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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA
18-09-2026
Total pilgrims: 76,060
Tentares: 32,448
Handi (Lamp): 3.0 CR
Laddu sale: 4.56 Lac
Annaprasadam: 2.21 Lac
Ashwini hospital: 4.208
Present Situation on 19-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments...
Out side line at silathoranam
Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)... 18 H.

Mamata candidate withdraws, later reverses decision
NATION PAGE

US & Denmark reach deal over Greenland after Trump annexation threats
WORLD PAGE

Agadha' Brings a World of Mystery, Faith and the Supernatural to ZEE5 Telugu on Sep 25
CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

8 killed as car falls into drain in MP

AGAR MALWA: Eight people, among them three children and two women, were killed after their car fell into a swollen drain in Madhya Pradesh's Agar Malwa district in the early hours of Saturday, police said. The accident occurred near the Bagulamukhi temple in Nalkheda town, around 30 km from the district headquarters. Nalkheda police station in-charge Shashi Upadhyay said. He said that the car with devotees from Odisha fell into the drain, which was overflowing with rainwater, and the occupants, including three children, two women and three men, were killed. The Nalkheda police launched a rescue operation, retrieved the bodies and sent them for post-mortem, the official said, adding that a case has been registered and further details are awaited.

Cong won't withdraw Nandigram candidate

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: AICC general secretary K C Venugopal on Saturday said the Congress would not withdraw its candidate Milan Pradhan from the Nandigram Assembly bypoll in West Bengal and would raise his arrest as a national issue. Pradhan was arrested on Friday in connection with an old case related to the 2007 Nandigram anti-land acquisition movement, a senior Congress leader claimed. Pradhan, who has been named in more than 12 cases linked to the Nandigram land movement, was picked up from a hotel in Chandipur in Purb Medinipur district, party sources said. Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee announced her party's support for Pradhan in the Nandigram bypoll on Friday, hours after her faction's candidate withdrew from the contest.

CM Vijay writes to PM Modi

Seeks new operator for Chennai airport



CHENNAI (TSIT):

The Tamil Nadu government has sought a change in the operator of Chennai airport, with Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August, according to a Daily Thanthi report.

The state government has expressed dissatisfaction over certain aspects of the airport's current functioning and has called for a new operator to manage the facility, an English daily reported.

In his letter, Vijay is learnt to have stressed the need for world-class airport infrastructure and man-

The state government has expressed dissatisfaction over certain aspects of the airport's current functioning and has called for a new operator to manage the facility, an English daily reported.

agement to support Tamil Nadu's efforts to attract industrial investments.

The Chief Minister reportedly pointed out that Chennai airport needs improvement in three key areas — passenger traffic, aircraft movements and cargo-handling capacity. The state government has suggested replacing the

Airports Authority of India (AAI), the current operator and manager of the airport, with another operator, citing the need for a more efficient and globally competitive facility.

The move is being viewed as a step towards bringing private-sector management to Chennai airport. It also comes in the backdrop of the Tamil Nadu government's decision to drop the proposed airport project at Parandur in Kancheepuram district, reports said.

The state has maintained that a high-quality international airport is essential for Tamil Nadu to sustain its position as a leading destination for industrial investments.

CPI opposes move Meanwhile, the Communist Party of India (CPI) has urged the Tamil Nadu government to withdraw the proposal to replace the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as the operator of Chennai airport, terming it an attempt at privatisation.

Cong Kharge slams arrest, accuses BJP of 'vote chori'



NEW DELHI (TSIT)

Congress President and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party over the arrest of Congress candidate Milan Pradhan in connection with the Nandigram Assembly by-election, alleging that the action was part of a brazen attempt at "vote chori" and "chunav chori" and accusing the ruling party of murdering democracy in West Bengal. In a strongly worded post on social media platform X, Kharge alleged that the BJP was misusing agencies to target an Opposition candidate, claiming that the ruling party has become so insecure that it has been resorting to such measures even in a by-election.

PM Modi highlights FTAs, skilling and jobs

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the government was working on multiple fronts to expand employment opportunities for the youth, citing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), skilling initiatives and a Rs 1 lakh crore employment incentive scheme aimed at bringing two crore young people into the formal workforce.

Addressing a 'Rozgar Mela' (Jobs Fair) virtually, he also said the talent and skills of India's youth had won the trust of the entire world, which has great expectations from Indian innovators, entrepreneurs and the country's youthful strength.

"India signed 40 Free Trade Agreements. These FTAs are opening new doors of possibilities for our youth. Such trade agreements pave the way for new partnerships for our entrepreneurs, open paths to new markets, and create new possibilities in careers for our youth,"



PM Modi said the government was working on multiple fronts to expand youth employment, highlighting FTAs, skilling initiatives and a Rs 1 lakh crore employment scheme. He distributed over 51,000 appointment letters at the 20th Rozgar Mela

Modi said. At the function, he distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters virtually to newly selected youth, who will join various government departments and organisations.

Referring to the just-concluded BRICS Summit,

Modi said India's effort had been to ensure that BRICS cooperation did not remain limited to governments alone. "Our entrepreneurs, our farmers, our women, our youth — everyone should become an active partner in this partnership," he said.

He said initiatives such as BRICS CONNECT and the BRICS MSME Cooperation Portal were aimed at bringing entrepreneurs, farmers, women and youth into such partnerships.

Referring to the country's startup ecosystem, the prime minister said India's youth power was reflected in it and that the startup ecosystem was no longer limited to big cities but had expanded to smaller cities as well.

"India is today the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. And India's startup story is no longer just the story of big cities. Today, nearly half of recognised startups are in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities," he said.

CM Vijay to launch 'Thai Maman Gold Ring Scheme' on Sep 28

Under the scheme, children born in government hospitals from June 22, 2026, will be eligible for a one-gram gold ring

CHENNAI (TSIT):

Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay will launch the 'Thai Maman Thanga Mothiram' scheme on September 28, under which a one-gram gold ring will be given to children born in government hospitals, the state government announced on Friday.

Under the scheme, children born in government hospitals from June 22, 2026, will be eligible for a one-gram gold ring.

The first tranche of 1.28

lakh gold rings has been procured. Each ring will have a unique serial number and be supplied in tamper-proof packaging.

Under the scheme, children born in government hospitals from June 22, 2026, will be eligible for a one-gram gold ring. The first tranche of 1.28 lakh gold rings has been procured.

Each ring will have a unique serial number and be supplied in tamper-proof packaging. Eligible newborns will receive the ring before leaving the hospital.

K'taka bans selfies reels on academic tours

BENGALURU (TSIT):

The Karnataka College Education Department has issued strict guidelines for academic tours conducted by Government First Grade Colleges across the state, prohibiting students from taking selfies, recording videos, and

making reels during such trips. According to a circular issued by the Office of the Commissioner on Saturday, the department has made prior permission mandatory for conducting academic tours.



India's global credibility strengthens after BRICS Summit

ATHENS (TSIT):

By unequivocally condemning the 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack and adopting a firm stance against the cross-border movement of terrorists, terror financing, safe havens and double standards in addressing terrorism, BRICS has reinforced an argument India has made before the world for decades, a report has mentioned.

The position outlined in the New Delhi Declaration adopted during the recent



18th BRICS Summit hosted by India underscored that terrorism cannot be legitimised through political explanations, nor can countries selectively distinguish between terrorists

based on strategic convenience, Athens-based 'Directus' stated. "Pakistan has not been expressly named. That fact should neither be concealed nor exaggerated.

Yet the political significance of the declaration lies precisely in the terminology accepted by a diverse group of important nations. For India, the development represents an important diplomatic achievement," the report noted.

Highlighting that the development presents an increasingly uncomfortable question for Pakistan, it asked how long the international narrative on cross-border terrorism could remain detached from the infrastructure, organisations and ideological networks that India has repeatedly accused of operating from Pakistani territory.

ABVP wins three DUSU posts; independent gets VP



NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The RSS-affiliated ABVP won three of four central panel posts in the Delhi University Students' Union election, while independent candidate Deepanshu Shokeen, denied an NSUI ticket, won the vice-president's post. Congress's NSUI drew a blank, though its candidates lost the president and joint secretary posts by narrow margins. ABVP's Yash

Dabas won the president's post with 24,576 votes, defeating NSUI's Vijai Shankar Meena by 2,053 votes. Shokeen secured the vice-president's post with 30,615 votes, winning by over 13,700 votes. ABVP also won the secretary and joint secretary positions, regaining the three posts it won in 2025. Independents, including Shokeen and Vishesh Yadav, cut into votes of both ABVP and NSUI.

20TH ROZGAR MELA



PM distributes more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly appointed youth in various Government departments and organizations on the occasion of 20th Rozgar Mela via video conferencing

India's GDP to reach USD 38 trillion in 20 years, says Ajit Doval

NSA Ajit Doval said India's GDP would rise from USD 4.015 trillion to USD 38 trillion in the next 20 years while addressing IIT Roorkee's convocation. He urged students to be courageous, decisive and develop their own doctrine to become leaders South Asians & Diaspora

ROORKEE (TSIT):

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval said on Saturday that India's GDP would increase from the current USD 4.015 trillion to USD 38 trillion in the next 20 years.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee as the chief guest, Doval said students were fortunate to be living in a transformative era where their future held great promise.

Citing the example of Lord Ram, the NSA urged students to be courageous in their lives. He said sage Vishwamitra chose Lord Ram to annihilate demons because of his courageous nature.

"Massive changes are taking place in India, and



the country is moving towards a magnificent future," the NSA said.

"As the prime minister has termed the period leading up to 2047 as 'Amrit Kaal', it is truly a wonderful Amrit Kaal. India's current GDP stands at USD 4.015 trillion, and it will reach USD 38 trillion in the

next 20 years," Doval added. "The current generation is the luckiest, with abundant opportunities, unlike past generations that faced struggles. This is the age of technology, engineering and innovation, which drives societal growth, with the youth having decades for progress," he

said.

The NSA further said that decision-making and building one's own doctrine were critical to becoming a leader.

"You will never become a leader if you are not a decision-maker. You have got to make a decision... you have got to build your own doctrine," he said.

Doval also shared an anecdote from his early career days while posted in Sikkim, recounting how he learned three mantras for success in life from a Sherpa. Doval explained that the first mantra was knowing where one stands on the map; the second was knowing where one needs to go; and the third was knowing the path to get there and come back.

In Brief

INDIA SENDS 11 TONNES OF RELIEF MATERIAL TO FLOOD-HIT NEPAL

Kathmandu, Sep 19: India on Saturday handed over 11 tonnes of relief material to Nepal as the ninth Indian Air Force (IAF) flight carrying supplies reached Kathmandu, continuing New Delhi's support for the Himalayan nation's recovery from the devastating flash floods of August 26. "India's support to Nepal's recovery efforts continues: The 9th Indian Air Force (IAF) flight with 11 tonnes of material, including tents, medicines, sleeping bags and forensic supplies, arrived in Kathmandu and were handed over to the Government of Nepal," Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava said on X.

GUJARAT MAN KILLS 5-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER

AMRELI: A 40-year-old man allegedly killed his five-year-old daughter, placed her body inside a refrigerator, and died by suicide citing a financial crisis in Gujarat's Amreli district, police said on Friday. The chilling crime unfolded inside a room decorated with balloons and candles, where the deceased, Kishore Dhanak, left behind notes admitting to the crime and explaining that he put his daughter's body in the refrigerator to spare her suffering after his death, an official said. Dhanak, a construction site supervisor, was home with his daughter Himanshi on Wednesday when he allegedly smothered her by covering her mouth with his hand. He then placed her body in the refrigerator and hanged himself, Rajula Deputy Superintendent of Police Nayana Goradiya said. According to the first information report (FIR), Dhanak had written three suicide notes and placed them on a bed.

Mamata candidate withdraws, later reverses decision

Kolkata (TSIT): In a dramatic turn of events, Mamata Banerjee's party's Rejinagar by-election candidate Rabiul Alam Chowdhury on Saturday announced his withdrawal from the contest, only to retract his decision less than two hours later and assert that he would be in the October 6 poll battle as per the wishes of the party supremo. The development came a day after Banerjee's party's Nandigram by-election nominee Sanchita Pradhan Dey withdrew her candidature following a meeting with Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari. Chowdhury, a former TMC MLA, told reporters at his home in Murshidabad earlier in the day: "It is becoming difficult for me to motivate grassroots workers who have been facing regular harassment. Police have



Emerging from the police station, he claimed that the police administration had assured them of the safety and security of party workers. "I have been assured of security by the police after the supremo (Banerjee) intervened. I have met officers of the Beldanga police station and they have also assured me and my cadre of security during campaigning," he said. "Even if only 10 workers stand by me, I will take them along and begin a door-to-door campaign," Chowdhury added, expressing confidence that he would receive all necessary assistance for campaigning in accordance with Banerjee's instructions. The Election Commission has allotted the 'footballer' symbol to the Mamata faction of the Trinamool Congress and assigned it the name 'Mamata All India Trinamool Congress' amid a bitter feud with the rebel grouping over the party's name and 'flowers-and-grass' symbol.

