SIT PUBLICATIONS PVT LTD | Estd 2009 | VOL No. 17 | ISSUE NO. 272 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 | P-8 | ₹.5/- | PRGI No. KARENG/2012/43253

KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

03-11-2026



Total pilgrims : 72,806
Tonsures : 18,564
Hundi kanukalu : 3.89CR
Laddu sale... 3.63 Lac
Annaprasadam...1.55Lac
Aswini hospital ...2,389
Present Situation on 04-11-2026:
Waiting Compartments..04

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...6 hrs

INDIA BECOMES IMPORTANT FORCE IN RENEWABLE ENERGY; CAPACITY SURPASSES 300 GW IN 2026



WORLD I PAGE

LEFT-WING DEMOCRAT ABDUL EL-SAYED WINS IN MICHIGAN TO BECOME FIRST MUSLIM SENATOR



CINEMA I PAGE

SREELEELA JOINS RAJINIKANTH'S DHARMAN



SCAN FOR E-PAPER

IN BRIEF

ED ARRESTS 4 IN CALL CENTRE SCAM TARGETING US NATIONALS

Hyderabad: The Enforcement Directorate has arrested four key accused in connection with an ongoing money laundering investigation into a fake call centre scam targeting US nationals. ED, Hyderabad Zonal Office arrested Harshil Nayanbhai Raval, Jaswant Singh, Chetan Munjal, and Pranav Pithadia under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 and produced them before the Special Court in Nampally, which remanded them to judicial custody. The Central agency said in a release on Wednesday that it had arrested Vikas Nimar, Tarachand Nimar and Mohd. Irfan Ansari in July-August in the same case. With the latest arrests, the total number of persons arrested by the ED in the case has gone up to seven. On September 15, the ED conducted searches in Patiala, Pune and Chandigarh, wherein three live call centres were detected with around 220 persons working at the time of searches.

■ Govt tweaks Agnipath scheme;

Agniveers exiting in December get two-year service extension

NEW DELHI (TSIT):



In a major tweak to the Agnipath scheme for recruitment to the Indian Armed Forces, the government on Wednesday announced a two-year extension of service for all Agniveers whose four-year contractual term is ending in December.

Under the existing policy, 25 per cent of Agniveers recruited four years ago are eligible for absorption into the regular armed forces. The changes announced on Wednesday would apply to the remaining 75 per cent who were due to exit the forces in December.

These Agniveers will now be offered a second term of two years. At the end of this period, they will have the option of becoming regular soldiers, subject to their willingness, physical fitness, performance and prevailing guidelines, Gen Subramani said.

Delhi's 160-year-old MCD Town Hall sees 'unsafe' portion collapse after heavy rain'

The existing Agnipath scheme provides for recruitment on a four-year contractual term. The extension comes as more than 18,300 Agniveers are set to be discharged by December 31 after completing their four-year tenure.

The CDS said the Cabinet's decision had created a pathway for Agniveers to be absorbed into the armed forces on a permanent basis. He said the performance of Agniveers during the past four years had been very good.

CM Seeks Yadav Community's Support for Telangana's Development

HYDERABAD, TSIT BUREAU:



Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy sought the Yadav community's support for the Musi Rejuvenation Project, Metro Rail Phase II and Bharat Future City, reaffirming his government's commitment to making Telangana one of the country's most developed states.

Addressing the Sadar Sammelanam in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister said community participation was crucial to achieving the State's development goals. He extended greetings to the Yadav community and assured it of greater political representation and opportunities.

Revanth Reddy cited the representation given to Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav, MLA Naveen Yadav and Yadagirigutta Temple Board member Eshwaramma Yadav. He assured the community that the government would protect its self-respect and ensure its due share in future representation. Chief Minister said the government had sanctioned Rs.5 crore for Sadar celebrations and accorded the event the status of a State festival. He described Sadar as a celebration of the Yadav community's identity and the collective self-respect of Telangana's people.

Acknowledging the community's contribution to Hyderabad's development, he praised its welcoming spirit towards people arriving from across the country. He also said arrangements were being made for cow protection at the Yadagirigutta goshala.

Revanth Reddy added that Telangana's caste census had set an example for the country.

Democrats win control of both US Congress chambers

Major setback for Republicans and Trump; blue wave gives opposition power to block legislation and launch investigations



Washington (TSIT):

The Democrats secured control of both chambers of the US Congress on Tuesday, dealing a significant setback to Republicans and strengthening the opposition to President Donald Trump's administration.

The Democratic blue wave will give the opposition power to block legislation, launch broad investigations into Trump's administration and thwart his judicial and senior government appointments.

The 2026 midterm elections exposed widespread voter dissatisfaction over rising prices, the war in Iran and concerns about corruption in government. Democrats scored sweeping victories across the country, flipping states that had backed Republicans for decades and which Trump had won by double-digit margins just two years earlier.

That includes James Talarico's stunning Senate victory in Texas, where no Democrat had won statewide office in more than 30 years, and Annie Andrews' upset victory over Sen. Darline Graham in South Carolina. Trump had thrown his full weight behind both losing candidates.

Rahul calls PM Modi a 'traitor', says Amit Shah will not be HM in three years

CHANDIGARH (TSIT):



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of betraying the country and predicted that union Home Minister Amit Shah would no longer hold office in three years, as he launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led central government and Punjab's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at a rally in Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's home district of Sangrur.

Addressing the Congress's "Insaaf Rally" at Phaguwala village, Gandhi accused the central government of compromising national interests and questioned Shah's promise to make Punjab drug-free by December 31, 2029. Gandhi described Modi as a "traitor" and alleged that the prime minister was acting at the behest of U.S. President Donald Trump. Referring to Shah's anti-drug deadline, Gandhi said he believed the BJP leader would not remain home minister three years from now.

The remarks came as Congress formally launched its campaign for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, seeking to challenge the AAP government on drug trafficking, organised crime, corruption, farmers' grievances and alleged failures of governance.

Gandhi devoted a significant part of his address to the killing of Punjabi singer and Congress politician Sidhu Moosewala, inviting the singer's father, Balkaur Singh, onto the stage. Recalling his first meeting with Moosewala, Gandhi said the young musician had visited his office before joining Congress. "He was a dynamic and talented young man," Gandhi said, recalling that he had not heard Moosewala's songs before their meeting. Gandhi said he had been struck by Moosewala's personality and later became concerned about his safety after learning that the singer had received threats. Moosewala was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district in May 2022, months after unsuccessfully contesting the state Assembly elections on a Congress ticket.

Gandhi linked the killing to what he described as the growing influence of gangsters and organised crime in Punjab. "What happened to Sidhu Moosewala has become a fashion in Punjab," Gandhi said, alleging that killings and shootings had become increasingly common. He said discussions with Congress leaders before the rally had identified drug abuse as Punjab's most pressing problem. "When the Aam Aadmi Party government came to power, people trusted Bhagwant Mann.



Chandrababu Conducts Aerial Survey of Cyclone Murasu-Hit Areas

Amaravati, TSIT : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday conducted an aerial survey of Guntur, Bapatla and Prakasam districts affected by the cyclone 'Murasu' He directed officials to take immediate steps to clear waterlogging in Karamchedu, Kothapatnam, Chirala, Chilakaluripet and Parchur.

Later, in a review meeting at RTGS, the Chief Minister instructed district collectors to ensure that road traffic was not disrupted. The officials informed the Chief Minister that heavy rains were continuing in tribal areas of Eluru district. The Eluru District Collector reported that minor irrigation tanks in some areas are overflowing. Earlier, Chandrababu Naidu appealed to the Central Government to extend all possible assistance to Andhra Pradesh to address agricultural losses and hardships faced by people due to severe drought conditions in the state.

The Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), which visited the state to assess the prevailing drought situation, met the Chief Minister on Wednesday. Members of the team, who toured Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts in two groups on November 2 and 3, briefed the Chief Minister on their drought assessment findings.

Skill development key to jobs, income and dignity, says Shivakumar

K'TAKA TARGETS $1 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2032; 7 LAC CANDIDATES TO RECEIVE TRAINING OVER 7 YEARS; SUBROTO BAGCHI TO HEAD SKILL DEVELOPMENT VISION

BENGALURU (TSIT):

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar stressed the need to equip young people with skills alongside formal education, saying skills are essential to securing employment, generating income and earning social respect.

Addressing the Bengaluru Skill Summit 2026, he said, "Education opens the door to knowledge, while skills show the way to success. Talent may come through education, but skills are acquired through hard work. If today's youth are equipped with skills, the future of Karnataka will be in their hands." He said the government is committed to preparing young people for emerging employment opportunities rather than waiting for industries to arrive.

$1 trillion economy target by 2032

Shivakumar said Karnataka is working towards becoming a $1 trillion economy by 2032, adding that investment alone would not be sufficient without a skilled workforce. Describing Bengaluru as a global technology and innovation hub, he said around 65 per cent of Karnataka's population is below 35, presenting both an opportunity and a responsibility. He said the state is home to around 550 global capability centres and aims to attract another



500 centres and create 3.5 lakh jobs by 2029.

The government has introduced the Karnataka State Skill Development Policy 2025–32 to bring various initiatives under a comprehensive framework, aiming to reach around 30 lakh beneficiaries over seven years with a proposed investment of approximately Rs. 5,000 crore.

Bagchi to head Vision Group

The government has constituted a Skill Development Vision Group to provide strategic direction to the state's skill development initiatives. Subroto Bagchi, co-founder of Mindtree, has agreed to chair the group. His experience in building institutions and leading skill development initiatives in Odisha would help Karnataka develop its own model, he said.

Seven lakh candidates to receive training

Under the Chief Minister's Kaushalya Karnataka Scheme 2.0, the government aims to train seven lakh candidates over seven years, with around 75,000 candidates provided short-term training every year. Shivakumar also announced that industries creating jobs outside Bengaluru would receive an incentive of Rs.2,500 per job every month. He said the 'Nanna Vrutti, Nanna Aayke' initiative would help students make informed career choices.

Engineering seats remain vacant

Pointing to the gap between education and industry requirements, Shivakumar said around 30,000 engineering seats remained vacant in Karnataka this year, and medical seats had also gone unfilled. Despite having more than 250 engineering colleges, ITIs and GTTC institutions, many graduates continued to struggle to find jobs.

Five Indian-Americans win US House seats

WASHINGTON, TSIT:



Five Indian-American Democrats have secured victories in the US House of Representatives elections, while physician Amish Shah is leading in Arizona's closely contested race. Indian-American Los Angeles City Council member Nithya Raman has also moved ahead of incumbent Mayor Karen Bass in the mayoral contest, though the result remains too close to call.According to projections by Decision Desk HQ, Pia Dandiya, Suhas Subramanyam, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Ami Bera have won their congressional races. Dandiya defeated Republican Casey Askar in Florida, while Subramanyam secured a second term in Virginia. Jayapal won re-election in Washington state, Khanna defeated Republican Ritesh Tandon in California, and Bera retained his seat in the newly redrawn California district.Shah, a physician and former Arizona state legislator, was leading Republican Jay Feely with 54.6 per cent of the vote, with around 81 per cent counted.

Collector orders immediate rectification of defects in double-bedroom houses



Suryapet: District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar has directed officials to immediately rectify even minor defects in the construction of double-bedroom houses at Huzurnagar. He instructed the concerned officials to complete all pending works in the housing complex without delay.

On Wednesday, the Collector, along with District Superintendent of Police K. Narasimha, inspected the model colony houses being constructed at Ramaswamy Gutta in Huzurnagar.

Following the recent directions of the Minister, the Collector personally inspected every block of the housing units and identified minor defects in the houses. He instructed the concerned contractors and officials to rectify the shortcomings immediately.

The Collector also directed officials to speed up the development of essential infrastructure facilities, including drainage, drinking water supply and roads, to ensure that beneficiaries receive houses with all necessary amenities.

Everyone must work to prevent El Niño problems, says Council Chairman

Nalgonda: Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy has said it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that people do not face any problems during situations like El Niño. He attended the constituency-level awareness conference held in Nakrekal as chief guest on Wednesday.



