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CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

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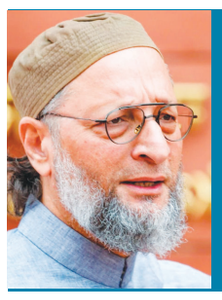
**OM NAMO VENKATESAYA**

18- 09 - 2026



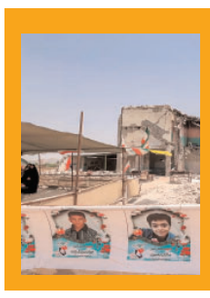
Total pilgrims :76,060
Tonsures : 32,248
Hundi kanukalu : 3.0 CR
Laddu sale... 4.56 Lac
Annaprasadam..2.21 Lac
Ashwini hospital..4,208
Present Situation on 19-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments... Out side line at silathoranam

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...18 H.



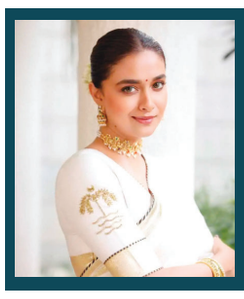
**UCC violates various Articles of Indian Constitution, says Owaisi**

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER

## INBRIEF

### Drugs worth Rs 3.68 cr seized

Aizawl/Imphal, Sep 20: Security forces in Mizoram and Manipur have seized methamphetamine tablets and heroin worth more than Rs 3.68 crore in separate operations and arrested five alleged drug peddlers, officials said on Sunday. In Mizoram, acting on specific intelligence about the illegal transportation of narcotics, Assam Rifles and Mizoram Police launched a joint operation in the T-Junction areas of Mimbung-Kawlbem-Ngopa in Saitual district. During the operation, the joint team apprehended a suspected drug peddler and recovered 2.285 kg of methamphetamine tablets, estimated to be worth around Rs 1.83 crore. The arrested person and the seized contraband were handed over to Ngopa Police Station for further investigation and legal action under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

### High alert in 5 J&K districts

Jammu, Sep 20: A high alert was sounded across Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Doda and Kishtwar districts on Sunday as security forces continued Operation Sohan in the Majalta forests and expanded search operations across the region. The heightened security measures come days after an encounter in the dense forests of Bartal, Sohan and Khubban, where security forces on September 17 eliminated two Pakistani terrorists affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The operation, which began on the night of September 16, entered its third day amid concerns that a third terrorist, believed to have been injured during the encounter, may still be hiding in the forest. The Army's White Knight Corps, Jammu and Kashmir Police and the CRPF have intensified cordon-and-search operations in the area.

## 'Why students forced to live in unsafe PGs':

# Rahul slams Modi govt over hostel crisis

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday hit out at the Modi government over the issue of hostel facilities for students asking why they are "forced to live in unsafe PGs" and also sought to know the status of the investigation into the Satya Niketan building collapse incident.

In a social media post, Gandhi shared pictures from the interaction he had on Saturday in Indore with the family of a student from Madhya Pradesh who died in the Satya Niketan building collapse in Delhi on September 6, in which seven people, including students, were killed.

Among those killed was 21-year-old Arpit Jaj, a native of Dewas in Madhya Pradesh. Gandhi invited Jaj's family on stage during his youth outreach programme 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' in Indore on Saturday.

> **"I have a direct question for the system: Why aren't new, safe hostels being built? Why are students forced to live in unsafe PGs? What is the status of the investigation into the Satya Niketan incident?"**
> **R.GANDHI.**



In his post in Hindi on X on Sunday, the Congress leader said, "'What was that innocent soul's fault?' This is the question being asked, with tear-filled eyes, by the family that lost their son, Arpit Jaj, in the Satya Niketan tragedy."

Had there been good, safe hostels, they would not have been forced to house their child in such a dangerous place, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

And had safety standards truly been adhered to, perhaps this tragedy, "one that neither the students nor their parents could have ever imagined, "would never have occurred, he said.

The system's irresponsibility and corruption have snuffed out lives full of dreams and devastated families filled with hope, Gandhi alleged.

"Like the rest of the country, Arpit's family is demanding accountability. They want responsibility to be fixed regarding the lives of students, ensuring that no other parent has to endure the pain of losing a child in this manner," he said.

