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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

11.09.2026
Total pages: 72,408
Tonsnes: 28,691
Hindi kanakulu: 4,30 CR
Lakshyale: 4,30 lac
Annaprasadam: 2,50 lac
Ashwin hospital: 4,000
Present Situation on 12.09.2026:
Waiting Compartments: 31

Approx. Darsan Time for Saravaliashram (with out SSO Tonsnes) 19.30

INBRIEF

Sensex falls 778 points

Mumbai (TSIT): Indian benchmark indices ended sharply lower on Tuesday, with the sell-off intensifying in the final leg of the trading session as rising oil prices weighed on investor sentiment. Metal, realty and chemical stocks came under heavy selling pressure, dragging the headline indices lower. The Sensex declined 777.94 points, or 1.04 per cent, to settle at 74,003.82, while the Nifty dropped 279.50 points, or 1.19 per cent, to close at 23,118.60.

RBI receives Rs 3.93 lakh cr bids in VRRR

Mumbai (TSIT): The Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday absorbed Rs 3,93,352 crore through a variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auction amid surplus liquidity in the banking system. The central bank received bids worth Rs 3,93,352 crore against a notified amount of Rs 5 lakh crore and accepted all the bids at a cut-off and weighted average rate of 5.24 per cent, according to an RBI release.



Railways boost cargo connectivity in Gujarat

WORLD | NEWS

China criticises idea it is in 'malicious competition' over AI



CINEMA | NEWS

Anakapalli Set For A Grand Release On Oct 2



K'taka govt to observe Engineers' Day from 2027

CM announced this after paying homage to Sir M Visvesvaraya at KR Circle in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Sep 15.

BENGALURU (TSIT):

The Karnataka government will begin celebrating Engineers' Day officially from next year, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced on Monday, September 14, saying the state must recognise the contribution of its large engineering workforce to development and technological progress.

The Chief Minister announced this after paying homage to Sir M Visvesvaraya at KR Circle in Bengaluru on Tuesday, September 15. Speaking after the floral tribute, he said he had approved a proposal to hold Engineers' Day as an official government programme. Shivakumar said Karnataka produces over one lakh engineering graduates every year, making it necessary to create greater recognition for the profession and its contribution to society. "We produce more than one lakh engineers every year. India has a very large engineering community, and recognising their contribution is our duty," he said.



He said engineers should also take a broader view of their responsibilities and contribute to development throughout Karnataka rather than focusing only on urban centres or individual projects.

The Chief Minister said the importance of engineers had grown with the expansion of modern technology. While engineering was traditionally associated with architecture, construction and infrastructure,

professionals today are central to sectors such as energy, information technology and advanced technology. "Engineers are the foundation of development. They help turn scientific research and discover-

ies into practical applications," Shivakumar said.

He described Visvesvaraya as an enduring example for engineers and said Karnataka had benefited enormously from his vision and work. "Sir M. Visvesvaraya is a role model for the entire country. His contribution to Karnataka is immense," he said.

The proposed government-led celebration is expected to recognise engineers serving in different government departments as well as those contributing to private industry, infrastructure, technology and other sectors. Shivakumar said the government would discuss the details of the programme with senior officials before finalising the format. The scale and nature of the annual event would be decided after these consultations, he added.

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Ending nearly six years of fully free UPI payments, the government on Tuesday introduced a 0.4 per cent fee on transfers worth more than Rs 2,000 made to merchants through the platform from October 15 while explicitly ring-fencing everyday person-to-person transactions as well as small payments from any charge.

"Customers will not be required to pay any charge when making such payments through UPI," the finance ministry said in a statement, adding, "MDR is a charge within the merchant payment ecosystem. It is not a charge on customers making UPI payments." Also, individuals will continue to have "unlimited free usage, with no monthly quotas, volume restrictions or tiered caps on free UPI transactions", it said.

The carefully calibrated move signalled the end of

an era for the world's largest real-time payments system even as the government tried to avoid alarming the hundreds of millions of daily users. The move drew sharp criticism from the opposition parties. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the levy was "once again surrender" by a "compromised" Prime Minister Narendra Modi to American pressure.

The BJP hit back, accusing the Congress of spreading "fake news", saying the government had made it absolutely clear that MDR charges would not be levied on consumers. From October 15, a 0.4 per cent Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) will be levied on person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions above Rs 2,000 through UPI (Unified Payments Interface), capped at Rs 300 for payments of Rs 75,000 and above.



Rajnath unveils policy to deepen DRDO-industry ties

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday unveiled a series of policy initiatives aimed at lowering technical and financial entry barriers for MSMEs and deep-tech start-ups and deepening their integration into India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.

The initiatives, announced at the DRDO-Industry Synergy



Meet 'VIMARSH 2026' here, include direct funding and incubation support for smaller enterprises, dedicated access to DRDO testing facilities and a standardised framework for sharing DRDO-developed software source codes with licensee industries. Nine Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LAToTs) have also been handed over to 13 manufacturing partners to facilitate commercial production of advanced defence systems.

Housing for All by 2029: CM Naidu



TSIT, VISAKHAPATNAM

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to implement the 'Housing for All' programme on a saturation basis, with the objective of providing a safe and permanent house to every eligible family in the State by 2029. During a review of the Housing Department at his camp office, the Chief Minister instructed officials

to complete 5.52 lakh houses by March 2027, including 2.05 lakh houses by December 2026 and another 2.74 lakh by March 2027, and make them ready for housewarming ceremonies. He directed officials to ground the houses sanctioned under PMAY-Gramin, PM Janman and other schemes by next month and construct 1.5 lakh houses in urban areas. Officials informed him that 18.72

lakh houses had been sanctioned under PMAY 1.0, PMAY 2.0 and PM Janman, of which 13.20 lakh had been completed. Under the AP Housing Corporation, 11.31 lakh of the 16.11 lakh sanctioned houses had been completed, while 1.88 lakh of the 2.61 lakh houses sanctioned under AP TIDCO had been completed.

The Chief Minister called for a special action plan to identify families without house sites by integrating data from RTGS, Awaas Plus, Housing and Revenue departments and eliminating duplication. He directed officials to publish preliminary beneficiary lists at village and ward secretariat levels, invite objections and finalise the lists transparently.

Search and rescue operations continue to find missing Indian seafarer off Oman coast: MEA

NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday said that the search and rescue operations are continuing to find the missing Indian seafarer after a commercial vessel carrying 14 Indian nationals was attacked off the coast of Oman on Sunday. "Regarding the missing seafarer, this attack happened off the coast of Oman. It was a Panama flag ship on which we had 14 Indian nationals or seafarers, of whom 13 have been rescued, and we deeply thank the Omani authorities for rescuing our nationals. One Indian national is missing; the seafarer was on board. Search and rescue operations continue with the help of the Omani authorities," said Randhir Jaiswal, official spokesperson of the MEA, during a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi.

Karnataka, Telangana plan bioenergy cooperation

BENGALURU (TSIT): S.E. Sudheendra, Chairman of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSBDDB), met Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Finance, Planning and Energy, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka at his home office in Hyderabad and held detailed discussions on cooperation, partnership and future agreements between



Karnataka and Telangana in the bioenergy sector. During the meeting, the opportunities available for the development of the bioenergy sector.

'You must lead, put country first': FM Sitharaman to Gen Z, Gen Alpha

CHENNAI (TSIT):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday students should cultivate humility and a strong sense of responsibility, citing the example of renowned scholar Sir Isaac Newton and his acknowledgment of the contributions of other scholars to his success. Addressing students at MGR University in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, FM Sitharaman said even a bril-

liant scholar like Newton acknowledged that he needed the assistance of several other scholars to achieve his success and make his discoveries. "A brilliant scholar like Newton acknowledged that he required the assistance of various other scholars to achieve his success; he stated that it was through this collaboration that he was able to make his various discoveries.

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CPI SEEKS REINSTALLATION OF ANABHERI STATUE



Husnabad: CPI national leader and former MLA Chada Venkat Reddy has demanded the immediate reinstallation of martyr Anabheri Prabhakar Rao's statue at the Husnabad town junction. As part of the week-long

Telangana Peasant Armed Struggle commemorations, the CPI organised a rally from Husnabad to Mohammadapur on Tuesday. Chada paid floral tributes at the martyrs' memorial at Mohammadapur and

addressed a public meeting. He recalled the contributions of Anabheri Prabhakar Rao and Singireddy Bhupathi Reddy in the struggle against the Nizam's rule and Razakar oppression. He said both martyrs sacrificed their lives during the battle at Mohammadapur hills. Chada urged the government and Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar to take steps to develop Husnabad and Mohammadapur, associated with the peasant struggle, as tourist destinations. CPI district secretary Panjala Srinivas and other party leaders participated in the programme.

RED CROSS DISTRICT BRANCH ELECTIONS TO BE HELD TRANSPARENTLY: COLLECTOR

Mulugu, September 15 (TSIT): Mulugu District Collector and District Red Cross Society President Borkhade Hemant Sahadevarao has directed officials to conduct the Indian Red Cross Society, Mulugu District Branch Managing Committee elections in a transparent, impartial and peaceful manner, strictly adhering to the prescribed rules and schedule. Following the

directions of the Telangana State Red Cross Society, the Collector issued orders on Tuesday for conducting the Managing Committee elections on October 4. The Collector instructed officials to provide equal opportunities to all eligible members and ensure that every stage of the election process—including verification of the voters' list, submission and scrutiny of nominations, withdrawal of nominations, polling, counting of votes and declaration of results.

