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End Of Naxalism Cannot Erase 50 Years Of Suffering, Says Amit Shah; Centre Vows To Rebuild Bastar



New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said eliminating Naxalism was only one part of the government's responsibility, as rebuilding lives, improving basic facilities and rehabilitating people affected by Maoist violence were equally important. New Delhi, October 15: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the end of Naxalism could not erase the suffering endured by people in Chhattisgarh over the past five decades. He stressed that the government must now focus on rebuilding lives, restoring dignity and improving basic facilities in areas affected by Maoist violence. Addressing a virtual ceremony organised to assist people affected by Maoism in Chhattisgarh, Shah criticised the previous Congress rule for failing to provide

basic amenities for decades. He said the BJP government was working to strengthen infrastructure and bring development to Bastar, where tribal communities had suffered the most due to prolonged violence. "The end of Naxalism does not mean that we can erase the suffering of these five decades," Shah said, stressing that the government's responsibility extended beyond eliminating Maoism. He said efforts must also focus on helping affected families rebuild their lives and regain their dignity. Shah assured the Chhattisgarh Government of full support from the Centre in its rehabilitation and development efforts. His remarks highlighted the need to ensure that the end of violence also brings meaningful improvements to the lives of people who have lived without ad-

equated facilities for years. Shah said a disability assistance programme held in Jagdalpur from October 5 to 7 had benefited more than 3,600 people with disabilities, including around 1,570 in Bastar alone. The initiative aims to support people affected by Maoist violence and help them lead more independent lives, PTI reports. Under the programme, beneficiaries are being provided with artificial limbs, wheelchairs, tricycles, hearing aids and walking sticks. Such assistance is an important part of rehabilitation, particularly for people whose disabilities have made everyday activities difficult. Highlighting the government's rehabilitation measures, Shah said approximately 8,526 Maoists had surrendered. He added that around 7,500 people who previously did not have bank accounts had been provided with banking facilities, while 1,625 people had received reward money. He said incentive payments had been provided to 7,882 people, while 455 had received jobs and 129 had been allotted land. These measures form part of the government's efforts to help former extremists and af-

ected communities return to normal life and access economic opportunities. Shah announced that security camps in Maoist-affected areas would be converted into service centres and community facilities. Government officials would use these centres to address local needs, including healthcare, education, employment and other development requirements. "The very places where our security personnel once sat to protect you will now become the places where officials from the Government of India and the Chhattisgarh government will lay the foundation for a developed Bastar," Shah said. The proposed transformation marks a shift from security operations towards public services and long-term development. The Home Minister said the new centres would focus on children's health and education, employment opportunities for young people and the economic needs of tribal communities. He also highlighted initiatives such as the Bastar Olympics, Bastar Pandum and the Niyad Nellannar scheme, which aim to improve living conditions and restore normal life in the region.

PM Modi Meets Gold Medal-Winning Indian Cricket Teams

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met India's gold medal-winning men's and women's cricket teams from the Asian Games 2026 on Thursday, October 15, celebrating their memorable campaigns in Japan. The meeting came a day after the Indian men's cricket team suffered a 24-run defeat against the West Indies in the fourth T20 International, leaving the five-match series level at 2-2 ahead of the decisive fifth encounter. PM Modi said, "This time, at the Asian Games, several members of Team India were just 15-17 years old. At such a young age, these athletes have brought glory to the country through their outstanding performances and won the hearts of the people." "This shows that age is no barrier to success. In fact, in sports, starting at a young age is an added advantage. That is why we are making efforts to identify sporting talent from an early age. We are placing special emphasis on identifying and training talented children between the



ages of 5 and 15. In the coming years, thousands of new athletes will get opportunities to progress through Khelo India and Emerging Khelo India. "We must further strengthen our preparations for upcoming sporting competitions. The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics are approaching. In 2030, India will host the Commonwealth Games, and hosting the Olympics in 2036 is also India's aspiration." "Keeping these goals in mind, I spoke about launching a talent hunt campaign from the Red Fort. Today, efforts

are being made to reach every village to identify talented athletes and nurture their abilities. These are the athletes who will win medals for India in the years to come." India enjoyed a memorable outing in the cricket competitions at the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, with both the men's and women's teams clinching gold medals. The men's team defeated arch-rivals Pakistan by 19 runs in the final to secure their second consecutive Asian Games gold in the discipline. India posted 211/6 in 20 overs before restrict-

ing Pakistan to 192/6, sealing a memorable victory over their traditional rivals. The Indian women's team also delivered a commanding performance in the final, defeating Sri Lanka by 147 runs to claim the gold medal. The victory completed a remarkable double for Indian cricket at the continental event, with both teams finishing at the top of the podium. India finished fourth in the overall medal standings at the Games with 85 medals, including 21 golds. The meeting with Modi recognised the achievements of the two cricket teams and celebrated their success on the international stage.

Devotee Donates Gold Crown Worth Rs 75 Lakh to Goddess Kanaka Durga

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, October 15: Devotees frequently express their devotion to Goddess Kanaka Durga in Vijayawada by offering valuable gold ornaments and other precious gifts. During the ongoing Navaratri celebrations, the Goddess received a magnificent gold crown worth approximately Rs 75 lakh. The crown, weighing 494 grams, was donated by a family from Srikakulam district. K. Durga Srinivas, son of Kurminaidu and Padmavathamma, presented the precious offering to the Goddess. The specially designed Navaratna-studded gold crown features red, blue, white and green gemstones, enhancing its beauty and religious significance. On Thursday, the donors formally handed over the gold crown to Temple Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Naik and Chief



Festival Officer V. Trinatha Rao. As a mark of appreciation, temple authorities arranged a special darshan for the donor's family at the inner sanctum of the temple. Vedic scholars blessed the family, while temple officials honoured the donors by presenting sacred ceremonial cloth and prasadam. Speaking on the occasion, Durga Srinivas said it was only through the blessings and grace of Goddess Kanaka Durga that he had been able to make such a valuable

offering. Meanwhile, the Dasara Sharannavaratri celebrations are being conducted on a grand scale at the Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri. Large numbers of devotees are visiting the temple to seek the blessings of the Goddess, who is appearing in different divine adornments throughout the festivities. On the fifth day of the celebrations, Goddess Kanaka Durga is blessing devotees in the Lalita Tripura Sundari Devi Alankaram.

Women's Participation Key to Making India a Developed Nation by 2047: President Murmu

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, October 15: President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the National SARAS Mela at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada. Addressing the gathering, the President expressed happiness over her visit to the city and said she was delighted to have the opportunity to offer prayers at the Kanaka Durga Temple. She described the organisation of the 'Lakshmi Didi' Mela as part of the SARAS Mela during the Durga Devi festivities as a special occasion. Emphasising that rural development means the overall progress of villages, President Murmu said she was pleased to visit the stalls operated by women entrepreneurs. She observed that the enthusiasm and smiles on their faces reflected their confidence and satisfaction. The President recalled that women were once largely confined to

household responsibilities and depended on others even for small financial needs. However, she said the situation had changed significantly, with women now achieving financial independence and self-reliance. **Women Supporting Others** President Murmu said women were not only becoming self-reliant but were also extending support to others. She emphasised that women's participation would be crucial in achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047. She credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, the determination of women and the collective efforts of Chief Ministers across the country for accelerating women's empowerment. Expressing confidence in India's progress, she said there was no doubt that the country could achieve de-

veloped-nation status even before 2047. **Women's Participation on the Rise** The President highlighted the significant contribution of rural women to the agricultural sector. She said self-help groups had opened new avenues for the economic, technological and social empowerment of rural women. The number of women entrepreneurs has increased substantially, while women's involvement in financial decision-making within families has also grown. President Murmu noted that although India is a country of diverse languages, cultures and traditions, its people remain united. **Women Given Priority Under Rural Livelihood Mission** President Murmu said women's participation in rural politics had reached 50 percent. She observed that women who once hesitated



to visit banks were now confidently handling their banking transactions independently, without depending on others. She said the Central government was giving significant priority to women under the Rural Livelihood Mission, in line with the inclusive vision of Antyodaya. The President described women as emerging leaders who were transforming the face of rural India. She said

the Government of India's Lakshmi Didi initiative had provided fresh momentum and direction to rural women's empowerment. **New Opportunities in Skill Development** President Murmu highlighted the growing participation of women in modern sectors such as digital services and renewable energy, which are creating new opportunities for skill development.

VIP Protocol Darshan Cancelled at Indrakeeladri: Durga Temple EO



From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, October 15: Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam Executive Officer Sheena Naik announced that Goddess Kanaka Durga will appear to devotees in the Saraswati Devi Alankaram

on Friday, coinciding with Moola Nakshatram. In view of the expected heavy rush of devotees, VIP protocol darshan has been cancelled. The EO stated that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and his wife will offer silk robes to

the Goddess between 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm on Friday. Devotees will be allowed to have darshan of the Goddess from around 12:30 am to 12:45 am after midnight. Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Sheena Naik said that the Devi Sharannavaratri celebrations were continuing on a grand scale at Indrakeeladri. On the fifth day of the festivities, the Goddess is blessing devotees in the Lalita Tripura Sundari Devi Alankaram. He said that a large number of devotees had been thronging the temple since early morning. Nearly seven lakh devotees

have visited the temple since the commencement of the Navaratri celebrations. The EO assured that special arrangements were being made to ensure that ordinary devotees did not face any inconvenience during darshan. Facilities have been arranged to accommodate approximately 30,000 devotees in queue lines and three holding areas. He revealed that 72,000 devotees had received free Ann prasadam so far, while around 8.70 lakh laddu prasadam units had been sold. He also clarified that four-wheelers would not be permitted on the ghat road during the festivities.

Major Setback for YSRCP in Kuppam as Leaders Join TDP

From Our Staff Reporter Chittoor, October 15: The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) suffered a major setback in Kuppam, Chittoor district, as several party leaders and supporters switched their allegiance to the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP). On Thursday, a large number of YSRCP members joined the TDP in the presence of MLC Kancharla Srikanth. Kuppam Municipal Vice-Chairman Munuswamy and former Market Committee Chairman Vidyasagar, along with their followers, formally joined the party. Srikanth welcomed them by presenting TDP scarves. Speaking on the occasion, the newly inducted leaders said they had decided to

join the TDP after witnessing the development initiatives undertaken by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. They expressed their willingness to work alongside him for the progress of Kuppam. MLC Kancharla Srikanth asserted that the development of Kuppam was possible under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He predicted that the YSRCP, which he accused of previously attracting leaders through inducements, would eventually lose its entire support base in the constituency. Meanwhile, resignations from the YSRCP continue across Andhra Pradesh. The number of leaders leaving the

party is reportedly increasing from Srikakulam in North Andhra to Anantapur in Rayalaseema. The latest development in Kuppam comes amid preparations for the local body elections. The election schedule was released on Wednesday, and the parties in the ruling alliance are currently holding discussions over seat-sharing arrangements. These negotiations are expected to reach a conclusion within the next few hours. Recently, Vizianagaram Zilla Parishad Chairman Majji Srinivas, popularly known as Chinna Srinu and a close relative of senior YSRCP leader Botsa Satyanarayana, also re-

signed from the YSRCP. He subsequently joined the TDP in the presence of party national president and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Several of his key supporters in the district also switched to the TDP. These developments have sparked political discussions suggesting that the YSRCP is rapidly losing its organisational strength in Vizianagaram district. Similar trends are reportedly being witnessed in Anakapalli, the twin Godavari districts, Krishna, Guntur, Palnadu and other parts of Andhra Pradesh, where an increasing number of leaders and workers are leaving the YSRCP.

EDITORIAL

Looming Drought Threat Due to El Niño

The El Niño phenomenon has severely affected this year's southwest monsoon season, resulting in below-normal rainfall across several southern states. This has not only led to drinking water shortages but also created severe drought conditions. Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu have been particularly affected by El Niño. However, there is some hope that the northeast monsoon, which brings rainfall to southern India between October and December, may provide relief. Meanwhile, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have received above-normal rainfall, while Odisha recorded the highest rainfall. This year's southwest monsoon has been one of the weakest since 2015. Warnings have emerged that rainfall could decline further as El Niño intensifies. Statistical studies of rainfall deficits and excessive rainfall are extremely important. These figures help governments make decisions regarding drought declarations. However, regardless of their significance, such statistics serve little purpose unless state governments take proactive measures to minimise the damage caused by a failed monsoon. Addressing the prevailing drought conditions poses a major challenge for the administrative machinery. Weather forecasts suggest that the situation could become even more difficult, with the coming summer expected to be hotter than normal. Although some have described this year's El Niño as a "super" or "super-duper" event, it may not cause devastation on the scale of certain historical El Niño episodes. For instance, El Niño was one of the major contributing factors to the devastating famine of 1877 during British colonial rule. India currently has adequate foodgrain reserves. The country possesses approximately 60.2 million metric tonnes of wheat and rice stocks, nearly three times the minimum buffer stock requirement prescribed by the government. Therefore, even if the southwest monsoon fails for a second consecutive year, as some meteorologists fear, a major food shortage may not arise. Nevertheless, it is concerning that 15 of the country's 36 states and Union Territories, covering approximately 40 per cent of India's geographical area, have recorded below-normal rainfall. The southwest monsoon season officially concludes on October 30. However, even before its conclusion, 313 of the country's 741 districts have reported significant rainfall deficits. These districts received at least 20 per cent less rainfall than normal.