He asked the authorities to take action on drinking water, agriculture, electricity, fodder and employment, to plant crops that are in demand, and to use water and electricity economically. He instructed the Collector to purchase paddy immediately without letting it get wet. He wanted awareness created on roads, fodder planning and oil palm under VBG Ramji.MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said the problem is likely to increase from December and January and asked farmers not to plant paddy in Yasangi. Government Whip Vemula Veeresham said the government would take steps to prevent problems with drinking water, fodder and electricity, and that officials should be available to the people. Collector B. Chandrasekhar said an analysis of water resources in villages should be done, percolation pits and farm ponds should be taken up, and alternative crops should be grown instead of rice. He said a control room toll-free number 18004251442 has been set up on El Niño.

JDS slams milk and bus fare hikes

Bengaluru: JD(S) Legislative Party Deputy Leader and MLC T.A. Sharavana on Wednesday criticised the Congress government in Karnataka over increases in milk prices and public transport fares, alleging that the decisions had placed an additional financial burden on ordinary people.Addressing a press conference, he said the Rs.8 per litre milk price hike, 33-35 per cent increase in BMTC fares and an average 23 per cent rise in fares of other state transport corporations had affected households across the state.

He questioned the government's policy of implementing guarantee schemes while simultaneously increasing prices and taxes. He said the bus fare hike would particularly affect men, students, employees, senior citizens and rural commuters, while the milk price increase would burden consumers, hotels, bakeries and small businesses.

Sharavana said rising rents, electricity bills, cooking gas, vegetables, medicines and education expenses had already increased household costs. He urged the government to improve transport corporation management, curb unnecessary expenditure and release a white paper on their finances and compensation under the Shakti scheme.He also demanded incentives for dairy farmers and measures to control milk production costs without burdening consumers. Sharavana urged the government to reconsider both hikes, warning that public anger could lead to a mass movement if the decisions were not withdrawn.

Collector conducts surprise inspections in Nawabpet mandal

Mahabubnagar: District Collector Khushboo Gupta has directed officials to give special attention to sanitation, education and healthcare services in rural areas to ensure better public facilities and quality services for villagers.On Wednesday, the Collector conducted surprise inspections in Pommal and Thimmaipally villages of Nawabpet Mandal. During her visit, she inspected sanitation works, government primary schools, Anganwadi centres and a Primary Health Sub-Centre.

During her visit to Pommal village, the Collector inspected sanitation arrangements and interacted with local residents. When villagers complained that sanitation works were not being carried out properly, she directed the concerned officials to take immediate steps to improve



cleanliness.Later, the Collector visited the Government Primary School and assessed the learning abilities of students. While interacting with second-grade students, she checked whether they could clearly see the Telugu letters written on the blackboard. After noticing that one girl student was unable to see the letters clearly, she instructed the Headmaster to arrange an immediate eye examination and, if necessary, seek the help of the RBSK medical team.

KIMS introduces advanced cancer treatment technology



Hyderabad, Oct. 4: KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad, has introduced advanced cancer treatment technologies, including the TrueBeam Linear Accelerator integrated with Brainlab Dynamic Surface Guided Radiation Therapy (SGRT), to improve precision and safety in radiation oncology.

KIMS Group Chairman and Managing Director Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao inaugurated the facilities, stating that the hospital was committed to bringing advanced medical technologies to patients in Telangana and neighbouring regions.

Dr. T. Pratap Reddy, Head of Radiation Oncology, said the new technology enables real-time monitoring of patient movements, six-dimensional positioning corrections and respiratory motion management, helping improve treatment accuracy and patient safety.

The TrueBeam system supports advanced techniques such as Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT), Image-Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) and Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS). These procedures help target tumours precisely while minimising radiation exposure to surrounding healthy tissues.

The integrated Brainlab SGRT technology uses non-contact monitoring to track patients' body movements during treatment and ensure accurate positioning.

DE-CIX launches digital emergency kit in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Nov. 4: DE-CIX India, the country's largest Internet Exchange and interconnection platform, has launched India's first Digital Emergency Kit in Hyderabad to help organisations prepare for connectivity disruptions and strengthen digital resilience.

The initiative targets IT companies, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), SaaS firms, AI businesses, cloud platforms, data centres, fintech companies and other digital industries. It focuses on preventing disruptions through backup connectivity, alternative network routes and business continuity planning. The kit aims to help organisations manage challenges such as network outages, cyberattacks, infrastructure failures, human errors and other unexpected disruptions. It also encourages businesses to assess connectivity risks and develop



reliable backup systems to ensure uninterrupted digital operations.

Suhaib Logde, Strategic Business Growth Leader, DE-CIX India, said Hyderabad had emerged as a major technology hub with growing IT, AI, cloud and data-centre infrastructure. He stressed that connectivity resilience should become an essential part of business continuity planning.He said organisations must prepare their digital infrastructure in advance rather than depend only on recovery measures after disruptions. DE-CIX India operates Internet Exchanges in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bengaluru, connecting more than 630 networks across India and globally.

Chowdiah Utsava from Nov 11

Bengaluru: The Academy of Music has announced the schedule for Chowdiah Utsava 2026, a five-day cultural festival featuring the Sri K. K. Murthy Memorial Music Festival and the Academy of Music Chowdiah Awards 2026. The festival will be held from November 11 to 15 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, Bengaluru.

Organised in honour of violin maestro Sangeetha Ratna Mysore T. Chowdiah and cultural patron Sri K. K. Murthy, the festival will bring together eminent musicians, emerging artistes and performers representing Carnatic, Hindustani and world music traditions.

The opening day on November 11 will feature a lobby concert by Abhiram Hariharapura, a flute recital by Amith A. Nadig and a classical fusion concert by Vijay Prakash and his troupe.On November 12, violinist Krishna Kashyap Murthy will perform at the lobby, followed by Karnataka Sangeetha Goshti Gana Rasa Dhare by disciples of Dr. R. K. Padmanabha. The day will conclude with a vocal concert by Ganakalabhushana Vidwan Dr. R. K. Padmanabha.

The November 13 programme includes a Carnatic



duet by Pranavi and Malavi, a vocal performance by Spoorthi Rao and 'Milan', a fusion concert featuring santoor artiste Rahul Sharma alongside traditional Rajasthani folk musicians Asin Khan Langa and his group, co-sponsored by Banyan Tree.

On November 14, the Carnatica Brothers will present a morning Carnatic vocal concert, followed by an evening performance by Rahul Vellal. The day will also feature 'Carnatic Fantasy', an ensemble bringing together veena artiste Dr. Suma Sudhindra, vocalist Manasi Prasad and other instrumentalists.

The final day, November 15, will feature performances by S. Aishwarya and S. Soundarya, followed by a Hindustani vocal recital by Dr. K. S. Vaishali.

The Academy of Music Awards 2026 ceremony will be held on November 15 at 5.30 pm. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar will be the chief guest, while Padma Vibhushan Dr. L. Subramaniam will attend as guest of honour.

The awards will be presented to: Chowdiah Award 2026—Vidwan Dr. R. K. Padmanabha; Prathiba Puraskar 2026—Dr. K. S. Vaishali; Yuva Puraskar 2026—Amith A. Nadig; and Institution Award 2026—Sree Guruvayurappan Bhajan Samaj Trust.

The celebrations will conclude with 'Nada Samvadha', a jugalbandi featuring flautist Shashank Subramanyam and Hindustani vocalist Jayateerth Mevundi.

Music, food and crafts

For the first time, the festival will extend beyond the auditorium with a wider cultural and lifestyle experience. Cafe Chowdiah will offer snacks, lunches and dinners, while the Roots N Crafts bazaar will showcase artisan products, traditional crafts and handlooms. Both will remain open daily from 11 am to 9 pm. The Sangeeta Mela, scheduled for November 14 and 15, will feature inter-school and institutional competitions, storytelling sessions, instrument showcases, workshops and Swara Tank, a platform showcasing technology-driven classical music initiatives.

KPCC seeks action over hate speech



Bengaluru, Nov. 4: The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has urged authorities to take strict legal action against individuals allegedly involved in hate speech and provocative remarks that could disturb public peace and communal harmony.

In a representation submitted to the authorities, the KPCC provided video evidence and sought a comprehensive investigation into the alleged statements and actions. It called for registration of cases under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

The committee sought action under Sections 351(1) and 351(3) relating to criminal intimidation, Section 192 concerning provocation leading to a breach of peace, and Section 196(1) dealing with promoting enmity between different groups.

It also cited Sections 353(1)(b), 353(1)(c) and 352, which deal with statements affecting public order, creating fear and intentional insults intended to provoke a breach of peace.The KPCC stressed that political leaders must exercise restraint and responsibility while making public statements. It urged authorities to examine video recordings, conversations and other documents before initiating legal proceedings.The committee also called for monitoring inflammatory content circulated through social media and digital platforms.

Kalyani' audio launched, film set for release

BENGALURU: The songs of Kalyani, the upcoming Kannada film directed by B.M. Giriraj of Jatta and Maitri fame, were released at a press meet here on Wednesday. The film has completed shooting



and post-production and is expected to hit theatres in November or December. Written by Basava Reddy, the film is being produced by R. Kumaraswamy under the banner of R.K. Cinemas.

Avis India expands premium mobility portfolio with customised Force Urbania vans

NEW DELHI, NOV. 3: Avis India has expanded its premium chauffeur-driven mobility portfolio with the launch of customised Force Urbania vans, targeting the growing demand for comfortable group transportation among corporate clients, wedding organisers and leisure travellers. The new service, available in Delhi NCR, Mumbai and Bengaluru, offers seating configurations for 9 to 11 passengers, enabling larger groups to travel together in a single vehicle rather than relying on multiple cars.

The Force Urbania joins Avis India's premium people-mover fleet, which includes the Mercedes-Benz V-Class, Toyota Vellfire and Kia Carnival.

The vans feature customised interiors, dual air-conditioning, dedicated rear AC vents across all seating rows and individual USB



charging points. The vehicles are designed to accommodate passengers and their luggage, making them suitable for airport transfers, corporate travel, intercity journeys and events.

Avis India said the key differentiator was its ownership and direct operation of the fleet. The vehicles are maintained according to the company's fleet management standards and driven by professionally trained chauffeurs, ensuring greater control over service quality, punctuality and operational coordination.

The service is expected to cater to corporate delegations, conferences, conventions and large-scale events, besides destination weddings that require coordinated transportation between airports, hotels and venues. Families and leisure travellers can also use the vans for group holidays and outstation journeys.

Global Christian Council condemns attacks on Christian minorities in TN and AP

Hyderabad: The Global Christian Council has strongly condemned the reported attacks targeting Christian minorities and Christian missionaries in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Expressing serious concern over these incidents, Binish Thomas, Coordinator for the Asian Region of the Global Christian Council, stated that attacks, intimidation and harassment directed at members of the Christian community cannot be tolerated.

He emphasised that every citizen has the constitutional right to practise, profess and propagate their religion, subject to the provisions of the Indian Constitution. Freedom of religion is a fundamental right, and no individual or group should be subjected to violence or intimidation for peacefully practising their faith.

"Any attack on the Christian community or Christian missionaries will not be tolerated. We will pursue these matters through appropriate legal channels and approach the respective High Courts and other competent authorities wherever necessary to seek justice for the victims," Binish Thomas stated.

The Global Christian Council said it would closely examine the reported incidents in both states and take appropriate legal steps to protect the constitutional and fundamental rights of the Christian community.The Council reiterated that religious freedom, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence are essential principles of India's democratic and constitutional framework.

TRUST TO APPEAL OVER 44-ACRE LAND

Bengaluru, Nov. 4: The Krishnappa Rangamma Education Trust has decided to challenge the Karnataka High Court single-judge bench's order concerning 44 acres and 33 guntas of land at Sajjalapally by filing an appeal before a Division Bench.Addressing a press conference, Trust chairman Ashok H.N. said the verdict delivered by Justice M.I. Arun had gone against the Trust despite arguments presented by its senior advocates. He said



the Trust would continue its legal battle to protect the property.

