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S Jaishankar To Hold Talks With Marco Rubio During India Visit On October 20

New Delhi: The meeting between External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and Secretary of State Rubio will allow both sides to discuss ways to bolster the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, Randhir Jaiswal said. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will hold talks on October 20 to discuss ways to enhance the bilateral partnership during his visit to India, the MEA said on Friday. Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, during his bi-weekly media briefing, was asked if Jaishankar will be meeting Rubio during his planned trip to Mumbai. "On October 19-20, 2026,

the external affairs minister will host in Mumbai the deputy prime minister and the foreign minister of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan for an official visit. On October 20, the external affairs minister will hold talks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and attend the celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the Independence of the United States as a Guest of Honour," he said. The meeting between External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and Secretary of State Rubio will allow both sides to discuss ways to bolster the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, Jaiswal said. During an interactive ses-



sion at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum here on Thursday, US envoy Sergio Gor said that Rubio will meet Indian government officials in Mumbai and "we expect that minister Dr S Jaishankar will be there". The US secretary of state will travel to India next week to further strengthen energy cooperation, the Department of State said on Tuesday. Rubio will first visit Samarkand in Uzbekistan and then travel to Mumbai and Jamnagar in India from October 17-22, it had said.

NCP MP Sunil Tatkare meets PM Modi Seeks centre's assistance for drought-hit Maharashtra

New Delhi : Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP Sunil Tatkare met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and discussed the drought situation in Maharashtra, seeking necessary assistance from the Centre for drought-affected areas of the state. In a post on X, Tatkare said, "Met the Honourable Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi ji, in New Delhi. Considering the severity of the drought situation in Maharashtra, a request was made for necessary assistance from the central government to the drought-affected areas of the state." On Wednesday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that the state had declared a drought in 305 talukas, up from the earlier 265, and decided to provide a Rs 5,000 Diwali bonus to farmers, with the amount to be credited to their bank ac-



counts before the festival. Addressing a press conference in Mumbai, Fadnavis said the government had decided to extend assistance to farmers facing crop losses and financial distress due to the drought and had expedited the process compared to previous years. "Earlier, drought was declared in 265 talukas. Today, we have declared a drought in a total of 305 talukas. We have checked old records; normally help is given in December. But this time we have declared drought in advance," he said. "This Diwali is going to be difficult for farmers. It will be difficult for them to manage during Diwali. Considering this situation, we have discussed and decided to provide assistance to farmers in the coming days. We have decided to give Rs 5,000 to farmers as a Diwali bonus.

Tamil Nadu Cops To Allow RSS Centenary Rallies In 128 Locations



Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Police has informed the Madras High Court that permission will be granted to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to hold its centenary rallies at 128 locations across the state on October 25 and November 1. The court has directed the organisation to follow the dos and don'ts laid down in 2025, warning that the police

can act if the conditions are violated. The decision follows a series of hearings in which the high court questioned why the RSS faces repeated restrictions on its rallies in Tamil Nadu. During Thursday's hearing, the court cautioned the police against citing the presence of mosques along proposed routes as grounds to deny permission. It questioned

whether Muslims would necessarily oppose the rallies and observed that such reasoning could give the community a bad name. The court also directed the RSS to provide details of the 128 proposed locations and the expected number of participants. The police had cited possible public inconvenience, as the rallies fall around Diwali and Vijayadashami.

Operation Trishul Launched to Eradicate Drug Menace: AP DGP

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 16: Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta said that 'Operation Trishul' had been launched with the objectives of eradicating narcotics, ensuring the safety of women and children, and preventing road accidents. Speaking to the media on Friday, the DGP said police received information about illegal cannabis cultivation on a 9.5-acre agricultural farm near Dattaluru village in Nellore district. Using drone technology, police teams identified approximately 1,731 cannabis plants concealed among maize crops on the farmland. Preliminary investigations revealed that the illegal cultivation had been taking place for the past three months under the supervision of Uppalapati Subba Reddy, a resident of Dattaluru.



The DGP stated that police had taken six of the nine suspects into custody, while three others fled after spotting the police. Those arrested were identified as Uppalapati Subba Reddy, Mallavarapu Manohar, Gopavarapu Raja, Kemudu Buchibabu, Jaddi Jeevan, and Teegala Balaraju. The three absconding suspects were identified as Dukkeri Ravi, Ganesh, and Ramalingam. According to the DGP, the prime accused disclosed during interrogation that cannabis had previously been smuggled to Chennai, Delhi, and Bengaluru. He further stated that the accused admitted to undertaking cannabis cultivation this time with the assistance of individuals from other districts.

YSRCP Policies Have Damaged Andhra Pradesh: MLA Kotamreddy

From Our Staff Reporter Nellore, October 16: Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy strongly criticised the YSRCP, alleging that the policies of the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy government had pushed Andhra Pradesh to the brink of bankruptcy. He said that the people had consequently voted the coalition government into power. He stated that development and welfare programmes were being implemented extensively across the state under the coalition government. Kotamreddy accused Jagan Mohan Reddy of attempting to disrupt law and order in the state. He alleged that the previous YSRCP government had postponed local body elections for two years and was now trying to create obstacles to the electoral process once again.



He claimed that YSRCP workers had resorted to violence and intimidation in Punganur, Rayachoti, and

Tirupati on the very first day of the nomination process. Describing MP Mithun Reddy's remarks as highly objectionable, Kotamreddy said such aggressive behaviour had no place in politics. He challenged YSRCP leaders to face the electorate directly, saying that the people's verdict would determine the actual strength of each political party. Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy alleged that YSRCP leaders had threatened members of the ITDP wing in Nellore. He warned that if YSRCP leaders continued to behave as though they were still in power, the people

MLA Sudheer Reddy Warns YSRCP Over Punganur Attacks

From Our Staff Reporter Tirupati, October 16: Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy warned that they would not remain silent if attempts were made to murder TDP workers. Speaking in Tirupati on Friday, he reacted strongly to the alleged attacks by YSRCP supporters in Punganur, Annamayya district. Criticising YSRCP leaders, Sudheer Reddy remarked that the party had truly turned into an "axe party." He expressed outrage over allegations that vehicles had been driven towards people in Punganur. He warned YSRCP leaders that they would no longer tolerate drunken hooliganism and acts of intimidation. Sudheer Reddy said that, as a member of the Reddy community himself, he strongly condemned the actions of Mithun Reddy and Abhinaya Reddy. He stated that members of the Reddy community should not engage in such behaviour in politics but



should instead earn the support and confidence of the people. The Srikalahasti MLA further alleged that YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had encouraged clashes and hooliganism during every election over the past five years. He accused YSRCP leaders of mistaking Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's restraint and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's patience for weakness. In a strongly worded statement, MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy declared that they were no longer willing to heed the advice of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister to exercise restraint.

People Will Teach YSRCP a Lesson in Local Body Elections Too: MP Sana Satish

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 16: TDP Rajya Sabha MP Sana Satish asserted that the people would teach the YSRCP a fitting lesson in the upcoming local body elections as well. He strongly criticised YSRCP leaders, alleging that they were resorting to attacks because they lacked the courage to contest the local body elections democratically.



Referring to the previous Assembly elections, he remarked that YSRCP leaders had failed to learn their lesson despite their party being reduced to just 11 seats.

Speaking in Amaravati on Friday, MP Sana Satish expressed outrage over the alleged violence in Punganur. He accused YSRCP leaders of creating unrest through clashes and intimidating the public. He made it clear that attacks on TDP leaders and workers would not be tolerated. "We will not be intimidated by these attacks. We will stand firmly by our party workers and resist such acts," MP Sana Satish Babu declared. The local body election process has commenced, with the filing of nominations beginning on Friday. Clashes were reported in Punganur on the first day of nominations, prompting TDP MP Sana Satish to strongly condemn the alleged incidents.

Peddireddy Family Conspiring to Turn Punganur into a Graveyard: MLA Amarnath Reddy

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 16: TDP MLA Amarnath Reddy strongly criticised the Peddireddy family, alleging that it was conspiring to turn the Punganur Assembly constituency into a graveyard. He recalled that such clashes and disturbances had never occurred in Punganur when the TDP was previously in power. He alleged that the Peddireddy family, which resorted to violent politics while in power, was continuing the

same approach even while in the opposition. Amarnath Reddy accused the family of engaging in violent politics during the previous elections as well. He alleged that, just as in 2005, they were once again attempting to create unrest by bringing in outsiders. He stated that TDP workers had remained undeterred despite nearly 700 people allegedly being implicated in false cases and sent to prison, while their properties

were destroyed. He criticised the Peddireddy family, saying it had no understanding of democratic values. The MLA further

alleged that the family was once again conspiring to create an atmosphere of violence for political gain. He urged the people to resist such disruptive forces. Amarnath Reddy demanded that the Peddireddy family be driven out of Punganur politically and called upon the public to safeguard democracy and maintain a peaceful atmosphere through democratic means.



ED Prepares to Conduct Searches in APPSC Group-1 Evaluation Case

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, October 16: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is continuing its investigation into the alleged irregularities in the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) Group-1 examination evaluation process. ED officials have already collected investigation details and supporting evidence from the Andhra Pradesh Police in connection with the case. Based on this information, the agency is preparing to conduct searches. The ED investigation is based on a case registered at the Suryaraopet Police Station in Vijayawada in April 2025. The agency registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on October 10. Serious allegations of irregularities had surfaced regarding the evaluation of Group-1 Mains examination answer scripts conducted during the previous YSRCP government. The allegations primarily centred on retired IPS officer PSR Anjaneyulu. There were claims that the examination answer scripts had been evaluated at a private resort near Guntur. Allegations of malpractice and procedural irregularities in the evaluation process prompted the ED to focus particularly on suspected financial transactions connected to the case. Retired IPS officer PSR Anjaneyulu and Madhusudan Rao have been named as accused in the case registered by the Enforcement Directorate.

EDITORIAL

Are Muslim Voters Being Targeted in SIR Verification?

The classification of “logical discrepancy” used in the voter list revision process in Delhi has now sparked a serious debate. According to a data analysis published by a leading English newspaper, Muslim voters appear to have been disproportionately selected for verification. Serious allegations have emerged that the process was deliberately designed to target Muslims rather than merely identify certain voters for exclusion from electoral rolls. According to the 2011 Census, Muslims accounted for 13.6 per cent of Delhi's population, while their share among voters identified under the logical discrepancy category stood at 20.3 per cent. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process involves verifying voter details, addresses, family relationships and information against previous electoral rolls. Under the logical discrepancy mechanism, certain details in voter records are flagged when they do not match criteria determined by software. The report estimated that 318 out of every 1,000 Muslim voters were flagged, compared with 197 out of every 1,000 non-Muslim voters. Being flagged does not mean that a person is ineligible to vote or that their name has been deleted from the electoral roll. It merely indicates that additional verification is required. Based on these figures, Muslim voters were flagged at a rate approximately 60 per cent higher than non-Muslim voters. The method of identifying discrepancies relating to family size under the SIR process also appears arbitrary. According to the report, Muslims accounted for nearly 30 per cent of approximately 6.75 lakh voters flagged under five criteria relating to family size or the ages of children. This is considerably higher than the 13.6 per cent Muslim share cited in the report. These criteria have no direct connection with voter eligibility. To qualify as a voter, a person must be an Indian citizen, at least 18 years old and ordinarily resident in the relevant constituency. According to the 1998 Lal Babu Hussein case, the inclusion of a person's name in a previously published electoral roll can serve as evidence supporting their claim to Indian citizenship. Such a person's name should not be removed from the electoral roll without conducting a proper inquiry. Questions such as how many children a voter has, the ages of their parents or differences in the spelling of names have no direct bearing on voter eligibility. Significantly, neither the Election Commission of India's 2023 electoral roll guidelines nor the Special Intensive Revision exercises conducted during 2002–03 contained provisions requiring scrutiny of such factors. When the SIR process began in Bihar, certain shortcomings were reported during voter registration and the stages involving claims and objections. However, there was no evidence establishing direct or indirect discrimination on religious grounds. According to the newspaper's estimate, Muslims accounted for approximately 18.4 per cent of those removed from Bihar's pre-SIR electoral rolls. This was close to the state's Muslim population share of 17.7 per cent recorded in the 2011 Census. Under the current mechanism, even voters whose names were already included in draft electoral rolls were flagged for verification based on criteria that were not clearly explained. In other words, their records were marked as requiring additional scrutiny. This identification was carried out through the Election Commission's ECINET software. Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), who are legally responsible for voter registration, reportedly did not decide which voters should be selected for such verification. This raises questions about the extent to which they properly discharged their statutory responsibilities. In Bihar and West Bengal, the use of software to identify existing voters as suspicious on the basis of unclear criteria reportedly resulted in the deletion of approximately 27 lakh names from electoral rolls. Although 22 lakh of these voters filed appeals, only 1,607 voters were reportedly restored to the rolls by the deadline for voting. By September, nearly 93 per cent of the 1.26 lakh appeals that had been resolved reportedly resulted in the restoration of voters' names to the electoral rolls. These figures suggest that large numbers of voters may have been deprived of their voting rights before elections. The report also indicates that Muslims were disproportionately represented among those affected.