Against this backdrop, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have been severely affected by drought. Karnataka recorded a rainfall deficit of 35 per cent and declared 217 of its 240 taluks drought-affected. The state requested the Central Government to allocate Rs. 11,000 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Similarly, Andhra Pradesh recorded a rainfall deficit of 53 per cent and declared 388 of its 688 mandals drought-affected. When drought conditions prevail, the Central Government must provide the necessary assistance to the affected states after an inter-ministerial team assesses the situation and submits its report. However, scientific studies have yet to conclusively establish the extent to which El Niño directly contributed to the current drought and the intensity of its impact. In the past, drought declarations were often based on the subjective opinions and assessments of officials.

Since 2009, however, the Drought Management Manual, its subsequent amendments and the recommendations of Finance Commissions have made the drought declaration process more stringent. In several instances, the Central Government has significantly delayed the release of financial assistance from the NDRF or even refused to provide support. Karnataka faced a similar situation in 2024, forcing the state government to spend its own resources. It is inappropriate for the Centre to deny assistance even after a central team has assessed the drought situation. The Central Government must abandon policies that unnecessarily burden states and create obstacles to the timely delivery of financial assistance. When rainfall falls below normal levels, the Central Government must be prepared to support states in strengthening their capacity to withstand drought conditions. Although state governments are responsible for reducing farmers' debt burdens and extending assistance to landless farmers and agricultural labourers, the Centre has an equal responsibility to provide the necessary financial resources. Rather than relying solely on large irrigation projects to address drought, the Central Government should focus on sustainable solutions such as water conservation, cultivation of less water-intensive crops, agricultural insurance and direct financial assistance to farmers.

Cornell Rape Case: When Sexual Assault Allegations Test Elite US Universities

A university's reputation is built over decades. Its response to a sexual assault allegation can put that reputation to the test in a matter of days. For students and parents, admission to a prestigious university represents more than academic achievement. It is also an investment in a future that is expected to offer opportunity, independence, and a degree of security. But what happens when allegations of sexual assault emerge in spaces like fraternity houses (off-campus places) that are associated with these institutions? Can a university distance itself from an incident just because it happened off campus? Recent cases involving Cornell University and the University of Chicago have brought these questions into sharp focus. At the University of Chicago, a woman reported being sexually assaulted at an off-campus fraternity party on October 11. The university said the woman was not affiliated with the institution. It subsequently identified a person of interest who, it said, was also not affiliated with the university. The police investigation is ongoing, but with the university looking to distance itself from the incident, the fears of victims that universities treat rape as more of a "PR problem than a heinous crime" are bolstered. At Cornell, the questions are more complicated. A former student has alleged that she was sexually assaulted by members at a fraternity house in October 2024. She filed a civil lawsuit in September 2026, bringing renewed scrutiny to the university's handling of the case. Cornell has said it investigated the allegations through its disciplinary process and imposed sanctions, including expulsions and suspensions. It has also banned fraternity hose parties. The university's president has acknowledged that he knew of the student's report in 2024 but did not follow up with her. The criminal investigation has since been reopened. But Paul Ortiz,

a labour history professor who sponsored a resolution that will be taken up by Cornell's governing body, the Faculty Senate, says more needs to be done to improve the "climate of fear" on the campus. The two cases should not be treated as proof that sexual assault is more prevalent at elite universities. But they raise a question that extends beyond either campus: What responsibility does a university have when allegations of sexual violence emerge in its social ecosystem?

Campus Boundary Can't Be The End Of Conversation

Fraternities occupy an unusual position in American university life. They can provide students with a sense of community, social networks, and professional connections. But fraternity houses and parties can also create environments where alcohol, peer pressure, and group dynamics complicate questions of consent and intervention. When an alleged assault takes place at an off-campus fraternity house, the distinction between the university and the social organisation may be legally significant. It should not, however, become an excuse to avoid asking difficult questions about campus safety. Universities cannot reasonably be expected to control every private gathering attended by their students. Nor should they automatically be held legally responsible for every offence committed by someone who happens to attend a university event. But they can be expected to examine whether their policies, prevention programmes, and response mechanisms are adequate, particularly when student organisations operate in close association with the institution. This is where institutional accountability matters. Does the university have clear reporting mechanisms? Are students encouraged to intervene when someone appears vulnerable or incapacitated? Are complaints investigated promptly



and fairly? Are survivors given appropriate support? And does the institution examine whether its own practices need to change after an incident? These are not questions that can be answered by issuing a statement about who is, or is not, affiliated with a university.

What Does Title IX Require?

Title IX, part of the Education Amendments of 1972, requires educational institutions receiving federal financial assistance in the US to respond. The Supreme Court has established a framework for holding a school liable under Title IX in cases of sexual harassment between students, according to a research document posted on the US Congress' website. It further said that the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit recently reversed a district court's dismissal of a Title IX suit against a university involving an off-campus assault of a student. The law is important because it establishes obligations for educational institutions. But legal compliance and institutional accountability are not necessarily the same thing. An institution may need to examine its response, support systems, and prevention measures even when the precise limits of its legal obligations are disputed. Cornell's recent response illustrates the impor-

ance of that distinction. The university says it conducted a formal investigation and imposed disciplinary sanctions. It has also announced an independent review of how it prevents and responds to sexual misconduct. Those steps matter, but they do not make scrutiny unnecessary. An independent review must be able to establish what happened, whether the university followed its procedures, and what, if anything, it should have done differently.

Reputation Versus Responsibility

Prestigious universities have a great deal at stake when such allegations surface. Their reputations influence student applications, alumni relationships, fundraising, and public confidence. That makes transparent, credible responses especially important. The danger is not necessarily that a university will deliberately protect its reputation at the expense of a complainant. The concern is that institutional processes can become defensive, slow, or excessively focused on demonstrating compliance rather than understanding what a complainant has experienced and whether the response was adequate. A fair process must protect the rights of both the complainant and the accused. Allegations must be investi-

gated without presuming guilt, and disciplinary action must follow established procedures. At the same time, fairness cannot mean that a complainant's concerns are treated as a reputational problem to be managed. The responsibility of a university is not to guarantee that no crime will ever occur. No institution can make such a promise. Its responsibility is to create a culture in which sexual misconduct is taken seriously, complaints are handled competently, students know where to seek help, and failures are acknowledged rather than obscured. The Cornell and Chicago cases are not interchangeable, and the facts in each must be established on their own merits. Yet both invite a broader examination of the relationship between universities and the organisations that shape student life beyond the classroom. For students and parents, academic prestige should never be the only measure of an institution. The way a university responds when its community confronts allegations of sexual violence is another measure of its values. A university's reputation may attract students to its gates. Its response to a crisis determines whether that reputation deserves their trust.

India Has Enough Coal. So Why Are Power Plants Running Short? A 76 Million 'Crunch'

India's power sector is confronting a paradox that is becoming increasingly relevant to the broader macroeconomy. Coal stocks at thermal power plants are critically low, even as millions of tonnes of coal remain available at pitheads. Electricity demand is rising rapidly, yet the constraint is not simply generating capacity. It is the ability to move fuel to where it is needed. At the same time, India is entering a potentially more difficult agricultural season with fertiliser costs and import vulnerabilities rising sharply amid the West Asian conflict. Taken separately, neither is necessarily a crisis. Taken together, they point to something more consequential. India's macroeconomic buffers remain substantial, but the supply chains that allow those buffers to translate into economic activity are becoming more fragile.

The coal data is the clearest warning.

As of October 5, as many as 82 of the 191 thermal plants monitored by the Central Electricity Authority were in the 'critical' category, meaning stocks below 25% of the normative requirement or less than three days of generation. The count rose steadily from 31 plants at the end of July to 59 on September 9, to 74 on September 19, and 82 on September 27, and has since hovered in that range. Yet, Coal India was still reported to be holding around 76 million tonnes at its pitheads in late September. This is not a typical shortage. It is a distribution problem. India has been trying to boost

coal production for years, assuming that more coal at the mine would lead to more coal at the power plant. The September-October episode reveals the fallacy of that belief. When the resource is present, but the capacity of the railway, weather conditions, loading, and dispatch may become the limiting factor, then that means that inventory at the plant level is more economically significant than aggregate production. Coal at the pithead is a stock. Energy that is delivered to a power station is usable energy. The gap between the two is growing as a weak point of India. This fragility is becoming more apparent on the demand side.

September's power consumption increased 11.35% YoY to 162.2 billion units, and peak demand touched 269 GW, just short of the all-time record of 270.8 GW set in May. Power demand had already increased by 9.5% during April-August, which resulted in an increase of thermal coal consumption by approximately 8% to 395 MT. Part of this is good news. Rising incomes, urbanisation, and industrialisation are increasing electricity demand. But the system is also becoming more sensitive to weather. August 2026 was the hottest August since 1901, and the southwest monsoon season ended at 87.4% of the long-period average. When it's hot, cooling demand increases, and when it's dry, hydropower decreases. That shifts the burden back to thermal generation. Although India's renewable energy capacity has grown significantly, it

still faces challenges in meeting electricity demand during periods outside of daylight hours, and coal-based generation accounted for 69.54% of the country's power generation in April-June 2026, according to the Power Ministry.

This is where the energy story starts to cross over with agriculture. The fertiliser problem going on under the surface is likely to be more significant than the data on immediate availability indicates. India currently has adequate fertiliser stocks. During the 2026 kharif season, availability was found to be more than the assessed requirement for urea, DAP, MOP, and NPKS, according to government data.

However, inventories are a stock. The ability to replenish those stocks at a reasonable cost is essential to agricultural production. In FY26, India imported 28.2 MT of fertilisers valued at about USD 14.5 billion. Imported inputs like ammonia, phosphoric acid, sulphur, and natural gas are also heavily used in domestic fertiliser production. The conflict in West Asia thus presents a new form of vulnerability. The Strait of Hormuz does not need to be completely closed for India to experience an agricultural shock. Even if physical supplies are still received, the replacement cost of fertiliser can increase due to higher freight, insurance, transit times, and input costs. The sulphur numbers illustrate the problem. Sulphur landed prices have climbed to about USD 1,050-1,100 per tonne, which is about double the price at the start of

the year. Contract prices for phosphoric acid delivered to India rose from USD 1,290 per tonne of P2O5 in January-March to USD 1,360 in April-June. This is an unusual situation. India can store sufficient fertiliser today and be less secure tomorrow. The difference between inventory security and replacement-cost security is worthy of more attention. The fiscal implications are clear. The government initially allocated Rs 1.71 lakh crore for the FY27 fertiliser subsidy. In May, a senior Department of Fertilisers official acknowledged the bill could rise by as much as Rs 70,000 crore, to roughly Rs 2.4 lakh crore. Later estimates put it near Rs 2.5 lakh crore or lower as global urea prices eased.

The subsidy shields farmers from short-term fluctuations in international prices. It doesn't take the edge off the shock, though. It moves some of it from the farmer's balance sheet to the government's balance sheet. That results in a three-way policy trade-off. The government takes the blow, and the fiscal burden increases. Farmers take it up, and input use, margins, or crop selection can be affected. It is absorbed by consumers, and food inflation increases. When imported energy and fertiliser prices go up at the same time, the import bill also goes up, and monetary policy has less room to absorb the shock. This is why coal and fertiliser stories should not be considered sectoral issues. They expose a wider failure in India's approach to measuring economic resilience. The debate on India's "strong funda-

mentals" is rightly about foreign-exchange reserves, GDP growth, banking-sector health, foodgrain stocks, and fiscal consolidation. However, buffers are not sufficient to ensure resilience if the links between them and the real economy are weak.

Consider the contrast. India had about 76 MT of coal at the pithead in late September, while 82 of 191 plants were in critical stock levels in early October. It can maintain comfortable levels of fertiliser stocks as the price of replacing critical inputs increases rapidly. Central pool wheat and rice stocks stood at about 60.4 MT on April 1, nearly three times the buffer norm, but replenishing them becomes harder after a poor agricultural season. The vulnerability is thus becoming more and more a flow vulnerability.

This also alters the nature of the West Asian crisis for India. The initial impact is more easily quantifiable in oil, gas, fertiliser, freight, and shipping prices. The second round effects are less obvious. They emerge through railway bottlenecks, power shortages, irrigation costs, crop decisions, subsidy expenditure, food inflation, and the exchange rate. The second round can be much longer than the first round.

The coal episode is thus not just a sign of low inventories. It demonstrates that an economy can have sufficient aggregate resources and yet be in a state of scarcity because the distribution systems are not able to distribute the resources quickly enough.

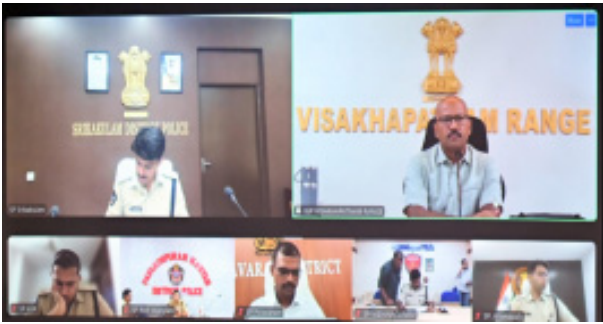
No Compromise on Law and Order During Local Body Elections!