Collector Conducts Surprise Inspections in Koilkonda



Mahabubnagar, September 15 (TSIT): District Collector Khushbu Gupta conducted surprise inspections at the MPDO office, Community Health Centre (CHC), BC Boys Welfare Hostel and ZP High School in Koilkonda on Tuesday. At the MPDO office, she reviewed petitions, staff attendance, online attendance records and the implementation of various development programmes. She also interacted with the Burugupally Sarpanch and enquired about pending bills, development works and utilisation of funds. At the CHC, the Collector inspected medical records and medicine stocks and interacted with patients. When patients reported a shortage of iron tablets and insulin, she immediately directed the District Medical Officer to

arrange insulin. The medicine was subsequently supplied to the patient. At the BC Boys Welfare Hostel, she inspected accommodation, food stocks and the quality of meals being provided to students. During her visit to the ZP High School, the Collector reviewed sanitation and interacted with Class X students. After noticing a non-functional fan in the classroom, she directed officials to repair it immediately. She also instructed officials to maintain cleanliness and ensure proper drainage around the school. The Collector further directed officials to remain vigilant against the sale of intoxicating substances or narcotic-related products near educational institutions. MPDO Dhanunjaya Rao and other officials accompanied the Collector during the inspections.

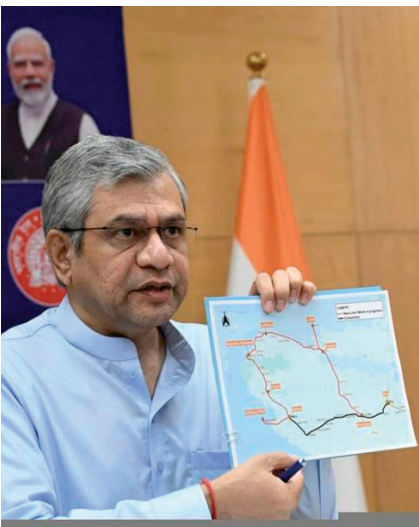
SLBC tunnel to be completed by July 2028

Nalgonda (TSIT): State Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the SLBC tunnel would be completed by July 2028 to provide water for two crops to farmers in Nalgonda. Speaking after laying the foundation stone for a Rs.107-crore double-lane road near Ramulabanda on Monday, the Minister said road works worth Rs.850 crore were being taken up in the constituency. He said an additional Rs.2,000 crore had been secured for completing the SLBC tunnel, while 600 metres of work had already been completed. He also said the Brahmanavellamla project had been completed with funds secured



through Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Venkat Reddy said road development works worth Rs.25,000 crore were being undertaken across Telangana. He announced a Telangana Public School at Domalpalli at a cost of Rs.10 crore and a Young India School near the SLBC site at Rs.200 crore.

Railways boost cargo connectivity in Gujarat



Gandhinagar: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday inaugurated the Shivlakh Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT) in Kachchh and dedicated three other GCTs to the nation, while laying the foundation stone for another at Linch in Mahesana. He also flagged off a salt-loaded freight train from Shivlakh to Mithapur. The new terminals are aimed at faster cargo

movement, lower logistics costs and stronger links between Gujarat's ports, industries and national markets. Vaishnaw said 150 Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals had now been commissioned across the country. He highlighted the use of lightweight stainless-steel containers for salt transportation, designed to make loading, unloading and movement more efficient. The Minister said railway projects worth around Rs.5,600 crore were under way in Kachchh, including capacity augmentation, doubling and gauge-conversion works. He also said the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project's Vapi-Surat section was targeted for completion by December 2026.

Engineers Are the Backbone of Development Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy



Hyderabad, TSIT: Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Tuesday said that development in any sector would be impossible without the talent, dedication and contribution of engineers, describing them as the "backbone of the nation's progress." Extending greetings to the engineering fraternity on National Engineers' Day, observed on the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the Minister paid rich tributes to the legendary engineer and said his extraordinary talent, discipline, dedication and vision continued to inspire generations of engineers. "Whether it is the State or the country, development cannot be achieved without the expertise and hard work of engineers. From roads, buildings and irrigation projects to industries, urban development and modern technology, engineers play a vital role at every stage of progress," Komatireddy said. The Minister said

Visvesvaraya had dedicated his life to nation-building and urged young engineers to draw inspiration from his discipline, commitment and farsighted approach. He said the engineering community had a greater responsibility in the present era to combine technological innovation with public welfare and ensure that infrastructure development brought meaningful improvements to people's lives. Reiterating the Telangana Government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure, Komatireddy said priority

was being given to quality roads, modern buildings and better public infrastructure. He called upon engineers to work with dedication, innovation and professional excellence to accelerate Telangana's development. Earlier, at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, R&B Engineer-in-Chief Lingareddy, Chief Engineers B.V. Rao, Dharma Reddy, Vasantha Naik, Narsing Rao and Vanaja, along with several departmental engineers, met the Minister and conveyed Engineers' Day greetings.

Collector orders speedy land acquisition payments



Nalgonda: District Collector B. Chandrasekhar has directed officials to expedite pending land acquisition payments for various projects in Nalgonda district. At a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Tuesday, the Collector said funds had been released to compensate farmers whose lands were acquired for projects including Dindi,

Chintapalli, Pendlipakala and Shivannagudem. He instructed Revenue and Irrigation officials to coordinate closely and clear pending payments without delay. District-level consultation meetings should be conducted wherever necessary, he said, while warning officials against making erroneous payments. The Collector also

directed engineering officials and Special Deputy Collectors to maintain complete records of acquired lands, including awards, alignments, maps and geo-coordinates. Additional Collector (Revenue) J. Srinivas, Devarakonda Sub-Collector Caroline Chingthianmawi, DRO Dasaratha and other officials attended the meeting.

Mahila Congress Completes 42 Years of Fight for Women's Empowerment Dr Rekha Boyalapalli

Hyderabad, TSIT: Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress Vice President Dr Rekha Boyalapalli said the Mahila Congress has emerged as a strong voice for women's rights, equality and political empowerment during its 42-year journey. The 42nd Foundation Day of the All India Mahila Congress was celebrated at Gandhi Bhavan in the presence of TPCC President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud. Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress President Errabelli Swarna led the celebrations and cut a cake to mark the occasion. Dr Rekha said the Mahila Congress has consistently fought against crimes, injustice and discrimination against women and has strongly advocated greater representation for women in legislative bodies. She said All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba has been working to further strengthen wom-



en's participation and leadership in politics. Dr Rekha also appreciated the Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy-led Telangana government for prioritising women's empowerment through free bus travel, support to self-help groups, financial assistance, employment opportunities and various welfare initiatives. "Mahila Congress will continue to fight for the dignity, safety, equality and rightful representation of every woman," Dr Rekha said, extending greetings to Mahila Congress leaders and workers on the Foundation Day.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Partners with MSRTC to Launch "Hirkani Kaksha" Lactation Pods Across Maharashtra

Mumbai: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) to launch "Hirkani Kaksha" (Lactation Pods), a transformative gender-responsive initiative designed to support nursing mothers and enhance the safety and dignity of women commuters across Maharashtra's public transport system. Under this initiative, TKM will support the installation of 125 lactation pods across MSRTC bus depots throughout Maharashtra, providing secure, private and hygienic spaces equipped with essential amenities including prefabricated rooms, seating, feeding tables, baby diaper changing stations, sanitary napkin dispensers, and ventilation facilities. The initiative is expected to serve nearly 4.50 lakh women commuters annually, addressing a critical gap in gender-sensitive infrastructure at public transport hubs. Maharashtra's MSRTC operates approximately 22,800 buses across the state with major depots experiencing high daily commuter volumes of 20,000 to 50,000 passengers.



Women constitute approximately 35-45% of total commuters (approximately 1.73 million), with significant demand emerging from high-footfall pilgrim destinations including Tuljapur, Pandharpur, Shirdi, Kolhapur, and Nashik, which collectively attract 10-15 million visitors annually. The growing demand for safe, accessible, and women-friendly public infrastructure presents an opportunity to further enhance the travel experience for nursing mothers and their families. The Hirkani Kaksha initiative is a pioneering step towards creating a more inclusive and compassionate public transport ecosystem. By establishing dedicated lactation pods at MSRTC depots, the initiative provides nursing

mothers with safe, private, and hygienic spaces, improving comfort, convenience, and dignity during travel. The project reflects a strong commitment to women's well-being, maternal health, and gender-responsive infrastructure, while setting a benchmark for inclusive public services across Maharashtra. The MoU was formally signed in the presence of Shri. Devendra Fadnis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Shri. Eknath Shinde, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister; Smt. Sunetra Pawar, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister; Shri. Pratap Sarnaik, Hon'ble Minister of Transport; and other senior government officials of Maharashtra, along with TKM leadership. Pratap Sarnaik,

Minister of Transport, Government of Maharashtra said "The Hirkani Kaksha project exemplifies how collaborative initiatives between government and industry can create meaningful impact on citizens' lives. This initiative strengthens our commitment to providing gender-sensitive, inclusive public services that prioritize the well-being and dignity of women commuters. We look forward to rolling out these lactation pods across MSRTC depots and setting a benchmark for public transport infrastructure in India." Speaking on the partnership, Vikram Gulati, Country Head & Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "The Hirkani Kaksha initiative reflects our belief to address the

specific needs of inclusive development of all community members. By creating safe and dignified spaces for nursing mothers in public transport, we are contributing to an eco-system that respects women's mobility, health and well-being. This initiative with MSRTC demonstrates private sector and government collaboration to drive social progress meaningfully and make essential services more accessible to all." By investing in gender-responsive infrastructure, TKM contributes to creating a more equitable and inclusive society while supporting the Government of Maharashtra's vision of safe and accessible public services for all citizens. Since 2001, Toyota Kirloskar Motor has been committed to uplifting communities through initiatives spanning education, environment, road safety, skill development, health and hygiene, and disaster management. Through need-based interventions and strategic partnerships with government and civil society organizations, TKM continues to contribute to India's development goals while advancing its global philosophy of "Creating Mobility for All."