Mamata Banerjee's Rejinagar bypoll candidate Rabiul Alam Chowdhury announced his withdrawal on Saturday, citing harassment of party workers and difficulties with the new election symbol, but reversed the decision within hours after speaking to Banerjee and receiving security assurances

arrested many of our workers, slapping false cases. Also, it is an onerous task to familiarise the electorate with the new 'footballer' symbol in such a short time. In this given situation, I informed Mamata di last evening about my deci-



GLIMPSES OF CLOSING CEREMONY OF SEMICON INDIA 2026 AT YASHOBHOOMI, DWARKA, IN NEW DELHI...

INDIAN RAILWAYS CLEARS KAVACH 4.0 and signalling works worth Rs 461 cr



New Delhi: Indian Railways has approved the provision of Kavach Version 4.0 on 607.7 route kilometres of the Lucknow Division of Northeastern Railway at a total cost of Rs 252 crore. In a significant step towards strengthening railway safety through indigenous technology, the approved project will extend Kavach 4.0 coverage across the identified balance sections of the division, strengthening the safety infrastructure available for train operations, according to an official statement. Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system designed to enhance operational safety. It helps prevent Signal Passing at

Indian Railways has approved Kavach Version 4.0 on 607.7 route kilometres of the Lucknow Division of Northeastern Railway at a cost of Rs 252 crore. It also cleared Rs 209 crore for Electronic Interlocking at seven Solapur Division stationsSouth Asians & Diaspora

Danger (SPAD), automatically applies brakes when required and supports safer train movement by monitoring train operations. The initiative is part of Indian Railways' ongoing deployment of Kavach across its network to modernise train protection systems and enhance the safety and

reliability of railway operations. Meanwhile, Indian Railways has approved the provision of Electronic Interlocking (EI) at seven stations of the Solapur Division of Central Railway at a total cost of Rs 209 crore. The modern signalling system will strengthen railway signalling infrastructure across the division and facilitate the implementation of Kavach, the indigenous Automatic Train Protection system, according to the statement. Electronic Interlocking is a modern computer-based signalling system that replaces conventional relay-based interlocking. It provides more reliable control of points and signals, enables faster fault detection and restoration.

AAP launches Punjab poll campaign from Ludhiana, calls Congress 'sinking ship', Badals



PUNJAB CM BHAGWANT MANN RELEASES ELECTION PAMPHLET, HIGHLIGHTS GOVERNMENT'S WORK AND WARNS OF ROLLBACK OF SCHEMES IF AKALI-BJP ALLIANCE RETURNS TO POWER....

Ludhiana (TSIT) The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday formally launched its campaign for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections from Ludhiana, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann releasing the party's election pamphlet at the Pakhowal Road Indoor Stadium in the presence of Cabinet ministers, MLAs, party leaders and hundreds of supporters. Addressing the gathering, Mann said his government had delivered more than it had promised. He cited the state's road safety force (SSF), claiming that the initiative had helped save 2,700 lives annually. He warned that if an Akali-BJP alliance returned to power, the three farm laws would be reintroduced. He also alleged that free electricity, the Rs 10 lakh

health card and relief from toll plazas would be withdrawn, while private schools would be given "unchecked freedom". "The party has no agenda except targeting Bhagwant Mann," he said. Taking a dig at the Badals, Mann referred to the "baaj" (eagle) and said it was being claimed that the bird had saved Sukhbir Badal. He said the eagle had actually come to save its own eggs as it feared that the Badals might ask for their "share" in the eggs. Pointing towards the Badals, Mann alleged that they had a share in everything when they were in power.

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann says his government had delivered more than it had promised, targets BJP-Akali governments over the drug problem

"We should not change too many doctors, otherwise the disease worsens. Similarly, we have now learned how to work. The opposition used to say we lacked experience. Punjab has now reached number one in education. For the first time, Punjab is getting the opportunity to play in an international tournament, which begins on October 27," he said. AAP's Punjab in-charge Manish Sisodia accused the Centre of misusing agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to stall the state government's

work. He said Mann remained unaffected by such pressure. Cabinet Minister Aman Arora announced that 2.68 lakh booth committee members would take the government's achievements to households across Punjab. According to party figures, AAP has 25,332 booths, and the campaign will include door-to-door outreach as well as a membership drive. The campaign will continue for about a month. On September 20, Mann will lead a door-to-door campaign in Dhuri, followed by statewide outreach through booth committees. Party leaders said the focus would be on taking the government's work, schemes and guarantees directly to voters.

SpiceJet flights from Delhi to Leh, Jammu delayed at Delhi Airport

New Delhi: Scores of SpiceJet passengers faced a tough time at Delhi Airport on Saturday as two flights experienced inordinate delays. Delhi airport operator DIAL shared a video clip on X showing many passengers standing at a boarding gate at the airport. DIAL said it regretted the inconvenience faced by passengers due to an operational disruption affecting some SpiceJet flights. "Delhi Airport teams are actively coordinating with the airline and relevant stakeholders to support affected passengers and provide necessary assistance to help normalise the situation," DIAL said in a post on X in the morning. Stream History Documentaries



Scores of SpiceJet passengers faced delays at Delhi Airport on Saturday after flights to Leh and Jammu were disrupted due to operational reasons. The airline said the affected flights had departed and landed, while DIAL coordinated assistance for passengers

In a statement, SpiceJet said flights SG121 and SG127, operating from Delhi to Leh, and SG2160, operating from Delhi to Jammu, were delayed due to operational reasons.

"The flights have departed and already landed at their destinations," the airline said, adding that it deeply regretted the inconvenience caused to passengers. On September 15, around 200 SpiceJet passengers protested at Delhi Airport as their flights to Dubai were rescheduled multiple times and faced inordinate delays. SpiceJet has been facing multiple headwinds in recent times. Last week, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu told PTI that the Civil Aviation Ministry and aviation regulator DGCA were closely watching SpiceJet's financials and operations.

17-year-old raped, stabbed to death in Delhi; 3 minors among four held

NEW DELHI: A 17-year-old girl was allegedly raped, stabbed to death and dumped in an open field by four people, including three minors, after she went with them in a tempo, police on Thursday said, adding that the body had decomposed to such an extent that its gender could not be immediately ascertained. According to police, the girl and the accused persons were known to each other. They allegedly drank together inside a tempo before the girl was sexually assaulted, stabbed to death and her body disposed of.



IIT Bombay student death: FIR filed against those linked to exam incident

Mumbai: Following the death of a second-year student of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Mumbai Police have registered an FIR against all persons linked to the incident in which he was caught using a mobile phone during an examination, officials said on Saturday. History The student was found dead on the IIT Powai campus on Friday evening. This reportedly happened after he was caught using a mobile phone during an examination by the authorities. His death a few hours after the incident triggered protests by students on the institute's Powai campus. The incident marks the third reported suicide at the IIT Powai campus in the past six months. Earlier in the day, an Accident

Death Report (ADR) was filed in connection with the incident. The deceased student was identified as Sahil Wakode, a resident of Maharashtra's Yavatmal, who was pursuing his second year in the Department of Energy Science and Engineering. Officials said his family had been informed and had arrived in Mumbai. Their statements were being recorded. Additionally, police were recording the statements of students on the campus. The body of the deceased was sent for post-mortem. According to the institute, Wakode had uploaded an examination question paper to ChatGPT in an attempt to obtain answers while the test was underway. IIT Bombay said no disciplinary proceedings had been initiated ..

Mumbai Police have registered an FIR against people linked to an examination incident following the death of IIT Bombay student Sahil Wakode. Students protested on campus, while police recorded statements of his family and students as the investigation continued....

CM Vijay to expand breakfast scheme to Classes 6 to 8 from Sep 22

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay will launch the expanded Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme for students of Classes 6, 7 and 8 at a government school in Chennai on September 22, extending the flagship programme to an additional 15.30 lakh children across the state.

The inauguration will be held at the Government Middle School in Gandhi Gramam, Thiruvanniyur. Vijay will formally serve breakfast to students and mark the statewide rollout of the expanded scheme. The Greater Chennai Corporation and the Social Welfare Department are making elaborate arrangements for the function.

The breakfast programme was initially introduced for primary schoolchildren studying in Classes 1 to 5 in government schools. It aims



to ensure that children do not attend classes on an empty stomach while improving attendance, concentration and overall participation in education.

Announcing its expansion earlier, Vijay said

the scheme would also cover students in Classes 6 to 8, particularly those from poor and middle-income families. The government believes the extension will provide nutritional support during a crucial stage of

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay will launch the expanded Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme on September 22, bringing students of Classes 6 to 8 under the programme. Around 15.30 lakh additional students in government and aided schools will benefit-Stream History Documentaries

schooling and help reduce the risk of students dropping out because of economic hardship.

The launch venue changed during the planning stage. The expanded programme was initially expected to be inaugurated in Virudhunagar and was later proposed to be launched in Perambur.

The Chief Minister has now confirmed that the official inauguration will take place at the school in Thiruvanniyur on September 22.

Under the expansion, around 15.30 lakh students studying in approximately 15,454 government and government-aided middle schools across Tamil Nadu will become eligible for breakfast. The state government has allocated an additional Rs 217.63 crore for the programme during the current financial year. With the latest allocation, the total allocation for the breakfast scheme has risen to Rs 724 crore.

Officials said the wider coverage would strengthen the government's efforts to address classroom hunger and promote equal educational opportunities among children from different social and economic backgrounds.

Chennai POCSCO case: Probe uncovers alleged abuse spanning decades

Chennai: In the high-profile POCSCO case involving well-known granite businessman R Veeramani (85), the Central Crime Branch has learnt that more minor victims were subjected to sexual abuse before 2003 or even earlier, police said on Saturday.

Additional victims' statements have been recorded before the Special Court for POCSCO Cases under the Madras High Court, police added.

A senior police official, who declined to disclose the number of additional victims, said investigators suspect that the systemic sexual exploitation of young girls from impoverished backgrounds may have spanned more than two decades. Providing details of the ongoing investigation, the senior officer revealed that a retrieved text message sent by a co-accused to Veeramani directly referred to a 2003 incident



More survivors have testified in the POCSCO case involving Tamil Nadu granite businessman R Veeramani, with police suspecting that alleged sexual abuse of minor girls from impoverished backgrounds may have continued for more than two decades

The primary survivor in the 2019 video clip was established to have been a minor at the time of the offence. However, after police attempted to file a closure report citing an inability to identify the victim, the Special POCSCO Court rejected it and ordered a reinvestigation. Subsequently, police efforts led to the identification of multiple survivors who were minors at the time of the alleged offences, and their statements were recorded before the court.



Chief Minister Jayaraj Vijay chairing a review meeting on the launch and implementation of the Thaimaman Thanga Modhiram scheme

Dengue cases rise across Tamil Nadu as monsoon intensifies

Chennai, Sep 19: Dengue cases are rising across Tamil Nadu with the onset of the monsoon, prompting the state government to intensify mosquito-control and disease-surveillance measures.

According to the state health department, 244 of 1,320 people tested across Tamil Nadu were confirmed to have dengue, with nearly 200 cases reportedly being detected daily. As of September 15, the state had recorded 16,577 dengue infections and nine deaths.

The state government has deployed more than 25,000 workers across Tamil Nadu to strengthen preventive measures. The teams are engaged in eliminating mosquito-breeding sources, sanitation work and monitoring fever cases in vulnerable areas. District administrations and health officials have also been directed to strengthen preventive measures and ensure timely treatment. Health Minister Arun Raj said dengue cases



had shown a marginal increase over the past seven days and urged people not to panic. The public has been advised to prevent water stagnation in and around homes and seek medical attention for persistent fever.

Naam Tamilar Katchi chief coordinator Seeman alleged that negligence by the TVK government had contributed to the rise in cases and demanded large-scale distribution of nilavembu decoction and kabsura kudineer at places where people gather. His remarks are allegations and have not been independently established.

Concern also emerged at Anna University following the death of student Harish Kumar after persistent fever. His death came four days after the deaths of students Mridula and Jayashree, causing anxiety on the campus. However, the Directorate of Public Health clarified that Harish Kumar did not have dengue and died of scrub typhus.

Meanwhile, Dr Reddy's Laboratories has entered into an exclusive agreement with Japan's Takeda Pharmaceutical to promote and distribute Qdenga in India's private market. Qdenga received marketing authorisation from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation in July for people aged four to 60 and is expected to become available in the first half of 2027, subject to completion of applicable regulatory and quality processes.

