rights, he stressed. He cautioned against entering fictitious father's names in official records merely to complete formalities, as this could create further identity-related problems for children.Sharing his field experience in the erstwhile Khammam district, he said several children born to vulnerable tribal women faced social and administrative difficulties due to the absence of paternal details. His voluntary organisation had provided legal assistance to affected women and children. "A child's future should not depend on whether the child can provide the father's name," Gandhi Babu said, urging governments and institutions to ensure equal access to education, identity, protection and welfare benefits for every child without discrimination.

Zoya launches spice-inspired high jewellery collection



Hyderabad: Zoya, the Tata Group's luxury jewellery atelier, has unveiled Her Again, a High Jewellery collection inspired by India's spices as keepers of memory. The collection draws on turmeric's golden warmth, mace's deep red, cardamom green, saffron and rose to explore a woman's journey back to herself. Rubellite, emerald, Madeira Citrine, Orissa rose garnet, golden heliodor and yellow sapphire form an unexpected, saturated palette shaped through thousands of hours of craftsmanship. Sitarist and composer Anoushka Shankar serves as the campaign's muse, embodying a creative practice rooted in Indian heritage yet globally resonant. Arun Narayan, CEO of Titan Company's Jewellery division, said India offers extraordinary inspiration, and Zoya reinterprets these influences into High Jewellery where meaning and emotional resonance matter as much as rarity and artistry.

KIMS Kurnool doctors correct male breast enlargement in 27-yr old



Kurnool: Doctors at KIMS Hospitals, Kurnool, have successfully treated a 27-year-old man who had developed significant breast enlargement, with the right side more prominent than the left, a condition medically known as gynecomastia. The patient, from Kurnool district, experienced considerable discomfort because of the chest enlargement. He found it difficult to wear T-shirts and felt uncomfortable attending public places and social gatherings. The condition had also affected him psychologically. After seeking treatment at several hospitals without finding a satisfactory solution, he approached the Department of Plastic Surgery at KIMS Hospitals, Kurnool. Following a clinical evaluation, doctors performed bilateral chest liposuction to remove excess fatty tissue and a right-sided subcutaneous mastectomy to remove excess glandular tissue, restoring a more natural and symmetrical chest contour. He recovered uneventfully and was discharged. Consultant Plastic Surgeon Dr. Navya said gynecomastia is relatively common in males and can impact self-confidence and social interactions.

APTRANSCO JMD Inspects Seva Sethu Camp at Gunadala



Visakhapatnam, TSIT : APTRANSCO JMD Surya Sai Praveen Chand visited the Seva Sethu Abhiyan camp organised at Gunadala under the APCPDCL jurisdiction to review the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The JMD inspected various service counters, including registration, awareness, application submission, rooftop solar technical assistance and banking services. He interacted with consumers and enquired about their awareness of the scheme, installation procedures and subsidy benefits.

KIMS doctors remove hook from toddler's airway without surgery



Visakhapatnam: Doctors at KIMS Hospitals, Visakhapatnam, successfully removed a sharp metallic hook lodged in the airway of a 22-month-old boy who aspirated it while playing. The child was brought in by his mother, and a chest X-ray revealed the metallic foreign body in the lower airway. Given his young age and the object's sharp nature, the team performed an emergency rigid bronchoscopy. The hook was found in the right main bronchus and carefully removed without further injury. The child remained stable and was discharged after an uneventful recovery. Consultant Interventional Pulmonologists Dr. Chukka Bharat and Dr. Sri Lakshmi led the treatment, with support from paediatricians and anaesthesiology teams. Dr. Bharat warned that aspirated objects in young children are medical emergencies requiring prompt care, urging parents to keep small, sharp objects out of reach.

Yashoda opens exclusive trigeminal neuralgia clinic



Hyderabad, 7 October 2026: Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, inaugurated an exclusive Trigeminal Neuralgia Clinic on the eve of World Trigeminal Neuralgia Day. Dr. Vijay Kumar, Unit Head, said the condition has a permanent solution through keyhole neuro endoscopic surgery, calling it the success story of 110+ smiles treated. Dr. R. N. Komal Kumar, Senior Neurologist, explained that trigeminal neuralgia resembles an abnormal electrical surge caused by a short circuit, where a blood vessel touches the nerve and triggers severe shooting pain. Dr. Ayya Durai R, Senior Neuro Surgeon, said minimally invasive endoscopic microvascular decompression offers 360-degree visualisation with minimal complications. Patients stay admitted for two days, require a tiny incision, need no hair removal, and recover faster. Surgery is deemed successful only when patients report no pain immediately after the procedure.

Kumaraswamy releases NICE toll figures, alleges Rs.5,500 crore collected



Bengaluru : Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has intensified his criticism of the NICE project, alleging that the company has collected around Rs.5,500 crore through tolls, land transactions and other components despite the project's original estimated cost being substantially lower. Addressing reporters in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy said NICE had collected Rs.4,756 crore through tolls between 2008-09 and 2025. He claimed another Rs.384 crore was realised through land sales and Rs.108 crore through a joint agreement, taking the total collection from different components to about Rs.5,500 crore. Kumaraswamy alleged that toll collection itself was contrary to the terms of the original agreements. According to him, the framework agreement signed on September 4, 2000, specified the work to be undertaken under different sections of the project and provided for toll collection only after completion of the stipulated works.He claimed that the original agreement involved 2,193 acres for the Peripheral Road, while the project had sought a much larger extent of land, including around 7,555 acres of karab land. For the 163-km road, he said, nearly 6,999 acres had been sought. Kumaraswamy further alleged that the framework agreement was subsequently modified through the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority (BMICAPA) in February 2024 without the matter being placed before the Cabinet.

Sting operation warning sparks political war of words in Karnataka



Bengaluru, : A reported warning by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to his Cabinet colleagues about possible sting operations has triggered a political controversy in Karnataka, with Congress leaders offering differing accounts of what was discussed at the Cabinet meeting and the Opposition attacking the government.Minister for Medical Education Dr Sharan Prakash Patil said the information reaching the media about a discussion on sting operations was incorrect. He maintained that no such discussion took place in the manner being reported. However, Deputy Chief Minister Dr G. Parameshwara gave a different response, saying the Chief Minister would have access to information from the Intelligence Department and would not make such a statement without some basis. The issue has provided the Opposition BJP with an opportunity to target the state government. Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka questioned why ministers needed to be cautioned about sting operations if there was nothing to worry about.

Demand to Protect Voters' Rights and Take Appropriate Action: S. Manohar



Bengaluru: KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar has urged for appropriate action to fully protect the rights of eligible voters, amidst a nationwide campaign calling for the dismissal of Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

In a letter addressed to Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, Manohar alleged that BJP leaders are using the Election Commission machinery to deliberately remove the names of eligible voters—specifically those from Dalit, backward class, poor, and minority communities—by filing 'Form 7' applications. He has requested an impartial investigation into the matter and urged that voters' rights be safeguarded.

He stated that BJP workers and leaders are deliberately sending a misleading message to the state and appealed to the Governor to gather information regarding these irregularities and protect the voters.

He noted that the Congress party has repeatedly met the Chief Electoral Officer to urge that the BJP's attempts to strip eligible voters of their voting rights be halted, that genuine voters be protected, and that every citizen be ensured the right to vote.

Supply of Used Cooking Oil Facilitates Value Addition: S.E. Sudhindra



Bengaluru: S.E. Sudhindra, Chairman of the Karnataka State Bio-fuel Development Board, stated that the biofuel policy paves the way for investment in biofuel projects. He noted that, with the cooperation of the Minister for Health and Family Welfare, the initiative would facilitate value addition through the supply of used cooking oil.

At a meeting convened by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. U.T. Khader Farid at the Vidhana Soudha, discussions were held on formulating and implementing regulations to ensure that used cooking oil (UCO)—a key raw material for biofuel—is supplied exclusively to biodiesel production units.

It was brought to the Minister's attention that cooking oil is repeatedly used in hotels, restaurants, and food production units across the state's Tier-1 towns and urban areas, posing adverse health risks to the public. The issue of such used oil being diverted to smaller hotels was also highlighted. It was argued that strict laws must be formulated and immediately implemented to prevent the diversion of used cooking oil and ensure its supply to biodiesel manufacturing industries. Reference was made to the fact that the Department of Food and Civil Supplies has already issued a gazette notification permitting the distribution of biodiesel through dedicated retail outlets in the state.

It was anticipated that such measures would facilitate the supply of large quantities of used cooking oil to biodiesel production units, thereby boosting biodiesel output and aiding the Board in implementing action plans for the state's fuel self-reliance. Responding positively, the Minister suggested that if the Board formulated an appropriate policy—in coordination with the Department of Health and Family Welfare—to mandate the collection, storage, and exclusive use of used cooking oil for biodiesel production, it would be possible to completely prevent the oil from being reused in food preparation. He assured that he would discuss the matter with departmental officials, formulate the necessary legislation, coordinate with other departments, and take steps to ensure successful implementation. Officials present on the occasion included Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey (IAS), Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department; Gurunath Hegde (IAS), Commissioner for Food Safety; Srinivas (IAS), Health Commissioner; Akram Pasha (IAS), Mission Director, National Health Mission; Shivashankar L. (KAS), Managing Director of the Board; Project Consultants Dr. Dayananda G.N. and Prasad Rabbapragada; Nimman Deep Singh, Advisor to the Chairman; and other officials.

Kumaraswamy's Baseless Allegations Expose His Political Frustration



Bengaluru: Ramesh Babu, KPCC Chairman Media and Communication Department, said that H.D. Kumaraswamy's allegation that former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was removed from office by Congress leaders through a "sting operation" is nothing but a politically motivated and baseless attempt to create confusion within the Congress party. HDK is famous for hit and run case.The people of Karnataka know the political history of Shri Siddaramaiah, his stature, his mass support and his contribution to the State. His political position has never depended on secret operations or conspiracies. Congress is a democratic organisation where political decisions are taken through established constitutional and party processes.It is ironic that Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy, who has himself faced serious political controversies involving alleged recordings, phone tapping, sting operations and attempts to protect political positions, is now preaching lessons on political morality to others.His present statements appear less like concern for Siddaramaiah and more like an attempt to please his political allies in the BJP and safeguard his position in the Union Government. The people of Karnataka can clearly understand the political compulsions behind such statements.

Kumaraswamy should first put his own political house in order instead of manufacturing imaginary conspiracies within the Congress. Congress does not need certificates from Kumaraswamy about its leadership or internal democracy.The Congress party stands firmly united behind its leadership and its democratic traditions. Attempts to create divisions within Congress through politically motivated statements will not succeed. Kumaraswamy should remember: Karnataka's people are watching not only what he says, but also why he says it and whom he is trying to please.

