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INDIA bloc parties announce ‘Save Democracy’ rally in Jammu on Oct 7, demand CEC ouster



Jammu: Leaders of the INDIA bloc parties on Saturday announced a joint ‘Save Democracy’ rally in Jammu on October 7, seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. Addressing a joint press conference at the Congress headquarters here, senior leaders of the Congress, National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) said protest marches would also be held in different districts between October 4 and 8. The leaders, including Pradesh Congress Committee working president Raman Bhalla, Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Shama, NC provincial president Ratan Lal

Gupta, PDP General Secretary Rajinder Singh Manhas and National Panthers Party India leader Gagan Pratap Singh, said the protests would highlight the BJP’s “vote chori” and raise concerns over the electoral process. Earlier, a meeting of senior leaders of the INDIA bloc parties discussed the schedule of protests in different districts, in accordance with the decision taken at the INDIA bloc meeting in Delhi on September 30.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, the leaders said democracy was under threat in the country, as highlighted by the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and the entire opposition and “supported” by a recent

media report. “Over 13.30 crore voters have been deleted through an illegal and arbitrary SIR exercise, depriving the genuine and eligible people of their precious right to vote. “It has been established beyond doubt, and people are largely convinced that the BJP government is involved in large-scale vote chori and hijacking of the election system and democracy in the country,” the PCC working president said. Seeking the removal of the CEC, streamlining of the entire electoral system and restoration of independence and fairness of elections, the leaders said they have come together to fight for the cause of the “Vote Bachao-Desh Bachao” campaign.

Dubai's Crown Prince Hamdan Meets flydubai Hero Smit Machchhar In Hospital

Dubai: The Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, visited Indian pilot and hero Smit Machchhar, who is recuperating in a hospital in the city after he was attacked mid-flight by his co-pilot. The pilot has been receiving praise from across the world for opening the cockpit door despite being grievously injured, thus saving the lives of 172 passengers and crew members. After his visit, the prince expressed his “full appreciation and praise” for the pilot. “From us, and from the leadership of the nation, he has our full appreciation

and praise. We are proud that he is part of our team... part of the story of our nation... and part of what the UAE stands for... a nation of compassion... a nation of peace... and a nation of life,” he wrote on X.

The prince was seen in photos speaking with Machchhar and embracing him. Machchhar was the captain of the flydubai flight flying from Dubai to Tel Aviv. Hamam Alhammami, an Omani national, was his co-pilot. He suddenly attacked the captain with a cockpit crash axe as part of his bid to crash the plane. As the two pilots jostled, the plane plummeted thou-

sands of feet within minutes and was heading for a crash. Showing exemplary presence of mind and courage despite all odds, Machchhar opened the cockpit door and alerted passengers, who rushed in, overpowered the attacker, and steadied the plane. Soon, off-duty pilots landed the plane.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, and US President Donald Trump have praised the Indian pilot for his heroics. The motive behind the co-pilot's alleged attempt to crash the plane is still under investigation.



'India Kept High Growth Amid Global Uncertainty': PM's Principal Secretary

New Delhi: India has maintained a high level of growth amid global uncertainty due to sound macroeconomic fundamentals, and investing in resilience is economically rational, P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, said here on Saturday. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the ‘5th Kautliya Economic Conclave’, Mishra said, “I think the subject of the conference is totally different. I was speak-

ing about resilience, and that it also costs”. “It has a cost, but how much does it cost? And in the current context, where the uncertainty is because of the global development, how is India able to cope with all this, and how has it successfully faced the pandemic and other crises? India has also maintained a high level of growth and maintained macroeconomic fundamentals,” he noted. According to the Principal Sec-

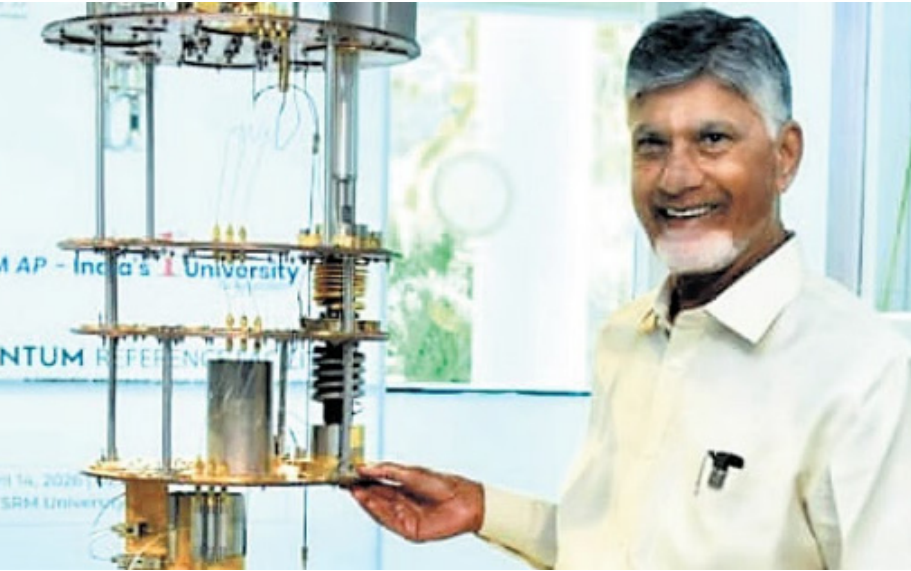
retary, India's main strength is macroeconomic fundamentals, which are very strong. “We have been able to diversify our supply chain. We have also been able to have wider trade relationships, more FTAs, and more trade relationships. So, we're also trying to increase our manufacturing capability. So, in that sense, we would like to continue to be open, at the same time, you know, less vulnerable. So, we would like

to avoid vulnerability, at the same time, remain open to the world,” he said. The top bureaucrat said that economic decisions are taken not fully knowing what the results will be. There's always an element of risk. According to him, the globe is increasingly confronted not just with risk but also uncertainty. The distinction is now in sharp focus between risk-taking and uncertainty, he noted.



Dr. P K MISRA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

First Quantum Computer to be Unveiled from Amaravati on February 3: CM Chandrababu



From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, October 3: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that the first quantum computer would be unveiled from Amaravati on February 3 next year. He expressed his aspiration to develop Amaravati as a Quantum Valley and said he wanted Amaravati to become synonymous with quantum technology whenever anyone in India talks about quantum computing. Recalling the early days of his efforts to promote IT, the Chief Minister said that many people used to ridicule him. Some even questioned why he was talking about technology and mobile phones when society was not yet technologically aware. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and representatives of various companies participated in the Pan IIT AP Summit 2026 held at Ambedkar Kala Vedika on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister outlined his vision for Amaravati as a global hub for quantum technology.

Everyone Should Talk About Quantum Valley
CM Chandrababu ex-

plained that today, around 33 to 35 percent of Indians working in the IT sector are Telugu people, which he described as a major strength of the IT sector. He said this has been their track record over the past 25 years. “We embraced IT, and that was the beginning. Today, we have entered the AI and quantum era,” he said. He recalled that until recently, people used to talk about Silicon Valley. “From

today or tomorrow, everyone should talk about Quantum Valley, and that should be about Amaravati alone,” he said, expressing his desire to establish Amaravati as the country's leading quantum technology hub.

Some Delay Initially in Setting Up Quantum Computing

“Once, IIT Madras Director Kamakoti called me and said, ‘Sir, there is an offer.

IBM wants to bring quantum technology to India. It is available in the United States. If the Government of India agrees, we can take it forward.” I immediately made inquiries through the Central Government. Before anyone else came forward, I started talking about it. There was some competition, with others asking why their state should not get it. As a result, there was some delay in setting it up. “Instead of pursuing that route, I changed my approach and held discussions with IBM, TCS and L&T. We have three partners. Within a month, we reached an understanding and were able to build this partnership. Subsequently, we announced that quantum computing would be coming to Amaravati. “I invite all of you on February 3. The first quantum computer will begin operating from Amaravati,” CM Chandrababu said.

Quantum Systems Named ‘QShiva’

“Today, we are launching

five quantum systems manufactured right here in Amaravati. These five quantum systems have been named QShiva. “We are capable of developing the entire quantum system here, including hardware, integration, validation and architecture. “You are bringing a quantum computer from IBM in the United States — very good. But why should we not manufacture one ourselves? Is it impossible? That was the question I asked for the first time. It became an inspiration. “They worked together and subsequently brought in various partners and ecosystem partners. Five systems from QShiva have been prepared at Medha Towers. “They have given me an understanding that within two years, we will complete a quantum computer entirely from Amaravati. We can supply these to everyone in India and, if necessary, we can also export quantum computers,” CM Chandrababu said.

ED summons Avinash Reddy in Viveka murder money trail

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October, 3 : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has stepped up its probe into the alleged money trail in the murder of former minister Y S Vivekananda Reddy, issuing summons to YSRCP MP Y S Avinash Reddy to appear for questioning on October 14. The agency is examining allegations of a Rs 40 crore financial deal linked to the murder and a separate alleged payment of Rs 4 crore to the accused who allegedly carried out the killing. The ED is probing the source and movement of the funds and the persons allegedly involved in arranging the money. The summons follows the questioning of four accused persons- Dastagiri, who later turned approver, Erra Gangi Reddy, Sunil Yadav and Uma Shankar Reddy. The ED registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering

Act (PMLA) in August 2025, based on the CBI FIR and subsequent charge sheets in the murder case.

The agency is examining who allegedly arranged the Rs 40 crore, where the money originated and how it was proposed to be transferred. It is also investigating the alleged Rs 4 crore advance and the financial transactions of the accused and other persons linked to the case. ED officials are examining bank accounts and fund movements dating back to 2019, covering transactions before and after Vivekananda Reddy's murder. The ED has also been conducting searches as part of its financial investigation. Searches were carried out at multiple locations in Hyderabad and Kadapa districts, including premises linked to Avinash Reddy, Devireddy Siva Shankar Reddy, Sunil Yadav, Erra Gangi Reddy



and Dastagiri. During the searches, officials seized documents and other material relevant to the financial investigation. According to the details of the searches, Rs 24 lakh in unaccounted cash was seized from premises linked to Avinash Reddy, along with keys to two lockers and other documents. The ED is now examining the seized material and financial records to trace the alleged flow of funds and establish the financial links, if any, among the persons under investigation.

Depression likely again in Bay of Bengal, rains predicted in AP, Telangana

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October, 3 : The Meteorological Department has announced the likelihood of another depression forming in the Bay of Bengal. It stated that a cyclonic circulation is expected to develop over the North Andaman Sea on the 12th of this month. This system is likely to intensify gradually, turning into a low-pressure area over the

Andaman Sea by the 13th. Subsequently, it is projected to strengthen into a depression over the southern Bay of Bengal and its surrounding areas by the 15th. Meanwhile, the department indicated that rainfall is expected in several parts of the state. Moderate rains accompanied by lightning are likely in isolated areas of Alluri and Polavaram dis-

tricts today, while light, scattered rains with lightning are expected in the remaining coastal districts. On the other hand, temperature readings across the state show highs of 38 degrees Celsius recorded yesterday in Tirupati and Kadapa districts. Moderate rainfall was also reported in various locations across Bapatla, NTR, Konaseema, Eluru,

and Alluri districts. Furthermore, the Southwest Monsoon is gradually withdrawing; the Meteorological Department stated that it is likely to retreat from North and Central India within the next two to three days. Greater clarity regarding rainfall in the state is expected once the low-pressure area and the subsequent depression form in the Bay of Bengal.