Ashok said the Trust was pursuing the matter under the guidance of prominent Vokkaliga seers, including Nirmalanandanatha Swami, Nanjavadhoota Swami and Nishchalanandanatha Swami."The legal battle will continue. If necessary, we will also launch a public movement to protect the land," he said.The 44-acre property was reportedly bequeathed to the Trust by Rangamma through a will. The Trust plans to establish medical and engineering colleges and a university on the land, subject to resolution of the legal dispute and transfer of the property.He said community leaders, representatives and religious seers had extended their support to the campaign. Office-bearers and directors of the State Vokkaligara Sangha were also working towards protecting the property.

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Yaskhi meets Siddaramaiah after taking charge as AIPC chief

Leaders discuss strengthening the organisation and expanding its outreach among professionals

Bengaluru/New Delhi : Newly appointed All India Professionals' Congress (AIPC) chairman Madhu Goud Yaskhi met senior Congress leader, Congress Working Committee member and former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah as part of a courtesy visit.

Yaskhi, who recently assumed charge of the Congress party's professional wing following his appointment by Rahul Gandhi, was congratulated by Siddaramaiah. The former chief minister expressed confidence that Yaskhi's leadership would help strengthen the organisation across the country. Karnataka Cabinet Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, KPCC vice-president and Karnataka State Biofuel Development Board chairman S.E. Sudheendra, and other Congress leaders were part of the delegation accompanying Yaskhi.



The discussions focused on the AIPC's organisational strategy, expanding its engagement with professional communities across the country and encouraging greater participation of professionals in the Congress party's activities and initiatives.

Sri Venkateshwara Vaibhavam to showcase Annamacharya's compositions through dance



Bengaluru : Natanam Institute of Dance, in association with VRC Academy of Music and Dance, will present Sri Venkateshwara Vaibhavam, a special music and dance programme celebrating the divine glory of Lord Srinivasa, on November 12, 2026, at Seva Sadan, Malleswaram, Bengaluru.

The programme, scheduled from 6 pm to 7.15 pm, will feature Guru Dr. Raksha Karthik and her disciples, who will bring alive the devotional compositions of Saint Annamacharya through traditional classical dance.

The presentation will depict the divine manifestation and spiritual significance of Lord Srinivasa, who descended from Vaikunta to the Tirumala Hills to protect humanity during Kaliyuga. It aims to offer audiences an enriching blend of classical dance, music and spirituality.

Curated by VRC Academy of Music and Dance, the performance will be accompanied by an accomplished ensemble of musicians. Vidwan Bharadwaj Dayanidhi will handle nattuvangam, Vidwan Balasubramanya Sharma vocals, Vidwan Gopal Venkataraman veena, Vidwan Bhavani Shankar mridangam, Vidwan Prasanna Kumar rhythm and Vidwan Jayaram Kikkeri flute. The presentation will celebrate the timeless compositions of Annamacharya and the rich cultural and devotional heritage associated with Lord Venkateshwara.

South Indian Bank's Diwali film celebrates the joy of relationships

Bengaluru : South Indian Bank has unveiled a new Diwali campaign film highlighting the importance of human relationships, kindness and togetherness, reinforcing its brand philosophy of 'Investing in Relationships'.

The campaign, titled 'Khushiyan Badhao, Diwali Manao', conveys that the true brightness of Diwali comes not merely from lamps, sweets and fireworks but from the happiness people bring into one another's lives. Set against the backdrop of a Diwali Open Mic event, the film features a woman engaging the audience with questions about the festival. She asks which Diwali sweet is the sweetest, what shines brighter than the traditional lamps and what sparkles more than the festival sparklers. The questions lead into three stories illustrating how simple acts of kindness, caring and sharing can make celebrations more meaningful.

The central message is that while traditional festivities remain an integral part of Diwali, the greatest joy comes from strengthening relationships and spreading happiness.

Released in Hindi, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Marathi, the film seeks to connect with audiences across different linguistic and cultural communities. The bank said the campaign received an encouraging digital response, crossing two crore views within 48 hours of its release. Sony A, Chief General Manager and Chief Information Officer of South Indian Bank.

Free artificial limb camp to be held in Bengaluru on November 15

Bengaluru, November 4: Karnataka Marwari Samaj (KMS), in association with Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur, will organise its 20th annual free artificial limb measurement camp at Maharaja Agrasen Bhavan, near Ashoka Pillar, Jayanagar, on November 15.

The camp will provide artificial limbs (legs and forearms), calipers, crutches and other assistive devices free of cost. A team of experienced prosthetic and orthotic specialists will assess beneficiaries and take measurements to ensure personalised fittings. The camp will be held from 8 am to 3 pm. The initiative aims to help persons with disabilities regain mobility, independence and dignity by providing access to quality assistive devices.Participants are requested to bring their Aadhaar cards, photographs of the affected limbs and a contact phone number for registration. Speaking about the initiative, KMS president Praveen Tulsiyan said the organisation remained committed to serving humanity and empowering persons with disabilities. The camp was part of its continuing efforts to provide high-quality artificial limbs and assistive devices to those unable to afford them, he said. KMS project director Bimal Kumar Saraogi said supporting persons with disabilities was a collective social responsibility. The organisation aimed to improve their quality of life and restore mobility and dignity through durable artificial limbs and other assistive devices.

Fresh Bus launches Best Captain Award, offers rewards of up to Rs.5 crore

Bengaluru : Fresh Bus, an intercity electric bus operator, has introduced an annual Best Captain Award programme to promote safe driving, responsible fleet management and passenger safety. The initiative offers cash rewards of up to Rs.1 lakh to each eligible bus captain, with the total annual payout potentially exceeding Rs.5 crore.



The award programme will run from Vijayadashami 2026 (October 20) to Vijayadashami 2027 (October 9). Captains will be assessed on a 100-point performance framework, based on their safety record and care of vehicles. Under the reward structure, captains securing a perfect score of 100 will receive Rs.1 lakh. Those scoring between 85 and 99 will get Rs.75,000, while captains scoring between 70 and 84 will be awarded Rs.50,000.There will be no cap on the number of awardees, with every captain meeting the prescribed criteria eligible for the full reward. With more than 500 captains on its rolls, the company estimates that the annual payout could exceed Rs.5 crore, depending on the number of qualifying employees.

The evaluation will be based on documented records and verified data to ensure transparency and fairness. Award recipients will also receive certificates and recognition on depot notice boards.

The company said it had already identified and rewarded several captains associated with it since 2023 for their consistent driving standards and perfect safety scores.

Fresh Bus founder and CEO Sudhakar Chirra said passenger safety remained central to the company's operations. Captains played a crucial role in ensuring safe journeys and carrying the responsibility of thousands of passengers, he

'Cooperate with probe and clear your name': Balakrishna tells kumaraswamy

Ramanagara: Minister H.C. Balakrishna has taken a swipe at Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy over the alleged sting operation controversy, saying that an impartial investigation would reveal who was behind the incident.

Speaking to the media in Bidadi, Balakrishna said Kumaraswamy, a two-time former Chief Minister and senior political leader, would not be expected to indulge in such an act. He said the Union Minister should cooperate with the police investigation instead of allowing doubts to persist. "Let the investigation take place. If Kumaraswamy cooperates, the identity of those responsible will come out and the allegations against him can be cleared," Balakrishna said.



He also questioned whether Kumaraswamy knew about the incident, claiming that it had taken place at his residence. The minister suggested that someone from within the household could have been involved and that Kumaraswamy might not have been informed.

Balakrishna further accused Kumaraswamy of intimidating police officials. He said the police would not be frightened by threats and referred to an earlier controversy involving the Hassan Deputy Commissioner.

Reacting to Kumaraswamy's objections to the Bengaluru Police Commissioner's remarks, Balakrishna said the Union Minister should seek legal recourse if he believed the officer had made false statements.

"If the Commissioner's statement is wrong, challenge it in court. There is no point in threatening officials," he said.

Balakrishna also questioned whether the police commissioner could be threatened with severe consequences merely for making a statement. He insisted that the facts should emerge through a proper investigation rather than through political accusations and counter-accusations.

Bommai accuses rahul gandhi of links with anti-india foreign forces

Bengaluru: BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai has hit back at Rahul Gandhi over his claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi became Prime Minister with the help of foreign powers, alleging that the Congress leader himself has connections with forces opposed to India's interests. Describing Gandhi's remarks as politically motivated, Bommai said the Congress leader was frustrated and was trying to blame others for his own mistakes. He pointed out that Gandhi frequently travelled abroad and alleged that he maintained links with foreign elements.



Bommai accused Gandhi of associating with groups that were hostile to India and using public platforms to make statements against the country. He also alleged that Gandhi had links with George Soros.

According to Bommai, foreign funds were being routed through Soros to create instability in India and weaken national unity. He further claimed that the Congress party was receiving financial support from foreign sources.

The BJP MP dismissed Gandhi's allegation against Modi as false and said the Prime Minister had not relied on foreign powers to secure his position.

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar questions government over palace ownership, Dasara traditions

Mysuru, : Amid the controversy over restrictions on royal traditions during Mysuru Dasara, Pramoda Devi Wadiyar has strongly defended the Mysuru royal family's ownership of its private properties, asserting that the Ambari and royal throne do not come under the palace acquisition law.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, she said these properties were exclusively owned by the royal family and had remained in its custody. A list of private assets was submitted to the Union government in 1947 and received official approval from V.P. Menon in 1951, she said.



Questioning the government's handling of Mysuru Palace, she recalled that following the death of Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, the family faced tax liabilities exceeding Rs 8 crore. The government had subsequently agreed to take responsibility for maintaining the palace.

However, she alleged that the government failed to fulfil its commitments under the agreement, forcing the royal family to approach the court. Although the court directed the government to hand over the palace within 30 days, the order remained unimplemented, she claimed.

She expressed concern that officials lacked adequate knowledge about the royal family's private properties and the historical documents relating to their ownership.

Pramoda Devi also criticised the police arrangements during Dasara, alleging that excessive restrictions interfered with religious ceremonies and established royal traditions.

Seeking action against ACP Chandrashekar for alleged negligence near the Brahmapuri Gate, she said traditional practices such as Jatti Kalaga and cutting a pumpkin with the royal Pattada Katti should be respected.

She further clarified that the government does not pay rent for using the Ambari during the procession but provides royalty to the royal family.

Offering to resolve the differences through dialogue, she said she was ready to meet the Chief Minister and concerned ministers if the government wished to discuss the matter.

DK Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah get High Court relief in BJP defamation case over 'corruption rate card'

Bengaluru : In a major legal relief to the Congress leadership in Karnataka, the High Court has quashed the private defamation complaint filed against Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the party's alleged 'corruption rate card' campaign during the 2023 Assembly elections.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the order on Wednesday. The detailed reasons for the decision are yet to be released.

The case arose from a series of newspaper advertisements issued by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) before the Assembly elections. The advertisements accused the BJP government of demanding commissions for appointments and transfers in different government departments.



The campaign also described the BJP administration as a 'Trouble Engine Government', taking a swipe at the party's 'Double Engine Government' slogan. The BJP alleged that the advertisements contained false and fabricated allegations intended to malign the party's image and influence voters during the election campaign. It argued that the Congress had deliberately published defamatory material to damage its electoral prospects. BJP leader Keshav Prasad filed a private criminal defamation complaint in this connection, which was taken up by the trial court in 2023.

The latest order follows a series of interim legal victories for the Congress leaders. On July 4, the High Court had stayed criminal defamation proceedings against Shivakumar, who was the Deputy Chief Minister when the case was filed. The KPCC had also secured similar relief.

Earlier, in January this year, the High Court stayed proceedings against Rahul Gandhi in the same controversy. The BJP's complaint had specifically questioned the allegations that its government had established a system of commissions for official appointments and transfers. It claimed that the use of the 'corruption rate card' was intended to damage the party's reputation. The latest ruling provides relief to Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar in the politically sensitive case.

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EDITORIAL

Dr. Priyanka 'Saurabh' will receive the 'Bhiwani Gaurav Samman-2026', Narayani Devi Bhagunka will be honored with the Ojaswini Samman

Honors will be given for literary pursuits, women's awareness, and contributions to social concerns; ceremony to be held in Delhi on November 15

Bhiwani. Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, who is making a distinct mark in the fields of literature and social awareness, will be honored with the "Bhiwani Gaurav Samman-2026." The Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh will present her with the prestigious Narayani Devi Bhagunka Ojaswini Samman. This honor is being given for her literary pursuits, commitment to women's awareness, and for expressing social concerns through her writing.

