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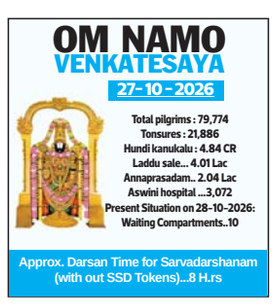
VIJAYAWADA I HYDERABAD I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I KOCHI

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NDA WINS ALL 4 KARNATAKA MLC SEATS, SETBACK FOR RULING CONGRESS

KAR'TAKA NEWS



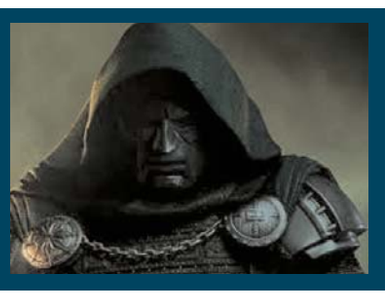
WORLD I PAGE

LUXURY CRUISE PASSENGERS STRANDED IN CAMBODIA DUE TO SOARING FUEL COSTS



CINEMA I PAGE

THIS TIME, INDIA ASSEMBLES FIRST!



SCAN FOR E-PAPER

SHORT TAKES

CJP extends support to INDIA bloc Nov 1 rally at Ramlila Maidan



New Delhi: The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), on Wednesday, October 28, has come in support of the INDIA Bloc mega rally scheduled to take place at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on November 1. The INDIA bloc will take out 'November 1st – Chalo Delhi. 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' people's march and mega rally, to protest against the alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demand the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Rahul, Sitharaman spar over Tata Group leadership dispute

Congress leader alleged that the conglomerate was being "criminally destroyed", while the finance minister accused him of politicising commercial and legal matters.

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman traded barbs on social media on Wednesday over the ongoing leadership dispute at the Tata Group, with Gandhi alleging that the conglomerate was being "criminally destroyed" and Sitharaman accusing him of spreading distrust.In a post on X, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said no business leader had the courage to speak out against what he described as the destruction of the Tata Group.

"Tata is being criminally destroyed, and no business leader dares say a word. How long will you stay silent? Until they own you?" Gandhi wrote. He said Indian businesses were not the "plaything" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, adding, "You lack courage. We don't. We will ensure justice for these crimes."

Responding to Gandhi, Sitharaman urged him to refrain from politicising every issue and said casually describing commercial and legal matters as criminal was unacceptable.

She accused the Congress leader of repeatedly criticising the achievements of Indian industry and entrepreneurs and questioned whether he was trying to persuade business leaders to join him in spreading "distrust and toxicity". Sitharaman said the Congress had suppressed entrepreneurial activity for decades through the "Licence-Quota Raj" and "inflicted poverty" on crores of Indians. In contrast, she said, the Modi government viewed Indian industries as job creators and drivers of economic growth, with policies designed to support enterprise and encourage investment.

The finance minister also called on political parties, leaders, governments and institutions to engage constructively in supporting industry, strengthening farmers and securing the future of young people. She said the Constitution guaranteed justice to citizens and the courts were entrusted with upholding it, while accusing the Congress of having demeaned the judiciary.

Gandhi hit back in a second post, questioning why Tata Trusts and Tata Sons had allegedly been hosted at Amit Shah's residence and asking when a business leader he referred to as "crony number 1" would enter the dispute.

CM Revanth orders treated water use from November 1



Hyderabad ■ TSIT BUREAU:

> AI-based STP monitoring and treated water use in building approvals planned.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed civic authorities in Greater Hyderabad to enforce the use of treated water for non-potable requirements from November 1 and take proactive measures to ensure regular drinking water supply across the city.

Reviewing the functioning of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and the utilisation of treated water, the Chief Minister instructed officials to supply treated water for landscaping at government offices, including the State Secretariat and the Chief Minister's camp office, public parks, road cleaning along the Outer Ring Road and non-potable requirements at data centres. He also directed officials to incorporate mandatory treated water use into the building permission approval process. Authorities were asked to assess the requirements of the Railways and Metro Rail and ensure treated water use for their non-drinking needs.

Revanth Reddy instructed officials to introduce artificial intelligence in STP operations, appoint a special officer to monitor treated water quality and integrate all STPs with the Command and Control Centre. HYDRAA was also given powers to monitor the plants.The Chief Minister called for extensive awareness campaigns to encourage treated water use, a toll-free number for enquiries and supply requests, and tracking of tankers transporting treated water.

Telangana to consider all-party suggestions on drought measures Uttam



HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT)

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday said the Telangana government would consider suggestions from all political parties while drawing up measures to tackle drought conditions and mitigate their impact on people and farmers.

Speaking at an all-party meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, the Minister said the government would adopt a positive and constructive approach to addressing the challenges posed by the natural calamity.Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka chaired the meeting, which discussed the impact of El Niño, deficient rainfall, drought conditions and measures required to minimise hardship.

Political parties offered suggestions on drinking water supply, conservation of water resources, electricity supply for irrigation, alternative crop planning and advance drought mitigation measures.

Rajnath urges zero tolerance for terror sponsors

In his wide-ranging talks with Hegseth at Cebu in the Philippines, Singh stressed that the global community must maintain an "uncompromising, zero-tolerance approach" towards nations that support, train, or fund terrorist organisations, according to an Indian readout.

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on Wednesday reviewed the progress of a 10-year India-US defence framework pact that seeks to drive strategic convergence in critical technologies, information sharing, and co-production of military hardware.

In his wide-ranging talks with Hegseth at Cebu in the Philippines, Singh stressed that the global community must maintain an "uncompromising, zero-tolerance approach" towards nations that support, train, or fund terrorist organisations, according to an Indian readout.

Hegseth reaffirmed the United States' unwavering solidarity and full support to India in its fight against cross-border terrorism and Singh expressed India's "deep appreciation" for the consistent and strong support extended by the US, it said.The two sides also reviewed the situation in Indo-Pacific and the fast evolving regional security dynamics.

ANDHRA WORST HIT BY CYCLONE ARNAB, 3 KILLED

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Andhra Pradesh bore the brunt of Cyclone Arnab, with three people killed and 31 houses damaged, a senior National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) officer said on Wednesday.The disaster response and rescue teams of the Centre and those of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are now bracing to tackle the effects of rainfall, which is expected to continue in the two states and adjoining areas, NDRF Inspector General (IG) Narendra Singh Bundela told reporters here during a press briefing.

'Modi govt subservient to US': Cong's dig after BJP fields Hardeep Puri for RS bypoll

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):

The Congress on Wednesday took a swipe at the government over the nomination of Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri for the Rajya Sabha bypoll, saying it is so subservient to the US that it is still "shamelessly" promoting a man with links to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The BJP central election committee approved Puri's name for the bypoll from Madhya Pradesh. Puri, 74, currently serves as the Union minister of petroleum and natural gas. His term as Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh is set to be over on November 25.

The Rajya Sabha bypoll in Madhya Pradesh to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Union minister L Murugan will take place on November 12.Reacting to the nomination, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said the Modi government is so "subservient to Washington" that it is still "shamelessly" promoting a man whose links to convicted child sex offender and child trafficker Epstein warrant an independent investigation -- not a Rajya Sabha seat or a ministerial berth. "Hardeep Puri has been missing in action as India grapples with an energy shock.

ED attaches Jauhar University in Azam Khan money laundering case

The agency carried out raids in this case in August and also questioned Khan, who is lodged in Rampur jail facing multiple criminal charges.

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT)



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday, October 28, said it has attached the land and building of Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan-promoted Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Uttar Pradesh under the anti-money laundering law.The federal probe agency alleged that government funds meant for public works were diverted for the construction of the private varsity, which has a current market value of approximately Rs 1,170 crore, located in Rampur district.

It accused the jailed 78-year-old Samajwadi Party leader of using his influence as the Cabinet minister of Urban Development and the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam for these alleged irregularities.A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach the property comprising 59 buildings.

The land and the buildings were registered and constructed at a cost of Rs 499 crore but they currently command a current market value of Rs 1,170 crore, the ED said in a statement. It added that the estimated proceeds of crime in the case are Rs 426.46 crore.

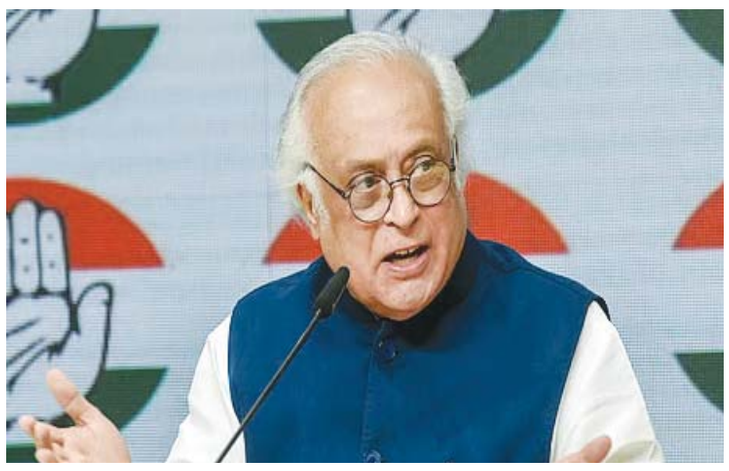
"The University campus at Jauhar Nagar, Village Singhankhera, Rampur, is held by the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Trust, which was founded and is controlled by Mohammad Azam Khan, who is also the honorary Chancellor of the University," the ED said. The agency carried out raids in this case in August and also questioned Khan, who is lodged in Rampur jail facing multiple criminal charges.

Executioner on behalf of diabolical duo: Cong slams CEC ahead of 'public impeachment' at Kharge home

NEW DELHI: Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has violated the letter and spirit of the Constitution and been the willing executioner on behalf of the "diabolical duo", the Congress alleged on Wednesday as it prepared to hold the INDIA bloc's 'public impeachment' of the poll body chief at the official residence of party president Mallikarjun Kharge. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that having been denied other locations, the "INDIA janbandhan" will be holding a public impeachment of Kumar at 10, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi at 3.30 pm on October 30.

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

"The CEC has demonstrably violated the letter and spirit of the Constitution. He has systematically subverted the very foundations of our electoral democracy. He has, to put it bluntly, lied to the Supreme Court," Ramesh said on X. "He has been the willing executioner on behalf of the Diabolical Duo whose turn will come next," Ramesh added, in an apparent attack at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.



The Congress on Tuesday had claimed it was denied permission to hold the "public impeachment" of CEC Kumar and accused the government of trying to "silence" the voice of common people after "destroying" the electoral system. Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal had claimed the government-run Ashok Hotel initially allowed permission to host the event but later denied it after police intervention.

He said the Congress had booked Ramlila Maidan from October 25 to November 3 and decided to shift the event to the site.

He said 21 parties of the INDIA bloc had planned the "public impeachment of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar as a curtain raiser" on October 30 for the November 1 rally at Ramlila Maidan on the "vote chori" charge.

"The day before yesterday, our people came to construct the infrastructure here and the police stopped them. We don't know what the reason is," said Venugopal, who, accompanied by leaders of the Delhi Congress, visited the Ramlila grounds on Tuesday to oversee arrangements for the November 1 rally.

"This means it is not the Delhi Police's decision. It is the decision of PM (Narendra) Modi and (Home Minister) Amit Shah and they are protecting their pet Gyanesh Kumar," he alleged. "First they destroy the electoral system, and now they are trying all kinds of tricks to silence those who fight to save our democracy.

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DGP C.V. Anand Launches Seven Initiatives to Modernise Telangana Police Services



Hyderabad, TSIT : Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand launched seven initiatives at the DGP's office to improve police service delivery, strengthen criminal investigations and enhance transparency and accountability. The initiatives include a Citizen Feedback Centre, Bharosa software, a dedicated CID website, a Jail Release Monitoring System, facial recognition and fingerprint applications, and standard operating procedures for investigating officers.

The Citizen Feedback Centre will gather opinions from people who have recently accessed police services, including petition handling, FIR registration, e-challans and passport verification.

Bharosa software, developed by the Women Safety Wing, brings 35 Bharosa centres across Telangana onto a common platform. It enables officials to monitor counselling, medical, legal and rehabilitation services provided to victims and track cases from registration to closure. The platform provides state-level dashboards and 23 types of reports.

The Jail Release Monitoring System links the National Informatics Centre's e-Prisons platform with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems. It alerts police stations and officers concerned through SMS when prisoners are released. Officials said its search tools and artificial intelligence-based analysis would support preventive monitoring and help identify criminal networks.

The Mobile Face Search application uses a database of more than 9.8 lakh photographs to compare facial images in approximately 15 seconds. It will assist police in identifying suspects, missing persons and unidentified bodies.The Crime Scene Chance Print application enables personnel to capture fingerprints found at crime scenes using Android phones and send them to the state server for automated comparison. Officials described it as the first such initiative in the country.

Bejugam Ramesh Appointed Vasavi Sevadal State Treasurer



SHADNAGAR : Bejugam Ramesh of Shadnagar has been appointed state treasurer of Vasavi Sevadal, a wing of the Telangana State Arya Vysya Mahasabha, for the 2026–2028 term. State president Amaravadi Lakshminarayana handed over the appointment letter on Wednesday. District president Gande Suresh and state leader Dandu Sarath Chandra Babu felicitated Ramesh at a programme in Shadnagar. Ramesh pledged his full support to the Mahasabha's service activities.