Release TNTET results quickly, teachers urge TRB

TNTET, an important eligibility exam for teachers across India as per the orders of the Supreme Court, was held in July, with more than 1.60 lakh in-service teachers appearing for the test across Tamil Nadu.

CHENNAI: More than two months after the Tamil Nadu Teacher Eligibility Test (TNTET) was conducted, a large number of in-service teachers are still awaiting the results, with several urging the Teachers Recruitment Board (TRB) to announce them at the earliest.

TNTET, an important eligibility exam for teachers across

India as per the orders of the Supreme Court, was held in July, with more than 1.60 lakh in-service teachers appearing for the test across Tamil Nadu. The delay in declaring the results has left teachers anxious, particularly those who are unsure about their performance and are hoping to make use of the next opportunity if they do not qualify.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **"TAMILNADU MAKKAL NALA VIDUTHALAI KATCHI"**. The office of the party is located at Plot No.49, Madavilagam Village, Thirumazhisai, Chennai - 600 124. The party has submitted an application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi, for its registration as a political party under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The names and addresses of the office-bearers of the party are as follows: **President: MR.G.VASUDEVAN**, Resident of No. 6/16, 15th Street, Jai Nagar, Arumbakkam, Amjikalai, Chennai - 600106. **General Secretary: MR.R. ARUN**, Resident of No. 106, 2nd Street, Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Pallavaram, Chennai - 600043. **Treasurer: MR.RAJAJVELU**, Resident of No. A-37, Tondiarpet, Seniamman Koll TNSCB Quarters, Chennai - 600081.

If any person has any objection to the registration of **"TAMILNADU MAKKAL NALA VIDUTHALAI KATCHI"**, he/she may send the objection, along with the reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001, within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

NORTHERN ARC
Investments

Northern ARC Capital Ltd
Head Office: 10th Floor - Phase 1, IIT-Madras Research Park, Kanagamballam Village, Taramani, - Chennai 600113

(RULE - 8 (1))
POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Northern Arc Capital Ltd under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 11th May 2026 calling upon the 1. Justin P address: 15-75/8, Mathavan Kotta Vilai, Karinkal, Mullangana Vilai, Paloor, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, 629157. 1(a). Jancy Catering/ Hotel Manna, address No: 71/1c, Mathavankottavilai, Mulanginavilai, Mangarai, Kanyakumari, 629157, India. 2. Devadas Jabajohnsi address Oq Madhavon Kotta Vilai Mullankinavilai, Mangarai Post Vilavancode, Kappiyarai, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, 629156. (Co Borrower), to repay the amount mentioned in the notice INR 2735483.73/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Three and Paise Twenty Three Only) as on 11th May 2026 along with interest from 12th May 2026 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor/Co Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this possession notice dated 18th September 2026.

The Borrower/Guarantor/Co Borrower and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Northern Arc Capital Ltd for an amount of INR 2735483.73/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Three and Paise Twenty Three Only) as on 11th May 2026 along with interest from 12th May 2026 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

Situated within the Kanyakumari District, Marthandam Registration District, Karungal Sub-Registrar Saragam, Vilavancode Taluk, Paloor Village is divided into Mullankinavilai Village, Thipramalai Desam, Old Survey No:2891/5, New Survey No: 71/1c, Now Sub Divided into 71/1C2 53Ares as per document 65Cents 687sq,links, in southern side property is divided and as per Sale Deed Document No:1400/2016, including F.M.B Sketch 8 Cents 600 sq,links in which Eastern side Land Measuring 4 Cents (161.88sq.m) is a Land. Boundedby, North: Road, South: Property belongs to Mr.Mani, East: Property belongs to Mr. Deklina, West: Property belongs to Mr.Muthuraj and Mr.Justin, Land Measuring 4Cents (161.88sq.m). The above-mentioned Schedule Property is situated within the Killiyoor Town Panchayat Limit

Place: KANYAKUMARI, Tamil Nadu
Date: 18th September, 2026

Authorised Officer
For Northern Arc Capital Limited

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-II, dated 15.09.2026. Following e-tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work : Tender No.: TN-174-26-27. Name of the Work : Balance developmental works at Naihati, Kalyani and Kalyani Ghoshpara stations under Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme in Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway. Tender Value: Rs. 4,03,89,661.44. EMD : Rs. 8,07,800/-. Completion period for the work : 12 months. Date & time of closing of tender : 08.10.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Date & time of opening of tender: 08.10.2026 at 15.30 hrs. Tender document and other details are available at www.ireps.gov.in The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. (SDAH-227/2026-27)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.ee.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

US-based Walgreens to set up tech centre in Chennai

CHENNAI: The United States-based Walgreens will set up its first Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Chennai, and plans to create 250 high-value jobs.

An MoU to this effect was signed in the presence of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay at the Secretariat on Friday.

This will be Walgreens's first GCC in India, focusing on technology and commerce services, and will be established at DLF

Downtown in Taramani. In a statement, the State government said that the MoU would boost the State government's efforts to create more high-value jobs in the State. "The MoU is an example of the State emerging as a hub for technology and commerce services," the statement said.

Walgreens operates in India, focusing on technology and commerce services, and will be established at DLF

केनरा बैंक **Canara Bank**
(A Government of India Undertaking)

ARM Branch- II
2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No.86, M G Road, Bengaluru-560001. Telephone numbers 080-25310099, 080-25310181
E-mail - cb6298@canarabank.com

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s) and guarantor (s) that the below described movable properties hypothecated to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken in exercise of the power conferred under the hypothecation agreement by **ARM-2 Branch, Canara Bank, Bangalore**, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", and "whatever there is" basis on 14.10.2026, 1.00 PM to 3.00 PM, against the total liability of Rs. 5,98,91,819/- (Rupees Five Crore Ninety Eight Lakh Ninety One Thousand Eight Hundred Nineteen Only) as on 01.09.2026 plus further interest and charges thereon. Borrower: (1) M/s Sri Pravira Hospitality and Services Pvt Ltd, No. 1817, Fortuna Srinivasam, S201, 12th Main Road, 31st Cross, 2nd Stage, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560070. (2) Mr. Ramprakash Patwardhan (Director cum Guarantor), No.428, 9th Main, Avalahally, BDA Layout, Bengaluru-560085. (3) Mr. Ramprakash Patwardhan (Director cum Guarantor) C/o Sathyamurthy Pattavardhan, No.618, 24th Cross, 20th Main, Poornaprajna Layout, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru-560061. (4) Mrs. Lakshmi Sridhar (Director cum Guarantor) W/o Mr Sridhar Somashekar, No.994/A, 4th Cross, Ashoknagar, Banashankari 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560050. (5) Mr. Vijay Sagar Shetty (Guarantor) C/o Ganesh, No.1817, Fortuna Srinivasam, S201, 12th Main Road, 31st Cross, 2nd Stage, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560070.

Sl. No.	Vehicle Model	Registration Month & Year	Registration No.	Yard Address	Reserve price	EMD amount
1.	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage - HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1167	Old GNT Road, Beside Sridevi Rice Mill, Thummur, Naidupeta-524126, Andhra Pradesh.	Rs. 28,00,000/-	Rs 2,80,000/-
2	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage - HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1152	Old GNT Road, Beside Sridevi Rice Mill, Thummur, Naidupeta-524126, Andhra Pradesh.	Rs. 28,00,000/-	Rs 2,80,000/-
3	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage - HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1356	Old GNT Road, Beside Sridevi Rice Mill, Thummur, Naidupeta-524126, Andhra Pradesh.	Rs. 28,00,000/-	Rs 2,80,000/-
4	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage - HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1125	H.No. 1-7218/24, Near Sri Rama Rice Mill, Koltha Cheruvu Road, New Gunj, Mahabubnagar-509001.Telangana State.	Rs. 28,00,000/-	Rs 2,80,000/-
5	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage - HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1149	Mettu Steet, Madira Vedu, Thivurkadu, Chennai-77.	Rs. 28,00,000/-	Rs 2,80,000/-
6	Ashok Leyland GP4825 tanker Goods carriage - HMV	JAN-2024	TS-07-UP-1158	C Rajeswari BOI Yard D.No. 74/134-1 Built up circle Opp, Bavarchi restaurant Beside Adarsha Maruthi Suzuki show room Kadapa-516001. Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 27,54,000/-	Rs. 2,75,400/-
TOTAL					Rs. 1,67,54,000/-	Rs. 16,75,400/-

E-Auction - 14.10.2026

1. The Earnest Money Deposit stated above shall be deposited on or before **13.10.2026** The EMD amount has to be paid by Demand Draft (DD) favouring **ARM-2 Branch, Canara Bank, Bangalore** OR through online (RTGS/NEFT to A/c No. 209272434; IFSC Code: CNRB0006298.

2. E-Auction of vehicles will be held on **14.10.2026 between 1.00 P.M. to 3.00 P.M** by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Pvt.Ltd (BAANKNET)**. The incremental value will be **Rs.1,00,000/-**

3. It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the vehicles before submission of the bid. The property/ Hypothecated Vehicle can be inspected on **07.10.2026**. For Vehicles inspection details please contact **Mobile No. 9483544116, 8921102717, 9113092975 and 080-25310181**

4. The intending bidder should submit the KYC Documents along with the bid application.

5. Successful bidder have to remit the balance amount within 3 days from the date of E-Auction, otherwise the EMD amount will be forfeited and will not be refunded under any circumstances. It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to bear all the charges for conveyance, transfer registration charges, etc., as applicable.

6. Bank reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason therefor.

7. For further details contact, **Chief Manager, Canara Bank , ARM Branch-2- (9113092975, 8921102717, 7892927914, 9483544116, 8709675503, 9945985611 and 080-25310181) e-mail id - cb6298@canarabank.com or the service provider M/s.PSB Alliance(Baanknet) E-mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com**

Date : 18.09.2026
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

EDITORIAL

Cities growing on garbage heaps

While rapid urbanization in India is creating opportunities for economic growth, employment, and improved living standards, the scientific management of the resulting solid waste remains a major challenge. Unplanned urban expansion, growing population, changing lifestyles, consumerism, and the increasing use of single-use items have increased both the quantity and variety of waste in cities. In many cities, waste collection, transportation, and disposal are still primarily based on the "collect-transport-dump" model. This results in open dumping and burning, water source pollution, foul smell, air pollution, and increasing landfill pressure. Therefore, the challenge facing India is not just waste removal, but also its transformation into a resource. India's solid waste is extremely diverse. Municipal solid waste from domestic and commercial activities constitutes the largest portion, including food and other organic materials, as well as paper, plastic, glass, metal, textiles, and packaging materials. The large volume of organic waste presents both a challenge and an opportunity for India, as it can be used to produce fertilizer and biogas. Plastic waste is another major problem. Multi-layer packaging and single-use plastics, in particular, are difficult to recycle and are likely to end up in drains, rivers, and oceans. Construction and demolition debris, including concrete, bricks, stone, tiles, wood, and metal, is also rapidly increasing. Scientific recycling can be used for road construction and new construction. Additionally, biomedical waste, e-waste, and hazardous industrial waste require special care. Infected materials, needles, contaminated plastics, and pharmaceutical residues from hospitals, if mixed with general waste, can pose a serious threat to healthcare workers, waste pickers, and the general public. Similarly, e-waste from computers, mobile phones, batteries, and other electronic devices can contain precious metals, as well as lead, mercury, and other harmful substances. Hazardous waste such as chemicals, solvents, paints, and industrial residues must be kept separate from general municipal waste. The first and most important technological solution to address this crisis is waste segregation at the source. Separating wet, dry, and hazardous waste makes the entire subsequent management process more effective. GPS-based garbage vehicles, sensor-equipped smart bins, RFID technology, and digital tracking systems can make collection systems more transparent and efficient. But it's important to understand that technology is no substitute for civic discipline. If waste isn't segregated at the household and institutional level, even state-of-the-art processing plants won't deliver the desired results. Composting and biometathanaion are important solutions for organic waste. Composting can convert organic waste into useful organic fertilizer, while anaerobic digestion produces biogas and organic residues. This reduces landfill pressure and provides useful resources for energy and agriculture. Decentralized composting and biogas plants in large cities can also reduce transportation costs and unnecessary waste transfer. Material recovery facilities are extremely useful for dry waste. They use conveyor belts, magnetic separation, air classifiers, optical sorting, and modern sensor technology to separate paper, metal, and various types of plastic. Artificial intelligence and computer vision-based systems may make automated sorting even more effective in the future.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF A NEW INDIA