Dr. Priyanka 'Saurabh' has long been active in literary writing and social issues. Her writings focus on topics such as women's empowerment, social equality, human sensibilities, education, and contemporary challenges. Her works convey the message of developing positive thinking, awareness, and sensitivity in society. She has also been actively involved in Hindi literature through articles, editorials, poetry, and children's literature.

Her major books include "Termite-Like Roses," "From the Stove to the Moon," "Smiles of Silence," "Dialogues with Fairies," "Children's World," "On the Sands of Time," "Nirbhayen," and "Fearless." Her creative journey highlights diverse aspects of women's lives, social anomalies, and the challenges of changing times.

Upon the announcement of the award, Dr. Priyanka 'Saurabh' expressed her gratitude to the Bhiwani Family Friendship Association and the jury, saying that this honor is not just a personal achievement for her, but a symbol of her dedication to women's consciousness, literary pursuits, and social values. She said that this honor will inspire her to write more sensitively and responsibly for society. The 'Bhiwani Gaurav Samman-2026' ceremony organized by Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh will be held on Sunday, November 15, 2026 from 9 am to 2 pm at Crown Plaza Hotel, Rohini, Delhi.

Talents who have made significant contributions in various fields will also be honored at the ceremony. The Chaudhary Bansi Lal Award for Public Administration and Rural Development will be presented to MP N.D. Gupta, the Shri Ram Krishna Gupta Award for Education will be presented to Dr. Naresh Kaushik, and the Babu Banarasi Das Gupta Award for Journalism will be presented to Shri Balwan Sharma.

In this sequence, the Pt. Madhav Mishra Award for literature will be given to Dr. Joginder Kumar, the Shri Surjeet Singh Award for sports will be given to Shri Poonam Sharma, and the Shri Fakir Chand Award for service will be given to Shri Ramdev Tayal. In the field of art and music, the Pt. Gopal Krishna Award will be given to Shri Dinesh Ratna, and the Pt. Neki Ram Sharma Award for national service will be given to Advocate Shri Jeetram Gupta. Dr. Priyanka 'Saurabh' will be honored with the Narayani Devi Bhagunka Ojaswini Award.

Thus, this event of Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh will become an important opportunity to honour the talents who have made remarkable contributions in various fields of education, journalism, literature, sports, art, social service and nation building.

CLASSROOM VIOLENCE:

CINEMA, SOCIETY AND THE CRISIS OF RESPONSIBILITY

KAVEREE BAMZAI



In Karthik Subbaraj's recently released Tamil film, Dorothy, a little boy named Subbu who grows up in a toxic all male household where the mother and sister died by suicide and the two older brothers are made to believe that women are poison, finds solace in his sister-in-law as he grows older. He learns how to cook with her, washes dishes with her, and shares his deepest secrets with her.

She teaches him that there is another way to live. Boys are allowed to cry, they don't always have to fight like Bruce Lee, and they don't have to treat women badly. The movie ends, controversially, with Subbu discovering he wants to be a woman, but it has sparked a conversation on the depiction of masculinity in cinema. The immediate spark is the two gruesome classroom assaults recently. One was in Panchkula where an eight-year-old boy brutally attacked a six-year-old in a government school classroom. The girl, who was seriously injured, is recovering in hospital and is now out of danger but is suffering from PTSD. The other was a 21-year-old man, Hemanth, in Raptadu, who approached a 15-year-old student, and attacked her with a chainsaw, in a Zilla Parishad High School, leaving her critically injured. Another girl was injured when she tried to intervene. According to the police, Hemanth had been stalking the teenager and proposed to her. The attack is suspected to have followed her rejection of his advances. There has been a combined outrage against violent movies such as 'Dhurandhar' and 'Animal', which have been blamed for such widespread behaviour. But to quote filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma's post on X, it is like blaming the Ramayana for a rise in kidnappings. Few buy the magic bullet theory now, which believes that media messages act like a bullet or a syringe, injecting ideas directly into a passive, uniform audience that absorbs them immediately without resistance. But society is not passive. It is ever evolving and now. more than ever, there are many influences on adolescents, apart from parents and teachers. There are video games, social media attitudes and what is called the incel culture. All these were examined indepth in Netflix's disturbing series Adolescence (2025), the fictionalisation of a series of attacks in England on young women by young men increasingly in the grip of a culture that blames women, society, and genetic determinism for its romantic failures.

Movies are part of the culture, but not the whole, even if the classroom attacks bear a striking resemblance to a scene in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 'Animal' (2023) where Ranbir Kapoor carries an AK47 into his sister's classrom to terrorise her classmates.

Movies certainly exacerbate latent deliquency but cannot be said to cause them. Mumbai-based clinical psychologist Varkha Chulani believes the two cases cannot be treated similarly. She believes the Panchukula incident is a failure of parenting. "The children have little to no idea about permissible and non permissible behaviour. We cannot censor aggression or ban it. But we definitely can as parents participate in stricter control of what children have acccess to. But today with parents being so scared of their children and constantly pandering to each and every whim of theirs, add to that no discipline or consequences of their conduct, I see that these episodes will only rise."

She sees the 21-year-old's case differently. She believes there has been a shift in the last decade or so of how women are perceived in India. "The Indian man is threatened. Any woman who's stepping up her game by getting herself an education and financial freedom is being seen as a proverbial threat," she says. "The rise of the incel because the rise of the discerning woman is creating problems for many Indian men. I wouldn't say that the 21-year-old may have thought that far but it's increasingly evident that many men are not being sought because they aren't able to match up. Movies like 'Animal' propagate the philosophy of dominance, subjugation and control," she adds. The influence of these ideologies is deeper for those who anyway are on shaky territory. So keeping a woman unattractive by acid attacks, cutting off her arms, and the ultimate subjugation by rape, will also go up in numbers, she says. Again all these films are easily converted to those who struggle with their own sense of self. The more fragile the more susceptible to influence, she adds.

This also brings up the age-old-debate: do movies mirror society or vice versa. Does nature matter more, or nurture? There is an argument towards the end of adolescence where the father of the 13-year-old who has killed his classmate says "we really don't know what they're watching in their room." To which the wife says: But he had a terrible temper. and sometimes I think we should have seen it and stopped it. "We can't blame ourselves," says the husband, to which the wife utters the utterly heartbreaking line: "But we made him, didn't we?"

Society gives everyone a way out of blame, parents, teachers, even social media. Cinema is a convenient scapegoat. But as much as society would like to take credit for its successes, it also has to acknowledge those it considers rejects. The problem is our institutions are not equipped to deal with those who do not fit into the norm. Any variation is immediately stigmatised, and condemned to invisibility. When such individuals choose to step out of the shadows they have been condemned to, there is a general sense of despair.

But they were always there, whether they are children who shoot other children in America or children who attack other children in India. Perhaps one of the most remarkable movies about school massacres, based on Lionel Shriver's novel, Lynne Ramsay's We Need to Talk About Kevin (2011), examines whether Kevin (the teenage archer who commits mass murder in his school) is a psycopath and hence couldn't bond with his mother or whether his mother's struggle with maternity made him one.

As for filmmakers, they are part of society and use their movies to express their point of view, especially if it is not socially acceptable, as in the case of filmmakers such as Sandeep Reddy Vanga who made Animal. As Cate Blanchett said in a recent speech, quoting the late British painter-novelist Leonara Carrington: "There is so much we cannot say, that is why we have art."

Why the controversy over patriotism?

Does Rahul Gandhi's growing confidence carry a political message?

SAURABH VARSHNEY

Patriotism isn't the exclusive property of any political party or ideology. It's a sentiment rooted in citizens' loyalty to the Constitution, democratic values, and the nation. So why the political squabbles over patriotism? Will patriotism be proven by hurling accusations at each other and challenging each other to debate? Given the increased rhetoric and sarcasm in Indian politics these days, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's shifting political stance has become a topic of particular discussion.

Since the start of the opposition movement in the country over alleged vote theft and transparency in voter lists, Rahul Gandhi has been continuously attacking the central government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Now, he has further escalated the political heat by directly challenging the Prime Minister to a debate on the social media platform X. While sarcasm and questioning each other is not new in politics, Rahul Gandhi's confident appearance in the midst of this movement sends several political signals. The question is whether this is merely a change in his personal political style or part of the opposition's changing strategy?

Indeed, Rahul Gandhi has long faced questions about his political acceptability and leadership abilities. But now, his aggressive stance, direct questions to the government, and persistent attacks on the electoral process indicate that he is seeking to re-establish his role in opposition politics. The issue of vote theft has become not just an electoral allegation for him, but a topic deeply rooted in democracy and voter rights, through which the Congress is attempting to bring opposition parties together on a common platform.

The changing political climate may be a factor behind Rahul Gandhi's growing confidence. The mobilization of opposition parties and activists in his support has given the Congress party hope that it can transform this issue into a widespread mass movement. However, a political climate in favor of a leader is not a testament to lasting public support. This can only be judged by election results and genuine public confidence. Nevertheless, it is clear that Rahul Gandhi no longer wants to limit himself to merely criticizing the government, but is strengthening his claim as the leading face of the opposition.

Challenging the Prime Minister to a debate can also be considered part of this political strategy. But the question is, on what issue will the debate be? Does the country need only political accusations and counter-accusations, or does it need serious dialogue on issues like electoral reforms, unemployment, inflation, the economy, education, and national security? Policy debate between the Prime Minister and the opposition can certainly be a healthy tradition in a democracy, but it requires both sides to present facts and arguments. Simply issuing a challenge and turning it into a political headline does not meet public expectations.

The question of patriotism is also important here. Criticizing the government is not opposing the country, and supporting the government alone cannot be a proof of patriotism. The ruling party should respond to the opposition's questions, while the opposition also has a responsibility to present its allegations to the public with evidence. If there is a suspicion of irregularities in the electoral process, they should be investigated impartially, and if the allegations are false, they should be refuted based on facts. The credibility of a constitutional institution like the Election Commission is not a matter of any one party, but of the entire democracy.

In fact, there may be a significant political message hidden behind Rahul Gandhi's shift in stance. Congress understands that merely reacting to electoral victories and defeats won't strengthen the opposition. It must raise issues that directly relate to the rights of ordinary voters and the democratic system. On the other hand, this opportunity is no less than a political test for Rahul Gandhi. He must prove that his confidence isn't limited to speeches and challenges, but also that he possesses the ability to understand public issues and offer concrete solutions.

Instead of squabbling over patriotism, democracy needs to be strengthened. Rahul Gandhi's growing confidence may give the opposition a new direction, but its true test will be among the people. The Prime Minister and the ruling party must also understand that a questioning opposition is not a weakness of democracy, but its essential strength. The country needs accountability, transparency, and meaningful dialogue, not political sarcasm and certificates of patriotism. The true meaning of patriotism is not pitting each other against each other, but protecting the Constitution and the interests of the people.

THE AUTHOR IS A SENIOR JOURNALIST, THINKER AND POLITICAL THINKER.

The Numbers vs. The Noise: India's Poverty Story Deserves Better Than Cynicism

The World Bank's October 2026 brief confirms one of the fastest poverty declines on record — 496 million people lifted above the $4.20 line, extreme poverty down to 2.6%. Yet instead of celebrating a historic achievement, the response has been a familiar retreat into denial and deflection.

There are statistics that merely inform, and then there are statistics that unsettle because they contradict a preferred narrative. The World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief belongs firmly to the second category. Between 2011 and 2023, India reduced poverty at the $4.20/day (2021 PPP) line from 57.7% to 16.1%, lifting an estimated 496 million people above that threshold. Extreme poverty, measured at $3.00/day, collapsed from 27.1% to a remarkable 2.6%. The World Bank itself describes this as "one of the fastest poverty declines in the world." These are not marginal revisions or statistical curiosities. They represent the single largest improvement in human welfare in India's modern history — and they deserve to be treated as such.

