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'Proving Is The Accuser's Duty'

124 Former Civil Servants Back Election Commission, Defend SIR, Question Vote-Rigging Claims



New Delhi: As allegations of electoral irregularities continue to spark political debate, 124 former IAS, IFS and allied services officers have issued an open letter defending the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, questioning claims of vote rigging without credible evidence. In their letter to the citizens of India, the former officers said the country's electoral system had undergone a significant transformation from the era of booth capturing, ballot box stuffing and election-related violence. They highlighted safeguards such as polling agents, sealing of electronic voting machines (EVMs), strong-room security and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit

Trail (VVPAT) verification. Citing the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, the officers claimed that the polls were conducted without any re-polling and recorded the highest voter turnout since 1951. They said the development reflected improvements in election management and institutional safeguards. "A system cannot be honest when you win and rigged when you lose," the letter stated, noting that the party ruling at the Centre had lost several state elections under the same Election Commission. The officers also referred to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, in which the ruling party failed to secure an outright majority on its own. Defending the SIR exercise, the former civil servants described it as a necessary

process to maintain accurate electoral rolls by identifying deceased voters, duplicate entries and individuals who had permanently shifted residence. According to the letter, Bihar's revision exercise identified around 22 lakh deceased electors and seven lakh duplicate entries, while approximately 21.5 lakh new voters were added. The officers argued that inaccurate electoral rolls could create opportunities for impersonation and undermine the integrity of elections. They also maintained that the SIR process included safeguards to address concerns over wrongful exclusion, including the publication of draft electoral rolls, opportunities to file claims and objections, hearings and provisions for appeals.

CJP Members Detained at Delhi Airport

New Delhi: Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke and party members Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were detained at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport upon arrival ahead of the planned protest at Jantar Mantar, police said on Saturday. Delhi Police personnel entered the aircraft carrying Dipke after it landed at IGI Airport. Dipke posted a video showing the Delhi Police team entering the aircraft as he and the other CJP members, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, were detained on board. In the video posted on his social media handle, Dipke was heard telling the police, "...I have come here to be arrested; arrest me." The CJP announced the detentions in a post on its social media handle, stating: "Abhijeet Dipke DETAINED! Saurav Das DETAINED! Ashutosh Ranka DETAINED!" They were detained ahead of the CJP's proposed protest at Jantar Mantar later in the day against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the country. Dipke had left Mumbai for Delhi earlier in the morning to lead the protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar. Earlier in the morning, YouTuber Dhruv Rathee was also detained at his residence in Gurugram by the city police ahead of the planned protest at Jantar Mantar.



Dhruv Rathee detained at Gurugram residence ahead of Delhi protest

New Delhi: Social media influencer Dhruv Rathee was detained by Gurugram Police at his residence on Saturday ahead of the protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. Rathee had attended a protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bengaluru on Thursday. He was scheduled to participate in the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP)'s proposed protest at Jantar Mantar later in the day against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The reported detention comes as Delhi Police remains on high alert ahead of the CJP's proposed pro-

test, with security tightened across the national Capital. According to a post on the CJP's X handle, around 50 police personnel in plain clothes reached Rathee's residence in Gurugram at around 8 am and took him into custody. Meanwhile, vehicles are being checked at Delhi's borders, while police personnel have been equipped with body cameras to record any untoward incidents during the demonstration. Security arrangements have also been strengthened at the residences of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Leader of the Opposition in

the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi. Drone surveillance is being conducted at key locations, while several Metro stations, including Supreme Court and Mandi House, have been closed as part of the security measures. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Anant Mittal reached the Aya Nagar border to review the security arrangements ahead of the protest. Police personnel were checking vehicles entering the national Capital to prevent unauthorised persons from reaching New Delhi. Speaking to IANS, DCP Anant Mittal said, "Regarding the call given by the CJP



to protest in New Delhi, security arrangements have been made accordingly in Delhi and in the South district as well. Special security arrangements are in place at inter-state and inter-district

borders. We are preventing unauthorised elements from entering New Delhi and checking them. Our effort is to ensure that everything remains peaceful and law and order is maintained."

CM Chandrababu Is Andhra Pradesh's Water Man, Praise Krishna Delta Farmers

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 10: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said that 500 TMC of Godavari water had been diverted to the Krishna basin through the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Project over the past 11 years and put to effective use. He said the achievement in water management through the project was a source of great satisfaction and acknowledged the support extended by farmers to the efforts to bring water through Pattiseema. On Saturday, Krishna Delta farmers and representatives of irrigation associations met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the AP Secretariat, along with Minister



Nimmala Ramanaidu. **CM Praises Farmers** Farmers thanked Chandrababu Naidu for bringing 500 TMC of water to the Krishna Delta through the Pattiseema project. Farmers and irrigation association representatives felicitated the Chief

Minister with a shawl. They praised Chandrababu Naidu for supplying Godavari water to the Krishna Delta and diverting the Krishna water saved in the Srisailem reservoir to Rayalaseema, describing him as a provider of water security for Andhra Pradesh. Calling him the "Water Man of AP," they appreciated his efforts to ensure water security across all regions. The Chief Minister, in turn, praised farmers for producing abundant crops in the Krishna Delta using water supplied through the Pattiseema project. **'We Will Complete Projects and Ensure Water Security for the State': CM** The Chief Minister said

the government was working to expand canals to maximise benefits for the state. He noted that the idea behind the Pattiseema project had eased the hardships of farmers in the region and helped generate wealth. He explained that Godavari water was being used in the Krishna basin, allowing the saved Krishna water to be diverted to Rayalaseema for irrigation and drinking purposes. Water had also been supplied to major industries in Rayalaseema, including Kia, he added. Chandrababu Naidu said the government would complete irrigation projects according to the irrigation calendar and ensure water security for Andhra Pradesh.

AP Cabinet Approves Implementation of BC Reservations

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 10: The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet met at the State Secretariat on Saturday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. During the meeting, the Chief Minister took a key decision on BC reservations in local body elections and approved the recommendations of the Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Commission. **Implementing Reservations in Line with Supreme Court Verdict** After the Cabinet meeting, ministers announced

the decisions taken during the session. They said the Cabinet had agreed to implement reservations on a unit-wise basis in urban and rural local bodies, as recommended by the Dedicated BC Commission. They explained that the Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Commission had recommended BC reservations exceeding 24% for all posts except Zilla Parishad chairpersons. The ministers stated that the government would implement reservations in a manner that benefits BCs in local body elections while re-

specting the Supreme Court verdict and complying with the prescribed rules. **Details of BC Reservations** The Cabinet decided to implement BC reservations at the following rates: Village ward members: 26.73% Sarpanches: 27.95% MPIC members: 25.55% Mandal Parishad presidents and ZPTC members: 24.60% Zilla Parishad chairpersons: 23.08% Urban ward members: 32.78%

Municipal chairpersons: 33.02% Mayors: 35.29% The ministers stated that BC reservations would be provided legally by implementing these recommendations. They added that coalition parties would allocate seats to BC candidates to ensure that the benefits of 34% representation reach the community across different posts. The ministers said the Cabinet had decided to extend BC reservations more broadly than under the previous Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government.

Complete Local Body Elections by November 15 : Chandrababu Directs Ministers

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 10: BC reservations were discussed at the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The Chief Minister directed ministers to take the local body elections seriously. He noted that the BC population in urban areas had increased significantly and recalled that 24% reservations were provided to BCs during the tenure of N.T. Rama Rao. He also pointed out that the previous TDP government had provided 34% reservations to BCs, alleging that subsequent governments had failed to take appropriate decisions on the issue. Stating that the coalition was ready for the elections, Chandrababu instructed ministers to complete the local body polls by November 15 and move towards regular administration. He made it clear that the ministers in charge would be responsible for ensuring the victory of coalition candi-

dates. He called for coordination among the three alliance partners and asked the ministers in charge to work together based on local conditions. Emphasising that no seat should be lost, he said the coalition must aim to win 100% of the seats. He expressed the view that the local body elections would pave the way for new leadership to emerge. He directed ministers and MLAs to treat the elections with utmost seriousness. Chandrababu criticised YSRC president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he had dismantled the earlier 34% BC reservation arrangement and failed to approach the Supreme Court after the High Court struck it down. He also criticised the opposition for approaching the courts when the coalition government was seeking to provide 34% reservations to BCs, alleging that the YSRC was obstructing their implementation. The Chief Minister said the government would

provide the maximum possible reservation to BCs and ensure 34% representation through party nominations. He claimed that the 34% quota could have been implemented had the YSRC not approached the courts. He further alleged that the previous government had made errors in providing BC reservations by issuing a government order granting 34% reservation without first constituting a commission, which led the High Court to strike it down. He also referred to a court case concerning the conduct of elections based on the voter list prepared after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). **Chief Minister Reviews Other Issues** Chandrababu directed ministers to ensure that ordinary people did not face difficulties during the El Niño period. He said that although the state was experiencing a 34% rainfall deficit, water storage measures taken the previous year had helped mitigate the situa-



tion to some extent. He advised ministers not to remain mere spectators and urged them to keep learning and stay in touch with the ministers concerned in the Union government. The Chief Minister announced that funds for constituency development works would be released to MLAs on Monday and Tuesday, with Rs.1 crore allocated to each constituency. During the meeting, officials also presented the details of the Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Commission report on BC reservations.

NTR Vaidya Seva Trust Fines 203 Hospitals Rs.34.39 Crore



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 10: The NTR Vaidya Seva Trust has taken action against hospitals found engaging in irregularities under its scheme. The trust has imposed penalties totalling Rs.34.39 crore on 203 hospitals during the period from 2024-25 to 2026-27. The action includes 25

suspensions and the withholding of payments in 13 cases. Five hospitals have been removed from the network list, while the recognition of another hospital has been cancelled. Over the past six months, the trust has taken action in 114 cases. It has stepped up monitoring of deficiencies in medical services and

suspicious billing practices. The trust has warned hospitals that action will be taken if they collect money from patients for treatments meant to be provided free of cost. It has also made it clear that strict action will follow if eligible beneficiaries are denied cashless treatment. The trust investigated patient complaints and examined medical records. It plans to use artificial intelligence (AI)-based technology to scrutinise hospital bills. Suspicious bills will be identified through AI, and action will be taken only after the findings are verified with supporting evidence. The trust will re-

view 6,000 requests for prior medical authorisation every day. The trust will also scrutinise bills for 5,600 treatments daily. Prior authorisation requests will undergo a two-stage verification process, while bills will be checked in four stages. The trust has accelerated bill scrutiny and is focusing on clearing pending bills. It reiterated that preventing the misuse of government funds is its primary objective. NTR Vaidya Seva Trust CEO Padmavathi submitted a report detailing these measures to Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav.