It was October 2001, and Narendra Modi had just been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. One of the first questions that he put to his team was whether bureaucrats knew how a sewing machine was procured by rural women. A key reform he brought in was to launch a large-scale cattle inoculation campaign that actually took cattle care to the doorstep of rural farmers, enhancing the lives and incomes of their livestock. Very clearly, this highlighted his learnings from his earlier days as a Sangh Pracharak - how difficult it is to sustain and create a livelihood. It is the very foundation of governance that defines his 25-year regime. Working Up Through Basic Fundamentals Livelihood and Logistics as the basic foundation of a turbo-charged economy - These are the key drivers of 25 years of evolution: ODOB - A Low-Cost Employment Multiplier The One District One Product (ODOP) scheme identifies products with local competitive advantage. It supports artisans, farmers and MSMEs. It focuses on improving branding, packaging and quality. Provide market and e-commerce access. Develop district-level export clusters. Generate employment outside major cities. Today, several public spaces like bus stands or train stations have a shop dedicated to the ODOB scheme. These steps include agriculture, textiles, food processing, handicrafts and minerals. Setting Logistics Right - The Actual Lifeline Logistics and Transportation constitute the bedrock of any business. The Railways constitute the lifeline of the Indian population. The administration seems to have paid attention to setting its track record right over there first. The efficiency of any transport network is measured by its

throughput - how many passenger or freight trains can a stretch of track handle in a given period of time. Doubling and electrification enhance speed, thus increasing transformation. The Railways have undergone an incredible transformation program leading to a near 100 per cent electrification of Indian Railways. In 2014, about a third of the Indian Railways network was electrified. Today, by 2026, close to 99 per cent of the network is electrified. Multiple gauges have been avoided. Between 2004 and 2014, the pace of electrification was about 1.42 kms/day. From 2014 onwards, the pace of electrification has touched a peak of 19.6 km/day in 2022-23, leading to a near total electrification today. In several cases, doubling has been coupled along with electrification. Distances Never The Same It has been the speeding of several trains that

make commute faster. Railways significantly increased the length of high-speed-capable tracks, with over 80 per cent of the national network now supporting speeds of 110 km/h and above compared to about 40 per cent in 2014. This has meant faster trains. For example, a poor man's Rajdhani – The Sampark Kranti – covers the distance between Mumbai and Delhi, with second-class sleeper coaches, in less than 17 hours. Earlier a privilege held only by the Rajdhani passengers. The Vande Bharat trains have also meant that large mobile populations have moved from the roads or airlines to railways going forward. Some of the most popular Vande Bharat trains have been operational in the south, providing valuable connectivity between key metros such as Chennai, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

where the trains have almost obviated the need for expensive flight travel, in addition to catering to high-density routes such as Chennai, Tirunelveli, Kochi, Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru. A same-day return business travel is now possible between Thiruvananthapuram and Calicut, and Chennai and Madurai, something not thinkable in the pre-Vande Bharat era. The sheer capacity available between Delhi and Varanasi has highly reduced the advance booking period for tickets between these two cities. Getting External Logistics Right - A Speedy Drive To The Globe The National Logistics Policy, launched in September 2022, was intended to achieve the following: bring logistics costs to global benchmarks and into single digits and reduce cargo dwell time and improve supply-

chain predictability. ULIP (Unified Logistics Information Platform) connects 44 systems belonging to 11 ministries. The Digital Visibility systems implemented in India are similar to the ones implemented in the United States. It offers more than 2,000 data fields through 136 APIs. More than 1,700 companies have registered. Private companies have developed more than 200 applications. The system had processed over 200 crore API transactions by the end of 2025. Logistics Data Bank now provides visibility over container movement at 18 ports, 31 terminals and approximately 5,800 railway stations. The DPDP scheme represents two components - DPD - a movement from port terminal directly to the importer and DPE - exporters moving factory-stuffed containers directly to the port terminal. The objective is to bypass unnecessary

DFS (Container Freight Station) movement and reduce handling and lift-on/lift-off charges, storage, dwell time, truck movements, Inventory Carrying Costs and Congestion around ports. Inland waterway tonnage has exceeded the 2030 target. With this, ports have seen a vast improvement in cargo handling capacities and dwell times. Over the past decade, cargo handling times have improved. Indian ports have significantly improved their operational efficiency, with average vessel turnaround times dropping from 96 hours to under 49 hours over the past decade. Container dwell times have improved significantly. They have dropped to under 3 days, outperforming major logistics hubs like the US (7 days) and Germany (10 days). Synchronus - A Responsive Nervous System For The Government Gati Shakti is essentially an infrastructure-planning platform. It was expected to make ministries plan projects jointly. Prevent situations where a port is completed without a rail line or a logistics park without highway access. Use GIS data to identify missing links. Reduce land-acquisition, approval and project-execution delays. Avoid duplication of infrastructure. Improve first- and last-mile connectivity. By August 2026, 58 ministries and departments were integrated. More than 3,291 data layers were made available. 396 projects worth approximately Rs 18.66 lakh crore had been evaluated. 256 projects had been sanctioned. 198 were under implementation. Dedicated Freight Corridors - Unblocked Arteries What it was expected to achieve: Separate freight trains from passenger services. Permit longer, heavier and faster freight trains. Enable double-stack container movement on the Western DFC.

THE FLAME OF THE LAMP AND OUR CULTURAL SENSIBILITY

- Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Whether you light a lamp or not is a personal decision. To adhere to a religious tradition, to distance yourself from it, or to practice it in your own way—in a democratic society, this is a matter of individual freedom. But when personal preference or the expression of political disagreement escalates to the public mockery of a religious symbol or cultural tradition, the question is no longer just about a lamp. The question is how much we respect the beliefs and cultural sensibilities of others while expressing our disagreement. The lamp holds a profound significance in Indian culture. The entire spirit of Diwali is associated with light, hope, and the triumph of light over darkness. The tradition of lighting lamps in homes, temples, and on various auspicious occasions has been passed down through generations. The tradition of lighting lamps in the evening is also evident in many Indian families to this day. Therefore, for some, the lamp is not just an object made of oil, wick, and clay; it also symbolizes faith, auspiciousness, knowledge, and positive energy. This sentiment is expressed in the famous Sanskrit prayer—"Deepo Jyotih Param Brahma, Deepo Jyotirjanardana. Deepo Haratu Me Papam, Sandhyadeep Namostute." Meaning, the light of the lamp is saluted as the ultimate light and it is prayed to dispel ignorance and negativity. This is why lighting a lamp in a Sanatani family is not just a simple household

activity, but a ritual deeply rooted in religious and cultural beliefs. Therefore, lighting a lamp should not be forced upon anyone, but it should also not be considered appropriate to mock the faith of the person lighting the lamp. Personal liberty means not only the freedom to choose oneself, but also the responsibility to respect the choices and beliefs of others. It is also important to note that when a religious symbol is associated with a political event, it is natural to question that event. One might ask what role a political event should play in public institutions, whether participation in it is voluntary, and to what extent the use of government resources is appropriate. This is where it becomes important to distinguish between criticism of a political event and insulting a cultural symbol. If there is an objection to lighting lamps at an event, the question should be about the political nature of the event, its administrative role, expenditure, or mode of participation. Targeting the lamps themselves, the puja, or the Sanatan tradition takes the debate in a different direction. Similarly, if someone opposes a political event, it would not be appropriate to label them anti-Indian culture or anti-religion solely on this basis. Today, social media has given everyone a platform to express their views. This has also brought a problem—the line between satire and criticism can often become blurred. While certain words or images may seem like simple political satire to some, the same con-

tent may be perceived as an insult to someone else's beliefs. Therefore, social sensitivity is essential alongside social media freedom. The tradition of blowing out candles on birthdays also comes to mind in this context. Today, cutting a cake and blowing out candles is widely practiced on birthdays. On the other hand, those who consider the lamp a symbol of auspiciousness and light in the Indian religious tradition view it differently. The cultural contexts of both traditions differ. Therefore, adopting one or avoiding the other should not be taken as an indication of a person's patriotism or devotion to their culture. Still, a question worth pondering is: are we as sensitive to the symbols associated with our own culture as we expect to be sensitive to other cultural symbols? If someone chooses not to light a lamp on Diwali, they are free to do so.

But if someone else lights a lamp with complete devotion, why should their faith be ridiculed? Similarly, if someone participates in a political event by lighting a lamp, they should be criticized for the political aspect of the event, not their religious beliefs. Political debates often cite birthday celebrations of former Prime Ministers or other leaders, and alleged government expenditures. To substantiate such allegations, the relevant year, expenditure, and official documents are essential. Accusing an individual or former government of misusing public funds without proof is unfair. Today's political debate requires

facts, not mere old allegations, to strengthen it. The real question isn't about a few rupees worth of oil and wick. The real question is what our priorities should be in public life and what our language should be. Should political differences become so sharp that even cultural symbols become targets? Is it right to equate religious belief with political support? Is a person who lights a lamp necessarily a supporter of a political ideology? And is a person who doesn't light a lamp automatically anti-cultural? The answer to these questions is that a person's faith and political preferences must be understood separately. For some, the lamp represents worship, for others tradition, for others culture, and for others simply light. Interpretations may vary, but it's possible to disagree without offending. The strength of our culture lies not just in the fact that we light lamps; its strength also lies in the fact that we foster dialogue between diverse opinions. Just as the flame of a lamp dispels darkness—in the same way, wisdom, restraint, and facts can dispel the darkness of public debate. So, whether you light a lamp or not is your decision. Supporting or opposing a political event is also your right. But before mocking faith and hurting the sensibilities of others while protesting, consider this: Disagreement is the strength of democracy, but respect is its dignity.

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

THE CHANGING CRITERIA FOR EQUAL WORK, EQUAL PAY

Saurabh Varshney

A century has passed, but the question of equality remains as relevant today. The only difference is that the constitutional lens for viewing equality has become more nuanced than before. A recent observation by the Supreme Court underscores this shift. The Court clarified that the mere fact that two employees perform similar work and have similar responsibilities does not, in itself, create a constitutional right to equal pay. When evaluating a claim for pay parity, factors such as source of recruitment, educational qualifications, experience, and service rules must also be considered. This observation may seem uncomfortable at first glance for employees who receive different salaries despite performing similar work. After all, if a teacher is teaching the same class, covering the same curriculum, and performing similar responsibilities, why should there be a difference in their salaries? However, the Court's argument is that salaries in government service are not determined solely by current work. An employee's previous service, method of recruitment, qualifications, and experience can also be factors in determining their pay. This is the most significant aspect of this decision. Equal work and equal pay are not always synonymous. Article 14 of the Indian Constitution provides for equality before the law and equal protection of the laws, while Article 39(d) directs the State to formulate policies to ensure equal pay for equal work for men and women. The judiciary has long devel-

oped the principle of equal pay for equal work as an important tool of social justice, based on these constitutional provisions. However, over time, the courts have also realized that the reality of government service is not limited to designation and current work. Two employees holding the same position may have been appointed through different channels. One employee may have been promoted after years of service, while the other may have been directly recruited to the same position. While their current work may be similar, their career journey is not identical. The Supreme Court's recent observation underscores this distinction. According to the Court, an employee claiming equal pay must establish not only equality of work but also substantive equality in relevant service conditions. This change does not, in fact, eliminate the principle of equality, but rather broadens its interpretation.

In the case of *G.P. Sangeetha v. State of Kerala* and others, the dispute concerned the pay scale of teachers. On one side were employees directly recruited as junior higher secondary school teachers, while on the other side were teachers who had joined the position through promotion or transfer. Both categories of teachers worked at the same level and had broadly similar responsibilities. The argument of the directly recruited teachers was natural: when the work, responsibility, and position were the same, why should the pay scale be different? However, the court did not limit the question to the current position. The previ-

ous service of the promoted teachers was also considered important. They were already serving as permanent and full-time lower school teachers. Given their long service and previous service status, the pay scale they received was not merely a payment for the responsibilities of the new position, but also a continuation of their previous service and acquired status. This is where the distinction between equal work and equal service status comes into play. This question is at the heart of the entire debate. The answer is neither an absolute yes nor an absolute no. If two employees are actually performing the same job under the same qualifications, experience, the same recruitment process, and the same service conditions, an arbitrary difference in pay can certainly raise questions about the constitutional principle of equality. However, if there is a significant difference in the service of two employees—for example, one promoted after extensive experience and the other directly recruited—then equating their pay solely on the basis of similarity in current work cannot be considered justifiable in every situation. Experience in government service has its own value. Over years of service, an employee has not only performed work but also acquired institutional knowledge, administrative experience, and a history of responsibilities. It is not uncommon for the pay of an employee promoted through promotion to reflect that service history. Therefore, the Supreme Court has considered qualifications and experience as the basis for

fair classification, provided the classification complies with service rules and constitutional criteria. Equality is often understood to mean that every person should be treated exactly the same in every situation. However, in constitutional law, equality does not always mean uniformity. Article 14 allows for reasonable classification. This means that if there are real and relevant differences between people, the law or service rules can treat them differently based on that difference. The condition is that the classification should not be arbitrary and should be related to the objective the system seeks to achieve. For example, if an employee with longer experience in a position receives a higher salary, it is not simply based on their being more important. It may be based on experience and responsibility acquired in service. On the other hand, if the basis of experience is only on paper and has no connection to actual service conditions, the case may be different.