CMRIT Hosts 7th Edition of State-Level Inter-Collegiate Sports Meet 'SPARDHA 2026'



Bengaluru : CMR Institute of Technology (CMRIT) inaugurated the 7th edition of SPARDHA 2026, its state-level inter-collegiate annual sports meet, bringing together over 5000+ athletes from 60 colleges across Karnataka, representing more than 100 teams. The four-day sporting extravaganza, being held from October 7 to 10, 2026, provides young athletes a vibrant platform to showcase their sporting talent, competitive spirit and teamwork. The sports fest was inaugurated by Shri. Jayadeep K.R. Reddy, Pro Chancellor of CMR University and CEO, CMR Group of Institutions, who formally inaugurated the event by watering a sapling. He was joined by Dr. Sanjay Jain, Principal, CMRIT, Dr. B. Narasimha Murthy, Vice Principal, Dr. Chitra, Dean, Mr. Shobhit, Sports Director, along with participating athletes.

Addressing the participants, Shri. Jayadeep K.R. Reddy said, "We are looking forward to see your talent, energy and competitive spirit shine today. And when you achieve something extraordinary, we'll be right there to celebrate it and share your success with the world." SPARDHA 2026 features 13 sporting disciplines, with students from colleges across Karnataka competing for sporting honours.

The competitions include Kabaddi, Football, Kho-Kho, Basketball, Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess, Volleyball, Tug-of-War and Throwball, with several disciplines featuring separate men's and women's categories.

TAAI marks 75th anniversary



Bengaluru : The 75th year Double Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), India's oldest and most prominent travel association, was hosted by the TAAI Karnataka Chapter at Bengaluru on the 6th of October 2026.

The event was held at the Holiday Inn Race Course road, Bengaluru, with the theme, "Honouring Our Legacy, Inspiring the Future." Recognised as the strongest voice of the travel and tourism industry, the association consists of more than 2500 travel agents, tour operators and allied service providers.

TAAI National Office Bearers – Mr. R. Sunil Kumar – President, Mr. Bettaiah Lokesh – Vice President, Mr. Shreeram Patel – Hon. Secretary General, Mr. Paras Lakhia – Hon. Treasurer and Mr. Amish Desai – Member National Managing Committee, graced the occasion. The President Mr. R. Sunil Kumar in his address reiterated the strength of TAAI and its 75 years of leadership, service, trust and excellence and the commitment of TAAI to lead the tourism industry with innovation, new vision, clear purpose and excellence.

He mentioned that TAAI consists of members of great calibre and that over 600 membership applications were on waitlist given the stringent vetting process adopted by the Region and Chapter Chairpersons across India that make up the overall membership of TAAI. This, he said, reflects the growing importance and stature of TAAI. The President also mentioned that the 75th year celebrations is culminating with the grand 69th convention of TAAI to be held at Kolkata from the 25th to 28th of October 2026.

Senior citizens' mental health, dignity stressed at Kadambams anniversary



Bengaluru : Mental health, substance-abuse prevention and dignified living for senior citizens must receive equal attention alongside physical healthcare, eminent leaders said at the 34th anniversary celebrations of Kadambams Group, held in Bengaluru to mark World Mental Health Day.

The programme featured the unveiling of the Sri Kadambams Ashwathnarayana Residential Elder Care Block, the inauguration of 'Adhya – Bhojana Shale', established in memory of Sri Meghalal Krishnamurthy, and the presentation of Bright Star Awards to achievers from various fields.

Addressing the gathering, Jagadguru Dr. Shivaratri Deshikendra Shivacharya Mahaswamiji of Sri Suttur Mutt expressed concern over the growing prevalence of substance abuse among youngsters. He said parents aspire to provide their children with education in prestigious and international-standard schools, but there is a need to remain vigilant about children being exposed to substance abuse. "We are living in a time when alcohol and drug addiction are increasing. There are several reasons behind substance abuse, and once a person becomes addicted, bringing them back to a normal life can be extremely challenging. Mental health problems can be treated today, and Kadambams has emerged as an important institution in the field of mental healthcare," he said. Sri Vasavi Peetha's Sachidananda Saraswati Swamiji said mental peace and emotional security are as important as physical health and should be regarded as fundamental aspects of a person's well-being. He stressed the need to create an environment where senior citizens are respected not merely as people requiring care, but as individuals whose experience and wisdom are valuable to society. R.P. Ravishankar, President of Akhila Bharata Arya Vysya Mahasabha, said organisations must work together with different sections of society to strengthen social service initiatives. He appreciated Kadambams Group's efforts in the sensitive areas of mental healthcare and elderly care, stating that such initiatives could bring meaningful positive change to society.

Sandesh R. Kadambam, Executive Director, Kadambams Group, said, "The journey of Kadambams is not merely the story of an institution's growth; it is a journey of bringing hope into the lives of thousands of individuals and families. In the next phase, we will give greater priority not only to mental health but also to ensuring a dignified and quality life for senior citizens."

Battis Wali Smile' takes Bandhan Mutual Fund's Salary Wala Plan Story Beyond Payday Happiness

Bangalore : At the end of every month, everyone at Bandhan Mutual Fund is asking - What comes after the 31st? For most people, the answer is simple: the 1st.

But at Bandhan Mutual Fund the answer is different: 32.After all, the 31st, or iktees, is often associated with one of the happiest notifications of the month - Salary Credited. And what usually follows that message is a wide grin, a battis wali smile.



Building on its Salary Wala Plan campaign, Bandhan Mutual Fund has launched 'Battis Wali Smile,' a new film that uses humour and a relatable cultural insight to make Systematic Withdrawal Plans (SWPs) easier to understand.At the heart of the film is a simple observation. While salaries may differ, professions may vary, and life stages may change, the joy of seeing money credited into one's account remains universal. It is a feeling that resonates equally with salaried professionals, business owners, freelancers and retirees. Salary Wala Plan connects that familiar experience to SWP, which allows investors to withdraw a fixed amount from their mutual fund investments at regular intervals, while the remaining investment continues to stay invested and gets an opportunity to grow.Speaking on the campaign, Vishal Kapoor, CEO, Bandhan AMC said, "The insight behind 'Battis Wali Smile' is incredibly simple and human. Most people understand the happiness and reassurance that comes with receiving money regularly. Through this campaign, we wanted to show that the feeling associated with a salary credit is something everyone values, regardless of whether they are salaried, self-employed or retired. By connecting that familiar emotion to SWPs, we hope to make the concept easier to understand and more relatable."

Watch 'Battis Wali Smile' here: https://youtu.be/nbFuYcXUqq4

The film was conceptualised by advertising agency All In.

Jane Sequeira, Creative, All In, said, "Salary day comes with a certain kind of smile. We thought, if SWP can give you a similar salary-like income regularly, why not give that feeling that comes with it a name? That's how 'Battis Wali Smile' came into being."

boAt Expands Its Charging Solutions Portfolio with the Apex Powerbank Series

Bengaluru : boAt, one of India's leading consumer lifestyle-tech brands, announced the launch of the Apex Powerbank Series, strengthening its presence in the charging solutions category as the company continues to expand its consumer-tech portfolio beyond audio. While personal audio remains at the heart of boAt, the brand has progressively expanded into adjacent consumer technology categories, including wearables, projectors, personal grooming and charging solutions. The expansion reflects boAt's broader ambition to build a more diversified consumer technology portfolio around how consumers connect, work, travel and experience entertainment.Charging solutions are emerging as an important part of this journey. As consumers increasingly carry multiple connected devices through the day, dependable and convenient access to power has become integral to the everyday technology experience. With Apex, boAt is building a differentiated charging portfolio around multiple consumer needs rather than approaching the category through a single-product offering. Gaurav Nayyar, CEO, boAt, said, ""Our ambition is to build boAt into a consumer technology brand that serves people across more moments of their day.

EDITORIAL

Foreign oil, domestic inflation

Inflation isn't simply a rise in the price of goods in the market; it's driven by numerous domestic and global factors. When the price of goods or raw materials imported from abroad increases, impacting domestic market prices, it's called imported inflation. This challenge is even more serious for a country like India, as our economy relies heavily on imported crude oil for its energy needs. Fluctuations in global crude oil prices are therefore not limited to petrol and diesel prices alone; they impact transportation, industry, agriculture, food, and ultimately, the common man's pocket. India imports more than 85 percent of its crude oil needs. Therefore, rising oil prices in the international market directly signal higher import costs for India. When crude oil prices suddenly rise due to factors such as global war, geopolitical tensions, production cuts by oil-producing countries, supply disruptions, or increased demand, India has to spend more foreign exchange to purchase the same oil. This is the starting point where imported inflation pressures begin.

The most direct impact of rising oil prices is on fuel costs. As petrol and diesel become more expensive, transportation costs increase. Road transport is the backbone of trade and the supply chain in India. Fuel plays a vital role in transporting most goods from farms to markets, from markets to wholesale markets, and from there to shops. Therefore, freight costs can increase as diesel becomes more expensive. Transportation companies incorporate the increased costs into freight charges, ultimately passing them on to consumers.

The impact of oil is not limited to transportation. Many industries in the economy are energy-dependent. Fuel and energy play a significant role in the production costs of cement, steel, chemicals, fertilizers, and other energy-intensive industries. Rising crude oil prices directly or indirectly increase production costs. Industries may raise product prices to control their costs. Thus, the initial oil shock gradually spreads to different sectors of the economy. This could also impact food inflation. Diesel is useful for farmers in irrigation, agricultural machinery, and transportation. Fuel is also needed to transport agricultural produce from one place to another. If transportation and agricultural costs rise, prices of vegetables, fruits, grains, and other food items could be pressured. This is why a shock to the international oil market could reach household kitchens. The rupee exchange rate also plays a significant role in this process. Crude oil is generally traded in US dollars in the international market. If global oil prices rise while the rupee weakens against the dollar, crude oil becomes more expensive for Indian importers. This means India has to spend more rupees for the same amount of oil. This could further increase the pressure on imported inflation. A sustained rise in oil prices also impacts inflation expectations. When individuals and businesses anticipate further increases in fuel costs, they tend to increase their prices. This can have a cascading effect on wages, freight, services, and other commodity prices. Thus, an initial oil shock has the potential to escalate into widespread inflation. The Reserve Bank of India's estimates also consider the impact of rising crude oil prices on inflation; a frequently cited estimate is that a 10 percent increase in crude oil prices could exert approximately 20 basis points of upward pressure on consumer price inflation, although the actual impact varies depending on circumstances.

FLYDUBAI HIJACK

How Syria's Descent Into 'Jihadism' Has Now Become Everyone's Problem

ADITI BHADURI



The news that the recent flydubai hijacking was undertaken by an Omani national has shocked much of the world, and with good reason. Oman has distinguished itself in the turbulent region it belongs to as well as in the international community as a model Arab state and a genuine bridge-builder. The Sultunate abhors extremism of any form and has played a significant role in attempts to bridge divides between Sunnis and Shiites, among Iran and the Gulf states, the Arabs and Israel, and between Iran and the US.

