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"Some Dreaming Of Disorder"

PM's "Failed Product Of Congress" Jibe At Rahul Gandhi



New Delhi: Launching an all-out attack on Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that while the world is searching for a new order, there are some "who are dreaming of disorder" in the country. Speaking on the opening day of the NDTV World Summit 2026 on Thursday, the Prime Minister also wondered how long the Congress would continue to try to launch a "failed product".

Pulling no punches during his keynote address at the summit, PM Modi said the Congress is a "parasite" that doesn't allow others to progress and was finding the grapes so sour once it lost power that it was bent on destroying the vine.

"When the entire world is in search of a new order, some people are dreaming of disorder in India. Today,

when there is so much disorder in the world, a strong picture of India should be presented to the world, but these people are interested only in ruining the reputation of the country. These people go abroad and defame India. They ask foreigners to intervene," he thundered. While the Prime Minister did not name Rahul Gandhi explicitly, his next reference - which was something he has said before as well - left no doubt about his intended target. "I don't know how long the Congress will continue to put the

country at stake for the launch of its failed product. (The Satish Dhawan Space Centre at) Sriharikota does not see as many launches as the Congress tries, unsuccessfully, to launch its leader in a year. The party can do what it wants to ruin itself; we have no issue with that. But to save one family from the stain of failure, the Congress is now putting India's achievements, India's greatness and its development at stake. The grapes are so sour that the Congress is now busy destroying the vine," he said.

"UN's Limits Clearly Visible"

PM Modi Presses For 'New Solutions' At NDTV Summit

New Delhi: "The United Nations and other global institutions have had their historical role, but in the face of today's challenges, their limits are clearly visible. Now new powers are emerging, new voices are demanding their place, and new challenges are demanding new solutions," PM Modi said.

The world order is changing and many multilateral organisations are falling behind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said today, naming the United Nations in this context. Delivering

the keynote address at the NDTV World Summit in the national capital this evening, PM Modi said trade, technology and the emergence of new powers are changing the world every day. Dubbing this period a "World Between Orders," he said, "We have to understand two things: First, why is the world's order changing, and why is the old global order unable to provide solutions to today's challenges? And second, what is India's role in this changing world". "The Second World War

taught the world a big lesson," he said.

"The world understood that world systems cannot run solely on the basis of power and interests. Dialogue is necessary, cooperation is necessary, and the resolution of disputes is also necessary. This sentiment laid the foundation of the United Nations (UN). For decades, the UN played its role in promoting global cooperation and peace. But with time, the world kept changing. New aspirations emerged, new economies and new

powers arose. The challenges before the world became much more complex than before," he said.

In this backdrop of rapid changes, the limitations of certain organisations are showing, he said. "The United Nations and other global institutions have had their historical role, but in the face of today's challenges, their limits are clearly visible. Now new powers are emerging, new voices are demanding their place, and new challenges are demanding new solutions," he said.

(Courtesy: NDTV)

S Jaishankar's 'Indira' Reminder After Rahul Gandhi's Marco Rubio Jibe

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Thursday he failed to understand the hullabaloo about his visit to Mumbai to meet US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, which Rahul Gandhi termed as "summoning". The Minister said he "failed to get it". "They don't like Mumbai. They have something against Mumbai. It's our financial capital. It's our Bollywood capital. It has got so much going for it. Maybe Mumbai doesn't like them. I have no idea. Why

they have this reservation," Jaishankar, speaking at NDTV World Summit, said The 71-year-old Minister, a former diplomat, said he can list out very many examples where leaders have travelled out of Delhi to meet a foreign leader. He cited two examples from the Congress: Indira Gandhi meeting Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Shimla in 1972 to sign the Shimla Agreement and Salman Khurshid, a minister in the Manmohan Singh government, hosting a lunch for the then Pakistan

Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in Jaipur in 2013. "If going out of Delhi to meet a foreign leader or a foreign counterpart is summoning, I can give you a lot of examples. Mrs Gandhi went to Shimla to meet Bhutto. Was she summoned? Salman Khurshid went to Jaipur to meet a Pakistan PM. Was he summoned?" he asked. "We are adults, let's have an adult conversation. Let's leave, you know," the Minister, amid a round of claps, said, taking a swipe at the Congress leader.

The US Mission in India, in a statement on Thursday, said that Secretary Rubio visited Mumbai and Jamnagar from October 20-22 to "advance the US-India strategic partnership, strengthen commercial and investment ties, and reaffirm the United States' commitment to a prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific". Secretary Rubio participated in a Freedom 250 reception as the guest of honour commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence and celebrating the enduring bonds between the American and Indian people, the Mission added in its statement. In Mumbai, Rubio also held talks with Minister S Jaishankar on the India-US strategic partnership and progress in negotiations on the proposed trade deal. The Minister, speaking about the trade deal today, said it is in its "last mile". He then added a cautionary note: "It's never done till it's done". "What you've heard not just from Secretary Rubio, but from

Minister Piyush Goyal, from others, from me, is that we are moving towards it. But, as I said, often the last mile or the penultimate miles do pose their challenges. I think



the [negotiating] teams are working through them now," Jaishankar said. "If you're asking me to tell you what exactly those challenges are, I'm sorry I won't.

High Tension at ZPTC, MPTC Nomination Centres in Andhra Pradesh



From Our Staff Reporter Chittoor District, October 22: Tension prevailed at Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) nomination centres across Andhra Pradesh amid the ongoing local body elections. Tense situations were reported at nomination centres in the Thamballapalle constituency of Annamayya district. A particularly tense atmosphere prevailed at the nomination centres in Pedda Thippa Samudram and Thamballapalle mandals. On the second day of MPTC nominations, large numbers of supporters from the ruling alliance and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) gathered at the centres, leading to clashes and pushing incidents between the two groups. Police intervened, brought the situation under control and dispersed both groups from the nomination centres.

Tension in Markapuram District

Tension also erupted near the Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) office in Kanigiri of

Markapuram district. YSRCP leaders arrived in a large rally to file nominations for the MPTC elections. However, police stopped the rally, leading to heated arguments between YSRCP leaders and police personnel. YSRCP supporters reportedly removed barricades erected by the police, resulting in a tense atmosphere in the area.

Nomination Process Gains Momentum Across Andhra Pradesh

Meanwhile, nominations for the ZPTC and MPTC elections are being filed in large numbers across Andhra Pradesh. On the second day of nominations, candidates representing the ruling alliance, YSRCP and other political parties submitted their nomination papers in significant numbers. Independent candidates are also actively filing nominations in various constituencies. YSRCP leaders have filed more nominations for ZPTC seats than candidates from the ruling alliance. Leaders of the ruling alliance and YSRCP have completed their preparations regarding seat adjustments for the MPTC and ZPTC elections. Candidates from

both sides are filing nominations in constituencies where seat-sharing arrangements have been finalised. On the first day, a total of 5,267 nominations were filed by candidates from various political parties for 9,829 MPTC seats. Similarly, 409 nominations were filed on the first day for 659 ZPTC seats.

Party-wise MPTC Nominations (First Day):

Telugu Desam Party (TDP):	2,719
Jana Sena Party:	294
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP):	74
YSR Congress Party (YSRCP):	1,918

Party-wise ZPTC Nominations (First Day):

Telugu Desam Party (TDP):	128
Jana Sena Party:	21
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP):	24
YSR Congress Party (YSRCP):	192

On the second day, candidates from various political parties and independent contestants continued filing their nominations. Despite isolated incidents of tension, the nomination process is proceeding peacefully in several areas.

Jana Sena Slams Fake Campaign About Pawan Kalyan's Resignation, Files Cyber Police Complaint

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 22: The office of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Jana Sena Party leaders have responded strongly to rumours circulating about his alleged resignation. They have condemned the false campaign in the strongest terms. Jana Sena leaders expressed anger over the malicious propaganda claiming that Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan was resigning from his post and that a major announcement would be made soon. They objected to messages being circulated suggesting that an official statement regarding his resignation was imminent. Jana Sena leaders lodged a complaint



with the Cyber Crime Police over the issue. Following the complaint, steps are reportedly being taken to arrest the group responsible for circulating the messages. Jana Sena leaders suspect that YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders may be behind the campaign. They alleged that such false propaganda was being spread because their political opponents could not confront them directly.

WhatsApp Admin Apologises for Spreading Fake News About Pawan Kalyan's Resignation

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed serious displeasure over reports circulating on a WhatsApp channel claiming that he was resigning from his post. Taking the matter seriously, Pawan Kalyan decided to lodge a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police. Following this development, the administrator of the concerned WhatsApp group issued an apology. The admin admitted to sharing a social media post claiming that Pawan Kalyan was resigning without verifying its authenticity. The

administrator clarified that the post was shared hastily, by mistake, and without any malicious intention.

Apology and Clarification

The WhatsApp group administrator issued the following statement: "This morning, I shared a post in the group claiming that Pawan Kalyan was resigning from the Deputy Chief Minister's post. I came across the news on social media and forwarded it in haste without properly verifying the facts. "Later, I came to know that it was fake news. The Deputy

Chief Minister's Office officially responded to the matter and stated that action would be taken.

"I sincerely regret my mistake. It happened unintentionally and without any malicious intention. "I extend my heartfelt apologies to Pawan Kalyan, Jana Sena Party leaders, party workers and all members of the WhatsApp group. "I assure everyone that I will verify the authenticity of any news before sharing it in the future. I sincerely request everyone to forgive me," the administrator stated in the clarification.

Former Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu Suffers Mild Health Complications



From Our Staff Reporter Kakinada: Former minister and senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Yanamala Ramakrishnudu experienced mild health complications and is undergoing treatment at Trust Hospital in Kakinada. It is known that Yanamala recently underwent heart surgery. According to reports, he developed health complications due to a minor issue with the stent implanted during his cardiac treatment. However, his

health condition improved after receiving further medical care. He has been shifted from the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to a general ward. He is currently undergoing treatment under the supervision of doctors.

CM Chandrababu Enquires About Yanamala's Health Condition

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu enquired about Yanamala Ramakrishnudu's health condition. The Chief Minister contacted Yanamala's family members over the phone and sought details about his health. He also instructed Telugu Desam Party leaders to keep him regularly updated on Yanamala's condition.

Home Minister Anitha Helps Students Injured in Road Accident in Visakhapatnam

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, October 22: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha once again demonstrated her compassion by providing immediate assistance to students injured in a road accident. The accident occurred on the BRTS Road near Health City in Arilova, Visakhapatnam, when a Bolero vehicle collided with a scooter carrying students. Two students sustained serious injuries in the accident. The students were travelling from Visakhapatnam towards Payakaraopeta via BRTS Road when the accident took place. At the same time, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha was passing through the area. After noticing the accident, she immediately stopped her vehicle. She rushed to the injured students and provided immediate assistance. They were subsequently shifted to a hospital for treatment. The minister instructed doctors to ensure the students received the best possible medical care. She also directed the police to initiate legal action against the driver of the Bolero vehicle responsible for the accident.



Setback for Former Minister Kakani as Several YSRCP Families Join TDP

Nellore District, October 22: Former YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy suffered a setback as a large number of party members from the Sarvepalli constituency joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). YSRCP leaders and supporters from Thotapalli and Koduru switched over to the TDP. Around 30 families from Koduru and 25 families from Thotapalli joined the party. The leaders and party workers stated that they were leaving the YSRCP because they saw no political future for the party. Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandra mohan Reddy warmly welcomed the new members into the TDP by presenting them with yellow party scarves.

