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BENGALURU I CHENNAI I HYDERABAD I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

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■ 'E20 turned into 420

Petrol chori from public's cars': Rahul slams govt

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "E20 turned into 420 – stealing petrol from the public's cars!" The reference was to Section 420 of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code, which dealt with cheating

NEW DELHI (TSIT):



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday attacked the Modi government over the rollout of E20 petrol, citing test results of samples collected by the Karnataka government, and asked the Centre to come clean on the actual ethanol content in fuel being sold across the country.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "E20 turned into 420 – stealing petrol from the public's cars!" The reference was to Section 420 of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code, which dealt with cheating.

Gandhi said the government claims that petrol contains 20 per cent ethanol but tests conducted on samples collected from seven districts in Karnataka had revealed higher levels. "The Karnataka government collected petrol samples from 7 districts and had them tested at an accredited lab. Look at the results – 11 out of 14 samples contained more than 20 per cent ethanol; 31.2 per cent at IOCL, 30.5 per cent at HPCL; IOCL, HPCL, BPCL, Nayara, Shell – whether government-owned or private – all exceeded the limit," he claimed.He also alleged that the companies' own laboratories had not reported the ethanol content. Gandhi claimed that excessive ethanol blending could affect vehicle performance, resulting in lower mileage and higher maintenance costs.

Rajnath praises IAF personnel at Bagdogra



Bagdora (West Bengal): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has urged the Defence Forces to sustain the highest standards of operational preparedness, laying particular emphasis on enhancing domain awareness, cyber resilience and information integrity to deal effectively with emerging security challenges. Interacting with personnel of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Air Force Station Bagdogra in West Bengal on the eve of Diwali, Singh said the country's security environment was becoming increasingly complex. He noted that modern warfare was no longer confined to conventional confrontations along the borders but had expanded to include asymmetric warfare, proxy conflicts, cyber-attacks, drone swarms, information operations and the management of narratives.

CM Revanth inaugurates Kodangal RARE industrial hub



HYDERABAD TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy participated in the inauguration of the Kodangal RARE Industrial Hub and interacted with entrepreneurs, marking a step towards expanding industrial development and employment opportunities in the region.The RARE (Rural Agriculture Regional Economy) Industrial Hub is being developed across 943.34 acres to attract industries from various sectors and establish Kodangal as a centre for investment and job creation.

The initiative aims to spread industries across Telangana beyond major cities such as Hyderabad, enabling local youth to find employment closer to home. Located along a radial road, the hub offers transport connectivity for industrial operations.Land acquisition for the hub cost Rs.220 crore, while infrastructure development covering roads, water supply and electricity has been planned at an estimated Rs.441.91 crore.

A total of 96 acres has already been allotted to two companies—Birla Nu Limited and Ecopalm Oil and Fats Private Limited—with combined proposed investments of Rs.252.86 crore. The projects are expected to generate approximately 535 jobs.

CM Revanth invites industries to Kodangal



Hyderabad (TSIT): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy invited industrialists to invest in Kodangal, promising infrastructure and government support to develop it into a major industrial hub.Addressing nearly 100 industrialists at the launch of the RARE Industrial Hub, he announced that the Shamshabad-Kodangal radial road would be completed by December 2027, reducing travel time to around 70 minutes.

He virtually launched the RARE Industrial Hub, NARI Park, THRIVE Hub and RISE initiative. Several companies have already started construction, while others have shown interest in investing.The Chief Minister also announced a 250-acre Education Hub in Kodangal and highlighted skill development initiatives through Tata Technologies and Young India Skills University to create employment opportunities.

Sonia recalls her life and times as a Gandhi; avoids talking about nepotism

New Delhi, Nov 7 : Congress leader Sonia Gandhi appeared to avoid talking about nepotism and the issue of why the party can't free itself from her family's leadership, being "dismissive, perhaps a nerve touched", while speaking to the British daily 'The Guardian' at her residence. "You would have to ask the party," she told her interviewer on the Gandhi family's unquestioned leadership.



The interview was published on Saturday along with an edited extract from her memoirs "Belonging: A Journey of Love", which will be published early next week.

The newspaper also observed that she "skates over the question of nepotism", just answering, "We all fight elections: we win them, we lose them. All of us have." But after so many losses, can a Gandhi-led Congress still be a credible alternative to the BJP? While she is adamant they can, many in the country remain unconvinced, noted her interviewer. Sonia Gandhi was also defensive over the issue of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government that was in power for a decade till 2014.

"In almost every single instance, the ministers resigned," she said when the issue was pointed out.

Since then, the Gandhi family have "overseen its (Congress) calamitous decline", where the article mentioned the consecutive losses that the party suffered with her son Rahul Gandhi at its helm.

"After taking over from his mother, Rahul lost the last three general elections to PM Modi, and Congress remains in power in only a few states. Meanwhile, the BJP's Hindutva has become the country's dominant political ideology.

As the family has maintained its control, Congress has been unable to shake off allegations that it is nepotistic and run by political elites," stressed the article. She also shared her thoughts on Indira Gandhi having announced the Emergency in 1975 when the latter was Prime Minister, calling it a "mistake", and that she believes her mother-in-law came to feel the same.

Kamal Nath targets BJP govt over 'recurring' problems in fertiliser distribution



Bhopal, Nov 7 : Senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Saturday targeted the BJP government over recurring problems in fertiliser distribution, alleging that farmers continue to face long queues, server failures and difficulties with the e-token system despite the government's claims of adequate stock.In a statement posted on social media, Nath said farmers were being forced to struggle for fertilisers every year, with long queues outside warehouses, alleged black marketing and the supply of spurious fertilisers adding to their problems. He said the situation had remained unchanged even this year, despite the government's assurance of sufficient fertiliser availability.

"The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh deserves a gold medal for creating problems. The party has mastered the art of ruining every system," Nath said. He alleged that the e-token arrangement had once again run into technical difficulties due to server outages, poor internet connectivity and delays in receiving one-time passwords (OTPs).

Referring to the earlier suspension of the e-token system following farmers' protests, Nath said the government had reintroduced it without adequate technological upgradation. He said farmers were already facing difficulties due to government policies and should not be made to deal with additional technical hurdles to obtain fertilisers.

V-P Radhakrishnan attends Ayodhya 'Deepotsav', offers prayers at Ram Temple

Ayodhya, Nov 7 : Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Saturday offered prayers at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, upon his arrival in the temple town to attend the 2026 edition of 'Deepotsav'.



He was accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust General Secretary Swami Govind Dev Giri.

Later, while addressing the 'Deepotsav' celebrations, the Vice-President said that the life of Lord Ram teaches that true greatness lies not in power or position, but in strength of character and unwavering dedication to one's duties. "Today, two 'Yogis' in the country are following the character and conduct of Lord Ram, one being 'Karmayogi' Narendra Modi and the other Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath," he added while crediting the leaders for transforming the Ram Temple into a symbol of "self-respect" for the Hindus.

He said that today Ayodhya has become a living example of the vision of "heritage as well as development".

Further praising CM Adityanath, the Vice-President called him the "Hindu Hriday Samrat" (Emperor of Hindu Hearts).

Recalling his days in Parliament with the then BJP MP Yogi Adityanath, Vice-President Radhakrishnan said: "Our Hindu Hriday Samrat, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, used to be my colleague in Parliament. He was very young then, and I clearly remember that his speeches carried the same energy and force that they do today."

India enjoys strategic advantage due to large oil refining capacity

New Delhi, Nov 7 : While the United States and Europe have been reducing their oil refining capacity, India is expanding into a global refining hub which gives it a strategic advantage as an exporter of petroleum products despite being a large crude importing country, according to an article in India Narrative. India's installed refining capacity stood at 267.1 million tonnes per annum (nearly 5.3–5.6 million barrels per day) as of April 2026, ranking it fourth globally behind the United States (18.2 million bpd), China, and Russia. Government targets call for around 300 million tonnes by 2030, with longer-term ambitions of 400 million tonnes.

The article highlights that this expanding refining capacity underpins both domestic security and export power. India imports nearly 5.4–5.6 million barrels per day of crude and meets about 88 per cent of its needs through imports. Russian volumes have hovered around 1.8–2 million bpd recently (nearly 35 per cent of total imports, down from peaks above 50 per cent), driven by price.

On the other hand, the country's petroleum product exports earned around $27.2 billion in the six months to September 2026, with diesel alone contributing $12.6 billion despite lower volumes, as regional benchmarks surged.



Monthly product exports have run in the $6–7 billion range at peaks. India has emerged as the world's second-largest seaborne diesel exporter in some periods, with September 2026 shipments around 620,000 barrels per day—nearly half of which went to Europe amid regional tightness. Indian diesel has filled gaps created by Russian product constraints, European closures, and Middle Eastern maintenance. In short, Indian refining capacity has become a swing supplier that stabilises markets the United States and its allies care about, the article added. "This is the leverage. The United States has repeatedly threatened secondary sanctions and tariffs of up to 100 per cent under legislation targeting major buyers of Russian oil, only to issue waivers when domestic fuel prices rose ahead of political deadlines.

Washington has itself arranged Russian diesel supplies for global markets while criticising Indian refiners for processing Russian crude into products that often end up in Europe." "Indian officials have rejected the pressure, saying purchases remain commercial and that India has not felt meaningful coercion. This reflects a glaring inconsistency as American policy treats Indian refining of Russian oil as profiteering while relying on the resulting product flows to ease shortages," the article said. "India should treat this refining position as a deliberate trump card. Continued expansion—state refiners alone plan substantial diesel capacity additions by 2027—widens the gap with declining Western systems," the article opined.

It also underscores that India is already a major importer of American LPG, while its product exports help contain diesel and gasoline prices that affect US consumers and European allies. Any sustained attempt to force India off Russian barrels risks tighter global product balances, higher crack spreads, and political pain in the United States—precisely the dynamic that produced the recent waivers.

Free foreign language courses for minority candidates

Narayanpet, TSIT: The Telangana Minorities Study Circle and Career Counselling Centre (TGMSC & CCC), Hyderabad, has invited applications from minority candidates across Telangana for free 45-day foundation courses in Japanese, German, French and Korean.Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Buddhists who have completed SSC, Intermediate or Degree are eligible to apply. The courses aim to support higher education, employment and overseas career opportunities.The last date for applications is November 10, 2026. Classes will begin after the deadline. Applicants must submit original educational certificates, Aadhaar card and two passport-size photographs for verification. Registration will be held at the Telangana Minorities Study Circle, MAM Campus.

MAY DIWALI BRING LIGHT AND HAPPINESS TO EVERY HOME MINISTER KOMATIREDDY



Hyderabad, TSIT: Roads and Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy extended Diwali greetings to the people of Telangana, wishing every family happiness, prosperity and success. In a message on the occasion, the Minister hoped that the festival of lights would dispel darkness from every home and fill people's lives with joy. He wished that Goddess Lakshmi's blessings would bring prosperity to every household. Venkat Reddy appealed to families to celebrate Diwali safely and in an environmentally responsible manner by using green crackers.

SCOUTS AND GUIDES FLAG DAY CELEBRATED IN NALGONDA



Nalgonda, TSIT: The 76th Bharat Scouts and Guides Flag Day was celebrated at the District Collector's camp office under the leadership of District Collector and BSG District President B. Chandrashekhar.
During the event, the District Secretary presented a scarf to the Collector, while Scout and Guide students took the Scout Promise. Chandrashekhar highlighted the importance of the organisation in developing discipline, courage and responsibility among students and shaping them into responsible citizens.

BSG District Secretary E. Karunakar, Vice-Presidents Suresh Gupta and R. Vimala, Guide Captain Sujatha, Scout Master Seenu Naik, and students from St. Alphonsus High School and KGBV, Kattangur, participated.

Rajajinagar accused wrapped bodies in 10 layers of tape



Bengaluru: Shocking details of the gruesome Rajajinagar serial murder case have emerged during the police investigation, with accused Indushekhar allegedly meticulously planning the murders, concealing the bodies and transporting them to different locations to evade detection.

