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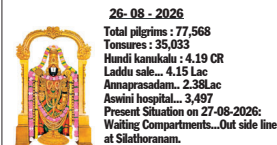
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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA



Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens). 24 H.

Short Takes

Two pilots die as plane on training flight crashes

New Delhi: A trainee pilot and flying instructor were killed in a plane crash near Ganga Barrage, approximately 5 nautical miles from Kanpur Civil Airport, on Thursday, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Tecnam P2006T twin-engine aircraft, bearing registration VT-NBV and operated by M/s Garg Aviation Ltd., Kanpur, was on a training flight in the local flying area of Kanpur Civil Airport. There were two persons on board, a trainee pilot and an instructor.

CM REVANTH GREETs TELANGANA SISTERS ON RAKHI FESTIVAL

Hyderabad TSIT: Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy extended heartfelt greetings to all sisters of the Telangana State on the occasion of the Rakhi Purnima festival. Chief Minister wished that everyone celebrate the Rakhi festival, which symbolises a strong bond between brothers and sisters, with joy and happiness. CM hoped that every household is blessed with happiness, prosperity, and good health. CM Revanth Reddy stated that the People's Government is striving to achieve the goal of economically empowering women and transforming them into 'crorepatis' (Millionaires).

PMJDY accounts cross 59 crore mark

New Delhi (TSIT): The total number of PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) bank accounts for the poor across the country have crossed the 59 crore mark with deposits of Rs 3.17 lakh crore as the scheme completes 12 years since its launch on August 28, 2014, according to a statement issued by the Finance Ministry on Thursday. Under PMJDY, 78 per cent of the accounts have been opened in rural or semi-urban areas, and approximately 56 per cent of accounts are owned by women, depicting the priority of the scheme, which was to bring the underprivileged living in far-flung areas of the country into the formal financial sector.

288 Indians Uncontactable After Nepal Floods, 21 Rescued: MEA

New Delhi (TSIT):

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday that 288 Indian nationals remain out of contact following the flash floods in Nepal as India continues to make all efforts to reach out to the missing people through the Nepalese authorities. Addressing a special media briefing on Nepal disaster in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to his Nepalese counterpart Balendra Shah on Wednesday and expressed India's solidarity with the Himalayan nation, offering all possible humanitarian assistance.

Sharing details about the Indian nationals who remain out of touch, Jaiswal said, "As per information currently available, there are 288 Indian nationals who remain uncontactable. These include 73 Indian nationals who are working on the Trishuli-1 Power Project. Our Embassy in Kathmandu is in touch



with project head to get more details about these people as you well understand that communication lines in that area, they are totally disrupted and therefore it has been difficult to get in touch with people on the ground.

"So, the first group of 73 people who are working on Trishuli-1 Power Project, then two separate groups of 37 and 49 Indian nationals from Tamil Nadu who travelled for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Samrat and Fly Everest travels, these are two separate travel agents. Then, a group of 32 Indian nationals from West Bengal who travelled with the help of Samrat travels in

Timure which is in Rasuwa district where this particular disaster has happened. Then, a group of 61 Indian nationals from different states who travelled through Richa Tours and then a group of 33 Indian nationals from Kerala. So, these are five major groups who comprise by and large, the 288 people that we are talking about. We are making all efforts to reach out to our people through the Nepalese authorities. We will have more updates for you on this particular matter and we will try to keep you updated as soon as possible," he added. Jaiswal said that 21 Indian nationals have been rescued so far in Nepal.

No shortage of onion in country, retail sale at Rs 35 a kg begins: Consumer Affairs Secretary



New Delhi, Aug 27 : There is no onion shortage in the country, the government said on Thursday, as it started the retail sale of onions at Rs 35 per kg from its price stabilisation buffer to provide relief to consumers. Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare flagged off the onion distribution campaign from Krishi Bhawan here. Initially, onions will be sold at Rs 35 per kg through outlets and mobile vans operated by the NCCF, the NAFED, and the Kendriya Bhandars. Speaking to the media, Khare said that every year, the govern-

ment makes efforts to ensure that consumers get onions at subsidised rates through retail intervention whenever prices rise.

She said the government remains committed to protecting consumers from sudden spikes in onion prices. "There is neither any shortage in onion production nor in its availability across the country," she noted. Khare said that onion exports this year are also at almost the same level as last year. According to her, the government intervenes in the market from time to time to keep prices under control and provide relief to consumers.

Nepal PM Balen Shah faces test as flash floods kill 162



New Delhi (TSIT): Barely five months into his tenure, Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra "Balen" Shah is facing his most formidable test of governance after a catastrophic flash flood tore through three districts bordering Tibet. Shah personally visited Nuwakot to assess the devastation. At the same time, Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal, speaking at the NDTV World Anviksha Summit in Kathmandu, outlined the Prime Minister's leadership style and crisis response. Khanal portrayed Shah as a results-driven leader, impatient for swift outcomes and determined to make public services accessible without bureaucratic hurdles. "He wants results, and he wants them fast. He's very focused on deliverables," Khanal said, adding that Shah trusts his ministers, delegates responsibility, and expects tangible achievements rather than micromanagement.

AP Govt Ensures 24/7 Monitoring for Safe Return of Pilgrims Stranded in Nepal



Amaravati (TSIT): The Andhra Pradesh Government has intensified efforts to ensure the safety and safe return of Telugu pilgrims stranded in Nepal following sudden floods in several parts of the country. Acting on the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, IT and Real-Time Governance (RTG) Minister Nara Lokesh instructed officials to monitor the situation

round the clock and coordinate with all concerned agencies.

Several pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana had travelled to Nepal for the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage, and some were reportedly stranded due to flood conditions. The RTGS team was directed to establish contact with the pilgrims, verify their locations and continuously monitor their safety.

RTG Department Secretary Katamneni Bhaskar and CEO Prakhar Jain coordinated with AP Bhavan in New Delhi and APNRT officials to track the situation and provide regular updates to the Chief Minister's Office and IT Minister.

A group of pilgrims from Tirupati was traced and confirmed safe at a hotel in Kathmandu. Officials are also collecting and verifying details of other pilgrims stranded in different parts of Nepal and coordinating assistance through various agencies. Based on RTGS updates, AP Bhavan officials have initiated coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Embassy, Nepal authorities and other concerned organisations to facilitate evacuation and safe return of the pilgrims.

CM Revanth Reddy inspects development works at Hyderabad's Mir Alam Tank



Hyderabad (TSIT) : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday conducted a surprise inspection of the ongoing development works at Mir Alam Tank, as part of the state government's vision to transform the area into a major tourist attraction in Hyderabad.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister reviewed the works in detail and directed officials to develop the area with distinctive, world-class designs and tourist-friendly amenities.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), he reviewed the plans presented through a photo exhibition and offered several suggestions to

enhance the overall development. Travelling around the tank in an open-top jeep, the Chief Minister inspected the ongoing works and also reviewed the construction of the suspension bridge being built across Mir Alam Tank. He went up with the help of a heavy crane to see the suspension bridge being constructed over the tank.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to complete all works within the stipulated timeline. He asked them to take steps to prevent sewage from entering the tank. The officials were also directed to widen the canal to facilitate the smooth flow of floodwater into the Musi River.

Cong leader Randeep Surjewala alleges Rs 36,000-cr 'sugar scam', targets BJP Govt



New Delhi (TSIT) Senior Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala on Thursday attacked the Modi government over the steep rise in sugar prices, alleging a "Rs 36,000-crore sugar price scam" that has left ordinary consumers paying the price while hoarders and black-marketeers profit. Surjewala said sugar prices had surged from around Rs 45 per kg to Rs 70-Rs 75 per kg in August alone, turning the sweetness of the festive season into a bitter experience for households. Addressing a press conference here, Surjewala claimed that around 12 million tonnes of sugar would be consumed between August and November, with festival-season monthly consumption rising to nearly three million tonnes.

PM Modi to visit Uzbekistan, attend SCO Summit in Kyrgyzstan



New Delhi, Aug 27 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek next week and also undertake a State Visit to Uzbekistan, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Thursday.

PM Modi is set to arrive in Tashkent on August 29 on a two-day bilateral visit at the invitation of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. This will be Prime Minister Modi's fourth visit to Uzbekistan and he is scheduled to hold delegation-level talks with President Mirziyoyev to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

According to the MEA, the two leaders would review cooperation in trade and investment, defence, digital connectivity, energy, education and people-to-people domains and set the agenda for the road ahead. They will also share perspectives on advancing the shared developmental visions of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' and 'Uzbekistan-2030'. PM Modi is also expected to visit the Shastri Memorial in Tashkent and the Mahatma Gandhi Centre at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies. This will be PM Modi's fourth visit to Uzbekistan, said Sibi George, Secretary (West) at MEA. He had earlier visited

Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries in 2015, followed by visits in 2016 and 2022 to attend the SCO Summits. India and Uzbekistan have maintained extensive and fruitful engagements both in bilateral and multilateral formats over the past many years. The Uzbek President visited India for a State Visit in 2018 and he also participated in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in 2019. PM Modi and Mirziyoyev met on the sidelines of COP28 in Dubai in 2023 and also in 2024, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan.

The leaders last met in 2025 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, China.

Discussions are expected to cover a wide range of areas of mutual interest and identify new avenues for strengthening bilateral cooperation, including trade and investment, critical minerals, healthcare, business-to-business engagement, education, space, technology, culture and people-to-people exchanges. "This engagement will provide an opportunity to highlight the long-standing cultural ties between India and Uzbekistan, as well as the important role of academic and people-to-people exchange in further strengthening the bilateral relationship," Secretary George noted during a special media briefing on the visit of PM Modi to

Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on Thursday. At the Tashkent State University, Prime Minister Modi will also interact with Indologists and scholars. "The Prime Minister's visit will reaffirm the close, multifaceted and growing strategic partnership between India and Uzbekistan," stated Secretary George. Following the State Visit to Uzbekistan, Prime Minister Modi will travel to Bishkek on August 31 to participate in the 26th SCO Summit. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the SCO and this year's theme is '25 Years of the SCO: Together Towards Sustainable Peace, Development, and Prosperity'.

In May, SCO Secretary General Nurlan Yermekbayev, a former Defence Minister of Kazakhstan, visited India and also the Nalanda University.

The programme elements for the upcoming SCO leadership summit in Bishkek include a welcome dinner on August 31, and the summit plenary the next day, where Prime Minister Modi will deliver his remarks. A number of bilateral engagements are also being planned on the sidelines in Bishkek.

PM Modi is also expected to participate in the opening ceremony of the 6th World Nomad Games along with other leaders from SCO member countries.

Women SHGs to Build, Operate Grain Silos in Telangana Minister UttamKumar

Hyderabad, TSIT: Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has directed the Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation to prepare a comprehensive plan to establish modern grain silos with an additional scientific storage capacity of five lakh to 10 lakh metric tonnes, with women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) playing a major role in their construction and operation.Reviewing the Corporation's affairs with senior officials, Uttam said Telangana needed to rapidly expand its grain-



storage infrastructure to keep pace with the significant growth in paddy cultivation, production and procurement.He said improved irrigation facilities, expansion of the cultivable area and procurement at Minimum Support Price had resulted in a steady increase in paddy arrivals, creating greater demand for safe and scientific storage facilities.



DGP C.V. Anand Hands Over Rs.95 Lakh Insurance Compensation to Deceased Constable's Family

Hyderabad, TSIT : Director General of Police C.V. Anand on Thursday handed over an insurance compensation cheque of Rs.95 lakh to the family of AR constable Kambala Shankar, who died following a road accident after completing his duty. Shankar (31), serving with the Malkajgiri Commissionerate, met with an accident near Wadaparthi village on March 28 while returning home on his two-wheeler after duty. He sustained serious injuries and died while undergoing treatment on March 31. As

Shankar's salary was credited to a Bank of Baroda Police Salary Package account, his family was eligible for insurance benefits. The bank processed the claim and sanctioned Rs.15 lakh under GTL and Rs.80 lakh under Group Personal Accident (GPA) insurance, totalling Rs.95 lakh. DGP C.V. Anand presented the compensation cheque to Shankar's parents in the presence of IG Welfare Gajarao Bhupal, Bank of Baroda General Manager and Zonal Head M.V.S. Sudhakar, S.K. Prasad, Ravi and other officials.

CM Revanth Reddy Visits Ailing Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Yashoda Hospital



Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday visited Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, who is undergoing treatment for illness at Yashoda Hospital in HITEC City.Chief Minister enquired about the Governor's health condition and wished him a speedy recovery. He also interacted with the doctors and sought details about the treatment being provided to the Governor.MP Vem Narender Reddy accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit.

Task Force Plans Measures to Prevent Accidents on Hyderabad-Vijayawada Highway

Nalgonda: The National Highway Task Force has decided to intensify highway patrolling, remove encroachments and take preventive measures to reduce road accidents on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway.

A review meeting of the Task Force was held at the District Collector's office conference hall on Thursday under the chairmanship of Additional Collector (Local Bodies) in-charge Prem Karan Reddy, following the recent road accident in Suryapet district.

Officials discussed increasing public awareness about road safety, traffic signboards, parking areas and safe driving practices. The Task Force directed that dhabas, hotels, tea stalls, pan



shops and other establishments set up by encroaching road areas should be shifted away from the highway. Officials were instructed to remove illegal structures with the help of cranes if notices are ignored.

