

Sri Geetaansha Digitals

Hyderabad | Visakhapatnam | Kakinada | Vijayawada | Ongole



Print

For More Details: 93948 55244, 9059465965

"WILL YOU OPPOSE INDIA TO OPPOSE MODI"

Tejasvi Surya Questions Rahul Gandhi's Stand on Starlink Licence

New Delhi : BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Friday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of adopting contradictory positions on Starlink's entry into India, alleging that the Leader of Opposition was supporting the company to oppose Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a post on X, Surya criticised Gandhi's response to SpaceX CEO Elon Musk's remarks on the company's efforts to enter the Indian market, alleging that the Congress leader had reversed his party's earlier position on the issue. Surya claimed that the Congress had opposed Starlink's possible entry into India last year, alleging that the move was intended to benefit businessmen close to the Prime Minister. He also said the party had raised national security concerns at the time.

"First, when discussions were going on last year about Starlink's possible entry into India, the Congress party opposed it, alleging that this was being done to support business-



men close to Prime Minister Modi. They even brought in the national security angle to oppose Starlink's entry. And now, the same Rahul Gandhi has made a complete U-turn and is pushing for Starlink's entry into India. He has not only reversed his party's stand from a few months ago, but has also conveniently forgotten the national security arguments his own party had raised then. This shows that Rahul Gandhi's opposition is simply for the sake of opposition," Surya said.

He further alleged that Gandhi's position on Starlink

reflected a willingness to support foreign business interests to challenge Indian businesses perceived to be close to the Prime Minister. Drawing a parallel with the historical figure Jaichand, Surya accused Gandhi of siding with foreign interests for political purposes and cautioned that such an approach could lead to technological and economic dependence. "This reminds us of Jaichand. There are many such examples in Indian history where our own people sided with foreign interests to further their individual political ambitions. Every time, such choices cost the nation dearly. These divisions and betrayals contributed to centuries of foreign domination and subjugation. And for what? Just to oppose Modi? Will you oppose India just to oppose Modi, Mr. Rahul Gandhi?" Surya asked in his post. BJP leader Jaiveer Shergill also took a dig at the Lok Sabha LoP saying, "Rahul Gandhi Gang: Odd Day: BJP Govt is selling nation's interest by

giving license to Starlink. Even Day: BJP Govt is protecting Indian businessman by not giving license to Starlink. Don't know about Starlink, but Prince's "Intelligence-Link" is definitely disconnected"

Former Union Minister and Keralam MLA Rajeev Chandrasekhar responded to Musk's allegation that the license for Starlink's operations in India were being blocked by vested interests. Chandrasekhar said a country has to plan for itself and its interests before every new choice. "It is true that Indias Telecom was a sector beset with opaqueness and corruption for several decades - where cronies ruled under the benevolent love and the politics of ur latest fan (name not withheld -@RahulGandhi). But under PM @narendramodi, 3 principles govern the tech (including Telecom/Internet) sector: Open - Free from any monopoly-duopoly, free and fair competition; Safe and trusted - Infra, Network, Platforms must be safe and trusted.

'President Sought Vote Theft Proof. We Have It,' Says Rahul Gandhi.

BJP Reacts

After a meeting of the INDIA bloc with President Droupadi Murmu to raise alleged illegalities in the electoral system, Leader of the Opposition (Lok Sabha) Rahul Gandhi said he was "stunned" that "she did not deny" the assertion, though she did seek proof. "We have all the proof of how elections were stolen. The entire country has seen it," he added. There was no official word from the President's office on the discussions, though sources said Gandhi's claims were incorrect. "It is unfortunate that the President is being dragged into a controversy in the matter," said the sources.

"We will go to the Supreme Court on Monday to meet the Chief Justice of India and hand over a memorandum to him," the Congress MP further said.

Gandhi led a group of Opposition MPs and party leaders in a march from Parliament towards Rashtrapati Bhavan, and a smaller group then met the President to demand that Gyanesh Kumar resign as Chief Election Commissioner. Their memorandum made four main demands: Resignation of Gyanesh Kumar and repeal of the 2023 law that provides life-long immunity to the CEC and ECs; immediate suspension of the SIR and restoration of all 13.3 crore voters deleted from electoral rolls; a return to paper ballots for all elections; and to repeal all Assembly elections over the last two years "in which conclusive evidence of vote chori has been presented". While a group of 10 leaders eventually went in for the meeting, the others held a sit-in at Kartavya



Path on the route, holding "Gyanesh, it's done bro!" placards and raising slogans alleging "vote chori" and "collusion" between the EC and the BJP-led government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi later said the Congress had dragged the President's office into politics. "It is absolutely clear that the Congress party's only objective is to create confusion about the country's constitutional institutions, make baseless and

misleading statements, and derive political mileage from them. What they did outside Rashtrapati Bhavan today only deepens that suspicion," he said. The march followed a meeting of around 150 MPs and other leaders of the INDIA bloc in the Central Hall of Parliament, where 16 leaders from 16 different parties signed the memorandum for the President, raising concerns over the functioning of the Election Commission of India (EC).

Minister Lokesh Assures Support for Chess Academy in Amaravati; Meets Koneru Humpy



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 9: Renowned chess player Koneru Humpy and her father, Ashok, met Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh at his residence in Undavalli on Friday. They discussed several important issues

with the minister and requested his support for establishing a chess academy in Amaravati. Minister Lokesh responded positively to Humpy's request for the state government's support in setting up the academy. He assured them that the government would extend the nec-

essary assistance and cooperation. It may be recalled that the Indian women's team won a bronze medal at the Chess Olympiad 2026, while Koneru Humpy secured an individual bronze medal on Board 1. Minister Lokesh congratulated Humpy on her achievement.

Pawan Kalyan Focuses Specially on Local Body Elections

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 9: The Jana Sena Party leadership has turned its special attention to the upcoming local body elections. The party has constituted ad hoc committees across 25 parliamentary constituencies to prepare for the elections, according to an announcement released by the party leadership on Friday. Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena chief Pawan

Kalyan will personally oversee the functioning of these committees and issue instructions to gather information from the grassroots. Committees have been formed for all parliamentary constituencies except Vijayawada. As part of the preparations, Pawan Kalyan will soon hold a meeting with the parliamentary constituency committees. The party will focus particularly on strengthening its organisational structure and

preparing for the elections. Jana Sena has also constituted four central committees for the local body elections. These include committees for election management and guidance, a special committee for coordination among alliance partners, and a campaign committee to oversee election campaigning. The party leadership also announced the formation of a treasury committee to monitor Jana Sena's financial affairs.



Supreme Court Clears Way for AP Local Body Elections; Key Directions on Voter Lists and BC Reservations

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has paved the way for conducting local body elections in Andhra Pradesh. The State Election Commission (SEC) informed the Supreme Court that it was ready to issue the election notification within the six-week deadline set by the Andhra Pradesh High Court. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant issued key directions in the case, instructing the authorities to proceed without allowing further delays in the elections.

Voter Lists and the SIR Process

The Supreme Court clarified that if the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process is completed by the time the election notification is issued, the elections must be conducted using the newly prepared, comprehensive electoral rolls. If the SIR process is not completed by then, the local body elections must be conducted using the existing electoral rolls.

Supreme Court Rejects YSRCP Petition; CJI



Makes Strong Observations

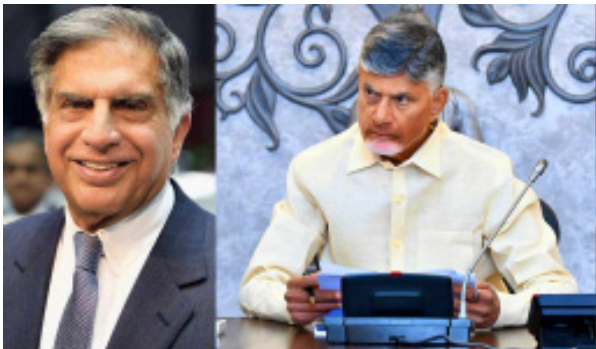
The apex court dismissed the petition filed by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), challenging the delimitation of wards. The bench headed by CJI Justice Surya Kant reportedly questioned why the YSRCP was raising objections when neither the enumerators nor the Central government had expressed similar concerns. The bench observed that the petition appeared to be aimed at deliberately delaying local body elections and remarked that such a move would be contrary to public interest.

Orders on 34% BC Reservations Quashed; Set-back for AP Government

The Supreme Court up-

held the Andhra Pradesh High Court's order quashing the government orders that provided 34% reservations for Backward Classes (BCs). Dismissing the state government's Special Leave Petition (SLP), the court reiterated that total reservations must not exceed 50% under any circumstances, in accordance with the limits previously laid down by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court. The bench also questioned the state government's decision to rely on the Unified Family Survey for collecting BC-related data while setting aside the recommendations of the dedicated commission appointed by the state government.

Ratan Tata Symbolised Humility and Ethical Leadership: CM



Amaravati, October 9: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the nation would never forget the contributions of renowned industrialist and former Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata. Paying tribute to him on his death anniversary, the Chief Minister shared a message on social media platform X. Naidu praised Ratan Tata for bringing significant changes to India's industrial sector by prioritising national interests and demonstrating humility and ethical leadership. He said Tata had not only achieved remarkable success in business but had also left an indelible mark on the lives of millions through his service. The Chief Min-

ister noted that compassion towards employees, concern for people and love for animals were among the distinctive qualities of Ratan Tata's personality. He added that Tata's contributions and the values he upheld would remain an enduring part of India's industrial journey. Chandrababu Naidu also announced that the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub was being established in Andhra Pradesh to carry forward Tata's vision and encourage innovative thinking among young people. He said the initiative aims to provide young people with the support needed to turn their ideas into innovations and nurture entrepreneurs from the grassroots level.

We Will Ensure 34% of Tickets for BCs: Galla Madhavi

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October, 9: TDP Politburo member Galla Madhavi asserted that her party was committed to providing 34% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections. Speaking to the media on Friday, she said that even if technical hurdles arose, the TDP would allocate 34% of its party tickets to BC candidates. She said Chandrababu Naidu was the leader who implemented 34% reservation for BCs in local body elections in the undivided Andhra Pradesh. She urged people not to forget that the TDP had played a key role in developing BC leadership in politics. Madhavi alleged that the

YSRCP was attempting to obstruct measures intended to benefit BCs. Madhavi stated that the lawyer who argued in favour of the petition challenging BC reservations had served as an Assistant Government Pleader (AGP) during the YSRCP government. She demanded that the YSRCP explain why it had not intervened when a lawyer associated with the party argued against BC reservations.

She accused the YSRCP of using BCs for political gain and alleged that BC leaders were being used as a shield to protect the party president from allegations of scams. She further claimed that several BC leaders had



become embroiled in legal cases because of the YSRCP and that the previous government had diverted funds allocated for BC welfare. Madhavi said BCs had not forgotten, and would not forget, what she described as the YSRCP's betrayal of the community.

EDITORIAL

Is There No Strong Safeguard for Voters' Rights?

Although the extensive powers enjoyed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) have largely evolved through Supreme Court judgments, voters' rights have not received the same level of judicial protection. The Supreme Court has progressively expanded the powers of the Election Commission under Article 324 of the Constitution. At the same time, it has continued to limit the scope of voters' rights under Article 326. The Court has held that the Election Commission enjoys wide-ranging powers at every stage of the electoral process and that even legislation enacted by Parliament cannot completely undermine those powers. Although the Constitution guarantees universal adult suffrage, the Supreme Court has, for several decades, treated the right to vote primarily as a statutory right. In its judgment on Bihar's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Court described the right to vote as a "valuable constitutional right." However, it is noteworthy that the Court largely confined its examination to one question: whether the documents required under the SIR process were so stringent that they effectively rendered the right to vote meaningless. In this context, the Court appeared to place a degree of emphasis on the Election Commission's expertise, rather than focusing equally on the concerns of voters. This has created a situation in which voters may find themselves without an effective right to demand that the Election Commission ensure their names remain on the electoral rolls. Consequently, the SIR process could result in the removal of the names of lakhs of voters from electoral rolls. Those affected would then have to prove their eligibility individually to get their names restored. While the Election Commission has the authority to determine electoral rolls, voters' rights must receive equally strong protection. Otherwise, voters could first be removed from the rolls and subsequently be required to prove their eligibility to be included again. Article 324 empowers the Election Commission to conduct elections, while Article 326 guarantees voting rights to eligible citizens. Therefore, it is the Election Commission's responsibility to include every eligible citizen in the electoral rolls. No one should be deprived of the right to vote except on grounds permitted by the Constitution. In other words, the Commission's powers must be exercised to protect people's voting rights. The fundamental spirit of the Constitution is to give priority to the democratic rights of voters. The Supreme Court needs to examine the ongoing controversy surrounding the ECI's SIR exercise against this constitutional backdrop.