Investigators have reportedly found that the accused wrapped each body in as many as 10 layers of adhesive tape to prevent the smell of decomposition from escaping and avoid attracting the attention of neighbours. Even the body of his minor son, Puneeth, recovered at Nandi Hills, had allegedly been wrapped in a similar manner.

According to the suspected pattern, the accused allegedly invited victims to his house around noon, prepared a mutton meal and served them alcohol laced with sleeping pills. Once they became drowsy, he allegedly attacked them on the head with a grinding stone, killing them. Between October 24–25, brother-in-law Shivakumar, Divya and child Puneeth were allegedly murdered, with bodies disposed of at different locations including Mysuru and Nandi Hills.

On November 1, another brother-in-law Shankar and his wife Nalini were allegedly murdered, with bodies reportedly dumped in the Shiradi Ghat region.

A missing persons complaint was lodged at Srirampura Police Station on November 3. Following examination of mobile tower dump data and other leads, police arrested Indushekhar and his minor daughter on November 4 and rescued another boy.

Investigators found that between October 16 and 31, the accused drove without committing any traffic violations, apparently taking extra precautions. A Bengaluru police team has travelled to Tamil Nadu along with the accused and family members, proceeding towards Yercaud Ghat where Salem police secured the crime scene. Post-mortem examinations of Sunita and Rupavathi, whose bodies were recovered in the Salem Ghat region, have been completed, and the bodies are expected to reach Bengaluru by evening.

The investigation has revealed that the seven murders were not impulsive acts but part of a carefully planned killing spree. The accused allegedly began preparing on October 14, purchasing sleeping pills, plastic bags, ropes and gunny bags in advance. The seized Toyota Etios carried a 'PRESS' sticker and a press banner reading 'Thaana Varadi', markings that may have helped avoid routine police scrutiny. Three police teams are continuing search operations across Tamil Nadu and the Western Ghats to trace the bodies of the six victims.

NERELLA SHARADA SEEKS ACTION AGAINST FERTILITY CENTRES OVER ALLEGED ILLEGAL EGG COLLECTION



Hyderabad TSIT: Telangana State Women's Commission, headed by Chairperson Nerella Sharada, expressed serious displeasure over delays in investigating hospitals, laboratories and fertility centres accused of involvement in the alleged illegal collection of eggs from economically disadvantaged women.In a press release issued from its office at Buddha Bhavan on Saturday, the Commission questioned why cases had been registered only against some agents while institutions alleged to have played a central role had not faced similar action. The Commission said affected women, during Sharada's visit to enquire about their condition, had named Indira IVF Centre, Narmada Fertility Centre, Oasis Fertility Centre, Sadguru ART Centre and Padmaja Fertility Centre, along with a person identified as Dr. Hussain, in their complaints.

KITS PROFESSOR AWARDED PH.D. BY NIT GOA



Hanumakonda, TSIT: Revoori Swetha, Assistant Professor in the CSE (AI & ML) Department at KITS Warangal, has been awarded a Ph.D. by the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Goa, for her research in Artificial Intelligence and Computational Intelligence.Her thesis, titled "Design and Development of Computational Intelligence and Deep Learning Models for EEG Based Deception Detection", was completed under the guidance of Dr. E. Damodar Reddy, Associate Professor, NIT Goa.Her research focuses on using EEG signals and advanced deep learning techniques to identify deception-related patterns, with potential applications in neuroscience and intelligent decision-support systems.KITS Chairman Capt. V. Lakshmikantha Rao, Treasurer P. Narayana Reddy, Additional Secretary Vodithala Satish Kumar and Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy congratulated Swetha. Registrar Prof. M. Komal Reddy, department heads, faculty members and staff also extended their wishes.

TOSS opens education opportunities for prison inmates



Hyderabad, TSIT: The Telangana Prisons Department, in collaboration with the Telangana Open School Society (TOSS), has launched an open schooling programme to help prison inmates pursue SSC and Intermediate courses as part of rehabilitation efforts. Education Principal Secretary Dr. Yogita Rana inaugurated the programme in the presence of Prisons Director General Dr. Soumya Mishra and senior officials. Rana said education builds confidence and helps inmates create a better future. She announced special TOSS centres in prisons, a course fee concession of Rs.1,250 and support for establishing prison libraries.TOSS Director K. Lingaiah assured academic assistance and flexible class schedules. Dr. Soumya Mishra said education and skill development were essential for rehabilitation and reintegration into society.The programme will provide study materials, guidance and regular classes, with no upper age limit for admission. So far, 70 inmates have expressed interest in SSC and 15 in Intermediate courses. Officials are working to encourage more prisoners to enrol.

Member takes oath as TTD Specified Authority Member



Tirumala : Sri K. Kannababu, Secretary to Govt., Revenue (Endowments) Dept., (FAC), took oath as a member of the TTD Specified Authority on Saturday in Srivari temple. The oath-taking ceremony was held at the Bangaru Vakili inside the Srivari Temple in Tirumala.The TTD Additional EO Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary administered the oath. Later, Vedic scholars offered Veda Ashirvachanam to Sri K. Kannababu at the Ranganayakula Mandapam and the Additional EO presented him with Srivari Teertha Prasadams.

Speaking to the media in front of the temple on this occasion, Sri K. Kannababu said that he considered the opportunity to serve as a member of the TTD Specified Authority a divine blessing bestowed by Sri Venkateswara, the presiding deity of Kaliyuga. He stated that he would strive to uphold the trust reposed in him by Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu, who appointed him as a member of the Specified Authority, and render his services to the best of his ability.He further stated that under the leadership of the Chairman of the Specified Authority, he would work with utmost devotion and dedication to promote the religious heritage and spiritual significance of the Srivari Temple across the world. Srivari Temple Dy EO Sri Bhaskar, Board Cell Dy EO Smt. Prashanti and other officials were present.

Celebrate Diwali with priority to environmental protection, says Collector

Tirupati: On the occasion of Diwali, District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar extended heartfelt Diwali greetings to all the people of Tirupati district. He expressed the hope that the festival of Diwali would fill everyone's life with new light and that every home would overflow with happiness, good health and joy.

He appealed to people to celebrate Diwali—which symbolises the victory of good over evil and light over darkness—together with their family members in a spirit of joy and enthusiasm, while giving priority to environmental protection.

The District Collector advised the public to exercise restraint during the festival and refrain from using firecrackers that emit excessive smoke, toxic gases and high levels of noise, which harm the environment. He urged people to give preference, as far as possible, to eco-friendly celebrations that help reduce pollution.

He also suggested that necessary precautions be taken while using firecrackers and that children burst crackers only under the supervision of elders. Special care should be taken to ensure that excessive noise and smoke do not cause inconvenience to the elderly, young children and those suffering from health problems.

Dr. S. Venkateswar appealed to everyone to act responsibly so as to minimise air and noise pollution during Diwali celebrations and to become partners in environmental protection. He once again conveyed Diwali greetings to all the people of the district and wished that they celebrate the festival of lights safely and joyfully, without causing harm to nature or inconvenience to others.

As Rahul Gandhi Rose Through the Ranks, Congress Continued to Lose Ground



When the final chapter of the 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy' march began on the streets of Karnal, Haryana, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah put the politics of the Congress and Rahul Gandhi under sharp scrutiny, sparking a fresh debate in political circles.

Known for his astute political acumen, Amit Shah challenged this very strategy of the Congress through a series of well-calibrated political attacks. His message was clear: in a democracy, electoral defeats must be answered through work and arguments before the people, not through allegations.

Amit Shah took a pointed dig at the Congress's declining political fortunes under Rahul Gandhi, highlighting its consistent electoral setbacks, laying out the party's record of successive electoral defeats as though turning the pages of an old book.

In 2007, when Rahul Gandhi became the General Secretary of the Congress, the party had approximately 1,200 MLAs. By the time he became Vice President, this number had fallen to 900; when he became party president, it had declined to 700; and by 2022, during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, it had further dropped to around 600. These figures raise serious questions about the party's leadership and political direction. While Rahul Gandhi continued to rise within the party, the Congress's mass support and political influence continued to shrink. Electoral outcomes in Haryana, Maharashtra, Delhi and several other states are being viewed as part of this continuing political decline.

Shah also reminded the Congress of the dignity of Parliament. The highest democratic institution is meant for debate, not demonstrations of strength through crowds. He questioned the Congress's political approach of accepting the people's mandate when it wins elections but targeting EVMs and the Election Commission whenever it loses. Disrupting Parliament, boycotting proceedings and then attempting to create disorder on the streets are practices contrary to democratic traditions.

The challenge issued by senior BJP leader Amit Shah was equally striking: "Rahul Gandhi can name any crossroads; even the BJP Yuva Morcha president is enough to debate him." If the issues are serious, let Rahul Gandhi come to Parliament and engage in a discussion. The BJP is ready to debate every issue. BJP workers in Haryana will reach out to households and explain the truth: cleaning up electoral rolls strengthens democracy; it does not take away anyone's rights. BJP workers will counter Rahul Gandhi's propaganda, from farms and fields to the streets, because they have emerged from among the people and know how to respond democratically on every platform.

Senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah also dismantled the allegations being levelled against the Election Commission and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. In 2014, 2019, 2024, and in the Haryana and Maharashtra elections, no SIR had taken place, yet the Congress continued to lose. Shah's message was unequivocal: under the Modi government, the resolve to Detect, Delete and Deport remains firm. In this context, the Congress's rallies increasingly appear to be aimed not at protecting voters' rights but at shielding infiltrators.

The broader message of the Karnal rally went beyond criticism of the Congress and Rahul Gandhi. It also showcased the BJP's political strategy of presenting organisational strength, the government's achievements and responses to opposition allegations before the public simultaneously.

The people of the country will now decide whether discussions on laws and public welfare should take place on the streets or in Parliament. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah, the visionary 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy' march is deepening democracy's roots. At the same time, attempts to create disorder are being decisively defeated.

Oil companies reject Karnataka's 31% ethanol-in-petrol claim, question testing procedure



Bengaluru, Nov 7: Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have rejected the Karnataka government's claim that petrol sold at certain retail outlets in the state contains up to 31.2% ethanol, questioning the sampling and testing procedures adopted by the state government.

In a joint statement issued on Friday, November 6, the three companies maintained that the E20 petrol supplied by them across the country, including Karnataka, conforms to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications under IS 17021 for ethanol-blended motor gasoline. They said the allegations were not supported by tests conducted in accordance with prescribed statutory and technical procedures.

The clarification came after Karnataka's Department of Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Legal Metrology claimed that petrol sold at certain fuel stations in the state contained between 26 and 31.2% ethanol, exceeding the prescribed E20 limit of 20%. State Food and Civil Supplies minister Rizwan Arshad had said that the findings were based on petrol samples collected from Bengaluru, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Mangaluru and Tumakuru.

The highest ethanol concentration of 31.2% was reportedly found in a sample collected from an IOCL outlet. An HPCL Power petrol sample recorded 30.5%, while another HPCL sample had 27% and a BPCL Speed sample recorded 26.5%.According to the state government's findings, 11 of the 14 samples tested contained ethanol above the prescribed 20% level. The samples were tested at the Shriram Research Institute in Bengaluru using gas chromatography. The state government had also raised concerns after the initial tests conducted by the oil companies' laboratories did not disclose the ethanol content.

Oil companies question sampling procedure

Rejecting the findings, the three oil companies raised objections to the sampling procedure followed during Karnataka's October 2026 inspection exercise. They said the samples were reportedly collected without the participation of representatives of the oil marketing companies. The companies pointed out that the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, read with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) 2024, prescribes a specific procedure for collecting, retaining and testing fuel samples.