The numbers did not emerge from a vacuum, nor were they conjured by a public relations exercise. They rest on the 2023–24 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, the first comprehensive official consumption data in over a decade, and are anchored to the same international methodology the World Bank applies to every country. The baseline is 2011–12; the endpoints are the 2022–23 and 2023–24 surveys. Intermediate figures show the $4.20 poverty rate falling to 23.9% by 2022–23 before reaching 16.1% in 2023. The bulk of the measured decline, in absolute terms, therefore falls in the period covered by the post-2014 surveys. This is not a partisan claim; it is the arithmetic of the World Bank's own series.

What is striking is not merely the scale of the decline but the World Bank's own explanation of its drivers. The Bank attributes the reduction to higher consumption, increased employment — particularly among rural women — and expanded welfare support, including food subsidies. Between 2017 and 2023, employment grew by 13.4 crore, nearly twice the growth in the working-age population. Post-2014 schemes such as PMGKAY, PMAY-G, PM-KISAN and the wider use of Direct Benefit Transfers expanded the very transfers the Bank cites as a driver. Food transfers alone explain only part of the reduction; the larger story is one of rising incomes and expanding opportunity. This is not political spin. It is the World Bank's assessment, drawn from the same data it uses for every other country.

The response from the opposition has followed a predictable pattern. In January 2024, Congress dismissed NITI Aayog's claim of 24.82 crore people exiting multidimensional poverty as a "ridiculous lie." In June 2025, after a World Bank update showed extreme poverty at 5.3%, it argued that the $3/day line was "just enough to avoid starvation" and that survey changes made comparisons invalid. Now, confronted with the October 2026 brief, the response has been to shift focus to the choice of poverty line, the remaining absolute numbers, or the survey methodology — anything but the scale of the recorded decline. This is not scrutiny; it is deflection dressed as rigour.

The historical record is instructive here. The UPA decade (2004–2014) saw major corruption cases with large CAG-estimated losses — 2G spectrum (~?1.76 lakh crore), coal block allocation (~?1.86 lakh crore), and Commonwealth Games irregularities. These contributed to policy paralysis, high inflation, and banking stress that later required a painful clean-up. The government's own White Paper on the Indian Economy (2024) records these as features of the period. Poverty did decline on the national Tendulkar line between 2004–05 and 2011–12, from 37.2% to 21.9%. But the steepest absolute reduction in the World Bank's current international series is concentrated between the 2011–12 baseline and the 2022–23/2023–24 surveys. Claims that earlier decades delivered comparable results are not supported by the same international methodology and survey endpoints.

There is a deeper irony in the opposition's repeated promises. Rahul Gandhi's April 2024 claim that poverty could be removed "in one stroke" was not new; in 2019 he called the NYAY scheme a "surgical strike on poverty." Before that, the same party ran governments for decades under the slogan of removing poverty. The outcome was repeated claims, not a decisive end to the problem. The pattern is consistent: promise eradication while in power, then challenge the results once out of power. The numbers show a multi-year decline. The rhetoric shows a multi-decade evasion.

None of this means the job is finished. The World Bank brief itself notes remaining challenges: the quality of employment, youth unemployment, and the regional concentration of poverty. Extreme poverty at 2.6% still represents tens of millions of people living in the most precarious conditions. A poverty line of $3/day or even $4.20/day is a measure of destitution, not dignity. These are real concerns that demand sustained policy attention. But acknowledging remaining challenges is not the same as denying recorded progress. The two can — and must — coexist in honest public discourse.

The choice the numbers present is ultimately a choice about how we conduct public debate. We can argue about poverty lines, methodology, and the adequacy of international thresholds — these are legitimate debates. But we cannot argue with the direction and scale of the change: 496 million people above the $4.20 line, extreme poverty down from 27.1% to 2.6%, employment growth of 13.4 crore, and a World Bank assessment of one of the fastest declines on record. When the data is this clear, the refusal to acknowledge it is not scepticism.

FICCI Asks Finance Ministry To Restore LTCG Exemption On Listed Equities



Kicking off its recommendations for the Union Budget 2027, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has urged the Finance Ministry to bring back the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax exemption on listed equities. India Inc has also called for a stable 10-year capital gains tax regime, changes to tax rules for foreign investors and the removal of certain tax deduction at source (TDS) requirements in the Budget.

In its Budget recommendations, FICCI argued that the reintroduction of the LTCG tax in 2018, without withdrawing the securities transaction tax (STT) on listed shares, has resulted in a dual levy on equities.It has also flagged the increase in short-term capital gains (STCG) tax to 20% and LTCG tax to 12.5% from July 23, 2024, with an exemption threshold of Rs 1.25 lakh. The industry body further cited foreign portfolio investor withdrawals of around Rs 3.08 lakh crore during the year and said higher capital gains tax, and the absence of forex adjustment have eroded equity returns post tax. FICCI has, as a result, proposed restoring the LTCG exemption on said listed securities. If required to protect revenue, the government could appropriately increase STT on delivery-based transactions, it added. It has also sought a commitment to maintain the capital gains tax framework for around 10 years. Additionally, for foreign investors, FICCI has proposed allowing capital gains to be calculated in the original foreign currency in which the investment was actually made. This would then account for rupee depreciation while calculating taxable gains. India Inc also seeks protection for commercial transactions from anti-abuse tax provisions. FICCI says it wants a specified list of investors and transactions that are exempt from provisions that can result in taxation of marginal income, intra-group transfers and acquisitions. On the topic of mergers, teh industry body has asked the Finance Ministry to make the carry-forward and set-off of accumulated business losses and unabsorbed depreciation available across all sectors. It has also suggested safeguards based on business continuity, and payroll costs. The industry body also wants the government to scrap the 0.1% TDS on qualifying business-to-business purchases of goods and e-commerce transactions where payments are GST-liable and suppliers are GST-registered. It said these transactions are already captured through GST and other digital reporting systems, while TDS creates working-capital blockages and reconciliation work. Speaking on the domestic economic conditions, Sitharaman said she expects the consumption story of India to continue remaining intact, citing the latest GST collection data to make her point.

She also said that India's consumption and demand became more visible in the wake of the next-generation GST reforms, which is encouraging companies to consider fresh investments,

Albeit choosing sectors selectively, the finance minister said the private sector investment is also picking up, the FM said, attributing this to greater demand visibility in the market.

Sitharaman on employment

While speaking on employment, the finance minister said a bridge needs to be built between the skills of young graduates and industry requirements. She also said that the Indian government is trying to work on skilling initiatives, as is reflected in her last two budgets. Sitharaman thinks it is crucial to prepare workera to use AI across industries, even MSMEs. She defended the production-linked incentive (PLI) approach of the government, saying that companies received incentives based on additional production. While the scheme had delivered results in some sectors, she acknowledged that its performance had been weaker in others and would need to be examined.

North East Education Conclave 2026 Begins at Pragjyotishpur University in Presence of Assam Governor



PANKAJ NATH

Assam , November 4: The 'North East Education Conclave-2026' was inaugurated on Wednesday at the Hajongbari, Chandrapur campus of Pragjyotishpur University in Guwahati, in the distinguished presence of Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya. The conclave was held on the theme 'Realising NEP 2020: From Implementation to Optimum Outcomes', focusing on the effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and achieving its maximum outcomes. The event brought together leading education stakeholders from across Northeast India, including 35 vice-chancellors and institution directors, 176 academicians and college representatives, 83 principals, and 25 IQAC representatives. It aimed to strengthen collaboration among higher education institutions in the region, promote quality education, and advance skill development. Assam Health and Family Welfare, Medical Education and Research, and Irrigation Minister Ashok Singhal formally announced the launch of the 'Pragjyotishpur Ayurveda Gurukulam' at Pragjyotishpur University from the current academic session. The initiative is recognised by the Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, and is set to begin at only five institutions across the country. Pragjyotishpur University has been selected as the only institution from Northeast India for this programme. The university's official website also lists the Pragjyotishpur Ayurveda Gurukulam, with admissions open for the programme. The Gurukulam is expected to open a new chapter in Ayurveda education and the dissemination of India's traditional knowledge systems. It will provide students with an integrated opportunity to study traditional medical practices alongside modern education. The inaugural session was attended by Pragjyotishpur University Chancellor Lieutenant General (Retd.) Rana Pratap Kalita, Vidya Bharati Higher Education Institutions' National President Professor Kailash Chandra Sharma, and NEP-2020 Review Committee Chairperson Professor M. Jagdish Kumar as distinguished guests. During the conclave, an oath-taking ceremony was organised under the 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan' (Drug-Free India Campaign). In the presence of Governor Acharya, university Vice-Chancellor Professor Raghavendra Prasad Tiwari administered the pledge to vice-chancellors, institution directors, principals, IQAC representatives, academicians, invited guests, and other participants, committing them to building a drug-free India.

Implementation

In his inaugural address, Vice-Chancellor Professor Raghavendra Prasad Tiwari emphasised the effective implementation of NEP 2020, quality education, skill development, and stronger cooperation among educational institutions. He said that implementing the policy merely on paper would not be enough; its practical and positive outcomes must be ensured. The conclave is being viewed as an important step towards collective development of the education sector in Northeast India, policy-based reforms, and connecting India's knowledge traditions with modern education. At the conclusion of the programme, university Registrar Dr. Debabrata Khanikar delivered the vote of thanks. He expressed gratitude to the Assam Governor, ministers, distinguished guests, vice-chancellors, institution directors, principals, academicians, representatives, and all invited guests.

GSPL Transmission reports 8.5% YoY revenue growth in Q2 FY27

Gandhinagar, November 4, 2026: An expansion led capex plan of INR 3,500 crore is underway to enhance pipeline capacity to new geographical areas

GSPL Transmission Limited (BSE: 544801 / NSE: GSPLTRANS) today announced its unaudited financial results for the second quarter and half year ended September 30, 2026.

The results mark an important milestone in establishing the company's financial and operational profile as a dedicated natural gas transmission business. The company continues to focus on operational efficiency, infrastructure reliability and the development of gas transmission infrastructure to support the evolving natural gas requirements of the country.

Key financial highlights:

Strategic and corporate developments:

· Standalone revenue rose on higher transport volumes across HP, LP and HAPI networks

HP Grid volume increased by 9% YoY in Q2FY27

LP Grid volume grew by 31% YoY in Q2FY27

HAPI Grid volume increased by 17% YoY in Q2FY27

EXPANSION PLAN:

· An expansion led capex plan of INR 3,500 crore is underway to enhance pipeline capacity to new geographical areas

· The existing ~2,900 km pipeline network, supplemented by 700 km of planned additions, will expand GTL's network to 3,600+ km

· GTL awarded EPC contracts worth Rs. 1800 crores for implementation of Anjar Palanpur Pipeline Project in July 26.

· During first Half FY 27, GTL incurred capital expenditure of apprx. Rs. 300 crores

MANAGEMENT COMMENTARY:

Commenting on results, Shri Manoj Kumar Das, IAS, Chairman said, "We executed on volumes across HP, LP and HAPI networks which resulted in higher revenue growth in addition to continued focus on operating resilience. Our standalone revenue has risen more than 8% YoY supporting our PAT growth."

Shri Prakash Karnik, CEO added, "Currently we are India's second largest natural gas transmission network covering 2,900+ km across 26 districts in Gujarat. In the years ahead India targets increasing natural gas share in its energy mix and we expect the demand forecast to reach 297 MMSCMD by 2030. In anticipation to meet this increasing demand we are planning an expansion led capex of Rs 3,500 crore.

This Festive Season, Royal Stag Packaged Drinking Water Celebrates Those Who Make It Special



4 November 2026: A campaign that lets consumers celebrate their loved ones who make every celebration memorable, through an AI-powered personalised experience delivered by cricket icon Rohit Sharma & the consumer

Seagram's Royal Stag Packaged Drinking Water launched its festive campaign, "This Festive season, let's celebrate the LARGE in everyone," the campaign celebrates the "Large" that everyone brings to a celebration that makes it special: the friend who gathers everyone together, the cousin who kickstarts the dance floor, the colleague who keeps the room laughing. It is these people, and the energy they bring, that make a gathering memorable.

The campaign idea comes to life via a theme film featuring cricketer Rohit Sharma, actor and comedian Rahul Dua and actor Maanvi Gagroo. The film is now live on the brand's social handle, royalstagliveitlarge

At the heart of the campaign is an AI-led activation that gives the power to the consumers to celebrate the "Large" in their loved ones. By simply visiting royalstagliveitlarge.com, users can create a personalised festive video message featuring Rohit Sharma & the consumer for their friends and family.

