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'HE GOT SOME INNER STRENGTH': Captain Smit Machchhar's Father On His Heroics



New Delhi / Abu Dhabi: The hero pilot, who saved 174 flydubai passengers from almost certain death by fighting off an axe attack by his co-pilot inside the cockpit, is recovering in a hospital in Abu Dhabi. The first emotion of the parents of hero pilot Smit Machchhar after learning of their son's heroics was "fear". Within minutes, they recovered from the initial shock and rushed to a temple. "We prayed, 'God, whatever happens, no bad news should come; please save him,'" Bhupendra Machchhar, the pilot's father, told, reminiscing about the most difficult few hours of his life. The hero pilot, who saved 174 flydubai passengers from almost certain death by staving off an axe attack from his co-pilot

inside the cockpit, is recovering in a hospital in Abu Dhabi. Bhupendra Machchhar credits "God" for giving him the strength to show his heroism against all odds. "Like any parent, the first thought that came was one of shock and fear. Immediately, we lit a lamp before God and prayed," he told. "No one is specifically trained for this kind of situation. But it was God's grace - some inner strength guided him. When the crisis arose, he tackled it, using every ounce of his power. I would say it is mostly God's blessing," he added. He said the injured pilot is recovering well, but it will take a while for his wounds to fully heal. "The doctors said it will take time for these wounds to heal. He has sustained injuries to his head and both hands. His head was operated on, and he has received quite a few stitches. I won't be able to provide all the exact details today, but the wounds are significant, and it will take some time to recover," he added. Bhupendra Machchhar said his son is passionate about his profession and would regularly help other pilots. "Flying is like his wife," he quipped. "Truthfully speaking, he has been flying for nearly 17 years now. Over these 17 years, how he has guided hundreds of pilots - how to give interviews, how to grasp critical aviation matters - has been in his nature all along. Flying is everything to him. He doesn't think about anything else beyond doing his job well and flying at the highest level," he said. Smit Machchhar was attacked by his co-pilot, an Omani national, with an axe inside the cockpit of the plane. During the fight, the plane plummeted. Realising that if he and his passengers were to survive, he would have to act fast, he opened the cockpit and alerted the crew and passengers about the attack despite his serious injuries. Other passengers overpowered the attacker, and off-duty pilots safely landed the plane. "When he fell inside the cockpit, he made up his mind that whatever had to be done had to be done right then, otherwise nothing would survive. In his mind, he realised fighting back was the only way. He took action and succeeded. He had one firm conviction: none of the passengers behind him should lose their lives. That was foremost in his mind. God supported that intention," his father said. He said he is proud of his son but is more concerned about his well-being. "When such an incident happens... we are very simple people. Everyone kept calling it a proud moment, but for me, my wife, and his wife, our primary concern was his well-being. While it is a proud moment, our priority is to take care of our boy first," he said. He said his son would resume his professional duties after his full recovery. He also gave a message to the young people of the country.

President Gives Assent, Gujarat Becomes 2nd State To Get Uniform Civil Code

New Delhi: After Uttarakhand, Gujarat has become only the second state to receive the President's assent to its version of the Uniform Civil Code, a set of rules that will govern civil matters like marriage, divorce and inheritance. The Gujarat Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026 was passed by the BJP-dominated state assembly in March. Published in the Gujarat Government Gazette, the legislation moves the state closer to establishing a singular legal

framework for personal matters. The landmark legislation replaces varied personal laws with a unified legal code governing marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships for all citizens residing within the state. However, the provisions do not apply to Scheduled Tribes, preserving constitutional protections for their customary rights. The Act also extends its jurisdiction to Gujarat residents living outside the state. Under the law, mandatory registration forms a



central pillar of the administrative reform. Marriages solemnised within Gujarat, or involving a state resident, must be formally registered within sixty days to avoid monetary penalties. Additionally, the legislation introduces formal legal procedures and required registration protocols for couples entering live-in relationships.

700 Detained As Delhi, Mumbai See Big Protests Against Gyanesh Kumar

New Delhi: At the centre of the protests are issues related to the Election Commission and the SIR that has struck off crores of 'inactive' voters across the country. Hundreds have been detained in New Delhi during a protest by opposition outfits demanding the resignation of India's election chief over alleged voter-related irregularities. Visuals showed senior AAP

leader and former chief minister Atishi being dragged by police. The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), too, held a demonstration in Mumbai, where a large police deployment was made to tackle thousands of protesters who had reached Shivaji Park. Speaking at the rally that coincided with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said there could be no



greater tribute to the father of the nation. "Everyone here is Gandhi. Gandhi never dies," he added.

Chandrababu Orders Legal Challenge on BC Reservations; Petition to Be Filed in Supreme Court Today

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 2: The Andhra Pradesh government will file a petition in the Supreme Court on Saturday challenging the High Court's decision on reservations for Backward Classes (BCs). Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to file the petition by Saturday afternoon. The Andhra Pradesh High Court had struck down the government orders providing 34% reservation for BCs in local body elections. Following the verdict, the state government decided to challenge the High Court order in the Supreme Court.



Legal experts expect the petition could come up for hearing next week if it is filed in the Supreme Court as scheduled. The Chief Minister has directed the government to appoint senior advocates to represent the Panchayat Raj and Municipal Administration departments before the Supreme Court. Chandrababu held discussions with legal experts in Delhi on Friday morning. The coalition government has decided to stand by its commitment to provide 34% reservation for BCs in local body elections.



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Rs.1 Lakh Crore Horticulture Hub to Be Set Up in Rayalaseema: Nirmala Sitharaman

From Our Staff Reporter Annamayya, October 2: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said several major development initiatives have been launched in Rayalaseema. She laid the foundation stone for the Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub on Friday and addressed the gathering. She announced that a Rs.1 lakh crore horticulture hub would be established in Rayalaseema. She said steps were being taken to transform the region into a prosperous agricultural zone and ensure that farmers do not face shortages

of urea. The government has directed that the price of a bag of urea should not exceed Rs.300, she said. The Union Minister said a system was being developed for biogas production under the Gobardhan Scheme. She said solar pumps were being provided under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana and PM-KUSUM scheme, with arrangements being made to provide electricity through these initiatives. She said the government had introduced the Kisan Insurance Scheme to protect farmers against crop losses. New schemes have also been introduced for fishermen and livestock farmers, she added. Sitharaman further said that every district would have a veterinary doctor and a mobile animal hospital to provide animal healthcare services.



Minister Narayana Lays Foundation for Rs.32.10 Crore Development Works in Ponnur



From Our Staff Reporter Guntur District, October 2: Minister Narayana visited Ponnur Municipality on Friday and laid the foundation stones for several development projects along with MLA Dhulipalla Narendra. On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti, the minister and the MLA paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Ponnur and later planted saplings. Minister Narayana laid the foundation stones for

development works worth Rs.32.10 crore in the Ponnur municipal limits. This includes Rs.22.10 crore worth of water supply projects and the restoration of Nagula Cheruvu, along with Rs.10 crore worth of CC roads and greenery works. He said the coalition government was spending Rs.126.28 crore on infrastructure development in Ponnur Municipality. **Amaravati Will Be a Safe City** Minister Narayana said Amaravati, the state capital,

would be one of the safest cities. He said that once the ongoing works are completed, there would be no waterlogging in the capital. He said the Amaravati flood-management system was designed with the assistance of experts from the Netherlands after studying rainfall patterns over the past 200 years. He said three channels—Kondaveeti Vagu, Palavagu and the Gravity Canal—were being developed. A pumping system capable of discharging 22,500 cusecs of water has also been installed, he said. Narayana explained that rainwater currently being seen accumulating in trenches because construction works are still underway. Once the projects are completed, there will be no waterlogging problem anywhere in the capital, he asserted. The minister criticised what he described as false propaganda being spread by some people against Amaravati and said deliberate misinformation about the capital was being circulated.

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Minister Lokesh Participates in Foundation Ceremony for Madanapalle Horticulture Hub

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October, 2 : Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh said a horticulture hub is being established in Rayalaseema with the blessings and support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He participated in the foundation-laying ceremony for the Horticulture Hub in Madanapalle and later addressed a public meeting held at the venue. Lokesh said Madanapalle has a glorious history and described the region as a

land synonymous with sacrifice and struggles. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, he paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. Recalling Gandhi's message that the country prospers when farmers prosper, Lokesh stressed the importance of farmer welfare. He said he had faced many difficulties during his padayatra but was able to overcome them with the blessings and support of the people. Lokesh recalled that he had earlier promised to transform

Rayalaseema into a horticulture hub and said that the dream was now becoming a reality with Prime Minister Modi's support. He said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu considers irrigation projects as temples and recalled that Chandrababu was instrumental in introducing drip irrigation. Lokesh also criticised the YSR Congress Party, saying it was unable to accept Chandrababu being referred to as the "Waterman."



Minister Sandhyarani Welcomes Increase in Diet Charges for AP Hostel Students

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 2: State Tribal Welfare Minister Gummadi Sandhyarani welcomed the government's decision to increase diet charges for students staying in BC hostels and residential schools. She said the hike in diet charges

for students in Tribal, Social Welfare, Backward Classes and Minority Welfare hostels would help provide them with better-quality food. The minister thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for increasing diet charges in welfare hostels and residential schools. Sandhyarani said

the Chief Minister was making significant efforts for the welfare and advancement of economically disadvantaged students. She said the government was developing hostels on par with corporate schools. The government would not hesitate to spend whatever was necessary for

the basic facilities, sports, education and overall development of poor students, she said. The Andhra Pradesh government has issued orders increasing diet charges for students in BC hostels and residential schools: Classes 3-6: Rs.1,150 - Rs.1,265



Classes 7-10: Rs.1,400 - Rs.1,600 Intermediate and above: Rs.1,600 - Rs.1,800 The government has also instructed officials to provide eggs six days a week, chicken three days a week, and milk and fruits every day to students.

EDITORIAL

Not Restrictions, But Protection Is Needed

“Don’t go out after dark. Don’t visit deserted places. Don’t meet strangers. Don’t travel alone. Don’t wear whatever you like. Don’t criticise your own college. Shift to online classes. But stop speaking up for your rights online. You must bear some responsibility for your own safety.” These are some of the restrictions women face in their everyday lives. Why should women have to follow so many restrictions and instructions? Is limiting a woman’s freedom really the way to protect her? These questions are increasingly being raised in society. Women are demanding that instead of curbing their freedom, the government should create conditions that ensure their safety. With a series of sexual assaults reported in the Delhi-NCR region, the Supreme Court has expressed concern. The Court questioned why such insecurity among women continues even after the 2012 Nirbhaya incident. Incidents such as the sexual assault and murder of a girl in Swaroop Nagar and the sexual assault of a girl on a bus travelling from Greater Noida to Delhi have shaken the Delhi government. Students at universities in Delhi and Punjab have repeatedly protested, saying that there has been little meaningful change in women's safety since 2012.

Governments, meanwhile, point to new laws, procedures and CCTV cameras, claiming that numerous measures have been taken to protect women. University administrations echo similar assurances. This reveals a wide gap between the experiences and perceptions of the two sides. On one hand, governments and institutions insist that they are taking action. On the other, young women say that their everyday experiences tell them they are still far from safe. In 2011–12, the Gross Enrolment Ratio of women in higher education was 19%, compared with 22% for men. By 2017–18, women's enrolment ratio had surpassed that of men, and this advantage has continued. Young women are making historic progress in education, careers and the pursuit of freedom. Yet the institutions responsible for protecting them remain trapped in outdated thinking. Young women continue to face numerous restrictions on going out after dark. Earlier generations may have endured such conditions for education and employment. But that does not mean today's students must accept the idea that controlling women's behaviour is the solution to violence against women. Instead, they are demanding systemic change—better street lighting, safe transportation and improved policing. When young women organise rallies demanding the freedom to move safely at night, large numbers of police personnel are deployed around them. Yet, ironically, when women actually need urgent protection, there may not be a single police officer in sight. Rather than simply relying on the fear of the law among offenders, governments must recognise that these conditions have restricted women's quality of life in India. Several studies have demonstrated this. One study in Chennai found that most women travelled between 3 and 5 p.m., while men travelled more frequently between 5 and 7 p.m. Another study of Mumbai found that only 31% of streets in the city considered relatively safe had adequate lighting. A study in Delhi found that women were even choosing lower-ranked colleges in order to travel more safely. The “pink tax”—the additional amount charged for products and services aimed at women—is also widespread. If women have begun protesting against it, it is understandable that they may eventually challenge other forms of discrimination as well. Safety should not end at the college gate. A woman should be able to leave her hostel at 10 p.m., walk to a café, meet her friends and return home by public transport without having to seek anyone's permission. She should not be forced to explain why she went out or whom she was with. Only then can it be said that she has truly attained freedom and safety. After the Nirbhaya incident, the Central Government announced that a committee would be formed to identify dangerous areas. Why is another committee needed to identify poorly lit areas? Why are new surveys, reports and assurances necessary when previously identified problems concerning women's safety remain unresolved? Fourteen years after the Nirbhaya incident, the fact that the same questions are once again reaching the Supreme Court exposes the shortcomings and inadequacies of government action.