Red Cross Organises Anti-Drug Rally in Khammam



Khammam (TSIT): The Indian Red Cross Society organised an anti-drug rally in Khammam to create awareness about the harmful effects of ganja and other narcotic substances, said its Khammam district chairman Dr. Gongura Venkateswarlu (GV). Speakers said eliminating drug abuse was essential to protect the future of youth. They urged young people to focus on education, sports and social service instead of falling prey to substance abuse. They said parents, teachers, educational institutions, voluntary organisations and officials should work together to prevent drug abuse.

ICFAI Law School Conducts POCSO Awareness Campaign in Chandippa



RANGAREDDY (TSIT) The Legal Aid Society of ICFAI Law School, Shankarpalli, conducted a rights audit and awareness campaign on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in Chandippa village, Shankarpally mandal, on October 28, 2026. Student volunteers surveyed families on child rights, safe and unsafe touch, and reporting procedures. The team explained key provisions of the POCSO Act, including mandatory reporting under Section 19 and victim identity protection. Students also staged a street play highlighting child safety and abuse prevention. The programme brought together Anganwadi workers, teachers and Panchayat representatives to discuss child protection.

Delhi police imposes strict conditions for Congress-led rally on November 1



New Delhi, Oct 28: The Delhi Police has granted permission to the Congress-led INDIA bloc to hold its "Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao" rally at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on November 1, subject to strict conditions, including a deadline of 5 pm to conclude the event and a ban on inflammatory speeches. The rally, scheduled for November 1, 2026, is expected to bring together INDIA bloc leaders and supporters to campaign under the slogan "Save the Vote, Save the Nation".

In its no-objection certificate (NOC), the Delhi Police permitted the event from 10 am to 5 pm, subject to approval from the landowning authority and compliance with the conditions imposed by the police.

The organisers have been directed to ensure that the gathering remains peaceful and that there is no violence, disruption of public order or unruly behaviour. The rally must end by 5 pm, after which participants must begin dispersing. The duration of the event cannot be extended under any circumstances.

The police has also prohibited overnight stays at Ramlila Maidan before or after the rally. Any violation of the conditions or failure to comply with police instructions could result in legal action against the organisers and cancellation of permission.

As part of the security arrangements, organisers must install high-definition CCTV cameras at entry and exit gates, the stage, seating areas and the surrounding vicinity. A control room with recording facilities and at least five monitors must also be established. Adequate drinking water and toilet facilities must be provided for attendees, including separate toilet blocks for women. Organisers are also required to deploy sufficient volunteers to manage the gathering in an orderly manner. Volunteers must be identifiable through uniforms or badges.

The police has prohibited speeches that could provoke tensions on the basis of caste, religion or skin colour or undermine social harmony. If a speaker delivers an inflammatory or threatening speech, organisers must immediately switch off the microphone and remove the speaker from the stage.

No procession from Ramlila Maidan to any other location will be permitted during the rally. Vehicles, including buses, cars and tempos, must be parked only in areas designated by the traffic police.

The organisers have also been instructed to cooperate fully with the police and submit details of invitees and volunteers, a minute-by-minute programme schedule and information on the number of buses attending the event, along with their registration details. The police has placed responsibility on the organisers to ensure compliance with applicable laws and maintain public order throughout the gathering. Any breach of the stipulated conditions could invite legal action.

Sprinkler systems distributed to farmers at 60% subsidy



Husnabad, 28 October: To help farmers cope with drought conditions exacerbated by El Niño and facilitate cultivation of crops with minimal water, sprinkler systems have been distributed to farmers in Maisamma Vagu Thanda at a 60% subsidy.

The initiative aims to alleviate irrigation challenges and encourage efficient, economical use of available water resources. Sprinkler systems from the company 'Sudhakar' were provided to 38 local farmers. The distribution was carried out by ATMA Committee Chairman Jangapalli Ilaiah, Village Sarpanch Bukya Krishna Naik and Horticulture Officer Balaji.

Given concerns over climate change and El Niño, agricultural experts emphasise reducing water consumption and using available resources more effectively. Sprinkler irrigation allows controlled, precise delivery of water to crops and, compared to traditional methods, helps reduce consumption for certain crops, soil types and environmental conditions.

Providing equipment to small and marginal farmers at subsidised rates eases cultivation costs and encourages modern farming practices. Sprinklers are particularly beneficial in regions with limited water availability, though guidelines based on crop type, soil characteristics and water supply should be followed.

Farmers who received the sprinkler pipes expressed satisfaction, noting the equipment would be useful and provide relief during water scarcity. Many suggested greater focus on awareness about government subsidy schemes and ensuring eligible farmers access necessary equipment.

Collector directs solar power for every household in Kondareddypally



Nagarkurnool, 28 October: District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil said steps are being taken to develop Kondareddypally village in Balmoor mandal as a 100 per cent solar village by providing solar power facilities to every household. He stated that the initiative would reduce dependence on conventional electricity, promote renewable energy and serve as a model for other villages.

On Wednesday, the Collector, along with Achampet Sub-Collector Saloni Chhabra, visited Kondareddypally and inspected Indiramma houses under construction, the Anganwadi centre, rooftop solar panels and the construction work of the gram panchayat building.

Congress seeks ballot papers in place of EVMs



Mancherial, 28 October: The right to vote is a constitutional right guaranteed to citizens, and the Congress is fighting to protect it, said AICC observer Mariappa. Addressing a meeting organised by the Mancherial District Congress Committee at Shubham Convention in Mancherial town, he criticised the functioning of the Election Commission of India. He alleged that changes in the appointment process of the Chief Election Commissioner and legal provisions relating to accountability had weakened the scope for holding the poll body responsible for its lapses.

Granules India's Pharma Pathashala opens career pathways for rural youth



Hyderabad, 28 October 2026: Granules India's flagship CSR initiative, Pharma Pathashala, is helping rural youth build pharmaceutical careers through free residential training. Launched in 2017 with Swarna Bharat Trust and accredited by LSSSDC under NSDC, the programme combines classroom learning, laboratory training, soft-skills development and industry exposure, along with English and computer training. Accommodation, meals, books, uniforms and a stipend are provided.

Over 1,800 young people have joined since inception. After completing the programme and clearing the LSSSDC assessment, candidates can pursue pharmaceutical sector opportunities. Those joining Granules India receive full-time employment, subsidised accommodation and transport, and may be considered for the Self-Managed Team programme, which offers a fully funded B.Sc. in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing through TISS.

Shailesh, who joined in 2018 as an operator, progressed to leading automation projects at Granules Life Sciences. Women now represent about one in four trainees. Executive Directors Uma Devi Chigurupati and Priyanka Chigurupati said the programme gives aspirations a practical pathway and supports financial independence, strengthening families and communities while advancing India's Viksit Bharat @ 2047 vision.



PM CHAIRS 54TH PRAGATI MEETING AT SEVA TEERTH, IN NEW DELHI....

MP SRIBHARAT ASSURES SUPPORT TO CYCLONE-HIT FISHERMEN

Visakhapatnam, TSIT : Visakhapatnam MP Mathukumilli Sribharat assured cyclone-affected fishermen of all possible assistance after inspecting the damage at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on Wednesday. Accompanied by South Constituency MLA Vamsi Krishna Srinivas, the MP visited the harbour despite heavy rain and interacted with fishermen to assess their losses. The fishermen informed the leaders that five boats had sunk into the sea and another boat had been completely damaged. Sribharat assured them that he would bring the extent of the damage to the attention of Fisheries Department officials and strive to secure necessary government assistance for the affected families. The fishermen thanked the MP and MLA for visiting the harbour and personally enquiring about their difficulties despite the adverse weather conditions.



Free Sparsha Darshanam for Chenchu tribals at Srisailam



Srisailam, 28 October: It has been decided to provide special free Sparsha Darshanam exclusively to Chenchu tribals on one day every month—the last Wednesday of every month.

As part of this initiative, free Sparsha Darshanam of Sri Swamyvaru along with Darshanam of Ammavaru was arranged for 250 Chenchu tribal devotees on Wednesday, 28 October 2026. A total of 250 Chenchu tribals from local Chenchu settlements as well as from Palnadu and Markapuram districts availed the Sparsha Darshanam.

After the darshan, Annaprasadam was arranged for all the Chenchu tribal devotees at the Devasthanam Annapurna Prasada Vitarana Bhavan.

This morning, the Chenchu tribal devotees arrived for darshan in traditional style accompanied by Tappeta (drum) music and Chenchu dances. The temple staff welcomed them at the Uma Ramalingeswara Swamy temple.

The cooperation of the local ITDA Project Officer was taken in the selection of Chenchu tribal devotees for the free Sparsha Darshanam of Sri Swamyvaru. The initiative is expected to benefit Chenchu tribal communities, who will be able to avail the special darshan on the last Wednesday of every month.

Stroke cases rising among young and middle-aged adults



Hyderabad, 28 October: Brain strokes, once commonly associated with older adults, are increasingly being reported among younger and middle-aged people, according to Dr. K. S. V. Surya Teja Reddy, Chief Consultant, Interventional Neuroradiologist, KIMS Hospitals, Kondapur.

In clinical practice, around 15 stroke patients are seen in the outpatient department each month, including a considerable number of middle-aged individuals, highlighting the need for public awareness about risk factors, warning signs and immediate medical attention. World Stroke Day is observed on October 29 under the message "Every Minute Counts." Globally, about one in four people aged 25 and above may experience a stroke in their lifetime.

A stroke occurs when blood flow to part of the brain is interrupted by a blocked vessel or a rupture, causing brain cells to die rapidly. Symptoms include weakness on one side, difficulty speaking, impaired vision and loss of balance. Time-sensitive treatments include intravenous thrombolysis and mechanical thrombectomy. Major risk factors include hypertension, blood clots, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart conditions such as atrial fibrillation, smoking and blood vessel rupture. Changing lifestyles—irregular hours, prolonged sitting, poor sleep, unhealthy diets and inactivity—contribute to risk. The BE FAST approach helps identify warning signs: Balance, Eyes, Face, Arms, Speech and Time. Prompt hospital care can reduce long-term disability.

Varudu Kalyani Seeks Bar Association's Support in GVMC Elections



Visakhapatnam, TSIT: YSR Congress Party mayoral candidate and MLC Varudu Kalyani met members of the Visakhapatnam District Court Bar Association at its chambers on Tuesday and appealed for their support in the upcoming Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation elections. During the interaction, Kalyani said the YSRCP was committed to the development of Visakhapatnam, public welfare and the improvement of civic infrastructure. She stressed that the participation of all sections of society was essential for the city's progress and assured that she would remain accessible to the public to address their grievances.

Highlighting the role of advocates in a democratic society, she said members of the legal fraternity played a significant role in upholding justice, protecting citizens' rights and creating public awareness. She urged the advocates to extend their support to her and other YSRCP candidates to contribute to the city's development. Kalyani interacted warmly with the advocates and sought their views on various issues concerning the city and its development. Bar Association representatives Krishna Mohan, Baji Naidu, B.V.R. Murthy, Sunny and Raviraj, along with Bar Council members, former government pleaders and public prosecutors (Ex-GPs and PPs), and a large number of local advocates, participated in the meeting

NMDC OBSERVES VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK 2026



Hyderabad, 28 October: NMDC Limited commenced Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 on 26 October under the theme "Probity for Prosperity" at its Head Office in Hyderabad.

Shri Vinay Kumar, Director (Technical), administered the Integrity Pledge to officials and employees, reaffirming the organisation's commitment to integrity, transparency and accountability in all spheres of its operations. Senior officials read messages from the Hon'ble President, Vice-President and Prime Minister of India, along with the message from the Central Vigilance Commission, read by the Chief Vigilance Officer. Similar pledge-taking activities were administered by respective Heads of Projects across NMDC's project units, reinforcing a shared commitment to ethical conduct and good governance.

As part of the observance, competitions including essay writing, quiz and elocution are being organised for employees and other stakeholders. A Run for Integrity will also be organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, promoting unity, integrity and public service. The week-long observance will culminate in a valedictory function where winners of the competitions will be felicitated. Through these initiatives, NMDC reiterates its commitment to preventive vigilance, ethical governance and a culture of probity, recognising integrity as a cornerstone of sustainable and inclusive prosperity.

Upasana visits Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy temple

Sri Kalahasti, 28 October: Smt. Konidela Upasana visited the temple of Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy and performed the Rahu-Ketu Sarpa Dosha Nivarana Puja on the occasion. She later had darshan of Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy along with Sri Gnanaprasunamba, offering special pujas at the temple.

Tirupati archer wins gold and bronze at Asian Games



Tirupati, 28 October: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar congratulated Tirumuru Ganesh Manirathnam, a resident of Nayudupeta in Tirupati district, for winning Gold and Bronze medals in Archery at the Asian Games. The Collector said achieving medals on an international platform is highly commendable and a matter of pride for the district. On Wednesday morning, the Collector, along with Joint Collector R. Govindarao, Election Observer M. Varaprasad and District Revenue Officer G. Narasimhulu, met Ganesh Manirathnam at the Collector's Chamber in the local Collectorate and praised his achievements.