It is probably the country's geographical location that makes it a natural bridge between the Arab world and Iran. Oman is isolated from much of the Arabian Peninsula because of a formidable mountain range, while Iran is just across the narrow Strait of Hormuz. Oman thus becomes a bridge between the Shia and the Sunni world, helped by the fact that the majority of Oman's Muslims, including the late Sultan Qaboosbin Said Al Said, are followers of the Ibadi sect of Islam, which predates both the Sunni and Shia sects. Perhaps that is why Oman has distinguished itself by its independent foreign policy and role as an intermediary. While Oman's role in facilitating US-Iran talks that led to the nuclear deal in 2014 stands out the most, it has numerous other feats to its credit. It was Oman, under its late Sultan Qaboos, that was the architect of a Gulf security alliance that later found expression in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). In the 1970s, Oman publicly supported Anwar Sadat's peace overtures to Israel and was one of the only three Arab states that continued diplomatic relations with it after it recognised Israel. It then went on to play host to Israeli Prime Minister Itzak Rabin - the first public visit by an Israeli leader to an Arab Gulf state. More recently, in 2018, Oman officially hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife with a delegation of several ministers in Muscat. During the Iran-Iraq war, Oman maintained relations with both states and tried, albeit unsuccessfully, to bring both to the negotiating table. In 2014, Oman became the first Arab country to which Iranian President Hassan Rouhani paid an official visit. Every time tensions have flared with Iran, Oman has acted as a negotiator, urging peace, facilitating talks, and mediation between different sides. In fact, it was with Omani mediation that talks between Iran and the US were progressing in February this year when the US and Israel began attacking Iran. Since then, Oman has stepped up its diplomacy in the region. The Basic Law of Oman recognises the right to different forms of worship within the country, and Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians have coexisted alongside the native Ibadi Muslims here for decades.

As more details emerge of the flydubai incident, however, and major lapses come to light in both the UAE and Israel, it has been revealed that the copilot of Omani nationality was of mixed parentage. While his father was Omani, his mother was Syrian. It was in Syria that he - Hamam al-Hammimi - underwent radicalisation. While this now seems to be the order of things, it is rather a sad development. For Syria, once, in many ways, was like Oman.

While the Assad dynasty - first father Hafez Al Assad, and then his son, Basher Al Assad - had ruled Syria with an iron fist, they had managed to keep it peaceful, tolerant, pluralistic, and secular. While Syria has always been a Sunni majority country, the Assads belonged to the minority Alawite community - scattered across Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon, and often viewed as heretical in the region. Naturally, it had been in their interest not to encourage religiosity and to keep the country secular.

Under the Assads, with their tilt towards the Soviet Union first and then Russia, Syria achieved almost 100% literacy. Women enjoyed equal rights with men, and its many minorities - the Alawites, the Druze, the Syrian Christians, the Shiites - kept the country plural and secular. Syria had been at the forefront of pan-Arabism even though it was closely allied with Iran. Till the beginning of the Syrian civil war in 2011, it had been a strong champion of the Palestinian cause, hosted thousands of Palestinian refugees, and refused to make peace with Israel till it returned the Golan Heights that it had occupied since the 1967 war. Yet, the Syrian-Israeli border was one of the most peaceful and secure, with many Palestinians accusing it of accepting the status quo with no real intention of fighting Israel. Finally, Syria acted, even at enormous human cost, as a bulwark against Sunni radicalism. After brutally putting down a rebellion launched by Islamists in the 1980s, the Assads broke the backbone of Sunni extremism there.

Till the civil war broke out in 2012.

The civil war saw hundreds of thousands of Syrians killed and nearly fourteen million people - more than half the pre-war population - being displaced. Syria turned into an impoverished and fractured state, with various armed groups led by various powers controlling various parts of its territory. Iran, Israel, Turkey, Russia, and the United States were all drawn into the conflict either directly or indirectly over the years. Valid opposition to the Assads was hijacked by jihadi and extremist groups abundantly bankrolled by America's CIA and independent Gulf countries, and facilitated by states like Turkey and Jordan. The pluralistic state was dismantled, and in its place, in large swathes of the country's east and south, rose a monstrosity: the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. Jihadi groups and aspiring, radicalised individuals flocked to it from different parts of the world. Their passage to Syria was facilitated by Turkey. Dissidents were burned alive, gender segregation was strictly imposed, women were made to veil themselves from head to toe and kept confined to the home.

Just as Pakistan facilitated the transfer of arms, personnel, and training to Afghan jihadists fighting the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980s, so did Turkey, Jordan, and individual Arab Gulf states support jihadism against the Assad regime in Syria. A PBS Frontline report detailed how Syrian 'rebel' fighters travelled through Turkiye and Qatar for training and coordination. In Turkiye, they met with American handlers and then traveled to Qatar to undergo military training.

At the peak of the conflict in 2014-2015, intelligence estimates, such as those from the CIA, pegged the Islamic State's total fighting strength at 30,000-80,000, with the fighters split between Syria and Iraq, combining both foreign and local recruits.

According to UN reports, more than 40,000 foreign fighters from 110 countries may have travelled to Syria and Iraq to join terrorist groups. As Iraq intensified the battle against the Islamic State, its members and fighters flocked to Syria.

Are Iran's 'Proxies' Rising Again? Inside Hamas, Hezbollah's Strange Resurgence

Col Rajeev Agarwal



When Hamas struck across multiple locations in Israel on October 7, 2023, there was a sense of disbelief, shock, and fear. Israeli intelligence had been tricked, and the military had been caught off guard. But Israel recovered in an instant and launched a massive counterattack into Gaza. Driven by a collective sense of rage and revenge over the brutal killing of 1,140 people and 251 hostages in the terror attack, Israel vowed to eliminate Hamas from the face of the Earth and raze Gaza to the ground. It was also felt that a crucial red line had been crossed this time and that the episodic nature of conflicts in Gaza or the West Bank, like in the past decade, could not be allowed to happen anymore. The threat had not only to be dealt with but eliminated forever. What followed thereafter was the most brutal and punishing military campaign by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), eliminating Hamas, entering and occupying Gaza, cutting off food, water, and medical supplies to Gaza, and destroying weapon caches and hideouts of Hamas deeply buried in an extensive underground tunnel network. The IDF operations, however, did not remain limited to Gaza. It took on all threats on its borders – Hezbollah in Lebanon, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and its affiliates in the West Bank, and the Shiite militias in Syria and Iraq. Over the course of the next two years, Israel and Iran exchanged missile and drone strikes more than once, culminating in the '12-Day War' in June 2025, when the US joined Israel and bombed Iran's nuclear sites. Even Houthis operating from Yemen were in the crosshairs of the IDF. And, as the Israeli Prime Minister said on 6th October 2024, on the eve of the first anniversary of 7th October, Israel was fighting a 'Seven Front War'. When the ceasefire finally took effect on 10th October 2025, Israel had succeeded to a large extent in its goals tactically, although a decisive strategic victory still eluded it. Hamas had been defeated and its key leadership eliminated, Hezbollah had been brought to its knees, President Assad in Syria had been ousted, and a former Islamic State (IS) terrorist, Al Sharaa, had been placed in command, PIJ was being hunted and destroyed in the West Bank, and even Iran had been targeted and its nuclear programme 'obliterated' in the 12-Day War. So, when Israel and the US launched preemptive strikes into Iran on February 28, 2026, the resistance should have been minimal and the victory quick and decisive. However, after seven months of war, the situation remains stalemated, Iran is defiant and holding on, the US has suffered heavy losses, and its pride has been hurt more than once as the Strait of Hormuz remains blockaded and the Gulf nations are utterly disappointed at the failure of American security guarantees. Although Israel has largely stayed out of the war in Iran after the first 40 days, its fight in its neighbourhood continues and, on most accounts, it still faces serious military challenges. The question thus arises - has Israel's initial success over its enemies across the 'Seven Fronts' in the Gaza war resulted in decisive gains? Has the Iran-led and supported 'Axis of Resistance' been defeated or is it resurgent once again? To explore these questions, a brief examination of each component of the Axis may be useful. Hamas

The primary target of Israel was Hamas, and it did achieve tremendous success over the next two years. Thousands of its cadres were killed. Its chief, Ismail Haniyeh, was assassinated in a targeted strike on 30th July 2024 in Tehran, while its main military leader, Yahya Sinwar, was killed in an encounter in Gaza on 16th October 2024. The 'Gaza Metro', the extensive tunnel network of Hamas in Gaza, was destroyed to a large extent and control over the Gaza crossings meant that Hamas was deprived of crucial supplies into Gaza. Has the Hamas threat been therefore eliminated? The answer is, sadly, 'No'. Both Israeli and US intelligence agree that Hamas has been able to recruit more than 20,000 fresh cadres over the past two years. Despite continued restrictions at the entry points, including the crucial Rafah Crossing into Egypt, as well as control over more than 70% of territory in Gaza, the IDF has not been able to eliminate the Hamas threat.

Gyanesh Kumar Row May Be Doing Something Unthinkable For India's 'Lost' Opposition

ARATI R JERATH



After scattering in different directions over the past two years as state-level competitive politics saw opposition parties fighting each other in assembly elections, the INDIA bloc is back together with renewed vigour. The glue this time is Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the controversial Special Intensive Review of electoral rolls, which is currently under scrutiny in the Supreme Court. The INDIA bloc has launched a nearly two-month-long agitation, leading up to the winter session of Parliament, to demand his ouster. Much water has flowed under the bridge since the INDIA bloc was formed to fight the Modi juggernaut in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The 2.0 version looks and feels different. It has lost the DMK after Rahul Gandhi switched partners in Tamil Nadu following the surprise victory of actor Vijay and his TVK earlier this year.

The TVK joined recently, although it does not have any members in Parliament and is consequently more of a silent partner. And with the Punjab elections round the corner in early 2027, where the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will be fighting the Congress and others, to retain its government for a second term, it remains outside the tent too, although its leaders are participating in anti-SIR street agitations with the Left parties.

A REBIRTH?

However, what it lost on the swings, it has gained on the roundabouts. There seems to be a renewed synergy in the INDIA bloc, which was visible in the impressive and enthusiastic turnout for the October 6 march to the Election Commission headquarters to kick off its campaign against Gyanesh Kumar and SIR. Not only has it coalesced into a unified bloc more strongly than during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, but a key difference is Rahul Gandhi's rising stature in the eyes of fellow opposition leaders. Where once he was dismissed as immature, today there seems to be a greater willingness to accept his leadership, at least on the SIR controversy.

Rahul Gandhi can justifiably claim vindication for his 'vote chori' campaign. It had few takers when he first began, but has gained momentum following recent revelations of differences between the three Election Commissioners on SIR and the manner in which it is being implemented.