EDITORIAL

Errors in Rainfall Forecasts

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has traditionally followed a cautious and conservative approach in its forecasts, which sometimes results in errors because the actual situation does not get adequately reflected. This is particularly evident in its assessment of rainfall deficits. It is customary for the IMD to issue two forecasts in April and May, before the onset of the monsoon. However, this time, both forecasts clearly indicated that the annual rainfall would be below normal. Since forecasts around the world suggested that a very strong El Niño was developing, the question was how severe the decline in rainfall would be. In the end, the IMD's forecast of "below normal" rainfall (90–95 per cent of the average) turned out to be a very cautious estimate compared with the actual situation. The reason is that the IMD's models had already indicated that there could be a rainfall "deficit" (less than 90 per cent of the average). In other words, although the IMD models suggested that rainfall could fall below 90 per cent, the official forecast adopted the somewhat safer estimate of 90–95 per cent. When the IMD announced on September 30 that the country's monsoon season had ended, it said that the country had received 759 mm of rainfall, which was only 87 per cent of the normal 869 mm. When the equatorial Pacific Ocean warms, Indian monsoon rainfall tends to decline due to the influence of El Niño. Predicting in advance how much rainfall will decline during El Niño years has therefore remained a challenge for the weather department. However, when it was already known that rainfall would be deficient, if the IMD had warned of "deficient/severely deficient" rainfall instead of simply saying "below normal," it could have claimed that its forecast was more accurate. Therefore, it is difficult to understand why the IMD chose the term "below normal." At present, the IMD's achievement can only be described as a technical success. The IMD had predicted that rainfall would be below normal, and although the final figure was close to that forecast, there was an error margin of about 45 per cent, making it difficult to describe the forecast as highly accurate. A month-wise analysis makes the problem faced by the weather department in forecasting rainfall even clearer. In June, only 65 per cent of the normal rainfall was recorded. However, the IMD had forecast 92 per cent rainfall. This means that the actual rainfall was far lower than predicted. In July, rainfall was forecast to be below 94 per cent, while the actual rainfall was one percentage point higher than the forecast. In August, 84 per cent of normal rainfall was recorded, which was consistent with the forecast of "below 94 per cent." In September, 92.4 per cent of normal rainfall was recorded, slightly higher than the forecast of "below 91 per cent."

The IMD had forecast "normal rainfall" for northeast India. However, the region recorded its lowest rainfall since 1901, 26 per cent below normal. In southern India, rainfall was 23 per cent below normal. The IMD had already forecast below-normal rainfall for central and northwest India. The actual results were also broadly close to those forecasts. Western disturbances and oceanic conditions were among the factors responsible for the variations. Although the IMD can predict the overall monsoon situation to some extent, forecasts regarding how much rain will fall in a particular month and in a particular region sometimes differ significantly from reality. Western disturbances—weather systems that bring additional extratropical rainfall—are contributing to more rainfall over the country during the monsoon season. At the same time, southern India is more vulnerable to rainfall variations caused by El Niño. This impact was felt on the kharif agricultural season. As of July 10, kharif sowing was 16 per cent behind the previous year, but by September the gap had narrowed to less than 2 per cent. More than 100 taluks in Karnataka and 265 out of 358 taluks in Maharashtra were declared drought-affected areas. However, it is noteworthy that the overall rainfall deficit across the country was only around 12 per cent, below the 20 per cent threshold used by the Centre to classify a situation as an "agricultural drought." The IMD forecast that as El Niño strengthens further, many parts of the country could receive below-normal rainfall between October and December. Such forecasts influence farmers as well as government decisions. Therefore, there is a need to develop more accurate, region-specific weather forecasting systems. When necessary, it is also the responsibility of the IMD to clearly communicate adverse weather information to the public.

From Swachh To Swasth: 13 Years Of A Campaign, And People Who Make It Matter

Who would have thought that a call from the Prime Minister of India in 2014, an appeal for a cleaner India, would make way for a movement that would grow into one of the nation's longest-running public health campaigns? What started as Banega Swachh India pivoted to Banega Swasth India. And somewhere along that journey, we began to understand that cleanliness was only the beginning. A clean India meant a healthy India, and a healthy India meant a stronger, more productive and more prosperous country. Over the years, I've watched this campaign grow from a call for better hygiene into a much larger conversation about public health, sanitation, nutrition, the environment and the people who make change happen on the ground. The journey has been extraordinary. From the President of India and Union ministers to Padma Shri awardees, Oscar winners, Nobel Laureates, doctors, health workers, ASHA workers and sanitation workers, the campaign has brought together voices from across the country and beyond the borders. Over the years, the campaign has also received several awards and recognitions, a testament to the impact it has made and the work of everyone who has been part of this journey. The partnership between and Reckitt has been central to this journey, with a shared belief that it needed to be more than just another awareness campaign. It had to translate into action and create lasting change. And, of course, many incredible faces joined us on this journey. From Amitabh Bachchan, who lent his voice to the campaign for nine years, to Ayushmann Khurrana who is the campaign ambassador and several other Bollywood actors, sportspersons and social media influencers, the campaign has had the support of people who have helped take the message to millions. This year, on Gandhi Jayanti, in

Mumbai, we celebrated the beginning of Season 13. But more than a launch, it felt like a moment to look back at how far we've come and, more importantly, at the people who have brought us here.

The best part of yesterday's launch was seeing the real heroes get their moment. Seventeen teachers from across India were honoured at the Dettol Banega Swasth India Teachers Awards. They were recognised for the wonderful work they do in teaching their students about health, hygiene and the environment, and making it part of everyday life. The awards received entries from 29 states and Union Territories. Every entry went through a careful evaluation, and the final jury round was chaired by Nagaland Minister Temjen Imna Along. These teachers do so much more than teach. They help change habits, spread awareness, improve toilets and handwashing facilities, and show children how to look after their community's health. What begins in a classroom goes a long way.

There is something deeply meaningful about recognising teachers in a campaign focused on health. After all, the habits we learn as children often stay with us for life. And if we want a healthier and more developed India, this is exactly where some of the most important work begins. Yesterday also brought home another important message. Who takes care of the people who take care of us? For years, on our campaign, we've spoken about the contribution of sanitation workers. They keep our streets, neighbourhoods and public spaces clean. Their work is essential to the health of our cities and our country. Yet how often do we stop to think about their own health? A study by Reckitt and the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) was shared at the launch, and one finding was hard to ignore that sanitation workers have a life expectancy



11.4 years shorter than others. Think about that for a moment. The people who keep us healthy may be losing years of their own lives. It raises a question we cannot afford to ignore. While we talk about a Swachh and Swasth Bharat, are we doing enough to protect the health, dignity and safety of the people who make that vision possible? The conversation at the launch was a reminder that public health cannot be limited to awareness and individual behaviour. It must also be about working conditions, access to healthcare, occupational safety and ensuring that the most vulnerable are not left behind. The Health Minister's message was another vital part of the day's conversations, reinforcing the need to make health a shared national priority. Because building a healthier India is not the responsibility of one government, one organisation or one campaign. It requires all of

us. The launch also saw actors Sonu Sood, Divyendu Sharma and Raashii Khanna, along with fitness icon Krishna Shroff, lend their voices to the campaign. Each of them brought their own take on health and fitness, and on why healthier choices should be within everyone's reach. Technology and innovation have also been an important part of our journey. We have constantly looked at how DBSI can scale up these efforts, using new ideas and technological solutions to take healthcare beyond conventional boundaries and make it more accessible to people who need it most. In my association with this campaign for last 13 years, one thing that I've learnt is that the real impact of a campaign is rarely captured by the scale of its launch or the people on its stage. It lies in the stories from the ground. I've travelled, reported from communities, met people whose lives have been

touched by these initiatives and seen the work that the Dettol Banega Swasth India teams have taken forward. I've seen how a simple message about handwashing can become a life-long habit, how access to sanitation can change the everyday lives of families, and how a determined individual can inspire an entire community. As we begin Season 13, the campaign's theme, Giving Better Health in More Hands, Everyday, feels particularly relevant. Because better health cannot remain a privilege or an aspiration. It has to reach every home, every school, every workplace and every community. Thirteen years ago, we began by asking India to become cleaner. Today, the question is much bigger: how do we make sure that every Indian has the opportunity to live a healthier life? Because it's not just about living longer, but about increasing our health span, not just our lifespan... ensuring that we live more of those years in good health.

Tagore And Sarat Chandra's 1927 Dispute Returns In Srijit Mukherji's New Film

A hundred years ago the British banned a book because of the ideas it contained. The novelist was Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay - one of the literary legends from Bengal. He turned to Rabindranath Tagore for support against the ban. Tagore had a different take on the protest. Cut to 2026, West Bengal has just seen a major political change. And in the first Durga Puja since that change, Bengal's renowned director Srijit Mukherji brings back to the screen the Sarat Chandra-Tagore dispute in his film 'Emperor Vs Sarat Chandra' set to release on October 15.

Bengal has a long tradition of intellectual disagreement spilling beyond literature into politics and public life. Mukherji now takes on a new challenge of examining dissent and dilemma through the lens of Tagore and Chattopadhyay and asking whether an artist should simply let the work speak to power or challenge power when it strikes back.

In undivided Bengal, disagreements among great intellectuals were not unusual. There were cerebral differences, exchanges of letters and notes and sharp disagreements of opinion. A similar intellectual disagreement emerged between Tagore and Chattopadhyay during the British period, at a time when the colonial state was interfering with and placing severe restrictions on artistic and intellectual freedom. Their disagreement centred on Sarat Chandra's novel, Pather Dabi, published in 1926. Even today, that exchange remains an important

part of Bengal's literary and intellectual history.

The controversy has acquired fresh relevance this year because Pather Dabi is completing 100 years and is still remembered not simply as a literary work but as a political and historical document of its time. Srijit Mukherji has now turned that history into the basis of his film "Emperor vs Sarat Chandra". The film draws on Pather Dabi, its banning by the British government, Sarat Chandra's resistance to that decision and, importantly, the correspondence between Sarat Chandra and Rabindranath Tagore.

Director's Cut

Before we delve deeper into the disagreement between the legends, it begs the question why the director felt so deeply about the issue to turn it into a film, especially during Durga Puja? A period when Bengalis are indulgent and commerce thrives in the city.

Mukherji said his range of work, after having 12 Puja releases, has been versatile, and that he believes any good film works in the Puja and it does not necessarily have to be commercial and massy. He in fact said that he has faith in the Bengali audience to watch a movie that is well made.

Srijit made an important argument when asked why he thought that Sarat Chandra-Tagore face-off is relevant today and if the discourse reflects the dilemma faced by artists today in the Bengali film industry, which has often been closely associated with the political power in the state. Is

there a feeling of disappointment when support does not come from expected quarters?

He said, "I think the topicality of Emperor versus Sarat Chandra, apart from the hundred-year celebration of Pather Dabi and 150-year celebration of Sarat Chandra, is also about today's day and age where you might want collaborators from your own community. You might want to seek help from people who you would expect to rally around you if any injustice is done against you. That support doesn't always come."

The Crux Of The Great Conflict

When Pather Dabi appeared, the British colonial administration reacted strongly. On 4 January 1927, the British government proscribed the book on the grounds that it contained material intended to bring the government into contempt and excite disaffection towards British rule. The ban remained in force for years and was finally lifted in 1939, a year after Sarat Chandra's death.

This is where the personal and social backgrounds of Rabindranath Tagore and Sarat Chandra become important. Rabindranath belonged to the Tagore family of Jorasanko, one of the most prominent families of Bengal. Sarat Chandra, by contrast, was much closer to the ordinary Bengali household and to people living outside the privileged social establishment. His own life was far more unsettled. He lived in the Howrah region, travelled to Burma and experienced a wandering existence.

That difference in background is important because, when the British government banned Pather Dabi, Sarat Chandra did not simply accept the decision. He wrote to Rabindranath Tagore and sought his support. His request was essentially this: if the British government had prohibited the novel, could Rabindranath intervene and ask the authorities to withdraw the ban? Sarat Chandra's reasoning was straightforward. If ordinary people were prevented from reading the novel, then what was the point of writing it?

Rabindranath, however, took a different position. His response was, in essence, that if Sarat Chandra had used his pen to challenge and condemn British rule, then he also had to accept the consequences of doing so. To attack the colonial government through literature and then ask that same government to show leniency appeared, from Tagore's perspective, contradictory. Sarat Chandra should not expect the colonial authorities to withdraw the punishment simply because he had protested.

Tagore's letter therefore emphasised dignity, responsibility and the willingness of a writer to accept the consequences of his own act of dissent. But Sarat Chandra was deeply hurt by this response. Sarat Chandra drafted a reply to Tagore but ultimately did not send it. In that draft, he made it clear that he accepted Tagore's right to hold his own opinion but objected to what he believed was an implication that he was protesting merely to

protect himself.

Two Sabyasachis And Two Ideas Of Political Faith

While the original discourse stands out and is relevant even today, Mukherji's sharp political commentary reflects in the two Sabyasachis he put on screen in the same year. Winkle Twinkle, a cinematic adaptation of Bratya Basu's acclaimed play by the same name, shows Sabyasachi Sen, essayed effortlessly by Ritwick Chakraborty, as a communist who sleeps through 26 years of political and social change and wakes up to a different world. He fails to understand the new world, but refuses to give in. In the end, a twist. Sabyasachi once again faces the barrel of a gun but does not die. Is it the principles that don't die in him or is it Sabyasachi's blind faith that prevents him from seeing the real world?