Special Surveillance in Sensitive Areas

Preventive Action Against Rowdy-Sheeters and Habitual Offenders

Police Must Perform Election Duties Impartially

Visakhapatnam Range IGP Gopinath Jatti Directs SPs of Six Districts



Rampachodavaram/Visakhapatnam, October 15 (Pen Power): Visakhapatnam Range Inspector General of Police Gopinath Jatti has directed police officials to ensure fool-proof security arrangements for the peaceful, free and fair conduct of the upcoming local body elections. On Thursday, the IGP reviewed election preparedness with the Superintendents of Police of six districts through a video conference. He instructed officials to strictly enforce the Model Code of Conduct and identify sensitive polling stations and potential trouble spots in advance. He also directed them to prepare comprehensive security plans and deploy additional police forces wherever necessary.

Special Vigil on Rowdy-Sheeters

The IGP emphasised preventive measures to curb violence, intimidation and clashes during the elections. He directed officials to maintain continuous surveillance on rowdy-sheeters, history-sheeters and habitual offenders.

He also instructed police to initiate legal action against individuals likely to disturb public peace and expedite the execution of pending non-bailable warrants.

Police Must Remain Politically Neutral

Gopinath Jatti made it clear that police personnel must discharge their election duties impartially, without yielding to political pressure. He directed officials to respond immediately to violations of election laws and maintain close coordination with revenue and election authorities. The IGP also instructed district SPs to personally monitor security arrangements, police deployment and emergency response mechanisms to ensure peaceful polling. Alluri Sitharama Raju District SP Amit Bardar, Polavaram District SP K. Chakravarthy, Anakapalli District SP Tuhin Sinha, Vizianagaram District SP A.R. Damodar, Parvathipuram Manyam District SP Madhav Reddy and Srikakulam District SP K.V. Maheshwar Reddy participated in the review meeting.

Collector Calls for Foolproof Arrangements for Local Body Polls

- MPTC, ZPTC Elections on November 3

- Panchayat Polls on November 26 and 29

- Special Focus on Sensitive Polling Stations and Election Code

Rampachodavaram, October 15 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Collector and District Election Officer K. Dinesh Kumar has directed officials to make foolproof arrangements for the smooth, peaceful and transparent conduct of local body elections. Reviewing election preparedness through a teleconference on Thursday, the Collector said MPTC and ZPTC elections would be held on November 3, followed by Gram Panchayat elections in two phases on November 26 and 29. He instructed officials to ensure accurate voter lists, proper nomination procedures, strict enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and adequate security arrangements. Special attention should be given to sensitive and vulnerable polling stations, with detailed field reports submitted promptly. The Collector directed the Rampachodavaram and Chintoor Sub-Collectors to personally monitor election preparations. He also ordered the establishment of control rooms at district, division and Mandal levels to address election-related complaints.

Citizens can report election-related complaints through the district control room helpline: 1800-425-4225.



Emphasising coordination among departments, Dinesh Kumar instructed officials to ensure free, fair and incident-free elections. District Panchayat Officer G. Ganesh briefed officials on the election schedule and arrangements.

CJP Founder Dipke Accuses PM Modi, Amit Shah Of Waging 'War Against Own Countrymen' To Protect Gyanesh Kumar



New Delhi: Abhijeet Dipke questioned the detention of protesters and opposition leaders demanding the Chief Election Commissioner's resignation, while student leaders alleged police harassment of journalists covering the demonstrations. Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of waging a "war against their own countrymen" to protect Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. He questioned the police action against protesters and opposition leaders demanding Kumar's resignation over alleged electoral irregularities. Addressing a press conference alongside All India Students' Association (AISA) leader Neha Bora, Students' Federation of India (SFI) leader Aishwarya Ghosh and actor Prakash Raj, Dipke criticised the crackdown on demonstrators. His remarks came a day after CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were sent to Tihar Jail following a court order demanding them to five days of judicial custody.

Dipke alleged that students, young protesters, opposition leaders and former chief ministers were being targeted for demanding action against Kumar. He questioned why the government had imposed extensive security arrangements across Delhi, including the closure of metro stations and restrictions on railway services, to deal with the demonstrations. Referring to the reported detention of political leaders, including Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal and Pinarayi Vijayan, Dipke accused the government of using state machinery to protect the Chief Election Commissioner. He also questioned why security personnel from Jammu and Kashmir had been deployed in the national capital. Dipke criticised the authorities for allegedly treating the unfurling of the national flag during peaceful protests as a violation of the law. He questioned why demonstrators carrying the

Tricolour had faced such a strong police response. He also alleged that the security arrangements had turned Delhi into a heavily fortified zone. The scale of the restrictions raised questions about the government's response to the protests, particularly when demonstrators were demanding accountability from the Election Commission. Dipke questioned the Centre's support for Kumar and alleged that the protection extended to the Chief Election Commissioner raised doubts about whether he was helping the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win elections. The allegations have not been independently established. The remarks came amid continuing protests by the CJP and opposition parties over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Protesters have been demanding Kumar's resignation, while the Election Commission has defended the revision exercise and the BJP has rejected allegations of political bias, TNIE reports. The controversy intensified after CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, along with party member Ajinkya Shinde, were detained on Tuesday for crossing police barricades, entering Jantar Mantar and raising slogans demanding Kumar's resignation. Jantar Mantar was recently de-notified as a designated protest venue, with authorities identifying three alternative locations for demonstrations. The

three CJP members were booked on charges including obstructing a public official from discharging their duties. A court subsequently remanded Das and Ranka to five days of judicial custody, while Shinde was released on a personal bond, according to CJP legal team head Ratna Singh, who shared the information in a post on X. The action against the CJP leaders drew criticism from opposition parties. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi condemned the detention of Das and Ranka, while leaders from several other opposition parties expressed support for the protesters. Following the detentions, Dipke announced a 'Tiranga Morcha' at Central Park in Connaught Place, Delhi, on Friday, October 16, at 5 pm. He called on people to join the demonstration against the action taken against the CJP leaders. At the same press conference, AISA leader Neha Bora expressed solidarity with journalists and accused the authorities of harassing media personnel covering the protests. She alleged that police had confiscated journalists' cameras and threatened to withhold their equipment if they continued reporting on the demonstrations. "We saw how cameras were snatched from journalists and they were told that they would not get the camera if they cover this," Bora said.

Ankita Bhandari Case: Rahul Gandhi Urges Murmu To Defer Gautam's Appointment Till CBI Probe Ends

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, wrote to President Droupadi Murmu, urging her to ask the government to reconsider the appointment of Dushyant Kumar Gautam as Sikkim Governor and defer his assumption of office until the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) completes its investigation into the alleged VIP angle in the 2022 murder of Ankita Bhandari. In his letter, Gandhi said he was shocked by Gautam's appointment while the investigation into the alleged involvement of a VIP in the case remained pending. He also urged the President to intervene, arguing that the appointment could affect the prospects of bringing those allegedly linked to the crime to justice. Referring to Article 361 of the Constitution, Gandhi argued that a Governor enjoys protection from criminal proceedings during their tenure and that Gautam's appointment could complicate the ongoing investigation. He described an inquiry that could not lead to prosecution as an inquiry "in name only". Gandhi also referred to Article 74(1) of the Constitution, which allows the President to ask the Coun-



cil of Ministers to reconsider its advice once. He said he was writing to Murmu as a "last resort" and appealed to her to ensure that Gautam did not assume office until the CBI concluded its investigation. The Congress leader also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the appointment, alleging that the decision showed disregard for women's safety. He called on the President to consider the plight of Ankita's parents, who have been seeking justice for their daughter. Gandhi's letter comes a day after he and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra met Ankita's parents, Virendra Singh Bhandari and Soni Devi, at

India Gate in New Delhi, where they were protesting against Gautam's appointment. The family has also demanded that investigators examine the alleged destruction of evidence and retrieve location data and phone records of individuals they believe could provide crucial leads in the case. They have sought access to data from a phone belonging to the main accused, Pulkit Arya. Ankita, 19, worked as a receptionist at the Vanantara resort near Rishikesh in Uttarakhand. She was murdered in September 2022 after allegedly refusing pressure to provide sexual services to guests. Her body was recovered from the Chilla ca-

nal six days after the murder. Resort owner Pulkit Arya, the son of former BJP leader Vinod Arya, and two other accused were convicted in the murder case and sentenced to life imprisonment. However, questions surrounding the alleged involvement of a VIP have continued to persist. Ankita's family has named Gautam in its allegations, but the allegations against him have not been established in court. Gautam has denied involvement and initiated defamation proceedings against those accusing him, according to The Indian Express. The CBI investigation into the alleged VIP angle remains a key issue in the family's demand for justice.

India Condemns Alleged Mass Shooting Plot Targeting Hindu Temple In US, Expresses Concern Over 'Anti-India Hate'

Washington / New Delhi: India has expressed deep concern over an alleged plot to carry out a mass shooting at a Hindu temple in the Aurora area of Illinois in the US. The External Affairs Ministry condemned the reported anti-Hindu and racist nature of the plot, which allegedly involved threats of violence against people of Indian origin. Responding to media queries on Thursday, October 15, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal described the reports as particularly disturbing. India also acknowledged the action taken by US law enforcement authorities, including the arrest of the suspect and the charges brought against him.

"We are deeply concerned by reports of an alleged plot to carry out a mass shooting targeting a Hindu temple in the Aurora area of Illinois. The reported anti-Hindu and racist nature of the alleged plot, including references to violence against people of Indian origin, is particularly disturbing," the ministry said. Jaiswal said the incident had added to growing concerns over racist hostility and anti-India hate in the US. India stressed the need



for greater vigilance, zero tolerance for hate-motivated violence and decisive steps to protect the Indian community, ANI reports. "This incident adds to growing concerns over racist hostility and anti-India hate in the US. There is a need for greater vigilance, zero tolerance for hate-motivated violence, and decisive action to ensure the safety and security of the Indian community," the ministry said. US authorities arrested 19-year-old Alexandros Paporakis, a resident of Palatine, Illinois, over an alleged plan to attack a Hindu place of worship in the Aurora area. Investigators recovered a manifesto containing white supremacist

views and references to violence against people of Indian origin. The alleged plot came to light after Paporakis's co-workers alerted the police about disturbing digital messages they had received from him. The messages reportedly included a document outlining a plan for a mass shooting, along with photographs of tactical equipment. According to an Associated Press report, Paporakis's co-workers claimed he openly described himself as a white supremacist at work. They also alleged that he had expressed a desire to kill Indian people. India has urged US authorities to thoroughly investigate the alleged plot and ensure that those re-

sponsible are brought to justice. The ministry also called for measures to prevent similar incidents and safeguard people of Indian origin. "We expect US authorities to thoroughly investigate the matter, bring those responsible to justice, and take all necessary measures to prevent such incidents," Jaiswal said. The alleged plot has raised serious questions about the threat posed by racially motivated violence and the safety of religious communities. The case also highlights the importance of timely police intervention, as information shared by the suspect's co-workers helped authorities uncover the alleged plan before an attack could take place.

'We All Want Regime Change': Prashant Bhushan Accuses BJP Of Hypocrisy, Says It Is A Constitutional Right

New Delhi: Advocate Prashant Bhushan defended demands for a change in government, asserting that calling for "regime change" is not a criminal offence in a democratic country like India. He accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of hypocrisy, claiming that it had previously organised protests with a similar objective. "There will definitely be a regime change. We all want a regime change. Is there anything wrong with that?" Bhushan told reporters in Delhi. He alleged that the BJP was now accusing others of conspiring to bring about a change in government despite hav-

ing staged protests seeking the same outcome in the past. "BJP protested multiple times for regime change, and then they say they are teaching conspiracy for regime change," he said. Bhushan argued that seeking a change of government was a constitutional right of every citizen. Referring to the Supreme Court's position on sedition, he maintained that criticism or opposition to the government could not be treated as an offence unless it involved violence or the promotion of public disorder. "Getting the regime change is every citizen's constitutional right. That is why



the Supreme Court had said that the sedition law made by the Britishers was unconstitutional, and that is why, unless violence or causing public disorder is not encouraged, only creating disaffection against the government is not an offence under our Constitution," he said.

His remarks came amid protests by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and the INDIA bloc against the Election Commission of India (ECI) and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over various issues, including allegations concerning electoral processes.

Tibetan Population In India Shrinks as Fewer Refugees Arrive, Young People Leave

Dharamshala: India's Tibetan community is getting smaller. Officials say 70,000 to 80,000 Tibetans live in the country as of 2026, down from a little over 1 lakh around 2010. Refugee arrivals from Tibet have declined. Families are having fewer kids. And young people keep heading abroad to study or work, which is where tens of thousands of other Tibetans already are, in Europe, North America, Australia and elsewhere. What's left in India is a community that's smaller and more spread out. Nowhere is that clearer than McLeodganj-Dharamshala, home to the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) and the temporal head, the Dalai Lama. So here's the question: can the community keep running institutions that were built for a much bigger population?

From 3,000 Arrivals A Year to Six

Until about 2008, around 3,000 Tibetans made it to India every year. That's according to Kunchok Migmar, the Tibetan Settlement Officer for

Dharamshala district. In 2023, his office helped six. Exile officials point to tighter Chinese security after the 2008 unrest, which broke out just months before Beijing hosted the Summer Olympics. Protests spread across the Tibet Autonomous Region and the Tibetan areas of Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu and Yunnan. The CTA says it logged at least 344 protests that year. By its count, nearly 7,000 people were arrested, and about 200 died. China disputes the Tibetan account. Border surveillance has grown since then, and the journey to India has become harder. Settlements used to be refilled by one wave of refugees after another. That's over. Birth rates among Tibetans already in India have also dropped, and young people are heading overseas. Those two trends add to the problem.