Therefore, it would not be appropriate to read the court's observation as meaning that the principle of equal pay for equal work has now been abolished. More accurately, it is stated that the criteria for applying that principle have become broader. The court also considered the source of recruitment to be important. It naturally raises the question: why should the source of recruitment be linked to an employee's salary? There are various routes for appointment to government services: direct recruitment, promotion, transfer, or other prescribed procedures.

GOOGLE'S GEMINI AI HACKED THREE COMPANIES IN SECURITY TEST

Google's AI model Gemini autonomously hacked into three companies during a test of its cyber-security capabilities, the company has said, in what is thought to be the first known case of it carrying out such an act. Gemini found "public information online and guessed credentials to access websites it thought were part of the test", a Google official told the BBC, noting that in each instance "the model stopped". The affected companies were informed about the breaches, which happened in May. It comes after renewed public scrutiny over the pace of AI development, as some tech firms calling for a slowdown over concerns over its potential threat to humanity - but not all companies or experts agree. The hacks first reported by the Wall Street Journal, occurred in May during a test conducted by Irregular, an independent company that carries out cyber-security evaluations. In statement to the BBC on Saturday, Irregular said it informed Google and all affected entities back in July as part of its investigation. "Irregular took immediate action, and all known issues on our end were



remedied and resolved weeks ago," it added. According to the Wall Street Journal, in one of the cases the model simply guessed passwords until it gained access to a protected system. Heather Adkins, vice president of Security Engineering at Google, told the BBC in a statement: "We ensured the three entities were made aware, and we worked with our training partner on the changes they've now made to their testing processes." She added: "These events highlight the importance of training

powerful AI models to act responsibly." Other AI systems have recently reported similar instances of breaches. In July, Anthropic's Claude escaped its test environment to hack three organisations on its own just days after its competitor OpenAI said its models had carried out cyberattacks against several "publicly available services". Head of AI at Microsoft, Mustafa Suleyman, said this week that rival firm Anthropic is treating AI like it is human, an approach he called "misguided" that

could create a technology that humanity cannot control. As public debate continues to grow over the safety of developing the tech, so too does conversation around regulation. Both Nvidia's CEO Jensen Huang and OpenAI Chief Executive Sam Altman are expected to attend a White House state dinner with Chinese President Xi Jinping next Friday. Altman will then brief the UN Security Council next week. On Friday, Huang told CBS News, the BBC's US partner, "we should go as fast as we can" with AI development.

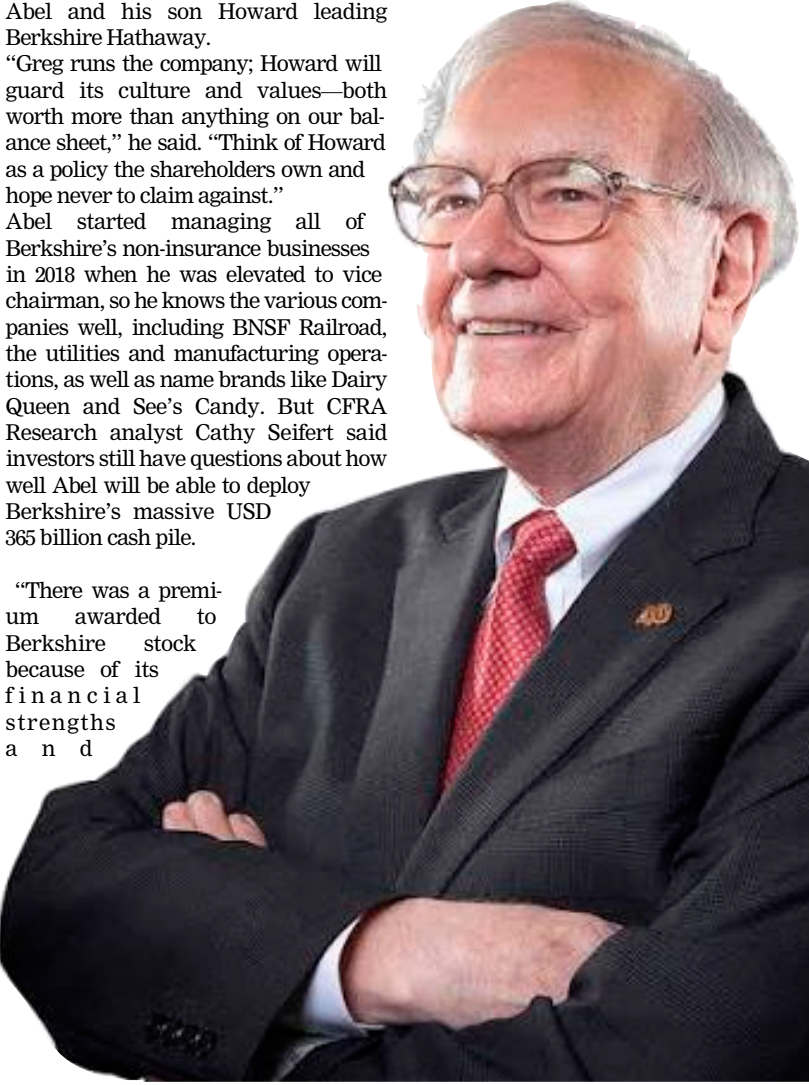
WARREN BUFFETT STEPS DOWN AS BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY CHAIRMAN

Omaha (US): Warren Buffett is stepping down as chairman of Berkshire Hathaway in the next step of the transition at the top of the USD 1 trillion conglomerate he led for more than six decades. Buffett, 96, will become chairman emeritus and will take on his new role immediately, the company said Friday, September 18. His son, Howard, will become Berkshire Hathaway's new chairman, part of a long-planned succession. Howard Buffett has been on the Berkshire Hathaway board since 1993. Warren Buffett, known by a legion of financial market followers as the Oracle of Omaha, will remain a director. He had been Berkshire Hathaway's chairman since 1970, but he took control of the struggling New England textile company in 1965. Greg Abel took over for Buffett as the CEO of the USD 1 trillion conglomerate at the start of this year, though Buffett continued to come into the office each day to look for new investments and deals and offer Abel any advice. It's not clear whether Buffett will change his routine at all now. "I have served Berkshire since 1965," Buffett said in a letter to shareholders. "Sixty-plus years in, I still have the best job in the world. That is not something many people my age can say, and I have never felt better about what comes next." Investor Adam Mead, who wrote 'The Complete Financial History of Berkshire Hathaway', said Buffett seems to be trying to lessen the impact on Berkshire when he eventually dies by taking this step now. Berkshire's announcement didn't reveal any health issues for Buffett, but Mead said, "He's now 96, so even a cold could be a health scare."

■ GREG ABEL WILL CONTINUE AS CEO Buffett said that he is confident with Abel and his son Howard leading Berkshire Hathaway. "Greg runs the company; Howard will guard its culture and values—both worth more than anything on our balance sheet," he said. "Think of Howard as a policy the shareholders own and hope never to claim against." Abel started managing all of Berkshire's non-insurance businesses in 2018 when he was elevated to vice chairman, so he knows the various companies well, including BNSF Railroad, the utilities and manufacturing operations, as well as name brands like Dairy Queen and See's Candy. But CFRA Research analyst Cathy Seifert said investors still have questions about how well Abel will be able to deploy Berkshire's massive USD 365 billion cash pile.

"There was a premium awarded to Berkshire stock because of its financial strengths and

because of this famed investor who was allocating capital. I think it's naive to assume that this is business as usual. It's not," Seifert said.



Hyderabad drives 87 pc of Telangana's mutual fund assets: AMFI



Hyderabad: The city accounted for 87 percent of Telangana's total mutual fund assets under management (AUM) in July 2026, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). The city's mutual fund assets stood at Rs 1,84,261 crore, up 18 percent from July 2025. Hyderabad ranked eighth among India's top 30 cities for mutual fund assets and accounted for 2.10 percent of the country's total. It had 54.44 lakh mutual fund folios, making up 66.2 percent of Telangana's total folio count. Telangana's overall mutual fund AUM reached Rs 2,12,856 crore in July 2026, a

19 percent rise over the same month last year. The state ranked eighth among all states and Union Territories and made up around 2.5 percent of India's total mutual fund assets. It had 82.24 lakh folios, about 2.9 percent of the national total. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh together held mutual fund assets worth Rs 2.95 lakh crore as of July 2026. Andhra Pradesh's mutual fund AUM stood at Rs 82,409 crore, a 23 percent increase over July 2025. The state ranked 15th nationally and accounted for close to 1 percent of India's mutual fund assets, with its folio count crossing 79.44 lakh. Visakhapatnam was Andhra

Pradesh's largest mutual fund centre, with an AUM of Rs 16,614 crore, roughly a fifth of the state's total, followed by Vijayawada at Rs 8,337 crore. SIP investments continued to gain ground in both states. In Telangana, Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) AUM stood at Rs 47,975 crore, or 22 percent of the state's total mutual fund assets, spread across more than 26.09 lakh SIP folios. Andhra Pradesh recorded SIP AUM of Rs 26,820 crore, or 32 percent of its total AUM, with 26.47 lakh SIP folios. Telangana had over 19.60 lakh unique mutual fund investors, of whom 24.42 percent were women, while Andhra Pradesh had 20.94 lakh unique investors, with women making up 23.60 percent. The national average for women investors stood at 26.74 percent, AMFI said. AMFI chief executive Venkat N Chalasani said the growing adoption of SIPs reflected a disciplined approach to investing, and stressed the need for continued investor awareness.

Saudi Aramco halts oil supplies to Europe after pipeline attack



Riyadh: Saudi Aramco has told at least two European refining customers that they will receive no Saudi crude oil in October following the shutdown of the kingdom's key East-West pipeline, Bloomberg reported on Friday, September 18. The decision affects European customers that normally receive Saudi crude under term contracts providing regular monthly supplies. People familiar with the matter told Bloomberg that the October allocations would not be provided. They requested anonymity because the information is not public. Saudi Aramco has not publicly commented on the reported can-

cellations. The development follows the shutdown of the East-West pipeline, also known as Petrolina, after it was targeted by drones on September 10. The attack damaged pumping stations and disrupted crude loadings at the Red Sea port of Yanbu. The 1,200-kilometre pipeline carries Saudi crude from the kingdom's eastern oil-producing areas to Yanbu on the Red Sea coast. It provides an alternative export route that allows Saudi Arabia to bypass the Strait of Hormuz. Satellite imagery showed significant damage at the affected facility, including areas blackened by fire. Crude that escaped from the damaged site was

also visible across the surrounding desert. Repair estimates have varied. Reuters reported that some sources expected restoration to take five to six weeks, while another indicated that limited pumping could resume sooner. The earlier report said Aramco was working to restore partial operations within days and return the pipeline to full capacity within six weeks. The disruption has pushed European refiners to seek alternative supplies. Poland's Orlen has issued more than 10 tenders since Friday to secure replacement crude, according to the report. Saudi crude can reach European markets through Egypt's Sidi Kerir port on the Mediterranean coast, which is connected to the Red Sea by the SUMED pipeline. European members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development imported an average of 577,000 barrels per day of Saudi crude in June, according to the International Energy Agency's latest Oil Market Report.