Trump May Like Pak's Generals. But His Bureaucrats Have Other Ideas

A recent speech by Foreign Minister S Jaishankar at the Asia Society saw him in his element: scholar, diplomat and academic, with only a very light overlay of the politician. The conversation dealt with multiple issues, each important, including some blunt statements on relations with the US. While he talked of ‘bumps’ in trade negotiations and difficulties of dealing with the Trump administration et al, where he chose to come down heavily was to do with the US ignoring the ‘primary concerns’ of India on terrorism from Pakistan. That is undoubtedly worrisome, but there is another reality. Official Washington has a different take from ‘political’ Washington. It is important and useful to see how this is working out, and how much space this has in the face of Trump's publicly declared appreciation for a lacklustre Pakistani general.

Those Annoying Politicians
There is no doubt at all that in recent days, Washington has been extremely bothersome. Following the statement by US ambassador Sergio Gorr that Kashmir was an ‘important part’ of India, which sent the Pakistan foreign office into a panic, it has now been reportedly confirmed that the US position remained unchanged, regarding it still as disputed territory. Unsurprisingly, therefore, Prime Minister Shabaz Sharif in his UN Address continued to invite mediation from the US with his fulsome praise of the President for ‘saving’ billions of people from certain nuclear war during Operation Sindoor. Clearly, any change here requires a political decision, and that is not yet forthcoming.

The Bureaucrats Do Their

Job

Meanwhile, a Congressional Report of March 2026 continues to list terror groups operating from Pakistan, dividing them into five broad but not exclusive types: globally oriented, Afghanistan-oriented, India and Kashmir-oriented, domestically oriented, and sectarian (anti-Shia). Notably, it observed that 12 of the 15 groups listed were designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) under the US. It also noted with concern the spike in terrorism inside the country, the highest in 11 years. All that matters. It remains highly unlikely that any US company will invest in that turbulent country. ‘Interest’ in rare earths remains just that. Not a dollar is forthcoming. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is not cutting it any slack either. It recently expressed its unhappiness at Pakistan's apparent inability to take actions required for further disbursement of funds, particularly on laws relating to state-owned entities, long a cash cow for the government. Meanwhile, a rather deft move by the Finance Ministry to ask the United States for a USD 10 billion exchange stabilisation facility has yet to see the light of day. A USD 10 billion commitment would constitute some 36% of the fund's liquid assets of approximately USD 27.8 billion in February 2026. True, it could be given in tranches, but that would require financial bureaucracy to assess Pakistan's financial credentials, which are palpably dire. It could be done through a written Presidential commitment according to US law, since the fund functions entirely under the Treasury Secretary with Congress assuming only an



oversight role. Any such affirmative action would thus show a definite political slant to Islamabad. Remember, a ‘trans-actional’ President would want his pound of flesh. No freebies from the White House, not even a lunch to a richly decorated field Marshal.

Waiving of US Sanctions

Then there's the continued placing of Pakistan as a ‘Country of Particular Concern’ on Religious Freedoms on the recommendation of the bipartisan US Committee on International Religious Freedoms (USCIRF), a designation from 2018. That has considerable diplomatic and political effect, with potential for sanctions. However, there is no evidence that any additional sanctions resulted from this designation in the past. In an important political

signal, the US State Department redesignated Pakistan as a CPC but announced a national-interest waiver of the sanctions accompanying the designation in an apparent continuation of its policy since 2021. It is only fair, however, to note that while the USCIRF did call for the designation of India as a ‘Country of Concern’ in 2020 for the first time in 16 years, this was not accepted by the State Department. That's bureaucracy putting its foot down.

Sanctions And How to Get Around Them

Even as Pakistan continues its mediation efforts, news unreported in its media noted that yet another Pakistani businessman came under sanctions, in another listing released recently. That is mystifying. After all, the Pakistani

government had announced publicly months ago that it was opening up six routes through Iran for transit trade, operationalising an agreement that was signed in 2018, and which Iran had refused to go ahead with given its Chahbahar agreement with India. The US Executive Order of February only bars purchase of Iranian goods and services, not supplying them. So, the route uses the loophole to trade through Iran and to Iran. Notably, while Pakistan's official order is for ‘third country transit trade’ - which specifically excludes India - the bulk of this comes from China. As Jaishankar warned in his speech, the G2 issue - a coming together of the two superpowers China and US - is very real, though it is both competitive and cooperative in nature.

'Lies, Damned Lies, Statistics': On The Controversy Around India's GDP Growth Figures

I am not an economist, so it was with some bemusement that I watched the debate surrounding India's economic growth figures spilling into the public square. When the government announced a headline-grabbing 7.8% real GDP growth rate for the first quarter (Q1) of 2026, the figure was met not with universal celebration, but with deep suspicion among independent economists, global financial institutions, and everyday citizens. It's clear that the debate is less about a single figure than about a decade-long erosion of trust in official statistics, and the stark mismatch between high-growth figures and the lived economic realities of ordinary Indians.

While the Q1 2026 data provided the spark, the underlying kindling has been dry for nearly ten years. Scepticism regarding India's official growth metrics is not a recent phenomenon. It can be traced back at least to the aftermath of the 2016 demonetisation policy and the subsequent rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), then to the controversy over the Covid fatality numbers, the resignation of senior government statisticians, and now the eruption over GDP growth.

Over the past decade, eminent independent thinkers, including two who have worked with the BJP government, former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian and former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, have repeatedly raised red flags regarding how output is measured. Global bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have similarly downgraded the credibility quotient of Indian data. This trust deficit was further deepened in 2024 when the government abruptly dissolved its advisory body of statisticians and academics, leaving official

releases without the crucial stamp of independent oversight.

Changing Benchmarks

At the core of the current controversy lies a major recalculation: the transition from an older benchmark data series (base year 2011–12) to a new series (base year 2022–23). On the surface, shifting to a more recent base year is standard statistical practice designed to capture structural changes in an evolving economy. However, critics say that the manner in which this transition was executed created a statistical optical illusion. To calculate growth percentages, statisticians compare current economic output against the output of the same period in the previous year. In releasing the Q1 2026 numbers, the government retroactively slashed its estimate for the previous year's baseline (2024–25 GDP) by roughly Rs.12.7 trillion.

By shrinking the previous year's denominator, the jump to this year's numerator looks artificially large. Using the reduced baseline, nominal growth appeared to be an impressive 10.3%, yielding a real GDP growth figure of 7.8%. Had the baseline not been retroactively revised downward, the critics argue that nominal growth for Q1 2026 would have stood at a modest 2.6%. However, official statistics apply the revised baseline across both periods to maintain methodology consistency, resulting in a nominal growth rate of 10.3% and a real GDP growth figure of 7.8%. Whether viewed as a necessary statistical re-benchmarking or an advantageous base effect, the downward revision of the prior year's denominator significantly aided the headline growth numbers.

To measure real economic growth, economists must sub-

tract inflation using a tool called the GDP deflator (to convert nominal growth into real, inflation-adjusted growth). Calculating an accurate deflator requires a Producer Price Index (PPI), which measures the wholesale prices manufacturers actually charge and pay for inputs. India, however, has lacked a functional PPI for two decades. When adjusted using the official GDP deflator, actual economic expansion would have been close to zero. But it's actually worse: Without robust input and output price data, the government's estimated GDP deflator of 2.5% appears implausibly low, especially when wholesale inflation has hovered significantly higher. A deflator that underestimates inflation naturally overstates real economic growth. So, by repeatedly revising past figures downward, current performance automatically appears stronger, a pattern that allows the government to project a narrative of rapid growth while quietly erasing past overestimations.

Whenever official statistics began to murmur unpleasant truths, the shutters were promptly pulled down. The 2017-18 Labour Survey, which laid bare a devastating 45-year peak in national unemployment, was quietly kept under lock and key until the 2019 general election had comfortably passed. Soon after, the 2017 Consumer Expenditure Survey, which revealed the sobering reality of declining real consumption, was suppressed altogether, erased from public view rather than acknowledged. Even the National Crime Records Bureau's stark tallies of farmer suicides found themselves subject to deliberate delays and administrative procrastination, ensuring that numbers capable of disturbing the official narrative were kept



safely out of sight.

Missing The Other Story

Beyond the base-year mathematics, technical flaws in how data is collected systematically inflate India's economic performance. The informal economy, comprising unregistered businesses (from chaiwallahs to mochis), small kirana shops, and cash-reliant micro-enterprises, accounts for roughly 45% of India's overall economy. Because tracking millions of small enterprises in real time is difficult, government statisticians make the flawed assumption that the informal sector grows at the exact same rate as large, publicly listed formal corporations. Disruptions such as demonetisation, the initial GST implementation, and COVID-19 lockdowns hit informal, cash-dependent businesses much harder than well-capitalised corporations. By using formal corporate growth as a proxy for the entire economy, official statistics mask the deep, ongoing distress in the informal sector.

The strongest argument for the likes of me (and again I must stress I am not an economist, let alone a statistician) comes from real-world economic indicators. If the economy is truly growing at nearly 8% a year, key economic engines should be humming. Instead, they show clear signs

of stagnation. Educated youth face severe structural unemployment. The gap between economic growth and job creation has fuelled widespread public frustration, visible in the youth-led demonstrations we have witnessed across major urban centres. Private Investment is still sluggish; domestic industrialists remain hesitant to commit fresh capital to new factories or expansion, signalling a lack of confidence in consumer demand. And much-vaunted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow has not matched the high headline growth numbers, reflecting caution among global investors regarding data clarity and demand-sustainability before they will commit long-term foreign capital. India is currently in the midst of a historic "demographic dividend" - a multi-decade window where the working-age population significantly outnumbers dependents. Historically, emerging economies have leveraged this window to transform into high-income nations. However, India's performance during this crucial window compares unfavourably with its Asian peers during their respective growth surges. In their peak demographic windows, China, Japan, and South Korea all grew by 8.7 to 9.4% consistently, while India's has averaged growth rate of 5.4% over recent years.

Swachh Andhra Awards–2026 Held at Rampachodavaram



Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 2: The Swachh Andhra Awards–2026 ceremony was held on Friday at the ITDA meeting hall in Rampachodavaram on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti. District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar called upon people to make cleanliness a part of their daily lives and actively participate in building a healthy and clean society. The Collector said public participation was essential for achieving the

objectives of Swachh Bharat and Swachh Andhra–Swarna Andhra Vision–2047. He urged people to avoid littering, particularly in tourist places and agency areas, and to dispose of waste responsibly. He also announced plans to conduct monthly cleanliness drives at selected tourist destinations with the participation of public representatives, officials and local people. The Collector said the

district had improved from 26th to 14th position in cleanliness-related performance over the past six months due to the collective efforts of officials and staff. ST Commission Chairman Soll Bojji Reddy and Rampachodavaram MLA Miriyala Sirisha Devi stressed the need for collective efforts to maintain cleanliness and develop Rampachodavaram as a model constituency. A total of 47 individuals

who rendered notable services in sanitation, waste management and cleanliness were presented with Swachh Andhra Awards, certificates and mementoes. Sub-Collectors D. Prudhvi Raj Kumar and C.H. Narendra Padal, ST Commission member Gorle Sunitha, DPO Gorle Bhaskar, officials, public representatives and others attended the programme. A cleanliness pledge was also administered to the participants.