Schools Reflect The Trend

Tibetan Children's Villages (TCV) shows the scale of the change. The Dalai Lama founded the residential school network in 1960

to look after refugee children, and it grew as new groups arrived in India. More than 50,000 students have come through it. Enrolment was around 17,000 before 2008. That number is now about 5,000, according to TCV General Secretary Kalsang Phuntsok, and only about 500 of those are in senior classes. Residential homes that once held 80-100 children aged between 6 and 14 now hold 20-30. Phuntsok warns that two or three TCV schools could be empty by 2030 if nothing changes. The branch in Lower Dharamshala has just 74 pupils and may have to close. TCV has started admitting children from other Himalayan communities, including Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. They make up around 30 per cent of its students. It has also invited Tibetan families abroad to send their children to its residential schools. That may keep classrooms open. It doesn't fix the real problem, which is that even fewer Tibetan children are entering the system. Affecting The Arts The Tibetan Institute of

Performing Arts (TIPA) has the same trouble. The Dalai Lama set it up to preserve Tibetan music, dance, opera, and traditional crafts. It started in Kalimpong and moved to Dharamshala in 1961. About 20 years ago, around students would sign up for its full seven-year course. Director Dhondup Tsering says the number is now around 35. Learning these art forms takes years. Somebody has to be willing to give those years, and with the population shrinking and more young adults going abroad, fewer people are in a position to do it. TIPA is recruiting in Ladakh and Tawang, where it also teaches some of the traditions it practises. It has run drives in local schools and hopes to work with places like the National School of Drama in New Delhi. The institute still stages traditional performances and organises the annual Shoton Festival, mostly on grants from India's Ministry of External Affairs.

What Happens To Exile Life in Dharamshala?

When the Dalai Lama fled

Tibet in 1959, Dharamshala became the heart of Tibetan political and cultural life. Settlements across India gave refugees a place to raise families, send their children to school, and hold on to their language and religion. That community is now smaller and spread over more countries. Going abroad gives young Tibetans better access to education and jobs. It also leaves fewer people to support the institutions in India and fewer to raise the next generation in the settlements. Separately, the United Nations has raised concerns about residential schooling policies for Tibetan children in China, warning that separating children from their families can weaken their ties to language and culture. Chinese authorities defend their education policies. For Tibetans in India, the immediate problem is keeping up institutions built for a far larger community. Recruiting children from other Himalayan communities and staying in touch with Tibetans abroad might help. Neither makes up for the people who are gone.

Will Return Money': Video Emerges Of Lucknow Man Who Fell From Influencer's Flat



'Lucknow: Lucknow businessman Shiva Sharma, who fell to his death from the fourth-floor flat of his girlfriend, Shraddha Dubey, was seen in an old video allegedly pleading with her that he would return the money within a month and, during that time, she could keep his car. The man's family has accused Dubey of murdering him. "When will you return the money?" a female voice, apparently of Shraddha Dubey, asked Sharma in the video. "Within a month," the man said, visibly dejected. "I can give it in writing," he said. "...and till then, keep my car. I will take back the car after giving you the money," he added. The man's family has accused Dubey of murdering Shiva Sharma, who owned a chain of restaurants in the city. The businessman's mother, Ranjana Sharma, has alleged that Dubey had been threatening to circulate obscene videos of her son and defame him. She also claimed that her son had been subjected to physical violence during their relationship. In the murder case, the victim's family has named Dubey, her sister Rashmi Dubey, a driver named Danish, an accomplice named Adil and other people. Rashmi Dubey and the influencer are on the run. Shraddha Dubey has released a video claiming that Shiva Sharma died by suicide. "What have I done wrong? I have done nothing. Regarding the Shiva Sharma case, I wanted to clarify that it was not a murder - it was a suicide," the influencer said in the one-minute-long video. "Please consider my current state; I am not in a good condition. I am not physically fit at this moment. I earnestly request that you stop linking my name to any high-ranking officials or politicians, as I have absolutely no involve-

ment with them," she added. In another video, she detailed the alleged sequence of events that took place the day Shiva died. "Then I called him twice from my number. He did not pick up the call at that time. Later, he called me around 2 AM. I asked him what happened...to which he asked me to meet him. We met, went to Peddler's Cafe where he ordered matcha for me and juice for himself," she said, adding that he had a "lot of beers" before meeting her. "Later, both of us went to my place. While he drove my car, my driver took his car," she said. She claimed her sister didn't know Shiva well and "has nothing to do with this case". "Shiva's friends joined us - one of them was Ashwini Mishra and another named Harsh. We all went for a long drive...I spoke to Shiva, his mother, brother-in-law, and sister too that day," she said. She claimed that the man had been depressed on October 9. "I don't even know what it was. We woke up, made tea. Shiva went to the toilet. Usually, he would never close the main gate. But this time, he did. I asked my sister to go check up on him after a while. As soon as she opened the gate, he jumped from the balcony," she said. She claimed that Shiva had had a loan of Rs 15-20 lakh and he would get calls from those to whom he owed money. "Before meeting me, he had gone to Kedarnath or somewhere with his sister and brother-in-law. I have screenshots...It was clearly visible that Shiva had a lot of loans...around Rs 15 to 20 lakh. Whenever we were together, he used to get calls from debtors. He was so upset that he used to tell me that if he could not repay the loan, he would die by suicide. But I took his words lightly," she said.

Mother Pushes Girl, 6, Into Hyderabad Lake. 3 Men Jump In To Rescue Her

Hyderabad: A mother threw her six-year-old daughter into the Hussain Sagar Lake in Hyderabad. Three persons - an autorickshaw driver, a private employee and a businessman - risked their own lives and promptly saved the drowning child. On Wednesday, Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar felicitated them for their courage and presence of mind. Auto-rickshaw driver Fakhruddin, private employee K Balakrishna and businessman Mohammed Afsar were honoured at the Police Commissionerate in Basheerbagh with shawls and cash rewards for saving the child. According to police, the incident occurred at Upper Tank Bund in Hyderabad when a woman from Bowenpally, who has two daughters aged eight and six, allegedly pushed her younger daughter into the lake and fled. The woman was reportedly distressed over the child's prolonged illness and mounting medical expenses. Police said the mother had taken both children to Tank Bund and sent the elder daughter away to buy ice cream. She then allegedly pushed the younger girl into the lake when no one was watching. The child managed to cling to a bamboo stick in the water and screamed for help, reportedly saying that her mother had pushed her into the lake. Balakrishna, a resident of Moti Nagar in Borabanda, heard the girl's cries and alerted passersby. Fakhruddin, who was driving his auto along Upper Tank Bund, stopped his auto-rickshaw and jumped into the water. With Afsar's assistance, he brought the girl safely to the shore. Patrolling police personnel shifted the child to Gandhi Hospital for treatment while Domalguda police registered an attempt-to-murder case against the mother and launched an investigation. Praising the swift rescue by three good samaritans, Hyderabad police chief Sajjanar said their actions offered an example of humanity and social responsibility. "At a time when people sometimes remain busy recording videos on their mobile phones instead of helping those in distress, the courage and presence of mind shown by these three citizens are exemplary," he said. Sajjanar also urged people facing severe personal or financial difficulties to seek assistance rather than take desperate steps.

Social Media Influencer Among 4 Arrested With MDMA, Cash In Kerala



Malappuram: A 23-year-old woman identified as a social media influencer with over 25,000 followers and three young men were arrested in Kerala's Malappuram district during a drug raid conducted under Operation Toofan. Police seized 10.5 grams of MDMA, estimated to be worth Rs 50,000 in the retail market, along with syringes allegedly used to inject drugs, a digital weighing scale, zip-lock covers used for packaging drugs and nearly Rs 25,000 in cash suspected to be proceeds from drug sales. The four accused have been identified as Anas, 24, a resident of Hajiyarpalli in Malappuram, Shabeer TP, 24, from Mankada; Sajad, 21, from Kooriyad in Vengara, and Minu Jasmine, 23, from Kootilangadi. According to police, the accused were allegedly part of a network supplying MDMA to students and youngsters in the Vengara and Mankada areas of Malappuram district. Acting on specific intelligence, a team from Malappuram Police and the District Anti-Narcotics Special Action Force (DANSAF) intercepted a car near an Akshaya Centre on Kizhakkethala-Vengara Road on Wednesday night. During the search, officers allegedly recovered the drugs, syringes, weighing equipment, packaging materials and cash. The car suspected to have been used for drug distribution was also seized. Police said three of the accused, Anas, Shabeer and Sajad, have previously been charged in drug-related cases, including alleged MDMA possession, consumption and sale, at different police stations. The arrests were made by a team led by Malappuram Deputy Superintendent of Police Subhash Babu, Inspector Shajimon B and Sub-Inspector Sanal, along with DANSAF personnel. Police are investigating the source of the seized MDMA and the suspected drug distribution network. Police sources say the group has transacted large volumes of drugs through the network.

Several Feared Trapped After Explosion In Firecracker Factory In Varanasi

Several people are feared trapped after an explosion at Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi firecracker factory ripped through the structure, triggering a collapse. The incident has revived a familiar debate about safety norms in the business. The blast was reported from Sarang Talab area, under the jurisdiction of the Sarnath police station in Varanasi. Police and fire engines units are present at the scene. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to reach the site immediately and expedite relief operations. The Chief Minister has instructed officials to ensure proper medical treatment for those injured. The officials have also been directed to contact the families of the injured and provide them with all possible assistance.

Tibetan Government-in-Exile Tells World: Prepare Now for Dalai Lama's Succession

Dharamshala: Tibet's government-in-exile wants Tibetans and Buddhists everywhere to start getting ready for the Dalai Lama's succession. It also wants foreign governments to refuse any reincarnation process run by Beijing. And even as it makes that demand, the administration says it's sticking with the Middle Way Policy, though it admits China's stance shows "no indication of an opening" for talks. The cabinet members of the Central Tibetan Administration speaking to NDTV in Dharamshala laid out the cabinet's priorities.

The succession fight

The Dalai Lama turned 91 in 2026. Who gets to recognise his successor is now a sensitive issue between the exiles and Beijing. The CTA says China has repeatedly spelt out "three conditions" for his reincarnation. Against that, it cites around 150 resolutions and statements from governments and Tibetan Buddhist organisations that oppose Chinese interference. More than 38 countries, it says, back its position. The cabinet members call Gyaltsen Norbu, the Panchen Lama recognised by China, a state-backed proxy. It once again demands the release of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, whom the Dalai Lama recognised as the 11th Panchen Lama. He was taken into Chinese custody in 1995. The CTA wants other Tibetan political prisoners freed too.

Why the Middle Way stays

The policy seeks genuine autonomy for Tibet within China, not independence. It goes back to 1973, when the Dalai Lama decided that protecting Tibetan identity and winning meaningful autonomy mattered more than independence. "Talks did happen. CTA representatives and the Chinese government met for nine rounds between 2002 and 2010. Then the process stalled after the 2008 Beijing Olympics," Tsegval Chukya Dranyi, CTA's minister for the Department of Religion and Culture, told NDTV. Now the CTA is seeking "fresh momentum." It's asking foreign governments to push Beijing back to the table, without preconditions. It also points to a 2024

US law, the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act, as a sign of international support. In the CTA's view, the law treats the dispute as unresolved, and it hopes other democracies will see it that way too.

A new law in Beijing

The conversations with CTA ministers revolved mainly around China's Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress, which was introduced in March and has been in force since July 1. The CTA calls it one of the most serious threats to Tibetan identity it has ever faced, a "legally masked strategy to erase Tibetan identity. Beijing, it says, is using the courts and statutes to accelerate assimilation, monitor Tibetans more closely, and strengthen its control over religious institutions.

According to the CTA, the law would:

- Make Mandarin the compulsory language of instruction preschool onwards
- Put traditional weddings and funerals through the "reform of customs and practices"
- Push monasteries to follow the "orientation of Sincinising religion"

The CTA is also uneasy about the rules on housing, migration and inter-ethnic marriage, which it says could erode Tibetans' standing in their own homeland. It lists facial recognition, GPS tracking, DNA profiling and iris scans as surveillance tools, and says officials who don't enforce the law strictly could be prosecuted. One provision



reaches beyond China's borders. Organisations and individuals abroad who undermine the law could be held legally accountable, the CTA says. It sees that as a potential threat to anyone overseas who backs Tibetans or criticises Beijing. The paper repeats the CTA's claim that about one million Tibetan children are in state-run boarding schools. Beijing rejects the charge that its policies aim to erase Tibetan identity. It says they bring development, ethnic unity and stability to Tibetan areas, which it regards as an inseparable part of China. The figures and allegations here are the CTA's own, and the document doesn't back them with independent evidence.

Life in exile

The CTA members also talk in detail about the Tibetans living mostly in India, Nepal and Bhutan, where the CTA runs welfare and community services. The Kashag promises regular financial reporting, a review of its list of people living in destitution, and more

housing for elderly Tibetans and people with special needs. "We pledge "zero tolerance" for sexual harassment and abuse involving women and children and will review the internal complaints committees in settlements, schools and workplaces," says Dranyi. Work has begun, the CTA says, to relocate 1,855 registered households with no home or land. Youth support schemes, community revolving funds and tourism are meant to help settlements pay their own way. On education, the administration plans to consolidate schools in India in phases, using birth and enrolment figures to guide the decisions and avoid duplicating resources. It wants to expand Tibetan-language teaching and support Tibetan-language software and artificial intelligence tools. A central data management system, AI-assisted databases and a formal IT policy are also planned, and civil servants will get AI training.