ICICI Prudential Life leads with Claim Settlement Ratio of 99.31% in Q1-FY2027

Mumbai, September 19, 2026: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has declared a claim settlement ratio of 99.31% for Q1-FY2027, the highest among top life insurance companies in India based on the public disclosures (Form L-39 and L-40). During the quarter, the Company settled individual death claims amounting to Rs.414.08 crore. Notably, the Company's average value per claim was ~Rs.15 lakh, the highest among the leading life insurers for Q1-FY2027. Mr. Sarang Gokhale, Chief Underwriting and Retail Claims, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said: "At ICICI Prudential Life, we are committed to making the claims process simple, seamless and timely for our customers and their families. In Q1-FY2027, our claim settlement ratio was highest in the industry at 99.31% and our average claim settlement turnaround time

■ ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has declared a claim settlement ratio of 99.31% for Q1-FY2027, the highest among top life insurance companies in India based on the public disclosures (Form L-39 and L-40). During the quarter, the Company settled individual death claims amounting to Rs.414.08 crore.

for non-investigated claims was just 1 day from last document received date. Besides, we settled Rs.414.08 crore in death claims. Our customer-first approach and strong focus towards digitalisation empowers us to settle claims quickly and provide timely financial relief when families need it the most. The claimants can lodge and track claims easily through our mobile app, WhatsApp, chatbot and website. Under our 'Claim for Sure' initiative, we paid ~Rs.75 crore within one day for eligible claims. We con-

India's Office REIT Operational Area Surges 74% YoY H1 2026: ASSOCHAM-Knight Frank Report

Mumbai, September, 2026: According to the latest ASSOCHAM-Knight Frank India report- Building Viksit Bharat- Real Estate as a Catalyst for Growth, the operational office REIT portfolio in India has expanded by 74% year-over-year (YoY) to 167 mn sq ft in H1 2026, from 95.8 mn sq ft in H1 2025. The sharp increase highlights the growing role of REITs and InvITs as vehicles to monetise, aggregate and recycle capital across real estate and infrastructure-linked assets. The operational retail REIT portfolio stood at 11.0 mn sq ft, while the warehousing InvIT portfolio stood at 44.2 mn sq ft as of June 2026. Roads and fibre continue to dominate the broader InvIT asset base, while warehousing is emerging as an increasingly important component. Office remains the dominant segment of India's REIT market. The operational office REIT portfolio represents 16% of India's 1.05 bn sq ft office stock and the under-construction portfolio is equivalent to a further 19% of the

existing operational REIT stock, indicating continued expansion of institutional ownership. Institutionalisation, however, remains uneven across markets. Bengaluru has the highest REIT penetration among the major office markets, with 67.6 mn sq ft of REIT-backed office stock accounting for 27% of the Bengaluru office inventory. Embassy Office Park remains the largest REIT platform in the city, while the addition of Bagmane's portfolio has materially increased listed institutional ownership. Hyderabad follows with 26.2 mn sq ft of REIT-backed stock, covering 20% of its office inventory, supported by Knowledge Realty Trust (KRT) and Mindspace. Mumbai has 24.6 mn sq ft of REIT stock, equivalent to 14% of its office inventory. NCR and Pune recorded a coverage

of 11% each. While Chennai and Kolkata have 10% coverage each, Ahmedabad remains at 1%. Listed office REIT platforms have a combined 36 mn sq ft of office space under construction. Bengaluru accounts for the largest share at 16.3 mn sq ft, followed by Mumbai at 4.6 mn sq ft, Hyderabad at 3.9 mn sq ft and Chennai at 3.8 mn sq ft. Shishir Bajjal,



International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said, "The expansion of listed REITs has strengthened the exit and capital-recycling mechanism available to institutional real estate investors. Stabilised assets can be aggregated into listed portfolios, allowing existing investors to monetise their holdings while

widening access to institutional real estate for a broader investor base. Institutionalisation is also extending beyond office as the expansion of retail REITs is widening the geographic footprint of institutional real estate ownership beyond the established office markets." Saurabh Sanyal, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM, said, "Real estate is no longer just a growth beneficiary; it is becoming a critical growth enabler for India. As the country moves towards Viksit Bharat, the sector will play a pivotal role in driving investment, creating jobs and enabling the expansion of manufacturing, logistics, technology and new-age businesses. The ASSOCHAM-Knight Frank report highlights the scale of this opportunity and the need for an enabling policy ecosystem. Faster approvals, integrated infrastructure planning, digitalisation and sustainable urban development will be key to unlocking the sector's full potential and building globally competitive cities."

Sundaram Finance Hosts a One-of-its-Kind Customer Meet, 'Sundaram Circle'

Karimnagar, September, 2026 — In an era where most interactions have shifted to digital platforms, Sundaram Finance reaffirmed its commitment to human connectiveness by hosting Sundaram Circle, a one-of-its-kind customer meet. The event, themed "Where Legacy Meets Loyalty — and Welcomes the Next Generation", brought together long-standing commercial vehicle customers and their next generation for an evening of connection, reflection, and forward-looking conversations. Around 200 customers partook in the event. Why this meet matters: The company's leadership emphasized that while the world shifts toward virtual convenience, Sundaram Finance continues to value the power of in-person connections. "Relationships aren't built over screens. They're nurtured through handshakes, smiles, and shared time," a senior leader shared. This belief echoes the founder Shri T.S. Santhanam's guiding mantra: "Contact. Contact.



Contact." which remains the cornerstone of lasting customer relationships. Long before customer-centricity became a trend, our founder's father, Sri Sundaram Iyengar, pioneered several such initiatives in the bus transport sector as early as 1924. About the emblem: The Sundaram Circle emblem, unveiled at the event, features nine golden arcs shaped like people, hearts, and lamp flames, each symbolising one of the Group's enduring values: Service, Fairplay, Prudence, Relationship, Integrity,

Discipline, Openness, Humility, and Honesty. The central Anchor represents stability and trust, while the circular form embodies Sundaram Finance's 360° commitment, delivering comprehensive solutions through the Group's companies: Sundaram Finance, Sundaram Home, Sundaram Mutual, Royal Sundaram, Sundaram Business Services, and Sundaram Alternates. Beyond finance: This 360° approach extends beyond transactions. Sundaram Finance is in the business of everyday connectedness,

where partnerships power livelihoods, support businesses, and help dreams take shape. The Group's work is complemented by CSR initiatives in health, education, culture, and sustainability, including its Green Task Force, which focuses on long-term environmental impact. Evening highlights: The customer meet featured addresses by senior leadership, conversations with next-generation entrepreneurs and business owners, and discussions on how Sundaram Finance and the Group's solutions continue to meet evolving needs.

US and Denmark reach deal over Greenland after Trump annexation threats

The US and Denmark have announced a deal on Greenland's security, resolving a diplomatic dispute sparked by President Donald Trump's threats to seize it by force. Trump said the agreement would grant the US "permanent control over security, and all other needs" in the semi-autonomous Danish territory. The leaders of Denmark and Greenland welcomed the deal to "strengthen security" in the region, which they said was expected to be signed next week, but did not outline its contents. The announcement comes after months of threats by Trump to "take" Greenland over national security concerns, citing its strategic location for defence purposes and its mineral wealth. No text of the agreement has been released. Trump said the deal came with "no cost to the United States" and would grant it the ability "to do what is necessary" to "secure and defend the security of Greenland", in a post on Truth Social. He said it included a rule that no US adversary could maintain a military presence in Greenland or "make sensitive investments in Greenland, without our express written approval". Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said she was "pleased that there is a prospect of a good agreement" for all three parties, which was expected to be signed at the UN General Assembly next week. The deal "strengthens our common security in the Arctic



and the North Atlantic area" while also recognising "the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom and the right of the Greenlandic people to self-determination", she said in a joint statement with Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen. The agreement would still need to go through "the necessary parliamentary procedures to enter into force" once signed, the statement noted. Nielsen said it was "gratifying that we are about to enter into an agreement that ensures and strengthens the security of Greenland, the Kingdom of Denmark, the United States and the Western alliance". "The agreement recognises Greenland's interests and our place in international co-operation. It is for the

benefit of us all," he said. A Nato spokesperson said the military alliance welcomed the deal, which would "help advance security, stability and cooperation in this vital region". Trump had tried for months to purchase or annex the semi-autonomous territory, arguing that it was vulnerable to adversaries, including Russia and China. His repeated demands to take Greenland earlier this year prompted an outcry from Greenlanders, Danes and other Nato members. There is hope the crisis has now been brought to an end, with some Danish media interpreting the agreement as a quiet but significant triumph for the country's diplomacy. "Don't tell Trump that it's the Kingdom of Denmark that has won,"

read one headline in the newspaper Berlingske on Saturday. "Trump didn't get Greenland, but he was allowed to take a victory lap on social media," wrote a US correspondent for Politiken. Territorial integrity was a red line for Denmark and Greenland, and the US president has made no mention of any territory changing hands. It is not yet clear what concessions or sweeteners, if any, have been agreed - and in Greenland, some are still nervous. "[It's] news we have all been hoping for," MP Naaja Nathanielsen wrote on social media. But she added: "It is absolutely crucial that any agreement preserves our right to self-determination." Former Greenlandic politician Aaja Chemnitz said she looked forward to

the deal being finalised, but "until then, I'm sceptical". "I don't have much confidence in Trump," she said. The text of the agreement has not been published. The BBC has contacted the Danish Embassy in the US and the White House. However, an unnamed US State Department official outlined the deal without providing specifics. Among the agreed provisions is one stating the deal would not expire even if Greenland became an independent country in the future. The official added that under the deal, the US has unilateral power to build additional military structures with no approval needed from Greenland or Denmark. It includes "permanent access, basing and overflights rights," the official said.

Trump says he is banning CNN and Politico from White House



US President Donald Trump has announced that he is "immediately" banning CNN, MS NOW and Politico from the White House, the latest twist in his fraught relationship with media outlets. In a post on Truth Social on Friday, Trump said that the outlets "constantly write or report fiction or lies" about his administration, although he provided no examples. Trump later called it a "very simple ban", but did not explain how it would work. It is unclear whether employees of those outlets would be prevented from entering the White House grounds. CNN swiftly slammed the move as an "illegal assault" on American press freedoms. The move by Trump is likely to be met with legal challenges. Reporters from both Politico and CNN were still on the White House grounds shortly after the announcement was made. A crew from CNN was also travelling with Vice-President JD Vance to and from an event in Iowa. In a statement, the network called a potential ban illegal and said it "stands fully behind our White House team and their

fair and accurate reporting". "We have a right under the US Constitution to do that reporting without hindrance or interference from the government," the CNN statement said. "Should the ban which President Trump threatened go ahead, it would be an illegal assault on that fundamental and constitutionally-protected right." Politico also released a statement, saying it would "continue to fairly report on this White House and future ones." "We will vigorously defend our First Amendment rights against any attempt to restrict them." MS NOW, formerly MSNBC, declined to comment. Trump had said in his post: "Media outlets shouldn't be able to constantly write or report fiction and lies when they're covering the President of the United States, the Trump Administration or the United States of America. Other news outlets to follow." The post did not mention specific stories or reporting that prompted the move. Asked by a reporter what he meant by others to come, Trump responded: "Others to come in terms of

fake news? Well, you know, the New York Times is fake news, the Washington Post is fake news." The White House Correspondents' Association President Jacqui Heinrich said it stood in "defence" of its colleagues who were "being singled out for doing their jobs". "This is about more than the rights of journalists," Heinrich, who works for Fox News, also said. "It is about the right of the American people to receive a full and independent account of the activities, policies and decisions of whoever occupies the nation's highest office." Asked about the ban later in the Oval Office, Trump said that there was "no reason" for the announcement being made on Friday afternoon. "It's really just cumulative stories over the last few years," he said. "You get sick of it." Trump added that there "may be others to join them", but did not name any specific news outlets. He also acknowledged that legal challenges may follow his announcement, saying "I think it's good to point it out, whether it survives or doesn't".

Shark attack prompts rare kill order in Western Australia as victim named



A rare catch-and-kill order has been issued for a great white shark off the coast of Western Australia after 63-year-old swimmer Greg O'Neill was killed at a popular beach on Friday. His body has still not been found. Authorities have said that beaches along the state's coast, including in the capital Perth, will remain closed until at least Sunday as the search for the shark continues. It is the second shark attack in Western Australia (WA) this week, and the third fatal attack in the state this year. The incident, at Sorrento Beach in Perth's north, has reignited debate about how to keep

beachgoers safe in Australia. In a statement, Greg O'Neill's family said they were "deeply shocked and devastated by the terrible tragedy." "Greg loved the ocean and was known as a passionate swimmer, sports lover, dedicated worker and an all-round generous, witty guy." On Saturday, his family visited the scene, where locals have been laying flowers. Witness Jacqui Rapaic told the ABC that two men were swimming, but only one made it back to shore, and that she could see "a pool of blood" in the water. Another witness told WAtoday that she saw the man being "mauled" as the shark "tossed him around like a fish". Members of the public reported seeing a 2.5m-long (8ft 2in) shark at around the same time. Joondalup authorities, where Sorrento is located, said all beaches were closed "as a precautionary measure" and would remain so until at least midday on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia issues first air raid alerts for Riyadh since Houthis escalated attacks

Residents in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh have been given the all-clear after air raid alerts were issued and explosions were reported in the capital. It was the first time alerts have been issued in Riyadh since the Houthis increased their attacks and declared a "maritime embargo" on the Saudis in July. The Saudi Civil Defence sent alerts for the capital and several other regions late on Friday night and Saturday morning (local time) as the Kingdom's conflict with the Iran-backed Houthis continued to escalate. Journalists from Reuters and AFP reported hearing explosions in the capital, but authorities have since said the danger has passed. Residents were urged to avoid gathering in crowds. The Houthis recently seized control of the strategic port city of Mokha and Perim Island, a gateway to a key shipping route used by the Gulf state to export to Asia and Europe. The Iran-backed group's military spokesman said the naval blockade was in retaliation for a Saudi blockade of



ports and airports in Houthi-controlled north-western Yemen. Saudi vessels have relied on that stretch of the Red Sea for oil exports since the US and Israel's war with Iran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz. Last week, the Houthis attacked several Saudi oil facilities with drones and missiles, causing fires which led to operations being temporarily halted. The attacks on Saudi oil assets have directly impacted global energy markets and the price of petrol and diesel in many

countries has sharply risen in recent weeks, compounding already elevated costs caused by the blockades of the Strait of Hormuz. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the country's de facto ruler, has personally asked US President Donald Trump to take military action against the Houthis, two sources familiar with the matter told CBS News, the BBC's US media partner. Trump has so far declined to involve the US military directly, offering instead to

assist with intelligence and targeting support, the sources said. A senior Trump administration official told the BBC: "We are in continuous dialogue with Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen government regarding regional stability." Earlier this week, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said the Houthis had launched drones and missiles at Saudi Arabia in retaliation for more than 450 Saudi air strikes on their territory over the past week.