FORM No. URC-2

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI [Pursuant to Section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar at CRC, Manesar, Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050, India that M/s Delta Lubricants, a partnership firm may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a Private Limited Company limited by shares.
2. The Principal objects of the Company are as follows:
   (i) To continue and carry on the existing business of M/s Delta Lubricants (a partnership firm) on an ongoing concern basis.
   (ii) To carry on the business of manufacturing, processing, blending, refining, packaging, importing, exporting, trading, distributing and dealing in lubricants, oils, greases, petroleum products, petrochemicals, additives, specialty chemicals and allied products for industrial, automotive and other applications.
3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at D.No. 10-88, Bandar Road, Ashok Nagar, Vijayawada – 520007, Andhra Pradesh.
4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7 and 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana -122050, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the Firm at its registered office.

Dated this 27th day of October, 2026

For **Delta Lubricants**
Sd/-
Ganesh Banda
Partner

Altum Credo Home Finance

ALTUM CREDO HOME FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED
REDG. OFFICE : Floor No 7, Kalpataru Infinia, Plot No 22, Sub Plot No 3, CTS No. 15/1, Village Bhamurda, Wakdewadi, Shivaji Nagar, Pune City, Maharashtra 411005

DEMAND NOTICE

The Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And enforcement of security Interest Act 2002, read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

The undersigned is the authorized officer of **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt.Ltd** (ACHFL). Under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (The said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, the authorized officer has issued demand notices under 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrower(s) [The "said borrower(s)], to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective demand notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said borrower(s) to pay to **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt.Ltd** (ACHFL), within sixty days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said demand notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below til the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/ writings, if any, executed by the said borrower(s). As Security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to **Altum Credo Home Finance Pvt. Ltd** (ACHFL) by the said borrower(s) respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) Loan Account Number	1. NPA Date, 2. Demand Notice Date (U/s 13(2)), 3. Outstanding Amount
1.	1) Mallipudi Ramana (Borrower) 2) Sudarani Mallipudi (Co-Borrower) **Address :** 2-240, Gowripatnam, Gowripatnam, Devarapalle, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, Gowripatnam 534313 **Loan Account No. :** S145202000031	1. 28-08-2026 2. 05-10-2026 3. Rs. 9,30,670 (Rupees Nine Lakh Thirty Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Only) as on 3-Oct-2026
	Description of Secured Asset:-RCC building bearing Door No:1-39, R.S.No.211-2 in admeasuring to an extent of 146 Square Yards equivalent to Square Meters 122.07 with RCC plinth area 611.47 Square Feet's(Approx), Gowripatnam Village, Devarapallimandal, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh-534313 and comes within the jurisdiction of Office of the Sub Registrar KOVVUR. **Boundaries:** East : Panchayati Road, West : House Site of Vepuri Maliki, South : PHouse Site of Komara Venkata Rao, North : House Site of Mallipudi Suresh	
2.	1) Gandikota Srinu (Borrower) 2) Gandikota Pallavi (Co-Borrower) **Address :** 63-12-14, School Road, Rajahmundry (Urban), Rajahmundry, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, 533101 **Loan Account No. :** S145202000074	1. 28-08-2026 2. 05-10-2026 3. Rs. 7,01,682 (Rupees Seven Lakh OneThousand Six Hundred Eighty Two Only) as on 3-Oct-2026
	Description of Secured Asset:- RCC building bearing NEAREST Door No:1-213, R.S.No. 165, in admeasuring to an extent of 53.75 Square Yards equivalent to Square Meters 180.98 with RCC plinth area 477 (Approx) Square Feets, VELUGUBANDA Village, VELUGUBANDA GRAM, PANCHAYATHI, RAJANAGARAM Mandalam, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, Pincode:533294 And comes within the jurisdiction of Office of thr Registrar KOVVUR. **Boundaries:** East : FT 22.5 Kolagadi Ananthalakshmi Site, West : FT 22.5 Nallamolu Prasad House, South : FT 21.5 Pinninti Kanakadurga Site, North : FT 21.5 Road	

STATUTORY NOTICE TO BORROWERS / CO-BORROWERS AND GUARANTORS

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrowers(s) and Guarantor (s) are hereby put to caution that the property may be sold at any time hereinafter by way of public auction/tenders and as such this may also be treated as a notice under Rule 6, 8 & 9 of Security (interest) Enforcement Rules, 2002.

Date : 29-10-2026 **Sd/-, Authorized Officer**
Place : Andhra Pradesh **Altum Credo Home Finance Private Limited**

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2
1ST FLOOR, TRIVENI COMPLEX, ABIDS, HYDERABAD
O.A.NO. 933 OF 2026

Between:
State Bank of India,
SME Branch, H.No.2/714, Ground Floor, VSR Mansion, Opp. Officers Club, Nagarajupeta, Kadapa, YSR Kadapa District, represented by its Chief Manager
....APPLICANT

AND
1. M/s.Thahar Picture Palace.
2. Sri. Palleti Ronald Sundar Deepak
....DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED

To
D1. M/s.Thahar Picture Palace,
A Proprietary Concern, Rep: by its Proprietor-D.No.16/364-1, 16th Ward, Devuni Kadapa Road, Kadapa, YSR Kadapa District -516 002.

WHEREAS OA.No.933/2026 was filed/listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 22-10-2026.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs.4,06,27,600/-** (Application along with copies of documents etc., annexed)

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:

I) To show cause within thirty days of the serve of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.
ii) To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application.
iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets ad properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties.
iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Tribunal on 01-12-2026 failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the 23rd October, 2026.

REGISTRAR,
Debts Recovery Tribunal – 2
1st Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792, Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031, Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022.

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	167081070	Home Loan	22-Aug-2026	8,09,282.08/-

NAME OF BORROWERS AND CO-BORROWERS : 1. THIRUVEEDULA SIVA PARVATHI 2. TIRUVEEDHULA KANTHARAO

PROPERTY ADDRESS : ALL PIECES AND PARCELS OF PROPERTY SITUATED IN BAPATLA DISTRICT, NARASARAOPET (R.D), NARASARAOPET SRO, SANTHAMAGULURU MANDAL, KOPPARAM SIVARU NEHRU NAGAR GRAMA PANCHAYAT AREA, KOPPARAM VILLAGE, NEAR S. Y. NO. 359-2C, WITH AN EXTENT OF 145.2 SQ. YARDS OR 121 .40 SQ. METERS IS **BOUNDED BY: EAST: PRPOPERTY OF CHEVURI PRASAD, WEST: PROPERTY OF TIRUVEEDHULA MERAMMA, NORTH: EXECUTANT REMAINING PROPERTY, SOUTH: PANCHAYAT ROAD**

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited).** Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/- Authorized Officer

Date 29.10.2026 **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with**
Place : ANDHRA PRADESH **IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)**

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792, Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031, Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022.

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Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
2	98157688	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	14-Oct-2026	9,68,704.15/-

NAME OF BORROWERS AND CO-BORROWERS : 1. MATTA MAHESH 2. KALAPALA DIVYABHARATHI 3. MATTA NAGESWARAMMA

PROPERTY ADDRESS : ALL THAT PEICE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY SITUATED IN ELURU DISTRICT, VATLURU SUB-REGISTRY, PEDAPADU MANDAL, EPURU VILLAGE, IN R.S.NO.158, OF AN EXTANT OF 193.6 SQ. YARDS, ASSESSMENT NO.1421, OF IN HOUSE TAX D.NO.5-82/1, RCC BUILDING THEREIN, NEAR RAMALAYAM, KRISHNA, ANDHRA PRADESH-521105, AND **BOUNDED BY: EAST: PROPERTY OF MALLAMPALLI, WEST: PANCHAYATHI ROAD, NORTH: PROPERTY OF MATTA SRINIVASA RAO, SOUTH: PANCHAYATHI ROAD**

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
3	101229282	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	07-Sep-2026	13,44,897.61/-

NAME OF BORROWERS AND CO-BORROWERS : 1.EEDARA SEETARAMYYA 2.EEDARA NAGAMANI

PROPERTY ADDRESS : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY SITUATED IN GUNTUR DISTRICT, NARASARAOPET REGD. DISTRICT, NARASARAOPET SUB-DISTRICT, ROMPICHARLA MANDAL, H/O ANNAVARAM, TUNGAPADU GRAMA PANCHAYAT, ANNAVARAM VILLAGE D.NO. 46-A, AN EXTENT OF AC. 0.10 CENTS OR 484 SQ. YDS. OR 404.63 SQ. METERS OF SITE THEREIN, WITH ALL EASEMENT RIGHTS, AND THE PROPERTY **BOUNDED AS: EAST: PROPERTY OF KASINDHULA LAKSHMI AND OTHERS, WEST: ROAD, NORTH: REMAINING SITE OF EXECUTANT, SOUTH: PROPERTY OF BALLAGIRI VENKATESWARLU**

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
4	105769394	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	26-Aug-2026	9,67,512.24/-

NAME OF BORROWERS AND CO-BORROWERS : 1. RAMISETTY VEERA ANJANEYULU 3. RAMISETTY VENKATA DURGA

PROPERTY ADDRESS : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY SITUATED IN PALNADU DISTRICT, NARASARAOPET REGD. DISTRICT, VINUKONDA SUB-DISTRICT, SAVALYAPURAM MANDAL, MATHUKUMALLI GRAMA PANCHAYAT, SANAMPUDI VILLAGE, ANDHRA PRADESH-522646, D.NO. 446-A, DOOR NO. 4-951/A, ASSESSMENT NO. 79, AN EXTENT OF 154 SQ. YDS. OR 128.766 SQ. METERS OR 3182 SQ. LINKS OF SITE IN WHICH 2 YEARS BACK RCC ROOFED SLAB ON PILLARS AND WALLS IN 462 SQ. FT. OF SITE THEREIN, WITHIN THE FOLLOWING **BOUNDARIES: EAST: SITE OF RAMISETTY SEETA RAMAIAH - 86 LINKS, WEST: JOINT WALL AND HOUSE OF ENUMULA SRINIVASA RAO - 86 LINKS, NORTH: BAZAR - 37 LINKS, SOUTH: SHED OF GOPISETTY RAMA KOTESWRA RAO - 37 LINKS** WITHIN THE ABOVE BOUNDARIES, AN EXTENT OF 154 SQ. YDS. OR 128.766 SQ. METERS OR 3182 SQ. LINKS OF SITE IN WHICH 2 YEARS BACK RCC ROOFED SLAB ON PILLARS AND WALLS IN 462 SQ. FT. OF SITE THEREIN, WITH ALL EASEMENT RIGHTS.

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited).** Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/- Authorized Officer

Date 29.10.2026 **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with**
Place : ANDHRA PRADESH **IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)**

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Is America Staring At A 'Blue Wave' Again? Why Trump Feels Threatened

There has rarely been an election, that too a mid-term, that has caused such interest the world over. But then, not often has there been a President who has caused so much damage to not just his own country, but to almost everyone he has dealt with - neighbours, allies, and friends alike. And the worst of it, even in the unlikely contingency that he is removed, the America that he crafted is not expected to change very much in the near future. It is not really about Trump. It is about an America that elected him to power, knowing full well that he escaped impeachment twice earlier. And it is about an America that has turned almost irrevocably to the right, becoming a flagbearer of the dictum that might is right. Luckily, it is not all Americans. Therein lies hope.

THE WAY THE COOKIE CRUMBLES

First, the mid-term electoral system is one that will see every seat in Congress going up for grabs, all 435 of them. In the Senate, just a third retire, which means that a total shift may be unlikely from the present Republican domination. Among the 35 states that go to vote for the Senate, about ten are heavily Republican-dominated, while another 10 lean towards Republicans. But those trends are usually for federal elections. US states, much like India's, tend to vote quite differently when it comes to Senatorial or Congressional seats. Overall, the latest poll puts the House solidly in Democrat hands, with top election prognosticator Cooks noting, "Republicans' path to keeping control of the House has all but evaporated. The outstanding question is how large Democrats' majority will be in 2027". Wonder of wonders, the so-called 'red-neck' states - like Texas - are leaning democrat, and Vivek Ramaswamy is probably going to lose in Ohio. But the point is this: while Democrats may inch into the Senate, there is no likelihood of getting a majority there, much less the two-thirds majority needed to impeach the President. The numbers just don't add up. So, Trump is going to continue. The point is whether his legislation will.

THE TOP ISSUES

The top issues in the race are not very different from those roiling Europe. Rising costs - oddly from the very tariffs that Trump has thrown recklessly around - are key. An earlier report from the New York Federal Reserve found that Trump's 2025-2026 tariffs caused a 2.9 percentage point increase in inflation on 67 categories of everyday consumer goods. That's rather a lot, and it is public information. Apart from costs alone, the state of the economy seems to be the top issue among all voters, according to the Pew Research Centre. A second vital issue is 'the future of democracy, though what that means may differ individually. Most see this through the lens of democratic backsliding, executive power concentration, and challenges to electoral outcomes - such as President Donald Trump's actions surrounding the 2020 election, rhetoric regarding political opponents, and concerns over authoritarian tendencies. In this, Trump's cavalier treatment of the press and the complete violation of basic 'American values' and media freedoms is hardly likely to be ignored. Even as media organisations united to take the issue of barring White House access to court.