EDITORIAL

Shock for Tech Professionals:
Trump's 'Election Tactic'

The US government has taken action against eight major IT companies, including Microsoft and Infosys, accusing them of taking away jobs from Americans and misusing H-1B visa regulations. In a major move, the government has suspended these companies from the Permanent Labour Certification (PERM) programme, a crucial step in the green card approval process. The suspension has been announced with immediate effect. The government has made it clear that it will no longer accept new PERM applications from these companies and that the processing of pending applications will also be halted. However, this move is likely to cause more harm than good to the United States. President Donald Trump repeatedly invokes the slogan "Make America Great Again" (MAGA). He often stokes resentment among Americans against skilled professionals from other countries. The latest decisions appear to be aimed more at securing votes in the upcoming elections than achieving any other objective. US Vice President JD Vance's description of visa holders coming to America as "indentured servants" overlooks the country's own history. Generations of immigrants have contributed significantly to America's development and prosperity through their hard work, business acumen and innovations. In the past, Indians worked as indentured labourers in countries such as Mauritius, Fiji, the Caribbean islands and South Africa, enduring considerable hardship. Today, skilled Indian professionals working in the United States benefit not only India but also American companies and the US economy. India has made it clear that some of the US measures in this mutually beneficial sector are not in line with the shared objectives of both countries. India has warned that actions targeting Indian IT professionals could adversely affect bilateral relations and economic interests. The US decision to act against major IT companies has drawn widespread criticism. Nevertheless, Washington does not appear to have changed its policy. According to the US Labour Secretary, since 2009, these eight companies have filed requests for nearly three million foreign workers, obtained more than 230,000 H-1B visas and received over 100,000 permanent labour certifications. He alleged that their recruitment practices had cost millions of American workers their jobs. Meanwhile, the future of thousands of Indian technology professionals hoping to obtain green cards in the United States has become uncertain. PERM is the first step in the employer-sponsored green card process. With restrictions now imposed on this stage, skilled professionals working for major Indian companies in the US and hoping to settle there have suffered a significant setback. The Permanent Labour Certification process was introduced in 2005 under the administration of then US President George W. Bush to streamline labour certification. Through this programme, US employers can sponsor foreign employees for green cards. However, the US Department of Labour must certify that qualified American workers are unavailable for the job and that employing foreign workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of local employees. An H-1B visa is a temporary work visa that generally allows a person to remain in the United States for up to six years. The suspension represents a major setback for thousands of Indian IT professionals living in the US on H-1B visas and relying on employer sponsorship to obtain permanent residency, or a green card. The suspension may not result in the cancellation of their existing H-1B visas, but it blocks progress towards permanent residency through the affected PERM process. Without a viable pathway to permanent residency, companies may find it more difficult to recruit and retain foreign talent. As a result, Indian professionals could be forced to remain on temporary visas for extended periods.

The Trump administration has adopted strict measures based on its argument that foreign work visas disadvantage American workers and threaten local employment. Vice President JD Vance has alleged that Microsoft laid off 6,000 American employees in 2025, claiming that qualified local professionals were unavailable, while the company obtained approvals for more than 6,000 H-1B visas and filed 3,682 PERM applications during the same period. He further alleged that nearly 1,000 of the positions covered by these applications were similar to jobs previously held by American employees who had been laid off. Vance accused companies of publishing limited job advertisements and then claiming that qualified local candidates could not be found in order to hire foreign workers. Vance has also ordered an investigation into the use of the J-1 visa programme by nine major universities, including Yale, Harvard, Stanford and Caltech, to recruit research scholars. He alleged that these universities were making excessive use of J-1 visas and misusing the programme in ways that undermine the wages and employment opportunities of American graduate students and researchers.

Nana Patekar: The Voice That Spoke
To Generations, From 'Prahaar' To 'Golmaal'

When I asked my eight-year-old son if he knew of any Nana Patekar movie, he said, 'Golmaal'. It took me a while to recall the scene in one of the films in the 'Golmaal' franchise where a mute Tusshar Kapoor, possessed by a soul, begins speaking in Patekar's distinctive voice. It was a moment of comic absurdity, but it also said something about the actor's cultural reach.

Here was an actor whose gravelly baritone, staccato rhythm and intense voice modulation travelled across generations, becoming instantly recognisable even to children who may never have watched his most celebrated performances.

For me, however, Nana Patekar will always be Major Chauhan from 'Prahaar' (1991).

I remember the intensity with which he portrayed the disciplined army officer, a man who believed that character was forged through hardship and that duty demanded more than mere words. Patekar did not simply play an officer who trained cadets; he embodied a philosophy. His dialogues carried the weight of conviction, delivered with a controlled aggression.

He could pause, raise his voice, lower it and then explode into a monologue without losing the audience. His words were not merely meant to be heard. They demanded to be

absorbed. That intensity became his signature.

In 'Parinda' (1989), he was frighteningly convincing as Anna Seth, a gangster whose violence and unpredictability made him one of the film's most memorable characters. In 'Krantiveer' (1994), he brought a different kind of fury to the screen as Pratap Narayan Tilak, a man whose anger was directed at corruption, injustice and communal divisions. His impassioned speeches became an integral part of the film's identity, particularly the "Hindu Ka Khoon, Musalman Ka Khoon" analogy.

Patekar had a rare ability to make a character's anger feel personal. He did not always behave like the conventional Hindi film hero. He was abrasive, uncomfortable and difficult to like. Yet it was almost impossible to look away.

His range was evident in films such as 'Khamoshi: The Musical' (1996), where he played Joseph Braganza, the deaf father of the character played by Manisha Koirala. Here, the intensity remained, but it was expressed through restraint, silences and emotional vulnerability.

Then came the roles that introduced him to a new generation of moviegoers. As Uday Shetty in 'Welcome' (2007), Patekar turned an underworld don into an unlikely comic icon. The character's exaggerated



seriousness and wonderfully timed reactions made him hilarious without diminishing his screen presence. His chemistry with Anil Kapoor's Majnu Bhai became one of the film's biggest attractions. The new-age audience realised that the man who could deliver a blistering monologue in 'Krantiveer' could also make them laugh through a pause, a glare or an exasperated expression. Uday Shetty eventually found a life

of his own in internet memes and social media clips. Different generations could claim different versions of Nana Patekar as their own. For some, he was the fierce actor; for others, he was the menacing presence, an emotionally complex father or a gangster whose dreams of becoming an actor provided much of the humour. And all these characters were delivered with one quality that made Nana Patekar unique: Individu-

ality. You cannot imagine another actor doing the film with same intensity, abrupt pauses and a distinct humour.

I began thinking about his legacy with a question to my eight-year-old son. His answer took me to 'Golmaal', while my own memory went straight to 'Prahaar'. Between those two films lies the remarkable range of an actor who could speak to vastly different audiences without ever losing his identity.

Visa Shocks To Racist Attacks, When Did
America Come To Hate Indians So?

From India, America has always looked like a rather honest promise: a nation where merit rather than birth determines what you can achieve, how far you can go. A straightforward proposition. Come legally, study hard, work hard, pay your taxes, build a business, become a doctor or engineer. Send your children to good schools, watch American football. Cheer for the local team. Vote. Prosper.

In other words, become part of the place.

Millions of Indians took this proposition seriously. They came, studied, worked, taught, ran hotels, wrote software and made films. And yet there appears to be one final test which has no syllabus. No admission form, no visa fee. It is called the Brown Face Test. you can pass all the tests and yet fail this one.

The latest developments have made this anxiety clearer. Recently, the Trump administration proposed a staggering USD 70,000 fee for international students participating in Optional Practical Training (OPT), the programme that allows eligible foreign graduates to gain work experience in the United States. The proposal remains pending, but its implications for Indian students are enormous. Days later, Washington suspended eight major technology companies - including Indian IT giants TCS, Infosys, Wipro and HCLTech, alongside Microsoft, Adobe, Cognizant and Capgemini - from filing or processing applications under the Permanent Labour Certification (PERM) programme, a key route to employment-based green cards, citing alleged abuses of the system. The suspension does not automatically cancel existing H-1B visas, but it casts a cloud over the long-term prospects of skilled foreign workers. The message is unmistakable: even as America continues to depend on global talent, the path from an Indian classroom to an American career, and from professional success to permanent belonging, is becoming more expensive and precarious. For a country that built its global technological dominance partly by attracting the world's



brightest minds, the question is: does America still want to make room for them?

Consider the curious case of Bo French, the Republican nominee for the Texas Railroad Commission. French posted a photograph of South Asian students celebrating at a University of Texas football game and described the presence of such students as evidence that Americans were being "displaced by foreigners." He later defended his comments. What made the episode especially disturbing was that there was no evidence that the students were foreigners at all; their perceived foreignness appeared to be inferred from their appearance. Data reveals that the University of Texas has only 4% foreign students. The others may be brown, but they are all Texans. Several Texas Republicans, including Senator John Cornyn, condemned French's remarks. The episode also highlights the growing schism within the Republican Party and raises the question of how far this "othering" can go. But the message was difficult to miss: brown faces could be treated as evidence of foreignness even inside an American university and at an American football game. Anti-India sentiment has been bubbling up on so-

cial media, and the effervescence has been almost spilling over lately, with the midterms around the corner. In Texas itself, several recent episodes have brought the intersection of immigration, race and Indian identity into sharp focus. In April, a video by conservative influencer Savannah Hernandez about the Hanuman Temple in Frisco triggered a flood of anti-Indian and anti-Hindu comments online. Her presentation of the temple and its devotees was framed around Indian immigration and demographic change, and the resulting online reaction descended into racist rhetoric.

Months later, the controversy became even more explicit. A conservative activist, Jesse Hughes, posted a photograph of a 90-foot Hanuman statue in Texas with the declaration: "When we win, we are tearing this down." The statement was condemned by Indian Americans, including a US Army veteran who described the threat as an attack on his religion.

Perhaps most disturbing was the involvement of the US Department of Homeland Security itself. In September 2026, DHS posted an AI-generated immigration-enforcement image featuring a brown-skinned, tur-

baned man identified as "Mr Singh" and carrying the message, "America for Americans. Get off our roads; you don't know how to drive, Mr Singh." Sikh and Indian-American organisations condemned the imagery as racial stereotyping and profiling, pointing out that Singh is one of the most common Sikh surnames and that appearance cannot be used as a proxy for immigration status.

Donald Trump's political movement has increasingly placed emphasis on national identity, cultural continuity and loyalty to his political agenda: the propaganda of MAGA and "America for Americans".

The larger question here is: who certifies who the real Americans are, or who the so-called "Heritage Americans"

are? The fact is that America itself has been a nation of immigrants who displaced the original inhabitants.

Earlier, in 2025, when the then FBI Director Kash Patel posted a simple greeting marking Diwali, his post attracted a barrage of racist and religiously bigoted responses from supporters of the MAGA movement. Some told him to "go back"; others questioned why an American official was celebrating a festival they considered foreign. The abuse was striking precisely because Patel was not an immigrant outsider speaking from the margins of American life. He was the country's FBI Director.

The targeting of Usha Vance, the Indian-American wife of Vice President JD Vance, has been even more revealing.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **INDALA PENTAVENI**, W/o. **RAVI CHANDRA E KESIBOYAN**, residing at Door No.14-10/301, Flat No.301, Manikanta Srinivasam, Sec-2, T.I.C Point, Arilova, Visakhapatnam, have changed my name from **INDALA PENTAVENI** (Old Name) to **INDALA MADHURI VENI** (New Name). Henceforth, She shall be known and called as to **INDALA MADHURI VENI** for all purposes.

"Indeed troubling": Musk responds to Rahul Gandhi amid Starlink entry row



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

allegations that vested interests are obstructing the company's entry into the Indian market.

In an earlier post, Musk questioned the delay in granting Starlink a licence, saying the company was authorised to operate in more than 165 countries. "Starlink is licensed in over 165 countries and has spent five years complying with every single law and requirement of the government of India, so why still no license? Is Ambani the real boss of India?" Musk wrote. In another post, responding to a user who outlined reasons why India needed Starlink, Musk alleged that powerful business interests were preventing the company from entering the market. "Unfortunately, we (Starlink) are being blocked by certain oligarchs in order to maintain their monopolistic chokehold on the Indian people. You can guess who

they are... This is a crime against the people of India," he said. The Ministry of Communications had earlier rejected claims that vested interests were targeting Starlink's plans in India, maintaining that the country's regulatory framework for telecommunications services, including satellite communications, was fair and non-discriminatory.