The same process has now been extended to the third phase of SIR, which includes Delhi. Allegations of bias against Muslim voters have emerged in the capital as well. Serious concerns are being raised that the SIR process, conducted using allegedly arbitrary criteria without a clear basis in electoral law, is resulting in discrimination against certain communities. The Supreme Court has also reportedly raised several questions regarding the SIR process in Delhi. It questioned whether additional verification was necessary and called for clarity on what constitutes a logical discrepancy and which documents are required to resolve it.

Violence Echoes Everywhere

They beat girls, young men and children. They beat people raising slogans, those walking along the roads, those going to hospitals and offices, and lawyers whose duty is to uphold the law. They beat farmers and university professors who educate students. They attacked members of opposition parties. They even assaulted several MLAs and MPs, elected representatives who speak for millions of people. Stopping people, dragging them away, throwing them to the ground, pulling them by their hair, pushing them into police vans, tearing their clothes and beating them mercilessly until they bled—such scenes have reportedly been unfolding on the streets of Delhi for several days. Eventually, hundreds of people were arrested and taken to specially established detention centres. Cases were registered against many of them.

Even journalists who had come to report on these developments as part of their professional responsibilities were allegedly beaten indiscriminately and arrested. Press freedom is being mocked, and the wings of the media are being clipped. People across the country are watching these developments in Delhi with shock and disbelief. Several international organisations have repeatedly warned that democracy in India is under threat. On October 10 and 11, police reportedly detained at least 37 journalists who had gone to cover protests in Delhi demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the cancellation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. Women journalists were among those detained. Some were allegedly severely beaten. Their phones and cameras were confiscated, and they were pressured to delete recorded footage. Journalists were forcibly dragged along the roads. Journalists from Newslandry, Scroll, Business Standard, Peak News, The Hindu, The Indian Express, Navbharat and even the BBC were reportedly among those subjected to detention. Those taken into custody included Newslandry journalists Ashwine Kumar Singh, Aastha Savyasachi and Anmol Pritam, as well as Scroll journalist Ayush Tiwari.

Police officers, too, are bound by rules. While on duty, they are required to wear proper

uniforms and identification badges. Victims have the right to complain against police personnel who misuse their authority or exceed their legal powers.

However, what is particularly alarming now is the presence of individuals wearing khaki uniforms without nameplates. People claiming to be police officers are reportedly beating protesters and transporting them in vehicles without number plates. Both men and women are among these unidentified personnel. Are they really police officers? Protesters and journalists reportedly pointed out vehicles filled with newly acquired khaki uniforms and batons to police officials on Delhi's streets. Why, then, did the authorities fail to take action? Meanwhile, groups of individuals have been roaming the streets openly declaring that they belong to the Hindu Sena, RSS and Bajrang Dal. They claim to have come to protect Hinduism and religious traditions and say they will stand by the Delhi Police.

These individuals have allegedly attacked protesters and sexually harassed girls and women journalists. Who are these people accompanying the police and attacking demonstrators? Who sent them? Where did they come from? Why are the police remaining silent even when such incidents allegedly occur before their eyes? Why are some of those accused of misbehaving with women reportedly released almost immediately after being arrested under public pressure? Such questions are troubling people across the country. Similar allegations emerged during protests at Jantar Mantar over the NEET question-paper leak and demands for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Individuals in civilian clothes were accused of attacking protesters with batons. Initially, police reportedly described these individuals as "spotters" belonging to the Special Branch and Crime Branch, deployed for crowd control. Following widespread criticism, instructions were reportedly issued requiring such personnel to wear uniforms rather than civilian clothes. Members of Generation Z mocked these developments, joking that the personnel had just ordered khaki uniforms from Amazon and arrived wearing them. They also raised



the slogan, "Vardi Chhodo, RSS Nikker Pehno"—roughly meaning, "Discard the uniform and wear RSS shorts."

Whatever their attire, allegations are mounting that the government has granted extensive powers to private groups involved in suppressing protests. Sexual assaults were allegedly committed not only against girls but also against some boys. Women have long argued that sexual violence is used as a weapon to control, intimidate and subjugate them.

The alleged abuses included groping, pulling at clothes, taking photographs and videos for doxxing, and openly issuing rape threats. Following the protests against the NEET paper leak in July, women protesters reportedly faced widespread online threats of rape and murder. Obscenely morphed photographs were circulated, and the personal addresses of young women were exposed.

Sexual violence is also used to convey a threatening message to women: stay inside your homes and do not come out onto the streets.

Women constables without nameplates were also accused of sexual violence. Questions have been raised about whether these individuals were genuine police personnel or members of RSS-affiliated women's organisations such as Durga Vahini. Several such women constables allegedly struck protesters on their breasts and private parts, restricted their breathing, hurled abuses and issued rape threats. Protesters complained that they were pushed backwards by pressure on their chests. Members of organisations such as the Students' Federation of India

(SFI), women protesters, journalists and lawyers alleged that male police personnel behaved inappropriately and engaged in groping. Sexual violence, in this context, becomes another instrument for telling women to remain indoors and stay away from public protests.

Women constables without identification badges also allegedly participated in such abuses. Doubts persist over whether they were genuine police personnel or individuals associated with organisations such as Durga Vahini.

These women were accused of striking protesters on sensitive parts of their bodies, obstructing their breathing, using obscene language and threatening sexual assault.

During the detention of student activists and women protesters, allegations emerged that both male and female police personnel touched women inappropriately, lifted their kurtas and subjected them to sexual humiliation.

History has demonstrated that women, too, can support fascism, patriarchy and authoritarianism.

Some media reports alleged that while Yogendra Yadav and Prashant Bhushan were in custody, a police officer touched them inappropriately from behind. Meanwhile, images circulated on social media showing women cheering around an effigy of Rahul Gandhi in what appeared to be a deeply degrading spectacle.

Who knows whether some of these women might also have joined the ranks of unidentified personnel involved in suppressing protests? The Press Club of India (PCI), Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ), Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and

other national and international organisations strongly condemned the reported attacks on journalists. They described the incidents as a "mob attack on press freedom." Journalists organised protest demonstrations in several cities. The Editors Guild of India and other organisations demanded clear guidelines to ensure journalists' safety and called for courts to establish standard operating procedures (SOPs). The Network of Women in Media, India (NWMI), filed a petition before the Supreme Court. The petition argued that these incidents constituted an attack on press freedom guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. It also stated that journalists, particularly women journalists, had been forced to work under frightening circumstances. Senior advocate Indira Jaising brought the petition to the attention of the Supreme Court bench.

At a time when mainstream media organisations are increasingly criticised as "Godi Media" and press freedom is perceived to be shrinking, numerous facts and stories that have been turned into "invisible news" over recent months are finally coming to light.

Hundreds of young women, young men and ordinary citizens, armed only with their mobile phones, have emerged as "people's reporters," displaying extraordinary courage as independent and anonymous journalists. They are bringing to light issues, realities and stories that mainstream media organisations have failed or refused to cover. In doing so, they are creating an alternative media ecosystem. Perhaps, through their efforts, the truth will ultimately survive and flourish.

Slurs, Threats, Now A Temple Attack Plot: When Did America Become So Hostile Indians?

The United States is witnessing a troubling and significant escalation in xenophobic, anti-India, and anti-Hindu attacks targeting Indian Americans. For decades, the Indian diaspora in the US was heralded as a "model minority" - a community celebrated for its high educational attainment, entrepreneurial success, and seamless integration into the American fabric. However, this glossy narrative has increasingly been pierced by acts of overt violence, online harassment, and systemic prejudice. According to data tracked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and community watchdogs, hate crimes targeting individuals of South Asian and Hindu heritage have steadily climbed, prompting deep concern about the safety, acceptance, and future of Indians in America. Anti-Indian and anti-Hindu sentiment manifests across a spectrum that ranges from casual, everyday micro-aggressions to severe physical violence and vandalism. Indian Americans have increasingly found themselves targeted in public spaces. In notable incidents documented across major metropolitan areas, individuals have been accosted with demands to "go back to your country" or accused of "taking American jobs." High-profile assaults, such as the targeting of Indian-American tech workers or students, have underscored a growing vulner-

ability. Temples across the United States, from California to New York, have increasingly become targets for hate crimes. Anti-Hindu vandalism frequently involves the defacement of temple walls with derogatory slurs, political graffiti, and threatening messages. These attacks do more than damage property; they violate the psychological safety of families seeking to practice their faith in peace. The internet has emerged as a major incubator for anti-Indian and anti-Hindu rhetoric. Social media platforms witness a heavy volume of coordinated trolling, where users employ derogatory tropes regarding Indian hygiene, accents, and corporate leadership. Furthermore, political polarisation in South Asia is frequently imported into the U.S. digital landscape, exposing the diaspora to crossfire from multiple ideological factions. The rise in hostility cannot be attributed to a single source. Rather, it is the product of an intersection between domestic economic anxieties, shifting immigration dynamics, and complex transnational political developments.

The immense professional success of Indian Americans has, ironically, fuelled a modern wave of nativist resentment. With Indian-born executives leading some of the world's most powerful tech conglomerates and occupying prominent roles in medicine

and finance, a hostile counter-narrative has emerged. During times of domestic economic instability, corporate layoffs, or housing crunches, the diaspora is frequently scapegoated by individuals who view immigrant success as a zero-sum loss for native-born citizens. As the Indian-American population expands outside traditional metropolitan hubs into suburban enclaves, cultural visibility has grown. Public celebrations of festivals like Diwali or the construction of traditional architecture for temples have sometimes triggered xenophobic reactions from local communities, resistant to demographic changes. As noted in some reports by independent platforms, when cultural practices become highly visible without simultaneous, proactive community dialogue, friction can manifest among segments of the host population. In the United States, religious literacy regarding Eastern faiths remains relatively low. Hinduism is frequently viewed through a lens of exoticism or misunderstood through distorted tropes. When geopolitical tensions rise, or when domestic media outlets cover sensitive socio-political issues in India, these complexities are often flattened out. The result is a form of prejudice where individual Hindu Americans are held collectively responsible for foreign political realities, leading to targeted harassment

and the defacing of religious institutions. In a recent case, police in the state of Illinois thwarted a potential mass shooting and arrested Alexandros Paporakis, a Taco Bell cashier from the Chicago suburb of Palatine. This 19-year-old American, who expressed white supremacist views, was arrested on the day the United States police believe he tried to attack a Hindu place of worship. Prosecutors say he told colleagues he "couldn't wait" to kill Indian people. The case surfaced amid mounting concern among Indian-Americans about hostility towards their community, fuelled by bitter political fights over immigration and skilled-worker visas.