But in 'Emperor vs Sarat Chandra', Sabyasachi Mallik does not sit back and wait for a change. He is an extraordinary and almost larger-than-life revolutionary character. He can adopt different disguises and identities and possesses an extraordinary ability to move through different social worlds while remaining beyond the reach of the British authorities. He is committed to fighting British rule and is prepared to continue that struggle to the last drop of his blood. The character of Sabyasachi became one of the most memorable elements of the novel. This is precisely the historical and intellectual world that Srijit Mukherji is now bringing to the screen. While Sen waits and resists, Mallik forces power to respond.

Coalition Government Committed to 34% BC Reservation

Legal hurdles will be overcome to ensure justice to BCs: MLA Adireddy Srinivas



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, October 3, Pen Power Correspondent: The coalition government is fully committed to implementing 34 per cent reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies, Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Srinivas said on Friday. He asserted that the government would overcome legal hurdles and ensure that the reservations were implemented after completing the due legal process. Addressing a media conference at V. Convention Hall on J.N. Road, Mr. Srinivas said the YSR Congress Party had challenged in court the Government Orders issued to provide 34 per cent reservations to BCs. He questioned why the opposition party had approached the court if it was genuinely committed to the welfare of BCs. He also alleged that the previous YSRCP government had reduced BC reservations from 34 per cent to 24 per cent. The MLA said the coalition government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, was taking all necessary legal measures for implementing 34 per cent reservations. The government would complete the legal process and ensure that no section was adversely affected, he said.

Rs 30 lakh worth of aid for persons with disabilities

Mr. Srinivas said assistive devices worth around ₹30 lakh were being provided free of cost to persons with disabilities with support from GAIL's CSR funds. More than 800 people had already registered for the programme,

he said. Although the initiative was initially planned for beneficiaries from the Rajamahendravaram City constituency, persons with disabilities from Kovvur, Anaparthi and other areas had also approached them seeking assistance. Hence, the programme had been extended to eligible beneficiaries irrespective of their constituency, he said. Additional CSR funds would be mobilised if necessary to provide further assistance.

Permanent solutions to civic issues

Mr. Srinivas said he had an emotional bond with Rajamahendravaram and stressed that protecting the city's reputation was the responsibility of every citizen. Several development projects, including the Riverfront, Akhanda Godavari, Multipurpose Sports Complex and AMRUT 2.0, were progressing, he said. Drainage works worth ₹25 crore were being taken up in areas including Kambalacheruvu Junction to provide a permanent solution to long-pending problems. The tender process was under way for construction of an additional vent at Nallachanal. At the Hi-Tech Bus Stand, ₹6 crore had been allocated by the Public Health Department and ₹2 crore by the Municipal Corporation to address the rainwater drainage problem. Tenders would be invited shortly, he said. Measures were also being taken at VL Puram Junction to ensure quicker discharge of rainwater, the MLA added.

TDP leaders and party workers attended the media conference.

Support Persons with Disabilities, Give Them Confidence for the Future Rs 30 lakh GAIL CSR initiative launched in Rajamahendravaram



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, October 3, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT:

A special camp for providing assistive devices to persons with disabilities was launched in Rajamahendravaram on Friday with the support of ₹30 lakh from GAIL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. The programme was organised at V. Convention on J.N. Road. State Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana, Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Srinivas, and MLC Somu Veerajulu jointly inaugurated the camp and called for collective efforts by the government, industries and voluntary organisations to support persons with disabilities and strengthen their confidence for the future. As part of the initiative, registration was taken from eligible beneficiaries requiring battery-operated tricycles, wheelchairs, hearing aids and walking sticks. Officials said the requirements of the applicants would be assessed and the assistive devices would be provided to eligible beneficiaries based on their needs. Speaking on the occasion, Minister P. Narayana appreciated GAIL for coming forward with ₹30 lakh from its CSR funds for the welfare of persons with disabilities. He said CSR funds should be effectively utilised for public welfare programmes and appreciated MLA Adireddy Srinivas for his efforts in securing the CSR support from GAIL.

Development to Continue Despite Financial Constraints

Minister Narayana said that despite financial difficulties faced by the State, the government was committed to fulfilling public expectations and completing development works at a faster pace. He said special attention was being



given to arrangements for the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams.

The government had sanctioned development works worth around ₹2,000 crore in Rajamahendravaram and surrounding municipalities in connection with the Pushkarams, he said. Steps were being taken to complete the works within the stipulated time. He recalled that around ₹1,000 crore had been sanctioned through the Municipal Administration Department for development works in Rajamahendravaram and surrounding areas during the 2014-19 period in connection with the earlier Pushkarams.

More Public Service Through CSR

MLA Adireddy Srinivas said the impact of government welfare and development programmes could be further increased with the support of industries and voluntary organisations. He said GAIL had allocated ₹30 lakh in CSR funds following his request, and the registration process for four types of assistive devices had now commenced.

Collective Effort Needed

MLC Somu Veerajulu appreciated MLA Adireddy Srinivas for undertaking several public service initiatives. He appreciated the efforts to mobilise CSR funds from Central public sector organisations and utilise them for public welfare.

GAIL Chief General Manager Shiv Kumar, DGM (HR) D.V. Prabhakar, GM Pothaiah, officials Neelam Mukherjee and Shanti Sagar, along with GAIL officials, persons with disabilities, public representatives and organisers, participated in the programme.

SP K. Chakravarthy Inspects Rajavommangi Police Station



Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 3: Polavaram District SP K. Chakravarthy inspected the Rajavommangi Police Station and reviewed station records, staff duties and law-and-order arrangements. He also visited the Sri Alluri Sitarama Raju Old Police Station and inspected the premises. In view of the upcoming elections, the SP inspected polling stations and reviewed security arrange-

ments and deployment of police personnel. He directed the staff to remain alert and ensure peaceful polling without any untoward incidents. He stressed that police personnel should discharge their duties efficiently and strictly as per law without causing inconvenience to the public.

Circle Inspector Sanyasi Naidu, Sub-Inspector Venkata Rao and others accompanied the SP.

Reforms Being Introduced to Boost Real Estate Sector

Minister P. Narayana says Government committed to facilitating growth



RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, October 3, PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT: The development of the real estate sector was crucial for the overall economic growth of Andhra Pradesh, Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana said on Saturday. Addressing the media on the sidelines of the CREDAI Home Expo organised by the Rajamahendravaram chapter of CREDAI, Mr. Narayana said the State government had introduced a series of reforms to facilitate the growth of the real estate and construction sectors. He assured that the government would address any further issues brought to its notice by the industry. The Home Expo, being held at the Cherukuri Veerajulu and Subbalakshmi Convention Centre on J.N. Road, witnessed a large turnout of visitors on its second day. The Minister visited the expo and interacted with representatives of various participating organisations. CREDAI representatives felicitated him on the occasion. Mr. Narayana appreciated CREDAI for bringing various segments associated with housing and construction under one roof. Such expos would help people understand the available housing options and related services and facilitate their efforts to realise their dream of owning a house, he said. He suggested that similar expos be organised in other districts as well. The Minister said the previous government had, according to him, adversely affected the State's economy, with the real estate sector also suffering as a consequence. After the coalition government assumed office, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had focused on strengthening the sector as part of broader measures aimed at reviving economic activity in the State. The government had studied practices followed in various States and consulted CREDAI representatives and other stakeholders before introducing reforms, Mr. Narayana said. He said the online system for building and



layout approvals was initially introduced in Guntur and later extended to Vijayawada and Nellore before being rolled out across the State. Applications submitted online with all the required documents were being processed with the objective of granting approvals for buildings and layouts within 24 hours, he said.

Mr. Narayana also said municipal reforms had helped the State secure ₹800 crore in funds from the Centre.

City MLA Adireddy Srinivas, MLC Somu Veerajulu, former GUDA chairman Ganni Krishna, RUDA chairman Boddu Venkata Ramana Chowdary and BJP leader Kantipudi Sarvarayudu attended the expo.

CREDAI State chairman Buddiga Srinivas, Rajamahendravaram chapter chairman Suravarapu Srinivasa Rao, president Manyam Santosh Phani Kumar, general secretary Challa Bala Muralikrishna, honorary chairman Manne Subbarao, Environment Committee member Karri Sekhar Reddy, vice-president Reddy Ramakrishna, treasurer TVL Narasimha Rao and other executive committee members were present.

Municipal Elections to Await Supreme Court Verdict on 34% BC Quota Government committed to 34% reservation for BCs : Minister P. Narayana

Rajamahendravaram, October 3: Municipal elections in Andhra Pradesh will be held only after clarity from the Supreme Court on the implementation of 34 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs), Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana said on Saturday. Speaking at the CREDAI Expo organised on JN Road in Rajamahendravaram, the Minister said the government was committed to providing 34 per cent reservation to BCs in municipal elections. He stated that the High Court had struck down the government orders relating to the reservation and that the government would approach the Supreme Court on the issue. The Minister said elections to 123 municipalities would be conducted in the coming days, subject to the court's decision. On the CREDAI Expo, Narayana appreciated the organisers for conducting a major real estate exhibition in Rajamahendravaram. He said the government was taking several measures to promote the real estate and construction sectors across

the State. He said building and layout approvals had been made more transparent and that applications submitted online would be processed within 24 hours. Reforms introduced by the State had helped bring Rs.800 crore from the Centre, he claimed. Narayana said the government was taking steps to develop Amaravati as one of the world's top five capital cities and was targeting completion of the capital's construction by the end of 2028. He also said works worth Rs.2,000 crore were being taken up for the Godavari Pushkarams and that more than Rs.1,000 crore had been sanctioned for development works in Rajamahendravaram. He assured CREDAI representatives that their issues could be brought directly to his notice for resolution.



Collector Conducts Field Inspection to Address Public Issues Direct interaction with villagers in Kakavada; reviews grievances and basic amenities



Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, October 3: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar conducted an extensive field visit in Rampachodavaram mandal on Saturday to assess public issues and ensure their speedy resolution. He visited Kakavada under Vemulakonda Panchayat, along with Lankapakalu, Yarlamammi, Rakota, Chilakaveedhi, Surlavada, emulakonda, Vettichelakaveedhi and Dabbavalasa villages, and interacted directly with residents. The Collector reviewed grievances received through PGRS, the 1100 toll-free number and the 'Meekosam' portal. He met the petitioners personally, enquired about their problems and directed the concerned officials to take prompt action through inter-departmental coordination. He also reviewed basic issues including LPG supply, drinking water, ASHA worker posts, RO plants, streetlights and roads. Officials were instructed to identify infrastructure gaps and take necessary measures on priority.

Collector Interacts with Students

The Collector visited the GTW School



at Kakavada and interacted with the students. He enquired about their studies, educational progress and facilities available at the school. He advised the students to study hard and strive for higher achievements. Officials were directed to address the requirements of the school.

Reviews Deputy CM's Visit Arrangements

As Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan is scheduled to launch the 'Adivasi Bata' programme at Kakavada on October 8, the Collector inspected the proposed programme areas and reviewed the arrangements. He directed officials to coordinate effectively and complete all arrangements in advance. Special attention was directed towards the programme venue, roads, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, streetlights and transportation facilities to ensure that people attending the programme face no inconvenience. Rampachodavaram Sub-Collector D. Prudhvi Raj Kumar, Tribal Welfare DD M. Rukmandayya and officials from various departments accompanied the Collector.

US Navy awards \$24.4 billion to accelerate production of Standard Missile-6

Washington, DC : The US Navy has secured an agreement with Raytheon valued at up to USD 24.4 billion, focused on ramping up manufacturing rates for Standard Missile-6 interceptors, forming part of a broader push by the Pentagon to scale up critical munition production and bolster defence reserves. The five-year contract, featuring a pair of supplementary option years, aims to elevate throughput and grant the defence sector extended clarity to broaden manufacturing operations, according to a Pentagon statement issued. The SM-6 serves as a versatile, multi-role munition deployed across anti-aircraft operations, anti-surface engagements and missile defence tasks. "Our mission is to ensure our warfighters never enter a fair fight," said Michael P. Duffey, Under Secretary of War for Acquisition and Sustainment. "This multi-year award locks in the magazine depth and lethal dominance our forces need to prevail, while demanding our industrial base produce at war-speed," he said. The Pentagon indicated that the pact will accelerate manufacturing output while yielding

financial efficiencies across the defence industrial ecosystem. This agreement forms a component of a broader American initiative designed to elevate output for vital munitions and supply defence contractors with extended procurement timelines. The Pentagon stated that the SM-6 contract, alongside a recent Tomahawk weapon-system arrangement, will afford the defence sector enhanced predictability to grow its workforce and reinforce vulnerable supply chains. "Together, these strategic investments ensure our warfighters remain equipped with the advanced capabilities required to maintain global maritime superiority," the Pentagon said. Raytheon, operating as an RTX business, noted independently that the pact will substantially raise inventory levels of SM-6 interceptors for the US Navy. "SM-6's multi-mission capability is vital to our customer, and Raytheon is intensely focused on meeting the demand," Raytheon President Phil Jasper said.