Hands-on CPR Training Held for East Godavari Police



Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power October 2: On the occasion of World Heart Day, a hands-on training programme on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was organised for

police officers and personnel of East Godavari district at the Police Convention Hall in Rajamahendravaram under the guidance of District Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore,

The programme was jointly organised by KIMS Hospitals and APCSI. The District SP inaugurated the training session and highlighted the importance of immediate response and basic life-saving measures during medical emergencies. IG Prisons Dr. I. Srinivasulu, renowned cardiologist and electrophysiologist Dr. B. Hayagriva, KIMS Executive Director Swarna Rammohan, and KIMS CEO and Chief Cardiologist Dr. N.S. Ramaraju were associated with the training programme. Speaking on the occasion, the SP said that timely

intervention and appropriate first-aid measures during an emergency can help save valuable lives. As police personnel frequently serve as first responders in critical situations, he stressed the need for every police officer and staff member to have basic knowledge of CPR and life-saving techniques. Medical experts explained when CPR should be administered, the correct procedure for performing chest compressions, how to respond during cardiac emergencies, and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

A hands-on practical session was subsequently conducted, during which the District SP himself participated and practised the CPR procedure. Police officers and personnel also actively participated in the practical training. The programme aimed to enhance the ability of police personnel to provide immediate life-saving assistance to victims during emergencies before advanced medical care becomes available. Certificates were later presented by the hospital management to the police personnel who completed the CPR training.

Vande Bharat Crosses Chenab, Anji Railway Bridges At 100 Km/h As Katra-Banihal Train Speed Limit Raised

Jammu: A Vande Bharat Express crossed the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River and India's first cable-stayed railway bridge at Anji at 100 kmph, as the maximum permissible speed on the 111-km-long Katra-Banihal broad-gauge rail section was raised to 100 kmph, officials said. The speed enhancement on the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Banihal section under the Jammu division of Northern Railway was successfully tested on Thursday, marking a significant operational milestone for the ambitious Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project. "The maximum permissible speed on the 111-km-long Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Banihal section has been increased from 75 kmph to 100 kmph," Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said. He said the Vande Bharat Express (Train No. 26401/26404) created a new record by crossing both the world's high-



est Chenab Bridge and India's first cable-stayed Anji Bridge at 100 kmph. The 111-km Katra-Banihal section is a crucial and technically challenging component of the USBRL project, which is aimed at providing seamless rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country. The Railway Ministry approved the enhancement in the maximum permissible speed to 100 kmph after all prescribed safety conditions were complied with by

the Railways in August this year, officials said. Earlier, trains were permitted to operate at a maximum speed of 85 kmph on the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Sangaldan section and 75 kmph on the Sangaldan-Banihal section. The increase in the permissible speed is expected to make train operations on the USBRL project smoother, reduce travel time and provide faster, safer and more comfortable journeys to passengers. With

the enhancement, travel time between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Banihal is also expected to come down, providing faster and more comfortable rail connectivity in the region. The Katra-Banihal section traverses some of the most difficult and rugged terrain of the Pir Panjal and lower Himalayan ranges, involving deep valleys, steep mountain slopes, major rivers and highly complex geological formations.

Medical camp held at Arthi village

- Specialists from Kadapa and Hyderabad offer consultations and health screening to nearly 600 beneficiaries

KADAPA October 2: A large-scale medical camp was organised at Arthi village on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti under the aegis of Arthi Home and the Arthi–Vijay Foundation Trust Association, which has been working for the welfare and empowerment of women and girls for the past 33 years.

The camp was inaugurated by P.V. Sandhya, President of Arthi Institutions. Speaking on the occasion, she stressed the importance of maintaining both physical and mental health and said preventive healthcare should be given greater importance. She also noted that Mahatma Gandhi's emphasis on health, hygiene and simple living continued to be relevant. The organisers said the primary objective of the camp was to make quality healthcare accessible to economically disadvantaged sections of society. Medical specialists from Kadapa and Hyderabad participated in the camp and conducted consultations, health screenings and medical examinations. Specialists in gynaecology, dermatology, ophthalmology, general medicine, cardiology, orthopaedics and paediatrics provided services. Nearly 600 children and parents associated with Arthi Home's outreach programmes underwent medical examinations. Those requiring further medical attention were given appropriate advice and referrals for follow-up treatment. Doctors also conducted awareness sessions on personal hygiene, disease prevention, regular



health check-ups and the importance of early detection and treatment of illnesses. The medical team included Dr. I.S. Reddy, dermatologist; Dr. T. Vindhya, gynaecologist and laparoscopic surgeon; Dr. Indirani Tenneti, cardiology and ECG fellow; Dr. S. Subrahmanyarao, orthopaedic surgeon; Dr. P. Srinivasulu Reddy, Dr. S. Madhavi and Dr. Ankam Sai

Akhil, ophthalmologists; Dr. P. Balireddy and Dr. C. Obul Reddy, general physicians; and Dr. K. Obul Reddy, Dr. Ghous Peer and Dr. K. Nagendra Prasad, paediatricians. At the conclusion of the programme, Arthi Home Secretary Durgakumari thanked the participating doctors for their time and services. The doctors were felicitated for their contribution and con-

tinued support to the organisation. Staff members of Arthi Institutions and students of Arthi Home assisted in coordinating beneficiaries and facilitating the medical examinations. The organisers said the camp was part of Arthi Home's continuing efforts to improve the health, welfare and quality of life of children, women and families from vulnerable sections of society.

CGST Checks Halt Over 150 Coal Trucks In Assam's Dibrugarh, Rs.40.42 Lakh Recovered From 36 Vehicles

Guwahati: More than 150 coal-laden trucks have been blocked by Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) authorities on the National Highway in Dibrugarh since the last week of September for want of proper documents, prompting both the Assam and Arunachal Pradesh governments to stop the movement of coal-carrying vehicles till October 10 for unknown reasons. In entire North East India, particularly in Assam, after Viswakarma Puja, generally on September 17 every year, the coal carrying by trucks started after doing puja of vehicles and machines that indicates the start of coal season till next monsoon. Just after the opening of Namchik Namphuk Coal block at Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh, the CGST authority started their drives.

The operation was led by Dibrugarh Commissioner Nitin Ananda, IRS, and Joint Commissioner Vinay Kumar Tammi, IRS. However, both officials refused to speak to the media after the operations till today. Sources said 36 of the roughly 150 coal-carrying trucks intercepted were penalised for operating without valid GST papers, tax invoices or bills. The operation resulted in the recovery of Rs.40.42 lakh in duty penalties and fines. However, many coal-carrying trucks were seen moving along the National Highway without undergoing CGST checks, sources said. When contacted, Kul Prakash (KP) Singh, IRS, Chief Commissioner, CCO & CCA, Guwahati GST & CX Zone, said the operation found 36 trucks moving without valid GST papers, bills or proper tax invoices



out of roughly 150 trucks intercepted.

"The department collected Rs 40.42 lakh in duty penalty and fines from these non-compliant vehicles," Singh said. "Since mining falls strictly under the jurisdiction of the state government, transporters must legally pay the required state royalty alongside the due SGST and CGST to avoid heavy levies and penalties," he also said. Singh added that high-end goods, as well as coal and coke sourced illegally from areas like Margherita, must undergo legal procedures, customs clearance and proper tax compliance. He said transport of locally produced coal, coke and areca nut without paying requisite taxes would not be permitted despite any political pressure.

Under the CGST Rules,

the person in charge of a conveyance carrying goods must carry specific documents. This applies to coal-laden trucks when the consignment value exceeds Rs.50,000. As per Rule 138A of the CGST Rules, 2017, the documents to be carried are the tax invoice, bill of supply or delivery challan, as the case may be. Guwahati-based M/s Coal Pulz Pvt Ltd has been allotted the mining lease for the Namchik-Namphuk coal mines at Kharsang in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The Arunachal Pradesh government approved the 30-year lease agreement with the company. The lease was signed in Itanagar between Coal Pulz Pvt Ltd director Naveen Singhal and the state Geology and Mining secretary. The coal block

was auctioned under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, with Coal Pulz emerging as the successful bidder. The site is expected to produce around two lakh tonnes of coal annually under the approved mine plan. Naveen Singhal and Ratan Sharma are associated with the company running operations at the site. Open-cast mining is under way at the site, which is being run by Ratan Sharma and Naveen Singhal. More than 150 Assam-based operators are also functioning from the Kharsang site along with Ratan Sharma and Naveen Singhal. Even as the CGST action has held up trucks for want of proper documents, vehicles linked to big businessmen have allegedly been allowed to move without any hindrance.

'Calculated Political Objective': TVK's Key Ally Amid PMK-TVK Alliance Buzz



Chennai: Reports that the PMK could be warming up to join the ruling TVK-led alliance after the October 6 by-elections have already triggered political unease within one of TVK's key allies - the VCK. VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan has tacitly invoked his party's long-standing position that the VCK cannot be part of an alliance that includes the PMK or the BJP. At the same time, he has dismissed the reports of a possible post-bypoll PMK-TVK tie-up as rumours being spread with a calculated political objective. Speaking to his cadre in a Facebook Live, Thirumavalavan said the VCK had been clear about its position for more than 15 years. "We have been clear over the last 15 years that VCK won't be in any alliance PMK or BJP is part of." He alleged that the rumours were aimed specifically at confusing VCK cadres and weakening the transfer of VCK votes to TVK in the two by-elections. "Taking advantage of our stand they keep sharing rumours that PMK is joining TVK and that's why they are not supporting AIADMK but have taken a neutral stand. They say after by-elections they will join TVK alliance and they may even get Deputy

Chief Minister's position. Their aim is to make VCK cadre lose enthusiasm in by-elections and to stop VCK votes fully transferring to TVK. They want to create confusion." The speculation comes at a particularly sensitive moment for the TVK alliance. The PMK, which was an AIADMK ally, has chosen to remain neutral in the October 6 by-elections to Madurantakam and Dharapuram rather than campaign for the AIADMK. That decision has fuelled speculation that the PMK could be keeping its options open for a post-bypoll realignment towards the ruling TVK. The two parties have historically been bitter rivals, with the PMK championing the political interests of the Vanniyar community and the VCK spearheading Dalit political representation. The VCK has repeatedly accused the PMK of failing to adequately address caste-based oppression of Dalits - an allegation the PMK has denied. The speculation also has a numerical dimension. The PMK currently has four MLAs, while the VCK has two. TVK, meanwhile, has 107 MLAs against the 118

needed for a majority in the 234-member Assembly. Five other seats remain vacant, with the by-elections delayed because of election petitions pending before the courts. Besides strengthening TVK alliance, a switch by PMK would more importantly weaken AIADMK alliance, TVK's key political mission. The possibility of the PMK joining the government would therefore potentially have significance beyond electoral arithmetic. But PMK MLA and party chief Anbumani Ramadoss's wife, Soumya Anbumani, sought to play down the reports. Asked specifically about reports that the PMK was set to join the TVK alliance after the by-elections and that she could become Deputy Chief Minister, she said: "I appeal to journalists to not give importance to such rumours." The issue is particularly significant for the VCK because its participation in the TVK government has given the ruling alliance a distinct social justice and Dalit representation plank. There are eight Dalits in Vijay's cabinet - an unprecedented number - including one minister each from the VCK and the Congress. And the immediate electoral stakes are high.

Both Madurantakam and Dharapuram are reserved constituencies. The two seats had gone to the AIADMK in the Assembly election held only a few months ago, before the sitting AIADMK MLAs resigned, joined TVK and were fielded again by the ruling party. The VCK has thrown its organisational weight behind the TVK candidates in both constituencies, making its support important to the ruling alliance's campaign. For the TVK leadership, the response has so far been cautious. TVK leader and School Education Minister Raj Mohan said: "New allies would be decided collectively." But sources within TVK indicate that the larger political calculation may be about building an alliance that cuts across caste lines. A senior TVK leader, who did not want to be named, told NDTV: "TVK won elections without money and without any caste politics. Vijay wants to be truly inclusive." Asked specifically whether the party was prepared for a possible VCK exit if the PMK were to join the alliance, the leader said: "We hope both will reconcile and say yes for an inclusive alliance." That leaves the TVK alliance confronting an unusual political balancing act. On one side is the possibility of adding the PMK, with its four MLAs and its established Vanniyar support base. On the other is the VCK, whose presence helps the Vijay government project a broader social coalition and whose cadres are currently campaigning for the TVK in two crucial reserved constituencies. But with the October 6 bypolls just days away, the PMK's neutrality has already opened up a much bigger question: can the TVK expand its alliance without unsettling the social and political balance within the coalition it already has?