From Empowerment to Ownership: Upasana Kamineni Konidela Calls for a BRICS Women's Economic Corridor

Hyderabad 15th September 2026: At the BRICS Women's Business Alliance Summit, she calls for women's participation to translate into capital, contracts, assets and economic ownership. Calling for women's empowerment to move beyond representation and towards measurable economic power, Upasana Kamineni Konidela, Vice Chairperson, Apollo Foundation and Founder, URLife, proposed the creation of a BRICS Women's Economic Corridor to connect women entrepreneurs across BRICS nations with greater access to capital, markets, partnerships and cross-border opportunities. Delivering a special address at the BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA) Women-Led Development Summit 2026, under India's BRICS Presidency, Kamineni Konidela challenged policymakers and business leaders to rethink the role of women in economic growth. "The conversation can no longer be only about how we include more women in business. The bigger question is: what would BRICS economies look like if women were at the centre of how growth itself is designed?" She argued that representation without influence, participation without economic power, employment without



financial independence, and empowerment without ownership are incomplete. Echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of moving from women's development to women-led development, Kamineni Konidela called for the next phase of the BRICS WBA to be measured by tangible economic outcomes. She proposed three clear shifts: startup platforms that lead to capital, not just awards; networking that leads to contracts, not just exchanged cards; and financial inclusion that leads to assets and investments, not just bank accounts. At the heart of her address was a call to move the global women's agenda from empowerment to ownership defined by three fundamentals: a woman's

health, her wealth and her freedom to choose. "Don't just give a woman a seat at the table. Give her equity in the table because that is where real economic power lies." The proposed BRICS Women's Economic Corridor would seek to turn the strength of the BRICS network into an actionable economic platform, helping women-led businesses access investment, buyers, markets and partnerships across member nations. Kamineni Konidela also acknowledged Dr. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals, who chaired the BRICS WBA India Chapter during India's 2021 BRICS Chairship, and Avarna Jain, current Chairperson of the BRICS WBA India Chapter, for advancing the alliance's women-led growth agenda.

EDITORIAL

AI BECOMES THE FIRST FRONTIER FOR MENTAL HEALTH

AI-based chatbots are increasingly becoming people's first-line contact amid mental health concerns. In moments of loneliness, anxiety, stress, depression, relationship difficulties, or emotional distress, many people are choosing to interact with AI instead of first seeing a therapist. In a vast and diverse country like India, where access to mental health services remains unequal, AI technology offers a new possibility. However, it's important to understand that AI can be a means to expand mental health services, not a substitute for them. The biggest challenges facing mental health services in India include the limited availability of trained specialists, the lack of services in rural and remote areas, the cost of treatment, and the social stigma associated with mental illness. In such an environment, the 24-hour availability of AI creates significant opportunities. Individuals can share their problems at any time and receive information, emotional support, and self-help tips at an early stage. AI-based digital mental health platforms can play a useful role in this direction. Social taboos about mental health issues could also encourage the use of AI. Many people hesitate to express their feelings to family, friends, or therapists. Relatively anonymous digital conversations allow them to express their concerns, fears, and concerns. Chatbots can thus serve as a first step in mental health communication and encourage individuals to seek further professional help if needed. An important benefit of AI is early screening. By analyzing a person's communication, behavior, and certain digital signals, AI can help identify potential anxiety, depression, or other mental health risks. However, such screening should not be considered a final medical diagnosis. Its purpose should only be to identify potential risks and help direct the person to the appropriate specialist. Multilingual AI technology is also of particular importance given India's linguistic diversity. If mental health information and initial support are limited to English or a limited number of languages, large populations will be excluded. Language technology and digital systems developed for Indian languages can bridge this gap. In the future, such services could be integrated with government mental health initiatives like Tele-Manas to provide initial support to remote areas. Personal assistance can also be a useful feature of AI. Reminding people to take medication, motivating them to stay focused on sleep and routines, suggesting stress-reduction exercises, or guiding them through structured self-help activities based on cognitive behavioral therapy are just some of the areas where AI can play a supportive role. For clinicians, AI can also help with regular patient monitoring, identifying and prioritizing high-risk cases. This can enable more effective use of limited human resources. But along with the opportunities, there are also significant risks. A person in emotional distress is in a highly vulnerable state. If AI provides inaccurate, incomplete, or out-of-context information, it could exacerbate the person's distress. If a chatbot inadvertently reinforces a negative or delusional belief instead of challenging it, the consequences could be serious. This is why AI systems for mental health must clearly distinguish between chatbots that provide general information and tools proven to provide clinical assistance.

India-China Are Suddenly Getting Along. But What's On Offer?

ANTARA GHOSAL SINGH

After nearly five-years of diplomatic and military freeze post-2020 border clash, China-India relations seem to be turning a corner. It was in August 2025 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China to attend the SCO Tianjin Summit, marking his first trip to the country since 2018. Now, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited India to attend the BRICS Summit after nearly seven years. The coming together of the leaders of Asia's two largest economies, after so long but within such a short time, is indeed a matter of great significance. What does it mean for the current state and the future of India-China bilateral ties? What are India and China up to while the global shifts? A complex negotiation has begun. Analysing the dominant discourse in both New Delhi and Beijing, it becomes apparent that in the context of the uncertainty emanating from Trump 2.0 policies, there is a growing consensus on both sides of the Himalayas that now is a rare window of opportunity for both sides to strike a quick bargain and risk-proof China-India relations from subsequent political changes in Washington. Accordingly, both sides seem to have initiated a complex negotiation, encompassing every aspect of the bilateral ties, from border issues to economic relations and multilateral cooperation. India has apparently put forward three broad demands vis-à-vis China - peace and tranquillity in border areas, fair market access/trade balance, and supply chain predictability. Meanwhile, China is building up pressure on India to more explicitly reiterate the 'one-China' policy, particularly with respect to Tibet and Taiwan; it's also demanding more economic concessions in return for a stable border.



A closer look at the official statements issued by both sides in recent high-level exchanges, including the recent bilateral, throws light on the issue. In terms of bargaining chips, China argues that India's 'China-decoupling' strategy has actually failed, for bilateral trade is expected to reach a historic high of USD 155.6 billion. It is now clear that in today's world of de-globalisation, only China has the ability to help India efficiently expand its manufacturing sector - and that is its biggest leverage in this negotiation process. Meanwhile, India retorts that China's current economic development is under tremendous pressure, as it is unable to generate domestic demand and is highly dependent on external markets and exports. At a time when relations with key trading partners, such as the US or the EU, are faltering,

retaining the Indian market is absolutely critical for the Chinese, and that reinforces India's bargaining stance. The Limits Of 'Mutual Concessions' In terms of concessions, India has already made a series of policy adjustments in recent months to reassure China. It amended its foreign direct investment rules and adjusted visa policies to restart direct flights. But on issues of Taiwan and Tibet, India seems to be pushing back against Chinese demands, arguing that 'India does not violate China's sovereignty in any manner, but it is China that is illegally occupying Indian territory in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh since 1963 ... Also, there are Chinese projects on territories in Jammu and Kashmir that belong to India, which India objects to.' India also formally renamed 27 places and features located in Arunachal Pradesh on the

official maps of the Survey of India, in retaliation towards Beijing's repeated attempts to rename places in Arunachal Pradesh; the latest such exercise was carried out in April 2026. Not only has India's vocal assertion of sovereignty at this point irked the Chinese side, but they are also far from satisfied with India's economic concessions. The Chinese argue that India's policy adjustments in the economic space are by no means friendly concessions but calculated strategic moves, aimed at grabbing Chinese financial resources and technology in order to fill key gaps in India's industrial chain. China remains deeply concerned and has been taking countermeasures in terms of export-controls of key machineries and equipment to restrain India to the level of a mid-to-downstream supporting supplier within China's supply chain. China's

repeated reference to China-India being "partners and not competitors" should be read in this context. On India's demand for balanced trade, China's position is shifting. It no longer seems to be playing a blame game with India and has lately expressed its willingness to expand domestic demand and open wider to the world. In that context, it has been welcoming Indian trade delegations in recent months to reassure India on the issue of trade imbalance. China's changed stance, however, is yet to make an impact on the balance sheets. On the border issue, too, China's position seems to have softened to a certain extent. Although the two sides are currently far from reaching a "breakthrough" in resolving border disputes, in the past two years, there has been substantial progress in this space. The border has

evolved from tense close-range military contact in 2020 to disengagement with "buffer zones", while in terms of border management, the approach has shifted from crisis control to normalised border governance; there are even talks of "early and substantial harvest". China has also taken some measures, such as resuming and expanding the scale of the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage, reopening border trade sites, and restarting cross-border river-related data-sharing mechanisms to show goodwill towards India. A New Consensus In a multilateral platform like BRICS, although significant divergence continues to exist between Chinese and Indian positions on issues related to de-dollarisation, energy security, geopolitics, and relations with the West, there seems to be a new consensus emerging between the two sides.

Saudi Arabia's 'Islamic NATO' Faces Its First Test: Was Riyadh Misled by Pakistan and Turkey?

On August 7, 2026, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey signed a defence agreement in Mecca that was immediately described by many observers as an "Islamic NATO". Its central promise was dramatic: an armed attack on one member would be regarded as an attack on all three. Barely a month later, that promise is facing its first serious test. Iran-aligned Houthi forces have seized the strategic Yemeni port of Mokha and advanced towards the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. They have also launched missile and drone attacks against Saudi Arabia, injuring civilians and threatening critical infrastructure. Yet Pakistan has publicly acknowledged that no military response under the Mecca agreement is currently being discussed. This raises a difficult question for Riyadh: Was Saudi Arabia misled by Pakistan and Turkey, or did it simply overestimate what its new allies were prepared to do?

The Promise of an "Islamic NATO"

The Mecca Joint Defence Agreement brought together three of the region's most significant military powers. Saudi Arabia provides enormous financial resources and advanced Western-supplied weaponry. Pakistan possesses one of the largest standing militaries in the Muslim world and is a nuclear-armed state. Turkey has a powerful military, a rapidly expanding defence industry and extensive experience in drone warfare.

ON PAPER, THE COMBINATION IS FORMIDABLE.