"By continuously investing in our operations and facilities, we are removing constraints and boosting

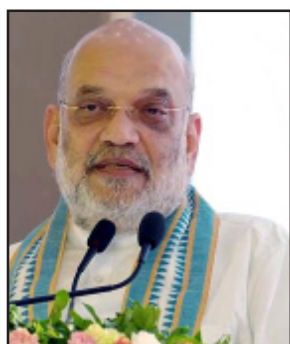


capacity to ensure we deliver this critical capability our sailors depend on," he said. Raytheon highlighted that it has channelled funds into operational infrastructure and facilities, widened its pool of qualified labour, reinforced collaborative ties across the defence industrial sector, and scaled up automated processes to drive production higher. The firm characterises the SM-6 as possessing utility for both offensive strikes and missile-defence operations. The missile can be launched from naval surface vessels as well as shore-based platforms, equipping naval units to

address a diverse spectrum of threats. Disclosure succeeds another major missile manufacturing pact involving Raytheon. Earlier in the week, the Pentagon disclosed a multi-year arrangement reaching up to USD 20.7 billion aimed at expediting the production of Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles, known as AMRAAMs. These substantial contracts underscore Washington's strategy to grant defence suppliers improved insight into upcoming demand, enabling investments in physical plants, personnel and supply networks necessary to accelerate manufacturing velocities.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah to present President's colour to Meghalaya police during two-day visit

Shillong : Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Meghalaya from October 4 to 5 to attend a special ceremony where he will present the President's colour to the state police. Ahead of the visit, extensive security and traffic arrangements have been put in place across the state. Meghalaya Director General of Police (DGP) Vivek Syiem stated that the Superintendent of Police (Traffic) will issue necessary advisories to prevent traffic-related inconvenience to the general public. "The Union Home Minister is coming here for the investiture ceremony of the presidential colours, and this is a matter of pride for the Meghalaya police. It is a matter of achievement.....Preparations have been made for the



coming of the honourable Union Home Minister, which is slated for the fourth and fifth. The advisories will be given by the Traffic SP on which routes to avoid and the timings, so that we will try to cause the least inconvenience," said Syiem told reporters. The DGP informed that comprehensive security measures have been deployed along the routes scheduled for the Union Home Minister's

movement, as various police units and specialised teams will be deployed for security purposes in the state. As per the DGP, approximately 1,500 police personnel are expected to be deployed as part of the overall security apparatus. "Elaborate security arrangements have been made all along the way. Tactical teams and different units have come. So almost a strength about 1500 personnel will be deployed here," added Syiem. Highlighting the significance of the occasion, Syiem remarked that the President's Colour is a matter of pride and achievement for the Meghalaya Police, asserting that it is one of a select few forces in the Northeast to receive this honour. He further stated that this honour

is the result of the sacrifices, integrity, and dedication of the police personnel. Syiem remarked that the Meghalaya Police remains committed to enhancing professionalism in its operations and providing better service to the public in the future. "We are one of the few northeastern states who have achieved this. This is because of the sacrifice, the integrity, the dedication in our service, and we will endeavor to give the best in whatever we do," asserted Syiem. The President's Colour, also referred to as the 'Rashtrapati ka Nishaan', represents the most prestigious military and law enforcement honour awarded to an armed forces unit, training institution, or state and Union Territory police force in India.

Delhi HC issues notice on plea challenging 15% deputation quota for Additional Public Prosecutors



New Delhi : The Delhi High Court has issued notice to the Delhi government on a plea challenging a provision allowing 15 per cent deputation/short-term contractual engagement in the appointment of Additional Public Prosecutors (APPs). A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia passed the order on September 30, 2026, while allowing petitioner Shipra Mishra's application seeking an early hearing of the petition. The court directed the Delhi

government to file its affidavit in reply within two weeks, after which the petitioner will have two weeks to file her response, if any. The matter has been listed for November 4, 2026. The petition challenges the Delhi Gazette Notification dated April 2, 2026, which provides for appointment of Additional Public Prosecutors through 85 per cent promotion and 15 per cent deputation/short-term contractual engagement.

Mishra, through advocates Dr Hemant Gupta, Rony John and Akash

Aggarwal, has contended that the 15 per cent provision is contrary to Section 18(6) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. According to the petition, Section 18(6) requires Public Prosecutors or Additional Public Prosecutors to be appointed from the regular cadre of prosecuting officers where such a cadre exists. The petitioner has argued that Delhi already has an established cadre of prosecuting officers, including Assistant Public Prosecutors eligible for promotion, and has questioned the creation of a separate channel for deputation or short-term contractual appointments. The plea has also challenged the manner in which the provision was introduced, alleging that the draft recruitment rules circulated for prior consultation did not contain the 15 per cent deputation provision and that the provision was subsequently incorporated into the final notification.

Mishra has further con-

tended that the provision affects the promotional avenues and service rights of existing cadre officers and violates Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution. The petitioner has sought quashing of the April 2 notification to the extent that it permits 15 per cent deputation/contractual engagement and has sought directions to the Delhi government to re-notify the recruitment rules in conformity with Section 18(6) of the BNSS. The Delhi government was represented by Avnish Ahlawat, Tania Ahlawat, Nitesh Kumar Singh, Aliza Alam and Mohnish Sehrawat. The High Court has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the challenge. It has only issued notice and sought the Delhi government's response. The court also directed that the petitioner's application seeking a stay on the notification would be heard on the next date of hearing. The matter is now scheduled for November 4, 2026.

"Extraordinary courage saved hundreds of lives"

EAM Jaishankar lauds Indian Captain Smit Machchhar after flydubai cockpit attack

New Delhi : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar lauded Indian Captain Smit Machchhar for his "extraordinary courage" and "remarkable presence of mind" after the pilot was seriously injured during a cockpit attack aboard a flydubai flight, saying his actions saved hundreds of lives and averted a major tragedy. In a post on X, Jaishankar prayed for the captain's speedy recovery, stating, "Captain Smit Machchhar's extraordinary courage and remarkable presence of mind, even in the face of grave danger, saved hundreds of lives yesterday and averted a major tragedy. Join the countless voices from across the world in saluting his valour and praying for his speedy recovery."

Captain Machchhar was piloting flydubai flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv when he was allegedly stabbed by his co-pilot, who was attempting to crash the Israel-bound aircraft. The aircraft experienced a sudden descent during the incident before the situation was brought under control. Despite sustaining serious in-

juries, Machchhar reportedly managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers and crew members to intervene and restrain the alleged attacker. The aircraft was subsequently diverted to Saudi Arabia and landed safely. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also hailed Machchhar as a "HERO", saying the Indian pilot displayed immense courage and an unwavering resolve to protect passengers despite being seriously injured. "Captain Smit Machchhar is a HERO. In the face of the gravest danger and despite being seriously injured, he showed immense courage and an unwavering resolve to protect the lives of others. His valour helped save hundreds of lives and avert a great tragedy," Modi said in a post on X.

Passengers aboard the flight described moments of panic during the incident, including sudden drops in altitude and chaos near the cockpit. A passenger told CBS News that the aircraft experienced severe turbulence and dropped rapidly during the confrontation. Israeli Prime Minister Ben-



jamin Netanyahu also praised Machchhar and an Israeli passenger, Yaniv Hayoun, who reportedly intervened during the incident. Hayoun later recounted that he restrained the alleged attacker and helped remove him from the cockpit. Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also hailed Machchhar's actions, saying the injured Indian captain managed to unlock the cockpit door, allowing Israeli passengers and Emirati crew members to intervene and help secure the aircraft. The Indian Embassy in Israel described Machchhar

as displaying "remarkable courage, composure and devotion to duty" despite sustaining injuries. Machchhar is an experienced commercial pilot with more than 13 years of aviation experience. Before joining UAE-based flydubai, he worked with Indian carrier SpiceJet, where he served as a Line Training Captain. He has reportedly logged around 9,750 flying hours, primarily on Boeing 737 aircraft. Meanwhile, flydubai has temporarily suspended flights to and from Israel as investigations into the incident continue.

NIA court frames charges against Yasin Malik, 6 others for offence of money laundering; ED alleges foreign funding through Hawala

New Delhi : A Special NIA Court in New Delhi has directed the framing of charges against Yasin Malik and six others under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for allegedly receiving foreign funding from the Pakistani establishment through Hawala Channels. It is alleged that proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 8,94,87,639 were generated and thereafter received by the accused persons. The other accused are Zahoor Ahmed Shah Watali, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, Shabir Ahmad Shah, Naval Kishore Kapoor, Trison Farms and Construction Pvt Ltd, and Masarat Alam Bhat. It is alleged that the accused persons were involved in receiving funds from the Pakistani establishment through hawala and from other terrorist outfits by way of various means and channels to propagate their ideology and agenda of secessionism and subversive activities prejudicial to the law of the land.

Special NIA Judge Prashant Sharma directed to frame charges against seven accused persons af-



ter considering the material against them. "I conclude that prima facie, there is sufficient material on record based upon which strong suspicion is raised against all seven accused persons, namely Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, Naval Kishore Kapoor, M/s Trison Farms and Constructions Pvt Ltd, Mohd. Yasin Malik, Shabir Ahmad Shah, Masarat Alam and Abdul Rashid Sheikh, for which said accused per-

sons have to be charged with offence u/sec. 3 of PMLA, punishable u/sec. 4 of PMLA," the Special Judge ordered on September 9. The case was listed for physical appearance of accused persons to accept or deny the charges on September 30. However, some of the accused could not be produced due to high security reasons. The court has now directed the ED to get the charges signed by them in judicial custody. The next date of hearing is October 30. Special Public Prosecutors NK Matta, Simon Benjamin, and Manish Jain appeared for ED. On the other hand, Advocate Juhvi Bhargava for Accused Abdul , Zahbi Tihami for Shabir Ahmed Shah and Nishant Singh, Amicus curae, appeared for Yasin Malik.

The Investigation conducted by ED revealed that scheduled offences resulted in generation of proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs.8,94,87,639 which were thereafter received, routed, transferred, concealed, possessed, acquired and/or used by the accused persons in various forms and through different channels. It is alleged that the collected money was routed through a complex system including cash couriers using conduits

who gathered money from Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi and delivered the funds to the Hurriyat leadership including Yasin Malik for subversive activities and for the secession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir from India. This ED case is based on the case registered by the NIA in 2017. Sections 120B, 121 and 121A of the IPC and Sections 13, 16, 17, 18, 20, 38, 39 and 40 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) were invoked. The ED recorded the present Enforcement complaint on 14.06.2017 for tracing out the proceeds of crime. The ED's Allegations are that the accused Yasin Malik was the head of Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), an organization involved in the terrorist and subversive activities in Jammu & Kashmir since the 1990's. The document seized from the house of Ghulam Mohd. Bhat, who used to work as the cashier-cum-accountant with Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali showed that the foreign contributions were received by accused Mohd Yasin Malik, accused Shabir Ahmad Shah and accused Masarat Alam through accused Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, during the financial year 2015-2016.

FIR registered over alleged forged disability certificates submitted for nursery admissions

New Delhi: Delhi Police have registered an FIR over the alleged submission of forged disability certificates for nursery admissions under the Children With Special Needs (CWSN) category for the 2026-27 academic session. According to the FIR, a complaint regarding allegedly forged disability certificates was received at a Delhi Police station on September 17, 2026. The complaint sought verification of the genuineness of disability certificates and recommendatory letters submitted along with admission documents. During a preliminary inquiry, the disability certificates attached to the documents were verified and found to be forged, the FIR states. The certificates allegedly showed 41 per cent hearing impairment and were purportedly issued by a government hospital. Following the preliminary verification, police registered an FIR on September 24, 2026, under Sections 318(2), 337, 340(2) and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The FIR states that the exact date and time of the alleged occurrence could not be ascertained. Police have initiated an investigation to establish the circumstances surrounding the preparation and submission of the allegedly forged certificates and ascertain the persons involved.

