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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

02-11-2026



Total pilgrims : 67,300
Tonsures : 22,380
Hundi kanukalu : 4.04CR
Laddu sale... 3.58 Lac
Annaprasadam...1.53 Lac
Aswini hospital ...2,322
Present Situation on 03-11-2026:
Waiting Compartments..14

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

INDIAN NATIONAL FROM TAMIL NADU KILLED IN NEPAL HELICOPTER COLLISION



WORLD I PAGE

US STRIKES IRANIAN ISLAND AHEAD OF MIDTERM ELECTIONS



CINEMA I PAGE

NIDDHI STUNS IN MIRROR WORK SAREE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER

Revanth pushes talks with Maharashtra on Tummidihatti barrage



HYDERABAD TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy on Tuesday directed irrigation officials to maintain close coordination and continue dialogue with the Maharashtra government on the proposed Tummidihatti barrage.

The Chief Minister, along with Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, reviewed the project with senior officials at his Jubilee Hills residence.

He asked authorities to prepare a comprehensive report on areas likely to be submerged and share all relevant documents, including existing agreements, with Maharashtra.Reviewing the recent discussions with the neighbouring State, Revanth Reddy instructed officials to furnish all information sought by Maharashtra promptly to facilitate further talks.

The Chief Minister said Telangana was prepared to provide adequate compensation for lands and people in Maharashtra affected by submergence.

He added that the government was ready to deposit compensation funds into a joint account of the two State governments.

TDP-led NDA sweeps Andhra civic polls; Jagan cries foul over alleged rigging

The ruling alliance registers a sweeping victory in municipal elections, while YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy alleges electoral irregularities and Nara Lokesh calls the verdict a mandate to serve.

AMARAVATI (TSIT):



The Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has registered a sweeping victory in Andhra Pradesh's municipal elections, winning several key urban local bodies and delivering a major setback to the opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

The alliance recorded a clean sweep in Kuppam, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's home constituency, winning all 32 wards and leaving the YSRCP without a seat. In Macherla, the NDA also won all 36 wards, with the TDP securing 32, Jana Sena Party (JSP) three and the BJP one.

The alliance secured 38 of 44 wards in Yemmiganur, 31 of 36 in Narasapuram and 31 of 36 in Palasa-Kasibugga. In Tenali, the alliance won 46 of 52 wards, including 29 for the TDP, 16 for Jana Sena and one for the BJP.

The NDA also made significant gains in other municipalities, including Pulivendula, where the TDP won 25 of the 30 wards declared at the time of reporting. In Tirupati, TDP candidate J B Srinivas won the mayoral contest by 24,625 votes. In the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC), the TDP maintained a commanding position. Its mayoral candidate Mukka Sravani was leading YSRCP candidate Varudu Kalyani by 1,19,683 votes in the reported count. The alliance also made strong gains in Guntur, Vizianagaram, Chittoor and Kurnool.

According to the tally available at 6.05 pm, 2,866 of the 3,942 wards had been declared. The TDP had won 1,986 wards, followed by the YSRCP with 359, Jana Sena with 349 and the BJP with 119. The three NDA partners together had secured 2,454 wards, while counting was still pending in several constituencies.

Rahul now dares PM to an open debate on 'anti-national' charge against Opposition

NEW DELHI (TSIT):



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to an open debate on his charge that the "opposition is anti-national" and asked why the PM has not filed a defamation case against him over his "foreign connections" allegation.

Gandhi also asked the youth whether they prefer a debate between him and Modi. He urged Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to convince Modi to hold the debate.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, however, mocked Gandhi and said top-level debates are done between "matured people". Gandhi's remarks came within a day of his earlier challenge for an open debate with Modi for accusing the opposition of taking foreign help to destabilise the country.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha had also accused Modi of occupying the prime minister's chair with "foreign help".

"It's been 24 hours since I challenged you, Modi ji. You say the opposition is anti-national. Choose any stage, any venue, and debate me on this - Who is anti-national? Who has connections with foreign forces? And what is the nature of those connections? Let's do this as soon as possible. Daro mat!," Gandhi said in a post on X.

Indian Navy rescues 20 crew members from hijacked Iranian vessel after 48-hour operation

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The Indian Navy coordinated a 48-hour operation to rescue all 20 crew members of Iranian fishing vessel Azini on Monday, officials said. It was seized by Somali pirates on October 29. The hijacking represented a significant maritime security threat, with the possibility of the vessel being employed as a 'mother ship' for launching further pirate attacks against merchant shipping in the region, the navy said on Tuesday. "Responding to the situation, the Indian Navy tasked a mission-deployed warship to intervene, supported by a maritime reconnaissance aircraft. Working in close coordination, these platforms located the vessel after persistent surveillance, tracked it's movements and employed calibrated non-kinetic measures to contain its movement and prevent its escape," it said.

Donald Trump says US to 'stop funding' Israel

Ahead of the crucial United States midterm elections, where much is at stake for President Donald Trump, he announced that his country will "stop funding" Israel after the end of the year."Now, as far as paying Israel, Bibi Netanyahu and I have made a deal that we give Israel USD 4 billion a year, and we made a deal months ago that we're stopping," Trump told Fox News' Fox and Friends after voting in the midterm elections began.

"We've already agreed that by the end of this year we won't be paying Israel. Now we'll help Israel if they need it."The Republican says Israel doesn't need the aid and it's a lot of money for the US to spend. "Because they don't need it. If they did need it, I would say 'keep going,'" he said.

The United States has sent tens of billions of dollars in military aid to Israel over the last few years. Trump also says that US aid to Israel has become a Democratic talking point for candidates such as Michigan Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed.



An academic study published last year showed the US under the administrations of President Joe Biden, a Democrat, and Trump provided at least USD 21.7 billion in military assistance to Israel after the start of the Gaza war in 2023.

The study was published on the second anniversary of the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attacks in Israel that provoked the conflict. Another study, also published last year by the Costs of War project at Brown University's Watson School of International and Public Affairs, said the US had spent roughly USD 10 billion more on security aid and operations in the broader Middle East in the previous two years.

While the reports relied on open-source material for most of their findings, they offered some of the most comprehensive accounts of US military aid to close ally Israel and estimated costs of direct American military involvement in the Middle East. On Tuesday, billboards across Tehran had a message for the US President – We will kill Trump. Another billboard nearby showed Trump along with US Vice President JD Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with bloodied faces and ragged suits against the background of worn-out Israeli and US flags. Protesters in front of a large mural featuring political figures and flags, including the Israeli flag, a.The Iranian capital was flooded with demonstrators against Netanyahu and Trump, waving red flags and carrying placards reading: "There will be blood," referring to a revenge killing of former supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who died in an airstrike on February 28, triggering the Middle East war.

In Tajrish Square in northern Tehran, an open-air exhibition featured paintings of Trump, including one showing him with his face lying bloodied on the ground as a foot presses down on his head. Trump on a red billboard displaying Urdu text and a dramatic facial expression.A life-sized replica of a jail cell has remained on display, with an actor impersonating Trump spending the day inside. An adjacent screen showed images of the damage caused by US strikes on Iran.

PM Modi inaugurates Pune Metro's Pink Line, launches ₹21,800 crore projects

New Delhi: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of Pune Metro projects worth around Rs.21,800 crore on 3rd November 2026 at 12:30 PM through video conferencing. He will also address the gathering on the occasion.



Prime Minister will inaugurate Pune Metro Line 3, also known as the Pink Line, built at a cost of over Rs.8,300 crore. The project represents an important step towards strengthening Pune's urban mobility infrastructure through technological innovation and modern transportation solutions.

Spanning approximately 23 kilometres, the Pink Line connects Maan to District Court Metro station. The corridor will provide Metro connectivity between the Hinjewadi IT hub and Shivajinagar, improving access to one of Pune's major employment centres and facilitating the daily commute of thousands of IT professionals and other commuters. The corridor will integrate with the existing metro network, providing seamless connectivity across different parts of Pune. It will help reduce dependence on private vehicles, ease traffic congestion and vehicular emissions, and improve access to major commercial and residential areas.

A notable feature of the Pink Line is its emphasis on women's empowerment and gender-inclusive public transportation. The line will be operated entirely by women train operators, making it a first-of-its-kind initiative. The project also emphasises environmental sustainability, with approximately 30% of its total electricity requirements envisaged to be met through solar power.

Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of Phase-II of Pune Metro, to be developed at an estimated cost of around Rs.13,500 crore. Phase-II comprises Pune Metro Lines 2A, 2B, 4 and 4A, which will substantially expand the city's Metro network and strengthen connectivity across important residential, commercial and IT hubs.

Under Phase-II, Lines 2A and 2B will span a total length of around 12.75 kilometres. Line 2A will connect Vanaz to Chandani Chowk, while Line 2B will connect Ramwadi to Vitthalwadi, extending the existing east-west Metro network. Line 4, spanning around 25.52 kilometres, will connect Kharadi to Khadakwasla. Line 4A, spanning 6.12 kilometres, will connect Nal Stop to Manik Baug.

The new Metro corridors will connect several important locations, including Kharadi, Magarpatta, Hadapsar, Swargate, Manik Baug, Nanded City, Pune Cantonment and Warje. The eastern extension from Ramwadi to Vitthalwadi will improve connectivity to rapidly developing residential, commercial and IT hubs in Kharadi and Wagholi. The corridors will integrate with intercity bus services and the existing Pune Metro network through interchange facilities at Swargate, Nal Stop and Kharadi Bypass, facilitating seamless connectivity across different parts of the city.

These projects will strengthen Pune's public transportation infrastructure, improve connectivity across the city and provide commuters with an efficient and integrated urban mobility network.

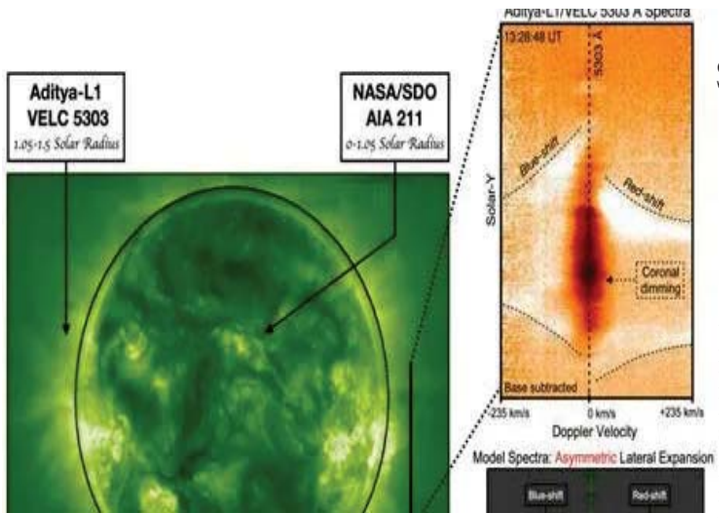
Aditya-L1 reveals solar eruptions expand asymmetrically; improves space-weather understanding

India's first space-based solar observatory, Aditya-L1, has helped scientists uncover new details about the behaviour of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) beneficial for space-weather studies and thereby affecting satellites and communication networks, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The statement from the Ministry of Science & Technology said observations revealed for the first time that these massive solar eruptions do not expand uniformly as previously assumed. These differences in CME expansion can affect its speed as it travels towards Earth causing space-weather disturbances.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) combined observations from the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) aboard Aditya-L1 with data from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) and three-dimensional modelling to reconstruct the full 3-D geometry and dynamics of a CME. "The asymmetric shape of an early CME can have important implications for how it interacts with the solar wind and experiences drag during its propagation through the heliosphere.

Such effects can influence



> The statement from the Ministry of Science & Technology said observations revealed for the first time that these massive solar eruptions do not expand uniformly as previously assumed.

the CME's speed and, ultimately, its arrival time at Earth", said Jayant Joshi of IIA and a co-author of the study published in Astrophysical Journal Letters. Aditya L 1 satellite launched in September 2023 is now operational at the Sun–Earth L1 point, providing continuous observations of the Sun. It carries 7 payloads, of which the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), the primary payload, is an internally occulted coronagraph designed to observe the solar corona simultaneously in various modes. The model was used to test how the CME's orientation and uneven sideways expansion could produce the spectral structures observed by VELC. The researchers plan to use this technique on other CMEs, to reconstruct their motion without relying entirely on multi-viewpoint imaging from telescopes in space. This complementarity is particularly valuable in the lower corona, where CMEs evolve rapidly, and their motion along the line of sight cannot be obtained from imaging alone, the statement noted.