It has come to light that differences of opinion exist among Election Commission members over certain decisions relating to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Supreme Court has asked the Election Commission to respond to several questions on the issue. In particular, the Court asked whether the decisions taken by the ECI had been made unanimously or by majority vote. It observed that if the decisions were not unanimous, the Commission would have to explain why and how they were taken. At the same time, the procedure for appointing Election Commissioners has also come under scrutiny. An analysis of these issues points to the need for the Election Commission to function independently rather than under the influence of the government. Otherwise, the party in power could appoint individuals favourable to it, potentially undermining the impartiality of elections. The primary objective must be to protect the ordinary citizen's right to vote. In the 1995 T.N. Seshan case, the Supreme Court emphasised that the Election Commission must remain independent of day-to-day government interference. Later, in the 2023 Anoop Baranwal case, the appointment of Election Commissioners became a significant issue. The Court prescribed an interim selection committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India (CJI) for appointing Election Commissioners.

This principle underscores the need for collective decision-making within the Election Commission rather than allowing a single individual to exercise unilateral authority. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is therefore not the sole authority; decisions must be taken collectively by the CEC and the other Election Commissioners. However, the current controversy has brought serious questions about the Commission's functioning into the open. Two Election Commissioners have publicly stated that they raised objections on 14 occasions over the past 10 months, but the CEC allegedly failed to take them into account. Following these revelations, protests demanding the CEC's resignation have been taking place across the country. The Election Commission, meanwhile, has issued various statements in an effort to address the concerns. It has maintained that differences of opinion among members are natural and that all decisions were ultimately approved unanimously. However, if two Election Commissioners have repeatedly expressed objections, the claim that the decisions were unanimous raises questions. A controversy has also emerged over the Form 6 declaration. The ECI claimed that the Supreme Court had upheld Form 6, but the Court stated that it had not done so. These developments have raised further doubts about the functioning of the Election Commission.

Trump honours six tech giants with National Medals of Science, Technology and Innovation

US President Donald Trump on Thursday (local time) honoured six leading American innovators, including Elon Musk, Sergey Brin, Jensen Huang, Lisa Su, Michael Dell and Satya Nadella, with the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, describing the recipients as "national treasures" helping pioneer an "incredible future for America". Trump presented the medals at the White House's "Science: A New Golden Age Summit", where he said the honours represented the highest recognition for achievements in science and technology. "Today we honour six more national treasures who are helping pioneer an incredible future for America by awarding them the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. That's the highest you can get," Trump said. The National Medal of Science was presented to Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, Google co-founder Sergey Brin, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and AMD CEO Lisa Su. The National Medal of Technology and Innovation went to Dell Technologies CEO Michael Dell and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella. Trump said his administration had taken action from the beginning of his term to strengthen American leadership in science and technology.

"From day one, my administration has taken decisive action to ensure that America continues to dominate the frontiers of science and technology," Trump said. Trump began the ceremony by recalling his uncle, Dr John Trump, who served as a scientist and professor at MIT for 52 years and contributed to the development of radar during World War II. Trump said his uncle served on the National Defence Research Committee and advised on the use of radar during D-Day. "For his achievements in the production and use of radiation in medical and industrial applications, Dr. John Trump was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Ronald Reagan in 1983," Trump said. Following a brief video tribute to Dr John Trump, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Director Michael Kratsios presented Trump with the medal originally awarded to his uncle.

"Mr. President, we have been able to find the medal from your uncle, and we here want to present it to you in a beautiful

frame," Kratsios said. Before presenting the medals, Trump praised the six recipients for their contributions to science and technology. "Sergey Brin is a visionary computer scientist who permanently changed the way the world finds information and put all human knowledge at our fingertips," Trump said. He said Brin had also helped pioneer web applications, smartphones and cloud computing and had returned to Google to drive progress in superintelligence. "Sergey, congratulations on receiving the National Medal of Science. Congratulations. Fantastic job," Trump said. Brin was recognised "for the development of foundational algorithms for information retrieval and data processing that revolutionised how the world accesses information across science, commerce, and in the course of everyday life." Trump described Lisa Su as an "industry trailblazer" who revolutionised computer performance and highlighted her work in semiconductor engineering and her leadership at AMD. "She transformed AMD into an industry powerhouse with the Zen microarchitecture and chiplets, ultimately propelling the company's value from under \$2 billion to over \$1 trillion," Trump said. "Lisa was the first woman to receive the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Robert N. Noyce Medal, the highest honour for work in semiconductors. Lisa, congratulations on receiving the highest and most important medal of its kind anywhere in the world, the National Medal of Science. Congratulations. Great job. Well, amazing," he added. Su was recognised for "a lifetime of leadership in semiconductor engineering and high-performance computing through innovations in processor architecture and chiplet-based integration that powered the world's first exascale supercomputer and opened new frontiers in computational performance."

Praising NVIDIA co-founder and CEO Jensen Huang, Trump said his determination had helped lay the foundations for the growth of superintelligence and put the US at the forefront of the race. "Jensen designed microprocessors and AMD and graphic chips at LSI Logic before co-founding NVIDIA to develop graphics processing units and for video games," Trump said. He said Huang



later recognised that NVIDIA's chips had applications beyond video games and described the company's chips as the backbone of frontier superintelligence. "NVIDIA chips run most of the largest semi computers and supercomputers on the planet, and they are the backbone of frontier superintelligence. They are the absolute backbone. He's years and years ahead of other people and other companies. The entire world is now running on NVIDIA. And Jensen, we are honoured to give you the highest award of its kind again anywhere in the world. There's nothing like it, the National Medal of Science, and you truly deserve it. Congratulations. Really good," Trump said. Huang was recognised for "advancing the graphics processing unit into a general-purpose computing architecture through innovations in processor design and software, transforming massively parallel computation and powering breakthroughs in scientific computing and super intelligence." Trump also honoured Michael Dell with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, recalling how Dell started with USD 1,000 and an idea in his University of Texas dorm room and went on to transform personal computing. Trump highlighted Dell's role in building Dell Computer Corporation and his philanthropic work with his wife Susan. He said the couple had made a USD 6.25 billion contribution to fund Trump Accounts for 25 million American children. "And I just want to say that, Michael, what you've done for so many children, they're going to grow up and they're going to turn 18 or 21 and they're going to be rich

because of you," Trump said. "So we want the whole country thanks you. Thank you very much, you and Susan," he added. Dell was honoured for "advancing a vision of widespread adoption of personal and enterprise computing; for his technical and business management skills building a worldwide technology company; and for his support for the next generation of American scientists, engineers, and technologists."

Trump also praised Microsoft Nadella and Musk. Musk was honoured "for engineering achievements of extraordinary ambition and scale that have pushed the frontiers of space exploration, intelligent systems, communications, and beyond, renewing American technological leadership and opening a new chapter in American manufacturing." Nadella received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation "for his transformative leadership of a critical American technology company, which led to its rejuvenation for a new era of cloud computing, and for his construction of the hyperscale infrastructure that enabled the training and global deployment of American super intelligence." According to the White House, the National Medal of Science has been awarded by US presidents since 1963 to individuals recognised for outstanding contributions to science in service of the United States. The National Medal of Technology and Innovation, first awarded in 1985, recognises American innovators whose vision, intellect, creativity and determination have strengthened the US economy and improved quality of life.

The White House said Trump is seeking to restore US global scientific and technological leadership for a "New Golden Age", including by harnessing superintelligence for scientific discovery, ushering in a nuclear renaissance, ensuring American space superiority and strengthening the country's quantum advantage. It said the six medalists had pioneered breakthroughs in science and engineering for the new age of superintelligence, including advances in general-purpose parallel computing, semiconductor design and the development of hyperscale infrastructure in the US, around the world and into space.

The White House said their work had advanced American global technology leadership in the 21st century and laid the foundation for a "new Golden Age of Science". Kratsios said the six recipients had transformed their respective fields and laid the foundations for technologies that have become integral to modern life. "Each of these medalists has transformed their field or industry, laying the foundations for technologies we already can barely imagine living without," he said. "While we in government work to deliver the efforts a New Golden Age of Science will require, we know that scientific progress and technological innovation depend on the insight and character of individuals. Innovators like these six awardees are the architects of the future," Kratsios added. The White House said the "Science: A New Golden Age" report, released in July 2026 by Kratsios, was the first comprehensive rethinking of the US science and technology enterprise since Vannevar Bush's 1945 "Science: The Endless Frontier".

Transition, Not Tragedy: Decoupling Tech Careers From The H-1B Pipeline

In the years since, the numbers have reduced. In some ways this was inevitable. Even without the increased restrictions on visa and green card applications, the demand for software engineers will continue to recede as the nature of work is changing. Basic coding has been automated, and this will accelerate as AI becomes more useful for tech companies.

Job losses in the tech industry have been increasing in the last two years globally. In 2025, over 122,000 tech jobs were eliminated across 278 companies and in 333 layoff events. And in 2026 (till early October 2026) over 130,000 tech jobs were eliminated across 311 companies in 351 layoff events according to an estimate by Layoffs FYI, an industry tracker. The combined total is roughly 253,000 tech jobs lost across 2025 and 2026-to-date. According to Roger Lee, founder of Layoffs.fyi, AI was cited in 33% of tech layoff events in 2026, up from just 1% in 2024. The tech industry has a larger crisis of skills to deal with. The older skills are no longer relevant. And people with new skills are not being created fast enough to meet the demand. This asymmetry is

likely to remain for the next few years for global tech companies.

"US employers continue to face persistent talent and skills shortages and rely on the H-1B program as an essential component of a broader set of strategies to recruit, develop, and retain the workforce they need," wrote Emily M Dickens, chief administrative officer, of Washington DC based talent organization SHRM in a letter to US government. Employers continue to face significant challenges in finding qualified talent. In 2026, SHRM research found that nearly 68% of organisations struggled to recruit for full-time positions, while 53% of HR professionals reported that hiring had become more difficult than it was a year earlier. These challenges are particularly acute in sectors such as engineering, computer science and information technology, healthcare, finance and accounting, and education.

The same research helps explain why many employers rely on H-1B sponsorship. Among organisations that use the program, 65% cited the need for highly specialised skills and expertise, 51% pointed to critical skills shortages, and 49% said they were unable to find

sufficiently qualified US candidates. A similar situation exists in the Indian tech industry. A study by industry body Nasscom has argued for deeper AI skills for Indian professionals. Nasscom argues that academia and industry must work together to rethink talent development for an AI-native workplace. Educational institutions need to move beyond a narrow focus on coding by placing greater emphasis on engineering judgment, domain expertise, and new approaches to assessment. At the same time, employers must redesign how foundational capabilities are built, strengthen mentorship, provide more opportunities for independent problem-solving, integrate AI verification into everyday workflows, and invest continuously in developing early-career talent.

The challenge therefore for the Indian tech industry, talent managers and policy makers is to reorient the education to employment journey for a world of automation and AI. For the professionals who will find the path to H-1B narrowing, many new opportunities are expanding. According to industry estimates, many professionals are moving from legacy IT compa-

nies to GCCs. In recent years, GCC has expanded hiring of tech professionals. Global Capability Centers (GCCs), also known as captive centers or shared services centers, are wholly-owned subsidiaries of multinational companies that deliver technology, analytics, R&D, engineering, finance, HR, and operations services to their parent organisations. According to a joint report by Nasscom and Zinnov, India's GCC ecosystem expanded to 2,117 centres operating through 3,728 units by FY26,

employing 2.36 million professionals and generating \$98.4 billion in revenue. Since FY21, the number of GCCs has increased by 32%, with 506 Forbes Global 2000 companies establishing operations in India. Artificial intelligence has become a key catalyst for this growth. Nearly half of all GCCs established since FY21 were designed with AI at their core, and more than 1,200 centres have integrated AI and machine learning capabilities into their operations.

PASSPORT LOST NOTICE

The Indian passport number U3381011 belonging to Sheikh Rabbani (29), S/o Sheikh Mastan, a resident of Rajamahendravaram, was accidentally lost on 29-08-2026 while he was going from his house to the Xerox Center in APHB Colony. A search was made in the surrounding areas for the passport but it was not found. A complaint was lodged at Bommur Police Station in this regard.

