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VIJAYAWADA I HYDERABAD I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I KOCHI

# THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

*Essence of the South*

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER




**OM NAMO VENKATESAYA**

15-10-2026



Total pilgrims : 72,337
Tonsures : 33,548
Hundi kanukalu : 3.87 CR
Laddu sale... 4.0 Lac
Annaprasadam.. 2.29Lac
Ashwini hospital..8,419
Present Situation on 16-10-2026:
Waiting Compartments..
Out side line at Silathoranam.

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

## INBRIEF

### Govt cuts gold duty drawback rate by 3.1 pc, silver by nearly 9 pc

New Delhi, Oct 16 : The central government on Friday reduced the duty drawback rates applicable to the export of gold and silver jewellery, as well as other precious metal products. According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance, the duty refund on gold jewellery has been cut by 3.1 per cent, while the refund on silver jewellery and other such products has been reduced by approximately 9 per cent. The decision will lower financial gains for Indian jewellery exporters compared to before, and it could have a direct impact on their profit margins. Following the revision, the duty drawback rate for the export of gold jewellery has been reduced from Rs 1,851.99 per gram to Rs 1,794.11 per gram. The reduction is even more significant for silver-based products. The rate for the export of silver jewellery and other silver items has been lowered from Rs 29,501.09 per kilogram to Rs 26,859.02 per kilogram. Duty drawback is a mechanism through which exporters receive a refund of customs and other duties paid on raw materials or inputs used in the production of goods intended for export.

### ISI RAISES ESPIONAGE BUDGET TO RS.1,300 CRORE, TARGETS NAVY AND IAF

New Delhi : Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has reportedly raised its annual espionage budget targeting India to Rs 1,300 crore following last year's Operation Sindoor, with funds focused on building a Human Intelligence (HUMINT) network within the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, according to intelligence officials. An Intelligence Bureau official said that before Operation Sindoor, the ISI's budget for espionage against India was Rs 800 to Rs 900 crore. "However, post Operation Sindoor, there has been a hike in this sum of up to Rs 1,300 crore. The reason why the budget has been hiked is that Pakistan wants to trap high-value targets within India's defence forces," the official said. In recent months, the ISI has been specifically focusing on setting up a massive Human Intelligence (HUMINT) network within the Indian Navy and Air Force. Offices handling sensitive information are targeted through honey-traps or by exploiting security vulnerabilities. The cost of establishing such networks has risen sharply over the past year, with high-value targets now being paid between Rs 15 lakh and Rs 25 lakh, compared with Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh before Operation Sindoor.

**TIRANGA** MARCH



# Dipke, Bora detained; flash protests in Delhi

**NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):**

*CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke was detained as soon as he stepped out, and All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora was detained at Mandi House; the police action prompted flash protests across central Delhi.*

Despite efforts by the Delhi Police to prevent activists and students from gathering for the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led 'Lehra Do Tiranga' rally on Friday, October 16, the day was packed with developments. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke was detained as soon as he stepped out, and All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora was detained at Mandi House; the police action prompted flash protests across central Delhi.

Over 20 police personnel arrived at Dipke's Delhi accommodation in Jhandewalan with two notices—one barring him from the march over stampede and traffic concerns and another over alleged violation of bond conditions—before the scheduled 5 pm march.

While the first notice barred him from holding a demonstration, procession or rally in the vicinity of Connaught Place, the second notice, issued by the Special Executive Magistrate, concerned the bond conditions imposed on Dipke and CJP co-leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka.

# Bhatti sets Three-month deadline for Rohit Vemula Bill



**Hyderabad ■ (TSIT):**

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to prepare the preliminary draft of the proposed Rohit Vemula Telangana Bill within three months to protect students' rights and prevent caste-based discrimination in higher educational institutions.

At a Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting at the Secretariat on Friday, he instructed the Scheduled Castes Development Department to lead the drafting process in coordination with the Law Department and other relevant institutions.

He called for consultations with students, faculty, legal experts, civil society groups and education specialists to ensure practical provisions for preventing discrimination and promoting equal opportunities. NALSAR University of Law has agreed to provide legal and technical assistance for drafting the Bill.

# SC seeks Centre's response on social media age limits for children

**NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):**



The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the Centre on a plea seeking a comprehensive and enforceable regulatory framework to protect children from the risks associated with social media platforms, including age-based restrictions on access and safeguards against online exploitation.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued notice on the petition filed by The Emerald Heights International School and its Director (Academics), Siddharth Singh Girnar, and tagged it with a pending petition raising a similar issue.

The apex court has listed the matter for further hearing on December 3. The petition, filed against the Union of India, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Law and Justice, and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, raises concerns over unrestricted access to commercial social media platforms by children and the alleged inadequacy of the existing legal and regulatory framework to address the risks posed by their use.

The plea contends that social media platforms generally prescribe a self-declared minimum age of 13 years, which does not correspond to the protection accorded to children under Indian law. It refers to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, which recognises every person below 18 years of age as a child and provides for enhanced safeguards, including verifiable parental consent and restrictions on tracking, behavioural monitoring and targeted advertising.

# Rahul slams police 'brutalities' against students during protests

**Gandhi made remarks in a post accompanying video of his recent interaction with some students.**

**NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):**



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday, October 16, claimed that Delhi Police is refusing to register a first information report (FIR) on the "assault" of student protesters by security personnel, and asserted that police can break bones but not a 'satyagraha'. The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha also stressed that "brutality by Home Minister Amit Shah's Delhi Police" will not go unchecked and the Congress will pursue every legal route against the officers responsible.

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi interacts with student activists who were allegedly beaten up by Delhi Police during a protest, in New Delhi. (Source: PTI)

Gandhi made the remarks in a post accompanying the video of his recent interaction with some students, including those from the Congress' students wing NSUI, who were injured during recent protests against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the SIR process. The Congress leader had met them at the 10, Janpath residence of Sonia Gandhi here on Wednesday, October 14.

"Delhi Police is refusing to register an FIR on the assault of our students. Two young women, Athira from Kerala and Ritu from Rajasthan, along with many others, were beaten by Delhi Police. I have spoken to Kerala Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala and Rajasthan PCC President Govind Singh Dotasra. A Zero FIR has already been registered in Kerala," Gandhi said in his post on X. Interview with Rahul about police brutality against students during protests.Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi interacts with student activists who were allegedly beaten up by Delhi Police during a protest, in New Delhi. (Source: PTI)

"We will pursue every legal route against the officers responsible, in Kerala, in Rajasthan and in the courts. Brutality by Amit Shah's Delhi Police will not go unchecked," he said. "Police can break bones. They cannot break a satyagraha. India's youth, especially young women, are fearless, determined and united. They are standing up for our democracy, and I stand with them," Gandhi said.In the video, Gandhi listens to the students and then calls up Chennithala and Dotasra, asking them to file an FIR against the policewoman who indulged in brutalities according to the students.

# Jagan accuses Naidu of turning Andhra into 'jungle raj'



**TADEPALLI■ (TSIT):**

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress President, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Friday alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has turned Andhra Pradesh into a 'jungle raj'. Jagan Mohan Reddy strongly condemned an attack on YSRCP Lok Sabha leader and MP Peddireddy Mithun Reddy and spoke to him over the phone to enquire about the incident and his condition.

The YSRCP chief said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had no intention of allowing the local body elections to be conducted peacefully and fairly. He said there was intense public opposition to the coalition government after two-and-a-half years of its rule and that the government was resorting to violence, attacks and intimidation because of this growing resentment.

# Lakhs of devotees witness Garuda Seva amid heavy rain

**Tirumala:** Lakhs of devotees witnessed the grand Garuda Seva of Sri Malayappa Swamy in Tirumala on Friday evening despite heavy rain during the annual Brahmotsavams.

Devotees filled the four Mada streets, chanting "Govinda, Govinda" and carrying umbrellas and raincoats as the deity, adorned with glittering ornaments and silk robes, proceeded on the majestic golden Garuda Vahanam.TTD officials, police, vigilance personnel and Srivari Seva volunteers supervised crowd management and safety arrangements. TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu, Executive Officer M. Ravichandra, board members and the Tirumala pontiffs were also present.



# Kharge writes to PM Modi, seeks all-party meeting to discuss new bills

**NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):**



**Congress President and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge,** on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking an all-party meeting to discuss bills and other proposals.

Congress President and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking an all-party meeting to discuss bills and other proposals.

Highlighting that the Constitutional Amendment Bill on Delimitation failed to muster the necessary two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha on April 17, 2026, by a decisive margin, Kharge wrote, "Please convene an all-party meeting to have a detailed discussion on your new proposals before they are finalised for consideration in Parliament."The LoP said, "All political parties must get sufficient time to deliberate among themselves, with each other and with all other stakeholders. Please do not once again try and bulldoze a far-reaching Constitutional Amendment Bill through Parliament as you attempted earlier and that met its well-deserved fate."

Kharge said, "You may kindly recall that I had first written to you on April 11, 2026 to convene an all-party meeting before bringing any Constitutional Amendment Bill on Delimitation. You did not do so. Thereafter, you made the Bills public on the late evening of April 14, 2026 and convened a special session on April 16, 2026."

# Amaravati Attracts Rs. 42,948 Crore Investments




Amaravati, TSIT: Andhra Pradesh attracted investment proposals worth Rs. 42,947.74 crore through 60 MoUs exchanged at the Amaravati Regional Conference held at SRM University-AP on Friday. The investments are expected to generate 56,653 jobs. Of the 60 MoUs, 41 worth Rs. 27,044.74 crore are intended for the capital region, with a potential to create 36,904 jobs. Singapore-based Greta Group proposed an investment of Rs. 10,500 crore in Prakasam district, while three projects worth Rs. 6,200 crore in Guntur are expected to generate 12,000 jobs.The three regional conferences held in Visakhapatnam, Kakinada and Amaravati have attracted 106 MoUs worth Rs. 68,702.35 crore, with the potential to create 1,27,859 jobs. The proposals cover real estate, aerospace, tourism, hospitality, maritime services, manufacturing and infrastructure. Twenty MSMEs also showcased their products at the conference. Organised by the state government in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry, the conference was held ahead of the 31st CII Partnership Summit scheduled in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13.



Managing Partner of JSV Infra from Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, Vaidyalingam, met TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu at the Camp Office and handed over a Demand Draft of Rs.10 lakh as a donation to the TTD SV Gosamrakshana Trust. Chairman B.R. Naidu appreciated the donor for his contribution. Board Members Panabaka Lakshmi and Naresh Kumar also participated in the programme.



Cultural troops with SVBC chairman Sridhar Varma



PROCESSION OF KASULA MALA in tirumala

# Malayappa Swamy appears in Mohini avatar at Tirumala



Tirumala: Sri Malayappa Swamy appeared in the enchanting Mohini Alankaram and blessed devotees on Friday morning, the fifth day of the Navaratri Brahmotsavams at Tirumala. Sri Krishna Swamy, beautifully adorned on another tiruchi, also blessed devotees during the procession.

The grand Pallaki Seva was held amid devotional fervour, with decorated elephants leading the procession, accompanied by bhajans, kolatams, mangala vadyams and the chanting of Jeeyangars.

# SEC Appoints 28 IFS Officers as Expenditure Observers



Vijayawada, TSIT. State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha has appointed 28 IFS officers as expenditure observers for 28 districts to monitor election spending during local body polls. At a review meeting on Friday, he directed the observers to monitor candidates' expenditure daily from nomination filing until completion of the election process. Candidates must submit their total election expenditure to the State Election Commission through the District Election Officer within 45 days of the declaration of results.Punetha instructed officials to ensure compliance with expenditure limits and the Model Code of Conduct, while coordinating with police and Excise Department officials to prevent illegal liquor distribution. Liquor supply must be stopped 48 hours before polling closes in municipalities and 44 hours.

## YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy's convoy attacked in Andhra's Annamayya, blames TDP workers

Amaravati, Oct 16 : YSRCP Floor Leader in Lok Sabha P.V. Mithun Reddy's convoy was attacked in Punganur in Andhra Pradesh's Annamayya district on Friday. YSR Congress Party alleged that there was a murderous attack on Mithun Reddy, who is the MP from Rajampet constituency, and blamed TDP workers.It said the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) men pelted stones on vehicles in the MP's convoy and attacked them with sticks and iron rods. The attack took place as he accompanied YSRCP candidates and leaders to file nominations for the local body elections. YSRCP alleged that TDP leaders and workers blocked the convoy and tried to stop YSRCP candidates from reaching the nomination centre. Vehicles belonging to YSRCP leaders were vandalised. Police personnel present at the scene failed to stop the attackers or protect the candidates.