Fears of a split

The CTA feels China

could exploit regional, sectarian and political differences within the exile community, which it calls a "primary target" for attempts to sow division. It alleges Beijing is manipulating some followers of Dolgyal, also known as Shugden. The Dalai Lama has discouraged the practice. But the allegations against its followers are contested and haven't been independently established. The Tibetan government-in-exile wants sovereign governments, parliaments, think tanks and the media to treat the Tibet-China dispute as an international issue, not China's internal affair. It also asks foreign governments and donors to keep supporting Tibetans, arguing they should be considered partners in bringing change to China, not merely as victims of its policies. How far any of this gets will depend largely on whether foreign governments are willing to raise the issue with Beijing. The CTA itself admits the chances of restarting formal dialogue remain uncertain.

Train Hits 3-Foot-Long Iron Bar Placed On Gujarat Tracks, Case Filed

Jamnagar: A major tragedy was averted on Thursday in Gujarat, after an iron bar intentionally left on the tracks collided with an oncoming passenger train. The severe lapse in rail safety was reported from the Lalpur taluka of the Jamnagar district, posing a direct threat to passengers who were travelling by the train. Police have registered a case against unidentified persons and a probe has been initiated. The incident has also caused heavy

damage to the train locomotive.

The disruption happened along the railway line connecting the Lalpur and Gopjam stations. A heavy metallic object, measuring approximately three feet in length, was placed directly over the rails by some unidentified individuals. Meanwhile, the 59205 Kanalas-Porbandar express was travelling in the stretch when it hit the obstruction, resulting in heavy damage to the engine mechanism

before the situation could be brought under control. Upon receiving inputs about the incident, police officials and railway officials rushed to the scene to assess the damage and secure the tracks. The quick response of the operational and train crew helped avert a potentially major tragedy along the busy rural line, officials said. A complaint was lodged at the Lalpur police station by Rajeshbhai Ramkhilladibhai Meena, a

railway employee stationed at the Lalpur Railway Colony. Based on his testimony, police registered a case against an unknown person under the relevant legal provisions. Officials highlighted that placing heavy obstruction on active lines represents a grave danger to train operations and risks catastrophic derailments. The ongoing investigation is being headed by incharge Police Inspector AG Jadeja of the Lalpur police station.

UN Warns Of 'Narrowing Window' To Restore World's Forests Amid Rising Climate Threats



Washington: The world faces a “narrowing window” to restore forests that are vital for food security and resilience against the climate emergency, a United Nations report has warned, urging governments to make forest restoration a national priority. More than 489 million hectares of forests have been cleared since 1990, while an even larger area has been degraded,

according to the report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The State of the World's Forests report acknowledged progress in forest protection and tree planting worldwide but said action had failed to keep pace with commitments.

Over the past two decades, national, regional and global initiatives have pledged to restore more than 1 billion hectares of

land. However, barely a fifth of that area is currently being restored. “Progress is uneven, and it is insufficient to meet growing global needs,” the report said. Forests cover 4.14 billion hectares, about one-third of the Earth's land surface. They store 714 gigatonnes of carbon and support up to 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. They also help regulate rainfall and

reduce hunger, with nearly one-third of the global population depending on forests for their livelihoods. However, threats to forests are intensifying. Around 127 million hectares of forest are affected by fires each year, while insects, diseases and extreme weather events cause further damage. These pressures are adding to the impact of agricultural expansion, the climate crisis, pollution and the extraction of fossil fuels and other resources. The report said the growing gap between demand and sustainable supply posed a threat to ecological integrity as well as the long-term viability of forest-based economies. This widening gap between demand and sustainable supply highlights a structural imbalance that threatens both ecological integrity and the long-term viability of forest-based economies,” the report stated. It

said restoring forests and other degraded ecosystems could benefit people, food security and economies. Restoration of 1 billion hectares is estimated to generate \$1.8 trillion in benefits each year. FAO Director General Qu Dongyu said the report showed that forest and landscape restoration was not only an environmental priority but also a strategic investment in resilient agrifood systems and rural development.

“The window for action is narrowing, and delayed or poorly designed restoration will increase long-term costs, exacerbate inequalities and risk locking landscapes into unsustainable trajectories. Given the continued loss and degradation of forest ecosystems, as well as growing global demand for land-based products and services, there is an urgent need to scale up effective restoration,” he said.

US Secretary Of State Marco Rubio Says Foreign State May Be Linked To Incident Near UK Airbase

Washington: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said a “foreign actor” was involved in an incident near a British airbase where five men were arrested on suspicion of explosives and terrorism offences. The men, all British nationals in their early 20s from London, were arrested early on Sunday near RAF Fairford in western England, a base used by US forces to strike Iran. British police declared a major incident at the base and the Government held a national emergency meeting. However, police released the five on bail on Monday and said their investigation was continuing. They were also examining whether individuals acting on behalf of a foreign state were involved. A source familiar with the situation said three large white vans in which the men appeared to have travelled did not contain viable explosives. Secretary Rubio tells Fox News tonight that the RAF Fairford incident involves “a foreign actor” and that it’s a very serious situation.

The source said the police response on Sunday was not intelligence-led, suggesting the five men had not been under direct surveillance. However, security at the base had been increased, indicating that authorities had information suggesting it could be targeted. “What happened, what almost happened, what could have happened in the UK over the weekend is a very serious situation. It’s one that clearly involves the hands of a foreign actor. I won’t get into great detail about that yet,” Rubio told the Fox News network’s “Hannity” programme late on Monday. Rubio provided no evidence or specific details to support the claim. US President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House on Monday that the incident “might be” connected to Iran, with which the United States has been at war since late February. He also said he would not have released the suspects on bail. “I wouldn’t have done that,” he said. Police detained the five men in the early hours of Sunday after a local



farmer alerted authorities about three white vans parked near RAF Fairford. The farmer, who asked not to be named, said she returned home at around 0100 local time and found the vans parked in the road. One had a fake telephone number on it, while a group of hooded and masked men were seen running away. Local residents said security around the base had been significantly increased in the days before the arrests. The farmer also told reporters that a neighbour driving past the base on Saturday night had been

ordered by US security personnel to stop and put their hands out of their car. By Tuesday morning, a large cordon remained around the base and roadblocks were still in place. Local media reported that residents of nearby homes that had been evacuated were returning. Western governments have warned in recent years about hostile actors from Iran, Russia and elsewhere organising destabilising activities or using proxies to carry out plots. Britain raised its national terrorism threat level to its second highest

in April following a series of antisemitic incidents in north London. The level means an attack is considered highly likely. The UK has also imposed sanctions on individuals and entities linked to Iran, accusing them of hostile activities, including plotting attacks and providing financial services to groups seeking to destabilise Britain and other countries. Iran has denied involvement in attacks or plots in Britain and elsewhere. It also denied any involvement in the Fairford incident.

Pakistan's Cites Technical Issues To Refuse Airspace For Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Fuel Transit



Dhaka: Pakistan has described its refusal to allow airspace for the transportation of nuclear fuel meant for Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant as a technical issue. "Pakistan maintains an unwavering commitment to international diplomatic norms and processes all requests for diplomatic flight and overflight clearances within a standardised, predictable timeframe, strictly in accordance with our established regulatory guidelines and civil aviation protocols," the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka said in a clarification on Tuesday.

"With regard to the reports being quoted, the matter appears to relate to technical and procedural arrangements concerning flight routing and airspace permissions, which can occasionally require coordination among the relevant aviation and other authorities and may result in adjustments to flight schedules," it added. "Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with Bangladesh, and it would therefore be appropriate to view the matter in its proper technical context and not attach undue significance to reports or narratives that

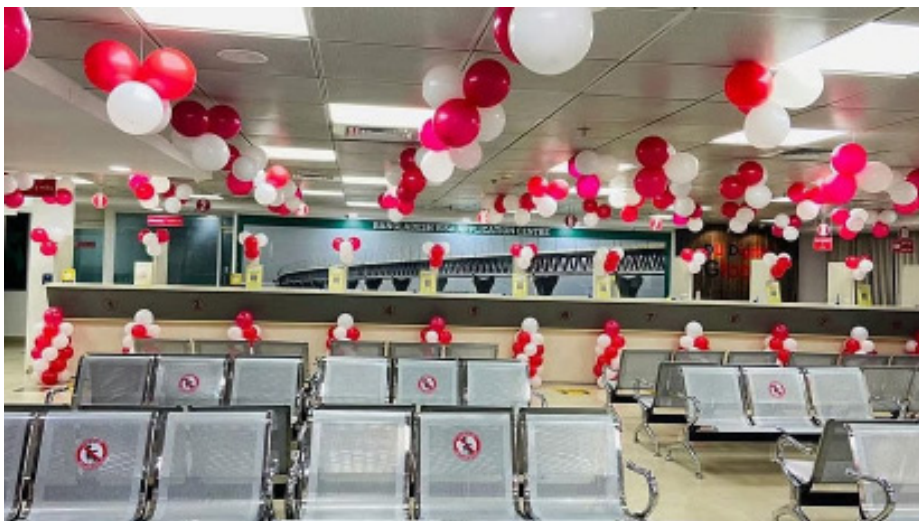
may seek to misplace it to undermine our bilateral relations," the Pakistan High Commission said. Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant's uranium transport has been disrupted after Pakistan denied airspace clearance. Nuclear fuel for Unit 2 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh was scheduled to arrive on September 24, but it has not arrived yet because of airspace blockage. "We heard that a cargo plane carrying uranium for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh was scheduled to arrive on Sep-

tember 24. However, the flight was not given permission to use Pakistani airspace, so the uranium did not arrive in Bangladesh as planned. As of now, the exact reason for Pakistan not granting the airspace clearance is still unknown", Faqir Mahbub Anam, Bangladesh's Minister for Science and Technology, told ANI over the phone. "A new date has been proposed, with Russia indicating the first week of October for the uranium to arrive in Bangladesh", he added.

For the nuclear power plant, the Uranium fuel for Unit 2 of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant was supposed to arrive on September 24. But it hasn't arrived yet because the airspace is not clear. "We had completed all the preparations at the airport and were waiting, but the liaison officer from Rosatom told us that the airspace was not clear. So we couldn't send it. It may need to be rescheduled", Sheikh Mohammed Tauhidul Islam, Joint Secretary to the Bangladesh Science and Technology Ministry, told ANI over the phone.

With support from Russia's Rosatom, this nuclear power plant is being built. To find out what the issue is, ANI sent an email to a Rosatom representative. But so far, there has been no response. The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Bangladesh's first nuclear power facility, is being constructed in Rooppur village, located along the banks of the Padma River in Pakshi Union, Ishwardi Upazila, Pabna District. With technical assistance from the Russian Federation's State Atomic Energy Corporation (Rosatom) and under the oversight of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. The project involves the construction of two third-generation VVER-1200 reactor units, which will collectively generate 2,400 megawatts of baseload electricity. Bangladesh officially ushered in the nuclear age as the initial shipment of low-enriched uranium fuel for Unit 1 of the 2,400 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) arrived safely from Russia.

Bangladesh Missions Abroad Go Dark Faces Visa Service Disruptions As DIP Server Develops Technical Glitch



Dhaka: Bangladesh missions abroad are facing temporary disruptions in visa-related services after a technical problem affected the central system of the Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP), leaving its Machine Readable Visa (MRV) server unavailable. The disruption has affected Bangladesh missions overseas, with the processing of No Visa Required (NVR) applications, regular visa applications and visa issuance facing delays. According to a report by The Daily Star, the technical issue has temporarily affected visa services at Bangladesh missions abroad. The government has said efforts are underway to restore the system at the earliest.

A senior official told United News of Bangladesh (UNB) on Monday night, September 28, that the government was working to resolve the technical problem as soon as possible. The official said the MRV server linked to DIP's central system was currently unavailable and that the same problem was affecting all Bangladesh missions abroad. According to UNB, DIP had informed the missions about the technical issue last week and was

working to restore the central system. The government has asked applicants to allow additional time for their applications to be processed and avoid making repeated enquiries about their application status while the technical problem persists. The disruption has also affected applicants who had already submitted their visa applications. One applicant from a European country told UNB that they had submitted an online visa application and were informed that an email would arrive within 24 hours. However, the applicant said no email had been received and repeated calls seeking an update went unanswered. The issue has therefore affected both the processing of fresh applications and subsequent communication with applicants. Individual Bangladesh missions have also issued notices informing applicants about the technical problem. The Bangladesh Embassy in Bangkok, in a public notice, said visa seekers could face difficulties while submitting applications or accessing visa-related services because of the temporary issue with the visa server.

The embassy said its concerned technical team

was working to resolve the problem and requested applicants to bear with the temporary inconvenience. It also advised applicants, where possible, to avoid making urgent travel arrangements that depend on immediate visa processing. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Embassy in Berlin issued an urgent notice apologising for the inconvenience and asking applicants for patience and understanding. According to UNB, applicants will be informed through the websites and Facebook pages of the respective missions once the central system is restored and normal visa services resume. The authorities have not indicated a specific timeline for the restoration of the central system. For now, applicants have been advised to allow additional time for NVR and visa processing and avoid repeatedly contacting missions for status updates while the technical issue remains unresolved. The Department of Immigration and Passports is working to restore the system, after which the affected Bangladesh missions are expected to resume normal visa-related services.