Three mandals added to drought-affected list in Telangana



Husnabad, November 3: Husnabad, Koheda and Akannapet have been added to the list of drought-affected mandals, with Minister Ponnam bringing the hardships faced by farmers in these three mandals to the attention of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

The Minister wrote to the CM regarding the severe lack of rainfall—attributed to the El Niño effect—and the resulting difficulties faced by farmers and the general public.

According to the letter, the deficient rainfall has severely affected agricultural operations in these mandals, leaving farmers struggling with crop losses and reduced yields. The Minister urged the Chief Minister to consider the plight of the affected farming community and take appropriate measures to provide relief.

The development comes amid growing concerns over drought conditions across parts of Telangana, with the El Niño phenomenon being cited as a major factor behind the poor monsoon performance. Farmers in the affected mandals are reportedly facing difficulties in managing their crops and sustaining their livelihoods.The Minister's communication to the Chief Minister is expected to pave the way for official assessment of the damage and possible announcement of relief measures for the affected areas. Officials are likely to be directed to conduct a detailed survey of crop losses and submit a report.

With three more mandals now added to the drought-affected list, attention is on the State Government's response and the support it extends to farmers and residents grappling with the consequences of deficient rainfall.

Collector Orders Comprehensive Inquiry into Allegations Against Kamareddy Municipality



Kamareddy, November 03 (The South India Times): District Collector Ashish Sangwan has ordered a comprehensive inquiry into allegations of illegal collections and administrative irregularities in Kamareddy Municipality. He directed Additional Collector (Local Bodies) N.Y. Giri to conduct a detailed investigation and submit a report within the stipulated deadline.

The inquiry follows reports published recently in several newspapers highlighting alleged irregularities in the functioning of the municipality.

The investigation will cover allegations relating to the municipal engineering department, including tendering procedures, recruitment of sanitation workers, attendance records, salary payments, installation of CCTV cameras and alleged interference by family members of public representatives in these activities.

The inquiry will also examine issues related to notices issued by the town planning department, conduct of council meetings, utilisation and sale of iron materials purchased for Ganesh immersion arrangements, fuel expenditure on municipal vehicles, trade licences and assessment of property taxes.

Speaking on the issue, Collector Ashish Sangwan stated that irregularities and illegal collections in municipal services would not be tolerated. He made it clear that strict action would be taken against the public representatives, officials and staff concerned as per rules if the allegations were established during the inquiry. The Collector urged citizens to submit complaints with supporting evidence if anyone demands money illegally or threatens them in connection with municipal services.

Complaints can be submitted at the office of the Additional Collector (Local Bodies) or during the Prajavani public grievance programme held at the Collectorate.

NDA ALLIANCE SECURES CLEAR MAJORITY IN TIRUPATI MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS



Tirupati: The NDA alliance has achieved a decisive majority in the Tirupati Municipal Corporation elections. Out of a total of 66 divisions, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) won 36 seats and secured two more unopposed. The Jana Sena Party won 19 seats, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured 3 seats. The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) won 3 seats, and independent candidates claimed 3 seats.

TDP's Manyam Srinivasa Prasad, also known as JB Srinivas, who contested as the mayoral candidate, emerged victorious with a massive majority of 61,712 votes. With this result, the NDA alliance has secured the Mayor's post in the Tirupati Municipal Corporation.

The outcome marks a strong showing for the alliance across the civic body's 66 divisions, with the TDP emerging as the single largest party. The victory in the mayoral race further consolidates the alliance's hold on the corporation.

The result is being seen as significant in the context of the broader political landscape, with the NDA alliance translating its electoral coordination into a clear civic mandate. The YSRCP, meanwhile, managed to secure only three seats, while independents accounted for an equal number. With the Mayor's post now secured, the alliance is set to lead the municipal corporation, and the focus is expected to shift to governance and civic administration in Tirupati.



Katari Hemalatha, who belongs to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), has been elected as the Mayor of Chittoor.

NHRC monitor praises Nalgonda's drinking water and sanitation management

Nalgonda: Dr. Animesh Bhattacharya, a Special Monitor for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), has stated that the management of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in Nalgonda district is commendable. As part of a two-day visit to study the implementation of these services, he arrived at the district headquarters on Tuesday.

He was warmly welcomed at the R&B Guest House by District Collector B. Chandrasekhar, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Prem Karan Reddy, RDO Y. Ashok Reddy and other district officials. He



then held a review meeting with officials at the Collector's office, inquiring about the provision of safe drinking water and the status of sanitation, hygiene, education and healthcare facilities in schools, Anganwadi centres and remote tribal areas. He took particular interest in areas that previously faced fluoride-related issues and the measures being taken to address them.

Mission Bhagiratha Superintending Engineer Nageswara Rao provided details on drinking water schemes and supply following the project's implementation. District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Rahul spoke on sanitation and health, District Educational Officer Sushinder Rao on school education and student facilities, and District Welfare Officer Lavanya on Anganwadi centres, drinking water and children's health.

AISECT holds Kaushalya Vikas Yatra across Telangana



Hyderabad: AISECT conducted the Kaushalya Vikas Yatra from October 26 to 30, 2026, across Hyderabad, Warangal, Hanumakonda, Karimnagar, Rajanna Sircilla and Peddapalli districts of Telangana. The initiative aimed to create awareness among students about Artificial Intelligence (AI), emerging technologies, vocational skill education, future-ready skills, higher education and career opportunities.

As part of the yatra, the AISECT team visited Government ITI colleges, government schools and colleges, and skill training centres, interacting with students and highlighting the growing importance of AI and technological advancements across industries.

The team explained the significance of skill education, practical skill development and industry-oriented training in enhancing employability and preparing young people for the changing demands of the job market. Students were also introduced to emerging career opportunities in AI, digital technologies and other future-oriented sectors.

In addition, the team shared information about academic programmes and career-oriented courses offered by AISECT University, highlighting opportunities for higher education, professional development, entrepreneurship and skill-based career advancement.

The Kaushalya Vikas Yatra focused on strengthening awareness of the relationship between education, technology and employment. Through direct interaction with students, the initiative encouraged them to explore new learning opportunities, acquire industry-relevant skills and prepare for careers in an increasingly technology-driven world.

The visiting team comprised Mr. Vipul Sharma, Zonal Head; Mr. A. Sampath; Mr. Kuntal Sarkar, Regional Manager; and Mr. Sambasiva Rao, Vocational Coordinator, Telangana, along with other AISECT team members.

Nutrition scientist Vijaya Khader receives honorary fellow award



Hyderabad: Prof. (Mrs.) Vijaya Khader, a distinguished nutrition scientist and well-known academician, was awarded an Honorary Fellow award by Chief Guest Dr. T. Srinivas Kumar, Secretary of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, at the Academy for Science, Technology and Communication (ASTC) during its Annual Convention 2026 in Hyderabad.

Dr. Prakash Kumar, Director at CSIR Hyderabad, gave the welcome address, thanking dignitaries for attending. Dr. Ch. Mohan Rao, Chairman of ASTC Hyderabad, delivered the presidential address. Dr. M. Ravichandran, visiting faculty at IIT Madras and former Secretary of MOFS, as guest of honour, released the ASTC Communication series promoting awareness and prevention of health diseases.

Guests of honour Dr. U. Kamachi Mudali, Vice Chancellor of Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai, and Dr. S.V.S. Narayana Murthy, Chairman and Managing Director of Midhani, Hyderabad, delivered expert lectures on health and nutrition. The event was organised by C.L. Narsimha Rao, Secretary of ASTC Hyderabad, and Dr. R.B.N. Prasad, Chief Editor of ASTC Publications, drawing around 250 attendees.

Prof. Khader, former Dean of the Faculty of Home Science at Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, also served as Principal, Dean and Director of the Centre of Advanced Studies in Food and Nutrition. With over 33 years of teaching and research experience, she has authored four university-level textbooks and completed 23 nationally and internationally funded research projects. Her research focuses on food and nutrition, nutritional security, food science and technology, and the socio-economic empowerment of rural, farm, fisher and tribal women. She continues to visit educational institutions to motivate students toward healthy habits and plans to develop a group of professionals to carry this initiative forward.

Urology associations call for greater awareness about sepsis



Hyderabad, November 3: The Association of Southern Urologists, Hyderabad Urology Society and Telangana Urology Society have expressed condolences to the family of a patient who recently died after a severe infection, while stressing the need for public awareness about sepsis, particularly urosepsis linked to urinary tract infections and kidney stones.

In a joint statement, the associations said sepsis is a medical emergency that can affect anyone, including otherwise healthy people. It occurs when the body's response to infection damages its own organs and can rapidly become life-threatening without timely care.

Urosepsis is a key concern in urology. Patients with severe kidney infections, infected stones, obstructed kidneys, urinary retention and catheter-associated infections are at risk. An infected, obstructed kidney needs urgent attention and may require drainage through a DJ stent or percutaneous nephrostomy, along with antibiotics.

The associations noted that procedures such as RIRS and PCNL are established treatments for kidney stones, but stones can harbour bacteria that may enter the bloodstream during fragmentation and trigger severe infection. A 2024 study in Heliyon, analysing 19 studies and 4,829 PCNL patients, reported about a 6% incidence of postoperative urosepsis.

Sepsis can progress rapidly, causing acute kidney injury, septic shock, respiratory failure and multiple organ dysfunction. Early identification, appropriate antibiotics and timely critical care are essential.

Dr. Jagadishwar, President of the Association of Southern Urologists, urged greater public attention to sepsis. Dr. P.V.L.N. Murthy of Hyderabad Urology Society warned against ignoring warning signs such as fever, chills, breathing difficulty, confusion or reduced urine output. Dr. Chandrashekar, Secretary of Telangana Urology Society, said awareness and patient safety must remain priorities.

GITAM Innovation Challenge 2026 invites young innovators

Hyderabad: GITAM Deemed to be University, through its Venture Development Centre, is organising the sixth edition of the GITAM Innovation Challenge (GIC) 2026, with the Bower School of Entrepreneurship as title sponsor. The national-level student venture challenge aims to help young innovators turn promising ideas into scalable ventures.

With a cumulative prize pool and ecosystem value of over Rs.50 lakh, the challenge invites school students (Classes 10–12), undergraduates and graduates from 2025 onwards to present solutions to real-world problems. It features Junior and Senior tracks, offering cash prizes, expert mentorship, venture coaching, incubation opportunities and access to India's startup ecosystem.

GIC 2026 will follow a structured journey: online screening, a virtual bootcamp, personalised mentoring and online semi-finals on 20 and 21 November 2026, culminating in the National Grand Finale on 11 December 2026 at GITAM Hyderabad.

Innovations are encouraged across themes including Climate Tech, Sustainability, Agriculture, FoodTech, HealthTech, Biotechnology, DeepTech, Smart Manufacturing, Sports and Fitness, and D2C and Consumer Brands.

Rewards include cash prizes of up to Rs.2 lakh in the Senior Track, six-month incubation at GITAM i-TBI, the LEAD Programme for Junior Track finalists and one year of venture coaching for all finalists. Special recognitions include the Best Social Impact Business Idea Award, Leben Johnson People's Choice Award and Dr. G.V.V. Rao Young Engineer Dreamer Awards. GIC aims to bring together over 5,000 startup ideas, 100+ pitches, 50+ jury members and 30+ partners from 29 states. Registrations are open until 7 November 2026 via the official portal. For details, contact +91 90630 65811 or email gic@gitam.edu.

Congress seeks action against BJP MLC over alleged threat to party leaders



Bengaluru : The Bengaluru West District Congress Committee has lodged a police complaint against BJP leader and Legislative Council Opposition leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, alleging that he made threatening remarks against Congress leaders.

In its complaint submitted to the police on Tuesday, the Congress alleged that Narayanaswamy had threatened to 'tear Congress leaders apart', triggering concern and anger in political circles.

The party said such statements by an elected representative and senior political leader were unacceptable in a democratic society and could disturb public order.

The Congress also expressed concern over the impact of provocative political statements on the state's political atmosphere, maintaining that differences between political parties should be addressed through democratic and constitutional means rather than threats and intimidation.