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE**

**ICICI Home Finance** | Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Office: Supriya Towers, 1st Floor, D. No. 5-37-155, 4/15 Brodipet, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh- 522002
Branch Office: Ground Floor, 47-9-14, Ganta Arcade, 3rd lane, Dwarakanagar, Vishakapatnam, A.P.- 530016

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number | Description of property/ Date of Possession | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) | Name of Branch |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Kallam Lakshmi (Borrower), Maganti Raghava (Co-Borrower), LHGTR00001421944. | Situated In 724 B 723 A Door No. 1-205 Block No. 01 Prathipadu Village Panchayat And Mandal Guntur District 522019. Bounded By- North: Cirkar Bazar, South: Nallapati Adi Narayan Sons Property, East: Vippala Venkata Reddy, West: Bole Sai Baba./ Date of Possession- 12-Oct-26 | 17-04-2023 Rs. 27,57,751/- | Guntur |
| 2. | Chitrada Eswara Rao (Borrower), Venkata Lakshmi Chitrada (Co-Borrower), 20-3-6 Saradhanagar Near Ayyappamess Narsipatnam Andhra Pradesh- 531116. LHVPM00001359169. | A Schedule:- All The Part And Parcel of Nearest Door No. 77-133-2 In Plot No. 105, 105-A & 105- Bin S. No. 18/1, 19/2B & 19/2C For The Extent of 38.08 Sq.yds or 31.799 Sq.mts Out of Total Extent of 760.16 Sq.yds Situated At Payakapuram Vijayawada Andhra Pradesh 520010. As Bounded By : East- 33'0 Width Road. South- 6-'0 Width Road. West- Others Property. North - Others Property..... B- Schedule:- In The Above A- Schedule Property An Apartment Constructed Under The Name And Style of "Asr Plaza" Ground Floor Flat No. 103, With A Plinth Area of 900 Sq.fts Is Being Bounded By: East- Common Corridor. South- Steps And Lift. West- Open To Sky. North- Flat No. 104./ Date of Possession- 12-Oct-26 | 01-01-2026 Rs. 28,71,519/- | Visakha-patnam |

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : October 17, 2026 — Authorized Officer
Place: Guntur, Vijayawada — ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

**L&T Finance Limited**
**Registered Office:** L&T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098
**CIN No.:** L67120MH2008PLC181833
**Branch office:** Vijayawada

L&T Finance

**POSSESSION NOTICE**
**[Rule-8(1)]**

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of L&T Finance Limited (Erstwhile, L&T Finance Holdings Ltd), under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred by Section 13(12) of the said Act read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices calling upon the Borrower/ Co-borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice appended below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization. The Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein under in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this notice.

| Loan Account Number | Borrower/s/ Co-borrower/s & Guarantors Name | Description of the Mortgaged Properties | Demand Notice | | Date and Type of Possession Taken |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Date | Outstanding Amount (₹) | |
| VJWHL17000049,VJWHL17000058 | Prabhu Venkata Anjani Kumar Kokku as Borrower and Chinna Vijaya Durga Devi Kokkulakshmi Rajyam Kasilanka as Co-Borrower/s | Flat No. 611 In The Fifth Floor of 1st Block of Yalamanchili Heights With A Plinth Area of 1923 Sq.ft., Common Area 558 Sq.ft., Parking Area 240 Sq.ft., Situated In R.S. No. 379/1,379/1B of Gunadala, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Area, Gunadala Sub-registry, Vijayawada, Krishna Dist., Being Bounded By : Boundaries: East: Corridor; West: Open to Sky; North: Open to Sky; South: Lobby and Open to Sky | 23/05/2026 | Rs. 7486436.41/- as on date 14/05/2026 | 13-10-2026 Symbolic Possession |
| VJWHL17000049,VJWHL17000058 | Prabhu Venkata Anjani Kumar Kokku as Borrower and Chinna Vijaya Durga Devi Kokkulakshmi Rajyam Kasilanka as Co-Borrower/s | Flat No.507 In The Fourth Floor of 1st Block of Yalamanchili Heights With A Plinth Area Of 1682 Sq.ft., Common Area 488 Sq.ft., Parking Area 240 Sq.ft., Situated In R.S. No. 379/1,379/1B of Gunadala, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Area, Gunadala Sub-registry, Vijayawada, Krishna Dist., Being Bounded By : Boundaries: East: Open to Sky; West: Corridor; North: Open to Sky; South: Lift and Open to Sky | 23/05/2026 | Rs. 7486436.41/- as on date 14/05/2026 | 13-10-2026 Symbolic Possession |

The Borrower/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing in the property would be subject to the charge of L&T Finance Limited for an amount mentioned in the demand notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

**Date:** 17.10.2026
**Place:** Vijayawada
Sd/-
**Authorized Officer**
For L&T FINANCE LIMITED

**ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD.**
ACRE MAKING ASSETS WORK
**Registered Office :** 14th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
Tel : 91-11-43115600 Fax : 91-11-43115618
**Corporate Office : Office 101, Kalpataru Infinia, Plot B, Near Grand Hyatt Santacruz (East), Mumbai – 400055 Maharashtra, India** E-mail : acre.arc@acreindia.in
Website : www.acreindia.in CIN : U65993DL2002PLC115769

**Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002**

Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd. acting in its capacity as trustee of Trusts as mentioned below ("ACRE") has acquired the entire Financial Assets along with underlying securities of the Borrower under the provisions of section 5 of the SARFAESI Act from the Assignor. By virtue of the said Acquisition of debt, ACRE has acquired all the rights, title and interest in the outstanding debts of the Borrower acting in its capacity as trustee by way of assignment of Financial Assets as per financial documents and the underlying securities, ACRE has stepped into the shoes of Assignor being Secured Creditor to the Borrower and is entitled to recover outstanding dues in respect of the Loan facilities and enforce the underlying security interest.

| Date & Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2) | Loan A/c No. | ACRE TRUST/ Assignor | Date of Assignment | Name of Borrower, Co-borrower | Date of NPA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14.10.2026 & Rs. 51,09,822.82/- (Rupees Fifty One Lakh Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Two & Eighty Two Paise Only) as on 14.10.2026 | 27400928 & 33731138 | Trust 158 / IDFC | 19-06-2025 | 1.Gopu Subbarao 2.Gopu Rajeswari | 03.03.2021 |
| **Description of Mortgaged Property:-** All That Part And Parcel Of Property Situated At Guntur District, Guntur Sub-District, Within The Limits Of The Guntur Municipal Corporation Area, Guntur City, Old Guntur, Balaji Nagar, 8th Lane Locality, Guntur Village, D.No.675/1, 675/2a, Out Of Ac.2-05cts, As Per Certificate Of Town Surveyor, Guntur Report Vide File No.254/11, Guntur Village, D.No.675/2a1, Western Side In 281-Sq.Yds., Bearing Door No. 16-31-13, Assessment No.74586, An Extent Of 141 Sq.Yds., With Tiled House Bearing Electric S.C. No. 130347 With All Fixtures And Fittings Thereof-East: Property Gifted To Gopu Suresh, 72'-02", South: Road, 17'-08", West: Property Of Bandaru Sitaramaiah, 72'-00", And North: Property Of Katta Somulu And Others, 17'-06" | | | | | |
| **Date & Amount of Demand Notice Under Sec. 13(2)** | **Loan A/c No.** | **ACRE TRUST/ Assignor** | **Date of Assignment** | **Name of Borrower, Co-borrower** | **Date of NPA** |
| 15.10.2026 & Rs.47,09,551.81/- (Rupees Forty Seven Lakh Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty One & Eighty One Paise Only) as on 14.10.2026 | 6077075 10491955 | Trust 178 / SMFG | 11-12-2025 | 1.Menakuru Jayachandra Reddy 2.Menakuru Srinivasulu Reddy 3. Reddy Concreate Blocks 4. Ramireddy Kalpana | 06.04.2024 |
| **Description of Mortgaged Property:** Spsrnellore District - Gudurregistration District-Gudursubregistration-Gudur Mandalam, West Gudur-Sy.No-585-A-2, Sunnabatti Street, Gudur Municipal Area Ward No-2, Old D.No-129-1, New D.No-129-C, Asscement No-10292003744, An Extent Of 28 Ankanams House Site Bounded By:East By: House Of Vallepu Veeraraghavulu, South By: 1/2 Passage (Inside) Site Abutting To House And Site Of Kota Prakash, West By: Cement Road And North By: B-Schedule Property | | | | | |

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice as per the provision of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Please be informed that the said notice is also under section 13(13) informing the borrowers/guarantors/ mortgagors that the said mortgaged property should not be sold/leased/transferred.

**Place :Andhra Pradesh**
**Date : 17.10.2026**
Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd

www.thesouthindiatimes.com
info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

# CM Offers Pattu Vastrams to Goddess Kanaka Durga



Vijayawada, TSIT : Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, along with his wife Bhuvaneswari, offered pattu vastrams to Goddess Kanaka Durga on behalf of the State government at Indrakeeladri on Thursday evening. The Chief Minister performed special pujas amid Vedic chants and received the blessings of the temple priests. Darshan for ordinary devotees continued without interruption during his visit. Speaking to the media, Naidu said he prayed for the happiness, prosperity and well-being of the people, abundant rainfall, poverty eradication and improved living standards in Andhra Pradesh.

He said around eight lakh devotees had darshan of the Goddess in the previous six days. He added that the Vijayawada Utsav 2.0 and National Saras Mela were enhancing the city's festive atmosphere, while Vijayawada Dasara celebrations were gaining national prominence.

# GVMC Makes Elaborate Arrangements for General Elections



Visakhapatnam, TSIT. The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation is making comprehensive arrangements for the smooth, peaceful and transparent conduct of the General Elections–2026, GVMC Commissioner and Additional Election Authority Ketan Garg said on Friday. He said special attention was being given to election arrangements across all 120 wards under GVMC limits. A total of 18,37,901 voters have been registered, and arrangements are being made at 1,990 polling stations.

The Commissioner said coordination among election officials, Returning Officers and other staff was being strengthened. Measures were also being taken to ensure adequate infrastructure and facilities at polling stations, allocate duties to election personnel and manage election materials efficiently. The filing of nominations commenced on October 16, and nominations will be received until 3 p.m. on October 18, he said. Candidates were advised to follow the prescribed election rules, while officials were directed to provide the necessary information and assistance.

Ketan Garg said stringent measures were being taken to enforce the Model Code of Conduct and ensure that the elections were conducted in accordance with Election Commission guidelines. He instructed election personnel to discharge their duties impartially, without favouring any political party, and stressed the need for effective coordination among all departments. Emphasising transparency and accountability, he directed officials to perform their assigned responsibilities efficiently and ensure that voters, candidates and political parties did not face unnecessary difficulties during the election process. He added that election-related information would be communicated to the public from time to time.

The Commissioner appealed to the public, political parties and contesting candidates to cooperate with the authorities and act responsibly to ensure the smooth and democratic conduct of the elections. He further stated that violations of the Model Code of Conduct could be reported through the GVMC Control Room toll-free number 1800 4250 0009.

# India Needs Nutritional Security: NIN Scientist



Visakhapatnam, TSIT : India has achieved food security through high-yielding crop varieties but continues to face challenges in nutritional security and access to diverse foods, said Dr. A. Ananthan of the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. Speaking at a three-day national conference on innovative food systems for a sustainable and nutritious future at GITAM, he said more than 200 biofortified crop varieties had been developed to address nutritional deficiencies. These crops naturally contain higher levels of essential micronutrients.

Dr. Ananthan recommended a balanced diet under NIN's "My Plate for India" concept, with 50% fruits and vegetables and 25% cereals and millets. He highlighted research on local food databases, nutrient retention and the health benefits of traditional foods. He cited Meghalaya's initiative to include locally available foods in school midday meals, which helped improve children's nutritional status. GITAM School of Business Dean Prof.

# NMDC launches vigilance portal, quarter management system



Hyderabad, October 16: NMDC launched a vigilance portal for NMDC Steel Ltd (NSL), an online employee quarter management system and the second edition of the NMDC Vigilance Manual 2026 at a capacity-building programme organised by its Vigilance Department in Hyderabad on Friday.

Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Vashisht, the chief guest, stressed transparency, accountability and preventive vigilance while protecting honest officers. NMDC CMD Amitava Mukherjee highlighted the company's record iron ore production, sustainable mining practices and community development initiatives.

Organised under the Central Vigilance Commission's theme 'Probity for Prosperity', the programme brought together 113 executives from 18 government organisations and public sector entities across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Sessions covered procurement transparency, cybersecurity, complaint handling and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) procedures. Awards were also presented to students for competitions promoting ethics and integrity.

## Vibrant Colours of India Converge in Devotion at Tirumala



Tirumala, 16 October 2026: The Navaratri Brahmotsavams in Tirumala has become a platform to display India's richest and vibrant cultural heritage as 31 art troupes from 17 states, featuring 863 artistes, presented captivating displays of traditional dance, music and folk art on Friday evening during Garuda Seva.

Their performances enhanced the spiritual atmosphere.

and Kashmir's soulful Dogri rhythms, Delhi and Jharkhand's powerful Chhau dance, Assam's devotional Sattriya, Arunachal Pradesh's graceful Emirolo and Sikkim's melodious Tamang Selo brought the rich artistic traditions of the North and Northeast to the divine procession.

While West Bengal's lyrical Kathak added classical elegance, while Maharashtra's energetic Lezim infused the Mada streets with rhythm and vigour. Madhya Pradesh presented a colourful tribal folk dance, showcasing the enduring vitality of India's heartland traditions. Similarly

graceful Ghoomar lent a regal touch to the celebrations.