Guwahati Girl Dies In Noida Road Accident, Family Seeks Privacy



Guwahati: A young woman from Guwahati's Noonmati, identified as Hrishita Lahon, died in a road accident in Noida on September 28 while travelling as a passenger on a Rapido bike taxi. According to her family, the bike on which Hrishita was travelling was hit by a bus, resulting in a severe collision. She was critically injured and later succumbed to her injuries.

Hrishita was in Delhi for her education and internship. She had completed her undergraduate studies at Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, and was pursuing higher studies through Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) while also doing an internship.

Speaking to NDTV, Hrishita's mother, Arati Baruah Lahon, said her daughter had found an ad-

vertisement for an internship and was selected after appearing for an interview.

"She used to commute every day from her flat in Delhi to Noida. Usually, she travelled by metro, but on that particular day, she had to take a Rapido. The incident happened just about five minutes away from where she lived," her mother said. She said that she used to call her daughter every morning as part of her routine. "Sometimes, if I called her repeatedly, she would tell me, 'Mom, why do you call so often? I'm busy at the office and also studying. Please just call once or twice.' She was a very honest girl and deeply respected her parents," Arati Baruah Lahon said.

Recalling the day of the accident, she said the family received a call from a woman who had found Hrishita's phone and in-

formed them that she had been admitted to hospital.

"We were initially informed that she had sustained an injury to her leg. We immediately booked flight tickets and left for Delhi," she said. The family later contacted Hrishita's roommate and friends, who reached the hospital and supported her during the treatment. "The doctors did everything they could to save her. We were informed that she had suffered cardiac arrest multiple times," her mother said. Describing her daughter, Arati said Hrishita was "honest, sensible and responsible" and cared deeply for her parents and brother. "She would always remind us to take our medicines and eat on time. Even while living away from us, she looked after us so well. We learned a great deal from her," she said.

The family also appealed

to the public and media to respect Hrishita's privacy and dignity. "She had gone away to study and build a future for herself. She was a very shy girl who valued her privacy. Therefore, I do not want details of this incident to be circulated publicly in a manner that compromises her privacy or dignity," her mother said. The family expressed gratitude to the people who helped Hrishita after the accident, including the woman who took her to hospital, as well as her friends and roommate. "We will remain forever grateful to them," Arati said. She also said the family did not harbour any ill will towards the Rapido driver, who was also injured in the accident. "The Rapido driver was also injured, so we bear no ill will towards him either. We do not wish harm upon anyone. What happened is deeply tragic and unfortunate," she said. The family said it only wanted the matter to be dealt with appropriately and appealed to people to remember Hrishita with dignity.

"We simply pray that God keeps everyone safe and that justice is served appropriately. We appeal to everyone to bless our daughter during this difficult time and not to unnecessarily complicate the matter. We request everyone to respect her dignity and privacy," her mother said.

Massive Protests Against Poll Body Chief Planned In Delhi, Mumbai

New Delhi: The Cockerroach Janta Party (CJP), the Gen-Z youth protest movement whose sit-in at Delhi's Jantar Mantar against the NEET paper leak led to the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in July, will hold a protest in Mumbai today to press for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation amid reports of dissent within the poll body.

A similar protest has been announced by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), All India Students' Association (AISA), National Students' Union of India (NSUI) and Indian Youth Congress (IYC) at Jantar Mantar.

The police in both cities, however, have denied them permission.

Delhi AAP chief Saurabh Bharadwaj arrived at the protest site, declaring "protest is out right".

"Without using a car, I have reached Jantar Mantar. You too can reach here. I am sure by the afternoon a lot of Gen-Z, women and youth will reach Jantar Mantar to raise their voice against the

Election Commission. Protesting is our right. The police are telling us that we have not been given permission to protest. Six days ago, AAP had applied for official permission for a peaceful protest here," he said.

The police have imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in the New Delhi district. The order prohibits, without prior written permission, public meetings or assemblies of five or more people, processions, demonstrations, picketing and dharnas. It also bans shouting slogans, making speeches, and carrying firearms, banners, placards, lathis, swords, sticks, brickbats, or similar articles.

The order has been enforced to ensure public safety, maintain public order and facilitate smooth traffic movement, a senior police officer said.

Multi-layer barricades have also been erected in areas leading to Jantar Mantar, including Tolstoy Marg, Janpath Road and Sansad Marg.

The Delhi Metro has also closed entry and exit at 11 stations, including Rajiv Chowk, Central Secretariat, Janpath, Patel Chowk, Seva Teerth, Mandi House, Lok Kalyan Marg, INA, Chawri Bazar, Ramakrishna Ashram Marg and New Delhi stations will remain closed till further notice.

CJP's Protest At Mumbai's Shivaji Park

The CJP has said it will hold a protest at Mumbai's Shivaji Park to demand Gyanesh Kumar's resignation.

The CJP has also warned of launching protests across the country followed by a stir at Jantar Mantar in Delhi from October end if Kumar did not step down.

"Gyanesh Kumar should resign and should face criminal charges," CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke told reporters in Mumbai on Thursday.

"I am not afraid of going to jail. I will come back to protest again, again and again," the CJP leader said when asked about police denying them permission.

Asked about the planned protest by Opposition MPs

on October 6 against the Election Commission, he said the CJP won't be a part of any political programme and will remain an independent movement.

"But I really appreciate the efforts of the INDIA alliance. Every Indian must speak about election rigging and INDIA alliance should do it as well," he said.

Why Are They Protesting Against Gyanesh Kumar

The CJP and opposition parties have been criticising Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demanding his resignation after it came to light that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded objections on at least 14 occasions over 10 months to decisions and orders, some of which they said were issued without their knowledge. The Election Commission later clarified that the three-member commission took all decisions, including those relating to the SIR, unanimously.

"Can't Be Tolerated": Top Court Condemns Attacks On Doctors By Politicians

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has said that an elected representative bears a heightened responsibility to uphold the authority of law and to conduct himself in a manner that reinforces public confidence in institutions.

The top court also frowned upon increasing attacks on doctors and other functionaries in the country by those occupying elected offices.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, in its detailed September 28 order on cancellation of bail of Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre and three others who are accused of assaulting and verbally abusing doctors at a municipal hospital in Thane district, said incidents such as the instant one inflicted deleterious effects on peace and tranquility of the society at large and also disrupted public order.

"We may note that the present incident cannot be viewed in isolation from the larger concern which arises when persons occupying elected office resort to force, intimidation or other extralegal means in dealing with citizens or public functionaries. Instances of such conduct have been reported from different parts of the country," it said, while pointing out that another incident was reported from Palghar in Maharashtra involving Shiv Sena leaders after the Mhatre case.

The top court said, while each such incident must necessarily be examined on its own facts and in accordance with law, the recurrence of allegations involving elected representatives assuming, or seeking to assume, authority beyond that conferred by law is a matter which cannot be viewed with indifference.

"An elected office carries with it a corresponding obligation to respect the rule of law and the institutions through which grievances are to be addressed. The authority derived from the electoral mandate cannot be permitted to become a substitute for the authority of law," it said.

The top court, which directed the Shiv Sena corporator and others to surrender by October 5, emphasised, "No person, however high the office held, can claim supremacy



over the discipline of law." It said the legitimacy of public authority ultimately rests not upon the power to command but upon the obligation to remain within the bounds of law and serve the nation, and it is this distinction that must remain inviolable in a constitutional democracy.

"In the conspectus of the aforesaid circumstances, we have no hesitation in observing that any attempt to intimidate or assault medical professionals, while discharging duties entrusted to them in the interest of public health, cannot be tolerated, much less at the hands of persons holding elected office or for that matter any other person," it said.

The top court added, "An elected representative, by virtue of the office entrusted to him, bears a heightened responsibility to uphold the authority of law and to conduct himself in a manner that reinforces public confidence in public institutions."

It said democracy confers power through the ballot, but the exercise of that power remains subject to the discipline of law.

"It is, therefore, a matter of serious concern when persons occupying elected office begin to perceive the mandate of the people as a source of personal authority and unbridled power and, in the process, assume for themselves a position to command, intimidate or even enforce their own will," the top court underscored.

It added that the constitutional order draws a clear line between the authority conferred by law and the influence exercised by an individual, and an elected representative is entrusted with the responsibility of

serving the public and strengthening the institutions through which grievances are addressed and justice is administered.

"He/She cannot supplant those institutions by assuming the role of the police, the administrator or the court. The use of personal influence to secure compliance through fear or intimidation has consequences extending beyond the immediate victim and carries the potential to erode public confidence in the rule of law itself," it said.

Elaborating further, the bench said the concern assumes greater significance when the persons subjected to such conduct are medical professionals entrusted with the care of the health and well-being of citizens.

"These professionals discharge onerous duties in circumstances which frequently involve vulnerable patients, medical emergencies and decisions requiring instantaneous professional judgment and composure. An atmosphere of fear or insecurity within a

healthcare institution can have consequences extending beyond the individual medical officer concerned, by impairing the safe and effective delivery of medical care," the bench added.

It said those entrusted with protecting the health of others cannot themselves be placed in a position where they are compelled to discharge their professional responsibilities under fear, intimidation or apprehension.

"Resorting to violence against medical professionals by a person occupying such office is, therefore, particularly grave, as it not only imperils the safety and dignity of those entrusted with the care of patients, but also undermines the very responsibility attached to public office to uphold, rather than undermine, the rule of law. The authority conferred by an elected office can never furnish a basis for disregarding the legal restraints that bind every citizen," it observed.

YouTuber Sourav Joshi Abused By Group Of Men In Uttarakhand, Then A Car Chase

New Delhi: A group of men allegedly abused YouTuber Sourav Joshi and his family while they were travelling in a car in Uttarakhand's Haldwani on Thursday. Joshi posted a blog on his YouTube channel 'souravjvlogs' about the incident that took place when the YouTuber was travelling with his wife and two brothers. According to him, the men, sitting in a black Nissan Micra with the number plate 'UK04AJ5953', initially asked him to roll down his window, which he believed was to say hello. When they did, the men started abusing them. "We rolled our window down since we thought they wanted to say hello. But they abused us and fled," Joshi said. The people in the car were allegedly drunk, he added. Joshi, who was driving, then chased the car that was moving at high speed. At one point, they found the vehicle parked, and the group of men had fled the scene. They left the car's engine turned on, windows rolled down, and mobile phones inside.

Supreme Court Stays Execution Of Terror Operative In 2008 Ahmedabad Blasts

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the execution of the death penalty of an operative of terror outfit Indian Mujahideen in connection with the 2008 Ahmedabad serial bomb blasts that left 56 people dead.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, AG Masih and Sandeep Mehta, issued notice to the Gujarat government on a plea of Ahmed Bawa alias Abbu Abubakar Barelvi against the high court verdict, which upheld the death penalty awarded to him by the trial court.

The top court called for the trial court records in the case and stayed the execution. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing in the matter, said it is a serious case. On July 7, the high court, while upholding the death sentence of 38 operatives of the Indian Mujahideen (IM) in the 2008 Ahmedabad serial bomb blasts case, cited the large number of casualties, the "humongous" conspiracy and the intention to spread widespread terror as key reasons for affirming the punishment. It also upheld life imprisonment given to 11 other convicts, holding that their roles in terror training camps in Gujarat and Kerala, and logistical support to the conspiracy had been proved. On July 26, 2008, a series of 21 bomb blasts ripped through different areas of Ahmedabad in a span of 70 minutes, killing 56 people and leaving more than 200 others injured. Explosions also occurred at hospitals where victims were being taken for treatment, marking the first such targeting of medical facilities in a terror attack in India. The high court rejected all appeals filed by the convicts and confirmed the February 2022 judgment of the special court, which had sentenced 38 IM members to death and 11 others to life imprisonment. The state government had sought confirmation of the death sentences. The high court had said the criminal ante-



cedents and roles of the 38 convicts established that they had carried out a terrorist act warranting the death penalty. It noted that the special court considered both mitigating and aggravating circumstances before imposing the sentence.