In its statement, the Ministry said telecom licences had been granted to three global mobile personal communication by satellite service providers operating through non-geosynchronous satellite orbit-based systems. It said all licensees were required to demonstrate compliance with prescribed security conditions to ensure the safety of users and their data. "The security assessment as part of this process is currently under way in respect of all three licensees," the Min-

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

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

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

'BJP Will Deal Sternly With Anarchists': BJP Presiden Nitin Nabin Warns Rahul Gandhi, Arvind Kejriwal And CJP

Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Nitin Nabin accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal and the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) of attempting to destabilise the country with the support of foreign forces. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, Nabin alleged that the three were trying to create anarchy because they "cannot digest the country's progress" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. He warned that the government would deal sternly with such attempts, while BJP workers would counter them on the ground.

Nabin Accuses Opposition Of Creating Anarchy

"An attempt is being made to create a state of anarchy in the country. Efforts are underway to destabilise the country and its 140 crore people. Who is doing this? They are two anarchic groups, one led by 'INDI Alliance' leader Rahul Gandhi, and the other led by Arvind Kejriwal and his associate CJP," Nabin said, PTI reports. The BJP chief claimed that the two groups were competing to prove who was the greater anarchist. He also said that the people of India were fully aware of their intentions.

Nabin accused the opposition leaders of pursuing what he described as 'bikau' politics and attempting to destabilise India in collaboration with foreign forces. His remarks reflected the



BJP's aggressive stand against what it claims are attempts to create unrest in the country. "I give a clear warning to you today that the 'bikau' politics you are pursuing and attempting to destabilise India in collusion with foreign forces will never succeed. I warn you today that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the patriotic people of this country will give you a fitting reply," he said.

Government, BJP Workers Will Counter Attempts

Nabin asserted that the Government of India would take a tough stand against attempts to create tension in the country. He also said BJP workers would remain among the people to counter such activities. "The Government of India will deal sternly with the situation as you attempt to stoke tension, and BJP workers, remaining firmly among the people, will thwart these designs of yours," he said. His statements underline the sharp political confrontation between the BJP and the opposition, with Nabin portraying their activities as a threat to the country's stability. However, the allegations of foreign involvement remain claims made by the BJP leader.

Tushar Gandhi Detained for Nearly 10 Hours Ahead of Protest at August Kranti Maidan



Mumbai: Mumbai Police detained activist Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, near National College in Bandra, ahead of a proposed demonstration at August Kranti Maidan in solidarity with the Cockroach Janta Party's

(CJP) protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. He remained in police custody for nearly 10 hours. After his detention, Gandhi recorded a video in which he said, "The police detained me in

Bandra but did not take me to the Bandra or Santacruz police stations. Instead, they took me to the DN Nagar police station. A change of power is bound to happen one day. Zindabad." At around 4.30 pm, the police told him that they took Gandhi for a medical examination. However, he was taken to the DN Nagar police station. Speaking to FPJ, Gandhi said, "The government is scared, and hence, activists and protesters were detained using police force. My daughter was also detained and taken to the Dongri police station. The police

have taken action under pressure." He added that after his release, the police dropped him off at his residence. Activist Feeroz Mithiborwala was also taken into custody from his residence and shifted to the MIDC police station. Before Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Aditya Thackeray, Sanjay Raut and Anil Parab reached the DN Nagar police station, the police shifted Gandhi to the Borivali police station. Thackeray and Shiv Sena (UBT) workers gathered outside the police station and raised slogans against the government.

Rajasthan Seeks Fodder Supplies From Punjab, Haryana And MP Amid Drought Concerns

Jaipur: Anticipating a fodder shortage following deficient monsoon rainfall, the Rajasthan government has sought help from Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh to ensure adequate supplies of fodder for livestock. The state has urged the neighbouring states to send crop residue, particularly paddy straw, to Rajasthan instead of burning it or diverting it for industrial use. Teams of officials from the state Animal Husbandry Department have been deputed to visit the three states to assess fodder availability and supply prospects. The teams have been asked to visit fodder markets and production centres to assess availability, procurement and supply chains to facilitate the transportation of fodder to Rajasthan.

The department has also urged Punjab and Haryana to discourage the burning of paddy straw and its diversion to industrial purposes, including thermal power plants and brick kilns, and reserve the crop residue for Rajasthan, where fodder availability is expected to come under



pressure. It has also called for measures to prevent artificial stockpiling of fodder, which could drive up prices. Assessing the emerging situation, the Animal Husbandry Department has classified nine districts as critical and 22 as semi-critical in terms of fodder availability. The critical districts are Pali, Udaipur, Rajasamand, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Balotra, Beawar and Dausa. The semi-critical category includes Jaipur, Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jalore, Sikar, Sirohi, Jhunjhunu, Nagaur, Kotputli-Behror and Sawai

Madhopur, among others. Rajasthan has received around 17% less rainfall than its seasonal average this year, with nearly 11 districts reportedly facing drought-like conditions. Given that Rajasthan is among India's leading states in livestock rearing, cattle and other livestock are an important component of the state's rural economy. Ensuring an adequate supply of fodder has therefore emerged as a major challenge for the government. Principal Secretary of the Animal Husbandry Department Vikas Sitaramji Bhale has directed officials

to ensure adequate arrangements for fodder and drinking water in gaushalas (cow shelters). At a meeting held two days ago, Bhale instructed officials to regularly monitor fodder availability and drinking water facilities in cow shelters and take immediate corrective action wherever shortages are reported. He also directed the department to keep track of fodder availability, storage, quality and distribution. Officials have been asked to ensure an adequate supply of clean and safe drinking water in gaushalas, alongside regular monitoring of water supply arrangements.

Flydubai Hijack Attempt: NIA Files FIR Under Anti-Hijacking Act, UAPA; Probes Terror Conspiracy

Mumbai: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has registered a First Information Report (FIR) in connection with the alleged hijacking attempt on a Flydubai flight travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv on September 30. An Omani co-pilot allegedly attacked Indian captain Smit Machchhar inside the cockpit and attempted to crash the aircraft. The agency has invoked Section 3 of the Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016, along with Sections 16, 18 and 20 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). According to sources quoted by CNN-News18, investigators will examine whether the attack was carried out by a lone individual or was part of a larger conspiracy involving extremist networks. The investigation will also examine whether the alleged conspiracy involved plans to target India and how the attack was planned. Sources said the agency is looking into possible terror motives, radicalisation networks and the circumstances leading to the cockpit assault.

The case has raised serious questions about aviation security and the possibility of extremist elements targeting international flights. Investigators will now seek to establish whether the incident was an isolated attack or part of a



wider terror plot. According to sources, Indian agencies have a legal basis to investigate the incident because an Indian citizen was directly targeted during the alleged hijacking attempt. The NIA's action could allow investigators to pursue evidence related to the attack, which took place outside Indian territory, News 18 reports. Hammam Al-Hammami has been named as the prime suspect in the case. Indian authorities are expected to seek mutual legal assistance from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to gather evidence and investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident. Investigators are examining the suspect's background, electronic communications and possible links to extremist organisations. They are also looking into his ideological motivations to determine whether the attack was planned in advance or supported by an overseas terror network. According to sources, the NIA is seeking access to the aircraft's Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR), Flight Data Recorder (FDR) and the suspect's electronic devices. The agency is expected to use diplomatic and international police channels to obtain the evidence.

The incident took place on September 30, 2026, aboard Flydubai Flight 1073, which was travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv. The Omani co-pilot allegedly attacked 39-year-old Captain Machchhar with an emergency crash axe inside the cockpit before attempting to interfere with the aircraft's controls. The attack reportedly caused the aircraft to enter a sudden, steep de-

scend from an altitude of 33,000 feet. Despite suffering serious injuries, Machchhar managed to activate the electronic cockpit door override, allowing passengers and off-duty crew members to enter the cockpit and overpower the attacker. Following the struggle, the aircraft turned back into Saudi airspace and landed safely at Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Airport in Tabuk. Authorities arrested the suspect after the aircraft landed. Machchhar, who is currently in Dubai, has been recovering from his injuries. His actions during the emergency helped prevent a potentially devastating aviation disaster, while the NIA investigation will now focus on establishing the motive behind the attack and whether others were involved.

RSS Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale Meets Akie Abe To Strengthen Bharat-Japan Cultural Ties

New Delhi: RSS Sarkaryavah Shri Dattatreya Hosabale met Mrs Akie Abe, wife of former Japanese Prime Minister late Shri Shinzo Abe, and Chairperson of the Foundation for Social Contribution, and Shri Tomohiko Taniguchi, Chairman of Nippon Kaigi, on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at Keshav in Kunj, the RSS Karyalaya in New Delhi.

Focus on Bharat-Japan relations

The meeting featured a cordial and substantive exchange of views on strengthening Bharat-Japan relations, with particular emphasis on the longstanding civilisational

bonds between the two countries, cultural cooperation and people-centric initiatives. The interaction lasted over an hour, reflecting a shared interest in deepening engagement between Bharat and Japan. The discussions highlighted the importance of fostering greater mutual understanding and strengthening cultural connections between the people of the two nations. Mrs Akie Abe, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Foundation for Social Contribution, and Shri Tomohiko Taniguchi, representing Nippon Kaigi, engaged with Shri Hosabale on avenues for enhanced cooperation in these areas.



The participants expressed a shared commitment to exploring opportunities for collaboration and further strengthening the cultural ties between Bharat and Japan. The RSS leadership, the Foundation for Social

Contribution and the Nippon Kaigi delegation agreed to explore initiatives that would deepen people-to-people connections and build upon the enduring civilisational relationship between the two countries.

Opposition vs AAP In Punjab Over Parent-Teacher Meetings Video Orders



Chandigarh: The Punjab government's Mega Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) have triggered a political row, with Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal leaders accusing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of turning government schools into platforms for political publicity by allegedly asking teachers to record videos of mothers discussing its 'Mukhyamantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojana'. The controversy erupted after instructions reportedly issued by the Punjab State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) on Thursday asked schools to seek feedback from mothers attending the PTMs about the scheme, including their views on it and how they were using the money received under it. Schools were also reportedly asked to record videos of mothers sharing their experiences and upload at least 10 such videos on their respective social media pages. The exercise was reportedly carried out at the School of Eminence in Phase 3B1, Mohali, where

teachers were seen asking mothers about the scheme and recording their responses. At PM Shri Government High School in Nayagaon, Mohali, the principal was also seen interacting with mothers about the scheme, while pamphlets highlighting the state government's achievements were reportedly distributed among parents. The reported instructions have drawn sharp criticism from the Opposition, which has questioned the use of teachers and school social media platforms to promote a government welfare scheme ahead of the Assembly elections. Congress leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira said, "We @INCIndia condemn politicization of education in Punjab by @AamAadmiParty govt misusing school platforms for party propaganda." Congress leader Sachin Pilot also termed the Mega PTMs a publicity exercise, saying, "The mega PTM being organised by the AAP government in Punjab is yet another publicity gimmick. It raises serious questions about the priorities of

the AAP government. When teachers are reportedly being asked to promote government schemes, record beneficiary testimonials, and facilitate the presence of MLAs, the focus shifts away from what truly matters." "Education must remain above politics, not become a tool for political branding," he added. Senior Akali leader Bikram Singh Majithia launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains, alleging that the PTMs had been turned into marketing events for the government's welfare scheme. "Bhagwant Mann's PR propaganda instead of books, cameras instead of blackboards: this is the Bhagwant Mann model of education! In the regime of a fake education revolution, there are publicity campaigns instead of books and cameras instead of blackboards. This is the education model of Bhagwant Mann!" he said. "First place goes to Bhagwant Mann, who has turned Parent Teacher Meetings (PTMs) into marketing meetings for his

'Mawan Dhiyan' scheme! Second place goes to Education Minister Harjot Bains, who ordered that mothers be called to schools and teachers be forced to record videos asking them, 'What message do you have for the CM?'" Majithia further said. He went on to say, "Third place goes to the Secretary, Education Department, who is implementing this shameful exercise! Is the focus no longer on discussing children's academic progress, but on making videos praising the 'Mawan Dhiyan' scheme? Is it mandatory to upload 10 good videos on Mstar and use the schools' social media platforms to promote the party? Shame on you! Are schools meant to secure the future of children, or have they been turned into PR agencies for your party?"