Over two nights in late June 2025, an estimated 20 to 30 rounds were fired at a Krishna temple in Spanish Fork, Utah, while people were inside. No one was hurt. Two months later, Illinois Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi condemned a break-in and vandalism at a Hindu temple in Santa Clara, California, saying incidents targeting Hindu temples across the US "are on the rise". A report by the Centre for the Study of Organised Hate (CSOH) found the monthly volume of hateful posts about South Asians on X more than tripled between January 2024 and June 2026. Devesh Kapur, a professor of South Asian studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced Interna-

tional Studies, said the threat is growing. "White supremacist extremism is clearly rising. Hostility towards Indians has particularly increased among the MAGA right in President Trump's second term."

Much of the hostility seems to have been driven by fights over immigration. Trump campaigned on the issue of immigration in the lead-up to the presidential election of 2024, and has launched sweeping restrictions, including "military-style" federal raids on immigrant communities, resulting in the deaths of some activists - since returning to the White House in January 2025. Indians receive more than 70% of H-1B visas, which US employers use to bring skilled foreign workers to the country. Spikes in online hate have followed political rows over the programme. In July 2025, President Donald Trump criticised US technology companies for outsourcing jobs to India. That September, he imposed a USD 100,000 fee for certain new H-1B petitions. US courts are still deciding on the legality of the fee and have currently blocked the payment requirement. Figures close to Trump have also displayed anti-Indian attitudes. In September 2024, far-right activist Laura Loomer, at one time a close Trump ally, wrote that the White House would "smell like curry" if former Vice President Kamala Harris won the presidency.

Candidates told to strictly adhere to election expenditure limits

Violations of Model Code of Conduct will invite legal action, warns East Godavari Collector Keerthi Chekuri
Distribution of cash, liquor and gifts to influence voters strictly prohibited



PEN POWER CORRESPONDENT
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM,
October 16: East Godavari District Collector and District Election Officer Keerthi Chekuri has directed candidates contesting the upcoming local body elections to strictly adhere to the expenditure limits prescribed by the State Election Commission (SEC). In a statement issued on Friday, the Collector said the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) would be enforced rigorously to ensure free, fair and transparent elections. Any violation of the electoral guidelines would attract action under the relevant laws. The guidelines apply to elections in Kovvur, Nidadavolu and Mandapeta municipalities, as well as Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTCs), Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTCs),

gram panchayats and village wards.

Expenditure ceilings prescribed

According to the expenditure limits communicated by the district administration, candidates contesting for sarpanch posts in gram panchayats with a population exceeding 10,000 can spend up to Rs.4 lakh, while ward member candidates can spend up to Rs.1 lakh. In gram panchayats with a population of 10,000 or less, the expenditure ceiling is Rs.2.50 lakh for sarpanch candidates and Rs.60,000 for ward members. The expenditure limit is ₹4 lakh for MPTC candidates and ₹8 lakh for ZPTC candidates. For municipal chairperson and councillor candidates, the applicable expenditure limits will depend on the classification of the municipality and the latest orders issued by the SEC.

Daily expenditure records mandatory

Ms. Chekuri said every contesting candidate must maintain a daily account of election expenditure from the date of filing nominations until the declaration of results. Expenses incurred on publicity material, ban-

ners, pamphlets, vehicles, public meetings and other campaign activities must be recorded, with supporting bills and receipts.

Candidates contesting panchayat raj elections must submit their expenditure accounts within 45 days of the declaration of results, in accordance with the applicable rules.

Strict action against inducements

The Collector warned that distributing cash, liquor, gifts or other inducements to influence voters was strictly prohibited. Election surveillance teams and flying squads would monitor the movement and distribution of suspicious cash, liquor and other materials. Citizens were encouraged to report electoral malpractices to the authorities.

Misuse of government machinery prohibited

Government vehicles, offices, guest houses, personnel and public resources must not be used for political campaigning, the Collector said. Announcements of new welfare schemes, distribution of special benefits intended to influence voters and pro-

hibited foundation-stone ceremonies would not be permitted in areas where the MCC is in force, subject to applicable exemptions. Prior permission must be obtained for election rallies, public meetings, processions and the use of loudspeakers. Restrictions on loudspeaker use between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. must also be observed.

No appeals based on caste or religion

The Collector cautioned political parties and candidates against seeking votes on the basis of caste, religion or language, or making speeches that could promote communal disharmony. Places of worship, including temples, mosques and churches, must not be used for election campaigning. She also advised candidates to refrain from personal attacks and unsubstantiated allegations against political opponents. Ms. Chekuri appealed to candidates, election agents and political parties to cooperate with the election authorities and uphold democratic values to ensure peaceful, free and fair local body elections.

Strict Action Against Election Code Violations

Candidates Must Follow Spending Limits: Collector Dinesh Kumar

Rampachodavaram, October 16 (Pen Power) : Polavaram District Collector and Election Officer K. Dinesh Kumar warned of strict action against violations of the Model Code of Conduct during the upcoming local body elections. He directed candidates contesting Sarpanch, Ward Member, MPTC and ZPTC elections to strictly follow the expenditure limits prescribed by the State Election Commission. Candidates must maintain daily

records of campaign expenses and submit expenditure statements within the stipulated deadline. Distributing cash, liquor, gifts or other incentives to influence voters is strictly prohibited. The Collector also warned against using government vehicles, staff or public resources for election campaigns. Prior permission is mandatory for rallies, public meetings and loudspeakers. He urged political parties and candidates to avoid caste- and



religion-based campaigning and cooperate with election authorities to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections.

Operation Trishul: Crackdown on Drugs, Road Accidents and Crimes Against Women

- Collector Calls for a Ganja-Free Polavaram District



Rampachodavaram, October 16 (Pen Power) : Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar directed officials to strictly implement Operation Trishul, focusing on women's safety, road accident prevention and drug eradication. Addressing a district-level review meeting at the ITDA conference hall on Friday, the Collector

called for coordinated efforts among departments to prevent crimes against women and children, curb ganja trafficking and improve road safety. He instructed officials to strengthen security in tribal residential schools, prevent child marriages and conduct regular awareness programmes. He also called for legal action against

ganja traffickers, including attachment of assets as permitted by law, while providing alternative livelihoods to those quitting the illegal trade. Expressing concern over increasing road accidents, he directed officials to identify accident-prone areas, enforce traffic rules and strengthen safety measures on the Maredumilli-Chintoor ghat road. District

SP K. Chakravarthy stressed preventive policing, strict action against drunken driving and coordinated efforts to eliminate drug trafficking. Joint Collector Surapati Prashanth Kumar, senior police officers, Sub-Collectors and district officials attended the meeting. The officials also unveiled the Operation Trishul awareness poster.

CJI Surya Kant inaugurates extension wing of Delhi Govt health centre in Supreme Court premises



New Delhi : Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant inaugurated an extension wing of the Delhi Government health centre (DGHS)

within the Supreme Court premises, emphasising the importance of healthcare facilities. Speaking to the media after the inaugura-

tion, Justice Surya Kant expressed his gratitude to the Delhi Government and its health department for their assistance in setting up the advanced clinic. "With the assistance of the Delhi Government's health department and the Delhi Government, we have inaugurated a very good clinic today for Bar members, our staff, and the staff associated with advocates," Justice Surya Kant said. Highlighting the comprehensive medical services available at the new facility, he noted that the centre offers treatments across Ayurvedic,

Homoeopathic, and Allopathic systems, along with basic diagnostic services such as X-rays and blood tests. "The best part is that direct connectivity has been established with specialised hospitals, like the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences and RML Hospital, along with ultrasound facilities," he added. Terming health as an issue that brooks no compromise, Justice Surya Kant expressed happiness over fulfilling a long-pending demand of the Bar members and their associated staff.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi to lay foundation stone for 600-flat housing project on land reclaimed from Atiq Ahmed

Prayagraj : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will lay the foundation stone for the Padma Lok Awas Yojana, an affordable housing project comprising around 600 flats on land reclaimed from mafia-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed in Prayagraj. The project is proposed on more than one hectare of land in the Sadar tehsil area. The Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) aims to develop the site for affordable housing. PDA Vice-Chairman Rishi Raj said preparations were underway for the programme, which senior officials and public representatives are expected to attend. He said the land belonged to the

development authority but had been under the occupation of mafia elements. Following its reclamation, the PDA is planning to develop affordable housing on the site. Around 600 flats are proposed under the scheme, Raj said, adding that the project had been registered with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA). The detailed project report (DPR) is being processed. Once it receives approval, the authority will complete the required formalities and begin the tendering process, he said. Details regarding flat sizes, prices, eligibility criteria and allotment procedures are yet to be finalised. In Prayagraj,



land reclaimed from Atiq Ahmed in the Lukerganj area was earlier used to construct 76 flats under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The homes were subsequently allotted to beneficiaries.

Factory-made pistol, 14 rounds of live ammunition seized in raid near Agartala Airport; one detained

Agartala : Agartala Airport Police recovered a factory-made 7.65 mm pistol, 14 rounds of live ammunition, a magazine and firearm-cleaning accessories during a raid at a residence in the Bhagalpur area near Agartala Airport on Wednesday night. One person, identified as Santosh Biswas, was detained in connection with the recovery, police said. According to Officer-in-Charge of Agartala Airport Police Station, Naru Gopal Deb, the operation was launched following confidential information about suspected contraband items at a house in the area.

A special police team was formed, and the house was cordoned off before a search was conducted in the presence of witnesses. "Agartala Airport Police Station received confidential information that an individual had suspected contraband items at his residence. A special team was formed, the house was cordoned off, and a search was conducted in the presence of witnesses," said the Officer-in-Charge.

During the search, police recovered a factory-made pistol, reportedly manufactured in Italy, along with 14



rounds of live ammunition and a magazine from a trunk. Gun-cleaning oil and other firearm-cleaning accessories were also seized. He said, "Although no contraband items were found, a factory-made 7.65 mm pistol, reportedly manufactured in Italy, along with 14 rounds of live ammunition and other accessories, was recovered from a trunk. The individual, identified as Santosh Biswas, was brought to the police station, and a case under the Arms Act has been registered against him." A Forensic Science Laboratory

(FSL) team and an executive magistrate were called to the spot, where the necessary examination and formalities were carried out in the presence of local residents. "An FSL team and an executive magistrate were called to the spot, and the operation was completed with everyone's cooperation. Further investigation is underway to determine whether anyone else was involved."

Santosh Biswas was taken to the police station, and a case under the relevant provisions of the Arms Act has been registered against him, police

said. According to police, no previous case against Biswas has been found so far at Agartala Airport Police Station. Investigators are checking whether any cases are registered against him at other police stations. Police are investigating the source of the firearm, the circumstances under which it came into his possession, and whether any other individuals were involved. Police said the detained individual had identified himself as a daily-wage labourer. Further details are awaited as the investigation progresses.

Advocate moves court against YouTuber Dhruv Rathee, seeks direction for restraint, damages

New Delhi : An advocate, along with others, has filed a civil suit against YouTuber Dhruv Rathee seeking damages from him. The complainants, who identified themselves as Hindu devotees, alleged that their religious sentiments were hurt by a video posted by Dhruv Rathee. In light of this, they prayed before the court to issue directions granting an interim restraint on Rathee from creating, uploading, or publishing similar content. The complainants have sought damages of at least Rs 50 lakh. It is prayed that the amount of damages, if awarded, be deposited in this Court, to be utilised for the welfare, maintenance and upkeep of a mandir or mandirs of Bhagwan Shri Ram, Maa Sita and Bhagwan Shri Krishna, or for such other public or religious purpose as the Court may deem fit and proper.