The complaint urged the police to investigate the video recording of the alleged remarks, verify its authenticity and initiate appropriate legal action.

It also sought action under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and other applicable laws, besides demanding the registration of an FIR and criminal proceedings against the BJP leader and those involved. The Congress committee said threats and inflammatory statements against political opponents undermine democratic values and called upon the police to take the matter seriously and ensure that the law takes its course.

'Tarangantaranga' explores the theme of rebirth



Bengaluru: Young filmmaker Shrisha, hailing from Byndoor in Udupi district, is making his debut in the Kannada film industry as an actor and director with Tarangantaranga, a suspense thriller centred on the theme of rebirth.

The audio of the film was recently released, marking the beginning of its promotional campaign. Having worked as a graphic designer and event manager, Shrisha has taken on the dual responsibility of playing the lead role and directing the film. Most of the post-production work has been completed, and the teaser was released recently.

Speaking at the audio launch, Shrisha said the film revolves around the consequences of failing to fulfil vows or services promised to God. "Tarangantaranga is based on the concept of rebirth and combines historical elements, suspense and thriller. Apart from directing the film, I have also played an important role in it. I am confident that the film will offer audiences a different cinematic experience," he said.

Actor Pramod Shetty plays a significant role in the film, while Cherika Murthy and Yashaswini Swamy are the female leads. Veteran actors Ramesh Pandit, Prabhakar Kundar, Likhitha Shetty and Murali are also part of the cast.

The film is particularly significant as late actors Dinesh Mangaluru and Rakesh Poojari, who had made their mark in Kannada cinema, feature in what is reportedly their final film appearance.

Members of the cast and crew expressed confidence in the project and appreciated Shrisha's efforts and the team's work. With the audio launch completed, the makers are gearing up for the film's release, which is expected shortly.

Women account for 29% of used-car buyers in Bengaluru on Navratri day



BENGALURU: Women accounted for 29% of used-car purchases in Bengaluru on the first day of Navratri, significantly higher than the national average of 18%, according to a report by used-car platform Spinny.

The company delivered 171 cars in Bengaluru on October 11, making the city the second-highest contributor to deliveries nationally after Pune. Bengaluru also accounted for more than 90% of the 184 cars delivered across Karnataka on the day.

Karnataka recorded a 69% year-on-year increase in deliveries compared to 109 cars on the first day of Navratri last year. Automatic cars accounted for 40% of total deliveries in Bengaluru, compared to around 33% nationally, indicating a stronger preference for automatic vehicles among buyers in the city.

Across India, Spinny delivered 1,370 cars on October 11, its highest-ever single-day delivery figure. This was more than 1.7 times its previous single-day record and represented a 96% increase over deliveries on the first day of Navratri last year.

Quick Heal launches AI-powered Seqrite NOVA to simplify DPDP compliance for SMBs



BENGALURU : Quick Heal Technologies Limited, through its enterprise cybersecurity brand Seqrite, has launched Seqrite NOVA Data Privacy, an AI-powered platform aimed at helping small office/home office (SOHO) businesses, small and medium businesses (SMBs) and mid-sized enterprises comply with India's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act. The platform is designed to simplify the compliance process through automated data discovery, classification and privacy management tools, enabling businesses to begin their compliance journey within days with minimal manual intervention and limited dependence on specialised IT expertise.As India's digital economy expands, businesses face growing pressure to strengthen data governance, identify personal information across multiple platforms, safeguard individual rights and obtain explicit consent. However, resource constraints and the complexity of regulatory requirements have made compliance challenging, particularly for smaller organisations.

Bagalkot farmers threaten intensified stir over sugarcane price, plan NH blockade



BAGALKOT: Demanding a remunerative price of Rs 5,500 for every tonne of sugarcane, farmers in Bagalkot district are set to launch another round of protests, including a road blockade on the Hubballi-Solapur National Highway.

The agitation, organised under the banner of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, is expected to draw hundreds of farmers. The protest will be held near Gaddanakeri Cross in Bagalkot taluk, where the farmers plan to stop vehicular movement and stage a sit-in.The farmers have argued that the sharp increase in agricultural input costs, harvesting expenses and other operational costs has made the existing returns inadequate. They have insisted that sugar factories, along with the state government, should ensure a minimum price of Rs 5,500 per tonne for sugarcane harvested during the current season.

The proposed blockade is expected to disrupt traffic on the Hubballi-Solapur National Highway, an important road link in the district. Police have arranged additional security at the location as a precautionary measure in view of the possibility of traffic congestion and a large gathering.The protesters will raise slogans against the government and demand immediate intervention to resolve the issue. Following the highway demonstration, a delegation of farmer representatives is scheduled to proceed to the Deputy Commissioner's office in Bagalkot and submit a detailed memorandum addressed to the state government.

The memorandum will include the demand for a scientifically determined sugarcane price and other issues concerning farmers. The leaders have said that the agitation will not be withdrawn unless their demands receive a favourable response.

Warning of further action, farmer representatives said they would intensify the movement if the government failed to take immediate steps.

Outstation petrol, diesel and LPG tankers barred from entering Bengaluru



BENGALURU, : Bengaluru traffic police have introduced restrictions on fuel tankers passing through the city to reach other districts and states, in an effort to reduce congestion caused by heavy vehicles.

The new rule prohibits petrol, diesel and LPG tankers bound for destinations outside Bengaluru from entering the city. Instead, they must use NICE Road and the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) to reach their respective destinations.

The move follows an assessment of tanker movement through the city. Police found that nearly 800 to 1,000 tankers carrying petrol, diesel and LPG travel daily from Devaragundi in Hoskote taluk to different districts. Their movement through Bengaluru has been contributing to traffic pressure on key roads. Since 2014, heavy vehicles have faced restrictions on entering the city during morning hours. Fuel and LPG tankers, however, were exempted because they transport essential commodities and were permitted to operate throughout the day.

The police have now decided to limit this exemption to tankers supplying Bengaluru's own requirements. Vehicles delivering fuel to petrol stations and gas distribution centres within the city will not be affected by the new rule.

However, tankers transporting fuel to other districts and neighbouring states must avoid city roads and take the designated bypass routes.

The restriction is expected to reduce the movement of heavy vehicles on busy stretches, including Tumakuru Road and Mysuru Road. Traffic officials believe diverting through-traffic tankers will help ease pressure on the city's main transport corridors.

Bengaluru delivery agent arrested for holding woman hostage while fleeing theft attempt



BENGALURU: A man who allegedly attempted to escape after being caught by members of the public for theft dragged a young woman onto the road and threatened to kill her in Bengaluru's Indiranagar police station limits.

The accused, identified as Prabhuraj alias Raj, allegedly held the woman hostage and warned that he would kill her if anyone tried to catch him. A video of the incident has since gone viral on social media.

According to reports, Raj was working as a delivery agent. He was caught by members of the public four days ago when he allegedly came to the area to commit a theft. In an attempt to escape from the crowd, he dragged a woman who was inside a shop and used her as a shield. He reportedly threatened to murder her if anyone approached him.

As his behaviour became increasingly aggressive, members of the public intervened, overpowered him and handed him over to the police. Indiranagar police registered a case in connection with the incident and arrested the accused. The video showing him dragging and threatening the woman has been widely shared on social media.

Kia India posts record monthly sales of 33,462 units in October

BENGALURU: Kia India recorded its highest-ever monthly wholesale sales since entering the Indian market, selling 33,462 units in October 2026, marking a 13.22% increase over the 29,556 units sold in October 2025. The company also set a new monthly sales record for the second consecutive month, surpassing its previous high of 32,017 units recorded in September 2026.

Kia India's cumulative sales during January–October 2026 stood at 2,86,470 units, registering a growth of 21.31% compared with the corresponding period last year. The company has already exceeded its total sales of 2,80,286 units recorded during the whole of 2025.

The strong performance was driven by festive-season demand and sustained interest in its key models, particularly the Seltos and Sonet. The Seltos alone recorded sales of over 13,000 units in October, maintaining its position in the family SUV segment. Since its launch in January 2026, the model has averaged monthly sales of more than 10,000 units.

The Carens and Carens Clavis also contributed to the company's growth. Their CNG variants accounted for nearly 10% of Kia India's total sales in October. Kia India also registered its highest-ever monthly electric vehicle sales during the month, recording 31% growth over September. The Syros EV and Carens Clavis EV contributed to the performance. The Kia Sorento, available with hybrid and diesel powertrain options, has received an encouraging response from customers, particularly for its advanced technology, features and fuel efficiency offered by the hybrid powertrain.

Commenting on the performance, Atul Sood, Senior Vice-President, Sales and Marketing, Kia India, said the company had surpassed its previous monthly sales record within a month, reflecting growing customer confidence in its products.

He attributed the growth to festive demand, the strong performance of established models and the response to newer offerings. He said the increasing contribution of CNG models and record EV sales demonstrated the effectiveness of the company's multi-powertrain strategy. Kia India is also strengthening its customer ownership initiatives. Its Assured Buyback Programme, expanded across internal combustion engine, hybrid and electric models, offers eligible customers residual value assurance of up to 75% for ICE and hybrid vehicles and up to 70% for EVs, subject to terms and conditions.

Maharashtra police cannot summon Karnataka tobacco firm representatives outside jurisdiction: HC



Bengaluru : The Karnataka High Court has questioned the territorial authority of Maharashtra's Vadgaon police to summon representatives of tobacco product companies based in Karnataka for questioning, declaring the notices issued to them legally invalid.

The court held that Section 179 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) cannot be used to compel persons residing or operating outside the jurisdiction of the police station to travel to Vadgaon for investigation.

The dispute followed a police action in August 2025, when Maharashtra police intercepted a lorry carrying prohibited tobacco products on the Bengaluru-Pune highway and registered an FIR against certain persons. Subsequently, a team of five to six policemen from Vadgaon police station visited the premises of Shiv Enterprises and other establishments in Tumakuru. Though the companies were not named in the FIR, their offices were searched, business records were taken away and notices were served on their partners. The police also recorded their statements.

The companies challenged the Maharashtra police action before the Karnataka High Court.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj partly accepted their plea and ruled that the seizure of business documents, ledger books and their copies from the Tumakuru office was unlawful. The court ordered the immediate return of the seized ledger books. It also laid down a procedure for future investigations by Vadgaon police within Karnataka. Before carrying out any investigative operation in the state, the Maharashtra police must give written advance information to the local Karnataka police station concerned. The petitioners had also sought quashing of the FIR and a general direction preventing the police from contacting them. The court, however, rejected these wider requests while granting relief against the notices and seizure of documents.

EDITORIAL

The question of the safety of gig workers

In a changing economy, employment patterns are rapidly changing. Digital technology and internet-based services have challenged traditional ways of working. Today, individuals can earn a living by delivering food through mobile apps, driving online taxis, delivering goods, providing domestic services, or doing freelance digital work. This form of employment is called the gig economy, and those working in it are identified as gig workers. The most significant characteristic of these workers is that they can choose work according to their convenience and availability, but this flexibility is accompanied by insecurity in their livelihoods. Unlike regular employees, they generally lack access to benefits such as salary, provident fund, pension, medical care, and paid leave. Therefore, social security for gig workers is no longer merely a matter of labor welfare, but has become an essential prerequisite for inclusive development and economic justice.

The expansion of the digital economy in India has given new impetus to gig employment. According to a NITI Aayog report, the number of gig workers in the country is projected to reach approximately 23.5 million by 2029-30. This number indicates that this sector of employment is poised to become a significant part of the Indian economy in the future. Millions of people working in food supply, transportation, e-commerce, domestic services, and various digital platforms are driving economic activity in cities. Despite this, their social and economic status remains relatively vulnerable. A delivery worker involved in a road accident can immediately lose their income. Missing work for several days due to illness makes it difficult to support their families. Women face challenges such as maternity leave and income continuity. The lack of a regular pension in old age further increases their worries.