EDITORIAL

Bishnoi Gang Poses a Threat to Mumbai

The shooting at Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff's car in Mumbai's Juhu area on Sunday evening can be described as an open challenge to the Maharashtra government. Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff, his driver, and another person present at the scene were injured in the firing. The incident has raised serious concerns as it endangered the lives of everyone present. It has once again highlighted the urgent need for sustained action to curb organized crime. Meanwhile, two individuals claiming to be members of the Bishnoi gang released an audio clip on social media, taking responsibility for the attack. They claimed that Shroff had ignored their earlier warnings and threatened to attack Salman Khan and those working with him. The police must determine the authenticity of this audio clip. Several individuals have been arrested in connection with allegations of supplying weapons for the attack. It is difficult to estimate the damage such organized criminal activities are causing to Mumbai's economy, business establishments, and public confidence. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also holds the Home portfolio. Public fear and anxiety will subside only when Fadnavis takes effective measures to prevent Mumbai from becoming a playground for gangsters. The Lawrence Bishnoi gang has repeatedly threatened Bollywood actor Salman Khan in Mumbai. The gang has also carried out firing near his residence. The primary reason behind the gang's targeting of Salman Khan is the 1998 blackbuck hunting case involving the actor. The case intensified the conflict between Salman Khan and the Bishnoi gang. The Bishnoi community considers the blackbuck sacred. Since then, the gang has allegedly begun targeting prominent individuals closely associated with Salman Khan. Former Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Baba Siddique, who maintained close ties with Salman Khan, was murdered on October 12, 2024. Through this killing, the gang demonstrated its dominance.

On February 1, 2026, the Bishnoi gang allegedly opened fire outside filmmaker Rohit Shetty's residence. The article also attributes attacks involving T-Series founder Gulshan Kumar and film producer Rakesh Roshan to the gang. Most recently, on October 18, actor Tiger Shroff was targeted in a shooting. The Bishnoi gang has been linked to numerous murders, kidnappings, extortion activities, and other crimes across the country. Apart from Maharashtra, the Lawrence Bishnoi gang has allegedly been involved in several criminal activities in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and Rajasthan. In May, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a chargesheet naming Bishnoi as the 23rd accused in a gangster-terror network case. The gang is also allegedly involved in extortion, shootings, and intimidation abroad. On September 29, 2025, the United States designated the Bishnoi gang as a terrorist organization, according to the article. The US Department of Justice intensified surveillance of the Bishnoi network as part of an international operation, alleging its involvement in extortion, drug trafficking, and violent crimes. In July, the US Justice Department reportedly stated that gang member Rohit Godara was overseeing its European operations. According to a US federal indictment, Lawrence Bishnoi allegedly continued issuing instructions to his criminal network from prison. Authorities in various countries have reported that Goldy Brar and Rohit Godara, who are associated with the gang, have been operating in North America and Europe. Hardeep Singh Nijjar was murdered in Canada on June 18, 2023. A US federal indictment reportedly revealed in July that Bishnoi and Goldy Brar had ordered the killing. Reports attributed to India's National Investigation Agency in 2024 and 2026 indicated that the Lawrence Bishnoi network had approximately 700 to 800 operatives. However, allegations suggest that the gang's network in Canada alone consists of between 1,000 and 5,000 members. Despite being in prison, Lawrence Bishnoi allegedly continues to issue instructions to these operatives. Against this backdrop, the Maharashtra government's primary objective should be the complete dismantling of organized criminal gangs. Merely arresting those who opened fire will not be sufficient. Investigating agencies must identify and take action against the entire criminal infrastructure, including recruitment networks, arms suppliers, financial backers, smuggling operations, and hideouts. The government should also work with media organizations to develop a standard operating procedure to prevent criminals from receiving unnecessary publicity. Such measures may not completely prevent the emergence of new criminals, but they could reduce the tendency to carry out attacks on celebrities merely to gain attention and notoriety. These organized criminal gangs are driven not only by the desire to make money illegally but also by an ambition to establish their dominance over society. Unless their activities are effectively curbed, they will continue to pose a serious threat to the entire nation.

Akash Missile Could Be India's Next Big Export. But There's A Problem

India's reported sale of its indigenous Akash surface-to-air missile system to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan could mark an important step in the country's ambition to become a major global arms exporter. Beyond the commercial value of the deals, the entry of Akash into Central Asia would open a new market for Indian defence technology in a region where countries are increasingly looking to diversify their military suppliers away from Russia and China. Earlier, Armenia and the Philippines already received missiles and munitions from India, showing the high potential and trend. The significance of Akash goes well beyond the sale of a missile system. It represents a larger transformation in India's defence industrial policy - from a country that depended heavily on imported weapons to one seeking international markets for its indigenous military capabilities. For decades, India's defence manufacturing ecosystem was constrained by excessive controls, a policy mindset that did little to encourage exports. The result was a persistent contradiction: India remained among the world's largest arms importers. That contradiction is now beginning to change, rather radically. But policy reform must not stop at encouraging exports. It must also make exporting commercially viable.

Telling Numbers

The numbers tell a good story. India's defence production rose from Rs 46,429 crore in 2014-15 to approximately Rs 1.78 lakh crore in 2025-26. Defence exports climbed from just Rs 686 crore in 2013-14 to a record Rs 38,424 crore in 2025-



26, reaching more than 80 countries. The government has set its sights on annual defence production of Rs 3 lakh crore and exports of Rs 50,000 crore by 2029. These are ambitious targets, but they are not beyond reach if the country can scale up manufacturing with a sustained international presence. Importantly, India is gradually moving beyond the export of components, spares, and low-value equipment towards complete weapon systems and sophisticated platforms. Missiles, radars, electronic warfare subsystems, counter-drone solutions, artillery systems, and naval equipment are now part of the export conversation. The BrahMos cruise missile and Akash air defence system illustrate this shift. Other indigenous capabilities, including the Astra air-to-air missile, offer further opportunities. The Tejas light combat aircraft and Indian-built naval platforms could also contribute to the country's longer-term export ambitions. Wonder

why India's robust capabilities in warships - from corvettes to frigates to destroyers - are still not part of the global military export systems, from Asia to Africa? The Akash programme is particularly instructive, and its improved variants, including Akash Prime and Akash-NG, demonstrate why exports must be supported by continuous research, upgrades, and reliable production.

An Economic Opportunity

Defence manufacturing is often discussed primarily through the lens of national security. That is understandable, but incomplete. Defence is also an economic activity capable of generating massive investment, a skilled workforce, technological innovation, and industrial growth. However, a few manufacturing sectors impose such demanding requirements on suppliers. Defence companies must satisfy stringent quality standards, undergo extensive trials and validation, meet security, and prove their ability to deliver

over long periods. They must also invest in research, testing, and specialised manufacturing, often well before a contract translates into revenue. The best part: technologies developed for the military add many capabilities in advanced materials, electronics, sensors, communications, propulsion, and precision manufacturing. So, the export orders can help Indian companies increase production volumes, spread development costs, and reduce their dependence on a single domestic customer. This is especially important for the private sector and the thousands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that supply components, subsystems, and services. A credible export pipeline can give these businesses the confidence to invest in new equipment, tech experts, and develop IPs.

What Does The Industry Want?

One of the most important areas requiring attention is the financing of defence exports, par-

ticularly through Lines of Credit (LoC). Solely guided by the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank), the financial support extended to domestic manufacturing needs to be implemented with greater policy thrust. In international defence markets, the ability to offer financing can be almost as important as the quality of the product. Indian manufacturers can develop a competitive product, spend years building relationships with a prospective customer, and eventually win an overseas contract, only to encounter difficulties in accessing the financing needed to execute it. Industry has raised concerns about cumbersome procedures, including requirements for multiple tenders or additional price-discovery documentation, even when a company has already secured an overseas contract. However, for government-to-government arrangements, it works better, but that is not the objective, as MoD routinely promotes and calls for greater private sector participation.

A Jolt For Trump? How The US May Be Staring At A 'Blue' Wave

On November 3, Americans will vote in the midterm elections that are held midway through a President's four-year term. They will be voting for all 435 members of the House of Representatives, the lower house, a body similar in status to India's Lok Sabha. There will also be elections in 35 of the 100 seats of the Upper House, known as the Senate. Unlike Rajya Sabha members, senators are elected directly by voters. Indian state elections are frequently interpreted as a vote about the government in New Delhi, and similarly, American midterms are often viewed as a judgment on the President. Just as the Lok Sabha is elected one district at a time by the first-past-the-post system, so is the US House. As Indian readers know, a party can win a majority of seats with a modest share of the vote; in 2014, the BJP secured an absolute majority of 282 seats with only 31% of the national vote. Donald Trump is now in the final two weeks of the campaign and is deeply unpopular. The Democrats are comfortably ahead in all the national surveys, and the media are talking about a "Blue Wave". The evidence now points firmly to a Democratic majority in the House. The only real surprise is the Senate, which was thought to be safe for the Republicans a month ago but is now in doubt. Whether this becomes a wave will be decided in states that Trump won comfortably in 2024.

Decoding The Generic Ballot

The key figure mentioned in the campaign is what is known as the "generic congressional ballot". This type of ballot asks voters to indicate which party they would like to have representing them in Congress without listing any candidates, thereby reflecting the national mood. According to the most recent figures from the Takshashila US Mid-term Election Observer, the Democrats have 49.3% and the Republi-

cans 41.7%. The Democratic point lead is simply the difference between these two figures, amounting to 7.6 percentage points; this is what is understood by a "point". It is frequently confused with a percentage: when the support of the two parties is compared directly, the Democrats have approximately 18% more supporters than the Republicans. The other 9% of voters are undecided or back smaller parties. Because a single survey has a margin of error of around three points, poll trackers combine dozens of polls, most of which give the Democratic Party a lead ranging from seven to nine points, which is its biggest lead this cycle.

What A 'Wave' Looks Like

To obtain a majority and to take advantage of a political wave are two completely different matters. To take control of the House, a party needs 218 seats. Since the Republicans currently have a narrow majority, the Democrats only have to win a small number of seats in order to reach that threshold. As for the Senate, the Republicans have 53 seats, which means the Democrats need a net gain of four, the Republican Vice President being able to break a tie when the vote is 50-50. A genuine wave election cracks the opposing party's traditional strongholds. Recent history sets the benchmark. In 2006, amid strong public opposition to the Iraq war, the Democrats won about 30 House seats and took control of the Senate. In 2010, the Tea Party movement gave the Republicans 63. In 2018, at the first midterm of Trump's presidency, the Democrats won 40. By that historical standard, a genuine blue wave means Democratic gains of 30 or more House seats along with control of the Senate.

The 8-Point Lead

The first barrier is the distribution of votes: since the Democrats are concentrated in large metropolitan areas, their candidates win there by large margins. Any vote that goes

beyond the winning margin contributes to the party's total number of votes nationally without producing an additional seat. The next obstacle is redistricting. In India, the boundaries of the constituencies are determined by an independent Delimitation Commission, whereas in most US states, the party that holds power in the state legislature draws the map to gain a partisan advantage. This is called gerrymandering. The Republicans have control of more state legislatures. In Texas, the map was redrawn halfway through the decade, and this year, a Supreme Court ruling weakened the protections for minority-majority districts in the conservative southern states. California has produced a map that favours the Democrats, but overall, the Republicans are in a more advantageous institutional position. Analysts think that the Democrats now need a national lead of several points just to win half the House.

The Map Is Shifting

The clearest signal is where the parties spend their money, since campaigns spend where they fear defeat. The leading Republican super PAC for House races, a political fund that can raise and spend unlimited sums, has cancelled over \$13 million worth of advertising in four constituencies. This includes some of the suburban areas in Iowa and New Jersey, and that money has been redirected to districts that Trump won by narrow margins. As for the Democrats, they are raising funds with a view to running campaigns in traditional Republican areas that were previously seen as out of reach, such as Miami, the suburban areas of St. Louis, and Little Rock. A party fighting to hold its own ground while its opponent advances is the classic pattern of a wave election. The same pattern is even more clearly seen in the Senate. The Republicans are now spending heavily in traditional Republican states with



\$100 million in Texas and more than \$90 million in Ohio. They are injecting additional funds into Kansas, South Carolina, and Alaska. They have even allocated \$15 million to Nebraska, a state that Trump won by more than 20 points. They have also pulled out of North Carolina, seemingly giving up the contest to Democrats. The election calculation remains challenging. The Democrats must maintain their position in their closely contested seats in Georgia and Michigan, win North Carolina, and then secure three more from states that Trump won comfortably. It seemed highly unrealistic a month ago; it is now a real possibility.