The complainant Amita Sachdeva has alleged in the suit that Dhruv Rathee is a well-known YouTuber and content creator operating the YouTube channel "Dhruv Rathee" with over 3 crore subscribers. However, in one video, Rathee has made ex facie false, selective, misleading and highly offensive statements about Maryada

Purushottam Bhagwan Shri Ram, Sita Maa, and Yogeshwar Bhagwan Shri Krishna. It is also alleged that the said statements, published in a permanent form on a widely accessible platform, are defamatory in nature as they are calculated to lower the dignity, sanctity, reputation and Maryada of Bhagwan Shri Ram, Sita Maa, and Yogeshwar Bhagwan Shri Krishna in the estimation of members of society, and thereby directly lower the reputation, religious identity, standing and self-esteem of the Plaintiffs as their devotees.

District Judge Mohinder Virat took up the matter on Wednesday and listed the matter for consideration on November 5. Advocate Makrand D Adkar appeared for the complainant. Advocate Amita Sachdeva and others are seeking a grant of an ex-parte ad-interim injunction restraining Dhruv Rathee, his agents and persons acting on his behalf, from creating, publishing, uploading, sharing, disseminating, or communicating the video titled "Can Hindus Eat BEEF?" or any video identical to or similar in content, on the internet or any other media, during the pendency of the present suit. The complain-



ants have also sought to grant an ex-parte ad-interim injunction restraining Google from restoring, hosting, uploading, sharing or disseminating the said video, or any video identical to or similar in content, after notice and verification of the URL, during the pendency of the present suit. It is also prayed for a direction to Rathee to forthwith remove and delete the said video from his YouTube

channel and every account under his control, and to take down every copy uploaded by him or at his instance. The complainant has also sought a direction to Google to forthwith remove and disable access, including in India, to the said video and to every identical or similar re-upload whose URL is disclosed or hereafter notified by the Plaintiffs during the pendency of the suit.

As Himalayas Change, Jim Corbett's Voice Echoes Louder Than Ever'



But how do we even know if all that Jim Corbett wrote about was even true?" There was an audible gasp in the room. I was moderating a session on environment writing at the very first Corbett Literature Festival, being held right next to the Corbett National park, named after the celebrated hunter turned conservationist Jim Corbett. The offending question, over the sanctity of Corbett's many tales, that have enthralled generations, was asked, in a light hearted manner, by Professor Richard Kerridge, himself a nature writer, who teaches creative writing at Bath Spa University. Before I could react to the implications of the loaded statement he had just made, another panelist, prolific writer and celebrated author from the hills, Stephen Alter intervened. 'As someone who is from the region as well, I must step in here and defend Jim Corbett!' He said with some feeling, a smile on his face. 'How can you question our beloved hero? All his adventures, all his descriptions of chasing man-eating tigers and leopards in the Kumaon hills were all absolutely true!' The hall, which was full of writers, environmentalists and wildlife enthusiasts laughed, and we continued our discussion, as Prerna Singh Bindra, the third panelist spoke about her favourite Jim Corbett book,

and the fact that he his most popular book, The Man-eaters of Kumaon, was only published when he was in his 60s. Ours was the last session of the three-day long inaugural Corbett Literature Festival. Over the past three days, there has been a rich mix of conversations about books, the environment, the Himalayas, local cultures and communities, and even cuisine. Historian and food critic Pushpesh Pant had kept the audience entertained with a lively session on the region's food traditions. The festival had also brought together celebrated photographers and filmmakers, who captivated audiences with films and photographic collections built over years of exploring the wilds of Corbett and the vast Himalayan landscapes. Their work offered glimpses of tigers and elephants, gharials basking by the river, the tall grasses of the grasslands and the Ramganga flowing through the forest. My favourite screening was a short documentary made by the forest guards of Corbett. Using drones (and given the access they enjoy), they captured some spectacular images of the wild, offering a glimpse of the park that few get to see. The visuals were spellbinding, but what made the screening particularly special was the opportunity it gave these often-unsung

guardians of the forest to take centre stage and receive the applause they deserved, not just for their film, but also for the tireless work they do to protect a park that is loved by so many. Renowned singer Jubin Nautiyal joined them on stage, alongside the forest guards and Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs), to felicitate and honour them. As the audience applauded, it was a moment of recognition for the people who work, often away from the spotlight, to keep Corbett's wild heart beating. The festival was organised in part by the Forest Department, with the dynamic Corbett Tiger Reserve Field Director Saket Badola closely involved in spearheading the effort, along with several corporates, and resorts in the area. It was inaugurated by Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal, who spoke about the importance of communities in conservation. The Uttarakhand Tourism Development board also supported the festival, titled '3 days in the Wild' that brought together 30 speakers. The involvement of resorts did not mean that tourism was spared from scrutiny. Several conversations tackled the issue of meaningful tourism and conservation. Former park director Samir Sinha recounted an incident when he had entered a resort while tracking a tiger that

was moving around habitation, and found a drain emptying dirty water straight into the Kosi river. The conversation pushed for responsible practices and finding the right balance when it comes to tourism. And these are issues that need more attention, at a time when Uttarakhand is facing challenges in striking that balance between tourism, livelihoods and protecting the mountains and forests. The Himalayas are currently witnessing an unprecedented expansion of tourism and infrastructure, often putting fragile ecosystems under immense pressure. From unplanned construction and mounting waste to pressure on water resources, fragile mountain slopes and biodiversity, the environmental costs of this growth are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. This is why festivals and platforms like the Corbett Literature Festival matter. After all, Jim Corbett was among the early voices in India to champion wildlife conservation and the protection of tigers, while also expressing a deep affection for, and concern about, the pahadi communities who lived alongside the forests he knew so well. Wildlife historian Raza Kazmi shared a letter Corbett had written before leaving the country for Kenya. "...I am glad I got that film when I did, for in a few years, ten at most, tigers will be extinct, except possibly in a few isolated pockets in Indian states..." That prediction, however, did not come true. India's tigers survived, thanks in no small measure to decades of conservation efforts. But Corbett's words are a reminder of just how much we stand to lose when we fail to act in time. Today, as we grapple with the pressures of tourism, development and climate change in our fragile Himalayan landscapes, his message remains as relevant as ever.

Kerala Lost Rs 13,104 Crore Through Flagship Funding Model: Report



Thiruvananthapuram: A committee appointed by the VD Satheesan-led Kerala government has recommended ending the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board's (KIIFB) role as a borrowing agency, saying its funding model has placed a massive financial burden on the state without delivering the benefits originally promised. Releasing the 106-page white paper on Thursday, Chief Minister VD Satheesan said the report was not a political document but an assessment of KIIFB's financial position. The most baffling thing the committee estimates is that Kerala has lost out on nearly Rs 13,104 crore because of the KIIFB funding model, which was established by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government. It also warns that the state faces repayment obligations exceeding Rs 70,000 crore in the coming years. The findings raise serious questions about one of the flagship infrastructure initiatives of the previous Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF government.

How KIIFB Became Kerala's Infrastructure Funding Model

KIIFB was transformed into a major infrastructure financing agency in 2016 under former state finance minister Thomas Isaac. The LDF government amended the law governing the board and announced a Rs 20,000 crore infrastructure investment programme aimed at boosting economic growth. Under the arrangement, half of Kerala's motor vehicle tax revenue and the entire petrol cess were earmarked for KIIFB. The board was authorised to raise funds through market borrowings to finance roads, hospitals, schools and other infrastructure projects. In May 2019, then Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan rang the opening bell at the London Stock Exchange to mark the listing of KIIFB's Rs 2,150-crore Masala Bond. It was the first such international bond issue by an Indian state-level entity. The LDF government projected the initiative as a major breakthrough that would allow Kerala to un-

dertake large infrastructure projects without depending entirely on the state budget.

Tax Revenue Used To Repay Loans

The committee, headed by former Planning Commission Member Secretary Sudha Pillai and including former Union Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj, examined KIIFB's finances over three months. Its findings suggest that the funding model failed to achieve its central objective. Between 2021-22 and 2024-25, the Kerala government transferred Rs 11,869 crore to KIIFB. During the same period, the board spent Rs 11,944 crore on loan repayments and interest. This meant that almost the entire amount transferred by the government was effectively absorbed by debt servicing, while fresh borrowings were used to finance new projects. The committee concluded that a mechanism intended to reduce pressure on the state budget had instead created an additional financial burden. It also found that KIIFB's borrowing costs were higher than those of the state government, resulting in an additional annual expenditure of approximately Rs 396 crore. The much-publicised Masala Bond issue alone cost around Rs 182 crore more than conventional government borrowing would have, according to the report.

Rs 13,104 Crore Financial Disadvantage

One of the report's most significant findings concerns the overall cost of operating KIIFB. The committee calculated that Kerala had committed Rs 61,678 crore in tax revenue and borrowing capacity to support the board. However, only Rs 48,575 crore had either been spent on infrastructure projects or

remained available in KIIFB's accounts. The panel estimates that if the state government had directly financed the same projects, it could have retained approximately Rs 13,104 crore in additional financial resources. The committee also found that KIIFB's borrowings had reduced Kerala's borrowing capacity. Since 2022, the Centre has adjusted Rs 25,933 crore against Kerala's borrowing limits on account of KIIFB's debt. This effectively defeated one of the principal objectives behind KIIFB's expansion: financing infrastructure without reducing the government's own borrowing capacity. The findings also bring renewed attention to the controversy surrounding the Comptroller and Auditor General's 2018-19 audit report. The CAG had questioned KIIFB's borrowing arrangements, arguing that its liabilities were effectively state government debt and that the borrowings had been undertaken outside the normal legislative approval process. In January 2021, then Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan moved a resolution in the Kerala Assembly rejecting the CAG's observations and seeking their removal from the record. The Opposition walked out in protest. VD Satheesan, who was then chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, was among those who opposed the government's move. Five years later, the committee appointed by his government has reached a similar conclusion on the financial implications of KIIFB's borrowing model. The new committee has not examined the constitutional validity of the Masala Bond

issue, noting that the borrowing was fully repaid in 2024. It has also clarified that its findings do not question the value or necessity of infrastructure projects undertaken through KIIFB. Instead, the report focuses on the financial structure used to fund those projects and the long-term burden on the state.

Committee Recommends Ending KIIFB Borrowings

The committee has recommended that KIIFB should no longer function as an agency that raises money from financial markets to fund infrastructure projects. It has proposed that the Kerala government take over the board's outstanding debt and repay it transparently through the annual state budget. The panel also recommends replacing expensive loans with cheaper borrowing arrangements wherever possible. Another major recommendation is to cancel the 2018 government order that directs motor vehicle tax revenue and petrol cess into KIIFB's accounts. The committee has further called for a comprehensive CAG performance audit of KIIFB's operations between 2016 and 2026. The report further says that KIIFB's existing repayment commitments extend until 2041-42. Including the financial requirements of unfinished projects, the state's future obligations could exceed Rs 70,000 crore. The report marks a significant challenge to the infrastructure financing model championed by the previous LDF government. Former state finance minister Thomas Isaac and the CPI(M) are yet to respond to the findings.

Anti-India Slogans Raised After 'Beef Khichdi' Served Near Dhaka Temple

Anti-India slogans were raised after beef khichdi was served near a temple in Dhaka's Jagannath University, resulting in a major dispute over religious sensitivities, campus rules and the rights of students to organise events. A group of Islamic history students has now announced plans to slaughter cows on the campus today, coinciding with Durga Puja. Earlier, the university officials had issued a notice asking students to refrain from animal slaughter on the premises, which was later overturned amidst threats from Islamic fundamentalists in the garb of students. The university initially asked students to refrain from slaughtering animals on campus, citing public health and cleanliness. After objections from a group of students, it clarified that students had the right to organise such events, provided they did not interfere with others, but a group of students has since announced plans for a beef feast on Shashti, while representatives of the



university's central temple say they have no objection to such an event as long as it does not take place in front of the temple or disrupt religious activities. On Monday evening, students from the 17th batch of Jagannath University's Department of Islamic History and Culture organised a beef khichuri cookout near the campus's Muktamancha, and this was met with opposition from some Hindu students who objected to the location of the cooking arrangements, saying that preparing beef so close to the temple hurt their religious sentiments. According to the university administration, this

initial disagreement was resolved on the spot through the proctor's intervention at the campus, but now a group of students have announced plans for a beef feast on campus. Organisers have collected contributions from students and even purchased a cow. Bangladesh Chhatra Majlish, the student wing of the far-right radical Islamist political party Khelafat Majlis, has agreed to provide a cow for slaughter. The university administration has urged everyone on campus to maintain restraint and respect one another's activities. Jagannath University is a government-financed, full-fledged public

university and is situated in the southern part of the city of Dhaka near the Buriganga. This prestigious educational establishment has a history of about 156 years, which started in 1858 when Dhaka Brahma School was founded by Dinanath Sen, Prabhaticaran Roy, Ananthbandhu Mallik and Brajasundar Kaitra. The name Jagannath School was given by Kishorilal Chowdhury, the Zamindar of Baliadi, who took over the school in 1872 and renamed it after his father's name. The college was transformed into Jagannath University in 2005. At present, the University has 38 departments under 7 faculties and 2 institutes.