# No Dalit land will be taken, says Ponguleti

**His clarification came amid reports that the revenue authorities have issued notices to 120 Dalit farmers in Erravalli village, asking them to appear with all the documents in their possession regarding the ownership of their lands.**

*"The government will not take away even an inch of your land. This government has no intention of acquiring your land. There is no need for you to feel any fear or anxiety regarding your lands; the people's government stands by you," the minister told Dalits.*



HYDERABAD (TSIT):

Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Sunday made it clear that the government will not take "even an inch" of Dalit land, stating that snatching land from Dalits and tribals is not the policy of the "people's government."

In a statement, the Minister assured that the government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stands as a complete safeguard for Dalit lands. "This government has no intention of acquiring your land. There is no need to feel fear or anxiety," he told Dalits.

His clarification came amid reports that revenue authorities issued notices to 120 Dalit farmers in Erravalli village, asking them to appear with documents regarding ownership of their lands. This followed the Chief Minister's announcement of an inquiry into former CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao's farmhouse at Erravalli, which he claimed includes 388 acres of government land. Srinivasa Reddy said verification of land records, surveys, and resolution of land issues should not be viewed as attempts to seize land. He accused certain powerful individuals of spreading "malicious propaganda" to create panic and incite Dalits for political mileage.

He recalled that it was Congress governments that took historic decisions for the upliftment of the poor, Dalits, and the downtrodden and weaker sections, both at the national and state levels. He stated that Congress governments have a history of granting land and establishing ownership rights for landless Dalits through initiatives such as land reforms and land distribution.

## *Heavy monsoon rains ahead in Hyderabad,*

# IMD issues 7-day alert



Hyderabad (TSIT):

Heavy monsoon rains are expected in Hyderabad over the next seven days as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert in view of the forecast.

The weather department has also predicted thunderstorms and lightning in several parts of Telangana during this period.According to IMD Hyderabad, thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are likely in various districts of the state along with heavy monsoon rains. Weather enthusiast T Balaji also forecast scattered intense thunderstorms across parts of Central, East, West and North Telangana from afternoon to night.

For Hyderabad, he predicted one or two spells of scattered intense storms from the afternoon through the following morning, while dry conditions are expected until the afternoon.

# NSUI rebellion in DUSU polls tests Kanhaiya Kumar experiment

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Kanhaiya Kumar was brought into the Congress from the Left with a clear political proposition: his visibility among young voters could help the party rebuild its connection with a constituency it has struggled to retain.

A former JNU students' union president and one of the more recognisable young faces to join the Congress, Kumar walked with Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra before being appointed AICC in-charge of the party's student wing, NSUI, in July 2023. However, NSUI's latest performance at the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) election has raised questions about how far the party's strategy has translated into electoral gains on the ground. NSUI failed to win a single post on the four-member DUSU central panel this year—the first time since 2015 that it has drawn a blank in the university's top body. ABVP won the president, secretary and joint-secretary posts, while the vice-president's post went to Independent candidate Deepanshu Shokeen, who had earlier sought an NSUI ticket.The



**FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2015, NSUI HAS FAILED TO WIN A SINGLE POST ON THE FOUR-MEMBER DUSU CENTRAL PANEL, RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ORGANISATION'S PERFORMANCE UNDER KANHAIYA KUMAR.**

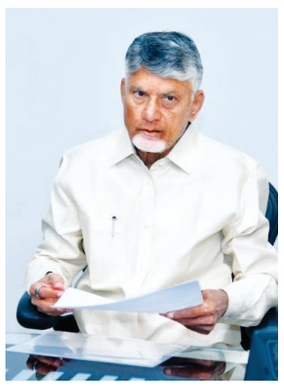
Shokeen episode is particularly uncomfortable for NSUI.

Shokeen won the vice-president's election with 30,615 votes, defeating ABVP's Ishu Maurya, who polled 16,910. NSUI's official candidate, Vir Chatrath, finished a distant third with 4,313 votes. Shokeen's margin over the ABVP candidate—13,705 votes—was more than three times the total votes secured by NSUI's candidate. This was not simply a case of an Independent candidate emerging from nowhere. Shokeen has been active with NSUI since 2023, the same year Kumar took charge, and campaigned for the organisation in the 2023 and 2024 DUSU elections. He also served as a student representative at his college.

In 2025, Shokeen sought to contest the student body elections on an NSUI ticket but was not selected. This year, he sought the ticket again, but the process ended in a controversy. Shokeen said he was selected as the NSUI candidate but was later asked to withdraw. He refused, and subsequently contested as an Independent. NSUI sources, however, said he left the organisation after being asked to contest for a different post. A PTI report, citing sources close to Kumar, said Shokeen was offered the presidential ticket but insisted on contesting for vice-president.