The meeting also decided to arrange ambulances and cranes at every 30-40 km stretch of the highway for quick

emergency response during accidents.

Drivers will be educated about the risks of continuous driving, especially during early morning hours, and advised to take breaks every two hours. Officials stressed that

vehicles should not exceed the speed limit of 80 kmph and warned that strict action would be taken against violations of traffic rules.District Revenue Officer Dasharatha, along with officials from R&B, National Highways, Medical and Health, Police and other departments, participated in the meeting.

Ensure Emergency Medicines Stocked: Addl. Collector

Mahabubnagar: Additional Collector Madhusudan Naik inspected Devarakadra PHC and reviewed medical services, medicine availability, laboratory facilities and patient amenities on Thursday.He interacted with patients and directed officials to maintain adequate stocks of essential medicines, including Anti-Snake Venom, to handle emergency cases without delay. He instructed medical staff to ensure timely and quality healthcare services for the public.



Rs.8.33 Crore Compensation Distributed to Flood Victims

Wanaparthi: MLA Thoodi Meghareddy and District Collector Adarsh Surabhi distributed compensation cheques worth Rs.8.33 crore to 125 flood-affected families of Bandaravipakula village displaced due to the Edula Reservoir project.The MLA said the government has released Rs.67 crore compensation for Bandaravipakula and Konkallapally flood victims. He assured support through Indiramma houses, infrastructure and employment opportunities in rehabilitation villages. Collector Adarsh Surabhi said steps are being taken to provide compensation to all eligible victims.



Centralised Kitchen in Mancherla to Provide Nutritious Breakfast to 48,000 Students



financial support from Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) through its CSR funds, will provide hygienically prepared and nutritious breakfast to more than

48,000 students across Mancherla, Peddapalli and Jagtial districts.

The kitchen will cater to 42,450 students from 691 government schools and 6,654 students from 13 junior colleges across 17 mandals. The facility has been developed in an 8,000-square-foot government-provided shed with modern food processing and cooking equipment.

The automated kitchen can prepare 5,600 idlis, 2,000 dosas and 3,600 puris per hour. It is also equipped with a food laboratory, milk processing unit, vegetable washing and cutting system, RO water plant, boiler plant and central gas bank to maintain quality and hygiene standards.

The breakfast menu has been designed based on National Institute of Nutrition guidelines and includes items such as idli, dosa, puri, upma, millet idli and bonda along with suitable accompaniments.

ECI Directs Andhra Officials to Ensure Transparent and Error-Free Voter Rolls

Vijayawada, August 27: Election officials across Andhra Pradesh have been instructed to maintain quality, transparency and accuracy during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and work towards preparing an error-free voter list. Election Commission of India (ECI) Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma reviewed the progress of the SIR process in Andhra Pradesh at a meeting held at the NTR District Collectorate in Vijayawada on Thursday. He appreciated the state's efforts and urged officials to continue



coordinated work until the final electoral roll is published on October 3.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav and Additional CEO S. Dilli Rao participated in the review meeting along with district collectors and Electoral Registration Officers

(EROs).

Dr. Sharma informed that 43,71,397 notices have been distributed across the state so far, while field verification has been completed for 16,23,774 notices. He directed districts lagging behind in verification to speed up the process without compromising on

transparency and SIR guidelines.

The Kurnool district administration was appreciated for recording the lowest pending verification rate of 15.18 per cent.

Emphasising the importance of coordination among EROs, AEROs, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Booth Level Agents (BLAs) and political party representatives, Dr. Sharma instructed officials to address voter concerns promptly and provide assistance to elderly, sick and other voters unable to attend verification.

He also directed AEROs

to carefully examine objections and take fair decisions after proper enquiry. Districts and constituencies with lower verification progress were asked to prepare action plans and improve performance before the next review meeting scheduled for September 5.

The meeting also reviewed voter awareness programmes, polling station rationalisation and disposal of Forms 6, 7 and 8. Dr. Sharma called upon officials to work collectively to ensure a clean, transparent and accurate electoral roll in Andhra Pradesh.

K. Naga Gangadhar Appointed South Zone Manager for Duleep Trophy 2026

TSIT : Visakhapatnam.

In a proud moment for Andhra cricket, former Andhra cricketer K. Naga Gangadhar has been appointed Manager of the South Zone team for the ongoing Duleep Trophy 2026, while former Andhra Ranji player Vikram Verma has been named Head Coach. The tournament features six zonal teams—South, East, North, West, Central and North East—and is being conducted at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE) Ground in Bengaluru. The 2026-27 edition commenced on August 23, with South Zone led by India's T20 vice-captain Tilak Varma and Andhra's senior batter Ricky Bhui serving as vice-captain.



South Zone has directly qualified for the semi-finals and will play its last-four clash in Bengaluru from August 30. The squad also includes Andhra players SK Rasheed, K. Sai Teja and T. Vijay, further strengthening Andhra's representation in the zonal team. Reacting to his appointment, Naga Gangadhar expressed gratitude to Andhra Cricket

Association (ACA) President Kesineni Sivanadh and ACA Secretary Sana Satish Babu for their continued support and for facilitating his appointment as team manager. He said the opportunity was a matter of pride for Andhra cricket and assured that he would contribute to the team's success in the prestigious tournament. The Duleep Trophy is one of India's premier domestic red-ball competitions, bringing together leading cricketers representing the country's six zones. This year's tournament is being hosted at the BCCI's high-performance facilities in Bengaluru, with the final scheduled to be played from September 6.

Hi Life Brides Showcase to Bring Bridal Luxury and Couture to Hyderabad



Hyderabad (TSIT): Bridal fashion enthusiasts in Hyderabad are set to experience a grand showcase of elegance and luxury as Hi Life Brides brings together an exclusive collection of bridal couture, designer wear, fine jewellery, trousseau and statement accessories.

The event will feature creations from some of India's leading designers, offering a wide range of bridal ensembles and wedding fashion trends. From traditional bridal looks to contemporary styles for various wedding occasions, visitors can explore exquisite craftsmanship and premium collections under one roof.

Hi Life Brides aims to



provide brides-to-be with a curated shopping experience, bringing together the finest in Indian fashion and luxury for their dream wedding wardrobe.

Kamineni Hospitals issues monsoon health advisory amid rise in viral fevers and flu cases

Hyderabad, August 27: Kamineni Hospitals has issued a monsoon health advisory following a rise in cases of viral fevers, influenza-like illnesses (ILI) and acute febrile conditions across Hyderabad. Doctors at the hospital's LB Nagar and King Koti facilities have advised people to avoid self-medication, especially unnecessary antibiotic use, and urged those with fever lasting beyond 72 hours to undergo timely diagnostic tests.

While Hyderabad has reported comparatively lower dengue cases this year, doctors cautioned that early symptoms of dengue, H1N1 influenza and other viral infections often overlap, making medical evaluation essential. Senior physicians stressed the importance of early blood tests and proper diagnosis instead of assuming that fever will subside on its own.

Dr. M. Swamy, HoD and Senior Consultant Physician at Kamineni Hospitals, said seasonal viral infections are increasing during the



monsoon period and urged families to remain cautious. He advised the public to avoid sharing bank details, OTPs? (removed as irrelevant) and focus on health precautions such as timely testing and preventive care.

Dr. Hari Kishan warned that unnecessary antibiotic consumption for viral fevers is ineffective and contributes to antimicrobial resistance. He also highlighted the importance of influenza vaccination, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Doctors advised children below five years, senior citizens, pregnant women and people with underlying health condi-

tions to take extra precautions. Warning signs such as severe abdominal pain, repeated vomiting, bleeding, breathlessness, reduced urine output, confusion or extreme weakness require immediate medical attention.

Kamineni Hospitals also urged residents to prevent mosquito breeding by clearing stagnant water regularly and follow respiratory hygiene measures, including handwashing and mask usage in crowded places. The hospital's emergency and diagnostic departments remain equipped with round-the-clock testing facilities for viral and vector-borne infections.

Collector Inspects Maddur Offices



Narayanpet: District Collector Priyanka conducted surprise inspections at Maddur Municipality, Tahsildar Office and MPDO Office on Thursday. She reviewed public services, record maintenance and welfare scheme implementation.

The Collector directed officials to update records regularly, complete land registrations on time and ensure proper implementation of employment guarantee works. She also visited a girls' school and Anganwadi centre, checking attendance, facilities and services.She instructed staff to maintain punctuality and provide transparent services to the public.

Trees are vital for environmental protection



Khammam (TSIT): Trees are the main source of life for humanity and play a crucial role in protecting the environment, said State Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. He, along with District Collector Divakara, planted saplings at the Gram Panchayat office premises in Yerragadda village of Thirumalayapalem mandal as part of the Vanamahotsavam programme.Speaking on the occasion, the minister said everyone should take responsibility for planting and protecting saplings amid the

deteriorating environmental balance. Providing clean air and a healthy environment to future generations would be the greatest gift we can offer, he said. He urged Panchayat staff and villagers to take responsibility for every sapling planted and protect it until it grows into a tree.He called for coordinated efforts by public representatives and officials to increase greenery in every village. Environmental protection should not be viewed merely as a government programme but as a social responsibility in which everyone must participate, he said.

Headmaster honoured posthumously for saving schoolboy; CM Vijay presents medal to wife

CHENNAI: A government school headmaster from Krishnagiri district, who died while attempting to save an eight-year-old student from drowning, has been posthumously honoured with the Centre's Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Award for 2025. Late PS Gowrisankar Raja, headmaster of Eluvavallai Panchayat Union Primary School, was selected for the award in recognition of his exceptional courage and sacrifice.

On March 5, 2025, during the lunch break, Class III student Nithin accidentally slipped into a farm pond located near the school. On seeing the boy struggling in the water, Gowrisankar Raja attempted to rescue him.



However, despite his efforts, both the eight-year-old boy and the headmaster died in the incident.

The Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Award is given by the Centre for acts of exceptional bravery in saving lives. Nominations are received from State governments every year, following which the awardees are selected

and announced by the President.

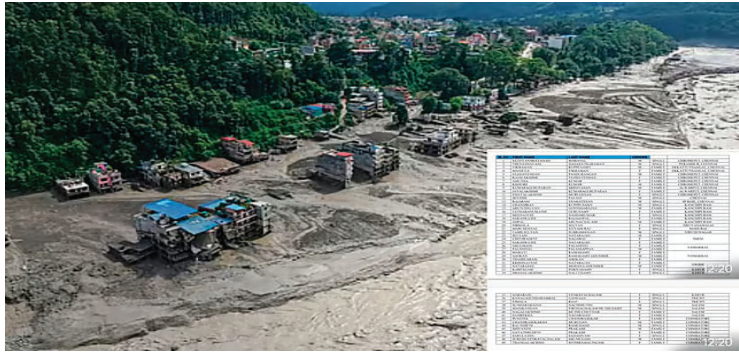
At the Secretariat on Thursday, Chief Minister Vijay presented the award medal and certificate to K.Sirisha, wife of the deceased headmaster. The award was presented in recognition of Gowrisankar Raja's bravery, courage and supreme sacrifice while attempting to save the schoolboy.

Nepal flood: 49-member Tamil Nadu pilgrimage group go missing, kin seek urgent intervention

CHENNAI: Families of six pilgrims from Kancheepuram are in distress after losing contact with them for more than 24 hours following the deadly flash flood in Nepal. They were part of a 49-member group on a spiritual trip and were reportedly at the immigration office when floodwaters swept through the building. Their families have submitted petitions to Kancheepuram Collector Sneha, seeking immediate steps to trace and rescue the pilgrims.

The Tamil Nadu government said that 103 people from Tamil Nadu had travelled to Nepal for the Kailash Yatra.

49-member Tamil Nadu pilgrimage group go missing in Nepal flood. The group, comprising 22 men and 27 women, left for the pilgrimage on August 14 through Mahadev Kailash Yatra, a spiritual tourism and travel company based in Radhanagar, Chromepet, Chennai. The pilgrims were from several parts of Tamil Nadu, including Chennai's Chromepet, Perambur, Alwarpet, Singaperumal Koil, Kancheepuram,



Tiruvannamalai, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Theni, Namakkal, Erode, Karur, Tiruchy, Salem and Coimbatore.

The group reportedly travelled from Chennai airport to Nepal via Delhi on August 14. They were scheduled to complete the pilgrimage and return to Chennai on Thursday, August 27. After completing their pilgrimage, the group was reportedly travelling towards the Nepal border through the China border route. They were said to be undergoing

immigration formalities at an immigration office when a sudden flash flood reportedly swept through the area and completely damaged the building. Following the incident, communication with the 49 pilgrims was reportedly lost. Their families have been unable to ascertain their whereabouts or condition. Seven members of the group are from Chromepet: Sathya Narayanan, Vikraman, Manjula, Velavendhan,

Rajalakshmi, Amudha and Kishore. Sathya Narayanan, the son of the travel company's owner, was reportedly leading the group.

The six pilgrims from Kancheepuram have been identified as Meenakshi, Latha Bhanumathi, Saraswathi, Chandran, Gopal and Arunachalam.

Meenakshi and Chandran reportedly spoke to their families in Kancheepuram around 6 am on Wednesday, saying that they were travelling towards Nepal. However, no further communication has been received from them after reports of the flash flood.