MAMATA'S SURPRISING COMMENT

Surprisingly, the certificate for Rahul Gandhi came from none other than Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, who once fancied herself as the best candidate to lead the INDIA bloc till her hopes were dashed by a humiliating defeat in the West Bengal polls in April-May this year. At the recent meeting where the INDIA bloc chalked out its plans for its Gyanesh Kumar campaign, she turned to Rahul Gandhi and told him, "I am not egoistic. You can be Prime Minister."

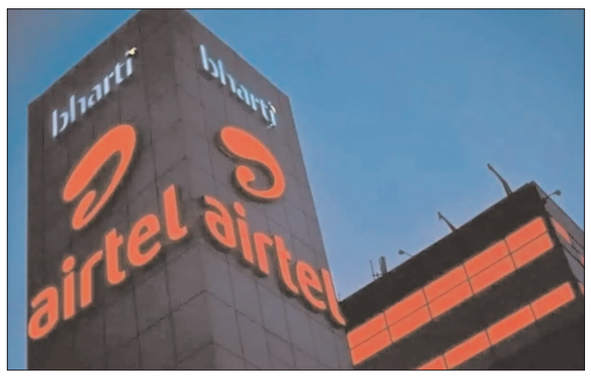
Even Rahul Gandhi was taken aback by her declaration, and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge hastily intervened to point out that this was not the time to discuss who would be Prime Minister. Mamata Banerjee's comment was premature, as Kharge pointed out. However, many INDIA partners seemed to be in agreement with her that the Congress should spearhead the anti-SIR agitation. Rahul Gandhi is riding this consensus to lead from the front, as evident in the manner in which he climbed on top of the police barricades near the EC headquarters.

LOOSE, BUT REAL COORDINATION

Another notable change is the quiet role of the Left parties, particularly the CPI(ML), in reaching out to non-INDIA members and movements outside mainstream politics. It is the bridge not only with AAP but, more importantly, with the Cockroach Janta Party and its formidable Gen Z following. Student wings of Left parties are actively in touch with CJP leaders and seem to be working in tandem with them, albeit separately, setting up a pincer-like formation to corner the CEC as well as the Modi government. The SFI all-India joint secretary, Aishe Ghosh, appealed on record to young people of all persuasions to join hands to strengthen the campaign. The response was positive from CJP leader Saurav Dass, who tweeted his party's acceptance on X.

The AISA president, Neha Bora, who has become the face of Gen Z along with Abhijit Dipke of the CJP, is also in touch with CJP leaders. Note the speed with which Dass was dispatched to Delhi to lend CJP's support when Bora and the young journalist who accused a police officer of molestation were whisked away in police cars.

Airtel to hike postpaid plan prices by up to 10 pc with new plans



New Delhi: Leading telecom firm Bharti Airtel on Wednesday, October 7, launched new postpaid plans for customers with increasing tariffs by around 3-10 per cent, effective from Thursday. Moreover, it added a free international roaming benefit to the plans. However, the complimentary International Roaming pack offers 5GB of data, 60 minutes of calls, 25 outgoing SMS and free incoming SMS, all valid for 5 days, the telecom said in an exchange filing. The revised plans range from Rs 499 a month for an individual connection to Rs 1,799 for a family plan covering up to five SIMs. Moreover, customers will get one free international roaming trip per SIM each year under the new plans along with unlimited data and calling. Amit Tripathi, Director – Market Operations, Bharti Airtel, said that postpaid for us is about delivering the best-in-class experience in the Indian market. "We have the best network experience in the country, on which we offer our postpaid customers Fast Lane technology on 5G, and constant Spam and frauds protection. What is more, we offer the customers the best value – through access to entertainment and services that enrich their everyday lives; and now Free International Roaming for them. We are determined to constantly raising the game for customers and give them more and more reasons to choose Airtel Postpaid," according to Tripathi. The company has increased the price of Rs 449 to Rs 499 for the individual plan. Rs 749 family plan — which was Rs 699 earlier — will offer two SIMs. Apart from that, the Rs 999 plan will be available at a cost of Rs 1,049 for three SIMs. Similarly, for 4 SIMs the prices are Rs 1,249 and Rs 1,449. For five SIMs, the company will charge Rs 1,799 for a a plan subscription that includes Netflix Standard. Additionally, these plans also include Airtel's spam and fraud prevention features. Apart from that, the company said that effective Thursday, these postpaid plans are available for all customers opting for Airtel Postpaid. Meanwhile, existing Airtel customers, including old postpaid plans or on prepaid can easily upgrade to these plans. In a bid to improve the average revenue per user (ARPU), telecom players have been encouraging subscribers to migrate to higher-value plans by adding new services and discontinuing the lower-value ones. ARPU measures how much revenue a company earns per user or subscriber over a specific period. Earlier this year, Vi also increased prices for some of its postpaid family packs by 7% to 9%. Centrum Institutional Research said that the pricing environment in the telecom industry has become more favourable and, it is likely to see another tariff hike of 12-15 per cent over the next four to five months. Brokerages signal stable July-September results Brokerages have also signalled that in the July-September quarter, Airtel and Jio are likely to gain subscriber market at the expense of Vi. Elara Securities highlighted that the sector is likely to report a steady second quarter, driven by subscriber additions and growth in home broadband. Moreover, migration to higher-priced plans, upgrades to 4G/5G, conversion to postpaid and other premiumisation strategies are expected to support the ARPU for Airtel and Jio. For Reliance Jio, Centrum projected subscriber additions of 8 million QoQ to reach 541 million, with ARPU likely to grow by 1% QoQ to ?218 per month. This growth is expected to be driven by 5G FWA additions and a higher number of days in the quarter, translating into an estimated 2.6% QoQ revenue expansion. Bharti Airtel ARPU Bharti Airtel is expected to add 3 million subscribers QoQ to reach 380 million, with ARPU growing by 2.0 per cent QoQ to an industry-leading ?269 per month, supported by ongoing 2G-to-4G migrations and quarterly day count.

SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB S12 SERIES GOES ON SALE IN INDIA WITH EXCITING MULTI-BUY BENEFITS AND NO-COST EMI OPTIONS



GURUGRAM, India – October 7, 2026: Samsung India today announced the sale of the Galaxy Tab S12 Series—Samsung's most capable and versatile tablet experience to date, combining powerful performance, and the latest Galaxy AI in an ultra-thin design. The latest tablets will be available in Gray and Silver colour options. Customers purchasing the Galaxy Tab S12 series can avail themselves of a range of benefits, including multi-buy offers: INR 15000 off on Tab and smartphone purchases, including the Galaxy Z Fold8, Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra, Galaxy S25 Ultra, or S25+; 15% off on select wearables; 30% off on the Pro Keyboard Cover; up to INR 5000 bank cashback; up to INR 5000 upgrade bonus; and no-cost EMI for up to 24 months through participating banks and NBFC partners.

Built for productivity

The Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra and Tab S12+ feature expansive Dynamic AMOLED 2X displays with peak brightness up to 1600 nits. Additionally, the Vision Booster feature on these tabs adjusts brightness in real time to ensure vivid visuals and comfortable viewing in any lighting.

With the 14.6-inch Ultra and 12.6-inch Plus model, users can split the screen into three sections in Multi Window layout for seamless multitasking. They can, for instance, take notes in Samsung Notes while streaming a lecture and accessing an AI assistant simultaneously.

At just 5.1mm slim, the Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra is Samsung's thinnest Galaxy Tab yet, while the Galaxy Tab S12+ measures a comparable 5.3mm. Both devices pack an energy-efficient 3nm processor that delivers 61% faster NPU processing, 19% faster CPU performance, and 17% improved GPU power compared to its predecessor. This ensures smooth performance for demanding tasks like rendering creative projects or multitasking with lectures and note-taking.

The all-day battery lasts up to 23 hours (2) on the Ultra and 21 hours on the Plus, with rapid charging from 0% to 100% in just 95 minutes using the 45W adapter. Their newly designed 3D Vapor Chamber efficiently dissipates heat for reliable performance during extended use. Engineered for durability, the Galaxy Tab S12 series is IP68-rated for water and dust resistance, ensuring resilience in various environments.

Sound is enhanced with 4-channel spatial audio that delivers a rich, immersive experience for streaming, tutorials, or editing. Both models come with an ergonomic S Pen for precise input. Productivity can be further enhanced with a Pro Keyboard Cover that turns these tabs into a professional workstation, complete with a Galaxy AI Key for instant access to AI assistants.

Loaded with apps

Running Android 17 with One UI 9, the Galaxy Tab S12 series integrates Galaxy AI for seamless task management. Note Assist summarises notes in real time, while a six-month trial of Google AI Pro provides access to Gemini for instant clarification and deeper exploration of topics.

The Samsung Browser enhances research efficiency by summarising open tabs and surfacing relevant sources. Adobe Photoshop is pre-installed for pro-grade image editing, Goodnotes offers clean note-taking with one year of free access, while LumaFusion enables professional-grade video editing at a 66% discount. Clip Studio Paint provides precision drawing tools for digital art with a six-month trial and 20% off the first subscription, and ArcSite converts rough sketches into precise CAD drawings. Exclusive benefits include four months of free Photoshop mobile plan access and discounts on subscriptions.

LG Electronics India Announces "Celebration of Trust" Diwali Offers on Home Appliances and Consumer Electronics



NEW DELHI, Oct 2026: LG Electronics India today announced its Diwali campaign, "Celebration of Trust," to celebrate a brighter Diwali with exclusive offers and the trust of LG. The festive offers span selected home appliances and consumer electronics, with benefits designed to make upgrading the home easier and more rewarding. Under Diwali offers customers can enjoy: Up to 26% cashback on select debit and credit cards, up to ?30,000, on select models Fixed EMI from ?888 onwards, on select models Zero down payment, with the rest payable in EMIs, on select models 3-year warranty on select LG TVs Free mini refrigerator worth up to ?14,190 on select side-by-side refrigerators Free maintenance worth ?4,200, as part of the 1st-year package, on select water purifier models 10-year warranty on the compressor LG BestCare AMC with up to 30% discount Speaking on the launch, Sanjay Chitkara Co-Chief Sales & Marketing Officer (CSMO) said: " We are humbled by the trust Indian households have placed in us for years. With our Celebration of Trust campaign, we aim to make this festive season even more rewarding by offering attractive cashback, easy EMI options, zero down payment, and extended warranties, helping more families bring home the latest upgrades with ease. We thank our customers for their continued faith in us and wish everyone a happy and prosperous Diwali". 2026 has been a special year for LG Electronics, LG has been recognised as India's Most Trusted brand in Washing Machines, Refrigerators, Microwaves and TVs. It also won India's Top Appliance Awards 2026 for excellence in innovation and is recognised as The Most Iconic Brand of India in Consumer Durables and Home Appliances.