Read The Signals

Early voting has given rise to talk of a wave. In the United States, nearly all states allow people to vote before Election Day, either in person at early voting centres or by sending in a postal ballot. Nevertheless, each state has its own rules regarding eligibility and its own deadlines. In many states, voters are recorded by party at the time of registration, so it is possible for officials to say how many registered Democrats and Republicans have returned their ballots, though not how anyone voted. At present, registered Democrats are returning their ballots at a higher rate. However, Democrats have in the past depended on postal ballots, while Republicans generally vote in person on Election Day, which is why early figures tend to show a Demo-

cratic advantage. The true test will be whether the Democratic early-vote margin runs well ahead of 2018 and 2022. The fact that there are reports of disputes among members of Trump's inner circle regarding the allocation of funds and the choice of candidates shows that the campaign is under stress, but the changes in spending are the more substantial evidence.

The View From New Delhi

A great deal of the initial idea of a wave was based on one fact that was stated in various ways: Trump's low level of approval. The current spending map is different since both parties are acting according to their own private polling and now regard the seats in Trump's strongholds as up for grabs. The most probable outcome is a Democratic majority in the House, with the new district boundaries leading to a gain that is less than the figure achieved in 2018, and the Senate could go either way. The outcome would warrant being described as a wave if the Democrats win in Texas, Ohio, or Nebraska; on the other hand, it would represent a clear defeat for Trump and a split decision if the Republicans keep their strongholds in the red states. A Democratic majority in the House would result in much more rigorous examination of Trump's tariffs and visa policies during his final two years. Yet since both parties on Capitol Hill back protectionist trade policy and immigration restrictions, New Delhi should only expect a change in tone; it will be long before any actual policy changes take place.

Teachers' MLC Voter Registration to Be Speeded Up



Rampachodavaram, October 22: Polavaram District Collector and District Election Officer K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to speed up voter registration for the East-West Godavari Teachers' MLC constituency. Eligible teachers and lecturers must submit Form-19 applications by November 6, 2026. So far, 56 applications have been received in Polavaram district, including 52 online and 4 offline applications. Officials were instructed to create awareness among eligible teachers and complete the verification process within the stipulated deadline.

299 Nominations Filed for ZPTC and MPTC Seats in Polavaram District

Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 22: A total of 299 nominations have been filed for ZPTC and MPTC seats in Polavaram district, District Collector and Election Officer K. Dinesh Kumar announced. Of these, 36 nominations were filed for ZPTC seats and 263 for MPTC seats.

While 29 MPTC nominations were received on Wednesday, 234 more were filed on Thursday. Friday, October 23, is the last date for filing nominations. Officials have been instructed to follow State Election Commission guidelines and ensure a smooth and transparent nomination process.

Sriram Kumar (Chinababu)'s relentless campaign to win

From Our Staff Reporter Madanapalle: During the Madanapalle Municipal Elections, Chairman candidate Sriram Kumar (Chinababu), who visited Ward 32, toured the ward on behalf of Councilor candidate Talari Radha, along with local leaders. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Coalition government has developed the Andhra Pradesh for two and a half years during the coalition's rule and we will continue to develop it again and again. Explaining the welfare schemes of the coalition government to the people, he urged them to vote on the bicycle symbol and win with a large majority. Later, after campaigning on behalf of Srirama



Lakshmi Deepika, wife of Madanapalle Jana Sena Party youth leader Srirama Hariharan, who is contesting as the 14th ward coalition candidate, he said that i request all the people in this ward to cast your precious votes on the glass symbol and make me win with a large majority. He also said that he prayed that you cast your precious votes on the bicycle symbol for me, the chairman candidate,

and made me win. Later, Municipal Chairman Coalition candidate Sriram Kumar (Chinababu) met Vijaya Bharathi English Medium High School correspondent Dr Sethu Nalluswamy and sought his cooperation in his victory. Speaking on this occasion, G Sreeram Kumar (Chinababu) said, I am coming before you as the candidate for the Madanapalle Municipal Chairman on behalf of the

alliance. My goal is to work for the comprehensive development of Madanapalle town with a commitment to public service. Singing the final song to the 5-year corrupt and chaotic rule of the YSRCP, he called for bringing a clean, peaceful and democratic rule in the city. I hope that you will be able to win with a huge majority with your precious vote for the development of our Madanapalle.

Harshitha Suryakumar Impresses Devotees with Bharatanatyam at Srikalahasti Dasara Celebrations

From Our Staff Reporter Srikalahasti: Harshitha Suryakumar captivated devotees with her impressive Bharatanatyam performance during the cultural programmes organ ised as part of the Dasara festivities at Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari Temple in Bahadurpet, Srikalahasti. Harshitha enthralled the audience with her graceful expressions, rhythmic movements and captivating dance presentation to devotional compositions, including "Bho Shambho," "Durga Kavita ham," "Sri

Chakra Raja Sim hasan eswari" and "Ardhan areeswara Stotram." Her artistic excellence added spiritual fervour and splendour to the festive atmosphere. A large number of devotees watched the performance with keen interest and appreciated the young dancer for her talent and dedication. They also blessed her and conveyed their best wishes for her future achievements. Following the performance, members of the temple's Vasavi Mahila Committee facilitated Harshitha Suryakumar with a memento



in recognition of her outstanding presentation. The cultural programme organised as part of the Dasara celebrations re-

ceived an enthusiastic response from devotees and emerged as one of the special attractions of the festivities.

Vulapadu will develop if Janasena wins MPTC candidate Vinod

From Our Staff Reporter Madanapalle: On behalf of Vulapadu MPTC, MGP Vinod filed the nomination along with Jana Sena Party Rayalaseema Co-Convenor, Madanapalle In-charge and Local Body Election Rajampet Parliament Coordinator Ganga rapu Ramdas Chowdhary and Madanapalle AMC Chairman Jangala Sivaram, of as the MPTC candidate of Vulapadu, Ramasamu dram Mandal. Speaking on this occasion, they urged the people to make MGP Vinod, the MPTC candidate of the alliance, win if Vulapadu is to develop. Vinod will definitely be available to you



on public issues, they said. District Joint Secretary Sana Ulla, Ramasamudram Mandal President Hosur Chandrasekhar, Vice President Chakali Vishwanath, AMC Director Gaddam Lakshmi pathi, Ronuru Babu, Suri, Goutham, Janardhan, Rajesh, Mandal Jana Sena leaders and activists participated in this program in large numbers.

Postal Ballot Voting Arrangements Made for Puttur Municipal Elections



Puttur: Special arrangements have been made for employees deployed on election duty to exercise their voting rights through postal ballots during the second ordinary municipal elections-2026 in Puttur Municipality. The Puttur Municipal Commissioner announced that a postal ballot facilitation centre has been established at Puttur ZP High School (Girls). Employees assigned election duties across the 36 wards of Puttur Municipality can cast their votes through postal ballots on October 25, Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The special centre has been set up to ensure that election personnel can exercise their franchise conveniently. The postal ballot process will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Election Commission. Eligible employees have been advised to reach the facilitation centre within the prescribed hours and carry the necessary identification documents and details related to their election duties. Puttur Municipal officials urged all eligible employees involved in election duties to make use of the facility and exercise their right to vote.

Reconsideration of nomination without reason

From Our Staff Reporter Madanapalle: Avula Vishwanath, who filed his nomination as a YSR Congress Party candidate from Ward 28 in the Madanapalle Municipal Corporation elections, has sought a reconsideration of his nomination on the grounds that his barber shop did not have a trade license. To this end, Madanapalle Constituency YSR Congress Party In-charge S Nisar Ahmed, along with Party Intellectuals Forum State Secretary VS Reddy, submitted a petition to Joint Collector Shiv Narayan Sarma on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Avula Vishwanath said that although he filed his nomination as per the rules, the officials rejected him on the grounds that he did not have a trade license. He stated that the specific legal provision regarding the



rejection of the nomination and written orders were not provided, he said. He requested that the rejection of his nomination be thoroughly examined based on the applicable municipal laws, State Election Commission rules and relevant orders. Since the 28th ward was unanimous, an impartial inquiry should be conducted into the matter and the reasons for the rejection

should be disclosed, he appealed. According to the latest orders given by the Election Commission on No Due Certificates and No Objection Certificates, the reasons given to me by the officials are not reasonable and adequate evidence has been submitted to the higher authorities, he said. If it is found that there is a violation of the rules or proce-

dural errors in the rejection of the nomination, appropriate action should be taken within the scope permitted by law and justice should be done to Avula Vishwanath, S Nisar Ahmed and VS Reddy jointly requested the Joint Collector on this occasion. Noor Mohiuddin Khan and Chippili Mallikharjuna Reddy participated in this program.

Rajeswaramma campaign launched from Tummuru

- Appeal to house to house voters in 1st Ward of Naidupet Municipality
- Candidate of Vaikapa Chairperson who received the blessings of elders
- Promise to give priority to creation of basic facilities.. Party lines in the campaign

From Our Staff Reporter Naidupet: Nayudupeta. YSR Congress Party candidate Thumbireddy Rajeshwaramma, Municipal Chairperson of Naidupet, said that Naidupet municipal chairperson, YSR Congress Party candidate, Thumbireddy Rajeshwaramma said that the support of Naidupet town people is strong and the town development is the goal. On Thursday morning, she started a door-to-door campaign in Tummuru 1st ward of the municipality. Along with local leaders and activists, they went to the houses and greeted the voters. He asked him to support him and win. As part of the campaign, they bowed down to the elders and received their blessings. Interacted with women and learned their opinions. The locals welcomed her. He continued the campaign by inquiring



about the problems faced by the people in the ward and the infrastructural needs. Speaking on this occasion, Rajeswaramma stated that he came forward with the determination to be available to the people and work towards solving their problems. He promised that if he wins, he will prioritize

the improvement of infrastructure in the wards. People's cooperation is needed to develop Naidupet in all areas, he said. He said that he will identify the needs of each region and work to solve them. The party leaders participating in the campaign appealed to the vot-

ers to support Vaikapa candidates. The party ranks said that the response Rajeswaramma is getting is encouraging and they will work together for her victory. Vaikapa senior leaders, local ward leaders, activists and fans participated in this program.

Happy birthday to MLA Dr.Nelavala Vijayashree - Ojili Mandal TDP Leaders

From Our Staff Reporter Naidupet: Sullurpet MLA Dr. Nelavala Vijayashree was congratulated by Ojili Mandal Telugu Desam Party leaders Mandal President Padi Venkatasubbiah and Ojili Mandal Telugu Desam Party Cluster Inchari Kankana Satyavara Prasad. Birthday celebrations were held grandly at the residence of MLA Dr. Nelavala Vijayashree in the town on Thursday. On this occasion, TDP leaders honored MLA Dr. Nelawala Vijaya Shri by covering him with a shawl and wished him a happy birthday. Speaking on this occasion, he wished that MLA Dr. Nelawala Vijaya Sri, the development provider of the constituency, would live to be 100 years old with good health, happiness, and happiness, and that she would climb many more high positions and do public service.



Early Detection Can Help Ensure Better Health: Dr. Sree Girish

From Our Staff Reporter Pileru: Dr. Sree Girisha said that small, painless lumps in the body during the early stages could sometimes be a sign of cancer and advised people not to neglect such symptoms but to consult a doctor promptly, as early detection can help in effective management of the disease. As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Dr. Sree Girisha conducted an awareness programme for women of Padmavathi Nagar in Pileru on the topic of "Breast Cancer – Early Detection and Preventive Measures." She explained that due to a lack of awareness, many women fail to notice minor changes in their breasts, resulting in delays in the diagnosis of breast cancer. By the time the disease is diagnosed



in some cases, it may have progressed to an advanced stage, making treatment more difficult. Dr. Sree Girish advised every woman to regularly observe and examine herself for changes in the size or shape of the breast, redness, swelling, pain, or unusual warmth. He

stressed that any such change should not be ignored and that women should seek medical advice without delay. She further advised women to understand the importance of early detection, follow a healthy diet, exercise regularly, maintain a

healthy body weight, and undergo regular self-examinations and medical check-ups whenever they notice any changes. ANM Vijayakumari, CHO Ayesha, ASHA workers and several women participated in the programme.