With the pilgrims expected to return to Chennai on Thursday, their families are now deeply worried after being unable to contact them for more than 24 hours. They have urged the Centre and Tamil Nadu government to take immediate steps to trace and rescue the 49-member group.

TN Minister Aadhav accepts AIADMK's demand to implement Tambaram-Chengalpattu elevated corridor

CHENNAI: Minister for Highways and Public Works Aadhav Arjuna said that the government would take up the Tambaram-Chengalpattu elevated corridor project to tackle traffic congestion on the Grand Southern Trunk (GST) Road.

The announcement followed a demand raised by AIADMK floor leader Edappadi K Palaniswami



during Question Hour on Thursday. He asked the Minister whether the government would implement the Tambaram-Chengalpattu elevated corridor project, which had been proposed during the AIADMK regime. Replying to him, Minister Aadhav said the government had

already announced an eight-lane road project from Chennai to Kanniyakumari.

Explaining the traffic congestion in the suburban areas surrounding Chennai, he said travel time from Chengalpattu to Chennai Airport had increased to nearly three hours due to heavy traffic. "The same situation is being witnessed while travelling from Tiruvallur through Poonamallee. The elevated corridor between Tambaram and Chengalpattu will be implemented after detailed discussions with the Union government. A meeting with the Union government is scheduled for next month," he assured.

Tirunelveli halwa gets costlier as sugar prices soar



CHENNAI: Tirunelveli's iconic halwa is set to become more expensive as a sharp rise in sugar prices pushes up production costs, said a Daily Thanthi report. Sugar prices have increased from around Rs 50 per kg last month to Rs 75, citing supply shortage and increased consumption. No sugar shortage in India, prices to ease in coming days following govt's measures: ISMA

A popular sweet shop in Tirunelveli Junction has raised the price of halwa by Rs 20, from Rs 320 to Rs 340 per kg. Prices of other sweets, mixtures and savoury items have also been increased by Rs 20, while chips now cost Rs 380 per kg. Other popular halwa shops are already selling the sweet at Rs 340 per kg, while the famous Iruttukadai halwa in Tirunelveli Town is priced at Rs 440 per kg. Shop owners said they are considering another hike of up to

Rs 40 per kg and are likely to announce the revised prices within a day or two. Sugar continued its upward march, rising by about Re 1 per kg to nearly Rs 64 on Tuesday in the retail market as recent government measures to curtail the surge take effect. As per the data compiled by the Department of Consumer Affairs (Price Monitoring Division), the all-India average rate of sugar stood at Rs 63.97 per kg on August 25, a 31 per cent increase from Rs 48.81 per kg a month back.

Mekedatu plan not for Bengaluru water, experts say

CHENNAI: Karnataka's claim that the proposed Mekedatu dam is meant to meet Bengaluru's drinking water needs is not supported by field-level findings, which indicate no drinking water shortage in the city, the Tamil Nadu Sectoral Experts Federation said on Thursday, asserting that the state is instead planning to expand its irrigation area. The experts said this was why talks between the chief ministers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka would not resolve the Cauvery water-sharing dispute and could instead work against Tamil Nadu's interests. Retired senior Public Works Department engineer A Veerappan, hydrology expert S Janakaraajan, State Platform for Common School System general secretary Prince Gajendrababu, advocate Vetriselvan of Poovulagin Nanbargal and Electricity Department Engineers' Association coordinator S Gandhi made the remarks at a press conference.

ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD.
Registered Office: 14th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
Tel : 91-11-43115600 Fax : 91-11-43115618
Corporate Office: Unit No. : 502, C Wing, One BKC, Radius Developers, Plot No. : C-66, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai – 400051 Tel.: 022 68643101
E-mail : acre.arc@acreindia.in **Website :** www.acreindia.in **CIN :** U65993DL2002PLC115769



MAKING ASSETS WORK

APPENDIX IV-A
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Mortgage(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Properties mortgaged/charged to **Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd.** [CIN: U65993DL2002PLC115769] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis for the recovery of amount due to Secured Creditor from the following Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Mortgage(s) and Guarantor(s) along with the Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit mentioned below:
DETAILS OF SECURED ASSET

Sr. No.	Loan Account No./ Trust Name	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Mortgage(s)/Guarantors	Total Outstanding Dues (In Rs.)	Reserve Price (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Bank account details for EMD payment through demand Draft/RTGS/NEFT
1	203517000159 / ACRE 196 TRUST	1) P Irlupalan 2) Mahalakshmi A	Rs. 1,30,83,798.77/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Eight And Seventy Seven Paise Only) as on 25-08-2026 along with applicable interest and other charges w.e.f. 26-08-2026 till the date of payment and realization.	41,10,000/-	4,11,000/-	Account Name: ACRE-196-TRUST Account Number: 05430200052351 Bank: INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK IFSC Code: IOBA0000543

DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSET: All the piece and parcel of Residential Flat measuring super built up area of 1100 Sq.ft., including common area, together with 213 Sq.ft. undivided share of land out of 2846 Sq.ft. with a covered car parking area, bearing 2 BHK Flat No. F-2, Situated in First floor at Plot Nos. 1, 2 & 3, Murugesan Street, Neelankara-Thoraipakkam Link Road, Thoraipakkam, Chennai-600097, Ward No.193, Comprised in Old Survey No. 14/3, New Survey No. 14/302 & 14/305, as per Patta No. 7116 & 7337 of Neelankara Village, Sholinganallur Taluk, formerly Kancheepuram district, presently Chennai district, within Sub Registration District of Neelankara and Registration District of Chennai South.

2	203517000059 / ACRE 196 TRUST	1) Shipi Datta Kumar 2) Vinod Kumar	Rs. 2,08,85,268.51/- (Rupees Two Core Eight Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight And Fifty One Paise Only) as on 25-08-2026 along with applicable interest and other charges w.e.f. 26-08-2026 till the date of payment and realization.	1,03,88,000/-	10,38,800/-	Account Name: ACRE-196-TRUST Account Number: 05430200052351 Bank: INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK IFSC Code: IOBA0000543
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DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSET: Villa No. 36A measuring 2373 sq.ft. super plinth area (inclusive of common areas and common shares) along with 1079 sq.ft. undivided share in All That Piece And Parcel Of Land Bearing Plot No.36 Measuring 2235 Sq.Ft. Situated At Sn Sai Nagar, Srivasapuram Village, Pallavaram Taluk, Kanchipuram District, Comprised In Survey No. 159/1, Land Bounded On The:- North By: Bougain Villas; South By : Road; East By : Vacant Land; West By : Plot No.35 within the Sub-Registration District of Kundrathur and Registration District of Chennai South.

The above Loan Account(s) along with all right(s), title(s), interest(s), underlying security(ies), pledge(s) and/or guarantee(s), including the Immovable Properties, mentioned hereinabove had been assigned to Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd., acting as a trustee of trust mentioned clearly in column provided above.

2	Place for submission of Bids	Assets Care and Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd. 1st Floor, Prestige Nugget, Office Unit No. 101, Infantry Rd, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560001. OR Email us at: Rohan.Sawant@acreindia.in	
3	Date and time of Auction	30-09-2026 from 02:30 pm to 03:30 pm	
4	Place of auction (Web Site for Auction)	https://bankeauctions.com	
5	Contact Details	Toll Free Number: 1800-209-2989	
6	Date & time of Inspection of the Property	On prior appointment basis	
7	For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please visit the website www.acreindia.in / https://bankeauctions.com		
DATE: 28-08-2026		Sd/- AUTHORIZED OFFICER	
PLACE: Tamil Nadu		ASSETS CARE & RECONSTRUCTION ENTERPRISE LTD.	



IKF Home Finance

IKF Home Finance Limited
Equinox by Phoenix-Tower 3, 10th Floor, Diamond Hills, Lumbini Avenue, Rai Durg, Gachibowli, Hyderabad Telangana - 500081

DEMAND NOTICE
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTS IN OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULUS, 2002 ("tine Rules")
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IKF Home Finance Limited (the Secured Creditor) under then A2F and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec. "13(12) of the Act read with Rule 3 issued Demand Notice(s) under Sec. 13(2) of the Act cadine upon the following borrower(s) to rpfy Uno amount mentioned in tdc nespective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonable believes the borrower(s) i are avoiding then service of the Demand Notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being affected by affixation and publicitarn as per Rules. The contents of Demand Notice(s) are extracted herein below :-

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/s & Co-Borrower/s	Loan Amt.	Dt of Demand Notice & D/s. Amt.	Description of the Property / Secured Asset
1	Lan No. LKKRI02124-250012529 MR/Mrs. Pazhanisami Mariyappan MR/Mrs. Vanitha Govindasami 1-16-B, Anakodi Village Pochampalli, Mahadevagollahalli, Krishnagiri, Tamilnadu - 635206	Rs. 13,70,000/-	Rs. 21,86,977.62/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Seven and Sixty Two Paise Only) as on 13-08-2026	In Krishnagiri District, Krishnagiri Registration District, PochampalliSub Division Registration District, Mahadevakollahalli Village, Old Sy.No.795/9, in this New Sub Division Registration Sy.No.795/9C, Dry Ext.Hec.0.03.50, Asst Rs.0.08, measuring an extent of Ac.0.08 cents, of bounded as follows:- To the South of : Common Road, To the North of : Land belongs to Mr. Chandramohan, To the West of : Land belongs to Mr. Jayaprakash, To the East of : Land belongs to Mr. Ravichandran, In the midst measuring an extent of Ac.0.09 cents of land with RCC Building constructed thereon along with Common way and all easement rights. The property comes under Village Panchayat Limits of Mahadevakollahalli and Union Council of Bargur.
2	Lan No. LKKRI02424-250012393 1. Mr./Mrs. Selvam Govindhan 2. Mr./Mrs. Mala Mala Muniraj 7-1156, Devandhodi Village Anchetty Post, Denkanikottai Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu-635102	Rs. 7,80,000/-	Rs. 7,66,746.62/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Six and Sixty Two Paise Only) as on 13-08-2026	In Krishnagiri District, Krishnagiri Registration District, Denkanikottai Sub Registration District, ANCHETTY WEST VILLAGE, Old Sy.No. 553/2D1A1 New Sy.No.553/44A1A1A1A, Dry Ext.Hec.2.28.40, Asst.Rs.7.80, out of this land bounded as follows:- East : Land belongs to Mrs. Nagammal in Sy.No.553/44A1A4, West : Remaining land in Sy.No. 553/44A1A4, North : Land belongs to Mr. Sanjeevan in Sy.No. 553/44A1A4, South : Common Way in Sy.No. 553/44A1A4. In the midst measuring an extent of Ac.0.02.Cents of land along with Common way and all easement rights. The property comes under Village Panchayat Limits of Anchetty and Union Council of Thalvi. The said Property comes under the New Sub division Sy.No.553/78.
3	Lan No. LKSLM00124-250012308 1. Mr./Mrs. Hariharan Mariyappan 2/278, Punjaikadu, Agrahara, Poolavari , Tamil Nadu-636010	Rs. 17,10,000/-	Rs. 19,02,071/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Two Thousand Seventy One Only) as on 13-08-2026	All the piece and parcel of land measuring an extent of 1080 Sq. feet together with building constructed thereon, comprised in Old Survey No: 56/16A as Patta No: 801 in PoolavariAgraharam Village, Salem South Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu, being bounded on the North of : Property belongs to Lakshmanan, South of : Property belongs to Mariyappan and 5 feet width East-west pathway, East of : Property belongs to Saerangan and 5 feet width North-south Pathway, West of: Property belongs to Lakshmanan. Within the above boundaries East- West both side 18 feet, North-south both side 60 feet Totally 1080 Sq. feet of land in full and with all pathway rights and easement rights annexed thereto The above described land situated in the PoolavariAgraharam Village, Salem South Taluk lying within the Sub-Registration District of Veerapandi in the Registration District of Salem East;
4	Lan No. LNVLR02123-240009491 1. Mr./Mrs. P. Suganthi 2. Mr./Mrs. S. Senthakumar No.2077 Avvai Street, Thiruvalluvar Nagar, Katpadi, Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India-632007	Rs. 28,00,000/-	Rs. 29,99,038.92/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Thirty Eight and Ninety Two Paise Only) as on 13-08-2026	In Vellore District, Vellore Registration District, Katpadi Sub Registration Office, Katpadi Taluk, "KATPADI Village" Punjai S.No.697/2 in this new subdivided S.No. 697/2K, Awoviyar Street, Northern side Plot - in this vacant side with R.C.C. House Building. Boundaries: NORTH - Awoviyar Street, SOUTH - Mr. Poikis Plot, EAST - S.No.697/2L, WEST - Mrs. Suganthi, Gandayadai, Jagadesan, Poikis 3 feet pathway, Measuring Extents:- East to West: Northern side 24 1/2 feet, Southern side 23 1/2 feet, North to South: Both side 45 feet, Totaling: 1086 Sq. feet, or 100.9 Sq. meter,
5	Lan No. LNCBR00121-220003927 Mr./Mrs. S. Josephraj Mr./Mrs. Jebasheela J Mr./Mrs. Jeevarani J Mr./Mrs. Jeevin Jose J Mr./Mrs. Jerin Jose J Add: No 15, Lrg Nagar Backside, Rsm Nagar, Narasimhanicken Palayam, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu-641031.	Rs. 22,00,000/-	Rs. 20,95,375/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Five Only) as on 13-08-2026	In Coimbatore Registration District, Periyanaickenpalayam Sub-Registration District, Coimbatore Taluk, in No.2 Gudalur Village, S.F.No.165/3A and in this lands formed into a layout known as "Bhuvaneshwari Colony" @ Tecmo City approved by the Gudalur Town Panchayat No.523/1995 and in this site as per Deed No.13806/2012 and in this Site No.28 situated within the following boundaries and measurements. North of-Ranganathan Naidu Land, South of-23' East-West Layout Road, East of-20' North-South Layout Road, West of- Site No.29. In this middle, East-West on the North-29'6", East-West on the South-29'6", North-South on the East-57', North-South on the West - 56'6", North-West Corner Cross-05'. Admeasuring an extent of 1659 Sq. feet house site and all other appurtenance with right of way and easementary rights. The present Sub Division S.F.No.165/3A/1A1.
6	Lan No. LKSLM01025-260021575 1. Mr./Mrs. Dhanakandi 2. Mr./Mrs. Kandan Kandasamy Add: D.No. 16-162, Mmanikkampatti Ka, Ttuvalavu, Kurukkapatti post, Erupalli, Erup, Pali, Edappadi	Rs. 15,00,000/-	Rs. 16,91,526/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ninety One Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six Only) as on 13-08-2026	All the piece and parcel of land measuring an extent of 0.25 Cent together with building constructed thereon, comprised in Old Survey No: 441/3 as Patta No: 5832 as New Survey No: 441/3C in Irupalli Village, Edappadi Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu, being bounded on the North of : Common Pathway, South of : Common Pathway, East of : Property belongs to Kandan, Irusagoundar, Perumal, West of: Property belongs to Perumal. Within the above boundaries are 1st That 0.23 Cent and 2nd That 0.02 Cent and both That Totally 0.25 Cent of land in full and with all pathway rights and easement rights annexed thereto The above described land situated in the Irupalli Village, Edappadi Taluk, lying within the Jalagadapuram Sub-Registration, District of Salem in the Registration District, of Salem West;