The agreement states that an armed attack against one member would be considered an attack against all. It also envisages closer military coordination, joint exercises, defence-industry cooperation and mechanisms for collective deterrence. But there is an important distinction between signing a collective-defence agreement

and creating an organisation capable of immediately fighting a war. NATO has decades of integrated command structures, operational planning and institutional experience. The Mecca alliance is still building its mechanisms. At the end of August, the three countries were only beginning to institutionalise the agreement and establish a permanent secretariat. That difference has become crucial. The Houthis Deliver the First Test The timing could hardly be more uncomfortable. The Houthis have moved beyond their traditional strongholds in northern Yemen and pushed along the country's Red Sea coast. The capture of Mokha has brought them much closer to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, one of the world's most important maritime choke-points. The strategic implications are enormous. Bab el-Mandeb connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and is vital for shipping between Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Any prolonged disruption threatens global trade and energy supplies. The Houthis have also declared a blockade targeting Saudi-linked shipping and intensified attacks on Saudi territory. Reuters reported that the group had reached the Hanish islands after capturing Mokha, putting further pressure on the maritime route. This is not a theoretical security problem for Saudi Arabia anymore. The missiles are already flying.

WHERE ARE PAKISTAN AND TURKEY?

This is where the "Islamic NATO" narrative begins to look complicated. On September 9, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that continued Houthi attacks or spillover into Saudi Arabia could activate the Mecca agreement and that Pakistan would honour its commitments if required. But the very next day, Pakistan's Foreign Office clarified that no military response was currently being discussed. Pakistan's



message was essentially that it remains committed to the pact but will act "when the time comes". For Saudi Arabia, that distinction matters enormously. An alliance designed to provide collective defence is ultimately judged not by its signing ceremony, but by what happens when one member is actually attacked.

Turkey, meanwhile, has not committed troops to the Yemen conflict either. This does not mean that the pact has failed. It is still a new alliance and its members may eventually decide to act. But the first crisis has exposed the difference between political solidarity and automatic military intervention.

Why Pakistan Is Hesitating

Pakistan's reluctance should not come as a complete surprise. Islamabad has historically maintained close military relations with Saudi Arabia, but it has also been cautious about becoming directly involved in the Yemen war. Pakistan faces its own security pressures and has important relations with Iran. Direct military action

against the Houthis could therefore transform Pakistan from a diplomatic player into a direct participant in a much wider regional conflict. That is a very different proposition from signing a defence agreement. Pakistan can promise to defend Saudi Arabia without necessarily wanting to fight a long and expensive war in Yemen. And Saudi Arabia may now be discovering the difference.

THE ISRAEL IRONY

The most ironic development in this entire episode is what Riyadh reportedly did next. The Jerusalem Post reported on September 15 that Saudi Arabia and Israel held talks mediated by the U.S. Central Command, with Riyadh seeking Israeli intelligence assistance to defend itself against the Houthi threat. Israel Hayom reported a similar development, saying that Saudi Arabia had turned towards Israel for assistance as Washington weighed its own response to the Houthi escalation. The reported Israeli assistance is primarily about intelligence: understanding Houthi deployments, capa-

bilities and possible future operations. That is significant because Israel has spent years developing sophisticated intelligence and surveillance capabilities against Iranian-backed groups across the region. The irony is difficult to miss.

Saudi Arabia had just created a defence partnership with Pakistan and Turkey partly to strengthen its regional security architecture. Yet when the Houthi threat intensified, Riyadh reportedly sought intelligence assistance from Israel. This does not mean Saudi Arabia has abandoned Pakistan or Turkey. Nor does it mean that Riyadh and Jerusalem are suddenly formal military allies. But it demonstrates an important reality of modern warfare: when a crisis arrives, countries turn to whoever possesses the capabilities they need, not necessarily whoever signed the most impressive agreement with them.

The Real Lesson for Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's strategic dilemma goes beyond Pakistan and Turkey. The kingdom wants greater strategic

autonomy. It does not want its security to depend entirely on Washington or any single external power. The Mecca agreement was therefore an important political statement: Muslim-majority powers can build their own security architecture. But the first major crisis has produced an uncomfortable contradiction.

The alliance that was presented as an "Islamic NATO" has not yet demonstrated a NATO-style military response. Pakistan is urging caution and diplomacy. Turkey remains outside direct military involvement. And Saudi Arabia is reportedly looking to Israel and Western partners for intelligence and other forms of assistance. That does not prove that the alliance has failed. But it does prove that an alliance on paper and an alliance on the battlefield are two very different things.

The Houthis Have Asked the Question. Now the Allies Must Answer.

The Houthi advance has created a crisis that Saudi Arabia cannot afford to ignore.

Mokha, the Hanish islands and the approach to Bab el-Mandeb give the Houthis increasing leverage over a maritime corridor vital to global trade and Saudi energy exports. At the same time, attacks on Saudi territory demonstrate that the conflict can no longer be contained within Yemen. For Mohammed bin Salman, the question is therefore no longer about diplomatic symbolism. It is about whether the partners who promised collective defence will actually stand beside Saudi Arabia when the cost of doing so becomes real. Saudi Arabia may not have been "tricked" by Pakistan and Turkey. It may simply have learned a much harder lesson: Friends can sign an agreement with you. Allies prove themselves when the missiles arrive

PI Industries brings CARVINT – A new generation insecticide to Indian farmers for advanced pest management

September 2026: PI Industries today announced the launch of CARVINT (Flometoquin 10% SC), a next-generation insecticide designed to provide effective control of Thrips and Diamond Back Moth (DBM) in crops like chilli, cabbage and cauliflower. With a distinct mode of action and long residual control, CARVINT is positioned as a new tool for progressive farmers seeking effective and sustainable pest-management solutions in focus on key markets across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Pest pressure remains a persistent challenge for vegetable farmers, particularly in high-value crops such as chilli and cole crops (cabbage and cauliflower). Thrips can reduce chilli yields by 25-50%, while Diamond Back Moth can cause significant losses in cabbage. Farmers also face challenges such as frequent



sprays, shorter control duration, rising costs and growing resistance to existing chemistries. CARVINT addresses these challenges through a new active ingredient i.e. Flometoquin 10% SC, which belongs to IRAC Group 34, a new class of insecticides for Indian markets. This provides farmers with a differentiated option for managing key pests and supports resistance-management programmes through rotation with existing insecticide chemistries. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Saket Bhatnagar, CEO India

Brands, PI AgSciences, "Farmers today are navigating growing pest resistance, frequent spray requirements, shorter control duration and rising crop-management costs. CARVINT brings a differentiated mode of action that provides farmers with a new tool for effective and sustained pest management. Its novel mode of action also makes it a useful option within resistance-management programmes, enabling the responsible rotation of chemistries. Through innovations such as CARVINT, we remain committed to bringing differentiated solutions to Indian agriculture that address evolving challenges and support farmers in managing their crops more effectively." The launch adds to PI Industries' portfolio of differentiated agricultural solutions. With the launch of CARVINT, PI continues to expand its portfolio of innovative crop-protection and agricultural solutions.

SEBI Proposes Changes To Stock Market Timings; Two Options Suggested For CAS And F&O



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Saturday has proposed two alternative trading schedules for the closing auction session and equity derivatives market. This is a part of a wider review aimed at improving liquidity, transparency and price discovery. Under Option A, normal trading in stocks eligible for the closing auction session, or CAS, would continue until 3:30 pm. The CAS would then run from 3:31 pm to 3:40 pm, while trading in the futures and options segment would remain open until 3:45 pm. Option B proposes an earlier close for the affected cash-market stocks. Continuous trading would end at 3:15 pm, followed by the CAS from 3:15 pm. to 3:25 pm. The F&O market would close at its existing time of 3:30 p.m. Also Read | Layoffs Are Rising In Tech, But These Skills Are Helping People Unlock Better Pay SEBI has also

proposed reducing the transition period before the CAS to one minute from five minutes. The trading window for equity derivatives after the auction would be shortened to five minutes from 10 minutes. The regulator has presented two approaches for determining derivatives settlement prices. The first would use trades from both the continuous trading session, or CTS, and the closing auction. The second would retain CTS-only settlement prices initially and consider including CAS trades after at least one year. No indicative index value based on the indicative equilibrium price would be displayed during the auction. Limit orders placed $\pm 1\%$ of reference price cannot be cancelled during CAS. Such orders can only be modified to improve the price. Unexecuted Iceberg orders would enter the auction as regular, fully disclosed limit orders.

Dubai's tourism sector records highest visitor numbers since February as Arabian Travel Market 2026 opens

Hotel sector highlights strong performance as DET and its partners leverage the industry event to deepen global trade relationships and drive future demand. Hotel occupancy of 66% in August 2026 represents 89% of the occupancy rate over the same period during the previous year. DET is hosting more than 300 international travel trade professionals from over 40 countries through its 'ATM Hosted Buyers Programme' India, 15th September 2026. Dubai's tourism industry is increasingly demonstrating its strength, with the city's hotel sector delivering sustained performance growth, according to the latest data released by the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) on the opening day of Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2026. The performance through August reflects the strength of the systems, partnerships and diversified market base that Dubai and its partners have built over the years. It is a testament to the resolve of an industry that has continued to invest, innovate and deliver for its guests, and it underlines confidence in the destination's position heading into the final months of 2026. Hotel occupancy reached 66% in August, representing 89% of the city's occupancy levels in August 2025, and continuing



a steep climb from 36% occupancy in March 2026. That sustained upward trajectory is a clear signal of underlying demand and the strength of Dubai's hospitality sector. As a number of properties have begun implementing extensive renovation projects to further elevate the guest experience and embed future readiness, hotel room inventory approached 149,000 rooms by the end of August 2026. In the first eight months of the year, the emirate's hotels recorded 21.61 million occupied room nights, underscoring the scale at which the industry continues to operate. The strong hotel performance was reflected in visitor numbers, with Dubai welcoming approximately 869,000 international overnight visitors

in August 2026, building on month-on-month, double-digit growth since March. This represented its strongest monthly volume since February 2026, taking total international visitation to 6.97 million across the first eight months of the year. Dubai continued to draw visitors from a broad mix of international source regions. Western Europe remained the leading regional contributor from January to August, accounting for 20% of visitation, followed by South Asia at 17%, the GCC at 16%, CIS and Eastern Europe at 14%, MENA at 10%, North East and South East Asia at 9%, Americas at 7%, Africa at 5% and Australasia at 2%. This diversified mix provides a vast international base from

which DET, and its partners can continue to stimulate demand across established and emerging markets. It also aligns with the goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda, D33, to further consolidate Dubai's position as a leading global destination for business and leisure and build a resilient and future-focused visitor economy. Diverse source markets His Excellency Issam Kazim, CEO of Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DCTCM), part of the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism, said: "The true grit of any city is tested not when the path is smooth, but during challenging times, and in line with our leadership's direction, we do not wait for the perfect conditions to continue delivering.