Passport Details:
Name: SHAIK RABBANI
Father's Name: SHAIK MASTAN
Passport No.: U3381011
Date of Birth: 23-10-1996
Country of Issue: India

If anyone has found the passport, please inform the following phone number or hand it over to the nearest police station.
Address: 113/3/858/2, Flat No. C1, Dhanasree Enclave, Behind Old Menaka Bar, Near Bharat Petrol Pump, Spinning Mills Centre Post Office, Rajahmundry Urban, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh - 533106.
Contact Number: 8106824640

"Worked for empowering tribal communities"

: PM Modi expresses grief over death of Hemant Soren's mother Rupri Soren



New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the death of Rupri Soren, mother of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, extending heartfelt condolences to the Soren family. In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Pained by the passing of Rupri Soren Ji. She always worked for empowering tribal communities. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with Hemant Ji, Kalpana Ji and their entire family." Earlier, Hemant Soren also grieved the loss of his mother in a post on X. "After Baba left, Ma was my greatest shelter.

Today, even that shelter has merged into the lap of nature," he wrote. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), in an official post on X, mourned Rupri Soren's death and described her as a symbol of "struggle, sacrifice, and patience". The party said Rupri Soren had always stood by late JMM leader Dishom Guru Shib Soren during his struggles and described her death as an "irreparable loss" for Jharkhand and the country. JMM said the loss of a mother was deeply painful for Hemant Soren, his

family, party members and the people of Jharkhand. "May Marang Buru grant peace to the departed soul and provide strength to the grieving family, all of us soldiers of JMM, and the entire state to bear this immense sorrow." Furthermore, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also extended condolences. In an X post, Gandhi wrote, "The news of the passing of Rupri Soren ji, mother of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren ji, is deeply saddening. In this hour of grief, my deepest condolences are with Hemant Soren ji and the entire Soren family." BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) also expressed condolences. In a post on X, KTR wrote, "My heartfelt condolences to you Hemant Bhai. May her soul rest in eternal peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this difficult time" The mortal remains of late JMM founder Shib Soren's wife were brought to the Chief Minister's residence in Morabadi for final respects.

peace to the departed soul and provide strength to the grieving family, all of us soldiers of JMM, and the entire state to bear this immense sorrow." Furthermore, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi also extended condolences. In an X post, Gandhi wrote, "The news of the passing of Rupri Soren ji, mother of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren ji, is deeply saddening. In this hour of grief, my deepest condolences are with Hemant Soren ji and the entire Soren family." BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) also expressed condolences. In a post on X, KTR wrote, "My heartfelt condolences to you Hemant Bhai. May her soul rest in eternal peace. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this difficult time" The mortal remains of late JMM founder Shib Soren's wife were brought to the Chief Minister's residence in Morabadi for final respects.

More FIRs Against Rahul, Priyanka Gandhi Over Protest Violence

New Delhi : Delhi Police have registered three FIRs in connection with the Opposition's Wednesday protest, with more cases being registered in the matter, Delhi Police said on Thursday. The cases have been registered under various sections related to alleged assault on police personnel, obstruction of government work, pushing and manhandling, and misbehaviour with police personnel. The names of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also figure in the details of the FIRs registered so far. This comes after INDIA bloc MPs were stopped by Delhi Police on Wednesday while attempting to proceed towards Jantar Mantar for a protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Rahul Gandhi was among the Opposition MPs detained during the protest and was taken to Barakhamba Road Police Station. He was seen attempting to open a barricaded gate as police personnel prevented the protesters from moving ahead. Gandhi was later seen waving at the media and showing a victory sign while being detained.

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was also detained and taken to Chhatrasal Stadium Police Station. She was seen lying on the ground during the police action and later alleged that force was used against the protesting MPs. "What is the value of the Constitution in this nation? We will lay down our lives for the



Constitution. No cost is too high for us," Priyanka Gandhi told reporters while waving a copy of the Constitution from the police vehicle. Rahul Gandhi said that the Congress and INDIA bloc would continue to take to the streets, face arrests and legal cases to "save the Constitution and democracy". In a post on X, Gandhi said, "To save the Constitution and democracy, the Congress Party and the opposition are ready to take to the streets as many times as needed, face arrests, or endure legal cases. "This alliance between the dictatorial Modi government and the Election Commission has already been exposed. It is time for resignations and action. An arrogant regime cannot hold out for long against the fervour of the people."Gandhi further said that the Opposition would continue its protest

until Gyanesh Kumar resigns. "We are not going to stop protesting till Gyanesh Kumar resigns. This is a fight to protect the most sacred thing in this country. There is nothing that Narendra Modi and Amit Shah can do that will stop us," he said. Delhi Police had registered an FIR in connection with Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other INDIA bloc MPs allegedly entering the Akashvani Bhavan premises without permission during their protest against the Election Commission of India on Tuesday. According to Delhi Police, the INDIA bloc had planned a march from Parliament House towards Nirvachan Sadan, the headquarters of the Election Commission. Police said no official permission had been

sought or granted for the proposed march. As the protesters were stopped near the Election Commission office, several opposition leaders and MPs staged a sit-in protest. Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra subsequently entered the Akashvani Bhavan premises along with other leaders and continued their protest there. Police said the protesters were asked to vacate the premises, but they allegedly refused to comply and insisted that they would not leave until a delegation of MPs was allowed to meet the officials of the Election Commission. Delhi Police said they eventually intervened to maintain law and order and prevent the situation from escalating. Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other protesters were removed from the premises and detained.

Assam Minister Seeks Administrative Flexibility for Destination States

New Delhi : Assam Environment and Forest Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah called for greater administrative flexibility for destination states within the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework, emphasising the ground realities faced by consumer-oriented states, during the GST Council meeting. The Minister expressed that he shared the suggestion based on Assam's experience as a consumer state. Following the meeting held, Jayanta Mallabaruah, in a post on X, emphasised that while the state supports ongoing policy proposals, empowering senior-level administrative officials is essential for smooth execution "At the GST Council meeting held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, I shared a suggestion based on Assam's experience as a consumer state. While expressing our support for the proposal, I highlighted the importance of providing greater administrative flexibility to destination states, particularly at the senior officer level, to facilitate effective implementation," Jayanta Mallabaruah wrote. He noted that the recommendations stem from the practical experiences encountered by consumer states under the existing national indirect tax architecture. "The suggestion was made

keeping in mind the practical experiences of consumer states like Assam within the GST framework," the Assam Minister wrote. The 57th GST Council meeting concluded at Bharat Mandapam, approving a sweeping package of enforcement and procedural reforms. Following the conclusion of the 57th GST Council meeting in the national capital, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday said that the discussions focused on providing enhanced facilities to citizens and improving the GST framework. Speaking to reporters, CM Gupta emphasised the significance of the meet, highlighting the participation level of states. "Everything about this is special. It is excellent that all the states come together for the GST Council meeting. Discussions were held on how to provide even better facilities to Indian citizens, how to simplify the entire GST framework and make it more user-friendly, and how to ensure better implementation; the results have been very positive," she said. Goa CM Pramod Sawant also welcomed the reforms brought about in today's GST meeting. "The measures introduced address the difficulties many people previously faced; this time, the GST Council has



taken steps to resolve those issues. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Finance Minister," he said. On Thursday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council will consider changes to tax rates only once a year, with decisions taking effect from April 1, marking a shift towards greater predictability in the tax regime for businesses. Addressing a press conference after the 57th GST Council meeting, Sitharaman said, "The GST Council will take it up, take rate changes only once a year, and it will come up for decision from 1st April only." She clarified that no GST rates were changed at Thursday's meeting, which focused on simplifying compliance, easing tax procedures and reducing disputes. "As I have briefed you all earlier, this meeting

was more on the process reforms," Sitharaman said. The decision comes a year after the introduction of the two-rate GST structure, with the Council now focusing on improving the functioning of the tax system rather than undertaking further rate rationalisation. Further easing the penal provisions, the general penalty for offences where no specific penalty is prescribed has been slashed from Rs 25,000 to Rs 10,000, and minimum punishments have been removed. Courts will now decide on imprisonment or specific fines. To ease working capital stress, the Council approved fast-tracked, automated refunds, under which businesses will receive 90 per cent of claimed refunds within 13 days. The timeline for officers to acknowledge refund claims has been shortened to 10 days from 15 days.

India reiterates 'zero tolerance' against cross-border terrorism at UNGA

New York : An Indian parliamentary delegation participating in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session reiterated India's commitment to fighting terrorism on the global stage. According to an official release, Rajya Sabha MP Sikander Kumar led the delegation and made it clear that India's stance on cross-border terrorism is resolute and that the country strictly adheres to a policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism. During their stay in New York, the Indian parliamentary delegation held a bilateral meeting with Alexander Zuev, Acting Under-Secretary-General (Acting USG) of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). Detailed discussions were held on making

cooperation between India and UNOCT in counter-terrorism operations more effective and robust. Articulating India's position during the meeting and sessions, Kumar stated that terrorism cannot be justified in any form or manifestation. He emphasised that the global community must take decisive action in unison against state-sponsored and cross-border terrorist networks. The Indian parliamentarians reaffirmed India's steadfast commitment to global capacity-building and technical cooperation in the international fight against terrorism. International coordination was also termed imperative to prevent the misuse of modern technologies and illicit financial flows, a



release said. Kumar underscored that India has long borne the brunt of terrorism; therefore, a rules-based order is essential to counter it on global platforms. The delegation highlighted India's ongoing contributions to intelligence sharing with UNOCT, curbing the spread

of terror in cyberspace, and strengthening the global legal framework. Concluding the session, the Indian delegation delivered a clear message: lasting peace remains unattainable until cross-border terrorist safe havens are completely dismantled, a release added.

Police Step Up Vigil for Upcoming Municipal Elections



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER9, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT : East Godavari district Superintendent of Police D. Narasimha Kishore has directed police personnel to remain fully prepared to ensure peaceful and transparent conduct of the forthcoming municipal elections. During visits to Rajamahendravaram One Town and Three Town police stations, the SP reviewed election security arrangements with officers and issued instructions on preventive policing, surveillance and maintenance of law and order. Mr. Kishore stressed the need to identify sensitive and highly sensitive

areas and polling stations in advance and put in place appropriate security arrangements. He directed officers to maintain continuous surveillance over history-sheets and habitual offenders and initiate preventive binding-over proceedings against individuals likely to disturb public peace. He also instructed police personnel to expedite the execution of pending non-bailable warrants (NBWs) and intensify efforts to prevent election-related offences. **Social media under watch** The SP warned against the circulation of fake news, rumours and provocative content on social media dur-

ing the election period. Those found spreading such material would face legal action in accordance with the law, he said. He directed station-level officers to maintain comprehensive information on wards, localities and polling stations within their respective jurisdictions. Regular interaction with local residents and continuous field-level intelligence gathering were essential to anticipate potential trouble, he said. Officers were also instructed to report developments concerning law and order to senior officials without delay and expedite investigations into cases registered during previous elec-

tions. Mr. Kishore emphasised that police personnel must maintain heightened vigilance throughout the election process and ensure that adequate preventive measures were in place to avert untoward incidents. Central Zone Assistant Superintendent of Police Dr. Tarun Pahwa, One Town Inspector N. Murali Krishna, Three Town Inspector V. Appa Rao, DCRB Inspector E. Pavan Kumar Reddy and Special Branch Inspector A. Srinivasa Rao attended the review meeting along with sub-inspectors and other police personnel.

"INDEED TROUBLING"

Musk responds to Rahul Gandhi amid Starlink entry row



Washington DC : SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Thursday (local time) called the situation surrounding Starlink's efforts to enter the Indian market "troubling" in response to Leader of Opposition (LoP) Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who weighed in on Musk's allegations that the satellite communications company had been unable to secure a licence in India despite complying with the country's laws and requirements. "Thank you, Rahul. This is indeed troubling," Musk said in a post on X. Gandhi had earlier replied to Musk's post, which claimed that Starlink was unable to secure a licence despite complying with Indian laws and requirements for five years. "Welcome to India, Elon. Wait till you discover the other guy," Gandhi wrote on X. The exchange comes amid a public debate over the regulatory process for Starlink. SpaceX's satellite-based internet service, and Musk's allegations that vested interests are obstructing the company's entry into the Indian market.

In an earlier post, Musk questioned the delay in granting Starlink a licence, saying the company was authorised to operate in more than 165 countries. "Starlink is licensed in over 165 countries and has spent five years complying with every single law and requirement of the government of India, so why still no license? Is Ambani the real boss of India?" Musk

wrote. In another post, responding to a user who outlined reasons why India needed Starlink, Musk alleged that powerful business interests were preventing the company from entering the market. "Unfortunately, we (Starlink) are being blocked by certain oligarchs in order to maintain their monopolistic chokehold on the Indian people. You can guess who they are... This is a crime against the people of India," he said. The Ministry of Communications had earlier rejected claims that vested interests were targeting Starlink's plans in India, maintaining that the country's regulatory framework for telecommunications services, including satellite communications, was fair and non-discriminatory. In its statement, the Ministry said telecom licences had been granted to three global mobile personal communication by satellite service providers operating through non-geosynchronous satellite orbit-based systems. It said all licensees were required to demonstrate compliance with prescribed security conditions to ensure the safety of users and their data.