THE MUSLIM WORLD Is Seeing An Unexpected 'Experiment' - In Kazakhstan

Aditi Bhaduri



Recent events around the hijab ban in Azerbaijan, or the execution of a Bangladeshi couple by Saudi authorities on grounds of committing "immoral acts" in the precincts of the holy mosque in Mecca, all point essentially to the same thing: all the old anxieties around religion are once again surfacing. The major wars in India's neighbourhood have always been framed in religious terms, though economic reasons underpin their core. Periodic cliché pronouncements on Kashmir notwithstanding, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is being torn apart from inside between apparent irreconcilable differences between member-states: Sunni against Shia, Sunni vs Sunni, and so on. Against this backdrop, Central Asia as a region and Kazakhstan as the largest country in particular may have an important message for the world. But why is Central Asia important? Because, simply put, it is a new emerging power centre, a powerful block, that has so far kept itself aloof from international affairs but is increasingly participating in global affairs. And it is difficult to ignore what it offers. A strategically significant region, occupying 4,003,451 sq.km., with a population of approximately 77 million, Central Asia is rich in natural resources, including oil, gas, metals like gold, silver, aluminium, bauxite, copper, uranium, etc., with an aggregate GDP of $543 billion to $566 billion, with Kazakhstan leading with $306 billion. Five per cent of the world's natural gas reserves are found here. It occupies a major geo-politically strategic position - landlocked, extending from the Caspian Sea in the west to the border of western China in the east. The five (former Soviet) republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan lie sandwiched between the Russian Federation, Iran, and the People's Republic of China. Three of them share direct borders with Afghanistan. The strategic significance of these states cannot be emphasised enough - the very reason India is increasingly engaging with it, as seen in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to two of them this year, and as seen in the visit of Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to Delhi this year.

The countries are overwhelmingly Muslim, but the years of Soviet experience have left a deep secular imprint on society and polity. Simultaneously, the countries have faced terrorism, trafficking, and jihadi insurgency, much of it a spillover from Afghan jihad. Along with economic development and navigating their way between Russia and China, they have also had to counter missionary inroads by countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran. The task for these countries has thus been not only to stave off undesired foreign influence but to keep the countries secular, while also allowing the people to enjoy and exercise the right to freedom of religion. As one learned member of the clergy explained to me once in the Kazakh capital Astana, "We want to preserve the spirit of Islam, rather than the form." In this direction, countries in the region have been taking steps to preserve their unique way of life and cultures. Hence, while the hijab and other headgear are allowed, the burkha or niqab - alien to the local culture - are not allowed. Foreign funding, mosque building, and Friday sermons are monitored so that extremist ideas are not spread.

Kazakhstan, however, has gone a step further. It is actively pursuing and promoting "spiritual diplomacy", an endeavour to complement traditional forms of diplomacy with the promotion of spiritual, faith-based dialogue, understanding, and coexistence. The country has a long history of using mediation to mitigate conflict; now, it has added another much-wanted dimension to it. In 2003, under former President Nur Sultan Nazarbayev, it initiated the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Astana. The forum brings together global religious figures (Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and others) once every three years in the country's capital, Astana. This year, at the secretariat meeting, for instance, it was heartwarming to see representatives of Iran sitting together with representatives of the Baha'i faith, which remains banned in Iran. The aim is to foster interfaith dialogue, prevent the exploitation of religion for conflicts, counter extremism and terrorism, and protect sacred and cultural heritage sites

Kazakhstan has to reconcile a hundred ethnic groups and 18 religious denominations that live on its territory, with traditional Islam and Christian Orthodoxy dominating. Though Muslims outnumber the Christian population, the nation has made conscious choices and taken decisions to further secularism and pluralism. For instance, the new constitution that the country adopted this year underscores the state as a secular one. The capital city houses Central Asia's largest mosque, but it has also made provisions for the construction of the region's largest church.

The Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions is one more step in this direction at an international level. It has gained support from countries across the world, as also from India, which has participated in all the congresses and was present at the secretariat meeting this year, which furthered the agenda for the next Congress to be held in 2028.

Kazakhstan's initiative, however, is not simply about platitudes and feel-good events. It has taken concrete steps to implement theory into practice, extending beyond traditional interfaith dialogue to touch on issues of global security, sustained development, and cybersecurity. Thus, for example, the last Congress held in 2025, which was attended by more than 60 countries, adopted the Astana Peace Declaration, which laid great emphasis on conflict prevention, combating extremism, and the protection of religious sites and heritage. This is a concern that nations in Asia have grappled with, especially after ISIS destroyed precious, centuries-old heritage sites in both Syria and Iraq, much of it to do with religious sensitivities.

This year, at the working meeting of the secretariat to help prepare the agenda and draft documents for the next Congress, two documents were produced. The first was addressing climate change through faith traditions. The second document included 11 principles for the ethical use of artificial intelligence in religious contexts. Once again, both are timely interventions as the world grapples with climate change disasters (think of the floods and landslides in Nepal and Tibet this year), as well as the unbridled algorithm-driven use of AI to spread hate speech, religious divides, extremist ideas, and terrorism in the world. The final documents of the Congress are circulated at the UN General Assembly sessions, reflecting the geographical outreach and international legitimacy of these documents. This year at Astana, another unique document was unveiled - a charter protecting the rights and dignity of children with incurable diseases. It was presented jointly by Yerzhan Ashikbayev, Kazakhstan's first deputy foreign minister, and a representative of the Vatican.

Explaining these initiatives, Kazakhstan's Vice-President, Yerlan Karin, underscored that "Spiritual diplomacy does not, of course, replace political negotiations, but it complements them and helps keep channels of communication open when diplomatic dialogue becomes difficult. This helps build trust and reminds us of the value of human life." In this, religious leaders have an important role to play as they are at the heart of the movement and can jointly issue non-political appeals calling for an end to violence and the pursuit of peaceful solutions.

Political conflict during festivals:

WHY ARE TRADERS BECOMING PAWNS IN THE MOVEMENT?

SAURABH VARSHNEY

The festive season in India brings vibrant markets, booming business, and smiles to the faces of ordinary people. During Diwali and other festivals, the business community expects a significant portion of their annual earnings. From shopkeepers to small businesses, street vendors, and employees, the livelihoods of millions depend on these days' business. At such a time, if political movements, election rallies, and protests begin to impact markets and business activities, the question naturally arises: why should the business community bear the brunt of this conflict?

Amidst the election rally scheduled for November 1st and the ongoing political protests led by Rahul Gandhi, the demands being raised by business organizations in light of the festivals have given a new direction to the political and social debate. On one hand, the opposition is questioning the fairness of the electoral process and the accountability of the Election Commission, while on the other, the business community wants their business to be uninterrupted during the festivals. In this situation, the most pressing question is: shouldn't political parties prioritize the interests of ordinary citizens and businesspeople when strategizing their campaigns?

In a democracy, the opposition has a right to protest. Questioning the government, demanding transparency in the electoral process, and raising voices to ensure accountability of constitutional institutions are essential components of a democratic system. If the opposition has objections to the functioning of the Election Commission, it has every right to present its views through facts, documents, and constitutional processes. However, the success of any movement should not be measured solely by gathering crowds or conveying a political message. It is also essential to consider the impact the movement has on the general public. Disruption of customer flow, supply of goods, traffic, and shop operations in markets during festivals can cause serious economic losses for small businesses.

Big businesses can absorb temporary losses, but small shopkeepers, daily wage vendors, and traders operating with limited capital rely on daily earnings. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to view the demands of trade organizations solely through the lens of political protest. It is natural to question the government's role in this entire development. If the political deadlock surrounding the movement is increasing, the government and relevant institutions should seek a path to dialogue. However, sufficient evidence is necessary to conclude that the government has deliberately created a political entanglement to end the movement or pressure the opposition. Accusations and counter-accusations are common in politics, but in a democracy, the credibility of any allegation is determined by facts. The government should respond to the opposition's complaints, address concerns about the electoral process, and ensure that any political activity does not unduly impact the rights and livelihoods of ordinary citizens.

Similarly, the opposition should also clarify on what concrete demands its movement is based, what is its time limit and how it can be taken forward while causing minimum inconvenience to the common people. The accountability of the top Election Commission official, and the possibility of ending the agitation once their demands are met, is a crucial topic of political debate. If the opposition claims irregularities in the electoral process, it should provide concrete evidence to support its allegations. At the same time, the Election Commission must maintain public trust in its constitutional independence, impartiality, and transparency. However, demanding the resignation of a constitutional official and accepting it immediately are two different things. The position of the Election Commission chief cannot be governed by the whims of any political party. Their appointment, tenure, and removal are determined by law and constitutional provisions. Therefore, claiming that the agitation will end within 30 seconds upon the mere resignation may be a political statement, but it cannot be considered a guarantee of a solution to the problem.

If the true objective is to restore faith in the electoral process, the solution must be found in a transparent investigation, public clarification of the facts, and adherence to constitutional procedures. Simply insisting on the demand for resignation or rejecting it without a response can only exacerbate the political deadlock. Traders are not the property of any political party; they are a vital pillar of the country's economy. Millions of people working in markets face responsibilities such as rent, electricity bills, employee salaries, purchases of goods, and bank installments. The loss of sales during festivals is borne not only by the shop owner but also by his entire family and employees. Therefore, it is the responsibility of both the government and the opposition to listen seriously to the demands of business organizations. If business activities can be protected by changing the location, time, and route of rallies or protests, neither party should accept political defeat in doing so. The government must maintain a balance between law and order and civic amenities.

Why November 1 Rally Raises Questions About INDIA Bloc's Priorities

Bharti Mishra Nath



In a democracy, political parties have the right to protest, mobilise public opinion and hold governments accountable. But democracy also demands that political leaders remain sensitive to the everyday struggles of the very citizens whose interests they claim to represent. It is this equilibrium between political confrontation and public responsibility that lies at the heart of the controversy surrounding the Congress-led INDIA bloc's November 1 rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan. The CTI (Chamber of Trade and Industry) and local market associations, representing over 20 major wholesale and retail markets such as Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazaar and Khari Baoli, have appealed to Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to postpone the rally until after November 10, when the festive period culminating in Bhai Dooj will have passed. The reason is simple: the national capital's traders are preparing for one of the busiest shopping periods of the year, with Dhanteras falling on November 6 and Diwali on November 8.

However, Rahul Gandhi is adamant about proceeding with the November 1 rally, 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao', despite the traders' concerns. When festive shoppers, traders and ordinary citizens fear disruption from political protests, should a party fighting to protect democracy be unwilling to accommodate their concerns? Further, have the ECI's (Election Commission of India) recent SIR (Special Intensive Revision) measures and rollbacks given fresh fuel to Opposition protests?

BRUNT ON FESTIVE ECONOMY

According to local market associations and the CTI, Delhi's Dhanteras-Diwali period business worth approximately Rs 10,000-25,000 crore could be at risk due to the proposed rally. The organisation has also alleged that earlier rallies, marches and road closures disrupted commercial activity in central Delhi. These figures are estimates made by the traders' body, not independently established losses that can automatically be attributed to the proposed demonstration. However, the underlying concern deserves serious consideration. When major wholesale and retail markets, transport routes and railway stations are potentially affected by crowd management and traffic diversions, the consequences can extend well beyond the immediate vicinity of a political gathering. For a small trader, a rally can mean fewer customers, delayed deliveries and a day of uncertainty at precisely the moment when sales matter most. The markets around Ramlila Maidan, including Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazaar, Chawri Bazaar and Bhagirath Palace, serve thousands of businesses and customers. Festive shopping is not merely a matter of consumer choice; it sustains livelihoods across a network of wholesalers, shopkeepers, transport operators, delivery workers and small suppliers. Unlike large corporations, many small businesses have limited capacity to absorb a sudden loss of revenue. Their earnings during the festive period can help them meet rent, wages, supplier payments and household expenses. A disruption that appears temporary to a political organiser can therefore have a disproportionate impact on those operating on thin margins. There is also the inconvenience faced by ordinary citizens. Families planning their festive purchases, people travelling into Delhi from neighbouring towns, employees commuting to work and customers visiting crowded commercial districts could all be affected by road restrictions and congestion.

These concerns of ordinary citizens cannot outweigh the right of political parties to protest. However, Opposition parties cannot treat them as irrelevant simply because their rally has an important political objective. The issue is not whether the Congress should abandon its protest. It is whether postponing a rally by a few days would materially undermine its political message while reducing the risk of disruption to thousands of livelihoods. A democratic party must surely be capable of distinguishing between a cause that demands persistence and a date that can be reconsidered.