The borrower(s) are hereby advised to comply with the Demand Notice(s) and to pay the demand amount mentioned therein and hereinabove within 60 days from the date of this publication together with applicable interest, additional interest, bounce charges, cost and expenses till the date of realization of payment. The borrower(s) may note that IKF Home Finance Limited is a secured creditor and the loan facility availed by the Borrower(s) is a secured debt against the immovable property / properties being the secured asset(s) mortgaged by the borrower(s). In the event borrower(s) are failed to discharge their liabilities in full within the stipulated time. The Secured Creditor shall be entitled to exercise all the rights U/s. 13(4) of the Act to take possession of the secured asset(s) including but not limited to transfer the same by way of sale or by invoking any other remedy available under the Act and the Rules thereunder and realize payment. The Secured Creditor is also empowered to ATTACH AND / OR SEAL the secured asset(s) before enforcing the right to sale or transfer. Subsequent to the Sale of the secured asset(s), the Secured Creditor also has a right to initiate separate legal proceedings to recover the balance dues, in case the value of the mortgaged properties is insufficient to cover the dues payable to the Secured Creditor. This remedy is in addition and independent of all the other remedies available to the Secured Creditor under any other law. The attention of the borrower(s) is invited to Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets and further to Section 13(13) of the Act, whereby the borrower(s) are restrained / prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the secured asset(s) or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business) any of the secured asset(s), without prior written consent of the Secured Creditor and non-compliance with the above is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the said Act. The copy of the Demand Notice is available with the undersigned and the borrower(s) may, if they so desire, can collect the same from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place : Tamilnadu
Date : 27-08-2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer
for IKF Home Finance Limited



EDITORIAL

Toxic Knows Exactly What It Is Doing To Its Hero. And You May Have Missed It

In Geetu Mohandas' *Toxic*, a hyperstylised manic dream that unfolds as a series of montages, one scene is allowed to breathe. The male lead is sitting with the woman he fancies. He has just been told off for being self-involved. So, he asks, "Do you think I am a bad guy?" "No," she replies. "I think you are toxic." For a film titled after an adjective, popularised by social media as both a terrible and enticing attribute, the narrative is expected to draw out its lure. Mohandas does that till she doesn't, introducing a jolting subversion to a genre that has been allowed to thrive by impunity. Indian cinema is no stranger to toxic men. In the Hindi film industry, however, the shift was sudden. Shah Rukh Khan's character in Yash Chopra's *Darr* (1993) could be regarded as an early prototype. As Rahul Mehra, the actor played a stalker who would stop at nothing to get the woman he is obsessed with. It is an exceedingly unlikely character, offset with a tragic backstory (Rahul is a loner, and the only person who presumably understood him was his dead mother), and the portrayal. In Khan's hands, the fixation took the shape of unchecked love. Although the film reserved punishment for the excess (he dies), *Darr* brought troubled men to a middle-ground of sorts where they were no longer abject villains, deserving of apathy, but anti-heroes whose heroism was misled but not absent.

TOXIC MEN'S 'COMING OF AGE'

The script changed with Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Kabir Singh (2019), the contentious Hindi-language remake of his Telugu film, Arjun Reddy (2017). The problematic man now had the centre stage; there was a thoughtfulness to his character that was hitherto granted to protagonists. Singh was a doctor, in love with a junior. He is obsessive, uncouth, sexist. In one moment, he threatens a woman that he would undress her with a knife. And yet, by the end, he is rewarded with a happily-ever-after with the girl he loved. This marked a shift, and the unprecedented success of the film (Kabir Singh grossed more than Rs 300 crore worldwide) made toxic men a mainstream phenomenon, acceptable and aspirational in their flaws. Vanga followed this up with *Animal* (2023), a more disputed film with an even more obnoxious central character. Ranvijay Singh (Ranbir Kapoor) is a man-child who desires only one thing: love and attention from his father. He gets increasingly odious in the pursuit, transmuting into an immoral entity, a beast of sorts. And yet, the supposed purity of his intent is meant to thaw the misgivings others feel for him. Vanga, however, makes a tiny adjustment at the end, where Ranvijay is abandoned by his family, and yet, as the closing credits promise a second part and more bloodshed, it becomes evident that seeking penance for the protagonist is never the goal of this film or the maker. The carnage was the appeal, the mayhem was the point. In the last couple of years, toxic men, armoured with regressive values, have become a fixture in films across languages. *KGF* (Kannada; 2018), *The Family Star* (Telugu; 2024), *Saamy Square* (Tamil; 2018) are some examples. In that sense, Mohandas' *Toxic*, till the longest time, unfolds not just as a fabric cut from the same cloth but as evidence of the unending realms that exist in the fold.

'No Calls, People Scanning Banks For Bodies': Nepal Journalist Describes Flood Aftermath

Just four days back, on Saturday, I had returned to Kathmandu from a trekking pilgrimage to Lake Gosainkunda (4,400 m) located some 120 km north of Kathmandu (1,300 m). Crossing innumerable bends along the mountain highway, surrounded by lush green vegetation and sparkling white waterfalls, I had started my uphill trek from a hillside Tamang village of Thulo Syabru. Just below Thulo Syabru (2,500 m) lay the bustling riverside town of Syabru Bensi, gateway to the Nepal-China border some 30 km away, and the site of the Langtang hydroelectric plant. Four days later, I was shell-shocked. It was painful to see horrific images of the collateral damage in Syabru Bensi, Langtang, and scores of other human settlements, right from Gyirong dry port on the Tibet border to Syabru Bensi and Betrabati in Rasuwa - plus Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, and Chitwan districts downstream. Located just a couple of hours' drive away from Kathmandu or Chitwan, Rasuwa is famous for its scenic Himalayan peaks, such as Langtang Lirung, with Ganesh Himal piercing the sky right across the valley to the west. The ice and snow melting from these peaks trickle down into valleys below, forming serene snow-fed rivers that gradually swell and get bigger as they flow further downstream. Among others, the area is inhabited by the indigenous Tamang, Ghale Sherpa people, who are famous for their hardy physical attributes and exceptional mountaineering skills. A key highway linking Kathmandu and several other towns of southern Nepal with Tibet passes through Syabru Bensi and reaches Rasuwagadi right across Gyirong county, in Tibet, China. Over the last few years, Rasuwagadi emerged as a popular route not just for Nepal-China



cross-border trade and commerce but also for the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage. Most of the indigenous people in Rasuwa resemble Tibetan folks and follow Tibetan-Buddhism, taking pride in their rich culture and tradition. The disastrous flash flood that rapidly gushed down into the area, destroying everything in its wake, has left the banks of one of Nepal's biggest river systems, the Sapta Gandaki, flowing down the very heart of Nepal, in ruins. Soon after Wednesday's catastrophic flash flood, and right up to this moment on Thursday evening, it has been impossible to get through to officials posted in Rasuwa, or hoteliers and locals elsewhere in Rasuwa. The mobile telecommunication networks haven't been restored as yet, let alone power supplies and highways that remain destroyed as a result of tsunami-like flash flooding. The death toll has climbed to 359 in Nepal itself - at the time of writing this - with nearly 1,300 still missing. Shakti Maya Tamang, a

journalist in Nuwakot, described the August 26 flooding as a "never-seen-before" disaster. Others call it the second-biggest natural disaster after the April-May 2015 earthquakes that claimed the lives of 9,000 people across central Nepal. Initially, several Nepali experts guessed that a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) might have triggered the apocalyptic flash flood that has left a trail of destruction across central Nepal, right from the Himalayas to the river valley and plains. A similar flash flood had hit the border town a year ago, too. That claimed the lives of 18 people, besides causing other damage. Although Chinese scientists haven't yet publicised their version of the trigger factor, Nepali experts are now almost certain that a glacial collapse on the western slope of Mount Langtang Lirung might have caused the flash flood and subsequent cascading hazards. The Nepali government on Thursday decided to expedite scientific studies of all glacial lakes at risk of flooding. Arun

Bhakta Shrestha is one such expert. In a LinkedIn post, the senior specialist on climate, cryosphere, and risk management at Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) asked if the two devastating floods in the same region in 14 months were a "coincidence or pattern". Initially, a small earthquake in the region was blamed for the disaster. Later, that was ruled out. But Shrestha concludes that the flash flood was triggered by a glacial collapse on the North Face of Mount Langtang Lirung. Experts recall a similar disaster, possibly a similar glacial collapse on the mountain's South Face, which obliterated an entire village in Langtang, Rasuwa, during the devastating earthquake on April 25, 2015. This time around, Shrestha writes, "A rock and ice avalanche detached from a glacier north of Langtang Lirung and dammed the Lhende Khola, a tributary of the Bhoté Koshi River on the Nepal-China

border. The impounded water subsequently broke through, releasing a sudden, high-energy flood that has devastated Timure, Syabrubesi, and downstream settlements along the Trishuli, damaging homes, bridges, roads, and hydropower infrastructure." As the area also saw a similar but slightly smaller disaster 14 months ago, he notes that "a second major event on the Lhende (basin) in 14 months is not a coincidental repeat, it points to an unstable catchment that needs sustained monitoring, not one-off assessment after each disaster". Meanwhile, experts are concerned that since the debris dam has not emptied out completely, there could be more flash floods down the road. Shrestha says, "Efforts are underway to obtain satellite imagery to assess the remaining blockage. Until that is confirmed, downstream communities and infrastructure remain at risk." Since glacial collapsed floods have become a new normal across the

Himalayas, experts are stressing the need to take better care of river banks, especially while planning towns and infrastructure. Shrestha writes: "Events like this are a stark illustration of why climate and glacial hazard risk needs to be built into infrastructure planning as a live, evolving variable rather than a historical baseline. Cascading hazards originating far upstream, often across an international border, can strike with very little lead time." Meanwhile, my heart breaks to see the next of kin of people killed or missing in the catastrophic flood, walking downstream, closely scanning the Bhoté Koshi (called Trishuli downstream) river banks looking for their loved ones - dead or alive. As of Thursday evening, it was still impossible to get through to mobile phones in Dhunche, the district headquarters, or the flood-ravaged towns of Syabru Bensi or Timure, near the border, where over 400 international tourists are still unaccounted for.