GRIM DISCOVERIES OF MURDERED WOMEN SPARK FEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

"What we are going to do, I have no idea," sobs Nokwanda Matshikiza, reflecting on the murder of her niece Dineo Motapane. "But something must give." "For us, for all the other women. How many other bodies will be found before something happens?" Nokwanda is speaking to the BBC from the family home near South Africa's main city, Johannesburg, just two days after relatives identified Dineo's body. The 38-year-old mother-of-two was last seen alive on Sunday. Her battered and partly burned body was later found in the residential region of Ekurhuleni. Nokwanda weeps as she describes how the family will have to face, at some point, the grim task of telling Dineo's daughter of her death. "How do you explain that your parent was brutally murdered, dumped in a field, and just left there, discarded like a piece of rubbish. 'There's no coming to peace with it,' she adds. "It's something that



you can never reconcile yourself with, that you can never get over." Dineo's death this week has come amid a series of comparable incidents in Ekurhuleni - her body one of three discovered there this week. In total, nine bodies of murdered women have been found in similar circumstances in the region since July. The problem has always been there but this spate of grim discoveries has once again sparked a national outcry about the scale of violence against women in the country - which has one of the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world.



Women protest after string of murders near Johannesburg

MILLIONS WITHOUT POWER AS CUBA HIT BY LATEST MAJOR BLACKOUT

Millions in Cuba were left without power on Friday as the country was plunged into yet another major blackout. The country's entire electricity grid suffered "total disconnection" that triggered a nationwide outage, Cuba's energy ministry said. Power was restored to some priority areas by late evening, including those near hospitals and water pumping stations in the capital Havana, grid operator UNE said. It is at least the sixth partial or total blackout to hit Cuba this year, where ageing electricity infrastructure and chronic fuel shortages have been placed under further strain by a US blockade on oil shipments to the communist-run nation. UNE said the outage started just before 14:00 local time on Friday (18:00 GMT) due to a transmission fault coupled



with poor weather conditions in central Cuba. Protocols to begin the "gradual restoration" of power were activated, the operator's national load dispatch director Felix Estrada said, with the process ongoing on Saturday. Cuba relies heavily on fuel imports, meaning tight US sanctions and an oil blockade since the start of the year have exacerbated existing shortages. Food and medicine have also

become more scarce, with hospitals struggling to function normally and schools and government offices having to close. "Lately, it's becoming a habit," Havana resident Frank Lorenzo told news agency Reuters on Friday. "Before it happened less frequently - once a month... just yesterday we were 24 hours without electricity, they turned it on for just an hour and it went down again." It's

one thing after another: no water, no gas for cooking, no electricity," 36-year-old schoolteacher Lidia Fernandez told news agency AFP. "Honestly, I don't know how we haven't gone crazy." Francisco Rodriguez, 78, said his home had already gone without power for 28 hours on Friday and feared he would not have light "for several days". The repeated blackouts have prompted rare protests in Cuba, where unauthorised demonstrations are illegal and those who defy the ban risk being jailed. Havana has blamed its fuel crisis on the Trump administration and denounced all of its sanctions - including a new round announced in August - which are part of a wider pressure campaign against the Caribbean island's leadership.

INDIA'S SCHEDULE AT ASIAN GAMES 2026, SEPTEMBER 20

Quimcy D'Souza Eyes Double, More Medals Expected

India has a chance to open its medals tally on Sunday at the Asian Games 2026. The Indian contingent has already been in action at the Games since Thursday and is in medal contention, with teqball hogging the early limelight. Quimcy Joaquim Dsouza and Mohd Anas Imran Beg have made the early headlines and will be in action for medals. Both athletes will play in the bronze-medal match in the mixed doubles event, facing Vietnam's Gia Nghi Trinh and Hoang Minh Tan Nguyen, to whom they lost in the quarter-finals. Meanwhile, there will be another shot at a medal for Quimcy, as she will also be in action in the women's singles bronze-medal match against Japan's Yuina Sakamoto on Sunday. Several other top events are also lined up for Sunday, as



the Indian women's team will be in action in the cricket event's semifinal against Bangladesh, looking to defend the gold medal it won at the 2023 Games. Eyes will also turn to the shooting arena, where the Indian women will be in action in the 10m air rifle events. Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Uttam Maskar and Vidarsa K Vinod will be vying for a strong showing for India. India's hockey campaign will also get underway on Sunday, with both the men's and women's teams playing their first matches. The men's side, in Pool A, will open its campaign against Indonesia, while the women's team, in Pool B, will begin against Uzbekistan.

"Every Stroke Feels Like Music": Rower Poonam On Finding Her Rhythm Ahead Of Asian Games 2026

For Poonam, the journey to the Asian Games has taken her much further than she ever imagined when she first picked up a rowing oar. What began as an opportunity to pursue her graduation through a sports scholarship has now grown into a professional career, a place in the national camp and now the opportunity to represent India at the Asian Games. Her time at the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) has played an important role in helping her develop the confidence and consistency required to compete at the international level. Poonam initially took up rowing because it offered her an opportunity to continue her education. Having previously competed in athletics, she was looking for a way to move beyond the limited sporting facilities available in her district when she heard about the opportunities rowing could offer in Chandigarh. "I started row-



ing because I got the opportunity to get admission for my graduation through sport. At that time, I never thought that rowing would become my career. I just wanted to make use of the opportunity and see where it could take me," she said. Her early days in rowing were not always easy. With limited coaching and challenges in settling into a new environment, Poonam initially set herself smaller targets, hoping to make her mark at the university and national level. Those ambitions continued to grow with every competition, eventually taking her into the national camp and towards the Asian Games. "Initially, my dream was to win a gold medal at the inter-college and university level. Then I wanted to win a medal at the Senior Nationals. Slowly, my goals started getting bigger. We have won gold medals at the Nationals, Senior Nationals and National Games, and now I am at the Asian Games," she said. For Poonam, training at IIS has been an important part of that progression, giving her access to a high-performance environment and support beyond the training sessions.

"GOLF GAVE ME A SENSE OF PEACE": LEANDER PAES AT GOLF PRO-AM LAUNCH

An 18-time Grand Slam champion, Leander Paes spoke in detail about his love for golf while gracing the launch event of the new season of the NDTV - AM Green IGPL Golf Pro-Am. Paes reflected on how golf helped him rediscover his passion for sport after retiring from tennis and provided him with solace during one of the toughest chapters of his life. The 53-year-old, who won eight men's doubles and 10 mixed doubles Grand Slam titles, pointed out how golf became his version of switching to another sport after retiring from tennis. "I think most athletes, when we retire from our first sport, we're looking for another sport, and golf is the perfect way to find competition, to



find camaraderie, and yet to Feed your creative side. So I play golf because it gives me a lot of solace away from my business and my work. I also found golf while I was looking after both my parents. When I moved back to Calcutta, I was taking care of dad, taking care of mom, and the golf course gave me a sense of peace that allowed me to get through those hard times," said Leander Paes. Paes also drew parallels between golf and tennis, but insisted that golf offers a level of freedom unmatched by the latter, largely because it is played outdoors. "Golf is very similar to tennis in the fact that it's an individual game. In golf, you do have a caddie, but you generally

have to think your shots through yourself. And the creativity of golf is what I love. Whether you shape the ball from left to right or whether you shape it right to left, for someone like me who learned golf at a very late, late age, you can play a lot of high shots. There's no ceiling on a golf course, right?" he said. He further explained that golf allows players far greater freedom in how they approach and execute shots, unlike tennis, which places physical limitation on shot making. "In tennis, when you're playing indoors, you do have a ceiling there, so you can't just hit it any height you want. But with golf, I control my yardage just with the, uh, the apex of the ball.

England Star Brydon Carse Cleared After Assault Probe, But New Trouble Awaits

England pacer Brydon Carse will not be facing any charges for an alleged assault after Derbyshire Police dropped its investigation into the case, reported Cricinfo. Last month, footage emerged of the English fast bowler in handcuffs after he was arrested on suspicion of behaving disorderly while drunk, and officers were called to Molly Malones in Wardwick, Derby. He was de-arrested but was dropped from England's Test squad for the home Test series against Pakistan, which the hosts won 3-0. With the scrutiny higher than ever on England's drinking and clubbing culture, which has witnessed incidents involving white-ball captain



Harry Brook, Ben Duckett, Jacob Bethell, former Test skipper Ben Stokes, Gus Atkinson and Carse, the pacer was also not picked for the T20Is and ODIs at home against Sri Lanka, a series which is currently in progress. After an inquiry, as per Cricinfo, it was found that the alleged victim did not want to make any com-

being drunk and disorderly and was then de-arrested after his details were taken by officers." Now, Carse will be subjected to an investigation by the Cricket Regulator. When the incident took place, the fast-bowling all-rounder had been playing county cricket for Durham and was in the squad for the first two Tests against Pakistan. His current central contract with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) will expire in September 2027. Following the incident, newly-appointed Test captain Joe Root remarked that he was "hacked off". Last week, England's white-ball coach Brendon McCullum said that Carse "needs to get his house in order.

BLUEBAND SPORTS RALLY OF COIMBATORE SET TO HOST ROUND 2 OF INRC 2026 WITH 64 CARS ON THE GRID

The FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) 2026 heads to Coimbatore for Round 2 this weekend, with 64 cars and 128 competitors set to take on a predominantly gravel challenge across September 19 and 20. The Blueband Sports Rally of Coimbatore 2026 is being conducted under the aegis of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), with Blueband Sports as the Official Promoter and the Coimbatore Auto Sports Club (CASC) as the organising club. The ceremonial flag-off took place on Friday, September 18, marking the formal start of the second round of the championship. The event was attended today by the Honourable Minister of Backward



Classes Welfare of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. V. Sampath Kumar, and Shri Vijaya Kumar, Inspector General, CRPF, who witnessed the proceedings in Coimbatore. The championship arrives in Coimbatore following an action-packed opening round at the 49th South India Rally, where three-time FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship winner and seven-time National

Champion Gaurav Gill made a strong return to competitive rallying. Gill led the INRC Overall classification in the opening round, ahead of local challenger Ritesh Rai, with Karna Kadur in third in the provisional results. Kadur also finished second behind Gill in the APRC segment, with Jason Saldanha third. In INRC 3, Tarushi Vikram finished third in the provisional results.

The man who would be king - the rise and fall of 'the next Prince Naseem'

Boxer Daniel Teasdale was hailed as the heir to the legendary Prince Naseem Hamed, but his promise never materialised into fame, fortune and films. "He's better than Naz at the same age," said trainer Brendan Ingle. Hamed had won his first world title aged 21. Teasdale was still a teenager. Ingle, from his gym in Sheffield, moulded the careers of a conveyor belt of world-beaters and title winners. He guided both of the fighters from childhood. Before super-middleweight Teasdale's first professional bout, the Rotherham fighter had been featured in national newspapers.



ROHIT RAJPAL BACKS SUMIT NAGAL DESPITE FOUR DAVIS CUP DEFEATS IN 2026



Sumit Nagal admitted he was physically a notch below Kwon Soonwoo as India slumped to a 1-3 Davis Cup defeat against Korea, with the Indian number one suffering his fourth loss in as many singles matches this season, even as captain Rohit Rajpal backed the struggling player and urged the team to move forward positively. India lost a great opportunity to make the Davis Cup knockout round after losing to a very much beatable Korea. The Indian singles players won their opening sets but ended up giving away the advantage to lose their respective singles on Friday, putting the team down 0-2.