Swirling skirts, rhythmic claps and elegant movements reflected the festive grandeur and cultural richness of the desert state.Karnataka's thunderous Dollu Kunitha, Kerala's majestic Samudra Manthanam dance ballet and the enchanting Mohiniyattam added exceptional grace and grandeur to the occasion.Andhra Pradesh artistic legacy was showcased through the spirited Tappetagullu of Srikakulam, the tribal Kommukoya dance of Bhadrachalam and the devotional Chekka Bhajana of Vijayawada. The artistes showcased their talents.

# NCBE Opposes IDBI Bank Privatisation, Seeks Review



Visakhapatnam,TSIT : The National Confederation of Bank Employees has opposed the proposed sale of a majority stake in IDBI Bank to Canadian financial services group Fairfax Financial Holdings and urged the Union government to reconsider the decision. In a statement, NCBE General Secretary L. Chandra Sekhar said the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved the sale of a 60.72% stake held by the Centre and LIC for a reported 52,878 crore. He said the move raised concerns over public savings, employees' rights and the future of public-oriented banking. NCBE argued that IDBI Bank's financial turnaround and profitability did not justify transferring its control to a private investor. It stressed that banks play a vital role in financial inclusion, agricultural credit, small businesses and welfare programmes. The organisation also sought clarity on an assurance given to Parliament in 2003 regarding government ownership in IDBI Bank. It called for safeguards for employees' job security, service conditions, retirement benefits and trade union rights, along with protection for depositors and LIC policyholders.

NCBE urged the government to ensure transparency in the transaction and withdraw the decision to transfer majority control to a foreign private investor. It appealed to trade unions and concerned citizens to support the protection of public sector banking.

## MPTC, ZPTC POLL NOMINATIONS FROM OCTOBER 21



Visakhapatnam, TSIT : Nominations for the MPTC and ZPTC elections will be accepted from October 21, with polling scheduled for November 3 and counting on November 5, Joint Collector G. Vidyadhari said. At a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Friday, she said nodal officers had been appointed to ensure smooth conduct of the elections. Revenue Divisional Officers would oversee arrangements at the divisional level, while MPDOs would function as assistant authorities.

She said 203 polling stations had been set up and directed officials to ensure basic facilities at every centre. The Model Code of Conduct would come into force immediately, requiring the removal of political party photographs and flex banners and the covering of statues of political leaders. The Joint Collector also instructed officials to provide immediate training to polling personnel, ensure election materials were ready and complete all assigned tasks within the prescribed deadlines, strictly following election guidelines.Zilla Parishad CEO Narayanamurthy, Deputy CEO Sandeep.


## POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of Arcil (as detailed in table below) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("said Rules") issued a demand notice (as detailed in table below), calling upon the borrower viz. (as detailed in table below), the guarantors and the mortgagors to repay the amount under Loan No – (as detailed in table below) details of which are mentioned in the table below:
The borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the said amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic / Physical possession of the underlying Immovable Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on "AS IS WHERE IS & WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" on the date mentioned below.

| Sr. No. | Borrower Name and Guarantors | LAN No. / Trust Name / Bank Name | Demand Notice Date and Amount | Possession Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Kolli Bharathi (Borrower), Kolli Mounika (Co Borrower)** Add: Door No. 1-174, Main Road, Nagireddy Palem, Bellamkonda, A.P Pin: 522411 | **106005595592 Arcil - Trust -2026- 032 Northern ARC Capital Ltd.** | **Rs. 10,12,629.486/- Notice dated: 18-05-2026** | **14-10-2026** |
| | **Description of Property:** As Per Regd. Right Release Deed Bearing Doct.No. 10415/2022, Dated 12.12.2022 Of Sro Sattenapalli Guntur District, Narasaraopet Reg. Dist. Sattenapali Sub District, Phirangipuram Mandal, Yarraguntlapadu Grama Panchayathy Area, Yarraguntlapadu Village D.No. 81, An Extent Of Ac. 3-54 Cents Land Out It Door No. 3-9, Assessment No. 409 Of An Extent Of 217.8 Sq. Yards Or 182.95 Sq.Mts Site Along With Rcc House 1150 Sft Of The Schedule Property. Within These Boundaries 217.8 Sq. Yards Or 182.95 Sq.Mts Of Vacant Site In Its Rcc House In 1150 Sft. **North:** House Belongs To Kolli Raghuramreddy **South:** House Belongs To Sanagala Surreddy And Others **East:** Panchayathi Bazar **West:** House Belongs To Sanagala Sambireddy And Others | | | |

The borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned that Arcil is in lawful possession of the Immovable Property mentioned above and under Section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, the borrower/ guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) or any person whatsoever, shall after receipt of this notice not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/alienate the Immovable Property, without prior written consent of Arcil and any dealings with the Immovable Property will be subject to the charge of Arcil for the amount as mentioned above along with future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc.
The borrowers'/guarantors'/mortgagors' attention is invited to the provisions of the Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the said Act, in respect of time available to redeem the above-mentioned Immovable Property.

**Sd/-**
**Place:** Andhra Pradesh
**Date:** 17.10.2026
**Authorized Officer**
**Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited**

Arcil Premier ARC
**ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD.**
**Registered Office:** The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (W), Mumbai- 28.
**Website:** www.arcil.co.in; **CIN:** U65999MH2002PLC134884.

## POSSESSION NOTICE

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| Sr. No. | Borrower Name and Guarantors | LAN No. / Trust Name / Bank Name | Demand Notice Date and Amount | Possession Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Vijayarani Dairy Farm (Borrower), Pongumati Vijayrani (Co Borrower) Pongumati Bapaiah (Co Borrower)** Add: | **FEDVIJSTL0496460 Arcil - Trust -2026- 007 Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.** | **Rs. 13,06,351.69/- Notice dated: 11.08.2025** | **13-10-2026** |
| | **Description of Property:** All that piece and parcel of immovable property situated at Krishna District, Ibrahimpatanam SRO, Ibrahimpatanam Mandal, Kotikalapudi Gramapanchayat area, Kotikalapudi Village, R.S. No: 40/6 and D.No. 4-176, Assessment No: 716. In this, an extent of 137.8 Sq. Yards or 115.218 Sq. Mtrs of property with all easement rights and a Ground Floor RCC Daba is being bounded by: **East:** Property of Dasari Devadasu; **South:** Road **West:** Panchayat Road; **North:** Property of Pappula Rama Rao. | | | |
| 2. | **Rebheeka Chinthabathina (Borrower), Rajarao (Co Borrower)** Add: | **FEDVIJSTL0526428 Arcil - Trust -2026- 007 Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.** | **Rs. 15,24,523.24/- Notice dated: 06.08.2025** | **13-10-2026** |
| | **Description of Property:** All that piece or parcel of Immovable property - Krishna District Present N.T.R. District Kanchikacherla SRO - Kanchikacherla Mandal Kanchikacherla Village Panchayat Area - Kanchikacherla Village R.S.No.529/1- Door.No. 12-467 - Assessment No.5100 - In this an extent of 173 Sq. Yards of Property along with RCC building and with all easement rights being bounded by: - That the above mention immovable property is bounded is as under:- **North:** Site of Tangirala Dasu **South:** House of Mendem Ramarao **East:** House of Gujarlapudi Mangamma **West:** Cement Road | | | |
| 3. | **Devarakonda Chandra Shekhar (Borrower), Mrs. Devarakonda Lakshminarsamma (Co Borrower)** Add: | **FEDANNSTL0523699 Arcil - Trust -2026- 007 Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.** | **Rs. 23,54,878.56/- Notice dated: 17.12.2025** | **14-10-2026** |
| | **Description of Property:** All That piece and parcel of the property lying and situated in Survey Number: 136-12 paiki, A.C. 0.02, H.S. 0.008, Plot No. 193, D No. 9-155-C, Asset. No. 2587, RD Anantapur, within Brundhavan Colony, near Church, Prasannayapalle Village & Panchayathi, Rapthadu Mandal, District - Anantapur, Pin Code: 515002 Total area: 2 Cents Or 97.22 Square Yards. Boundaries as under: **North -** Plot No. 192 **South -** Plot No.194 **East -** Plot No. 178 **West -** Road. | | | |
| 4. | **Arigela Venkatrao (Borrower), Sankunthala (Co Borrower)** Add: | **FEDVJJSTL0525667 Arcil - Trust -2026- 007 Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.** | **Rs. 14,33,970.5/- Notice dated: 06.08.2025** | **14-10-2026** |
| | **Description of Property:** All that piece or parcel of Immovable property, Building/Shed, R.S.No.102 of an extent of 242 sq. yards, Door.No.2-100, Asst.No.250, near Anganvadi, Eturu Gram Panchayat, Chandaralapadu Mandal, N.T.R District-521183. That the above mention immovable property is bounded is as under:- **North:** C.C. Road. **South:** House of Dunna Venkatarao **East:** House of Mamidi Lakshmaiah **West:** C.C. Road | | | |

The borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned that Arcil is in lawful possession of the Immovable Property mentioned above and under Section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, the borrower/ guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) or any person whatsoever, shall after receipt of this notice not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/alienate the Immovable Property, without prior written consent of Arcil and any dealings with the Immovable Property will be subject to the charge of Arcil for the amount as mentioned above along with future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc.
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**Sd/-**
**Place:** Andra Pradesh
**Date:** 17.10.2026
**Authorized Officer**
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# EDITORIAL

## STARLINK'S ARRIVAL AND INDIA'S STRATEGIC CONCERNS

Elon Musk's criticism of the delay in Starlink's launch in India has once again brought the regulation of satellite-based internet services into the spotlight. This debate is not limited to allowing private companies to enter the Indian market, but also involves serious questions such as national security, data sovereignty, border surveillance, and government control over communications. In a country as vast and geographically diverse as India, satellite internet could be an effective means of bridging the digital divide, but the security risks associated with it cannot be ignored.

Services like Starlink provide internet access via satellites in low Earth orbit. They can bring connectivity to remote villages, mountainous regions, islands, and border areas where traditional telecommunications infrastructure is difficult and expensive to install. However, the global nature of these services, their portable terminals, and their reliance on foreign companies pose new challenges for regulatory authorities. The most significant challenge is the potential for misuse in terrorist activities. Terrorist organizations or other non-state actors operating in remote areas could use satellite communication systems to coordinate their activities. Reports of the discovery of Starlink-branded equipment in Manipur in 2024 highlighted this concern. However, the recovery of equipment itself is not conclusive evidence of its actual use or its connection to an organization. Therefore, security assessments must be based on reliable intelligence and technical investigations.

The second challenge relates to cross-border crime and smuggling. India's long international borders, vast maritime areas, and difficult geographical conditions already pose challenges for security agencies. If satellite internet terminals are used to coordinate illegal activitie

s, identifying criminals and investigating their communications could be difficult. Starlink devices were also discussed in the context of drug seizures in the Andaman region in 2024. In such cases, the actual role of the devices must be confirmed, as their mere presence does not prove a direct link between smuggling and satellite networks.

The third challenge is data sovereignty and foreign control. Satellite network operations, technical management, and some data-related processes may be controlled outside India. This raises questions about who will have control over Indian users' communications data, where it will be processed, and how access to information required under Indian laws will be ensured. Without clear rules on these issues, it may be difficult for investigative agencies and regulators to effectively exercise their legal powers.

The fourth challenge is lawful surveillance and law enforcement. In traditional telecommunications networks, lawful surveillance mechanisms can be implemented through service providers, licensing conditions, and domestic network infrastructure. Satellite internet, due to overseas network operations and cross-border data flows, may require additional technical capacity and international cooperation to implement these mechanisms. If service providers are unable to comply with lawful orders in accordance with Indian laws, investigations into terrorism, organized crime, and cybercrime could be hampered. Furthermore, the exercise of surveillance powers must be subject to clear legislation, proportionality, and accountability, ensuring citizens' privacy and fundamental rights are protected.

# India Is A Rising Big Power, Not A 'Middle Power' - As Some Want To Label It

**Narendra Taneja**




There appears to be an orchestrated attempt to drag and push India into the vague category of 'Middle Powers' in the global power pecking order, unsurprisingly, much to the surprise and shock of the country's 1.4 billion women, men, and children. Because this goes diametrically against the hard-earned image of India as a growing big power.

Middle powers, theoretically speaking, are countries that enjoy significant influence in their region or part of the world over smaller nations but are constrained by their limited size and power as far as influencing international policies and affairs are concerned, unlike big powers. India crossed that 'middle power' stage many years ago and is now considered, including by the countries calling New Delhi a 'middle power', the most eligible country to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the ultimate club of the superpowers.

Needless to say, India must thwart all such moves as forcefully as possible before it is too late. In this age of AI and hypercommunication, it may take no time for such a label to get stuck, but years and years to get rid of it. It has never been more important than now to position the correct image of the country in the mind of the world.