"The security assessment as part of this process is currently under way in respect of all three licensees," the Ministry said. It added that once the assessment was completed for a licensed entity, the company could proceed to the next

step of seeking spectrum assignment. "At present, all three entities are at broadly the same regulatory stage. As such, the suggestion that the framework or its application is unfair or discriminatory is baseless and misconceived," the statement said. Meanwhile, Starlink Vice President of Business Operations Lauren Dreyer, speaking at the India Mobile Congress 2026 on October 7, said the company had developed India-specific security controls and was preparing to serve the Indian market.

Dreyer said Starlink had invested in and built ground infrastructure in India, including 20 gateway sites equipped with hundreds of antennas, and had established operations to begin providing services. She also said the company was keeping Indian users' data within the country. "We're keeping Indian users' data within India,"

Dreyer said. According to Dreyer, Starlink had been working closely with Indian regulators, industry stakeholders and operators for the past five years to adapt its operations to India's requirements. The company has maintained that it has invested in the infrastructure and security arrangements needed to enter the Indian market, while the government has said the regulatory process remains subject to security assessments and spectrum assignment requirements.

Pawan Khera targets PM Modi over US barring IT majors from green card program, says he is being "bullied" by Trump

New Delhi : Congress leader Pawan Khera targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over US visa restrictions affecting Indian professionals, alleging that the Prime Minister was allowing US President Donald Trump to "bully" him instead of taking a firm stand in dealing with Washington. In a post on X, Khera said the high fees for H-1B visas had already prompted American companies to reconsider hiring Indian professionals, while the suspension of the PERM programme for major Indian IT companies had made it more difficult for them to sponsor Indian employees for permanent residency in the United States. "The exorbitant H-1B fees have already made American companies think twice about hiring Indian professionals. Now, by suspending the PERM programme for major Indian IT companies, the Trump administration has made it harder for Indian companies operating in the US to sponsor Indian professionals for permanent residency," Khera said.

He further claimed that Rahul Gandhi had repeatedly advised Modi to adopt a tougher position in his dealings with the United States. "Mr @RahulGandhi has repeatedly advised the Prime Minister to stand his ground when dealing with America and act as if he really has a 56-inch chest," Khera said. Taking a swipe at the Prime Minister, the Congress leader added,

"But Modi 'Ji' would rather get bullied by his fraand, Dolaand Trump, than listen to Rahul Gandhi." Following the US government's temporary suspension of several major technology companies from filing new applications under the Permanent Labour Certification (PERM) programme, the National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) said immigration and skilled talent mobility were two distinct issues and should not be viewed through the same lens. In an official statement, Nasscom said the US Department of Labour's decision affected a specific immigration pathway, while Indian technology companies had significantly reduced their dependence on H-1B visas over the years, expanded local hiring and built a strong domestic workforce in the United States. "The U.S. Department of Labor has today announced the temporary suspension of certain IT companies, including Indian technology companies operating in the U.S., from filing new applications under the Permanent Labor Certification (PERM) programme. While the decision affects a specific immigration pathway, Nasscom has consistently maintained that immigration and skilled talent mobility are two distinct issues and should not be viewed through the same lens," the statement said.

"The H-1B visa programme has historically

played an important role in addressing short-term skill gaps in the US and it will continue to be used to address short term talent gaps. However, over a number of years, Indian technology companies have significantly reduced their dependence on H-1B visas, while steadily expanding local hiring and building a strong domestic workforce in the U.S," the statement added. Nasscom added that Indian technology companies worked with a majority of Fortune 500 companies in the US, enabling them to innovate and grow while generating more local jobs. It said the number of employees transitioning from H-1B visas to permanent residency through the PERM process was relatively limited. The industry body also said Indian technology companies operated across more than 80 countries and had consistently demonstrated their commitment to complying with local laws and regulatory requirements. "We are confident that they will continue to adhere to applicable regulations in the US as well," it said. Microsoft also responded to the Trump administration's immigration crackdown after being suspended from the programme, saying it believes in the "strength and talent of the American workforce." Microsoft said the remaining H-1B filings for new employees involved people already legally present in the US who chose to join the company.



"They are not new arrivals to our country," it said, adding that they accounted for only one per cent of its US workforce.

Earlier, US Labour Secretary Keith Sonderling announced the US Government is suspending from the Permanent Labour Certification Program some of the largest IT outsourcing firms in the world, which include Cognizant, Infosys, Tata, Wipro, HCL, and Capgemini. The US Labour Department attributed the suspension to multiple active federal investigations, even as it also suspended US tech majors Microsoft and Adobe from the program. The US Labour secretary further said the department would not accept new applications or process pending permanent labor certification applications involving these companies." Sonderling said. Sonderling said the companies named had collectively sought millions of foreign workers and received hundreds of thousands of H-1B visa approvals and permanent labour certifications. "Since 2009, just these companies alone have requested almost 3 million foreign workers. They received over 230,000 H1B Visa approvals and over 100,000 permanent labor certifications that's hundred and thousands of jobs that were taken from a American workers," the Labour Secretary said. The announcement comes after the US Department of Homeland Security proposed new fees for F-1 nonimmigrant students seeking to participate in Optional Practical Training (OPT), describing the measure as an effort to protect American workers and strengthen the integrity of the immigration system.

"Ensure cleanliness, adequate lighting, safe pathways in North Campus": Delhi CM Rekha Gupta instructs officials

New Delhi : Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta made a surprise visit to Delhi University's North Campus. Outside the Arts Faculty, she spoke directly with women students and asked about issues related to their safety, transportation, hostels and colleges. In a warm and informal conversation, the Chief Minister asked whether they faced any difficulty or felt unsafe while travelling at night, and encouraged them to share any problems related to their colleges as well. As per an official statement, she assured the students that the government would take the necessary steps to address their genuine concerns. The inspection brought several issues related to student safety to the fore, following which she directed officials to take immediate action. As she walked through the campus, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta herself identified several dark spots and sought details from officials on the spot. She said that despite adequate lighting on the roads, several areas inside the campus remained dark, even though women students and other students frequently move through these stretches. She directed officials to identify all such locations and ensure adequate lighting. She also ordered the pruning of unnecessary tree branches and installation of additional lights wherever required so that foliage does not obstruct illumination. During the inspection, the Chief Minister expressed displeasure after seeing broken and uneven footpaths at several places. She told officials that footpaths should not be in a condition that makes it difficult for students to walk. She specifically stressed the need to keep the convenience of students with disabilities in mind and directed officials to inspect the entire stretch and immediately repair damaged or uneven footpaths wherever necessary. The Chief Minister also took stock of the CCTV camera arrangements on the campus. She asked officials how many cameras had been installed, how many were functional and which areas required additional cameras.

She directed that cameras be installed wherever required at the earliest and that the functioning of existing cameras also be checked. She made it clear that no sensitive area on the campus should remain outside the surveillance network.

The Chief Minister also asked the students about the presence of PCR vehicles on campus and the deployment of women police personnel at night. The students told her that women police personnel were present at night and that PCR vehicles reached the spot immediately whenever required. The Chief Minister stressed the need for the police and university administration to work in close coordination to further strengthen security arrangements. After noticing garbage at several places and poorly maintained green belts on the campus,

the Chief Minister also questioned officials and directed them to ensure immediate cleaning. She said the university is a place where thousands of students travel every day. It is therefore important to ensure cleanliness, adequate lighting, safe pathways and better public facilities on the campus. The Chief Minister also spoke at length with the students about issues related to hostels and PGs. When students shared concerns about the condition and facilities in PGs, the Chief Minister said the Delhi Government was soon bringing a PG policy that would lay down necessary rules and standards for the sector. The government is also working towards constructing new hostels and providing better hostel facilities for students, so that they have access to safer and better accommodation options. She directed officials to re-inspect the Arts Faculty, Law Faculty, Science Faculty, parking areas and other sensitive parts of the campus, and make necessary improvements in areas with inadequate lighting. During

the inspection, the Chief Minister told officials that there could be no compromise on the safety of women students. She made it clear that every issue identified during the inspection must be addressed without delay and that the action taken on the directions issued would be reviewed subsequently. The Chief Minister also spoke to students about self-defence training and said that women students should definitely undergo self-defence training and make some time for it. At the end of the inspection, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta continued her conversation with the students in a relaxed and warm setting and also had tea with them. The interaction went beyond a formal inspection, with the Chief Minister asking students about issues in their everyday lives and assuring them that if they faced any problem related to their college, hostel, transportation or safety, they should bring it to the government's attention and necessary steps would be taken to resolve it. Senior officials from the PWD, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Police accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit.



Mumbai under heatwave warning as IMD issues yellow alerts following temperature surge in Maharashtra

Mumbai: As the southwest monsoon pulls back, initial hot and humid conditions in Mumbai intensified into isolated heat-wave warnings, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), with weather officials issuing yellow alerts across several districts of Maharashtra, specifically Thane. According to the Met department, in Mumbai, hot weather conditions escalated on Friday, October 9, 2026, with dry weather expected to follow for the remainder of the forecast period. Raigad is experiencing similar weather initially, followed by isolated heat-wave conditions and a subsequent return to warm weather, IMD said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a Yellow Alert (Watch - Be Aware) for Day 2, expanding coverage along the western belt to include Palghar, Thane, Mumbai, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Kolhapur and its ghats, Satara and its ghats, Sangli, and Sholapur. The yellow alert narrows to select coastal, southern, and ghat districts, specifically Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg,



Kolhapur, the Ghats of Kolhapur, the Ghats of Satara, and Sangli. By Day 4, Sunday, October 11 and Day 5, Monday, October 12, conditions are expected to normalise completely, with green warnings (no adverse weather action required) returning across the entire state of Maharashtra, IMD said. The weather patterns are also drawing examination from economic analysts tracking agricultural risks. Weighing in on the macro outlook from Mumbai, CRISIL Chief Economist Dharmakirti Joshi noted that upside risks remain prevalent on the food inflation front. "The inflation risk from the food side is tilted to the

upside," Joshi said. He added, "In that scenario, you'll have to wait and see because El Niño intensifying means there is a possibility of further disruptions from the weather side, which could have implications for crops and inflation also."

He further emphasised that while uncertainties persist, future policy actions will closely depend on incoming macroeconomic and meteorological data. "You can't be sure about that. You'll have to observe how it happens. I think the policy will also take into account what the incoming data is indicating on this front," CRISIL Chief Economist said.

"Damning evidence against SIR": P Chidambaram says 91-93% of appeals against voter deletions allowed by Tribunals in West Bengal

New Delhi : Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister P Chidambaram cited figures related to appeals against electoral roll deletions in West Bengal under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), claiming that 91-93 per cent of the appeals disposed of by tribunals were allowed. In a post on X, Chidambaram said nearly 27 lakh names were removed from the electoral rolls in West Bengal during the SIR exercise, of which 22,21,196 people filed appeals before tribunals. "Un-

fortunately, few who debate the rights and wrongs of the S.I.R. exercise make their arguments based on facts," Chidambaram said.

He said a little over one lakh appeals had been disposed of by the tribunals, with the number reportedly standing at 1,26,000. "91-93% of the appeals were ALLOWED, and the names were directed to be re-included in the electoral rolls," he said. Chidambaram termed the appeal outcomes "damn-

ing evidence against the S.I.R. exercise". "That is the damning evidence against the S.I.R. exercise," he said. His remarks came after INDIA bloc members visited Raj Ghat, as protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar entered their third consecutive day in the national capital. Opposition leaders have been demanding his resignation, alleging irregularities in the revision of electoral rolls. The Election Commission and BJP have rejected the Opposition's allegations. Earlier, Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh

launched a sharp attack on the Central government and CEC Kumar, citing a media report that over a dozen judicial tribunal officers in West Bengal had flagged severe functional deficiencies in the Election Commission's appeal portal. In a post on social media platform X, the Congress leader alleged that the previous West Bengal Assembly elections were manipulated, claiming that the poll panel chief acted at the behest of the ruling dispensation's top leadership.

