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New Twist in GVMC Mayoral Race

- GV Ramachandra Rao's Wife Sandhya Rani Emerges as Potential Contender!
- Political Equations Shift Following General Women's Reservation
- YSRCP High Command Reportedly Signals Local Leaders to Consider Sandhya Rani's Candidature



A fresh political realignment appears to be taking shape in Visakhapatnam as the race for the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) mayoral post gathers momentum. With the mayoral position reserved for women under the General category, political parties are reassessing their strategies and potential candidates. Amid these developments, Sandhya Rani, wife of senior political leader GV Ramachandra Rao, has unexpectedly emerged as a name under discussion within the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Her educational background, proficiency in eight languages, involvement in social service activities, and her family's extensive political connections are being viewed as factors that could strengthen her prospects.** Political circles are abuzz with reports that the YSRCP high command has conveyed signals to influential party leaders in Visakhapatnam to consider Sandhya Rani's candidature. GV Ramachandra Rao's connections within the fishing community, his relationships with other social groups, and his extensive political experience have added significance to these discussions. However, the key questions remain: What decision will the party leadership ultimately take? Will the local YSRCP leadership support Sandhya Rani's candidature? These developments have generated considerable interest in Visakhapatnam's political landscape.

Pen Power Special Report, Visakhapatnam October 13 :

Political activity surrounding the mayoral position of the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) is gradually intensifying. Following the Andhra Pradesh government's decision to reserve the GVMC mayoral post for women under the General category, several new names are emerging within major political parties. In a significant development, Sandhya Rani, wife of senior political leader GV Ramachandra Rao, has reportedly entered the discussions within the YSR Congress Party. Her emergence has attracted attention because it introduces a new dimension to the political equations that have been under discussion so far. According to political sources, the YSRCP high command has reportedly communicated to certain influential local leaders that Sandhya

Rani's name should also be considered during internal discussions on the mayoral candidature. Although there has been no official confirmation of these reports, party circles believe several factors may have contributed to her name gaining prominence. Her educational qualifications, participation in social service activities, family political background, and connections with various sections of Visakhapatnam society are being cited as potential advantages. However, the final decision regarding the party's candidate for the politically significant GVMC mayoral position remains a matter of considerable interest.

1. General Women's Reservation Reshapes Visakhapatnam's Political Equations

The reservation of the GVMC mayoral position for women under the General category has introduced fresh political calculations in Visakhapatnam. Earlier expectations regarding potential candidates are now undergoing significant changes, with political parties exploring new possibilities. As women's leadership assumes greater importance, names from families with established political backgrounds are also entering the discussion. General Women's Reservation does not restrict eligibility to women belonging to any particular social community. Women from different communities who meet the prescribed eligibility criteria can contest for the position. Consequently, political parties are expected to consider several factors while selecting their candidates, including social equations, local connections, party loyalty, public recognition, and leadership capabilities. In a metropolitan city like Visakhapatnam, the mayoral position is not merely a political designation. It carries significant responsibilities involving urban development, public administration, and coordination with various government departments. Therefore, administrative understanding, the ability to respond to public grievances, and a clear vision for urban development are likely to play important roles in candidate selection. Against this backdrop, Sandhya Rani's emergence as a potential contender is being viewed as an interesting development within YSRCP's internal political discussions.

2. Signals from YSRCP

High Command? Sandhya Rani's Name Sparks Political Discussion

According to political sources, Sandhya Rani's name has gained prominence in discussions concerning the YSR Congress Party's possible candidate for the GVMC mayoral position. Reports suggest that the party high command has conveyed signals to certain influential leaders in Visakhapatnam to examine her candidature. Although no official announcement has been made, sources indicate that her educational background, social service activities, and GV Ramachandra Rao's political experience have contributed to the growing discussion surrounding her name. Supporters of Ramachandra Rao believe that the family's connections with various social communities, cultural organisations, artists, and voluntary service groups across Visakhapatnam could prove politically significant. However, until the party leadership formally announces its decision, these developments must be treated as political discussions rather than confirmation of her candidature. Considering a potential candidate is one stage of the political process, while formally selecting that candidate is an entirely different matter. Internal consultations, opinions of local leaders, organisational considerations, and electoral strategies are expected to influence the final decision.

3. Highly Educated Sandhya Rani: Proficiency in Eight Languages

With Sandhya Rani's name entering political discussions, attention has also turned towards her personal and educational background. According to family sources, Sandhya Rani is highly educated and has pursued Chartered Accountancy (CA) studies. Her associates maintain that her academic background has given her an understanding of financial matters. They also claim that she can speak eight languages fluently. In a culturally diverse metropolitan city such as Visakhapatnam, multilingual communication skills can be an advantage in interacting with people from different backgrounds. Visakhapatnam has developed into a major centre for industry, commerce, education, and tourism. People from different regions of India live and work in the city, making communication and coordination with diverse communities

an important aspect of public leadership. However, educational qualifications and language proficiency alone cannot determine political success. An understanding of public issues, decision-making ability, administrative awareness, and direct interaction with citizens are equally important. Nevertheless, Sandhya Rani's educational background is being highlighted as one of the positive factors in discussions surrounding her potential candidature.

4. Commitment to Social Service Since Childhood; Supporting Her Husband's Welfare Initiatives

According to people close to the family, social service has been an important aspect of Sandhya Rani's life. They state that she developed an interest in helping people in need from an early age and continued that commitment after marriage. Her associates say she has consistently encouraged and supported the various social welfare initiatives undertaken by her husband, GV Ramachandra Rao. These activities reportedly include assistance to economically disadvantaged families, educational support for students, encouragement to artists, and assistance for sports and cultural programmes. Family members of political leaders often participate in community welfare activities, which can provide opportunities to understand the concerns of different sections of society. In Sandhya Rani's case, her involvement in such activities is being cited by her supporters as an important aspect of her public profile. While the extent of her direct involvement in active politics remains a matter for further examination, her participation in social service initiatives has become a prominent point in the ongoing political discussion.

5. From Congress to TDP and Now YSRCP: GV Ramachandra Rao's Political Journey

GV Ramachandra Rao's political background is another significant factor behind the discussions surrounding Sandhya Rani's possible mayoral candidature. Having maintained a long association with Visakhapatnam's political and social circles, Ramachandra Rao began his political career with the Congress Party. He subsequently continued his political journey with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and is currently associated with the YSR Congress Party. According to his supporters, he has held several political and nominated positions during different stages of his career. They particularly highlight his reported service as a member of the Film Censor Board for approximately ten years. His associates also state that he served in positions connected with railway and port trust boards. These responsibilities reportedly helped him establish connections with political leaders, administrators, and representatives of various institutions. Supporters describe Ramachandra Rao as an experienced political figure who has

witnessed several phases of Visakhapatnam's political evolution. However, the extent to which his experience across different political parties will influence YSRCP's present organisational strategy remains to be seen.

6. Supporting Artists, Encouraging Sportspersons, and Extending Assistance to the Poor

Apart from political activities, GV Ramachandra Rao has reportedly maintained an active association with social welfare initiatives. According to his associates, he has consistently extended support to the fields of art, sports, education, and culture. His supporters state that he has helped financially distressed artists and contributed towards medical expenses for artists facing health problems. He has also reportedly encouraged talented young sportspersons and supported the organisation of sporting competitions. Assistance to economically disadvantaged students, including contributions towards educational expenses and tuition fees, is another activity highlighted by his associates. The family is also said to have supported livelihood initiatives for economically weaker women. These reportedly include distributing sewing machines and helping women establish small businesses to improve their financial independence. Other activities mentioned by his supporters include contributions to food distribution programmes, donations to temples, and assistance to cultural events organised by various associations. According to those close to the family, Sandhya Rani has also participated in these initiatives and encouraged her husband's welfare activities. As a result, the family's involvement in social service, along with its political background, has become another factor in discussions concerning her potential candidature.

7. Connections with the Fishing Community: A New Dimension to Social and Political Equations

Social equations have traditionally played an important role in Visakhapatnam's political landscape. As a major coastal city, Visakhapatnam has a significant fishing community with an important social, economic, and political presence. Against this background, GV Ramachandra Rao's association with the fishing community has emerged as one of the factors being discussed in connection with his family's political background. According to family sources, Sandhya Rani belongs to the Brahmin community, while GV Ramachandra Rao belongs to the fishing community. The family also states that Ramachandra Rao's mother belonged to the Kamma community. His associates believe that these family connections have contributed to relationships with people from different social backgrounds. However, the political influence of such social connections requires careful assessment. A candidate's social background



alone cannot guarantee electoral success. Organisational strength, support from local party leaders, public confidence, and the prevailing political atmosphere are equally important. Nevertheless, political observers believe that the family's connections with different sections of Visakhapatnam society may be among the considerations if Sandhya Rani's name is formally examined.

8. Support of Local Leadership Crucial: Who Will Take the Final Call on Her Candidature?

Although Sandhya Rani's name has entered discussions surrounding the GVMC mayoral position, the next developments in her political journey remain uncertain. Reports suggesting that the YSRCP high command has signalled local leaders to consider her candidature have brought the role of the party's Visakhapatnam leadership into focus. Selecting a candidate for a politically important metropolitan corporation is a complex process. The opinions of senior party leaders, local body representatives, constituency-level leaders, and organisational functionaries could significantly influence the selection process. At the same time, several questions are likely to arise. How well is the prospective candidate known among the public? How actively has the candidate participated in party activities? What understanding does the candidate have of the city's problems? Does the candidate possess the leadership skills required to handle municipal administration? In Sandhya Rani's case, her educational qualifications and social service background are being highlighted as positive factors. However, her direct political experience, relationship with party workers, and leadership capabilities may also come under consideration. Furthermore, the electoral procedure for the mayoral position, statutory eligibility requirements, and the process relating to corporator elections will be important. Therefore, although Sandhya Rani's name has gained political significance, it would be premature to conclude that her candidature has been finalised.

9. Visakhapatnam's Development: The Real Challenge Before the Next Mayor

Visakhapatnam is one of Andhra Pradesh's most impor-

tant metropolitan cities. With its industrial, commercial, educational, and tourism sectors, along with its distinctive coastal identity, the city occupies a significant position in the state's development. As Visakhapatnam continues to expand, improving infrastructure and delivering essential public services remain major challenges for the municipal administration. Road development, sanitation management, drinking water supply, drainage systems, rainwater flooding, public health, and environmental protection require sustained attention. Improving basic amenities in economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods, addressing the concerns of middle-class families, and creating a safer urban environment for women are also important priorities. In addition, the livelihoods of coastal communities, problems faced by fishing families, environmental conservation, and industrial pollution control are particularly relevant to Visakhapatnam. Under these circumstances, the person occupying the mayoral position must possess not only political connections but also a clear vision for the city's development. Effective coordination with the administrative machinery, respect for the views of elected representatives, and the ability to respond to citizens' needs are essential. Against this background, Sandhya Rani's reported emergence in the mayoral race also raises questions about her vision for Visakhapatnam's future. While her associates highlight her educational background and involvement in social service, it remains to be seen what priorities she would identify for the city's development if she were to enter public office.

10. Sandhya Rani in the Mayoral Race: A New Chapter in YSRCP's Political Strategy?

With the GVMC mayoral position reserved for women under the General category, attention has turned towards the YSR Congress Party's emerging political strategy. In this context, the appearance of Sandhya Rani's name in discussions surrounding the mayoral candidature has introduced a new dimension to Visakhapatnam politics. Her supporters believe that several factors could work in her favour. These include GV

Ramachandra Rao's extensive political experience, his association with the fishing community, the family's relationships with different social groups, Sandhya Rani's educational qualifications, and her involvement in social welfare activities. Her reported proficiency in eight languages, Chartered Accountancy educational background, and participation in community service programmes are also being presented as qualities that could distinguish her from other potential aspirants. However, these factors alone cannot determine the party's final choice. The decision of the YSRCP high command, opinions of local leaders, electoral strategy, organisational equations, and legal eligibility requirements will all influence the selection process. Meanwhile, the possibility of other women leaders within the party being considered for the mayoral position cannot be ruled out. Therefore, although Sandhya Rani's emergence has introduced a fresh dimension to the party's internal discussions, it remains too early to predict whether she will eventually secure the candidature.