BANDHAN BANK LAUNCHES CREDIT CARDS; INTRODUCES FOUR VARIANTS

Hyderabad, September 2026: Bandhan Bank today announced the launch of its credit card portfolio, in collaboration with Mastercard, marking a significant milestone in the Bank's journey of empowering customers with innovative and inclusive financial solutions. Inspired by the enduring flame in Bandhan Bank's logo, which symbolizes the Bank's commitment to enriching lives, the new credit card range is being introduced in four variants: Sparks, Ignite, Flare, and Lumina. The credit cards were unveiled in the presence of Mr. Partha Pratim Sengupta, MD & CEO, Bandhan Bank, and Mr. Gautam Aggarwal, President, India & South Asia, Mastercard, Mr. Rajinder Kumar Babbar, ED & CBO, and Mr. Pius Jha, Head – Credit Cards, along with other senior leaders of the Bank and Mastercard. The new credit card portfolio is tailored to meet the needs of diverse customer segments. ü Sparks: Accelerated rewards on grocery and apparel spends, welcome reward bonus, domestic



airport lounge access, BookMyShow offers, fuel surcharge waiver, and EMI cashback benefits. ü Ignite: Accelerated rewards on grocery and travel spends, welcome and milestone rewards, domestic & international lounge access and EazyDiner benefits. ü Flare: Travel-focused card with Amazon Pay Voucher as welcome benefit, domestic & international airport lounge access, BookMyShow & EazyDiner benefits, and golf privileges. ü Lumina: Premium rewards on international spends, Oberoi gift voucher as welcome benefit, domestic and international lounge access, concierge services, airport meet-and-greet services, BookMyShow & EazyDiner benefits, and golf privileges. Speaking on the launch, Mr. Partha Pratim Sengupta, MD & CEO, Bandhan Bank, said: "The launch of Credit Cards marks a significant milestone in our journey as a

universal bank. Our new credit card portfolio, launched in collaboration with Mastercard, reflects our commitment to serving the aspirations of a digital-first India, featuring a seamless end-to-end digital application journey and convenient card servicing experience. With Sparks, Ignite, Flare and Lumina, we have created a comprehensive suite of products that caters to a wide spectrum of customers, from Gen Z and emerging affluent consumers to seasoned travellers and premium lifestyle seekers, offering meaningful rewards, convenience and curated benefits at every stage of their financial journey." Speaking on the launch, Mr. Rajinder Kumar Babbar, ED & CBO, Bandhan Bank, said: "The launch of our credit cards marks another important step in strengthening Bandhan Bank's customer-first product suite. With a portfolio designed around diverse spending needs and aspirations, we are bringing together digital convenience, meaningful rewards and relevant lifestyle benefits.

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Smartphone Makers Want GST Slashed To 5% To Offset 45% Price Hike On Entry-Level Handsets; Write To FM

India's smartphone industry has sought a sharp reduction in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on mobile phones, with industry body the India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) urging the government to cut the rate from 18% to 5%. In a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, ICEA has sought that the proposal be placed on the agenda of the next GST Council meeting. The industry body has argued that a lower GST rate could help bring down handset prices, revive weak domestic demand and support the next phase of India's smartphone manufacturing growth. According to ICEA, weak domestic demand has emerged as a growing concern for the smartphone industry, even as India continues to see growth in mobile-phone exports. The industry body said entry-level handset prices have increased by around 35-45% over the past year, putting additional pressure on consumers, particularly in the affordable smartphone segment. ICEA also highlighted a sharp increase in memory costs, saying memory prices have surged nearly fourfold as AI data centres absorb a growing share of global supply. The combination of higher component costs and elevated handset prices has made affordable smartphones increasingly difficult to access for consumers. The impact has been particularly visible in the entry-level segment. ICEA said smartphone prices below Rs 10,000 now account for less than 5% of industry supply. The industry body believes a reduction in GST could provide



some relief to consumers by lowering the tax burden on handsets and helping manufacturers address affordability concerns. ICEA has therefore called for mobile phones to be moved from the existing 18% GST rate to the 5% slab. ICEA said the proposed GST reduction could have a broader impact on the sector by improving smartphone affordability, reviving consumer demand and increasing smartphone adoption. The association has also linked the request to India's ambitions of becoming a major global electronics

manufacturing and export hub. While India's mobile-phone exports have expanded significantly in recent years, ICEA has flagged weak domestic consumption as a challenge for the industry's next phase of growth. The industry body has argued that stronger domestic demand would complement India's export-led manufacturing push and help sustain the expansion of the mobile-phone ecosystem. The request comes as smartphone makers face a difficult combination of rising component costs and weaker affordability. The sharp increase in memory prices, in particular, has become a concern as AI data centres compete for memory and other semiconductor components. With higher input costs being reflected in handset prices, the industry is seeking policy support to prevent further erosion in demand. ICEA's proposal will now be closely watched ahead of the next GST Council agenda, with the industry hoping that a lower tax rate can provide relief to both consumers and manufacturers.

Russia hits Ukrainian train shortly after Boris Johnson and top European officials leave station

A Russian drone has hit a train near the Ukraine-Poland border shortly after former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and top European security officials had passed through. No casualties were reported after the strike at Yahodyn, which hit the train's engine. All the passengers had been evacuated, Ukrainian authorities said. Johnson and other European national security advisers, including the UK's Jonathan Powell, had passed along the same line on a different train on their way back from a conference in Kyiv. Russia's defence ministry said it had struck "railway infrastructure" in western Ukraine, but Ukraine's state railway company Ukrzaliznytsia said the drone's target "could have been the diplomatic train".

Professor Katarzyna Pisarska, chair of the Warsaw Security Forum, told the BBC she was in the same carriage as Johnson and Powell, and the attack had happened about 30 minutes after their train had crossed into the Polish border. In a statement, Ukraine's railway authority Ukrzaliznytsia said the diplomatic train "had left the station earlier than expected because of the timetable change... due to constant threats of Russian strikes". It also said that an evacuation order for passengers on the hit train had been given "just 15 minutes" before the strike by a Russian jet-propelled drone. Former CIA chief David Petraeus, who had been on board another train at Yahodyn station at the time of the strike, said the incident was "terrifying". In an interview with the New



York Times, Petraeus said: "This is the act of a truly barbaric leader trying to terrorise Ukrainian civilians." Both Ukrainian and Polish authorities said the Russian drone had struck 2km (1.2 miles) from the Polish border. Former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, who had also attended the conference in Kyiv, told the BBC that passengers on board his train had been told to prepare for evacuation before subsequently being allowed to continue their journey. That train then safely arrived at Poland's border station in Dorohusk. Some reports have suggested Bildt was on the same train as Johnson, but the former UK prime minister has not confirmed any details. Johnson wrote on X: "I don't know what warped logic drove Putin to blow up a stationary Ukrainian locomotive on the

Polish border this morning. He said this was "the kind of random and senseless attack Ukrainians are enduring every day - even on civilian railways" and urged Kyiv's allies to urgently provide Ukrainians "the air defences they need". Ukraine has made repeated pleas to its allies - particularly the US - to provide more interceptors to defend against daily Russian attacks that increasingly use fast-moving ballistic missiles and jet-propelled drones. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said the "barbaric strikes" at the Ukraine-Poland border in Yahodyn amounted to "[Russian President Vladimir] Putin's terror 'knocking' directly on the doors of the EU and Nato" and renewed calls for more sanctions on Moscow. "Putin needs to understand that his barbarism will be met with decisive action that increases

the cost of war for him to an unacceptable level. This is the only way to stop him," he said. In Poland, Prime Minister Donald Tusk held an emergency meeting to discuss the latest developments. "The escalation of the actions from the Russian side is becoming a reality, and they are getting closer and closer to our border." The EU's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas has accused Russia of attempting to scare Western countries with the attack. "I think we should act the opposite. We should show that we are there for Ukraine and we are not scared," she told reporters in Finland during a summit on Arctic strategy. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday: "Our military has been conducting operations across the entire territory of Ukraine and will continue to do so." Johnson and other top

European security advisers were on their way back from the Yalta European Strategy (YES) conference in Kyiv - an annual event that brings together leaders and experts from politics, business, security and mass media. Ukraine said strikes had continued overnight, with the country's air force reporting that 85 of 108 Russian drones that were launched had been shot down. Police in Chernihiv said on Monday morning that three people had died after a warehouse belonging to an agricultural business was struck in Pryluky. Russia's defence ministry also reported that nearly 400 Ukrainian drones had been destroyed over Russian regions overnight. Russia appears to be escalating its war against Ukraine by targeting trains, railway depots, petrol stations and border crossings.