Debasree Dasgupta, Chief Marketing Officer, Pernod Ricard India, said: ""Celebrations are rarely remembered for how grand they were, but for the people who made them special. Royal Stag has spent years inspiring India to #CelebrateLarge, and this festive season, we're giving that thought a more personal expression. Because sometimes, the largest celebrations are about the smallest gestures that make someone feel extraordinary. By harnessing generative AI, we're putting creativity in everyone's hands, enabling people to celebrate their loved ones in ways that are uniquely their own. It's an interesting intersection of culture, creativity and technology. And a reminder that the most powerful use of AI may not be in creating something extraordinary, but in helping people express something deeply human."

Abhijeet Ray, National Creative Director, Dentsu Creative WebChutney, said "Every festive season, we exchange countless greetings, but how often do we tell our friends and family what makes them special to us? This thought inspired Royal Stag's festive campaign, 'Celebrate the Large in Everyone', which celebrates the unique quirks each person brings to the celebration to make it special and memorable. By combining this human insight with generative AI, we created a way for people to express their appreciation through personalised festive greetings featuring Rohit Sharma. It's been a joy for Dentsu to work alongside the Royal Stag team to bring this idea to life and help people make their festive wishes a little more personal."

The campaign is live across digital platforms, Print and Out of Home media. Consumers can create their own wishes with Rohit Sharma by scanning the QR code at brand touchpoints or visiting.

Altigreen enters electric two-wheeler market with MINSARA launch



Vijayawada, November 4, 2026: Altigreen, now part of JAKSON Group, has entered India's electric two-wheeler market with the launch of MINSARA, a multi-utility electric two-wheeler aimed at users who require a vehicle for both personal mobility and work-related applications.

The launch marks an expansion of Altigreen's product portfolio beyond electric cargo three-wheelers. The company said MINSARA is intended for a range of users, including small business owners, traders, delivery professionals, service technicians, farmers and rural entrepreneurs.

MINSARA will be offered in three variants. The MINSARA S has a 2.78 kWh battery and a claimed range of 125 km, while the MINSARA S+ has a 3.8 kWh battery and a claimed range of 165 km. The MINSARA SE variant will feature a battery-swapping configuration. The company has not specified the battery-swapping network or operating details in the announcement. The vehicle has a peak torque rating of 172 Nm, a gradeability of 33%, a top speed of 75 kmph and a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 264 kg. Its listed equipment includes 17-inch alloy wheels, a rib-caged chassis, telescopic suspension, crash guards and dual disc brakes with a combined braking system (CBS). The starting ex-showroom price is ?1.24 lakh. Bookings have opened through Altigreen dealerships in Bengaluru, Vijayawada and Noida, with deliveries scheduled to begin on December 1, 2026. The vehicle carries a standard warranty of three years or 30,000 km; the company said extended warranty options are planned.

Deepak Thakur, CEO, JAKSON Green Vehicles, said the product had been developed for customers who use two-wheelers for a range of everyday and livelihood-related requirements. He said the launch was part of the group's wider focus on expanding into electric mobility.

Amitabh Saran, CTO and Founder of Altigreen, said the company had applied its electric vehicle engineering experience to a two-wheeler format. He also pointed to the role of the company's dealership and service network in supporting the new product.

Stockal Trading Fraud: Borderless Breaks Silence On Unauthorised US Stock Trades

Borderless, the parent company of Stockal, has issued a detailed statement addressing the unauthorised trading activity in customer accounts. The company has outlined its findings so far, its position on the alleged security breach, the possible role of a social engineering attack and the steps it is taking to support affected customers. Recent reports about unauthorised trading activity in certain customer accounts on Stockal, our US equities trading platform, have raised understandable questions. We want to clarify the facts & explain how we are supporting affected customers. On October 16 (India time), October 15 during US market hours, our US brokerage & custody partner, DriveWealth, notified us of unauthorised trading activity in 13 customer accounts. Access to these accounts was restricted shortly thereafter to prevent further activity. An unauthorised third party appears to have accessed 26 customer accounts using valid login credentials. In 13 of those accounts, existing large-cap US equity holdings were sold and the proceeds used to purchase thinly traded microcap securities. Based on our investigation to date, no funds were withdrawn.

Our investigation has found no evidence of a breach or compromise of the Borderless platform, interface, infrastructure or internal systems. We have engaged independent cybersecurity specialists to examine our systems. We believe the affected account holders may have been victims of a social engineering attack involving information exposed in another company's data breach several weeks earlier. However, this connection remains unconfirmed & under active investigation. Supporting affected customers is our immediate priority.

2030KaBharat to Recognise Organ Donor Families and Healthcare Heroes



Indore, November 4, 2026: The loss of a loved one leaves behind an irreplaceable void. Yet, in the midst of this profound grief, some families make a decision that gives others a second chance at life. By consenting to organ and tissue donation, they ensure that their loved ones continue to live on through the lives they save. Recognising this extraordinary act of compassion and humanity, 2030KaBharat will organize the Jeevandata Parivar Samman 2026 on November 28. The initiative aims to honour families who make the courageous decision to donate the organs or tissues of their loved ones, offering hope and a new lease of life to people in need. Individuals working to raise awareness about organ donation, along with doctors and healthcare professionals who play a vital role in the donation and transplantation process, will also be recognized. The awards will be presented across three categories. The first, Jeevandata Parivar Samman, will recognize families who have consented to organ or tissue donation following the death of a loved one. The second, Jeevan Prerna Samman, will honor individuals and families who have made notable contributions to promoting organ donation awareness, addressing misconceptions and encouraging more people to support the cause. The third category, Jeevan Sarathi Samman, will recognize doctors, surgeons, transplant coordinators, counsellors and healthcare teams whose efforts are instrumental in facilitating organ donation and transplantation. Speaking about the initiative, Dr. Atul Malikram, Founder of 2030KaBharat, said, "Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult experiences a family can go through. Yet, families who choose to save other lives even in such moments of grief demonstrate the highest form of humanity.

James Talarico becomes first Democrat to win Texas Senate seat since 1988



Democrat James Talarico has won the Senate race in Texas, facing off more than $200m in opposition spending and creating one of the biggest upsets for Republicans in the midterms. Talarico's stunning victory over Republican Ken Paxton marks the first time a Democrat has won a US Senate seat in Texas since 1988 - and helped solidify Democrats taking control of the US Congress in a wave of wins across America. Talarico, a former schoolteacher, was little-known until last year. He made the rising cost of living under Republican leadership a central theme of his run. Paxton sought to portray Talarico's views as too progressive for the state, and campaigned alongside Trump on several occasions. In a further, historic victory for Democrats in the state, Gina Hinojosa will become the first Latina governor in Texas, ousting Republican incumbent Greg Abbott - one of the nation's highest profile governors and a long-standing Trump supporter. At a watch party in Austin, the state's capital, there were jubilant scenes among Talarico supporters as giant television screens projected him the winner on Tuesday night. Supporters hugged, they kissed, and they drank to a reality that many say they dared not believe would come true. Emerging on stage to rapturous applause at his official watch party at a nearby performing arts theatre, Talarico pronounced: "We just took back Texas." "We just proved that all the money in the world is no match for the people of Texas," he continued, referring to his win over Paxton whose campaign was backed by Elon Musk, the world's richest man. He invoked religious themes that have grown familiar to his campaign, comparing his unlikely odds to the biblical story of David and Goliath. "This win, this win is for every Texan who's ever wondered if anyone is listening," he said. "I hear you, we hear you. And tonight the world hears you." For decades, the idea of a Democrat winning a statewide race had felt like a pipe dream for Texas liberals. As the nation's second most populous state, Texas has been a bastion of conservatism, routinely rolling out Republican policies that are later employed elsewhere.But throughout the campaign, polls suggested state legislator Talarico was breaking through with voters, energising a Texas Democratic base desperate for new leadership. Spending in the race skyrocketed, and it quickly grew to become the most expensive US Senate race in history, with more than half a billion dollars spent. Billionaire Elon Musk poured in $158m (£117m) to a super PAC supporting Paxton's campaign - a point that Talarico used in attacks on Paxton's campaign. Speaking to CBS on Wednesday morning after his victory, Talarico said Musk "wanted a senator who was going to do his bidding, who was going to sell off Texas land to his data centers, who was going to give [away] our Texas water". "I think last night the people of Texas delivered a crystal clear message to the world's first trillionaire: Texas is not for sale," he said. Then two members of the Bush family, the Republican political dynasty that counts Texas as its political launchpad, backed Talarico in a stunning move foreshadowing Paxton's doom. George Washington University political science professor Quardricos Driskell told the BBC that Paxton was a major part of Republicans' downfall, calling him an "objectively terrible candidate". He said the win in Texas by Talarico, combined with another upset on Tuesday that ousted the state's Republican governor Greg Abbott, was "absolutely historic". Abbott's loss marked the first time a Democrat had won a race for governor in the state since the 1990s. "This wasn't just a tsunami, not just a referendum, but this was a bloodbath," Driskell said about Democrats gains in the Lone Star State. "A clear distinction that the country wants to go in a different direction". Talarico defeated a well-known opponent, Dallas Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett, in the Democratic primary. Then continued to maintain good polling numbers despite an onslaught of negative adverts, including attacks on past comments where he supported transgender people. Throughout his campaign, he frequently leaned into his religious upbringing – as the grandson of a Southern Baptist preacher who spent time in a seminary – sprinkling his stump speeches with biblical references. Paxton had been beleaguered by a number of political scandals, including his impeachment by his own party in 2023 on corruption accusations, before he was later acquitted by the state's Senate. He was also indicted by the US Securities and Exchange Commission on federal fraud charges, but they were later dismissed. Trump made multiple stops in Texas to beef up support for Paxton and other Republicans - including in reliably-Republican spots, signalling how concerned party leadership was about turnout. Voters have been frustrated with high consumer costs, including the price of petrol, and largely blame Trump's tariff policies and the Iran war. Hispanic voters and those who live along the southern US border have also taken issue with Trump's immigration policies. Despite border crossings plummeting under Trump - something that had been popular with Texas voters - polls suggested Trump's support among Hispanics, who make up a third of the state's population, had ebbed significantly. Surveys taken since late summer indicated a majority of Texan Hispanic voters - many of whom switched to Trump to help him win the White House in 2024 - now disapproved of the president.

Left-wing Democrat Abdul El-Sayed wins in Michigan to become first Muslim senator



Left-wing Democrat Abdul El-Sayed has won in the battleground state of Michigan to become the US's first Muslim senator, following a race fuelled by withering attacks and inter-party disputes. El-Sayed bested Republican Mike Rogers, withstanding an onslaught of attacks that included baselessly tying him to terrorism and a high-profile spat with a fellow Democrat. Rogers, backed by President Donald Trump, portrayed El-Sayed as a communist, criticising his stance on Israel and his Muslim faith. After waiting long hours, watching the wave of Democratic gains across the country, El-Sayed's supporters celebrated wildly when he took the stage to mark his victory. The former public health administrator campaigned on a left-wing platform that included universal health care and a wealth tax on billionaires. The win comes days after El-Sayed's Democratic primary rival, Haley Stevens, endorsed Rogers, the Republican candidate, just days before the election. El-Sayed's supporters gave deafening cheers when he took to the stage, as they chanted his name in jubilation. A sea of iPhones were held up to take in this moment of history - a Muslim man elected to the Senate. Several people in the crowd embraced, filled with emotion. They repeated his slogan back to him like they were at a concert: "Money out of politics, money in your pocket and Medicare for all." On the campaign trail, El-Sayed, the son of Egyptian immigrants, described Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide and called for an end to US aid to the country. The issue carries particular resonance in Michigan, which is home to the second largest Arab-American population in the US. It also fuelled tensions between El-Sayed and Stevens, a staunch supporter of Israel, whose primary campaign received millions of dollars in backing from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (Aipac). The contest was widely seen as a test of the political influence of the Democratic left in a key battleground state, following a series of primary wins by democratic socialist candidates in more politically favoured districts. El-Sayed thanked the crowd in the early hours of Wednesday morning for taking a chance on "the unlikeliest of candidates" and rounded on his opponents. "They went all in on one of the ugliest campaigns we've seen in a long time," he said, accusing them of attacking him "because of my name and my faith". "They wanted an America that is too small for some of us. We know that this is an America that is big enough for all of us," El-Sayed added. Supporters 'proud' of win This is a milestone for Muslim Americans who had to watch, along with their children, as El-Sayed was attacked with increasing anti-Muslim rhetoric, including directly from the president of the United States. It comes at a time of rising in Islamophobia nationwide. Roula Allouch, an Arab American Muslim, told the BBC she had goosebumps from the success of the campaign.