The Big Questions Now Are...

Will the reported signals from the YSRCP high command asking influential Visakhapatnam leaders to consider Sandhya Rani's name eventually translate into an official decision? To what extent will GV Ramachandra Rao's political experience and the family's social connections strengthen her prospects? Will the local YSR Congress Party leadership arrive at a consensus regarding her candidature? The answers to these questions are likely to emerge as political developments unfold in the coming days. Ultimately, fresh political calculations appear to be taking shape around the GVMC mayoral position. With the post reserved for women under the General category, Sandhya Rani, wife of GV Ramachandra Rao, has emerged as a name of interest in YSR Congress Party circles. Whether the reported signals from the party high command will translate into a formal political decision remains to be seen. Until then, Sandhya Rani's name is likely to remain a subject of discussion in Visakhapatnam's evolving mayoral politics.

EDITORIAL

Where Is Political Representation for Scheduled Castes?

When will Scheduled Castes receive reservations proportionate to their population, equal representation, and economic self-reliance? Long-standing problems need permanent solutions! Transparency in the reservation roster, representation in legislatures, protection of SC Sub-Plan funds, and financial assistance of Rs.12 lakh for unemployed youth are urgent necessities. The Indian Constitution guarantees equality, social justice, and economic empowerment. Yet, even decades after Independence, Scheduled Caste (SC) communities continue to face numerous challenges in education, employment, livelihoods, land ownership, housing, and political representation. Restricting the debate merely to sub-categorisation without finding permanent solutions to these problems cannot ensure comprehensive social justice.

It cannot be ignored that disparities exist among various sub-castes within Scheduled Castes in terms of education, employment, economic resources, and access to welfare benefits. However, justice for one community should not result in injustice to another. The implementation of sub-categorisation must take into account reliable statistics, employment representation, educational status, and access to government benefits. The government should formulate policies that protect the rights of all sub-castes while strengthening unity.

The government must respond to demands for reviewing reservations in education and employment in proportion to the Scheduled Caste population. It should announce a clear policy on increasing reservations based on population statistics, social backwardness, representation in opportunities, constitutional provisions, and judicial guidelines. Reservations are not merely numbers; they are instruments that open pathways to development for families deprived of opportunities for generations. Errors in the reservation roster system should not deprive eligible candidates of employment opportunities. Department-wise roster registers, filled positions, vacancies, and backlog posts must be made public. Independent reviews should be conducted, and candidates should be given opportunities to raise objections. A legally sound and transparent system must be implemented to ensure that no sub-caste suffers injustice. For Scheduled Caste issues to be addressed effectively, their voices must be strongly heard in legislative bodies. Constitutional discussions should take place on increasing reserved seats, delimitation of constituencies, and providing political opportunities to various sub-castes. Adequate representation must also be ensured for Scheduled Caste leaders in political parties, government committees, and policymaking institutions.

Funds allocated for Scheduled Caste development must deliver tangible benefits to people at the grassroots level. If allegations of fund diversion arise, independent investigations should establish the facts. Details of budget allocations, fund releases, expenditure, and unspent balances should be made publicly available. Priority must be given to education, healthcare, accommodation, skill development, housing, and self-employment, supported by social audits. Unemployed Scheduled Caste youth face a double challenge: a lack of employment opportunities and insufficient capital to establish self-employment ventures. The government must clarify whether eligible beneficiaries are receiving the promised benefits under schemes such as Dalit Bandhu and Ambedkar Abhayastam. Pending applications should be reviewed, and funds released in accordance with the rules.

A comprehensive self-employment scheme should be introduced specifically for unemployed Scheduled Caste youth, providing financial assistance of up to Rs.12 lakh based on eligibility criteria. The scheme should integrate subsidies, bank loans, skill training, and marketing support. Young people must be supported in achieving financial independence through self-employment without being pushed into excessive debt. When a young person becomes an entrepreneur, they can not only support their family but also create employment opportunities for others. The SC Corporation must become a key institution for the economic development of Scheduled Castes. Adequate budget allocations should be made, and pending applications resolved within a stipulated timeframe. Loans, subsidies, and self-employment schemes must be implemented effectively. Beneficiaries should receive assistance from business establishment to marketing. The Corporation should be developed not merely as a loan-distribution agency but as a centre for economic self-reliance. Sub-categorisation alone cannot provide a complete solution to the problems faced by Scheduled Castes. The government must announce a comprehensive action plan covering a thorough review of population-proportionate reservations, transparency in the roster system, legislative representation, protection of SC Sub-Plan funds, financial assistance of ?12 lakh for unemployed youth, and revitalisation of the SC Corporation. Each initiative should have a clearly defined budget, responsible department, and implementation deadline. Progress reports should be released every six months. The objective should not be to take away anyone's rights, but to ensure justice for every Scheduled Caste community, opportunities for every unemployed person, and economic security for every family. Social justice must not remain merely an election promise. Governments must move beyond announcements and demonstrate results through concrete action. It is time to take sincere and decisive steps to safeguard the dignity, development, and future of Scheduled Caste communities.

'Say Our Name': Why A Tiny Island Nation Wants The World To Get Its Name Right

When President David Adeang stepped up to the podium at the United Nations General Assembly, his presence was a quiet rebellion wrapped in an international protocol-sheet. Representing an eight-square-mile dot in the vast expanse of the South Pacific, he spoke not of geopolitical grievances or rising ocean tides, but of something far more fundamental to human dignity: a nation's right to its own name. For decades, the global community had comfortably referred to his home as Nauru - a clipped, anglicised approximation that was easy on western tongues but ultimately estranged from its native roots. Standing before the hall of nations, Adeang asked the world to unlearn its comfortable habits and speak a restored truth. The island was reclaiming its ancestral name and pronunciation, returning to Naoero, pronounced "na-oh-airo". With three simple words - "Say our name" - he captured the ancient, persistent human longing to be called by the sound we choose for ourselves, rather than the labels thrust upon us by observers, cartographers, and conquerors.

A Lot Is In A Name
Names are the first architecture of identity. Before we possess property, ideology, or social standing, we are given a name, and in that collection of syllables resides a universe of intent. To name a thing is to claim a relationship with it, and to name oneself is the ultimate act of self-determination. When an individual insists on a specific name, a particular spelling, or an authentic pronunciation, it is rarely a matter of mere chauvinism or pedantry. It is an insistence on being perceived accurately, on bridging the gap between who

we are inside and how we are registered by the world outside. When we mispronounce someone's name, even inadvertently, we perform a tiny act of erasure, signalling that our ease of speech matters more than their history. It is hardly surprising then that human beings guard their names with fierce devotion, for to lose control of your name is to lose the authority to define your own story. What is true for the individual vibrates with even greater resonance across the collective consciousness of a nation. Countries, after all, are grand imaginings held together by shared memory, language, and geography. Their names are the shorthand for their culture and soul. When foreign powers draw maps and administer territories, they frequently bestow labels born of ignorance, convenience, or outright arrogance. For centuries, mapmakers in distant capitals slapped exonyms onto entire civilisations, flattening intricate linguistic landscapes into easy-to-pronounce colonial cartography. The post-colonial era, therefore, has witnessed an epochal exercise in global renaming - a giant, slow-moving chorus of nations demanding that the world correct its maps and respect their selfhood. Consider the gentle yet firm correction issued by Côte d'Ivoire. For years, the international community translated the West African nation's name into whatever language suited the speaker: Ivory Coast in English, Elfenbeinküste in German, Costa de Marfil in Spanish. Yet in 1985, the government declared that the country's official name was strictly Côte d'Ivoire in every language, complete with its French accents, refusing to be a linguistic chameleon just to accommo-

date foreign translators. It was a declaration that a nation's name is a proper noun, fixed and inviolable, not an interchangeable description of a commodity once extracted from its shores. In a similar vein of linguistic reclamation, Turkey formally requested the international community to adopt its authentic endonym, Türkiye. The shift was partly a practical effort to shed the awkward associations with a festive bird and a colloquial term for a failure, but more profoundly, it was an assertion of cultural self-respect. It was an invitation for the world to pronounce the country as its citizens have pronounced it since the founding of their republic, honouring the phonetic rhythm of their own native tongue rather than accepting an anglicised shortcut with unflattering avian associations.

'Gold Coast' To Ghana, Rhodesia To Zimbabwe
Elsewhere, the act of renaming has served as a dramatic, politically charged rupture with a painful past. When colonial administrative units dissolved, emerging states frequently cast off their bestowed identities in favour of titles that evoked pre-colonial grandeur or revolutionary ideals. The Gold Coast, a label that sounded more like an extractive mining company than a homeland, emerged into the light of independence as Ghana, invoking the legacy of a magnificent ancient West African empire. Dutch Guiana quietly closed the chapter on European merchant dominion to become Suriname. In Southern Africa, the settler-dominated territory of Rhodesia cast off the shadow of British imperialist Cecil Rhodes to become Zimbabwe, deriving its new identity from the Great



Zimbabwe stone monuments that stood as enduring testaments to indigenous architectural brilliance. Sometimes, these renaming of nations reflect deep, tumultuous ideological shifts within a country's political soul. In 1984, the West African nation of Upper Volta (a name as cold and directional as a surveyor's notebook) was rebranded by the revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara as Burkina Faso, a poetic synthesis of native languages meaning "Land of Incorruptible People". In Central Africa, the nation once designated as the Belgian Congo was rechristened Zaire by Mobutu Sese Seko in an aggressive, albeit complex, campaign of African authenticity, but its political associations with his dictatorship meant that his successors reverted to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Further east, the military junta in Burma renamed the state Myanmar in 1989, arguing that the old title was a relic of British rule that favoured the

dominant ethnic majority over the country's diverse minority populations - a change that sparked decades of diplomatic debate over who possesses the legitimate authority to rename a country. The same logic leads many in our country to demand that the world call us "Bharat" instead of "India". Except that losing the name "India" would not merely reverse a colonial label; it would also forfeit a millennial "brand" of inestimable value, cast into question our status as the principal successor state to the imperial Raj, and make every diplomatic acronym we are involved in unpronounceable! Since English is also an Indian language, it makes sense for us, therefore, to refer to our country as "India" in English and "Bharat" or "Bharatam" when we speak in our native tongues, just as Germans acquiesce in the labels of "Germany" in English and "Allemagne" in French for their homeland, while remaining proudly "Deutschland" in their own language.