Abhijeet Dipke Detained Before March, Neha Bora Picked Up Near Jantar Mantar



New Delhi: Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke was on Friday detained from his home, just minutes before he was to undertake a 'Lehra Do Tiranga' rally at Central Park in Connaught Place in Delhi. This is the second detention in a week for Dipke. He was earlier detained right after his plane landed in Delhi from Mumbai for a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over allegations of voter-list manipulation during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. One of the triggers for the march was the

arrest of Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, BJP members, who were sent to five-day judicial custody after they entered Jantar Mantar waving the national flag on October 13, a day after the historic site was denotified as a protest site. During a conversation with the police, Dipke was told, "Aap New Delhi nahi jaa sakte. Hum aapko detain kar rahe hain (You cannot go to New Delhi. We are detaining you)." He responded, "New Delhi nahi jaa sakta, kahin aur toh jaa sakta hoon. Maine kaunsa kanoon toda hai (I cannot go to New Delhi, but I can go somewhere else. What law have I broken?)" - Student

leader Neha Bora, 29, who is among a number of prominent activists detained this weekend as the authorities cracked down on attempts by protesters led by the Cockroach youth movement, was detained near Jantar Mantar. Before today's detention, Delhi Police landed at Dipke's home and served him a notice against carrying out the march. The notice, issued under Section 163 of the BNS, said prohibitory orders were in force around the Connaught Place area, a major shopping hub in the heart of the city. It further warned that the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)

has not given permission for the proposed Tiranga Yatra, and if the CJP decides to go ahead with the march it would be considered a violation of the law. Dipke, who was wearing a white tee with a picture of Gandhi on it and denims, was also informed that waving the tiranga was not against the law, but staging an unpermitted march and gathering a crowd would be a violation of restrictions, and the Police would take legal action. The 31-year-old leader was also informed about the restrictions on treating the national flag with due respect in accordance with the Flag Code. "Kya aarop laga diya hai aapne mere upar (What kind of accusation have you leveled against me?) Dipke, who has a small national flag draped across his shoulders and seated on an egg-yolk coloured sofa in his living room, is heard asking the cop in front of him, showed a video. A bunch of papers can be seen on the glass top table as Dipke is examining its contents and reading out bits, confronting the cops.

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 fra-

ternity 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 importance 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 investigated 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.

Gym Trainer, Warehouse Worker, Student: The 3 Indians Killed In Germany Fire



Berlin: Three Indians killed in a fire at a residential building in the German city of Bochum were all from Kerala. The victims have been identified as Nova Sabu (25) from Kattappana in Idukki district, Anjali Sheela Joy (25) from Kollam district, and Sivin Johny (26) from Kalady in Ernakulam district, according to investigators.

German police have arrested a 41-year-old Romanian national who lived in the same building on suspicion of murder, German news channel n-tv reported, citing the German Press Agency Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA).

A Bochum police spokesperson told WDR that there were initial grounds for suspicion of murder against the man, who had been questioned by officers from the homicide squad.

The fire broke out at about 4.15 am local time in a multi-storey residential building on Poststrasse in Bochum's Hofstede district. Firefighters found the three bodies in an apartment on the second floor. Five other people were injured. One of them is also a Malayali student and is reportedly in critical condition.

Investigators have ruled out a technical defect as the cause of the fire and suspect arson. Police suspect the fire was deliberately set on the ground floor. The fire then spread up the building's wooden staircase, which was the main way out, as thick smoke filled the corridors. Neighbours told police that the residents had quarrelled the day before the fire.

Gym Trainer, Warehouse Worker, Student

Nova Sabu was the daughter of KP Sabu, a retired sub-inspector, and PN Jyothis, a public health nurse at the Chembakappara primary health centre. She left for Germany on July 3 and was working as a gym trainer part-time.

Sivin Johny had reached

Germany only about two weeks earlier for higher studies. His brother Salvin lives in Germany, and his sister Simi is in Ireland.

Anjali Sheela Joy had a BEd degree and went to Germany in July for a job. She was working at a warehouse there.

Prasanna Prayas, a ward member and a relative of the family, said Joy had always wanted a government job in Kerala.

"She wrote the PSC exams multiple times, and when it didn't work out, she went abroad," she said. "She used to say she wanted to work and live here. A government job was her dream."

Joy's uncle, Johnson, said the family first became worried when her usual nightly call did not come on Tuesday. "We called her, but there was no reply, though the phone was ringing," he said.

A friend in Dubai told them about the fire. By morning, news reports listed her among the dead.

"We have not yet received any official information from Germany," Johnson said. A relative living in Germany went to the site and confirmed the news with local police. Another nephew travelled from Austria.

Efforts To Bring Bodies Home

Kollam MP NK Premachandran has asked Ajit Gupte, India's ambassador to Germany, to help in bringing the remains of the three dead Indians home quickly.

State Tourism Minister PC Vishnunath said the government has started the process and is working with the Department of Non-Resident Keralites' Affairs and the Indian Embassy.

Malayali associations in Germany are also helping. Joy's family said these groups have offered to cover the cost of bringing the bodies home once the official procedures are complete.

What Are US Midterms, Why They Matter And What Happens If Congress Flips

Americans will vote on November 3 in elections that could reshape the balance of power in Washington. Unlike presidential elections, the midterms will not determine who occupies the White House. Instead, voters will elect members of Congress and decide which party controls the two chambers that make laws, approve spending and scrutinise the government. For President Donald Trump, the elections will be an important test of public opinion halfway through his term. For India, the outcome could have implications for trade, immigration, technology and the wider relationship between the two countries.

What Are The US Midterm Elections?

The United States holds presidential elections every four years. Congressional elections, however, take place every two years. Since congressional elections happen halfway through a president's four-year term, they are called midterm elections. This year, the US midterm elections will take place on November 3. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 of 100 seats in the Senate - the two parts of the US Congress - are up for election. Several states will also hold elections for governors and other offices. The midterms do not decide whether the president stays in office. Donald Trump will remain president until the end of his term, subject to the constitutional rules governing the presidency. What voters can change is the political balance in Congress.

What Is US Congress? Why Does It Matter?

Think of Congress as the US equivalent of Parliament, although the two systems work differently. Congress has two chambers - the House of Representatives and the Senate. Both play a role in making federal laws, but they have different membership structures and responsibilities. The House of Representatives: It has 435 voting members, with seats allocated among states broadly according to population. Representatives serve two-year terms, which means every House seat is contested in each congressional election cycle.

'Special Day': How A Coworker Stopped US Teen's Hindu Temple Shooting Plot

Washington: The US teen, who has been arrested for planning a violent plot targeting a Hindu place of worship in Illinois, Chicago, was one malfunctioning rifle away from becoming a mass shooter, according to police. Alexandros Paporakis, 19, who works as a cashier at Taco Bell in the suburban hometown of Palatin, had plotted to carry out a "mass shooting of Indian people" at a Hindu temple in Aurora.

Paporakis allegedly drove from his mother's home in Palatine to a temple in Aurora on Sunday, where he intended "to kill a significant number of Indians", NBC Chicago reported, citing police. According to the report, the suspect tried to open fire, but his gun jammed, forcing him to drive back home. There he "searched the internet trying to learn how to unjam his gun and called a colleague, informing them of (his) intent to carry out a mass shooting," police said.

The exact intended location of Paporakis's target remains under probe, but investigators believe he wanted to target the largest Hindu temple in southwest suburban Aurora. Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) Temple is the largest Hindu temple in Aurora, Illinois. On Sunday, the sprawling place of worship is usually filled with devotees.

According to investigators, during searches at his house, police found a modified AR-style rifle and 300 rounds of ammo, enough to fill ten magazines for reloading, along with body armour, gasoline cans and an assortment of swastikas.

Citing sources familiar with the case, NBS reported that one of Paporakis's coworkers notified police of the plot, following which he was arrested on Sunday before he could return to the Hindu temple.

Paporakis had allegedly told one of his coworkers that Sunday was going to be "a special day", and later he called the person, saying that his gun had jammed and he left "super fast" without being seen.

Investigators said during searches at his house, police found a manifesto apparently written by Paporakis, calling himself the "Aurora Shooter". The writings "expressed words of hate, violence, superior race and mass shooting of Indian people. His hatred was against Jewish people, African Americans, Indians, and "non-white" people, police said. Police noted that Paporakis "expressed pleasure calling himself a sociopathic white supremacist Neo-Nazi filled with hatred, fantasising about mass murder nearly every day."

The teenager is now facing gun charges and stands accused of making a terrorist threat. He has been charged with one count each of making a terrorist threat and unlawful possession of weapons, which comprises a rifle with a barrel less than 16 inches in length.

Temple Authorities' Reaction

The Balaji Temple management has reacted to the development and said they are fully aware of the situation and have been in direct communication with the Aurora Police Department.

"Please know that the safety of our devotees, employees and volunteers is our highest priority, and we have implemented additional security measures effective immediately, including an increased armed security presence at the Temple from 9am to 9pm, and we are taking additional steps to ensure an ongoing safe environment for everyone at the Temple," the temple authorities said in a statement.

US Teen Goes To Hindu Temple For 'Mass Shooting', Jammed Rifle Stops Him

Washington: A 19-year-old man has been arrested in the United States for plotting an attack to "potentially target" a Hindu place of worship in the Aurora area in Illinois, Chicago. According to authorities, Alexandros Paporakis of Palatine was arrested after a manifesto expressing white supremacist ideologies and containing references to violence against people of "Indian descent" was recovered from his possession following an investigation into an alleged mass shooting plot. The arrest comes amid the start of the Hindu festive season with Navaratri, and just two weeks after the Shree Swaminarayan Vadtal Dham Hindu Mandir in Richmond Heights, Ohio, was vandalised. Paporakis was presented at the Cook County Third Municipal District Court-house in Rolling Meadows on Wednesday, where a judge ordered him detained. His next hearing is scheduled for October 30.

The Probe

Police started the probe against Paporakis, a Taco Bell cashier from Palatine, after another person reported him for planning a mass shooting. Investigators said Paporakis had shared a document outlining an alleged plan to carry out a mass shooting, along with images depicting a rifle, rifle magazines,

body armour, and other tactical equipment and accessories with the person who reported him. "Based on information developed during the investigation, detectives believe Paporakis may have been planning to carry out an attack on Sunday, October 11, potentially targeting a Hindu place of worship in the Aurora area," the police said, adding that his exact intended location remains under investigation. The suspect had allegedly told his Taco Bell co-workers that Sunday was going to be "a special day." Investigators said Paporakis called one coworker earlier in the day on Sunday, saying that his gun had jammed and he left "super fast" without being seen. "The seriousness of this alleged threat cannot be overstated," Palatine Police Chief William Nord said, adding that protecting places of worship is a law enforcement priority. Palatine Police detectives examined electronic communications and a self-titled document attributed to Paporakis, "Why I Fought: A.K.A.: (Aurora shooter's manifesto)," which contained "statements expressing white supremacist and extremist ideologies, including references to violence directed toward individuals of South Asian heritage, particularly those of Indian descent." Officers from the Palatine and

Mount Prospect Police Departments coordinated an immediate response, and through their joint efforts, Paporakis was located and taken into custody as he was leaving his residence on the evening of October 11. As part of the subsequent investigation, Palatine Police detectives searched Paporakis' residence and recovered a rifle, multiple loaded rifle magazines, hundreds of rounds of additional rifle ammunition, tactical equipment, and other items believed to be relevant to the investigation. They also found a tactical vest containing body armour and a patch that displayed imagery associated with white supremacist extremism.