3 Indians Were Kidnapped During 'Dunki' Bid, Then A Rescue And Homecoming

Three Gujarat residents who went missing in Ethiopia while trying to reach the US using an illegal 'dunki' route have safely returned to India. The trio, identified as Rutvik Jansari, Mamta Chavda, and Mayuri, arrived at Mumbai airport early Thursday morning and are on their way back to their home district of Mehsana. Their safe return was facilitated through coordination between the Ministry of External Affairs and local authorities. The group had departed Gujarat on September 20 after paying agents tens of lakhs of rupees to arrange their journey to the United States through the illegal route. The decision followed Mamta Chavda's unsuccessful attempts to secure a US visa. She faced six rejections while trying to join her husband, Chiragkumar, who had moved to the US six months earlier on a student visa. Seeking an alternative, the family approached intermediaries to



organise the travel. Many handlers were involved in the network. A man named Jitubhai introduced the family to Mehsana-based agent Alpesh Patel. Patel then connected them with Bhargav Patel of Vadodara. They asked for Rs 75 lakh per person. The family paid Rs 70 lakh per person. They reached Ethiopia through Jaipur and Abu Dhabi. All direct

contact with the travellers ceased after September 22, prompting Mamta's father, Kirit Chauhan, to file a complaint with the Langhnaj police. Soon, an individual identifying himself as Khan contacted the family, claiming the three had been taken captive and demanding a ransom of Rs 1 crore. Rutvik's grandfather, Kanubhai Jansari, stated that Rs 60 lakh was paid.

Police have indicated that the kidnappers were linked to the Baba Khan network. They are probing the kidnapping, the ransom demand, and the role the travel agents played in the crime. Similar incidents have also taken place in the past. A family froze to death near the Canada border in January 2022, and another drowned in the St Lawrence River in 2023.

Viral Video Shows School Principal Sleeping During School Hours In Rajasthan

A video showing a school principal allegedly sleeping soundly during school hours has gone viral on social media, sparking an online debate over the state of management in government schools. The incident reportedly took place at the Government Higher Secondary School in Bhandari Andruni, located in the Todabhim area of Karauli district in Rajasthan. In the short video clip circulating online, a man

is seen fast asleep inside a room allegedly during official school working hours. The individual has been identified as Dyodiram Meena, who serves as the principal of the institution. While the exact date of the video remains unverified, the clip was shared across social networks, drawing sharp criticism from parents and online users. At the time

of reporting, the local education department had not issued any official statement regarding the incident. There was also no confirmation of any formal inquiry or disciplinary action against the principal. School officials have also not publicly clarified the circumstances surrounding the video. Video of teachers sleeping while students carry mid-day meal utensils Another, slightly related, incident emerged from

a government school in Rajasthan's Nagaur district, where young children were allegedly made to pick up and carry mid-day meal utensils. The incident took place at Government Higher Primary School in Dasavas village under the Riyambi subdivision. Instead of eating during the mid-day meal break, several children were seen lifting and moving heavy steel utensils.

Full-Body Scanners Soon At Airports In Five Metros, Three Other Cities



New Delhi: Eight airports of the country will be fitted with full-body scanners - approval has been given for Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, and Ahmedabad airports. Modifications, however, are being made to the full-body scanner algorithms keeping in mind the Indian sensitivities, the Civil Aviation Ministry said. Indian security agencies have been trying to introduce full body scanners as used abroad for over two decades. Certain pilot projects, however, indicated that the passengers are not very comfortable with the idea. Now, this is part of a whole gamut of changes being adopted by

the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security -- the national regulatory authority for civil aviation safety -- and comes a day after an Indian pilot faced attack with a sharp instrument while trying to stop his copilot's attempts to crash a flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv. The incident has sparked a heightened scrutiny of aviation security. The advanced scanners have already reached three of the eight selected airports, while installation at the remaining five airports is expected to be completed shortly, the ministry said. The government is currently collecting and analysing data from the machines to fine-tune the screening process and minimise errors before they

are deployed.

Scanners To protect Passenger Privacy

The ministry has also sought to address concerns over passenger privacy, saying the new scanners will be "picture-agnostic". Instead of displaying an actual image of a passenger's body, the system will generate a generic 3D representation. This is intended to ensure that a passenger's identity and physical features are not revealed during security screening. The scanners will flag only suspected objects that may be concealed on or worn by a passenger, officials said.

Algorithms For Indian Clothing

The technology is also

being configured to account for clothing commonly worn by Indian passengers. Special algorithms are being developed and integrated into the scanners to help distinguish between clothing and potentially suspicious objects. The government is analysing data from the systems as part of efforts to ensure that the technology can provide effective security screening without compromising passenger privacy. Work is also in progress to install CTX machines. The Computed Tomography X-ray (CTX) machines perform 3D scanning of airport baggage and assist in detecting explosives. Technical standards for these machines are being finalised following consultations with experts and the industry.

Government Reviews Flydubai Incident

On the recent Flydubai incident involving two pilots, Civil Aviation Ministry Secretary Samir Sinha said the government is monitoring the situation. He said the ministry is reviewing the circumstances and that senior officials will be informed immediately if any fresh advisory or other measures are found necessary.

Depression To Losses: When Pilots Deliberately Downed Planes, Killing Hundreds

Over 170 passengers on the flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv escaped by a hair's breadth after Indian pilot Smit Machchhar showed extraordinary courage and managed to fight off his co-pilot who stabbed him and, according to Israeli officials, intended to crash the plane. Machchhar not only transmitted emergency signals from flight FZ 1073 but also managed to unlock the door of the cockpit, allowing passengers to come in and overpower his co-pilot. Wednesday's incident is not, however, the first time a pilot has deliberately tried to down an aircraft. Several past attempts have succeeded, killing at least 500 people.

FedEx Flight 705 (April 4, 1994)

Fearing termination from the company, an off-duty pilot, Auburn Calloway, boarded a FedEx cargo plane with weapons like a hammer and a spear hidden on his person and forced his way into the cockpit.

While airborne, he attacked three crew members (captain, first officer, and flight engineer) with a hammer, intending to crash the plane so his family could claim insurance



money. Despite suffering severe head injuries, the other pilots fought him fiercely inside the cockpit, subdued him by performing dangerous aerial manoeuvres, and managed to execute a safe emergency landing despite their critical condition.

SilkAir Flight 185 (December 19, 1997)

While flying from Indonesia to Singapore, the captain - facing severe financial losses - deliberately switched off the flight recorders, locked the co-pilot out of the cockpit, and crashed the plane into a river at high speed, killing all 104 people on board. The find-

ing that the captain intentionally crashed the plane is disputed but widely accepted.

EgyptAir Flight 990 (October 31, 1999)

On a flight from New York to Cairo, while the captain was out of the cockpit, relief co-pilot Gamil al-Batouti disengaged the autopilot and put the plane into a steep dive. Black box recordings captured the captain asking, "What have you done?" upon his return, but it was already too late. The plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, and all 217 people on the plane lost their lives.

Germanwings Flight

9525 (March 24, 2015)

Co-pilot Andreas Lubitz was suffering from severe clinical depression. When the captain stepped out to use the lavatory, Lubitz locked the cockpit door from the inside. The captain made desperate attempts to break down the door, but Lubitz deliberately crashed the plane into the French Alps. All 150 people on board died. After the Germanwings incident, the two-in-cockpit rule was introduced to prevent such a scenario. This requires a cabin crew member to step into the cockpit whenever one pilot steps out.

8 Students From Pune Drown While Holidaying At Beach In Maharashtra's Raigad

Raigad/Mumbai: A horrifying tragedy struck the popular tourist spot of Diveagar beach in Raigad district of Maharashtra when eight teenage students from Pune drowned after being caught in strong sea currents. Police said the bodies of the victims, all of them 16 years old, have been recovered. These students were part of a group from a private coaching centre called Winners' Academy at Alandi in Pune district who had travelled around 170 km for the trip. A police official said a group of 48 individuals, comprising 25 boys, 17 girls and six teachers, had gone for a picnic at the beach around 5:30 pm. Eight students ventured into the sea and were swept away after mis-



judging the depth of the water and current, he added. Reacting instantly, Bhau Salunkhe, owner of 'Bhau Maruti Salunkhe Mahakali Water Sports' at Diveagar, along with his team, launched an immediate rescue operation. Risk-

ing their own lives, the water sports team managed to retrieve the bodies of all eight victims from the sea. Upon receiving information about the tragedy, Assistant Police Inspector (API) Santosh Awati from the Dighi Sagari Borli Panchatan Police Sta-

tion rushed to the spot with a team. With the assistance of local villagers, the police took custody of the bodies and sent them to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Borli Panchatan for post-mortem examinations and required legal procedures.

flydubai Plane Made Near-Supersonic Dive. Why Its Airframe Didn't Disintegrate



New Delhi: The flydubai Boeing 737 MAX carrying 180 people went into a terrifying steep dive in just a little over a minute, breaching the airframe's maximum tolerance and safe parameters by a big margin. Many pilots including from the military across the world have commented on social media that the aircraft managed to land safely against all odds, that it was nothing short of a miracle. They relied on publicly available data from flight-tracking websites that give accurate information about critical aspects of the aircraft while in flight. According to a post on X by author and pilot Buzz Patterson, even an active duty military pilot of the rugged C-17 transport aircraft also agreed that the "plane was orders of

magnitude above the limits and beyond the calculated safety factors built into airlines and it managed to survive." After it landed safely, visuals of the aircraft showed that the rudders attached to the vertical stabiliser which is used to keep the plane flying straight had been ripped off. While the vertical stabiliser prevents side-to-side motion or yawing, the rudder that forms a part of the vertical stabiliser moves depending on the situation to control the yawing motion. The co-pilot of the flydubai flight, an Omani national as per media reports, attacked the brave Indian pilot, Captain Smit Machchha, with a crash axe whose heroic act has been widely praised. "This is my old jet. This airframe exceeded the maxi-

mum operating speed by 100 knots. That's a lot. It ripped off the rudder. To recover, stabilize the jet, and divert is simply a miracle. Thank the Lord, for the deadhead crew being on board. This would've ended in a much, much different outcome," the American pilot said in the post on X. The Boeing 737 MAX was at one point beset with the ugly reputation of two crashes that happened after a sudden, uncommanded nose-down manoeuvre triggered by its MCAS, a critical flight control system. Short for Manoeuvring Characteristics Augmentation System, Boeing had designed it to automatically push the aircraft's nose down to avoid aerodynamic stalls. The tragic incidents had led to the grounding of the aircraft globally and hurt Boeing's reputation in the

civilian aviation market. NDTV went to a flying school in Delhi today and checked a simulator for the Boeing 737 series aircraft to retrace the terrifying seconds during which the flydubai plane plummeted from 34,000 feet to 17,000 feet. It reached near-supersonic speed during this phase. Unlike incidents in the past as a result of uncontrolled sudden altitude loss which led to the aircraft breaking apart, the flydubai aircraft held on very well. "This is genuinely a testament to the 737 MAX and modern carbon composite airframes... Just realise that this airframe was hundreds of times stronger than required, tested and certified to. It clipped 30,000 feet per minute in the descent. I fly C-17s and when we put our thrust reversers out in flight we are limited to 20,000 feet min. The inherent strength of that (Boeing 737 MAX) airframe is genuinely unbelievable, as are the excellent piloting skills of whoever pulled it out of that dive," the man who identified himself as a C-17 pilot said in a post shared by Patterson, the American pilot, pointing at the sheer strength of the Boeing 737 MAX's airframe made with specialised aluminum alloys and advanced composites. The comparison with the C-17 Globemaster is significant because the American military aircraft is a rugged, short-field performer with a very strong airframe that can carry oversized payloads.

Religious Extremist, Avoided Women: Colleague On flydubai Pilot Who Tried To Crash Plane

Tel Aviv: flydubai flight FZ1073 was meant to be a routine hop from Dubai to Tel Aviv. Instead, it dived nearly 18,000 feet after a fight broke out in the cockpit, and the flight captain, Indian national Smit Machchhar, was stabbed. Israeli officials said the co-pilot, reportedly an Omani national, tried to crash the plane before passengers overpowered and restrained him, and other off-roster pilots landed the plane safely in Saudi Arabia. Now, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the co-pilot, who has yet to be officially identified, is in custody. However, his motive behind the move has not been confirmed, and he is yet to be charged. Netanyahu, in an interview with Fox News, said that the co-pilot who is currently being interrogated, underwent Islamist radical indoctrination.