'Baap Da Brat': Kerala Mini Cooper Crash, And Why 'Daddy' Can't Keep Saving You

There are three things you should never underestimate in India: the power of 'jugaad', the elasticity of the law, and the confidence of a 'Baap da Brat' who believes his 'Papa Posh' can fix absolutely anything. The first two are national assets. The third is a national hazard. Meet India's favourite entitled brat. Designer sunglasses, a luxury car, an influential surname, and the emotional maturity of an unpaid electricity bill. He's never heard the word 'no' without immediately calling someone who can make it a 'yes'. He believes traffic rules are for the poor, queues are for the powerless, and consequences are what happen to other people's children. His favourite sentence is not "I'm sorry for my f*ck-up." It's "Jaanta hai mera baap kaun hai?" (do you even know who my dad is?) But, does he know who his father is? Of course he does. Because that's literally ... the only identity he'll ever have. And so ... Suhail Sajeev. 19-years-old. Speeding in his Mini Cooper. A birthday present from Mamta Maa. Crashes into a scooter near Kochi airport. Devika, Gopika, and Ijaz. Dead. Suhail: "No worries, Daddy will take care of it." So, Suhail murders three people. No shock. No concern. No remorse. No apology. Just an easy escape plan. Lots of entitlement. We should be infuriated. But we have watched this movie before. And now we've become numb to the sequels. In May 2024, a Porsche driven by 17-year-old Vedant Agarwal killed two engineers in Pune. Vedant, the son of a prominent real-estate developer, was granted bail on the condition that he write a 300-word essay on road accidents. Two innocent people's lives were worth an extracurricular

activity. Someone suggested replacing criminal courts with English tuition classes. Run someone over? Write an essay. Cause a public scandal? Submit a book report. Destroy two families? Add a bibliography. Because accountability looks astonishingly different depending on who's involved, and money makes consequences easier to escape. Consider Mihir Shah, the son of a political figure, mowing down Kaveri Nakhwa with his BMW. Or Sanjiv Nanda, who ran over six people in Delhi. These cases became emblematic of public anxiety about wealth and influence in the justice system, where the family name enters the room before the victim's name does. For the privileged, a murder can become a public relations exercise. A lawyer is called. A statement is drafted. A driver may be offered as a substitute. The family closes ranks. The outrage is waited out. Eventually, the news cycle moves on, and life resumes in the gated community. For everyone else, the machinery of survival is less luxurious. There are lost wages, mounting medical bills, police station visits, legal uncertainty, and the crushing realisation that the person responsible may have access to resources the victim cannot even imagine. Unless they use social media. But a family should not have to become famous on social media to have its loss taken seriously. Justice cannot depend on whether a tragedy trends. The difference is also not that one family loves its child more. It's that one family can afford to turn accountability into a prolonged negotiation. The problem isn't also that every rich child is entitled or that every wealthy parent is irresponsible. Money doesn't automatically



make someone immoral. But money can make bad behaviour more dangerous. It can buy access to powerful lawyers, prolong litigation, influence public narratives, and provide a cushion against consequences that would overwhelm an ordinary family. We celebrate the father who buys his teenager a luxury car but seldom ask whether he has taught him responsibility. We applaud the mother who fights the school principal over a bad grade, but rarely the parent who lets a child face the consequences of his laziness. We measure parenting in birthday parties, foreign holidays, branded sneakers, and expensive educational institutions, as though character were another product available on an EMI. Papa Posh calls them confident. Mamta Maa calls them misunderstood. Their schools call them bright. Their friends call them sorted. The rest of us call them a public liability. We are raising children to believe they are the main characters in a universe populated by supporting cast members. The security guard is an obstacle. The

waiter is an accessory. The traffic police are an inconvenience. The person crossing the road is so extra.
The 'No' Brats Never Hear
Sadly, this elitist culture is not confined to the super-rich. In his 2016 essay, "Bharat Mata's Brats: The Gratification Syndrome", Salil Desai examined the wider tendency of all parents to indulge children and shield them from responsibility. The common denominator is not wealth alone. It is the belief that love means ensuring a child never has to hear no. And because Indian society is obsessed with parental achievement, we rarely ask the question that matters: what exactly have you achieved if your child grows up believing that money can purchase immunity from morality? The same principle applies everywhere. Public institutions are not private concierge services. The police are not a family's personal security team. Courts are not customer-care departments. And the law is not a premium membership programme with complimentary exemptions for high-net-worth individuals. At least, it

should not be. We must also resist the temptation to turn public anger into mob justice. The answer to privilege evading the law cannot be violence outside the law. Every accused person deserves due process. But due process must mean that the law follows the evidence, not the family tree.
Let us ask whether India can become a country where a person's worth is measured by what they do, not by whom they can call. Where the child of a billionaire and the child of a bus driver are equally accountable for reckless behaviour. Where the wealthy can hire the best lawyers but cannot purchase a different set of laws. Where parents understand that the most valuable inheritance they can leave their children is not a fortune, but the ability to distinguish right from wrong when nobody is watching. And where the most frightening sentence a young man can utter is no longer, "Daddy will take care of it," but "I'm sorry for my f*ck up." Because the real tragedy of the Baap da Brat is not that he believes his father can save him. It is that nobody taught him anything else.

Government Committed to Welfare of Persons with Disabilities: Collector

10 Three-Wheeler Scooters Distributed at a Cost of Rs. 10.16 Lakh



Rampachodavaram, October 13:Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said the State Government is committed to empowering persons with disabilities and helping them lead inde-

pendent lives. Speaking at a programme held at the ITDA conference hall in Rampachodavaram on Tuesday, marking International Sign Language Day and International Week of

the Deaf, the Collector, along with State Differently Abled Corporation Chairman G. Narayanaswamy, distributed 10 three-wheeler scooters worth Rs. 10.16

lakh to eligible beneficiaries. The Collector said the scooters would improve mobility and support education, employment and daily activities. He urged persons with disabilities to build self-confidence and become financially independent. He also assured support for establishing a district-level association and office for persons with disabilities. Chairman Narayan aswamy highlighted the government's initiatives, including assistive devices and financial assistance for self-employment. Minority Board Director Shaik Subhani, Assistant Director K. Kavitha, local leaders and beneficiaries attended the programme.

Be Fully Prepared for Local Body Elections: Collector

- 2,600 Ballot Boxes Estimated - Officials Told to Submit Reports Within a Day



Rampachodavaram, October 13:Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to remain fully prepared to conduct local body elections whenever the notification is issued. Addressing a review meeting at the ITDA conference hall in Rampachodavaram on Tuesday, the

Collector stressed the need for transparency, impartiality and strict adherence to State Election Commission guidelines. He said approximately 2,600 ballot boxes, including reserves, would be required across the district. Officials were instructed to verify polling stations, voter details, reservation allocations and

basic facilities, including drinking water and toilets. The Collector directed Tahsildars and MPDOs to inspect polling centres and submit detailed reports on transport, polling arrangements and security within one day. He also emphasised proper implementation of reservation rules, particularly ST

reservations, and coordination among departments to ensure free and fair elections. Rampachodavaram Sub-Collector Prithviraj Kumar, ZP CEO Kishore Kumar, District Panchayat Officer G. Bhaskar, DOMA PD Ramprasad and other district officials attended the meeting.

Newly appointed Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar maintains schedule, travels to Palakkad

Thiruvananthapuram : Outgoing Keralam Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar took an early morning Vande Bharat train to Palakkad, continuing with his official duties hours after the announcement of his appointment as the Governor of Tamil Nadu, sources said. Arlekar boarded the 4 am Vande Bharat train from Thiruvananthapuram, despite the announcement of his new assignment, to attend his previously scheduled engagements in Palakkad, as per sources. President Droupadi Murmu on Monday announced the appointment and transfer of Governors across six states, with Sikkim Governor Om Prakash Mathur appointed as the Governor of Keralam and Keralam Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar trans-

ferred to Tamil Nadu, according to a communique issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan. As part of the reshuffle, Braj Mohan Ram has been



appointed as the Governor of Odisha, Sudha Yadav as the Governor of Karnataka, Dhal Singh Bisen as the Governor of Uttarakhand, and Dushyant Gautam as

the Governor of Sikkim. The appointments will take effect from the dates the appointees assume charge of their respective offices, the communique stated. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar served as the Governor of Keralam, having taken the oath of office on January 2, 2025. The ceremony was administered by the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, Nitin Madhukar Jamdar, at the Raj Bhavan. The event saw the attendance of several dignitaries, including former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, members of the council of ministers, opposition leaders, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, and West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose. He was appointed to this post by President Droupadi Murmu on De-

cember 21, 2024. Prior to his tenure in Kerala, Arlekar served as the Governor of Bihar. His journey into constitutional offices began on July 6, 2021, when he was appointed as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. He took the oath of office at the Raj Bhavan in Shimla on July 13, 2021, marking a historic moment as he became the first person from Goa to serve as the Governor of a state. Before his transition into gubernatorial roles, Arlekar had a long and active political career in Goa. He served as a two-time member of the Goa Legislative Assembly, following which, he also held the position of Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly. He has also been the President of BJP's Goa unit, having started his journey in public life as a dedicated party worker.

Assam CM Sarma reviews Khel Maharan 3.0, Mission Basundhara 4.0

Guwahati : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma chaired a review meeting with District Commissioners of all districts at Lok Sewa Bhavan in Guwahati to assess preparations for Khel Maharan 3.0, implementation of Mission Basundhara 4.0 and revenue-related issues concerning industrial estates and areas across Assam. During the meeting, the Chief Minister on Monday reviewed preparations for Khel Maharan 3.0 and directed all District Commissioners to ensure the smooth conduct of the sporting event. The competitions will begin at the Gaon Panchayat level on November 7.

He instructed the districts to expedite the registration of participants to ensure wider participation. The Chief Minister informed that this edition of Khel Maharan will also feature a children's sports festival for children below 12 years of age. The initiative will help identify emerging sporting talent and provide selected children with appropriate training and monthly stipends. He further stated that the state-level competitions would be held in Guwahati, with more than 9,800 athletes expected to participate. The event will be organised on a large scale, with opening and closing ceremonies. Reviewing the implementation of Mission Basundhara 4.0, the Chief Minister took stock of the progress of workshops and preparatory outreach programmes underway in several districts.



Every Genuine Demand of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers Will Be Resolved on Priority: Dr Baljit Kaur

Chandigarh: Reiterating the Punjab Government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, Punjab Cabinet Minister for Social Security, Women and Child Development, Dr Baljit Kaur, today assured representatives of various Anganwadi unions that every genuine demand concerning their welfare and service-related issues would be addressed on priority through a transparent and time-bound process. While chairing a meeting with representatives of Anganwadi Workers' and Helpers' unions at her office in the Punjab Civil Secretariat, Dr Baljit Kaur said that under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government is working with dedication to ensure the well-being of every section of society, with special emphasis on empowering women and strengthening child welfare services across the State. The Cabinet Minister listened patiently to the issues and suggestions put forward by the union repre-



sentatives. The meeting was held in a cordial, positive and highly constructive atmosphere, reflecting the Government's commitment to maintaining continuous dialogue and building consensus with its frontline workforce.

Dr Baljit Kaur assured the representatives that all issues falling within the Department's jurisdiction would be resolved expeditiously, while matters requiring consideration at the Government level would also be pursued on priority for an early and appropriate resolution. Highlighting the invaluable role of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, the Cabinet Minister said, "Our Anganwadi

Workers and Helpers are the backbone of grassroots women and child welfare services. Their dedication touches the lives of countless mothers and children every day. The Punjab Government values their contribution and remains fully committed to protecting their dignity, addressing their genuine concerns and creating a supportive working environment." She further directed the officers concerned to ensure prompt examination of all genuine issues and maintain regular engagement with the unions so that deserving matters are resolved without unnecessary delay. The meeting

concluded on a positive note, reaffirming the Punjab Government's commitment to transparent governance, constructive dialogue and the welfare of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, who continue to play a vital role in strengthening the social security framework and nurturing a healthier, brighter future for Punjab's women and children. The meeting was attended by MLAs Mr. Jagdeep Kamboj Goldy and Mr. Narinder Pal Singh Sawna, alongside Principal Secretary of Social Security, Women and Child Development Mr. Gurkirat Kirpal Singh, Director Dr. Shena Aggarwal, and senior departmental officers."

FIR registered over alleged AAP protest near Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, police probe underway

New Delhi : Delhi Police has registered an FIR following a complaint by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) against AAP leaders and MLAs, including Arvind Kejriwal, over alleged disruption at Gurudwara Bangla Sahib and the circulation of misleading videos and social media posts. Police have initiated an investigation and are examining the video footage submitted with the complaint. A day earlier, DSGMC President Harmet Singh Kalka said there was "great resentment within the Sikh community" over the alleged attempt by AAP workers to stage a protest near Gurudwara Bangla Sahib. He said the committee had taken action against those involved and lodged a police complaint against Kejriwal. Kalka alleged that some AAP workers entered the area near the gurudwara



posing as protesters, unfurled banners and posters, and raised slogans. He said the alleged actions were contrary to the sanctity of the religious place. He also objected to the presence of police personnel at the site and said the committee had instructed the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) to direct personnel to avoid entering the gurdwara in uniform. "There is great resentment within the Sikh com-

munity regarding the manner in which some AAP workers entered Gurudwara Bangla Sahib posing as protesters, unfurled banners and posters, and staged a demonstration. We have taken strict action against them and have also lodged a police complaint against their party supremo, Arvind Kejriwal. Some police personnel also went there; we condemn that, and today we have instructed the DCP to direct

police personnel to avoid entering the 'Guru Ghar' in uniform," Kalka said. "Even though it is a public thoroughfare and they did not actually step onto the Gurudwara premises itself, police personnel should exercise restraint given the current atmosphere. All the protesters were sent by Arvind Kejriwal, and this is a matter for investigation because the workers we have identified are all associated with the AAP," he said.