Zelensky gives Melania Trump Ukraine's highest award after Oleshky ceasefire



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has given the country's highest award for women to the US First Lady, Melania Trump. The Order of Princess Olga, 1st Class, was awarded to Melania Trump for her "significant personal contribution to humanitarian support for Ukraine", according to the presidential decree. It comes after the end of ceasefire in Ukraine's southern region of Kherson, which allowed for the evacuation of several hundred people from the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky. Russian and Ukrainian delegations - made up of ombudsmen who were involved in the evacuation mission as well as senior officials - are due to meet at the White House on Thursday on Melania Trump's invitation. The White House said that Melania Trump had "independently initiated engagement between the two warring nations and successfully secured a ceasefire". "This achievement marks an unprecedented diplomatic initiative by an American First Lady", it added. Both the Russian and Ukrainian sides repeatedly thanked Melania Trump for brokering the ceasefire, though neither elaborated on the nature or extent of her involvement. The delegations travelling to the White House on Thursday will include Ukraine's human rights ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets and his Russian counterpart Yana Lantratova, as well as Ukrainian MP Davyd Arakhamia and Russian senior official Kirill Dmitriev.

'THIS IS A DISASTER':

ANGRY REPUBLICANS BLAME DONALD TRUMP FOR MIDTERMS DEFEAT



Inside the Republican Party, initial shock at the stunning election results on Tuesday night quickly gave way to anger with US President Donald Trump. After Democrats won upset after upset in deep-red states like Texas, Kansas and South Carolina, some Republicans focused their ire on Trump, arguing that his focus on his legacy and indifference to voter concerns cost the party control of Congress. "It's on him. It's not on anybody else. It's a total, complete rejection of President Trump," Bill Miller, a top Republican lobbyist in Texas, told the BBC. "This is a disaster of the first magnitude. Nobody saw it coming like this." Most Republicans expected to lose control of the House and were clear-eyed about the challenge of holding onto the Senate in a tough election cycle that favoured the party out of power. But some said in interviews that Trump dragged them down with unpopular policies, a low job approval rating and obsession over construction projects in Washington. "It was just one mistake after another," said Gregg Peppin, a Republican strategist in Minnesota. "Clearly, in state after state, people did not like the president's policies." A White House ally said public disapproval with Trump over the Iran war, tariffs and the administration's immigration crackdown created a "perfect storm" in November. "There's palpable frustration [within] the party about how this has all played out," the person said, and much of it is directed at Trump. Anger with Trump "is extremely high". The BBC spoke to a dozen party operatives, campaign officials, White House allies and others, many of whom spoke on background to offer a candid assessment of Trump's approach to the midterms. Trump and Republicans had a lot riding on the outcome on Tuesday night. A stronger showing by the president's party - as happened in 2022, when Democrats under then-President Joe Biden lost just nine seats in the House, and gained one in the Senate - would have given Republicans some momentum heading into 2028. But Trump will instead face a motivated Democratic majority in Congress that is eager to investigate the administration, block his judicial nominees and stymie the rest of his agenda. The midterms have ushered in an uncertain new phase in Trump's second term and may force Republicans to start grappling with their post-Trump future.

Nadal set to join Real Madrid board of directors



Tennis great Rafael Nadal is set to join the board of Spanish football giants Real Madrid. Nadal won 22 Grand Slam titles, two Olympic gold medals and helped Spain claim five Davis Cups before retiring in 2024. Real's members will be asked to approve the 40-year-old's appointment to the board at a meeting later this month. In a statement announcing the move, external, the club said Nadal was "one of the greatest legends in the history of sport and one of the most admired and recognised Spanish athletes in the world". "It is a great source of pride that a figure of his sporting and human stature, a benchmark of Spanish and world sport, will become part of our board of directors and contribute, from this position of responsibility, to the present and future of our club," Real added. The tennis legend - a boyhood Real fan who holds member's number 67,778 - included a photo of himself as a child in a club kit in his response to the news. "I want to thank president Florentino Perez and the board for proposing that I join the board of directors of Real Madrid," Nadal said in his post on X, external. "I have accepted this proposal with great excitement, a desire to learn, and a willingness to contribute everything I can." It is currently unclear as to what responsibilities Nadal would hold on the club's board. Perez was re-elected to serve a new four-year term as Real president in June, having held the office since 2009. He swiftly appointed Jose Mourinho to a second spell as head coach, hoping to improve the club's fortunes after they went a second season without a trophy in La Liga, the Champions League or the Copa del Rey.



Iran's chief negotiator says Americans voted 'no to war'

Israel's president to begin consultations with parties after election deadlock



Israel's President Isaac Herzog is to begin consultations with political parties on whom to task with forming a new coalition government, after he received the official results of a general election last week he said had no clear winner. Herzog told party leaders that "not every commitment and promise can be fulfilled" if they want to avoid a new election. Neither the bloc of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor his rival Gadi Eisenkot secured a majority in parliament. Earlier, electoral officials said there was no evidence of irregularities and that unsubstantiated claims by Netanyahu's camp of Arab-led parties "stealing" the election did not justify delaying the results' certification. The Shin Bet security service is investigating allegations of foreign interference in the election, but the head of the Central Elections Committee stressed that they would not fundamentally change the outcome. In the election on 27 October, Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party and its far-right and ultra-Orthodox Jewish allies won 53 seats in the 120-seat Knesset. Eisenkot's centrist Yashar party and three other Jewish opposition parties in his bloc won 48. Two Arab-led alliances, the United Arab List and the Joint List, together won an unprecedented 19 seats following a surge in turnout among Arab voters. That makes them potential kingmakers. However, all but one of the Jewish parties pledged before the polls not to work with them to form a government. The role of Israel's president is largely ceremonial, but after an election they have the role of inviting a Knesset member to form a government. That person will be given 28 days to do so, with a potential 14-day extension. The president has wide discretion to pick someone they believe has the best chance of building a coalition. They do not have to choose the leader of the party with the most seats. On Wednesday morning, Herzog was presented with the official results by Central Elections Committee chairman Justice Noam Sohlberg at a ceremony in Jerusalem. "In recent days, we have heard voices trying to cast doubt on the election results and to undermine their legitimacy.



Tanvi Patri Becomes First Indian Woman Badminton Player To Reach Youth Olympics Semifinals

Virat Kohli Scripts Never-Seen-Before History, Breaches 13000-Run Mark At No. 3 In ODIs



An icon of the sport, Virat Kohli added another milestone to his resume in the first ODI of the five-match series against New Zealand in Auckland. The 37-year-old became the first player in world cricket to cross 13,000 runs at the number 3 position in One Day Internationals. Entering the opening match at Eden Park, Auckland, Kohli required just 12 runs to reach the milestone. He achieved the landmark off the 13th ball of his innings, in the seventh over of India's chase of 186. This feat further solidifies Kohli's status as one of the format's greatest top-order batters. He accomplished the milestone in just 251 innings, boasting an astonishing average well above 60 at the number 3 position, alongside 48 centuries and nearly 70 half-centuries. While there are only a handful of cricketers who have crossed the 10,000-run mark across all formats, Kohli, astonishingly, has amassed 13,000 runs in ODIs alone while batting at the number 3 spot. In the process, Kohli also increased the gap over former Australia captain Ricky Ponting, who sits second on the all-time list for the most ODI runs at number 3. Watch: Virat Kohli Pulls Off Stunning Catch In Slips, Don't Miss The Celebration Ponting accumulated 12,662 runs in 330 innings at the position during his legendary career. Kohli and Ponting remain the only two players in ODI history to have surpassed the 10,000-run mark at number 3. Batters With Most Runs At No. 3: Virat Kohli: 13,000 runs at an average of 61.55* Ricky Ponting:12,662 runs at an average of 42.48 Kumar Sangakkara: 9,747 runs at an average of 44.71 Jacques Kallis:7,774 runs at an average of 45.72 Kane Williamson: 6,504 runs at an average of 51.61 Babar Azam:6,054 runs at an average of 55.54 Joe Root: 5,525 runs at an average of 53.12 Kohli has had a phenomenal campaign for India in ODI cricket this year. Before the start of the series against New Zealand, he scored runs consistently across 2026, amassing 552 runs in nine ODI innings at an average of 69.

FROM JESUS DE MIGUEL TO MARC-VIVIEN FOE: TRAGEDIES THAT SHOOK FOOTBALL



Football is the Beautiful Game. It can sometimes be tragic too. On Tuesday, a wave of sorrow swept through the football world after the death of Tenerife forward Jesus de Miguel on the field. He suffered a cardiac arrest following an on-field collision in a Spanish second-division match, his club said on Tuesday. He was 30. De Miguel was challenging for the ball near midfield on Monday when he was struck in the chest by onrushing Andorra goalkeeper Jesus Owono during added time. Owono was shown a straight red card for the incident. De Miguel was taken to hospital and the match, tied 2-2, was abandoned after the incident. Tenerife said in a statement that De Miguel died at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday. The club, located in Spain's Canary Islands, said it was "heartbroken." De Miguel, a Madrid native, made his professional debut in 2015 with Leganés B and subsequently played for a number of lower-division clubs in Spain. He joined Tenerife last year. De Miguel's death is the latest in a series of tragic deaths on the football field. Cristiano Junior, 2004 This incident happened in India. The Brazilian, playing for Dempo Goa, collided with onrushing Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Subrata Paul in the 2004 Federation Cup final in Bengaluru. It once again brought into focus the absence of even basic medical facilities in Indian football and made international headlines, forcing world governing body FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation to take note of the tragedy. Accusations flew thick and fast regarding Mohun Bagan custodian Subrata Paul's responsibility in the striker's death. Antonio Puerta, 2007 Spain international Antonio Puerta, 22, collapsed while playing for Sevilla in a La Liga match against Getafe and died three days later.

1st ODI: Young Pace Unit, Peerless Virat Kohli Script Impressive Win For India Against New Zealand



A young pace unit headlined by the imposing Gurnoor Brar scarred New Zealand with disconcerting bounce before Virat Kohli decided to celebrate his 38th birthday a day in advance by striking a chiselled 74 as India earned an easy five-wicket win in the rain-curtailed first ODI in Auckland on Wednesday. India dismissed the Black Caps for a below-par 185 in 40.2 overs as the 6-foot-5-inch-tall Gurnoor repaid skipper Shubman Gill's faith by intimidating the home batters with his speed and bounce in the company of Arshdeep Singh. India reached the revised target of 143 in 22.4 overs, with Kohli's 51-ball knock, comprising 13 boundaries and a maximum, doing the bulk of the damage. With India's first-choice troika of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna unavailable due to workload management and injury-related issues, it was the Punjab duo of Arshdeep (4/70 in 10 overs) and Gurnoor (3/44 in 9.2 overs) that took up the mantle of unsettling the Black Caps. The unusually short and straight dimensions of the ground did create issues, but Arshdeep hit the perfect length, bowling to the field with relentless accuracy. Anshul Kamboj (2/22 in 10 overs) was also superbly steady during the middle overs, something that will make head coach Gautam Gambhir proud of his punt to go in with three literal greenhorns. He bowled an eye-popping 46 dot balls in his 10-over spell. In pursuit of the modest target, Kohli's controlled aggression made all the difference for India after the early fall of Rohit Sharma (0). Despite multiple rain interruptions, Kohli's intensity was unwavering as he played his customary cover drives, whips through mid-wicket and imperious pull shots, both short-arm and over the top. The Indian maestro, who will turn 38 on Thursday, hit his 80th ODI half-century in the company of Gill (37), who played second fiddle to perfection. They added 113 for the second wicket after Rohit was dismissed for a six-ball duck. The best shot Kohli played was undoubtedly the one where he stood upright and punched Blair Tickner through the covers.