The Threat

The Aurora Police Department was also notified of the potential threat by both the Palatine and Mount Prospect Police Departments, who substantially coordinated outreach to Hindu places of worship under their jurisdiction and made them aware of the plot to attack them. Paporakis has been charged with one count each of making a terrorist threat and unlawful possession of weapons, which comprises a rifle with a barrel less than 16 inches in length. The Palatine Police Department said it is working closely with the FBI as the investigation remains active, including the review of potential additional



charges. Additionally, authorities have not identified any known ongoing threat to the public associated with this incident.

"The seriousness of this alleged threat cannot be overstated. Through the immediate sharing of information and coordinated response by the Palatine and Mount Prospect Police Departments, officers were able to identify and take the suspect into custody," Palatine Police Chief William Nord said.

Community Reacts

Reacting to the incident, the Hindu American Foundation said in a post on X, "We commend law enforcement for swift action." "We also urge the community to stay vigilant and report any potential threat. Every community deserves to worship without fear," it added. In another post, the foundation claimed that heavily armed Paporakis was already at the Hindu temple and attempted to start shooting, but the gun jammed. "The man described himself as a 'sociopathic white supremacist Neo-Nazi filled with

hatred, fantasizing about mass murder nearly every day," it added.

The Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) Temple management has also reacted to the development and said they are fully aware of the situation and have been in direct communication with the Aurora Police Department. "Please know that the safety of our devotees, employees and volunteers is our highest priority, and we have implemented additional security measures effective immediately, including an increased armed security presence at the Temple from 9am to 9pm, and we are taking additional steps to ensure an ongoing safe environment for everyone at the Temple," the temple authorities said in a statement. The exact intended location of Paporakis's target remains under probe, but investigators believe he wanted to target the largest Hindu temple in southwest suburban Aurora. Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) Temple is the largest Hindu temple in Aurora, Illinois.

Wipro Headcount: Employee strength falls by 6,716 QoQ to 2.36 lakh, attrition steady at 13.8%



Mumbai: Wipro reported a decline in its employee headcount in the September quarter of the current financial year, with the total number of employees falling 2.4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) and 2.8 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ).The IT services company had 2,36,328 employees at the end of the September quarter of FY27, compared with 2,42,156 employees in the year-ago quarter and 2,43,044 employees at the end of the June quarter. The company's sales and sup-

port staff in IT services also declined sequentially but increased from a year earlier. Wipro's voluntary attrition rate remained unchanged year-on-year, while net employee utilisation declined compared with both the previous quarter and the corresponding period last year.

Wipro Q2 FY27: Employee headcount and workforce details

Employee headcount: Wipro's closing employee count declined by 5,828 from 2,42,156 in the September quarter of FY26 to

2,36,328 in Q2 FY27, marking a 2.4 per cent year-on-year fall. On a sequential basis, the employee count declined by 6,716 from 2,43,044 in Q1 FY27, a decrease of 2.8 per cent. Sales and support staff: The company's sales and support staff in IT services stood at 15,016 in Q2 FY27, down 0.6 per cent from 15,100 in the previous quarter. However, the count increased 3 per cent from 14,574 in the year-ago quarter. Net utilisation: Wipro's net utilisation, excluding trainees, stood at 83.4 per

cent in Q2 FY27, compared with 83.6 per cent in the previous quarter and 84.5 per cent a year earlier. This represents a decline of 0.2 percentage points sequentially and 1.1 percentage points year-on-year. Voluntary attrition: The company's trailing 12-month voluntary attrition rate in IT services, excluding its business process services (BPS) segment, stood at 13.8 per cent. The rate was 13.9 per cent in the previous quarter and 13.8 per cent in the year-ago period. BPS attrition: Quarterly attrition in BPS after training increased to 10.7 per cent in Q2 FY27 from 9.9 per cent in the previous quarter and 8.6 per cent in the year-ago period.

Wipro Q2 Results: Revenue rises 9.1% YoY, net profit declines

Wipro reported a 1.9 per cent year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 3,199.7 crore for the September quarter of FY27. Revenue increased 9.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 24,752.7 crore. On a sequential basis, net profit declined 4.7 per cent, while revenue fell 1.1 per cent from the June quarter.

360 One Wam Dividend Alert: Company announces 750% interim dividend; check record date



Mumbai: 360 One Wam Limited has announced its second interim dividend for the financial year 2026-27. The company declared the proposed dividend on Thursday, October 15, along with its second-quarter results. The announcement was made after market hours. The company has fixed October 23, 2026, as the record date to determine eligible shareholders.

Rs 7.5 dividend and face value

360 One Wam has announced the interim dividend of Rs 7.5 per equity share for FY27. The dividend is equivalent to 750 per cent of the face value of Re 1 per share. 360 One Wam Dividend 2026: Record date, payment date

The company has set Friday, October 23, 2026, as the record date for the proposed dividend. The dividend will be paid or dispatched on or before Friday, November 13, 2026.

360 One Wam Q2 Results: Revenue rises 4.8%

360 One Wam reported total revenue of Rs 853 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2026, up 4.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY). Revenue from operations stood at Rs 896 crore, an increase of 17.5 per cent from the same quarter last year. Annual recurring revenue (ARR) rose 27.5 per cent YoY to Rs 706 crore. Combined ARR retention stood at 79 basis points (bps), with Wealth Management and Asset Management recording retention of 79 bps each. Consolidated profit after tax (PAT) stood at Rs 302 crore, compared with Rs 316 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Tangible net worth

stood at Rs 7,268 crore, while return on tangible equity was 16.9 per cent.

360 One Wam assets under management

The company's total assets under management (AUM) stood at Rs 8,99,481 crore. This included ARR AUM of Rs 3,53,382 crore and transactional, brokerage and syndicated AUM of Rs 5,46,099 crore. In Wealth Management, ARR AUM increased 24.3 per cent YoY to Rs 2,52,627 crore, supported by net flows across segments. The 360 ONE Plus proposition grew 37.8 per cent YoY, while distribution grew 15 per cent. The business manages assets for more than 9,000 families and corporates. In Asset Management, ARR AUM rose 9.4 per cent YoY to Rs 1,00,754 crore. The growth was supported by the Private Equity, Credit and Real Assets segments.

360 One Wam share price

Shares of 360 One Wam closed at Rs 1,073 on the NSE on October 15, up 0.94 per cent or Rs 10 from the previous close. The stock opened at Rs 1,068 and touched an intraday high of Rs 1,080 and a low of Rs 1,064.40. The company had a market capitalisation of Rs 42,150 crore. Its 52-week high stands at Rs 1,236.20, while its 52-week low is Rs 906.05. Over the past month, the shares gained 1.99 per cent, or Rs 20.90. In the past six months, the stock rose 1.61 per cent, or Rs 17. However, it declined 9.04 per cent, or Rs 106.70, year-to-date. Over the past year, it fell 7.53 per cent, or Rs 87.40. Meanwhile, it gained 14.67 per cent, or Rs 137.25, over the past five years.

Tech Mahindra Q2 Results: PAT rises 8.3% QoQ to Rs 1,610 crore, Revenue up 3%



Mumbai: Tech Mahindra's consolidated revenue from operations rose 3 per cent quarter-on-quarter to Rs 16,180.2 crore in the second quarter of FY27, compared with Rs 15,711.9 crore in the preceding quarter. The IT services company's consolidated profit after tax (PAT) increased 8.3 per cent sequentially to Rs 1,609.7 crore in the July-September quarter, from Rs 1,486.3 crore in the April-June quarter. Profit before tax rose 12.4 per cent quarter-on-quarter to Rs 2,296.1 crore from Rs 2,041.9 crore in the previous quarter. Total expenses increased to Rs 13,876.7 crore during the quarter from Rs 13,559.3 crore in the preceding quarter, according to the company's audited consolidated financial results. Earnings per share (EPS) increased to Rs 17.88 from Rs 16.53 in the previous quarter.

Tech Mahindra declares interim dividend and bonus issue

Tech Mahindra declared an interim dividend of Rs 15 per equity share for the financial year 2026-27 and recommended a 1:1 bonus share issue along with its September quarter results.

The interim dividend of Rs 15 per share, with a face value of Rs 5 each, represents a payout of 300 per cent. The company has fixed October 23, 2026, as the record date to determine the eligibility of shareholders for the interim dividend. The dividend will be paid by November 13, 2026, through electronic mode to eligible shareholders. The company's board has recommended a bonus issue in the ratio of 1:1, subject to shareholders' approval through a postal ballot. Under the proposed issue, eligible shareholders will receive one fully paid-up bonus equity share of Rs 5 each for every existing fully paid-up equity share of Rs 5 each held by them. The bonus shares will be issued by capitalising amounts from the securities premium account, general reserves, retained earnings or other permitted reserves, based on the audited financial statements for the financial year ended March 31, 2026. The company will announce the record date for the bonus issue separately. The board has also recommended increasing the company's authorised share capital from Rs 924.3 crore to Rs 1,000 crore.

Ltd for Rs 115.02 crore. According to a regulatory filing, the acquisition will help to boost the company's strategy for expanding the company's business in

mining explosives segment. The acquisition will be completed through Solar Explochem, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Solar Industries. It is

expected to be completed within 12 months. Sivasakthi Industrial Explosives is an India-based private company incorporated in 2008.

Fusion CX IPO Day 2: Issue fully subscribed, retail portion at 3.53x so far; check latest status

Mumbai: Fusion CX IPO Day 2: The initial public offering (IPO) of Fusion CX Ltd stepped into its second day of bidding, with the issue fully subscribed on October 15, 2026, according to provisional exchange data. As of 4:16 pm, the IPO was subscribed 1.03 times so far, with investors having placed bids for 1,45,07,868 shares against the total shares on offer, according to provisional exchange data.

Fusion CX IPO Day 2: Subscription status

Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) category saw muted response so far and was subscribed 0.05 times. QIB investors placed bids for 3,63,630 shares, compared with 76,58,183 shares reserved for the category. The Non-Institutional Investors (NII) portion was subscribed 1.34 times, receiving bids for 51,23,613 shares against the 38,29,090 shares reserved for the category. The Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) category was subscribed 3.53 times. Retail investors placed bids for 90,20,625 shares, compared with 25,52,727 shares reserved for the category.

Fusion CX IPO: Key details

The Fusion CX IPO is a book-built issue worth Rs 702 crore, comprising a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 69.90 lakh shares amounting to Rs 202 crore. The public issue will remain open for subscription from October 14 to October 16, 2026. The IPO allotment is expected to be finalised on October 19, while the shares are tenta-



tively scheduled to list on the NSE and BSE on October 22. The price band has been fixed at Rs 275 to Rs 289 per share. The lot size is 51 shares, requiring a minimum investment of Rs 14,739 for retail investors applying at the upper end of the price band. Under the issue reservation, qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) have been allocated not less than 75 per cent of the issue, while retail individual investors can subscribe to up to 10 per cent. The non-institutional investor (NII) category has been reserved up to 15 per cent. Nuvama Wealth Management, IIFL Capital Services and Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors are the book-running lead managers for the issue, while KFin Technologies is the registrar.