India-US Ties: Trade Agreement Could Help Move Relationship Forward, Says EAM Jaishankar

Washington / New Delhi: A trade agreement between India and the US, if concluded, could contribute to “better” bilateral ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, while noting that expectations of rapid progress in negotiations had been “tested” by a much more complex ground reality. Jaishankar made the remarks while addressing prominent members of the Indian-American and diaspora community and policy experts at a special conversation hosted by the Asia Society on Monday, following the high-level week of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York. During the conversation, moderated by former American diplomat and Asia Society Policy Institute distinguished fellow Daniel Russel, Jaishankar was asked about India-US relations, particularly developments concerning trade and tariffs over the past year and what would be required to put bilateral ties on a “better track”. “Well, I think if I stand back and look at the relationship... I note that much of the world has had a more difficult relationship with the US. I mean that may not be a consolation, but that's a reality,” Jaishankar said.

He identified trade negotiations as one of the issues affecting India-US ties and pointed to the “stakes” and “complexity” involved. “Bear in mind, India is a society of small producers, small agriculture producers, small factories. Apart from the per capita gap between India and the United States, the nature of production, nature of society is very different,” he said. “A trade negotiation re-

quired a certain amount of ... patience and detailing to see it through... The expectation that it could rapidly move forward, I think, was tested against a ground reality which was much more complex,” he added. Jaishankar said there was now “more or less an understanding on the trade agreement”. India and the US had announced in February the finalisation of the framework for the first phase of their bilateral trade agreement. However, changes in the US tariff regime have led to further negotiations. The US Supreme Court had struck down President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs imposed under emergency powers, following which Washington adopted a different tariff framework. In July, the US imposed an additional 10% tariff on imports from India under Section 301 of the Trade Act after a probe into India's measures concerning goods produced with “forced labour”. The two countries have since continued negotiations on the trade agreement amid changes in the US tariff regime. Alluding to comments by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Jaishankar said the issue now was what had changed on the American side and how the new Section 301 process would affect the agreement. “The 301 process is still in the works, it's still unfolding. So the issue for us is at what point do you close out an agreement which is very, very far advanced,” Jaishankar said. “But the period that it took to reach it, that did create bumps last year for the relationship. So presumably, if that agreement is closed out,

that would be one point which would contribute to a better relationship,” he said. Jaishankar also said bilateral ties had, to some extent, been affected by developments within the US. “For many years mobility was seen as an economic gain. Now, today the economics of mobility and the politics of mobility are at odds with each other,” he said. He said foreign policy and diplomacy were no longer conducted only by states, leaders, ministers or diplomats. “In a social media era, there is a very big public opinion factor,” particularly how it plays out in democratic societies, he said.

Jaishankar seeks upward trajectory in ties

“So I think that's a reality we have to take into account. So yes, we would certainly hope for and expect the relationship to move on an upward trajectory. But I have to be real about the issues that we confront, and to the extent we are able to move ahead on some of these issues, I think we'll have a better relationship,” he said. Last week, Goyal had said the trade pact between India and the US was “done and dusted” and would be executed once the US gives India the right competitive advantage over its competitors in the American market. India's competitors in the US market include ASEAN countries, China and Bangladesh. Goyal is scheduled to visit the US from September 29 to October 5 to attend a G20 meeting in Milwaukee and hold discussions with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on advancing negotiations for the bilateral trade agreement.

B. Prabhakaran's Gadchiroli Blueprint: Building An Industrial Ecosystem That Grows With Its Communities

Mumbai: For decades, Gadchiroli was spoken about mainly in terms of its forests, tribal population and its place in India's Naxal-affected belt. For people living in its remote villages, the bigger challenge was to find a good school, a reliable job, healthcare nearby or a reason to believe that a better future could be built without leaving home. That is the gap B. Prabhakaran, Managing Director of Lloyds Metals & Energy, has sought to address through Lloyds' growing presence in the district. The approach has been to build opportunities around the people already living there. A mine or a plant can create jobs, but Prabhakaran's work in Gadchiroli has gone beyond employment. Through Lloyds Metals and Lloyds Infinite Foundation, the effort has extended to skilling, education, healthcare and women's livelihoods. The approach is most visible in the lives of people who have surrendered from Naxal backgrounds. For someone leaving an armed movement, rehabilitation cannot end with surrender. There has to be something



to return to a job, an income, a routine and a sense of belonging. Prabhakaran has helped people from surrendered Naxal backgrounds move into employment. The company has reported 82 people being supported through employment and rehabilitation, including surrendered Naxalites and members of families affected by violence. That same idea runs through Prabhakaran's larger employment programme at Lloyds. As industrial activity has expanded around Surjagarh and Konsari, Prabhakaran has pushed for local people to be trained for the jobs being created around them.

Skill development has been another important part of this approach. Training programmes in areas such as welding, electrical work, driving and other technical trades are designed to help local people build skills that can translate into employment opportunities within the region. Alongside these efforts, Prabhakaran has created more than 5,500 jobs in Gadchiroli, according to the organisation's stated impact figures. The focus is not only on creating jobs, but also on building a local workforce that can participate in industrial activity taking shape around them. This changes the meaning of employment

in a place like Gadchiroli. Instead of a young person having to leave for Nagpur, Mumbai or another city to find work, there is a growing possibility of building a career closer to home. The company's own training centres have been designed around this need. The aim is not simply to train people and leave them to find work. Training is linked to the skills required at industrial sites, creating a clearer path from classroom to workplace. That connection between training and actual employment is central to Prabhakaran's approach. The change is particularly striking among women and its visible at Lloyds Vanya Clothing, another of Prabhakaran's many initiatives. In Gadchiroli, where traditional livelihoods have

often revolved around farming and forest-based work, women are now entering jobs that were once considered male dominated. They are being trained to drive heavy vehicles, work in logistics and take up roles within industrial operations. A woman earning a regular salary has greater control over her own income. A daughter with a job becomes an earning member of the household. A woman driving a heavy vehicle becomes visible proof that industrial work is not necessarily a male-only space. Lloyds Vanya Clothing employs more than 150 tribal women from villages around the region, while LIF has also trained women in advanced garment operations.

Fairfax To Acquire 60.72% Stake In IDBI Bank For Rs.52,878 Crore



Mumbai: Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa's Fairfax Financial Holdings is set to acquire a 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank for Rs.52,878 crore (\$5.6 billion), marking a major foreign investment in India's banking sector. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Arunish Chawla said the transaction values the Mumbai-based lender at approximately Rs.87,100 crore. The deal represents an 11% discount to IDBI Bank's closing share price of Rs.90.40. Following the sale, the Government of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will retain a combined 34% stake. The transaction marks progress in the government's long-running efforts to reduce its ownership in IDBI Bank. Earlier attempts faced regulatory delays and disagreements over valuation. The acquisition follows growing foreign interest in India's financial services industry. Japanese financial institutions, including Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, have also expanded their investments in Indian banks. The Centre is targeting Rs.80,000 crore through asset sales during the current financial year. Proceeds from the IDBI transaction could provide substantial support to this disinvestment objective. The government

has also been exploring measures to strengthen banking capacity, including greater foreign participation and potential consolidation among public sector lenders. The acquisition significantly expands Fairfax's Indian financial services portfolio. The investment group already holds interests in CSB Bank and IIFL Capital Services. According to Chawla, Fairfax must merge or exit its 40% holding in CSB Bank within two years of signing the IDBI Bank share purchase agreement. The requirement addresses the group's overlapping banking investments. IDBI Bank has undergone a financial turnaround after previously struggling with substantial non-performing assets. Capital support, recoveries and balance sheet improvements have helped the lender restore profitability. The proposed ownership change comes as India seeks greater investment in its banking system to support economic expansion. The government aims to develop India into a \$30 trillion economy by 2047, with stronger bank financing expected to play an important role. The transaction also comes amid efforts to strengthen public finances as geopolitical tensions and higher energy costs create additional fiscal pressures.

Tata Technologies Q2 Net Income At Rs.171.4 Crore, Operating Revenue Rises 28.4% YoY

Mumbai: Tata Technologies Limited reported a net income of Rs.171.4 crore for the quarter ended 30 September 2026. The company's operating revenue increased by 28.4% year-on-year to Rs.1,698.8 crore. Operating EBITDA for the quarter stood at Rs.273.3 crore, marking a 31.5% increase year-on-year. The EBITDA margin was 16.1%, up 40 basis points year-on-year and flat quarter-on-quarter. Services Segment Revenue was Rs.1,355.7 crore, up 33.9% year-on-year. In USD terms, Services Segment Revenue was \$141.9 million, an increase of 4.3% quarter-on-quarter on a constant currency basis. Warren Harris, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, said the company's strong performance in Q2, with revenues growing 28%



year-on-year, supports its positive outlook for FY27. He added that Tata Technologies expects strong double-digit growth for the full year, supported by demand, programme ramp-ups, and pipeline conversion. Net income margin for the quarter was 10.1%. The workforce strength was 12,895, and the last twelve months (LTM) attrition rate was 15.6%. Tata Technologies secured a \$138 million

full vehicle programme with a European Automotive OEM. This deal involves end-to-end engineering for product development, manufacturing engineering, technical leadership, and programme management for two vehicle platforms. The company was also selected by a North American commercial vehicle manufacturer to lead the end-to-end development of a new vehicle platform and its digital ecosystem.

Govt Releases 14 Lakh Tonnes Of Sugar, Tightens Stock Limits To Check Price Rise Ahead Of Diwali

Mumbai: The Centre has released 14 lakh tonnes of sugar for domestic sales during the second half of October to improve market supplies and contain rising prices ahead of Diwali. The allocation, announced two days ahead of schedule, follows a sharp increase in ex-mill sugar prices, reportedly rising nearly Rs.1,000 per quintal over 10 days. According to the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), domestic mills have been allocated 14 lakh tonnes for Oct 13-31, while importers received an additional 2 lakh tonnes. The government had earlier allocated 26.5 lakh tonnes for September and 30 lakh tonnes for October. Maharashtra received the highest allocation at 4.76 lakh tonnes, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 4.51 lakh tonnes and Karnataka with 2.32 lakh tonnes. Together, the three states account for approximately 83% of the domestic mill allocation. Of the 587 sugar mills covered, 134 received no quota, while 39



were allocated up to 100 tonnes each. The government also assigned 1.30 lakh tonnes to Shree Renuka Sugars and 70,000 tonnes to Shri Dutt India. The refiners had previously received permission to sell imported sugar domestically but reportedly sold less than 60,000 tonnes because prevailing prices made imports commercially unattractive. Department of Consumer Affairs data showed average retail sugar prices at Rs.56.67 per kg on Oct 13. The corresponding wholesale average stood at Rs.5,254.91 per quintal. The Centre has also tightened stockholding restrictions to discourage hoarding during

the festive season. Under revised rules effective from Oct 15 to Nov 30, 2026, sugar dealers may hold a maximum of 1,000 quintals for 15 days. The restrictions exclude Kolkata, its extended metropolitan areas and Assam. Earlier, the government had permitted dealers to maintain stocks of 4,000 quintals for 30 days under rules introduced in August. That ceiling was subsequently reduced to 2,000 quintals from Sept 15. The latest reduction forms part of the government's efforts to regulate sugar availability and prevent further price increases during the festival period.

Ahead Of Starlink On Satellite Internet Approvals: Bharti Enterprises' Sunil Mittal



Mumbai: Bharti Enterprises Chairman Sunil Mittal said his company was considerably ahead of Elon Musk's Starlink in obtaining approvals for satellite communications services in India. Speaking on the second day of the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, Mittal said his company had secured certain approvals five years ago and was awaiting the remaining clearances. He expressed hope that Bharti would receive the necessary permissions before Starlink, highlighting its earlier progress through the regulatory process. Mittal said Bharti Enterprises was expanding its focus on digital infrastructure, particularly data centres and sov-

ereign cloud services. The company is working to establish a sovereign data cloud capable of serving Indian businesses, government institutions and defence forces. He emphasised the importance of developing domestic technological infrastructure to meet growing demand for secure data storage and processing. The initiative reflects Bharti's interest in strengthening India's digital capabilities alongside its satellite communications ambitions. Mittal also highlighted the need for India to examine regulatory frameworks for artificial intelligence (AI) as the technology becomes increasingly important across industries. His comments under-

scored the growing relevance of data infrastructure, digital security and regulatory preparedness in India's technology sector. Discussing India's economic outlook, Mittal described the country's policy stability, predictability and foreign direct investment framework as favourable. He said India had considerable potential to attract overseas investment, including capital from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore. Bilateral trade agreements were also helping strengthen India's investment prospects, he added. On global supply chains, Mittal cautioned against excessive dependence on China. He said geopolitical tensions had exposed vulnerabilities created by the concentration of manufacturing and supply networks in one country. Mittal stressed the importance of diversifying these arrangements to improve economic resilience. Commenting on the Indian rupee, he acknowledged that the currency had experienced weakness over the preceding one-and-a-half years. He attributed the depreciation partly to disruptions affecting global supply chains. His remarks covered India's satellite connectivity ambitions, technology infrastructure and investment opportunities amid changing global economic conditions.

Reliance Consumer Enters Dairy Beverage Market, Launches Joyland Flavoured Milk At Rs 20 In Tamil Nadu



Mumbai: Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL), the FMCG arm of Reliance Industries, has entered India's ready-to-drink dairy beverage market with the launch of Joyland Flavoured Milk in Tamil Nadu. Priced at Rs 20, the new product is available in strawberry and vanilla flavours. According to the company, Joyland is made using real dairy ingredients and aims to offer quality beverages at affordable prices. The company announced the launch in Chennai. The introduction of Joyland strengthens RCPL's beverage portfolio and marks its entry into a new consumer category. RCPL said the launch aligns with its strategy of offering high-quality products at competitive prices while expanding its presence across India's fast-moving consumer goods market. RCPL Director T. Krishnakumar said entering the ready-to-drink dairy segment represents an important step in expanding the company's product portfolio. He said Joyland combines real dairy ingredients, quality and affordability to meet changing consumer preferences. Krishnakumar added that Tamil Nadu would serve as the starting point for the brand's journey. The company plans to gradually develop Joyland into a broader dairy beverage portfolio and expand its presence nationwide.