What We Know About The Co-pilot

Talking to Israel's Channel 16 news, a fellow flydubai pilot described his colleague as a religious extremist. The pilot said the alleged attacker joined flydubai just eight months ago. "He prayed excessively throughout the day



and refused to shake hands with women," he added. Investigators are waiting for data from black boxes and collecting passenger videos to establish what happened in the moments before the chaos started. But even as the probe progresses, questions are being raised about the Omani identity of the alleged attacker, as Israeli law mandates that if any airline wants to run operations in Israel, only pilots from countries with which Israel has formal relations would be allowed to land planes in the country. Israel does not have any formal diplomatic ties with Oman, and Omani nationals must obtain a visa before entering the Jewish State. Israel's transportation min-

ister, Miri Regev, has called for the country's Civil Aviation Authority to investigate whether the United Arab Emirates has breached its aviation agreement by allowing the co-pilot to fly the plane, the Times of Israel reported. "This is a clear breach of the agreement," a Transportation Ministry source told the Jerusalem Post. Other sources privy to the development told Channel 12 that the Omani pilot held dual citizenship, which could be the reason why he was allowed to fly the plane, given the strict travel restrictions between the two nations. The plane was cruising at around 34,000 feet when it suddenly dropped nearly 18,000 feet in minutes after the struggle

between pilots broke out in the cockpit, resulting in the lead pilot being attacked. The flight issued two distress warnings -- one being a 7500 code, which signals a hijacking -- before Machchhar, covered in his own blood, managed to draw on "the last moments of his energy" to click open the release on the cockpit door, Netanyahu's office said. That allowed passengers and crew to overpower the copilot and enable a second pair of flydubai pilots who were on board to land the jet in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. Indian authorities in Saudi Arabia said Machchhar is receiving necessary medical attention in a hospital in the north-

'He Always Has Plan B, Plan C': Pilot Who Trained With Captain Smit Machchhar

Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar is currently in a stable condition after he was operated in Tabuk in Saudi Arabia and is recovering after being airlifted to the UAE following a dramatic mid-air cockpit attack aboard a flydubai flight. Captain Dhawal Patel, who trained with Machchhar in New Zealand, recalled that he was a talented and respected trainer at the time. Machchhar was stabbed by his co-pilot in-

side the cockpit aboard flydubai flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv. The co-pilot apparently wanted to crash the plane. Speaking to NDTV, Patel said that the two were training together in a flight training company called Mainland Air in New Zealand. "He started young as the first officer with SpyJet, a very talented boy at that moment. He, with his skills, got upgraded to a captain. Not only the journey through captain, but

then after he became a trainer where he used to train other pilots, other co-pilots and other captains in making", Patel said. He said that Machchhar's knowledge regarding his field and his behavioural trait and attitude towards flying was "nothing less than an ace pilot". He praised his capability to think on his feet and said that in the cockpit, Machchhar always had a plan B and plan C in mind. "Many times I have shared a cockpit while

flying through with him. He always had a plan B, you know, and not even plan B. The pilot has been trained to have that, but he has a plan C in mind. His insights to any topic and his vision about thinking the very next minute, what the plane flies at a very high speed", he said. Patel claimed that it was this quality of Machchhar which unfolded into a bravery event during which he did what was needed at the hour.

Pilot, Plumber, Banker, Businessman, Dentist: 5 Heroes Of flydubai Flight

New Delhi: The flydubai flight reached Israel safely after a courageous passenger and crew foiled an Omani co-pilot's alleged attempt to crash the aircraft. Many, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, have praised the Indian pilot of Flight FZ1073, Smit Machchhar, for his heroic courage, as he prevented the plane from crashing after his co-pilot stabbed him and allegedly tried to take control of the aircraft during a flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv. Despite his grave injuries, Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door and alerted the crew about his co-pilot's horrific mid-air attempt to crash the plane carrying 174 passengers, including 27 children and six crew members. He is recovering in a hospital in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk, where his flight was diverted after he issued an emergency signal. But Machchhar is just one of several people called heroes for managing to wrest control of the plane from the attacker without caring about their own lives, according to Israeli officials, who also provided much of the detail on how events played out inside the steeply descending plane. According to Israel's Ynet news, four Israeli citizens rushed to the cockpit and helped the crew in taking down the attacker before the two off-roster pilots took control of the plane and landed it at a small airport in the kingdom. Among them was Yaniv Hayun, who reportedly choked the suspected co-pilot and later pulled back on the aircraft's

controls. Two others, Assaf Rajuan and Zvika Manes, also helped the crew members overpower and restrain the suspected attacker. Then, there was Dentist Shota Musaev, who treated the badly wounded Machchhar, stopping his bleeding in time. The four Israelis discussed the chaos aboard the rapidly plunging aircraft after the Omani co-pilot allegedly attacked the Indian pilot, apparently using a crash axe found in the cockpit.

Yaniv Hayun

A video shared by the Israeli PM's office showed Netanyahu at Tel Aviv airport meeting Hayun, a plumber by profession, after he landed in Israel with his shirt stained with blood but said he had not been injured. During his conversation with Netanyahu, Hayun recalled entering the cockpit to remove the suspected attacker away from the controls before assisting with the aircraft's trajectory. Hayun said the cockpit door was not locked when passengers reached it, and he believed the Indian pilot might have opened it beforehand. "My conclusion is that he managed to open it for us before he collapsed, with tremendous presence of mind." "When I went in, I saw the terrorist on the controls, between the two seats. There were no pilots in the seats," he said, explaining that he grabbed the co-pilot and dragged him out. When questioned about the attacker's actions, Hayun stated, "He was trying to destroy the controls in order to disable the plane." Utilising skills picked up from television,

Hayun pulled back on the yoke to level the aircraft, saying, "I watch Mayday."

Assaf Rajuan

Assaf Rajuan, an insurance agency owner, told Ynet that he was returning from a vacation in Thailand when the flight turned into what he called a "horror movie." "We heard screams from near the restroom. A girl's mother came out screaming, and we understood something had happened to the plane. It lost control, went down at a 90-degree angle, and we understood there was no control over the aircraft and something had happened," he said. Rajuan was among those who helped overpower the co-pilot. He said the cockpit door was open, and the passengers started "seeing the cockpit fill with blood". "People went in. There was a guy who got there before me named Zvika Manes. I went in with two other guys, and we tried to overpower the attacker, and we succeeded," he said. "We also had help from some of the crew. We managed to keep the attacker neutralised for 50 minutes and land in Saudi Arabia," he added.

Zvika Manes

Zvika Manes, who is the CEO of Bank Leumi's underwriting company, was also among the passengers who were first responders as the chaos unfolded. He said he helped restrain the attacker using cables from the multimedia headphones distributed on the flight. "There was a lot of blood. The plane plunged rapidly like you see in

horror movies. There were screams. It was a very difficult event until the pilot stabilised the plane," Manes recalled. The banker said the suspected attacker was "really trying to fly the aircraft toward the ground, and people were thrown around and screaming." "We later tied him up and neutralised him. It took quite a bit of physical force. He was a strong man, probably full of adrenaline," Manes said.

Shota Musaev

Dentist Shota Musaev told ynet that he initially rushed towards the cockpit to help fight the suspected attacker. After the man was restrained, the dentist, who was reportedly the only doctor on the flight, turned his attention to the badly wounded captain. He called that Machchhar "in very bad shape, with heavy bleeding from his head and hands." "I was the only doctor on the plane. I managed to stop the bleeding, and the pilot was fairly stable until shortly before landing, when his condition deteriorated somewhat," he said. Shota told CNN that the pilot was covered in cuts. "His head and his hands were practically sliced open, almost severed in two," Mosaevev said. "He was in serious condition, not critical perhaps, but serious because of the blood loss." The dentist also recalled that the injured pilot remained conscious and communicated with them while lying in his pool of blood on the floor. Video footage on social media showed two men on the plane's floor, bloodied and wounded.

Hero flydubai Pilot Smit Machchhar Airlifted From Saudi Arabia To Abu Dhabi

The hero Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, who found himself at the centre of a bloodied cockpit drama high in the skies on Wednesday, was on another plane a day later. He was being airlifted to Abu Dhabi for medical treatment. Machchhar was stabbed by his co-pilot inside the cockpit aboard flydubai flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv. The co-pilot apparently wanted to crash the plane. The Indian pilot was covered with blood on the floor when he managed to click the release to open the cockpit door, Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu spokesperson told Reuters. That allowed passengers and crew to overpower the co-pilot and enable a second pair of flydubai pilots who were on board to land the jet in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. Indian authorities in Saudi Arabia said Machchhar is receiving necessary medical attention in a hospital in the north-

western city of Tabuk and they are in touch with his family and Saudi authorities to extend all possible help. He is reported to be stable, the Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia said in a post on X. Passengers described rushing the cockpit after the plane suddenly plummeted, losing around 17,000 feet of altitude in the span of a minute, according to the Flightradar24 website. Airline flydubai said all of the passengers -- of whom 166 out of 174 were Israeli, according to media reports -- were safe. Israeli officials called the incident "an attempted terrorist attack" while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US broadcaster Fox News it was "too early" to say who was behind the altercation and praised those who prevented a crash. "During the flight, as they approached the country, one of the pilots stabbed the other pilot, and apparently tried to crash the plane with

everyone on board," Netanyahu said in a video message. "Despite being stabbed and seriously injured, he fought back, resisted, opened the cockpit door, and enabled passengers and crew to overpower the attacker - preventing a catastrophic mid-air disaster," Netanyahu said in a statement, hailing him as a "true hero". Back home, the Gujarat government announced that Smit Machchhar, will be awarded the 'Visisht Gujarat Garima Award' for his bravery. "The courage of Captain Smit Machchhar, the pilot of the flight headed to Israel, is being saluted by the entire world today. Despite being drenched in blood due to the attack, he displayed indomitable bravery to save the lives of 174 passengers - a feat that is profoundly inspiring and commendable," Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said in a post on X. "This valiant son of Gujarat has brought glory to

the state of Gujarat and the nation across the globe through his heroism. The Gujarati spirit flowing in his veins fills us all with immense pride," he further said. To honour his extraordinary act of bravery and humanity, the state will bestow the 'Visisht Gujarat Garima Award' upon Captain Smit Machchhar, Patel said. Machchhar, who is in his 30s, has "over 13 years of commercial flying experience on the Boeing 737 fleet" and has flown for flydubai since 2022, according to his LinkedIn profile. He previously worked for the Indian airline SpiceJet. Elaborating about his route into flying in a podcast in 2025, he said he caught the "aviation bug" after attending a seminar while studying management to help his family's textile business. Machchhar described his first commercial flight as "scary" due to the responsibility it came with, but said he learnt to cope with the pressure.

Afghanistan Says Deadly Pakistani Strikes Killed 9 Civilians

Kabul: Pakistan carried out airstrikes in two Afghan provinces overnight, both countries said Thursday, with Afghanistan saying 9 women and children were killed and another 11 civilians were wounded in the bombings. Pakistan's Ministry of Information said its strikes were against militant hideouts in two locations and that "initial reports suggest" that 22 militants had been killed. The casualty claims from either side could not be independently verified.

The strikes come amid repeated cross-border clashes between the two countries, while Pakistan

has repeatedly carried out airstrikes inside Afghanistan since tensions between the two countries spiraled dramatically earlier this year. The two neighbors have longstanding disputes over militant activity along their border. The United Nations Mission in Afghanistan said last week that it had documented over 1,100 civilian deaths and injuries in Afghanistan from cross-border violence so far this year. Pakistan denies striking civilians, and says it targets militants who carry out attacks inside Pakistan. Afghanistan denies harboring militants.

The spokesman for

Afghanistan's Taliban government, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the airstrikes hit civilian homes in southern Helmand province and the eastern province of Kunar, destroying three houses, killing nine women and children and wounding 11 other civilians. "We condemn this act, and consider this an act of aggression and a crime that violates all universally accepted principles," he said. Pakistan's Ministry of Information said the airstrikes were "well planned and calibrated" against militant hideouts and camps, and had "been carried out in Afghanistan with precision

and accuracy." It added that large quantities of weapons and ammunition were located in the hideouts and were destroyed. Pakistan accuses Afghanistan's Taliban government of allowing militants, particularly the Pakistani Taliban -- formally known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP -- to operate from Afghan territory and carry out attacks inside Pakistan. The TTP is separate from but allied with the Afghan Taliban, who have ruled Afghanistan since seizing power in 2021. Kabul denies providing the group a safe haven and has rejected Pakistan's accusations.

Accenture Q4 revenue rises 6%: What it means for Indian IT companies



New Delhi:Accenture on Thursday reported that its revenues for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2026 were \$18.68 billion, an increase of 6 per cent and remained above the company's guided range of \$17.75 billion to \$18.40 billion. Meanwhile, the IT firm reported that its new bookings were \$22.2 billion for the quarter, reflecting an increase of 4 per cent. For the year, it stood at \$84.5 billion for the year. Accenture Chair and CEO Julie Sweet said, "“We exceeded our fourth-quarter revenue guidance range and capped off another year of broad-based growth across our business, grew adjusted EPS 8%, returned a record \$11.5 billion to shareholders

ers and reached a new high of 141 quarterly client bookings of \$100 million or more. These results reflect the continued trust our clients place in us to help them reinvent and create value, the high level of innovation we bring every day and the extraordinary commitment of our Reinventors to our clients’ success.” Accenture Plc shares jumped 3.53 per cent on Thursday intraday to \$183.37 per share.