AAP's Jarnail Singh writes to Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, questions alleged police action at Bangla Sahib

New Delhi : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi State Vice President and Tilak Nagar MLA Sardar Jarnail Singh has written an open letter to the president and members of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC), raising questions over the alleged violation of the sanctity of Gurdwara Sri Bangla Sahib by Delhi Police on October 10. Addressing a press conference, Jarnail Singh alleged that Delhi Police violated the sanctity of the gurdwara during an operation on October 10, when police personnel allegedly entered the premises wearing shoes and caps and carrying batons. "On October 10, Delhi Police carried out a shameful operation against students and ordinary members of the Sangat who had taken shelter at Gurdwara Sri Bangla Sahib. The police entered the gurdwara premises wearing shoes, with caps on their heads and batons in their hands, openly violating its sanctity and decorum," he said.

The Delhi Police has, however, refuted allegations surrounding a video circulating on social media that purportedly shows po-

lice personnel wearing shoes in Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, stating that the personnel shown in the video were walking through a common passage used by devotees to reach the point where they remove their shoes before entering the Gurdwara. Meanwhile, the AAP leader also questioned the conduct of the DSGMC president and some committee members, alleging that instead of filing a complaint against the police over the incident, they filed a complaint against the AAP. Jarnail Singh said his open letter addressed 10 questions to the DSGMC president and other members, including whether the committee considered the police action justified and whether a discussion had taken place before a First Information Report (FIR) was filed.

"Does the sanctity of Guru Ghar permit anyone to enter wearing shoes and caps and carrying batons? Does the committee consider this police action justified? Was there any discussion within the committee before an FIR was filed with the police?" he asked. He added that some committee members had con-



tacted him and claimed that the decision to file the complaint had been taken against their wishes. He also questioned why the police had been permitted to intervene in the matter, and asked the committee to make public any documents authorising the police to enter the premises. Jarnail Singh further questioned the DSGMC members' participation in programmes organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), referring to a Hukamnama issued by Sri Akal Takht Sahib regarding participation in RSS-organised programmes. "Why, then, are committee members attending programmes organised by the BJP and the RSS? Do mem-

bers of the gurdwara committee consider their membership a means of securing a BJP ticket? Why are they supporting the ideology of an organisation like the RSS, which does not believe in the distinct identity of Sikhs?" he asked. The AAP leader also alleged that political considerations were influencing the committee members' conduct and questioned whether their actions were consistent with Sikh principles of service and providing refuge to those in need. He further asked whether describing those who had sought shelter at the gurdwara as workers of a particular political party and filing a complaint against them could affect the image of the Sikh community as one that offers refuge to people in need.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay Visits Kanaka Durga Temple in Vijayawada



Amaravati, October 13: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay visited the famous Sri Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri Hill in Vijayawada on Tuesday and offered prayers to the goddess. Upon his arrival, temple officials welcomed him with traditional honours. Vijay had darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga, adorned as Annapurna Devi on the third day of the Dasara Sharannavaratri celebrations. Following the darshan, Vedic scholars blessed the Chief Minister with Vedic chants. Temple authorities presented him with the goddess's prasadam and a portrait of the deity. Earlier, Vijay arrived at Gannavaram Airport from Chennai on a special flight. Andhra Pradesh Minister Narayana welcomed him on behalf of the state government. A large number of fans gathered at the airport to catch a glimpse of Vijay, creating a lively atmosphere. He later proceeded to the Kanaka Durga Temple and offered prayers. Minister Narayana and Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy accompanied him during the visit.

Criminal Case Against IAS Officer Vikas Marmat

AP CM Orders Probe



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 13: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed Chief Secretary Sai Prasad to investigate the alleged altercation between AP-cadre IAS of-



retary to conduct an inquiry and report the findings. Vikas Marmat is a 2019-batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre. He is currently serving as Project Director of the Kuppam Area Development Authority (KADA), which covers the constituency represented by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. According to reports, Bengaluru Central Crime Branch (CCB) police conducted inspections at a pub around midnight on October 10, 2026. During the inspection, police officers checked customers' identity cards to verify their ages. Marmat and his friends allegedly entered into an argument with the police per-

Local Body Election Notification Only After Government's Readiness: SEC

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 13: Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner (SEC) Anil Chandra Punetha said that a crucial meeting was held with recognised political parties to discuss preparations for the upcoming local body elections. He stated that representatives of 19 out of the 20 recognised political parties in the state attended the meeting, with only one party remaining absent. The SEC clarified that the election notification

would be considered only after the relevant departments issued the required gazette notifications and the state government formally communicated its readiness to conduct the elections. Punetha said political parties had requested the speedy issuance of caste and nativity certificates. They also urged the Election Commission to control the distribution and flow of liquor that could influence voters during elections. Political parties suggested that the



election schedule and polling dates should be finalised after considering festival days. They also sought adequate security arrangements for candidates con-

testing the elections and at nomination centres. The parties called for comprehensive CCTV surveillance to ensure that elections are conducted peacefully,

fairly and transparently. Punetha further said that political parties had requested the deployment of special police forces in sensitive, highly sensitive and Naxal-affected areas. He assured that all suggestions and opinions submitted by political parties would be examined and appropriate action would be taken. The SEC also stated that the request to introduce online submission of nomination papers would be considered.

Will Develop Dynamic New Leadership in Every Constituency: Vijayasai Reddy

Visakhapatnam, October 13: Former MP Vijayasai Reddy has made a significant announcement regarding the formation of a new political party. He said he would reveal details of the party on Vijayadashami. In a post on X, Vijayasai Reddy stated that the name, flag and agenda of his proposed political party were being finalised during the auspicious Dasara festival. He confirmed that the new party would be announced on Vijayadashami. **My Role Will Be Like Bal Thackeray's:**

Vijayasai Reddy Vijayasai Reddy said some people had begun criticising him after learning about his plans to launch a political party. He dismissed their allegations as cheap propaganda that carried no significance. He declared that his new party would emerge as a rebellion against what he described as the two family-dominated political parties in Andhra Pradesh. Vijayasai Reddy vowed to nurture dynamic and capable new leaders in every Assembly constituency across the state. "Let



me reiterate once again: Power in my party will belong to Gen Z, while my role will be similar to that of Bal Thackeray," he stated.

New Law Soon to Protect BC Communities: Minister Kollu Ravindra

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 13: Andhra Pradesh Mines and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra announced that the coalition government would soon introduce a BC Protection Act to safeguard the rights and interests of Backward Classes (BCs). Speaking to reporters in Amaravati on Tuesday, the minister said the coalition government was committed to the political, economic and educational empowerment of BC communities. He stated that former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao had introduced 20 per cent reservations for BCs,

while Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had increased them to 34 per cent. Ravindra said the coalition government would ensure more than 40 per cent political representation for BCs in local bodies. He criticised the previous YSRCP government for reducing BC reservations from 34 per cent to 24 per cent, alleging that the decision deprived 16,800 BC representatives of constitutional positions. He said the coalition government had established a special commission and conducted a survey to address BC reservation is-



sues. The minister warned that Andhra Pradesh could lose Rs. 12,500 crore in Finance Commission grants if local body elections were not conducted. Highlighting welfare initiatives,

Ravindra said the government had allocated 10 per cent of liquor shops to toddy-tapping workers. He added that handloom weavers were receiving annual financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 under the Nethannala Sevalo scheme, along with free electricity for their looms. He further stated that Government Order No. 217 had been revoked to protect the rights of fishermen and that the Matsyakarula Sevalo scheme was being implemented for their welfare. Ravindra alleged that the previous YSRCP administration had attempted to suppress BC leadership.

Major Milestone in Amaravati Quantum Valley as Twin Towers Construction Begins

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 13: Another significant milestone has been achieved in the development of Amaravati Quantum Valley, with Minister P. Narayana laying the foundation stone for the construction of the Quantum Valley Twin Towers (T1 and T2) on Tuesday. The twin towers will be constructed on 11 acres at Uddandarayunipalem in Amaravati's Quantum Valley. The proposed 47-storey towers, rising to a height of 206 metres, will be built alongside the Seed Axis Road and are expected to become iconic landmarks of the capital city. Minister Narayana formally launched the construction works after performing special prayers at the site.



Special Building with Noise Control for Quantum Technology Speaking on the occasion, Minister Narayana highlighted the growing applications of quantum technology in banking, cybersecurity, semiconductors and other advanced technological sectors. He said a specially designed

building with noise-control features was being constructed to support the operation of quantum systems. The facility would incorporate advanced technological arrangements to enable operations at extremely low temperatures approaching minus 270 degrees Celsius. Narayana emphasised that the government's objective was to bring world-class technology to Amaravati. He said that just as the information technology sector had witnessed remarkable growth in the past, the government was now laying a strong foundation for quantum technology in Amaravati. **AP Aims to Become a Global Technology Leader Through Quantum Valley**

Minister Narayana said the state government was working with a long-term vision to position Andhra Pradesh at the forefront of the global technology sector through the Quantum Valley initiative. He stated that the establishment of Quantum Valley in Amaravati had raised expectations among the public. The project aims to create employment opportunities for young people while providing advanced research facilities and opportunities for scientists and researchers. Narayana asserted that the government was focusing on the state's development and the future of its youth, rising above political controversies.

AP Coalition Steps Up Election Preparations, Holds Seat-Sharing Talks

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 13: The ruling coalition in Andhra Pradesh has intensified preparations for the upcoming local body elections, focusing on seat-sharing arrangements among its alliance partners. As part of these efforts, BJP Andhra Pradesh president PVN Madhav met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday to discuss several key issues, particularly the allocation of seats for the local body elections. TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao also reached the Chief Minister's camp office to participate in the discussions. The alliance leaders have suggested that the parties finalise the constituencies they intend to contest based on



the reservation list. Madhav is expected to submit a list of seats the BJP wishes to contest to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during the meeting. Meanwhile, TDP leaders are scheduled to meet Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and

Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan at 1 p.m. on Tuesday. TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao and Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu will visit the Jana Sena central office for discussions. Jana Sena leaders are expected to submit their pre-

ferred list of seats based on the reservation allocations. With the local body election schedule expected to be released on Wednesday, the coalition partners are likely to reach an understanding on seat-sharing arrangements by Tuesday or Wednesday.

Srisaillam Project Enters World Book of Records, a Matter of Pride for Telugu States: Gottipati

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 13: Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said that the Srisaillam Project securing a place in the World Book of Records is a matter of immense pride for both Telugu states. He described Srisaillam as a multipurpose project that generates electricity while providing drinking water to the public and irrigation water to farmers. The minister said the Srisaillam reservoir has been meeting the drinking water and irrigation needs of millions of people for decades. He expressed happiness over the international recognition of the dam's structural strength, particu-

larly its ability to withstand massive floods. **Pattiseema Project Benefits Rayalaseema: Minister** Gottipati Ravi Kumar said that the Pattiseema Project, developed through Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's foresight, has significantly benefited Rayalaseema by enabling better utilisation of Srisaillam waters. He explained that the diversion of 500 TMC of water to the Krishna Delta through the Pattiseema Project had created an opportunity to utilise Srisaillam waters for Rayalaseema's requirements. The minister stated that the Srisaillam reservoir continues to support the irrigation and drinking water



needs of Rayalaseema while ensuring water supply to farmers in the Krishna Delta. He said Chandrababu Naidu's vision was evident in the efficient management of water resources and his commitment to prioritising

public needs. Gottipati Ravi Kumar added that the World Book of Records recognition reflects the Srisaillam Project's engineering strength, power generation capacity and multiple benefits.