"Absolutely Unacceptable": Harsimrat Kaur Attacks AAP

Lok Sabha MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal attacked Punjab government and said that Punjab school teachers are "literally being used as personal pets". Tagging handles of AAP Punjab, and Bhagwant Mann, she said the state government "has now directed school teachers to record video testimonials from parents about its welfare schemes during the statewide Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) that is happening right now!" "What's worse, these teachers have been told to submit a mandatory quota of 10 video clips per school! First, they were asked to conduct surveys, then the census, then another survey, and now they have been reduced to recording testimonials. The

Govt is making them to everything except teaching! What is even going on in @harjotbains?" she said. "I urge the Ministry of Education (@EduMinOfIndia) as well as the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) to intervene urgently! This AAP advertising 'homework' given to teachers and parents needs to stop immediately!" the former Union Minister added.

Sisodia Hits Back At Congress

AAP leader and former Delhi Minister Manish Sisodia defended the PTMs and asked Congress why it failed to provide quality government education during its years in power. In a post addressed to Sachin Pilot, Sisodia said, "Sachinji (@SachinPilot)! Why didn't the Congress, which held power for decades, provide excellent government schools for every child? Why were parents forced to pay exorbitant fees to private schools for a good education?" "Today, when parents in Punjab's government schools sit with teachers to discuss their children's education, strengths, and weaknesses, you dismiss it as a 'publicity stunt.' Try asking these parents just how much this means to them," Sisodia said. Amid the political slugfest, Punjab Health Minister, while responding to questions in Patiala, denied that the state government had issued any notice directing schools to record videos of parents during the PTMs. He accused the Opposition of deliberately raising the issue and said the government was using mass communication to inform people about welfare

schemes and facilities so that eligible beneficiaries could benefit from them. The minister's response came amid questions over the reported SCERT instructions specifically asking schools to record mothers' views about the scheme and upload the videos on school social media pages. Meanwhile, Mega PTMs were held across Punjab as part of the state government's education initiative, aimed at improving coordination between teachers and parents and discussing students' academic performance. In Moga district, government schools organised meetings to brief parents about their children's classroom performance, progress and areas requiring improvement. At Bhim Nagar Senior Secondary School, parents of 827 students were briefed about their children's academic progress. Teachers discussed learning outcomes and suggested measures for improvement, while students who performed well academically were honoured with certificates. Parents said the interaction helped them understand their children's performance and identify areas where additional support was needed. While the government has defended the broader purpose of the PTMs, the reported instructions on recording and uploading videos about its welfare scheme have placed the education department at the centre of a political controversy, with the Opposition alleging that school platforms are being used for publicity rather than being kept exclusively focused on students' academic needs.

Hyderabad groundwater crisis warning as water levels fall below 20 metres in 7 pc of district

Hyderabad: A substantial rainfall deficit has put Hyderabad at risk of a severe hydrological crisis, with experts warning that residents are likely to face an acute groundwater shortage in the coming months. According to the latest official piezometer data from the Hyderabad Ground Water Department, the city's groundwater depths show a stark contrast – from a near-surface flush in the south to a desperate, deep-seated drought in the city's commercial heart. The data reveals that the minimum depth to water level stands at a healthy 1.32 metres below ground level (mbgl), recorded at a piezometer in Aliabad Village, Bandlaguda Mandal. Here, the water table remains close to the surface, showing resilient localized recharge. In sharp contrast, the city's maximum depth to water level fell to 34.99 mbgl, recorded by the piezometer near Greenlands Nature Cure Hospital in Ameerpet Mandal, according to the report. Groundwater levels of 5-10 mbgl cover 34% of Hyderabad district, according to the GWD report. Levels of 0-5 metres cover 28%, followed by 10-15 metres at 21%, 15-20 metres at 10%, and more than 20 metres at 7%. A city-based environmentalist said urban planners should be most concerned about the final 7% of the district, where groundwater levels have breached the extreme threshold and fallen below 20 metres below ground level. The GWD official data indicates growing pressure on Hyderabad's deeper aquifers, forcing more neighbourhoods to rely on deep-bore drilling despite adequate water levels in some areas, he said. The maximum depth to water level in western Hyderabad reached 46.18 metres below ground level at a piezometer in Eliminedu village, Ibrahimpatnam mandal, where water was struck at 151 feet. This severe depletion underscores the severe impacts of aggressive over-extraction, insufficient rainfall, and a depleted deep-aquifer system. Meanwhile, according to the Ranga Reddy District Ground Water Department, groundwater levels are steadily declining across more than half of the region's administrative zones. In 15 mandals, accounting for 55% of the total area, the water table is between 5 and 10 metres below ground level. No mandal has the ideal near-surface level of zero to 5 metres.

Not Just Barricades, Delhi Cops Install Spike Strips Amid CJP Protest



New Delhi: The Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) call for protest at Jantar Mantar has ultimately turned Delhi into a fortress with forces deployed across all the borders around the capital, central Delhi and at junctures where protesters are likely to gather. The police have also installed spike strips apart from barricades in the industrial hub area of Mohan Estate in south-east Delhi. News agency ANI shared a visual from the spot with police personnel heavily guarding the stretch around Mohan Co-operative Estate area, and spike strips placed to prevent any vehicle to move from the prohibited area, as the cops check cars before allowing them to go further. The CJP called a mega protest at Jantar Mantar, its second such agitation, on October 10 seeking resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar for alleged irregularities in Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and Form 6 modifications. The police have detained Dhruv Rathee,

Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka directly from the plane when they landed at Delhi airport. Besides then, other leaders of CJP and over 500 protesters have been detained by police across the city.

Metros Closed, Trains Cancelled

The Centre has deployed over 20,000 personnel from the police and the Central Armed Police Forces to maintain law and order in the national capital in view of the protests. The police had also asked the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to take preventive measures, after which the DMRC closed entry and exit at 45 metro stations. More than 250 trains from other states, along with local trains, which were scheduled to arrive at New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations between 4 am and 2 pm on Saturday, have been cancelled. The New Delhi district has been divided into 20 zones and senior officials have been moved to the ground to head different companies.

On Camera, Powerful Winds Rip Off Roof Of Kerala School, Cars Damaged

Kannur: A major tragedy was narrowly averted at a school in Kerala's Kannur district after a sudden spell of violent winds ripped off a massive metal roof, sending it crashing onto a nearby building and damaging three parked cars. The incident occurred on Friday around 12:30 pm at Vayathur UP School in Ulikkal, where a sudden, cyclonic winds accompanied by heavy rain caused widespread destruction within minutes and then disappeared. The school management said a few minutes difference would have led to children playing around in the same area. The school's massive arch-shaped roof, constructed nearly 15 years ago, was torn off by the force of the winds and hurled onto a building behind the school. Three cars parked below suffered extensive damage. What makes the incident particularly frightening is how close it came to becoming a tragedy involving young schoolchildren. Had the roof collapsed while children were playing in the area, the consequences could have been devastating, potentially resulting in multiple casualties.

CJP Founder Abhijeet Dipke's Grandmother Dies In Maharashtra

Hingoli: The paternal grandmother of Cockroach Janata Party founder Abhijeet Dipke died on Saturday in Santuk Pimpri village of Maharashtra's Hingoli district. She had been unwell for the past few days due to a prolonged illness and age-related ailments. At the time of her death, Abhijeet was in Delhi. He had left Mumbai on Saturday morning to participate in a protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. However, he was detained by the police at Delhi airport. Meanwhile, Dipke's parents, Anita and Bhagwan Dipke, are currently in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, where police personnel have been deployed outside their residence. Following the news of the death, they are expected to leave for Hingoli immediately to attend the last rites. After learning about his grandmother's demise, attention has turned to whether Delhi Police will allow Abhijeet Dipke to travel to Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar or Hingoli to be with his family during this difficult time. Further details regarding his release or travel arrangements were not immediately available. Earlier in the day, Abhijeet Dipke and other CJP members, Saurav

Das and Ashutosh Ranka, were detained at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) as they arrived ahead of the announced protest at Jantar Mantar, police said on Saturday. Delhi Police personnel entered the aircraft carrying Dipke after it landed at IGI Airport. Dipke posted the video showing the Delhi Police team entering the flight as he, along with other CJP members, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, were detained from the flight itself. In a video posted on his social media handle, Dipke was heard telling the police, "...I have come here to be arrested; arrest me." The CJP announced the detentions in a post on its social media handle, stating: "Abhijeet Dipke DETAINED! Saurav Das DETAINED! Ashutosh

Ranka DETAINED!" They were detained ahead of the CJP's proposed protest at Jantar Mantar later in the day against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the country.



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CJP Protest "Flop Show", Democracy Has Won Over Mobocracy: BJP

The protest meant to take the city "hostage" turned out to be a "flop show", BJP leader Sambit Patra said on Saturday, even as he accused Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi of spreading anarchy in cahoots with foreign powers. It was a victory of democracy over the mobocracy, Patra said, after hundreds of youths and several politicians who headed to the Jantar Mantar protest site were detained by the police. Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, Patra called Gandhi a "nalayak" leader, condemning his Friday remarks that President Droupadi Murmu did not deny the INDIA bloc's

"vote chori" allegation at a meeting. "What is happening at Jantar Mantar and what is being shown on TV and across various social media handles does not represent the true story of India. India is peaceful, and India is moving forward with good governance," Patra said. He alleged that there was an attempt to hold the national capital and the whole of India hostage through the protest. "There were attempts to incite violence, physical altercations, and street battles here. It remained a flop show: Democracy triumphed over mob rule. Given the way democracy has asserted itself in Delhi today and the fact that the entire situation is under control, I wish to reiterate



that the anarchists have failed, and their flop show did not succeed," he added. Central Delhi was turned into a fortress on Saturday with thousands of boots on the ground to thwart a protest called by the Cockroach Janata Party against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, who is facing allegations of voter-list tampering under the guise of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and of bypassing his two colleagues to alter Form 6, a key document to register as a voter.