Accenture's earnings as an indicator of global technology demand and spending trends

Indian IT companies and Dalal Street investors closely watch Accenture's earnings as an indicator of global technology demand and spending trends.

Accenture, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol 'ACN', follows a business model similar to that of leading Indian IT services companies such as TCS and Infosys. It also serves clients across international markets that are key destinations for Indian software exporters. Accenture's results attract particular attention because of its different financial year. The company typically reports its earnings about a month before Indian IT firms announce their quarterly results, offering an early indication of trends in global technology spending and client demand.

GAAP operating margin

increases 15%

Fourth quarter GAAP operating margin of 15.3%, an increase of 370 basis points, and an increase of 20 basis points over adjusted operating margin in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025.

Fourth quarter GAAP diluted EPS of \$3.29, a 46% increase, and a 9% increase over adjusted EPS in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025. By geography, the Americas generated \$36.55 billion in full-year revenue, followed by EMEA at \$26.96 billion and Asia Pacific at \$10.68 billion. Among industry groups, Products was the largest contributor with \$22.45 billion in revenue, followed by Health & Public Service at \$15.17 billion and Financial Services at \$13.96 billion.

Profitability improves

Accenture's fourth-quarter GAAP operating margin increased to 15.3 per cent from 11.6 per cent a year earlier. Operating income rose 40 per cent to \$2.86 billion. Net income for the quarter increased to \$2.03 billion from \$1.45 billion in the year-ago period. Diluted earnings per share rose 46 per cent to \$3.29 from \$2.25. For the full year, GAAP operating income increased 12 per cent to

\$11.41 billion, while net income rose to \$8.52 billion from \$7.83 billion. Full-year diluted EPS stood at \$13.56, up 12 per cent from \$12.15. Adjusted EPS increased 8 per cent to \$13.97.

\$11.5 billion returned to shareholders

Accenture generated \$11.62 billion in free cash flow during fiscal 2026, compared with \$10.87 billion in the previous year. The company returned \$11.5 billion to shareholders, including \$7.5 billion through share repurchases and \$4 billion in cash dividends. During the fourth quarter, Accenture repurchased or redeemed 17.6 million shares for \$2.3 billion. For the full year, share repurchases and redemptions totalled 39.9 million shares for \$7.5 billion.

Accenture gives FY27 outlook

For fiscal 2027, Accenture expects revenue growth of 3-6 per cent in local currency. It has forecast diluted EPS of \$14.39-\$14.81 and operating margin of 15.9-16.1 per cent. The company expects operating cash flow of \$11.9-12.7 billion and free cash flow of \$11-11.8 billion. It also plans to return at least \$9.5 billion to shareholders during the year.

WhatsApp parental controls for teens: What parents can restrict and monitor, what stays private



New Delhi:WhatsApp is giving parents new ways to manage how teenagers use the messaging platform without opening the door to their private conversations. Parental controls for teens are also new, giving families further options to set teens' privacy and content settings to even more restrictions, and WhatsApp will still keep personal messages and calls safe with end-to-end encryption. The controls are not mandatory and will provide additional parental monitoring of certain elements of a teenager's WhatsApp account. Parents have control over who can communicate with their teen, over some settings, and access to limited information on group activity and the ability to customize access to Meta AI. The controls prevent, however, a parent's account from becoming a window into their child's chats.

What parents can use to limit their kids' use of WhatsApp

Parents have the ability to set a teenager's account to be less permissive. These include who can view the teen's profile picture and who can add the teen to WhatsApp groups. As long as a teenager later tries to make a parent-controlled setting less restrictive, parental approval is needed. This approval is made with a PIN set by the parent and will not be possible for the teenager to reverse independently without the parent's PIN. Parents can also control portions of the teenager's experience via WhatsApp Channels. This includes setting restrictions on the Status update that the teenager can see as well as who can see the teenager's Status update. These options allow families to have more control over who they interact with and over what, but do not give access to private conversations.

Selected group alerts can be sent to parents

New controls also add notifications about some group activity on WhatsApp. A parent can receive an alert when their teenager joins or leaves a group. Parents may also be notified when a group the teenager belongs to experiences a substantial increase in membership. The notifications are kept to a minimum. Parents are not permitted to view the contents of a message, photographs, videos or other conversation within the group. This allows parents to be notified of some of the changes in their teen's group participation without access to private conversations in the group.

Meta AI will have its own

set of parental controls

Meta AI, which is also accessible in WhatsApp, is part of the controls, too. There's also a "limited content" option for parents to choose from a standard Meta AI experience for those we determine to be eligible teens. This offers another degree of control over teens' interaction with Meta's AI assistant on WhatsApp. The option is especially pertinent because AI capabilities are becoming more prevalent across messaging apps, and teens could be using them to ask questions, find information, or engage in other interactions.

Parents are not able to read the private chats of the app

The main drawback of the new system is that parents will not be able to read their teen's WhatsApp messages or listen to private calls using it. With WhatsApp's parental controls in place, personal messages and calls will continue to be secured by end-to-end encryption. According to the company, this security guarantees that people who are not part of the discussion – including WhatsApp itself – are not able to see the content of the messages and calls. As a result, the new system is based on account settings and activity selection information, and does not monitor private conversations.

A parent PIN controls restrictions

Parents can create a PIN when setting up the controls. The PIN is required when a teenager attempts to loosen certain restrictions that have been imposed by a parent. The controls are non-permanent. If a parent believes that the parental controls are no longer necessary, they can change their selections or disable the parental controls. WhatsApp has also said that it's just a first step, as it hopes the controls will be further developed in the future thanks to feedback from families.

Is parental control mandatory?

No. The parental controls are optional, allowing families to decide whether they want to use them and how much additional oversight they want. WhatsApp has introduced the tool as a way to help conversations between parents and teens about the responsible use of the service, rather than enabling parents to have access to teens' accounts. The rollout is also taking place gradually, so the controls may not be available to everyone immediately.

LG Electronics India: Citi sees 15% Q2 revenue growth; maintains Buy, check target



New Delhi:Citi has maintained its Buy rating on LG Electronics India with a target price of Rs 2,025, putting the stock on a 90-day positive catalyst watch. The brokerage expects the consumer electronics maker's growth momentum to remain strong in the second quarter of FY27, following a strong performance in the June quarter. Citi expects 15 per cent year-on-year revenue growth and 20 per cent EBITDA growth in Q2 FY27. It said LG Electronics India's two-track strategy, focused on premium and essential products, has helped the company deliver strong growth without margin dilution. The brokerage expects premiumisation and price hikes to offset headwinds from raw material costs and currency movements.

Exports, Essential series key medium-term drivers

Citi sees further growth opportunities for LG Electronics India over the medium term from an acceleration in exports and higher adoption of its Essential series. According to the brokerage, these factors could support both revenue growth and margin improvement.

LG Electronics India Q1 FY27 performance

LG Electronics India reported its financial results for the quarter ended 30 June 2026 on 13 August. For Q1 FY27, consolidated profit after tax rose 27.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 652.9 crore from Rs 513.3 crore in the year-ago quarter. Revenue from operations increased 15.5 per cent to Rs 7,233.4 crore from Rs 6,262.9 crore. EBITDA rose 26.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 904.3 crore from Rs 716.5 crore. The EBITDA margin expanded to 12.5 per cent from 11.4 per cent a year earlier, an improvement of 106 basis points. The company said the June quarter marked its strongest quarterly performance since listing. Growth was broad-based, with all categories contributing to the performance. Demand for larger television screens, premium-capacity refrigerators and air conditioners supported growth during the quarter. The home appliances and air solution segment reported a 13.6 per cent rise in revenue to Rs 5,577 crore. Segment EBIT increased 13.8 per cent to Rs 642 crore. The company has also highlighted premiumisation, exports and the expansion of its Essential product range as key growth drivers for the current financial year.

LG Electronics India share price

Shares of LG Electronics India were trading at Rs 1,710.60 on the BSE at around 1:30 pm on Thursday, down Rs 10.20, or 0.59 per cent, from the previous close of Rs 1,720.80. The stock opened at Rs 1,720 and touched an intraday high of Rs 1,743.55 and a low of Rs 1,700. Its 52-week high stands at Rs 1,755.55, while the 52-week low is Rs 1,300.40. Citi's Rs 2,025 target is around 17 per cent above Wednesday's closing price of Rs 1,723.50.

HouseOfTech Innovation's AI Photo Maker ranks No. 3 on Google Play in India, ahead of WhatsApp and Instagram

HouseOfTech Innovation, an Indian consumer technology company building AI-first mobile products for the next billion users, announced that its AI Photo Maker app reached the rank 1 in the Art & Design category and rank 3 among all free apps on Google Play in India, ahead of WhatsApp and Instagram and behind only ChatGPT. AI Photo Maker maintained its rank among the leading applications of India for five consecutive days, which was certainly an important moment for this Indian tech startup which bootstraps itself. The consumer apps of HouseOfTech Innovation are close to 50 million downloads, and its products are offered in 12 languages of India.

From Post Karo to AI Photo Maker

AI Photo Maker evolved from Post Karo, HouseOfTech Innovation's popular poster and banner-making platform built for small businesses, local entrepreneurs, community leaders and creators. Post Karo enabled users to create festival greetings, business promotions, banners and social media content using their own photographs without requiring

professional design skills. Building on that behaviour, HouseOfTech Innovation launched AI Photo Maker to make content creation dramatically simpler using artificial intelligence. The application leverages AI technology to create, customize, and personalize professional photographs, posters, and visual content instantly, letting users create visual content without the need for expensive software tools, professional graphic designers, or professional designing skills. Post Karo remains available to all existing customers along with the HouseOfTech Innovation AI-driven creative solutions. "While there are millions of people in Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 cities of India who have ideas, businesses, or stories that they want to bring online, the creation of professional content has historically needed skills, money or time," said Abhimanyu Bharti, Founder, HouseOfTech Innovation. "We are making it simple with AI. While a shopkeeper or an artist in a Tier 3 city needs to be able to create visually appealing content just like a designer sitting in a studio in metros."

Building AI Products for



India's Next Billion Users

At HouseOfTech Innovation, it believes that there is a much bigger transition going to happen in India's consumer internet industry – the next wave of AI usage will not be limited to English speaking tech-savvy people in metro cities only. Affordable smartphones, cheap mobile data and ever-evolving artificial intelligence have enabled Indians to gain access to advanced digital tools. HouseOfTech Innovation is catering to this demographic, with an emphasis on simple user experience, mobile first and multilingual applications that support 12 languages spoken in India. Applications developed by HouseOfTech Innovation

already crossed 50 million downloads, and a large chunk of the audience comes from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and towns of India. Instead of asking users to familiarize themselves with AI prompts and professional tools, HouseOfTech Innovation is incorporating artificial intelligence in regular consumer use cases including creation of photos, posters, festival greetings and other digital creations right from their mobile phones.

AI Is Making Professional Content Creation Accessible Across India

HouseOfTech Innovation believes that generative AI technology could greatly narrow the divide between professional con-

tent creators and average users of smartphones. Actions which earlier required the efforts of graphic designers and desktop apps could increasingly be done by apps driven by AI on smartphones. "AI could do for content creation what UPI did for digital payments—something that was initially looked upon as complex but became simple to perform by practically everyone," said Ayush Jain, Co-Founder, HouseOfTech Innovation. "To us, the objective isn't just about creating AI tools. It is about making AI truly useful for people of all cities of India, regardless of the language they speak and technical knowledge they possess."

What's new in Samsung Galaxy Tab S12 Series? key things to know

New Delhi:Samsung has announced the India prices of its new Galaxy Tab S12 series. The lineup includes the Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra and Galaxy Tab S12+. Both tablets will go on sale in India from October 7. According to the company, the new tablets focus on productivity, performance and Galaxy AI features. They also come with slim designs, AMOLED displays and an in-box S Pen.

Here are key things to know before buying the Galaxy Tab S12 series.

Two models are available

Samsung is launching two models in India. The Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra has a large 14.6-inch display. The Galaxy Tab S12+ comes with a 12.6-inch display. Both models have a 120Hz Dynamic AMOLED 2X panel. They also offer peak brightness of

up to 1,600 nits.