About Fusion CX Limited

Incorporated in 2004, Fusion CX Limited is a customer experience (CX) and business process solutions provider. The company offers multichannel customer support through voice, email, chat, social media and messaging platforms. It also provides AI

data infrastructure services, including data collection, data annotation, image and video labelling, and robotic teleoperations. Fusion CX combines human expertise with technology and proprietary AI tools to deliver multilingual, omnichannel customer engagement, improve operational efficiency and automate customer interactions. Through its subsidiary, Omind Technologies, the company is developing AI-powered solutions for marketing, conversational AI, quality automation and workforce management.

Fusion CX financial performance

Fusion CX reported an increase in revenue and profit after tax (PAT) in the financial year ended March 31, 2026, compared with the previous financial year. The company's total income rose to Rs 1,851.83 crore in FY26 from Rs 1,352.03 crore in FY25, an increase of approximately 37 per cent. Profit after tax increased to Rs 169.84 crore from Rs 74.31 crore, a rise of around 129 per cent. EBITDA stood at Rs 329.87 crore in FY26, compared with Rs 197.78

crore in FY25. Total assets increased to Rs 1,385.15 crore from Rs 1,143.25 crore over the same period. The company's net worth stood at Rs 552.46 crore as of March 31, 2026, compared with Rs 354.58 crore a year earlier. Total borrowings declined to Rs 266.86 crore from Rs 306.73 crore. For the quarter ended June 30, 2026, Fusion CX reported total income of Rs 503.85 crore and profit after tax of Rs 55.70 crore.

Fusion CX IPO: How the company plans to use the proceeds?

The company plans to use the net proceeds from the fresh issue for several purposes. These include repayment or prepayment of certain outstanding borrowings availed by the company and some of its subsidiaries, investment in its step-down subsidiaries Omind Technologies Inc and Omind Technologies Private Limited to upgrade IT tools, including Arya and MindVoice, and pursuing inorganic growth through unidentified acquisitions and other strategic initiatives. A portion of the proceeds will also be used for general corporate purposes.

Indian Railways to extend insurance coverage to counter tickets: Who will be covered and is it mandatory

Mumbai: A Supreme Court order has laid the groundwork for passengers who purchase tickets at the reservation counters of railway stations. Passengers can now avail travel insurance facilities. The change is made to solve the disparity between the passengers who book their tickets through the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website and those who book the reserved tickets from the railway stations directly. The Supreme Court has decided to extend the insurance cover of the counter-booked tickets for Indian Railways from 27th October 2026. Media reports indicate that the Railway Board would be in charge of implementing the direction.

Do you have to buy Railway Travel Insurance?

The Supreme Court's direction is directed at bringing insurance under the ambit of the directive. It is not necessarily a sign that each of the passengers needs to take out a private travel insurance policy before travelling on a train. The present IRCTC scheme was launched as an optional facility on 01st September 2016, with a premium of Rs 0.92 per eligible passenger. IRCTC passengers who had booked confirmed or Reservation Against Cancellation (RAC) e-tickets were offered complimentary insurance coverage from December 10, 2016. How the facility is extended for counter bookings, its premium structure and enrolment arrangement will depend on how the Railways implement this facility. It is important to passengers to differentiate between the extent of insurance coverage that is being provided and a requirement for them to buy one.

Why Supreme Court intervene?

Currently, the railway travel insurance regime is that any eligible passenger booking online tickets with IRCTC receives coverage while those booking reserved tickets at railway counters are not covered. In the course of the proceedings, the Supreme Court, in principle, agreed that passengers who travel by train have insurance irrespective of how they buy their ticket. The court also noted that those who use physical counters to reserve their seats may be from disadvantaged groups in society and lack easy ac-

cess to online services. In the case of a railway accident, financial protection is of special benefit to such passengers. The court had granted the Railways extra time to come up with a plan of extending insurance to offline bookings. It has, however, stated its concern over the inadequate progress and advised the Railway Board to make the arrangement.

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Who will be insured in the insurance scheme?

As per the ongoing agreement, the eligible travellers who have booked online IRCTC tickets will be able to avail of travel insurance. The Scheme applies to the reserved classes (Sleeper, First AC, Second AC and Third AC) on eligible trains, subject to the conditions of the applicable policy. The

current scheme outlined in the Railways' policy information does not apply to passenger trains or suburban trains. The Supreme Court's direction aims to extend insurance access to passengers purchasing tickets through railway reservation counters. The final eligibility condition, the ticket categories and booking of the tickets at the counter, however, should be verified with the official instructions of implementation issued by the Railway Board. To be safe, passengers on unreserved tickets shouldn't expect the same benefits to magically appear if they have not been officially confirmed.

How much compensation does Railway travel insurance provide?

The coverages mentioned are in accordance with the existing IRCTC travel insurance policy:

Death: Rs 10 lakh

If the person is unable to work again, the permanent complete disablement pension will be given at Rs 10 lakh. MPI: Rs 7.5 lakh or up to Rs 15 lakh (10% payback) as applicable. PPD: Up to Rs 7.5 lakh. Treatment cost due to injury: up to Rs 2 lakh in hospital

Funeral expenses for transport of corp?: Rs 10,000

These benefits will be subject to eligibility requirements, terms and conditions of the policy. If the ticket was counter booked, the coverage and claims procedure should be verified when the Railways' final arrangements are announced. The insurance scheme and the Railways Act, 1989, provide separate cover for railway accident compensation. The Railways have provided compensation of Rs 8 lakh for deaths and Rs 64,000 to Rs 8 lakh for injuries depending on the severity of the injury.

IRFC Dividend 2026: Railway PSU declares cash payout for shareholders; check amount & record date

Mumbai: IRFC Dividend 2026: Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has declared its second interim dividend for the financial year 2026-27. The railway PSU announced the dividend along with its second-quarter results, after market hours. The company has fixed October 23, 2026, as the record date to determine shareholders eligible for the dividend. The payment will be made within 30 days from the date of declaration. Along with the dividend announcement, IRFC reported growth in its profit and income for the September quarter and the first half of FY27.

IRFC Dividend 2026: How much will shareholders receive?

IRFC has declared an interim dividend of Rs 1.15 per equity share with a face value of Rs 10 each. This implies that the proposed dividend is equal to 11.5 per cent of the face value. The company said this is its second interim dividend for FY27 and the highest amount payable in a single tranche. Eligible shareholders will receive the dividend based on their shareholding as per the company's records on the record date.

IRFC Dividend 2026: Record date and payment date

The company has fixed Friday, October 23, 2026, as the record date for the second interim dividend. Shareholders holding shares in dematerialised form must appear as beneficial owners in the records provided by the depositories as of the close of business on the record date, the exchange filing said.

Solar Industries to Acquire Sivasakthi Industrial Explosives for Rs 115 crore

Solar Industries India's wholly owned subsidiary, Solar Explochem Ltd, has signed an agreement to acquire 100 per cent stake of Sivasakthi Industrial Explosives Pvt

Ltd for Rs 115.02 crore. According to a regulatory filing, the acquisition will help to boost the company's strategy for expanding the company's business in

mining explosives segment. The acquisition will be completed through Solar Explochem, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Solar Industries. It is

expected to be completed within 12 months. Sivasakthi Industrial Explosives is an India-based private company incorporated in 2008.

Smriti Mandhana takes charge of India with calm leadership and tactical clarity



New Delhi: The first thing Biju George noticed about a teenaged Smriti Mandhana at the BCCI's first-ever Under-19 girls' camp, held in Guntur in 2013-14, was her cover drive. Tall and bespectacled, Smriti leaned into the ball so sweetly while playing the shot that George nicknamed her 'Lady Dada'.

The second thing he noticed was her gutsy nature when she approached him to resolve an issue. "She came up to me and said, 'Listen, I find it difficult. I am like a compulsory hooker. So people get me out with that and I want to work on that,'" George told IANS.

He and a colleague, Raghu, who is currently the throwdown specialist with the India men's team, took her to the indoor nets at the old NCA and threw balls at her for hours

until the issue was resolved. That habit and maturity run through almost every account of Smriti Mandhana, India's new all-format captain. Harmanpreet Kaur stepped down as India's skipper on October 6, though she will continue as a player.

She leaves after leading India to its first-ever ODI World Cup title at home in 2025, a second Asian Games gold medal and two Asia Cup triumphs. However, under Harmanpreet's captaincy, India also exited the group stage of the last two T20 World Cups, although she was hampered by the absence of key all-rounders this year.

Smriti, 30, has led India in 18 T20Is and four ODIs as a stand-in captain and guided Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to WPL titles in 2024 and 2026. This year, she surpassed

Mithali Raj to become the leading run-scorer in women's international cricket, scored a record 18th international hundred to move past Meg Lanning, and overtook Suzie Bates to top the T20I run charts.

In March, Mattel made a one-of-a-kind Barbie doll of her, making her the first cricketer to receive that honour. Aarti Vaidya, a former India player and national selector, believes the measured and assured Smriti is well prepared to begin her captaincy. "She has played a lot of WBBL and franchise matches in England too. So she has that international cricket experience of handling and being with different teams, and that helps."

Similar views were echoed by Malolan Rangarajan, RCB's women's head coach. "It's very well deserved for someone who has worked so hard on her game and also contributed so much to Indian cricket. She has been India's vice-captain for such a long time, so it's a well-deserved elevation and adds another feather in Smriti's cap," he told IANS.

It also helped that when Smriti captained RCB, the team had former international captains such as Heather Knight and Sophie Devine. "While picking her, it wasn't like we were waiting to see how good a captain she was. She had captained before she joined RCB, too. So she was already very experienced back then.

"But having worked with her over a period of four to five

years now, you get to know the person, too. She is a leader of a team and not a leader of select individuals. She always thinks about what's best for the team, how the team and everything associated with it can move forward.

"I'm pretty sure that regardless of whether she is the Indian captain or not, even as vice-captain, she was always thinking about how she could contribute and take Indian cricket forward," Rangarajan added.

Asked about instances in the WPL when Smriti shone as captain, Rangarajan was wary of reducing her leadership to a single moment. "She has an extraordinary pulse of the game. She knows what works and what doesn't. With her, it was always about knowing what's best for the team and what's best for a situation. So I can't point out a single situation in which Smriti was amazing." "She's a very, very experienced player. She knows a lot of Indian and international girls. Even tactically, she's very adept — she knows exactly what to do and when. Overall, her experience has been amazing," he said.

Tejal Hasabnis, who will play under Smriti in the ODI series against Zimbabwe in Vadodara, knows her well from their Maharashtra days. Making her international debut under Smriti's captaincy during the 50-over clash against New Zealand in Ahmedabad in 2024 will always be a memorable fact for the right-handed batter.

England opener Zak Crawley signs one-year extension with Kent



Canterbury: England opening batter Zak Crawley has signed a one-year contract extension with Kent, returning to the county as his primary employer after six years on the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) central contract list. A product of the Kent Cricket Academy, Crawley has made more than 180 appearances for his home county since making his first-team debut in 2017, scoring over 7,400 runs across formats. He has registered 10 centuries for Kent and is one of only seven players in the club's history to score a hundred or more across all formats. Crawley, who received Kent Men's Cap No. 219 in 2019, was part of the county's T20 Blast-winning team in 2021. He has also featured in both of Kent's County Championship promotion campaigns, in 2018 and 2026, with the club set to return to Division One next season. "I'm delighted to sign

on for a further year at my boyhood county. It's an exciting time as we head back into Division One of the County Championship, and I'm looking forward to the challenge of competing for Kent this coming summer. It's great to see so many young players coming through the system here, similar to my journey into first-team cricket, and I'm excited to help them settle into the first team and further their development for the long term," Crawley said in a club statement. The 28-year-old lost his England centners contract for the 2026-27 cycle after being dropped from the Test side at the start of the home summer, following an extended run at the top of the order. Crawley was one of only two players, alongside Lancashire's Luke Wood, to lose their deals on performance grounds when the ECB announced its list of 30 centrally contracted players this week.