Tanvi Patri Becomes First Indian Woman Badminton Player To Reach Youth Olympics Semifinals



Talented shuttler Tanvi Patri on Wednesday scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to reach the badminton semifinals at the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal. The 15-year-old from Odisha defeated Thailand's Kungkaew Kakanik 21-17, 21-13 to enter the last four. Tanvi, who trains at the Centre for Excellence in Bengaluru, will face Japan's Yuzuno Watanabe in the semifinal. The two had met at the 2024 Pathum Thani Junior International Series in Thailand, where Tanvi suffered a 14-21, 10-21 defeat.

Bayern Munich Diwali Jersey: Indian Artistry Meets European Football In Bundesliga



The festival of Diwali has brought a surprise present for Bayern Munich fans in India. Although Bayern is a club competing in the German Bundesliga, it enjoys an astounding following across the Indian subcontinent. Just days before Diwali, Bayern released a special-edition Diwali jersey designed by Indian surrealist artist Abhay Sehgal, leaving fans mesmerised. The unique shirt narrates an intriguing story of childhood memories, Indian heritage, and a deep love for football. Featuring a dark purple base with intricate orange, red, and gold patterns, the special jersey was showcased by Bayern stars Harry Kane, Serge Gnabry, Kim Min-jae, and Dayot Upamecano as part of the Bundesliga club's Diwali celebrations. Harry Kane, who recently won the Ballon d'Or 2026, thanked the Indian artist for his creation. "Special thanks to Abhay for creating and sharing such a special design with us this Diwali, all the way from India," the Bayern Munich striker said. For Sehgal, the collaboration was an opportunity to bring together two worlds that have shaped his life: art and football. Given complete creative freedom by Bayern, he chose to make the design deeply personal, drawing inspiration from his childhood while also looking towards the future of Indian football. "This third kit was an interesting gig because I got the creative freedom to basically create anything, and I wanted the concept to be something personal which represents my childhood, but at the same time represents the future of the kids who are playing football in India," Sehgal explained. Every portion of the jersey narrates a fascinating story.

Ethan Page Becomes WWE Intercontinental Champion With A Surprising Admission



Ethan Page beat Chad Gable on the November 2 episode of RAW to become the new WWE Intercontinental Champion, but what he said about it afterward was not what anyone would expect. The win ended Gable's 92-day reign and gave the former NXT star his first championship on WWE's main roster. He had spent months going after the gold since arriving on the main roster following WrestleMania 42. And then he got it. All Ego admitted he was struggling to enjoy it and felt surprisingly empty. Ethan Page Explains Why Winning His First Main Roster Championship Left Him Feeling Nothing Page spoke to Sam Roberts and Megan Morant on RAW Recap after the show, and his reaction was pretty unusual. He didn't celebrate. He said that reaching his ultimate goal this quickly left him questioning what he should aim for next. "Look, I feel weird. Mostly because this is the ultimate goal, and now that I've achieved it so early and so quickly, it's skewed, I guess, my view of the future," Page explained. He also said he never expected the title to come his way this fast. Months of chasing it, then a sudden shift in his career, and now he's reassessing his ambitions. Page suggested this has happened to him repeatedly in his life. He believes not being able to enjoy a milestone has something to do with always looking at the next achievement. "I don't know why I thought it would be so hard to obtain this, and then it happened so fast that I feel like I should reassess my goals," he added.

PV Sindhu Qualifies For BWF World Tour Finals After Stellar Season



India's two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu has qualified for the season-ending Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Finals following a string of impressive performances on the BWF World Tour circuit. The prestigious event features the top eight players or pairs in each discipline and will be held in China from December 9 to 13. Sindhu climbed to world No. 6 in women's singles, her highest ranking since December 2022 following her title-winning run at the Hylo Open, securing qualification for the year-end showpiece. The Indian star claimed her second title of the season after defeating Denmark's Line Kjaersfeldt 21-12, 21-14 in the women's singles final of the Hylo Open on Sunday. The two-time Olympic medallist completed a dominant campaign in Germany with a straight-games victory, returning to the winner's circle a week after finishing runner-up at the French Open, where she lost to world No. 1 An Seyoung. Sindhu had previously won the World Tour Finals title in 2018.She also captured the Japan Open crown in July, making the Hylo Open her second BWF World Tour title of the season. In addition, Sindhu reached the final of the French Open and advanced to the semifinals of both the Malaysia Open and the Australian Open, underlining her consistency throughout the year. PV Sindhu has a message for athletes who are increasingly turning to technology to monitor their performance- tracking recovery is just as important as tracking training. And when it comes to Shubman Gill, who has started using the Temple device that Sindhu has worn for some time, the two-time Olympic medallist believes the Indian cricketer will know how best to use the data. Sindhu, who returned to the world's top 10 after winning the Hylo Open, her second major title of the year, spoke about Gill's use of the device and the importance of monitoring different aspects of an athlete's recovery. "I am sure Shubman has his own things to look at. In sport, recovery is a key factor, and you have to structure your work schedule accordingly.

Kishore Movie Makers' debut film launched in a grand manner under the hands of sensational director VV Vinayak



Producer N.N. Kishore's first film Production No. 1 under the banner of Kishore Movie Makers has started with a bang. On Wednesday morning, the film's pooja programs were held in the presence of film personalities and guests at Ramanaidu Studio in Hyderabad. Sensational director V.V. Vinayak and promising hero Aadi Saikumar were the chief guests, making the opening ceremony a special attraction. V.V. Vinayak handed over the script to the film team and wished them well. Producer N.N. Kishore clapped for the muhurta shot. Aadi Saikumar switched on the camera and congratulated the film unit.

Renowned producers Malkapuram Sivakumar, Sidhu Reddy, and Chikoti Praveen attended the opening ceremony as chief guests and wished the film crew. Along with them, many film celebrities, actors, directors, producers, and close friends participated and conveyed their best wishes to the film crew.

Directors Ravikumar Chowdhury and Diwakar Yadla, who worked as an associate writer at Ghatikachalam, are making their directorial debut with this film. Along with a beautiful love story, this film is being made with entertaining elements that will appeal to all sections of the audience. Vijay Rajkumar, who will soon be seen in the film 'Delulu', is playing the hero. Archana Joyce, who became famous for playing Yash's mother in the Kannada film 'KGF', is playing the heroine. Guest Michael, who has earned a special recognition for himself with films like 'Arjun Reddy' and 'Ameethumi', will be seen in a key role.

Launched grandly with the blessings of sensational director VV Vinayak, hero Aadi Saikumar and several prominent film personalities, Kishore Movie Makers' maiden venture has generated interest from the very beginning. Blending romance with entertainment and emotions, the film is expected to begin regular shooting soon. The project will be filmed in Hyderabad and Kerala, with the makers set to announce further details soon.

Sreeleela Joins Rajinikanth's Dharman



She's Got The Spark, She's Got The Pataka, Welcoming The Gorgeous Sreeleela On Board For Superstar Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan, Ashwath Marimuthu, RKFI's Dharman

The excitement surrounding Superstar Rajinikanth's Dharman continues to grow, with the makers introducing another exciting addition to the cast. Welcoming gorgeous actress Sreeleela on board, the team has unveiled a charming glimpse that presents her in a captivating and refreshing avatar.

The glimpse showcases Sreeleela in an enchanting avatar, instantly adding a new dimension to the film's appeal. Rockstar Anirudh Ravichander elevates the presentation with his delightful classical score, lending the introduction an extra dose of charm. Describing her character, the makers aptly say, "She's the spark and she's the pataka," hinting at a lively and spirited role.

Presented by Raaj Kamal Films International, Dharman is an ambitious pan-India entertainer produced by Kamal Haasan and R Mahendran, and directed by Aswath Marimuthu. The film has already generated considerable curiosity with its intriguing first look, introducing Rajinikanth as a mysterious doctor called The Deadly Doctor, holding a blood-stained scalpel. The project also features Nayanthara.

SENSATIONAL SCI-FI THRILLER KILLER TO STREAM SOON ON A LEADING OTT PLATFORM



KilleR Collects Over Rs. 2 Crore Through Its Theatrical Run
Leading OTT Platform Acquires "KilleR" Rights for a Fancy Price

"KilleR" has once again proved that strong content can help even small films achieve big success. The sensational sci-fi thriller has collected over Rs. 2 crore through its theatrical run, including premiere shows. Its impressive performance has attracted the attention of leading OTT platforms, with a prominent streaming platform acquiring the film's digital rights for a fancy price.

KilleR Collects Over Rs. 2 Crore Through Its Theatrical Run Leading OTT Platform Acquires "KilleR" Rights for a Fancy Price "KilleR" has once again proved that strong content can help even small films achieve big success.

It is particularly noteworthy that a leading OTT platform has secured the outright streaming rights of a small film for a fancy price following its theatrical release. "KillR" will soon begin streaming on the platform, taking the film to an even wider audience. The film features Jyoti Poorvaj and Poorvaaj in the lead roles, while Manish Gilada, Chandrakanth Kollu, Ayinabathina Dasaratha Madhav, Vishal Raj, Archana Ananth and Gowtham Chakradhar Koppisetti appear in other important role Made with the blessings of Dhyanam Nannagaru, "KilleR" was produced by Poorvaaj and Padmanabha Reddy A. under the banners of Think Cinema and AU & I Studios. Urvish Poorvaj presented the film. Poorvaaj not only directed the project but also played an important role in it, earning appreciation from audiences for his work both behind and in front of the camera. With its upcoming OTT release, "KilleR" is all set to reach an even larger audience.

It's a Medical Miracle' Records Over 15 Million Minutes of Watch Time in Its First Week on ManoramaMAX



Highlights

- Sharaf U Dheen and Sangeeth Prathap-starrer comedy thriller receives an overwhelming response on OTT; streaming ex tvclusively in four languages
- After receiving a positive response during its theatrical run, It's a Medical Miracle, starring Sharaf U Dheen and Sangeeth Prathap, has made an impressive debut on ManoramaMAX.

Sharaf U Dheen and Sangeeth Prathap-starrer comedy thriller receives an overwhelming response on OTT; streaming ex tvclusively in four languages

After receiving a positive response during its theatrical run, It's a Medical Miracle, starring Sharaf U Dheen and Sangeeth Prathap, has made an impressive debut on ManoramaMAX. The comedy thriller has clocked over 15 million minutes of watch time within its first week of streaming, marking a strong start on the OTT platform.

The film is currently streaming exclusively on ManoramaMAX in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Kannada, reaching audiences across four languages.

TABU'S POWERFUL AVATAR AS JHANSI RANI UNVEILED IN KING 100



Tabu Exudes Grace & Authority As Mahanthi Jhansi Rani- Special Birthday Glimpse From King Nagarjuna's Landmark 100th Film King 100 Unveiled King Nagarjuna Akkineni is gearing up for a major milestone with his 100th film, King 100. Produced by Annapurna Studios and directed by Ra Karthik, who makes his Telugu directorial debut with this prestigious project, the film is currently progressing at a brisk pace. On the occasion of Tabu's birthday, the makers of King 100 have unveiled a special glimpse introducing her character as Mahanthi Jhansi Rani.

The glimpse opens with Tabu's commanding voiceover, setting the tone for a powerful character. "There are two kinds of people in this world – those who believe in luck and those who believe in hard work. Luck? I hate luck," she declares, instantly establishing the attitude and strength of her character. The glimpse concludes with her making a grand appearance before a massive public gathering, waving to the crowd and taking the oath of office.After 28 years, Nagarjuna and Tabu are reuniting on screen, but this time, their story is not about love; it is about war. Even in this brief glimpse, Tabu makes a striking impression as Mahanthi Jhansi Rani.



Printed, Published and owned By Vuppla Sujatha, Printed at: Kottenkaavu Temple Rd, Arakkakadavu, Kochi, Kerala 682028 Published At Kottenkaavu Temple Rd, Arakkakadavu, Kochi, Kerala 682028. Editor: Chiluka Venugopal Reddy.
E-Mail: info.southindiatimes@gmail.com., Contact :9000657700, RNI Regd No: KARENG/2012/43253.