A section of deliberations at the two major international conferences, including the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, in the heart of New Delhi this month, may have left many a bit convinced that India was just a 'Middle Power' like Germany, or Australia, or Canada, and not a superpower in the making, thanks to some of the high-profile foreign speakers present there. However, addressing the Forum, India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, in his own inimitable style, tried to nullify all such efforts by insisting: 'India is a power in the middle' and not a 'middle power'. But we need to be more categorical, more forceful, and, if required, louder in stating that India is a big power in the making and nothing less. Sometimes, the world listens only when you speak a bit bluntly. Countries like China and Pakistan have never been comfortable with the rise and growing recognition of India as a big global power in the making. Some countries in the West, too, appear to be keen to label India just as a 'Middle Power' rather than acknowledging the country's rise as a big power on all key parameters, including economic and defence. But there is no point blaming anybody - that is how the world is! There is no point being sentimental about such issues in internal affairs. The world - eventually, if not immediately - will think of us what we think of us. Hence, it is important that we are clear and consistent in positioning India as a rising big power everywhere, both as a people and as a government. China is nowhere equal to the United States in most parameters. Yet, President Donald Trump has granted Beijing the status of an equal, or G2, in his desperate efforts to rebuild bilateral relations, lower the temperature on the issues of the South China Sea and Taiwan, and wean China away from Russia. China is, predictably, also happily playing along, talking more like a global superpower than what it is - a regional Asian power.

Until yesterday, the United States used to look upon itself as the guardian of the rules-based international order. It is, however, now China, a one-party dictatorship, which is trying to position itself as the most prominent voice on the rules-based world. Hard power is important. Soft power is important. But how you position and play your cards, image, and power has become central in this modern world.

A 7,000-year-old civilisation, the land known universally for peaceful coexistence, India is today the third-largest economy in the world at USD 18 trillion GDP (on a purchasing power parity basis). By most credible international projections, India will be the second-largest economy in the world, together with the United States, by 2060, if not sooner. Undoubtedly, there is a lot that we need to fix internally, especially in areas like the rural economy, economic reforms, and education, to realise our full potential, but there is no doubt that the country is steadily on the rise.

The unipolar world we have known since the end of the Cold War in 1991, with the United States as its de facto leader, is rapidly collapsing, and the multipolar world has begun to rise for everybody to see. The United States and many others in the West are, however, still refusing to acknowledge this historic shift. Because they want the status quo - the West-dominated world order - to continue. The attempt, therefore, to bundle India into this vague group of 'Middle Powers', which includes Mexico, Turkey, and Indonesia, and may include - who knows - even Pakistan tomorrow, is easy to decode.

It is evident that the multipolar world is fast taking shape, with China already having risen and India fast on the rise. The European Union is also going through a massive churn and may well be a key economic, political, and military global pole in its own right within the next two decades. Russia will continue to be an important global pole.

The multipolar world, when it fully emerges in about twenty years, will be a world of five global super poles, or G5, namely, the United States, the European Union, Russia, China, and India. There will be many smaller poles, or 'Middle Powers', too. This transition, however, will not be without resistance, challenges, and hindrances. India will have to be vigilant, keeping in mind that there are no friends when it comes to battles for securing a top place in the global power pecking order. By middle powers and for middle powers, P4M has its roots in Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's address at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January this year. Invoking the oft-quoted realist principle from Thucydides' Melian Dialogue —"the strong can do what they can, and the weak must suffer what they must" — Carney gave a clarion call for middle powers to rally together. He argued that the old rules-based international order has "ruptured" due to great-power rivalry, and that middle powers must act together because "if we're not at the table, we're on the menu". That India signed on to this initiative is very much consistent with its foreign policy. But is India a 'middle power' at all?

**Too big for the label**

The middle power characterisation doesn't neatly fit India's stature. Some label India a rising middle power, others as a potential or emerging great power, or, as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar put it, "not a middle power, but a power in the middle". Lowy Institute's Asia Power Index 2025 describes India as a "major power", China and the United States as "superpowers", while reserving the "middle power" label for countries such as Japan, Russia, Australia, South Korea, Indonesia and even Pakistan.

While the term itself remains contested, with no universally agreed definition, there is consensus among New Delhi's strategic community that India is grander than the middle power label allows. India's self-image as a civilisational state also means its public sees the country through a larger prism, one in which a bigger role is destined for the nation. To be sure, in regions where countries want to hedge against both the US and China, they often look to India as the 'third party'. India even leads multilateral institutions, from the International Solar Alliance to the Global Biofuels Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. India is the most populous country in the world and boasts a vast territory.

# INDIA'S 'SWACCH' DRIVE HAS A MOUNTAIN-SIZED BLINDSPOT

**SUJAY N JHA**




Every morning in east Delhi, trucks climb a hill that was never meant to exist. Ghazipur began taking the city's waste in 1984 and was supposed to stop at about 40 metres. A court-appointed commissioner who visited in March 2025 found it at roughly 60 metres, cracked on top, and venting methane. Fires break out regularly. Three decades of cleanliness drives have produced a clean pavement and a burning mountain a few kilometres away. The Swachh Bharat Mission, launched in 2014, is rightly celebrated for its toilets and door-to-door collection. Its record on what happens after the dustbin is lifted is far weaker. Calling this a "complete collapse" in every city goes beyond the evidence. Calling the official numbers reassuring does too. The honest description is a mission that measured what was easy, declared success early, and left the hard, expensive downstream work half done. Two Sets Of Numbers Official dashboards say India's cities generate about 161,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste a day and that roughly 80-82% is processed. Yet the capital, with the best-resourced municipality in the country, told the National Green Tribunal through the pollution regulator that it processes 64.2% of its 11,852 daily tonnes. Some 4,241 tonnes a day go to the Bhalswa and Ghazipur dumps. Processing capacity (8,173 tonnes) is itself below generation, and actual use falls short of capacity. An Ever-Growing Mountain Ghazipur is the symbol, not the exception. Delhi's three big dumps - Ghazipur, Bhalswa, and Okhla - were assessed by a CPCB, NEERI, and IIT Delhi committee as having caused environmental damage valued at about Rs 1.4-1.6 billion rupees. A 2022 report to the tribunal found only 7% of Ghazipur's legacy waste had been bio-mined. Delhi's municipal corporation told the tribunal in 2026 that the site still receives around 2,400-2,600 tonnes of fresh waste a day. Delhi's landfills are reported to be 55-60% organic material, the fraction that rots into methane and feeds fires.Nationally, officials put legacy waste at 270.2 million tonnes, of which 65.8% had been remediated by May 2026. The target, "Zero Dumpsites", falls due this month. A few sites hold most of what is left: 214 high-impact dumps contain about 80% of the remaining legacy waste. Remediation is also a flow problem. Clearing an old mound while fresh, unsorted waste keeps arriving simply refills it. Why The Mission Missed It measured the wrong thing. Toilets built and wards declared open-defecation-free are countable and photogenic. A functioning organic plant is not. Cities competed in the annual cleanliness survey, in which tidy streets scored well even when the waste was trucked to a dump on the edge of town. Waste arrives mixed. Processing plants, composters, and waste-to-energy units need segregated feedstock. Wet waste dominates Indian bins, but segregation at source is patchy outside a few cities. Indore, the survey's perennial winner, shows it can be done; it is the exception that proves how rare the discipline is. Municipalities are poor and fragmented. Waste is a local-body job, yet most urban local bodies lack the revenue, staff, and land to run plants. Central funds helped build capacity; the recurring cost of operating it is another matter. Self-reported dashboards let a city count capacity as processing. Health costs are real but poorly measured. Landfill fires and methane are linked to bad air near dumps, and doctors report rising respiratory complaints. But data tying specific illnesses to specific dumps has barely been collected. A health crisis is plausible; proving its scale needs research India has not funded. The comparison cuts both ways. Rich-world landfilling is not a model for India to copy, and America's 50% landfill rate would be a catastrophe without liners. China's incinerator boom shows state capacity but also how targets set from above can be met by building rather than by solving the underlying system. Europe's slower, rules-driven route is closest to what India's cities need: taxes on dumping, mandatory segregation, and enforcement.

# As Himalayas Change, Jim Corbett's Voice Echoes Louder Than Ever

**GARGI RAWAT**




'But how do we even know if all that Jim Corbett wrote about was even true?' There was an audible gasp in the room. I was moderating a session on environment writing at the very first Corbett Literature Festival, being held right next to the Corbett National park, named after the celebrated hunter turned conservationist Jim Corbett. The offending question, over the sanctity of Corbett's many tales, that have enthralled generations, was asked, in a light hearted manner, by Professor Richard Kerridge, himself a nature writer, who teaches creative writing at Bath Spa University. Before I could react to the implications of the loaded statement he had just made, another panelist, prolific writer and celebrated author from the hills, Stephen Alter intervened. 'As someone who is from the region as well, I must step in here and defend Jim Corbett!' He said with some feeling, a smile on his face. 'How can you question our beloved hero? All his adventures, all his descriptions of chasing man-eating tigers and leopards in the Kumaon hills were all absolutely true!' The hall, which was full of writers, environmentalists and wildlife enthusiasts, laughed, and we continued our discussion, as Prerna Singh Bindra, the third panellist, spoke about her favourite Jim Corbett book, and the fact that his most popular book, The Man-eaters of Kumaon, was only published when he was in his 60s. Ours was the last session of the three-day-long inaugural Corbett Literature Festival. Over the course of the past three days, there was a rich mix of conversations about books, the environment, the Himalayas, local cultures and communities, and even cuisine. Historian and food critic Pushpesh Pant had kept the audience entertained with a lively session on the region's food traditions. The festival had also brought together celebrated photographers and filmmakers, who captivated audiences with films and photographic collections built over years of exploring the wilds of Corbett and the vast Himalayan landscapes. Their work offered glimpses of tigers and elephants, gharials basking by the river, the tall grasses of the grasslands and the Ramganga flowing through the forest. My favourite screening was a short documentary made by the forest guards of Corbett. Using drones (and given the access they enjoy), they captured some spectacular images of the wild, offering a glimpse of the park that few get to see. The visuals were spellbinding, but what made the screening particularly special was the opportunity it gave these often-unsung guardians of the forest to take centre stage and receive the applause they deserved, not just for their film, but also for the tireless work they do to protect a park that is loved by so many. Renowned singer Jubin Nautiyal joined them on stage, alongside the forest guards and Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs), to felicitate and honour them. As the audience applauded, it was a moment of recognition for the people who work, often away from the spotlight, to keep Corbett's wild heart beating. The festival was organised in part by the Forest Department, with the dynamic Corbett Tiger Reserve Field Director Saket Badola closely involved in spearheading the effort, along with several corporates, and resorts in the area. It was inaugurated by Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal, who spoke about the importance of communities in conservation. The Uttarakhand Tourism Development board also supported the festival, titled '3 days in the Wild' that brought together 30 speakers. The involvement of resorts did not mean that tourism was spared from scrutiny. Several conversations tackled the issue of meaningful tourism and conservation. Former park director Samir Sinha recounted an incident when he had entered a resort while tracking a tiger that was moving around habitation, and found a drain emptying dirty water straight into the Kosi river. The conversation pushed for responsible practices and finding the right balance when it comes to tourism. And these are issues that need more attention, at a time when Uttarakhand is facing challenges in striking that balance between tourism.

# Stellantis enters next phase of growth in India with fresh commitments of Rs. 4,000 crore

## Jeep® and Citroën to introduce 12 products under FaSTLAne 2030

**Ranchi -** Stellantis today announced the next phase of its growth in India, marking a shift from building the foundations of its business to scaling it. Under FaSTLAne 2030, Jeep® and Citroën will introduce 12 products over the next three years – seven all-new products and five major upgrades – with a clear ambition to put significantly more Jeep and Citroën vehicles on Indian roads. The launches will cover products in the B, C, D SUV segments, an MPV, an A-segment car and a premium pickup. The first product under the new roadmap is scheduled to launch by Q2 2027.

Commenting on the announcement, Tianshu Xin, Chief Operating Officer, Stellantis Asia-Pacific Region, said, "India has a dual role for Stellantis: it is an important market that we intend to grow in, and an increasingly significant capability base for the region and the wider Group. India is a long-term commitment for us, not just a volume chase. Under FaSTLAne 2030, our region-led model gives the India team greater ownership of decisions, and the roadmap we are announcing today reflects our long-term conviction in this market. A stronger product cadence, a multi-energy technology approach and India's capabilities across manufacturing, engineering, software and sourcing give us the foundation to build a larger and more competitive business here through 2030."

Shailesh Hazela, CEO & Managing Director, Stellantis India, said, "Our commitment to India will be measured by what we put on the road. Having built a strong foundation over the years, our focus now shifts to scaling the business. Twelve launches across Jeep and Citroën over the next three years will significantly broaden our market participation and give Indian customers more choice across segments and powertrains, supported by deeper localisation and a stronger sales and service network. With fresh investment of approximately 5,000 crore, we are building greater scale, relevance and competitiveness in this market, while strengthening India's role in Stellantis' global operations."

The product offensive will be supported by fresh investment of approximately 4,000 crore (approximately 400Million) over next 3 years, taking Stellantis' cumulative investment in India to approximately 15,000 crore by 2030. The roadmap comprises 5 Jeep and 7 Citroën launches, with the two brands playing distinct but complementary roles. Together, the products will take Stellantis into all high-opportunity segments that account of India's passenger vehicle industry.

The announcement comes as the business gains momentum. Stellantis India's business grew 35% in the second quarter of calendar year 2026 compared with the first quarter, while Citroën retail sales rose 68% in the second quarter of 2026 compared with the same period last year.