New Delhi: India remained the world's largest buyer of Russian crude oil in September, although imports declined as Chinese demand tightened availability, according to Kpler ship-tracking analysis. India imported 1.82 million barrels per day, compared with China's 1.49 million barrels per day. Indian purchases were down roughly 29 per cent from July's 2.57 million barrels per day. Imports had reached 2.6 million barrels per day in June before easing to 2.02 million in August. Sumit Ritolia, senior manager at Kpler, said the moderation could not be attributed solely to US tariff pressure. Reduced availability and stronger competition from Chinese refiners also influenced Indian purchases. Chinese buyers in-

creased Russian crude intake partly because access to Iranian oil had diminished. Based on tracked cargoes, Kpler expects India's October Russian imports to remain steady at 1.8-1.9 million barrels per day. Venezuelan crude has re-entered India's supply basket this year, with flows accelerating since April. However, the United States remains its largest destination. Venezuelan exports to India reached approximately 257,000 barrels per day in September, against 563,000 barrels per day shipped to the US. Kpler distinguished export figures from arrivals, noting that long voyages shift cargoes between reporting periods. Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery complex remains the principal Indian

buyer because its configuration suits heavy and extra-heavy Venezuelan grades. These grades can contain high sulphur and acidity, making sustained processing difficult for refineries without equipment. State-owned refiners have purchased Venezuelan oil opportunistically, in smaller volumes than Reliance. Kpler has tracked cargoes to Indian Oil Corporation's Paradip refinery. The analysis indicates diversification rather than a withdrawal from Russian oil, which remains a major component of India's imports. Additional supplies are coming from the Middle East, Americas and other sources. Venezuelan arrivals could reach about 350,000 barrels per day in October, although some late-month shipments may arrive in November.



Sree Charani reaches highest-ever ICC Women's T20I bowling rating



Hyderabad: India's left-arm spinner Sree Charani has attained the highest-ever rating points in the ICC Women's T20I Bowling Rankings, climbing to 817 points in the latest weekly update released. Charani's tally is 11 points higher than the previous record of 806, held by Australian seam bowler Megan

Schutt, who reached the mark in November 2018. Charani's figures of two for 13 in the women's final at the Asian Games against Sri Lanka helped her consolidate the top position and set the new landmark, while stylish left-handed opener Smriti Mandhana returned to the top five of the ICC

Women's T20I Batting Rankings.

The 30-year-old vice-captain has moved up one slot after striking 79 off 46 deliveries with seven sixes and five fours and adding 99 for the opening stand with Shafali Verma as India notched a Games record total of 216 for three and eventually won by a huge 147-run margin to retain the gold medal. Her teammate Richa Ghosh, who struck 49 not out off 22 balls, has moved up three slots to 25th in the latest weekly update, which considers performances on the last day of the women's competition at the Asian Games. The competition also included the match for third place, in which Pakistan defeated Bangladesh by 31 runs to take home the bronze medal. Pakistan captain Fatima Sana's brisk 45 off 30 deliveries in that match has lifted her four places to 23rd, while Aliya Riyaz (up two places to 64th) and Gull Feroza (up six places to 87th) are others from her team to move up the rankings. Bangladesh's Sharmin Akhter has progressed 10 places to 35th after

scoring 46 off 45. In the bowling rankings, Pakistan's left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu is back in the top 10, while Bangladesh's Nahida Akhter (up two places to 29th), Pakistan's Umm-e-Hani (up 58 places to 51st) and India's Kranti Gaud (up four places to 53rd) have made notable progress.

In the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings, West Indies captain Hayley Matthews has moved up three places to fourth among batters after notching a career-best 182 against Zimbabwe during the ICC Women's Championship Series, which is the highest-ever score by a West Indies woman player. Zimbabwe captain Modester Mupachikwa has advanced 16 places to a career-best 40th position with scores of 86 and 38 after two matches of the series, which is level at 1-1. Her opening partner Kelis Ndhlovu has gone from 61st to 56th position in the list, while the bowling rankings see West Indies' Aaliyah Alleyne move up eight slots to 58th and Ashmini Munisar progress from 107th to 84th.

Who is Neeru Dhanda, India's first individual Asian Games gold medallist in women's trap

Nagoya: For Neeru Dhanda, the road to Asian Games gold has been built one target at a time. The 26-year-old Indian shooter finally had a medal around her neck that had eluded every Indian female trap shooter before her. Neeru produced a commanding performance in the women's trap individual final in Aichi-Nagoya, finishing with 28 hits to win gold and set a new Asian record. China's Sun Yunong claimed silver with 26, while Kuwait's Hajar Abdulmalik took bronze on 21.

Neeru, who trains at Dr KSSR in New Delhi and is part of the Indian Army Marksmanship Unit as a Naib Subedar, first represented India at the 2022 ISSF World Championship in Osijek. Since then, she has established herself as a regular contender on the international circuit. She won the women's trap title at the 2025 Asian Shooting Championship before producing the biggest breakthrough of her career earlier this year. At the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Lonato, Italy, Neeru became the first Indian woman to win an individual World Cup gold in women's trap. She also earned a mixed-team bronze at the World Cup in Almaty. The Asian result marked the first time an Indian woman had won an Asian Games medal in the individual trap event. It also added another milestone to a year that has already transformed Neeru's standing in international shooting. Her final was a lesson in recovering from set-



backs without allowing them to grow.

After a clean opening run, Neeru missed once in her second series and briefly slipped behind Sun and Abdulmalik. Instead of letting the error disrupt her rhythm, she responded with two successive perfect series. At the halfway stage, she had struck 19 of 20 targets and opened a two-hit advantage over her nearest challengers. By the time she reached the final five shots, the gold was firmly within her grasp. Neeru kept her composure to finish on 28 and complete a performance that had been in her control for much of the contest.

The victory is the latest landmark in a rapid rise for the shooter from Jind, Haryana.

Her Asian Games triumph carries another personal connection. Neeru took up shooting after being inspired by her cousin Lakshay Sheoran, who won silver in men's trap at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. Seven years later, she has gone one better. India has historically enjoyed greater success in rifle and pistol events than in shotgun disciplines. Neeru's gold therefore represents both a personal breakthrough and a significant moment for Indian trap shooting. After helping India win team silver earlier in these Games, Neeru returned to the range and delivered the performance that mattered most. This time, there was no one left to chase. Neeru was the target everyone else was trying to hit.

WPL 2027: MI part ways with G Kamalini, release six players

New Delhi: Two-time champions Mumbai Indians have surprisingly parted ways with promising wicketkeeper-batter G Kamalini, while defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru have released Australia's power-hitting all-rounder Grace Harris ahead of the 2027 Women's Premier League (WPL) season. Two-time champions MI, who missed out on the playoffs in WPL 2026, made significant changes to their setup by releasing six players in total after appointing Luke Williams as their new head coach.

Alongside Kamalini, who recently won the Asia Cup with India and got the Asian Games gold medal earlier this month in Japan, the franchise also opted to part ways with Australian quick Milly Illingworth, India left-arm spinner Saika Ishaque, as well as uncapped players Kranthi Reddy, Poonam Khemnarr and Triveni Vasistha. Defending champions RCB trimmed their roster

by releasing four players. Apart from Harris, the franchise also parted ways with England left-arm spinner Linsey Smith, alongside domestic players Dayalan Hemalatha and Gautami Naik. With Ellyse Perry making herself available for WPL 2027, as per head coach Malolan Rangarajan, it could be a reason behind the two-time winners releasing Grace.

Four-time runners-up Delhi Capitals have let go of South Africa opener Lizelle Lee, Australia leg-spinner Alana King, who came as a replacement for Annabel Sutherland, and experienced India off-spin bowling all-rounder Sneha Rana. Wicketkeeper-batter Taniya Bhatia, Pragati Singh and Srujana Eddla were the other players released by DC. UP Warriorz, after consecutive bottom finishes in the WPL, have executed a massive overhaul of their core unit by parting ways with international stars Deandra Dottin, Chloe Tryon and Amy Jones, as well as India leg-spin-



ner Asha Sobhana, batters Shweta Sehrawat and Kiran Navgire. Gujarat Giants have released experienced England batter Danni Wyatt-Hodge, young India pacer Titas Sadhu, who has been out of action due to a hand injury sustained in WPL 2026, Aayushi Soni and Shivani Singh ahead of the new sea-

son. The five WPL franchises will assemble at the Grand Hyatt in Kochi on October 28 for the player auction to complete their respective squads, with 18 being the maximum number of players they can have. The fifth edition of the WPL will take place from January 14 to February 7, 2027, with venues yet to be announced.

Andhra Kabaddi Association General Secretary gets grand welcome on return from Asian Games



Hyderabad: Srikanth Yalamanchili, General Secretary, Andhra Kabaddi Association (AKA), was accorded a grand welcome by the Executive Members of the Association at Gannavaram Airport (Vijayawada) on Tuesday upon

his return from the Asian Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. Srikanth had the distinction of being nominated as a Jury Member for Kabaddi at the Asian Games by the Asian Games Organising Committee through the Amateur Kabaddi

Federation of India (AKFI). His participation in this prestigious international sporting event is a matter of great pride for the entire Andhra Kabaddi fraternity, the AKA officials said. "This marks his second international assignment as a

Jury Member. Earlier, he was nominated as a Jury Member for the Asian Youth Games held in Bahrain in October 2025." The office-bearers and members of the Andhra Kabaddi Association, including K. V. Prabhavathi, President; K. V. Nancharaiiah, Senior Joint Secretary; N. Arjuna Rao Nakkala, Former International Kabaddi Player and Working President; and P. Ravindra, Director, Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP), congratulated Srikanth Yalamanchili on this significant achievement and appreciated his valuable contribution towards the promotion and development of Kabaddi at the international level. The Andhra Kabaddi Association expressed its happiness and pride over his international assignment, which has brought recognition to Andhra Pradesh Kabaddi and its officials on the global stage.

Varun Goud hits 109 as HCA practice match ends in draw

Hyderabad: A Varun Goud cracked a century (109 retired hurt, 133b, 13x4, 2x6) for Team A against Team B in the HCA senior men's practice match.

The scores: Senior men's practice match: Team B 336 in 81 overs (Aryan Krishna 31, CTL Rakshann Reddi 3/54, Tanay Tyagarajann 3/94) vs Team A 324/4 in 69 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 62, A Varun Goud 109 retired hurt, HK Simha 62 batting, CV Milind 70 batting).

Bengal Under-23 team tour to Hyderabad: Bengal 110 in 40.2 overs (Pranav Varma 5/37, Md Abdul Malik 3/28) vs Hyderabad 93/3 in 37 overs.

Under-19 men's practice match: Vinoo Mankad Team 288/8 in 45 overs (B Varshith Reddy 38, Shaik Rehaan Roshan 42, P Advith Reddy 53, Durga Ujjwal 85, B Hishanth Prem Charan 3/36) lost to HCA XI 292/8 in 43.4 overs (Pranav Suryadevara 75, G Rithish Reddy 51, Parth



Sharma 3/52). Under-14 girls' one-day league: Team-1 223/7 in 35 overs (Kajal Kumar 57, J Meenakshi 51, Rauthi Verni 44, Vallabdas Ritvika Goud 4/19) lost to Team-2 225/3 in 32.1 overs (Sura Gayatri Goud 57, Nama Varesha 37, L Kovida Samanvi 45 not out). Team-16 238 in 33.4 overs (G

Venya 53, M Shree Nithya 55, V Vishvika 34) beat Team-15 163 in 30.2 overs (Sahasra B 30, Gagana Deepika 38 not out, Sai Deekshita 3/7). Team-11 126 in 31.4 overs (Shacchi Thapa 3/17) lost to Team-10 127/4 in 21.5 overs (Lakshmi Aadhy B 49 not out).

India to face Sri Lanka in Asian Games cricket semifinal

Nisshin: The Indian men's cricket team will face Sri Lanka in the semifinals of the Asian Games after the island nation's quarterfinal against Nepal was abandoned due to inclement weather. Sri Lanka made it to the last four owing to their higher ranking. While they are placed ninth in the team rankings, Nepal are 14th. There has been consistent rain in Nagoya over the past

few days, leading to all four quarterfinals, including India's, being washed out. The second semifinal will be played between Pakistan and Bangladesh. Both semifinals are set to take place The Indian men's team, led by Shreyas Iyer, is yet to play a game at the Korogi Sports Park, which also hosted the women's competition won by Harmanpreet Kaur and Co.



Ramayana New Trailer: Have The VFX Improved?