The Tab S12 Ultra is very thin

The Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra is only 5.1mm thick. Samsung says it is the company's thinnest Galaxy Tab yet. The Galaxy Tab S12+ is also slim at 5.3mm. The Ultra weighs 692 grams for the Wi-Fi model and 695 grams for the 5G version.

MediaTek Dimensity 9500 powers both tablets

Both tablets use the MediaTek Dimensity 9500 processor. Samsung claims the new processor offers a 61 per cent improvement in NPU processing, 19 per cent faster CPU performance and 17 per cent better GPU performance compared with the previous generation. This should help with multitasking, creative work and other demanding tasks.

Large displays are made for multitasking

The Tab S12 Ultra has a 14.6-inch screen, while the Tab S12+ has a 12.6-inch screen. Users can divide the display into three sections using Multi Window. For example, they can take notes, watch a lecture and use an AI assistant at the same time. The tablets also feature Vision Booster. It adjusts brightness in real time for better visibility in different lighting conditions.

Battery life can last all day

The Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra packs an 11,600mAh battery. Samsung says it can provide up to 23 hours of use. The Tab S12+ has a 10,600mAh battery. It offers up to 21 hours of battery life, according to Samsung. Both tablets support 45W charging.

Samsung says a full charge can take about 95 minutes when using a 45W adapter.

Galaxy AI is a major focus

The tablets run Android 17 with One UI 9. Samsung has added several Galaxy AI features. Note Assist can summarise notes in real time. Samsung Browser can also summarise open tabs and help users find relevant sources. The tablets also come with a six-month trial of Google AI Pro, which includes access to Gemini.

S Pen comes in the box

Samsung includes an S Pen with both models. The stylus can be used for writing, drawing and other precise tasks. Users can also buy the Pro Keyboard Cover. It is designed to turn the tablet into a more laptop-like workstation and includes a dedicated Gal-

axy AI key. The Pro Keyboard Cover costs Rs 27,999 for the Tab S12 Ultra and Rs 26,499 for the Tab S12+.

There are many apps and software benefits

Samsung is bundling several productivity and creative apps with the tablets. Adobe Photoshop comes pre-installed. Goodnotes gets one year of free access. LumaFusion is available at a 66 per cent discount. Clip Studio Paint comes with a six-month trial and a discount on the first subscription. ArcSite can convert rough sketches into CAD drawings. Samsung also says users get four months of free access to the Photoshop mobile plan and other subscription discounts.

9. Durability and connectivity are strong



Both tablets have an IP68 rating for water and dust resistance. The Tab S12 Ultra supports 5G, Wi-Fi 7 and Bluetooth 6.0. The Tab S12+ supports 5G, Wi-Fi 6E and Bluetooth 6.0.

Both models support microSD cards of up to 2TB. They are available with 256GB and 512GB internal storage options and 12GB RAM. The Ultra also gets a dual rear camera setup with a 13-megapixel main camera

and an 8-megapixel ultra-wide camera. The Tab S12+ has a 13-megapixel rear camera.

10. Prices start at Rs 1,29,999

The Galaxy Tab S12+ starts at Rs 1,29,999 for the Wi-Fi version with 12GB RAM and 256GB storage. The Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra starts at Rs 1,49,999 for the same RAM and storage configuration. Samsung Galaxy Tab S12 Ultra prices

Raksha Mantri Launches Key Digital and Financial Management Initiatives at Defence Accounts Department's 279th Annual Day Celebration in New Delhi

- *“Maximum digitization, maximum automation, maximum transparency - this should be our goal.” said RM*
 - *“We must move from ‘annual review’ to ‘any time review’ of the budget, with real-time data enabling timely and informed decision-making.”*
 - *“Our approach must be firm, fair, sensitive and responsible, especially when dealing with the legitimate dues and service rights of those who have devoted their lives to defending the nation.”*



New Delhi, October, 2 (PIB): Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launched various publications and digital initiatives of the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) during the celebration of its 279th Annual Day at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi on October 01, 2026. He congratulated DAD on its nearly three centuries of service to the nation and commended its contribution to defence financial audit and management, calling it the backbone of the country's defence preparedness.

During his address, Shri Rajnath Singh called for greater integration of financial systems of the Army, Navy and Air Force and stressed upon maximum digitisation, automation and transparency, with real-time updating of Management Information System data. RM urged the DAD to transition from “Annual Review of Balances” to “Any Time Review of Balances”.

Rajnath Singh commended SAKSHAM, DAD's project for digitising and integrating the Defence accounting and payment ecosystem hosted on a secure dedicated data centre and operating on the DAD WAN network. It uses the latest tech-stack with secure role-based access, enhanced validations and scalability, supporting the Department's move towards “One Nation, One Function, One Application”. RM appreciated its integration

with the Indian Army Financial Information System for budget, approval and bill data.

Highlighting the near 100% expenditure during FY 2025-26, RM lauded the joint efforts of DAD and all three Services to achieve this milestone. Referring to the success of SPARSH data cleaning, RM suggested automating grievance redressal through a Conversational AI ecosystem covering chat, SMS, WhatsApp, email and phone calls. He also emphasised quality audit, digital data cleaning, and prompt resolution of grievances and court cases. “Our approach must be firm, fair, sensitive and responsible, especially when dealing

with the legitimate dues and service rights of those who have devoted their lives to defending the nation,” said RM.

He stressed early implementation of SAMPURNA, a fully automated, end-to-end revenue procurement system envisaged to leverage data analytics, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for a valuable decision-support system. On the occasion, the Raksha Mantri unveiled three major initiatives aimed at strengthening the integration of Financial Information Systems of the Defence Forces, improving accounting and tracking of defence expenditure and operationalising the Treasury Single Account (TSA)

system in the Ministry of Defence.

Integration of SAKSHAM with Indian Army Financial Information System

The SAKSHAM bill audit and payment system of the Defence Accounts Department has been successfully integrated with the Indian Army Financial Information System (IAFIS), facilitating digital transmission of budget, sanction and bill information between the two organisations. The integration is a major step towards complete digitisation of the Defence payments ecosystem, enabling real-time sharing of information on bill status and budget balances and completely paperless

processing of bills.

Treasury Single Account System in Ministry of Defence

The Treasury Single Account (TSA) system in the Ministry of Defence was inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri for Just-In-Time release of funds to autonomous bodies under the Government of India. Operationalised through the Payment Routing and Integrated System Management (PRISM) platform, the system is fully integrated with RBI eKUBER. It will facilitate better grant management for autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Defence and provide greater visibility of accounting and expenditure.

Department of Agricultural Research and Education - Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Swachhata Hi Seva 2026: From Participation to a Viksit Bharat



New Delhi, October, 2 (PIB): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), along with its 114 Institutes, Regional Centres, Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARIs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), is participating in the fortnight-long Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026 campaign from 17 September to 2 October 2026 under the theme “Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat”. The campaign is being implemented across the ICAR system in both letter and spirit, in accordance with the prescribed five-pillar framework and the date-wise action plan. It commenced on 17th September 2026 with the Swachhata Pledge administered by the Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, in the presence of senior officers, including the AS&FA, and was also introduced through video conferencing to ICAR Institutes and establishments across the country. For wider dissemination and outreach, Press releases have been issued by ICAR Headquarters on the activities undertaken under the campaign, while ICAR Institutes and establishments have also been independently undertaking publicity and outreach through local print media, display of banners and other appropriate

ate communication channels. At both Headquarters and institutional levels, the campaign and its activities are also being disseminated through social media platforms, including Facebook, X and Instagram, thereby extending the message of Swachhata beyond the ICAR network to wider and more diverse audiences, particularly digitally engaged audiences and the younger generation, including Gen Z.

Major Activities under the Five Pillars

1. Transformation of Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) and Clean Public Places

Under this pillar, ICAR Institutes and establishments have undertaken identification and transformation of black and dark spots across urban and rural areas, including locations such as bus stands along highways, institutional premises, research fields and other public spaces. Cleanliness drives have been complemented by beautification and improvement of these spaces, with participation of staff, students and local communities, wherever applicable, to create visibly cleaner and more welcoming public areas.

2. Swachh Paathshala: Yuva for Swachhata

Under this pillar, ICAR Institutes, ATARIs and KVKs have actively en-

gaged students and youth in Swachhata activities, harnessing their zeal and enthusiasm through cleanliness drives, awareness activities, demonstrations, competitions and other participatory initiatives. The emphasis has been on inculcating the values of Swachhata among young participants so that these values are imbibed as part of their everyday conduct and sustained beyond the campaign.

3. Safai Mitra Suraksha Evam Samman Shivir

Under this pillar, ICAR Institutes and establishments have undertaken activities focused on the safety, health, dignity and social welfare of Safai Mitras. Efforts have included promoting awareness and access to social welfare schemes, including VB-GRAMG and PMAY, along with cleanliness of public toilets and other sanitation facilities. The activities also seek to reinforce Mahatma Gandhi's message that no work is menial or insignificant, while recognising the dignity and contribution of those engaged in sanitation and cleanliness.

4. Jan Bhagidari for Swachhata

Under this pillar, ICAR Institutes and establishments have promoted active participation in Swachhata activities, with a focus on environmental responsibil-

ity and the role of citizens as major stakeholders in maintaining clean public spaces. This has included cleanliness drives at Visarjan sites, riverbanks, ghats and other public areas, along with Clean Green Festivities, eco-friendly and zero-waste celebrations, composting of flower waste and offerings, and other community-oriented initiatives. The campaign has also included a focus on Swachh Tourist Spots, with emphasis on promoting Swachhata at ASI monuments, tourist destinations and other public spaces, including through cleanliness drives and illumination of monuments with the Swachhata message. These efforts seek to draw greater public attention to the cleanliness and upkeep of heritage and tourist spaces, while encouraging responsible tourism and greater citizen participation in maintaining such places.

5. Swachhata Se Samridhi

Under this pillar, ICAR Institutes and establishments have promoted the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle through activities such as Waste to Art, Kabaad Se Jugaad, reuse and recycling drives, plastic-free initiatives and creative utilisation of waste materials. Emphasis has also been placed on converting waste into useful and aesthetically meaningful products, promoting awareness on responsible waste management and reinforcing the message that waste can be transformed into a resource.

Documentation and Reporting

The activities undertaken across the ICAR network are being documented through daily photographs being uploaded on the SHS portal. Compiled daily reports along with photographs are being forwarded to DKMA for uploading on the ICAR website, facilitating regular documentation and dissemination of the campaign activities.

Culmination and Way Forward

The campaign will culminate on 1 October 2026 with participation in the nationwide “Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath” initiative through collective shramdaan and cleanliness activities, followed by the observance of Swachh Bharat Diwas on 2 October. The culmination will focus on showcasing transformed cleanliness target units and public spaces, undertaking appropriate cleanliness and shramdaan activities, promoting plantation and green

spaces under “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam”, and recognising contributors, as appropriate. Through these activities, the ICAR system has sought to integrate cleanliness with public participation, youth engagement, environmental responsibility, dignity of sanitation workers and responsible waste management, while extending the message of Swachhata beyond institutional premises into communities and public spaces and reinforcing it as a sustained collective responsibility.

ICAR and FCI signs MoU for Safe and Sustainable Foodgrain Storage

New Delhi, October, 2 (PIB): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 30 September 2026 to undertake research on alternative fumigation technologies for safe and sustainable management of storage pests in wheat and rice. The research study is supported by the Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. The two-year Phase-I project will be implemented by ICAR—Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana.

For decades, India's critical grain reserves have relied heavily on aluminium phosphide (ALP) and malathion for post-harvest pest control. However, widespread and repeated use has led to severe consequences, including pest resistance frequencies reaching 72-100% in key Indian states and escalating fumigation cycles that drive up operational costs. Furthermore, current chemical methods pose significant respiratory threats to workers and long-term ecological risks. This initiative seeks to directly address these challenges by standardizing the commercial use of nitrogen gas, carbon dioxide (CO₂), and a synergistic combination of CO₂ and phosphine. The following three major trials will be conducted in Phase-I:

Nitrogen gas (>99%) fumigation for effective management of storage pests in wheat stored in metal silos. Combined carbon dioxide and phosphine gas fumigation for managing/controlling storage pests in wheat and rice stored in bags at FCI/CWC warehouses. Carbon dioxide fumigation for managing/controlling storage pests in wheat and rice in bags enclosed in hermetic covers. Following the two-year Phase-I pilot, Phase-II will expand into a one-year multi-location trial across varied agro-climatic zones to establish region-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The initiative aims to develop scientifically validated, scalable and sustainable alternatives to conventional chemical fumigation, addressing concerns related to increasing pest resistance, occupational exposure, environmental impacts and fumigant residues.