HEAPS OF GARBAGE, CITIES OF DISEASE

- Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

We're aware of the importance of keeping our homes clean, but as soon as we step outside, our sense of responsibility vanishes. Many people have developed the habit of throwing household items on the roadside, in drains, in vacant lots, or in public places. Plastic bags, polythene, vegetable peels, fruit scraps, and leftover food are routinely thrown out in the open. But this seemingly simple act of carelessness is gradually becoming a serious threat to people's health and the environment. Throwing garbage in the open causes it to rot and smell. The problem isn't just an "inconvenience." Accumulation of garbage creates filth and attracts flies, mosquitoes, stray animals, and other pests. Plastic and other waste can clog drains, leading to waterlogging during the rainy season. Lack of drainage creates breeding grounds for mosquitoes and increases the risk of disease. Negligence can lead to health problems for the entire neighborhood. The worst part is that people in society have come to take this for granted. We see piles of garbage on the roadside, cover our noses for a moment, and move on. Very few people think about where this garbage comes from. In reality, behind every waste is someone's convenience and negligence. If someone never throws away

garbage in their home, why doesn't they throw it in the dustbin outside? Why do the streets become garbage dumps when we're away from home? This is more than just cleanliness—it's a matter of civic duty and social conduct. The use of plastic and polythene has further exacerbated the situation. Plastic does not degrade easily and persists in the environment for a long time. If discarded, it can clog drains and block water flow. Organic waste stored in plastic bags continues to rot and emit foul odors, creating unsanitary conditions. Stray animals may also ingest plastic, posing a health risk. Therefore, indiscriminate and careless disposal of plastic pollutes society, animals, and the environment. There's no misconception about the link between waste and disease. Open trash bins breed flies and other parasites, spreading diseases. Stagnant and stagnant water can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Households within walking distance of unattended garbage can be at increased risk of infections and other health problems. This monsoon season, the situation could worsen, as rainy weather can spread garbage and contaminants to surrounding areas. But it's unfair to say that the problem lies solely with municipalities. Local governments play a vital role in providing the following services to the community: garbage collection, waste

disposal, sewer maintenance, and public spaces cleanliness. Citizens also play an equally important role in this process. They should be responsible when disposing of waste, avoid littering, limit unnecessary plastic use, and separate wet and dry waste. However, deploying more sanitation workers won't solve the problem if residents continue to litter in public spaces. The need now is to move beyond treating cleanliness as a government campaign. The effectiveness of cleanliness campaigns is clearly linked to incorporating cleanliness into daily life. Children should receive lectures on cleanliness in schools, and they should also adopt practical measures to maintain cleanliness, including waste segregation, proper disposal, and minimizing the use of single-use plastic. Local monitoring systems can also be developed in communities, and residents can be made aware of the importance of collective responsibility towards their environment. While rules and punishments may be necessary, behavior change will not occur unless they recognize the importance of responsible behavior. The politics of waste is also reflected in the political discourse on sanitation in the public sphere. Sanitation, garbage collection, drainage, and civic infrastructure are major political issues during elections. However, once the elec-

tions are over, these concerns are easily forgotten. Garbage piles up again, drains become clogged, and foul smells become commonplace again. This cycle continues because administrative accountability is often inconsistent and public participation is low." It's important to understand that garbage isn't just a municipal problem. It's a reflection of our daily routines, priorities, and sense of collective responsibility. Only when we start treating public streets as our responsibility as our own backyards will we begin to make a difference. Clean streets not only look beautiful, but also symbolize a healthier and more responsible society. People need hospitals and medicines when they get sick, but it's better to prevent harmful situations in the first place. The problem with garbage is that we need to understand that it's not your problem. The secret to cleanliness lies not in grand announcements or government campaigns, but in a small, personal decision: Don't litter on the street—put it in the dustbin. By changing this small habit, we can improve these neighborhoods, our cities, and public health. Sanitation isn't the responsibility of any one person; it's not the responsibility of any one department, any one government, or any group of employees. It's the responsibility of all of us, and it must start with each one of us.

PRAVERS WOVEN INTO THE THREADS OF RAKHI

- Dr. Satywan Saurabh

The sweetness of the siblinghood, changing times and the greater responsibility associated with Raksha Bandhan. Raksha Bandhan is a festival of Indian culture which is the most intimate one. It's not just a day for tying rakhi around a brother's wrist and giving him some sweets, it's a day of love, trust, memories and lifelong friendship between siblings. The rakhi is just a single thread inside of which lie many feelings, from childhood times, to love in the here and now, to hopes for a better future. Tying of a rakhi by a sister is not only a request for protection, but also a symbol of their bond. She is praying for his happiness, well being, health and success in silence. The brother in turn takes over the duty of supporting his sister at life's various stages. Brother/Sister relationships are sometimes characterized by sibling rivalry early on and then progress to one of the most intimate emotional connections in life. When it comes to children, it's about the little moments of arguing over toys, sweets, or anything else that eventually turn into treasured memories. As siblings grow older, they get busy with their studies, job search, marriage and family. Others move to other cities, or other countries. While there may be more distance between the two, there may also be more emotional connection as well. Raksha Bandhan is to make it easier to remember and re-discover that connection. The significance of Raksha Bandhan should be understood in a

wider perspective too in the ever-changing social context today. The family is becoming smaller and spread across the locality has taken the place of joint families. Brothers and sisters can be separated by a long distance and might not have any chance to meet during the course of the year. In such times the rakhi is not just a thread that reaches the wrist; it is an emotional thread that traverses distances. The sentiment with the rakhi is the same whether it is received by mail or the celebration is done via a video call—the prayer for the well-being and happiness of a loved one. But with change, there must be rethinking of what is meant by a brother's responsibility towards his sister. Protection doesn't simply mean to stand by her side in an emergency. This is also about valuing her dignity, freedom, choices and rights. To say that a sister's freedom has to be limited in order to be protected is not protection, it is control. A good brother is one that believes in his sister's capabilities, he encourages her to study, take care of her career, carry out her ambitions and make her own decisions about her life. Females of today are proving their capabilities in fields of education, science, administration, politics, etc., armed services, sports, business, arts and in all other fields. One of the things a brother can give his sister in this world is confidence. This is what he should do, stand on him/her shoulders and recognize her accomplishments as her own and her family's. It's not just about tying a rakhi and wish-

ing for long life to the brother; the responsibility of a sister should not be restricted to that. Brother-sister relationship is one of caring, supporting and sensitivity. A sister can be a brother's emotional support if he has a problem, and a brother can be a sister's when she has a problem. Emotional aid may sometimes be more beneficial than monetary help in the tribulations of life. For someone, "I am here for you" is enough to fill someone with courage to deal with the toughest of times. Raksha Bandhan is also a chance to take stock of the evolution of family communication. Technology has shrunk distances between people, yet at times it has made a distance between the people who are seated around the same table. Families are able to stay in touch via the phone and social media but not much time is spent in meaningful conversation. Relationships cannot be maintained by messages, pictures and emojis, festivals remind us. They need time, listening, understanding and sharing in their joys and sorrows. The rakhi thread also has a special emotional value for persons who have lost their brothers or sisters. For some it is a day of laughter and celebration, for some it is a day of memories, silent tears. Sisters whose brothers are serving far from home, including those on the borders of the nation, have a special mix of feelings of affection and patriotism. Similarly, brothers and sisters who are separated by circumstances may not meet, but the rakhi tells them not to worry as they don't need to

forget their love for one another. Sadly, consumerism is becoming more dominant in festivals these days as well. The value of rakhi, the gifts exchanged and the rivalry to celebrate can often be more of an obstacle than a blessing. Love is a beautiful thing, it can be expressed in the most elegant ways through gifts, but the worth of a relationship is not in the gift. The respect, trust, time and emotional support of her brother is more valuable to her than an expensive gift. Similarly, a sister's love and support in times of trouble is invaluable to a brother. It is important that an atmosphere is established all year long where each girl is safe, independent and respected. Women's respect should be started in the family which slowly turns into a social value. Children need to learn the importance of equality, empathy, consent and respect from an early age as core values of healthy relationships. Raksha Bandhan, in this way, isn't simply a day upon which you tie a thread on your brother's wrist. It's a chance to comprehend and meet relationship requirements. It helps us to understand that love isn't a state of possession, but of trust; protection isn't a state of control, but a state of respect; and a relationship isn't held together by blood, but by empathy, understanding, and mutual support. But, a rakhi is more than just a thread tied around a wrist, right? It brings childhood playfulness, mumma's morals, sister's prayer, brother's promise and the family's hopes for happiness.



Samsung Brings Hands-On STEM Learning to 3,000 Students across Tamil Nadu Government Schools, sets up STEM labs

August, 2026 – Samsung India is expanding access to STEM learning in Tamil Nadu, reaching 3,000 students across 10 government schools in Kanchipuram and Ranipet through its DigiArivu programme. The initiative builds on Samsung's growing commitment to manufacturing, innovation and community development in the state. Implemented in collaboration with the UN Global Compact Network India (UNGCI), DigiArivu is strengthening STEM learning through 10 dedicated STEM labs, hands-on educational equipment, Building as Learning Aid (BaLA), upgraded school infrastructure and teacher development. The CSR programme enables students to strengthen their understanding of STEM subjects through practical learning experiences and the application of classroom concepts. "Education is most meaningful when it inspires curiosity and encourages

students to learn by doing. Through DigiArivu, Samsung is working with schools in Tamil Nadu to create engaging learning environments where technology, hands-on STEM education and teacher development come together to help young learners build confidence and prepare for the future," said SH Yoon, President, Samsung Chennai Plant. "The UN Global Compact Network India is committed to fostering partnerships that contribute to sustainable and inclusive development, creating meaningful impact at scale. Our collaboration with Samsung through DigiArivu reflects a shared commitment to strengthening quality education and expanding opportunities for young learners. By bringing STEM education and digital learning to government schools, this initiative is helping equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in an increasingly technology-

driven world," said Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director, United Nations Global Network India, (UNGCI).

BRINGING STEM LEARNING TO LIFE

A key component of the programme is the creation of 10 STEM labs across government schools in Kanchipuram and Ranipet in Tamil Nadu providing students with opportunities to experiment with scientific concepts introduced in the classroom. Through hands-on activities and practical experimentation, students can engage more deeply with STEM subjects and develop curiosity, problem-solving skills and confidence in applying what they learn. The programme also incorporates Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) to make the wider school environment an extension of the classroom. School walls and common spaces feature interactive elements and murals inspired by science, mathematics.

'Not Rs 22,000 Crore': Subhash Chandra Clarifies On Claims Of 99.97% Debt Haircut Via NCLT



Essel Group founder Subhash Chandra has rejected reports suggesting that he received a 99.97% haircut on debt worth around Rs 22,000 crore through insolvency proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). In a statement, Chandra said the Rs 22,006 crore figure being reported represents total claims filed in the proceedings and does not reflect the current status of the matter. "I have to state that certain vested media houses are spreading wrong information about my personal insolvency matter in NCLT," Chandra said, urging media platforms to publish what he described as the complete facts. Chandra clarified that he did not personally borrow money from the lenders involved in the proceedings and was only a personal guarantor for loans taken by borrowing entities associated with the broader Essel Group. He said the total guarantees signed by

him were approximately Rs 22,000 crore. However, he argued that this figure should not be treated as his personal outstanding debt. According to Chandra, the total claims filed in the case amounted to Rs 22,006 crore, of which Rs 21,696 crore were admitted by the resolution professional. However, he said lenders who objected to the repayment plan had claims totalling only Rs 3,992 crore. Of this, claims worth Rs 620 crore have already been settled, leaving Rs 3,372 crore. The borrowing entities have also offered to pay around Rs 1,113 crore to multiple objecting lenders, Chandra said, adding that discussions are continuing. Chandra said the total outstanding borrowings of the companies for which he had provided personal guarantees stood at around Rs 45,000 crore on January 24, 2019. Since then, the borrowing entities have repaid close to Rs 43,000 crore, according to his statement.

ASBL launches ASBL Legacy, the only gated community and tallest project at RTC X Roads

Hyderabad 27th August 2026:

ASBL has launched a new residential project at RTC X Roads in the heart of Central Hyderabad. With this project, ASBL is bringing a gated community to an area where most residential development has traditionally been in the form of standalone buildings. ASBL Legacy is designed for people who want to upgrade their lifestyle while continuing to live in the heart of the city. As Hyderabad has grown, large gated communities have become an important part of the city's western and developing areas. Central Hyderabad, however, has seen fewer such developments despite its strong connectivity and access to established social infrastructure. ASBL Legacy aims to bring the gated community experience to this part of the city while keeping residents close to the places, transport and social infrastructure that make Central Hyderabad well connected. Spread across approximately 7.97 acres, ASBL Legacy will feature three towers rising up to G+50 floors, making it the tallest project in the RTC X Roads area. The project offers 3 and 4 BHK homes starting at ₹1.99 crore, with 73.25% of the development kept as open space. It will also include a 74,000 sq.



ft. clubhouse and more than 50 amenities spread across approximately 1.70 lakh sq. ft. The project brings together sports, fitness, leisure and everyday facilities within the community. These include a terrace swimming pool with skyline views, badminton and futsal courts, pickleball and basketball courts, cricket nets, skating rink, jogging and cycling tracks, children's play areas, a pet park and a 17,000 sq. ft. Festival Lawn. 12,000 sq. ft. Urban Corridor at the ground level of Tower B will also provide facilities such as co-working spaces, indoor games, a clinic, physiotherapy room and tuition room. Legacy is located just two minutes from RTC X Roads Metro Station, with Kacheguda Railway Station around eight minutes away

and MGBS around 15 minutes away. The project also includes features such as a vehicle-free podium, double-height lobby, two-metre-wide corridors, foyer entries and one lift per unit per floor. "If you look at how Hyderabad has actually grown, its rapid growth phase happened largely westward, simply because that's where large land parcels were available. And once development comes up in an area, it generates its own demand in real time. Central Hyderabad, on the other hand, has never lacked demand. What it lacked was scale land parcels large enough to build a proper gated community on. That's the real reason the core has a genuine deficit of good quality housing today, not an absence of demand. As a

micromarket, Central Hyderabad has significant untapped potential but it's also a different kind of neighbourhood to design for. It's established and already lived-in, and that brings its own opportunities and constraints, shaping both what we can build and how residents will actually use it", says Mr. Ajitesh Korupolu, CEO & Founder of ASBL. Founded in 2017, the company has delivered or launched several projects across the city. Its recent launches have also seen strong buyer response, with ASBL Broadway recording more than ₹1,000 crore in launch-day sales and EOLs, while ASBL Landmark recorded more than ₹500 crore on launch day. ASBL continues to expand its presence across Hyderabad.