Ramayana is one of the most prestigious and monumental high-budget mythological sagas in Indian cinema history. The latest film retells the epic saga, and the team launched a release trailer today with new visuals. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, the film is heading for a grand release this Diwali. The new trailer of Ramayana opens with an authoritative voiceover narrating the era when gods walked among mortals on Earth and the wrath of a supreme demon empowered by Lord Brahma's boons. Soon after, Yash enters as Ravana. Slowly, the trailer shifts to Ranbir Kapoor's introduction as Maryada Purushottama Sri Rama. The trailer establishes Yash as the symbol of Adharma and Ranbir as the one who restores Dharma. While some trailer sequences build excitement, the visual effects, which were supposed to be the film's USP, draw mixed reactions. The VFX shots show definite im-



provement, however compared with previous versions, some visuals still fall short. The team claims the film is being made on a 4000 Cr budget (2 parts), which is huge. We have to see how the film justifies it. The confrontation scenes between Ranbir and Yash promise a the-

atre experience. Sai Pallavi portrays Goddess Sita, and Ravi Dubey plays Lakshmana. Sunny Deol will play Lord Hanuman. Lara Dutta, Rakul Preet Singh, Kajal Aggarwal, and Arun Govil are also seen in the film. Oscar-winning composer A. R. Rahman and Holly-

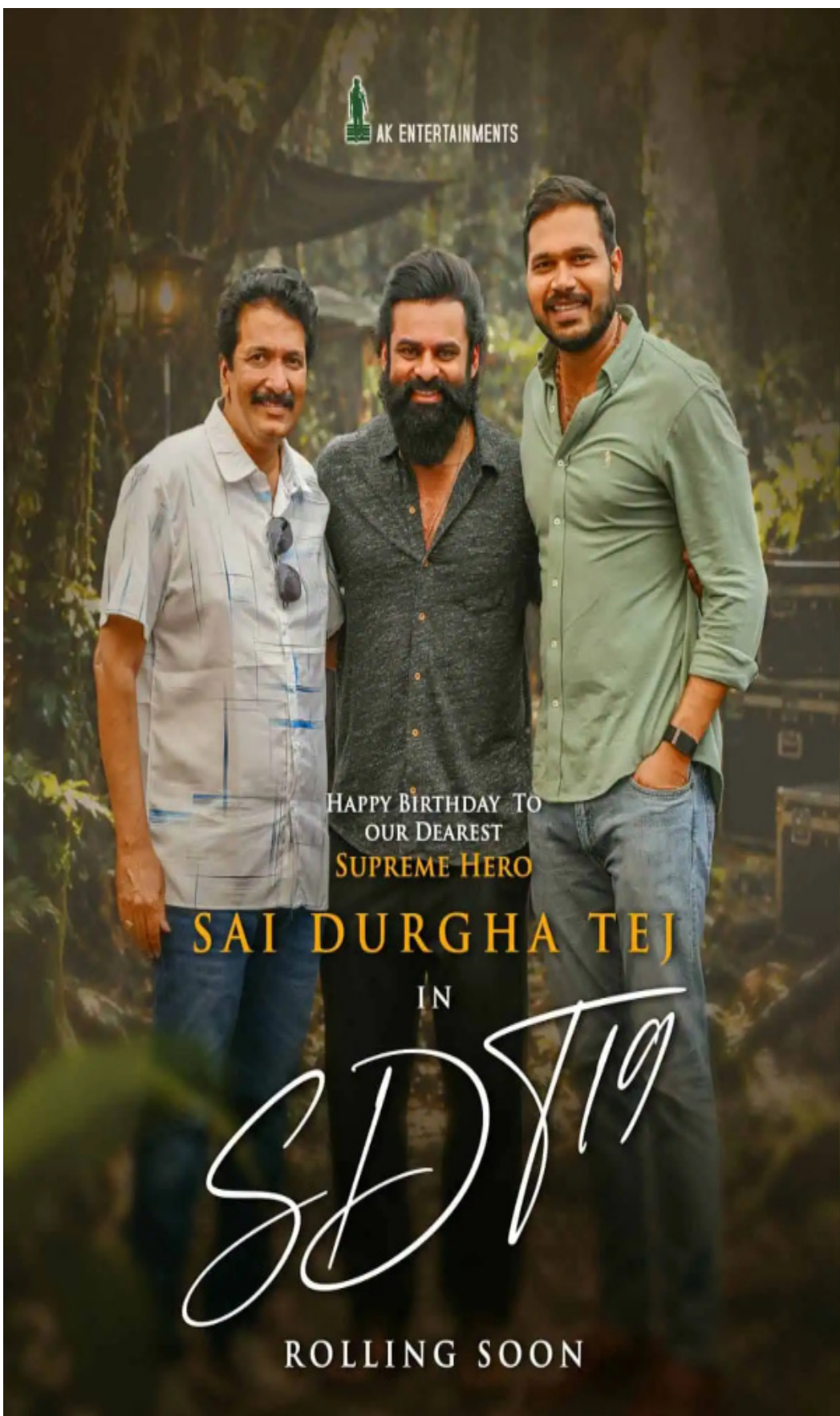
wood titan Hans Zimmer have teamed up for the first time on this venture. The score elevated the trailer to global standards. Global visual effects powerhouse DNEG is handling the VFX, with Namit Malhotra producing it. The first part of the film hits screens on November 5th.

Sreeleela's Hindi Debut Finally Gets Release Date, But...



After keeping fans waiting for a long time, Sreeleela's debut Hindi film has finally got a release date. The romantic love story is now scheduled to hit theatres on April 30, 2027. While the announcement brings some clarity, the long wait has also raised questions about the buzz surrounding the project. The biggest concern is the long gap between the film's announcement and its release. With the movie arriving only in April 2027, there is still plenty of time for the excitement to fade. The team has remained largely silent for almost two years, and this lack of updates could affect the film's visibility among audiences. In today's competitive film industry, maintaining audience interest is equally important as making a film. Regular updates, promotional content, posters, and glimpses can help keep a project in the news. If the makers continue to remain silent until the release gets closer, building strong pre-release buzz could become a challenge. For Sreeleela, the stakes are particularly high. The actress has faced a series of setbacks with her recent Telugu and Tamil films, making this film crucial for her career.

SDT, Anil Sunkara & Save The Tigers Maker



Supreme Hero Sai Durgha Tej, who is awaiting the release of SYG, signed another exciting project. Actor turned director Teja Kakumanu, who appeared in films like Baahubali, and directed the web series Save The Tigers 3, is venturing into feature films as a director with the new film #SDT19.

The project was officially announced on Sai Durgha Tej's birthday, bringing together three talents with different strengths and a shared commitment to ambitious filmmaking. Teja's transition to feature filmmaking comes with a subject he has developed with a clear creative vision, aiming to bring out a fresh facet of Sai Durgha Tej's screen presence.

Producer Anil Sunkara will back this new combination through AK Entertainments, a banner associated with both commercial spectacles and content-driven productions. His involvement is expected to support the film's ambitious vision with the necessary scale and production quality.

With the announcement now official, the team is preparing to move into production. The regular shoot is set to begin this month, while further information about the cast, crew and other details will be revealed in the coming days.

The Traitors Telugu: A Perfect Reality Show With a Perfect Host

Telugu audiences have been watching similar drama-driven reality shows for years, and The Traitors Telugu arrives on Prime Video as a refreshing change at the right time. With its unique format, strategic gameplay and unexpected twists, the show offers a different kind of reality entertainment that keeps viewers guessing. One of the most interesting aspects is Prime Video's choice of host. While veteran actors have traditionally dominated reality show hosting across national and regional television, the platform has taken a refreshing route by bringing in young actor Teja Sajja. With his growing popularity across different sections of the audience, Teja brings freshness, relatability and a new energy to the hosting space. The first three episodes establish the show's appeal through unpredictable gameplay, shifting suspicions and strategic moves. The neat presentation makes the format easy to follow, while the unexpected twists add intrigue and



keep audiences invested in the game. Teja Sajja emerges as a major highlight, he brings remarkable maturity to his hosting debut. His understated approach complements the show's suspense without overshadowing the game, demonstrating that an effective host need not rely on excessive theatrics to command attention. For Teja,

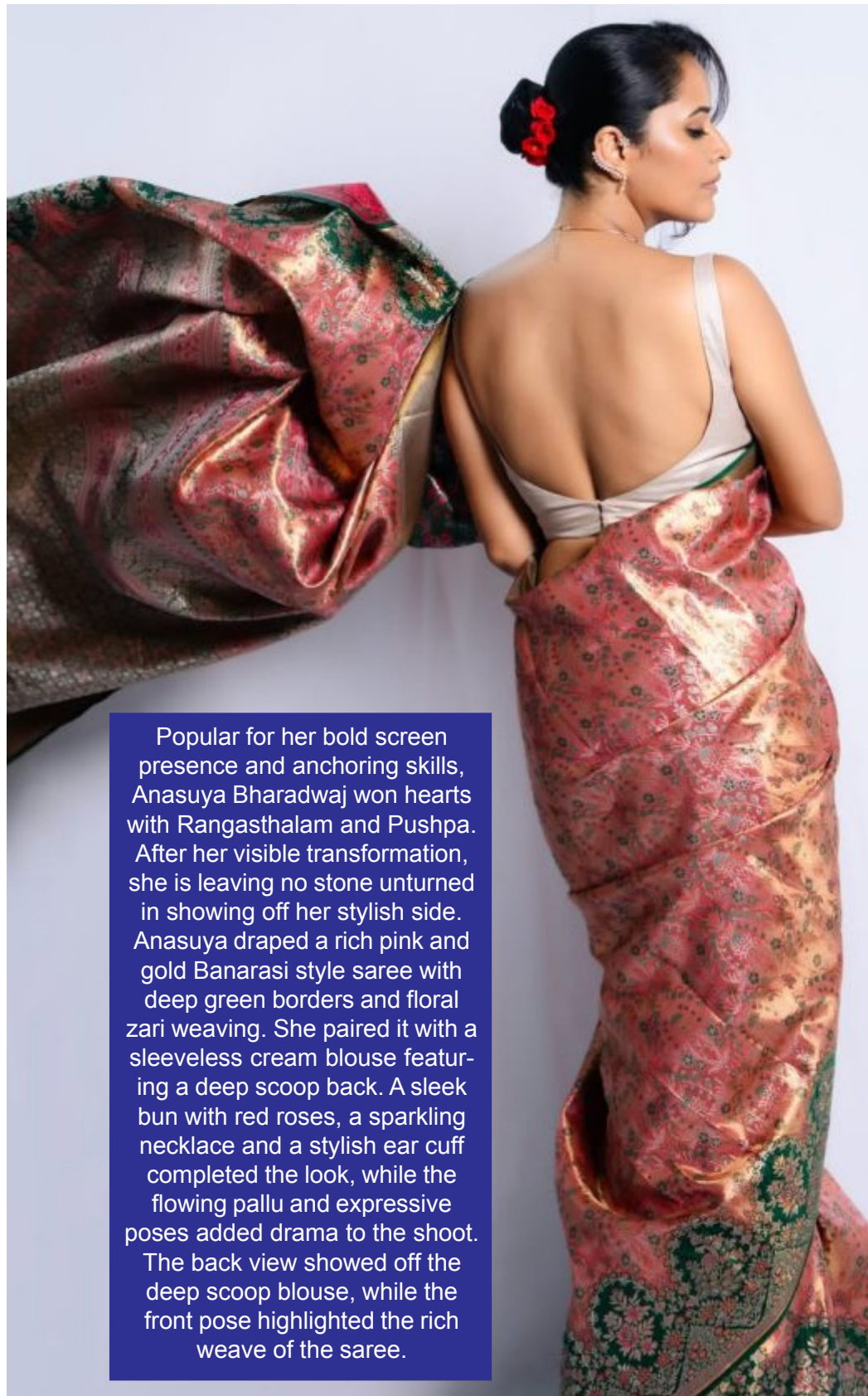
this marks a refreshing new chapter beyond films. For Prime Video, it is a smart casting decision that gives the show a distinctive identity. With a compelling format, engaging presentation and the right host, The Traitors Telugu makes a promising start and brings a much-needed change to Telugu reality entertainment for sure.

Sukumar Locked Ram Charan for the Next 3 Years?

Ram Charan, who is owing to make a solid comeback after Peddi and Game Changer, is all set to collaborate with ace director Sukumar. Sukumar and Ram Charan's combination was a blockbuster as the duo delivered RC's cult classic film Rangasthalam. Naturally, their reunion draws a lot of curiosity and joining them is Mythri Movie Makers. The latest inside buzz is that Sukumar and Ram Charan's next RC17 which is set for Vijaya Dashami launch is going to be made on large canvas and will have two parts, just like Pushpa 1 and Pushpa 2. Sukumar has narrated a gripping and intense film to Ram Charan who immensely loved the story and the script also said to have come out well. Once the film is launched, Sukumar will take a good time for the film to hit the sets. The pre-production works are happening at a rapid pace and once all the dates of the actors are finalised, the film is likely to hit the sets this December or January 2027. Inside talk is Sukumar has blocked Ram Charan for next 3 years minimum to make these two parts. Meanwhile, this film is going to be made against an urban backdrop unlike Rangasthalam which was made in rural milieu. Buzz is that Sara Arjun of Dhurandhar fame is most likely to be the film's female lead. There is some curiosity about the film's music director. Anirudh Ravichander's name is strongly heard. More details are awaited on RC17.



Anasuya Bharadwaj Shows Off Stunning New Look



Popular for her bold screen presence and anchoring skills, Anasuya Bharadwaj won hearts with Rangasthalam and Pushpa. After her visible transformation, she is leaving no stone unturned in showing off her stylish side. Anasuya draped a rich pink and gold Banarasi style saree with deep green borders and floral zari weaving. She paired it with a sleeveless cream blouse featuring a deep scoop back. A sleek bun with red roses, a sparkling necklace and a stylish ear cuff completed the look, while the flowing pallu and expressive poses added drama to the shoot. The back view showed off the deep scoop blouse, while the front pose highlighted the rich weave of the saree.