The next phase builds on more than 11,000 crore (over 1 billion) invested in India to date across manufacturing, engineering, software, sourcing and exports. Stellantis currently operates three manufacturing facilities in India – at Ranjangaon in Maharashtra and Thiruvallur and Hosur in Tamil Nadu – alongside engineering and software capabilities in Bengaluru, an ICT presence in Hyderabad and a growing domestic supplier ecosystem.

Under the new roadmap, Jeep® will strengthen Stellantis' position in the premium SUV space, expanding its participation across multiple segments with new products and advanced powertrain options, while building on its core credentials of capability, authenticity and distinctive SUV design. Citroën will drive broader participation across mainstream and higher-volume segments through accessible, differentiated products tailored to the needs of Indian customers, with a focus on comfort, design and technology, enabling the brand to reach a significantly larger customer base.

Recognising that India's mobility transition will be shaped by multiple technologies, the future portfolio will follow a multi-energy strategy spanning efficient internal combustion engines, hybrid, plug-in hybrid (PHEV) and battery-electric (BEV) technologies, drawing on Stellantis' global capabilities. Powertrain choices will be guided by customer needs, affordability, regulation, infrastructure readiness and individual segment economics – ensuring the right technology for the right customer and use case.

# Bigg Boss South Crosses Half a Billion Watch Hours in Just 5 Weeks; 75+ Brands Bet Big on the Franchise




**Mumbai, 15, October, 2026:** JioStar's South editions of Bigg Boss have crossed 550 million watch hours in just five weeks, delivering the biggest launch in the franchise's history across Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. For the first time, all four South editions premiered on the same day, creating one shared entertainment moment across the region while preserving the unique identity of each market. The result has been the strongest opening the franchise has ever delivered, with overall watch time growing 20% year-on-year.

Bigg Boss South is seeing strong engagement across its 24x7 live feed this season as well. Beyond the daily episodes, 6 in 10 viewers are also engaging with the 24x7 live feed, signalling that Bigg Boss has evolved into an always-on entertainment experience, with audiences staying connected to the conversations, relationships and moments inside the house throughout the day.

Krishnan Kutty, Head – Entertainment Business, South Cluster, JioStar, said, "The Bigg Boss phenomenon continues to get bigger with every passing season. Crossing half a billion watch hours in just five weeks is an important milestone, but what is even more encouraging is what sits behind that number. Every season, audiences are spending more time with the franchise, whether through the daily episodes or the 24x7 live feed. The simultaneous launch across all four South markets created one shared entertainment moment, while the continued growth in Connected TV consumption reinforces how audience behaviour is evolving. Together, these trends give us tremendous confidence in the long-term strength of the Bigg Boss franchise."

The momentum has been matched by strong advertiser confidence. More than 75 brands have partnered with the four South editions, accounting for over 120 sponsorships. Notably, more than half of the participating brands are first-time advertisers, while local advertisers contribute approximately 30% of total advertising spends, highlighting the franchise's ability to attract both national and regional brands.

The brands on board include: WhiteGold, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Ai + Nova Smartphone, Asian Paints, Britannia Nutri Choice, Dulcoflex, Denver, Star Health Insurance, Dazller, Ramraj Mrithu Towels, Walkaroo, Kajaria Ceramics, 1 to 3 Noodles, Haier, Cadbury 5 Star, Continental Xtra Instant South Blend, Cera, CP Plus, Gold On Phone Pe, MYK Laticrete, Simta Astrix, Vijay Sales, Amazon, Amrutanjan, Anil Foods, Ariel, Aroma Ghee, Asal, Ashwasurya Realities, Ashwin Sweets, Avaada Energy, Bakers Masala, Darling Digital, EcoPlanet Elevators, EXO, FirstClub, Gold Drop, IHP Iyengar, India Gate, Jeeni Slim, Jos Alukkas, JK Tyres, K P Namboodiri, KT Special Tea, Max Gold, Milk Bikis, MyG - Future, Nilkamal Sleep, Nivea Soft Gel, Pears, Purplle, Ramesh Lungies, Ramson Dhotis, Regal Jewellers, e, Sunrich Oil, Taj Mahal, TDH Foods, TTK Prestige, Vicks Cough Drops, Vicks Inhaler, Walkmate, Hero Xoom, Kamla Pasand, ORN Vacations, Danube Properties Dubai, Colgate, Head & Shoulders, Kingfisher Packaged Drinking Water, Uber and Centuary Mattress.

# *When Saif Ali Khan revealed WHY his house smells like a Dhaba!*

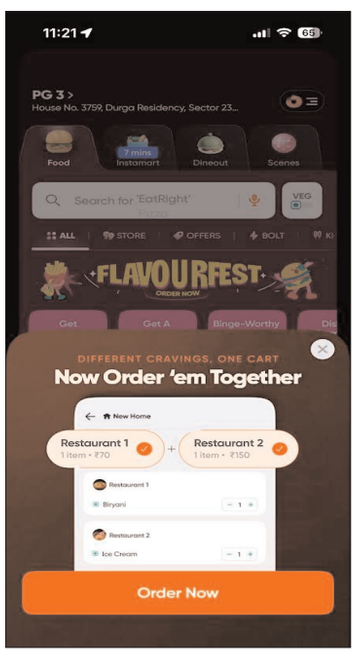


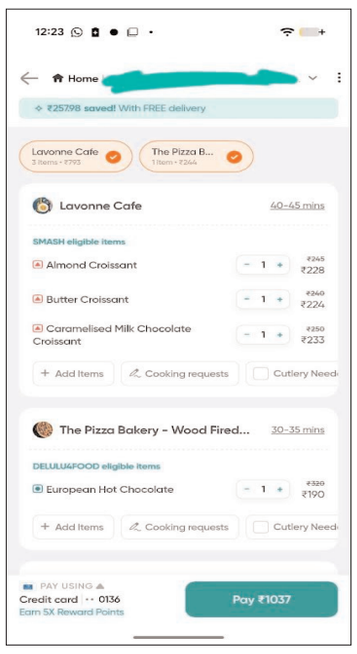
**New delhi -** Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan bring the laughs to Netflix's The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 5 this Saturday What's the secret to looking forever young? Good genes, a great skincare routine or, as Saif Ali Khan cheekily suggests, a generous helping of ghee? This Saturday 17th October, Netflix's The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 5 welcomes the ever-charming power couple Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan for a conversation that takes an unexpectedly turn, proving that when it comes to staying fresh, the answer might just lie in the kitchen! When Kapil Sharma asked the duo how they manage to look so fresh and youthful after 14 years of marriage, Saif was quick to credit ghee, when Kareena chipped in saying they consume ghee a lot in their house. But the ghee revelations didn't stop there. Taking the conversation up a notch, he said, "Ye (Kareena) sirf khaati nahin hai, ye pairo pe ghisti hai raat ko." Calling it romantic that their bedroom smells like dhaba, Saif left the audience with yet another unforgettable anecdote, while Kareena joined in on the laughter and said, " ussey kya neend aati hai, oof!"

From serving up a surprising take on youthful glow to giving romance a distinctly tadka-filled twist, Saif and Kareena bring their trademark chemistry and playful banter to Kapil's couch, coming together as guests for the very first time!

Tune in this Saturday to catch Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan on The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 5, only on Netflix.

# This festive season, Swiggy launches Multi Restaurant Ordering: Reinvents Food Court Experience for Homes




**October 16, 2026:** Swiggy (Swiggy Ltd, NSE: SWIGGY / BSE: 544285), India's pioneering on-demand convenience platform, announced the launch of the Multi Restaurant Ordering feature on its app. Food is a personal choice and preferences tend to vary in a specific household or group. Multi Restaurant Ordering is designed to ensure users can order what they love to eat without any compromises. The feature allows the users to combine different cuisines, dishes and cravings from up to five restaurants and place an order at one go. In addition to a more seamless experience, Multi Restaurant Ordering feature also promises more savings for users as it eliminates the need for separate carts and checkouts, with multiple platform fees.

Whether it is family get-together, Diwali parties or long weekends, everyone at the table has different choices and preferences for food. With the Multi Restaurant Ordering feature, consumers can place orders for their favourite starters, main course and desserts from different restaurants together. The feature offers a food court experience in the comfort of your homes, where customers can build and hold multiple carts, compare them side by side, and order from up to five restaurants through a single payment, without repeating checkouts, OTPs or payment flows. Each restaurant's order is prepared and delivered independently and shows up as its own tab on one shared tracking screen. Speaking on the launch, Sidharth Bhakoo, Chief Business Officer, Swiggy Food Marketplace, said, " Food is the centerpiece of any celebration, but agreeing on a menu is always the hardest part. We are literally bringing the concept of a food court to your home. Multi-Restaurant Ordering is our solution to the ultimate dining dilemma. We're giving users the power to mix and match from their favorite restaurants or across a range of cuisines, whether it is pairing pizzas with biryani or combining sushi with local street food, all with a single checkout option. It's about delivering more choice, offering enhanced convenience, ensuring zero compromises, and the joy of everyone at the table eating exactly what they love and crave for."

Sharing a meal with loved ones often means balancing different tastes and giving up personal favourites to find something everyone agrees on. Consumer research conducted by Swiggy shows that 55% of users build two carts in a single session and 1 in 5 users place a second order within 30 minutes of their first. This may lead to abandoned carts or customers placing multiple orders at different times. The Multi Restaurant Ordering feature eliminates these challenges, serving as the perfect solution for multiple cravings. With the feature live across 720+ cities, Swiggy continues to pioneer solutions that turn every mealtime into an effortless celebration of individual tastes and provides more convenience to customers.

# PHILIPS HOME APPLIANCES MAKES FESTIVE SHOPPING BIGGER WITH 'SONE PE DOUBLE SUHAGA'

## Offering Gold Every Hour and Diamonds Every Day




**October 16th, 2026:** Building on the success of its 'Sone Pe Suhaga' campaign last festive season, Philips Home Appliances is returning with an even bigger festive proposition, 'Sone Pe Double Suhaga'. Taking its festive promise a step further, the campaign gives consumers assured gifts on eligible Philips Home Appliance purchases with an exciting chance to win gold worth ?9,999 every hour and a diamond worth ?50,000 every day, adding an extra layer of excitement to festive shopping.

Last year, 'Sone Pe Suhaga' moved beyond conventional festive offers to create an engaging consumer experience across 70 cities. Building on the response to the campaign, Philips Home Appliances is taking the proposition a step further this year by bringing together assured gifts and the opportunity to win precious rewards, making festive purchases even more rewarding for consumers.

As consumers make more considered purchase decisions, 'Sone Pe Double Suhaga' seeks to bring an element of aspiration and delight to the festive shopping experience. Moving beyond conventional discounts and product-led rewards, Philips Home Appliances is offering consumers an opportunity to experience something truly special by combining assured gifts on eligible purchases with the chance to win gold and diamonds. The campaign aims to make bringing home a Philips appliance during the festive season an even more rewarding experience, giving consumers more reasons to celebrate.

Running from 11 October to 11 November 2026, the campaign is expected to reach 200 million+ consumers across 112 cities. Consumers purchasing eligible Philips Home Appliances with a minimum MRP of ?1,500 during the campaign period will be eligible for an assured gift on purchase, along with a chance to win gold worth ?9,999 every hour or a diamond worth ?50,000 every day. Gold and diamonds hold a special place in India's festive traditions, symbolising prosperity, good fortune, celebration and new beginnings. By incorporating these rewards into the consumer experience, Philips Home Appliances aims to bring together the joy of festive shopping and the excitement of unexpected rewards, while offering consumers added value through assured gifts on eligible purchases.

Speaking about the campaign, Pooja Baid, Chief Marketing Officer, Versuni India, said, "The response to Sone Pe Suhaga showed us that consumers appreciate festive experiences that go beyond conventional offers. This year, we wanted to build on that response with a proposition that brings together assured value and the excitement of winning something special. With Sone Pe Double Suhaga, consumers purchasing eligible Philips Home Appliances can enjoy an assured gift on purchase, along with the chance to win gold every hour and a diamond every day. Our aim is to make festive shopping more rewarding by adding an element of joy, surprise and aspiration to an already special time of the year."

# THIS NAVRATRI, ICICI LIFE INSURANCE ANNOUNCES TO RECRUIT 20,000 WOMEN ADVISORS ACROSS INDIA BY END OF FY-2027

ICICI Life INSURANCE

**Mumbai, October 16th, 2026:** On the occasion of Navratri, ICICI Life Insurance announced its plans to recruit 20,000 women advisors across India, under the Company's Narishakti initiative by end of FY-2027. Notably, 45% of the Company's agency business comes from its 78,000+ women advisors as on September 30, 2026. This announcement commensurate with the 2nd anniversary of the Company's 'Narishakti' initiative.

Mr. Amish Banker, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Life Insurance Limited, said, "We, at ICICI Life Insurance, firmly believe that 'Talent has no gender'. While we continue to witness improvement in the performance of our male insurance advisors, we have seen that our women advisors have left no stone unturned to understand our customers' pulse.

Importantly, women advisors constitute around 32% of our total number of advisors and they have contributed around 45% of our agency business as on September 30, 2026. Besides, in regions like Bangalore, Kerala and Mumbai, we have even seen this number crossing the 50% agency business mark.