Govt clears way for E100 petrol:

What it means for motorists



New Delhi: The Union government on Monday, October 26, cleared the way for cars that run on almost pure ethanol, notifying changes to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules that bring E100 fuel into the country's emission norms alongside E85. But motorists shouldn't head to the pump just yet. The rules cover only vehicles built and certified for high-ethanol fuel. The petrol car you have, approved for E20 (20 per cent ethanol), cannot be filled with E85 or E100, officials said. "This notification doesn't require owners of existing vehicles to switch to E85 or modify their vehicles either at present or in future," an official said. The Road Transport Ministry's move comes about six months after it put out the draft rules for public comment in April. Carmakers are expected to roll out E100 models within months. Toyota, Tata Motors and Hyundai are among the companies developing flex-fuel vehicles for the Indian market. Apart from the fuel provisions, the ministry has revised vehicle classification thresholds, fuel specifications and technical references in emission tables and testing provisions. The weight limit for light petrol and diesel vehicles covered by the changes has been raised to 3,500 kg from 3,000 kg. The draft had also sought to widen the use of B100 biodiesel and hydrogen-CNG blends. Eye on the oil bill The ethanol push is about crude oil. India imports most of the oil it consumes and that import bill is one of the biggest drivers of its current account deficit. The US-Iran conflict has left the country exposed to an energy crunch, so the government is looking for every litre of petrol it can replace with homegrown ethanol. Officials said higher ethanol blends also cut tailpipe emissions of carbon monoxide and certain hydrocarbons, and that ethanol has a lower fossil carbon footprint than petrol. Flex-fuel vehicles, widely used in Brazil and the US, run on varying mixes of ethanol and petrol from a single tank. To handle high-ethanol fuel, they need compatible fuel pumps, pipes, seals and injectors. The engine control unit also has to be calibrated to adjust the air-fuel mix and ignition timing. Maruti Suzuki launched India's first flex-fuel passenger car, a version of the Wagon R, in June. Priced at Rs 7.24 lakh and sold only for commercial use, it is rated for blends of up to E85, according to reports. Here's the catch Ethanol carries less energy than petrol. The US Department of Energy estimates that E100 has about 30 per cent less energy per gallon, which means fewer kilometres per litre. Cheaper fuel at the pump will not necessarily mean cheaper driving. There are bigger questions too. Producing ethanol at scale needs land and water, and sugarcane, a key feedstock, is a thirsty crop. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has warned that crop-based biofuels can affect land use, biodiversity and food prices. Nor is ethanol emission-free. Whether it actually cuts greenhouse gases depends on how it is grown, produced and transported.

HOME CREDIT INDIA'S DIWALI CAMPAIGN #APNOKESAATHDIWALI

Gurugram, October 2026: Celebrates the People Who Make Every Place Feel Like Home

The campaign captures a role reversal between parents and their grown-up son, bringing alive the emotion that home is not an address, but a feeling created by the people we love.

For parents, a child will always have a home to return to. But what happens when the child grows up, moves to another city and builds a home of his own? This Diwali, Home Credit India, a leading consumer finance company, explores this quiet yet deeply relatable shift through its new campaign, #ApnoKeSaathDiwali, built around the thought 'Ghar Wahan, Gharwale Jahan' (Home is where your loved ones are).

The campaign film is now live on YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, X and LinkedIn.

At the heart of the campaign is a familiar story of growing up, moving away, and finding new ways to stay connected. Manish, a young professional who has moved from his hometown Shimla to Mumbai, cannot make it home for Diwali because of work. "Aap log yahan aa jao na," (Both of you, please come here) he tells his parents.

> ■ The campaign captures a role reversal between parents and their grown-up son, bringing alive the emotion that home is not an address, but a feeling created by the people we love.

For parents who have spent years making sure their son always feels at home, stepping into his home is a new experience. For them, it was his home, shaped by a life they have not been part of every day. As his father sees the household appliances he had bought, Manish tells him it is the result of his own hard work, with Home Credit's help for the rest, so that his savings stay safe. Pride quietly takes over. The father discovers that the boy he once looked after is now capable of looking after himself. The most significant discovery comes when neighbours and friends begin to arrive, greeting the parents with affection, and sharing stories of their son. Slowly, the unfamiliar apartment begins to feel like home. The film's emotional core lies in this role reversal. The parents who once created a sense of belonging for their son now experience it in the home he has built for himself. As the evening unfolds with laughter, stories, and shared Diwali rituals, the family realises that home is not tied to a particular place or the memories associated with it. It is something people create for one another, wherever life takes them.

Through this story, Home Credit India connects the emotional significance of Diwali with the everyday aspirations that shape modern Indian families. The film positions life's upgrades not merely as material additions, but as small milestones that make independent living more comfortable and allow people to build a life of their own, while staying connected to the relationships that matter most.

Commenting on the campaign, Ashish Tiwari, Chief Marketing & People Officer, Home Credit India, said: "As children grow up and build lives of their own, the relationship with their parents quietly evolves . With this film, we wanted to capture this beautiful role reversal , where parents step into the world their children have built and discover how much they have grown. It is a reminder that while life takes us in new directions, the values and relationships we grow up with continue to shape who we become. Through #ApnoKeSaathDiwali, we bring the emotional essence of our #ZindagiHit thought to life - our loved ones are with us at every step, and Home Credit is by their side too, making everyday upgrades more accessible so that tomorrow's aspirations can become today's reality. The campaign celebrates the balance between embracing new beginnings and staying connected to what matters most, reinforcing Home Credit's commitment to helping customers realise their aspirations and build a better future for themselves and their families."

Ai+ Smartphone Announces Price Hike of Across Select Models from November 15



Vijayawada, October 2026: Ai+ Smartphone today announced a price hike across select models in its smartphone portfolio, effective November 15, 2026. As cost pressures persist, particularly in price-sensitive segments, Ai+ Smartphone has continued to evaluate their impact while working to maintain affordability for consumers. However, with input costs remaining elevated, the company has undertaken another measured pricing adjustment to maintain a sustainable balance between affordability and product experience. With prices set to increase by up to 3,000, now is the best time for consumers to purchase their preferred Ai+ smartphones at current prices, before the revised pricing comes into effect.

Under the revised pricing, select variants of the Ai+ Pulse 2 FE, Pulse 2, Nova 2 5G, Nova 2 Neo 5G, Nova 2 Power 5G, Nova 2 Pro 5G and Nova 2 Ultra 5G will see price increases ranging from 1,000 to 3,000. The Ai+ NovaFlip 5G will remain unchanged at 49,999.

Despite the prevailing industry challenges, Ai+ Smartphone remains committed to delivering a strong price-to-experience proposition for Indian consumers. The company will continue to monitor component costs and market dynamics while maintaining its focus on accessible technology, dependable performance and long-term consumer value.

KARWA CHAUTH GIFTING GUIDE: THOUGHTFUL PICKS FROM VESTIGE TO MAKE YOUR PARTNER FEEL SPECIAL

Karwa Chauth celebrates love, commitment and the thoughtful gestures that make a relationship special. This festive occasion is an opportunity to pamper your partner with gifts that combine beauty and self-care. From skincare essentials that help maintain a radiant glow to makeup must-haves for a festive-ready look, Vestige offers a range of thoughtful gifting options to make your partner feel cherished, these picks can add a touch of care and indulgence to your Karwa Chauth celebrations.



1. Mistral of Milan – 3 in 1 Face Palette 02: Blush + Contour + Highlighter

For a partner who enjoys experimenting with makeup, the Mistral of Milan 3 in 1 Face Palette brings three face-makeup essentials together in one convenient product. Combining blush, contour and highlighter, it helps add colour, dimension and luminosity to a festive look without the need to carry multiple products. Its versatile shades can be blended and layered for a finish that ranges from subtle radiance to a more defined evening look. Whether she is getting ready for the evening's rituals or heading out for a celebratory dinner, this compact palette makes festive touch-ups easier.

2. Skin Formula 9 Deep Cleansing Oil 25ml

Karwa Chauth celebrations call for a radiant festive look, followed by a gentle skincare routine to remove makeup at the end of the day. Skin Formula 9 Deep Cleansing Oil helps dissolve makeup, dirt, excess oil and grime while maintaining the skin's natural moisture levels without clogging pores. Formulated with naturally derived ingredients, it emulsifies with water, making it a suitable addition to your post-celebration cleansing routine.

3. Skin Formula 9 Skin Perfecting Vitamin C Serum (50 ml) Karwa Chauth is the perfect occasion to give your skin some extra care and achieve a fresh, radiant look for the festivities. Skin Formula 9 Skin Perfecting Vitamin C Serum helps moisturise and brighten the skin while reducing signs of ageing and repairing damaged skin. Enriched with Kakadu plum, papaya and lemon extracts, it helps support the skin's natural defence, reduce inflammation and promote skin cell regeneration, making it a thoughtful addition to your festive skincare routine.

4. Skin Formula 9 Hydrating Sunscreen Serum SPF 50 PA+++ (50 ml) As you prepare for Karwa Chauth celebrations, protect your skin while keeping it hydrated with Skin Formula 9 Hydrating Sunscreen Serum SPF 50 PA+++. Enriched with Hyaluronic Acid and Sea Buckthorn Extracts, it provides broad-spectrum protection against harmful UVA and UVB rays while moisturising the skin. Its lightweight, non-greasy formula leaves no white cast, making it a convenient addition to your daytime skincare routine before getting ready for the festivities.

5. Vellino – Blush You A fresh, radiant complexion can be the perfect finishing touch to a Karwa Chauth look. Vellino Blush You combines colour with skincare-inspired ingredients, including Vitamin E, Hyaluronic Acid and a Peptides Complex. Its lightweight, non-greasy formula is designed to provide hydration and a soft, dewy finish, while its buildable colour allows for a subtle flush or a more defined look.

10TH UNIFORM MANUFACTURERS' FAIR 2026 TO BRING 150+ BRANDS, 25,000+ UNIFORM AND FABRIC DESIGNS,3000+ TOWEL, CHADDAR AND NAPKIN DESIGNS UNDER ONE ROOF

Chennai, India: The Solapur Garment Manufacturers Association (SGMA) will host the 10th Uniform Manufacturers' Fair 2026 from December 9 to 11, 2026, at Chennai Trade Centre, Hall No. 4, Nandambakkam, Chennai.This is happening first time in the history of Tamil Nadu that uniforms and towels will be exhibiting together. Positioned as a unique sourcing and networking platform for the uniform and towel industry, the three-day B2B exhibition will bring together 150+ leading national brands, showcasing more than 25,000 uniform, fabric and accessories and 300+ towel, chaddar designs. According to industry estimates shared by SGMA, the global uniform market was valued at around USD 65 billion in 2023 and is projected to grow at approximately 4% CAGR through 2030, driven by demand from education, healthcare, hospitality, manufacturing, corporate and other sectors. The fair will provide distributors, dealers, retailers, schools, institutions, corporate buyers and entrepreneurs an opportunity to engage directly with uniforms, towels manufacturers, explore new products and establish business partnerships. The exhibition will feature a wide range of products, including school uniforms, sportswear, college uniforms, industrial, corporate uniforms, hospital uniforms, winter wear, blazers, uniform fabrics, school belts and ties, logos and printing solutions, school shoes and socks, and school and college bags, bath towels, chaddars, napkins, hotel towels. This year, the fair will also feature towel manufacturers under the Vibrant Towel initiative. For the first time in India, uniform and towel manufacturers will showcase their products on a common platform. The initiative is expected to particularly benefit retailers, who will be able to source a wide range of products under one roof from school,industrial,corporate,hospital,workwear uniforms to bath towels, gift sets, pool towels,kitchen towels,beach towels,bathrobes,Solapur chaddars, which has a strong presence in both the towel and uniform manufacturing sectors, will showcase the capabilities of the two industries at the exhibition. Speaking about the fair, Shri Ashok Chavan, Fair Chairman, SGMA, said, "Since the first exhibition in 2017, SGMA has been working to strengthen and modernise the uniform manufacturing ecosystem. The 10th International Uniform Manufacturers' Fair 2026 brings the entire uniform value chain together on one platform from garments and fabrics to accessories, footwear and allied products. Our objective is to create meaningful business opportunities, encourage innovation and position Indian uniform and towel manufacturers as competitive players in both domestic and international markets." The fair is expected to serve as a major sourcing, networking and business-development platform for the uniform and towel industry. It will enable buyers to discover new products, compare designs and fabrics, towels connect directly with manufacturers and explore opportunities for large-volume and recurring orders. Shri Aniket Mahindrakar, Fair Secretary, SGMA, said, "The uniform and towel industry is witnessing rapid changes in designs, fabrics, technology and marketing practices. The fair provides stakeholders with an opportunity to understand these emerging trends while connecting with both established and emerging manufacturers. We invite distributors, dealers, retailers, schools, hospitals, corporates, institutions and entrepreneurs to participate and explore the wide range of business opportunities available at the exhibition." Solapur's uniforms and towel manufacturing industry has emerged as an important contributor to India's uniform and towels manufacturing ecosystem. Manufacturers from the region are known for their ability to undertake bulk production, meet committed delivery timelines and manage both repeat and smaller-volume orders. The industry has also established a strong pan-India market presence. The Uniform Manufacturers' Fair was launched in Solapur in 2017 and has since expanded to major business centres including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Varanasi. Over the years, the initiative has contributed to the development of the uniform manufacturing ecosystem and helped nurture more than 300 entrepreneurs and industrialists associated with the sector. The fair also aligns with the broader vision of strengthening India's textile and manufacturing capabilities and promoting 'Make in India'. SGMA aims to use the platform to strengthen domestic supply chains, facilitate business partnerships and create new opportunities for Indian manufacturers in the global uniform market.