Bajaj Auto Celebrates 25 Years of Pulsar with the All-New Pulsar 150 and Pulsar 125

Pune, August 2026 - Bajaj Auto Ltd., the world's most valuable two-wheeler and three-wheeler company, today unveiled the new Pulsar 150 and Pulsar 125, upgrading two of India's most iconic sports motorcycles with a host of new features and technologies while retaining the unmistakable character that has defined the Pulsar brand. Since its launch in 2001, Pulsar has



played a defining role in shaping Indian motorcycling over the past 25 years, establishing itself as one of India's most iconic sports biking brands. At a time when motorcycles were largely associated with everyday commuting, Pulsar brought performance, technology, and an unmistakable attitude to Indian motorcycling. Over the years, the brand has continued to evolve, bringing modern technology and performance experiences to generations of riders. With over 20 million Pulsar motorcycles sold in over 40 countries, the brand has grown from an Indian motorcycle icon into a global name in performance motorcycling. At the heart of this evolution are the traits that made the original Pulsar 150 an icon - commanding silhouette, muscular tank, signature grunt, commanding road presence, and unmatched pickup. The 10-second rush, raw power and thrill, and its lovable daring character have defined the Pulsar experience for generations. These enduring attributes remain unchanged in the new Pulsar 150 and Pulsar 125, while the engineering, technology, design, and features continue to evolve.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW

PULSAR 150 & 125

All-New Engine and Gearbox

Signature Pulsar thrill with class-first PVD piston rings for reduced friction, enhanced engine life and improved NVH

Pulsar 150: 149.5cc engine | Power -14 PS@8500 rpm | Torque- 13.7 Nm @6500 rpm

Pulsar 125: Most powerful 125cc motorcycle in market| 124.58cc engine | Power-12 PS@8000 rpm| Torque- 11 Nm @6000 rpm Improved Power-to-Weight Ratio: Enables quicker 0-60 km/h acceleration New Gearbox: Improved tractive effort in lower gears for stronger low-speed performance

ALL-NEW FRAME

New diamond-type frame with greater stiffness for better handling Engine acts as a stiffness member, improving overall ride & stability

All-New Monoshock Suspension

Nitrogen gas-charged emulsion type monoshock Sporty handling, superior straight-line stability & cornering composure All-New 5-inch TFT Console TFT console with Google Maps mirroring and intuitive navigation Store vehicle RC, insurance and other important documents on the TFT console Live call and message alerts with convenient music controls.

HCLTECH ACCELERATES SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA, SETS INDUSTRY BENCHMARKS IN EMPLOYEE WELLBEING AND WATER CONSUMPTION

NOIDA, India, Aug 27, 2026—HCLTech, a leading global technology company, reported significant progress in FY26 against its sustainability goals and commitment to becoming net zero by 2040. The company has achieved a 55.84% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions from its FY20 baseline, surpassing its target of a 50% reduction by 2030 four years ahead of schedule. It has also reduced its total emissions footprint (Scope 1, 2 and 3) by 27.7% since FY20. Driving this progress is HCLTech's accelerating shift toward clean energy. Since FY20, the company has reduced energy consumption from conventional sources by 31%. Renewable energy now accounts for 49.79% of HCLTech's total energy consumption and 89.65% of energy used in its data centers, reflecting sustained decarbonization efforts across the company's operations and value chain. HCLTech has also strengthened its leadership in resource stewardship. The

company replenishes 51 times more water than it consumes across its global operations and has achieved an industry-leading water consumption rate of 10.68 liters per capita per day. Reinforcing its commitment to circularity and sustainable workplaces, all HCLTech campuses in India have maintained Zero Waste to Landfill Platinum certification since 2025. All HCLTech campuses have also achieved Platinum or LEED Platinum certification from leading Green Building Councils. [AS2] "Sustainability is becoming a catalyst for innovation and long-term growth. By combining technology, AI and human ingenuity, we are reducing our emission footprint while helping clients build more resilient and sustainable businesses.

As AI reshapes industries, we remain committed to deploying it responsibly, ensuring that innovation advances not only business outcomes but also environmental stewardship and societal progress," said Vipul Arora, Global Head of Sustainability at HCLTech. HCLTech invested 2.08% of revenue in employee well-being in FY26, the highest in the IT industry. Women represented over 50% of the Board and 29.6% of the workforce. More than 90% of employees in nearshore facilities were hired locally, with women comprising 66% of that workforce. The number of employees with disabilities increased by 27.4%. [AS3] HCLTech continued to invest heavily in community initiatives through HCLFoundation. The company increased the outlay

of the HCLTech Grant in India by 45% in FY26. It has disbursed \$3 million in grants to non-profit organizations in the Americas in the past three years for innovative climate action projects. HCLFoundation's interventions have impacted over 8.4 million lives in India to date, of which 54% are women. It has planted over 3.5 million saplings, greened 74,000 acres of land and harvested more than 155 billion liters of water to date. HCLTech's sustainability efforts continue to earn global recognitions, with the company featuring in TIME World's Best Companies and World's Most Sustainable Companies lists for the second consecutive year, Fortune World's Most Admired Companies 2026, Forbes World's Best Employers for the sixth consecutive year, S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook. It also achieved EcoVadis Gold rating and MSCI AA (Leader) ESG rating for the second consecutive year in FY26.





MORE THAN 350 KILLED IN NEPAL AS RISING LAKE RAISES FEAR OF NEW FLOOD

A second or third wave of deadly flash flooding could arrive in Nepal later today as the country scrambles to respond to a catastrophe that has killed more than 350 people. Basanta Raj Adhikari, the director of the Centre for Disaster Studies at the Tribhuvan University in Nepal, told the BBC that there is a risk that conditions worsen today or tomorrow, including landslides. The warning came as the Nepalese disaster authority said a river appeared to have been blocked, creating a lake at the site of the flooding that they assessed was at risk of a potentially disastrous breach. The situation on the ground has complicated rescue efforts, with nearly 1,400 people still unaccounted for, including almost 650 foreigners and 33 British tourists swept up in Wednesday's floods. Have you been affected by the floods? We are looking to

hear from people who have been affected by the flash floods in Nepal. The president of the Nepal Centre for Disaster Management said the disaster came at them like a "tsunami from the sky". "It's such a huge debris, and everything on the way was completely washed out," said Bishal Nath Upreti. "Villages along the almost 40 to 50 kilometres were completely wiped out." King Charles said he and the Queen were "heartbroken" and sent their "most profound sympathy" to those affected by the "devastating" flash floods in Nepal where dozens of British nationals are among the hundreds missing and feared dead. The King said in his written message: "My wife and I are heartbroken to hear of the devastating flooding that has struck the Nepal-China border. "Many in the United Kingdom have strong, deep and personal

ties to this part of the world. "We send our most profound sympathy to all those who have so tragically



Collapsed glacier likely caused devastating Nepal-Tibet floods, scientists say

lost their loved ones and we feel deeply for the many families awaiting anxiously the news of friends and relations. "Our hearts go out also to the families of all the police and Armed Forces personnel

"Our special thoughts and prayers remain with all those affected and, as always, the United King Nepali man recalls how he clung to mango tree for survival during deadly flash floods: 'I would 'have washed away to death' Bibek Kumal, a 24-year-old Nepali labourer, was digging a 1.5m (5ft) deep toilet pit beside a newly constructed house on Wednesday when he heard a distinct hissing sound. Seconds later, a torrent of mud, water and rock tore through the site, sweeping him and everything nearby away. Working in Bidur, downstream from the severely impacted Rasuwa district near Nepal's border with Tibet, Mr Kumal was warned by four co-workers standing above who shouted at him to run. By the time he managed to scramble out, his colleagues had already fled.

Tanzania's VP expelled from ruling party for indiscipline and his successor named



Emmanuel Nchimbi has been expelled from Tanzania's ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party for indiscipline following his decision earlier this week to resign as the country's vice-president after 10 months in the job. The 54-year-old has made some controversial remarks in recent weeks - including urging Tanzanians to "fight for a new constitution" - pointing to a possible fallout with President Samia Suluhu Hassan. He was Samia's running mate in last October's disputed presidential election, which saw hundreds killed in post-poll unrest. Energy Minister Deogratius Ndejmbi, 43, has been nom-

inated as his replacement and his name will now be presented to parliament for approval. The decisions were taken at an extraordinary meeting of the CCM, chaired by President Samia. The party did not give details about the indiscipline allegations against Nchimbi, whose resignation takes effect at the end of next week. Nchimbi, who shared his brief resignation letter on his Instagram account on Tuesday morning, is the first vice-president to step down in Tanzania's history. He said he would retire from public life as he had "become convinced, without doubt, that the president wants changes".

Trump officials threaten Kennedy Center demolition if court blocks renovations

The Trump administration has threatened to demolish the Kennedy Center if planned renovations for the performing arts venue are not allowed to be carried out, court documents show. Attorneys from the justice department have also asked for President Donald Trump's name to be put back on the building after it was removed in June following a court order. "An order blocking the Board from appropriately recognising President Trump," the lawyers argued, "will cause donors to flee, financial contributions to dry up, and structural rehabilitation to stop". The venue has been among the storied sites in Washington that Trump has sought to renovate since he returned to the White House in 2025. Trump's lawyers have argued that without the renovations the venue "will deteriorate further into an unsafe, decrepit structure that will be required to be taken down". They also called the venue "embar-



rassing to the Nation's Capital". After the "decrepit structure" is taken down, justice department attorney Brantley Mayers wrote, a determination of what to build on the site will follow, including the option of a large outdoor amphitheatre overlooking the Potomac River. The threat to demolish the building comes just weeks after the Kennedy Center board voted to add Trump's name back to the facade of the venue and to proceed with a two-year clo-

sure for proposed renovations. Many of the board members who voted are Trump allies who were appointed by the president. In late May, a US judge ruled that the president's name had been added to the venue unlawfully, as it cannot be renamed without congressional approval. The judge ordered that the name be removed, and so it was taken down in June. The case stemmed from a broader legal dispute over the renaming of the cultur-

al institution, which US law designates as a memorial to President John F Kennedy. It is the latest in series of projects that Trump has taken on since returning to Washington. He has been renovating the reflecting pool on the National Mall, he wants to construct a 250-foot victory arch, has demolished the White House East Wing to build a ballroom, and has added his name to institutions such as the Kennedy Center and US Institute of Peace.

US DRUG AGENCY APPROVES BREAKTHROUGH TREATMENT FOR PANCREATIC CANCER



The US Food and Drug Administration has approved a treatment for pancreatic cancer that, in clinical trials, nearly doubled the overall survival time for patients. The drug, daraxonrasib, sold under the brand name Rasonque and manufactured by Revolution Medicines, appears to be a breakthrough in treating one of the world's deadliest cancers. A late-stage clinical trial with 500 patients found those who took the daily pill had an average survival time of 13.2 months, compared to 6.6 months for those on chemotherapy. The FDA said the drug provided a "critical new option for patients facing an extraordinarily difficult and historically hard-to-treat cancer".

Daraxonrasib helps prevent the spread of cancer by locking onto and shutting off the mutated KRAS gene, which is in more than 90% of pancreatic tumours and spurs cancer growth. Each year, roughly 67,000 people in the US are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, which has the highest mortality rate of all major cancers, according to the American Cancer Society. Pancreatic cancer is often spotted late and is notoriously difficult to treat. More than half of those with pancreatic cancer die within three months of diagnosis. In 2025, the FDA granted the drug a "Breakthrough Therapy" designation, given to treatments for serious conditions that warrant an expedited review.



At least 12 dead as wildfires sweep through northern Algeria

NORWAY'S ROYAL FAMILY GATHERS AT KING HARALD'S BEDSIDE AS HIS CONDITION WORSENS

King Harald V of Norway is in an "extremely serious" condition in hospital, the country's royal household has said. His wife, Queen Sonja, and his son, Crown Prince Haakon, have cancelled all royal engagements and they have gathered at his bedside at Oslo University Hospital with other members of the royal family. The 89-year-old has been in hospital for over a week receiving treatment for a rare blood condition, haemolytic anaemia. Having been on the throne since 1991, King Harald is Europe's oldest head of state. Crown Prince Haakon, 53, the successor to the Norwegian throne, has been serving as regent while his father is on leave. King Harald has been treated in recent weeks with cor-



tisone for haemolytic anaemia, a condition that causes the number of red blood cells in the body to be reduced, and leads to fatigue and shortness of breath. Members of the royal family were seen arriving at the hospital on Thursday morning, including Haakon's wife, Crown Princess Mette-Marit and her son Marius Borg Hoiby. King Harald's sister,

Princess Astrid is also at the hospital, according to reports in Norwegian media. Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store has cancelled a planned trip to Germany, where he was expected to meet Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Thursday. "The whole nation is with us as we send warm thoughts to the king and the rest of the royal family," he said in a statement.