Mivi One 5G Goes on Sale with Flipkart Big Billion Days; Price Starting at Rs. 11,999

Hyderabad, 07 October 2026: MIVI, the homegrown consumer technology brand, takes its first smartphone - the Mivi One 5G – on sale, exclusively on Flipkart as part of the Big Billion Days sale. Starting October 8, consumers can purchase the smartphone at a special festive price of ?11,999.

Highlights

- MIVI's first-ever smartphone will be available with effective BBD pricing starting at Rs. 11,999

Positioned as "Pretty Powerful," MIVI One 5G brings together performance, design, and everyday versatility, giving consumers a smartphone experience built around the way they live, work, and stay connected.

The MIVI One 5G will be available exclusively on Flipkart, with early access beginning at 12 AM on October 8 for eligible Flipkart Plus, VIP, and Black members and eligible cardholders, followed by open access from October 9, 2026. The special BBD prices are effective prices including applicable bank offers, subject to Flipkart and partner-bank terms.

During the Flipkart Big Billion Days Sale, MIVI One 5G will be available at special effective prices:Powered by the 4nm Qualcomm Snapdragon 4 Gen 2 5G Mobile Platform, MIVI One 5G combines responsive everyday performance with reliable 5G connectivity. The smartphone features a 6.75-inch HD+ 120Hz display, 50MP dual-camera system, 8MP front camera, and a 6000mAh battery with 18W fast charging, bringing together the essentials for streaming, photography, social media, gaming and everyday use. It runs Stock Android 16 and comes with 128GB storage across all variants, with 4GB, 6GB and 8GB RAM options. The device also features IP64 protection, a side-mounted fingerprint sensor and MIVI ClearTalk noise-reduction technology for clearer calls. It will be offered in five colour options: Blue, Pink, Green, Burgundy and Navy Blue. Himanshu Tandon, Chief Business Officer, Mivi, said, "The Mivi One 5G marks an important milestone in Mivi's journey as we enter the smartphone category. Our association with Flipkart enables us to take the product to consumers nationwide through a platform they know and trust. With dependable performance, 5G connectivity, a long-lasting battery and a clean Android experience, the Mivi One 5G reflects our focus on delivering meaningful everyday value, especially during the festive season."



"EVERY PERSON CARRIES A STORY":

Amaravati Literature Festival 2026 Celebrates the Power of Stories to Shape a Changing World



"Every person who walks into my office comes with a story." Reflecting on his experience as an administrator, C M Saikanth Varma, I.A.S., Collector District Magistrate, Guntur, offered this thought at the inaugural session of the second edition of the Amaravati Literature Festival (ALF) 2026, setting the tone for a festival that celebrates not merely literature, but the stories that shape people, places and societies. Hosted by Easwari School of Liberal Arts (ESLA), SRM University–AP, Amaravati, the festival brought together writers, scholars, translators, educators, cultural practitioners and young minds around the theme of stories and changing times. The conversations reflected a larger idea: while Amaravati is being imagined as a city of the future, the people, memories, ideas and experiences that become part of its journey will ultimately shape its identity. Speaking at the inaugural, Collector C M Saikanth Varma reflected on Amaravati's long history, noting that the region has been telling stories for over 2,000 years through its heritage, sculptures and cultural traditions. He recalled the legacy of writers such as Gurajada Apparao and Unnava Lakshmi Narayana, whose works questioned social realities and contributed to change. Drawing a connection between administration and storytelling, he observed that documents, government orders and the people who approach an administrator carry stories of their own. The responsibility, he said, is to work towards giving these stories a positive ending. Tejaswi Podapati, Chairperson, Andhra Pradesh State Creativity and Culture Commission, highlighted SRM University–AP's efforts to advance culture alongside technology, emphasising the enduring power of words. She observed that while computers have transformed how people experience the world, there remains a beautiful world beyond the screen: a world of books, imagination, language, ideas and human connection. The written word, she noted, can make people pause, think, and connect across generations. Prof. Ch Satish Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SRM University–AP, highlighted the festival's growing significance and announced that ALF will introduce two literary awards from its next edition: one at the national level and another recognising contributions to Telugu literature. Envisioned as prestigious Amaravati Literature Festival awards, the initiative seeks to create a lasting platform for recognising writers and literary contributions and building a distinctive literary legacy for Amaravati. Keynote speaker Mini Krishnan, noted editor and literary translator, emphasised the power of the written word to preserve memory, heritage and diverse cultural experiences. She highlighted translation as a bridge between India's many languages and communities, while underscoring the importance of human mentorship, emotion and critical thinking in an age increasingly shaped by AI. Prof. Vishnupad, Dean, Easwari School of Liberal Arts, Dr Sayantan Thakur, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Literature and Languages, and Dr Argha Basu, Assistant Professor SRM University-AP, Andhra Pradesh, Neerukonda, Mangalagiri Mandal, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh - 522 240 | Phone: 0863 - 234 3000 | www.srmap.edu.in and Convener, ALF 2026, reflected on the festival's larger purpose. They highlighted the importance of dialogue, diverse perspectives, and a strong cultural dimension to Amaravati's development. The first day featured engaging conversations with Purnima Tammireddy, Writer, Translator and Independent Telugu Publisher, and Avineni Bhaskar, VLSI Engineer, Writer and passionate advocate of Telugu literature and culture; Madan Meena, Visual Artist, Researcher and Folklorist; and Sheela Tomy, acclaimed Malayalam writer and screenwriter.

Departmental Summit on Women and Child Development to be held in New Delhi on 8-9 October

SHASHANK CHOUDHARY

New delhi : In a significant step towards realizing the vision of a Suposhit, Surakshit and Sashakt Bharat as the foundation for Viksit Bharat@2047, the Ministry of Women and Child Development will host its Departmental Summit on 8th and 9th October 2026 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. The Summit is the second in the series of Departmental Summits envisioned by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to strengthen cooperative federalism, foster collective ownership of national priorities, and accelerate outcomes through closer Centre-State collaboration.

The Departmental Summit model brings together political leadership and senior officials from the Union and State Governments to deliberate on sectoral priorities, share good practices, address implementation challenges, and agree on time-bound actions for improved governance and service delivery.

- **THE TWO-DAY SUMMIT WILL FOCUS ON FOUR THEMES:**

1. Reimagining Anganwadi Centres for better nutrition and early education

2.Strengthening the protection system for vulnerable children

3.Women safety through effective implementation of institutional and legislative frameworks

4.Women empowerment through enhancing the effectiveness and outcomes of key schemes.

First-day discussions will cover the quality of Take-Home Ration and Hot Cooked Meals, Poshan Tracker data quality improvement, Early Childhood Care and Education, protection systems for vulnerable children including the impact of social media, and implementation challenges and solutions for women safety. The second day will be devoted to enhancing the effectiveness and outcomes of key schemes for women empowerment.

Participating States will share their experiences, challenges and their best practices, and try to arrive at consensus on agreed outcomes, reinforcing spirit of cooperative federalism and shared responsibility. The key outcomes and action plans to achieve these will be presented before the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, during the valedictory session. The Prime Minister's guidance is expected to galvanise the collective resolve of the Centre and States and set the course for decisive and time-bound action on the agreed outcomes.

France halts use of stun grenades after boy's hand blown off in student protests



France has suspended the use of stun grenades for policing student protests that have swept the country, after a 15-year-old's hand was blown off earlier this week. Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said he had requested the pause until the facts of Monday's incident in Lens had been "clarified", with conflicting accounts offered by protesters and officials. Several groups have complained of police using disproportionate force towards teenagers. The disruption continued early on Wednesday with more than 500 schools fully or partially shut, and Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu is due to speak about the school protests in an evening address. Education Minister Édouard Geffray, appearing before France's National Assembly, said 24 schools had been "set alight or vandalised" to such an extent that they would be shut for several weeks, affecting 30,000 pupils. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets on Tuesday to call for better school conditions and in some cities tear gas and water cannon were deployed. The interior ministry said 488 people were arrested and 43 members of the security forces were hurt. Nuñez told French radio RTL that police watchdog IGPN had opened 18 investigations to determine whether officers had been "proportionate" during the demonstrations, which have spread from high school pupils to their parents, university students and unions. "There is a police action that raises questions for all of us within the Ministry of the Interior; it's what happened in Lens," he said, and confirmed the use of stun grenades was being suspended "until the facts surrounding this case have been clarified". The 15-year-old boy's hand was torn off after a so-called anti-encirclement grenade was fired in unclear circumstances near the Auguste Béhal high school in the northern city near Lille. Authorities have said he picked up the grenade which then exploded, but students have alleged he was hit directly after an officer fired. According to the local prefect, the incident took place when police were confronted by a group of 200-250 students throwing stones and fireworks. The stun grenade is considered a non-lethal weapon, but sends out small rubber pellets when it detonates. "When there is suspicion of disproportionate force, there are always judicial investigations," Nuñez said, affirming that the government was "here to protect high school students". The national secretary of policing union UNSA said he was sceptical about the decision to halt the use of stun grenades, saying it had been based "on emotion". "We are dealing with increasingly violent people," Jean-Paul Nascimento told FranceInfo, cautioning that without the weapon to disperse crowds there may be more clashes at close quarters. "That's where there will perhaps be even more injuries," he warned. Concerns have also been stoked by the case of a 14-year-old hit in the face with a tear gas grenade last week. The boy's lawyer said he had lost several teeth and suffered a fractured jaw in the incident at Saint-Ouen-l'Aumône, north-west of Paris, and a police officer has been charged. In a separate development, a 16-year-old suffered a serious hand injury outside a school in Strasbourg on Wednesday, reportedly while handling a mortar firework. Prosecutors also said an investigation for attempted murder had been opened after a 17-year-old student protester complained an officer "held his head underwater" while trying to arrest him near a river in the north-eastern city of Belfort. French reports say the boy has himself been charged with aggravated assault for allegedly attacking the officer. The prime minister has accused the radical-left France Unbowed (LFI) party of trying to "sow chaos" ahead of elections to select President Emmanuel Macron's successor in April. LFI leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon is currently second in the opinion polls behind Marine Le Pen of the hard-right National Rally. LFI national coordinator Manuel Bompard remarked that it had taken "several children being maimed for life for Nuñez to give up using grenades against high school students", while Le Pen said Macron was "always on the side of attacking the police". Sébastien Lecornu has condemned violence seen at some of the protests which began in mid-September - noting on Tuesday that 215 students, 85 staff, and 715 police officers had since been hurt. More than 6,500 people have been stopped or arrested in that time, according to the interior ministry. President Macron held an emergency meeting late on Tuesday with Lecornu and other key ministers to find a way out of the crisis after almost a quarter of all lycées were disrupted by the day's protests - with government figures putting the number of protesters at more than 250,000. Students' unions put the number at 450,000 and have said a fourth round of protests is planned for Thursday in Paris and other cities. The head of the USL high school union, Ryad Rani, told French radio on Wednesday: "We are telling M. Nuñez, calm your police officers down and call for restraint."