The high court said the number of deaths, the "humongous nature of conspiracy", the intention "to create an atmosphere of widespread terror in the society", the conduct of the convicts during trial, the scale of the conspiracy, and the loss of innocent lives in the "inhuman and dastardly act" justified the capital punishment. "The manner in which the bomb blasts were executed speaks volumes about the mindset and the remorseless act of taking away the lives of innocent people," the high court had said.

It had also noted that some of the convicts had criminal antecedents and

that none had shown remorse. It had said disciplinary actions had been taken against them during their incarceration, and there was nothing on record to justify taking a lenient view while sentencing them. While upholding the life sentences of the remaining 11 convicts, the high court said the prosecution had established their participation in terror training camps and their involvement in procuring scooters, plastic containers, and clocks used in the conspiracy, besides arranging shelter for the other accused. The high court had also upheld the fines imposed on the convicts, observing that the magnitude of the offence, the damage to public property and the large-scale loss of life and injuries justified the penalties. The court directed the Gujarat government to pay compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the families of those

killed and Rs 5 lakh to the grievously injured before March 30, 2027. The convicts include Safdar Nagori, former leader of the banned outfit Student Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), and his associates from 11 states, including Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. Seventy-eight people were put on trial after 35 police cases -- 20 FIRs relating to the Ahmedabad blast and 15 linked to unexploded bombs recovered in Surat -- were merged. Forty-nine were convicted by the special court. The special court's February 2022 order marked the first time that 38 convicts were handed down the death penalty in a single case by any court. In January 1998, a TADA court in Tamil Nadu sentenced to death all 26 convicts in the case of the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

Press Information Bureau, Doordarshan Officials Killed In Mizoram Accident

Three government media officials were killed and two others injured after their vehicle veered off the road and plunged down a slope in Mizoram on Thursday. The victims were identified as Dr Engam Pame, Additional Director General of the PIB and CBC Regional Office in Imphal; Nampibou Marinmai, Director (News), Doordarshan Kendra Aizawl; and H Lianvela, a Multi-Tasking Staff member at the Central Bureau of Communication's Field Office in Aizawl. Condoling the deaths of three officials in a road accident, Mizoram Governor General (Retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh said the tragedy was an irreparable loss to the media community. The Ministry of Defence also condoled the death of Nampibou Maranmai. According to police sources, Dr Engam Pame was in Mizoram for meetings related to the Inter Media Publicity Coordination Committee (IMPCC) and work connected to the recruitment of a translator for PIB Aizawl. On Thursday, he and his colleagues travelled to Sialsuk. While returning to Aizawl, their vehicle reportedly met with an accident near Sateek. The vehicle is said to have veered off the road and fallen down a roadside slope. The driver and another occupant sustained injuries in the crash and were taken for medical treatment.

'I Was Injured But Couldn't Let Passengers Die' : Captain Smit Machchhar To PM Modi



New Delhi:Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke to Captain Smit Machchhar and praised him for averting catastrophe after his co-pilot stabbed him and tried to crash the flydubai plane. Captain Machchhar was seriously injured after the co-pilot, an Omani national, stabbed him during a flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv on Wednesday morning. Hearing noises, passengers and crew rushed into the cockpit and overpowered the co-pilot as the Boeing 737 Max plunged nearly 14,000

feet in less than 30 seconds. A second pair of flydubai pilots aboard the flight -- which was carrying over 170 passengers and crew -- then landed the jet safely in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk. Speaking to Captain Machchhar over the video call, the prime minister said his "courage, patience, and presence of mind" saved so many lives. "You sustained such a severe injury and were fighting for life. Yet, even then, you did not care for your life, you cared for the lives of all the passengers," PM Modi told Cap-

tain Machchhar, who spoke to him from the hospital bed. "140 crore Indians feel honoured because of you," PM Modi told him. Narrating the chain of events, Captain Machchhar -- who is from PM Modi's home state of Gujarat -- recalled that he was "fighting for his life" in the cockpit. "I had so many wounds that I had collapsed," he said as he broke down. He said there was a moment when he realised that if he didn't do anything, they would die. "I have been flying planes for 17 years and serving as a

captain for the last 11. I can sense exactly what is happening with the aircraft even with my eyes closed. When I was down, I could feel that the aircraft was plummeting," Captain Machchhar, who has over 9,750 flying hours, said. "I knew this was the last push, that the (cockpit) door was right there," he said. He said he then somehow managed to open the door, following which the passengers and crew came to his rescue. "Everyone else played an equal role," he said, adding that he "could not let all

those people die".
"Recited Hanuman Chalisa"
Captain Machchhar said he recites 'Hanuman Chalisa' -- a devotional hymn -- whenever he is scared. "Whenever I feel pain, I just chant Hanuman Chalisa. At that time, too, I was only chanting Hanuman Chalisa. And I know that God saved me," he told PM Modi during the 10-minute call. "I recite Hanuman Chalisa to my two-year-old son every morning. Even though we are far from the country, we must not drift away from our culture," Captain Machchhar, who recently moved to Dubai from Mumbai, said. PM Modi said that he had accomplished "a monumental task". "Today, every fellow citizen and people across the world are eager to see you and speak with you," he told the pilot. PM Modi also said that if he would not have saved the plane from crashing, Indians would have faced backlash. "If this hadn't happened, who knows what India - and all its pilots - would have gone through, or how those pilots would have been perceived. You saved everyone. You have done a tremendous job," he said.

Israeli Security Lapse That's Key In flydubai Attack And A UAE Contention

Tel Aviv:Dozens of Omani pilots have flown to Tel Aviv in recent years on flydubai flights, despite a ban on pilots from unfriendly states in a major security lapse, Israel's Channel 12 has reported. The figure reportedly emerged as part of the investigations that were opened after an apparent attack on a flydubai flight from Dubai, in which an Omani co-pilot attacked the captain with alleged intentions of harming the plane and its passengers. The report claimed that Israeli security agency Shin Bet was negligent in enforcing a ban on pilots from states that lack relations with the Jewish state. Oman, which has not signed the Abraham Accords, does not have formal diplomatic relations with Israel. The accords, which established diplomatic ties between Israel and the UAE in 2020, bar pilots from flying into Israel if their home countries don't formally recognise the Jewish state. According to the report, Israel has ceded

oversight of that prohibition over the years, trusting the foreign airlines to enforce the ban. Citing the investigation into the attack, Channel 12 reported that the Shin Bet security service never examined the origins of flydubai's pilots, beyond reminding the airline about the clause. The new report has raised questions about how flydubai's air crews were approved for flights to Israel over the years, and in particular crew members who hold citizenship of countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. It was earlier reported that the attacker might also have had dual citizenship. Israel is now trying to understand how the approval was given to those pilots, what details were provided in advance about the identities of the crew members, and whether their Omani citizenship was known to the parties that approved the flights.
The Negligence
Israel's Transportation Ministry has said in a state-

ment to Channel 12 that the Shin Bet never issued a specific warning regarding threats from flydubai, beyond asking for increased baggage checks. "The Shin Bet has all the means to know, within five minutes, who all of the pilots on the Dubai airline are, and they simply chose to turn a blind eye. In Israel, they expected the airline to be reliable enough, so they didn't conduct reviews in recent years," the network quoted an anonymous airline industry official as saying. The report further pointed out that for months the Shin Bet security service, which is responsible for protecting Israeli airlines, had been in a dispute with some Israeli carriers over their Dubai operation amid tension in the Middle East. The network said that adopting the heightened security attitude for non-Israeli airlines as well could have helped prevent the eventual attack.
The Probe
Meanwhile, authorities in

Israel, the UAE and Saudi Arabia were continuing to probe the flydubai incident. Saudi Arabia confirmed that both the captain and copilot, who were treated for injuries in the kingdom, have been handed over to Abu Dhabi after receiving medical clearance. They have also forwarded their initial findings to the Israeli authorities about the co-pilot carrying out the attack for alleged nationalistic reasons. The Times of Israel reported that the assessment is based on what the accused told Saudi authorities during interrogation. According to the Times of Israel report, Israel's spy agency Mossad, along with Shin Bet, are working to investigate whether the copilot acted alone or on behalf of a terror group.
UAE's Contention
However, Channel 12 also reported that the UAE is apparently furious with Tel Aviv for rushing to conclude it was a nationalistic attack even before the investigation was concluded.

Abu Dhabi is reportedly insisting that it will handle the further investigation itself. While the UAE hasn't ruled out a nationalistic motive behind the attack, it is waiting to draw a definitive conclusion at this stage, the network said. Even as the ambiguity still exists on the motive behind the flydubai incident, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been quick to frame the attack as the almost inevitable outcome of the "propaganda" he says continues to vilify Israel. Netanyahu has publicly claimed that the attacker "underwent Islamist radical indoctrination." For a politician who has long portrayed himself as the only leader capable of truly defending Israel from the threats he claims the country faces, the attempted hijacking arguably bolsters Netanyahu's narrative ahead of a pivotal parliamentary election later this month that will determine whether he remains Israel's leader.

flydubai Hero Indian Pilot Suffered Wounds To Limbs, Chest, Abdomen: Sources



New Delhi:Captain Smit Machchhar, the Indian 'hero' pilot who was stabbed while fighting off his Omani co-pilot's attempt to crash the Dubai-Tel Aviv flydubai flight, suffered multiple injuries but is showing "positive recovery", sources told NDTV. According to sources, Captain Machchhar suffered wounds to his limbs, chest, and upper abdominal area. Captain Machchhar was airlifted from Saudi Arabia to Abu Dhabi last night for

advanced medical care. He was admitted to the Military Hospital, where a team of specialised doctors has been closely monitoring him. Sources said that the pilot is "responding well" to the treatment. Authorities have also allowed Captain Machchhar's family to meet him at the hospital, sources said, adding that his regular health updates are being communicated to them. On Wednesday, an Omani co-pilot tried to sabotage the flydubai aircraft, which was carrying over 170 passen-

gers including 24 children, and later stabbed Captain Machchhar who tried to stop him. At the time, the Boeing 737, cruising at about 34,000 feet, began dropping at roughly 23,000 feet per minute before reaching about 15,600 feet. Despite being injured, the Indian pilot unlocked the cockpit door, allowing crew and passengers to intervene and overpower the attacker. Footage showed chaos inside the aircraft mid-air, with people shouting in panic. It also showed Captain Machchhar lying in a pool of blood on the ground outside the cockpit and saying his co-pilot hit him. "My hand...I can move my hand but cannot squeeze it," he said. Another person, who appeared to be a crew member, asked pas-

sengers, "Doctor, is there a doctor?" Passengers near the front helped move the attacker away from the cockpit. Among them was Yaniv Hayoun, who grabbed the co-pilot, choked him, and pulled him away. In the meantime, a dentist gave life-saving help to Captain Machchhar. Two other relief pilots who were seated at the back took over the aircraft and diverted it to Tabuk in Saudi Arabia, where it landed safely.
PM Modi speaks to Captain Machchhar
Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Captain Machchhar over a video call, praising his heroic act of averting a catastrophe. PM Modi told him that his "courage, patience, and presence of mind" saved many lives. "You sustained such a severe injury and were

fighting for life and death. Yet, even then, you did not care for your life, you cared for the lives of all the passengers...You increased the honour of 140 crore Indians," he said. Machchhar then narrated the chain of events aboard the flydubai flight, saying that he was "fighting for his life" in the cockpit. "I had so many wounds; I had fallen down. I have been flying planes for 17 years and serving as a captain for the last 11. I can sense exactly what is happening with the aircraft even with my eyes closed. When I was down, I could feel that the aircraft was plummeting. There was a moment when I realised that if I didn't do anything, the passengers would die," he said. "Everyone else played an equal role," he added.

Cornell Gang Rape Accused Told Different Stories To Cops: Report



Washington:New York Governor Kathy Hochul has signed an executive order appointing State Attorney General Letitia James as special prosecutor to oversee the investigation into a former student's allegations that she was gang-raped at a Cornell University fraternity house. In a civil lawsuit filed last month, the woman, identified only as Jane Doe, alleged that several members of a campus fraternity drugged and assaulted her in October 2024. Hochul said the newly released information raised questions about the investigation conducted by the Cornell Police Department and the decision by Tompkins County prosecutors not to pursue charges against the seven accused, dubbed 'Cornell 7' in the lawsuit. "I've lost faith in the Tompkins County DA's ability to fairly oversee it (the case)," Hochul said in a statement. James said her office would "fully and fairly" investigate the allegations. "The Governor has entrusted my office with this investigation, and we do not take that responsibility lightly," James said in a statement.