Furthermore, our women advisors come from different walk of lives. They are homemakers, salaried professionals, businesswomen with an inherent power to multitask like a manager, solve problems like a consultant and manage money like a banker. With a natural aptitude for empathy and strategic problem-solving, Indian women have certain intrinsic qualities that are inbuilt in their DNA which helps them to understand our customer's requirement, provide optimal solutions and nurturing relationships long after the sale. These qualities include their strong emotional quotient, socially active nature, commitment, loyalty and their belief in securing families which are very important in the insurance business.

Hence, we launched the 'Narishakti' initiative two years back which helps us to empower women advisors across the country by providing the critical training and support necessary to spotlight their capabilities.

# Zelensky says Ukraine has right to defend itself after Trump calls latest strikes a 'disgrace'



President Volodymyr Zelensky has said he is "only standing up for Ukraine's interests" after scathing criticism from Donald Trump, who said Kyiv's new wave of strikes on Russian oil refineries was a "disgrace". The US president, who recently made a controversial deal with Moscow to import diesel, also said Zelensky was "more difficult to deal with than [Russian President Vladimir] Putin". Zelensky, who has been angered by the diesel deal, said he could not accept it, because a gas agreement could come next. "If I don't stand up to this... who else will?" he said at an EU summit in Brussels. Tensions between Washington and Kyiv have escalated over the diesel deal and curbs on Ukraine's battlefield satellite network. Zelensky's trip to Brussels, following a visit to London, has come at the end of a bruising week. As he arrived at the summit on Friday, where EU leaders rallied around him in support, Zelensky said it was good to be back among allies. "Leaders, real leaders," he said, in a possible slight to the US president. At the summit, funding for Ukraine and helping it get through another freezing winter - its fifth since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022 - topped the agenda. The war will cost 155bn (£131bn; $174bn) next year, Zelensky told the European Council, with at least 70bn needed to come from the EU for defence and weapons. Zelensky said that while Ukraine could produce up to three times more drones, it "simply [doesn't] have enough money for that". A fundamental problem for Kyiv - which cannot be easily fixed - is the chronic lack of US-made Patriot missiles to defend its towns and cities. Zelensky said he believed Europe did possess all the interceptors his country would need this winter but described them as being scooped up in a piecemeal fashion. Zelensky also addressed Ukraine's frayed relationship with the US, saying there are "many people with good hearts in America" who want "to be allies, not to divide or humiliate Europe". Trump has heavily criticised Zelensky for resuming strikes on Russian oil refineries earlier this week, because it could impact Moscow's ability to complete its part of the diesel deal, which will see 300,000 tonnes of diesel sent to "the American and global marketplace". As both Russia and Ukraine continued attacking each other's energy infrastructure, Trump suddenly announced a ceasefire on the facilities last week. Kyiv said it would stop the strikes if Russia did the same, but Moscow said it had never agreed to the deal and continued its attacks. After three days, Kyiv resumed its strikes. Trump's comments about Zelensky, during an interview with US outlet Newsmax on Thursday evening, reflect the deteriorating relationship between the US and Ukraine. The US president said he was "not a big fan of Zelensky" and that he was "not a good guy for us to deal with". "He doesn't want to settle," Trump said. "He says he wants to settle, but he doesn't." "As you know, Putin hates Zelensky, and Zelensky hates Putin," he added. "And when you have that kind of hatred, it's very hard to get something settled." When asked about Ukraine's renewed strikes on Russian oil refineries, Trump said of Zelensky: "All he's doing is making the world oil price higher... There are a lot of targets that you can hit." Trump is frustrated at Ukraine's continued targeting of Russia's oil facilities, because it affects Moscow's ability to export its diesel to America, as per the deal the US has made with Russia, in an effort to bring down fuel prices. Since the war with Iran started in February, US fuel and especially diesel prices have skyrocketed, souring Trump's standing with the American public - something he wants to fix before next month's mid-term elections. At a news conference after the EU summit, Zelensky was asked if he felt that Trump was using him as a scapegoat for his own political problems. A 15-second pause, as Zelensky listened to the translation, then saw the president break out into a grin, prompting laughter from the journalists in the room. "This is my answer," he said. The diesel deal infuriated Zelensky, who called it a gift to Putin and on Friday said it would "put more money straight into Putin's pocket to fund this war". His anger was further heightened earlier this week, when restrictions were placed on the US-owned Starlink internet network, which is critical for Kyiv's military abilities to defend itself. During the slowdown on Tuesday night, there were several deadly Russian strikes on Ukraine, with residents and the government saying there was no prior warning. On Friday, Zelensky called the slowdown a "very dangerous and unpleasant surprise", adding that Starlink speeds were still not fully restored. The Trump administration had previously warned that it could withhold intelligence-sharing - crucial for Ukraine's defences - if Kyiv does not stop hitting Russia's oil refineries. Several people were killed in a Russian drone strike in the north-eastern city of Kharkiv on Thursday night, while some 270,000 households were without power after strikes in the western Volyn region, the local governors said. Ukraine also continued its strikes against Russia. The airspace above Moscow was closed for several hours, causing flight delays, as 644 drones were intercepted above 26 Russian regions, the defence ministry said. In the Vladimir region, east of Moscow, the governor said that Ukrainian drones had been intercepted to prevent an attack on heating infrastructure in the area.

# US senators call for investigation into Ukraine's Starlink restrictions



A bipartisan group of US senators has signed a letter demanding an urgent investigation into disruptions to SpaceX's Starlink internet network in Ukraine. Starlink is a vital tool allowing Kyiv to guide drones to Russian targets and protect its own skies, but on Tuesday night Ukraine said it had unexpectedly restricted how fast drones could fly while maintaining internet connection. In the letter, sent to the US defence department inspector general, the senators express "grave concern" about reports of speed curbs between 12 and 14 October. Asked whether the US might have had a role in the slowdown, a US official told the BBC "no such request was ever made by the president [Donald Trump]". The letter, led by Jeanne Shaheen - a Democrat on the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee - calls for the inspector general to find out whether the restrictions were caused by the US defence department or its contractors. It says "restrictions reportedly degraded Ukraine's ability to conduct defensive operations against Russian drone and missile attacks on civilian infrastructure". Starlink, which is owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, restricted speed limits on Tuesday night to 100mph (160km/h), meaning any weapons that travelled faster than that lost connectivity to the network. On Friday, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky told a news conference in Brussels that Starlink services were still being restored in his country. "Has the speed been fully restored to what it was before? No. Is the speed being restored now? Yes," he said. The senators also say they are "deeply concerned" by reports of disruptions or "glitches" affecting intelligence-sharing and threat-warning capabilities relied upon by personnel operating in Ukraine. "We are particularly alarmed by incidents in which U.S. diplomatic, military, and security personnel were unable to reach designated bunkers during Russian air raids," the statement says. "Given the potentially deadly consequences, these incidents require immediate investigation," the senators add. The letter's signatories include Republican Senators Thom Tillis, Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and John Cornyn, alongside Senators Richard Durbin, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal and Christopher Coons from the Democrats. SpaceX owner Elon Musk has suggested the US government may be behind restrictions. On Wednesday Musk wrote on X that "Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government. Any limits on speed or usage are decided by the US military and ultimately [the US president]". Starlink is a civilian service that uses satellites in low Earth orbit to provide internet access, particularly in remote areas. Starshield, which relies on the Starlink network, is designed for government and military use. Both are owned by Musk's SpaceX. Zelensky has accused the US of withdrawing intelligence-sharing to pressure Kyiv into ending attacks against Russian energy sites. On Thursday, Zelensky said Ukraine's attacks would continue after Russia had continued striking Ukraine's energy infrastructure during an "energy ceasefire" announced by Trump on Sunday. Zelensky said he had restricted attacks for three days and would agree to the "energy ceasefire" if Moscow also abided by it. However, he accused Russia of ignoring the proposed deal within hours of it being announced.

# DAD FINED AFTER SON, 2, DIED IN CYPRUS HOTEL FALL



A father whose two-year-old boy fell from a fourth floor window of a Cyprus hotel has been fined 3,000 (£2,500) for causing his death.

Joshua Foster thought the window was closed when he placed his son on a sill to show him the view of a waterpark and "lost control" of him, Paphos District Court previously heard.

The toddler fell nearly 40ft (12.1m) at the five-star King Evelthon Beach Hotel and Resort on 12 July, the first day of the family's holiday in Chlorakas.

Foster, 37, from Essex, admitted causing death through a reckless, rash or dangerous act and was sentenced earlier.

He told reporters afterwards: "Thank you for the support. I'm looking forward to going home and being with my wife and daughter."

Later, the family said in a statement: "We are relieved that this process is now over, but for our family, the consequences of this tragedy will never end.

"Our son was deeply loved and will be forever missed. His loss is something we carry with us every day."

Foster, an auditor, arrived in Cyprus hours before the incident with his wife, two children and in-laws. They enjoyed various activities and swimming, before getting ready for dinner in the evening. At about 18:00, Foster, his father-in-law and son were walking towards a lift when the boy noticed a waterpark outside. Foster pushed the lift button, placed the child on the windowsill and the "inconceivable" unfolded before he could react, the court heard. The boy was taken to Paphos General Hospital and later pronounced dead.

# ALBANIAN PROTESTS TURN VIOLENT



Protesters and anti-riot police have clashed in Albania's main cities in scenes not witnessed for decades. Government buildings have been attacked and some private businesses, too. So what is happening? How big and unusual are these protests? Albania's capital Tirana has seen months of protests from an anti-government "Flamingo" movement, but what started on Tuesday this week was on a different scale. And the clashes have spread beyond Tirana - to include the main cities of Durrës, Shkodër, Lezhë and Vlora in the west, Gjirokastër in the south and Korçë in the east. The new demonstrations were announced as a student movement, ostensibly demanding action by the government to help with the high cost of education fees and books - and the higher cost of living. Secondary schools joined in, swelling the numbers. Before too long, masked protesters threw stones at police, and they responded with water cannon, tear gas and batons. Many were incensed by scenes of a young man being carried away, his broken leg dangling with him in agony. Apologies were expressed but failed to calm the situation. A floor of the education ministry was set on fire, with other government institutions ablaze, too. Every evening, throughout the summer for some 135 days in a row, Albanians in central Tirana would hold pictures of a pink flamingo, calling on Prime Minister Edi Rama - now in his fourth term - to resign. The protests began over a mega-tourism project on the Adriatic coast linked to US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Demonstrators said the bird would become extinct on an island near the coastal city of Vlora, if the plans for a luxury development went ahead.

The public anger comes as allegations of corruption among ministers and other senior officials grow louder. One deputy prime minister has fled the country, another has been ordered to step down as investigations continue. So has the Flamingo movement radicalised?

The flamingo protesters say they have no links to any political party - one of their slogans being "Rama in jail, Berisha in jail". While Rama is prime minister, Sali Berisha is Albania's main opposition leader - as well as a former prime minister and president.

They were attended by young and old, parents with children and sometimes their grandparents. Some of the participants took pride in cleaning up after every night. But after months and an unusually hot summer, their numbers dwindled - with no sign that the government was meeting their demands. The current movement appears far more violent. Dozens of police have been hurt, and the eyes of Europe are now watching what happens next in a country viewed as one of the top candidates for EU membership.

# POPE PICTURED FOR FIRST TIME SINCE SURGERY AND CANCER DIAGNOSIS



Pope Leo XIV has been pictured celebrating Mass from hospital, in the first images of him released by the Vatican since he underwent lung surgery. The 71-year-old pontiff was diagnosed with lung cancer after the surgery at Rome's Gemelli Hospital on Tuesday afternoon, which the Vatican said had been "successful" and proceeded without complications. The images shared on Friday showed the Chicago-born Pope wearing a green robe while standing behind a makeshift altar on the tenth floor of the hospital. Pope Leo "celebrated with the medical and nursing staff" and thanked workers for their service, the Vatican press office said. Pope's cancer diagnosis leaves Catholics questioning what comes next On Friday, the Pope's doctors said tests had shown "a steady improvement in his general condition" since his procedure. His doctors said that a chest X-ray indicated "good recovery of the operated lung". The whole lower lobe of the Pope's right lung was removed "to ensure the procedure was radical", the Vatican said following the surgery. "After the operation, the Pope awoke normally and returned after a brief period of observation to his room," it said earlier, before he spent a "peaceful night" at the hospital.



Palestinians and US journalist injured by Israeli settlers in West Bank harvest attack

# PATIENTS IN CHAINS RESCUED FROM SUSPECTED ILLEGAL REHAB CENTRE IN SOUTH AFRICA



**Highlights**

- A pastor and his wife have been arrested in South Africa after 200 people, some in chains, were found held at a suspected illegal rehabilitation centre in the north-eastern part of the country.

A pastor and his wife have been arrested in South Africa after 200 people, some in chains, were found held at a suspected illegal rehabilitation centre in the north-eastern part of the country. The facility, operated from a church in Mpumalanga province, was discovered during an operation by officials in the area on Thursday. Authorities said they uncovered "gross inhumane conditions" when they raided the facility, with some patients found with "sores all over their bodies" and "others chained to each other". Police have since charged the couple, who were running the facility, with kidnapping but could add more charges. They have not yet commented. Illegal rehabilitation centres have mushroomed in South Africa in recent years as drug use spirals in the country. Last year, the department of social development said it had uncovered over 100 unlawful facilities operating across the country, mostly in Gauteng province, home to the country's largest city, Johannesburg. A girl of 16 and a boy of 11 were found being kept in the same room as adults in the Mpumalanga centre. The couple running it told officials they were housing 60 people, but upon inspection, more than three times that number were found, including more than 30 women. The group, mostly believed to be drug addicts, were found in crowded rooms and without access to functioning bathrooms or running water. "Some [of them had] been at the alleged illegal centre for a while," the department said. The couple charged a monthly fee of 3,000 rand ($182; £137) to house the patients, of which almost a half would go to the church. Fourteen of those found at the centre have since been taken to hospital for further medical treatment, police said. Officials said 132 have been reunited with their families. The couple is expected to appear in a local court on Monday.