"Black Emergency" Imposed, Says AAP After Several Protesters Detained In Delhi

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday accused the BJP-led central government of imposing a "black emergency" in the country, following the detention by the police of several protesters coming to Jantar Mantar to join the CJP protest. AAP MLA Gopal Rai said the party shut down metro stations and cancelled trains only to protect one person. "Instead of removing CEC Gyanesh Kumar, the Centre has declared a black emergency in the country. Today, to protect Kumar, you have turned Delhi into a cantonment. But remember this, it does not matter how much force you push in, this movement will not be suppressed," Rai told reporters. AAP Delhi unit president



Saurabh Bharadwaj said the protestors only want to raise their issues in a "non-violent" way, but heavy deployment of forces creates an environment of fear. "You can not make Gen-Z keep quiet by force; these are our youth, talk to them, engage with them. BJP Govt wants to show that we are a scared country. We are not; we believe in non-violence and the Constitution of India," Bharadwaj said in a video message. The Cock-

roach Janata Party is scheduled to protest at Jantar Mantar here on Saturday, demanding the resignation of Kumar for alleged "vote theft." Delhi Metro closed 45 stations from 9 pm on Friday till 6 pm on Saturday for security reasons, an advisory said. On Friday, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said he and his family will come to the CJP protest and urged the youths to join him.

Bangladesh Seeks To Renew Ganga Water Sharing Treaty With India Before Dec 12



With around two months to go before the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty expires, Bangladesh's Water Resources Minister Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee has expressed hope that a new treaty with India will be signed before December 12. The renewal of the 30-year India-Bangladesh Ganga Water Sharing Treaty is a critical bilateral and domestic issue in Bangladesh and a diplomatic issue between the two nations. "Restoring the guarantee clause, as in the 1977 agreement, is one of Bangladesh's top priorities in the new treaty," Anee told reporters after a seminar titled "Rethinking the Future of Water: Youth Leadership, Justice and Cooperation," organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), United News of Bangladesh (UNB) reported. Based on meetings between the two countries, Bangladesh is optimistic that the new treaty will be finalised ahead of the deadline, Anee added. "We must conclude a new Ganges water treaty before December 12," Anee said, adding that Bangladesh and India are working regularly through the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), which is the bilateral mechanism for discussing bilateral water cooperation between the two countries. The Ganga Water Sharing Treaty is a 30-year bilateral agreement between India

and Bangladesh signed on December 12, 1996, by Prime Ministers HD Deve Gowda and Sheikh Hasina. It governs the sharing of the Ganges River waters at the Farakka Barrage in West Bengal during the lean season from January 1 to May 31 every year. If an agreement is reached before the treaty expires in December this year, sources have confirmed to NDTV that Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will make it the highlight of his proposed visit to India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Rahman will sign the renewed treaty, making it a key moment in the reset of ties between India and Bangladesh. The Ganga River is known as the Padma as soon as it enters Bangladesh, around 22 km downstream from the Farakka Barrage in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. It enters Bangladesh through the northwestern Chapai Nawabganj district. It is a major river system in the lower riparian deltaic nation, criss-crossed by hundreds of rivers, including 54 originating in or flowing through India. According to studies in Bangladesh, nearly one-third of the country's 170 million people depend on the river system for livelihoods, biodiversity and water supply through several distributaries. Bangladesh is likely to bargain hard given

its plans to construct the Padma barrage further downstream from Farakka in West Bengal even though the Padma barrage has faced internal scrutiny and concern in Bangladesh. The 2,240-metre-long Farakka Barrage was built to divert water from the Ganga into the Hooghly River to flush sediments and maintain navigability at Kolkata Port. The Ganga Water Treaty currently allocates water flowing through the river during the dry season. If the water level at Farakka is less than 70,000 cusecs, the two nations share it equally. If the level of water is between 70,000 and 75,000 cusecs, Bangladesh receives 35,000 cusecs and India gets the remaining water. According to the treaty, if the water level falls below 50,000 cusecs in a 10-day period, both governments, through the existing bilateral mechanisms, immediately consult with each other to adjust allocations on an emergency basis. A clause in the agreement ensures a minimum of 35,000 cusecs to each side in alternate 10-day periods between March 11 and May 10. According to Bangladesh, the guarantee clause ensured that if the water flow of the Ganges at the Farakka Barrage fell below 80 per cent, Bangladesh would receive 80 per cent of its share. Indian hydrology experts have argued that the insertion of such a clause in the Ganga Water

Sharing Treaty will put India at a disadvantage as the reduced flow would only affect India. To mitigate this, the 1996 treaty included a provision of 35,000 cusecs. From the second 10-day period of March, alternately, Bangladesh and India would receive 35,000 cusecs of water. When India receives 35,000 cusecs, the flow for Bangladesh becomes much less, even close to 20,000 cusecs. Such a situation becomes critical for the environment and ecology. The guarantee clause does not exist in the 1996 Ganga Waters Treaty, but it was a provision in the earlier 1977 India-Bangladesh Water Sharing Treaty. Bangladesh has argued that the treaty does not adequately address ecological and environmental flow considerations, nor does it include factors such as climate change. Several experts in Bangladesh have also raised the issue of including Nepal in the treaty, thus making it a trilateral agreement. The basis for this suggestion is based on the assumption that during the lean months the Ganga receives a lot of snow melt water from the Gandak and Koshi rivers that flow in from Nepal. India has argued that it prefers separate, direct bilateral frameworks for its neighbours rather than merging them into a single regional treaty. India already cooperates with Nepal through the Mahakali Treaty (1996) and projects based on the Kosi and Gandak Agreements, while its water-sharing of the mainstream Ganga at Farakka is strictly governed by the Ganga Waters Sharing Treaty (1996) with Bangladesh. The emergency clause in the 1996 Ganga Waters Treaty (Article II) dictates that if the water flow at the Farakka Barrage drops below 50,000 cusecs in any 10-day period, both India and Bangladesh must immediately enter into consultations to negotiate emergency adjustments to water flow.

"Unwarranted": India Slams Vance's "Indentured Servants" Remark On H-1B Hiring



New Delhi: India has slammed US Vice President JD Vance's comments describing foreign workers as "indentured servants" amid the US green card crackdown, calling them "unwarranted". The Foreign Ministry asserted that talent mobility adds value to both economies, as it not only creates opportunities for Indians but also helps US companies with "cutting-edge talent, innovation, research, productivity, competitiveness and job creation, besides creating shareholder wealth in the US." "This is therefore an area of tremendous mutual benefit for the two countries, and our expectation is

that all stakeholders in this process can appreciate this fact. The steps announced by the US do not advance the shared ambitions of both countries," the ministry said in a statement. The rebuttal came after the United States barred eight IT firms -- Microsoft, Tata, Wipro, Infosys, Adobe, Cognizant, HCL and Capgemini -- from participating in its Permanent Labour Certification (PERM) programme, a key step in the employer-sponsored Green Card process, claiming the practice has shut out American workers from the job market.

What India Said
New Delhi noted that

PERM is distinct from the H-1B visa programme but reassured that the suspension of applications under the programme alone does not, by itself, affect the validity of existing H-1B visas or the status of H-1B visa holders and their dependents. It, however, could have an impact on the permanent residency or green card process of eligible employees of the affected companies, the statement said. The Ministry also singled out comments made by US Vice President Vance on the issue and said his "descriptions are unwarranted and ignore the fact that Indian professionals in the United States are highly educated and skilled contributors to its economy and innovation ecosystem." "Indeed, the history of the United States itself has been shaped by generations of immigrants whose labour, enterprise and innovation have contributed to its growth and prosperity. Resorting to terminology

that carries painful historical and colonial legacy connotations is deeply offensive," the ministry said. More than 5.2 million people of Indian origin live in the US, according to recent estimates based on US Census data.

What JD Vance Said
Vance suspended the PERM programme for Microsoft, accusing the company of replacing American workers with non-American workers. He stressed that the IT firm needed to hire "great American workers" instead of replacing them with "foreign indentured servants". "In the last year, Microsoft laid off 6,000 American workers. At the same time, the company benefited from 6,300 H-1B visas and almost 3,000 green cards. In other words, if you do the math, for every worker that Microsoft laid off, they replaced that worker with one and a half foreign indentured servants," the US leader claimed

CIA's Vietnam-Era Airfield Is Now China's New Base Under Expanding Footprint

Vientiane: China's air force seems to have found its first foothold in mainland Southeast Asia, in Beijing's new outpost in Laos. The base at Ban Keun, located about 65 kilometres north of the capital Vientiane and just 40 kilometres from the nearest border with Thailand, was once a Vietnam-era CIA airfield. The China-Laos joint training facility began operations last month, according to an announcement from China's Defence Ministry. The base is "designed to help Laos strengthen the training and development of its air force pilots and will be jointly maintained by both sides," the ministry statement said. Satellite images, taken by commercial satellite provider Vantor, showed at least eight light attack aircraft and more than two dozen support vehicles appearing to be parked on a runway that is still being built under Beijing's latest expansion of its overseas military presence. Singapore-based security analysts Collin Koh and Alexander Neill, as well as Vantor specialists, said the planes appeared to be Hongdu JL-8 aircraft, which both the Chinese and Lao air forces operate. The two-seater aircraft, also known as the K-8, extensively serves both training purposes and light attack capabilities. It was jointly developed by China and Pakistan and is exported to other militaries. Laos currently has four of the planes, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies' annual assessment of the



world's militaries. Koh, a scholar at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, described the Lao-tian planes as being of "questionable serviceability". The images also show extensive construction work around the runway. The swift development of the airbase is under the tight scrutiny of regional military attaches and security scholars, some of whom believe its construction potentially marks China's first fully fledged overseas military base in Southeast Asia.

China's Military Footprints

Despite more than 20 years of intense military modernisation, China is widely perceived to lack a strong network of overseas facilities beyond the South China Sea, port access in Cambodia's Ream Naval Base on the Gulf of Thailand, and a logistics installation in Djibouti, northeast Africa, that opened in 2017. Rachel Vandenbrink, a senior analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, told Reuters that the selection of Ban Keun for a

facility that the People's Liberation Army could access "is likely more about a target of opportunity than filling an obvious operational need." "Laos does have some geostrategic value as an accessible foothold in mainland Southeast Asia, given its shared border with China and infrastructure links, including (its) railway," Vandenbrink said. As construction continues, diplomats and analysts are keeping watch for any sign of air defences, ammunition, and fuel storage as well as surveillance facilities, all of which could point to the base serving broader military functions beyond training. Neill, an adjunct fellow at Hawaii's Pacific Forum think tank, told Reuters that while the airfield looked relatively short and innocuous at present, it could in the future serve larger aircraft, including signals intelligence and electronic-surveillance planes, to extend China's reach into Southeast Asia. "It looks like the airfield has been engineered to accommodate a

runway extension, allowing larger aircraft to operate," he said.

The US Connection
In helping Laos build up Ban Keun, China is now occupying a site the US used covertly at the height of the Vietnam War. During the US war against communist forces in Laos in the 1970s, Ban Keun was an airfield known as "Lima Site 44" used by Air America, an airline discreetly owned by the Central Intelligence Agency, according to records shared with Reuters by Ryan Wolfson-Ford, a Southeast Asia specialist at the Library of Congress. The airline carried American-backed troops from the country's Hmong highland minority as well as supplies into rough mountain airstrips known as "Lima Sites." As early as 1968, Ban Keun was used as a point from which Air America helicopters delivered Hmong troops to other combat zones, said Dr Joachim Leeker, an academic who has written about the history of the airline.