ZELENSKY CONDEMNS 'VILE' LARGE-SCALE RUSSIAN ATTACKS THAT KILLED 22



At least 22 people have died in overnight strikes across central and eastern Ukraine, in what Volodymyr Zelensky has described as one of Russia's "most vile" attacks. Ukraine's president said a residential building in Pryluky in the Chernihiv region was destroyed as a "birthday 'gift' to Putin", who turns 74 on Wednesday. Strikes also hit Kyiv, Dnipro, Kremenchuk, Zaporizhzhia and Oleksandriya. Zelensky said Ukraine had struck targets in attacks on Russia's Perm, Samara and Astrakhan regions in the past 24 hours, adding there was "also a response in the Black Sea", without providing further details. Moscow is yet to comment on the latest strikes. "The Russians wanted to strike painfully and demonstratively," Zelensky said, adding that 70 missiles were fired in total. In the social media post on Wednesday morning, Zelensky said five people had been killed and 26, including five children, injured in a strike on a five-storey apartment building in Pryluky. He added that people could still be trapped in the rubble. State Emergency Service of Ukraine later reported that death toll had risen to 16, including the bodies of four children in Pryluky. There have been 50 people injured, including seven children. Two people were also killed and eight injured after Russian missile strikes damaged five apartment buildings in Dnipro and four high-rise buildings in Kremenchuk, said Zelensky. Two people were also killed in the capital, Kyiv, and two others in Oleksandriya, he added. Ukraine's national police posted pictures online showing what it says is an unexploded Russian Iskander missile in the middle of a Kyiv district. BBC Verify has confirmed the images are genuine and the apparent missile fragments came down in an area of open land surrounded by high-rise apartment buildings. A video posted by the police shows people digging through collapsed remains of a residential building in Pryluky. Another verified video shows damage to cars and what appears to be rubble and a fallen tree in an area surrounded by apartment blocks in Kremenchuk. Zelensky renewed a call for allies to provide air defence support packages to Ukraine, saying its military only managed to shoot down "some" of the missiles launched by Russia overnight. According to Zelensky, one of the "key targets" of the attack was the country's energy infrastructure, which Moscow earlier said it would intensify strikes on following Ukraine's strikes on Moscow's energy facilities. In a separate post on Wednesday, Zelensky said Ukraine had struck four targets in retaliatory attacks in the past 24 hours, including two oil facilities and a training ground in the Perm, Samara and Astrakhan regions. "There is also a response in the Black Sea," the Ukrainian president wrote.

CHEMISTRY NOBEL AWARDED FOR SOLVING MYSTERY OF LIFE'S ASYMMETRY



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to French scientist Henri B. Kagan and Japan's Kenso Soai for providing a solution to the chemical mystery of life's asymmetry. The researchers discovered how nature exclusively makes the correct version of a molecule - rather than its mirror image. For example, amino acid molecules, the building blocks of proteins, exist as two forms that are each other's mirror image. But living organisms on Earth only function with one of those forms. The Nobel laureates answered the question: why does life favour just one of these mirror image molecules over the other. In organic chemistry, this property is known as "chirality", so chiral molecules have both right and left-handed forms. You can think of them as looking like our hands - not identical, but each a mirror image of the other. And while nature almost exclusively produces the version it requires to function, chemical reactions in a lab usually create a 50-50 mix of both left- and right-handed molecules. When it comes to making drugs, this is particularly significant, because each version behaves differently when it interacts with our bodies.

TRUMP TO SPEAK TO PUTIN ABOUT PLAGUE LAB WORKER'S DEATH IN RUSSIA



US President Donald Trump has said he will speak with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin soon about the death of a lab worker at a plague research centre in Siberia. "So far we are in very deep discussions," Trump said, adding that he would be able to report on his talks with Putin "probably" on Thursday. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said no phone call had been scheduled. Russian officials say they are investigating the cause of the 28-year-old's death and have not confirmed that the suspected disease is pneumonic plague - a serious lung infection, often described as the most virulent form of plague. They insist "there are no epidemic risks for the population". The US, however, has issued a formal diplomatic message to Russia requesting additional information. Peskov told reporters he was not aware of such a request. The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) has called for transparency from Russia. "Timely, complete and transparent information sharing under the International Health Regulations is essential to clarify conflicting reports and enable an accurate assessment of potential public health risks," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman said Russia's reporting of the death to the WHO was in line with standard practice. He accused the media of reporting "false information". Reports first emerged on Friday of almost 200 people being placed under observation in Siberia's Irkutsk region following the death. The lab worker, named in Russian media as Darya Shipilova, had reportedly fallen ill a couple of days earlier. Unconfirmed reports suggested that she had become ill after breaking a test tube containing the pathogen at the Anti-Plague Institute of Siberia and the Far East where she worked - or following a field trip to a region where plague occurs naturally among wild rodents. As the US and the WHO sought more information, the country's health watchdog, Rospotrebnadzor, issued a statement saying "there are no epidemic risks for the population of Irkutsk and the Irkutsk region". It said more than 90% of the people who had been in contact with the victim had "completed medical observation" and "no health disorders associated with infectious pathology were detected". In the immediate wake of the laboratory worker's death, Rospotrebnadzor had issued a statement saying the woman had died of "pneumonia of an undetermined etiology" and that testing found "no microorganisms related to her professional activities". However, after this announcement, a pro-government federal news outlet deleted five posts mentioning a possible plague case, and authorities in the town of Baikalsk deleted a message advising against travel to Shelekhov because of a possible plague infection.

Sri Lanka's ex-first lady arrested over alleged misuse of children's hospital donations



Sri Lanka's former first lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa has been arrested over allegations that a charity she is linked to misused donations raised for a children's hospital. Anti-corruption authorities arrested the 73-year-old wife of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa at their Colombo home on Wednesday. They are questioning her over the 10 million rupees ($30,300; £22,800) of donations collected by the Siriliya Saviya charity, meant to be spent on a specialised scanner for Colombo's Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital. But officials say such a scanner had already been donated by the Chinese government. Shiranthi Rajapaksa has denied any wrongdoing and says the money has not been appropriated. She returned to Sri Lanka on Monday from Singapore, where she was receiving medical treatment. She had filed a court petition to try to prevent her arrest, but the hearing was set for 12 October. Ex-President Mahinda Rajapaksa's spokesperson, Manoj Gamage, has said the money is safe in Siriliya's accounts and that no fraud has occurred. Mahinda Rajapaksa served as president of Sri Lanka from 2005 to 2015 and for years, his family held a tight grip over the country's politics. He was hailed by many as a hero for bringing an end to nearly three decades of civil war when Tamil Tiger rebels were crushed in 2009, during his first term as president.But in 2022, protests broke out across the country as inflation surged and Sri Lanka ran out of fuel, food and medicine.



Israel marks three years since October 7 attack with memorials and protests

Ten people linked to Kenya's first-ever Ebola case quarantined as screening concerns grow



Ten people who came into contact with a man who died of Ebola in Kenya have been quarantined, health officials in the East African nation say. They are also trying to trace 57 other contacts of the Kenyan patient after he travelled from the Democratic Republic of Congo, dying in hospital in Nairobi on Monday. This is the East African nation's first-ever Ebola case and there is now growing concern about the country's screening measures. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention chief has told the BBC that despite being sick for a month, the patient passed through multiple cities in DR Congo, driving to Uganda and eventually flying to Kenya without his sickness being detected. "We know that he left Buta, a city in [northern] DR Congo, to drive to Kisangani. And from Kisangani, he took a flight to Beni. From Beni, he drove to Uganda. And from Uganda, he took a flight to Nairobi," Jean Kaseya told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme. "What are symptoms he was presenting? Why was he not detected?" he asked. The Ebola virus spreads through contact with infected bodily fluids such as blood or vomit. The current outbreak in DR Congo, which began in May, has been caused by the Bundibugyo species of Ebola, which is relatively rare, with no approved vaccine or treatment - though trials are under way. Kaseya said the Africa CDC was investigating the case, alongside the Congolese authorities. A team from the organisation was also due to meet the Kenyan health authorities. What is Ebola and why is stopping the latest outbreak so difficult? Kenya's health ministry official Patrick Amoth said the patient might have passed screening after taking medications that masked his symptoms. After arriving at the airport in Kenya's capital, he was transferred by a relative to a hospital in the city where he died, and was buried on Tuesday in line with health safety guidelines. Kenyan authorities have urged people not to panic, with the health ministry assuring of heightened surveillance at airports and border crossings. But Dr Dennis Miskellah, a representative from Kenya's main doctors' union, said the Ebola case did not come as a surprise to him and most health workers.

LeBron's Helicopter Commute Draws Dave Portnoy's Criticism Amid 76ers Move



LeBron James' quick return to New York after a Philadelphia 76ers scrimmage has given Dave Portnoy another reason to question how much time the NBA star plans to spend in Philly. James was seen leaving Philadelphia by helicopter on Saturday, October 3, and Front Office Sports has now reported that the aircraft is part of his existing Fanatics deal. The arrangement lets James travel between New York and Philadelphia without personally paying for each flight. Portnoy, the Barstool Sports founder, reacted to a post showing James' helicopter landing in New York. "This man hates Philly so much he can't spend more than 30 seconds in the city" Portnoy wrote on X.

■ LEBRON JAMES' FANATICS HELICOPTER DEAL EXPLAINS HIS PHILADELPHIA COMMUTE

James has already said he plans to keep homes in both places. When asked where he would live after joining the 76ers, he simply said, "Both. Multiple residences."

The helicopter now makes that choice easier. Front Office Sports reported that James' Fanatics agreement includes access to the company's corporate aviation. The deal was made in January 2024, well before he joined Philadelphia. A spokesperson for James also confirmed the arrangement.

"The deal we signed with Fanatics almost three years ago includes access to their corporate aviation," a spokesperson for LeBron James told Front Office Sports. "It's a feature in many of their deals with their largest athletes and we appreciate their partnership as LeBron splits his time between New York and Philadelphia."

A flight between New York and Philadelphia takes about 30 minutes by helicopter, compared with roughly 90 minutes to two hours by car. Flight records reviewed by Front Office Sports showed the Fanatics helicopter making 12 round trips between the two cities in one week. A one-way flight can cost around $4,000 to $10,000, but James does not have to pay that cost under the reported arrangement.

■ TYRESE MAXEY REACTS AS LEBRON JAMES KEEPS NEW YORK BASE

The unusual commute has already become a talking point inside the 76ers' facility. Tyrese Maxey joked about James leaving by helicopter while others stayed behind.