How A Missed Email By A UPS Worker May Have Landed US' F-35 Jet Tech At China's Door



Washington:A single unread email may have set off a national security scare in the United States. It all started when a United Parcel Service (UPS) employee missed a warning to keep the shipment, which contained an F-35 cockpit canopy and weapons-bay door coated in radar-absorbing material, away from Hong Kong. The simple mistake set off a chain of reactions that led to China managing to get hold of some tech of America's most advanced fifth-generation multirole stealth fighter jets, according to a Bloomberg report. The warning email came from

freight forwarder firm DSV A/S, which said the parts of the F-35 jet must not transit through certain countries to comply with the US International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). The rules aim to prevent sensitive US weapons technology from reaching American adversaries. Citing sources, Bloomberg reported that the shipment of warplane parts was originally meant to travel to San Francisco via South Korea and Taiwan -- both US defence partners. However, there was a delay in the shipment leaving Australia, and it was mistakenly routed via Hong Kong in an effort to

speed up delivery. DSV, working on behalf of F-35 developer Lockheed Martin Corp, reportedly sent an email to UPS reminding them about the ITAR designation. However, it was missed by the shipping services provider, as the DSV email may have been sent through a different IT system than the one used by the UPS agent, a source said. The new information has shed further light on an incident that has drawn international attention due to the potential for a series of mistakes to have unintentionally granted China access to some of the US's most sensitive

military technology.

Why Was The Routing Mistake A Security Risk?

Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II is among the world's most advanced fighter jets and is part of the most expensive weapons programme in US history, and Beijing has, for years, targeted the aircraft in espionage efforts. The two parts of the plane that reached Hong Kong were reportedly coated with radar-absorbing material that enhances the aircraft's stealth capabilities-- a factor central to its design that allows aircraft to operate while reducing the likelihood of detection by enemy radar systems. The parts were being sent to the US for possible repair or disposal in late May, according to people familiar with the incident. "It's not good the Chinese now have" an F-35 canopy, Diana Maurer, who oversees F-35 support reviews at the non-partisan Government Accountability Office, told Bloomberg. She said the mistake was a "big deal." "I'm sure the Chinese celebrated, and then they got busy trying to reverse engineer it and figure out how to counter it with their own technical capabilities.

I'm sure that's what they were up to once they got those things," she added.

The Probe

The incident has prompted the Pentagon and the State Department to investigate the lapses and alarmed US lawmakers, who have demanded a review of the global supply chain for US armaments to ensure a similar error doesn't happen again. Lockheed Martin, which manages much of the global spare parts pool that sustains the aircraft's use by the US and 19 other nations, said in a statement last month that "our logistics decisions are not made unilaterally." The company said it selects carriers that best align with government regulations. "While we cannot discuss the details of which logistics partner was involved, we are working closely with them to help develop and implement preventive measures to strengthen our collective oversight and prevent recurrence," Lockheed said. Presented with the new details about the diversion, Lockheed said in a statement to Bloomberg that "we have nothing to add or correct regarding the series of events you mentioned."

'Fake News': Russia On Reports Of 2nd Plague Death Amid Outbreak Concerns

Moscow:The death of a worker at a plague research laboratory in Siberia last week has raised global concerns, with Russian media suggesting hundreds of people were under quarantine and being tested for any possible symptoms amid outbreak fears. However, as the World Health Organisation pressed Moscow for more information about the cause of death of 28-year-old Darya Shipilova, Russia's health regulator rushed in to say that there was no risk of an epidemic breaking out in Siberia. Shipilova, an employee of the Irkutsk Anti-Plague Institute, died last Friday from pneumonia of an as-yet unestablished origin, prompting international concern, including from US President Donald Trump. Amid growing scrutiny over the matter, unconfirmed Russian reports claimed a second death oc-

curred in the region connected with the possible plague outbreak. But Moscow has dismissed the reports as fake news and urged people to rely on their health watchdog for credible information. When asked about reports of a second case, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that "the vast majority of what the media is reporting regarding this situation is false information". "People should rely solely on official statements from Russian health watchdog Rospotrebnadzor," he insisted. Rospotrebnadzor, meanwhile, said it was winding down precautionary measures it had put in place after concluding there was no risk of an epidemic and that it had shared its latest information with the WHO. "No cases of plague had been detected among anyone who had come into contact with the dead

worker, Darya Shipilova, it said, and 90 per cent of those placed in quarantine had been released after nearly 5,000 lab tests had failed to detect any dangerous pathogens." It said Shipilova had been vaccinated and was therefore "immune to the dangerous infections with which she worked." It did not say, however, what had caused the pneumonia that killed her or how she had fallen ill.

The Bioweapon Concerns

When asked whether a bioweapon caused the death, Trump told reporters, "Well, we don't think so. We're going to find out soon enough, but we don't think so." He said Russia was not saying much about the situation, but "they do say they have it very much under control," adding he had set up a call with Russian President Vladimir



Putin. "They're sharing (information) a little bit with our people. We expect them to share it a lot with our people," said Trump, speaking in the Oval Office.

The Global Scare

Global health officials, as well as the world's media, have been particularly alert to pneumonia cases of undetermined cause since the COVID-19 pandemic, which began with a cluster of fast-spreading fatal respiratory illnesses in China. However, the cause of individual pneumonia cases

can often not be determined. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Erica Schwartz said at an event the agency was prepared to monitor and screen travelers although the risk to the US was extremely low. The WHO initially said it estimated the risk of the Russia case to the public as low, based on what had been made known, but told a press conference on Wednesday that it could not make a fuller risk assessment due to insufficient information from the Russian authorities.

"Fair Policy": India Rejects Elon Musk's "Starlink Stalled" Claim

New Delhi:India has rebutted American billionaire Elon Musk's claim that "certain oligarchs" were blocking Starlink's satellite communication services in India to maintain their monopoly in the country. In response to Musk's remarks, the Ministry of Communications asserted that India has a "fair, non-discriminatory" framework for all telecommunication services, including satellite communication services such as Starlink. India has granted GMPCS (global mobile personal communication by satellite) licences to three companies, including Starlink, for operations in the country. Two other companies that have also received it are Bharti-backed Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications Ltd, a wholly owned

subsidiary of Jio Platforms, while Jeff Bezos-owned Amazon Leo is also in contention for a licence. Explaining the "non-discriminatory" framework that is in place, the ministry said the telecom licences have been granted based on non-geosynchronous satellite orbit-based satellite communications as part of its commitment to enable the provision of satellite communication services in India. The ministry said that "under the terms and conditions of licence, every such licensee is required to demonstrate compliance with security conditions." "This is aimed at ensuring that services provided meet various security requirements to ensure the safety of all users and their data. Security assessment as part of this process is currently under way in respect of all three licencees."

According to the Ministry, as and when this process is completed for a licensed entity, it may proceed to the next step of seeking assignment of spectrum. It's been more than a year since Musk's Starlink secured the necessary licences from the government to operate in India, but the company has yet to receive final approvals from the authorities to launch its services in the country. The Ministry noted that at present, all three companies that received the GMPCS licences are broadly at the same regulatory stage. "A post is being circulated in social media regarding the fairness of India's regulatory framework for satellite communication services and suggesting that it is being applied in a discriminatory manner...As such, the suggestion that the



framework or its application is unfair or discriminatory is baseless and misconceived," it added.

Musk's Claim

The clarification came after Musk took to his X account and posted, "Unfortunately, we are being blocked by certain oligarchs in order to maintain their monopolistic chokehold on the Indian people." However, hours before his post, a senior official of Musk-led SpaceX announced that the company's satellite communication arm, Starlink, is ready to start services in India.

Speaking at India Mobile Congress 2026, SpaceX's Starlink Business Operations Vice

President Lauren Dreyer said the company has made an investment in setting up the required infrastructure to serve the Indian market. "We've built our Starlink operations specifically for India in recognition of Indian security requirements and other regulations, establishing controls at every layer for India, and keeping Indian user data within India," she said. "We've already made the investment and built the existing ground infrastructure here, 20 gateway sites comprising hundreds of antennas, and we've established the operations to be ready to serve India," Dreyer added.

US Said China Was Priming A Trade Superweapon. Then It Vanished



spokesperson added. **From Trade Solution To Hazard?**

LOGINK is formally known as the National Transportation and Logistics Public Information Platform. It started two decades ago as a local government project in China's Zhejiang province to improve coordination of cargo movements by bringing data from ports, trucks and vendors into a single searchable platform. The platform won the backing of policymakers in Beijing, who soon after transferred control of LOGINK to China's transport ministry. International expansion quickly became a priority. In 2010, China struck a cargo data-sharing deal with the Japanese and South Korean governments that linked LOGINK to their national logistics information platforms. A few years later, LOGINK signed an agreement with a Hong Kong-based logistics platform that the Chinese entity said in a press release would give it access to "more than 90% of global ship tracking data." LOGINK will be a "one-stop portal connected with global logistics information systems," according to a 2015 Chinese transport ministry presentation to a United Nations commission which was posted online. By the late 2010s, LOGINK was also exploring ways to collaborate with European ports. But in 2022, US policymakers started publicly pushing back on the Chinese platform. A turning point came that April, when LOGINK signed up to an international data-sharing project linking operators of digital platforms that facilitate the exchange of cargo and customs information at ports. LOGINK's participation in that project would double its cooperation with international ports, according to the US commission's report. A few months later, a group of Republican lawmakers urged then-US president Joe Biden in an open letter to act against LOGINK. Among them was Marco Rubio, now Trump's Secretary of State. Unchecked expansion of LOGINK could allow the Chinese Communist Party "to gain a stranglehold on the arteries of global trade," they said. One of the lawmakers, then-Representative Michelle Steel, in late 2023 also asked the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA), which spearheaded the data-sharing project, to immediately cut its ties with LOGINK. Congress at around that time additionally passed a law prohibiting the Pentagon from entering into contracts with LOGINK-connected entities. The law also directed officials to dissuade allies and partners from using the platform. Officials in Seoul and Tokyo who collaborated with LOGINK, however, told Reuters that the scope of data-sharing was more limited than some in Washington feared. South Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and Japan's transport ministry said that only vessel arrival and departure times and information on cargo loading and unloading were made available, not details on cargo contents.

Going Dark

Then, LOGINK beat a retreat.

The platform's participation in IPCSA ended in 2024 after it stopped paying its membership dues, according to a person familiar with the matter. LOGINK's website went dark around that time. The latest available scrape on the Wayback Machine archive dates to June 2024. IPCSA General Manager Inga Morton confirmed that LOGINK was no longer a member and said that the international data-sharing project was "on hold and inactive". Meanwhile, China's service with South Korea and Japan that was LOGINK's flagship international initiative has also faltered. Participants from the three countries have held regular meetings since the service's launch, but China abruptly canceled an event scheduled for March 2024, citing "internal circumstances," according to South Korea's oceans ministry. No meetings have been held since. Tokyo's access to LOGINK data via that service later stopped without notice, a transport ministry official said. The official told Reuters in August that Japan had lost access more than a year earlier and that Tokyo had been unable to contact Chinese counterparts. The Chinese venture also had little to show for its efforts to expand into Europe. Ana Rita Rosa, a spokesperson for the authority governing Sines, Portugal's largest port, told Reuters that a memorandum of understanding it had signed with LOGINK in 2017 to explore data-sharing led to no significant outcomes. And Portbase, the digital system that underpins Europe's largest port of Rotterdam, said that a 2019 MOU with LOGINK did not progress beyond exploratory discussions. A person familiar with the matter said Dutch government queries about the relationship in early 2022 contributed to Portbase's decision not to pursue any collaboration with the Chinese platform. Rosa and Portbase declined to comment when asked if US diplomatic pressure had any impact on their decisions not to pursue collaboration with LOGINK. The Dutch foreign ministry also declined to comment.

Legal Troubles And Empty Offices

Back in China, LOGINK has faced legal claims.

The commercial entity behind the platform's Wenzhou hub has since January 2024 faced at least 39 court claims that total some \$1.3 million, according to filings on Qichacha, a corporate data provider. Some of the complaints were listed as labor disputes, while others appeared to involve unpaid utilities. Among the claimants is a local subsidiary of China Mobile, which sued LOGINK in October 2025 over a "contract dispute over service provision." A court subsequently ordered LOGINK to pay the telco, but the filings do not show if that occurred. LOGINK also appears to be facing eviction. A judge in May presided over a "property lease dispute" brought against the company by the state-backed developer running the industrial park where LOGINK is based, the records show. China Mobile and the developer did not respond to requests for comment.

Festive Shopping on No-cost EMI: Is a Rs 1 lakh purchase really interest-free?



New Delhi: Festive sales often come with tempting offers — instant discounts, cashback, and no-cost EMI. For someone planning to buy a new television, smartphone, laptop or appliance worth Rs 1 lakh, paying in monthly instalments without any “extra interest” can look like an easy choice. But no-cost EMI does not always mean that the transaction carries absolutely no additional cost. In many such offers, the bank still charges interest on the loan. The seller or manufacturer gives a discount that is meant to offset that interest. This keeps the total EMI amount close to the original selling price. There can, however, be other charges that are not covered by this discount.

How does no-cost EMI work?