"It's Crime": Elon Musk Claims 'Oligarchs' Stalling Starlink's Entry In India



Washington: US billionaire Elon Musk has claimed that "certain oligarchs" are blocking Starlink's satellite communication services in India to maintain their monopoly in the country. Musk made the remarks while responding to a post by the DodgeDesigner handle on X about the alleged non-availability of mobile coverage in over 11,000 Indian villages. "Unfortunately, we are being blocked by certain oligarchs in order to maintain their monopolistic chokehold on the Indian people," Musk posted on X. "You can guess who they are... This is a crime against the people of India!" An account op-

erating under the name of DodgeDesigner, which is known for posting information related to Elon Musk and his firms, has alleged, "11,256 of India's listed villages still lacked 4G coverage as of May 2026." The account claimed "India needs Starlink" and shared information about telecom connectivity problems in the rural areas of the country.

Starlink's India Ops

The development comes hours after a senior official of Musk-led SpaceX announced that the company's satellite communication arm, Starlink, is ready to start services in India. Speaking at India Mobile Congress 2026,

SpaceX's Starlink Business Operations Vice President Lauren Dreyer said the company has made an investment in setting up the required infrastructure to serve the Indian market. "We've built our Starlink operations specifically for India in recognition of Indian security requirements and other regulations, establishing controls at every layer for India, and keeping Indian user data within India," she said.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has granted licenses to three companies, including Starlink, to provide satellite communication services in India. How-

ever, the satcom companies need spectrum and security clearance to start their services.

"We've already made the investment and built the existing ground infrastructure here, 20 gateway sites comprising hundreds of antennas, and we've established the operations to be ready to serve India," Dreyer said.

Musk Shares Old Podcast

DodgeDesigner posted a clip of Musk's old podcast with Zerodha founder Nithin Kamath, where he talked about starting Starlink operations in India. "It's been nearly four years since Starlink applied to operate in India, and it is still waiting to launch. The government should grant the remaining approvals as soon as possible so Starlink can bring high-speed internet to India's remote and underserved communities," the post claimed. Reposting the video, Musk wrote, "Starlink in India would enable high-speed, affordable Internet connectivity for those who can't afford current prices or who don't have a connection at all!"

Experts On How India And Japan Can Build A Strategic Tech Stack

New Delhi: India and Japan are working towards cooperation in several sectors, from technology to defence. As New Delhi and Tokyo make efforts to combine Japan's leadership in hardware with India's startup energy, challenges still remain. Speaking at the NDTV Indo-Japan Summit,

Sujan Chinoy, the former Indian ambassador to Japan, said that trusted partnerships and secure global supply chains were the need of the hour for countries with limited geography such as Japan. He explained that the idea applied to sectors like AI and semiconductors as well, adding that India could

be a good partner. "I think unless India and Japan were to work together, it would be virtually impossible to create a trusted strategic technology stack for Asia," the former envoy said.

Digital And AI-Related Services Crucial

Daisaku Yukita, the Chief Director General of JETRO,

New Delhi, echoed the statement and mentioned that digital and innovation-related services, such as AI and deep tech, will be relationship drivers as far as business between India and Japan is concerned. He said that the complexity of challenges today requires collaboration among entrepre-

neurs, industry leaders and other sectors. "Japan has quite a large potential. India offers a rapidly growing ecosystem, and at the same time, Japan offers worldwide technologies and manufacturing capabilities. So, when these strengths meet, the potential is huge," Daisaku Yukita said. Shweta Rajpal

Kohli, President and CEO of Startup Policy Forum, said that there was immense interest in both Japan and India for deepening collaboration. She mentioned that as countries like India and Japan try to build out their sovereign tech capabilities, plenty of questions will arise about how they build out

those stacks.

Challenges Still Remain

Ambassador Chinoy said when it comes to dual-use technologies such as AI, policy or regulatory bottlenecks are still present. There is a need to harmonise regulatory frameworks, for which conversations are needed on an ongoing basis, he said. "The sec-

ond challenge is that India's AI mission is largely public sector driven, whereas Japan's AI is largely private sector driven. So where shall the twain meet?" he added. Getting 500 Indian AI professionals to go to Japan when there is higher compensation available in countries like the US is also tough, he mentioned.

India Could Benefit If Global AI Boom Falter: CEA Nageswaran



Mumbai: India's limited exposure to the global artificial intelligence (AI) investment boom could emerge as an economic advantage if investor enthusiasm for the technology weakens, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran has said. Speaking at the SBI-Amundi India Investor Seminar on Thursday, Nageswaran suggested that

global investors currently overlooking Indian equities could return as they seek growth opportunities beyond AI-related businesses. He also cautioned that the rupee, which has faced depreciation pressure and moved towards record lows, could remain under strain.

India could gain if AI investment boom slows
Nageswaran acknowl-

edged that the absence of major AI-focused investment opportunities in Indian equities has contributed to weaker foreign investor interest. However, he argued that this apparent disadvantage could become a strength within a year if the global AI investment cycle encounters difficulties. He described the AI boom as a borrowing-

driven investment story and suggested that a correction could redirect international capital towards economies offering sustainable growth. India, he said, could benefit from its position as a later adopter of AI technologies. According to Nageswaran, investors seeking alternatives to AI-dependent growth may eventually reconsider India's economic fundamentals.

Rupee faces global headwinds

The Chief Economic Advisor identified four external factors affecting foreign capital flows and the Indian currency. These include strained relations with the United States, limited exposure to the AI investment trade, rising oil prices linked to the West Asia conflict and monetary tightening by global central banks. As a major oil importer, India remains vulnerable to in-

creases in international crude prices. Nevertheless, Nageswaran highlighted several domestic strengths that could support investor confidence. He pointed to India's ability to sustain economic growth above 7% despite repeated international disruptions. Other positive factors include a manageable current account deficit, a well-capitalised banking system and relatively low corporate borrowing. The increasing movement of household savings into domestic capital markets has also strengthened India's financial position. Nageswaran maintained that these underlying indicators present a healthier picture of the economy than movements in the rupee alone. He expressed confidence that India's growth prospects would eventually attract renewed international investment interest.

ICICI Bank-Videocon Loan Case: SAT Partly Allows Bank's Plea, Denies Chanda Kochhar Access To Confidential Portal Data



New Delhi: The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has partly allowed ICICI Bank's review application in proceedings involving former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Chanda Kochhar and loans extended to the Videocon Group. According to a report by Moneycontrol, the tribunal modified its May 2, 2025, order, removing directions that would have allowed Kochhar to inspect the bank's internal Secrecial Portal and electronic data stored on its servers and devices. SAT held that the disputed material was neither in the possession of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) nor part of the regulatory record. ICICI Bank challenged the earlier inspection direction, arguing that it was not a party to the original proceedings despite being affected by the

order. The bank maintained that unrestricted access to internal systems could expose confidential third-party information, unpublished price-sensitive information and privileged communications. SAT accepted these concerns, noting that Kochhar had not identified specific documents required from the portal.

The tribunal observed that SEBI had already supplied the Project Indus Report, the Control Risks Report and other documents relied upon in the proceedings. It reiterated that a noticee is entitled to documents forming the basis of regulatory action. Kochhar's lawyers questioned the maintainability of the bank's review application and argued that access should be permitted because Control Risks India had previously examined the portal. SAT noted that Kochhar had ap-

proached it in 2021 seeking documents but had not requested access to the Secrecial Portal during those proceedings or subsequent litigation in 2022. Her lawyers first sought the disputed electronic records in February 2024. SEBI informed her in March 2025 that the material was not part of its record and would not be relied upon. The tribunal also referred to its January 2023 decision rejecting requests for certain interview transcripts, meeting records and correspondence involving the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). It found that similar considerations applied to the portal and server data. However, the remaining directions in the May 2025 order remain unchanged, including those concerning disclosure of documents such as SEBI's show-cause notice to ICICI Bank.

Ola Electric Admits Possible Errors In Sales Data Tracking Amid SEBI Scrutiny

New Delhi: Ola Electric Mobility has acknowledged that limitations in its internal data tracking systems could lead to inaccuracies in publicly reported operational figures, including vehicle sales, order fulfilment and after-sales services. According to a report by Moneycontrol, the disclosure appears in the company's Oct 7, 2026, Letter of Offer for its proposed Rs.1,000 crore rights issue. It follows regulatory scrutiny over discrepancies between Ola Electric's reported February 2025 vehicle numbers and registration data available on the government's VAHAN portal. In February 2025, Ola Electric announced that it had sold more than 25,000 electric vehicles during the month. The company subsequently clarified that the figure represented customer order bookings rather than recorded sales.

Questions emerged after differences were identified between the company's disclosures and vehicle registrations reflected on VAHAN. In March 2025, the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) sought explanations regarding the discrepancy. Ola Electric responded by distinguishing bookings from sales and stating that revenue was recognised according to its accounting policy. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) subsequently requested further clarifications in April and May 2025. Its queries covered sales and delivery figures, customer advances, registration differences, order cancellations and revenue recognition practices. The company said it provided reconciliations, explanations of month-end estimates and details concerning individual orders.

Ola Electric warns of technical errors

In its latest disclosure, Ola Electric said operational metrics are generated through internal tools and methodologies that are not independently verified by



external parties. The company acknowledged that algorithmic or technical errors could cause reported performance to be overstated or understated. It also cautioned that changes in measurement

methods could result in unexpected variations in disclosed figures. According to Ola Electric, its operational data may differ from third-party estimates because of variations in information sources, assump-

tions and calculation methods. The electric two-wheeler manufacturer said accurately measuring activity across a large customer base presents inherent challenges. Such limitations could affect the company's

assessment of business performance and the reliability of certain operational indicators. The disclosure highlights potential reporting risks as Ola Electric seeks to raise fresh capital through its rights issue.

Adani Ports, Ambuja Jump Over 3%, Reliance And BSE Miss Market Rally

Mumbai: Adani Group shares climbed on October 9 as Indian equity markets recovered, with Adani Ports and Ambuja Cements gaining more than 3 per cent. Reliance Industries and BSE Ltd moved lower, contrasting with the broader rally. The Sensex closed at 72,472.33, up more than 1 per cent, while the Nifty gained 1.30 per cent to finish at 22,520.45.

Adani Ports And Ambuja Lead Gains

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone advanced 3.10 per cent to Rs.1,761 on the NSE. During the session, it reached Rs.1,770, representing an intraday increase of 3.62 per cent over its previous close. Ambuja Cements ended 3.08 per cent higher at Rs.351.50, placing it alongside Adani Ports among the strongest performers in the group.



Adani Green Energy gained 1.63 per cent to settle at Rs.1,255.80. Adani Enterprises finished at 72,634.40, rising 1.48 per cent. Its intraday high of Rs.2,653 represented a 2.19 per cent gain from the previous closing level.

Reliance And BSE Shares Decline

Reliance Industries slipped 0.65 per cent to Rs.1,170.30, while BSE Ltd

fell 1.43 per cent to Rs.3,287.20. Their declines stood out as buying lifted heavyweight shares and helped benchmark indices recover. Apollo Hospitals, ITC, Eicher Motors, Tata Consultancy Services and HCLTech featured among the leading Nifty gainers. Gains among these stocks reached as much as 4.72 per cent at the close.

Technology Stocks Drive

Sectoral Recovery

Nifty IT led the sectoral advance with gains of about 3 per cent. The MidSmall IT and Telecom index rose 2.56 per cent, while FMCG advanced 2.20 per cent. Technology shares rallied amid news that the US Department of Labor had suspended eight technology and outsourcing companies from the Permanent Labour Certification Programme.