Under the prescribed procedure, six one-litre samples must be collected. Two samples are to be handed over to the dealer against acknowledgement, two retained by the oil company or the concerned department, and the remaining two sent to a laboratory specified under the Control Order or notified in the official gazette. The sample labels must be jointly signed, and test results must be communicated to the dealer and the oil company within the prescribed timeframe.

The companies said samples collected during Karnataka's September 2026 exercise were routed through the State Level Coordinator to designated oil company laboratories and tested according to the prescribed quality parameters. However, they alleged that the October exercise was conducted without the participation of their representatives.

They further stated that they had not received the corresponding retained samples, complete outlet-wise details or laboratory reports despite seeking the information through the State Level Coordinator.

According to the companies, the findings relied on certificates issued by a third-party laboratory rather than testing conducted at a laboratory specified under the Control Order. They also said the certificates did not contain complete technical details, including the prescribed testing methodology, necessary to independently verify the reported ethanol content.

Oil companies cite 893 samples

To counter the Karnataka government's findings, the three companies cited a nationwide fuel quality monitoring exercise conducted by the Oil Marketing Companies-Centre for High Technology Quality Coordination Cell.

According to their statement, 893 E20 petrol samples collected from depots and retail outlets across 27 states and Union Territories were tested. All the samples reportedly contained ethanol within the prescribed range of 19 to 21% under IS 17021.

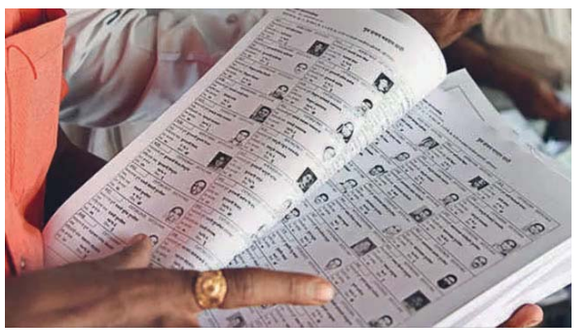
Of these, 56 samples were collected from Karnataka. The companies said these samples recorded ethanol levels between 19 and 20%, with an average of 19.30%.

The nationwide exercise included 330 samples from IOCL, 280 from BPCL and 283 from HPCL. The testing was conducted at refinery and oil company quality-control laboratories using the water extraction method prescribed under IS 17021. Dispute over density readings and consumer lossesThe oil companies also questioned the density readings mentioned in the Karnataka laboratory reports. They said the reported density values ranged from 0.742 to 0.749 grams per cubic centimetre, whereas their own E20 samples recorded density values between 0.752 and 0.760 grams per cubic centimetre.They argued that the difference warranted further examination, as ethanol has a higher density than petrol and a higher proportion of ethanol would ordinarily be expected to increase the density of the fuel blend.

The companies also disputed the Karnataka government's estimates of an annual consumer burden of around Rs 1.01 lac crore, comprising approximately Rs 62,000 crore in losses due to reduced fuel efficiency and Rs 39,000 crore in vehicle repair expenses.

They said the mileage-loss estimate appeared to be based on a blanket assumption of a 10% reduction across the entire vehicle population, which was not supported by technical studies. Citing the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, they said vehicles calibrated for E20 could experience mileage reductions of around one to two per cent, while certain other vehicles could see reductions of three to six per cent, depending on the vehicle category and calibration.The companies further stated that more than 30 crore two-wheelers and four crore four-wheelers had been using E20 fuel for over three years and that there had been no reported widespread incidence of vehicle breakdowns attributable to E20 fuel quality.

EC reopens voter enrolment for wrongly deleted names in seven states; Bengal left out



New Delhi: Nov 7: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has restarted the enumeration process for voters whose names were wrongly deleted from electoral rolls under the categories of Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate (ASDD), following an oral suggestion from the Supreme Court. However, the fresh opportunity will benefit voters in seven states where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is still underway, leaving West Bengal out of the exercise. The Election Commission has communicated the decision to the Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana and Nagaland, directing them to provide fresh enumeration forms to voters who were incorrectly classified as ASDD. The move follows an oral observation by the Supreme Court on Wednesday, suggesting that the poll panel accept enumeration forms from voters who were wrongly excluded from the electoral rolls.

According to the Commission's communication, the initiative is intended to provide affected voters with one more opportunity to have their names included in the final electoral rolls. District Electoral Officers (DEOs) and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) have been instructed to make every possible effort to contact such voters through Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and ensure that enumeration forms reach them either physically or electronically.

Affected voters can also download and fill in their enumeration forms through the Election Commission's website or the ECINET application by entering the same Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number that existed before their names were deleted.However, applicants will have to submit the forms along with Annexure-B, explaining why they could not submit their enumeration forms during the earlier exercise. The Commission has not specified a deadline for the second round of enumeration, stating that the exercise would continue during the ongoing claims and objections period.An elector who has already submitted Form 6 for fresh enrolment during the SIR need not submit the enumeration form again, the Commission clarified.

M'luru: Rs 5-crore IVF centre planned at Lady Goschen; Moodbidri Hospital to get Rs 35-crore upgrade

Mangaluru, Nov 7: Health and Family Welfare minister U T Khader has announced plans to establish a government-run In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) centre at Lady Goschen Hospital in Mangaluru at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore. He also announced a Rs 35-crore project to upgrade the Moodbidri Community Health Centre into a fully fledged taluk hospital.

Addressing a press conference at the Circuit House in Mangaluru, Khader said the proposed IVF centre was aimed at making fertility treatment accessible and affordable, particularly for women from economically weaker sections who cannot afford the prohibitively high cost of treatment at private hospitals.

He pointed out that infertility often subjects women to emotional distress, social pressure and difficulties within families. Although the government had fixed a rate of Rs 60,000 under an existing scheme to facilitate IVF treatment at private hospitals, many hospitals had not come forward to participate, as the actual cost of treatment at private facilities ranged between Rs 2 lac and Rs 5 lac."Many women face humiliation and emotional suffering because they are unable to conceive. While financially well-off families can afford IVF treatment at private hospitals, others are unable to bear the expenses. Therefore, we have decided to establish IVF centres in government hospitals with the support of qualified specialists," he said. The minister said the government was also considering introducing IVF facilities at selected major centres, including Mangaluru, Bengaluru, Hubballi and Kalaburagi. A team of doctors has been constituted to assess the infrastructure, technical requirements, training needs and staffing arrangements necessary to implement the initiative. The project is expected to be rolled out in phases, with a pilot programme planned at selected government hospitals.

Konkani singing marathon completes 100 hours, Guinness World Record attempt advances



Mangaluru, Nov 7: The Konkani singing marathon, organised as part of the 12-day, 12-hour and 12-minute World Konkani Music Mega Convention by Mandd Sobhann in memory of late Eric Ozario, has successfully completed 100 hours and is progressing towards a Guinness World Record.The unique attempt, titled 'Konkani Nirantari Sansar', featuring Konkani mother-tongue speakers, reached the 100-hour milestone at the Town Hall in Mangaluru.To mark the achievement, Konkani activists celebrated by bursting firecrackers at 10 am as the programme crossed the 100-hour mark, expressing their joy and enthusiasm over the milestone. The continuous singing programme is moving ahead towards achieving a place in the Guinness World Records.

Mangaluru: Gas cylinder-laden truck overturns at Kannur, highway traffic disrupted



Mangaluru, Nov 7: A truck carrying gas cylinders overturned near Kannur on National Highway 73 on Friday night, November 6, disrupting traffic on the highway.

The incident occurred near a mosque at Kannur when the driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to overturn on the road. As a result, traffic movement on the highway was disrupted, with vehicles queuing up in long lines.

Fire and emergency services personnel rushed to the spot and took precautionary measures to prevent any untoward incident. The truck was proceeding from Mangaluru towards Bengaluru. Traffic police have taken steps to divert vehicles through alternative roads to ease congestion on the highway.

Women Congress workers protest against C.T. Ravi's remarks



Bengaluru : Women Congress leaders and workers staged a protest in front of Keshava Krupa, the RSS headquarters in Chamarajpet, on Saturday, condemning the remarks made by BJP MLC C.T. Ravi against the Congress party and its leaders.

The protesters described Ravi's comments as derogatory and unacceptable, stating that political differences should be addressed through constructive criticism rather than personal attacks or the use of offensive language.

They said public representatives must exercise restraint and uphold the dignity and responsibility associated with public office. The protesters demanded that Ravi withdraw his controversial remarks and issue a public apology.

AXIS BANK

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EDITORIAL

Avoid the darkness of superstition, light the lamp of awareness

The news of alleged tantric activities in cremation grounds is a warning for the society, but not fear and rumours, but prudence and scientific thinking is our biggest protective shield.

Diwali is a festival of light, joy, and positivity. This festival teaches us to move from darkness to light, from despair to hope, and from ignorance to knowledge. Ironically, on this very day, when we welcome happiness by lighting lamps in every home, some people attempt to spread the darkness of superstition, fear, and confusion in society. Amid reports of alleged tantric activities and the discovery of suspicious objects in cremation grounds and deserted places in Haryana villages, villagers are being urged to remain vigilant. While caution is necessary in such circumstances, it is even more important to maintain discretion and not fall prey to any form of superstition. Cremation grounds are a part of any village's social system. They are public spaces associated with serious and sensitive functions like funerals. Unfortunately, some people manipulate people's emotions by associating these very places with stories of mystery, fear, and the occult. Sometimes, various rumors are spread about lemons, chilies, vermillion, ashes, dolls, objects resembling bones, or other suspicious items. Seeing these objects, some people immediately conclude something is amiss, witchcraft, or so-called tantric rituals. However, the reality is that the mere presence of an object there does not confirm any supernatural power or occult practices. Society must understand that scaring people in the name of tantra-mantra, exploiting their financial constraints and mental distress, and extorting money in the name of miracles is a form of exploitation. Often, people struggling with illness, family disputes, financial crisis, child-related concerns, and personal problems fall into the trap of such so-called babas and tantriks. They are told that someone has cast a spell on their family, that there is a negative energy in the house, or that the crisis will not go away without a special puja. Frightened families spend their hard-earned money on such people. As a result, the problem is not resolved, but rather, financial and mental distress increases.

Science has achieved seemingly impossible feats in nearly every aspect of life. Medical science is curing diseases, agricultural science is increasing farmers' productivity, and technology has brought the world closer together. At such a time, seeking solutions to any problem in witchcraft, sorcery, or so-called miracles is not a prudent approach. Illnesses should be treated by a doctor, legal problems should be resolved by the law, and family problems should be resolved through dialogue and understanding. Attributing any problem to invisible forces is like running away from the problem.

However, the vigilance of villagers cannot be underestimated. If suspicious objects or activities are observed in a village cremation ground, field, deserted path, or public place, the police administration should be informed immediately. Villagers should not attempt to touch, remove, or investigate any object themselves. Photographs or information about suspicious activities can be given to the police from a safe distance. It is not appropriate to accuse someone without proof, gather a crowd, or take the law into one's own hands. Sometimes, a small rumor can escalate into a major incident.

IS RAMAYANA AN EPIC FOR OUR CONFLICTED TIMES?