China criticises idea it is in 'malicious competition' over AI

China has hit out against what it has called "threat narratives" over AI governance and warned against "engaging in confrontation and malicious competition". It follows Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei's calls for a slowdown in AI development - but in a way that prevents China from pulling ahead in the AI race. Over the past week, industry insiders at the leading US artificial intelligence labs have been warning in extremely stark terms about the potential threat AI poses, with some saying it could wipe out humanity. But US President Donald Trump has said that his priority is making sure the US develops the tech faster than China. On Monday, China's foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told reporters that "narratives of threat, confrontation, and malicious competition serve only to disrupt the process of global AI governance and are not in anyone's interest". "All parties should work together to advance AI in a manner that is open, inclusive, beneficial to all, and oriented toward the good," he added. His comments highlight the difficulties in getting an agreement between the world's two leading AI powers. An agreement between the US and China to regulate AI development is "next to impossible", says Chang Jun Yan, an assistant professor with the military studies programme at Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies. "As part of each state's core national security



ty interests, cooperation in taking things slower and more safely in relation to AI, is very, very unlikely." Artificial intelligence now sits at the heart of the US-China rivalry as the world's two largest economies seek to gain an edge in advanced tech. Despite US export bans on critical chips, Chinese AI innovation has been expanding, driven by open-source technology and Beijing's backing. Many experts believe the US is still ahead, and Chinese firms are trying to catch up as they struggle to raise the hundreds of billions of dollars that investors are ploughing into American AI. But Beijing, including Chinese leader Xi Jinping himself, has also spoken about the risks posed by AI. China must "balance development and security", and introduce and improve relevant laws and ethical guidelines, and strengthen prevention of risks, to "safeguard the interests of the people and national security", state security minister Chen Yixin wrote on Sunday. He warned of the dangers of

"hostile forces" such as foreign intelligence using AI and called for international cooperation. "There are strong signals that Washington and Beijing share an understanding of frontier risks," Kenton Thibaut, a senior resident China fellow at the Atlantic Council, wrote recently. China has "technical reasons" to work with the US, she argues, because its developers would be able to see how their models are deployed outside China, and detect and understand vulnerabilities. In July, China set up the World AI Cooperation Organisation, which aims to shape global AI governance. And speaking at the Brics summit in India on Sunday, Xi proposed creating a community for open-source AI. All this comes as calls for AI regulation grow louder in the US, especially after a former Anthropic researcher Jacob Coxon said last week that "there is a strong chance that we could all die in the immediate future" if the current pace of development continued.

Hyrox apologises for allowing race to continue after athlete soils herself



International athletics brand Hyrox has issued an apology after it came under fire for allowing an athlete to complete a race in Beijing despite soiling herself midway through the event. Footage of the woman competing in the indoor fitness competition raised concerns around hygiene and questions over why race organisers allowed her to continue. After a wave of criticism, Hyrox co-founder Moritz Fürste apologised to all those affected "directly or indirectly" by the incident and said the brand is

working to make immediate rule changes. However, one expert told the BBC that allowing the athlete to continue could represent an attitude within the company that places sporting results over important factors. In a statement posted to Instagram, Fürste said Hyrox "did not handle the situation like we should have". He accepted responsibility for failing to foresee the incident and committed to "improving event processes" to "prevent situations like this from happening again".

SWEDISH LEFT-WING BLOC NARROWLY AHEAD WITH ELECTION TOO CLOSE TO CALL

Sweden's general election remains too close to call with the left-wing bloc marginally ahead as the vote count continues. With more than 90% of ballots processed early on Monday, the left-wing bloc was in front by approximately 20,000 votes. Preliminary counts by Sweden's electoral authority projected the Social Democrats' Magdalena Andersson would likely finish with a three-seat majority over the rival four-party coalition led by current conservative Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson. Kristersson has been supported in government by the hard-right Sweden Democrats (SD), which have neo-Nazi roots. He has promised cabinet jobs for the SD if he stays in charge. Early on Monday morning, Kristersson said it remained unclear who would form the next government. "The voters have had their say, but we still don't have a final result. Which government will lead Sweden in the coming years is still an open question," he told supporters. No major media outlets have declared



a winner yet. Sweden uses a mandate distribution voting system, a proportional representation method to elect "mandates", or "seats", in the Riksdag - the Swedish parliament. A party needs at least 4% of the vote to enter parliament. With 95% of votes reported, the left-wing bloc led by the Social Democrats was ahead with 176 mandates compared to the right-wing bloc's 173. Counting will continue on Wednesday before the final results determine which side has a clearer path to majority. The counting restarts then to include early votes that were submitted late, as well as votes from

abroad that did not arrive before election day. It is not yet known how many votes will be counted on Wednesday, but back in 2022, more than 220,000 votes were included in the later count. If the figures are similar this year, Wednesday's count could make the difference in the outcome, given that only about 28,000 votes currently separate the blocs. Sweden has two major political blocs featuring four parties on the right and four on the left - meaning coalition and minority governments are relatively common. On Sunday night, Andersson - the leader of the country's main opposition party -

urged supporters to wait for the final result, but added that if the current results hold, "Sweden will have a new government." Her party, the Social Democrats, have been a major force in Swedish politics since the end of World War Two. But SD - founded by Nazi sympathisers in the 1980s - had been shunned for years until 2022 when it became the country's second largest party after campaigning on violent crime and immigration. Both Andersson's party and the far-right SD have lost support, according to early count results. As of Monday morning, the Social Democrats were on track for their worst result in more than a century with 28 per cent, while the count showed the hard-right SD party was losing support for the first time since 2010 when it entered the Riksdag. Other parties comprising the left-wing bloc, including the Left Party, Greens and Centre Party have increased their support. Turnout also dropped to approximately 80%, down four points compared to the 2022 poll.

Malaysian boy acquitted for murder of schoolgirl on grounds of insanity



A Malaysian teenage boy charged with the high-profile murder of a female schoolmate has been acquitted, with the judge finding the boy was mentally unsound during the incident. He had fatally stabbed Yap Shing Xuen in a toilet at their secondary school on the outskirts of the capital Kuala Lumpur. The killing of the 16-year-old girl had shocked Malaysia and sparked debate about the effects of social media on children. Police previously had said they suspected social media could have influenced the boy, who was 14 at the time. The case was seen to have spurred authorities to limit chil-

dren's access to social media, which began earlier this year. The boy - who cannot be named under Malaysian law as he is still a minor - had pleaded not guilty to the murder charge. During the trial defence lawyers did not deny that the boy killed the girl, but argued that he had suffered from poor mental health for years and asked for his acquittal on the grounds of insanity. An expert witness, a psychiatrist, testified that the boy had schizophrenia, and had suffered from mental illness and experienced delusions since he was nine years old. The boy's condition was said to have worsened during the pandemic and when he eventually returned to school. Lawyers had said that the boy would need medication for the rest of his life to manage symptoms. On Monday the judge ruled that the boy would be acquitted, but also ordered for him to be detained and to receive treatment at a psychiatric hospital.



Thousands demand end to violence in Mexican cartel hotspot

SIX DEAD, 130 MISSING AFTER INDONESIAN FERRY CAPSIZES IN JAVA SEA

Six people have died and 107 have been rescued from a capsized Indonesian passenger ferry in the Java Sea, authorities have said. Another 130 people are still missing after contact was lost with the Virgo Transport8 ship, as it encountered bad weather. The ferry was travelling from Surabaya to the South Kalimantan city of Banjarmasin and was last reported to be about 150km (93 miles) south of Banjarmasin around 02:00 on Sunday (18:00 GMT on Saturday). Ships and a helicopter have been deployed to the scene, with 280 personnel taking part in a search and rescue operation. All vessels in the area of the Java Sea have been alerted to report any signs of passengers. There were



213 passengers and 30 crew members on board the 390ft (119m) ferry. The ship left Surabaya at 10:33 on Saturday and was scheduled to arrive in Banjarmasin on Sunday at 14:00, according to data from two maritime monitoring sites. Authorities received the initial distress report at 04:10. A joint task force involving Indonesia's

search and rescue agency, navy, maritime police and other parties has been set up for the rescue effort. Rusmilawati, a resident of Banjarmasin, went to the port to seek information about eight relatives who were passengers on the ship. They were travelling back to Banjarmasin after visiting the tombs of several Islamic scholars in Java.

"They flew there initially, but for the return journey they wanted to try travelling by ship," she told BBC Indonesia. As of Sunday afternoon local time, Rusmilawati said she had not received any information from officials about whether her relatives had been rescued. The family last heard from one of the relatives through a WhatsApp status update. In the post, the relative wrote: "The waves are really frightening tonight. Or is this just what it's normally like travelling by ship, rocking and crashing against the waves?" "Hopefully they're safe," Rusmilawati said. Meanwhile, Misnah broke down in tears after learning that her husband, Ahmad Supandi, had survived.

BCCI Explains Pak's Mohsin Naqvi Snub, Issues Clear Statement On Asia Cup Trophy Row

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Devajit Saikia on Monday said the women's cricket team's refusal to accept the Asia Cup trophy from Asian Cricket Council's (ACC) Pakistani chief Mohsin Naqvi was a "conscious, institutional" call taken by the Board, keeping circumstances and sentiments in view. The Indian women's team defeated Sri Lanka by 72 runs in the final on Sunday in Dubai but did not accept the trophy from Naqvi, continuing a trend started by the men's team during the 2025 Asia Cup following the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. Naqvi could only hand over the runners-up medals to the Sri Lankan women's team and continued to wait on the podium for Harmanpreet Kaur and Co., but they refused to change their stance. In the end, the Indian team celebrated the triumph without the trophy, much like Suryakumar Yadav's men last year. It was later



explained that the BCCI had asked the Indian women's team to adopt this stance, in sync with the bitter political relations that exist between India and Pakistan. However, Saikia explained that the stance is purely an institutional decision, and not against the tournament, the players or the sport. "We had taken a conscious decision, considering all prevailing aspects, and our position had been communicated to the ACC in advance, that the Indian team would not par-

ticipate in the trophy presentation under the circumstances," Saikia told PTI. "Given the circumstances and the sentiments prevailing in the country, the BCCI felt that it would not be appropriate for the team to receive the trophy in the proposed manner. "This was a firm institutional decision, reflective of the position we have maintained, and was not directed at the players, the tournament or the sport," he added. Following the terror attack in April last year,

the two countries were also engaged in a brief military showdown in May. While there is a prevailing debate whether India should boycott all games against Pakistan, secretary Saikia reiterated that all sporting commitments would always be fulfilled as government of India has allowed them to play the hostile neighbours in multi-nation tournament. "Our participation in the Asia Cup was in fulfilment of our sporting commitments as a member of the

ACC by adhering to the policy in place, and there was never any question of compromising on the spirit of the game or our commitment to international cricket. "However, participation in a multinational tournament and the manner in which the trophy is received are two separate matters," the Advocate General of Assam stated. While holding the trophy aloft would have been a great moment, the BCCI secretary is happy that Harmanpreet Kaur's side accomplished its assignment to perfection. "The Indian women's team has done what matters most, they have won the Asia Cup through their outstanding performance on the field. We as well as whole nation are immensely proud of the team, and the achievement belongs to the players and to Indian cricket." The women's team will now be flying to Japan to defend its gold medal won in Hangzhou during the last edition of the Asian Games.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi On Bench, Pressure On Sanju Samson After Fresh Failure