Protest Pincode: When Jantar Mantar Replaced Boat Club As Delhi's Dissent Hub



In Delhi, the geography of protest has always been political. From the crowded lanes of Old Delhi to the grand avenues of Lutyens' Delhi, demonstrators have sought to get as close to the seat of power as possible. For decades, the Boat Club offered them a spectacular stage, with the country's most powerful institutions as a backdrop. Then, in 1993, that space was shut to rallies, and Jantar Mantar emerged as the capital's designated address for dissent. Now, as protests are being redirected to venues on the city's outskirts, Delhi's protest map is changing once

again - raising an old question: if a protest takes place far from the public eye, who will notice? Delhi has a long history of protests and demonstrations. During British rule, such gatherings were generally discouraged or prohibited, but they continued nonetheless. In pre-Independence Delhi, one of the principal hubs of protest was Old Delhi, particularly a place known as Company Bagh, also referred to as Queen's Garden. It was here that protests took place during Mahatma Gandhi's Salt Satyagraha in 1930. Although little remains of the original garden in Chandni Chowk today, a

section known as Azad Park can still be found behind the electronics market. The Chandni Chowk Town Hall was another major centre of political activity, hosting numerous public meetings before and after Independence. Prominent leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, addressed gatherings there in the post-Independence era. The Red Fort, too, once served as a venue for protests.

From Old Delhi To Central Delhi

As the seat of power shifted towards Central Delhi, the focus of demonstrations gradually moved

away from Shahjahanabad, the old walled city, towards the capital's new political heart. With Parliament House, Rashtrapati Bhavan and the North and South Blocks emerging as the principal centres of power in independent India, political leaders increasingly sought to make their voices heard in their vicinity. Ramlila Maidan, meanwhile, emerged as a major venue for protests and mass gatherings. In the 1970s, Jayaprakash Narayan addressed a massive rally there during the movement that became a turning point in Indian politics. Around the same period, Raj Narain chose the Boat Club for a hunger strike, which Charan Singh visited to address the gathering. But protests were not confined to Ramlila Maidan and the Boat Club. Old timers recall that, in the 1980s, demonstrators could reach the roundabout near Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's residence on Safdarjung Road. Known as Golmethi Chowk, the junction connects Safdarjung Road, Tughlaq Road and Aurangzeb Road, now renamed Abdul Kalam Road. In effect, protesters could

reach the very edge of the Prime Minister's neighbourhood. In April 1967, Delhi Police personnel themselves staged a protest outside the residence of the then Union Home Minister, Yashwantrao Chavan. The agitation was eventually brought to an end with the assistance of the Punjab Police and the Border Security Force (BSF).

The Boat Club

Following the JP movement's massive gatherings at Ramlila Maidan, the Boat Club emerged as a favoured venue for large rallies and demonstrations. Its location along Rajpath - now Kartavya Path - gave it a strategic advantage: it lay directly in front of Rashtrapati Bhavan, with Parliament and the North and South Blocks nearby. Among the major demonstrations held there was the 1987 Babri Masjid march, which proceeded from Jama Masjid to the Boat Club. It is regarded as one of the largest rallies organised by the Muslim community. But perhaps the most consequential mobilisation at the Boat Club was the 1988 rally led by Mahendra Singh

Tikait, the farmer leader of the Bharatiya Kisan Union. An estimated 5,00,000 farmers participated. The scale of the gathering was such that Rajpath remained closed for an entire week. In 1990, the CPI(ML) held a rally that drew large numbers of people from Bihar. The following year, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) organised a major gathering at the Boat Club, attended by religious leaders and senior BJP figures, including the current Prime Minister. The Boat Club had become more than a rallying point. It was a stage from which mass movements could command the attention of the political establishment - and the country. That era, however, was drawing to a close.

Jantar Mantar Takes Centre Stage

After 1993, the Boat Club was closed to rallies, and Jantar Mantar emerged as Delhi's principal designated site for protests and demonstrations. Compared with the Boat Club, Jantar Mantar was a much smaller venue. But its limited space had an advantage: even a relatively small gathering could attract attention and

make its presence felt. It lacked the sweeping political symbolism of the Boat Club, which had placed protesters right in front of the country's most important institutions. Yet Jantar Mantar was not as far removed from the city centre as Ramlila Maidan, allowing it to retain a degree of visibility and accessibility. Ramlila Maidan, meanwhile, continued to host larger rallies. Jantar Mantar itself has a much older history. Commissioned by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II of Jaipur, it was one of five astronomical observatories built in Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, Varanasi and Mathura. The Mathura observatory no longer exists. These structures were designed to help calculate planetary movements and measure time, using astronomical instruments and sundials. There is an irony in the site's evolution. An observatory built to track the passage of time became a place where protesters sought to change the course of history. For some, those protests brought victories; for

others, they marked political setbacks. Over the past 33 years, Jantar Mantar has witnessed a succession of movements that have shaped public debate and politics.

From Jantar Mantar To The Outskirts

That could now change. Following the recent protests, including demonstrations by Gen Z, the government has shifted the designated venues for rallies and protests. Demonstrations are now being directed to Ramlila Maidan, Burari Maidan in North Delhi and CBD Maidan in East Delhi. The move could mark the end of Jantar Mantar's three-decade run as the capital's most recognisable address for dissent. The change also revives an old debate about the geography of protest. A designated site may offer space and help manage crowds, but distance from the centres of power can also reduce a demonstration's visibility. For Delhi's protesters, the question is whether dissent can still make itself heard when the stage is moved farther away.

To Delhi Protest Query, UK Minister's Big Praise For India's Democracy



New Delhi: UK Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds has praised India's democratic system and the rule of law, saying peaceful protests are an integral feature of democracy, as he responded to questions about the protests by Opposition and other groups against the Election Commission in New Delhi during his visit to India. In an exclusive interview with NDTV's Foreign Affairs Editor Aditya Raj Kaul, Reynolds said India's democratic credentials were an important source of its standing internationally and helped create confidence among businesses looking to invest in the country. "One of India's huge strengths on the global stage is its status as a democracy and the rule of

law," he said. "Peaceful protest" was a feature of democratic life in both India and the United Kingdom, he added, stressing that the two countries shared a relationship built on respect for their respective political systems. "The fact that that's how India operates, that's how the Indian system is, I think is something which adds to the businesses here, a sense of reassurance, credibility, and respect," Reynolds told NDTV. His remarks came as India and the UK seek to expand their economic partnership following the implementation of their landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with a major British trade delegation visiting India to explore investment opportunities and strengthen commercial ties.

'A Privilege To Be Here'

Reynolds described his visit as an opportunity to build on an already strong relationship between the two countries, emphasising the importance of continuity in bilateral engagement despite changes of government. "It's always a privilege to be here," he said, adding that he had visited India several times to develop the relationship. The UK minister also highlighted the importance of maintaining an open dialogue between the two countries, including on issues where their perspectives might differ. He said the strength of the relationship was reflected in the ability of ministers and officials to discuss difficult subjects while continuing to work towards shared ob-

jectives.

New UK Government's Priority: Growth Beyond London

Explaining the priorities of Britain's new government, Reynolds said economic growth across every part of the United Kingdom was central to its agenda, with international trade seen as an important means of delivering that ambition. "One of the surefire ways of delivering stronger growth is through strong trading relationships," he said. The British delegation's inclusion of seven mayors from northern England, alongside business representatives and senior ministers, was significant, Reynolds said, because the government wanted to strengthen regional economies and devolve power to cities and local authorities. The objective was to ensure that the benefits of international trade were not concentrated in London but reached communities across the UK. The India visit was designed to connect British businesses with Indian counterparts, attract investment and create opportunities in sectors ranging from manufacturing and food to financial and professional services.

Business Environment And The India-UK Trade Deal

Reynolds said the India-

UK FTA provided a strong foundation for expanding economic cooperation, with both countries positioned to benefit from greater commercial engagement. He pointed to opportunities for British exports, including vehicles, whisky and salmon, alongside Indian exports such as jewellery, leather goods and agricultural products. The minister also highlighted the contribution of professional services and financial services, areas in which British businesses possess considerable expertise. The broader objective, he indicated, was to translate political goodwill into investment, jobs and stronger partnerships across both economies. His comments came as the two governments work to implement the trade agreement and ensure businesses can make practical use of the opportunities it creates. For Reynolds, India's democratic institutions, economic scale and growing international influence make it an important partner for Britain. His remarks on peaceful protest also underscored the UK's stated respect for India's democratic system, as the two countries seek to deepen a relationship spanning trade, investment, diplomacy and security.

On Camera, Asked To Show ID At Bengaluru Pub, IAS Officer Abuses Cops



Bengaluru: Bengaluru Police have registered an FIR against an Andhra Pradesh-cadre IAS officer and his three friends for allegedly abusing and assaulting a police Inspector during a pub raid. The incident happened when Bengaluru police officials raided a pub at around 1:30 am on October and demanded to see IDs of those present. When asked to show an ID, the IAS officer got into an argument with the police officials. A video showing the IAS officer and his friends hurling abuses at police officers went viral on social media on Tuesday. The accused IAS officer has been identified as Vikas Marmath, who is serving as Project Director of Kuppam Area Development Authority in Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh. His three friends have been identified as Abhay Uday Singh, Nitesh and Roshan.

The FIR was registered at the Cubbon Park police station following the incident, which reportedly occurred at Vavoor pub. The FIR states that the accused IAS officer assaulted the police Inspector and threatened him. According to FIR, Bengaluru police, along with the Central Crime Branch (CCB), were conducting raids at pubs and other establishments across the city. During one such raid, CCB personnel in uniform entered the pub and began checking the identity cards of customers at 1.30 a.m. on last Friday to confirm their ages and also to check on suspicious persons. During the search, when the police asked Marmath to produce his identity card, he and his three friends allegedly became enraged and started arguing with the police. The accused IAS officer allegedly began hurling abuses

at the officers. When the police Inspector questioned him about his behaviour, the IAS officer allegedly slapped the Inspector and threatened him, claiming that he was an IAS officer and that the police could not take action against him. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh led a late-night crackdown on pubs and bars across the city, with around 1,500 police personnel conducting raids and inspections at 400 to 500 locations to check violations of operating hours, underage drinking, and other alleged irregularities, he said on Saturday. The raids, which continued until 2 a.m. on Saturday, covered pubs and establishments on Brigade Road, including Brigade Garden and Page 3 pubs, along with several other locations across Bengaluru.

Qatar Airways, EaseMyTrip To Pay Rs 3 lakh To Hyderabad Family In Refund Row

A Hyderabad consumer commission has directed Qatar Airways and online travel platform EaseMyTrip to jointly pay more than Rs 3 lakh to a family after a dispute over the refund of international flight tickets that were cancelled when a passenger was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour. In an order dated September 29, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission-III, Hyderabad, directed the two companies to refund Rs 1,86,168 with 12% annual interest and pay Rs 1 lakh as compensation for mental agony and



inconvenience. The commission also awarded Rs 20,000 towards litigation costs, taking the total financial relief to Rs 3,06,168 before the addition of interest.

The complaint was filed by Hyderabad residents Raghuram Yamarthi and his wife, Shaal Rekha Yamarthi, who had booked flight tickets for travel from

Hyderabad to Atlanta in the United States. According to the complaint, the family sought cancellation of the tickets and a refund after Raghuram was diagnosed

with a malignant brain tumour, which made it impossible for him to undertake the planned journey. The complainants alleged that their request for a refund was not properly addressed despite repeated follow-ups, leading them to approach the consumer commission. During the pendency of the proceedings, Raghuram died. Through an order dated February 24, the commission allowed the couple's children, Yamarthi Revanth and Yamarthi Rachna, to be impleaded as legal representatives in the case.

Supreme Court Defers Hearing Pleas Related To October 10 Protests, Curbs

New Delhi: The Supreme Court deferred to Thursday the hearing on pleas related to protests, closure of metro stations and disruptions in train services ahead of the October 10 agitations against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar due to the indisposition of Justice V Mohana. On Tuesday, a bench of Chief Justice (CJ) Surya Kant and Justices Joyymalya Bagchi and V Mohana was scheduled to conduct the crucial

hearing on a litany of petitions. Justice Mohana, who was indisposed, joined the proceedings on Tuesday. At the outset, the CJ told lawyers that Justice Mohana was unwell but still came to the court. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta urged the bench to adjourn the hearing, saying that health issues should not be ignored. Other senior advocates, including Gopal Sankaranarayanan, also agreed to the deferment. Mehta told the bench that

time granted to the Centre to file its response on a plea alleging contempt for disobeying the top court's direction not to completely halt metro and train services ahead of the October 10 protest was till Tuesday. "The affidavit is ready. I would like to add something to make it more comprehensive," Mehta said. The bench extended the time to file the affidavit and said the same be supplied to the counsel appearing for the petitioners.