The fundamental purpose of social security is to provide financial support to workers in the uncertain circumstances of life. This becomes even more important for gig workers, as their income depends on the availability of work, customer demand, weather, platform policies, and incentive schemes. Changes in payment rates or reductions in incentives by platforms often impact their actual income. In such circumstances, benefits like accident insurance, life insurance, health coverage, maternity benefits, and old-age pensions can protect them from financial crisis. Social security benefits are not limited to the worker, but provide protection to their entire family. This also helps reduce poverty, inequality, and economic instability. Keeping this need in mind, gig workers and platform workers have been recognized as a separate category in the Social Security Code, 2020. This Code provides for the formulation and implementation of social security schemes for them. Institutional arrangements like the National Social Security Board aim to coordinate between workers, aggregators, and the government and determine the direction of welfare schemes. The provision for the participation of various stakeholders in the 22-member National Social Security Board is an important step in this direction. It is essential to ensure that such boards do not merely become institutions that recommend schemes, but also understand the real problems of workers and become effective means of resolving them. The role of these boards is important on several levels. First, they can contribute to the formulation and prioritization of social security schemes.

UTTAR PRADESH 2027:

Can The BJP's Winning Machine Deliver For A Third Time?

NIKHIL PANDEY



The results of Uttar Pradesh's Legislative Council polls for five graduates' and six teachers' seats, declared on October 29, held few shocks. Both parties finished roughly where the pre-poll chatter had placed them. The BJP kept its tally of six. The SP grew from three to five. It wrested the Lucknow graduates' seat from the BJP, took the Agra teachers' seat from an independent, and held both Varanasi seats in the Prime Minister's own constituency. The BJP, in turn, captured the Gorakhpur-Faizabad teachers' seat on the CM's home turf.

A TWO-HORSE RACE?

One thing is obvious from these polls: Uttar Pradesh is settling into a straight fight. In ten of the eleven seats, the BJP and the SP finished first and second. In the eleventh, Gorakhpur-Faizabad, an independent pushed the BJP close. The BSP and the Congress did not field candidates at all. The results also suggest that 2024 was no accident. When the SP-led alliance won 43 of the state's 80 Lok Sabha seats, many in the ruling camp wrote it off as a passing storm: anxiety over the Constitution, tired candidates, a listless cadre. Two years on, the SP's revival looks rooted.

But one thing is obvious from MLC polls: neither BJP nor SP has a clear lead. The fight is still on. Plus, we should not read too much into these results: Only about 14.8 lakh people were eligible to vote, around one in a hundred of the state's voters. They are a particular kind of voter, too: registered graduates and teachers, largely urban and salaried. No assembly forecast can be built on this. What it can show is the drift of an alert, opinion-forming slice of the electorate, and that slice leaned a little further towards the SP.

Yogi, Still The Trump Card

For the BJP, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath campaigned for the party's candidates in every one of the eleven seats, while the SP relied largely on local leaders. Nearly a decade into the job, the Chief Minister remains the BJP's most recognisable face in the state. His pitch on law and order, welfare delivery, and Hindutva is clear, and no one inside the party comes close to challenging him.

Combine Yogi's appeal with the BJP's election machinery, and we may have a winning formula. BJP seldom loses for lack of effort. No party in India fights elections quite like it: booth committees, panna pramukhs, caste equations reworked seat by seat, and a readiness to change candidates or messaging the moment the ground shifts.

Akhilesh's Two Questions, And Mayawati's Silence

The SP has earned its celebrations, but the real battle begins now. The first is the Congress. The partnership paid off in 2024, when the Congress turned its share of tickets into six seats. Now the bargaining has turned sour. Congress wants well over 150 seats. The SP is said to be weighing an offer of 60 to 70. Posters claiming 200 seats have already caused embarrassment.

Akhilesh Yadav has to decide what the Congress really is for him. It can be an asset that helps consolidate Muslim votes, adds slivers of upper-caste and Dalit support, and lends national weight. Or it can be a drag that is adamant on fighting on seats it cannot win, as happened in Bihar. Akhilesh faces the risk of conceding too much to Congress.

But the most crucial question for SP is: can Akhilesh really expand his PDA coalition? Will Pandits really vote for him? Can he offer enough seats to new PDA constituents to make SP overcome its Yadav-Muslim handicap? It's a tough balancing act.

Then there is the BSP. Mayawati says she will contest alone, has revived talk of Brahmin outreach, and has reviewed preparations across all 75 districts. But a party that won 206 seats in 2007 was reduced to one in 2022, with its vote share below 13%. Sitting out these polls fits a long pattern of absence. If she can stir even part of her Jatav base, she may hurt the SP more than the BJP. If she cannot, the two-horse race only hardens.

Winning Is A Habit

The assembly election is still a few months away. In Uttar Pradesh, that is a long time. Ticket distribution, a seat-sharing spat, a fresh welfare scheme, or a single event or comment can each reset the mood. Then, SIR is the other unknown factor this time. Will the "vote chori" campaign find resonance at the hustings? Does the SP-Congress alliance end up spending too much energy and time on an issue that may not matter much in the end? We don't know who is likely to benefit from it: the BJP or the SP?

Like sports, winning is a habit in politics, too. Last week, Brazil's Lula da Silva, now 80, trailed in the first round and still won a fourth term in the run-off. In Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud again emerged as the largest party, and his rivals cannot reach a majority without partners they have so far shunned. Established leaders backed by a disciplined organisation are hard to dislodge. That is the BJP's edge in Uttar Pradesh. The SP's task is to prove that 2024 marked the beginning of a trend rather than its high point. The council results say it has a case. They do not say it has won it. Uttar Pradesh sends 80 MPs to the Lok Sabha, more than any other State. The party that wins the State has, for decades, gone on to govern from Delhi. The BJP is seeking an unprecedented third consecutive Assembly term under Adityanath in 2027, against a Samajwadi Party (SP) that rode a Pichhda-Dalit-Alpsankhyak (Backward-Dalit-Minority) coalition in 2024 to its best Lok Sabha performance in years.

Sanjay Kumar, a professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and an expert election analyst, spoke to Frontline about whether that coalition can carry the SP to power; why the Bahujan Samaj Party's (BSP) decline has left the Dalit vote floating; and why he believes reading the 2027 Assembly election through the prism of the 2024 Lok Sabha election results would be a mistake.

The SP did well in 2024 on a Pichhda-Dalit-Alpsankhyak pitch. How far can this carry the party in the Assembly election? I would recall the Indian cricket team of the early 1990s, when the bowling attack was heavily dependent on spinners because there were no good fast bowlers. Likewise, the SP's core support base comprises the Dalit, Pichhda, and Muslim vote, and it has to rely on it. If it looks for a vote bank among other caste groups, ignoring its core support base, it is not going to be successful. That combination is its best card for 2027 because it is its core vote bank. Muslims have voted for the SP in a huge way. The Dalit vote has kept shifting from one party to another, but the SP gets some of it. The Yadavs have voted en bloc for the SP in Uttar Pradesh, but the party has not made enough of a dent among the other OBC castes. Is the party's old Muslim-Yadav (MY) combination widening enough to challenge the BJP, especially when subaltern Hindutva is also a reality?

AZAM KHAN'S ARREST:

A LEGAL REQUIREMENT OR A NEW CHAPTER IN POLITICAL CONFLICT?

SAURABH VARSHNEY

Senior Samajwadi Party leader and former MP Azam Khan has been remanded to 14-day judicial custody by a special PMLA court in Ghaziabad in connection with the alleged money laundering case related to Jauhar University. He will be held in Dasna Jail. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is now preparing to seek his remand for questioning in police custody. The investigating agency alleges alleged misuse of government funds and financial irregularities in the construction and financial management of Jauhar University. Azam Khan's arrest has once again sparked debate about the role of investigative agencies in national politics, political accountability, and the impartial use of the law.

In a democracy, the rule of law is paramount. No matter a person's political stature, if serious allegations of financial irregularities or corruption are leveled against them, an investigation should be conducted. Those in public life should be held accountable, not less, but more so than ordinary citizens. However, it is equally essential that the investigation process be fair, transparent, and in accordance with the constitutional tenets. A person cannot be deemed guilty based on their political identity, nor can they be exonerated based on political sympathy.

Azam Khan has been a prominent and influential figure in Uttar Pradesh politics. He rose to national prominence from Rampur politics and has been a prominent leader of the Samajwadi Party. He has also held significant political roles as a minister and MP in the Uttar Pradesh government. However, over the past few years, various lawsuits and legal proceedings against him have consistently impacted his political career. Now, the ED's action in the alleged money laundering case related to Jauhar University has presented him with a new legal challenge.

An important aspect of this entire incident is that Azam Khan walked out of Rampur jail on Saturday after spending nearly 11 months in prison. However, the joy of his release was short-lived, and the Enforcement Directorate detained him in another case. On Sunday, a special court in Ghaziabad remanded him to 14 days of judicial custody. The ED now wants to question him regarding the establishment of Jauhar University, the funds used for its construction, the source of funding, and the alleged money trail. This entire incident raises several serious questions.

The first question concerns the financial management of Jauhar University. The establishment and operation of any educational institution requires funding. If an institution has received funding from government aid, private donations, or other financial sources, its full accounting must comply with public and legal standards. Where did the money come from, for what purpose, and for what purposes was it used? These questions must be answered based on documents and financial evidence. If evidence of misuse of government funds or illegal transactions is found, those responsible should be prosecuted according to the law. However, convicting someone based solely on allegations would be contrary to the principles of justice.

Another important question concerns the impartiality and functioning of investigative agencies. In recent years, political controversies have arisen over actions taken by central investigative agencies against several opposition leaders. The opposition often alleges that investigative agencies are being used to suppress political opponents, while the government and investigative agencies maintain that these actions are conducted under the law. Therefore, it is the responsibility of a democratic system to dispel public doubts. The most effective way to do this is to ensure that investigative agencies justify each of their actions based on solid evidence and due process.

In the Azam Khan case, the Samajwadi Party may level allegations of political vendetta, but the veracity of these allegations will be determined by the court and the available evidence. Similarly, the ED's allegations cannot be considered a final judicial conclusion. It is important to understand the difference between an investigation and a trial. Being remanded to judicial custody does not necessarily imply guilt. The Indian Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to a fair trial and legal defense. Azam Khan should also be fully afforded this right.

A broader aspect of this issue also concerns the credibility of education and public institutions. Institutions like Jauhar University are not just the property of an individual or political party; the future of thousands of students and staff is tied to them. If financial irregularities impact the functioning of a university, students suffer the most. Therefore, during the investigation, it must be ensured that the education system and the interests of students are not unduly affected.

Political parties also need to exercise restraint in this matter. The ruling party should refrain from presenting the investigation as a political achievement, and the opposition should refrain from dismissing every legal action as a political conspiracy. In a democracy, neither investigative agencies are private entities of any government, nor are political leaders above the law. Similarly, the government cannot be given the right to ignore the constitutional rights of citizens in the name of investigation.

Karnataka's Sting Operation Saga - Political Rivalry Or A Battle Of Allegations?

BHARTI MISHRA NATH





Karnataka's latest political controversy has all the ingredients of a political thriller - an alleged sting operation, a former Chief Minister fighting to protect his reputation, allegations of an intra-party conspiracy, an expelled Congress functionary, a serving chief minister facing questions about internal factionalism. And, then came the entry of a former chief minister from the opposition – bringing an entirely new dimension to the whole saga.

What began as an apparent attempt to target former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah has evolved into a complicated political contest involving the Congress, the JD(S), and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy. More importantly, it has once again raised uncomfortable questions about the methods politicians in Karnataka employ to weaken opponents, settle internal scores, and gain political leverage. Sensational allegations, leaked videos, and competing narratives rather than political debate have become the order of the day.

Also, with this diversion masterstroke, the Karnataka Congress has been able to divert attention from its own intra-party feud.

Change In Political Narrative

Until November 1, the principal question was whether the alleged sting operation was connected to the Congress's own internal power struggle. The emergence of Kumaraswamy's alleged connection has shifted attention towards the opposition and the possible political networks behind the circulation of the video.

The political significance of the development lies in the fact that the police investigation has now brought Kumaraswamy's political circle into the picture. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh recently said an accused had told investigators that a mobile phone allegedly used to upload the video was handed over to an associate at Kumaraswamy's official residence in New Delhi. The police also said that this is an investigative lead, not proof of Kumaraswamy's involvement. Kumaraswamy, predictably, has rejected the allegations and accused the Congress government of manipulating the investigation to divert attention from the alleged masterminds.