KAVEREE BAMZAI



Mary Beard, one of the greatest classicists of our times, says ancient epics should be viewed not as dusty museum relics, but as vital, provocative, and deeply human texts that challenge how we think today. It is as true of The Odyssey, directed by Christopher Nolan, to which she referred, as it is to Namit Malhotra and Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana. Here's why. Like it or love it, Ramayana: Part 1 is a 21st century interpretation, which acknowledges Ravana's immense power to do good for his community, the Asuras, as it does Ram's duty and responsibility as Maryada Purshottaman. At a time when heroes are scarce in society and evil is rampant, it is no surprise that Ramayana begins with an examination of what drives Ravana to become king of all three realms. In a telling scene early on in the film. Ravana's mother Kaikasi mocks him for playing the veena as a young man even as his community is struggling to survive. Ramayana's Ravana is a conflicted man, torn between rage for how his community has been treated through the ages and for the choice he has to make between art and war. Nowhere is it shown in as stark terms as when his 10 heads engage with each other, one suggesting peace, another war, yet another asceticism. It is one of the most innovative sequences in the film and embodies the contradictions in all of us, especially in modern times, where we all live schizophrenic lives. Ravana embodies this in him, while Ram has a more unilinear arc. He is the good son, playful brother, loving husband. He is the avatar of Vishnu who will save the world from the asuras. As he leaves, and his fellow Ayodhyavasis weep, he assures them that it is his dharma to fulfil his father's wish, as it is theirs to follow their new king. Yet Ravana is shown to be as dutiful to his mother, thanks to whom he chooses war, as to his sister thanks to whom he chooses another war. When his brother-in-law dishonours a servant, he despatches him to his death, fake moustache and all. And when he kidnaps Sita, after duly passing her test of reciting from the Rig Veda, it is not lust that drives him but vengeance. It is a pity that Sita, who is given enough agency to speak to the people of Ayodhya as she leaves with Ram, and a nice swagger with a sword in fighting with asuras, suddenly loses all sense of independence, something that would definitely surprise writers such as Chitra Banerjee Divakurni and Amish Tripathi who have reimagined her as a powerful princess of Mithila. If The Odyssey about a man finding his way home after 20 years, fighting monsters and temptresses, can be reinterpreted as a modern tale of refugees finding their way to new homes in hostile environments, Ramayana, imperfect as it may be, can be seen as a fight between the powerless and the empowered, between good and less good, between inherited authority and acquired power. After all, much as many would like to deny it, there is not one Ramayana, but many. Divakurni, who wrote Ramayana from Sita's point of view in the 2019 novel The Forest of Enchantments, says: "Multiplicity has been a key value in Indian culture down the ages." She believes that epics should be respectfully and thoughtfully re-examined in every age to allow people of different times to relate to them and learn from them. India has a long history of this already, she notes. She cites the Kambaramayanam in the South, Sarala Mahabharat from Odisha, Kashiram Das and Krittibaas in Bengali. "Even the famous Ramcharitmanas is a retelling that focuses on things different from Valmiki. There were also many plays down the ages that emphasised different aspects of the epics. But it is important to re-examine the original intelligently and without sensationalism or commercialism," she adds. In each version, there is something to be celebrated, and something to be thought about. Prof Vamsee Juluri of the University of San Francisco believes one is perfectly free to "interpet" Valmiki or Vyasa as they want. But then, audiences are equally within their "rights" (in a constitutional sense) to mock, criticise, debate, or praise the representations a particular filmmaker chooses to go with. The question, he believes, is less about "rights" than "responsibility," and the sense of responsibility that comes from within one's self towards art, literature, cinema, the public, and of course, in the case of movies about Rama, Krishna, and also about tradition. "How does one decide what acts are creative, innovative, and welcome reflections on new or contemporary concerns, while also respectful of traditional representations," he asks. He classifies the various phases in film as follows: the silent era (1913-1920s); the early talkies (1930s-1940s); the golden age (in the south); the Doordarshan serial (1980s); the satellite TV/cartoon era (1990s) including the absolutely beautiful Indo-Japanese Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama, 1993; and the more recent history/politics coded epics such as Mani Ratnam's Raavan, 2010, and Rohit Shetty's Singham Again, 2024, and CGI-heavy interpretation, Om Raut's Adipurush, 2023. "What started to change in a big way since the 1970s was the slow reversal of good and bad in the main characterisation, often inventing modern state-propaganda-concocted myths and projecting them into the stories (this was said about NTR's multirole 1977 epic Dana Veera Sura Karna)....The core question is therefore, is it still the "Ramayana" or even "Ram" we are watching depicted if the "interpretation" goes into a complete reversal of even core principles and sensibilities around the characters?" he says. None of this is to say that there is only one way to tell the story, he argues.

How to celebrate the light of Diwali in the darkness of pollution?

In the name of faith, tradition, and celebration, can we compromise the breathing of future generations? Delhi is not only the capital of the country, but also a major hub of political, administrative, economic, and cultural activities. People from all corners of the country come here to fulfill their dreams. Delhi-NCR is a region where everyone seeks a better future, employment, and life prospects. But ironically, the air in the city that people want to make their dream home is now becoming a threat to their lives. The impact of pollution is such that even breathing under the open sky has become a challenge. It's natural to ask: how can we celebrate Diwali in this suffocating environment of pollution?

Diwali is a festival of Indian culture and tradition with centuries-old religious, spiritual, and social significance. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, truth over falsehood, and good over evil. It is believed that when Lord Shri Ram returned to Ayodhya with Mother Sita and Lakshman after completing fourteen years of exile, the people of Ayodhya, including the entire undivided India, celebrated their return by lighting lamps in every home. Since then, Diwali has been celebrated as a symbol of light and joy. On this day, Goddess Lakshmi is worshipped and prayers are offered for happiness, prosperity, and well-being. However, over time, the ways of celebrating Diwali have changed significantly. Earthen lamps, home decorations, family gatherings, and traditional sweets have gradually been replaced by show-offs and fireworks. In the race to fill the sky with colorful lights, we forget that our few hours of entertainment can be a life-threatening situation for someone else. Thousands of firecrackers are released, releasing toxic particles, smoke, and harmful gases into the atmosphere. This impact isn't limited to Diwali night alone, but it also exacerbates already polluted air.

The situation in Delhi-NCR is of particular concern in this regard. Air pollution is already a burden due to numerous factors, including vehicle exhaust, industrial emissions, construction dust, garbage burning, and stubble burning in surrounding areas. Fireworks further exacerbate this crisis. Children, the elderly, pregnant women, and those with respiratory problems suffer the most. Many innocent children are forced to breathe air that threatens their healthy childhood and a bright future. Pollution isn't just limited to eye irritation, coughing, or shortness of breath; long-term exposure also increases the risk of serious heart and lung diseases.

The irony is that while we pray to Goddess Lakshmi for happiness, prosperity, and well-being in our homes, our own actions pollute life's most precious asset: clean air. Is it appropriate to celebrate Diwali, which aims to bring light and positivity, amidst smoke and toxic air? Can a few minutes of fireworks truly outweigh the suffering of those who are forced to seek hospital care due to pollution?

It's also important to understand that the appeal to abstain from bursting firecrackers on Diwali isn't against any religious tradition or belief. Indian culture has always preached the message of venerating and protecting nature. Our festivals and celebrations also inspire us to live in harmony with nature. Therefore, protecting the environment should be part of our religious and social responsibility. Lord Shri Ram's ideals include dignity, compassion, sacrifice, and public welfare. If we endanger someone else's life on a festival celebrated to mark his arrival, we must consider the true purpose of our festive traditions.

The government and the courts have periodically taken steps to control pollution. Guidelines are also issued regarding the sale, use, and noise pollution of firecrackers. However, government orders alone are not the only solution to this problem. Unless citizens understand their own responsibilities, the fight against pollution will remain incomplete. It is also crucial that compliance with regulations not remain limited to paperwork. The administration must effectively monitor the sale of illegal firecrackers and the use of banned fireworks. Awareness must also be raised about environmentally friendly alternatives.

Fireworks aren't essential to celebrating Diwali. We can make this festival memorable by lighting earthen lamps, decorating our homes, helping needy families, distributing sweets to children, and spending time with family. Purchasing earthen lamps from local potters will not only keep our tradition alive but also support their employment. Organizing a community festival of lights and taking a pledge to protect the environment can make this festival even more meaningful.

Most importantly, we must think about our future generations. Do we want to give our children an environment where, instead of clean air, they find a blanket of pollution the day after Diwali? Do we want the number of patients in hospitals to increase after the joy of the festival? If not, then we must start the change ourselves.

Diwali is a festival dedicated to dispelling darkness and spreading light. Today, we need to illuminate not only our homes but also our thoughts. We should rise above the noise and smoke of fireworks and prioritize life, health, and nature. After all, a festival is only meaningful when its joys are shared by everyone.

This Diwali, let's resolve to light lamps in our homes and courtyards, but not to let smoke fill anyone's breath. Because the true Diwali is one that brings light, prosperity, and clean air to everyone.

The author is a senior journalist, thinker and political thinker.

Is Trump Going To Double Down On His Strikes On Iran? The Signs Are There

Rajeev Agarwal

The pendulum in the war in Iran has been swinging wildly over the past few weeks. On one end, there are reports of positive momentum in negotiations between Iran and the US, mediated largely through Qatar, while, on the other, reports of a massive US military buildup in the region, including threats of using highly destructive ordnance in Iran, have led to fears of yet another escalation, one that may result in steps being taken by either of the warring parties that could leave deep scars on the region for years to come. Another significant set of developments has taken place in the past week: elections in Israel and the US and their implications for the war. In both elections, the main protagonists in initiating the war in Iran on February 28, Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump, have faced embarrassing defeats and are either on their way out or have been reduced to lame-duck leaders. The reason for their defeats in both elections, which the two leaders have grudgingly accepted, is the war in Iran. Among the most trending reactions to these results is the phrase 'regime change'. When the war was launched in Iran, regime change in Iran was one of the desired and declared goals. Despite the targeted assassination of its Supreme Leader, Iran's regime has not only held on but is now under a more hardened and aggressive leadership. On the other hand, the governments (regimes) in the US and Israel are witnessing a huge turnaround, facing a severe backlash at home over an unnecessary war that is having global consequences and a severe impact on the daily lives of people. The Peace Negotiations The talks on ending the war have been moving along multiple and often overlapping tracks over the past few weeks, all aimed at de-escalating and ending the war.The visit by the Mecca Pact countries to Iran on October 26 is particularly interesting, as it is widely understood that the defence pact is aimed primarily against Iran. During the visit, Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman Al Saud, Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir and Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin met Mohsen Rezaei, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. The statement issued at the end of the visit said that the four states "agreed to continue the dialogue to strengthen cooperation amongst the four regional countries, including for peace and security in the region". Pakistan reportedly presented a peace proposal on behalf of the US, which 'could safeguard the interests of both Iran and the US', too. However, the most significant track is perhaps the one that is progressing under Qatar. A letter from US Vice President JD Vance is also important, as it was intended to explore whether a new diplomatic process could be initiated to prevent another round of military escalation. Delivered through Qatar, what was interesting was that this letter was addressed to Mohsen Rezaei and not to the Iranian political leadership. Though it did not make much headway, Iran welcomed the tone of the communication, describing it as more respectful than previous exchanges. Qatar's own 'seven-day proposal', presented to Iran on October 30, proposed a day-wise and stepwise de-escalation as a confidence-building measure, ultimately leading to the termination of the war and the opening of the Strait of Hormuz. Some of the regional countries would act as guarantors to ensure compliance. Iran's own 'two-day plan' was offered on November 2 by its Foreign Minister, Araghchi, under which the US would have to take a series of measures to ease sanctions and the naval blockade on the first day. In return, Iran would open the Strait of Hormuz on the second day, and traffic would return to what it was before the conflict. According to Araghchi, the US must meet the relevant conditions, all of which were mentioned in the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of June 2026. These include releasing all frozen Iranian funds, ending regional wars, including in Lebanon, lifting the naval blockade, restoring sanctions waivers for Iranian oil exports, and lifting new sanctions imposed by the US after the Islamabad MoU. On the same day, Iran publicly announced its 'seven conditions' for ending the war. These conditions are: 1. End all military hostilities across all fronts and regions, including Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and Gaza. 2. Lift the US naval blockade of Iranian ports and maritime restrictions. 3. Release frozen Iranian assets held in foreign banks. 4. Remove economic and political sanctions against Iran. 5. Withdraw or reduce the US military presence and forces in the region. 6. Compensation and reparations for war-related damages. 7. An end to US threats, attacks and hostile rhetoric against Iranian territory and the regime. The US has neither rejected nor commented on the plan, as it went to the midterm polls on November 3, the results of which have put the talks on the back burner, at least for the time being. The Possibility of Escalation The possibility of escalation, too, has been rising over the past few weeks. There were reports of the US War Secretary making a pit stop in Israel to meet Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to discuss the possibility of recommencing strikes just before the Israeli elections on October 27. However, reports of the Israeli Defence Forces Chief refusing to comply with Netanyahu's order, citing no immediate or grave danger to national security, perhaps put an end to that attempt. In fact, Israeli aircraft flew near Iranian airspace in the days preceding the elections and even entered Iranian airspace to provoke a reaction, but Iran did not oblige. President Trump, too, has been making consistent threats of escalation. From using the GBU-43 (Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb, popularly called the Mother of All Bombs) on Pickaxe Mountain, he has indicated that active kinetic options are still on the table, adding that there were still one or two sites in Iran to be taken out.