Why Saudi Arabia's \$83 Billion Military Is Struggling Against Houthis



Riyadh:Saudi Arabia has come under multiple "targeted" attacks claimed by Iran-backed Houthi rebels over the weekend, including a spate of deadly attacks on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. The deadliest attack on the oil-rich kingdom in more than a decade struck the country's main airport on Saturday, killing 12 people and wounding more than 300, and forcing diplomatic missions to warn their citizens to avoid the facility. The escalation comes after a truce agreed between Iran-backed Houthi rebels -who control around one-third of Yemen's territory, where about 70 to 80 per cent of the country's population live -- and the Saudi-backed Yemeni government unravelled earlier this year, with Saudi Arabia stepping up its military involvement in Yemen. The kingdom launched strikes against the Houthis and is backing a government counteroffensive after the Houthis seized strategic territory along the Red Sea coast last month. Houthis have retaliated by targeting critical oil and tourism infrastructure of the kingdom. But the Houthis' mounting counter-strikes on the kingdom have exposed vulnerabilities in Saudi's billion-dollar defence capabilities. The oil-rich kingdom's reputation for stability and security has also been damaged by the repeated missile and drone strikes. Saudi

Arabia's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has spent billions of dollars to establish the kingdom as the region's safest destination for investment and business, as it works to diversify its economy and reduce its dependence on oil. **Saudi vs Houthi Military Capabilities** Saudi Arabia possesses one of the best-equipped militaries in the world. Riyadh spent about 6.5 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), worth about \$83 billion, on its defence spending in 2025, constituting the world's eighth-largest military spending. The kingdom, which has recently signed a defence pact with Turkey and Pakistan, has limited military-industrial capacity and has therefore spent heavily on imported cutting-edge weaponry. Major weapons purchases from Western manufacturers -- including American, British and French companies -- have become a defining feature of Saudi defence policy and a diplomatic strategy to curry favour with allies. It has flashy military hardware, such as F-15 fighter jets, Eurofighter Typhoons, Patriot and THAAD missile systems, among other state-of-the-art gear. Riyadh's advanced warplanes have pounded Houthi positions across Yemen in the past week, seeking to roll back the Iran-backed group's recent ad-

vances against the Yemeni government army. However, the Iran-backed group has significantly improved its arsenal since the rebels took control of the capital Sanaa from the government in 2014. Houthis have demonstrated that their drones and missiles can reach as far as Israel, some 2,000 km from Yemen, and can hit specific targets such as Saudi airports and oil facilities. The group has been using weapons in concert, mixing drones and missiles of varying speeds to confound air defences. Among its most advanced options are medium-range ballistic missiles such as the Palestine-2, a two-stage solid fuel missile with hypersonic capabilities, and Toufan, which appears to be a rebranded Iranian Ghadr missile. The rebels also have several short-range missiles, such as their Burkan and Badr series, which are believed to be of Iranian origin, according to a report by Al Jazeera. **How Houthis Penetrate Saudi's Defences** Despite Saudi Arabia pouring billions into its military, Houthi attacks continue to slip through, and experts believe the kingdom's size could have something to do with it. "Saudi air defences have been able to intercept some Houthi missile and drone attacks, but Saudi Arabia is so large that it's simply impossible for them to consistently defend themselves,"

Thomas Juneau, a security analyst at Ottawa University, told news agency AFP. Experts note that King Khalid International Airport is one of the world's largest by land area, covering an area of 225 square kilometres about 35 kilometres from the city centre. Andreas Krieg from the London-based MENA Analytica risk firm said that "even a layered system combining Patriot, THAAD, fighter aircraft and other sensors cannot create an impermeable dome over a country the size of Saudi Arabia", which spans around 2.2 million square kilometres. They have "to defend Riyadh, airports, oil facilities, military bases, the holy cities and a vast amount of critical infrastructure continuously," he added. The repeated Houthi attacks are also stretching Saudi air defences and likely depleting interceptors, which reports suggest have been in short supply worldwide. Saudis have been able to intercept attacks across the country, but several strikes, including ones targeting oil facilities and those against Riyadh's airport, have snuck through. **Why Are Houthis Escalating?** Krieg said that while Saudi defences are intercepting many incoming attacks, "the Houthis do not need to penetrate the system every time" to achieve their goals. All they need is the occasional hit, and the repeated strikes on Riyadh's airport show that they "retain the ability to generate follow-on attacks at strategic range", he added. The surge in Houthi attacks comes as the long-running Yemeni civil war -- in which a Saudi-led coalition backs the internationally recognised government against the group -- has reignited in recent months. Juneau pointed out that Houthis want to "rewrite the rules of the game." With Saudi war-

planes attacking Sanaa airport, which is under Houthi control, the Iran-backed group wants "to do to Saudi Arabia what Saudi Arabia does to them", he added. The Houthi movement, also known as Ansar Allah, has tens of thousands of fighters that are well-trained, tenacious and battle-hardened in Yemen's harsh, mountainous terrain. Their missiles and drones have for years posed a threat to oil-rich Gulf neighbours, and have recently reached as far as Israel. By targeting critical Saudi infrastructure, Houthi's message is "that the price of peace keeps on going up", Juneau said, referring to hopes of finally resolving the Yemen war. "For Saudi Arabia, this is an absolute disaster because Saudi Arabia has been trying to extricate itself from the war in Yemen for several years," he added. **Why Attacks Worry Saudi** "The airport matters enormously" because it is central to Saudi Vision 2030, led by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, which aims to make Riyadh a major hub for tourists, multinational companies, and international events, Krieg said. "The Houthis understand that." Krieg warned that while disrupting Riyadh's airport may not erode Saudi military power, repeated attacks inflict economic and psychological costs that exceed the physical damage. Saturday's airport attack was the deadliest in the kingdom since a 2015 suicide bombing. It also came on the eve of the country's high-profile convention and entertainment season, with the WPC Energy Congress opening in Riyadh on Sunday. Authorities previously kept citizens occasionally informed through text-message alerts of impending attacks. But, those warnings have recently stopped, leaving many citizens wary.

Shows Moment Houthi Missile Struck Riyadh Airport, Killing 13

Riyadh: A fresh Houthi strike hit a passenger terminal at Riyadh's international airport, a day after 13 people, including an Indian, were killed in a deadly attack claimed by the Yemeni group. An unidentified projectile hit terminal 4 at King Khalid International Airport, starting a fire, killing one person and injuring 11 others, according to Saudi civil aviation authorities. Saudi's air defences also intercepted a cruise missile in the vicinity of the airport - the latest of several attacks on the airport in the past week. The back-to-back attacks have forced authorities in Riyadh to suspend operations at the King Khalid International Airport. The airport has been struck four times in the past five days, with Saturday's attack being the deadliest on Saudi soil in more than a decade, especially since the Iran war began. Over 300 other people were wounded in the strike, some critically. A video from the airport has surfaced online, showing the moment the deadly strike struck the air-

port, including Umrah pilgrims who were preparing to board their flights. A compilation of CCTV footage from different angles shows travellers waiting to board their flights when a bright orange flash erupts, sending scores of people scrambling for their lives. The footage also shows parts of the roof appearing to cave in. The Iran-backed group has also claimed multiple attacks, including one at Dammam airport in the east, over the last 24 hours, and has threatened to keep targeting the kingdom's transit hubs, calling them "a theatre of operations for our forces." The anti-Houthi coalition has called the attack a "full-fledged war crime" and vowed to respond decisively. Amid the escalation, several airlines have suspended flights serving Saudi airports, and some embassies, including India, have cautioned citizens about the risks of using them, after multiple Houthi warnings about the rebels' use of Saudi airspace. The latest strike in Riyadh came

shortly after the Houthis said the airport in the rebel-held Yemeni capital of Sanaa had been struck again and blamed the Saudis. On Sunday night, the Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV channel reported further strikes on Sanaa, blaming Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has not commented on the strikes. Over the years, Saudi Arabia has poured billions into its military, yet Houthi attacks continue to slip through. The attacks mark a sharp escalation in the Yemen war, where Riyadh has long militarily supported the internationally recognised government against the Houthis. The new front threatens to draw in greater US military involvement in the conflict, with US President Donald Trump saying he is weighing joining the fight against the Houthis. At stake in this war are global oil supplies and prices, commercial shipping through a crucial alternative waterway to the Iran-threatened Strait of Hormuz, and civilians and aviation throughout the region.

Telangana Man Feared Dead On Russian Frontline. Family Seeks Answers

New Delhi:A message from one Telangana man, allegedly forced into Russia's war, has left another family fearing the worst. Relatives of Mohammed Afzal Khan, 43, of Banswada in Telangana's Kamareddy district, are now pleading with the Foreign Ministry and the Indian Embassy in Moscow to verify reports that he was killed near the Ukraine frontline last week. Khan's family approached Foreign Minister S Jaishankar after Sirshu Ashok, who was also reportedly misled into joining the Russian Army, sent a voice message to his wife saying Khan had died near the Russia-Ukraine frontline a week ago. The message was subsequently forwarded to Khan's family, though his death is yet to be officially confirmed. Now, Khan's family has urged the foreign ministry to contact Russian authorities to establish his whereabouts and, if his death is confirmed, facilitate the identification and repatriation of his body. They also sought urgent efforts to secure the safe return of the other three men. Khan is among four men from Telangana who travelled to Russia seeking civilian employment but allegedly ended up in military service. Their families have said that Bhukya Ravinder, Sirushu Ashok, Megavath Prakash and Mohammed

Afzal Khan were promised jobs in the oil industry and later found themselves in military camps and conflict zones. Families said that after reaching Russia, the four initially worked in grass-cutting/gardening-related work. Though they reportedly worked for about five months, they were paid only for about two months and later became unemployed. Later, they were allegedly induced into Russian military-related duties with promises of citizenship and monetary benefits. They were also made to carry bombs and perform dangerous frontline duties and subjected to physical harassment, resulting in injuries, the family members claimed. The families approached the Telangana government on September 29, seeking intervention for their safe return. The Indian government has previously pursued cases involving Indians' recruitment into the Russian military. In August, the Foreign Ministry said that 227 Indians had been recruited, 139 discharged, and 51 had died for Russia. The families' appeal follows earlier accounts of recruitment-related distress involving Telangana nationals. Afzal's case now raises fresh concerns about the safety of Indians caught in the conflict and the urgent need for verified information from Russian authorities.

How Americans Are Bankrolling Child Sexual Abuse In Philippines



Manila:Nearly half a million children in the Philippines are being coerced into producing sexual content for paying customers, most of them from the United States. American buyers sent over \$7 million to the Philippines for child sexual abuse material (CSAM) content between 2020 and 2022, according to a CNN investigation. The Southeast Asian archipelagic nation, with a population of over 117 million, has become a global hotspot for the financially motivated development of livestreamed child sexual exploitation-- one of the fastest-growing crimes online. According to a 2023 report from the International Justice Mission (IJM), a non-profit that protects people in poverty against violence, one in 100 Filipino children are trafficked to produce such content. Such content is sold for a few dollars through messaging-app groups, mostly to men in Western countries. The United States was also the top buyer of CSAM content from the country between 2015 and 2023, according to the Philippine Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC). And while Western men may be watching the child abuse, police in the Philippines say that it is mostly female family members who are offering up their victims. Of the 50 women who were arrested last year for sexually abusing and exploiting children online, 32 were the victims' mothers, CNN reported, citing the Philippine National

Police data. "The only reason they're abusing a child and livestreaming it is because someone in the US is willing to pay for that abuse," John Tanagho, executive director of IJM's Centre to End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children, told the American publication. **Patterns of Abuse** CNN also talked to the victims, most of whom were forced into the industry when they were as young as five years old. Kate, name changed, said that when she was 13 years old, her adoptive sister put her in front of a camera for the first time. It was the height of Covid, and Kate's father had just lost his job. To keep the family afloat, her adoptive older sister, who has been doing sex work online for some time, asked Kate to take over a few of her clients she was too busy to see. Soon, two of her neighbours, who were in a similar line of work, would borrow Kate occasionally when their clients requested someone younger, she told the publication. The girl said the abuse started by play-acting as the client's girlfriend, checking in on them, and asking them about their day. Soon, they would ask her to play dress-up and ask her to use sex toys while they watched. They would also tell her about their fantasies about strangling her and whipping her, with one American telling her that he wanted to violate her with his gun. Isa, another victim, was told that some victims would

say sorry to her after the abuse and seek mercy from God. Now 14, Isa lives with her cousins in a shelter after being rescued from their aunts who were livestreaming their abuse. Isa told CNN that she was too young to understand why men wanted to see her naked, but when her aunts filmed her at bath time, she knew it was because foreign men had told them to. One of her aunts adopted the performer name "Lollie Pop", a widely known term for CSAM, clearly advertising the children she had access to, including Isa and her cousins, some of whom were as young as five. CNN got access to her WhatsApp messages, where she talked to clients using the alias Rosy. In one such text, she asked a Swiss national if he wanted to see videos of young girls. "You cannot find that on the internet... coz it's a minor," she reportedly said. According to Isa, men she was forced to perform for were in different time zones and expected her to be available at all hours. Her aunts would often pull her out of bed in the middle of the night to perform for them. "There were foreigners on the phone. When they would call, that's when they needed me," she recalled. She said her aunts would tell her and her cousins to keep the abuse a secret -- a heavy burden on children who struggled to grasp what they were doing, only knowing it felt wrong.