His response has been to turn the spotlight back on Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, questioning his alleged role in the political developments surrounding the circulation of videos involving his nephew Prajwal Revanna.

A purported sting, whether genuine or fabricated, can damage reputations long before the truth is established. The political consequences can be immediate, while the legal process takes months or years. The individual targeted is forced into damage control, party colleagues are compelled to take sides, and opponents gain an opportunity to exploit the resulting uncertainty.

Karnataka has witnessed several such controversies. The 2021 video controversy involving then BJP minister Ramesh Jarkiholi resulted in his resignation. Jarkiholi subsequently accused Shivakumar of orchestrating the operation, an allegation Shivakumar denied. The parallels are difficult to ignore.

Diversionary Tactics

The Siddaramaiah-Shivakumar relationship has been a subject of political speculation since the Congress returned to power in Karnataka in 2023. The leadership arrangement and subsequent transition have kept questions of power-sharing, political influence, and succession alive. Siddaramaiah's supporters have expressed concerns about his diminishing position since he relinquished the CM's post in May 2026. While Shivakumar may have fulfilled his ambition of becoming the CM, he still has to navigate the expectations of a powerful faction within his own party.

The sting controversy threatened to turn these differences into an open confrontation. Siddaramaiah took the matter to the Congress high command and even met Rahul Gandhi during his November 1 visit to Delhi. His demand was for a fair investigation, but the political subtext was equally significant - he wanted the national leadership to recognise the implications of what he perceived as an attempt to undermine him.

Škoda Auto India surpasses 350 Customer Touchpoints, expands reach to 193 cities



Mumbai, November, 2026 – Škoda Auto India has expanded its network to over 350 Customer Touchpoints across 193 cities, strengthening access to its products and ownership experience nationwide. The brand reached its 350-touchpoint milestone on October 30, 2026, with the inauguration of its 350th Customer Touchpoint in Imphal, marking its entry into Manipur. The expansion highlights Škoda Auto India's commitment to bringing sales and aftersales services closer to customers in established markets and emerging regions alike.

Commenting on the milestone, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "Surpassing 350 Customer Touchpoints across 193 cities demonstrates our commitment to bringing Škoda closer to customers across India. Our dealer partners, both existing and new, are central to this journey, and I thank them for sharing our vision of building a stronger Škoda brand in India. As we enter new markets, our priority is clear - to deliver a consistent, enriching customer experience across sales and aftersales. Together with our expanding product portfolio and customer-first initiatives, this growing network will help us strengthen customer trust and deepen our relevance across the country."

EXPANDING REACH, STRENGTHENING PRESENCE

Škoda Auto India's network has grown from 191 Customer Touchpoints in 2021 to 325 in 2025 and over 350 as of October 2026. Its geographical footprint has expanded from 156 cities across 25 States and Union Territories in 2024 to 193 cities across 29 States and Union Territories today. Supported by 79 dealer partners, the network comprises 270 Sales Touchpoints and 203 Aftersales Touchpoints, including multiple 2S/3S facilities. Between January 2025 and October 2026, the brand added 58 showrooms across 38 new cities and 45 workshops across 34 new cities, extending access to both sales and aftersales services.

REACHING NEW MARKETS, CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Škoda Auto India's expansion strategy focuses on reaching customers beyond established metropolitan markets. In 2026, the brand entered 11 new cities: Balasore, Baramati, Bathinda, Bikaner, Guna, Imphal, Jorhat, Kaithal, Khammam, Sri Ganganagar and Vasai. The Imphal opening marks the first presence of a SAVWIPL Group brand in Manipur. Škoda also has the widest geographical coverage among Group brands in the Northeast. The commercial impact of this expansion is reflected in new outlets contributing over 25% of the brand's overall sales from January to October 2026.

STRENGTHENING THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Alongside network expansion, Škoda Auto India remains focused on a consistent customer experience across sales and aftersales. Its dealer partner in Bangalore ranked No. 1 for dealership customer experience in the CarPhD survey, covering 16 cities, 18 automotive brands and 88,000 customer reviews. This commitment is supported by Škoda Super Care, which offers four years of standard warranty, roadside assistance and complimentary service labour, and Škoda Express Care, available at select locations for greater convenience and quicker service turnaround times.

PI Industries unveils Pioxaniliprole, India's first indigenously discovered insecticide molecule



Decade-long research breakthrough marks a defining milestone in India's ability to originate world-class agricultural science and proprietary innovation.

In a historic moment for Indian agricultural science, PI Industries today unveiled Pioxaniliprole, India's first indigenously discovered insecticide molecule, developed through more than a decade of original research, sustained investment and scientific innovation.

The achievement marks a defining milestone for PI and India's crop-protection industry. Pioxaniliprole demonstrates the country's growing capability to originate novel scientific discoveries and create proprietary intellectual property.

India is home to one of the world's largest and most diverse agricultural ecosystems, spanning a wide range of crops, agro-climatic conditions and evolving pest pressures. For over eight decades, PI has worked alongside Indian agricultural universities and scientists, building a deep understanding of these complexities through generations of engagement with farmers. Pioxaniliprole brings together this understanding of Indian farming realities with PI's advanced scientific discovery capabilities. Developed to global scientific standards, the molecule has undergone extensive evaluation under Indian agricultural conditions, including multilocation field trials, scientific assessments and regulatory studies, with participation from India's agricultural research ecosystem, including State Agricultural Universities. Pioxaniliprole has received registration from the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC), under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India. The Committee formally recognised it as the first insecticide active ingredient discovered in India. Mayank Singhal, Vice Chairperson & Managing Director, PI Industries Ltd, said "More than a decade ago, we set out to build the capability to discover original crop-protection in India. It required the courage to challenge conventional wisdom, substantial long-term investment and the conviction to pursue what had never been achieved before. Today, Pioxaniliprole demonstrates what is possible when our deep understanding of Indian agriculture meets world-class science. It is a proud moment for PI and for Indian agricultural innovation. This achievement strengthens our ambition to build a global, innovation-led Life Sciences company, creating original science and intellectual property from India for the world." The discovery reflects PI's long-term investment in an integrated research and development ecosystem spanning molecular discovery, chemistry, biology, formulation science, toxicology, agronomy, process development and manufacturing. With over 700 scientists, more than 200 PhDs and a portfolio of over 260 patents, PI has built the scientific depth and infrastructure to advance original discoveries through development and commercialisation. The significance of Pioxaniliprole extends beyond a single molecule. It is the first outcome of a broader innovation pipeline at PI, spanning chemistry, biology and biochemical solutions. Together, these mark an important step in India's journey towards greater scientific self-reliance, strengthening indigenous research capabilities and creating opportunities for Indian-origin agricultural innovation to address challenges of global relevance.

POWERUP MONEY RAISES $10 MILLION FROM FLOURISH VENTURES TO SCALE AI-LED WEALTH MANAGEMENT





Bengaluru, 03 November 2026: Wealthtech platform PowerUp Money has raised $10 million in a funding round led by Flourish Ventures to accelerate the development of its AI-led wealth management solutions for Indian investors.

PowerUp Money has previously raised capital from leading investors, including Peak XV Partners, Accel, Blume Ventures, Kae Capital, 8i Ventures and DeVC, all of whom are also participating in this round.

Founded in 2025, PowerUp serves more than 15 lakh customers, tracking over ?2.5 lakh crore worth of mutual fund portfolios. PowerUp Elite, a mutual fund advisory subscription, is central to its mission of making institutional-grade, unbiased investment advice accessible to Indian investors at a fraction of the traditional cost. In nearly a year, Elite has grown to over 1 lakh paid members, establishing it as one of the largest fee-based RIA advisory platforms in the country.

ELITE PRIME IS BRINGING AI-ENABLED DIGITAL WEALTH ADVISORY TO INVESTORS

PowerUp has launched Elite Prime, its most comprehensive digital wealth management offering yet, now live on the PowerUp Money app. Designed as an end-to-end digital wealth advisory experience, Prime understands an investor's goals, risk profile and existing portfolio, and translates that context into asset allocation, SIP and lump-sum deployment plans, rebalancing, and withdrawal strategies. It can also identify gaps in a portfolio and recommend exposure to missing asset classes such as gold, silver and global investments.

An AI wealth coach and AI-powered personal assistant sit at the core of the experience, helping investors make sense of these decisions, act on the advice and stay disciplined as their portfolio and financial needs evolve.The AI system enables PowerUp to deliver a much deeper and more personalised wealth management experience available digitally at scale

Prateek Jindal, Founder & CEO, PowerUp Money, said, "We started by making high-quality investment advice accessible to every Indian. Today, AI makes it possible to deliver a much more comprehensive, wealth-manager-like experience digitally and at a fraction of traditional costs. A significant portion of this investment will go towards building an AI-powered wealth manager that brings personalised financial planning and ongoing portfolio guidance to every Indian."

INFINITE SCALES TO $50 MN AUM WITHIN 9 MONTHS OF LAUNCH

Infinite is PowerUp Money's managed wealth advisory offering for investors looking for deeper, hands-on support across their financial journey. It offers a holistic wealth management experience spanning personalised financial planning, portfolio construction, multi-asset allocation, goal-based strategies, ongoing portfolio management and dedicated advisor support.

Building on the adoption of Elite, Infinite, has scaled to almost ?500 crore in AUM within around 9 months of launch, despite currently being available only to a limited set of customers. Scaling Infinite will be one of the key priorities for the fresh capital, as PowerUp looks to make the offering available to more customers and build managed advisory into a more significant part of its business.

Prateek Jindal, Founder & CEO, PowerUp Money, said, "Infinite is a natural extension of our mission to help Indians build wealth, expanding our offering from investment advice to end-to-end wealth management. Infinite helps customers navigate their entire wealth journey, from financial planning and portfolio construction to ongoing management. Scaling Infinite and making it accessible to all investors is a key priority for us over the next 1 year."

BUILDING A FULL-STACK WEALTH MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

With Elite, Prime and Infinite, PowerUp is building a comprehensive wealth management platform spanning research-backed investment advisory, human-led managed wealth and AI-enabled digital wealth management.

Prateek Jindal added "Different investors need different levels of support. Elite helps investors make better investment decisions, while investors with larger and more complex portfolios may increasingly look for deeper, hands-on support through Infinite. Prime takes digital wealth management much further by bringing together planning, asset allocation, execution and ongoing guidance in one experience. Our ambition is to build one platform that can serve customers across that entire spectrum."

Ravi Kaushik, Executive Director, Head of Asia, Flourish Ventures, said "India has significantly democratised investing. Mutual fund AUM has grown nearly six-fold in a decade, from around ?15 lakh crore to ?82 lakh crore, compounding at approximately 18% annually. The next chapter is helping millions of investors manage that wealth as their financial lives grow more complex. The convergence of digital public infrastructure, AI and a growing base of retail investors with expanding wealth creates a unique opportunity to build in this space.

Dubai Fitness Challenge marks 10th edition with city-wide calendar of fitness events and activities



India, 03 rd November 2026: – The 10th edition of Dubai Fitness Challenge (DFC), an initiative of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, is set to mark a decade of 30x30 as it returns on 31 October 2026, continuing Dubai's journey towards becoming one of the world's most active cities. With its 'What's Your 30x30?' theme, DFC 2026 invites residents and visitors to discover their own way to move and commit to 30 minutes of daily physical activity for 30 days, transforming Dubai into a vibrant citywide celebration of fitness, wellbeing and community.

His Excellency Saeed Hareb, Secretary General of the Dubai Sports Council, said: "As Dubai Fitness Challenge celebrates its landmark 10th edition, we are reminded of the vision of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who introduced the initiative to encourage everyone to dedicate 30 minutes a day to physical activity for 30 days. A decade later, the Challenge has become much more than an annual fitness initiative. It has helped establish a culture of active living, bringing communities together and making sport and physical activity an integral part of life in Dubai." "This year's 'What's Your 30x30?' theme encourages everyone to find their own way to stay active and make fitness part of their everyday life. Through flagship events, Fitness Villages and community activities, we are creating opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate, supporting Dubai's ambition to become one of the world's most active cities."