The Contradicting Accounts
The case raised questions about how law enforcement and the university initially responded after the woman, then 20, made a report to police a few weeks after the alleged incident occurred. In recent days, several new reports have revealed more about what law enforcement knew in 2024. According to a New York Times report, when Cornell investigators asked the fraternity members accused of raping the then-sophomore student at a 2024 fraternity party about what happened that night, they rarely asked directly about rape. Instead, according to hundreds of pages of confidential records obtained by the publication, they asked where the men had been, what they had said and why they were in the bedroom

at all. The report also pointed out that accounts of nearly all men varied, frequently contradicted each other and generally ran counter to the testimony given by the woman to the Cornell police in 2024. The woman, who was 20 years old at the time of the assault, has since left Cornell. She has sued the school, the fraternity and its seven members, along with her sorority, for failing to protect her. The NYT investigation found that in hours of interviews and a statement collected during Cornell's administrative investigation over the winter of 2024, four acknowledged having sexual contact with the woman but said that their interactions had been consensual. The others denied participating in sexual encounters, but one went ahead and claimed he was "a victim of sexual misconduct" because the woman had given him oral sex when he was "too incapacitated" to consent. Most men reportedly claimed that they did not think the woman appeared intoxicated. Men said their interactions with the accuser began when one of the men, Matthew Ingalls, asked if she wanted to have a threesome with him and another fraternity member, Jonathan Newell -- a request that soon spiralled into a night of intoxication and a series of sexual encounters. It was Newell who sent the Snapchat message to other fraternity members advertising "free p***y" in the bedroom, according to Jane Doe's lawsuit. Newell reportedly told investigators that he participated in the sexual acts, assuming Ingalls had asked for permission. He claimed he and "Ingalls had drunk a lot and consumed marijuana and ketamine, causing both to throw up." Other men who were present in the room that night claimed neither Jane Doe nor those around her seemed overly inebriated and that they themselves had not had too much to drink. "They weren't slurring

their speech. They seemed perfectly normal," another accused, Winston Lee said. Gillio Lopes, also an accused, who shared the room with Newell where the sexual encounters took place, said that he had "a pretty solid recollection" of the night because, according to him, he was not drunk that much. He claimed that Jane Doe initiated their sexual contact and did not ask for his consent, a statement flatly at odds with her account of the night. Lee also claimed the woman initiated the sexual activity without asking. He reportedly said he snorted ketamine off her body, and she tried to initiate sex. Another of the men, Scott Kretschma, claimed he and his friend Scott Norris entered the room after reading Newell's text, which, according to the NYT report, left him "befuddled". He also claimed that the woman did not appear drunk when he entered the room. He said he asked her "if she was all right just because the nature of the text, and there was one female in the room with a couple of dudes." "We were just checking out to see if everything was OK, and it was," he said, adding, "And if she wasn't, I'd like to think that I would have helped out and did something about it." Norris also claimed he was "somewhat concerned" when he received Newell's message but assumed it was "crude humour". He said he did not do any drugs in the room and did not have sex with Jane Doe. "She was conversational with people, and that alleviated whatever concerns I had from the text before," Norris said, claiming he stayed in the room for only five minutes, during which all men in the room were "completely or partially clothed." The lawsuit against seven fraternity brothers, the university, the Chi Phi fraternity and others alleges that she was plied with drugs and alcohol, then subjected to sex acts by a group of men while she was partially or entirely incapacitated.

'Fake News': Saudi On 'Suicide Bomber' Video From Mecca Mosque

Riyadh:Saudi Arabia has denied reports of a suspected suicide bombing attempt at the Grand Mosque in Mecca, with the kingdom saying the incident involved a man trying to harass passersby. Taking to X, Saudi's General Directorate of Public Security said the man has been arrested for causing panic and fear among pilgrims. "Security authorities in the holy capital arrested a person for harassing passersby and spreading fear and panic among them, and he was dealt with immediately," the statement posted on X read. "The security authorities confirm that there is no truth to the claims being circulated regarding the incident," it added.

The authorities also said the kingdom's security agencies have launched a probe into the incident. The remarks came after a video went viral on social media showing the security units at the Grand Mosque in Mecca trying to tackle and subdue a man who appeared to carry a black bag. Media outlets, including RT, reported that the suspect in the video was a suicide bomber who attempted to detonate an explosive vest inside the Kaaba in Mecca, but the device failed. Kaaba is the cuboid building at the centre of the Masjid al-Haram mosque in Mecca and serves as the holiest site and direction of prayer (qibla) in Islam.
Houthi Attack on

Saudi
Meanwhile, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis have struck an electricity distribution station in the holy city of Medina in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi-led coalition said, sparking strong condemnation from the Muslim world. The Saudi-led coalition said a drone struck Medina's Taibah electricity distribution station, which provides power to the Prophet's Mosque, as the Houthis denied involvement. Medina, the burial place of the Prophet Mohammed and home to the Prophet's Mosque, is one of Islam's holiest cities alongside Mecca. The alleged attack came as fighting intensified in Yemen, where government forces said they carried out attacks on Houthi targets.

Asian Games: ‘It’s facing a bowler or bowling to a batter,’ says Kanitkar



Nisshin: India stand on the brink of defending their Asian Games gold medal, but batting coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar has played down the hype surrounding their high-profile final against arch-rivals Pakistan, saying the team views the contest purely through a professional lens. An India-Pakistan clash naturally commands massive attention, and that will be the case when the gold-medal match takes place at Korogi Sports Park on Saturday. “A lot of eyeballs will be there, but for the players, to be frank with you, it’s facing a bowler or bowling to a batter. So that’s what it comes down to, and that’s what professionals do, so that’s what we’ll be focused on,” Kanitkar told reporters on the eve of the match. The former India batter, who

famously hit the match-winning boundary against Pakistan in the 1998 Independence Cup final in Dhaka, dismissed suggestions that recent Indian results in other sports — a win over Pakistan in the men’s hockey semi-final and a defeat to them in the men’s volleyball quarter-final — would add extra pressure on his side. “No, it doesn’t. Frankly, like I said earlier, international games, every match is pressure. So we need to be in our zone, we need to be at our best, and that’s what we focus on. So shutting out all the other noise is part of professional cricket or sport — that’s what we’ll look to do,” he said. Having advanced to the title clash through a commanding semi-final win over Sri Lanka, Kanitkar said the squad remained in high spirits despite

weather-disrupted training sessions. “The team’s done well. We just got one game to play, and it was a good outing for the players, and we are confident; the team is confident. So our preparation has been good enough with the weather and everything. But still it’s been very good, so we are happy with the place we are in,” he said. Rather than getting caught up in rivalry narratives, the Indian team is driven by the prospect of contributing to the country’s overall medal tally, Kanitkar said. “It is extremely special because it goes into the medal tally for the country, and like the other Indian athletes, they work a lot to get that gold, silver, bronze, whatever it may be, and it’s not easy. “So we are really looking forward to this game, really looking for-

ward to doing very well and winning it so that it can add to the tally of the country’s medals and that’s really high on our list, and it will be a proud moment for us.” Decisions regarding conditions and team composition will be finalised on Saturday morning after an inspection of the pitch. “It looks okay; it was covered, so we’ll have to come tomorrow again and have a look at how it will play and then decide, bat or bowl, whatever. So it’s been covered today, so we’ll see tomorrow,” Kanitkar said. Reflecting on his famous Dhaka heroics against Pakistan in 1998, when he hit the match-winning boundary to help India win the Silver Jubilee Independence Cup, Kanitkar said handling crucial moments remains paramount in big games. “So it was more than 20 years ago, but I’ll take that. No, it’s very important — the moments are what matter in big games. Who wins those crucial moments? Our players have done it in the past at various levels, and we’re confident we’ll do it again. But to answer your question, it’s very important to win those crucial moments.” “So this is one more international game that my team will be playing, and it’s for the Asian Games gold medal, so that’s the importance of the game. For international players, each and every game is important; everything is scrutinised, everything is closely watched. So I think it’s as important as all the other games we have been playing.”

India clinch women’s hockey gold, qualify directly for LA Olympics



Kakamigahara: India ended a 44-year wait for the Asian Games women’s hockey gold medal with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over defending champions China in the final of the Aichi-Nagoya Games on Friday, securing direct qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. Lalremsiami scored the decisive goal in the 10th minute with a powerful reverse-hit finish as India held their nerve under sustained Chinese pressure to reclaim the continental crown for the first time since 1982. The goal came at the end of a well-crafted attacking move, with Salima Tete providing a precise pass into the circle before Sakshi delivered the ball to Lalremsiami, who unleashed a fierce reverse-hit that flew into the roof of the net, leaving the Chinese goalkeeper with no chance. India’s early advantage was put to the test as China gradually took control of possession and repeatedly threatened the

Indian circle. However, the Indian defence stood firm, with Navneet Kaur producing a crucial goalline clearance to deny a Chinese penalty-corner attempt. Savita Punia then delivered one of the defining moments of the final, making a brilliant one-handed save to deny China a penalty stroke. The Indian goalkeeper read the attempt perfectly and kept out the effort, preserving her side’s slender lead at a crucial stage of the contest. India carried their 1-0 advantage into half-time despite China’s efforts to find an equaliser. The pressure continued after the break, with China winning multiple penalty corners in the third quarter, but Salima and her teammates repeatedly put their bodies on the line to block the attempts. China threw everything into attack in the closing stages, even withdrawing their goalkeeper to bring on an additional outfield player in search of an equaliser. India remained composed, man-

aging possession and denying their opponents a clear opportunity to take the match into a shootout. The victory marked a memorable turnaround for Indian women’s hockey, whose only previous Asian Games gold came in 1982 in New Delhi, when the sport made its debut at the continental event. India had since reached the finals in 1998 and 2018 but finished with silver medals on both occasions. The Indian team enjoyed an impressive campaign in the ongoing edition, topping Pool A with four wins from four matches before defeating Japan 7-2 in the semi-finals. They then carried that attacking momentum into the final, having also beaten Pakistan 7-1 in the pool stage. The gold medal also secured India’s place at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, giving the team an additional reward for a campaign defined by attacking quality and defensive resilience.

Asian Games 2026: Ankush Panghal completes India’s boxing gold hat-trick

Nishio: Ankush Panghal clinched a gold medal in the men’s 80kg final after a superb 4-0 win over Minseong Kim of South Korea at the Nishio Gymnasium at the ongoing Asian Games as India’s boxing campaign came to a fruitful end. Ankush dominated the bout from the word go and got the ruling of four of the five judges in his favour by 30-26, while one judge tied the two at 28-28. The Korean pugilist was docked a point for warning in the first round. Ankush won the first round 4-1 as he landed his punches fiercely. He was even superior in the second round as he bagged it 5-0 with some 1-2s and pounced with counter punches. Kim also landed some punches, but the Indian looked far better. The Indian produced another display of counter punches in the third round as he blended defence with attack to take the third round 4-1 and won the contest 4-0. This ended India’s strong boxing campaign with a triple delight as the pugilists brought three gold medals and three bronze medals for a total of six at the Aichi-Nagoya Games. Parveen Hooda and Lovlina Borgohain also won gold medals previously. Parveen won the closely contested final against Nien-chin



Che of Chinese Taipei. The Rohtak-born boxer began well by winning the first round 5-0, but Che responded in the second round and also won that round 5-0. In the final round, Parveen kept her composure and won the round 3-2, thus securing the gold medal with a split 3-2 verdict. Parveen is now the third Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Asian Games; legendary MC Mary Kom had won the women’s 51kg event at the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, Lovlina having added her second gold earlier on Friday. Lovlina, who turned 29 on Friday, secured

India’s first women’s boxing gold in 12 years in the 75kg final by beating China’s Ziyi Bao 5-0. Lovlina, who won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics, managed to improve on the silver medal at the Asiad 2022, putting up a dominant performance against Bao to give herself a perfect birthday present. India won three boxing bronze medals at the ongoing Games too. Kapil Pokhariya (Men’s 90kg), Narender Berwal (Men’s +90kg) and Priya Ghanghas (Women’s 60kg) secured bronze after making their way into the semifinals and losing

their last four clashes. India fielded 11 boxers at the Aichi-Nagoya Games. Sakshi Chaudhary (Women’s 51kg) lost in the round of 16 to reigning world champion Alua Balkibekova of Kazakhstan. Preeti Pawar (Women’s 54kg) went down to Pang Chol Mi of North Korea in the pre-quarters. Jadumani Singh (Men’s 55kg) also lost in the pre-quarters to Carlo Paalam of the Philippines. Sachin Siwach (Men’s 60kg) lost to Japan’s Shunsuke Kitamoto in the quarterfinals, while Sumit Kundu (Men’s 70kg) lost to Iran’s Ali Qasim Al-Sarray in the pre-quarters.