Are Curbs Working? Despite global curbs on the consumption of CSAM, the content can be easily accessed online, with just a few clicks from public websites to private group chats selling explicit content. Investigations have found several Telegram groups advertising CSAM, where users can either buy existing content or contact the admin with more specific requests for abuse.

'Concerning': India As 2 Indians Go Missing After Attack On Tanker Near Hormuz



closely monitoring the situation concerning MT Petro Dolphin, a Nicaragua-flagged tanker. Two of the 11 Indian seafarers onboard are reported missing. The Embassy is in close and continuous contact with the concerned authorities," the Embassy said on X. **India's Reaction** The latest attack came after the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker M/T Valthera, carrying 11 Indian crew, was struck by a projectile in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday. A fire was sparked, but all Indian crew were reported to be safe. The Foreign Ministry condemned the repeated attacks and said the safety and security of Indian seafarers remain a priority for India. The recurring attacks on commercial shipping in the region are deeply concerning and risk further aggravating an already volatile situation, the Ministry said in a statement. "India reiterates the need for immediate de-escalation and a resolution to the ongoing conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. Attacks on commercial vessels, seafar-

ers and civilian infrastructure must cease. Freedom of navigation and the safe, unimpeded flow of maritime commerce through international waterways, in accordance with international law, must be upheld," it said. India is one of the largest contributors of sailors to merchant shipping worldwide, with more than 320,000 active seafarers in 2025, according to the shipping ministry. Several of its mariners have been killed in attacks in the Strait of Hormuz since the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran on February 28. Last week, the foreign ministry condemned the attack on a Panama-flagged vessel that was struck by a projectile off the coast of Oman while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. "The continuing incidents of attacks on shipping in the region remain a cause of deep concern," the ministry said. "We reiterate our call for an immediate cessation of such attacks in the interests of peace and stability in the region."

Ravindra Jadeja Slams Century, Ex-CSK Star Tushar Deshpande Bags Hatrick In Ranji Trophy



Mumbai and former Chennai Super Kings pacer Tushar Deshpande took a hat-trick and a five-wicket haul as Chandigarh were bundled out for 78 on Day Two of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D match at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Monday. Deshpande tore through the top order to pick 5-17, and Mohit Avasthi backed him with figures of 3-9. Mumbai, who had made 429 on the back of half-centuries from Tanush Kotian and Avasthi, enforced the follow-on, and Deshpande struck again in the second innings to leave Chandigarh at 0/1. Veteran left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, resuming on 72, scored 102 off 209 balls with seven fours as Saurashtra, who began the day on 308/4, were bowled out for 392 in 110.4 overs against Chhattisgarh in an Elite Group B clash at Rajkot. Jadeja fell to his former state-mate Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, who took 2-106 in 25.4 overs. Prerak

Mankad went on to make 129 off 150 balls with 15 fours and a six, after starting the day on 92. Dev Aditya Singh was the pick of the Chhattisgarh bowlers with 5-67 in 24 overs, four of them maidens. Chhattisgarh were 122/3 in 55 overs at stumps. Anuj Tiwary was unbeaten on 72 and Mayank Verma on 32, with Ayush Pandey out for 13. Captain Jaydev Unadkat, Chetan Sakariya and Chirag Jani took a wicket each. Elsewhere, in the Elite Group A clash in Nagpur, Vidarbha captain Akshay Wadkar was dismissed two short of a maiden first-class double hundred, and his side finished on 428 against Puducherry after Yash Rathod hit 134 earlier in the day, with the visitors reaching 102/1 at stumps. In Goa, Atit Sheth was bowled for 99 as Baroda declared on 472/8 against Goa, who reached 5/1 at stumps. In Rajgir, Uttar Pradesh were bowled out for 540 against Bihar, with Aaradhya Yadav

and Zeeshan Ansari scoring fifties after Madhav Kaushik (150) and Rinku Singh (112) fell. In Kalyani, West Bengal, Sudip Kumar Gharami (122 not out) and Abishek Porel (114 not out) hit centuries each and are unbeaten in a 199-run stand as Bengal reached 304/3 against Delhi at Kalyani and have their lead currently at 64 runs. Jharkhand were bowled out for 587 against Kerala in Jamshedpur, with Aditya Singh's 147 and captain Virat Singh's 108 being strong contributions. Assam captain Denish Das (103) and Sibsankar Roy (143) also hit tons against Punjab in New Chandigarh, and Assam were bowled out for 373. For Punjab, veteran pacer Umesh Yadav took 5-70. In Ahmedabad, Gujarat's Vedant Trivedi (94 not out) and Aarya Desai (94) responded strongly to Baroda's 324 and took the hosts to 205/2 at stumps. In Vijayawada, SV Rahul, two days after turning 19, made a hundred on his first-class debut and shared a 202-run stand with wicketkeeper Revanth

Reddy (97) that gave Andhra a 57-run lead over Karnataka, after ending day two at 331/6. Akash Vasisht's unbeaten 113 revived Himachal Pradesh, who had been 119/7, against Haryana and took them to 253. In reply, Haryana reached 178/4 in 46 overs and trailed by 75 runs, with Yashvardhan Dalal unbeaten on 69. Narayan Jagadeesan (55) and Pradosh Ranjan Paul (58) put on 104 for Tamil Nadu against Rajasthan, as they reached 167/4 and trailed by 196 runs. Rajasthan had been bowled out for 363, losing five wickets for 16 after Mahipal Lomror hit 66. B. Sai Sudharsan had gone down while fielding, and though he came out to bat, he made just three. Uttarakhand need 18 runs to match Railways' score of 78, with Avneesh Sudha unbeaten on 75. Tripura offspinner Sandip Sarkar took eight wickets in a 41.2-over spell, but Hyderabad still lead by 160 runs and need three wickets to move closer to an innings win. Fast bowler Avesh Khan's three wickets helped Madhya Pradesh bowl out defending champions Jammu and Kashmir for 120 to take a 76-run first-innings lead. But MP ended day two's play in Srinagar at 59/4, and are ahead by 135 runs overall, with fast-bowling all-rounder Auqib Nabi's late strikes keeping the hosts in the contest. In the Plate group, Kishan Lyngdoh (78) and Swastic Chettri (72 not out) left Meghalaya seven short of Sikkim's first-innings total. Kangabam Priyot Singh's 87 took Manipur from 39/5 to a 68-run lead over Mizoram, with Khiangete Vanrotlinga taking five wickets.



Sunil Gavaskar has raised concerns over the scheduling issue of India A matches alongside the Ranji Trophy, urging that domestic tournament matches should not be compromised. The season started on Sunday, which clashed with the final-day match between India A and Australia A. Due to this, several players were unavailable for their state teams. Gavaskar has also questioned the standard of the tournament, stating that the current structure makes it difficult for players to perform in domestic matches. Players like Rajat Patidar, Devdutt Padikkal and Ruturaj Gaikwad have missed their state team matches due to their India A commitments. India A is also supposed to tour New Zealand later this month for three unofficial Tests, which again means that the players will not be available for the domestic matches. Gavaskar said that the matches should not collide with each other and also stressed the importance of India A matches in identifying the capability of players. The former India captain wrote in his column in Mid-Day, "The standard in the Elite

division has levelled to a great extent as can be seen by teams who were not very competitive earlier, now going on to win the Ranji Trophy. That's most encouraging though with the India international players hardly playing in the domestic competitions, it's difficult to know how good some of the individual players are," "This is noticeable when some of the leading run makers and wicket takers in the Ranji Trophy are picked to play for India. They struggle to find their feet, and some fade away quickly, while some still stay on the fringes but are not quite able to crack it," he added. He also said that weakened competition allows players to score big numbers without strong opposition. "There really is no easy solution, and the 'A' team matches certainly help in telling who is more likely to succeed internationally and who will remain a top Ranji performer. There's a case for more A team matches, but not when the domestic competitions, especially the Ranji Trophy, are on. For then it won't be a surprise with weakened competition, a batter may reach 2000 runs and a bowler

100 wickets in a Ranji season," he wrote. Gavaskar further argued about the inclusion of all states and union territories as it lowers the overall standard of the competition. "Even in the Ranji Trophy, in the Plate Division, there are records being broken and new marks set at both batting and bowling. When the Lodha panel recommended that all states and Union Territories should be included in the Ranji Trophy, it just meant that the standard got lowered," wrote Gavaskar. "Most of the new state teams did not even have proper infrastructure and so hired players from other states who couldn't find a place in their home state teams. These players were good but unable to break through into their home state teams, and so went to the state teams in the Plate Division. When most, if not all, played against teams from the Elite division, they were found wanting, and it just exposed the yawning gap in the standard between the divisions. Yet the records set are still called records because they are playing in the Ranji Trophy," he added.

"Dictatorship": Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Childhood Coach Lashes Out At Gautam Gambhir And Co.

India's teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi continues to warm the bench during the ongoing five-match T20I series against the West Indies. After handing an international debut to the 15-year-old wonderkid, India played musical chairs with the opening slot alongside Abhishek Sharma. Sanju Samson and Sooryavanshi kept fighting for the remaining position, with neither batter getting a longer run. In the build-up to the recently concluded Asian Games 2026, India played Samson as an opener against Afghanistan. They, surprisingly, dropped him to number three at the Asiad, with Sooryavanshi opening alongside Abhishek. Just when the south-paw looked set to continue in the role in the following T20I series, which turned out to be against the West Indies, India opted for a change again. This time, Samson got to play the first three T20Is, with Sooryavanshi warming the bench again. In a recent interaction, Sooryavanshi's child-



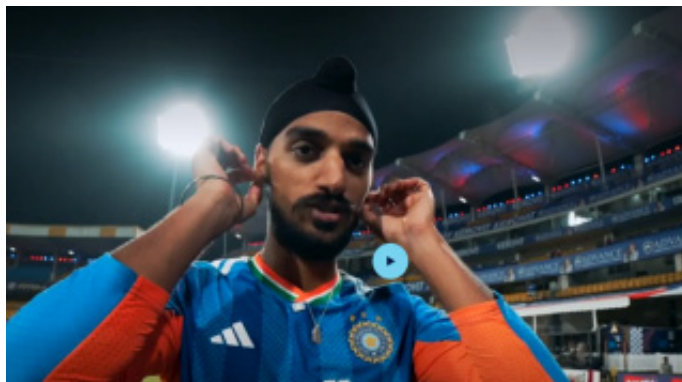
hood coach Manish Ojha lashed out at the Gautam Gambhir-led team management over the handling of the teenager. "According to me, Vaibhav is like a storm. Whoever tries to take him on will eventually break, if not today, then tomorrow," Manish Ojha told Sports Now. "This current Indian team management feels that they make players by keeping them on the

bench. There are many other leg-ends of cricket; you talk to them, and everyone will say that if we have to prepare the next generation of players, they must be put into those situations; they must be made to play. Sitting on the bench, no player has ever been made, nor will they be. And especially if such talent is kept on the bench," he added. The coach slammed the team

management's decisions, terming it "dictatorship". "Then either they have made up their mind that this kid will not be given a chance... keep him out and frustrate him so much. He is sitting outside and serving water. I feel that the management that is here right now is practising a kind of dictatorship where whatever comes to mind, they will do."