Maharashtra MLC Polls: Why Nagpur Graduates' Constituency Will Be Prestige Battle For BJP, Congress

Mumbai: Elections to five seats in the Maharashtra Legislative Council will be held, and the results are slated to be announced on October 27. Of these five seats, one electoral battle will be particularly important - the Nagpur Graduates' constituency. The BJP and its predecessor, the Jana Sangh, had held the Nagpur Graduates' constituency for nearly 58 years until 2020, when the Congress' Abhijit Wanjarri wrested the seat from the saffron party by defeating its candidate Sandip Joshi, a close aide of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Joshi announced his retirement from active politics earlier this year. The result was particularly important as the Nagpur Graduates' constituency has previously been represented by Union minister Nitin Gadkari and the chief minister's father, the late Gangadharrao Fadnavis.

Six years on, the seat has become a prestige battle, with the BJP seeking to



wrest it back, and the Congress seeking to hold on to its success. The BJP has fielded former MLA Sudhakar Kohale from the seat, while the Congress has retained Wanjarri's candidature. However, the BJP's decision to field Kohale had sparked opposition from former MLC and former Nagpur mayor Anil Sole, who had announced his intention to contest as an independent candidate. The internal conflict was eventually resolved on October 12, when Sole extended support to the BJP nominee after Fadnavis

visited his home and held talks with him. Sole said that although his name would remain on the ballot as the date for nomination withdrawal had expired, he would try to ensure that he would not get a single vote.

In the run-up to this year's election, Devendra Fadnavis campaigned extensively with registered graduates and teachers, and spent two days holding meetings with office-bearers and party leaders, The Indian Express noted. The other constituencies in Maharashtra for which elec-

tions will be held on Friday are Aurangabad Division Graduates, Pune Division Graduates, Amravati Division Teachers and Pune Division Teachers. The MLCs who currently represent these seats are Satish Chavan, Arun Lad, Kiran Sarnaik and Jayant Asgaonkar respectively. Chavan was elected as a candidate of the then-undivided Nationalist Congress Party, while Lad belongs to the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar). Sarnaik was elected as an independent candidate, while Asgaonkar is from the Congress.

Uran To Face 2-Day Weekly Water Cuts From October 27 As Ransai Dam Levels Decline

Uran: Residents of Uran will face a two-day water cut every week from October 27 as falling water levels in Ransai Dam have prompted the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) to curtail supply. Water supply will remain suspended every Tuesday and Friday, according to the Uran MIDC office. The decision comes amid a worsening water shortage following inadequate rainfall, with the effects of the El Niño phenomenon adding to concerns over water availability. The state government has already ordered a 10 per cent cut in water supply from October 16, but the situation in Uran has prompted a specific weekly shutdown schedule for the region. Ransai Dam, which supplies water to Uran taluka, has a height of 116 feet. Its water level is reportedly declining by around an inch every day due to the lack of rainfall, raising concerns about water availability in the coming months.



Uran town requires around 4.50 million litres per day (MLD), while rural areas need 6.50 MLD. The industrial area requires approximately 16 MLD, taking the total daily requirement to around 27 MLD. Apart from Ransai Dam, around 35,000 residents in 10 villages in the eastern part of Uran taluka receive water from Punade Dam. The Chiranjeer, Koproli and Khopta gram panchayats receive water from CIDCO's Hetawane Dam. "The government has already issued

orders for a 10 per cent water cut. For Uran residents, the scheduled cuts will come into effect from October 27. People should use water carefully and avoid wastage to help manage the shortage," an official from MIDC, Uran, said. While the water storage and purification infrastructure is reportedly functioning, Uran Municipal Council President Bhavana Ghanekar has alleged that poor water management has compounded the problem. She claimed that the five water

reservoirs constructed by the administration had not been cleaned, resulting in residents receiving contaminated water. Residents have also raised concerns over water supply schemes stalled due to a lack of funds, inadequate planning and alleged water theft. Villages under the Chanje and Kegaon gram panchayat limits reportedly receive water only once a fortnight, further highlighting the uneven distribution of the available supply.

Delhi Content Creator Amir Shokeen Arrested Over Racial Abuse Of Tripura Youth



New Delhi: Delhi-based content creator Amir Shokeen has been arrested for allegedly subjecting a youth from Tripura to racial abuse and humiliation in a viral social media video, news agency PTI reported. A case was registered against Shokeen at Sadar Bazaar police station in Delhi after Union Minister Kiren Rijju took cognisance of the controversy and called for action against the alleged abuse. The accused, identified as Amir Shokeen in police-related reports, hails from Delhi's Bara Hindu Rao area. North District DCP Niharika Bhatt formed multiple teams to

trace and apprehend him. The arrest comes amid widespread outrage over a video allegedly showing Shokeen making racial remarks against an indigenous youth from Tripura, repeatedly referring to him as "Chinese" and using derogatory language. The clip also allegedly showed inappropriate physical contact. Following the backlash, Shokeen posted an apology video on Instagram, claiming the interaction was scripted for humour and that he had no intention of insulting the youth or the people of Tripura. He said the individual featured in the clip was known to him

and sought forgiveness from those hurt by the video. The Youth Tipra

Federation (YTF) also lodged a complaint with the New Capital Complex police station in Agartala on October 21, seeking legal action against Shokeen. The organisation accused him of cyberbullying, racial harassment, hate speech and defamation, and urged authorities to coordinate with Delhi Police. Rijju condemned the alleged racial abuse and said those responsible would face consequences. Tripura Opposition Leader Jitendra Chaudhury also demanded an apology to the people of Tripura and the Tiprasa community.

One Indian killed, three injured in Saudi attacks; India condemns strikes

New Delhi: India on Thursday strongly condemned the latest attacks in Saudi Arabia that left one Indian national dead and three others injured, asserting that strikes targeting civilian and critical infrastructure were "completely unacceptable" and must cease immediately. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), one Indian national died and two others were injured in the strike on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam, while another Indian was injured in the attack on Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field. "We strongly condemn the continued attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including the attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam and Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field in the Eastern Province on October 21," the MEA said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Says Any Fresh Motion To Remove CEC Gyanesh Kumar Will Be Examined Under Parliamentary Rules

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said any fresh motion seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar would be examined according to parliamentary rules and procedures. His remarks come amid growing Opposition protests against Kumar over alleged irregularities in the revision of electoral rolls. The Opposition has already made two attempts to remove Kumar from office. While both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha rejected the notices submitted during the first attempt, the notices filed in the second attempt remain pending in the Upper House. Responding to a question at a press conference in New Delhi about the possibility of another motion against Kumar, Birla said the matter would be considered according to the established parliamentary process.

"If any fresh notice comes, we will see and examine it accordingly under rules and procedures," Birla said. Over the past fortnight, protests have taken place in different parts of the country demanding Kumar's resignation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The protests have brought renewed attention to the functioning of the Election Commission and raised questions about the process required to remove the country's top election official.

Under the Constitution and the law governing the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, the CEC can be removed only through the same pro-



cess applicable to a sitting Supreme Court judge, PTI reported. The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, also allows the CEC or an Election Commissioner to resign at any time by submitting a written resignation to the President.

Article 124 of the Constitution lays down the procedure for removing a Supreme Court judge. Removal requires an order from the President after both Houses of Parliament pass a motion supported by a majority of their total membership and at least two-thirds of the members present and voting. Both Houses must approve the motion during the same parliamentary session. Removal is permitted only on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. The strict requirements make the removal process a demanding parliamentary exercise, with several stages of scrutiny before a final decision can be taken.

Under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, once a motion seeking the removal of a judge is admitted in either

House, the Speaker or Chairman must constitute a three-member committee to investigate the allegations. The committee comprises the Chief Justice of India (CJI) or a Supreme Court judge, the Chief Justice of one of the country's 25 High Courts and a distinguished jurist. After completing its investigation, the committee submits a report containing separate findings on each charge, along with its observations on the case. The report is submitted to the Speaker, the Chairman or both, depending on how the committee was constituted. The report must then be placed before the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha or both, as applicable. If the committee finds that the judge is not guilty of misbehaviour or does not suffer from incapacity, Parliament cannot proceed further with the removal motion. However, if the committee finds evidence of misbehaviour or incapacity, the motion and the committee's report are taken up for consideration by the House or Houses where the motion is pending. If both Houses approve the motion with the constitutionally required majorities, the charges are consid-

ered proved. Each House must then present an address to the President seeking removal during the same parliamentary session. The Constitution also provides for the removal process under Article 218, read with the relevant provisions of Article 124. The Opposition's protests against Kumar intensified after The Indian Express reported that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections on record at least 14 times over the past 10 months. According to the report, the two Election Commissioners objected to decisions and orders relating to the Special Intensive Revision that they said had been issued without their knowledge or recommendation. The reported objections have added another dimension to the controversy surrounding the electoral roll revision exercise. With the Opposition continuing to demand Kumar's removal and notices from its second attempt still pending in the Rajya Sabha, Birla's remarks underline that any fresh move against the CEC will have to follow the prescribed parliamentary procedure.

'Pending Criminal Cases Without Conviction Cannot Be Sole Ground To Deny Bail': Delhi High Court

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has ruled that pending criminal cases which have not resulted in a conviction cannot be the sole reason for denying bail if other circumstances favour the person seeking relief. Justice Sachin Datta made the observation while granting regular bail to a man arrested in an assault case involving offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Arms Act. The man had been in judicial custody since June 4, 2025, Live Law reported.

"The previous involvement of the petitioner in some cases which have not resulted in conviction, cannot, by itself, be a ground to deny bail when the other circumstances of the case otherwise favour the applicant," the court observed. The High Court referred to the Supreme Court's judgment in Prabhakar Tewari v. State of U.P., which held that the seriousness of an alleged offence and the



pendency of several criminal cases cannot, on their own, justify refusing bail. The case arose from an alleged assault near a wine shop in Delhi's Nand Nagri area, where four people reportedly attacked the complainant. According to the prosecution, the petitioner and another person held the complainant while two other suspects assaulted him. One of them allegedly used a knife to inflict injuries.

During the bail proceedings, the petitioner maintained that he had not caused any injuries to the complainant. He also pointed out that investigators had recovered the knife allegedly used in the attack at the instance of another suspect, not him. The court considered these submissions and noted that the petitioner had been in custody for approximately 16

months. The investigation was complete, the chargesheet had been filed and charges had already been framed. The case was at the stage of recording prosecution evidence.

The High Court observed that the trial was likely to take time to conclude and that keeping the petitioner in custody would serve no further investigative purpose. It also noted that the petitioner's alleged role was different from that of the other suspect who had reportedly used the knife during the assault. The court emphasised that detention before conviction should not become a form of punishment. Its observations underline the importance of considering the individual circumstances of a case rather than relying solely on a person's previous involvement in criminal proceedings. Taking these factors into account, the High Court granted regular bail to the petitioner on furnishing a personal bond of Rs.25,000 with one surety of the same amount.

India, Poland eye stronger defence, space and nuclear energy ties

New Delhi: India and Poland agreed to deepen ties in defence, space and nuclear energy, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Polish counterpart, Donald Tusk, pledging to strengthen their bilateral strategic partnership amid growing global instability. Following the talks, Modi said both sides believed in democratic values and the rule of law, and that India would continue to support every meaningful effort to bring peace to Ukraine and West Asia. Tusk is on a three-day visit to India amid renewed global efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine. "Today we have agreed to deepen ties in defence, space, and nuclear energy. We invite Polish companies to engage in co-development and co-production with India in all these strategic areas," Modi said. "In critical minerals and coal gasification too, we will develop new partnerships with Polish expertise," he added. Modi said the friendship between India and Poland was based not only on diplomatic relations but also on a shared heritage of humanity and compassion.

"During World War II, the royal families of Jamnagar and Kolhapur sheltered thousands of Polish children and families in India." "Poland also extended this spirit of humanity by supporting the safe return of our students from Ukraine in 2022," he added.