US Offers $20 Million Reward For Information On Iran's Nuclear Programme



The US Central Command on Saturday announced that it is offering a reward of $20 million along with a "possible relocation" to anyone who can provide it information regarding Iran's nuclear programme. This includes details on its facilities, equipment and associated personnel (including those from the scientific community) as well as information on the movement of the same "The regime's lack of compliance with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) on safeguards obligations has led to the agency's loss of "continuity of knowledge" regarding Iran's production and inventory of key components like centrifuges," the US government's official website said. It cited an IAEA report from 2025 that stated that Iran is enriching uranium to 60% purity. The website described this as "a level that is a short technical step from the 90% required for a nuclear weapon." "Iran is the only non-nuclear-weapon state to produce uranium at such a high enrichment level. Experts estimate this quantity, if enriched further, could be enough for several nuclear weapons," the site added. This development comes after US President Donald Trump threatened to target Iran's suspected underground nuclear facility at Pickaxe Mountain as a potential target for further military action, saying that America has only one or two remaining sites to deal with to fulfil its aim of dismantling Tehran's nuclear capabilities. Speaking to reporters at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida on Nov. 1, Trump claimed that American military operations had significantly weakened Iran's military and nuclear infrastructure, adding that Washington was in no rush to launch further attacks. Located near Iran's Natanz nuclear complex, Pickaxe Mountain is a suspected underground facility that has attracted attention from Western intelligence agencies because of its heavily fortified tunnel network. The site is believed to have been designed to protect sensitive infrastructure and potentially store nuclear material. ALSO READ: Uranium Stockpile Transfer, Strait Of Hormuz Reopening: What Iran's Reported Draft Deal With US Proposes The locations targeted during previous US military strikes were Iran's established nuclear facilities at Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan. Pickaxe Mountain was not among them, as its underground construction and reinforced structures could make it difficult to damage through conventional aerial attacks. However, the facility's precise operational status and the presence of nuclear material remain unverified. Iran has consistently denied conducting nuclear activities at the site.

No Excess Ethanol Blending Found, All Tested Samples Within Limits, Says Indian Oil



Indian Oil Corp. (IOCL) denied the claims regarding ethanol blending aking place at some of their retail outlets in Karnataka, stating that their tests via prescribed procedures did not confirm the allegation, as per an 'X' post from the company on Saturday.

"All 893 samples tested across 27 States and UTs, including 56 from Karnataka, were found to be within the prescribed 19–21% ethanol range," the 'X' post said. Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corp. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum CorP. (HPCL) have undertaken joint, transparent testing with the State Government to establish the facts, as per the post. "IndianOil remains steadfast in its commitment to fuel quality, transparency and customer trust. We urge customers to rely on verified information from official sources," the post added. BPCL also issued a clarification regarding the same. The firm stated that claims of 26–31% ethanol at some Karnataka outlets were not based on prescribed testing.

"All 893 samples tested across 27 States & UTs, including 56 from Karnataka, were within the 19–21% range. Rely only on official sources," the firm said. Four in five petrol pumps surveyed in India's southern state of Karnataka were selling fuel blended with ethanol content above the permitted 20% limit, a minister in the opposition-ruled state government said on Friday.

The findings had raised fresh concerns about fuel quality as India expands the use of E20 fuel, a petrol blend consisting of 20% ethanol, as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to reduce crude imports, lower emissions and support domestic ethanol producers.

Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi called the matter "petrol theft" and urged Modi to disclose actual ethanol levels and act against companies that overblend.

The petroleum ministry questioned how the state government drew and tested its samples

It added that state-run fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC.NS), opens new tab, Bharat Petroleum (BPCL.NS), opens new tab and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL.NS), opens new tab had also disputed the findings and had sought independent testing of Karnataka's samples.The analysis

Against that, the stock is +1.2% on the day at

146.25, and has returned +2.5% over three months. It sits 22% below its 52-week high. The oil & energy sector has moved -2.2% over the same period, so Indian Oil is running 4.7 points ahead of its peers.

With Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum all implicated, this reads as a Oil & Energy-level move rather than a company-specific one, which is the more durable kind of signal.

MARKET CONTEXT

3 of the 3 companies named are in Oil & Energy, so the story reads across that sector rather than for one company. On the day, 3 of 3 are higher: Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) leads at +1.9% and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) trails at +0.9%.

Over three months: Indian Oil +2.5% against Oil & Energy -2.2% (4.7 points ahead); Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) -1.2% against Oil & Energy -2.2% (1.0 points ahead); Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) -2.0% against Oil & Energy -2.2% (0.2 points ahead).

TELANGANA FIXES RICE PRICES AT RS 66–79 PER KG



Hyderabad: The Telangana Civil Supplies Department carried out a week-long crackdown from October 29 on traders accused of creating artificial scarcity and manipulating prices, following a sharp rise in the prices of widely consumed rice varieties. The inspections found a range of irregularities aimed at cheating consumers, according to a press release issued on Friday, November 6. Officials said some traders were manipulating weights by affixing 26-kg labels to bags that held only 25 kg of rice. Others were found covering the manufacturer's printed rates with higher-priced stickers, hoarding Public Distribution System (PDS) rice, and operating without GST registration or FSSAI licences. Acting on the directions of Commissioner of Civil Supplies M Stephen Raveendra, the Enforcement Task Force and the Legal Metrology Department carried out joint searches. The department said it has fixed maximum retail prices for these varieties to protect consumers from market volatility. The retail prices are fixed at Rs 66 per kg for BPT/KNM varieties, Rs 74 per kg for the premium RNR/Telangana Sona varieties and Rs 79 per kg for HMT/JSR varieties. Millers and traders must print these maximum retail prices prominently on all 26-kg packaged bags, the release said, to ensure transparency. Task Force teams conducted 1,141 surprise inspections at rice mills, wholesale dealers and retail outlets, resulting in 55 cases against violators, including 35 criminal cases. Legal Metrology officials carried out 1,545 inspections across the state and booked 280 cases against traders accused of cheating customers. The department said it is also preparing to invoke the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against people repeatedly found hoarding PDS rice or manipulating prices. Habitual offenders face prosecution and possible jail terms under the Essential Commodities Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the release added.

EMIL REGISTERS PAT AT RS. 161 CRORE UP BY 326%, REVENUE GREW BY 30% IN H1 FY27

November 2026: Electronics Mart India Limited (EMIL), one of India's largest electronics retailers, has reported a strong financial performance for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2026, driven by healthy consumer demand, improving profitability and disciplined operational execution. For H1 FY27, revenue from operations grew 30% year-on-year to ?4,319 crore, while EBITDA nearly doubled, rising 93% to ?369 crore. Profit After Tax (PAT) surged 326% to ?161 crore, reflecting sustained margin expansion and improved operating leverage. The company sustained its growth momentum in Q2 FY27, reporting revenue from operations of ?1,900 crore, an increase of 19% year-on-year. Gross profit grew 31% to ?293 crore, with gross profit margin improving 130 bps to 15.4%. EBITDA increased 61% to ?131 crore, with margins expanding 180 bps to 6.9%, while PAT rose 149% to ?40 crore. Despite the seasonally softer quarter for consumer durables, EMIL delivered a healthy same-store sales growth (SSSG) of 16.5%, indicating continued traction across its retail network. Profitability remained a key highlight during the first half, with gross profit increasing 49% to ?710 crore and gross profit margin expanding 210 bps to 16.4%. EBITDA margin improved by a significant 280 bps to 8.6%, while PAT margin expanded 260 bps to 3.7%. Growth was broad-based across the company's geographical clusters. The South Cluster reported 28% revenue growth in H1, with EBITDA margin expanding 320 bps to 9.3%. The North Cluster recorded 36% revenue growth, while EBITDA margin improved 240 bps to 3.4%, reflecting improving store maturity, scale and operating efficiencies. In Q2, the North Cluster delivered particularly strong momentum, with revenue growing 45% and EBITDA margin improving 430 bps year-on-year to 1.6%. EMIL's operating performance was further supported by strong like-for-like growth, improved working capital management and continued network expansion. H1 SSSG stood at 27.5%, while pre-Ind AS operating cash flow reached ?304 crore. Working capital efficiency improved significantly, with the working capital cycle reducing to 61 days from 77 days. The company continued to strengthen its retail footprint, taking its network to 229 stores across more than 100 cities, with six net store additions during the first half. Its product portfolio continued to benefit from demand across categories, with mobiles and large appliances contributing significantly to the overall business. The company is also progressing towards its next phase of geographical expansion, with West Bengal identified as its next growth cluster. Commenting on the Company's Performance, Mr. Karan Bajaj, CEO of EMIL, said "H1 FY27 has been a robust half for EMIL, with every key metric moving in the right direction. Revenue grew 30% to Rs. 4,319 crores, gross profit rose 49% with margins expanding 210 bps to 16.4%, EBITDA nearly doubled to Rs. 369 crores at an 8.6% margin, and PAT rose over 4x to Rs. 161 crores. Q2 is seasonally a softer quarter for consumer durables. Despite this, we delivered 19% revenue growth, SSSG of 16.5% and a 180 bps expansion in EBITDA margin to 6.9%, with growth broad-based across categories. Mobiles grew 31%, driven by new smartphone launches and continued traction in existing models, while air conditioners grew 53% even in the off-season. Premium and emerging categories such as built-in appliances, dishwashers, tablets and wearables also delivered strong double-digit growth, and our average ticket size rose 15%, reflecting our strength in premium categories. The South market remains a scaled, profitable engine for us, with revenue up 28% in H1 and EBITDA margin up 320 bps to 9.3%. The North cluster is on a similar path: revenue grew 36% in H1 and EBITDA margin rose to 3.4% from 1.0% as our stores mature and scale. More than half of our network is under four years old, so we expect margins to keep improving as a better product mix and operating leverage take effect. We are on track to enter West Bengal, our next growth cluster, and we are confident it will add to our growth. Our focus on working capital continues to pay off, with pre-Ind AS operating cash flow growing to Rs. 304 crores. With festive demand off to a strong start and a solid first half behind us, we remain firmly on track to deliver growth, while continuing to invest in the customer experience that has underpinned EMIL's growth for over four decades."

SCCL will partner with US companies in critical minerals sector



Hyderabad: A US delegation on Friday held discussions with SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Buddhaprakash Jyoti here, focusing on joint partnerships in the critical minerals sector, and other potential areas of cooperation. During the meeting, the delegation led by Meredith Metzler, Political and Economic Chief of the US Consulate General in Hyderabad, held discussions on potential areas of business cooperation and collaboration with SCCL, an official release said. The CMD said that state-owned Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), with its extensive experience in the mining sector, has ventured into the critical minerals sector and is already exploring joint ventures and technological collaborations with several countries. Responding positively, the US delegation highlighted the opportunities for collaboration with several American companies operating in the critical minerals sector. The delegation also expressed interest in the facilities available at SCCL's recently established Geo-Science Laboratory at Kothagudem and the potential for extracting Rare Earth Elements (REEs) from the overburden of open-cast mines, the release said. Buddhaprakash said that the company is seeking foreign investments and partnerships with technology and research institutions to strengthen its presence in the critical minerals sector. Members of the US Consulate informed that several American companies have similar interests and expressed their willingness to explore potential collaborations, the release said. SCCL officials informed that the company has proposed to establish Pumped Storage Power Plants at several locations by utilising its worked-out open-cast mines. These projects could provide a reliable and uninterrupted power supply to data centres, particularly during peak hours, they said. They further stated that these plants could be developed through suitable investments and partnerships. The CMD invited the US delegation to visit Singareni's mines and the Geo-Science Laboratory to gain first-hand insight into the company's operations and facilities.

Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings Files DRHP With SEBI To Raise Funds Via IPO



Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings (HCCH) files draft papers with market regulator with SEBI to raise funds via initial public offering (IPO). The proposed issue is entirely an offer for sale of up to 99.8 crore equity shares of face value Rs10 each by Hindustan Coca-Cola Overseas Holdings Pte, the promoter. The offer is being made via the book building process based on SEBI regulations, the company said in a press release on Saturday, November 7. The shares are proposed to be listed on BSE and NSE. The book running lead managers of the IPO are Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited, Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited, Axis Capital Limited, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited and IIFL Capital Services Limited. KFin Technologies Limited is the registrar to the offer. HCCH's retained units recorded revenue from operations of Rs 4,310.17 crore, marking a growth of 20.46% year-on-year, while total sales volume rose by 18.61% for the quarter ended on June 30. EBITDA margin, excluding other income and exceptional items surged to 17.20% from 13.76% in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Tirthank Pegu Creates History with Bronze Medal at 2026 Youth Olympic Games

Pankaj Nath

Assam , 7 November : Indian swimmer Tirthank Pegu scripted history by winning a bronze medal in the Men's 200m Butterfly event at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games, being held in Dakar, Senegal, Africa, from October 31 to November 13, 2026. Pegu clocked an impressive 2:01.25 to secure the bronze medal, creating a historic milestone for Indian swimming. His achievement marks India's first-ever male swimming medal at the Youth Olympic Games, bringing immense pride to the country and the Indian swimming fraternity. Congratulating the young swimmer on this remarkable achievement, Bhaskar Das, Secretary, Assam Swimming Association, along with Mukuteswar Goswami, Publicity Secretary, Assam Swimming Association, extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Bhaskar Ranjan Das stated that Tirthank Pegu's historic performance was a proud moment for Indian swimming and would inspire a new generation of young swimmers across the country to pursue excellence at the international level. The Assam Swimming Association congratulated Pegu on his outstanding achievement and wished him continued success in his future endeavours.



Ukraine's power network suffers further damage after fresh Russian strikes



Overnight drone and ballistic missile attacks damaged Ukrainian energy infrastructure, President Volodymyr Zelenskyhas said, causing blackouts and disrupting water supplies. Zelensky said 12 Ukrainian regions came under attack with the capital Kyiv hit hardest. Nine people are reported to have been hurt across the country, including one child, in the wave of attacks that consisted of more than 30 ballistic missiles and over 170 drones. The attacks come before Ukrainian and Russian delegations are due to take part in trilateral talks in Abu Dhabi next week. Zelensky wrote on Telegram that Moscow was preparing for the talks by launching attacks on Ukraine's "critical infrastructure". Temperatures are dropping in Ukraine, and parts of the country have had the first winter snow. "The situation in the capital is difficult, with disruptions to electricity, water, and heating supplies. Residential buildings, the North Bridge, and a kindergarten have been damaged," Zelensky said. "In the Kyiv region, there were strikes on substations that connect the Rivne and Khmelnytsky nuclear power plants to Kyiv and central Ukraine." In his latest update, Kyiv's Mayor Vitali Klitschko said the city's water supply system is back to operating normally. He also said around 60% of the city's apartment buildings were connected to the heating system. The energy minister, Denys Shmyhal, said there were power cuts in five regions but did not say how many homes were affected. Zelensky added that beyond Kyiv, substations were damaged in Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Rivne, Kharkiv and Dnipro regions. The latest attacks come after US First Lady Melania Trump hosted Russian and Ukrainian delegations at the White House on Thursday. She called for a "more enduring" ceasefire in Ukraine following a truce last week in the southern region of Kherson. Hundreds of residents of the Russian-occupied Ukrainian town of Oleshky facing starvation and constant bombardment were able to evacuate during a six-day ceasefire, which both Moscow and Kyiv credited Trump with brokering. "The lives of innocent people must transcend the division of war. I hope Oleshky inspires greater peace," she said. Earlier this week, a number of people were killed when glide bombs hit an aid centre near Zaporizhihia, with the death toll rising to 55 as teams search deeper into the ruins. Zelensky added in his Telegram post on Saturday following the latest attacks that Ukraine was counting on increased bilateral support from the United States. He wrote: "We are counting on unity between both parties on issues of security, support for Ukraine, condemnation of Russian aggression, and increased sanctions pressure on Putin. "The resolve and consistency of the United States in supporting Ukraine are of great importance in bringing peace closer." Meanwhile, Zelenksy's spokesperson would not be drawn on reports that the Ukrainian president is to be invited to the UK for a state visit next year. He later posted a video of himself at the bridge, which he said had suffered damage to its surface as well as the "trolleybus overhead line and power line." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later said on social media that Russia had launched 36 ballistic missiles and 172 drones in a "combined attack". The strikes caused power cuts in five regions: Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kyiv, Zhytomyr and Kharkiv. "Russia is preparing for the trilateral talks by launching ballistic missiles at Ukraine's critical infrastructure," he said. Negotiators from Russia, Ukraine and the US are set to meet on Tuesday in Abu Dhabi for talks aimed at ending the war. The new round of negotiations would be the fourth brokered by the Trump administration, the most recent having been in Geneva in February. Meanwhile, in southern Ukraine, a recovery operation continued into its sixth day in the village of Komyshuvakha, devastated on Monday when multiple Russian guided bombs slammed into a former school and nearby shelter as residents waited for humanitarian aid. Emergency services said they had recovered nine more bodies in the previous 24 hours, bringing the death toll early Saturday morning to 55. Dozens of people remain missing. Zelenskyy renews call for Patriot missiles Zelenskyy had warned on Friday night of further strikes against Ukraine's energy sector and civilian infrastructure as he renewed calls for deliveries of Patriot interceptor missiles. "Russia's tactics are aimed at destroying power grids, transformers and switchgear," he said in a video update shared on social media. "That is why even when we have enough generating capacity, some regions unfortunately still face shortages." The US State Department recently announced that Washington had green-lit a package of Patriot PAC-3 interceptors worth $2.1 billion for Kyiv, but Zelenskyy has said delivery could take years. The Ukrainian leader has repeatedly stressed the importance of the missiles for Ukraine's air defences and has been urging allies to speed up deliveries ahead of winter.

NEW ZEALAND PM SAYS ELECTION 'TOO CLOSE TO CALL' AS ALMOST ALL VOTES COUNTED



The overhang is created when, for example, a party wins four electorate seats, but its proportion of the party vote would only win it two. The two extra seats are the "overhang" and the size of New Zealand's 120-seat parliament expands by two to fit them in and not disadvantage the other parties. The last election in 2023 produced the country's largest ever parliament of 123 MPs. Te Pati Maori or the Maori Party, won six electorate seats but only 3% of the party vote which only entitled it to four seats proportionally and created an "overhang" situation; two extra seats were added to parliament to accommodate the extra Maori Party MPs. Another overhang seat was created when a candidate died before the election and, due to the rules around the deaths of candidates, a special by-election was held at a later date. The overhang rules mean coalition negotiations can be affected: where a government would need 61 seats to gain a majority in a 120-seat parliament, it would need more in a parliament of 122 or more. New Zealand doesn't have the most straightforward voting system. It uses "mixed member proportional" or MMP, under which each voter gets two votes - a party vote and an electorate vote. With their electorate vote, New Zealanders choose a particular candidate in their electorate; whoever wins the most votes wins and becomes the MP for that area. With the party vote, New Zealanders help decide how many MPs each party gets in parliament - the more votes, the more seats - proportionally. MPs are taken from lists provided by the parties. Parties must win at least 5% of the party vote or win an electorate seat to get into parliament. That might not sound too complicated - but we haven't talked about the "overhang" yet. Or the Maori roll, both of which we'll get into in our later posts. Polling places opened at 09:00 local time and closed at 19:00 (Friday 20:00 GMT to Saturday 06:00 GMT). Once the polls closed, preliminary results were released progressively on New Zealand's official election results website throughout the day - though these results are not final. After counting and verification, the official results will be declared by the Electoral Commission on 27 November. There are clear no winners tonight, as the National Party and Labour Party are essentially neck and neck. That means the major parties will start negotiations and can form either a coalition or confidence-and-supply agreements with minor parties. A little earlier, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon addressed supporters at his election party in Auckland, where many MPs and ministers have been seen awaiting election results. Here are some other faces that have been spotted: Saturday may have been the day most New Zealanders headed to the ballot box, but polls actually opened on 26 October. Several party leaders, including PM Luxon and Labour Party leader Chris Hipkins, had already cast their votes. The number of people who cast an early vote this year tipped over the 1 million mark on Monday, tracking about 16% ahead of the same period during the 2023 campaign.

POPE IN 'PRETTY GOOD HEALTH' AS HE STARTS LATIN AMERICA TOUR



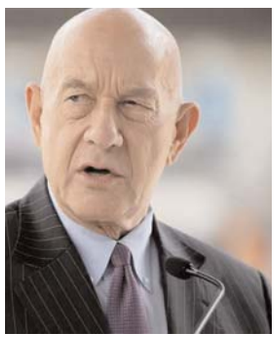
Pope Leo XIV has told reporters travelling with him to Latin America he is "in pretty good health", in his first comments on his condition since having surgery for lung cancer. The Pope has arrived in Uruguay, the first stop of a 12-day tour which he is undertaking only three weeks after his operation. The pontiff, 71, also said he was "very happy" to be able to make the trip which was thrown into doubt last month when doctors discovered a tumour during a routine scan. The tour will cover Argentina and a much anticipated return to Peru, which the Vatican described as a "homecoming" as the Pope was based there for many years as a missionary, then a bishop. "I must confess that, from the very first day, I never had any doubts; I was convinced that this journey had to go forward," the Pope told journalists on his plane to Uruguay. "Thanks to the marvellous medical staff... I believe I am in quite good health," Pope Leo confirmed. Last month's operation to remove a tumour was successful and his doctors say the cancer has not spread. On Friday, he arrived in Monetevideo to a seafront lined with crowds shouting his name as his Popemobile passed. In his first speech of the trip, the Pope said universal healthcare should be "accessible to everyone".

WITH STEPHEN MILLER PICK, TRUMP READIES FOR A BATTLE



In the aftermath of the Republican Party's sweeping defeat in Tuesday's midterm elections, Donald Trump said he would be willing to work with the newly ascendent Democrats in Congress. On Friday, however, he elevated Stephen Miller, his bare-knuckled political operative and longtime adviser, to replace Susie Wiles as White House chief of staff. Far from an olive branch to Congress, Miller's promotion could be a sign that the president is girding for political battle by installing a partisan firebrand in the top White House job. "The mission now is more clear than ever: Fight with all of our soul to support our president and defend this magnificent republic," Miller posted on X, adding that he was "honored beyond words" to be Trump's pick for the job. One of the most powerful positions in Washington, the chief of staff is gatekeeper to the president, agenda-setter in the White House and chief negotiator with Congress and other outside political interests. "Stephen Miller's been with me since the beginning," Trump said in comments to reporters after announcing the move on his Truth Social website. "He gets it." Miller is best known for being the driving force behind the Trump administration's aggressive immigration enforcement policies, which has included ramping up funding for enforcement operations across the US. He made headlines when he called Alex Pretti, who was shot and killed by federal immigration officials during a massive deportation operation in Minneapolis, a "domestic terrorist" and an "assassin". He would later walk back those words, saying federal agents "may not have been following" proper protocol. He has also reportedly played a leading role in the US military operations in Venezuela and against suspected drug trafficking operations in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific, which critics have condemned as extra-judicial killings. Miller joined Trump's political operation early in his 2016 presidential bid as a strategist and incendiary warm-up speaker at his raucous campaign rallies. He was one of the few senior White House staffers to persevere through the entirety of his first term. He stayed loyal to Trump during his political exile following attempts to overturn his ballot-box defeat in 2020 failed. He then returned in the influential role of deputy chief of staff for policy in Trump's second term. Wiles, who co-managed the president's successful 2024 re-election campaign, developed a reputation as a cool professional who avoided the White House staffing upheavals, dramatic policy reversals and personality clashes that typified Trump's first presidential term.