Innovative programming

Ahmed Al Khaja, CEO of the Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE), added: "As we celebrate the milestone 10th edition of Dubai Fitness Challenge, this year's calendar of events reflects just how far the initiative has come in bringing our city together through fitness. What makes DFC special is the collective effort behind it, with government entities, private sector partners and communities working together to make fitness accessible across the city. Through the continued support of our partners and the enthusiasm of our community, we are creating shared experiences that inspire healthier habits beyond the 30 days, while demonstrating what can be achieved when an entire city comes together around a shared commitment to health and wellbeing. The key highlights unfolding across the city during DFC 2026 are listed below:

Four flagship events

Dubai Ride presented by DP World — 1 November

After welcoming a record of over 40,000 cyclists in 2025, Dubai Ride, presented by DP World, will bring thousands of cyclists to the streets of Dubai, marking the opening weekend of the 10th edition of DFC. Starting at 6:15 am, the event offers participants a rare opportunity to explore the city on two wheels, with Sheikh Zayed Road and Downtown Dubai transformed into traffic-free cycling routes for the morning.

Sensex Closes 1,200 Points Higher Amid Fresh US Strikes On Iran



India's benchmark indices ended sharply lower on Monday as escalating geopolitical tensions stemming from the ongoing US–Iran conflict weighed on investor sentiment. The Nifty 50 settled at 24,028.05, down 422.40 points or 1.73 percent. The index also entered the technical correction zone, having fallen more than 10 percent from its record high of 26,373, which it touched on January 5. The Sensex ended at 77,566.16, declining 1,352.74 points or 1.71 percent. Despite the steep losses, both indices recovered from their intra-day lows after oil prices softened during the session. The Nifty rebounded around 160 points from its day's low of 23,868.05, while the Sensex recovered nearly 1,142 points from the intra-day low of 76,424.55. Broader markets underperformed the benchmark indices during the session. The Nifty MidCap Index closed 1.97 percent lower, while the Nifty SmallCap Index declined 2.22 percent. Among sectoral indices, the Nifty PSU Bank Index was the worst performer, falling 3.97 percent amid heavy selling in public sector banking stocks. In contrast, the Nifty IT Index showed relative resilience, ending marginally higher. The index rose 0.08 percent to close at 30,162.05.

Gold Demand Trends: Q3 2026

Total Q3 gold demand, including OTC, was 1% lower y/y at 1,369t. On a y-t-d basis, demand of 3,881t virtually matches the 2025 record (3,884t), while value set a record of US$566bn. Central bank buying jumped to 321t in Q3, eclipsing recent typical quarterly buying levels and lifting y-t-d demand to 675t (+6% y/y). Gold ETFs reversed course following the Q2 outflows, adding 211t in Q3. The inflow seemed to be driven by mounting concerns over fiscal sustainability and inflation, among other things. Bar and coin investors were more circumspect; global demand was 19% lower y/y at 268t as investors waited for a clearer price trend to emerge. Jewellery demand fell 17% y/y to 313t, the weakest third quarter in our data series, as high prices remained a headwind across all markets. Demand value edged up 2% y/y to US$43bn. Gold used in technology increased 3% y/y in Q3 as demand generated by AI-related manufacturing more than offset the limiting effect of high gold prices. The LBMA (PM) gold price averaged US$4,262/oz in Q3 This was the third strongest quarterly average price on record and 23% higher y/y. Gold mine production was up 3% y/y to 1,071t – a third quarter record. Total supply edged down 1% to 1,369t; recycling volumes fell 8% y/y to a three-year low of 314t. Outlook: demand for ETFs, bars and coins to remain resilient, albeit caught in competing crosswinds. Central bank buying likely to at least match 2025 after surprisingly strong Q3. Jewellery volumes will continue to moderate amid persistently high prices. Recycling, in contrast, remains broadly unresponsive to high prices. Accordingly, gold mine production remains the only likely area of – modest – supply growth.



US voters head to polls in midterm elections that will shape rest of Trump's presidency



On Monday, the Supreme Court denied an emergency request by the Trump administration to intervene in a dispute over thousands of mail-in ballot papers which the administration claims were issued to non-citizens in the state. Nearly 26 million people are registered to vote in California, a Democrat stronghold, and the state accounts for 52 seats in the House of Representatives, which the Democrats are hoping to tip in their favour. Last year – in response to similar measures in some Republican states – voters approved a state-wide redistricting effort put forward by California's governor, Gavin Newsom, and officials have since adjusted the maps of several congressional districts to make them more competitive for Democratic challengers. As well as choosing a successor to Gavin Newsom, and determining the outcome of a tight race for LA's mayor, voters are being asked to consider more than a dozen other ballot measures, including a proposal for a one-time tax on billionaires to fund healthcare and education in the state. I'm outside a Lutheran church doubling as a polling station here in Columbus, Ohio, watching a steady stream of voters head in since we got here just after dawn. Last night in a couple of hours' drive from here, in Toledo, Ohio, Vice-President JD Vance closed campaigning urging Republicans to get out to vote. "Illegal communities of illegal immigrant Somalis... are co-ordinating to flood the polls and drown out your vote," he told the crowd that, but didn't cite any evidence for that claim which he said he had read in a "story". One voter I just chatted to described a "real low" campaign here in Ohio that compelled her to come out. "It's racist," she said, "our Somali community, we have businesses all around... they're contributing to our society". Polls have just opened in Idaho, California, Oregon and Nevada. The next 24 hours is a marathon, not a sprint, and results will start coming in later into the evening. We'll continue to bring you the latest analysis and news, so stick with us. Earlier, we reported that officials in Florida had relocated polling stations due to flooding. Other states have also been hit by heavy rains. In the early hours of the morning, officials in Utah said they'd issued an emergency order allowing voters in San Juan county to return their ballots electronically, should they be unable to travel because of the floods. Governor Katie Hobbs declared a state of emergency in Arizona on Monday in response to storms and flash flooding, to ensure authorities had "the resources they need to clear roads, repair infrastructure, and help displaced residents". Officials in New York are reporting problems with ballot scanners in Westchester County, but add that votes will still be counted. Westchester County Government says the issue involves paper ballots "preventing voting machines from accepting ballots at polling locations throughout the county". However, it adds in a post on X that it wants to "reassure every voter that your vote matters, your ballot will be secure and your vote will be counted". Westchester County Government says its board of elections is in "constant communication" with New York state officials to address the issue, and voters should continue to complete their paper ballots as instructed by poll workers. It's an unusually quiet morning at the White House, where I'm one of only a very small handful of reporters currently here. Most will come in later today, and many members of the White House press corps are on the road. President Trump, however, appears to be busy, posting endorsement after endorsement on Truth Social. A short time ago, he also phoned into Fox News for a brief telephone interview as Americans head to the polls. In the interview, he made yet another pitch to voters and pointed to what he said were signs of economic progress under his administration, including an end to taxes on tips and overtime and foreign investment figures. He also claimed he was in "total control" of the Middle East and Strait of Hormuz. The president makes similar comments very frequently, but polls show that they have largely not resonated with American voters.

US strikes Iranian island ahead of midterm elections



The US has carried out strikes on Iran's Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz, US officials have told CBS, the BBC's US partner. The officials described the strikes as limited and defensive, and said they were in response to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) firing on a US aircraft. Iranian state news agency Irna reported explosions on Qeshm on Monday. The IRGC did not comment but said its forces had shot down two US MQM-170 drones south of the island and a US MQ-9 drone east of the Strait of Hormuz. The US military has not commented on the strikes, which came as mediators stepped up their efforts to prevent a return to all-out war after the US midterm elections on Tuesday. Trump has been facing falling polling numbers and pressure from within his Republican Party to end the war, which began when the US and Israel attacked Iran in February. Earlier on Monday, the president told reporters that he was in "no rush" to ramp up strikes on Iran. "One way or the other, we will do something, but there is no rush. We crippled them financially," he told news outlet Axios. "They have no money, no gasoline and their people are getting very tired of it." He also said the US "might need to go after Pickaxe [Mountain]", an underground site linked to Iran's nuclear programme, in an interview with Fox News on the eve of the midterms. This was "not a big deal" and could be done in "one hour", Trump added. There has been mounting speculation in the last few days that the US may resume significant strikes in Iran again after the midterms. But asked by a reporter on Monday if that was the case, Trump said "no". Meanwhile, the Associated Press cited two regional officials as saying that, during a weekend phone call, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had pushed Trump for another wave of strikes on Iran following the midterms. On Tuesday, Iran's chief negotiator with the US, parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, stated: "The ball is now in America's court to prevent war." "Just as the Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready for battle with its finger on the trigger, it has also given the American side a powerful and rational response," he said in a televised speech. It was not immediately clear what Ghalibaf was referring to, but Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Irna on Monday that "very intensive" talks to try to end the war were under way with the US via Qatari and Pakistani mediators. Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman said on Tuesday that both sides were "reviewing the ideas and proposals we have presented" and that it remained hopeful of a deal being agreed. "Both parties remain committed to the negotiation process... We are facilitating the real-time exchange of proposals between them," Majed al-Ansari told reporters in Doha. Last week, Iranian negotiators discussed with mediators a proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within two days once the US met its seven conditions. They reportedly include lifting a naval blockade of Iranian ports and releasing frozen Iranian assets.

INDIAN TOURIST KILLED AFTER TWO HELICOPTERS COLLIDE NEAR EVEREST BASE CAMP



An Indian tourist has died after two helicopters collided while attempting to land near the base camp of Mount Everest, two officials have confirmed to the BBC. Verified footage of the crash showed the helicopter blades of the two aircraft clipping each other as they came into land at around 08:15 local time (02:30 GMT) in Pheriche, approximately 12km (7 miles) south of Mount Everest Base Camp. Helicopter company Fishtail Air named the man killed in the crash as Vasanth Kumar Balaramudu. The helicopter company said one of its vehicles was involved in the collision and that another passenger and the helicopter's captain had been injured. The injured passengers and crew members on board were rescued and taken to Kathmandu, Fishtail Air added in a statement. The injured passenger was a tourist from New Zealand, an official of Solukhumbu district, Bhupendra Thapa, told BBC Nepal. The other helicopter involved was operated by Air Dynasty and had been carrying cargo, the company said. It was operated by one crew member who sustained no injuries, it added A spokesman for Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority, Gyanendra Bhul, said: "It appears the accident happened when two helicopters... attempted to land at the same spot."

LIBYA'S TOP RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY RULES AGAINST WEARING NIKE CLOTHES



Libya's highest religious authority, the Dar al-Ifta, has issued a ruling banning Muslims from buying, selling or wearing clothing bearing the Nike logo. The ruling, issued by the Tripoli-based institution, states that the US sportswear giant was named after the Greek goddess of victory and that its famous swoosh logo was inspired by her wings. It argued that wearing clothing displaying the logo amounted to promoting symbols associated "with polytheism," or the worship of more than one god. Libya is home to the ancient Greek city of Cyrene, where archaeological remains include a statue of the Greek goddess of the same name. The religious committee also accused Nike of supporting Israel and called for a boycott of companies that back the country. It referred to a statement issued by its Council for Research and Sharia Studies on 5 November 2023, urging Muslims to boycott Western companies it considers supportive of Israel during the war in Gaza. The ruling, known as a fatwa, is a religious opinion on a matter of Islamic law. It was approved by Libya's Grand Mufti, Sadiq al-Gharyani. The BBC has contacted Nike for comment. The Dar al-Ifta is an influential religious institution based in Tripoli, in western Libya. The country is politically divided, with rival authorities and institutions operating in the east and west after years of conflict following the toppling of long-time leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Although its religious rulings can carry considerable social influence, they are not necessarily government orders or legally enforceable. Last year it ruled against wearing jewellery and watches bearing the logo of French luxury jewellery house Van Cleef & Arpels, arguing that its four-leaf clover design was associated with Christian beliefs and the pursuit of good luck, which it said contradicted Islamic teachings. The latest fatwa does not announce a state ban on Nike products or specify penalties for people who continue to buy or wear them. Social media reactions were mixed, with some users welcoming the ruling, while others questioned its significance, describing it as ironic or a distraction from more pressing issues. The ruling comes amid wider debates over the rise of religious conservatism in public life in Libya. In 2025, authorities in eastern Libya announced restrictions on rap music, theatre and dance performances, citing concerns that some lyrics and performances violated public morals and Islamic values.