# CM reviews El Nino preparedness

VISAKHAPATNAM (TSIT):



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to effectively implement the action plan to tackle the impact of El Nino and protect farmers and consumers. During a teleconference with senior officials, district Collectors and RSK staff, he called for short- and medium-term plans, crop planning based on water availability and market demand, and promotion of pulses, millets, rain-fed crops and natural farming.

He directed officials to ensure crop insurance compensation in case of losses and control the prices of rice, onions, palm oil and red gram by monitoring stocks and supply. Kitchen gardens through self-help groups should also be promoted to improve vegetable availability.The State has recorded a 50.7 percent rainfall deficit, with Prakasam, Annamayya and Sri Sathya Sai districts among the worst affected. Against the normal Kharif target of 30.84 lakh hectares, cultivation has commenced in about 79 per cent of the area.

Mr. Naidu said Rs.190 crore had been allocated to protect high-risk horticultural crops and Rs.60 crore kept ready for the Kharif contingency plan. He stressed ensuring drinking water for people and water and fodder for livestock, intensifying water conservation and promoting drought-resistant crops.

# *Ukraine fires 1,000+ drones at Russia, hundreds target Moscow*

Moscow: Ukrainian forces fired more than 1,000 drones at Russia overnight, including hundreds that were launched toward Moscow, officials said Sunday, September 20, as the Kremlin was wrapping up the third and last day of its parliamentary elections.

Moscow's mayor described the wave of drones as the 'largest ever" attack on the Russian capital and said there had been damage to a Moscow oil refinery and a residential building.

Across the wider Moscow region, the attack killed two people and wounded 20, local Gov. Andrei Vorobyov said. The dead were a 74-year-old man and a 44-year-old woman, he said. Writing on social media, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Kyiv had used a range of missiles and drones in the attack—including Ukraine's domestically made Flamingo and Pelican missiles—to hit oil and logistics facilities.

"These are billions of dollars that sustain the war machine," Zelenskyy said, referring to the financial pressure that Kyiv hopes to put on Russia's economy.

The voting underway in Russia is the country's first wartime parliamentary election—balloting that has been virtually devoid of opposition to President Vladimir Putin's policies and is all but certain to cement the Kremlin's dominance.

Russia was also holding the vote in the four Ukrainian regions that Moscow illegally annexed after the war began but still doesn't fully control, and in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014. Kyiv has denounced the action as illegal. 450 drones en route to Moscow destroyed



Russia's Ministry of Defence said that its forces shot down 1,100 Ukrainian drones across the country, as well as over the annexed Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea and the waters of the Black Sea.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that 450 drones had been

> **These are billions of dollars that sustain the war machine," Zelenskyy said, referring to the financial pressure that Kyiv hopes to put on Russia's economy.**

destroyed en route to the Russian capital and that the attack had damaged the Moscow Oil Refinery and a residential building. He said the "unprecedented attack" on Moscow was an attempt to disrupt the elections. "The enemy failed in this regard," he said.

Since Russia's invasion more than four years ago, Ukraine has become a global leader in military drone technology, deploying domestically produced long-range drones alongside missiles for strikes deep inside Russia. Its drone technology has impressed governments and defence manufacturers around the world.

Kyiv is aiming to make the Russian public feel the war's consequences and pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin into negotiating a peace settlement.

Putin has so far shown no signs he intends to stop the invasion. Instead, Moscow and Kyiv have been drawn into an escalating duel of long-range aerial strikes as fighting along the roughly 1,250-kilometre front line in eastern and southern Ukraine has slowed, restricted by large numbers of drones and ground robots threatening troop movements.

## UCC violates various Articles of Indian Constitution, says Owaisi

Hyderabad, Sep 20 : AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi reiterated on Sunday that the Uniform Civil Code violates various Articles of the Indian Constitution.

"You cannot abolish Articles 25, 26, 29 and 14 in the name of the UCC. What is in the Constitution of India was drafted by Babasaheb Ambedkar," he told IANS in Lucknow.

He alleged that in the name of Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Hindu personal laws were being imposed on non-Hindus. "In the



name of the UCC, how can you apply the Hindu Marriage Act, Hindu Divorce Act and Hindu Succession Act to non-Hindus?" asked the Hyderabad MP. He pointed out that tribals are being excluded from UCC because their religion, culture and family life are different. He asked why Muslims were not being exempted from UCC as their religion, culture and family life are different.

On the issues of law and order in Uttar Pradesh, Owaisi slammed the Yogi Adityanath government for the demolition of mosques. "Two days ago, you demolished a graveyard in Kanpur using a bulldozer at 5 AM.