"Sorry, Axar Bhai": Arshdeep Singh's Honest Apology After India's Win vs West Indies In Third T20I

Arshdeep Singh apologised to Axar Patel after a run-out that resulted in the latter's dismissal during India's third T20I match against West Indies in Indore on Sunday. On the first ball of the 19th over of India's innings, Axar hit the ball to the right of the cover-point fielder, and Arshdeep convinced him to steal a single that was never there. After a mix-up in the middle, Axar failed to make it to the other end in time and lost his wicket. "I would like to apologize to Axar bhai. Sorry, Axar bhai. I got you run out," Arshdeep told BCCI after the match. Arshdeep also said he felt really good about the successful execution of tactics to remove West Indies captain Shai Hope early in the game, adding that getting rid of a quality batter of his calibre required meticulous preparation and inputs from the coaching staff. At the Holkar Stadium on Sunday night, Arshdeep made



the early breakthrough by casting the in-form Shai Hope, who went for a wild slog, in the second over. The contest stayed alive till the dangerous Sherfane Rutherford was at the crease. But Arshdeep castled him and removed Keemo Paul as well to ensure the contest ended in India's favour, as they won by 14 runs and grabbed a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. "Before the match, we had planned how to keep things tight to him and when you execute that plan in the match, it feels good when

you get the result. I am grateful to the coaches for working through the plan, and they told me that I can use this in the match. That thing got executed," Arshdeep said. He also credited the entire bowling attack for applying sustained pressure while defending a big total of 223. "I bowled very well. Mayank kept the pressure from the other end, and all six bowlers chipped in and bowled very well. It feels good when you get a little pressure for executing plans. So, it's good fun."

Rishabh Pant Hit By Injury Ahead Of New Zealand Series, BCCI Announces Replacement For India A Games

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been ruled out of India A's first two matches on the upcoming tour of New Zealand due to a left-side strain, with young keeper-batter Kumar Kushagra named as his replacement in the updated squad, the BCCI announced on Monday. Pant, whose availability for the tour was subject to fitness after catching viral fever while leading the rest of India in the Irani Cup clash against Ranji Trophy winners Jammu & Kashmir at the Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said Pant, 29, remains under the medical team's supervision, with a final call on his participation in the third match starting on October 7 in Lincoln to be taken later. "He remains under the care of the BCCI Medical Team and is recovering well." "A decision on his availability for the third match will be taken at a later stage. The Men's Selection Committee has named Kumar



Kushagra as Pant's replacement for the first two matches," added Saikia. Kushagra, the 21-year-old Jharkhand keeper-batter, will join the Dhruv Jurel-led squad for India A's red-ball shadow tour alongside international stars like Yashasvi Jaiswal, B Sai Sudharsan, KL Rahul, Auqib Nabi, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Manav Suthar, and Washington Sundar. Kushagra is coming on the back of a good run in India A red-ball games against Aus-

tralia A in Puducherry. He amassed scores of 113 and 46 to give India A a victory in the first game, while making 10 and 1 in the second clash. The shadow 'A' series holds immense significance for both sides as a critical warm-up series ahead of the two-game Test series to be played in Wellington and Christchurch, which carries major implications in terms of entering the World Test Championship (WTC) final.

Shreyas Iyer Flags Concern Despite India's Win Over West Indies In 3rd T20I



India captain Shreyas Iyer on Sunday credited the bowlers for powering his side to a 14-run win over the West Indies in the third T20 International in Indore, saying they stayed confident and clear in their thoughts. India took a 2-1 lead in the five-match series with this win. "It was wonderful because the bowlers were pretty confident with what they wanted to

execute. The clarity was much more visible. They were decisive in their execution and when I was passing the ball to them, each and every bowler was up for the challenge and that's what you want," Iyer said during the post-match presentation. He also praised opener Abhishek Sharma, who top-scored with a 30-ball 69, and Ishan Kishan, who made 37 off just 18 balls.

"Honestly, that was a phenomenal start. Abhishek doing what he does in the powerplay and Kishan coming in. He's been great in the last few months. Even Prince (Yadav) playing the cameo in the end, those were crucial runs. "West Indies, you can never take them lightly. So, we had to make sure we never got complacent. These are high-scoring grounds but it's important to stick to our process and follow our routines and make sure we stay offensive," Iyer said. West Indies skipper Shai Hope said they should have been more clinical with the ball after opting to bowl. "So many things you can put your finger on. But cricket games have small margins. As a winning team, you can pick out defining moments. Probably with the ball, we could have executed

better and we let a few boundaries through. "I believe that the way we came back into the game was quite commendable. From the outset, if you look at that partnership (Abhishek and Kishan), it was a very dangerous one. But we got some wickets with Roston, and we pulled it back," he said. Hope said the visitors need to find a dependable opening partnership to set the tone. "Yeah we have to find a good opening partnership to lay the platform but can't point your finger on one or two guys," he said. On the dew effect here, the West Indies captain said: "It (dew) did play a part. We felt that towards the end of our innings, as the ball was starting to tail a bit more. But credit to the Indian bowlers. They bowled really well and showed us how to execute yorkers. Credit to them."

Producer's Surprising Reaction to The Raja Saab's Result

The disaster result of The Raja Saab turned out to be a nightmare for Prabhas and his fans. The film also burned the pockets of producer TG Vishwa Prasad. The film which was made as a great ambitious film in Prabhas career became a damp squib. It's been over 9 months since The Raja Saab was released in cinemas and failed miserably, media, critics and fans couldn't overcome the film's failure. When asked about TG Vishwa Prasad's analysis and introspection over Raja Saab's failure, the producer gave a shocking response. He stated that releasing the film during the Sankranti season was a huge mistake that cost him dearly. He said the film would have performed differently if it had been released on another date instead of clashing with other major films during the festive season.

Many of Prabhas fans weren't convinced with the producer's response. The Raja



Saab received unanimous poor reviews and faced outright rejection from audience and critics. Directed by

Maruthi, the film turned out to be a huge disaster. Prabhas is trying to come out of the Raja Saab's failure. He has set

his focus on Fauzi and Spirit, being directed by Hanu Raghavpudi and Sandeep Reddy Vanga.

Actress Opens Up On Casting Couch In Telugu

Oftentimes, we see a lot of actors sharing their experiences of the casting couch and sexual harassment in the South Indian film industry. Now, the latest to join the list is actress Niti Taylor, who has done couple of movies in the South, particularly in Telugu. The actress shared that the director she worked with reportedly asked her to sleep with him. In a recent interview, the actress shared that she worked on only two films in the South Indian film industry. After completing her first film, the same director reportedly approached her for another project. However, Niti Taylor revealed that the director made an inappropriate proposition, demanding a physical relationship as a prerequisite for casting her in the second film. Having hearing



that from the director, the actress reportedly was shocked and then she explained that it was deeply distressing to face such a situation when she had hoped to earn roles based purely on her talent. Niti Taylor reportedly said that, caught off guard by the incident, she didn't know what to do for a moment. Instead of arguing with him, the actress blocked his phone number. Recalling the aftermath, she said she broke down in tears while telling her mother about the incident. Niti Taylor added that stepping into the industry with a passion for films, only to face such an incident, left a profound impact on her. The actress debuted with Tanish's Mem Vayasuku Vachham in 2012. Later, she was seen in Rahul Ravindran's Pelli Pustakam and Love Dot Com.

Vivek Sagar Is Back In The Spotlight With Thulabharam

Vivek Sagar is a rare find in the film industry. His talent is so amusing, yet he remains underappreciated and underestimated. However, he is back in the news with his score for just a small glimpse of Thulabharam. Directed by Vivek Athreya, Thulabharam is Ravi Teja's next film, and its title track features a remixed old song that's getting everyone's attention.

Having shot to fame with Pelli Choopulu, Vivek Sagar later went on to score for a lot of movies where his work got due recognition. But often, the film's success or other factors overshadow his music. Moreover, since he is a low-key person, we don't know much about him beyond his music. It's hard to make people go mad for the music and then hide from attention, but Vivek does it. So far this year, Vivek Sagar has released two songs, and neither has drawn much attention. He also had two releases last year, and on one, Subham, he worked only on the score. 35 is one of his recent hits, and



it's been close to four years since he had a solid success. With Thulabharam already a sensation, expectations are high for Vivek now.

Vivek Sagar is scoring music

for Vivek Athreya, starting with his debut, Mental Madilo. They worked on Brochevarevarura and Ante Sundharaniki. In between, Vivek worked with Jake Bejoy on Saripodha Sanivaram,

then returned to working with Vivek Sagar. The combination is already trending, and if Vivek Sagar delivers with the album, it will be another milestone in his career.

'Jo Jo' Teaser: Romance Amid the Chaos of Chasing a Fortune

The teaser of Jo Jo, titled Caution 1, introduces a world where the pursuit of diamonds brings together romantic aspirations and rural eccentricity. Set in Jonnagiri, the film follows a group of hopefuls drawn to the prospect of finding diamonds after rainfall, setting the stage for an unusual treasure hunt. Amid the search, a man attempts to flirt with a woman, only for the proceedings to take a comic turn when their discoveries are dismissed as ordinary stones. While one hopeful remains convinced that fortune will eventually favour them, the woman delivers a blunt retort: "Clean your own ass!" The exchange captures the teaser's unfiltered humour, suggesting a romance shaped as much by sharp comebacks as by the characters' dreams of a better life. Filmmaker and actor Tharun Bhascker called the teaser an "excellent teaser" after watching it, adding to the film's promotional conversation. Presented by Deva Katta, Jo Jo is written and directed by Kiran Jay Kumar and produced by Vijay Krishna Lingamaneni under the Vijayam banner. Krishna Kamal plays Seenu, while Maahi Sri portrays Supraja. The story follows two penniless dreamers



and a fearless young woman chasing a life-changing diamond, with romance, greed, betrayal and comic misadventures complicating their quest.

Tamannaah To Lead Dirty Picture 2?



Vidya Balan's Dirty Picture is one of the country's most popular films. Based on the life of Silk Smitha, the film earned Vidya a National Film Award for her acting. Plans are underway to make a sequel. If the reports are true, Ekta Kapoor will produce the second part of Dirty Picture. Speculation suggests Tamannaah will headline the sequel, with no further connection to Silk Smitha's life.

Ekta Kapoor revealed in an interview that a sequel is in the works. The reports indicate that the narrative will explore the discrimination women face in

the film industry and the darker reality of sexual harassment. Since Ekta Kapoor teased plans for the sequel, speculation about the film has run rampant.

Casting Tamannaah would easily allow the project to be mounted on a pan-India scale. Moreover, her recent streak of high-profile special dance numbers has cultivated a bold new screen image. At the same time, Triptii Dimri's name is also in circulation. Meanwhile, another prevailing theory suggests that Ekta Kapoor might be adapting the tragic life story of erstwhile glamour queen

Nisha Noor. During the 1980s, Nisha Noor had a dazzling run in Malayalam and Tamil cinema, playing key roles alongside top stars and acclaimed directors. However, as film offers dried up, pressure from a producer reportedly pushed her into the flesh trade. The reports say that the actress eventually contracted AIDS and passed away under heart-wrenching circumstances in 2007. As of now, there is no official confirmation of the details of the story or which actors will be part of the film. More details will be out soon.

Kriti Sanon Nails Chic Black And Blue

One of the tallest actresses in Bollywood, Kriti Sanon has made her mark with effortless charm and strong performances. Kriti served a chic moment in a black midi dress with cream piped vertical panels and a scoop neckline. The flared hem burst into electric blue panels, adding a playful pop of colour. She carried a glossy black clutch with a gold insect detail, wore pointed black slingbacks, and kept her wavy hair open with soft rosy eye makeup. The spaghetti straps and fitted bodice gave the dress a sleek silhouette, while the fluid, flared skirt added movement with every step. The black and white zigzag floor behind her matched the graphic mood of the outfit. Minimal rings kept the focus on the dress, making it an easy pick for evening parties.