"10 Wrong Answers": WhatsApp Chats Reveal Maharashtra Paper Leak Details



Mumbai: New revelations have emerged in the probe into the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) Drug Inspector exam paper leak case. The probe has revealed that the main accused, Rituja Patil, was advised by the MPSC officials who had leaked the question paper to her to "intentionally" give wrong answers to at least 10 questions to avoid suspicion. WhatsApp chats between the accused, accessed by investigators, have revealed details of the alleged paper leak. The accused

feared that a "perfect score would raise suspicion" and thus instructed the candidate to answer 10 questions incorrectly. Investigators have further stated that 77 out of the 294 questions leaked by the accused matched the exam paper. The exam was conducted on March 22, and Rituja Patil allegedly got the paper two days in advance, on March 20. She secured the seventh rank. The Mumbai Crime Branch investigation has revealed that Rituja Patil had initially asked her boyfriend for money to pur-

chase the question paper. According to the Crime Branch, she had asked her boyfriend, Gaurav Patil (alias Lokesh), to arrange Rs 5 lakh before the test to bribe MPSC officials for the question paper. However, Gaurav refused to provide the money, citing financial constraints. Rituja then asked her father, Amrit Patil, for the money. Amrit Patil, who is a teacher by profession, gave his daughter Rs 5 lakh to obtain the question paper, the probe has revealed. The deal for the question paper was alleg-

edly struck at a flat in Nashik. According to the police, the Rs 5 lakh bribe was handed over to a coaching centre operator, Pravin Patil, and a middleman from Nandurbar. Pravin then allegedly contacted MPSC officials Gopal Marathe, Vishweshwar Nakate and Abhijit Lendve to obtain the question paper. The entire paper leak case was exposed due to a relationship breakdown between Rituja Patil and Gaurav Patil. Police said Rituja and Gaurav broke up after the exam. Gaurav, according to the probe, feared that after securing a government job, Rituja would move on and forget him. Driven by jealousy, Gaurav sent a complaint to the MPSC via email alleging that the exam paper had been leaked. As the investigation intensified following the complaint, Gaurav attempted to withdraw it, claiming he had been confused. However, the investigation revealed that Rituja had sent the leaked

paper to Gaurav via WhatsApp two days before the exam, as Gaurav's brother was also appearing for the test. Consequently, the police named the complainant, Gaurav, as a co-accused in the case. So far, police have arrested a total of six individuals in connection with the case, including Rituja's father Amrut Patil, middleman Pravin Patil, former boyfriend Gaurav Patil and three MPSC employees. Meanwhile, the prime accused, Rituja Patil, is currently absconding. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has clarified that this was not a case of a "mass paper leak." The paper was leaked to only one individual (Rituja); however, as a precautionary measure, the MPSC has cancelled the entire recruitment process and the examination. Additionally, a political blame game has erupted over the issue between NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) MLA Rohit Pawar and BJP leaders, with Rohit Pawar preparing for a major protest on September 1.

Women Faint Amid Scramble For Gifts At Rakhi Event By BJP Mayor In UP



A Rakshabandhan event organised by Bareilly BJP Mayor Umesh Gautam where sarees were distributed witnessed chaotic scenes after a crowd of over 20,000 women turned up, leading to a situation where women fainted after being crushed in the throng, officials said.

The event, organised a day before Rakshabandhan, was held at Bareilly Club Ground in Uttar Pradesh. Senior Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya said police had not been informed about the event in advance. The police informed that no formal complaint has been lodged.

A crowd had gathered early for the program, which was scheduled to run from morning till evening. The situation deteriorated as the crowd swelled amidst intense heat and humidity. Many women fainted due to the heat and the pushing and shoving. Unconscious and injured women were seen being transported out in ambulances. Coupons had been distributed in advance for women to tie rakhis at the event. A large number of women arrived accompanied by their children and elderly family members. The crowd became so dense that there was hardly any standing room left in the ground, showed pictures from the scene. Many women breached the barricades and began moving towards the stage, the pictures showed. Observing the worsening situation, Mayor Umesh Gautam attempted to disperse the crowd to different areas. He reportedly sent his son, Parth Gautam, to the main

gate so that rakhis could be tied there as well. Despite this, the pressure from the crowd did not subside. Several women fell down amidst the pushing and shoving near the stage. Reports also emerged of children getting separated from their families within the crowd at the venue. Announcements regarding children and their families were continuously made over the loudspeaker from the stage. Broken bangles, slippers, and other personal items were seen scattered across the grounds. An elderly woman recounted that a young girl had been trapped in the crush and was rescued only after remaining pinned down for about five minutes; the woman herself sustained injuries to her hands and legs during the incident. A woman who had traveled from the Bhuta area to attend the event said that someone grabbed her hand as she was moving towards the stage. Amidst the pushing and shoving, her slippers and even the toe rings she was wearing came off and fell to the ground. Women attending the event also questioned the arrangements. They pointed out that while a large number of women had been invited, there appeared to be inadequate measures to control the crowd. The women expressed dissatisfaction regarding the lack of drinking water in the heat, the absence of safe pathways, and the poor crowd management. The pressure from the crowd intensified during the distribution of gifts, leading to pushing and shoving as women scrambled to collect them.

Bajrang Dal Workers Assault Ahmedabad Group For Reading Malala Yousafzai Book



Ahmedabad: A case has been filed against Bajrang Dal workers who assaulted civil society group members reading Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai's book in Ahmedabad on Thursday. The police have filed an FIR against two named individuals and a mob of 18 unidentified people for allegedly assaulting civil society members and political figures during a public book-reading session at AUDA Garden in Vastrapur. Police officials confirmed that three suspects have already been detained based on local CCTV footage as part of the ongoing probe. The police action stems from a violent disturbance that occurred around 6 PM on Thursday when nearly twenty individuals gathered at the Vastrapur garden to read books, including works by Yousafzai, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Holocaust survivor Anne Frank. The session was organised over social media following a recent controversy where a local school withdrew Yousafzai's book under pressure from right-wing activists. Local political leaders, including Congress figure Parthivsinh Kathwadiya, joined civil society members to support the freedom to read. The session was organised over social media following a recent controversy where a local school withdrew Yousafzai's book under pressure from right-wing activists. Local political leaders, including Congress figure Parthivsinh Kathwadiya, joined civil society members to support the freedom to read. The gathering turned hostile when Bajrang Dal workers confronted the group. Right-wing outfit coordinator Jwalit Mehta defended the pushback, warning that his organisation would actively oppose any platform promoting figures they deem anti-national due to Yousafzai's stance on Kashmir. According to the complaint filed by local entrepreneur Jaykumar Thakkar, the confrontation rapidly deteriorated into physical violence. Aggressors armed with wooden sticks attacked the participants, injuring several readers. Women attending the event were also assaulted and threatened before the mob dispersed. Investigators are analysing additional video footage and examining witness statements to identify and arrest the remaining members of the mob involved in the attack.

"Sexualising Women": Yash's Toxic Gets Thumbs Down From K Annamalai

Yash-starrer 'Toxic' hasn't just raked in over Rs 100 crore within a day of its release. The multi-starrer gangster drama has also landed in controversy over its over-sexualised portrayal of women and allegedly misogynistic overtones. Former BJP leader and 'We The Leaders' founder K Annamalai has attacked the movie over its misogynistic themes. He has also launched a scathing attack on the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), questioning the clearance given to the film. "Regulations should be tightened... The censorship board must make firm decisions regarding which scenes are permissible, even in films starring major actors," the former IPS officer-turned-politician said. Expressing concern over the film's success,

Annamalai said if children watch such films that portray women in a particular way, it will have a serious impact. "The film has collected Rs 104 crore on day one itself. They depict women in one particular way and if we make children watch this daily, what will happen to women in this country?" he asked. Insisting that the "problematic" portrayal of women in movies defeats the work being done on women's issues, the leader slammed the censor board for clearing it. "We go to every town and college and speak on women's safety. But the censor clears this. Does the film give due respect to women? No. So many things happen in films and it impacts you." At the 'Toxic' pre-release event in Hyderabad, Yash addressed criticism over the film's por-



trayal of women and defended director Geetu Mohandas. "Society... they may say, they may not accept it, but the point is everybody will look upon you. I am not respected for my money, I am respected for my work, and I know the director will prove that every woman and every girl can

face every kind of situation, express their thoughts, express their vision and succeed in this society." He further urged girls to watch the film in theatres, saying, "There's a voice for women in this film, unlike how it is coming across in the trailer. Watch the movie and enjoy. All you girls, you will have a



blast." The period gangster drama is backed by KVN Productions and Yash's Monster Mind Creations. It is reportedly one of the most expensive Indian films, shot in Kannada and English. It stars Yash in a double role alongside Nayanthara, Tara Sutaria, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi and Rukmini Vasanth.

"Will Beat Them": Raj Thackeray's Son Warns Cab Drivers Over Marathi

Upping the ante on the Marathi mandate, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leader Amit Thackeray has warned that auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers who insist on speaking only in Hindi will be beaten up. MNS leader's reaction came after the Maharashtra government on Thursday gave auto-rickshaw, taxi and cab drivers one year to learn functional Marathi. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that representatives of drivers' organisations had sought more time, saying that people of different ages and educational backgrounds work in the sector. Amit Thackeray, who is the son of MNS chief Raj Thackeray, said his party would take action if complaints were received about auto-rickshaw drivers speaking in Hindi or

behaving rudely with passengers. "If it comes to our notice that an auto-rickshaw driver is speaking in Hindi or behaving rudely, then we will beat them. If you trouble people, you will get beaten up. Don't tell people that they have to speak UP's language or that they have to speak Hindi. We will speak in Marathi. You understand that much," he said. Thackeray also targeted Fadnavis over the decision to grant a one-year extension to learn functional Marathi, alleging that political considerations related to the upcoming Uttar Pradesh elections were being prioritised over the Marathi language. "Give them a 10-year extension. Give them a 15-year extension. We have understood how much affection you have for the Marathi language and for our state," he



said. "You go to Gujarat, Punjab or the South--everywhere there is an attachment to one's own language. Now, because the UP elections are coming, you are giving a one-year extension," Thackeray added. The one-year extension came amid a legal challenge to the state government's



Marathi mandate for the auto and taxi driver. Four cab drivers have challenged the order in the Bombay High Court. The Maharashtra government had made practical knowledge of Marathi mandatory for commercial passenger vehicle drivers, including auto-rickshaw, taxi and app-based



cab drivers, from August 12. Under the amended rules, drivers who fail to demonstrate a working knowledge of Marathi could face suspension of their driving licence for three months. Repeated violations could lead to permanent cancellation of their permits.

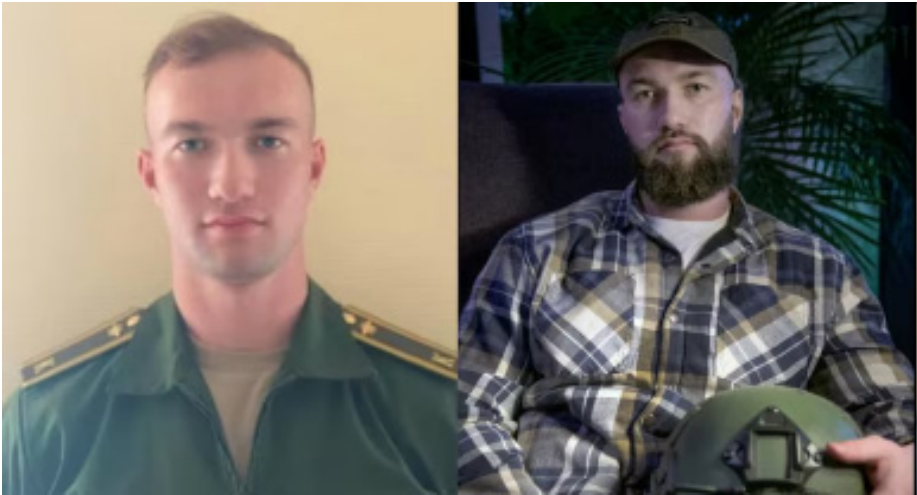
"Let Me Tie The Rakhi On You": Supriya Sule Remembers Ajit Pawar



It's Rakshabandhan and Supriya Sule wishes Ajit Pawar, her cousin and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister who died in a plane crash in January, "will appear from somewhere" and will "chat and laugh with your sisters". Seven months after the horrific tragedy, Supriya Sule says "even today, I can't bring myself to believe it". "Today is Raksha Bandhan... but this time, you're not with us, and this realisation is making my heart deeply restless. That horrific morning seven months ago and your sudden departure... even today, I can't bring myself to believe it," she posted on X in a heartfelt tribute to her "Dear Dada" Ajit Pawar. The Baramati MP reminisced about her childhood with Ajit Pawar, "growing up together, our fights" and the "love they

shared". Later in life, Ajit Pawar split up the party, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and also fielded his wife Sunetra Pawar against Sule in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Sunetra Pawar lost. "It was my mistake to field her against Supriya Sule," Ajit Pawar had said then, noting that society doesn't like rifts in families. NCP's another faction is now called Nationalist Congress Party - Sharadchandra Pawar (NCP-SP). "From childhood, growing up together, our fights, the love we shared for each other, and the pride we felt in one another - these were the foundation of our bond. Even now, it feels like you'll suddenly appear from somewhere, let me tie the rakhi on you, chat and laugh with your sisters, and immerse yourself back into the family," she said.