The first T20I of the three-match series against Afghanistan began on a dominant note for India as they registered a seven-wicket victory in Delhi. Opting to bowl first, India restricted Afghanistan to 156/8, with pacer Arshdeep Singh returning impressive figures of 3/19 in four overs. Azmatullah Omarzai was the lone bright spot for Afghanistan, scoring 64 off 44 balls. In reply, fans at the Arun Jaitley Stadium witnessed a batting masterclass from Abhishek Sharma, who unleashed complete carnage. The left-hander hammered 82 off just 32 deliveries, including seven fours and seven sixes, as India chased down the target in only 13.4 overs. Despite the emphatic win, Team India's selection decisions have come under scrutiny, with the exclusion of batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi raising plenty of questions. The 15-year-old sensation, who has already taken the cricketing world by storm with his fearless strokeplay, was benched for the opening match as the



management opted to field the experienced Sanju Samson alongside Abhishek Sharma at the top of the order. However, the decision did not pay off immediately, as Samson managed only 10 runs before being dismissed by Omarzai in the third over. Sooryavanshi's Rise Sooryavanshi earned his maiden India call-up for the two-match T20I series against Ireland in June this year but did not get a game. As India suffered a disappointing whitewash in that series, the youngster's exclusion became a talking point, especially after his block-

buster IPL campaign. Later, during India's five-match T20I series against England, Sooryavanshi finally made his international debut in the second game and featured in a total of three matches. However, he failed to make a significant impact and was subsequently dropped for the final match, with Samson returning to the playing XI. Sooryavanshi's breakthrough moment came against Zimbabwe, where he became the youngest player to score a T20I half-century and announced his arrival on the international stage.

BEN SHELTON HUNGRY FOR MORE GRAND SLAM CHANCES AFTER US OPEN DISAPPOINTMENT

Ben Shelton's first Grand Slam final ended in defeat on Sunday, but the 23-year-old American said his four-set loss to Alexander Zverev at the US Open only whetted his appetite for more. "It's such a cool moment. Walking out on that court today, there's nothing like it. I've never felt anything like that before" Shelton said. "It's an addicting feeling being in positions like this." Shelton came up short in his bid to become the first American man in 23 years to lift a Grand Slam trophy. But his best-ever run in a major included a stunning five-set win over seven-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz and a gritty semifinal fightback against Frances Tiafoe. It was a dra-



matic turnaround from a second-round exit at Roland Garros and an even more disappointing first-round defeat at Wimbledon. "Obviously, for me, it sucked the last couple of Grand Slams sitting at home for 10, 11, 12 days while the tournament is still going on, watching everyone else run through the draw," Shelton said. "It's motivating.

Losing in the final is also motivating, but this is the position I want to be in." Shelton enjoyed a quick rise after turning professional in 2022, breaking into the top 20 the following year after reaching the Australian Open quarter-finals, the US Open semi-finals and bagging his first ATP title in Tokyo. Now he wants to be a

consistent contender on the game's biggest stages, where the best-of-five set format over two weeks against the game's best is a physical and mental grind. "I was tired before I took the court today," he said. "Finals of a Slam, played almost 30 sets, something like that, over the last two weeks. "It's something that I can continue to work to improve, but obviously my first time that I've been here in this position, the most tennis that I've played in two weeks." The big-hitting American also believes he has plenty of room to improve his game. "I don't think I'm anywhere near the player that I want to be," he said. "To win on Sundays, you've got to play very, very high level of great tennis.

Pakistan Hit Rock Bottom, ICC Imposes Huge Penalty, Deduct Points For Code Of Conduct Breach

Pakistan were on Monday fined 50 per cent of the match fess of their third and final Test against England at Birmingham, along with a deduction of 11 World Test Championship points for maintaining slow over-rate. The ICC said on their website that Pakistan, who were crushed 0-3 in the Test series by hosts England, were found to be 11 overs short of the target "after time allowances were taken into consideration". Pakistan had lost the series opener at Leeds by an innings and 103 runs, the second Test at Lord's by 194 runs and the third Test at Edgbaston by 8 wickets. "Pakistan have been hit with a pair of sanctions for maintaining a slow over-rate during the third and final ICC



World Test Championship contest against England in Birmingham," the ICC said. The sanctions were imposed by ICC match referee Ranjan Madugalle, on-field umpires Paul Reiffel and Chris Gaffaney, third umpire Allahudien Palekar and fourth umpire Russell Warren. "It means Pakistan lose ground at the bottom of

their match fee for each over their team fails to bowl within the allotted time, with the maximum penalty capped at 50 percent of the match fee." "In addition, as per Article 16.11.2 of the ICC World Test Championship playing conditions, a side is penalised one point for each over short. Consequently, 11 World Test Championship points have been deducted from Pakistan's points total," the ICC said. Languishing at the bottom of the WTC points table in the ninth position, Pakistan have only two wins to and seven defeats from nine Tests so far. Pakistan will host Sri Lanka for a two-Test series in November at Rawalpindi and Lahore in their next WTC assignment.

Honda changes F1 design boss after slow start to return



Hunt responds to controversial Sweeney advert



British sprinter Amy Hunt is among the female athletes to speak out against a controversial sports gambling advert starring actress Sydney Sweeney. The advert has gone viral online and features American Sweeney naked but covering parts of her body with various pieces of sporting equipment. Hunt, who became a four-time European champion earlier this summer, referenced the advert after she ran a season's best 22.10 seconds to finish fourth in the 200m final at the Ultimate Championship in Budapest on Sunday. "Sydney Sweeney, this is what women in sport look like," Hunt said in her post-race interview with Sport.

SHANE LOWRY CAPS FOUR-YEAR DROUGHT WITH RECORD 11-SHOT IRISH OPEN WIN



Aspinall vacates UFC heavyweight title



Britain's Tom Aspinall has vacated his UFC heavyweight title because of complications in his recovery from an eye injury. The 33-year-old has not fought since October, when the first defence of his title against Cyril Gane ended in a no-contest following several eye pokes. Aspinall was diagnosed with a rare eye condition, and has had persistent double vision and several operations. "I am absolutely gutted. I have chased this dream since I was 10 years old," he said in a statement. "I know what it's like to have your career put on hold and I want the other fighters to have the opportunity to compete for the title." In June Aspinall said he had returned to full training for a rematch with France's Gane and suggested they could fight in September. In August Aspinall rejected reports that he would leave the UFC. "I am not done. Stepping away from the title is not stepping away from the sport or the dream," he said on Monday. "I will continue doing everything I can to get healthy, get cleared and get back to competing as soon as possible." UFC president Dana White hinted over the weekend that Aspinall could be stripped of the title. This month Valentina Shevchenko vacated the women's flyweight title because of persistent injuries. Gane beat Alex Pereira to win the interim heavyweight title in June before calling for a rematch with Aspinall. Why Did Tom Aspinall Give Up The UFC Heavyweight Title? Tom Aspinall's championship run stalled the moment Gane caught him with two accidental eye pokes at UFC 321 in Abu Dhabi. At the time, referee Jason Herzog ruled the incident unintentional before waving the fight off as a no contest. "Ongoing eye complications mean I cannot get cleared to fight right now. I've had multiple surgeries, accidents and infections, and done everything possible to get back to competing. I had previously agreed to a fight date and was back sparring, feeling great and ready to compete when an accident caused further damage to my right eye. This means more time away from the sport and the timing of my return is unclear," Aspinall shared on Instagram. He continued, "I am absolutely gutted. I have chased this dream since I was 10," adding, "Thank you to everyone who has supported me throughout this absolute nightmare." By his own account, he'd actually turned a corner. A fight date was set, and he was back sparring and feeling strong when a fresh training accident damaged his right eye again and undid months of progress.

Shane Lowry gave Irish golf fans a Sunday they will remember for years. The 39-year-old produced a stunning 7-under 63 to win the 2026 Amgen Irish Open by a record 11 shots at Doonbeg. Lowry finished 23-under for the tournament, breaking the event's 72-hole scoring record and ending a four-year wait for an individual title. The victory also gave him his second Irish Open crown, 17 years after winning the event as an amateur. Shane Lowry's Record 11-Shot Irish Open Win Lowry entered Sunday with a four-shot lead after shooting a course-record 62 on Friday. He never allowed the chasing pack back into the contest, making eight birdies and just one bogey during his final round. His four-round total was 257, seven shots better than Jon Rahm's previous record of 264. Patrick Reed and Joaquin Niemann finished tied for second at 12-under, while Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen took third at 11-under. Lowry's 11-shot win-

ning margin also broke Bernhard Langer's previous Irish Open record of 10 shots, set in 1987. His victory came at Trump International Golf Links & Hotel in Doonbeg, County Clare. The final hole brought another memorable moment. Lowry made a long birdie putt on the 18th as the home crowd celebrated around him. U.S. President Donald Trump, who owns the venue, was also present and handed Lowry the trophy after the round. Shane Lowry Gets Emotional After Irish Open Triumph The victory carried plenty of personal meaning for Lowry. His 2026 season had included several close calls, but no individual win since the 2022 BMW PGA Championship. After lifting the trophy, he became emotional while talking about the people who helped him through the difficult periods. Lowry gave special credit to his wife Wendy and their two daughters, Iris and Ivy, who were back home in Florida.

‘EE PAATA KORINAVAARU...’ TEASER LAUNCHED BY HIT MACHINE ANIL RAVIPUDI



Chandra Siddharth, the acclaimed filmmaker known for his distinctive and sensitive storytelling in films such as Aa Naluguru, Madhumasam, Andari Bandhuvaya, Idhi Sangathi and Aatagadara Siva, is now coming up with yet another unconventional film titled ‘Ee Paata Korinavaaru Nemalipalem Nundi Rama, Jyotsna, Nandu, Murali, Kabir, Dhol Ravi Modhalagunavaru’.