Cabinet clears 3 pc DA hike for staff, pensioners ahead of Diwali

Highlights

■ Ahead of Diwali, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a 3 per cent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR), benefiting over 1.17 crore central government employees and pensioners.



New Delhi: Ahead of Diwali, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a 3 per cent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR), benefiting over 1.17 crore central government employees and pensioners. Announcing the Cabinet decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw described it as a "Diwali gift". An additional instalment of DA to central government employees and DR to pensioners will be paid with effect from July 1, 2026. The hike amounts to "an increase of 3 per cent over the existing rates of 60 per cent of the basic pay/pension, to compensate against price rise", an official release said.

The combined impact on the exchequer due to the increase in DA and DR would be Rs 10,016.10 crore per year.

The decision will benefit about 48.54 lakh central government employees and 68.71 lakh pensioners. The increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, based on recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission, the release said. The Cabinet on Wednesday approved a 3 per cent hike in dearness allowance and dearness relief, benefiting over 1.17 crore central government employees and pensioners. Announcing the decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken the decision to increase the DA and DR ahead of Diwali.

The increase will be effective from July 1, 2026. The decision will benefit 48.54 lakh employees and 68.71 lakh pensioners.

64 KILLED IN SPANISH HIGH-SPEED TRAIN CRASH





Eduarda was travelling with her two cats and told Hoy por Hoy, a Spanish radio programme, the crash propelled her forward, breaking the table in front of her seat, with passengers around her suffering from cuts and bruises. Once outside, she heard screams and saw a carriage on fire, with people under the train who had died. Separately, Miguel Ángel Pérez was on board the high speed train when he heard "a terrible crash". "The carriage partially overturned," he told Spanish TV program La Hora de La 1. He went on: "Some suffered bruises from the open tray tables, but luckily there were few people standing. "We felt the train move, derail, and we were tilted. It was a terrible few seconds." Transport minister Oscar Puente appeared in front of the cameras for the first time a short while ago to share some details about the crash. The accident, he said, was "truly unbelievable". According to Puente, a computer failure led to the initial halt of six moving trains, including the two trains that subsequently collided. "In the event of a system failure, the control centre takes over," Puente says, adding it was the control centre which decided to allow the trains to move again, without any speed restrictions. That decision, Puente said, was made "under inexplicable circumstances". It resulted in the Renfe train crashing into the Iryo train, which was stationary on the tracks further ahead. The rail operator Iryo says its train was "struck from behind" by a Renfe train "due to causes that are still unknown". The rail operator also confirms in a post on X, external that the affected train was carrying 147 passengers, three crew members, one barista, and one driver. It adds that it's working with the other rail operators involved to "clarify the causes" of the crash. Spanish journalist Roberto Gómez has described being on the high-speed train when it crashed into the train in front on the same track. Gómez said he had been asleep when the train stopped and an announcement was relayed to passengers that there was congestion on the tracks. The train began to move again, he explained, and then the crash happened. "The impact was terrible," he told Onda Cero radio. "You can imagine, the carriage is completely destroyed. All the suitcases are all over the wrecked carriage." Gómez suffered only minor injuries but described another passenger falling on top of him and sustaining a deep gash on his head. "We were able to help people who had suffered severe blows to their chest and ribs," he said. The situation was extremely chaotic and very distressing, and several minutes later he and others eventually managed to climb out of the window, he added. For most Spanish political leaders the devastating scenes emerging on the high-speed rail line south of Toledo mean that the campaign ahead of the 29 November general election is for the moment on hold. Alberto Núñez Feijóo, the conservative People's Party leader who's seen as the front-runner in the election race, has said "the priority now is to attend to the victims" and the PP has suspended all its campaign activity. Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's Socialist PSOE has also cancelled its events today, and he's given all his "affection, solidarity and support" to anyone caught up in the tragedy. But there's no such suspension of politics for Spain's far-right Vox party, which is seen as a possible coalition partner for Feijóo's conservatives after next month's vote. Santiago Abascal has gone on TV to condemn the "deterioration of infrastructure and institutions in Spain which frankly is totally unbearable" and he has blamed it on the current government, complaining of the "neglect, ruin, betrayal suffered by the Spanish people". There has been no confirmation yet of what led to the accident, but Abascal also refused to halt campaigning ahead of a regional vote in January in the aftermath of the Adamuz rail disaster, which claimed 46 lives on the same high-speed line. Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is travelling to Urda, the area of the train crash. The Spanish government says on X that the PM will "support the work of the emergency teams and convey his support to those affected and their families". "The priority is to attend to the victims and ensure the maximum coordination between administrations," it added.

BRAZIL'S DEFEATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FLÁVIO BOLSONARO PICTURED ARRIVING IN US



Flavio Bolsonaro has not taken a straightforward route to the US, and BBC Verify has been tracking how he got there since leaving Brazil yesterday. According to Argentina's National Directorate of Migration, Bolsonaro crossed into the country over land late on Tuesday night local time, where he then boarded a plane with four family members. Tracking data from Flightradar24 shows a Gulfstream G400 departed Puerto Iguazu in Argentina at 03:18 GMT on Wednesday to head to Guayaquil in Ecuador. This matches the Argentinian authorities' statement, which said Bolsonaro and his family "boarded a private flight dispatched by the company Baires Fly S.A. with a destination to the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador". The same private jet then departed Guayaquil at around 09:00 GMT, landing at Miami-Opa Locka Executive Airport just before 13:30 GMT where Bolsonaro was pictured getting off it. Bolsonaro's route to Miami was by no means direct. According to Argentina's migration authority, Bolsonaro and his family travelled south to Argentina, and crossed the border by land on Tuesday at 22:50 local time (21:50 EDT/01:50 GMT). His plane then flew to Guayaquil - Ecuador's largest city - to refuel before he and his family departed for Miami. We know that three people were with Flávio Bolsonaro when he crossed the border from Brazil into Argentina. It is one of the few details given in the post on X by Argentine migration authorities, which listed the names of those who had travelled with him. They are his wife Fernanda, and his two daughters, Luiza and Carolina. One of his daughters can be seen getting out of the plane behind him. After stepping off the plane in Florida, Flávio Bolsonaro was swarmed with photographers as his team covered him with umbrellas. We understand he travelled to the US with his family. Crucially, we don't know if this is his final destination - or if he intends to travel onwards. Before we saw him in Florida, he hadn't been seen in two days, after losing the election in Brazil on Sunday. So this does end some speculation on his whereabouts. Bolsonaro emerged from the first round of voting in Brazil's presidential election in early October as the frontrunner to be president, racking up 47% of the vote. But in a run-off last weekend, he lost against the left-wing incumbent, President Lula. Bolsonaro said he planned to challenge the result. But when he next uploaded a video statement to social media, he said been ordered to by the Supreme Court to surrender his passports. The order was made as part of an ongoing investigation into alleged money laundering. Bolsonaro has not been charged and has denied the allegations. He said at the time that he had no plans to leave the country, but he never handed in his documents, and they were cancelled by authorities. Bolsonaro has not spoken in public since, and questions about his whereabouts have swirled. Now, as we've seen, he has landed near Miami, Florida. Flávio Bolsonaro arrived at Miami-Opa Locka Executive Airport a day after his passport was cancelled by Brazilian authorities.

Serbian shot dead after attacking officer outside Israeli embassy, minister says



Serbian police shot dead a young man outside the Israeli embassy in Belgrade in the early hours of Wednesday after what authorities called a "terrorist attack". The country's interior minister, Ivica Dacic, said the attacker had rushed at a police officer with two knives while shouting the phrase "Allahu Akbar". The officer sustained a minor knife wound to the face and shot the attacker. Dacic said the suspect has not been identified, but he was a minor and Serbian citizen who was being monitored by security services as he was "known to be a supporter of the Islamic State". Speaking to reporters outside the embassy, Dacic said an investigation is ongoing, but security services said the suspect had posted a picture of the Islamic State flag on his Instagram. Dacic raised the country's terrorism threat level to "red alert" - the highest threat level – meaning stricter security checks and increased police presence at places like infrastructure facilities and areas where large crowds gather. The interior minister said he had visited the injured police officer, who was reportedly doing well and did not need hospital care for his wounds. Armed security personnel were seen standing guard outside the Israeli embassy on Wednesday morning. Israel's foreign ministry confirmed in a social media post that no embassy personnel were injured and the mission was closed at the time of the incident. This is the second such attack on Belgrade's Israeli embassy in less than three years; in June 2024, a man shot a police officer in the neck with a crossbow.

KING ACKNOWLEDGES 'SUFFERING OF THE PAST' AS CARIBBEAN TOUR BEGINS

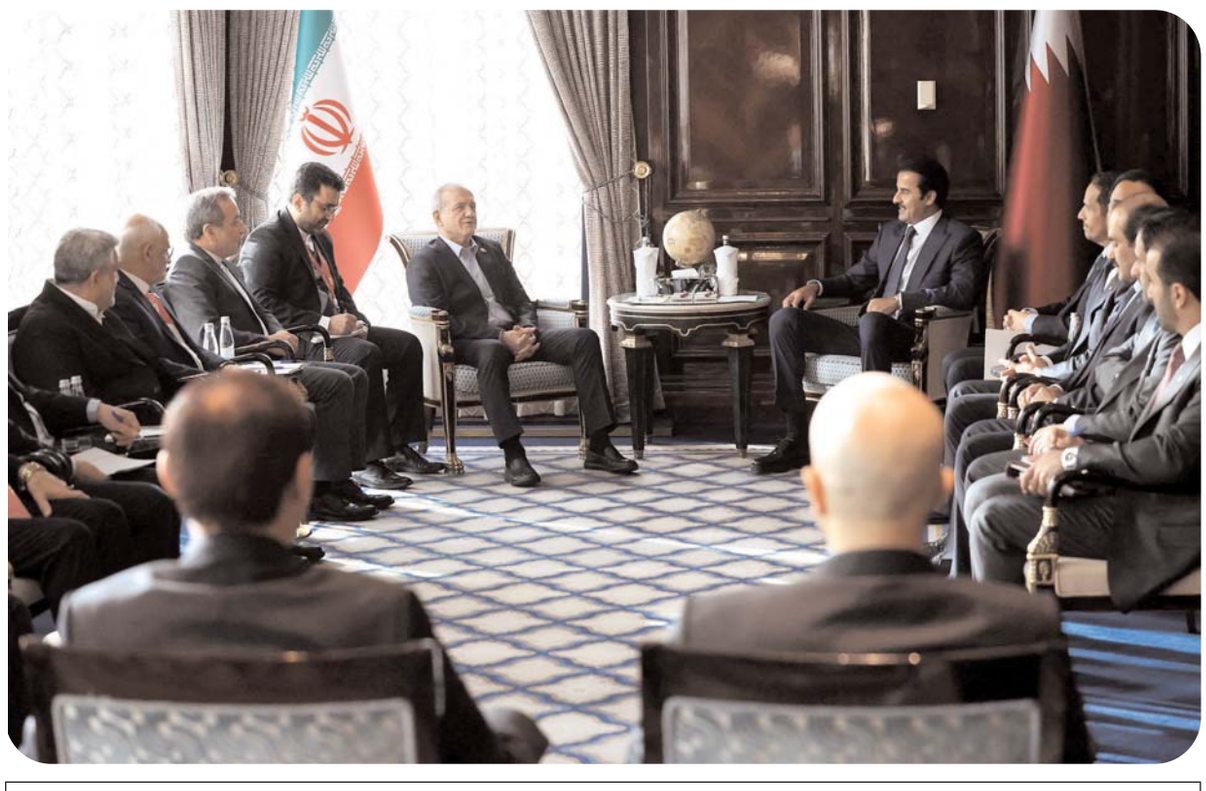


King Charles III has begun his tour of the Caribbean by acknowledging the "great suffering of the past" as he faced calls for slavery reparations. Speaking an event in the Bahamas celebrating local youth, the King said the country's culture was "born out of darkness", and it was "only right" to acknowledge historic injustices. His nine-day tour will culminate in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), where the King has confirmed leaders will discuss the region's legacy of slavery. The visit, his first as monarch, comes in the wake of renewed calls from Caribbean nations for Britain to apologise for its role in selling enslaved people for profit. Prior to the trip, Buckingham Palace said the King would not shy away from "colonial legacy" and the impact of the slave trade during his visit but, in line with the UK government position, he will not apologise for Britain's role in the slave trade or offer reparations. Upon his arrival on Tuesday, the King met Governor General Dame Cynthia A. Pratt and its Prime Minister Philip Edward Davis, before speaking with members of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force as he inspected a guard of honour. King Charles, wearing sunglasses and a grey suit, was then met with cheers as he arrived for his first engagement at a youth rally at Clifford Park - where he attended independence celebrations for the Bahamas as Prince of Wales in 1973. The young people in the crowd had been given time off school for the event. "It's my first time seeing him in person out of TikTok so he's out there, it's cool," one student told the BBC. A small group of protesters gathered close to the rally shouting "pay us what you owe us" and "return artefacts you've stolen." The group of around a dozen protesters was kept outside the main venue as they called on the King to help change the UK government's position on apologising and offering reparations. "He's a man of influence. The Crown still has influence. And if they do not do it then we will become a republic and we will turn our backs on England if you do not show respect to the former colonies," said one protester, Sharon Purcer-Cooper. During his speech in Nassau, the King acknowledged his 50-year-long commitment to fighting climate change and highlighted the challenges faced by low-lying Caribbean islands, saying that "our world cries out for healing". He went on to call on young people at the rally to "take up the sacred task to play your part" as "in years to come, this will be surely be the measure of every person - how they answered the call to care for planet earth - the source of our life, our prosperity and our security".