Asian Games: Lalremsiami reaches 200 international appearances for India



Kakamigahara: Indian women’s hockey team forward Lalremsiami has achieved 200 senior international appearances for the country, a landmark she reached during India’s gold-medal match against China at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026. Hockey India has congratulated the star player for achieving the milestone. The 26-year-old Lalremsiami made her senior international debut in 2017 and has since established herself as a key member of the Indian women’s team, contributing across major international competitions and playing a major role in some of the team’s most significant achievements. Her medal-winning journey includes an Asian Games silver medal in 2018 and bronze in 2022, while she was also part of the Indian team that won bronze at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. At the FIH Nations Cup, Lalremsiami helped India secure gold medals in 2022 and 2026. She has also enjoyed considerable success at the continental level. She was part of India’s gold-medal-winning Asia Cup campaign in 2017, followed by a bronze in 2022

and silver in 2025. At the Asian Champions Trophy, she won gold in 2023 and 2024, besides being part of the silver-medal-winning team in 2018. Beyond her medal achievements, Lalremsiami has been a part of historic campaigns for Indian women’s hockey. She featured in the team that recorded its

best-ever Olympic finish at Tokyo 2020, where India finished fourth, and was also part of the squad that secured a fifth-place finish at the 2026 FIH Hockey Women’s World Cup. India’s best-ever result at the tournament since its inaugural edition in 1974. Her consistent contribution to Indian hockey has also earned her the prestigious Arjuna Award. “Hockey India congratulates Lalremsiami on this remarkable milestone and celebrates her dedication, consistency and contribution to the national team. Her journey from making her senior debut in 2017 to reaching 200 international appearances is a testament to her commitment,” said Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey. Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh also extended his best wishes to Lalremsiami. “Lalremsiami reaching 200 senior international caps is a proud milestone for Indian hockey. Her commitment and fighting spirit have made her an integral part of the national team over the years. She has contributed to some of India’s most memorable campaigns, and Hockey India congratulates her on this remarkable achievement,” said the Secretary General.

Sub-junior Nationals: Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh girls enter semi-finals

Hyderabad: Karnataka put on an impressive performance to defeat Kerala 62-49, powered by Aarushi Anand’s 17-point effort, and booked a place in the semi-finals of the Sub-junior National Basketball Championship. Karnataka will face the winners of the Delhi-Maharashtra quarter-final in the last four. Uttar Pradesh also secured a hard-fought 68-57 victory over Madhya Pradesh, with Tejasvi Karhana scoring 21 points to lead her team into the semi-finals. Uttar Pradesh will meet the winners of the Tamil

Nadu-West Bengal quarter-final. In the boys’ category, Uttar Pradesh dominated Karnataka 65-40 to advance to the semi-finals, with Shabd Kumar top-scoring with 21 points. They will face the winners of the Madhya Pradesh-Maharashtra quarter-final. In another quarter-final, Haryana edged past Delhi 70-65 in a closely fought contest, with Keshav Kaushik contributing 17 points. Haryana will take on the winners of the Rajasthan-Chhattisgarh quarter-final in the semi-finals.



Vijay Deverakonda backs Jr NTR's demand for strict AI misuse laws

Telugu star Vijay Deverakonda has expressed his support for Jr NTR, who earlier in the day urged state governments and the Government of India to act strongly and bring in strict regulations against the misuse of AI. Jr NTR's appeal came in the wake of a morphed video of the song 'Chuttamalle' from his film 'Devara' being circulated on social media. Taking to X to express his wholehearted support for Jr NTR and his team on the issue, Vijay Deverakonda, while quoting Jr NTR's post, wrote, "We have stooped to the levels of absolute lowlife. Whoever is responsible for this should not be spared. They must face the harshest possible legal consequences and be made an example of. We must not let this go."

He went on to say, "When did we become so insensitive to each other. What kind of parenting is going on? What kind of society are we living in? Where we find joy in degrading each other? At a time when the world is debating and fearing how AI disrupt livelihoods and take away jobs, these idiots are using that very technology to do utter nonsense." Describing the act of putting out such a video as the digital equivalent of sexual assault, the actor said, "The law must treat such acts with utmost seriousness." He ended his note by saying, "And to the team standing up against this, you have my full support." Earlier in the day, Jr NTR said he would take every possible legal action against those who had created a morphed video of the song 'Chuttamalle' from

his film 'Devara' and those who were spreading it. Taking to X to react to the morphed video circulating on social media, the actor wrote, "Disgusting, Sick and Shameless."

"In a land that worships women as mothers and goddesses, where 'Matrudevo Bhava' is not just a phrase but a part of our culture, some people have fallen so low that they are using AI to disrespect a woman in the most degrading way possible. Using AI to create something this vile is shameful beyond words." Jr NTR directly addressed those who had circulated the morphed video, writing, "To the scumbags behind this morphed Chuttamalle video, I will not spare any of you. I will take every possible legal action against those who created it and those who are spreading it." He also urged netizens not to watch, share or engage with such content. "Please do not watch, share or engage with such content. Today it is someone else. Tomorrow, it could be your mother, sister, wife or daughter," he wrote. He concluded by urging all state governments and the Government of India to act strongly and bring in strict regulations against the misuse of AI. Earlier in the day, actress Jahnvi Kapoor too had taken exception to the fake videos being generated. Taking to X, she wrote, "It's disturbing to see AI-generated fake videos being circulated. Please don't create, share or promote such content. This is a clear misuse of AI." Legal action will definitely be taken against those involved. Jai Hind. #JanhviKapoor."



Drishyam 3 Wins Big Even Without Dhurandhar Villain

One of the biggest talking points around Drishyam 3 was the absence of Akshay Khanna, who was expected to reprise his role from the previous instalments. The actor's popularity had increased significantly after his memorable performance as the ruthless Rehman Dacoit in Durandhar. Many fans felt his cool yet menacing portrayal of the villain was one of the blockbuster's highlights of Dhurandhar, and his demand in Bollywood grew overnight. So naturally, Akshay Khanna was on a high, and he demanded big bucks to continue his role as a cop in the Hindi franchise Drishyam 3.

However, talks failed, and Akshay rejected the film just five days ahead of the shoot.



This left the team to look for an alternative, and they eventually cast Paatal Lok fame Jaideep Ahlawat in the role. Drishyam 3 has opened to a blockbuster talk, and the deci-

sion to replace Akshay has not hurt the film in any way. In fact, Jaideep Ahlawat has emerged as one of the film's biggest strengths. Playing a Crime Branch officer, Jaideep gets

substantial screen space and several powerful scenes in the Ajay Devgn starrer. The Drishyam 3 team was reportedly concerned about how viewers would react to the casting change, but those fears seem to have disappeared. The film has opened to massive collections across North India as Drishyam 3 has become Ajay Devgn's biggest opening to date. Another major factor behind the film's success is the way the Hindi version has been adapted. Unlike the Malayalam original, Drishyam 3 features several key changes that have connected strongly with Hindi audiences. The combination of franchise value, strong performances, and smart casting has paid off in a big way.

Chandrayaan First Signal Teaser : Sending Chicken To Space

The First Signal teaser of Chandrayaan has been unveiled, offering a hilarious glimpse into a uniquely entertaining adventure rooted in Telangana. Presented by Venu Udugula following the success of Raju Weds Rambai, the film promises a refreshing story filled with quirky characters, unexpected situations and non-stop fun. The teaser introduces three not-so-impressive youngsters whose ambitions are far bigger than their achievements.

The fun begins when the protagonists draw comparisons with achievers like Allu Arjun and Virat Kohli, only to realise how little they have accomplished themselves. Determined to do something extraordinary, they come up with an unbelievable plan to build a rocket in Mandamarri and travel to the moon. Their preparation begins, experiments get underway, and their ambitious mission gradually takes shape. In their own amusing world, even ISRO gets



a quirky transformation into MSRO. From assembling a rocket to attempting to send a chicken into space, the teaser showcases the trio's hilarious experiments and their unconventional approach to space exploration. Their plans, preparations, unexpected failures and the chaos that follows promise plenty of entertainment. Rather than revealing too much about the story, the First Signal teaser creates curiosity about how far these youngsters will go in chasing their impossible dream. Chandrayaan stars Shivakumar Dheekonda, Swapna Priyadarshini, Ravi Shivateja, Vamshidhar, Lokesh and Balagam Satyanarayana in key roles. Produced by Praveen Molaka under the Simba Screen Stories banner, the film is presented by Venu Udugula and directed by Srinath Chandrasekhar, who has also handled the story, screenplay and dialogues. Harsha Praveen is the music director, Srinivasa B is the cinematographer, Pullarao Dasari is the editor, Shashi Kosuri is the costume designer, and Sridhar Mestri and Mandar Pasnekar are the production designers. Chandrayaan is set for a grand theatrical release on October 30.

NTR's First & Furious Reaction to the Chuttamalle AI Video



In the last few hours, an AI-created Chuttamalle morphed video has been circulating on social media. As an example of the adverse effects of technological advancements, the edited clip from the song portrays Jahnvi in a derogatory manner and NTR in an objectionable way. The video has been cut in such a manner, and it is being widely circulated. However, many have reacted with severe outrage and are calling for it to be taken down. NTR has also shared his reaction, expressing

his anger over the incident. Taking to X, NTR wrote, "To the scumbags behind this morphed Chuttamalle video, I will not spare any of you. I will take every possible legal action against those who created it and those who are spreading it." NTR is very serious about the unnecessary sharing of the morphed video, done only for pleasure. He said Matrudevohava is not just a phrase but part of culture, and urged governments to act strongly and introduce

strict regulations against AI misuse.

Earlier, a lot of female actors were subjected to deepfake videos and trolling because of the morphed pictures. Each time, the actors urge everyone to stop spreading them, and some have initiated legal action too. In the Chuttamalle case, those who did it crossed every line, and it's simply unacceptable.

Chuttamalle is a popular song from NTR and Jahnvi starrer Devara: Part 1, directed by Koratala Siva.

Why Vijay's Film Struggling Despite Positive Talk?

Makkal Selvan Vijay Sethupathi's latest Tamil film, Baththa, opened to a unanimous positive response from critics and audiences. Social media buzzed with positive word of mouth from many moviegoers. Many praised the performances of both Vijay and child artist Sabari. It is a gangster comedy, a genre that works well with Tamil audiences. Vijay, who faced back-to-back flops recently, finally secured a success with the movie. But shockingly, the positive buzz hasn't translated into strong revenue. Despite receiving unanimous decent-to-positive reviews, Vijay Sethupathi's Baththa has yet to find strong numbers at the box office. Even though the collection doubled on day 2, it still hasn't crossed the 10cr mark, which isn't impressive. As a connective film for the Tamil audience, it remains to be



seen whether they will embrace it and deliver box-office numbers. Usually, Tamil audiences are receptive to stories set against a rural backdrop, with enough drama and comedy. Vijay Sethupathi factor also brings a lot of people to theatres, especially in rural Tamil Nadu. But for some reason, the film isn't

meeting expectations at the ticket windows, raising doubts about its long-term performance. Directed by Balaji Tharaneetharan, Lijomol Jose plays the female lead. Sai Abhyankar is the film's music director. Murad Khetani, Atlee, Priya Atlee, Alok Jain, and Ajit Andhare bankroll the film.



Rashi Khanna's Ethnic Era Is Here

Raashi Khanna has given fans a refreshing ethnic look in a monochrome blue and white ensemble. The actress picked a sheer sleeveless blouse with pearl detailing, paired with a light-weight saree featuring geometric prints and intricate peacock and lotus motifs along the pallu. The deep blue border added a striking contrast to the soft white base, giving the outfit an elegant touch. She completed the look with a pearl choker, matching earrings, and styled wavy hair with bangs, while her warm smile made the photoshoot even more charming. On the work front, Raashi appeared in Ustaad Bhagat Singh and Sardar 2 this year; but both films failed to click at the box office. However, she has a number of films lined up in Tamil and Hindi, along with OTT projects.