# MS DHONI'S FUTURE AT CSK



Former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin has hinted that Chennai Super Kings (CSK) icon MS Dhoni could take up a mentorship role at the franchise during the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin opened up about the interesting dynamics that could take shape at CSK following the arrival of Zaheer Khan as head coach. CSK finished eighth in IPL 2026 with 12 points, missing out on a place in the playoffs for a third straight season. Dhoni didn't play a single game due to injury.

"With the new coaching staff, it'll be interesting to watch the dynamic between Dhoni, Zaheer and Ruturaj Gaikwad. Dhoni will likely be the mentor. So how Gaikwad works with Zaheer, or whether he goes to Dhoni, will be interesting to see," said Ashwin. Ashwin also spoke about the departure of long-serving head coach Stephen Fleming, whose partnership with captain Ruturaj Gaikwad did not yield the same success that he enjoyed alongside MS Dhoni.

"Fleming seemingly modified himself to fit in with Dhoni. He made himself the perfect fingers to fit into Dhoni's gloves. So it is surprising to see CSK decide that Fleming couldn't adapt himself to a new captain after two to three years. Fleming's modus operandi is to fit in based on the needs of the team and captain," he added.

Meanwhile, Zaheer pipped former India batter Hemang Badani for the top job at CSK, following the latter's poor run of results with Delhi Capitals over the past two years. CSK's management, comprising Dhoni, Gaikwad and owner Rupa Gurunath, wanted an Indian coach this time. Zaheer had mentored the Lucknow Super Giants during the 2024 season. He was also previously associated with the Mumbai Indians.

In the IPL, Zaheer played 100 matches for teams such as Mumbai Indians, Delhi Daredevils, and Royal Challengers Bengaluru. MS Dhoni didn't play a single game due to injury as CSK finished eighth in IPL 2026 with 12 points, missing out on a place in the playoffs for a third straight season. Ashwin believes that with the league getting more cut-throat and longer, a bit of a push towards fitness, perhaps inspired by Virat Kohli, could go a long way.

"Under Dhoni, over the last 18 years, CSK have never had a training culture," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. "Dhoni is an instinctive captain. In Kohli's teams, fitness has been highly emphasised, and he has established a standard. But in CSK, under Dhoni, training has never been emphasised. Before, the tournament used to be six weeks. But now it's a longer tournament, and most players play through the year."

# INDIA VS ZIMBABWE LIVE SCORE UPDATES 1ST WOMEN'S T20I



ndia have won the toss and opted to bowl against Zimbabwe in the first women's T20I in Raipur. Star batter Smriti Mandhana is making her captaincy debut for India. The three-match series marks Mandhana's first assignment as captain after Harmanpreet Kaur decided to step down from the role. India and Zimbabwe are facing off for the first time in women's cricket, with the series also providing Mandhana an opportunity to lay the groundwork for the team's preparations for the ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 at home. Nitish Kumar Reddy is being touted as the ideal successor to fast-bowling all-rounder Hardik Pandya in the Indian team. With Hardik struggling with recurring injuries, Reddy has earned a place in the side, and the team management is looking to groom the youngster for the 2027 ODI World Cup. However, despite playing 27 matches for India across all three formats, Reddy is yet to establish himself as a dependable performer due to inconsistent displays. Even in the ongoing T20Is against West Indies, Reddy has failed to leave a mark. Former India fielding coach R Sridhar shared his views on Reddy, stating that the Andhra Pradesh all-rounder is currently 'punching below his potential'. Nevertheless, Sridhar remains optimistic that the youngster will elevate his game ahead of the World Cup.

So far, Reddy has featured in 27 matches for India and scored 658 runs, including one century and two half-centuries. He has also claimed 21 wickets across the three formats.

"Nitish, I think, is slightly punching below his ability at the moment. Hopefully, he picks up more and picks up better with the bat. He's more than a capable batter," Sridhar told CricketNext, as quoted by News18.

"Maybe Nitish Kumar could be a better product by then, or Hardik could come back super fit and play an absolutely blinder of a World Cup. So let's wait till we get more clarity on that position," he added.

After the ongoing series against the West Indies, India are scheduled to tour New Zealand for an all-format series comprising five T20Is, five ODIs, and two Tests.

## IPL's Highest Wicket-Taker Yuzvendra Chahal Opens Up On Alcohol Addiction, Panic Attack 26-Day Rehab Stay: 'Things Got Excessive'



If one searches for the highest wicket-taker in the IPL, Yuzvendra Chahal's name comes right on top. With 233 scalps in 188 matches, he tops a list that includes Jasprit Bumrah, Sunil Narine, Ravichandran Ashwin and Lasith Malinga, among others. But his career is full of paradoxes. While he has played 72 ODIs (121 wickets) and 80 T20Is (96 wickets), Chahal has not had a single opportunity to play Test cricket. In his personal life too, Chahal, who is known to be a jovial person, has gone through struggles. Alcohol addiction, divorce and public scrutiny - Chahal has gone through it all. The 36-year-old opened up about all these aspects in a recent podcast with former India opener Aakash Chopra. "Yuzi, you are the guy who has made everyone laugh. You are like a livewire on the field, but when you were going through problems in your personal life, was there anybody with you? This is the lowest of the low. The emotional scars when a crisis happens in personal life are different, unlike anything we go through in professional life," Chopra asked during the podcast. "My best friend and family were there," Chahal replied. "So when did you decide to give up alcohol?" Chopra then asked. "After last year of county cricket. It crossed all limits, so I checked into a rehab centre and stayed there for 26 days. Now, I know how to handle it. That decision made a massive difference to my personal life. My maturity increased. My emotions are balanced now. Last IPL, my body felt like I was 30 years old again - doing gym work, fielding drills and training properly," he said. "But how did it start, and why?" Chopra asked again. "Initially, I was young. There were parties. In 2011, I played my first IPL. AB de Villiers once told me, 'Balance is key in life.' It sounds easy, but it is not. Things got excessive after my divorce, and my mental state was not that great. I realised that if I continued down that path, I would ruin the very thing I love most - cricket.

## Sports Ministry Announces Massive Hike Assistance To NSFs For Hosting International Events



National Sports Federations will be entitled to financial support of up to Rs 50 crore to organise international events, the Sports Ministry announced on Friday while unveiling the operational guidelines for the revised Scheme of Assistance to NSFs. Previously, the NSFs were given up to Rs two crore for conduct of international events in the country. The Ministry said the new guidelines align with India's long-term sporting vision and preparations for the 2036 Olympic bid and 2039 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad. "Now, financial support of upto NSFs for hosting an international event, depending upon the nature and importance of the event, number of participating countries and athletes. Proposals of NSFs will be assessed by a designated Committee headed by Secretary (Sports)," stated a release from the Ministry.

In addition, provision has been made in the revised scheme to provide assistance up to Rs 50 crore for conduct of National Games. The funds would go towards sports equipment, Timing, Scoring and Result (TSR) services, remuneration to technical officials and technical conduct. The government has issued revised operational guidelines for the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), with enhanced financial support for hosting international sporting events in India. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports said the revised scheme provides financial assistance of up to 50 crore rupees for hosting international sporting events in the country. The scheme also provides assistance of up to 50 crore rupees for conducting the National Games. The funding will cover sports equipment, timing, scoring and results services, remuneration for technical officials, and other technical arrangements. The revised guidelines also provide for the establishment of specialised Olympic Training Centres equipped with modern sports science facilities to support elite athletes.

## Suryakumar Yadav Buys Dubai Property, Says Quality Of Life Is 'Different



Suryakumar Yadav, India's 2026 T20 World Cup-winning captain, has bought a luxurious property in Dubai. He made the announcement on Instagram with a video in which his wife, Devisha Shetty, was also present. "I first came to Dubai in 2014 to play in the IPL. Then we came in 2020. Now you can see that the entire India is coming to Dubai. Luxury and the quality of life are different," Yadav, who plays for Mumbai Indians in the IPL, said in the video. "Safety is there in India as well, where I live in Mumbai. But safety in Dubai is good too. It feels very relaxed, and I feel very happy when I come here." The name of the property is Shahrukhz Residences. "There was no second thought when I heard that a building by Shah Rukh sir was being built here. The main thing is the interior work and the quality. The most important thing is the longevity and wellness centre," he said. The video claimed that the residential property offers hyperbaric treatment, red light therapy and cryotherapy. "I saw one more thing: without a blood test, you get to know all the levels of the body — blood sugar, A to Z, whatever it is. This is too good." A report in Moneycontrol stated that the star cricketer's wife, Devisha, had purchased an apartment in Mumbai's Chembur area for Rs 7.18 crore earlier this year. The 1,516.20-square-foot (140.86-square-metre) property is in Godrej Sky Terraces, the report stated. It was the third apartment the couple had bought in the building.

## BRAZILIAN RAFAEL CAMARA TO MAKE F1 DEBUT WITH HAAS IN 2027



Brazilian Rafael Camara will race for Haas in 2027, the Formula 1 team announced on Thursday, after confirming the departure of French driver Esteban Ocon last month. "It's an important step in my career," the 21-year-old said in a statement from the US-based Haas team. "Now my focus is on preparing myself in the best possible way for this new challenge. There will be a lot to learn, and I'm looking forward to working closely with the team," added Camara, who currently leads the Formula 2 championship. A member of the Ferrari Driver Academy since 2021, Camara has impressed this season with Invicta Racing in Formula 2, having won the Formula 3 title with Trident in 2025.

## EX-NBA CHAMPION TELLS NEW YORK KNICKS NOT TO LOSE KARL-ANTHONY TOWNS OVER CONTRACT FIGHT



Cedric Maxwell knows what it takes to win an NBA title, and he has a message for the New York Knicks. The two-time champion says the team should think hard before it lets Karl-Anthony Towns walk away. The Knicks are still celebrating their first championship in 53 years, but behind the cheers a fight over money is growing, and Towns has made it clear he isn't happy with how it's going. Maxwell hopes he is still in New York after the trade deadline.

**MAXWELL'S MESSAGE: DON'T LET HIM GO**

To Maxwell, there is no title without Towns. "You wouldn't have won it without him," he said on casino.org, calling him "a great scorer," and he'd happily give him a new deal. Sitting back and waiting for Towns to give in makes no sense to him, and he keeps coming back to the same question: who else could the Knicks possibly find to take his place? Jalen Brunson is still the leader of this team, he made clear, but that doesn't change a thing.

He isn't blind to the money side, though, and he said no team can spend without limits. Even so, when he was asked whether Towns will still be a Knick once the deadline passes, he said he thinks so.

**HOW THE CONTRACT TALKS GOT STUCK**

Towns was a big part of the run that ended a 53-year wait. Still, on Oct. 9, the Knicks said they wouldn't talk about new deals "until later in the season," which put Towns, Josh Hart, Miles McBride and Tyler Kolek all on hold.