TANZANIA CELEBRATES FIRST NATURAL GAS DISCOVERY IN MORE THAN 10 YEARS



Tanzania has announced a significant discovery of natural gas in the Mnazi Bay area in the south of the country - the first such find in a decade. Energy Minister Juma Homera attended a ceremony at the Kasa-1X ST2 well, which is jointly owned by state-owned Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and French oil firm Maurel & Prom, to mark the occasion. He said the estimated 223 billion cubic feet (6.3 billion cubic metres) discovery was a "major milestone" in the development of the small oil and gas sector in the East African nation. The new well is expected to start production early next month and is intended to boost domestic supplies. Tanzania has existing natural gas reserves of 57.54 trillion cubic feet. "The discovery is important in ensuring the country has reliable, clean and safe energy at affordable costs, particularly at a time when demand is increasing due to industrial growth and other economic activities," Homera said. Natural gas accounted for nearly 80% of Tanzania's sources of electricity generation, according to government statistics for 2024. In recent years, the country has also encouraged the use of compressed natural gas to power vehicles.



Qatar presents Iran with seven-day peace plan

LUXURY CRUISE PASSENGERS STRANDED IN CAMBODIA DUE TO SOARING FUEL COSTS



A luxury cruise ship on a years-long voyage around the world said it suspended operations due to extraordinarily high fuel costs, leaving passengers stranded in Cambodia. The US-based operator of the Villa Vie Odyssey said it was working with passengers on disembarkation plans and "temporary living arrangements". It is unclear how many were on board but the nearly 200m (656ft) vessel can carry up to 650 passengers. It departed Belfast in October 2024 for a "continuous voyage around the world". Global fuel prices have soared since the Iran war started earlier this year. The ship's operator said the monthly fuel cost per cabin in parts of Asia has risen to as much as $8,000 (£6,000) from $1,800. Villa Vie Residences said it had taken "significant steps to reduce fuel consumption, including slowing the itinerary and spending more time in port". But those measures turned out to be insufficient to "offset the extraordinary increase in fuel costs". "Passing the full increase on to residents is not a realistic solution," it said. The company would spend the next 60 days on "restructuring and recapitalisation", though "no outcome is assured", it said. There were reportedly around 200 passengers on board when they were ordered to disembark in the Cambodian port city of Sihanoukville, a once sleepy beach town that has gained global notoriety in recent years as a hub for Chinese casinos and scam centres. The Villa Vie Odyssey's voyage was expected to span 3.5 years and cover nearly 150 countries, according to its website. Its departure had faced delays as the ship underwent repairs, leaving passengers stranded in Belfast for months and costing the company millions of pounds. The ship was more than 750 days into its circumnavigation before announcing its suspension of its journey on Tuesday - which means its passengers would now be stranded in Cambodia. Passengers Lanette Canen and Johan Bodin told the BBC they were informed by Villa Vie Residences' chief executive at 6am on Tuesday that they had to leave by 2pm on the same day. The couple said passengers had known for some time about the company's financial difficulties.

F1: Kimi Antonelli's Austin Win Points To Potential Dominance In 2027, Not Just This Year

Victory in Texas didn't just put Kimi Antonelli on the verge of winning the Formula 1 title. It gave an important signal he could repeat the feat next year. In recent weeks, Antonelli and Mercedes had been struggling with a package of car upgrades that often seemed more like downgrades as Max Verstappen and Red Bull took advantage to win back-to-back races. But Antonelli's dominant win from pole position at the Circuit of the Americas on Sunday showed he's now confident of getting the best out of the car over a full race distance at a pace Red Bull and Ferrari largely couldn't match.

"All this time putting so much work into bringing this new package and finally seeing the result is very pleasant," he said.

In Singapore earlier this month, Antonelli said there was only a "very, very small" window of performance to unlock the new design's benefits before it became skittish and unpredictable.

Now the car is working as intended, he says there's more to come.

"In some places, I would say, still not as much as we expected, but in



other places it is delivering very well," Antonelli said. "We're still struggling a little bit in low-speed with front locking, but overall, I feel like the package is finally starting to deliver." With much smaller regulation tweaks coming for 2027 compared with the sweeping changes implemented this year, what teams learn from late-season developments can have a direct benefit next year. Only one of Mercedes' drivers is seeing the benefit. George Russell was at a loss for his "rubbish" pace as he finished eighth in Texas. A five-second penalty didn't help, but Russell told Sky Sports he was clueless about the rest of the yawning gap to Antonelli.

"Hopefully there are some answers somewhere but at the moment I don't have them," he said.

Russell has less experience with the upgrades after the team put him back on the old package in Singapore to make a side-by-side comparison.

Verstappen's still a threat after Red Bull developments made his set up more predictable, but the car is slow off the line at the start of the race and it's costing him. Verstappen started second alongside Antonelli but spent his first lap under attack from Charles Leclerc as Antonelli zoomed off into a lead that was never seriously under threat.

"The start definitely is something we've improved massively," Antonelli said. "We were nowhere at the beginning of the season, and now we're good, so that's definitely one less thing to worry about."

WORLD RECORD ALERT:

ARSHDEEP SINGH JOINS EX-GT PACER IN ELITE T20I LIST

Pacer Arshdeep Singh scripted a world record on Tuesday following India's six-wicket victory over New Zealand in the third T20I at Hnry Stadium, Wellington. Arshdeep claimed one wicket in his four-over spell while conceding 33 runs, helping India restrict the hosts to 198/3 in 20 overs. With that dismissal, Arshdeep took his tally to 39 wickets in 30 T20I matches in 2026. He now holds the record for the joint-most wickets by a bowler from a Full Member nation in a single calendar year in T20Is, equalling Ireland and former Gujarat Titans pacer Joshua Little, who also picked up 39 wickets in 2022. Ever since making his international debut in 2022, Arshdeep has been a key figure in India's bowling attack. The left-arm pacer has featured in 102 T20Is, taking 149 wickets and is now just one wicket away from the 150-wicket milestone. He is also India's leading wicket-taker in T20I



cricket. In the ongoing five-match series against New Zealand, Arshdeep has claimed four wickets in three matches. He picked up one wicket in the opening game, followed by two wickets in the second match and one more in the third. Talking about the match, Abhishek Sharma scythed through a hapless New Zealand attack to cause a carnage that made even Vaibhav Sooryavanshi look like a bystander at times as India cantered to a series-clinching six-wicket win in the third T20I on Tuesday. The world's top ranked T20 batter smashed an incredible 113 off 38 balls, including a 15-ball half-century, as India made a mockery of what seemed like a tricky 199-run target.

NEELAM SIROHI, KAJAL DHOCHAK WIN SILVER MEDALS AT WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kajal Dhochak signed off with a silver medal in the women's 76kg category at the World Wrestling Championships after losing a fiercely fought final 6-8 to three-time European champion Anastasiya Alpyeyeva on Wednesday. This was India's second silver medal of the day after Neelam Sirohi also finished second in the women's 50kg. The two-time U20 world champion Kajal fell short of becoming India's first woman senior world champion and only the second overall from the country to win the title after Sushil Kumar's triumph in 2010. She was ahead on criteria when scores were tied 4-4 but with just 20 seconds left in the bout, Alpyeyeva found a



smart take down to seal the gold medal. Nevertheless, it was a memorable show by both Kajal and Neelam as India celebrated two silver medals for the first time in its women's wrestling history. Kajal had produced one of the most memorable performances of the championships in the semifinals, rallying from a 1-7 deficit to defeat Kyrgyzstan's Aiperi Medet Kyzy 10-7. Earlier, Neelam Sirohi settled for a silver medal after losing to Japanese legend Yui Susaki in the women's 50kg final. Susaki, who did not concede a single point in her triumphant run, pinned 26-year-old Neelam just before the end of the first period to win her fifth World title. Susaki, the Tokyo Olympics gold medallist, is one of the most decorated wrestlers in the sport. Her defeat to India's Vinesh Phogat at the Paris Olympics in 2024 was a rare setback in an otherwise dominant career. Neelam's achievement marked a significant milestone for Indian women's wrestling. Anshu had won silver in the 57kg category at the 2021 World Championships in Oslo. Neelam had stormed into the final with a 7-3 victory over Kazakhstan's Zeinep Bayanova in the semifinals, making her one of two Indian women to reach the gold medal bouts at the same edition for the first time.

"BRINGS THE WORST OUT OF ALL US":

Ex-India Opener Aakash Chopra After Getting Targetted For 3rd India vs New Zealand T20I Prediction

It was carnage in Wellington on Tuesday. In the third T20I, when New Zealand posted 198/3 in 20 overs, one would not have imagined what was waiting for the hosts. During the chase, India raced to 100 within the first five overs, with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Abhishek Sharma in full flow. By the time Sooryavanshi departed on the first ball of the eighth over, India had already reached 133. At the end of 10 overs, India were 178/2, needing just 21 runs from the final 10 overs. During New Zealand's innings, former India opener Aakash Chopra had written on X that a total of 170-plus looked tough to



chase on the Wellington pitch. "Looks like 170+ will be a tough chase today. #NZvInd," he wrote. As India chased down the target in just 13.2 overs, Chopra was trolled on social media. Later, in a video, he responded. "I think people should stay away from Twitter because it tends to bring the worst out of all of us. On a very serious note, I tweeted this and I was referring to a 10-over run chase. That it is a little tough to chase it down in just 10 overs. And see, I was right," he said on ESPNcricinfo. "On a very serious note, what exactly is happening? If you were to see the first few overs, the ball was darting around. There was movement off the surface. And I thought 170-plus... The commentators were saying, 'It is a tricky surface. There is some sideways wind as well.' They made a mockery of it. That's what this Indian batting team is doing."

Three-Time Asian Para Games Gold Medallist Neeraj Yadav, 42, Found Dead

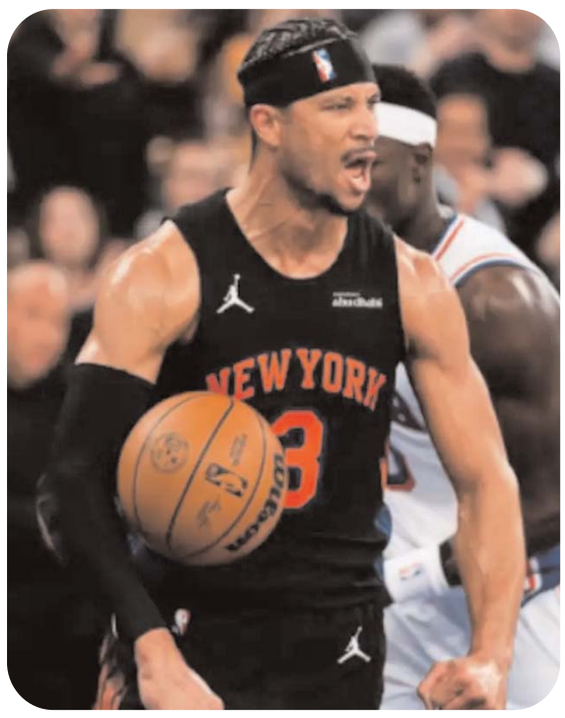
Neeraj Yadav, a three-time Asian Para Games gold medallist, allegedly died by suicide at his residence in Delhi on Tuesday. The heartbreaking news was confirmed by Indian para athletics coach S Satyanarayana during an exclusive conversation with NDTV. A post-mortem examination was underway at Delhi's GTB Hospital on Wednesday, where Paralympic champion Sumit Antil and fellow para-athlete Vipin Kasana were present. Satyanaran said he was in a state of shock following the news of Neeraj's death. "I am shocked by this news. Players should not do such things. I am trying to speak with his family. But I have received the news that a player is no longer with us. Neeraj Yadav was an Asian Games champion and



a fine athlete. This is a huge loss for all of us," Satyanarayana told NDTV. Diagnosed with post-polio residual paralysis at the age of seven, Neeraj competed in the F55 category in para javelin and discus throw. The 42-year-old from Uttar Pradesh won gold in the javelin throw at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games and the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Para Games. He also clinched the discus throw gold medal in Hangzhou. The F55 category is a para-athletics classification for athletes who compete in seated throwing events, including javelin, discus and shot put. Neeraj was reportedly under emotional stress after missing the Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya earlier this month due to a doping suspension. The circumstances surrounding his death are yet to be established.