Suppose a product costs Rs 1 lakh and you choose a 12-month no-cost EMI plan. Under a regular EMI arrangement, a bank may

charge interest on the financed amount. In a no-cost EMI offer, the merchant may provide an upfront discount equal to, or close to, the interest amount charged by the lender. So, instead of the customer paying Rs 1 lakh plus interest, the discount helps bring the overall payment back towards Rs 1 lakh. That is why the offer is called no-cost EMI. However, it is important to check the final amount payable rather than relying only on the words “no-cost”.

Rs 1 lakh purchase: What can you actually pay?

Let's understand with a simple example. Assume a Rs 1 lakh purchase is converted into a 12-month EMI and the lender's effective annual interest rate is around 15 per cent. On a normal Rs 1 lakh loan, the EMI would be approximately Rs 9,026 and the total repayment over 12 months would be around Rs 1.08 lakh. GST is generally

charged on the interest component collected by the lender. At 18 per cent GST, an interest component of around Rs 8,000 could lead to an additional tax cost of roughly Rs 1,400.

Processing fee can add to the bill

Some banks and credit card issuers charge a processing fee for converting a purchase into EMI. Suppose your lender charges Rs 499 as a processing fee. After adding GST, the cost becomes nearly Rs 589. If GST on interest is also being charged, your supposedly no-cost purchase could still cost more than the product's original price. The difference may not look very large on one purchase, but it is still money coming out of your pocket.

Are you losing another discount?

This is one of the most important things to check during festive sales. A product may be available for Rs 1 lakh under no-cost EMI but Rs 95,000 if you make a full payment using a particular card or payment method. In that situation, choosing EMI effectively means giving up a Rs 5,000 discount. So even if the EMI itself is advertised as no-cost, the opportunity cost of choosing it can be high. Compare the final price under both options before de-

Watch out for early closure charges

Suppose you take a 12-month EMI but decide to clear the outstanding amount after four months. Some lenders may charge a foreclosure or pre-closure fee. There may also be conditions under which the original merchant discount is adjusted. Check these rules before taking an EMI if you think you may repay it early.

When can no-cost EMI still make sense?

No-cost EMI can be useful when you genuinely need an expensive product but do not want to use a large part of your savings at once. It can also help manage monthly cash flow if the additional charges are small and you are confident that every EMI will be paid on time. But it should not become a reason to buy something that would otherwise be outside your budget.

Before clicking “buy”, check four numbers: the cash price, total of all EMIs, processing fee, and any GST or other charges. A Rs 1 lakh product offered on no-cost EMI may still be a good deal. Just make sure “no-cost” on the banner also looks like no-cost when you reach the final payment page.

TCS Headcount: IT Behemoth workforce strength rises to nearly 6 lakh in Q2 FY27; attrition rate at 13.3%



New Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported a workforce strength of 598,056 employees at the end of Q2 FY27, ended September 30, 2026. The headcount increased by 4,742 employees, or 0.80 per cent, from 593,314 employees in Q2 FY26. On a sequential basis, TCS added 4,258 employees, or 0.72 per cent, compared with 593,798 employees at the end of Q1 FY27. TCS' headcount had stood at 613,069 in Q1 FY26 before declining to 593,314 in Q2 FY26, 582,163 in Q3 FY26 and 584,519 in Q4 FY26. The employee base then increased to 593,798 in Q1 FY27 and further to 598,056 in Q2 FY27.

Attrition at 13.3 per cent

The company's IT Services voluntary attrition stood at 13.3 per cent on a last-twelve-month basis. Women accounted for 35 per cent of the IT Services workforce, while TCS employees represented 149 nationalities. “We continue to build a future-ready workforce through upskilling our employees and hiring top talent. Investments in learning and

critical skills drove a 17 per cent sequential increase in learning hours to 17.1 million. This quarter, our employee base reached over 598,000, while attrition remained stable at 13.3 per cent,” said Sudeep Kunnumal, Chief HR Officer.

Focus on learning and AI

TCS reported 31.8 million learning hours year-to-date and 2.7 million competencies acquired. More than 367,000 associates had higher proficiency in artificial intelligence and machine learning on a cumulative basis.

Revenue rises 1.26 per cent sequentially

TCS reported consolidated revenue of Rs 73,188 crore in Q2 FY27, up 1.26 per cent from Rs 72,275 crore in Q1 FY27. Revenue increased 11.23 per cent year-on-year from Rs 65,799 crore in Q2 FY26. TCS reported an operating margin of 24 per cent for the quarter, compared with the Zee Business estimate of 24.4 per cent. Based on the reported margin, EBIT stood at around Rs 17,565 crore, below the Zee Business es-

timate of Rs 17,872 crore, a miss of around 1.7 per cent. Employee costs stood at Rs 41,890 crore in Q2 FY27, down 0.59 per cent sequentially from Rs 42,137 crore in Q1 FY27. However, employee costs increased 8.51 per cent year-on-year from Rs 38,606 crore in Q2 FY26. TCS Q2 performance TCS said Q2 revenue grew 1.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 11.2 per cent year-on-year in rupee terms. Revenue growth in constant currency terms stood at 0.5 per cent QoQ. International revenue grew 1.2 per cent QoQ in constant currency terms. BFSI led growth with a 2.5 per cent QoQ increase in constant currency terms, while Manufacturing and Technology & Services both grew 3.1 per cent. The company's total contract value (TCV) stood at USD 9.6 billion during the quarter.

Rs 12 dividend announced

TCS also announced a dividend of Rs 12 per share. The record date is October 14, 2026, while the payment date is October 30, 2026.

UPI MDR GST: Council discusses tax cut from 18% to 5%—What does it mean for merchants?



New Delhi: The GST Council on Thursday discussed the issue of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) for UPI merchant transactions, with a proposal to reduce the tax rate on MDR from the existing 18 per cent to 5 per cent, according to Zee Business sources. The discussion took place at the 57th meeting of the GST Council amid concerns over the impact of the new MDR framework on merchants and the digital payments ecosystem. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which operates the UPI platform, has clarified that the GST levy on MDR would not affect the overwhelming majority of UPI merchant transactions. According to NPCI, the MDR framework applies only to Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI transactions above Rs 2,000. Transactions up to Rs 2,000 continue to have zero MDR and, therefore, there is no GST impact on such payments. “Certain media reports have alleged that GST on UPI Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will burden small merchants and make digital payments costly. This is incorrect,” NPCI said in a statement. The payments corporation said government data shows that transactions of up to Rs 2,000 account for more than 96 per cent of UPI merchant transaction volume.

What is UPI MDR?

MDR is a fee charged on certain digital payment transactions involving merchants. It is shared among participants in the digital payments ecosystem, including banks and payment application providers. NPCI introduced a new MDR framework on September 15 under which UPI merchant transactions above Rs 2,000 would attract an MDR of 0.4 per cent. The MDR is capped at Rs 300 per transaction. Consumers, however, will continue to be able to make UPI payments without paying a transaction fee. The government has also said that around 96 per cent of P2M UPI transactions will remain unaffected by the new framework.

GST on MDR

At present, GST of 18 per cent is applicable on the MDR amount. The proposal discussed by the GST Council seeks to reduce this GST rate to 5 per cent. The issue has gained attention as the introduction of MDR for certain high-value UPI merchant transactions raised concerns about a possible increase in the cost of digital payments for businesses. NPCI, however, said GST paid on MDR does not necessarily become an additional cost for

businesses registered under the GST regime. “GST paid on MDR by a merchant will be adjusted against the GST payable on the sale of goods, in the same manner that input taxes are set off against output tax liability,” NPCI said. It added that merchants do not bear the cost of GST on the MDR amount paid by them when the tax is eligible for input tax credit.

Small merchants remain outside MDR

NPCI also clarified that small merchants with low UPI receipts are not covered by the MDR framework. “Merchants with monthly UPI receipts of up to Rs 1 lakh are not liable to pay MDR and therefore do not even have the issue of GST on MDR,” it said.

This means that merchants falling within the specified monthly receipt threshold would not face MDR or GST on MDR. The clarification is significant given the widespread use of UPI among small businesses, shops and micro-enterprises.

Majority of UPI transactions unaffected

UPI has become a major channel for retail digital payments in India, with transactions ranging from small-value purchases to higher-value merchant payments. The new MDR framework specifically targets P2M transactions above Rs 2,000, while transactions below the threshold continue to remain outside the MDR structure. NPCI said the new framework would therefore not affect the majority of everyday UPI merchant payments. The government has also stated that the MDR collected on eligible transactions would be distributed among participants in the payments ecosystem, including banks and payment application providers.

From customer support to coding: Claude Haiku 5.5 brings cheaper AI to everyday workloads

New Delhi: Anthropic has announced the launch of Claude Haiku 5.5, a new model aimed at enterprises and developers who are required to process AI tasks while avoiding the increased expenses of more capable models. The company is marketing the new Haiku as a basis for doing things quickly, at scale and efficiently, not necessarily as a competitor to its own flagship systems. It's designed for workloads that can involve thousands or millions of relatively narrow AI tasks that need to be completed quickly, such as customer service, information processing, coding support and browser-based automation. For applications where the cost of each individual request can be significant, Haiku 5.5 is approximately 75% cheaper to operate than Claude Haiku 4.5, Anthropic says.

Claude Haiku 5.5 adds a "user controlled effort setting"

There's one of the most important new features in Haiku 5.5: a new knob to set the difficulty level. Rather than performing all of the work the same way, developers can decide the effort the model should exert for a job. This gives rise to a compromise between the quality of the response and the costs of operating the system. If the task is a simple one like sorting information, summarising texts or extracting data from documents, developers might opt for a lower-effort mode to receive quicker and less costly answers. More challenging tasks can be allocated more reasoning effort if there is more emphasis on accuracy or depth. According to Anthropic, this is the first Haiku model to provide this level of control.

Designed for high-volume applications

The larger business opportunity of Haiku 5.5 is its economics. For many AI applications, the most powerful model isn't always needed for each request. For instance, a customer service system could have thousands of frequently asked questions to answer daily. Of course, an enterprise application can also leverage AI to categorize documents, handle database queries or extract insights from massive amounts of data. In these scenarios, it might be more practical to use a model that will provide reasonable intelligence for a significantly lower cost than sending all requests to a more expensive model. There are clearly other aspects of the model that are important and that Haiku 5.5 is targeting, namely the end of the market that values speed and wants to be able to manage the cost of running the system as well as just the power of the model.

Pricing is attractive

Anthropic has added different pricing levels based on the prompt size. The model has a price of \$0.10 per million input tokens and \$0.50 per million output tokens for requests up to 100,000 tokens. The cost of cache reads is \$0.01 per million tokens and the cost of cache writes is \$0.125 per million tokens. Requests will cost more if they are over 100,000 tokens. The input price is now = \$0.50 per million tokens and the output price is now = \$2.50 per million tokens. Anthropic has noted that the 100,000 mark is noteworthy because it represents approximately 90% of the requests that the company's previous Haiku model answered.

Google SynthID Detector launches globally: How it can identify AI-generated images, videos and audio

New Delhi: Google's SynthID Detector has been released to the public, offering a new tool for verifying if an image, video or audio file was created using artificial intelligence. Digital watermarks are embedded into AI-generated content to assist in identifying content generated by supported AI systems. Until now, only a few media professionals, researchers and journalists have been able to access the detector. Now Google has extended access of this tool globally in English, and with AI content becoming more prevalent online, this tool will reach a much larger audience.

What is Google SynthID Detector

SynthID Detector is a Google DeepMind AI content verification tool. SynthID is Google's technology for creating a hidden digital watermark in AI-generated content and it is looking for that watermark. The watermark is not intended to be visible to the user, unlike a logo or label. It is “stuffed” into the content during generation. According to Google, one could use SynthID for a variety of AI-generated content types, such as images, videos, audio and text. The technology is now included in a number of the Google AI products and is also being used by some technology partners.

How does SynthID work?

If the AI tools used in content creation add a digital watermark to the content, SynthID can also do the same. The watermark is intended to be detectable even if the content is changed. For instance, after the creation of an image, it might be resized, compressed, cropped, and/or adjusted in brightness. The watermark has been created to survive most common editing techniques. This provides another method for the detector to determine the source of a digital product, in addition to

relying on visible labels or information embedded in the original digital product. The system, however, is not capable of detecting all of the content on the internet that is generated by artificial intelligence.

How to verify an image, video or audio file?

The tool is fairly simple to use. The SynthID Detector will allow users to upload supported content, and the system will analyze the content for a SynthID watermark. When a watermark is detected, the detector can provide an indication that the content belongs to an AI system that uses SynthID. The tool may also identify parts of the content that are more likely to contain the watermark for some content. It may be helpful for journalists, content creators, businesses, and normal Internet users to verify the possible source of digital media content.

What types of AI tools does it enable?