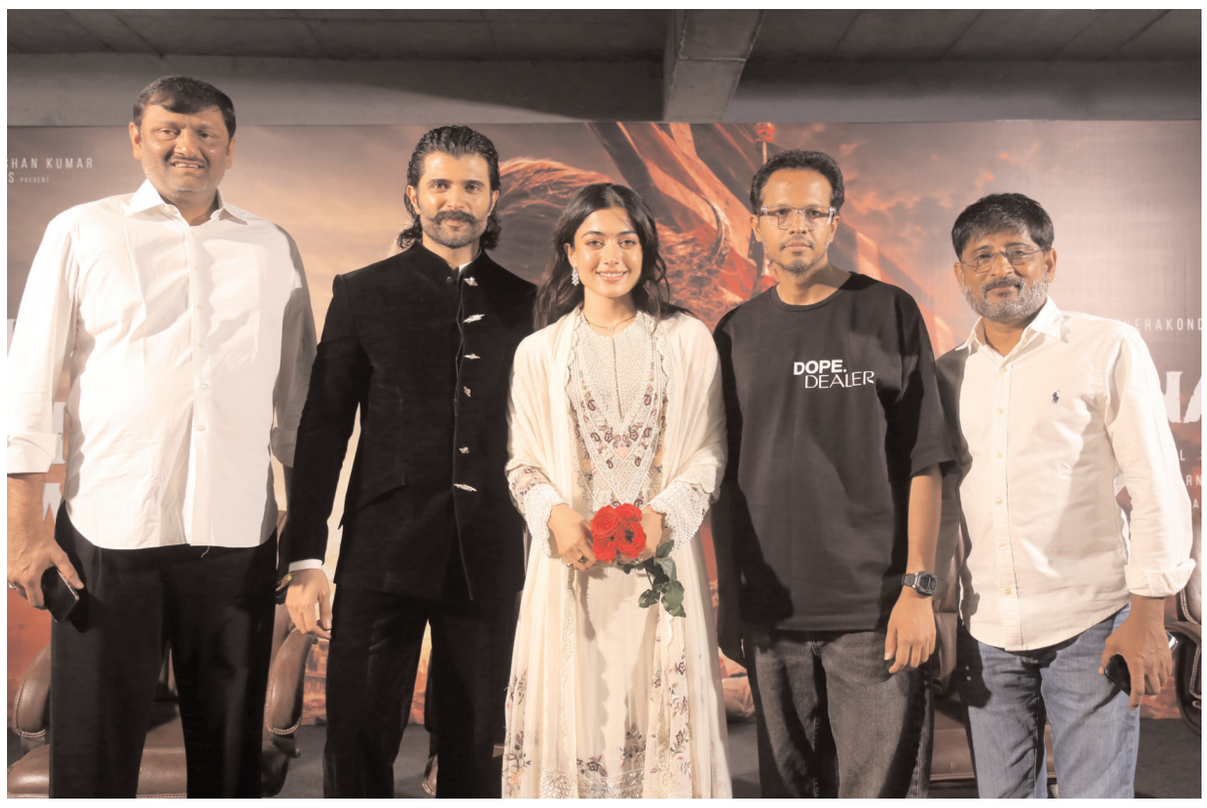
## *Police investigating antisemitic Nazi chants from Hajduk Split fans*



Croatian police are investigating antisemitic chanting by Hajduk Split fans which took place before their Conference League game against Ajax on Thursday. Footage published online shows Hajduk supporters chanting outside the stadium about Auschwitz and in support of Adolf Hitler. A large supporters' march to the stadium was led by a yellow car carrying a coffin marked "Ajax" on its roof. The Amsterdam club is historically associated with the Jewish community. Croatia's ombudswoman Tena Simonovic Einwalter, an independent official appointed by parliament to safeguard human rights, called the incident a "manifestation of hatred and intolerance". The Croatian government also condemned the chanting. "We strongly condemn the unacceptable chants glorifying the Nazi regime that were recorded among a portion of fans before today's match in Split," it said on X on Thursday., external "Such shameful behaviour constitutes a negation of sport and the democratic values that modern Croatia cherishes." Local police told BBC Sport they had already made arrests in connection with yesterday's chants and that several further individuals had been identified and were being tracked down. Hajduk, who finished second in Croatia's top flight last season, won the match 2-1 but play was stopped for around 10 minutes because of fireworks in the stands. The Croatian club posted an apology on social media, external after the game, although it did not specifically mention any antisemitic chanting. "When situations like today happen, we are obliged to apologise to those who came to the stadium to cheer on the team that returned to European competitions after 16 years," it said. "We also apologise to the organiser of the competition and to the Ajax management and players who witnessed scenes we do not want Europe to remember us by."

Uefa has no jurisdiction over incidents away from the stadium but can take action if something happens in the stands or stadium precinct. Croatian football has previously faced sanctions over antisemitic and discriminatory behaviour.

# RANABALI" WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT MOVIE FOR TOLLYWOOD AND A PROUD MOVIE IN OUR CAREER - VIJAY DEVARAKONDA



Ranabali" is a huge Pan India movie starring Vijay Devarakonda as the hero. This movie is directed by Rahul Sankrityan. Rashmika Mandanna acted as the heroine. The movie "Ranabali" is produced by producers Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravishankar on a huge budget under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers under the T Series offering. The movie "Ranabali" which came to the world wide theatrical release today has received blockbuster success by mesmerizing the audience of all sections.

**HERO VIJAY DEVARAKONDA SAID -**

We have organized this event to meet you today after seeing the words and messages sent by our media friends after watching Ranbali movie. We watched the movie yesterday evening. I can say that this is the best film from Tollywood this year. It will be a proud film in our career. This is my 14th film. Even after we have done thirty films, people talk about a film, its performance and the impact it created. Ranbali is such a film. This movie is going to be a big success. Because our media friends are taking this movie forward on their shoulders. I know how far this movie will go. While making this film, there was no attempt to make a big hit and create big numbers. We felt that it is very important to show this movie to our people. Even after watching the teaser and trailer, you will see many layers while watching our movie. Director Rahul made this film like a package. Everyone is talking great about some of the episodes. Ranbali will remain an important film in my filmography, Telugu cinema filmography. Tomorrow I will go to Vijayawada, Anantapur, Shinganamala, Guntur, Vizag... and meet our audience. Rashmika also says that we should celebrate our film. I am doing a cute rom-com movie with director Vikram Kumar. Vikram has brought such a script so he is able to do it.Now I love every film I do. They are asking to bring this film in Hindi as well. It will also be released in Tamil. We have targeted only in Telugu. Each hero brings his favorite story to the screen, but due to some reasons, the film and the business around it is becoming a race. Said.

# SREELEELA MAKES A STRIKING STYLE STATEMENT

Sreeleela rose quickly in Telugu cinema with hits like Dhamaka and Bhagavanth Kesari, and her Kissik song in Pushpa 2 became hugely popular. But her recent films have not worked at the box office.

Sreeleela chose a black velvet jacket with a V neckline, antique gold embroidery on the pockets and cuffs, and a jewelled buckle at the waist. She paired it with a black and white polka dot fishtail skirt that flared out at the hem. Small hoop earrings, straight open hair and nude lips kept the styling clean, while her calm, serious pose suited the moody backdrop.

Her hopes now rest on her Bollywood debut opposite Kartik Aaryan in Anurag Basu's romantic musical, yet to get a release date. She also shot for Diler opposite Ibrahim Ali Khan.





# MEENAKSHI CHAUDHARY ROAMS HANOI STREETS IN STYLE

Meenakshi Chaudhary scored one of her biggest hits with Sankranthiki Vasthunam, which crossed 300 crore, and has also got back-to-back success with Lucky Baskhar, and Guntur Kaaram.

Meenakshi has been holidaying in Vietnam and shared pictures from Hanoi. She spent a few days roaming the streets, visiting cafés and vintage book stores, and enjoying the food and coffee. For the outing, she wore a black camisole with distressed denim shorts and an earthy colour block shrug. She added a maroon crossbody bag, hoop earrings, gold bangles and flat black sandals, and kept her hair loose and straight. Her wide easy smile in every single frame says it all.

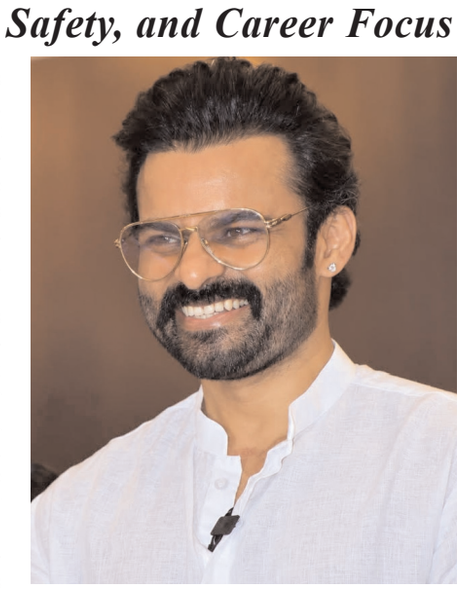
On the work front, she has Vrushakarma opposite Naga Chaitanya and her Hindi debut Bhagam Bhaag 2 with Akshay Kumar lined up.

## *Supreme Hero Sai Tej Celebrates Birthday with Fans; Delivers Heartfelt Message on Women's Respect, Road Safety, and Career Focus*

Supreme Hero Sai Tej celebrated his birthday amidst enthusiastic fans, well-wishers, and team members at a special event. Overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and warm wishes, the actor expressed deep gratitude to his fans and utilized the platform to share impactful messages regarding safety, respect, and career development.

Addressing the crowd, Sai Tej urged fans to make road safety a top personal priority, leading them in an emphatic chant: (Must wear a helmet!)". He further appealed to everyone to treat women and female actors with the utmost dignity, remarking that women outside deserve the same care and respect given to family members at home.

Advising his admirers to focus on personal goals, he emphasized: "Hits and flops come and go in cinema, but your future is entirely in your own hands. Focus on your careers and build your lives. We will work hard to deliver hits with your love, but your real-life achievements and success bring us the greatest pride."



Sai Tej also shared an exciting update on his upcoming project, revealing that he is gearing up for a complete rural-backdrop family entertainer packed with high emotional value.

The celebration concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony, fan felicitations, and group interactions.

# VERSATILE ACTOR SUNIL TO PLAY A POWERFUL LAWYER IN 'DUE DATE'

Versatile actor Sunil has joined the sets of Due Date and will be seen in a powerful lawyer's role. Starring Lomesh Pudipeddi as the hero and Jayashree as the heroine, the film also features Praneetha Patnaik, Vignani, Krishna Bhagavaan and Akshara Gowda in key roles. Produced by Pawan Tarigopula and Eluru Sreenu under the Varish Studios banner and directed by Anand K., the film recently held its grand pooja ceremony. Regular shooting has been progressing at a brisk pace in Hyderabad, with several crucial sequences being filmed. Comedian Krishna Bhagavaan has also joined the shoot after a considerable gap, promising to entertain audiences with his interesting character.

Speaking on the occasion, the producers said, "Sunil will be seen as the powerful lawyer Shekhar Chandra, and his character will be one of the major highlights of the film. We believe this distinctive role will remain a memorable one in his career. Based on a contemporary and pressing social issue, Due Date is an engaging commercial courtroom drama packed with intriguing twists and gripping moments. The story revolves around



a 'Due Date' that holds significance in everyone's life, blending strong commercial elements with a fresh and compelling narrative."

The makers further stated that Due Date promises a refreshing cinematic experience, with an engaging storyline and a perfect blend of entertainment, suspense and emotion. The film aims not only to entertain audiences but also to make them think and connect with the subject on an emotional level.

# THOUGHT- PROVOKING FAMILY ENTERTAINER '3 2 1' RELEASING ON OCTOBER 23



While some films are made purely for short-term entertainment, only a few stay with the audience long after leaving the cinema hall, leaving a lasting impression and prompting thoughtful reflection. The upcoming film '3 2 1' (Love Marriage Vs Arranged) aims to belong to that distinctive category, according to its writer, director, and co-producer Chilumula Shanthikumar. A filmmaker who has previously earned two Nandi Awards across his past three projects, Shanthikumar shared that the film has been crafted cleanly so that both children and adults can watch it together without any hesitation or embarrassment. The film is set for a grand theatrical release on October 23. The central theme explores whether a love marriage or an arranged marriage is better for a lifelong journey, generating significant curiosity among viewers. The promotional material has already begun striking a chord; the recently released melody song 'Nanu Thaakina' touched a million hearts within a short span, while the official trailer, released two days ago, crossed the one million views milestone on digital platforms due to its engaging content.

The film stars Mohit Peddada, known for his work across multiple popular web series, as the male lead. Lavanya, who earned acclaim for portraying Junior Sammakka in Nani's successful feature 'Paradise', plays the leading lady. The supporting cast features Vivan Surya, Prabhavathi, Madhavi, Lakshmi Vennela, Yamini, Kunthi Srinivas, Appaji Ambarisha, and Vidyasagar in key roles.

# DIRECTOR NANDINI REDDY UNVEILS THE FIRST LOOK OF JABARDASTH EMMANUEL'S 'DESTINY'

The intriguing first look poster of 'Destiny', directed by Chendu Muddu and produced by Dinesh Kurra under the Kurra Productions banner, has been unveiled by successful filmmaker Nandini Reddy, who extended her best wishes to the entire team.



Presented by K. Raghavendra Reddy, 'Destiny' is being produced by Dinesh Kurra under Kurra Productions, with Chendu Muddu at the helm. Jabardasth Emmanuel plays the lead role in the film, while Sri Satya, Aamani, Ravi Prakash, Kireeti, and Siva Kotla feature in other pivotal roles.

The newly unveiled first look poster has caught attention with its mysterious and intriguing visuals. True to its title, the poster features Emmanuel in handcuffs, accompanied by a police constable against the backdrop of a forest and a secluded pathway. These striking elements hint at an interesting storyline and raise curiosity about the world the film is set to explore. The title logo also features the two characters, suggesting that their journey could be central to the narrative.

With its intriguing visual presentation and a premise that promises to spark curiosity, 'Destiny' has generated interest among moviegoers. Further updates about the film are expected to be announced soon. On the technical front, Maruthi Raja is composing the music, while Pankaj Thottada handles the cinematography. D. Venkata Prabhu is the editor. The film's story, screenplay, dialogues, and direction are by Chendu Muddu.

## *Thiruveer and Faria Abdullah's Bhagavanthudu Completes Shooting; Grand Theatrical Release Soon*



The upcoming film "Bhagavanthudu" stars young talented hero Thiruveer and young talented heroine Faria Abdullah in the lead roles. Kannada actor Rishi will be seen in a pivotal role in the film. Produced by Ravi Kumar Panasa under the Ravi Panasa Film Corporation (Panasa Media India Private Limited) banner as Production No. 1, the film has Vidya Sri Panasa as its co-producer. G. G. Vihari is making his directorial debut with this movie.

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