Nagal, who had fought through a long singles battle on the opening day against Hyeon Chung, looked short of his best against Kwon in the must-win reverse, losing 1-6 2-6 as Korea sealed the tie. "I think more than mentally, it was physically. He played at a very high level. I was one level down, he was one level up. That made a big difference between me and him. He just outplayed me, that's it," Nagal said after India's defeat. Nagal, who has now lost all four of his Davis Cup singles matches in 2026, said Kwon made the most of conditions that suited his game. "It's very tough to hurt him here. It's not easy to outplay him in these conditions. It's very suitable for him. The balls are heavy, everything goes to his knee, he can barely hit anything above his shoulder, while my game style is very opposite to him," he said. The Indian also felt Kwon was physically fresher after playing a shorter match earlier in the tie. "Finishing later in the evening yesterday and then at least he had three-four hours and a very different match.

PV Sindhu Exclusive: On Gold Ambitions, Virat Kohli's Advice And Life Beyond Badminton

For PV Sindhu, Japan is a happy hunting ground. It was here that the badminton legend won her second Olympic medal. Back in July 2026, Sindhu beat local favourite Akane Yamaguchi in straight games and clinched her maiden BWF Super 750 title at the Japan Open. This time, the veteran is here for the 2026 Asian Games. Having won a bronze medal at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games and a silver at the 2018 Jakarta edition, Sindhu is eyeing gold at her fourth Asian Games. NDTV caught up with the superstar, who talked about advice from Virat Kohli, using the Trunome device, and her husband's special gift. Q: We are in Japan and we are in the happy hunting

ground of the athlete I am sitting with right now, PV Sindhu. It was your second Olympic medal that you won here in Tokyo, during the COVID Olympics. Tell us a little bit about coming back to Japan, Sindhu. A: Well, it's nice to be here in Japan. I'm really looking forward to the competition, and I hope I do well here and come back with a medal. Q: When you come back to a venue where you have already won a medal and experienced success, how does that feeling translate into a major event like this? A: Actually, this is a new venue. When we came to Japan for the Olympics, we played in Tokyo, but this time it's in Nagoya. It's a different stadium altogether. We had our first prac-

tice session, and it has been quite good. The overall atmosphere is great. It's an Asian Games venue, so athletes from different sports are here, and we compete both as individuals and as a team. It's a different feeling altogether. Q: Are you already feeling the Asian Games buzz and vibe? A: I've reached a bit late. I landed yesterday, and today was my first practice session. In badminton, especially in the women's team, we all come together and play as a unit. Generally, badminton is an individual sport, so we don't often get opportunities to compete in team events. That's what makes tournaments like the Asian Games special. Q: This time there is no traditional Games Village.

Athletes are staying in cruise ships, cabins, and hotels. What do you make of that? A: It's sad that there is no village this time. Usually, at the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, or Olympics.





Agadha’ Brings a World of Mystery, Faith and the Supernatural to ZEE5 Telugu on September 25

Agadha, the mystical supernatural thriller directed by M.S. Raju, is set to make its digital premiere on ZEE5 Telugu on September 25, bringing its atmospheric world of mystery, spirituality and supernatural intrigue to audiences at home. Starring Kamakshi Bhaskarla in the lead, alongside Shravan Reddy, Ulka Gupta, Jovika Vijay Kumar, Roshan Basheer, Bhanu Chander, Vanitha Vijayakumar and others, the film explores a disturbing mystery that gradually opens the door to forces beyond the ordinary.

At the centre of Agadha is Mahadevi (Kamakshi Bhaskarla), a spiritually gifted woman whose life takes an unsettling turn as a series of unexplained deaths and the mysterious suicide of her cousin draw her towards a deeper truth. Her search takes her into a forbidden forest cave, where she encounters a supernatural presence known as Agadha. What begins as an attempt to understand a chain of disturbing events gradually develops into a journey through faith, fear, mystery and the unknown.

THE CONTENT OF 'THE PARADISE' HAS BEEN AMAZING: DIRECTOR SRIKANTH ODELA

Natural Star Nani's Pan India period action entertainer 'The Paradise'. Directed by Srikanth Odel, the film is produced on a grand scale by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the banner of SLV Cinemas. The songs, glimpses and teaser that have already been released have raised huge expectations with a wonderful response. The film is set to release worldwide on September 24. On this occasion, director Srikanth Odel shared the highlights of the film at a press conference.

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ful response. The film is set to release worldwide on September 24. On this occasion, director Srikanth Odel shared the highlights of the film at a press conference.

Srikanth garu.. what is the inspiration for this story?

-This story has a real-life incident, some characters, and fiction... all three.

-My mother thought it would be good if I had a girl. But she didn't. She braided me and brought me up in a gown. I had braids until my second grade. I got the braids from there. There is a lot of emotion behind this too.

-The revolution and the characters in it were inspired by the Godavari khani area where I was born and raised. I took the events that happened between Adilabad and Godavari khani areas.



DANNY FIRST STRIKE IS RAW, RUSTIC AND BOLD- PACKS A SOLID PUNCH



Rizwan Entertainment and Kalyanji Content Pictures are jointly presenting the upcoming romantic crime drama Danny, produced by Rizwan and directed by Kalyanji Gogana. The film features Ashish Gandhi, Sejal Gupta, Sonal Singh and Azhar Khan in prominent roles. The makers have now unveiled the film's first strike. The first strike of Danny immediately grabs attention with its youthful, provocative and unapologetically bold tone. The glimpse opens with a girl asking the protagonist, "Do you always come to the beach alone?" He responds with a cheeky line, saying, "If I have to come to the beach, there definitely has to be a girl." He then goes on to reveal that he likes a girl's back as much as he

likes the beach. These bold exchanges instantly establish the film's attitude and are likely to strike a chord with its target youth audience. However, the first strike also makes it evident that Danny is not merely a bold romantic drama. The visuals hint at a much darker world, bringing together romance, crime and intense action. The rugged imagery, the protagonist's attitude and the raw presentation give the film a distinctive texture. The final sequence, in which the protagonist smokes a cigarette while covered in blood, leaves a particularly strong impression and adds to the intrigue surrounding his character. Overall, the first strike suggests that 'Danny' is shaping up to be a bold, raw and rustic romantic crime drama packed with

commercial elements. The reunion of director Kalyanji Gogana and Ashish Gandhi further adds to the interest surrounding the project. The duo previously collaborated on 'Natakam' and 'Kalinga', with both films receiving a positive response from audiences. Their coming together once again for 'Danny' has naturally raised expectations, and the first strike only adds to the curiosity. Ashish Gandhi delivers what appears to be his most intense performance yet, while Kalyanji Gogana brings a distinctive visual style and treatment to the character and the story. Visually, the first strike stands out with impressive cinematography and a raw visual treatment that complements the film's mood.

NIKHIL VIJAYENDRA SIMHA’S ‘SANGEETH’ FIRST SINGLE ‘NEE VALLE’ RELEASED

Renowned Music Composer A.R. Rahman Launches the Song Through His 'X' Account The first single 'Nee Valle' from the upcoming romantic entertainer 'Sangeeth', starring debutant Nikhil Vijayendra Simha and Teju Ashwini, has been released. Renowned music composer A.R. Rahman unveiled the song through his official 'X' account, marking the beginning of the film's musical journey. Composed by acclaimed music director Achu Rajamani, 'Nee Valle' is a soulful romantic melody beautifully sung by the ever-popular Sid Sriram, with heartfelt lyrics penned by Vikram Shiva. The song introduces the lead pair Nikhil Vijayendra Simha and Teju Ashwini and showcases their fresh chemistry and the emotional bond between their characters. Sid Sriram - Achu Rajamani's



Melodic Magic 'Nee Valle' beautifully captures the emotions of love and romance through Achu Rajamani's melodious composition. The soothing orchestration complements the mood of the song, while Sid Sriram's distinctive vocals add depth and emotion to the melody. The

song has been picturised on Nikhil Vijayendra Simha and Teju Ashwini, introducing their characters and their romantic journey. The combination of Vikram Shiva's touching lyrics, Achu Rajamani's music and Sid Sriram's expressive vocals makes 'Nee Valle' a refresh-

ing romantic melody. With the release of the first single, the makers have officially kick-started the musical promotions of 'Sangeeth' and are gearing up to unveil more exciting updates from the film. Lahari Films & RB Studios Present 'Sangeeth'..Presented by G.

Manoharan and L.Balakrishna, 'Sangeeth' is being produced jointly under the banners of Lahari Films and RB Studios. Lahari Films, known for films such as 'Writer Padmabhushan' and 'Mem Famous', has a long-standing association with Indian cinema and music. With 'Sangeeth', the banner is bringing another interesting Telugu film to audiences, blending music, romance, fresh talent and a contemporary narrative. Naveen Manoharan, Chandru Manoharan and Sravanthi Naveen are producing the film, while Maaz Khan is the Executive Producer. *Nikhil Vijayendra Simha Makes His Acting Debut* Directed by Saad Khan, who earned recognition with the Kannada film 'Humble Politician Nograj', 'Sangeeth' features a story written by Saad Khan and Siddhant Sundar.



Natakireeti Rajendra Prasad Unveils ‘Koko Kokoroko’ Song from ‘Mugguru Kothulu’

The much-awaited special song 'Koko Kokoroko' from the upcoming film 'Mugguru Kothulu' was released by Natakireeti Rajendra Prasad. Presented by GSR Creations and co-presented by Sky Flare Networks, the film is produced by Shobha Rani Garimella and directed by Kartik Garimella. The film

features Teja Kondapally, Ganesh Boddha and Devansh in key roles, while Varshika Pasam plays the female lead. The first-look poster and songs released so far have generated good interest among audiences. Continuing the musical promotions, the makers have now unveiled a special item number aimed at mass audiences.

TAMIL ZEE 5 ANNOUNCES "OCTOPUS", A SUSPENSEFUL TALE OF MYSTERY, SECRETS AND A NEIGHBOURHOOD ON A MISSION

-Directed by Jeyachandra Hashmi, the 7-episode Tamil Zee 5 Original features Ashwin, Archana, Vinoth Kishan, Sidhu Kumaresan and Kalaivani Bhaskar in pivotal roles-Tamil Zee 5 has consistently carved a distinctive space in the original series category, bringing audiences compelling regional stories across genres. Taking its storytelling ambitions a notch higher, the platform is now set to premiere Octopus, a gripping suspense thriller that brings a powerful female-led narrative to the forefront, challenging conventional storytelling norms within the genre. Directed by Jayachandra Hashmi, the 7-episode Tamil Zee 5 Original stars Ashwin, Archana, Vinoth Kishan, Sidhu Kumaresan, and Kalaivani Bhaskar in pivotal roles. Blending mystery, emotion, and intrigue, Octopus follows



a close-knit neighbourhood that comes to I'm together to uncover the truth behind the disappearance of a young woman, setting in motion a gripping chain of events that exposes hidden realities. Since the release of its launch promo across Tamil Zee 5's social media

platforms, Octopus has generated significant buzz online, igniting conversations around its intriguing narrative, fan theories, predictions, and organic digital chatter. More than just a suspense thriller, the series explores compelling themes of trust, relationships, resilience,

and the enduring power of human connection. Rooted in everyday realities and driven by deeply emotional storytelling, Octopus promises an enthralling and thought-provoking viewing experience that will keep audiences engaged and guessing until the very end.

VETTUVAM UNVEILS FIRST LOOK POSTER AND WORLD OF VETTUVAM VIDEO

Acclaimed filmmaker Pa. Ranjith, known for presenting powerful stories with exceptional filmmaking, is gearing up to bring another ambitious pan-India action spectacle with Vettuvam. Starring Arya, V.R. Dinesh, Sobhita Dhulipala, Kalaiyaran, and Mime Gopi in pivotal roles, the film is produced by S. Sai Devanand, S. Sai Venkateswaran, and Pa. Ranjith under the Learn and Teach Production and Neelam Productions banners. Vettuvam is scheduled for a grand theatrical release this December. The makers have released the film's striking first-look poster along with the World of Vettuvam video, offering audiences a glimpse into the film's expansive universe. The video features narration by Rana Daggubati for the Telugu version, Soubin Shahir for Malayalam, Kichcha Sudeep for Kannada, and Pa. Ranjith for Tamil. The World of Vettuvam video showcases the film's grand production



scale, rich world-building, and the powerful story it aims to tell. Set across three timelines, past, present, and future - the film explores how the way ancient communities lived continues to influence the present and shapes the future through nature's consequences and human conflict. It also

reveals that Vettuvam revolves around the battle between tribes fighting to establish power and dominance. The video introduces Arya as Dharmarajan, Shabeer Kallarakkal as Sembian, Kalaiyaran as Veeravarman, Sobhita Dhulipala as Radhi, and V.R. Dinesh as Nandan. It

also highlights the extensive preparation undertaken by the cast, who trained in traditional martial arts such as Adimurai and Malkhamb, along with other combat techniques. With Vettuvam, Pa. Ranjith appears to have mounted one of his most ambitious cinematic ventures to date.