TEXAS MAYOR INSTRUCTS POLICE TO LIMIT CO-OPERATION WITH ICE



The mayor of Houston, Texas, has directed the city's police to limit co-operation with federal immigration officials. The move by John Whitmire, a Democrat, comes on the heels of stunning victories by the party in Texas during this week's midterm elections. It breaks with policy set by Republican Governor Greg Abbott, who lost his re-election bid. "I do this to begin a healing process," Whitmire said on Friday, and to "reduce fear and anxiety across our community". He added: "I also do this knowing that elections matter." There has been months of public outcry in Houston after an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer fatally shot a man who was driving to work. Houston police chief Noe Diaz said on Friday that officers will now only contact ICE if someone they arrest for a jailable offence also has an administrative ICE warrant, which are issued internally by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), within which ICE operates. "For example, if our police officers pull someone over for a minor traffic infraction and they write a citation, that person receives a citation and goes about their day," Diaz said. Under the previous rules, Houston police officers were required to inform ICE if anyone they were dealing with came up as having one of these warrants attached to their name when they were searched on the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) - a digital database that includes records on wanted persons.



Hundreds of thousands march in France's biggest day of protests in years

Paraguay's president impeached and under house arrest after bank collapse



Paraguay's President Santiago Peña has been impeached and placed under house arrest after a bank collapse triggered a crisis that left more than half of the country's population without access to their accounts. Peña was arrested on Friday minutes after lawmakers, including from his own party, unanimously voted to remove him from office following the collapse earlier this week of Ueno Bank, which has links to his private business interests. He had offered to step down on Thursday. Rather than accept his resignation, senators impeached Peña and charged him with misconduct, meaning he has been stripped of the immunity usually granted to ex-presidents. Peña, who until last year held shares in the company that owned the bank, has denied any wrongdoing. The impeachment charges that led to Peña's removal alleged he had conflicts of interest, manipulated regulatory oversight, diverted pension funds, and participated in an institutional cover-up involving the central bank. He is due to be questioned on Saturday over allegations of breach of trust, influence peddling, and misappropriation of funds, prosecutor Silvia Margarita Gonzalez Vester said. Peña's deputy, Pedro Alliana, has been sworn in as the new interim president and promised not to "abandon" the millions of people affected by the scandal. "Compatriots who are now going through a difficult time as a result of the financial collapse will be fully compensated," said Alliana, who will serve as president until 2028. The demise of the digital bank left more than half of Paraguay's population without access to their savings after it was seized by Paraguay's central bank. Long lines of people trying to withdraw money from Ueno branches snaked down the streets of the capital Asuncion on Tuesday and Wednesday. An estimated three million depositors remain unable to access their savings and pensions, prompting public outrage particularly in the capital, Asunción. Protests erupted across the country in response, with thousands taking to the streets on Thursday to demand their money.

Khabib Criticizes Portugal Over Cristiano Ronaldo's Treatment After Retirement



Khabib Nurmagomedov has criticised how Portugal treated Cristiano Ronaldo, putting his message out right after the forward announced his retirement from international football. "When you give it your all, you become obsolete," the UFC lightweight champion wrote on Instagram Story. Ronaldo, who is 41, wrapped up his Portugal career on Thursday, November 5, finishing with 234 appearances and 146 goals. The announcement came weeks after a dispute with head coach Jorge Jesus. Khabib also put Ronaldo in the very top tier of players and asked how teams could treat someone who gave so much to the sport. Khabib's words show his disappointment with how Portugal treated Ronaldo Khabib opened with praise for the former Portugal captain. "There are the best ones, and there are the best of the best. Ronaldo belongs among the best of the best. It's hard to understand the mentality of giants like him,"he wrote. Then he turned to the treatment side of it. "It's hard to describe in words what he has done for football, just as it's hard to describe how he's been treated by the teams he gave his all to,"Khabib added. The post reached his 45 million followers on Instagram. The two athletes go back a while. Ronaldo backed Khabib before his final UFC fight against Justin Gaethje at UFC 254, saying during an Instagram Live, "Of course, Khabib is going to win." Khabib retired from MMA unbeaten in 2020 with a 29-0 professional record, and he has said in the past that he turns to Ronaldo for advice. Ronaldo's Portugal exit came after a disagreement with Jorge Jesus The trouble started in late September. Ronaldo was unused substitute in Portugal's 2-1 Nations League win over Norway on September 27, and three days later, on September 30, he left the national team's training camp in Copenhagen after a disagreement with Jesus. Ronaldo said he made the decision after the manager's press conference and a conversation with Portuguese Football Federation president Pedro Proença. He later accused Jesus of breaking his word twice, while Jesus maintained that his decisions were made with the team in mind. The federation suspended Ronaldo for 30 days and fined him 255 (about $286), and at that point Ronaldo said he was not retiring from international duty. Speaking after the retirement news, Jesus said the forward had stayed in his plans right up until the announcement, and that he found out at same time as everyone else. He also said he hadn't contacted Ronaldo since. Ronaldo made the call himself in a video on Instagram, captioned "Portugal will always be in me."

ROHIT SHARMA SHATTERS SHAHID AFRIDI'S LONG-STANDING RECORD, CLOSES IN ON CHRIS GAYLE'S FEAT



Star batter Rohit Sharma scripted history during the second ODI against New Zealand at the Hnry Stadium in Wellington on Saturday, helping India secure a narrow win in a rain-curtailed encounter. Rohit provided India with a solid start in the chase of 135, scoring 23 off 28 balls, including two fours and as many sixes. With those two maximums, the former India captain surpassed Pakistan great Shahid Afridi for the most sixes hit by a batter against New Zealand in ODI cricket. Rohit now has 51 sixes against New Zealand in 34 ODI innings, overtaking former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi, who finished his career with 50 maximums in 35 innings against the BlackCaps. West Indies great Chris Gayle is third on the list with 45 sixes against New Zealand in ODIs. However, Gayle still holds the overall record for the most sixes against New Zealand in international cricket with 87. Rohit is close behind on 85 and needs just three more maximums to surpass the Caribbean legend. Meanwhile, India beat New Zealand by four runs (via DLS method) after rain-interrupted the proceedings. India were 113/7 in 26 overs, and needed 22 runs from 66 balls when play was called off. Batting first, New Zealand were bowled out for 134 following a disastrous outing in rainy Wellington, with Gurnoor Brar picking four wickets for 30 runs in 10 overs. Daryl Mitchell top-scored for New Zealand with a sedate 55 off 104 balls.

Gurnoor Brar Reveals Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma's Key Advice After 2nd ODI Heroics vs NZ: "Helped Me A Lot"



India fast bowler Gurnoor has revealed that he had sought advice from veteran batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli during a match-simulation session in New Zealand ahead of the ongoing ODI series and credited the two ex-captains for helping him fine-tune his lines and lengths. Cited as an X-factor in the bowling line-up due to his tall height and ability to generate steep bounce, Brar was named Player of the Match for his career-best figures of 4-30 as India bowled out New Zealand for 134 and won the second ODI by four runs (DLS method) here at the Hnry Stadium. Brar had also claimed 3-44 in the opening game at Eden Park in Auckland. "According to me, the backing or support you get for being that X-factor is there. But after that everyone has to do the hard yards. So that was the same thing in my mind. I was not taking anything lightly in my mind – like that I got it and I will do wonders or something will happen. But obviously you have to put efforts for it. You have to push a lot in practice. "So when I bowled to Virat and Rohit 2-3 days ago, we got an open facility here and had a match simulation type. So I was asking them, 'Like you have so much experience here. On which lengths and which line can I bowl.' So those were the practice sessions which he helped me a lot. The same thing keeps happening with Shubman (Gill, current captain) – like as a batsman, what do you think will happen if I bowl here and it will be more difficult to face. So that's what I try to do," Brar said in the post-match press conference. He was very quick in lauding the support from the Indian dressing room towards the bowlers to express themselves freely, even on unhelpful surfaces back home. "Backing is the most important thing for every player. Every player is getting it here. There is a very good atmosphere.

India Pacer Mohammed Shami Retires From Test Cricket, Shares Update On White-Ball Future



India pacer Mohammed Shami has called time on his Test cricket career. He made the announcement through a video on social media late on Friday night. The 36-year-old pacer hung up his boots in the format after claiming 229 wickets in 64 matches. Shami has been out of the Indian team since the 2025 Champions Trophy final. He missed a major part of the action due to injury. Despite returning to competitive cricket with impressive performances for Bengal, the pacer remained out of favour with the Indian team. While announcing his Test retirement through a video, Shami revealed that he will continue playing white-ball cricket. "I am bidding farewell to the white jersey, but never to the memories associated with it. When I wore India's Test jersey for the first time, I had only one dream: to do something for my country. Since then, every wicket, every struggle, every injury, and every comeback has taught me something," Shami wrote on Instagram alongside the video. "Test cricket has not just been a format for me, it has been a deeply special part of my life. Today, with a heavy heart and countless beautiful memories, I am announcing my retirement from Test cricket. A heartfelt thank you to every teammate, coach, family member, and the millions of Indians who supported me on this journey and kept their faith in me through both good times and bad." Shami's last appearance in the format came in June 2023. It was during the World Test Championship final against Australia. The pacer thanked the Board of Control for Cricket in India as well as the Cricket Association of Bengal in an emotional message. "A sincere thank you as well to the BCCI and the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) for believing in my talent, giving me opportunities to grow, and playing a vital role in my cricketing journey. Your support and trust will always remain special to me," Shami wrote further. "Even though my final Test ball has been bowled on the field, the pride of playing for India will always remain alive in my heart. Thank you, Test cricket," he concluded.

Aishah Sofey Announces Her Exit From TikTok, Instagram, And Streaming

Aishah Sofey says she's done with TikTok, Instagram and social media, and Roblox development is what she's moving to next. She posted the news on X on November 6, 2026, in a short message that didn't explain much. A livestream clip that's been going around fills in a little, though. After about six months of building her streaming career, Sofey admitted the current social media environment has been hard on her, and she also made clear she streamed for enjoyment, not purely for money. Aishah Sofey announced she's quitting streaming, making her the 16th streamer to attend Streamer University and then quit.



Virat Kohli Breaks Ricky Ponting's Massive ODI Record Despite Failure vs New Zealand In 2nd ODI



India batting icon Virat Kohli added yet another milestone to his name during the second ODI against New Zealand at Cello Basin Reserve in Wellington on Saturday. Despite managing just seven runs during India's chase of 135, Kohli surpassed former Australia captain Ricky Ponting to become the batter with the most runs against New Zealand in ODIs. Before the start of the match, Kohli was tied with Ponting on 1,971 runs. He struck a boundary off only the second ball he faced to move past the Australian great. Ponting's runs came in 51 matches and 50 innings at an average of 45.83, with six centuries and 12 fifties. Kohli, meanwhile, took just 38 innings to go past Ponting's mark. With three games remaining in the series after this, Kohli will have the chance to become the first player to score 2,000 or more runs against New Zealand in the 50-over format. Kohli's stay at the crease was cut short by his RCB teammate Jacob Duffy, as he chipped a good-length ball straight to cover-point.