Kent Director of Cricket Simon Cook welcomed the extension, highlighting Crawley's experience and his role in supporting the county's younger players. "We're extremely pleased that Zak has extended his contract with the club for what will be his 11th season in our first team. He is an extremely talented batter and is a huge presence in our dressing room.

"His experience of playing around the world not only benefits us on the field, but he is always willing to pass on his knowledge to our younger batters, something that will benefit us in the long term. His multi-format ability means that he is an integral part of our squad going into 2027," he said.

The new deal will see Crawley enter his 11th season in Kent's first team, with the club preparing for its return to the County Championship's top division in 2027.

Hamstring injury rules Pathum Nissanka out of Sri Lanka's Pakistan campaign



New Delhi: In a setback for Sri Lanka, opening batter Pathum Nissanka has been ruled out of the ODI tri-series in Pakistan, which also features England. Nissanka has been dealing with injury issues in recent weeks. He was named in the squad for the tri-series subject to fitness clearance following a hamstring injury sustained after Sri Lanka's white-ball tour of England last month.

According to Daily Mirror, the batter is yet to receive medical clearance to return to action, and his recovery has not progressed sufficiently for him to resume playing. He will therefore miss the tri-series, which begins on Sunday in Rawalpindi. The report added that Lahiru Udara has been named as Nissanka's replacement.

Nissanka was earlier ruled out of the T20I series against

Pakistan. He was expected to travel with the squad for the ODIs if declared fit but has now been ruled out of the tri-series as well.

Nissanka has also been named in Sri Lanka's squad for the Test series against Pakistan, with a return to red-ball cricket under consideration. However, his selection for the two-match Test series is also subject to fitness clearance.

The Sri Lankan opener has

struggled with injuries this year. His longstanding wrist problem flared up during Sri Lanka's tour of the West Indies in June. He underwent surgery for the issue in the UK and missed the Lanka Premier League.

He rejoined the Sri Lankan side for the white-ball series in England and played all six matches — three T20Is and three ODIs — but suffered a hamstring injury during the ODI leg. He played the third match despite discomfort and struggled in the final ODI.

Sri Lanka have also dropped former captain Charith Asalanka from the squad for the Pakistan tri-series. Asalanka, who served as vice-captain during the white-ball series against England, scored 1, 11 and 7 in the three ODIs and has been left out.

Meanwhile, Avishka Fernando and all-rounder Sahan Arachchige have been recalled to the squad. They replace Asalanka and the injured Wanindu Hasaranga, who is sidelined with a hamstring injury sustained during the England tour.

Chwalinska advances to Wuhan quarters after stunning Jovic

Wuhan: 16th seed Maja Chwalinska registered the biggest win of her career by ranking, defeating world No. 11 Iva Jovic 6-4, 6-1 in the Wuhan Open round of 16 to advance to the quarterfinals. Chwalinska put up a strong performance against the American, winning the match in 1 hour and 49 minutes to set up a quarterfinal meeting with Maria Sakkari.

Meanwhile, fifth seed Elina Svitolina ended the dream run of Chinese wild card Guo Hanyu with a commanding 6-1, 6-4 win in 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Chwalinska is making her debut at the Wuhan Open, a WTA 1000 tournament. She battled hard in the first set against Jovic but cruised through the second. She broke Jovic five times, including twice in the first set, and lost her serve only once. The Pole started the match with a break in the opening game before losing her serve in the next. She then made a decisive break in the ninth game to take a 5-4 lead and held her serve to win the opening set 6-4 in 57 minutes. The Pole was far superior in the second set, breaking Jovic to take a 2-1 lead and then again for a 4-1 advantage before breher once more to seal the set 6-1 in 47 minutes. She will now face



Sakkari in the quarterfinals. Sakkari defeated Mia Pohankova 6-1, 6-4 in her round-of-16 match.

Meanwhile, Svitolina ended Guo's impressive run. The Chinese player had reached the round of 16 after defeating 12th seed Sorana Cirstea in the first round and then beating Katie Volynets in the round of 32.

The Ukrainian fifth seed broke the unseeded Guo seven times during the match but also lost her serve three times. Svitolina started with an early break and then secured a double break to lead 3-0. However, Guo pulled one break back before losing her serve

again, leaving Svitolina with a 4-1 lead. Svitolina held her serve and then broke Guo to take the opening set in 37 minutes.

The second set was much closer, with Guo earning the first break to lead 3-2. However, she lost her serve in the very next game before the two players exchanged breaks to make it 4-4. Svitolina then held her serve in the ninth game and broke Guo in the next to seal the set in 46 minutes and secure the win.

Svitolina has now reached her third quarterfinal in Wuhan, following her runs in 2014 and 2019.

India women face Zimbabwe as Mandhana begins new captaincy chapter



Raipur: A new chapter in Indian women's cricket when Smriti Mandhana leads the side as full-time captain for the first time in the opening T20I against Zimbabwe, who are still searching for their first win in the format this year. Friday's clash will mark the start of Zimbabwe's first-ever bilateral series against India, and the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International

Stadium will host a women's international match for the first time. Smriti, who takes over from Harmanpreet Kaur after serving as vice-captain for almost 10 years, inherits a side brimming with confidence after winning the Asia Cup and the Asian Games gold medal. Captaincy is hardly unfamiliar territory for Smriti, who has led Maharashtra in domestic

cricket and guided Royal Challengers Bengaluru to two Women's Premier League (WPL) titles. She has also captained India in 18 T20Is, winning 11 and losing six, with her first stint coming seven years ago against England in Guwahati when Harmanpreet was injured. Her elevation to captaincy comes when Smriti is at the peak of her batting powers. The left-handed opener has struck two centuries and 15 fifties in T20Is over the last three years and has raised her strike rate to a career-best 148.25 in 2026. While Harmanpreet remains a key figure in the dressing room, being relieved of leadership duties could allow her to be even more destructive with the bat. The main selection puzzle for India is the No. 3 slot, left vacant by Jemimah Rodrigues, who is

recovering from a right hamstring tear. G. Kamalini has batted at No. 3 twice, but Anushka Sharma and Niki Prasad strengthened their cases with impressive performances against Australia. A. Prema Rawat could come into the side, with Shreyanka Patil not included in the squad for the series. India will also hope that vice-captain Shafali Verma and left-arm spinner N. Sree Charani continue their sparkling form. Zimbabwe, led by Josephine Nkomo, have lost all their T20Is this year and last won in the format against Namibia in September 2025. They will, however, draw confidence from their maiden ODI win over the West Indies at home in September. Opener Kelis Ndhlovu, the only Zimbabwean to score a T20I fifty this year, will be a key figure with the bat.

'The Greatest' trailer highlights Muhammad Ali's journey to becoming a global icon

Mumbai: The official trailer of the upcoming streaming series 'The Greatest', chronicling the life of boxing legend Muhammad Ali, was unveiled. It traces Ali's coming-of-age story, following a young Cassius Clay through the personal, professional and political battles he fought inside and outside the ring. The series is set against the backdrop of a changing United States and follows a generational talent fighting for the right to become his own man. Through the fights that made him a champion and the convictions that made him an icon, a young man from Louisville transforms himself into Muhammad Ali, the

greatest of all time.

Muhammad Ali is regarded as one of the greatest heavyweight champions in history. He won Olympic gold at the 1960 Rome Games and became world heavyweight champion in 1964 after defeating Sonny Liston. He was known for his lightning-fast footwork, sharp wit and confident predictions, and became a global sporting icon. He refused induction into the US military during the Vietnam War, citing his religious beliefs and opposition to the conflict. As a result, his boxing licence was suspended. He later returned to the ring and won memorable bouts against Joe Frazier and



George Foreman. Ali died in 2016, aged 74, after battling Parkinson's disease.

Mythri's 6 Cr Bet On 418!

Presented by Prashanth Neel, Kirtan Nadagouda's directorial debut, 418, is gearing up for its theatrical release shortly. A compelling concept, a promising ensemble and a calculated approach to filmmaking come together in this horror thriller, which aims to make a strong impression without relying on a massive production budget or an established star cast. Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Ravi Shankar under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, the film has reportedly been made on a budget of around 6 crore. The film has already generated encouraging buzz, with its trailer receiving an overwhelming response and drawing considerable attention to the project ahead of its theatrical arrival. Chaithra Achar, Surya Raj Veerabathini, Shree Vaishnav, Charan Lakkaraju, Preethi Pagadala and Shashank Patil play key roles. Whether its combination of horror, fresh talent and controlled production costs translates into a strong theatrical performance remains to be seen. With its Pan-India release strategy, 418 is positioning itself as an ambitious attempt to prove that a compelling genre film can achieve a breakthrough beyond the conventional star-driven formula.



RC17: Sara Arjun confirmed as Ram Charan's female pair

Ram Charan and Sukumar's second collaboration is set to begin later this month. The team recently shared pictures of Sukumar and his directorial team moving into a lavish new office. Telugucinema.com had earlier reported that Sukumar was set to end his long association with music director Devi Sri Prasad and collaborate with Anirudh Ravichander for this film. We also reported that Bollywood actress Sara Arjun, who shot to fame with "Dhurandhar", was the frontrunner to play the female lead. We have now exclusively learned that Sara Arjun has been officially confirmed as the film's leading lady. Although she has already acted in Gunasekhar's Telugu film "Euphoria", this will mark her first film as the female lead. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the untitled film is tentatively referred to as RC17. Filming is expected to begin in early 2027.



Sreeleela's Bollywood debut film set for April 2027 release

Sreeleela has already made a mark in Telugu cinema. Her meteoric rise in the industry has also drawn the attention of Tamil and Bollywood filmmakers. While she has already acted in a couple of Tamil films, Sreeleela signed her first Hindi film two years ago. The project has been in the making since then, and its release has now been pushed to next year. Sreeleela has been paired with Bollywood heartthrob Kartik Aaryan in her Hindi debut. The project was initially rumoured to be titled "Aashiqui 3". However, the latest reports suggest that it may be titled "Tu Meri Zindagi Hai". Directed by Anurag Basu, the film has music by Pritam, while Bhushan Kumar is producing it under the T-Series banner. The makers have now announced the release date. The romantic saga is scheduled to arrive in cinemas on April 30, 2027.



Dimple Hayathi Keeps It Classy In Red



South girl Dimple Hayathi has steadily made a name in the film industry with roles in Gaddalakonda Ganesh, Khiladi and Ramabanam. Her latest saree pictures have caught the attention of her followers online. Dimple wore a red saree with a gold zari border and golden floral motifs on the pallu and hem. She matched it with a short sleeve red blouse with gold detailing. A gold temple necklace, jhumkas, stacked bangles, a ring, a small red bindi and loose waves finished the traditional look. She smiled softly for the camera in a relaxed pose against a golden curtain backdrop. Dimple has two new films coming up, Aadarsha Kutumbam House No. 47 and Bhogi, and she is looking forward to bouncing back with these.

Balayya, Rajini, Chiru — This Cameraman is in Limelight!

Cinematographer Vijay Kartik Kannan's name rings a bell? He is known for his work in films like Rajinikanth's Jailer and Jailer 2, Balakrishna's Daaku Maharaaj and popular independent music video Aasa Kooda. If that is not enough. Vijay Kartik is the DOP for much-awaited Chiranjeevi and Bobby's Kaaka. So far, Vijay Kartik's work has received unanimous applause. There are no complaints about his work. With this week's release Jailer 2 garnering decent talk and Vijay Kartik's work getting rave response, naturally, this builds the hype for Kaaka as well. Vijay Kartik's talent is receiving good reception from all quarters. The visuals of Jailer 2 are stunning and the way Rajini's elevated scenes are shot are getting thumbs up. Now, buzz for Chiru's Kaaka has been heightened, thanks to Jailer 2 and Vijay Kartik is in the spotlight. Chiru's Kaaka is being aimed for Sankranti release. Let's see whether Vijay Kartik lives up to all the hype and reputation and recreates the magic of the visuals with his camera work in Kaaka.