A Russian Officer Helped Ukraine Kill 300 Soldiers, Then Escaped To Kyiv: Report



A 26-year-old Russian military officer secretly turned against his country and provided battle plans and intelligence to Ukraine, helping its forces kill more than 300 Russian soldiers before he escaped across the frontline and joined a unit fighting against Russian President Vladimir Putin's government, a Wall Street Journal report said. Lt. Lev Stupnikov used his position in the Russian army to share sensitive military information with Ukrainian intelligence. His role gave him access to troop movements, battle plans and feeds from reconnaissance drones and surveillance cameras. However, his secret work came at a personal cost. After reaching Ukraine, he joined the fight against Moscow but eventually lost contact with his wife, who accused him of betraying both Russia and their marriage.

"There's Just Meat": How He Helped Ukraine Strike Russian Troops

A graduate of the Budyonny Military Academy of the Signal Corps, Stupnikov was appointed chief signals officer of a battalion tasked with capturing Vuhledar, a key stronghold in Ukraine's defence of the Donbas region. His job was to keep commanders connected with their units and ensure they received information from surveillance systems. Instead, he secretly supplied Ukrainian military intelligence with precise details about Russian positions and planned movements. On a freezing morning in eastern Ukraine, Stupnikov

pretended to suffer from stomach cramps to get away from his fellow soldiers. Soon afterwards, Ukrainian missiles struck the coordinates he had shared. The attack killed 68 Russian soldiers, including Colonel Gusein Musayev, who was supposed to be one of Kyiv's top targets. Another 60 were wounded. "Were there explosions? Send a photo", a Ukrainian contact messaged Stupnikov after the strike. "There's just meat," he replied. His role was part of a wider intelligence operation that relies on Russians willing to pass information to Ukraine. According to the report, thousands of people, including soldiers and homemakers, have been communicating with Ukrainian agents through encrypted platforms.

Russia's Invasion Changed Everything For Him

Stupnikov's decision to turn against his own military grew out of his opposition to the invasion of Ukraine. In February 2022, he woke up to videos of Russian helicopters flying over Ukrainian cities and bombs exploding as Moscow launched its full-scale invasion. The images left him horrified. "They were dropping bombs on innocent civilians," he said. "It was evil." He struggled to understand how his fellow soldiers could carry on with their lives while the war unfolded. At home, he spent evenings with his wife, Liza, watching videos featuring Russian opposition figures and interviews with Ukrainian-held Russian prison-

ers of war. Even at his military academy, a small group of cadets shared similar views, exchanging glances that suggested they understood one another. Some tried to leave the academy, but their requests remained pending for months.

"I couldn't show my emotions," he recalled. "But inside, I was on fire."

His Mother Helped Him Contact Ukrainian Intelligence

Stupnikov's mother, Tatiana Yantsen, also opposed Putin. The 49-year-old office worker had taken part in protests against his rule. In February 2024, three months after her son began serving on the frontline, she contacted Dmytro Karpenko, a computer programmer who worked closely with Ukrainian military intelligence. Karpenko operated a network of Russian informants using encrypted communication platforms. He had also gained attention for posting video interviews with Russian prisoners of war on YouTube. Some servicemen reportedly contacted him after returning home and offered military information in exchange for money. In October 2023, Karpenko announced a payment of 250,000 rubles, or about \$2,700, to Russian servicemen willing to provide information to help Ukraine's war effort. Stupnikov's escape was eventually arranged through this network. He, Karpenko and Ukrainian scouts used encrypted applications to work out a route through the dangerous frontline.

The Escape Across The Frontline

In July 2024, Stupnikov escaped at night from his Russian unit and headed north towards Ukrainian positions. Ukrainian operators followed his movements in real time from an underground bunker using a live video feed. After around 40 minutes, he approached a tree line where soldiers from Ukraine's 72nd Brigade were positioned. The Ukrainian troops saw a man in a Russian uniform approaching their position. Peering out from a dugout, they aimed their rifles at him and demanded, "What's the passcode?" Stupnikov gave the pre-arranged answer, "peanut shop", after which he was led into Ukrainian custody. He later joined the Russian Volunteer Corps (RVC), a Ukrainian army unit made up entirely of ethnic Russians fighting against Putin's government. He now serves as a communications specialist. In February 2025, his mother and sister packed a backpack and a suitcase each and prepared to travel to Moldova. From there, they planned to cross into Ukraine on foot and meet Karpenko. Meanwhile, Tatiana had spent months dealing with calls from Russian military officials who wanted her to persuade her son to surrender if he was still alive. She acted like a distressed mother, insisting that finding him was the authorities' responsibility. A year later, Stupnikov recounted his story in a two-hour video interview with Karpenko. The interview brought renewed attention to his defection and the intelligence he had supplied to Ukraine. However, Stupnikov insisted that his actions were consistent with the oath he had taken at the military academy nearly a decade earlier. He had promised to defend his country's freedom, independence and constitutional order. He believes Putin's invasion destroyed those very principles. "Did I betray my oath? I pledged to defend freedom, independence, and the constitutional order," he said. "But Putin destroyed all three."

Indian-Origin Man In US Kills Wife For Dating Colleague, Tries To Go To India

New Delhi: A 31-year-old Indian-origin man in Chicago, United States, stabbed his estranged wife to death after she began dating one of their former colleagues and refused to reconcile with him. The incident took place in August this year - nearly three months after the accused, Ankur Patel, and his 32-year-old wife - who have a daughter together - had separated, following which she had moved out of their Wisconsin home in May. According to reports, the woman had briefly moved back with Patel after their separation due to pressure from family members but left again soon, following which she began dating another man and moved to Louisiana. She had allowed their daughter to remain with Patel. However, officials said that Patel subsequently began threatening to kill both his estranged

wife and her new partner, and also did not allow her to speak to their daughter - leading to frequent fights. Around two weeks before the crime, Patel reportedly moved in with his relatives in Chicago and sent his daughter to live with his parents in India without informing his wife. Patel then reportedly invited his wife to Chicago to meet their daughter. Unaware of the child's departure to India, the woman and her new partner drove to Chicago. Upon arrival, her partner waited outside the building while she went to Patel's apartment. However, to her shock, her daughter was not in the house. Instead, Patel expressed his desire to reconcile - which she refused, and told him that she would remain with her new partner. Angered by this, Patel reportedly stabbed his wife in the neck. In the meantime, the woman's partner

began repeatedly messaging her. But when she did not return, he called the police, the local media reported, adding that officers went to the building to find Patel and the woman but left after her partner could not identify the apartment she went to. The crime came to light when Patel's friends - whom he was supposed to meet that night - went to his apartment as he failed to appear. To their shock, they found his wife dead near a washing machine and Patel missing. Local media reported that the woman's autopsy found multiple defensive wounds. According to reports, Patel rushed to the O'Hare International Airport in Chicago after the killing in an attempt to flee to India, but he could not purchase the ticket as the counter was closed. He then reportedly checked into a nearby hotel and allegedly disposed of the



weapon - a knife - he used to murder his wife. Patel reportedly went to a Target store and bought new clothes. The next day, he bought a flight ticket to India. However, the police arrested him before he could board the plane. During questioning, Patel revealed that he did not intend to kill his wife but "finished her" after she told him she wanted to stay with her new partner. Patel has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder.

Ukraine Out Of US-Made Patriot Interceptors Amid Increased Russian Attacks: Report



Kyiv: Ukraine has reportedly exhausted its stock of Patriot interceptor missiles, leaving it largely defenceless against Russian ballistic strikes just as its relationship with Washington reaches a new low. The shortage comes at a fraught moment when Kyiv was already dealing with restrictions on Starshield, the military-grade version of Elon Musk's Starlink, adding to the pressure on its battlefield capabilities. At least four people were killed and 25 others injured

after Russian ballistic missiles struck three power plants in Kyiv and targeted energy infrastructure in Kharkiv during that attack overnight into Wednesday morning. Citing sources, CNN reported that "almost all the ballistic missiles from the last strike were not intercepted due to a lack of (interceptor) missiles." It is believed this won't be the first time Ukraine has fully run out of Patriot interceptors, as Zelensky has been vocal about his ongoing struggle to obtain more

stocks. But this time, it coincides with a bitter public feud between US President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky, who recently said he felt "betrayed" by Washington's oil deal with Moscow. Ukraine also attacked a Russian oil refinery, abandoning a brief truce involving energy-related targets that it said Moscow did not heed. The strike could further complicate Kyiv's relations with Trump, which have soured again in recent days amid the

White House demand for a truce. Zelensky has complained that Ukraine in recent days was denied the usual Western intelligence on Russian ballistic missile strikes, and limits were placed on its use of US-made Starlink communication terminals-- both vital for the Ukrainian military's defence capabilities. For months now, Zelensky has also repeatedly complained that Ukraine is running short of US-made interceptors, which are one of the few defensive weapons capable of knocking down a ballistic missile. But the interceptors are not only expensive but also running in short supply globally, as other countries have burnt through their stockpiles amid the war in Iran. During a July visit to Washington, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he had discussed obtaining licenses for making Patriot interceptors with his counterpart, Donald Trump. At the time, Trump said the United States should be "very careful" before granting Ukraine authorisation.

Trump's Truth Social Sees 30% Traffic Crash Ahead Of US Midterm Elections



Truth Social, the social media platform owned by US President Donald Trump is currently experiencing a significant drop in user traffic despite him posting more frequently as the 2026 US midterm elections approach. According to a digital intelligence report from Similarweb, engagement on the platform has sharply declined with daily traffic plunging more than 30 per cent over the past year. The platform averaged approximately 260,000 daily users last month, a steep drop from its peak of 420,000 daily users in June 2025. Trump, who has the

most followers on Truth Social, continues to treat the platform as his primary personal megaphone, occasionally publishing dozens of posts in a single day, such as a flurry of 25 posts within a matter of hours. However, this relentless output has failed to retain or grow a sustainable audience. Trump uses the platform to announce new policies, military actions related to the Iran war and AI generated videos. Over the past week, he's used his account to push a semiconductor investment, post positive media coverage about himself, and shared a graphic clip

of himself playing with a tiger that attacked and killed a man in the UK. A statement issued by the spokesperson of Trump Media & Technology Group Corp. (TMTG) in response to the Washington Post report, dismissed the critical metrics and countered by accusing the newspaper of systemic media bias against the service and its owner, Trump. During the first quarter of this year, the company suffered a net loss of over \$405 million on net sales of just above \$871,000 and attributed the loss to "unrealised losses on digital assets, digital assets pledged,

and equity securities (\$368.7 million), accreted interest (\$11.5 million), and stock-based compensation (\$11.8 million)." The Trump family owns nearly half of the company, which saw its annual losses spike to over \$712 million in 2025 from \$400.9 million in 2024. The platform was established as a direct response to his indefinite suspensions and bans from major tech platforms, including Facebook, Twitter (now X), and YouTube, following his actions surrounding the January 6, 2021, attacks on the US Capitol.