MINING GIANT JOINS FIGHT TO STOP KILLER TOAD MARCH ACROSS AUSTRALIA



Rio Tinto is ploughing millions of dollars into stopping the poisonous cane toad reaching the Pilbara region of western Australia, where the mining giant has a vast iron ore operation The firm, alongside Curtin University in Perth and others, will spend A$28m (£14.5m) building a "toad containment zone" to prevent the pest travelling south. While the cane toad is not a direct threat to Rio Tinto's business, it produces toxins lethal to native wildlife and poses a threat to Pilbara's ecosystem. Rio Tinto has previously faced criticism for destroying two sacred Aboriginal rock shelters in Pilbara which sat above tonnes of iron ore. The decision cost the former chief executive his job, provoked a widespread backlash and saw Rio Tinto commit to rebuilding trust with Indigenous communities. Commenting on the proposed containment zone, Roberta Hunter, a ranger in Australia's Nyangumarta Warrarn Indigenous Protected Area, said: "Cane toads destroy the water and animals. "When toads come close to our country, we want to be there to stop them because we don't want the country to be destroyed."



Thousands of European troops to rehearse Ukraine deployment in event of peace

SEVEN PLANES SEARCHED AFTER SUSPECTED BOMB THREATS ACROSS EUROPE



=Avaition security expert Paul Mason says bomb threats on passenger planes "don't happen that frequently", which makes these incidents "unusual". "It sounds like they've been made in a credible manner across a broad range of airlines," he tells BBC 5 Live. "That would suggest to me that it's been a very deliberate act by a typical actor rather than a load of coincidental, malicious calls." Mason explains "there are a lot of processes" that the onboard crew and people on the ground must go through "to validate the credibility of the threat". He says in such circumstances the primary responsibility for the crew is the safety of the aircraft and "maintaining a calm state in flight is absolutely essential". Mason adds that the aircraft may be asked to divert if the credibility of a threat "is of a certain level" and in some cases the onboard crew may not even be advised on what the ground operators are dealing with. A sniffer dog has been filmed inspecting a Ryanair flight in Spain following a suspected bomb threat. A flight from Manchester to Murcia was searched by emergency services following a threat. Earlier a Spanish official explained no explosives were found on the plane and normal activity has since resumed at the airport. A dog was seen searching around the plane as firefighters waited nearby. The Bulgarian transport minister has said there were bomb threats against two planes travelling to Sofia, local media reports. Georgi Peev tells the state-owned Bulgarian News Agency (BTA) that there were threats against a flight travelling from the Italian city of Bergamo to Sofia - an incident we've already reported. He also says a threat was made against a flight travelling from Dublin to the Bulgarian capital. That brings the total number of flights reported threatened today to seven, in addition to another plane on Monday. Peev explains that the flights into Sofia were not diverted and no explosives were found when the planes were checked. A Bulgarian interior ministry spokesperson told news agency AFP that the flight which landed in the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, was a Wizz Air flight from Bergamo in Italy.



Rajkumari Lanchenbi Chanu Wins India's First-Ever Medal In Wushu At Youth Olympic Games

Shubman Gill Confirms India's Batting Order For New Zealand ODIs: "A Bit Flexible"



India captain Shubman Gill on Tuesday revealed the team's batting plans for the upcoming five-match ODI series against New Zealand, which begins in Auckland on November 4. Gill will lead the side in the first three ODIs before being released from the squad to prepare for the two-Test series later this month. Vice-captain Shreyas Iyer will take over for the final two ODIs in Mount Maunganui. Speaking ahead of the series opener in Auckland, Gill confirmed India's top four will comprise himself, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Iyer. However, he added that India will adopt a flexible approach in the middle order, with KL Rahul and Axar Patel, the only left-hander in the top six, sharing responsibilities depending on the match situation. "We will have floating approach for no.5 and no.6. Our top four is set, all right-handers. So if lefty is needed, Axar bhai goes and depending on match situation even KL bhai can go. So, a bit flexible," Gill said during a pre-match press conference. Gill also dismissed concerns over the neck discomfort that has troubled him in the past. The India captain said he has experienced no discomfort in the lead-up to the series and has completed his preparations without any issues. "No issue... I batted for close to one and a half hours and did my fielding without any trouble too. No issue at all," he added. New Zealand has not been a particularly happy hunting ground for Gill, with the India captain scoring just 124 runs in five previous ODI appearances in the country. However, he has left no stone unturned in his preparations, reportedly paying for the accommodation of four to five net bowlers out of his own pocket to ensure quality practice ahead of the series. Gill arrived in Auckland before the third T20I last month and has been putting in the hard yards ever since in a bid to hit peak form ahead of a busy international schedule.

"I'm Framing The Cup" - Fans Go Crazy Over LeBron James' Off-Court Moment During Game Against Chicago Bulls



LeBron James was chasing a loose ball in the Philadelphia 76ers' game against the Chicago Bulls when he ran out of floor and into the stands. He grabbed a fan's drink, took a sip, and went back to the play like nothing had happened. The clip went viral, and the internet went crazy over it. Most people seemed to care less about the possession than about the cup. Fans Lose It Over LeBron's Sip Of Soda The replies started pouring in right away, and some of them were better than the moment itself. "If Bron sips my drink I'm not mad, I'm framing the cup," one of the fans commented, followed by a laughing emoji. That was the polite version. Another fan went straight to the money. "That diet coke gon fetch a thousand bucks on eBay ong." A third wanted to go bigger. "I'd frame the cup, charge admission, and tell everyone Bron approved my taste." Then there was the fan whose drink it was, who now has a story for life. "That fan's gonna tell this story for 40 years and the drink gets stronger every time," one of them stated. And James, for his part, looks like he is still enjoying himself. "LeBron is having some extra fun with it in year 24," another one wrote. It is hard to argue with that after watching a 24-season veteran chase a ball into the stands. Philadelphia 76ers So Far The Philadelphia 76ers are off to a very good start this season. They are 7-1 and sit first in the Eastern Conference. The win over the Bulls was a comfortable one, with the team building a 19-point lead along the way. Jaylen Brown, Joel Embiid, Tyrese Maxey and V.J. Edgecombe led the team through its wins, and James has held up his end as well, averaging 16.4 points, 7.0 rebounds and 7.0 assists. Next up are the Detroit Pistons, and this one matters.

"YOU HAVE TO HAVE A PENALTY":

Cormier Daniel Wants Dan Miragliotta Pulled From Upcoming UFC Assignments



Daniel Cormier wants referee Dan Miragliotta to face consequences for the controversial stand-up in the Tom Nolan vs. Renato Moicano UFC Vegas 123. Cormier said the decision was one of the biggest officiating errors he has witnessed, even after taking time to review it. Miragliotta stood the fighters up in Round 2 while Moicano had back control and a body triangle locked in. Nolan hurt Moicano soon after the reset and stopped him with punches and elbows at 1:28 of Round 3. Cormier refuses to let Miragliotta's controversial call slide Daniel Cormier, who worked as a colour commentator at the event, said he saw the error from beside the Octagon. He argued that back control is a dominant position and should not be reset when a fighter is actively working. "There was no stalling. He was not being timid. He was actually attempting to try to get to that position," Cormier said on his YouTube channel. Cormier stressed, "It is so clear that the mistake led to the change in the outcome that you have to have a penalty. Everybody else is held accountable. We're all held accountable for our actions." He said, "Nobody should be above that, officials included." He believes the Nevada State Athletic Commission should remove Miragliotta from upcoming assignments: "Dan Miragliotta should not be there." This includes the UFC event at the Apex and UFC 334 in New York, where the heavyweight title will be on the line. Moicano points finger at crowd pressure after controversial UFC stoppage Renato Moicano believes crowd booing influenced Miragliotta's decision. The Brazilian said referees are human and can be affected by the arena atmosphere. "I was in a very hard position to get," Moicano told Ariel Helwani. "I'm not saying I would win the fight; I cannot say that.

Raquel Rodriguez Recalls Having A Crush On John Cena Before Their WWE Match



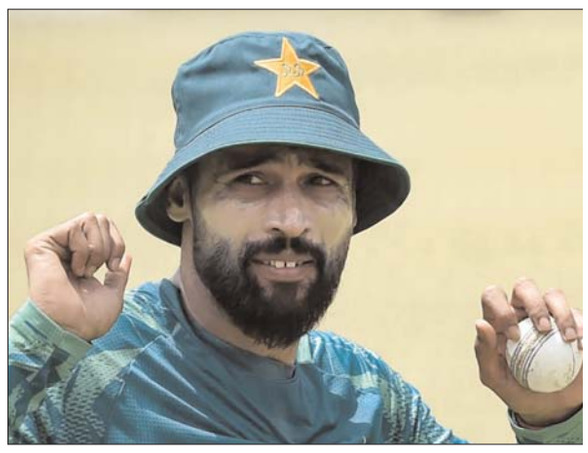
Raquel Rodriguez used to be a fan first, and John Cena was the guy. The RAW star recently talked about having a childhood crush on the 16-time World Champion, and she remembered following his career and buying his famous inflatable hand. Years later she ended up in the ring with him, but her role in Cena's final WWE year was nothing like being a fan. She attacked him during his match against Dominik Mysterio at Survivor Series 2025, and she still brings it up at meet-and-greets. Raquel Rodriguez Reveals How Her Childhood Crush on John Cena Started During High School

Spanish Footballer Jesus De Miguel Dies After Mid-Match Collision With Goalkeeper



Tenerife striker Jesus de Miguel died on Tuesday as a result of injuries he suffered in a sickening collision with FC Andorra's goalkeeper in a Spanish second division match. "Broken with pain, with a lump in our throat and unable to believe this is real, CD Tenerife announces the tragic death, at 8:00 am (7am GMT), of Jesus de Miguel Alameda," his club Tenerife said in a statement. "No words can ease the pain, nothing can lessen this great feeling of sadness. Our thoughts are with the family, his close friends and Tenerife fans, who today are grieving over this terrible news." De Miguel, 30, was fouled in the middle of the pitch by Equatorial Guinea international goalkeeper Jesus Owono, who had raced out of his goal to try and clear the ball. The incident happened towards the end of the match at the Heliodoro Rodriguez Lopez stadium, with the teams level at 2-2. Owono was sent off and the match was subsequently abandoned. Spanish media said that De Miguel suffered a cardiac arrest and was resuscitated. The player was taken to hospital and placed in intensive care, with Tenerife later saying that De Miguel's condition had "worsened neurologically", before his death. "I am so deeply sorry. Rest in peace, Jesus," former Barcelona defender Gerard Pique, Andorra's majority shareholder, wrote on social media. Andorra also sent their "most sincere condolences" to De Miguel's family, team-mates and Tenerife. Real Madrid, Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and other clubs in Spain also sent messages of condolence, as well as the Spanish football federation (RFEF).

Mohammad Amir Responds To Reports Linking Him With IPL Entry



Mohammad Amir on Monday registered for the Afghanistan Premier League as a British citizen. The Pakistan cricket team star, who played 36 Tests, 61 ODIs, and 62 T20Is, acquired British citizenship this year. Following his registration for the Afghanistan Premier League as a British citizen, there was speculation that Amir could register for the IPL as a British citizen. In the past, Azhar Mahmood also played in the IPL through that route. Pakistani players/citizens are barred from playing in the IPL. However, the cricketer has quashed the rumours of registering for the IPL with a post on X. "Hi everyone, just wanted to clarify that the news regarding the IPL is not true," he wrote on X. Earlier this year, Amir played in The Hundred as a local player after going unsold in the tournament's player draft as an overseas player. He acquired British citizenship through his wife, Narjis Khan. "I am a British local now. When you play in competitions such as the County Championship and The Hundred as a local player, you have to sign a document stating that you cannot play for another country as a local. So, the Pakistan chapter I had before is now closed," said Amir. For the unversed, former Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood also played in the IPL from 2012 to 2015. Like Amir, Mahmood had acquired British citizenship and was subsequently signed by Punjab Kings. He also played a few matches for Kolkata Knight Riders. Amir announced his retirement from international cricket after the 2024 T20 World Cup, bringing an end to a Pakistan career that included 36 Tests, 61 ODIs, and 62 T20Is. Regarded as one of the finest left-arm fast bowlers of his generation, Amir remains a sought-after player in franchise leagues across the world.