Josh Hart Put Up His Fists At A Celtics Pistons' Coach, And The New York Knicks Finally Got Their First Win

The Knicks were 0-3, a scuffle had just broken out at Madison Square Garden, and coaches from both sides were on the court trying to separate the players. Then Josh Hart put up his fists. He turned to Pistons assistant coach Jarrett Jack, struck a mock boxing pose and stepped toward him, and Jack flinched before he realized it was a joke. The Knicks went on to beat Detroit 111-97 for their first win of the season. It was a tense night, and Hart found a way to turn it into a laugh.It happened in the third quarter on Tuesday. A Pistons player was called for a flagrant foul after hitting Karl-Anthony Towns in the back of the head while the two boxed out for a rebound.



"I Will Finish His Legacy": Carlos Prates Fires Brutal Warning At Islam Makhachev After UFC 336 Snub



Carlos Prates has escalated his feud with Islam Makhachev, vowing to "finish" the UFC welterweight champion's legacy after being passed over for a January title fight. Prates will instead face Michael Morales for the interim welterweight title at UFC 336 in Toronto on January 30. Makhachev had been expected to defend his belt against Prates at UFC 336, but the Dagestani told the UFC he would not be ready until after Ramadan. Ramadan begins on February 7, pushing Makhachev's likely return to May. If he fights for passion , he would fight the number 1 contender in January . I will not add anything on his legacy , I will finish his legacy brother , and also , he will make me look great . Carlos Prates fires back at Makhachev's manager Islam Makhachev has stated that Carlos Prates and Michael Morales should fight to determine the real No. 1 contender. His manager, Ali Abdelaziz, backed that stance and told Prates via X, "Talk less, because he'll make you look bad. None of you add to his legacy. He fights for passion, love of the sport, and the fans." Prates rejected Abdelaziz's comments in a fiery response. He wrote, "If he fights for passion, he would fight the number 1 contender in January. I will not add anything on his legacy; I will finish his legacy, brother, and also, he will make me look great." The Brazilian also predicted that Makhachev would make him "look great" if they eventually meet. He has repeatedly accused the champion of avoiding the fight and vowed to knock him out and retire him. Prates enters the interim-title fight at 24-7 and 7-1 in the UFC. He has won three straight bouts, including stoppage victories over former champions Jack Della Maddalena and Leon Edwards. Michael Morales eyes a career-defining showdown Michael Morales is 19-0 and has won all seven of his UFC fights. This makes the January matchup a high-stakes contest between two of the division's top contenders.

KYLIAN MBAPPE CONTROVERSY DEEPENS AS REAL MADRID ISSUE APOLOGY TO CHINA

Real Madrid apologised to China on Wednesday for Kylian Mbappe's comments poking fun at Mao Zedong, after the star striker's remarks sparked a social media storm and saw Spanish football yanked off state TV. Mocking former leader Mao -- blamed by historians for millions of deaths -- is taboo in China, and Mbappe's remarks saw him become the latest foreign sports figure to anger Beijing. In a clip of a video interview with French show "The Bridge" -- since taken down -- Mbappe talked about being amused by an internet meme of his face photoshopped onto "some guy, think he's a Chinese dictator", an apparent reference to Mao. Real Madrid "wishes to express its apologies to the Chinese people for any offence caused by the recent remarks of our player Kylian Mbappe", the club said in a statement. "The club joins in the public apology issued by Kylian Mbappe, in which the player himself expressed his regret for his words and reiterated his respect for the Chinese people," the 15-time



European champions said. The statement came a day after Mbappe issued his own apology, in French, Chinese and English, saying: "My comment was ill-judged and I now understand that it hurt many people in China and in Chinese communities around the world." Foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a regular briefing on Wednesday: "We take seriously the apology the individual concerned has made." La Liga, which saw the broadcast of its matches suspended in China, said Tuesday it "deeply regrets the offence that Kylian Mbappe's recent comments have caused among Chinese fans". Earlier, the state-run Global Times said in an editorial that it was "not difficult to see that the club's longstanding tolerance of such behavior has contributed to Mbappe's latest offensive remarks". Chinese beverage giant Dongpeng, which during this year's World Cup ran adverts with AI-generated images of Mbappe, said Tuesday it had scrapped its partnership with the player, as did dairy firms Mengniu and Milkground. CMG, which oversees public broadcaster CCTV, said it had decided to suspend broadcasts of La Liga, the world's second-richest football league after England's Premier League. Mbappe, 27, continued to face a torrent of criticism from Chinese web users on Wednesday, some of it racist.

Grand Pre-Release Event of 'Aadarsha Kutumbam – HOUSE NO. 47'



Aadarsha Kutumbam Will Definitely Win Your Hearts... We're Going to Hit a Six!" – Victory Venkatesh

"Aadarsha Kutumbam Is About How Far an Ordinary Man Can Go When He Decides to Fight for His Family" – Trivikram Srinivas

The grand pre-release event of the much-awaited Telugu film Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47, starring Victory Venkatesh and the celebrated film-maker and dialogue writer Trivikram Srinivas, was held at Shilpakala Vedika in Hyderabad on Tuesday evening.

Produced by S. Radha Krishna (Chinababu) under the banner of Haarika & Hassine Creations, the film features Srinidhi Shetty as the female lead. Nara Rohith and Nivetha Pethuraj play pivotal roles, while Thaman S has composed the music.

Marking the much-anticipated reunion of Venkatesh and Trivikram after 25 years, the film has generated considerable excitement among audiences. The teaser, trailer and songs released so far have received an encouraging response. Promising to bring the festive spirit of Diwali to theatres a little early, Aadarsha Kutumbam – House No. 47 is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 30.

Victory Venkatesh: "Aadarsha Kutumbam Will Definitely Win Your Hearts"

Addressing the gathering, Victory Venkatesh said, "It has been 20 years since Trivikram and I came together for a film. Naturally, there is a certain amount of pressure when you decide what kind of film to make after such a long gap. After films like Nuvvu Naaku Nachav and Malliswari, choosing the right script becomes quite challenging. However, Trivikram came to me with a wonderful script that has all the right elements.

"It's not just about comedy. The film brings together thrills, suspense and a wide range of emotions. I was delighted when I heard such a wonderful story that blends all these elements so effectively.

"Aadarsha Kutumbam is releasing on October 30, and I am confident that you will all love it. I have done several family entertainers, but this film is very special. No matter what happens, I must protect my family. I will stand by them and do everything I can to safeguard them. That is what Aadarsha Kutumbam is all about.

"The love of my fans is all I need. They have showered me with affection from the very beginning, and I am always grateful for it. Just as our Indian cricketers are hitting sixes, we are going to hit sixes right out of the stadium with this film! The film has come out exceptionally well.

"My heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been part of this project, especially director Trivikram and producers Chinababu and Naga Vamsi for giving us such a wonderful film."

Trivikram Srinivas: "Family Is a Deep, Everlasting Well That Quenches Our Thirst"

Speaking at the event, director Trivikram Srinivas expressed his gratitude to the cast and crew and spoke at length about the film's emotional core and the importance of family.

"Greetings to everyone. No matter how beautiful a photograph or painting may be, it needs a wall on which to be displayed. Thaman has been that wall for this film, supporting its emotional and visual strength through his background score. We completed the background score early this morning.

Director, Producer and Actor Poorvaaj Announces Rs. 1 Crore Prize for Guessing Killer's Second-Half Twist



The story of Killer has a novelty point that has never been seen in any other film. We will award Rs. 1 crore to anyone who correctly guesses the second-half twist," said director, producer and actor Poorvaaj at the film's Rs. 1 crore contest press meet

Killer is a sensational sci-fi thriller featuring Jyoti Poorvaj and Poorvaaj in lead roles. Manish Gillada, Chandrakanth Kollu, Ayanabattina Dasaratha Madhav, Vishal Raj, Archana Ananth, and Gautham Chakradhar Koppisetti play other important roles. Made with the blessings of Dhyanam Nannagaru, the film is being produced by Poorvaaj and Padmanabha Reddy A. under the banners of Think Cinema and AU & I Studios. Urvish Poorvaj is presenting the film, which is directed by Poorvaaj. Killer is set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 30th. OMG Pictures is distributing the film overseas.

At the press meet held in Hyderabad, members of the cast and crew spoke about the film, its intriguing twists, and the unique Rs. 1 crore contest announced by the makers.

Heroine Jyoti Poorvaj said, "Our film is now ready for release, and the premieres will take place tomorrow evening. We have already shared everything we wanted to tell audiences about the film and the hard work put in by our cast and crew. We are confident that we will soon celebrate a success meet." She added, "We also conducted the Super She contest for women, asking what they would do if they possessed superpowers. We selected eight participants who sent inspiring answers and are happy to present Rs. 20,000 to each of them on this stage. Every one of us possesses inner strength. We can also consider the soldiers who protect our country every day as people with superpowers. Our entire team salutes them. I congratulate Poorvaaj for bringing such a brilliant subject as Killer to the screen. Every member of our team worked hard and stood by us throughout this journey. Their trust and support have brought us all together here today, and we believe we have succeeded in our efforts.

'Donga Na Kodhu' is very entertaining



Mouli Tanuj Prashanth, Srinu Kambala, Mythri Movie Makers launch the passionate 'Oh My God' song with the voice of Ram Miriyala from 'Donga Na Kodhu'

Pan India production company Mythri Movie Makers is promoting films with content along with big budget films. The latest film being made under this banner is 'Donga Naa Kodu'. Mouli Tanuj Prashanth is playing the lead role in this film and Srinu Kambala is making his directorial debut with this film. The film will be released in theaters on November 13. In this context, the makers have started musical promotions and released the first single 'Oh My God'.

'Oh My God' is a romantic song composed by Sinjith Erramilli. The captivating orchestration and energetic beats are the special attraction of this song. Bhaskarabhatla beautifully conveys the feelings of the hero, who is completely immersed in love. In this song, the hero expresses how his girlfriend changed his single life and how precious every moment he spends with her is to him. This song beautifully reveals the excitement and joy of love. Ram Miriyala brought more passion to the song with his unique energy and voice. His dynamic vocals were the main attraction of this song. Aata Sandeep's choreography brought more beauty to the song. Mouli Tanuj Prashanth impressed with his energetic dance, and his chemistry with Sushmita Shetty was cute. This song, which has a youthful romantic vibe, is entertaining the audience.

'Donga Na Kodhu', which has already raised interest with the first look poster and teaser, has now increased its musical promotions with this melody. Ali, Rajitha, Raghubabu, Priya, Gundu Sudarshan will be seen in other key roles in the film.

Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravishankar are the producers, with Anil Yerneni as the co-producer. Surya Balaji is handling the cinematography, while Sinjith Erramilli is composing the music. Sridhar Sompally is the editor, and Nagendra Guvvala is the production designer.



THIS TIME, INDIA ASSEMBLES FIRST!

Marvel studios' biggest Diwali gift to India! Doctor doom (Robert downey jr.) and steve Rogers (chris Evans) send special wishes to fans as avengers: doomsday gets an early release in India on 17th December 2026!

_avengers: doomsday is officially releasing a day before the us in India, on 17th December 2026 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

"Summer Holidays" is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on November 6



Producer and distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni has earned recognition for bringing content-driven films to audiences. Under his Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainments banner, he is producing "Summer Holidays," a nostalgic film directed by Srikar that promises to bring back beautiful childhood memories. Master Rohan, Master Arun, and Baby Khushi play key roles in the film.

The trailer launch event was held in Hyderabad today, with the King of Entertainment, Sree Vishnu, attending as the chief guest.

Narayana Swamy Thanks 'Rudravanam PS' Team for the Opportunity



A disturbing crime can be the beginning of a much larger mystery, where every clue raises new questions and the truth lies buried beneath layers of suspicion. Rudravanam PS, a seven-episode Telugu crime thriller directed by Sasidhar Munnangi and written by Taj Syed, stars Naresh Agastya as SI Sivakumar, an honest police officer drawn into an investigation that reaches beyond the apparent facts of a case. A headless corpse and a missing man set the story in motion, leading towards a web of power, prejudice and long-buried secrets in Rudravanam. The series brings together an ensemble cast and a creative team seeking to build an investigative thriller around the pursuit of truth. The Grand Pre-Release Event brought the cast, crew and prominent industry guests together to discuss the making of the series, their experiences on set and their expectations ahead of its premiere on ZEE5 Telugu on 30 October 2026.

Addressing the gathering, the cast and crew reflected on the opportunities the series offered them, the effort behind its production, the creative possibilities of OTT storytelling and the anticipation surrounding its release. Reflecting on the opportunity to play a substantial character and acknowledging the encouragement he received from the lead actor and senior performers, actor Narayana Swamy said, Thank you to Harsha for this opportunity, and to our producers, director and the entire direction team, including Poorna, Avinash and Madhu. Most importantly, I want to thank our hero, who encouraged me throughout the process. Though my role in the first two episodes is small, it has turned out very well, and the upcoming episodes will be excellent. Senior actors like Banerjee, Raja Ravindra and Reddy, along with the rest of the team, were incredibly supportive. This is the first time I have been entrusted with such a substantial character, and I am deeply grateful. Thank you all.

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