"I ain't gonna lie, that was funny.

One of us left in a helicopter, the other one was sitting on the curb," Maxey said. V.J. Edgecombe has also noticed how early James arrives at the facility. "He was in there before everybody," Edgecombe said, before adding, "As usual."

ROB BURROW WOULD BE PROUD OF KNIGHTHOOD - SINFIELD



Sir Kevin Sinfield has said his late friend Rob Burrow would be "laughing" but "enormously proud" to see him receive a knighthood. The former England rugby league captain and motor neurone disease (MND) campaigner was one of 60 people to receive honours from the Prince of Wales at an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle earlier. Sir Kevin, who has raised more than £11m for charity, received a knighthood for his services to the MND community, as well as for services to league and union rugby. He said he was "massively humbled by the whole experience" and "very proud to accept it on behalf of the MND community and their families". The 46-year-old said the prince, who presented Sir Kevin and Burrow with their CBEs at Headingley Stadium in 2024, had been "fantastically supportive" of their campaign. William, alongside the Princess of Wales, surprised Sir Kevin on the third day of his 7 in 7: The Grand Finale challenge last week, during which he completed seven ultra-marathons in seven days. It was inspired by Burrow, his late Leeds Rhinos team-mate and friend, who died in 2024 after living with MND for four years. Sir Kevin said: "I think [Prince William] champions pulling communities together, and I have seen how the MND community have come together on the back of Rob's diagnosis and several other high-profile sportspeople over the last six or seven years. "So his support and, obviously, Princess Catherine's as well, they've been wonderful and bring a real credibility to what we're trying to do." Asked how Burrow would have felt to see him receiving a knighthood, Sir Kevin said: "I think he'd be laughing. " I think he'd be enormously proud of the support behind a campaign that he started, and we continue in his name. "I think he'd be really proud of it, the support, and the way people got behind what we tried to do, especially Prince William and Princess Catherine, and several other high-profile figures across the UK, and the world.

"History Will Be Kinder": Gautam Gambhir's Post For Ajit Agarkar Takes Internet By Storm



Team India head coach Gautam Gambhir shared a heartfelt post for Ajit Agarkar, who ended his tenure as the head of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selection committee last month. Gambhir, who worked closely with Agarkar on selection matters as well as creating the pipeline to funnel young talented players into the team, couldn't stop praising Agarkar for his work as the selection committee chief. With Agarkar as the chief selector, India won two T20 World Cups and one ICC Champions Trophy. Yet, as Agarkar neared the final phase of his appointment, he became a target for critics. Gambhir, understanding what Agarkar went through in the last few months, wrote in a post for the former pacer, "History will be kinder to you". garkar's largely successful tenure as the selection committee chief hit a low point after the much-debated retirements of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli from Test cricket. The controversy thickened after talks of Rohit being phased out of India's ODI team began, with reports suggesting that Agarkar wanted to give Yashasvi Jaiswal more opportunities at the top of the batting order. However, the BCCI stepped in, with secretary Davijit Saikia backing Rohit to continue playing for India in the ODI format, at least until the World Cup next year. It was reportedly this point which triggered a divide between the BCCI and Agarkar, prompting the two parties to part ways. As Gambhir sits down to process the development, there's no better person to understand the brutalities of the sport that Agarkar was made to go through. "Dear Ajit Bhai, an absolute honour to work with you. Those 3 ICC trophies are testimony of your conviction: Team first & Team ahead, always... I must say, History will be kinder to you. Thank you for everything. My heartfelt wishes for your future endeavours !!," Gambhir wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

Smriti Mandhana And Harmanpreet Kaur "Not Seeing Eye To Eye", Division In India Dressing Room: Report



It was a no-brainer that Smriti Mandhana would receive the honour of captaining the Indian women's cricket team after Harmanpreet Kaur's resignation from the position. But is it a case of the elevation coming too late in the day for the 30-year-old left-hander, who is the country's best batter right now by quite a distance? The call from Harmanpreet, who led India for the first time in 2016, to step down from captaincy across formats was taken following a review meeting with the BCCI. The 37-year-old from Moga ended her path-breaking leadership tenure on a high, having just captained India to a second consecutive Asian Games gold in Japan. Mandhana was the obvious choice to take over the mantle from Harmanpreet. Having made her debut way back in 2013, the elegant opener has risen to be among the leading batters in the game, tallying more than 10,000 runs across formats. Mandhana was always head and shoulders above the rest when it came to skill and now she has further elevated her craft by adding power to her all-round game. Out of Patience With BCCI Selectors It was no secret that she had run out of patience with the selectors, who chose to maintain status quo on captaincy even after India ended their ICC trophy drought with the ODI World Cup win at home last year. In a recent interview, she expressed her readiness to lead India and after the Asian Games gold, she went on to say that India should be aiming to win bigger tournaments. In between the 50-over high, India had made premature exits from back to back T20 World Cups, raising questions over the leadership starting with the shortest format. But the selectors did not bell the cat. But at the the review meeting in Guwahati, which was chaired by BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia, it was made clear to Harmanpreet that a change of guard was inevitable. She eventually decided to take matters in her own hands.

Shreyas Iyer Shatters Virat Kohli's All-Time Record With Blazing Hundred Against West Indies



Shreyas Iyer led from the front as India registered a memorable eight-wicket victory over West Indies in the first T20I of the five-match series. Playing at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Tuesday, West Indies posted 171 after being put in to bat. In reply, the hosts chased down the target in just 14.4 overs with eight wickets to spare. Captain Iyer was the chief architect of India's innings, smashing his maiden T20I century in just 42 balls and guiding his side home in style. Iyer hammered 10 fours and six sixes to reach the three-figure mark for the first time in T20I cricket for India. During his unbeaten knock, he also eclipsed Virat Kohli to achieve a major milestone. Before Iyer's heroics, Kohli held the record for the highest score by an Indian captain in a successful T20I run chase, having scored an unbeaten 94 against West Indies in December 2019. On Tuesday, Iyer surpassed that mark with an unbeaten 102 to claim the top spot. Former India captain Rohit Sharma occupies third place on the list with an unbeaten 85 against Bangladesh in November 2019.



Angel Reese's Chicago Exit Pays Off As Rachel DeMita Praises Her Career-Building Decision



Angel Reese's first season with the Atlanta Dream has already changed the direction of her WNBA career. The 24-year-old forward won Defensive Player of the Year, reached the semifinals for the first time and put together the best offensive season of her career. Former college basketball player Rachel DeMita believes the biggest reason may be a decision Reese made before leaving the Chicago Sky. Reese had made it clear that she wanted major changes around her in Chicago. She eventually moved to Atlanta, and the results have been hard to ignore. In Game 1 of the semifinals against the New York Liberty.

Alexa Bliss Gets Hit In The Face By A Slim Jim During Song Promo



Alexa Bliss has explained the bizarre moment from a recent behind-the-scenes clip where a Slim Jim hit her straight in the face. The WWE star was promoting her upcoming song with husband Ryan Cabrera when she missed a tossed meat stick during filming, and that led to the unexpected smack. Bliss later reposted the clip on Instagram Stories and gave a very simple explanation for what happened. She joked that she got "slapped in the face with meat," then quickly turned the post back to the couple's new song, which is coming on October 9 for their fans soon. Alexa Bliss explains the Slim Jim mishap The clip came from the promotion for "I'm Just Drunk (Lexi's texts)," the new track Bliss and Cabrera are releasing together. The song is scheduled for October 9, and you can pre-save it already. Bliss gave more context herself after the footage showed her trying to catch a Slim Jim that was tossed at her. She missed it, so the meat stick hit her face instead. Her Instagram Story caption was pretty much the whole explanation: "I got slapped in the face with meat Anyway, pre-save our song!" Bliss didn't stay on the hit for long. She laughed it off and used the post to send people toward the upcoming release. Bliss and Ryan Cabrera record the new song The project also had a few familiar faces from Bliss's WWE world. A studio clip shared by Bliss showed her and Cabrera recording vocals with WWE ring announcer Mike Rome and their friend Joseph Noble. In the footage, the group worked on an "Oh oh oh" part of the song. Bliss also joked in the caption that "no tequila was used in the making of this song," which plays with the drunken-text theme of the track. Cabrera is seen on guitar during Bliss's vocal section in another promo video for the release.

MAX VERSTAPPEN REVIVAL TO BE PUT TO THE TEST IN STEAMY SINGAPORE

Max Verstappen's resurgence in Malaysia will be put to the test just 300 kilometres south at the Singapore Grand Prix this weekend, where the Red Bull driver may need to overcome the elements and his own poor record at the Marina Bay Street Circuit. An imperious Verstappen took his first chequered flag of the year at the wide open and fast Sepang Circuit at the Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia on Sunday. But it was in a race delayed for an hour and a half after a chaotic formation lap saw cars, including Verstappen's, grind to halt because of a software glitch in the settings for running in wet conditions. "It was insane," said Verstappen. "At some points, we were five-wide on the straight because we couldn't understand it... I saw eight cars crawling and Lewis (Hamilton) stopped... It's not what you want for the sport." Rain could again play a part in the tropical city state, with thunderstorms forecast to affect both Saturday's sprint race and qualifying, and Sunday's night grand prix. Verstappen has never won at the twisty Marina Bay Street Circuit, where extremes of heat and humidity play a part in the most physically attritional race of the season on a circuit notoriously difficult for overtaking. Drivers can shed up to three kilogrammes (more than six pounds) during the longest outing on the calendar, where completing the 62 steamy laps often lasts the maximum two hours race time allowed. A floor upgrade coupled with Verstappen finally working out how to get the best from the new generation car led him to call the result at Sepang four days ago "amazing". Runaway championship leader Kimi Antonelli was second in the Mercedes and is likely to be challenging for the chequered flag again. He was the beneficiary of yet more bad luck for his teammate and main title rival George Russell, who was "beyond disappointment" after an agonising power unit failure when running third with five laps to go in Malaysia. "You've almost got to laugh... it's just so many times this season it's happened," said Russell, who has failed to finish three times in 16 grands prix so far in 2026.

Sri Vishnu garu as Comrade Kalyan will make everyone laugh. The movie is a full length entertainer.. everyone will definitely enjoy it: Director Janakiram Marella



'King of Entertainment' Sri Vishnu is going to entertain with 'Comrade Kalyan' as a period elements, humor, romance, and emotional entertainer. Directed by Janakiram Marella, this film is presented by Kona Venkat. Produced by Venkata Krishna Karnati and Seetha Karnati under the banner of Skanda Vahana Motion Pictures LLP. Mahima Nambiar is the heroine. With the already released glimpses and teaser songs, expectations have increased on the film. 'Comrade Kalyan' is going to be released in theaters worldwide on October 9. On this occasion, director Janakiram Marella shared the features of the film at a press conference.