India's Coal Supply To Power Plants Rises 36% In October



Mumbai: The Coal Ministry on Friday reported that daily coal supplies to the power sector have risen by around 36% from the low recorded in September. The ministry also noted a considerable slowdown in coal stock depletion, alongside an improvement in the availability of railway rakes for transportation. "Stock depletion has slowed sharply, with the daily drawdown falling by more than half from 0.243 MT per day in September to 0.116 MT per day in October. The position is therefore stabilising, although stock rebuilding is yet to commence," the ministry said in a statement. Railway coal loading has also improved, averaging more than 465 rakes daily in October. The target of 470 rakes per day was achieved for three consecutive days, according to the ministry. Coal transportation through other channels, including road networks, has increased as well.

Addressing media reports warning of potential power shortages due to low coal inventories at thermal

power plants, the ministry clarified that the classification of a plant as having "critical stock" is based on prescribed norms. It applies to plants whose coal inventories fall below the stipulated threshold and serves as an early-warning mechanism before an actual fuel shortage or loss of power generation occurs. The min-

istry emphasised that a plant appearing on the critical-stock list does not necessarily mean it has exhausted its coal supplies or faces an immediate risk of shutting down. It added that coal inventory levels should be assessed alongside the improvement in supplies since the low point recorded in September.

Poonawalla Fincorp Reports Q2 FY27 Profit Of Rs.375 Crore, AUM Reaches Rs.74,008 Crore

Mumbai: Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, a non-deposit taking systemically important NBFC, announced its unaudited financial results for the quarter ended. The company's PAT for Q2 FY27 was Rs.375 crore, up from 7308 crore in Q1 FY27. Net Interest Income (including fees and other income) grew by 12.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter to Rs.1,589 crore. Return on Assets (RoA) strengthened to 2.18 per cent in Q2 FY27, compared to 1.98 per cent in Q1 FY27 and 1.81 per cent in Q4 FY26. The Net Interest Margin (NIM), including fees and other income, improved by 16 basis points quarter-on-quarter, reaching 9.26 per cent in Q2 FY27 from 9.10 per cent in Q1 FY27. Credit cost as a percentage to average AUM was 2.19 per cent in Q2 FY27, a reduction of 21 basis points from 2.40 per cent in Q1 FY27. Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) stood at 1.20 per cent in Q2 FY27, down from 1.37 per cent in Q1 FY27, while Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPA) reduced to 0.61 per cent from 0.70 per cent in Q1 FY27As of September 30, 2026, the Capital Adequacy Ratio was 18.68 per cent (Tier-1 at 17.15 per cent), exceeding the regulatory requirement of 15 per cent. The company maintained a liquidity buffer of Rs.6,526 crore.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Reports 24% Rise In Value Of New Business To Rs.266 Crore In H1 FY27

Mumbai: Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited on 9 October 2026, reported a 24% year-on-year growth in its Value of New Business (VNB), reaching Rs.266 crore for the half-year ended 30 September 2026.

Financial Performance

The company's New Business Premium stood at Rs.1,984 crore, marking a 16.1% year-on-year increase. Individual Weighted Premium Income (WPI) rose by 14.5% to Rs.1,117 crore. Total Assets

Under Management (AUM) grew by 14% year-on-year to Rs.50,200 crore as of 30 September 2026. Profit After Tax (PAT) for the period was Rs.71.2 crore, an increase of 10.8%.

Key Ratios

The VNB margin for H1

FY27 was 21.3%. The operating RoEV on a rolling 12-month basis was 19.8%. Total Annualized Premium Equivalent (APE) reached Rs.1,250 crore, a 14.4% year-on-year growth. The Solvency Ratio as of 30 September 2026 stood at

180%. Protection business grew by 44% year-on-year, contributing 10.5% to total APE. Credit Life business saw a 35% year-on-year growth. Total Premium Income for the half-year was Rs.4,742 crore, up 17.3% year-on-year. Renewal Pre-

mium (Individual + Group) grew by 18.2% to Rs.2,758 crore.

On an APE basis, the product mix included ULIP at 41%, Non-Par Savings at 24.6%, Par at 9.9%, Non-Par Protection at 10.5%, and Annuity at 13.7%.



‘Behave like a champion’: Dhiraj’s message motivates Kumkum to Asian Games glory



New Delhi: Indian recurve archer Kumkum Anil Mohod, who won a historic gold-medal double on her Asian Games debut in Japan, has revealed how fellow archer and her idol, Dhiraj Bommadevara, motivated her with a message before her crucial individual gold-medal match. The 17-year-old became the first Indian to win gold in the women’s recurve individual event at the Asian Games, also securing a quota place for the LA28 Olympic Games. Her individual triumph came a day after she teamed up with Ankita Bhakat and Kirti to win India’s first-ever women’s recurve team gold at the continental event, ending South Korea’s run of seven consecu-

tive titles. Responding to an IANS query during a media interaction facilitated by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Kumkum said she did not get an opportunity to speak to Dhiraj before her individual and team gold-medal matches. However, the 25-year-old sent her an encouraging text to keep her motivated. “Dhiraj bhैया came over after my match, but he texted me, ‘Focus on yourself, don’t think about who the opponent in front of you is, and behave like a champion’,” she said. India’s victories in the women’s individual and team events ended South Korea’s dominance. For the first time in the 48-year history of archery at the Asian Games, South Ko-

rean women returned without a gold medal. Kumkum also teamed up with Dhiraj, with whom she had won gold at the third stage of the World Cup, to claim silver in the mixed team event. The Indian pair lost 5-3 to China in the final. Speaking about partnering with the Olympian, Kumkum said the experience helped her compete with a relaxed mindset. “Dhiraj bhैया is my idol. That day, I felt we could have won gold in the mixed team event. It wasn’t that difficult; we just had a slight issue with our aiming. Partnering with Dhiraj for the mixed team was great because he motivates me a lot,” she said. “He had told me that whether we win or lose,

we have to enjoy the entire match and play. He also said, ‘If you make a mistake, that’s my fault, and if I make a mistake, that’s the coach’s fault.’ Don’t take any pressure at all; just shoot your best shot. When I was playing alongside him, there was no tension whatsoever,” she added. Kumkum had earlier expressed a desire to meet Indian batting star Virat Kohli. Asked what she would say to him if she got the opportunity, she told IANS that she admired his discipline and grounded nature. “I admire his discipline. Despite being such a huge star, I really like how he is so grounded. As of now, I haven’t thought about what I would ask him when I meet him,” she said. Currently competing in the Archery Premier League (APL), Kumkum said she had no major international events remaining this year. After the APL, she will take part in the Senior National Archery Championships, scheduled to be held in Shillong, Meghalaya, from November 11 to 18. The teenager said she planned to use the break to work on her technique, physical strength and mental conditioning. “Right now, the plan is to work on a few technical aspects and focus on my physical strength. I need to go to the gym daily and simultaneously work on mental conditioning to stay mentally strong during tournaments,” she said.

Archery Premier League 2026: What makes the Hyderabad event different?



Hyderabad: As the Archery Premier League (APL) returns for its second edition, excitement is building around the event, which features India’s Asian Games medallists, veteran stars and some of the world’s leading archers. APL Season 2 runs from October 8 to 18 at People’s Plaza on Necklace Road in Hyderabad. So, what sets the Archery Premier League apart from major international competitions such as the Asian Games and World Cups? Here is an explainer of the APL rules, including its 15-second shot clock and thrilling hit-or-miss shoot-off.

What is unique about APL?

One of the league’s distinctive features is that recurve and compound archers compete together in a mixed-team format. On the international circuit, team events are organised separately for men and women in both disciplines, alongside mixed-team events in recurve and compound. In the APL, however, some of the world’s best recurve and compound archers compete side by side. Another major attraction is the 15-second shot clock. Each archer has roughly 15 seconds to shoot an arrow, adding pace and pressure to the contest. The league also features a hit-or-miss shoot-off to decide matches that remain tied after the regular sets. The distances and target sizes remain the same as those used in international competitions. Recurve archers shoot at a target 70 metres away, with a diameter of 122 cm, while compound archers shoot at a target 50 metres away, with a diameter of 80 cm.

Team composition

Each of the six franchises has

an eight-member squad comprising four men and four women. Six archers are Indian, while two are international competitors. The squad is divided equally between the two bow disciplines: two male and two female recurve archers, and two male and two female compound archers. The six franchises are Mighty Marathas, Rajputana Royals, Prithviraaj Yodhas, Kakatiya Knights, Chero Archers and Chola Chiefs. Together, they feature 36 Indian and 12 international archers.

League format

The six teams compete in a double round-robin format, with each franchise facing the other five teams twice. Every team plays 10 league matches, resulting in 30 matches during the league stage. The top four teams advance to the semi-finals, with the winners progressing to the final. Three matches are scheduled for each evening. A team earns two league points for a win and none for a loss. If teams are tied in the standings, the tie-breakers are set-point difference (total set points earned minus total set points lost), head-to-head results and, if necessary, average arrow score.

How does a match play out?

Each team fields four archers at the start of a match: one male and one female archer in each of the recurve and compound disciplines. At least one international archer must be in the lineup at all times. The toss determines which team shoots first or which targets a team chooses to shoot at. In each set, every archer shoots two arrows, giving each team a total of eight arrows. Each team has 120 seconds to shoot its

eight arrows, with the archers shooting alternately between the two teams. The team with the higher combined score out of 80 wins the set and earns two set points. If both teams score equally, each receives one set point, while the losing team gets none. The first team to reach five or more set points wins the match. If the score is tied 4-4 after a maximum of four sets, the match is decided by the APL hit-or-miss shoot-off. The time allocation differs from that of conventional international team events: World Archery team event: 120 seconds for six arrows, averaging 20 seconds per arrow. World Archery mixed-team event: 80 seconds for four arrows, averaging 20 seconds per arrow. Archery Premier League: 120 seconds for eight arrows per team, averaging 15 seconds per arrow.

Shot clock explained

Each team has 120 seconds to shoot eight arrows in a set. The teams alternate shots until all 16 arrows — eight per team — have been shot. When the first team’s clock starts counting down from 120 seconds, an archer enters the shooting area, crosses the one-metre line and shoots an arrow. After shooting, the archer returns behind the one-metre line, at which point that team’s clock stops. The second team’s clock starts immediately after the first archer completes the shot and returns behind the line. An archer from the second team then enters the shooting area and takes a shot. The teams continue alternating in this manner until all eight arrows from each team have been shot. Each team has 120 seconds for its eight arrows, making the total time allocated for a set 240 seconds.

Ishnidh Viridi claims amateur golf crown; Keya wins ladies’ title



Bengaluru: Local golfer Ishnidh Singh Viridi completed a splendid wire-to-wire victory at the IGU Rotary Southern India Bio-Gen Sansera Amateur Golf Championships at the KGA course in Bengaluru. Viridi shot a closing three-under-par 69 for an impressive four-day total of 10-under 278. Ranveer Mitroo

(71) and Harjai Milkha Singh (76), who suffered a meltdown on the final day, finished tied at two-under 286. Prince Bainsla (72) finished fourth at one-under 287, making him the only other amateur to finish under par. Viridi got off to a sedate start even as his challengers fell behind early in the round. The 17-

year-old got going with a 15-foot birdie putt on the eighth hole. He followed that up with further birdies on the 10th, 11th and 15th holes, leaving the rest to battle for second place. His lone blemish came on the 17th hole. “It feels great to win my first-ever title on the Indian Golf Union circuit,” said an elated

Viridi.