Members of the public have also begun laying flowers in Palace Square, in front of the palace in Oslo. The king has had multiple health problems in recent years which have forced him to scale back his royal duties. He was fitted with a pacemaker in 2024 after falling ill on holiday in Malaysia. The Norwegian royal family has already faced a challenging year in 2026. Crown Princess Mette-Marit received a lung transplant in June after she had been diagnosed with a rare form of pulmonary fibrosis in 2018. The transplant came two days after Hoiby was sentenced to four years in prison after being convicted of two counts of rape. He had denied the most serious charges and is to appeal the sentence.

MS DHONI WANTED 25 PER CENT STAKE OF CSK? BLUNT VERDICT BY EX-KKR STAR ON REPORT

MS Dhoni and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) are almost synonymous. The World Cup-winning former India captain did not play a single match in IPL 2026, and yet he was one of the most discussed CSK figures throughout the entire season. Dhoni is 45, and while his playing role has diminished in recent years, he remains an inspirational figure within the CSK ranks. The IPL 2027 retention dates are not yet known, but before that, a story by Cricblogger claimed that Dhoni asked for a 25 per cent stake in CSK before reducing it to 20 per cent. He was then apparently offered a 5.5 per cent stake by the franchise. Former India player Aakash Chopra, who also played for Kolkata Knight Riders, said the claim was unrealistic and even called it a planted story. "There was talk of 1.7 to 1.8 billion when RCB were bought



just now. Chennai Super Kings is the same kind of franchise. You can do the valuation however you want, but this is the franchise that has five trophies and has multiple franchises outside India as well," Chopra said while speaking on his YouTube channel. "They have got a legacy and a lot going for them. Chennai Super Kings is a serious, serious brand. If it's worth 1.8 billion and Dhoni has asked for a 25 per cent stake in that, it is unrealistic. This isn't possible. No one gives 400 mil-

lion to anyone. In fact, you have to invest 400 million to get a 25 per cent stake. It is a bizarre number. Nobody is going to give anyone 25 per cent in an IPL team." Chopra went on to say that even a 5.5 per cent stake is a tall ask. "Then there was talk of 3.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent. I am saying that even if it's 5.5 per cent, just think about how much money it is. Two per cent, three per cent, or five per cent, that is an incredible amount of money," Chopra said. "I feel it is a planted story.

'Playgrounds More Important Than PlayStations': PM Narendra Modi's Message To India's Youth

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the importance of sports for a better society, family life and country's pride, encouraging the youngsters to prioritise 'playgrounds over playstations'. PM Modi was speaking to athletes during the 'Khelo India Dialogue' via video conferencing on Thursday. Speaking during the dialogue, PM Modi highlighted that in these times, while a timetable is being established for studies, sports is also finding its place there, and a sporting culture will be established in the nation when the sports period in schools will be considered a part of life rather than just co-curricular activities. Pointing out the excessive usage of smartphones, PCs and gaming consoles among youngsters, he called for a 'playgrounds over playstations approach'. "When time table is being made for career and studies, sports is also getting its place. This is the change due to which India's trust in its sporting future is increasing. Sports culture is established when schools do not consider sp



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday delivered a reality check on Indian sports and sportspersons. In a virtual address to hundreds of athletes, stu-

dents and volunteers who gathered at various locations for the Khelo India Dialogue, PM Modi said India's Olympic performance can improve only if the country manages to increase its participation in those events in which it has not participated in the past. He added that his vision for sports is not merely about winning medals but making it an integral part of the nation-building process. Sports periods as a co-curricular activity, but as a way of

hear that, for a healthy society, a good family system, and a better work culture, the sportsman spirit is essential. And this spirit is very difficult to learn without going to the sports field. Sports not only teach us to become champions, but sports also teaches us to become better competitors. Rising, falling... falling and then rising again... Sports brings this zeal within us," he said. The Prime Minister also said that "those who play, they blossom" and pointing out that blossoming in sports is not only about winning on the field. "It signifies the blossoming of the individual and the family, as well as enhancing the nation's pride. When an athlete succeeds, that success is not theirs alone; it elevates the identity of their family, boosts the prestige of their school and college, and strengthens the recognition of their district and state. The world begins to identify that city or state by the athlete's name," he signed off. "In the Olympics, there are so many different sports. Indian teams don't even participate in half of them," PM Modi said, calling it a "bitter truth". In the 2024 Paris Olympics, India participated in 16 of the 32 sports that were part of the Games roster.

Centurion Sonal Dinusha's Gritty Knock Helps Sri Lanka Draw Second Test; India Win Series 1-0

Centurion Sonal Dinusha's unending will en route an epic unbeaten 133 helped Sri Lanka enact a great jail break, battling persistent Indian bowlers, a fifth-day track and the weariness of following-on to eke out a memorable draw in the second and final Test in Colombo on Thursday. India won the two-match series 1-0, riding on their 165-run victory in the first Test at Galle, but Lanka can be proud of the way they fought back at the SSC ground. Dinusha, who faced 264 balls across 420 minutes, was Lanka's Superman with an invisible cape around him, registering his third hundred of the series which was also his fourth 50-plus score in as many innings this series. Dinusha faced as many as 722 balls and batted 1139 minutes over the course



of the two-match series. The 25-year-old also became the only third batter to score twin hundreds in a Test match where his team followed-on, joining India's Vijay Hazare and Zimbabwe's Andy Flower in

an elite club. This statistical marvel enabled Lanka to end their second innings at 429 for nine declared for an overall lead of 216 runs, and at that point the players shook their hands, signalling the stalemate. But the situation

was way different when Sri Lanka resumed the day at 229 for six, a mere 16 runs ahead. It seemed just a matter of time before the home side caved in. But the opposite happened as the Indians bowed to the spirit of the

Lankan batters - Dinusha, who reached hundred in 196 balls, and Keshara Nuwantha (46, 150b). The two milked 112 runs for the seventh wicket in 246 balls, which saw Lanka safely treading the first session without even losing a wicket. But India enjoyed a rare moment of delight in the initial part of the post-lunch passage, as Manav Suthar dislodged Nuwantha, whose edge was taken safely by Dhruv Jurel in the slip. Sri Lanka then mounted a mini fightback through Dinusha and Prabath Jayasuriya (2, 28b). The eighth wicket pair added only 25 runs but took 74 balls for it, pushing the clock further. Ravindra Jadeja fetched another breakthrough as he jettisoned Jayasuriya, inducing an edge from the batter for Jurel in the second slip.

AB De Villiers Issues Clarification After Facing Backlash For Rating Virat Kohli Over Sachin Tendulkar

South Africa's legendary cricketer and former captain, AB de Villiers, has issued a clarification after facing criticism for rating Virat Kohli over Sachin Tendulkar. The South African great had said that, in his opinion, Kohli was better than Tendulkar when it came to seam-friendly overseas conditions. He went on to suggest that Tendulkar was a pioneer for subcontinent batters, but Kohli surpassed him. The comments by de Villiers didn't go down well, with the former international facing criticism and a huge backlash on social media. "I think of someone like Sachin Tendulkar way back, who started that trend for India. Yet, he wasn't as strong as someone like Virat Kohli, who was even better. But Sachin was the first guy to show that, as a subcontinent batter, you can do well



in bouncy and seaming conditions. Virat took that forward and raised the bar. Because of that, there are quite a few players now like Rahul and Padikkal, who have started to up that trend and follow in the footsteps of a Virat and a Sachin," de Villiers had stated on his YouTube channel. After his views sparked controversy, the former South Africa captain came up with a clarification. "There was a bit of confusion with my Virat and Sachin comment.

Remember, it's my opinion. I'm not axing anyone. I'm telling you the way that I see it. Sachin was the first to take things forward for India, showing all the youngsters what it takes to perform consistently everywhere around the world. I said that Virat sort of showed that there is a different dynamic to Indian batting by being good on the short ball. He found a way to counter that," de Villiers said in another video on his YouTube channel.

Anaya Bangar Breaks Silence After Landmark Cricket Australia Decision

Anaya Bangar, the child of former India cricketer Sanjay Bangar, announced on social media that she will be eligible to participate in elite women's cricket in Australia from March 2027. Anaya shared pictures of the official statement from Cricket Australia (CA) and in the letter, CA said that the decision was based on the medical information provided. The Cricket Australia policy states that players competing in the women's category of elite cricket need to maintain a serum testosterone concentration below 10 nmol/L continuously for at least 12 months. Anaya will also have to maintain the eligibility requirements.



ASIAN GAMES 2026:

Shooter Suruchi Phogat Recalls Journey From Local Train Rides To Indian Jersey

When Suruchi Inder Singh Phogat first picked up a pistol at the Guru Dronacharya Shooting Academy in Bhiwani, she wasn't chasing world records. She was a 13-year-old from Sasoli village in Haryana's Jhajjar district, travelling there by local train with her father and brothers, with no jersey and no name in the sport. Seven years later, the 20-year-old is a junior world record holder, a multiple ISSF World Cup gold medalist, and one of India's brightest medal hopes heading into the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, according to a release. Her journey, however, has been built on quiet transformation rather than instant stardom. "When I started shooting, nobody knew me. I was just a normal 13-year-old girl who didn't even have an Indian jersey. Today, wearing that jersey is something I'm genuinely proud of. For me, it represents how far I have come," Suruchi said, reflecting on the distance she has covered since those early days in Bhiwani. Shooting wasn't the sport she was destined for either. She found her way to it almost by circumstance and has never looked back since. "I'm actually thankful that I came into shooting. If I had chosen another sport, especially a team sport, maybe I wouldn't have reached this



far. Shooting gave me the chance to build something on my own, and I'm happy with where that has taken me." To the outside world, the sport can look deceptively simple, just a shooter standing still, taking aim. Suruchi insists that couldn't be further from the truth. "People look at shooting and think, 'What is so difficult? You just have to stand and shoot.' They don't see what is happening inside you. Controlling your thoughts, your breathing and your emotions while every shot matters, that is the real challenge."

INDIA'S RACING SENSATION ATIQA MIR GETS NEW BOOST



JK Tyre, longtime supporters of Indian motorsport, on Thursday signed 11-year-old racing sensation Atiqa Mir, reinforcing its long-standing commitment to invest in future champions. At such a young age, Atiqa has already made a strong mark on the international karting circuit, winning races in Europe and beating world class drivers older than her. Atiqa, the first Indian to be supported by the F1 Academy, is currently competing in different series in Europe and is the highest ranked female in FIA's International Karting Ranking in the OKNJ category (age 12-14). She joins an elite list of accomplished Indian drivers to be supported by JK Tyre, follow-

ing in the footsteps of Narain Karthikeyan and Karun Chandhok, the only two Indians who have reached the pinnacle of F1. Earlier this year, she became the first Indian to secure a podium in the European leg of the Champions of the Future Academy, before going on to deliver a dominant victory in Greece, where she became only the third driver in the series' history to sweep qualifying, heats and the final. More recently, Atiqa added another feather to her cap by becoming the youngest Indian to record two top 10 finishes in FIA European Karting Championship which is considered the 'Formula 1 of Karting.'

Serena And Venus Williams Will Play Doubles Together At The US Open 2026

Serena and Venus Williams are teaming up again at the U.S. Open. The sisters will play doubles at the tournament after receiving a wild card Wednesday into the event they won twice. Serena Williams returned to tennis this summer after a four-year absence, and the sisters were set to play at Wimbledon before Serena had to withdraw after injuring her knee in her singles loss. They played in the Cincinnati Open, losing in the first round. The Williams sisters won the 1999 and 2009 U.S. Open doubles titles and are 27-7 in their nine appear-

ances. They last played in 2022, losing in the first round in what was expected to be Serena's final match in Flushing Meadows. Serena, 44, played with Carlos Alcaraz in mixed doubles Tuesday, winning one match before losing in the quarterfinals. Venus, 46, is entered in the women's singles event. The Williams sisters teamed to win 14 Grand Slam doubles titles along with Olympic gold medals in 2000, 2008 and 2012. They shared the No. 1 ranking in women's doubles for eight weeks. Serena opted not to compete in singles at the U.S. Open,

where she won six of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles. But she felt good enough to accept wild cards into both doubles events. She and Venus won their first U.S. Open doubles title the same year the younger Williams won her first singles championship there. The height of their dominance as a team would come about a decade later. They won the Australian Open and Wimbledon in 2009, before picking up their second title in Flushing Meadows later that summer. They won in Australia again in 2010 and then picked up the French

Open title, making the sisters the holders of all four major trophies at the time. The first round of the women's doubles tournament begins Sept. 3. The Americans, who won the US Open doubles title in 1999 and 2009, last played together at a Grand Slam in New York in 2022, losing in the first round. The sisters planned to reunite at Wimbledon following Serena's return to competition during the grass-court season in June, but she withdrew after suffering a knee injury in her first-round singles match against Maya Joint.



VISHWAK SEN’S ‘LEGACY’ ENTERS FINAL SCHEDULE; INTENSE POLITICAL ACTION DRAMA SET FOR DECEMBER RELEASE



Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen's upcoming film 'LEGACY', directed by Saikiran Reddy Daida and produced under the Kalaahi Media banner, has entered its final stage of production. The intense political action drama is being produced by Yeshwanth Dagumati and Saikiran Reddy Daida, with Sanjay Sambrani and V.V.N. Prasad as co-producers. The film generated considerable curiosity with its announcement teaser released earlier this year. 'LEGACY' marks the second production venture from Kalaahi Media, following the critically acclaimed 'Pindam', which was also directed by Saikiran Reddy Daida.