THE TITLE IS 'COMRADE KALYAN'.. BUT DOES IT SOUND LIKE FULL ENTERTAINMENT?

The title of Comrade Kalyan comes from the story. Sri Vishnu Gari's strength is entertainment. That is strong in this. What happens when a person in a problem goes to that side is out and out entertaining.

ARE THERE MANY RISKY LOCATIONS?

We shot in many risky locations. As per the story, we went into the deep forest. We went to Agumbe Forest near Mangalore. It is the forest with the highest number of cobras in the world. Everyone in the unit took a lot of risks. I narrowly escaped a big accident on the first day of shooting. Our entire team worked very hard.

ISN'T IT A COMEDY STORY? WHY DID YOU TAKE SUCH A RISK?

Now the audience is looking for something original. They want to see a story in an original way and in a world that suits the story. We took such a risk to give good entertainment to the audience. This was possible only with the encouragement of producer Kittu garu, Kona Venkat garu, and our hero Sri Vishnu garu.

WHEN DID THE IDEA FOR THIS STORY COME ABOUT?

I have been working with Bobby garu since 2014. Since then I have known Kona garu. I did a web series called 'Pulimeka'. Then I told him this idea. He liked it. Later I told Sri Vishnu garu. That's how this project started.

HOW WAS IT WORKING WITH SRI VISHNU?

Sri Vishnu garu was very supportive. We trekked three kilometers for one shot. He supported me at every stage. He loves the film very much. He checks everything very carefully.

"Mayookha Will Impress Audiences as a Different Kind of Thriller"- Director Shree Tej S.K.



Mayookha" is an upcoming thriller starring Payal Chengappa in the lead role. and directed by Shree Tej S.K. Interestingly, Srikanth Kandragula, who previously produced several interesting films under the Cinema Bandi Productions banner, has changed his screen name to Shree Tej S.K. and is making his directorial debut with this film. The film is produced by Sasidhar Nalla under the Prashvitha Entertai9ment banner "Mayookha" is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on the 9th of this month. Ahead of the release, director Shree Tej S.K. spoke about the film's highlights in a recent interview.

ON THE FILM'S RECOGNITION AT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS:

"Our film Mayookha recently won the Best Mystery Movie award at the New York Film Festival and also received the Second Best award in the Thriller category. We never expected to receive this recognition. When we learned that our film had been selected for an award, the entire team was extremely happy. We have also applied for the Cannes Film Festival.

"If you look at our promotional content, you can notice storytelling and colour grading inspired by Korean and Hollywood films. The story is gradually revealed and reaches its peak by the second half. Today, audiences are watching a lot of thriller web series and films on OTT platforms. So, if we want to create content that appeals to them, we have to attempt something fresh and deliver it with quality. That is exactly what we tried to do with Mayookha."

ON PAYAL CHENGAPPA:

"We initially narrated the story to actress Maheshwari, who is known for Gulabi. She listened to two stories we had and liked both of them. She eventually chose the other story. Payal has done some entertaining films in Kannada and we felt she would be a perfect fit for the character in our story. She has already reached Telugu audiences through her web series.

"We believed that audiences would relate strongly to her character in this film and connect with the struggles she goes through. Payal Chengappa has delivered a wonderful performance as Mayookha. I am confident that she will receive good recognition for her performance."

ON WHAT MAKES THE THRILLER DIFFERENT:

"Thrillers of this kind have been made before, but what makes our film different is the screenplay and the way the story has been presented on screen. The presentation is fresh and engaging. In fact, the recognition we received at the New York Film Festival as Best Thriller gave us confidence that our attempt had worked.

I Will Not Stop the Fight Even If I Lose My Life: Actor and Filmmaker Shiraz Mehdi



Actor and filmmaker Shiraz Mehdi has made sensational allegations over the difficulties faced by small films in the Telugu film industry, claiming that a mafia-like system is operating in the industry and that small producers, directors and artistes are facing discrimination, exploitation and several hurdles.

Shiraz Mehdi alleged that his film 'O Andala Rakshasi', which he produced and also acted in, was denied a fair opportunity to secure theatres. He said that despite facing threats, he would not back down from his fight for the rights of small films.

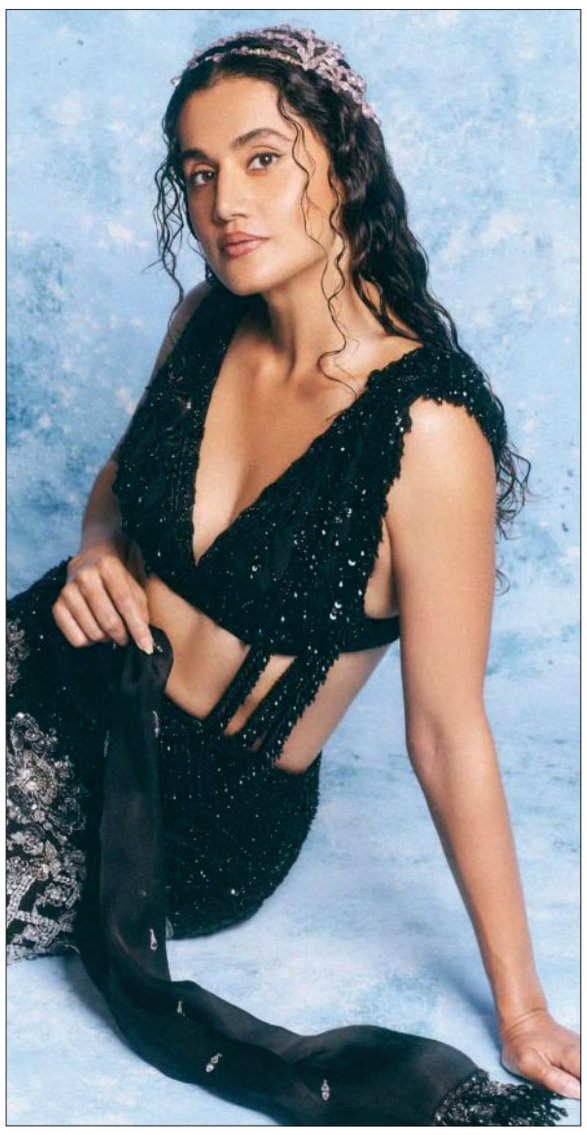
Speaking at a media conference held at the Somajiguda Press Club in Hyderabad, Shiraz Mehdi said that he had made the film with experienced technical professionals and with considerable effort. He expressed confidence that the movie has the potential to achieve strong results if it gets adequate theatrical support.

'Small Films Are Being Suppressed'

Shiraz Mehdi said securing theatres for release has become one of the biggest challenges for small producers. He alleged that priority is being given to big-budget films while smaller productions are being pushed aside.

He said he had already conducted more than 40 press meets and given over 50 interviews highlighting the problems faced by small filmmakers.

TAAPSEE PANNU SERVES SPARKLE IN STUNNING LOOKS



Taapsee Pannu began her journey in Telugu cinema with Jhummandi Naadam and quickly became a popular face with films like Mr. Perfect, Gundello Godari and Anando Brahma. She later moved to Bollywood, delivering strong performances in movies and OTT projects and earning a loyal fan base across industries.

For her latest ELLE shoot, the actress turned up in glittering couture. She wore a blush beaded fringe halter top with a sheer embroidered skirt and a flowing net drape, a black sequinned plunge blouse with a silver lattice skirt, and an ivory pearl-embellished cropped jacket with a fringed skirt. Delicate headpieces, soft curls and a sleek bun completed the looks. Taapsee will next be seen in upcoming OTT project Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan? co-starring Pratik Gandhi, under the direction of Arshad Syed.

KHUSHI KAPOOR RULES PARIS IN BURGUNDY LEATHER





Khushi Kapoor is yet to find a breakout film, but she stays in the spotlight with her fashion sense and the Kapoor legacy. After The Archies, Loveyapa and Nadaaniyan, she is still waiting for that one big box office hit. Khushi has now joined Messika's global fashion circle alongside Beyoncé, Rihanna and Gigi Hadid. She marked the moment at the Messika Spring/ Summer 2027 show at Paris Fashion Week in a floor-length burgundy leather trench with a wide statement collar. A layered gold choker from Messika high jewellery and a sleek bob completed the look. On the work front, Khushi will be seen in Mom 2, the sequel to her late mother Sridevi's 2017 film. The project is a big release for her, and all eyes will be on her performance.

THE BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP SONG FROM SUMMER HOLIDAYS RELEASED



Successful producer and distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni, who has earned a name for bringing content-driven films to audiences, is producing the children's film Summer Holidays under his Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainments banner. Directed by Srikar, the film is said to be a beautiful story that takes audiences back to their cherished childhood memories. Master Rohan, Master Arun and Baby Khushi play key roles in the movie. Summer Holidays is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon. The musical promotions of Summer Holidays are progressing successfully.

'RAWKING' MANOJ MANCHU AND WIFE BHUMA MOUNIKA MANCHU SEEK BLESSINGS AT SRI CHAMUNDESHWARI TEMPLE IN MYSURU



'RawKing' Manoj Manchu, along with his wife Bhuma Mounika Manchu, son Dhairav, and daughter Devasena Shobha, visited the sacred Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop the famed Chamundi Hills in Mysuru to seek divine blessings. Upon arrival, the temple priests accorded a traditional Poornakumbham welcome to the couple. The family performed special poojas and rituals inside the sanctum sanctorum and received Vedic blessings from the scholars. Following the darshan, temple authorities honored them with Seshavastram and presented sacred Theertha Prasadam. The visit of 'RawKing' Manoj Manchu and his family drew widespread enthusiasm from the devotees and fans present at the temple complex. The shoot of the prestigious high-octane action film 'Daada', starring Natasimham Nandamuri Balakrishna and helmed by director Gopichand Malineni, is currently progressing at a brisk pace across Mysuru.

Hanuman Ansh' is a film for the people of India. I am confident that it will be a great success in Telugu as well: Shobhinav Satya at the press meet



Inspired by the life and teachings of the famous spiritual guru Neem Karoli Baba, affectionately called Maharaj-ji by his devotees, Hanuman Ansh has become one of the films that received divine blockbuster success this year. The film has gained popularity across the country. Elements like faith, devotion, and spiritual transformation have impressed audiences of all generations. 'Hanuman Ansh' has been written and directed by Dr. Vishal Chaturvedi. Shobhinav Satya plays the role of Neem Karoli Baba. Chandan Anand, Purnima Tiwari and others have appeared in key roles. After a successful theatrical journey in Hindi, the film is now coming to Telugu audiences. Hombale Films, their overseas distribution arm, has acquired the theatrical rights for South Indian languages ??and is bringing this film to the South Indian audience. The Telugu version of 'Hanuman Ansh' will be released in theaters on October 9. The makers held a press meet on this occasion.

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