SynthID was created for Google's own AI programs. It is now scaled up to support content produced by the other partner companies. The detector can detect SynthID watermarks from Google content and participating content partners like OpenAI, NVIDIA, and Kakao, and it will support more participating content partners in the future, Google says. The fact that



this is no longer a technology that is just for Google signals that the system is no longer a watermarking solution and has evolved into a much larger strategy to detect AI-produced media.

The negative result does not mean that content is man-made

It's worth noting that SynthID Detector is not a general AI detector. An absence of SynthID watermark is not a 100% indicator of a person's creation. The file could be produced by an AI system that doesn't actually employ SynthID, or perhaps the watermark is not easily discernible after significant alterations to the material. That is, the tool can also show evidence if it finds a supported watermark, but if it doesn't find a watermark, it does not mean that it is not authentic or created by a human.

Why the tool matters

Generative AI has created a surge in the number of pictures,

videos, and audio generated through AI, making it more and more challenging to tell the difference between these and authentic content. AI-generated media is now being utilized in entertainment, advertising, education, social and professional media. Meanwhile, false information can be created to be mass disseminated in manipulated media. Over 180 billion images and videos, as well as more than 240,000 years of audio content, have already been watermarked with SynthID, says Google. Google's decision to open its detector to the general public will enable users to get another look at digital content before they decide whether or not to trust or share it. While it's not a panacea for the broader issue of misinformation disseminated by AI, Google's publicly available detector may make digital watermarking more of a practical method for verifying the provenance of online content.

Delhi-based lab-grown diamond jewellery brand Zinara raises funding

New Delhi: Lab-grown diamond jewellery brand Zinara has raised Rs 3.61 crore (\$380,000) in pre-seed funding round led by Inflection Point Ventures (IPV). The round also saw participation from Nine Jewellery, Bollywood actress Nikita Dutta and other angel investors, the company said in a statement today, October 8. The startup plans to use the funding to build the team and accelerate marketing, alongside strengthening the brand's supply-chain infrastructure. Zinara is trying to move diamond jewellery out of the special-occasion category and

into daily wear. Its designs are contemporary, crafted in 18K gold vermeil with lab-grown diamonds, and priced to stay accessible. The portfolio now runs past 400 designs, and a digital-first model has allowed the brand to serve customers across India. Buyers also get a lifetime warranty, buyback and exchange, which takes some of the hesitation out of a first diamond purchase.

Commenting on the investment, Vinay Bansal, co-founder, IPV, said, “Zinara is operating at the intersection of three shifts which are shaping

the future of jewellery consumption in India: the rise of the design-conscious consumer, the growing acceptance of lab-grown diamonds, and the demand for accessible price points. Zinara's positioning of diamond jewellery as both an everyday essential and a statement of personal style, while keeping it accessible, is what sets the brand apart. We believe Zinara has the potential to build a differentiated jewellery brand at scale, and we are backing the team as it enters its next phase of growth.”

Scindia Urges States to Accelerate Digital Connectivity Rollout



New Delhi, October, 9 (PIB): The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, organised a high-level Roundtable Conference with State Government IT Ministers and Secretaries on the sidelines of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026. The Roundtable was chaired by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister for Communications & Development of North Eastern Region, along with Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Union Minister of State for Communications & Rural Development, and Shri Amit Agrawal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications. The Roundtable provided a platform for structured dialogue and coordination between the Centre,

States and Union Territories (UTs) on key issues concerning telecommunications, digital infrastructure and citizen-centric digital services. In line with the theme of IMC 2026, “Scale Without Boundaries”, the discussions focused on scaling digital connectivity, accelerating infrastructure deployment and strengthening Centre-State cooperation to support India’s digital transformation and the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Addressing the meeting, Union Minister for Communications & Development of North Eastern Region Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia said, “Telecom may be a Union subject, but digital infrastructure is built on State soil making our States true co-owners in driving National Broadband Mis-

sion 2.0. To realize Viksit Bharat @2047, we must act as Team India by accelerating Right of Way approvals to unlock SASCI capital incentives, pushing BharatNet and 4G saturation to the last mile, securing networks through Sanchar Saathi, and scaling Samridh Gram so that connectivity meaningfully transforms every citizen’s life.” The discussions highlighted the crucial role played by States and UTs in the successful rollout of digital communication infrastructure, particularly in addressing ground-level requirements such as Right of Way (RoW), land allocation and site access. A key focus of the Roundtable was the implementation of the Telecommunication (Right

of Way) Rules, 2024, notified by DoT under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The Rules, which came into effect from January 1, 2025, established a uniform and transparent framework for telecom infrastructure deployment, including rationalised RoW charges and time-bound processing of applications. The Rules provide timelines of 67 days for general RoW applications and 7 days for Special Projects such as BharatNet. It was noted that 34 States/UTs had issued Government Orders or notifications directing local bodies and line departments to follow the DoT’s RoW Rules, 2024. All 36 States/UTs are live on the Central RoW Portal. The Special Assistance for Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme 2026–27,

with an earmarked allocation of ₹4,000 crore, was also highlighted as an important enabler for strengthening implementation of RoW reforms by States and their agencies, including State PSUs, corporations and Urban Local Bodies.

The Roundtable also reviewed progress under the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) and the 4G Saturation Project. The ABP is aimed at upgrading the existing BharatNet network, creating incremental network infrastructure for new Gram Panchayats (GPs), connecting non-GP villages on demand and providing 1.5 crore fibre internet connections. As of August 2026, 55,780 km of Optical Fibre Cable had been laid and 28,700 Gram Panchayats had been upgraded and connected under ABP.

The meeting further highlighted the Government’s efforts to extend mobile connectivity to remote and uncovered areas through projects funded by the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN). These initiatives were aimed at bridging the digital divide and providing 4G connec-

tivity to villages where telecom service providers had not expanded networks due to commercial considerations. As of August 31, 2026, 25,367 mobile towers had been commissioned, covering 35,771 villages/locations across the country. The indigenous 4G stack has been used in the 4G Saturation Project implemented by BSNL. The Roundtable also discussed the Sanchar Saathi initiative and the importance of strengthening coordination between DoT, State/UT Governments, Law Enforcement Agencies, Telecom Service Providers and other stakeholders to combat cybercrime and financial fraud. Sanchar Saathi enables citizens to report suspected fraudulent communications, check mobile connections issued in their name, report unauthorised connections, and block, report and trace lost or stolen mobile devices. The Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) was also highlighted as an important mechanism for intelligence sharing and co-ordinated action against cyber fraud.

India’s regulatory framework for satellite communication services is fair and non-discriminatory

New Delhi, October, 9 (PIB): A post is being circulated in social media regarding the fairness of India’s regulatory framework for satellite communication services and suggesting that it is being applied in a discriminatory manner. The Government has put in place a fair and non-discriminatory authorisation framework for all telecommunication services, including satellite communication services. Under this, telecom licences have been granted to three Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite services based on non-geosynchronous satellite orbit based satellite communications, as part of its commitment to enable provision of satellite communication services in India. Under the terms and conditions of license, every such licensee is required to demonstrate compliance with security conditions. This is aimed at ensuring that services provided meet various security requirements to ensure safety of all users and their data. Security assessment as part of this process is currently under way in respect of all the three licensees. As and when this process is completed for a licensed entity, it may proceed to the next step of seeking assignment of spectrum. At present, all the three entities are at broadly the same regulatory stage. As such, the suggestion that the framework or its application is unfair or discriminatory is baseless and misconceived.

Department of Defence Production continues Special Campaign 6.0 with Focus on Swachhata and Reducing Pendency

New Delhi, October, 9 (PIB): Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence has kick-started the implementation phase of Special Campaign 6.0 from October 2 which will continue till October 31, 2026, with a focus on Swachhata and reducing pendency across its offices. This year, the Nation-wide Campaign will also place special emphasis on the effective collection, segregation and disposal of e-waste. As part of Special Campaign 6.0, the Department has laid particular emphasis on field and out-station offices providing public services, in addition to attached and subordinate offices, Autonomous Bodies and Public Sector Undertakings.

During the preparatory phase of the campaign which lasted between 15th and 30th September 2026, the department conducted various activities including mobilising offices, officers and ground functionaries; identifying pending references and cleanliness campaign sites; assessing redundant material for disposal; planning for efficient space management; disposal of scrap; record management; and identifying measures for effective collection and segregation of e-waste. The Department of Defence Production had previously recorded significant outcomes during Special Campaign 5.0, with 17.42 lakhs sq. ft. of space freed and Rs.15.62 cr. earned through scrap disposal. In addition to this, 27,500 physical files were weeded out and 1,890 electronic files were closed.

Indian Coast Guard conducts 12th National Maritime Search & Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026) off Paradip coast in Odisha



New Delhi, October, 9 (PIB): The Indian Coast Guard conducted the 12th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2026) off Paradip, Odisha, under the aegis of the National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (NMSARB) on October 08, 2026. Under the theme “Leveraging Technology to Strengthen SAR Preparedness and Maritime Safety”, the exercise brought together maritime and aeronautical agencies to demonstrate operational readiness, interoperability and coordinated response to mass rescue operations at sea. The exercise was reviewed by Director General Paramesh Sivamani, DG, ICG and witnessed participation from Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, Shipping Corporation of India, Directorate General of Shipping, Fisheries, Customs, Marine Police, Paradip Port Authority, and Odisha State Administration. 32 observers from 30 countries also participated in the exercise, marking a significant step towards strengthening international co-operation in maritime Search and Rescue. Their participation facilitated exchange of best practices, enhanced global interoperability and reaffirmed India’s role as a dependable maritime Search and Rescue partner in the region. The assets deployed included 15 Coast Guard ships, three Dornier aircraft, three Advance Light Helicopters, one Chetak helicopter, IAF C-130J and Mi-17 aircraft, two Indian Navy ships, along with civil and state resources and shore-based support units. The sea drill simulated a Mass Rescue Operation following a concurrent aeronautical and maritime distress emergency. As part of the scenario, a passenger aircraft carrying 228 persons ditched at sea near Paradip Port, with the fuselage impacting the container vessel MV Zumba, resulting in structural damage and fire. The exercise involved activation of the Incident Command Post, firefighting operations, helicopter evacuations, deployment of life rafts and air-droppable life rafts, Jason Cradle and Gemini recovery, rescue basket operations and scramble net procedures. The exercise also included a demonstration of Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) capability. SAREX-2026 reaffirmed the collective resolve of India and its international partners to build a faster, technology-enabled and seamlessly coordinated Search and Rescue framework, in line with the vision of SAGAR and the spirit of MAHASAGAR.

Union Health Minister Shri J.P. Nadda Launches JOSH Teams to Accelerate Youth-Led TB Elimination Efforts



Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, today launched JOSH (Joint Squad for Health) Teams under the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan at a national event held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking a significant step towards strengthening youth-led community participation in India’s efforts to eliminate tuberculosis. The initiative seeks to harness the energy, outreach and commitment of young people to take the message of TB prevention, early diagnosis, timely treatment and stigma reduction to communities across the country. Addressing the gathering, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri J.P. Nadda, described the launch of JOSH Teams as a significant milestone in India’s collective fight against tuberculosis. He said that the country’s efforts towards a TB Mukta Bharat have evolved from a conventional health programme into a people’s movement, with Jan Bhagidari and community ownership emerging as the defining pillars of the national response. He emphasised that the goal of eliminating TB cannot be achieved by government interventions alone and requires the active participation of communities, citizens, elected representa-

tives, frontline workers and, particularly, the youth of the country. Highlighting the importance of youth-led action, Shri Nadda said that the energy, commitment and outreach of young people can give a new momentum to the TB elimination movement. He noted that while the Ministry has progressively involved elected representatives and community leadership in the campaign, the scale and complexity of the challenge demand a much wider network of committed volunteers working directly with communities. In this context, he expressed appreciation for the collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the Ministry of Defence in bringing the JOSH initiative to the grassroots. Moreover, Shri Nadda said that JOSH Teams represent an effort to bring together the Government, communities and citizens in a coordinated and sustained manner. He emphasised that the initiative is intended not merely to disseminate information, but to create meaningful conversations within communities, build trust, address apprehensions and ensure that people are encouraged to come forward for timely testing and treatment.