The film carries the intriguing subtitle ‘A Forbidden Raag from a Forbidden Saga’ and has already entered the record books as the film with one of the longest titles in the history of Telugu cinema. Based on a story by noted filmmaker and writer Madan, the film is presented by Y.V. Satyanarayana Raju and produced by Chandra Siddharth under the banner of Filmotsav. The film is slated for a grand theatrical release on September 18. The teaser of ‘Ee Paata Korinavaaru...’ was unveiled by blockbuster director and ‘Hit Machine’ Anil Ravipudi, who wished the team great success. Speaking on the occasion, Anil Ravipudi said, “It is interesting to see a film coming with such a long title. I worked in the script department with Chandra Siddharth garu on Madhumasam, Housefull and Andari Bandhuvaya.

He has always made sensible and meaningful films. I hope this film, which comes with such an unusual title, will also receive a great response from audiences.” Director and producer Chandra Siddharth said, “I sincerely thank Anil Ravipudi garu for launching our teaser. He immediately agreed when we approached him and graciously gave us some time despite his busy schedule. The fact that he liked both the title and the teaser is a very positive sign for us, and we are extremely happy. The response to the title has been very encouraging, and it has already created a great deal of curiosity among audiences.

ANAKAPALLI SET FOR A GRAND RELEASE ON OCTOBER 2



Anakapalli is a raw and rustic film produced under the banners of Bhavya Sri Movie Makers and Nakkina Narratives by Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina, who also play key roles in the movie. Vikram Sahidev, Sandhya Vasishtha, and Tarak Ponnappa are the lead cast, while Khagesh Thammineni has directed the film. Kandregula Kumar Raja is the co-producer, while Thrinadha Rao Nakkina has penned the story and screenplay. The songs, teaser, and trailer released so far have generated good expectations for the movie. The film was also specially screened for the people of Anakapalli in August, receiving an

excellent response from the local audience. Following the positive reception, the makers are now gearing up to release Anakapalli on a grand scale in both Telugu and Tamil. The film will hit theatres on October 2nd. The release date poster, unveiled on the occasion of Vinayaka Chavithi, has further captured attention by featuring the principal characters and creating additional curiosity around the film. Mythri Movie Distribution LLP and Poorvi Distributions are jointly bringing Anakapalli to theatres. Maaya V is the cinematographer, while Sreekrishna Attaluri is the editor. Uday Bhagavathula penned the dialogues.

"Missing Meghna" Held – Set for Theatrical Release on September 18!



"Missing Meghna"

Produced by Panchumarthi Naresh Babu under the First Copy Movies and KD & Co. banners and directed by Vachaspathi, the upcoming film "Missing Meghna" is gearing up for its grand theatrical debut on September 18. Starring Ram Karthik, Ammu Abhirami, Vaidika Senjaliya, and Ankit Koyya in the lead roles, the film features an ensemble supporting cast including Goparaju Ramana, Vempa Kasi, Kaushik, Mahipal, Ruchitha, Nalini, Srinivas, Azeem, and Pandu. Cinematography is handled by Sam K. Naidu, with music composed by R. R. Dhruvan. The film's promotional campaign previously gained strong momentum when its first look was unveiled by director V. V. Vinayak and its first single was launched by veteran producer Suresh Babu. Ahead of its release on September 18, the team organized a grand pre-release event in Hyderabad, attended by prominent producer Damodar Prasad as the chief guest.

Produced by Panchumarthi Naresh Babu under the First Copy Movies and KD & Co. banners and directed by Vachaspathi, the upcoming film "Missing Meghna" is gearing up for its grand theatrical debut on September 18.

Damodar Prasad (Chief Guest):

"My primary reason for supporting this film is Ram Karthik. I have known many members of this team for a long time. A producer's confidence right up to the release date is crucial—cinema isn't just about money; it represents people's lives. Small, content-driven films need strong support, and I hope both the media and the audience back this release on September 18."

Vachaspathi* (Director):

"The core strength of this project is its strong story-

line. I am deeply thankful to my technical team and actors for walking this journey with me. The response to our promotional material has been very encouraging, and we look forward to the audience's love in theaters on September 18."

Ram Karthik

(Lead Actor): "Thank you to everyone who has supported me since my debut. This marks my second project with Ammu Abhirami, and working alongside Ankit was a great experience. Dhruvan's compositions have connected well with the public, and I am grateful for the constant support from Bekkam Venu Gopal sir and Damodar Prasad sir."

Ankit Koyya

(Lead Actor): "I am glad to address the media after a gap of a year. Director Vachaspathi put immense effort into this film. The media has always championed good content, and we request the same encouragement for our release."

Popular Music Director Ajay Arasada Releases Trendy Devotional Single ‘Bolo Ganapathi S/O Umapathi’ On The Auspicious Day Of Vinayaka Chaturthi



Music director Ajay Arasada, known for his work in Aay, Save the Tigers, Vikatakavi and Gurthukostunnayi, has released his special devotional single ‘Bolo Ganapathi S/O Umapathi’ today on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. Composed and produced by Ajay, the song is released under his music label AjA Records. A Vizag native, Ajay entered the film industry after working at TCS for seven years and has steadily built a reputation for exploring diverse musical genres. He recently received personal appreciation from Pawan Kalyan garu after his musical work. ‘Bolo Ganapathi S/O Umapathi’ presents Lord

Ganesh in a vibrant and youthful manner. Composed in just two days, the song features an energetic, peppy track with vocals by Jayaram Pyla and Sindhura Rajesh, while Bhaskar Tirumala has penned the lyrics. The lyrical video showing the visuals of song composing blending with frames of Ganesh Maharaj according to lyrics looks impressive. The song's biggest USP is its contemporary treatment of devotion. The trendy style of music coupled with simple, meaningful and catchy lyrics in a devotional setting, giving the track a refreshing identity and creating an enjoyable experience for both Gen Z audiences and elders.

‘FEEL MY LOVE’ SPECIAL POSTER RELEASED ON THE OCCASION OF VINAYAKA CHAVITHI

Sri Lakshmi Jyothi Creations presents the feel-good romantic emotional entertainer ‘Feel My Love’, produced by A.N. Balaji. The film stars Adithya Bhaskar, Ayra, Ammu Abhirami, Madhusudhan Rao, Rajayyaappa, Nobel James and Priyanka in key roles. Written and directed by Hari Prakash M, the film promises a refreshing blend of romance, comedy and emotions with content aimed at today's youth.

The title poster of the film, released earlier, received a positive response from audiences. Now, on the

auspicious occasion of Vinayaka Chavithi, the makers have unveiled a special poster featuring the principal characters from the film.

The film's audio will be released grandly soon. Following the audio launch, the team is planning to conduct promotional events on a large scale across both Telugu states.

Shot across the beautiful locations of Chennai, Puducherry, Munnar and Kodaikanal, the film's picturesque visuals and scenic locations are expected to be



Sri Lakshmi Jyothi Creations presents the feel-good romantic emotional entertainer ‘Feel My Love’, produced by A.N. Balaji.

Tharun Bhascker unveiled the first-look poster of "Rupayanamaha". Movie Releasing on 2nd October



The upcoming Telugu feature "Rupayanamaha" has officially completed its censor formalities and is locking its sights on a grand theatrical release on October 2. Produced by Pavani Sagi under the banner of Chithra Veda Productions and directed by Aravind Reddy, the film has secured a clean U/A certificate from the Central Board of Film

Certification. With an approved runtime of two hours and thirteen minutes, the movie reportedly earned positive appreciation from the censor board panel for its engaging mix of lighthearted family entertainment, sharp comedic timing, and tightly paced suspense. The narrative of "Rupayanamaha" revolves around the chaos, greed, and surprising rela-

tionships that erupt when a life-changing one-crore lottery ticket enters the picture. Rather than treating the subject as a routine slapstick comedy, director Aravind Reddy has woven together relatable domestic drama with nail-biting thriller beats to keep audiences guessing. The promotional momentum for the film kicked off on a strong note when popular

director Tharun Bhascker unveiled the first-look poster along with the energetic title track, which struck a chord with netizens across social media platforms. With the release date now locked for the Gandhi Jayanti holiday weekend, the production unit is gearing up to launch their official theatrical trailer and a series of promotional events in the coming days. The film features an ensemble cast comprising Aravind Pandrate, Venu Polsani, D. Anudeep, Sravani Malkani, Krack Sreemani, Vishan Sri, and Kavyasri Madishetty in key roles. On the technical front, Rishi M has composed the music and background score, while Jinka Varun Naidu handled the cinematography. Editing duties have been overseen by Raviteja Girijala. "Rupayanamaha" is set to hit silver screens across the Telugu states on October 2.

"KilleR" Makers Announce 'SuperSHE Challenge' for Women; Winners to Receive Rs. 1.4 Lakh in Cash Prizes



The makers of the sensational sci-fi thriller KilleR have announced the SuperSHE Challenge exclusively for women, with a total cash prize pool of ₹1.4 lakh. The film is all set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on October 30. Killer stars Jyothi Poorvaj and Poorvaaj in the lead roles, with Manish Gilada, Chandrakant Kollu, Vishal Raj, Archana Ananth, and Gautham Chakradhar Koppishetti playing key supporting roles. The film is being produced by Poorvaaj and A. Padmanabha Reddy under the Think Cinema and AU & I Studios banners, with the blessings of Dhyanam Nannaguru. Urvish Poorvaaj presents the film, while Poorvaaj has written, edited, and directed it. As part of the film's promotions, the makers have launched the SuperSHE Challenge, inviting

women to showcase their creativity. Participants are asked to imagine that they wake up overnight with a superpower and explain how they would use it through either a creative Instagram Reel or a powerful written response. The 10 best Reels will each receive a cash prize of ₹10,000, while the 20 best written entries will each win ₹2,000. The winners will be invited on stage and felicitated with their cash prizes during the upcoming Killer pre-release event. Participants must tag actress Jyothi Poorvaj's Instagram account and use the hashtags #SuperSHE and #KilleR while posting their entries. Actress Jyothi Poorvaj has also released a special video announcing the challenge and encouraging women to participate. Meanwhile, Killer is gearing up for a grand overseas theatrical release as well.