MANU BHAKER ENTERS ISSF ATHLETES COMMITTEE ELECTION RACE



Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker will contest the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Athletes Committee elections for the 2026-2030 term after being nominated in the pistol category. Bhaker is among 10 candidates vying for two elected positions in the discipline and has outlined an athlete-centric vision focused on strengthening the sport and creating a more supportive, sustainable and progressive environment for shooters worldwide. Safeguarding the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event and securing its long-term future in the Olympic programme, besides pushing for better prize money across ISSF World Cups, are among her priorities. "Having competed at the highest level, I have experienced first-hand both the opportunities and challenges that come with being an international athlete," Bhaker was quoted as saying in a media release.

"I believe that athletes should not just be participants in the sport but also active voices in shaping its future. "My vision is to work towards greater stability in competition rules, better financial and commercial opportunities, stronger athlete welfare systems and a more accessible platform for athletes to raise their concerns. I want to contribute towards building an environment where athletes feel heard, supported and secure, both during and beyond their sporting careers," she added.

Bhaker also aims to advocate for greater stability in technical rules across Olympic cycles, allowing athletes to prepare with greater consistency and confidence. Recognising the need to expand shooting's global appeal, she wants to leverage social media and digital platforms to bring the sport closer to new audiences.

She has also proposed a secure and confidential grievance redressal mechanism for the timely and transparent resolution of athlete concerns, along with stronger mental health support through sports psychology programmes and designated quiet zones at ISSF events.

Looking beyond competitive careers, Bhaker also wants to advocate for practical financial security and career-transition pathways to help athletes build sustainable lives after retirement from sport.

One Gamble. Two Friends. A Chance to Rewrite Their Destiny! 'Pocket Rockkets' Teaser Promises a Wild Ride from December 11, 2026



What happens when a group of young people, struggling to make ends meet, suddenly finds an opportunity that could change their lives? Do they play it safe, or risk everything for a chance at a better future? The teaser of *Pocket Rockkets brings this dilemma to the forefront, introducing a world where ambition meets temptation and one decision could alter everything. Presented by Niharika Konidela's Pink Elephant Pictures, in association with Maximum City Studios, the film is written and directed by Rudra Atri. The teaser opens with glimpses of the characters' everyday struggles, establishing the financial pressures and aspirations that shape their lives. Their conversations reveal a desire to escape their circumstances and build something better for themselves. But just when the prospect of a fresh start begins to emerge, the story takes an unexpected turn. A casino becomes the setting for a journey filled with uncertainty, as roulette tables, gambling machines and the possibility of a sudden win introduce a new dimension to the characters' ambitions. The teaser's central question emerges through a conversation about making the most of an opportunity to turn their lives around. What follows appears to be a gamble that could offer everything they have been searching for, while threatening to take away everything they already have.

The contrast between the characters' modest beginnings and the charged atmosphere of the casino gives the teaser its distinctive energy. Humorous exchanges bring out the personalities of the young ensemble, while the gambling sequences create an undercurrent of tension. The teaser moves between these moments without revealing the complete storyline, leaving audiences curious about the circumstances that bring the characters together and the consequences of their choices.

Rather than relying on a conventional introduction to its characters, Pocket Rockkets establishes its premise through a series of glimpses that suggest a larger, unpredictable journey. The title itself adds to the intrigue, hinting at the possibility of sudden success and the risks that accompany it. The teaser leaves the audience with a compelling question: when life offers a chance to change everything, how much is too much to risk?

The film brings together Trinadh Varma, Nirmal and Shriya Kontham, with JD Chakravarthy in a pivotal role. It is produced by Padmaja Konidela, Rahul Raghavendra and Rahul Nimmakuri, with Ramesh Manyam serving as executive producer. Edurolu Raju handles cinematography, Gyaani composes the music, and Anwar Ali is the editor. With its intriguing premise, youthful ensemble and a gamble that could change everything, Pocket Rockkets sets up a cinematic ride driven by ambition, uncertainty and unexpected consequences. The teaser offers a glimpse of the world awaiting audiences, while keeping the film's biggest surprises under wraps.

LET'S CELEBRATE THIS DIWALI WITH 'SCENE' WITH FAMILY: SURIYA



Hero Suriya is teaming up with Malayalam blockbuster 'Aavesham' fame director Jithu Madhavan for the action-comedy entertainer 'Scene'. Nazriya Nazim is playing the female lead, while Naslen, Anand Raj, Lal, and Raj Priyan are playing key roles. The film is being produced by Jyothika, Surya Agaram Studios, and 2D Entertainment banners. Jayashree Damodaran is co-producing. The promotional content that has already been released is receiving a wonderful response. The film will have a grand release in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana through leading distribution company NVR Cinema. The film 'Scene' will be released in theaters worldwide on November 6, 2026 as a Diwali gift. On this occasion, the makers organized a grand pre-release event.

Speaking at the pre-release event, hero Surya said.. Thank you all. Love you. We are all one. We are one family. You all have given me unconditional love. This is the third time I have met you this year. I consider it a blessing. This year has been very amazing. Now everyone is talking about Pan India. But Nagarjuna garu has worked with directors from other languages ??before. He used to work by integrating all industries. Mani Ratnam garu, Priyadarshan garu, Mahesh Bhatt garu.. He has worked with many directors like this. That will always be in my mind. Actors from many languages ??worked together in 'Vishwanathan and Sons'. Wherever he went, he got a very good response. Venky gave a very beautiful film. Now I have done 'Scene' with Jithu. You must have seen his films 'Romancham' and 'Aavesham'. 'Scene' is also such a beautiful film. It was a great pleasure to work with her. It is a pleasure to meet you again after 'Veerabhadradu' and 'Vishwanathan and Sons'. Thank you for all your love. Our team members have given a wonderful work. Together we are presenting a beautiful film. It has murder mystery, madness, laughter.. everything. Rakendu Mouli has written very good dialogues and songs in Telugu. He has worked with a lot of commitment. There is also a lot of fresh talent in this film. It was a great pleasure to work with Nazriya. She is a very wonderful actress. She is a natural star. She has also done stunts in this film. This is a very special film. There is a dialogue in it. It is really useful in your life too. If we believe in ourselves and try, we can achieve anything. 'Scene' is also a very good family entertainer. All family members can come together and watch this film. Let's celebrate Diwali with this film. Love you all.

Marvel Studios Unveils Five New Avengers:

DOOMSDAY POSTERS, PUTS DOCTOR DOOM IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Doctor Doom Takes Centre Stage! Marvel Studios Unveils Five Powerful New Posters of Avengers: Doomsday, Teasing the Biggest Cinematic Showdown of the Year!

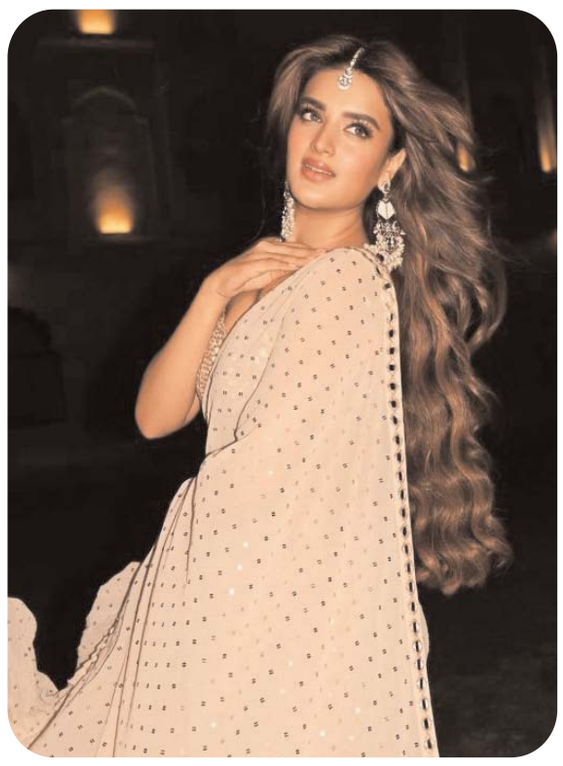
Brace yourself for an unparalleled big-screen spectacle as Marvel Studios' highly anticipated Avengers: Doomsday arrives in Indian cinemas across 4DX, RealD 3D, ScreenX, Dolby and Marvel Studios Presented Infinity Vision on 17th December in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu The countdown to the most anticipated cinematic event of the year has begun! As the release of Avengers: Doomsday inches closer, Marvel Studios has unveiled five new posters, further fuelling fan excitement and offering a closer look at Doctor Doom, one of the



Marvel Cinematic Universe's most formidable villains. With an ensemble cast, spectacular action and a high-stakes storyline, Avengers: Doomsday is gearing up to deliver an epic cinematic experience, bringing together the scale, spectacle and storytelling that fans have come to expect from the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

NIDDHI STUNS IN MIRROR WORK SAREE

Niddhi Agerwal has always been talked about for her looks and beauty, and she has stunned everyone again with her latest pictures online. Niddhi wore a nude beige saree with tiny sequin and mirror work all over it. The saree had a ruffled tiered drape and a mirror-lined border that caught the light as she twirled. She paired it with a sleeveless embroidered blouse, a maang tikka and heavy pearl drop earrings. Her long brown hair was left open in loose waves. Soft glowy makeup, winged eyeliner and nude pink lips completed the look. The palace lit up behind her made the shoot feel royal On the work front, Niddhi has no film in hand right now.



ACTOR'S DAUGHTER GETTING BIG OFFERS EVEN BEFORE DEBUT!



Medha Meka who is the daughter of popular Telugu actor Srikanth and actress Ooha is slowly becoming a name to watch in Tollywood. The young actress is receiving good film offers even before making her official debut in Tollywood. She has lot of exciting projects coming her way. So there is growing curiosity about whether she could become the next big female star in Telugu cinema.

According to reports, Medha is being considered for a popular sequel as well. An official update about the project is expected to come within a week. If the news turns out to be true then surely it could be a major opportunity for her to make a strong entry into the film industry.

Interestingly Medha was also considered for the upcoming film of Nandamuri Mokshagna. But the project faced delays and the decision is said to have changed due to various reasons. Medha is now preparing to make her acting debut with a romantic comedy produced by Mythri Movie Makers. The film is currently being referred to as Mythri In Love. Newcomer Jai Jasthi is playing the male lead in this movie. The film recently began with a pooja ceremony in Hyderabad. Medha's entry into films has become an interesting topic because star daughters rarely achieve the same level of success as their fathers in the industry. While many actors' sons have continued their family legacy, very few daughters have become leading actresses.

Shruti Haasan is one of the notable examples of a star daughter who successfully established herself in South Indian cinema. Now it looks like, even Medha can follow a similar path and create her own identity in Tollywood. Medha has already completed her graduation from the University of British Columbia in Canada.

ENE Repeat' will be enjoyed happily in theaters with family: Director Tarun Bhaskar at the trailer launch event

ENE Repeat' Tarun did it with his life. You will all laugh, cry tears of joy, a lot will happen in the film: Hero Vishwak Sen

Vishwak Sen, Abhinav Gomatham, Venkatesh Kakumanu, Srinath Maganti, Tarun Bhaskar Dhasyam, Srujan Yarabolu, Sandeep Nagi Reddy cult sequel 'ENE Repeat' trailer launch

The time has come for the crazy gang from the movie 'Ee Nagaraniki Emaindi' to reunite. 'ENE Repeat', which is being made as a sequel to this cult movie, is set to release on November 19. Written and directed by Tarun Bhaskar Dhasyam, this sequel will once again feature Vishwak Sen, Abhinav Gomatham, Venkatesh Kakumanu, and Srinath Maganti. With this much-loved combination of the audience coming back on screen, expectations have naturally increased on the movie. Srujan Yarabolu and Sandeep Nagi Reddy are producing this movie under the banners of S Originals and Rootnode Cinema. Recently, the makers released the trailer of this movie.



MISS KALIKA MISSING" TRAILER RELEASED



Some movie titles immediately stand out for being unique and intriguing. One such interesting title is "Miss Kalika Missing," which is all set to entertain audiences."Miss Kalika Missing" is being jointly produced by JSVV Entertainments and SS Art Productions. The film is directed by Satya Dhanekula and jointly produced by Ramakrishna and Padimala Yamuna. The movie is scheduled to hit the screens by the end of this month. On this occasion, the film's trailer was released today by the movie team.

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