Keya clinches honours

In the ladies’ and junior girls’ events, Keya Kumar Badugu rallied brilliantly on the home stretch to edge out Anaahat Bindra, who had done most of the front-running, on the first playoff hole. The two were tied at one-under 215 after 54 holes. Keya, who began the day one stroke off the lead, slipped four strokes behind after the 10th hole. However, the Delhi youngster, playing in only her second tournament of the season, did not let the setback bog her down. The 19-year-old fired a hat-trick of birdies from the 15th hole onwards to catch up with the leader. In the playoff, Keya produced a brilliant drive and then chipped to within three feet of the hole for another birdie to claim the title and the winner’s purse of Rs 75,000. “It has been a difficult year for me; this is a much-needed victory,” said a relieved Keya, who missed most of the season because of a recurring illness. Local golfer Priya Kumari, who was also in contention at the start of the day, settled for the Category A (15-17 years) title by edging out fellow Bengalurean Dia Cris Kumar by two strokes. Priya shot a final-round 75 to finish with a total of four-over 220. Ojaswini Saraswat won the Category B (13-14 years) title, while Aaliyah Kalra claimed the Category C (11-12 years) crown.

Sam Konstas, Spencer Johnson star as Australia A take 2-0 lead

Puducherry: Sam Konstas top-scored with 67, while left-arm pacer Spencer Johnson claimed three wickets to power Australia A to a series-clinching 69-run victory over India A in the second 50-over match at the Cricket Association Pondicherry Siechem Ground on Friday. Australia A delivered another all-round performance on a sluggish pitch. Their top order laid the foundation early, with Konstas and No. 3 Josh Philippe (58) scoring fluent half-centuries. They received support from skipper Nathan McSweeney (32), Mitch Owen (25) and Lachlan Shaw (25).

Despite a late collapse triggered by India A’s bowlers, Australia A posted 275 in 49.5 overs,

a total that proved beyond India A’s reach. Arshad Khan led the bowling effort for India A with 3-56, while Yash Thakur claimed 2-46. In reply, Australia A’s pacers outclassed the India A batters with pace and bounce. With Mahli Beardman rested, Johnson, Riley Meredith and Ben Dwarshuis extracted sharp bounce and movement to derail the chase, dismissing Devdutt Padikkal, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and B Sai Sudharsan during the powerplay. With Kumar Kushagra and Nishant Sindhu falling cheaply, India A failed to recover from the early damage in their chase of 276. Rajat Patidar offered the lone resistance, scoring 67 off 82 balls



for his second consecutive half-century of the series.

However, with wickets falling at the other end, Patidar lacked support and eventually fell to

Johnson. India A were bowled out for 206 in 45.2 overs, handing Australia A an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

India-West Indies T20I: HCA announces ticket prices from Rs 750 to Rs 20,000



Hyderabad: A total of 12,000 tickets for the India-West Indies T20 International to be played at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal on October 14 had been sold by Friday, according to Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) Secretary M Jeevan Reddy. Speaking to the media on Friday, Reddy said ticket sales had begun on the Ticketgenie app on Wednesday. Ticket prices range from Rs 750 to Rs 20,000.

“A total of 34,000 tickets will be on sale. Each person can buy a maximum of four tickets. We are ensuring that at least

12,000 tickets will be available for sale in the 24 hours preceding the scheduled commencement of the match,” he said. Reddy said the HCA had been making efforts to ensure spectator-friendly conditions for the international match. “The pitch has been dug up, and a new one is being put in place for the match,” he said. Addressing the media in the presence of HCA spokesperson and former secretary T Seshnarayan and CEO Imtiaz Khan, Reddy said 2,500 tickets would be given free of cost to Army personnel. Another 2,500 tickets would be allocated

to school students from schools to be selected by the HCA. The respective school managements would be responsible for arranging transport and ensuring the students’ safe return after the match. Reddy also said this would be the first instance of a state cricket association hosting an international match under the Green Cricket initiative, in association with the United Nations Environment Programme. The HCA secretary appealed to fans to avoid travelling to the stadium in four-wheelers on match day to minimise parking and traffic congestion.

Lokesh Becomes Hot Cake For Bunny & Mahesh Fans

Director Lokesh Kanagaraj has become a hot topic among Allu Arjun and Mahesh Babu fans. While Lokesh's next film (LK 07) was announced with Allu Arjun and some glimpse portions were reportedly shot in Mumbai, fresh rumours in the film industry started doing rounds that the project was shelved or shifted to Mahesh Babu. Though the Allu Arjun team denied these reports, some Mahesh Babu fans are still excited about the possibility of their favourite star working with Lokesh. Despite all the ups and downs, Lokesh continues to remain a hot cake among stars and fans. Now, all eyes are on his next project and how things will shape up. As per the sources, the AA23 is most likely to go ahead with Allu Arjun and Lokesh. However, we have to wait and see how things unfold, as Lokesh's projects have seen major shuffles



in recent times. For instance, the much-discussed multi-starrer with Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan was eventually shifted to Nelson. His project with Aamir

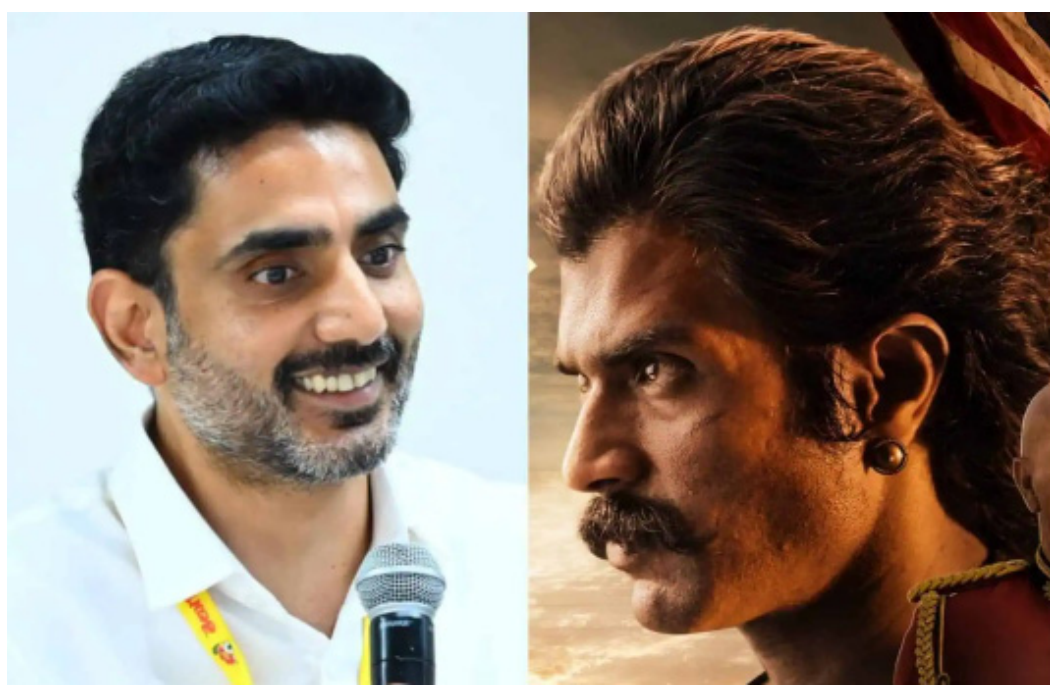
Khan was put on hold, while his reported meeting with Prabhas also did not materialise into a film. With several projects facing a lot of changes of late,

Lokesh's next move has become a talking point. Most likely he will stick to Allu Arjun or if there will be another twist remains to be seen.

Rare Film Praise From Nara Lokesh For Ranabaali

Vijay Deverakonda's Ranabaali is gearing up for a grand release on the 16th of this month. Directed by Rahul Sanrktian, the film also stars Rashmika as the lead. The film marks Vijay-Rashmika's first outing after their marriage. Set against the backdrop of Rayalaseema during the pre-Independence era, the film mixes action, drama, and commercial elements by exposing the brutal atrocities of the British. Surprisingly, Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh praised the film's trailer. Taking to X, Lokesh shared the film's trailer and wrote an appreciation post for the film unit. Calling it an immersive experience, Lokesh said, "The detailing in recreating 1800s Rayalaseema and capturing that heart-wrenching era of British-era famine and oppression is phenomenal."

Lokesh's post marks the trend of politicians showing interest in backing films that are culturally rooted strongly. For instance, some BRS leaders,



including BRS Working President KTR, recently openly appreciated and owned Nani's The Paradise, praising the film unit and its theme connected to the Telangana Movement. Even Telangana CM Revanth

Reddy also, in a tweet, appreciated director Srikanth Odela, acknowledging his Telangana roots. Similarly, Lokesh has now appreciated team Ranabaali, acknowledging the fact that the film is deeply rooted in the

Rayalaseema culture. These politicians' influence in drawing attention to the film will benefit the filmmakers. If the film becomes successful, it will also create a positive atmosphere around the politicians.

Will Rahul Leave Strong Impact Again With Ranabaali?



Vijay Deverakonda's new film Ranabaali is gearing up for a grand release on the 16th of this month. Directed by Rahul Sankrityan, the film is billed to be a period drama. Rashmika Mandanna plays the female lead in the film. With the trailer already coming out, there's been a unique curiosity surrounding the film now. However, we have to see to what extent Rahul will

emerge as the winner with this movie. Earlier, Rahul made Shyam Singha Roy, which has a mix of period and contemporary setups. The audience loved how Rahul handled the period part. In many interviews, he himself revealed that he was not confident about dealing with the period part, but they all loved it.

Nani's portrayal of Shyam Singha Roy has come out ex-

tremely well, and the viewers craved an entire film in that space. Moreover, Rahul also dealt with the exploitation of the Devdasi system very well in the film. Irrespective of the film's performance, Rahul's treatment in that particular segment left a good impression on movie lovers. Now, with all the learnings, Rahul is focused more on Ranabaali, which will explore the atrocities

of the British before Independence in the Rayalaseema region. If the film hits all the right chords, Rahul may enter the next league of directors because the stakes are very high with this film. Rahul has been very vocal about a lot of aspects about the film, including his vision. If the expectations are met, Rahul's skill will get elevated more.

Ashika Slays Street Style In Oversized Jacket



Ashika Ranganath is known for her expressive screen presence and effortless charm across Kannada, Telugu and Tamil cinema. She won hearts with hits like Raambo 2 and Naa Saami Ranga, and fans adore her girl-next-door appeal. Her Tamil outing Sardar 2 did not work at the box office this year, but her looks keep winning. Her latest shoot is all about cool denim. She first sits pretty in an oversized denim jacket worn like a dress, with slouchy beige suede heeled boots and soft wavy hair. Next, she pairs the jacket with a black leather mini skirt for a sharp street style moment. A black and white frame with a glowing smile completes the set. Next, she will be seen in Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara, which could be her big comeback.

Sree Vishnu's Comrade Kalyan Makes A Decent Opening



King of Entertainment Sree Vishnu is known for his unique comic timing, and his latest outing, Comrade Kalyan, promises another entertaining ride. The film is attracting family audiences to theatres, with the first and second shows witnessing packed houses across several locations on its opening day. As per the makers, The movie grossed 4 Cr+ worldwide on its opening day. Interestingly, advance bookings for day 2 have already surpassed the opening-day numbers.

Standard ticket pricing is another factor working in the film's favour, particularly among family audiences, while its entertainment quotient remains the major crowd-puller. The movie is also performing well overseas, grossing \$100K+ on its opening day. More importantly, Comrade Kalyan is set to benefit from the Dasara holidays, which begin today, potentially boosting its box-office performance over the coming days.