A STORY ABOUT POWER, FAMILY AND LEGACY
Set against a powerful politi-

cal backdrop, 'LEGACY' explores the collision of power, family, love and betrayal. The story follows a reluctant heir who is drawn into a dangerous world he never wanted to enter. As buried truths emerge and ruthless enemies close in, he is forced to confront the enormous weight of his father's legacy. Vishwak Sen will be seen in a striking new avatar, delivering an intense and layered performance. Acclaimed actor Kay Kay Menon plays a formidable antagonist, adding another dimension to the film's dramatic conflict.

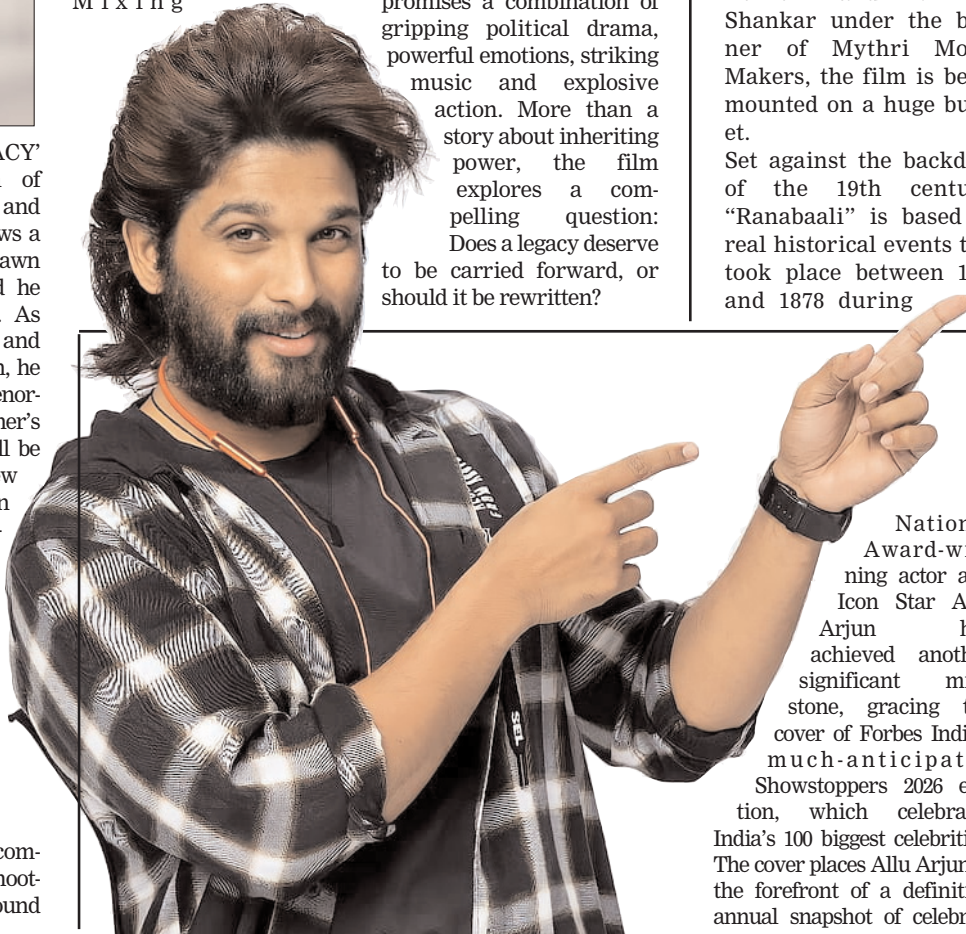
FINAL SCHEDULE BEGINS IN MADANAPALLE
The makers have commenced a month-long shooting schedule in and around

Madanapalle in Chittoor district. The principal cast will participate in the schedule, which will include crucial narrative sequences, high-intensity action episodes and songs. The technical team includes cinematographer Jiju Sunny, music composer Govind Vasantha, editor Sirish Prasad, production designer Rajeev Nair and action choreographer Jashuva. The film's sound design is handled by Sync Cinema, with Dolby Atmos by E. Radhakrishna at Prasad Mixing Theatre.

Theatre.

■ IMPRESSIVE ENSEMBLE CAST

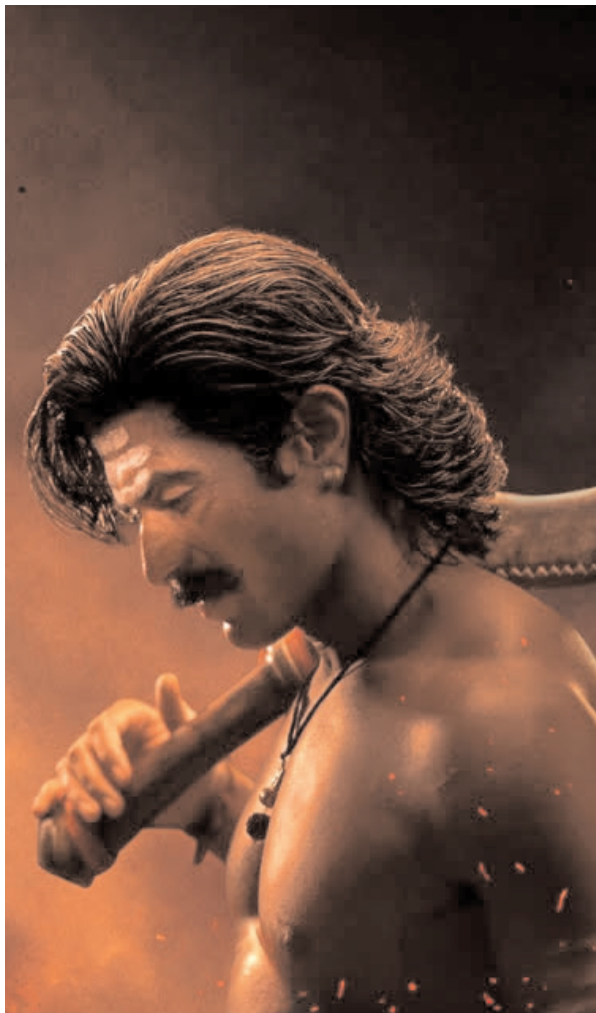
Alongside Vishwak Sen and Kay Kay Menon, the film features an ensemble cast comprising Murali Mohan, Rao Ramesh, Sachin Khedekar, Ekta Rathod, Raja Ravindra, Rajeev Kanakala, Aneesh Kuruvilla, Khushie Ravi, Kalyani Natarajan, Collector Srinivas, Ravi Kaale, Amit Tiwari and other. Mounted on an impressive scale, 'LEGACY' promises a combination of gripping political drama, powerful emotions, striking music and explosive action. More than a story about inheriting power, the film explores a compelling question: Does a legacy deserve to be carried forward, or should it be rewritten?



ACTOR VIJAY DEVERAKONDA’S ‘RANABAALI’ SET FOR DUSSEHRA RELEASE

Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna star in the highly anticipated pan-India movie "Ranabaali," directed by Rahul Sankrityan. Presented by T-Series and produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, the film is being mounted on a huge budget. Set against the backdrop of the 19th century, "Ranabaali" is based on real historical events that took place between 1854 and 1878 during

the British colonial era. With massive expectations across India, the film is scheduled for a worldwide grand theatrical release on October 16, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami. The release date announcement poster features Vijay Deverakonda in a fierce and powerful look, holding a sword and commanding attention. With the arrival of "Ranabaali," the Dussehra box office is set to become even more exciting.



Icon Star Allu Arjun's graces the cover of FORBES India's Showstoppers 2026 edition

National Award-winning actor and Icon Star Allu Arjun has achieved another significant milestone, gracing the cover of Forbes India's much-anticipated Showstoppers 2026 edition, which celebrates India's 100 biggest celebrities. The cover places Allu Arjun at the forefront of a definitive annual snapshot of celebrity

influence, recognising the extraordinary scale of his stardom, his box-office pull and the remarkable evolution of his brand value. It is a powerful acknowledgement of how far the actor's influence has travelled from Telugu cinema to a truly pan-India phenomenon. Allu Arjun's ascent to the national spotlight has been driven by a rare combination of performance, personality and unprecedented audience connect. The Pushpa franchise transformed his already formi-

dable popularity into a nationwide cultural phenomenon, with his distinctive style, mannerisms, dance and screen presence becoming instantly recognisable across linguistic and regional boundaries. The Forbes India recognition also underlines the commercial force that Allu Arjun has built around his name. His continued presence among India's most valuable and recognisable celebrities demonstrates that his impact is no longer measured by films alone.

Being the face of Showstoppers 2026 makes the moment particularly significant. Forbes India's annual celebration brings together the personalities who shape popular culture and command influence far beyond their primary professions. With his box-office dominance, expanding brand aura and pan-India following continuing to grow, the Forbes India cover stands as yet another defining milestone in the extraordinary phenomenon that is Allu Arjun.

NAYANTHARA SAYS MORE WITH STYLE THAN WORDS



‘RAMBHA URVASHI MENAKA’ TITLE SONG TAKES THEATERS BY STORM



Everyone in the theater dances to the title song of 'Rambha Urvashi Menaka'. The film is a good entertainer that connects with everyone: Heroine Raashi Singh at the song launch event Allari Naresh, Chandra Mohan Chintada, Annapurna Studios, Comedy Movies 'Rambha Urvashi Menaka' title song launch Allari Naresh is

going to entertain with the fantasy comedy 'Rambha Urvashi Menaka'. Directed by Chandra Mohan Chintada, produced by Rajesh Danda and

Nimmakayala Prasad under the banner of Annapurna Studios and Hasya Movies. Surabhi, Raashi Singh, Vishnupriya and Prisha Singh are playing the heroines. The already released songs teaser trailer has increased the expectations on the movie. The movie is going to be grandly released in theaters worldwide on September 4. On this occasion, the title song was released.



KAREENA KAPOOR’S BACK TO BACK SOUTH COLLABORATIONS

Kareena Kapoor is making headlines not just for her upcoming films but also for her films with South stars. She will next be seen alongside Malayalam superstar Prithviraj Sukumaran in Daayra, a crime drama directed by Meghna Gulzar. The film is scheduled to release on September 18, and the pairing has become a talking point. Interestingly, Kareena's South connection is only getting better. Industry reports suggest that she is in advanced discussions to star opposite Dhanush in a large-scale mythological jungle adventure backed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. If finalized, the film will mark the first-ever on-screen pairing of Kareena and Dhanush, creating significant excitement among fans. Over

the years, Kareena has largely shared screen space with Bollywood's biggest stars. However, Kareena's recent choices indicate that she is keen on doing content-driven projects and collaborations that go beyond language. With Prithviraj in Daayra and a possible film with Dhanush, many are praising her willingness to explore films with South stars. There were also rumours a few months ago that Kareena Kapoor would play crucial roles in Prabhas' Spirit and Yash's Toxic, but neither collaboration materialised.

NANI’S ‘THE PARADISE’ SECOND SINGLE TO LAUNCH AT ANIRUDH’S DALLAS CONCERT

Nani, Anirudh Ravichander, Srikanth Odela, Sudhakar Cherukuri, SLV Cinemas' The Paradise Much-awaited Second Single Launch In A Truly Unique Fashion On August 28 Natural Star Nani's The Paradise is emerging as one of the most eagerly anticipated Pan-World projects, with the film generating strong excitement through its promotional campaign. Director Srikanth Odela is presenting the film on a grand and ambitious canvas, promising a distinctive cinematic

experience. The project is being produced on a lavish scale by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner. The title glimpse and teaser received humongous response. The makers began the musical promotions with the first single Aaya Sher which took the buzz to another level with its overwhelming response. The makers now have come up with an update on the second single. Known for creating new trends with his music and the way he presents it.



‘Ghamasaan’ Trailer Unveiled, Premieres September 11

The Tigmanshu Dhulia directorial, starring Arshad Warsi, Pratik Gandhi and Ishita Dutta premieres on September 11. The strongest creative partnerships are built on a shared instinct for stories that stand apart. Continuing this shared creative vision ZEE5, Jio Studios & Golden Ratio Films bring together a story that reflects a common belief in backing distinctive voices, making bold creative choices and creating entertainment that keeps audiences at their heart. Starring Pratik Gandhi, Arshad Warsi and Ishita Dutta in pivotal roles, Hindi ZEE5, Jio Studios and Golden Ratio Films today unveiled the trailer of Ghamasaan, which premieres exclusively on the platform on 11th September. Ghamasaan is produced by Jyoti Deshpande (Jio Studios), Piyyush Singh, Abhayanand Singh, Saurabh Gupta & Ashwini Chaudhary (Golden Ratio Films) and Miten Shah



(Yaelstar Films). Directed by Tigmanshu Dhulia, the trailer of Ghamasaan, offers audiences a first glimpse into a gritty world of power, pursuit and survival. Set against the Hindi heartland, Ghamasaan reflects Dhulia's distinctive storytelling, rooted in morally complex worlds where power and survival rarely leave room for easy answers. The face-off between Arshad Warsi as Maharaj and Pratik Gandhi

as Aditya goes beyond a conventional cop-versus-criminal conflict, becoming a high-stakes battle for control of an entire ecosystem shaped by power, loyalty, politics and survival, where there are no easy heroes and morality exists in shades of grey. Ghamasaan has travelled through noted film festivals including MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, Cinevsture International Film Festival and Chicago South Asian Film Festival.