Jake Paul Makes Appears At Goyat vs Pettis Press Conference, Backs Chennai To Host India's Biggest Boxing Night



Neeraj Goyat and former UFC champion Anthony "Showtime" Pettis stood face to face for the first time today, at a press conference in Hyderabad ahead of their 23 January 2027 bout — the biggest professional boxing event ever staged in India. The press conference, hosted by the Indian Pro Boxing League (IPBL) with the Indian Boxing Council (IBC) and Most Valuable Promotions (MVP), was interrupted by a surprise video message from MVP co-founder Jake Paul, who used it to make his preference for the host city clear: Chennai. "We at MVP are always chasing historic opportunities, and bringing this to Chennai is something I'm keen on," Paul said in the message played on the arena screens. "We've done our research: around this date, 47 years ago, Muhammad Ali fought in that same venue. This would be the biggest comeback for Indian boxing in 47 years." Ali boxed an exhibition at Chennai's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in January 1980 — the last time a fighter of global stature stepped into a ring in the city. Goyat vs Pettis would be the first world-class professional boxing card in Chennai since. Asked about breaking into the Indian market, Paul added: "The right people and the right partners make the entry a lot easier, and that's what we have here." IPBL confirmed that Hyderabad , Visakhapatnam and Chennai are all in contention to host the fight, and that the host city, venue, ticketing and broadcast details will be announced together in the coming weeks. "Jake's message tells you how seriously the world is taking this fight," said Akshar Madhavaram, CEO and Co-Founder, IPBL.

"They're The Same": Carlos Prates Says Khabib Nurmagomedov And Islam Makhachev Pick Fights On Their Own Terms

Carlos Prates has widened his criticism of Islam Makhachev by comparing the welterweight champion's approach to Khabib Nurmagomedov's. The Brazilian believes both fighters have chosen their opponents and dates too carefully, leaving contenders waiting for opportunities. He was expected to challenge Makhachev at UFC 336 on January 30. But Makhachev withdrew from the planned title defence because he wants to wait until after Ramadan. It left Prates to fight Michael Morales for the interim welterweight title. The 'Nightmare' says the UFC should not allow champions to control the division's timeline. He believes the interim-title fight will decide who truly deserves a shot at Makhachev.

PRATES IS FRUSTRATED BY THE DELAY

"I think Khabib and Islam, they're the same," Prates told Squawka. "They book fights when they want, when they feel really good. Of course, it's OK; they are the champs. When Khabib was champ, he did the same."



Prates said he does not agree with the way Makhachev and Khabib have managed their careers. He believes champions should stay active rather than fight once a year and leave the division waiting. "He should vacate his belt, not now. It's OK. We're going to fight for the interim belt," Prates said.

Is Makhachev repeating Khabib's approach to UFC title defences?

Khabib retired in 2020 with a 29-0 record. His final fight was a title defence against Justin Gaethje at UFC 254, which came 13 months after he beat Dustin Poirier.

Khabib's fight with Conor McGregor at UFC 229 had come 11 months earlier. His low activity rate became part of the debate around how champions manage their careers. Prates believes Makhachev is following the same pattern. He argues that a champion should defend the belt more regularly rather than wait for the perfect opponent or date. UFC Boss wants champions to stay more active

Dana White has also criticised Makhachev's decision to delay his return. White said he understands that champions do not need to fight three times a year but believes two appearances would be better.

"What it does is it starts to back up the division," White said. "There are lots of guys who would like a shot at the title." Makhachev has defended his stance, saying Prates and Morales should settle who deserves the title shot.

Jayannth And The Jingo Pen Is A Must-Watch Film For Every Student: MLC Malka Komaraiah



Produced by Divya Praveen Bolisetty under the Namo Jayam Productions banner, 'Jayannth And The Jingo Pen' is directed by National Award winner Naveen Deshaboyina. The film features Master Jayannth Bolisetty, Uha Reddy of 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad' fame, Satyam Rajesh, Ashish Gandhi, Manasa Radhakrishnan, Tanikella Bharani, Kasi Viswanath, Manik Reddy, Ashok Kumar, Srikanth Reddy and others in prominent roles.

Nagarjuna garu liked 'Itlu Arjuna' a lot: Producer Venky Kudumula



King Nagarjuna is presenting the film 'Itlu Arjuna'. While Anish is making his debut as the hero, Anaswara Rajan is playing the heroine. Mahesh Uppala is making his debut as a director with this film. Director Venky Kudumula is also making his debut as a producer with this film. He is producing this film under his newly launched What Next Entertainments banner. The promotional content has already raised expectations on the film. 'Itlu Arjuna' is set to release in theaters worldwide on November 13. On this occasion, producer Venky Kudumula shared the film's features at a press conference. What was the reason for choosing the story of 'Itlu Arjuna' as your first film as a producer?

-I always wanted to enter the production field with a good story. I really liked this story told by director Mahesh. It is a very interesting story. I thought it would be good for my first production.

How did you meet Anish?

-I've known Anish for a long time. He likes my films. He used to come to my office often. We used to talk about films.

Kobbari Matta Is a Very Special Film in My Career – Writer and Producer Sai Rajesh



The hilarious entertainer "Kobbari Matta", scripted and produced by Sai Rajesh, made audiences laugh and went on to become a successful film. Starring Sampoornesh Babu in the lead role, the film is set for a re-release on the 14th of this month.

Presented by Vallamsetla Krishna Rao, the film was produced by Sai Rajesh under the Amrutha Productions banner. Ishika Singh, Geethanjali and Shakeela played key roles. Released on August 10, 2019, "Kobbari Matta" entertained audiences throughout and emerged as a good success. Ahead of its re-release, the team organised a press meet today.

Writer and producer Sai Rajesh said, "Kobbari Matta is a very special film in my career. We faced several challenges while making this movie, including financial difficulties. The four years of hard work finally paid off on August 10, the day the film was released, with the matinee and first shows bringing us the result we had hoped for. The success gave us immense confidence, courage and happiness. That day, we truly understood the power of cinema and gained the confidence that we could continue making more films.

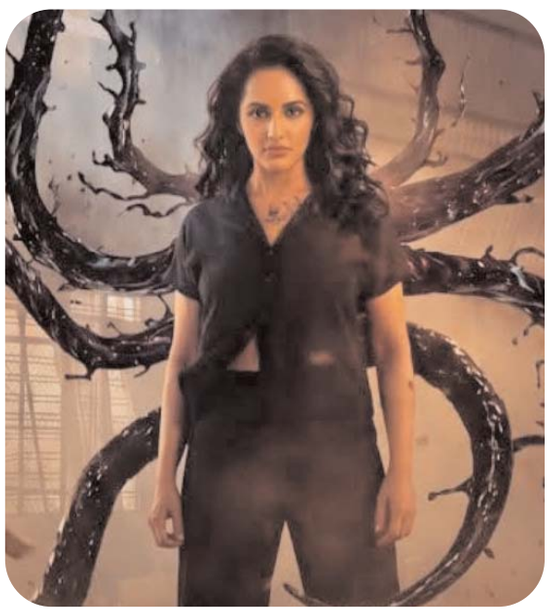
Kamal Haasan's 'Dasavatharam' Set for Grand Re-Release on November 28

Kamal Haasan's epic blockbuster 'Dasavatharam' to have grand re-release on November 28th by Sudiksha Entertainment

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the world-renowned actor, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan Kamal Haasan, who redefined acting in the Indian film industry, the sensational film 'Dasavataram', which symbolizes his acting prowess, is getting ready to make a splash on the silver screen once again.



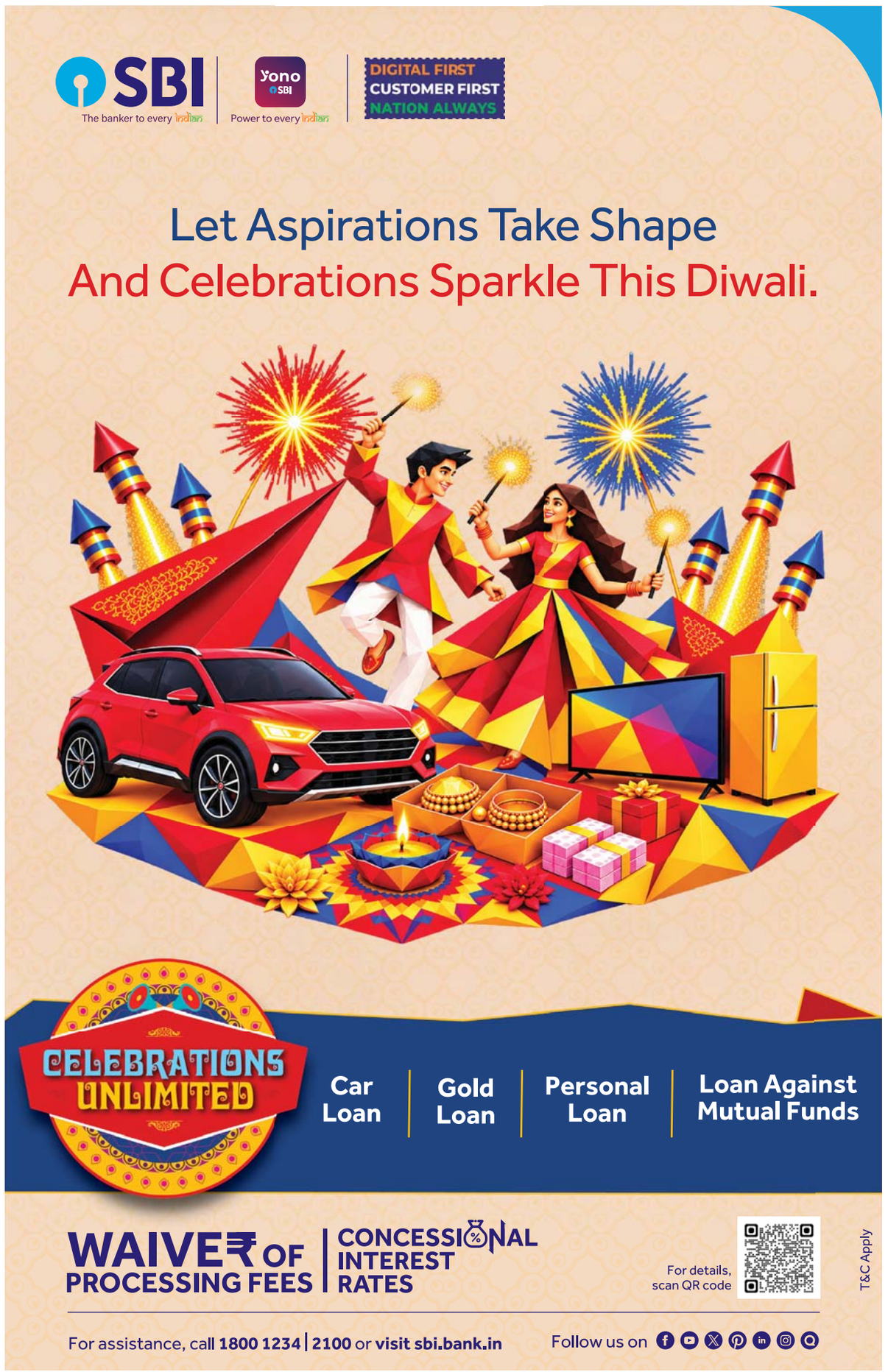
No Rs. 1 Crore Winner in KilleR Twist Contest; 10 Participants Win Rs. 1 Lakh Each



No One Wins the Rs. 1 Crore Contest for Killer; Rs. 1 Lakh Each to 10 Participants Who Came Close to the Correct Answer – Actor, Producer and Director Poorvaaj Recently released in theatres, KilleR offered audiences a thrilling cinematic experience. The film's unique Rs. 1 crore contest campaign received an overwhelming response, with the makers announcing a reward of Rs. 1 crore for anyone who could correctly predict the second-half twist.







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