Can't Wait For Tesla's 'Flying Car'? Here's What You Can Buy Right Now



Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Thursday unveiled his company's new Roadster that he described as a "flying" car. During a livestreamed event at his SpaceX rocket company's facility, the sports car, equipped with thrusters, launched from a steep ramp

and landed on his wheels. Musk said the car will go into production in 2028, but nobody is sure if the new Roadster is just an "engineering flex" to show off extreme physics, or will it be available to everyday commuter? American aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss debuted the first fly-

ing car prototype in 1917. Since then, they have come a long way and are mostly being designed as Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) vehicles. These vehicles are catching daily commuters' fancy because they open the prospect of shifting the travel from congested

roads to airspace. However, daily commuting by air faces strict limitations from city noise regulations, safety/air-traffic control over dense buildings, and high maintenance or energy costs. Here are a few personal flying vehicles that you can buy or reserve currently and fulfill your dream of owning a roadable aircraft. Klein Vision AirCar: This is a sports car that transforms into an airplane in 90 seconds. Sales are set to begin at a starting price of roughly \$800,000. Alef Model A: A road-legal electric vehicle that can drive on streets and take off vertically. It has received special airworthiness certification from the FAA with reservations open. Samson Switchblade: A three-wheeled roadable aircraft that switches between driving and flying modes in about three minutes. It is priced around \$170,000 to \$195,000 as a kit-built aircraft. AeroMobil: A two-seater hybrid transformable vehicle that converts from a car to an aircraft in under three minutes, featuring a turbocharged internal combustion engine and a ballistic recovery parachute. Apart from these, there are some personal eVTOLs (Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing) as well, such as Rictor X4 (RTOR X4), priced at \$39,900, Jetson ONE, costing roughly \$128,000 to \$148,000, Pivotal Helix (BlackFly) and Air ONE.

Earthquake Of Magnitude 7 Strikes Russia, Japan Mistakenly Issues 9.9 Warning

Moscow: An earthquake of magnitude 7 has struck the Kamchatka Peninsula region of Russia, the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said. The quake was at a depth of 140 km (86.99 miles). Its epicentre was located around 123 km southwest of Vilyuchinsk in Russia's Far East, EMSC said. The seismic event was recorded at around 3:35 pm

local time.

No tsunami alert was issued in the immediate aftermath of the quake, with the US National Tsunami Warning Center saying there was no danger following the tremors. Further details about any damages or casualties due to the impact of the earthquake were not immediately available.

Japan's Meteorological Agency (JMA) mistakenly

issued an early warning estimating a magnitude 9.9 earthquake and forecasting strong shaking across much of the country, contrary to the fact that their actual reading measured 6.9, according to data cited by BNO News. If the warning was correct, it would have been the strongest earthquake ever recorded. The largest instrumentally recorded earthquake in his-

tory was the 1960 Valdivia earthquake, with a magnitude of 9.5. The Kamchatka Peninsula lies on a tectonic belt known as the Ring of Fire, which surrounds most of the Pacific Ocean, and is a hotspot for seismic activity. Last year in July, an 8.8-magnitude mega-quake off the region's coast triggered a tsunami that swept part of a coastal village into the sea.

Asian Para Games: Shailesh Kumar wins gold as India sweeps high jump podium



Nagoya: India delivered a spectacular performance in the men's high jump T63 final, achieving a podium sweep by securing all three medals. Shailesh Kumar clinched gold, while Varun Bhati secured silver and Rahul bagged bronze. Shailesh registered an outstanding jump of 1.89 metres to win gold, while Varun secured silver with a jump of 1.84 metres. Rahul completed India's clean sweep with a personal-best performance of 1.81 metres. India replicated its 2022 podium sweep in the men's high jump T42/T63, once again claiming all three medals. It was

India's third podium sweep at the Games. Devender Kumar had earlier led an Indian sweep in the men's discus throw F44/64 event, while Sachin Khilari led another in the men's shot put F46 final. Varun is an accomplished Indian para high jumper from Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. His breakthrough on the Paralympic stage came at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, where he cleared 1.86 metres to win bronze in the men's high jump T42 event. He subsequently won bronze at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships and silver at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta,

where he cleared 1.82 metres. More recently, he won bronze in the men's high jump T63 at the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, with a clearance of 1.85 metres. Earlier in the day, India recorded a one-two finish in the women's 400m T47 event, with Anjanaben Bumbadiya clinching gold in 59.97 seconds and Jayanti Nehra securing silver in 1:00.65. Anjanaben delivered a strong performance to claim the top spot on the podium, while Jayanti followed closely to complete a memorable double podium finish for India, further strengthening the country's para athletics medal tally.

Iva Jovic defeats Jasmine Paolini on Ningbo Open debut

Ningbo: American teenager Iva Jovic made a strong start to her Ningbo Open debut as she defeated two-time Grand Slam finalist Jasmine Paolini in the round of 16 at Centre Court. Jovic, seeded fourth, received a bye in the first round and recovered from 1-3 down in the first set to beat Paolini 6-4, 6-3 and march into the quarterfinals. The 18-year-old Jovic was broken early and trailed 1-3 in the opening set. However, she recovered from the slow start to break Paolini in the fifth and ninth games and win the opening set. The Italian struggled with her serve in the second set as well, with Jovic breaking her four times. The 18-year-old American also lost her serve twice but managed to win the second set to seal a straight-sets victory. The win levels Jovic's head-to-head record against Paolini at 2-2. It was also her second consecutive win over the Italian, having beaten her at the Australian Open earlier this year. The American has now reached her seventh quarterfinal of the season and has advanced to the semifinals in five of her previous six appearances in the last eight. Jovic has now recorded her 20th win over a top-50 opponent, with Paolini ranked No. 35. This is also her 42nd tournament win of the year, making it



her most successful season yet. She will next face either Alexandra Eala or French Open semifinalist Diana Shnaider. Jovic has an unbeaten record against both players, leading Eala 3-0 in their head-to-head encounters and Shnaider 1-0.

Jovic has been in good form this season. She successfully defended her Guadalajara Open title last month, having also won it in 2025. She also enjoyed a breakthrough run at the US Open, reaching the fourth round for the first time.

Sindhu survives scare to advance at French Open

Paris: India's double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu survived a scare from Thailand's world No. 26 Supanida Katethong to advance in the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament. The former world champion and world No. 1 battled for an hour and four minutes before prevailing 21-14, 8-21, 23-21 in a gruelling encounter. Sindhu started strongly, taking the opening game 21-14, but Katethong fought back in the second, dominating the rallies to level the match with a commanding 21-8 win. The decider proved to be a tense affair, with both players fighting for every point. Sindhu eventually held her nerve in the closing stages to edge past the Thai shuttler 23-21 and seal her place in the next round. Reflecting on the hard-fought win, Sindhu admitted it was far from her best performance but was relieved to get



through. "Some matches you just have to find a way to win. Today was one of those," she said. "Credit to Supanida, she made me fight for every point. I felt like I was trying to impose my game throughout, but somehow things kept slipping away. Will go through the footage and see what needs to change," she added. Sindhu also recalled a crucial challenge late in the decider, when a close line call went against her. "Even that chal-

lenge at 21-20, the shuttle clipping the line by a hair's breadth! Some days God really makes you fight for it," she said. "I needed this win. End of story. Not the prettiest, plenty to reflect on, but happy to be through. Recovery underway, another battle tomorrow. One match at a time," Sindhu added. In another women's singles match, Unnati Hooda bowed out after losing 18-21, 21-12, 17-21 to Japan's Riko Gunji.

New 'Sonic' DRS technology to debut in India-New Zealand series

Christchurch: 'Sonic' technology will be used for the first time as part of the Decision Review System (DRS) during the multi-format series between New Zealand and India, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said. NZC added that the approval applies to the upcoming BlackCaps v India series in New Zealand, with any future use of the technology remaining subject to the ICC's ongoing accreditation and approval processes. The addition of New Zealand-designed edge-detection technology means Virtual Eye, which has been ICC-accredited for ball-tracking since 2008, will now provide the full suite of DRS technology to assist umpires and enhance the viewing experience during the upcoming three-series tour. Sonic uses advanced audio analysis technology to assist third umpires when reviewing potential bat-ball contact.

NZC said the approval follows an extensive programme of testing, validation and independent assessment conducted in consultation with



the International Cricket Council (ICC) and has been supported by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). "The integrity of decision-making is fundamental to the game, which is why such a comprehensive testing and assessment process has been undertaken. The technology has been subject to extensive validation and independent re-

view, and we're pleased with the outcome of that process. We'd like to thank the ICC, BCCI, Sky and Virtual Eye for their collaboration and commitment throughout," NZC Chief Marketing and Commercial Officer Glenn Critchley said. Ben Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of Virtual Eye, added, "Our team has worked tirelessly developing and refining this technol-

ogy, with a strong focus on accuracy, consistency and meeting the standards expected at the highest level of international sport." India commence their all-format tour of New Zealand on Thursday with a five-match T20I series, followed by five ODIs. The tour will conclude with two Tests, with the second red-ball game set to end on December 1.

Sheetal-Toman win India's first archery gold at Asian Para Games; Swati scripts history with W1 medal

Nagoya: Sheetal Devi and Toman Kumar struck gold with a commanding display in the compound mixed team event, while Swati Chaudhary scripted history by winning India's first ever W1 medal with her women's individual silver at the Asian Para Games' archery competition. Sheetal and Toman's top finish was India's first gold in archery at the ongoing Games, following a silver in the women's compound doubles event, in which the armless Sheetal partnered quadruple amputee Payal Nag. Gold was Sheetal's second successive in mixed team, having won the title alongside Rakesh Kumar on her Games debut at the 2023 Hangzhou edition. The reigning world champions in their respective individual categories, Sheetal and Toman produced an improved show in the final to defeat Indonesia's Teodora Audi Ayudia Ferelly and Ken Swagumilang 151-148. The top seeds, who shattered the world record in qualification by two points, edged ahead 38-37 in the opening end before extending their advantage to 77-73 in the second, dropping just one point. The Indonesians clawed back by a point in the third end, but the Indians retained a three-point cushion. Both pairs scored 38 in the final end, but India sealed the gold thanks to their established lead. Sheetal and Toman had survived a major scare in the semifinal against Chinese Taipei, where Toman's final arrow missed the scoring zone to register a zero. The Chinese Taipei pair of Lee Yun-



Hsien and Yang Jyun-Kai capitalised on the opening but could not overturn India's advantage, as Sheetal and Toman scraped through 142-141. Born without arms, world No. 1 Sheetal uses her feet and legs to position the compound bow and her shoulder and jaw to draw and release the string. Her remarkable accuracy proved decisive in the semifinal, where she dropped just three points across eight arrows, keeping India firmly in contention despite Toman's misfire.

A serving CRPF constable and a former CoBRA commando from Nawagaon village in Chhattisgarh's Balod district, the 31-year-old Toman has risen to become the world's No. 1 para archer in the men's compound category after overcom-

ing a life-changing injury sustained during an anti-Maoist operation. Toman lost his left leg in an IED blast during a joint search operation against Maoists in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district in February 2022. Critically injured in the explosion triggered by a device planted by insurgents, he underwent an amputation. After taking up para archery, Toman rose through the ranks to become world champion in 2025 and reach the top of the world rankings in the men's compound category.

Swati's historic W1 silver
Earlier, Swati became India's first ever medallist in the W1 category after losing 4-6 to China's Cen Mengkan in the women's individual final. The top-seeded Indian, who won

bronze at the World Archery Para Series in Ahmedabad last month, squandered a 4-2 lead in a final of fluctuating fortunes. She won the opening set 25-17 after Cen misfired with one of her arrows, but the Chinese fought back to take the second 22-21 and level the contest at 2-2. Swati regained the lead by edging the third set 22-21. However, the world No. 23 Chinese archer turned the contest around with a 30-20 win in the fourth set, firing three 10s to level the match at 4-4. With the title on the line, Cen held her nerve in the decider, scoring 28 to Swati's 21 to complete the comeback and claim her maiden Asian Para Games gold. The W1 classification is for archers with significant impairments affecting both the upper and lower limbs.