The Union Health Minister stressed that India’s TB elimination strategy must

go beyond awareness and screening to encompass the entire continuum of care. “Awareness is important, screening is important, but our responsibility does not end there. We must ensure diagnosis, treatment and treatment completion,” he said. He underlined the need to strengthen active case finding so that individuals who may be living with TB without recognising their symptoms can be identified early and connected to appropriate care. Early detection, he noted, is equally important for preventing further transmission and protecting the health of families and communities. Under-scoring the importance of active case finding, he noted that there are people who may be living with TB without being aware of their condition and may consequently remain outside the formal healthcare system. Identifying such individuals at the earliest possible stage is critical not only to ensuring timely treatment but also to interrupting transmission within families and communities. He called upon the JOSH Teams to play an important role in identifying vulnerable populations, facilitating community-level outreach and encouraging people with symptoms or concerns to come forward for testing. Highlighting India’s signifi-



cant progress in the fight against TB, Shri Nadda referred to the latest World Health Organization report and noted that TB incidence in India has declined by 21 per cent, compared to a 12 per cent decline globally. He further highlighted that India’s TB treatment coverage has risen to 92 per cent, significantly higher than the global treatment coverage of 78 per cent. He said that India’s progress, which is ahead of the global trend both in reducing TB incidence and expanding access to treatment, reflects the sustained and intensified efforts undertaken under the national TB elimination programme. At the same time, he cautioned that these gains must not lead to complacency. India has made significant progress, he said, but the momentum must be sustained and efforts further intensified to ensure that every person with TB is diagnosed, provided timely treatment and supported through the course of care, thereby advancing the country’s collective resolve towards a TB Mukta Bharat. Furthermore, he highlighted the growing role of technology and innovation in strengthening the country’s TB response. He said that India is increasingly leveraging technology to take screening and diagnosis closer to communities and make them faster and more accessible. He referred to the use of portable X-ray machines supported by Artificial In-

telligence-based tools, which can help identify individuals showing signs suggestive of TB and determine whether further investigation is warranted. He also highlighted the use of rapid molecular diagnostic technologies to facilitate timely confirmation of TB and identification of drug resistance, thereby enabling patients to be placed on the appropriate treatment pathway without unnecessary delay.

Calling upon volunteers to build meaningful conversations within communities, Shri Nadda urged JOSH Teams to listen to people, address their concerns and help dispel the fear and stigma associated with TB. He emphasised that TB is preventable and curable and that no person affected by the disease should face discrimination or social isolation. He also urged volunteers to promote healthy behaviours, including hygiene, healthy lifestyles and awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco and substance use. Emphasising that diagnosis is only the beginning of the treatment journey, Shri Nadda said that every person diagnosed with TB must be connected to appropriate treatment and supported until recovery. He highlighted the importance of medicines, nutritional support and treatment adherence, and noted that India has also strengthened its treatment options, including shorter regimens

for drug-resistant TB.

Speaking about the rollout of JOSH Teams, Shri Nadda said that the initiative is being launched in the first phase across 11 States and will progressively expand its grassroots presence. The teams will work at district and block levels, supported by digital mechanisms for monitoring and implementation. He expressed confidence that this youth-led initiative will help identify gaps, strengthen outreach and ensure that TB-related services reach those who remain outside the formal healthcare system.

The Union Health Minister also congratulated the 67,933 Panchayats across 697 districts recognised as TB Mukta in 2026, describing the achievement as a reflection of the power of community participation and local leadership. He commended elected representatives, health workers, volunteers and community members for translating the national TB elimination agenda into action at the grassroots. Observing that India is now closer to its goal, Shri Nadda called for a determined and sustained final push to take the country across the finish line. Calling upon NCC Cadets and MY Bharat Volunteers to become ambassadors of the TB Mukta Bharat movement, he urged them to take the message of prevention, early testing, timely treatment and stigma reduction to every household and community.

Egilivaranga From Bhogi: The Soil & The Spirit



The rustic charm of the 1960s comes alive in Egilivaranga, the first single unveiled from Charming Star Sharwa's upcoming film Bhogi. The song captures the soil, spirit, cultural identity, and social fabric of the era, offering a compelling glimpse into the world envisioned by director Sampath Nandi. The song explores the realities of a rural community shaped by age-old customs,

caste-based professions, traditional practices, and the dominance of local feudal lords. Chandra Bose, the Oscar-winning lyricist, captures this environment through the natural Telangana dialect, keeping the words close to the lived experiences of the people. The composition by Bheems Ceciroleo is equally rooted in the region's musical character. Its tempo and intensity steadily rise, giving

the number a lively progression that holds the listener's attention. Nalgonda Gaddar Narsanna delivers the song with commanding energy, supported by Narsireddy, Kandukuri Shankar Babu, and Relare Gopal. Visually, Egilivaranga reflects the same commitment to period authenticity. The village setting, its surroundings, and the portrayal of everyday life

help establish the atmosphere of the bygone era. Sharwa and Anupama Parameswaran appear convincing in their rural get-ups. Bhogi marks an ambitious collaboration between Sharwa and Sampath Nandi, with the director seeking to bring a distinct regional history and its social dynamics to the big screen. The film is produced by KK Radhamohan under Sri Sathya Sai Arts.

Nithiin & Nani's Jet Speed: Shoot & Release in Just 4 Months!

Natural Star Nani recently had a release with The Paradise. The actor will next be working on a project in the direction of Sujeeth. In the meantime, he is also occupied as a producer. The next production venture from his banner is titled Alias Rukmini, starring Nithiin in the lead role. The film unit began the shoot and is planning to wrap it up at the earliest. The team announced today that the film will be released on December 4th.

Nani is not only a successful actor but also a successful producer. The actor has cleverly planned to wrap up the film's shoot along with the post-production in just four months, which is absolutely commendable. The film unit announced the film in August and is now gearing up with further activities in full swing.



So far, the team has not disclosed the details of the leading lady of the film, which they plan to do on the 13th of this month. Since the film is arriving in the first week of December,

it will have an edge over other films releasing a little later in the same month. Since it is a romantic drama, and if it gets a good word of mouth, it will have a sustainable run at the box office.

Directed by Murali Kanth Devasoth of Dandora fame, the film is bankrolled by Nani's sister Deepthi Ganta. Jomon T John is the DOP and Vijay Bulganin is the music director.

Isn't The Gap Between Fauzi & Varanasi Concerning?

The release plans of two big Telugu films, Fauzi and Varanasi, have raised a lot of questions. As per the latest reports, the makers of Prabhas' Fauzi are looking at March 18 as the release date, while SS Rajamouli's Varanasi, starring Mahesh Babu, is still scheduled to arrive in theatres on April 7, 2027. If both films stick to these dates, there will be only around 20 days between their theatrical releases. This has become a talking point, considering the scale and expectations surrounding both projects.

Earlier, there was a bigger gap between Spirit, which was reportedly planned for March 5, and Varanasi on April 7. That window would have given audiences



more time to watch one film before shifting their attention to the next big release. Now, Spirit is also set to get postponed. However, with Fauzi now reportedly targeting March 18, the gap has narrowed considerably. The concern is not just about the release dates as big-budget entertainers often need a longer theatrical run to recover their investments. A gap of 20 days may not necessarily affect either film, but the makers will have to consider the impact on theatres, audience attention and box-office collections. For now, the reported dates have sparked debate, and fans will be watching closely to see whether the makers retain their plans or make further changes.

Keerthy Suresh returns to Ooty after 12 years for shooting

Keerthy Suresh has resumed shooting for Anil Ravipudi's "January 12 Vidudala". The film's latest schedule has commenced in Ooty. The film marks the first on-screen pairing of Keerthy Suresh and Venkatesh. They play a married couple in this multistarrer, which also features Nandamuri Kalyan Ram and Krithi Shetty as the other lead pair. Keerthy Suresh shared a video on Instagram showing her journey to the shooting location in Ooty. She revealed that she was returning to the hill station for a film shoot after 12 years. The last time she shot in Ooty was for the Malayalam film "Ringmaster" in 2014. "Shooting in Ooty after Ringmaster days. 12 years later!" she wrote.



Aditi-Siddharth Bring Beach Vibes Straight From Thailand

Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth are among the most loved on-screen couples in South cinema. They first shared the screen in the 2021 Tamil-Telugu film Maha Samudram, where their chemistry won hearts. The romance that followed ended in marriage in 2024. Now the couple is winning hearts with holiday pictures from Thailand. For the beach, Aditi wears a black floral bikini top with neon lime shorts, a white frangipani in her wet wavy hair and a simple anklet. For sightseeing, she picks a black set with chunky sneakers, while Siddharth goes relaxed in denim and a Beatles tee. Aditi recently appeared in Lust Stories 3 opposite husband Siddharth in a segment directed by Vishal Bhardwaj. The Netflix anthology is now streaming, and their chemistry is getting plenty of praise.



Chiranjeevi's Kaaka: Nearly 70 percent of shooting completed

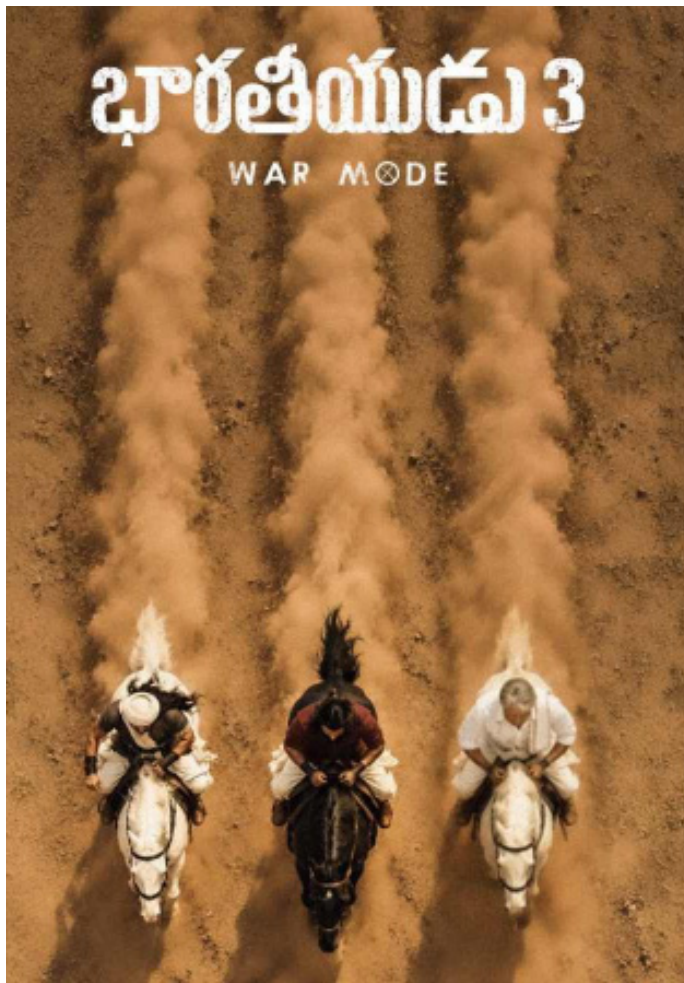
Megastar Chiranjeevi's "Kaaka" is progressing at a brisk pace and is nearing completion as the team aims to meet its deadline. The film is scheduled for a Sankranti 2027 release. Directed by Bobby, "Kaaka" features Chiranjeevi as Kadiri Kalidasu. He reportedly plays the character in two different shades. Anaswara Rajan is playing his daughter. Bobby has already proved that he can present Chiranjeevi in an entertaining as well as powerful manner that appeals to his core fan base. He demonstrated this with his previous film, "Waltair Veerayya", starring Chiranjeevi and Ravi Teja. The director is now attempting to recreate the same magic with "Kaaka". Bobby is working tirelessly to wrap up the shooting by December. According to team members, nearly 70 percent of the shooting has already been completed. KVN Productions is bankrolling the film.



Bharateeyudu 3: Shelved film revived, resumes in 'war mode'

"Indian" aka "Bharateeyudu" was a sensational blockbuster in the late 1990s. The film brought together legendary actor Kamal Haasan and director Shankar and went on to become a cult classic. Its influence was so strong that several films later attempted to recreate or borrow elements from it. However, the same combination failed to recreate the magic with the sequel. "Indian 2" aka "Bharateeyudu 2", which was released in 2024, turned out to be a major disappointment at the box office. The film also severely dented the aura surrounding Shankar, who followed it up with another massive flop, "Game Changer," starring Ram Charan.

The back-to-back failures have made it difficult for Shankar to find producers for his next projects. Meanwhile, Lyca Productions, which planned "Bharateeyudu 2" and "Bharateeyudu 3" as a two-part saga, also went through financial difficulties. "Bharateeyudu 3" was subsequently kept on hold for nearly two years. Now, Shankar and his team have decided to revive the project. Lyca Productions released new posters for the film today, officially confirming that "Bharateeyudu 3" is back on track. The production house announced the restart with the line, "Senapathy is back with zero tolerance. The re-



surge begins in #Indian3 in War Mode." "Bharateeyudu 3" stars Kamal Haasan and Kajal Aggarwal. Although Shankar shot Kajal's portions long ago, her character did not appear in "Bharateeyudu 2." Her portions are expected to be featured in the third part. Anirudh Ravichander is composing the music for the film. The revival of "Bharateeyudu 3" now puts the focus back on Shankar and Kamal Haasan to see whether the third instalment can restore some of the franchise's lost glory.