The MoU was signed in the presence of the Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR; Dr. Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Engineering); Dr. D.K. Yadav Deputy Director General (Crop Science); Dr. K. Narsaiah, Assistant Director General (Processing Engineering); ICAR. The MoU was signed by Dr. Nachiket Kotwaliwale, Director, ICAR-CIPHET and Dr. A.K. Sinha, Executive Director (Quality Control), FCI.

Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav Seeks Surya Kiran Air Show at Lonar to Promote Maharashtra's Tourism Potential

New Delhi, October, 2 (PIB): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush and Minister of State, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, has requested Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh to consider organising performances by the Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Display Team at Maharashtra's iconic tourism destinations, including Lonar Crater Lake in Buldhana district, during November 23-25, 2026. In a letter to the Defence Minister, Shri Jadhav highlighted the Surya Kiran team's reputation for precision, skill and coordinated aerial manoeuvres, noting that its performances showcase India's aviation capabilities while inspiring public interest and encouraging young people to explore opportunities in the Indian Air Force.

Jadhav particularly highlighted Lonar Crater Lake, a unique natural formation in Maharashtra's Buldhana district that attracts visitors for its distinctive geological and environmental features. The lake is known for its saline and alkaline water and its striking crater landscape. The Minister also drew attention to the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, globally recognised for their outstanding cultural and historical significance. Both sites are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Jadhav has requested the Defence Ministry to provide the necessary approval and issue appropriate directions to concerned authorities for organising Surya Kiran Aerobatic Display performances and associated inspirational activities at Lonar, Ajanta and Ellora on any of November 23, 24 or 25, 2026. The proposed air show is aimed at adding a distinctive public attraction to these destinations while showcasing India's aviation excellence and highlighting Maharashtra's rich natural, cultural and heritage tourism potential.

TCIL pays Dividend of Rs.43.86 Crore for the Year 2025-26 to the Government of India



New Delhi, October, 2 (PIB): Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) today paid dividend of Rs. 43.86 crore to the Government of India for the year 2025-26. Chairman & Managing Director Shri Syed Tausif Abbas presented the dividend cheque to Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Communications and DoNER, in the presence of Shri Amit Agrawal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT). TCIL was established in August, 1978 and is under the administrative control of the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India. The Government holds 100% equity in the Company. In 2025-26, TCIL achieved an operating revenue of Rs.3,335 Crore and earned a profit after tax of Rs. 146 Crore. In the last 5 years, revenue of TCIL has grown by 115% (from Rs.1,596 Crore in FY 2021-22 to Rs.3,442 Crore in FY 2025-26). TCIL is a profit making Miniratna PSU and have paid a cumulative dividend of Rs.4,146 Crore to the Government, including special dividend of Rs.3,728 Crore in FY 2024-25. TCIL is a diversified CPSE executing Projects in the field of Telecommunications & Information Technology in India and abroad. TCIL has executed projects in over 70 countries across the globe. Its overseas operations are currently in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Mauritius, Bhutan & Nepal apart from the ongoing prestigious Pan Africa e-Vidya Bharti & Arogya Bharti Network project operating in more than 15 African countries. The Company is also executing prestigious high value Govt. of India projects of Defence NFS project, Navy OFC Projects, USOF funded APSFL & Telangana Fiber Projects, BBNL VSAT, BharatNet phase -III Project in North East, BSNL Super Edge Router Project, State Wide Area Network in Bihar and Data Centre projects for the Indian Coast Guard & in state of Chhattisgarh.

Ministry of Coal undertakes cleanliness, e-waste management and blood donation initiatives under Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 and Special Campaign 6

New Delhi, October, 2 (PIB): It was an eventful and action-oriented day at the Ministry of Coal as a series of activities were organised today under Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 and Special Campaign 6, bringing together the themes of cleanliness, environmental responsibility and community welfare. Shri Vikram Dev Dutt, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Coal, and Shri Sanoj Kumar Jha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Smt. Rupinder Brar, Additional Secretary along with senior officers and officials of the Ministry, participated in the activities. The day commenced with the inauguration of an E-Waste Kiosk at the Main Entrance Lobby of GPOA-3 by Shri Vikram Dev Dutt, Secretary, Ministry of Coal. The kiosk will facilitate the collection of e-waste and will remain operational till 31 October 2026, encouraging responsible disposal of electronic waste and promoting greater awareness about sustainable waste management practices. The inauguration was followed by the “Ek Din, Ek Saath, Ek Ghanta” Cleanliness Drive along the service road near the metro exit gate and the GPOA-3 entry gate. Senior officers and officials actively participated in the drive, reinforcing the message that cleanliness is a collective responsibility and requires sustained participation. Adding a humanitarian dimension to the day's activities, a Blood Donation Camp was organised near the Entry Gate of GPOA-3. Officers and officials participated in the camp and contributed towards the noble cause of blood donation, reflecting the spirit of compassion, community service and social responsibility.

Bhagyashri Borse pens heartfelt note for Mohanlal during 'Operation Ganga' shoot

Actress Bhagyashri Borse, who plays the female lead in actor Mohanlal's upcoming film, 'Operation Ganga', has now told the Malayalam super-star that it felt like a blessing to be his co-actor. Taking to her Instagram page to post a picture of herself with her 'Operation Ganga' co-star Mohanlal, she wrote, "Dearest @mohanlal sir, To be your co-actor feels like a blessing. Every day of shoot, I get to see cinema through your eyes and learn from you.. you are truly gifted sir. #OperationGanga #AgentOnDuty." Sources close to the unit of 'Operation Ganga' said that the crew was in Georgia filming some important sequences for the film. For the unaware, the film, which is being directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Vishnu Mohan, was tentatively being referred to as L367 before being titled 'Operation Ganga'.

'Operation Ganga' refers to India's evacuation mission launched to bring back Indian citizens, including thousands of students, who were stranded in Ukraine following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war. 'Operation Ganga', which has the tagline 'A Nation's Promise' will be a film on one of the most daring and intriguing operations on international borders by India. Apart from Malayalam super-star Mohanlal and Bhagyashri Borse, the film will also feature Bollywood star Arjun Rampal and actors Parthiban & Adil Hussain in pivotal roles.

The film is directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Vishnu Mohan, who is best known for having directed the devotional blockbuster 'Meppadiyan'. 'Operation Ganga' also boasts of an ex-



traordinarily talented technical team. The technical crew includes cinematographer Miroslaw Kuba Brozek, known for having shot the blockbusters 'Pushpa 1' and 'Pushpa 2' and production designer Rajeevan, who is best known for having worked in critically acclaimed films such as 'GOAT', 'Meiyazhagan', 'Amaran' and 'Kathanar'. The film will have its stunts choreographed by action director Sea

Young Oh, known for his work in 'Dhurandhar' and 'Kill'. Music composer Shashwat Sachdev, following the success of the pan-Indian film 'Dhurandhar', is scoring the music for 'Operation Ganga'.

Produced by Gokulam Gopalan under the banner of Sree Gokulam Movies, Operation Ganga's crew also includes editor Shameer Mohammed and sound designer Bishwadeep Chatterjee, best

known for his work in 'Dhurandhar', 'Uri', '3 Idiots' and 'Padmaavat'. VFX for the film is being overseen by K. V. Sanjit. 'Lokah' Costume Director Melvy J is in-charge of costume design for this film and makeup is by Ronex Xavier. The film is produced by Gokulam Gopalan, with Baiju Gopalan and V. C. Praveen as co-producers and Krishnamoorthy as executive producer.

Trivikram Backs Out, Hanuman Ansh Takes on His Film

Hanuman Ansh is a blockbuster film. The devotional biographical film, made with a shoe-string budget of ₹1.75 to 2 crore, has emerged as a historic blockbuster. It reportedly grossed over ₹380 to 400 crore worldwide. This generated huge hype and buzz around its Telugu release.

Director Trivikram Srinivas had officially announced that he acquired the Telugu rights and would present the film in Telugu. However, in a last-minute development, the release was cancelled, and Trivikram backed out of presenting the film.

The Telugu rights eventually landed with Hombale Films, the prestigious production house behind films such as KGF, Salaar and Kantara. Now, the production house is bringing Hanuman Ansh to Telugu audiences as well.



What has caught everyone's attention now is Hanuman Ansh's Telugu release date. The film is slated to hit theatres on October 9, directly clashing with Trivikram Srinivas and Venkatesh's Adarsha Kutumbam AK 47. The irony is difficult to miss. Until last week, Hanuman

Ansh was expected to be presented by Trivikram himself. Now, the same film is entering theatres against his Adarsha Kutumbam. That's the unpredictable nature of the film business. While the two films belong to completely different genres and are likely to appeal to different sections of the au-

dience, the direct clash is still intriguing. Adarsha Kutumbam is targeting family audiences and women audiences, along with the youth, making the arrival of a surprise blockbuster like Hanuman Ansh an unexpected development for Trivikram and his team.

Romanchakam: Sumanth Prabhas starrer streaming on Netflix in five languages



Presented by blockbuster director Sandeep Reddy Vanga and produced under the Bhadrakali Pictures banner, "Romanchakam" stars Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar in the lead roles. Produced by Pranay Reddy Vanga, the film marks the directorial debut of Venugopal Reddy. "Romanchakam" received a positive response during its theatrical run. The film blends romance, humour and suspense, with its entertaining elements connecting with audiences. The film has now begun its digital journey on Netflix. "Romanchakam" is streaming on Netflix from today in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi. Those who missed the film in theatres can now watch it on the streaming platform. With its release across five languages, the film is set to reach a wider audience through its digital premiere.

Doraemon Mania in the Telugu States!



Doraemon: Castle of the Undersea Devil is one of the films currently drawing a lot of attention from movie buffs. Although animated films usually cater to kids, this film is trying to catch the attention of adults, and that too, in centers like Kurnool and other parts of Ceded. The trade reports housefull collections in many areas, with advance bookings in full swing for the weekend. Usually, the animated films run

well in premium urban A centers and, most importantly, in multiplexes. But Doraemon comes with a nostalgic connection for millennials, because of which the film is performing very well. Interestingly, the dubbed versions are also doing well, thanks to the long weekend. Not just in the Telugu states, but the situation is similar in Tamil Nadu as well, with audiences enjoying it in their native dubbed versions. The

popularity of the cartoon characters we grew up watching is reflecting at the box office! In this film, Join Doraemon, Nobita, and friends as they dive into an unforgettable underwater adventure brimming with friendship, courage, and mystery beneath the waves. If the same momentum continues for the next two days, the film will register good numbers at the box office. Tetsuo Yajima is the director of this film.

Trolls On Sigma, Sundeep Kishan Warns Main Men?

Sundeep Kishan has reacted strongly to the negative campaign surrounding his upcoming film Sigma, just hours before its release. The actor took to X and said he has been noticing a series of targeted anti-posts about him and the film over the last few days. Sundeep claimed that he knows who is behind the campaign and who is allegedly funding it. He also issued a strong warning to those involved, saying they have more to lose than him. Sundeep added that if the matter goes direct, everyone involved could be exposed.

The actor did not name anyone in his post, but his comments have created a buzz on social media ahead of the film's release. Sigma stars Sundeep Kishan and Faria Abdullah in the lead roles and marks Jason



Sanjay's debut as a director. The film is scheduled to hit theatres. Sundeep has been backing the film strongly and has earlier praised Jason's ap-

proach and storytelling. With the release now just hours away, his latest warning has added another layer of attention around Sigma.

No barriers, no dream roles, reveals Srinidhi Shetty

Srinidhi Shetty is in her early thirties, while Venkatesh is in his late sixties. Despite their considerable age difference, she agreed to play his wife and the mother of two teenagers in "Aadarsha Kutumbam," which is set to hit screens on October 9. In an interview, Srinidhi Shetty was asked whether she was concerned that playing a mother to two children at this stage of her career could limit her opportunities in the future. The actress said she does not look at roles that way and does not have any fixed rules or limitations when choosing films. She said she has no barriers when it comes to accepting roles and does not have any particular "dream roles" that she is waiting to play. Srinidhi Shetty shot to fame with the "KGF" films and subsequently appeared in Telugu films including "Hit 3" and "Telusu Kada." After working alongside relatively younger actors, she has now taken on a very different role opposite Venkatesh in "Aadarsha Kutumbam." The actress said she wants to choose films that give her greater satisfaction when she looks back on her career.