Asian Para Games: Tejalben Damor adds silver to India's medal tally

Nagoya: In another double-medal delight for India, Anjanaben Bumbadiya and Jayanti Nehra clinched gold and silver medals, respectively, in the women's 400m T47 event at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium. Anjanaben clinched the gold medal in the 400m T47 event with a time of 59.97 seconds (848 Raza points). She finished less than a second ahead of fellow Indian Jayanti, who won silver with a time of 1:00.65 (815 Raza points). Thailand's Sasirawan Inthachot finished third to claim bronze in 1:02.58 (714 Raza points). Nepal's Prabha Angdembe finished fourth in 1:15.81 (89 Raza points). Anjanaben came close to breaking the Asian Para Games record of 58.39 seconds, set by

Chinese athlete Li Lu at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta. Meanwhile, Tejalben Damor also won silver for India in the women's 400m T12 event, clocking an impressive 57.60 seconds. Her performance added another medal to India's tally in para athletics. Iran's Hajar Safarzadeh won gold in 56.43 seconds, while China's Shen Yaqin, guided by He Yuchong, clinched bronze in 58.04 seconds. Anjanaben is a Gujarat-based para-athlete. Born in Gujarat in 2001, she has a congenital upper-limb impairment, with one arm shorter than normal.

She is one of India's fastest-rising female para-sprinters and the reigning Khelo India Para Games champion from 2025. She clocked her personal best



of 1:00.04 last year at the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi. Jayanti, born in 1999, is an athlete from Odisha classified in the T47

category. She suffered severe second-degree burns at the age of one after accidentally falling into an earthen stove (chulha). The incident resulted in permanent contractures of her left elbow and hand. Her school coach, Bishnu Prasad Mishra, identified her talent and enrolled her at his Gurukul Athletic Training Centre in Sakhigopal, where he trained her free of cost. Jayanti won two medals at the 2018 Asian Para Games: silver in the women's 400m T47 event in 59.71 seconds and bronze in the women's 200m T47 event in 27.45 seconds. She also won gold in the 400m at the 2017 World Junior Para Athletics Championships in Nottwil, Switzerland, becoming the world youth champion.

Akka Trailer: Fierce Power Battle Between Two Lady Dons

The trailer of Akka is out, and it promises a gripping story filled with gang wars, power struggles and revenge. The Netflix series is set in Perunuru in 1985, a village dominated by women and ruled by Akka, played by Keerthy Suresh. She is introduced as a powerful smuggler whose authority remains unquestioned. However, her world faces a major challenge when another influential woman from Mumbai, played by Radhika Apte, enters the scene. What follows is a fierce battle for power, with both women determined to establish their supremacy. The biggest highlight is Keerthy Suresh in a never-before-seen avatar. Her Hindi diction, commanding screen presence and intense performance make a strong impression in the trailer. Radhika Apte is equally impressive, bringing tremendous intensity to her character. The face-off



between these two talented performers looks like one of the series' biggest attractions.

The production design is another major strength while the visuals and background score add to the drama and

scale. Going by the trailer, Akka could be a winner if the content matches its impressive presentation. Directed by Dharmaraj Shetty, Akka is produced by Yash Raj Films and Aditya Chopra, with

John Eduri composing the music. Streaming on Netflix from October 30, the series looks like a promising combination of strong female characters and intense drama.

Young Producer Urges Governments To Stop Ticket Price Hikes

Producer Dheeraj Mogilineni, who is known for making films in small budgets, has made a startling revelation. Urging the state governments to stop issuing the GOs of Ticket Price hikes, Dheeraj reasoned why it would be a death knell to small cinema. Dheeraj said higher the ticket price for a big budget film, theatres in turn get higher share or rent accordingly. If that is the case, the majority of theatres would be interested in screening only such big-budget films as their margins increase. With this, small films wouldn't get theatres to screen the films. Dheeraj said there could be 1



or 2 exceptions like SS Rajamouli's films which are made with massive budgets on a large scale. However, he says this practice of hiking ticket

prices often for almost all the films would only impact the small films. Dheeraj said small films should also get visibility and it will only happen if ticket

prices are not hiked. Meanwhile, Dheeraj stated that hiking ticket prices is of no use to anyone. He said it is a burden to film goers as well. Dheeraj urged the governments who are keen to encourage films and filmmakers to consider the plight of the small-budget films and refrain from issuing the GOs. Dheeraj's comments are in complete contrast with the group of some big filmmakers who have put proposals to the governments to issue GOs for the hike of ticket prices. It is a completely contradictory statement from Dheeraj and it needs to be seen what will be the reactions of the big filmmakers group.

Will 418 Bring Back The Vintage Horror Vibes?

Horror films have undergone a major change in recent years. Many filmmakers are mixing horror with action and comedy to attract a wider audience. While this combination has worked for some, fans have been waiting for a film that delivers genuine scares.

Now, 418 the film backed by Prashanth Neel and Mythri Movie Makers seems to be aiming to bring back that vintage horror vibe. The film has generated curiosity among moviegoers who want to experience a full-on horror story without too many commercial distractions. Unlike horror comedies that balance frightening moments with humour, 418 appears to focus on just the hor-



ror factor. The film's midnight premieres on October 22 have also created interest among audiences. A few within the in-

dustry have already watched the film and have loved it, especially the jump scares and sound design. However, the

real challenge will be connecting with general viewers. Horror films depend heavily on their storytelling, background score, and ability to keep audiences engaged. If 418 manages to deliver genuine scares and maintains suspense until the end, it could attract positive word of mouth from tomorrow.

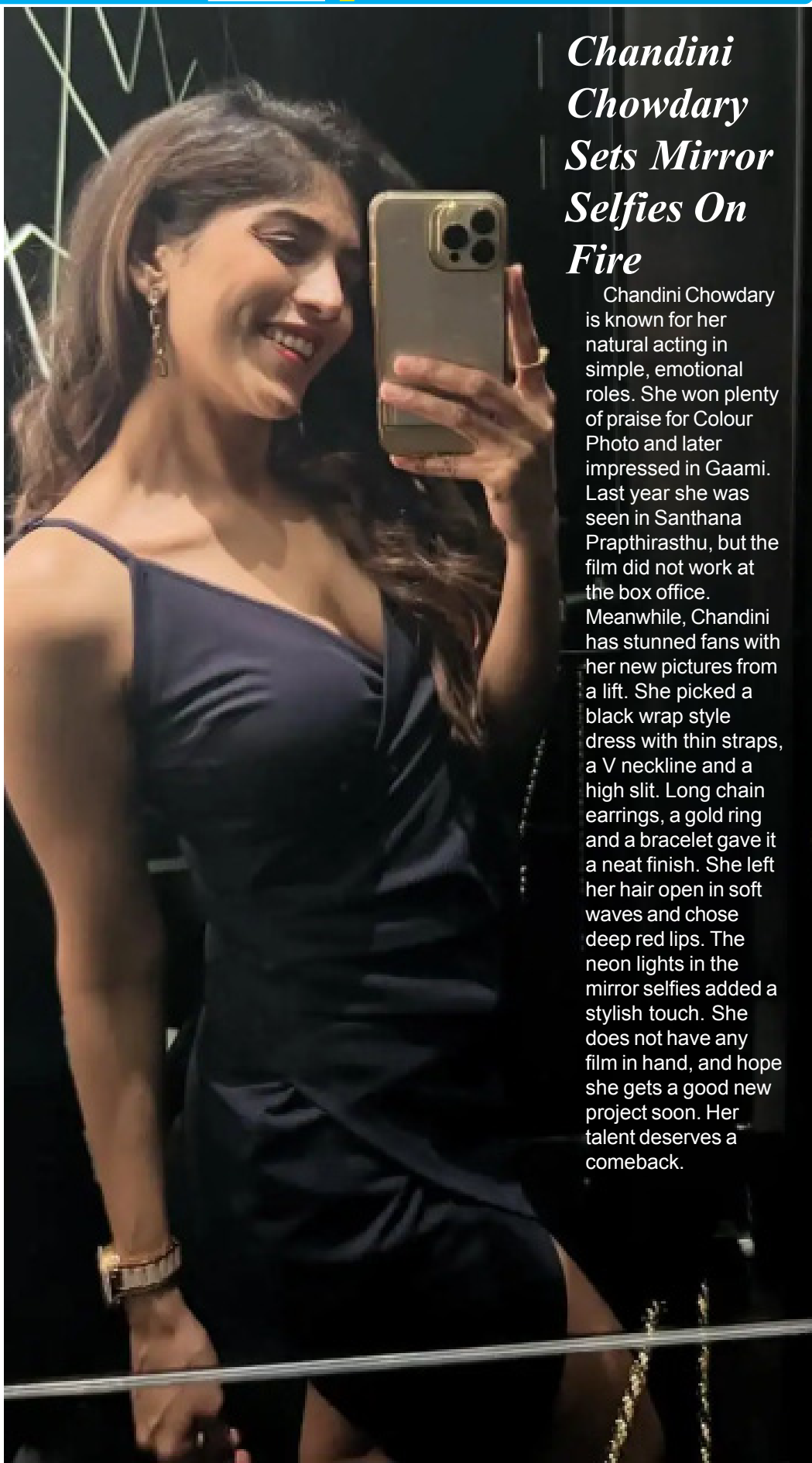
Another advantage for the film is the lack of major releases this week. With limited competition at the box office, 418 could get a decent opportunity to bring audiences into theatres if the word of mouth is good. Will 418 successfully revive the old-school horror experience, or will it struggle to scare audiences? Let's wait and watch.

Reality's Bhaja Govindam: A Special Start

Kiran Abbavaram's maiden directorial venture Reality created a lot of excitement with its title glimpse alone. Now, the makers started the film's musical promotions with the release of Bhaja Govindam video song. The track was used as the background score for the glimpse. Happiness does not always come from achieving something extraordinary. Sometimes, it lies in enjoying our work, spending time with loved ones and being satisfied with what we already have. This simple yet powerful thought forms the heart of Bhaja Govindam. Bheems Ceciroleo sets the mood with a melodious composition, while Sanare pens



lyrics that encourage contentment, self-reliance and a healthy appreciation of life. The song also highlights the need to find personal time amid the demands and routines of everyday living. Vaikom Vijayalakshmi's soulful rendition beautifully complements the composition, giving it a soothing and spiritual quality. Kiran Abbavaram is seen enjoying the company of his friends and family and finding happiness in ordinary moments. His expressive yet natural portrayal lends credibility to the character and makes the situations feel close to real life. Bhaja Govindam marks the blockbuster start to the musical journey of Reality. Produced by Sudhakar Chaganti under Joy Films, Reality will arrive in theatres on December 25, as a Christmas release.



Chandini Chowdary Sets Mirror Selfies On Fire

Chandini Chowdary is known for her natural acting in simple, emotional roles. She won plenty of praise for Colour Photo and later impressed in Gaami. Last year she was seen in Santhana Prapthirasthu, but the film did not work at the box office. Meanwhile, Chandini has stunned fans with her new pictures from a lift. She picked a black wrap style dress with thin straps, a V neckline and a high slit. Long chain earrings, a gold ring and a bracelet gave it a neat finish. She left her hair open in soft waves and chose deep red lips. The neon lights in the mirror selfies added a stylish touch. She does not have any film in hand, and hope she gets a good new project soon. Her talent deserves a comeback.

Sreeleela Serves Another Traditional Look This Season



Sreeleela has built her name on quick footwork, easy comfort in front of the camera and dancing skills few Telugu heroines can match. Dhamaka and Bhagavanth Kesari gave her big hits, and her number Kissik kept her trending nationwide. For this festive look, she wore a mustard yellow ruffled saree with mirror work borders and tiny floral motifs.

The pre-draped pallu flows off one shoulder, paired with a sleeveless sweetheart blouse in gold embroidery. The layered hem carries the same gold work, which adds movement as she poses sideways. Open tousled hair, nude lips and glowing skin kept the styling simple. Next, she will share screen space with Kartik Aaryan in Anurag Basu's Hindi romantic musical. She is also reportedly part of Ajith Kumar's upcoming film directed by Adhik Ravichandran.