# Shift from grey growth to green growth in construction: CM



VISAKHAPATNAM, TSIT.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu called for a shift from grey growth to green, circular and regenerative growth in construction, stressing the need to protect nature while pursuing development for future generations. He inaugurated The Earth Centre at Whitefield, Bengaluru, along with Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. Designed by integrating nature, technology and modern workspaces, the centre focuses on sustainable construction and the use of recycled materials.

> Naidu said buildings should use resources efficiently rather than consume them excessively and called for wider adoption of net-zero principles, solar power, water conservation, composting and reuse of waste. Climate change is already a challenge and environmental protection must be treated as a collective responsibility, he said.

Naidu said buildings should use resources efficiently rather than consume them excessively and called for wider adoption of net-zero principles, solar power, water conservation, composting and reuse of waste. Climate change is already a challenge and environmental protection must be treated as a collective responsibility, he said. Every rooftop could become a power plant, every drop of water could be reused and waste could be converted into a resource, he added. He said Andhra Pradesh was promoting Zero Budget Natural Farming and would contribute to the national target of 500 GW of non-fossil power capacity by 2030, with the State planning around 165 GW of renewable energy capacity. Amaravati, he said, was being developed as an environment-friendly city integrating nature, technology and modern infrastructure. Naidu congratulated Raghuveer Veeramachaneni, Praveen Kumar, the Vista Spaces team and representatives of Venkataramanan Associates for designing The Earth Centre with a focus on sustainability and future needs.

# SCoRWWO holds drawing and painting competition for railway children

Visakhapatnam, TSIT.
The South Coast Railway Women's Welfare Organisation organised an on-the-spot drawing and painting competition for the children of railway employees in Visakhapatnam under the leadership of its president Charu Mathur. More than 50 children participated in the competition, displaying their creativity, imagination and artistic talent on various themes.Charu Mathur, along with SCoRWWO Secretary Anju Gupta, Joint Secretary



Madhusmitha Sahoo, Treasurer L. Swarnalatha and other executive members, appreciated the children for their enthusiastic participation and creative work. Gifts and health kits were distributed to all participants as a token of encouragement. SCoRWWO regularly conducts cultural.

## Youth shot dead by friend on moving motorcycle in Bhopal

Bhopal, Sep 20: A 21-year-old youth was shot dead allegedly by his friend in broad daylight on Sunday morning while riding a motorcycle in the Housing Board Colony area under Nishatpura police station limits here. The accused, who was riding pillion, allegedly pulled out a pistol and fired at point-blank range at the head of the victim, who was seated in the middle. The deceased was identified as Ikhlas alias Tashi, a resident of Housing Board Colony who worked as a painter.

# Kalasalingam University Celebrates 102nd Founder's Day, Distributes Rs.33.5 Lakh in Research Incentives

Srivilliputhur – Kalasalingam University celebrated the 102nd Founders' Day of its Founder-Chairman, "Kalvi Vallal" T. Kalasalingam, with a special ceremony recognising excellence in research, academics and teaching. The Pro Chancellor, Dr. S. Arivazhagi Sridaran, presided over the event. Vice Presidents Dr. S. Shasi Anand and Er. S. Arjun Kalasalingam addressed the gathering and distributed research incentives totalling Rs.33.5 lakh to 149 faculty members for their research contributions.




Research Competency Awards were presented to 65 faculty members for securing research-funded projects, patents and consultancy work. In addition, Teaching Excellence Awards were conferred on 40 faculty members, and awards were also presented to faculty members for club activities. Academic awards, certificates and medals were presented to the top three rank holders among 350 students across all programmes, year-wise.Dr. S. Narayanan, Vice Chancellor, and Dr. V. Vasudevan, Registrar, felicitated the awardees. Vice President Dr. S. Shasi Anand recalled the Founder-Chairman's motto of "Hard working, Dedication and life-long learning – (HDL)" and congratulated all faculty and students, urging them to continue striving for a strong academic foundation that helps them learn updated technology at any time. The Annual Research Report 2025 was also released by the Vice President. Director Dr. S. P. Balakannan welcomed the gathering, and Director Dr. M. Pallikonda Rajasekaran delivered the vote of thanks. Both coordinated the entire programme along with Director Dr. C. Sivapragasam, IQAC. All Deans, Directors, staff and students participated in the function.

# TANFAMA, SIDA to Hold National Roundtable on Zero-Accident Fireworks Manufacturing in Coimbatore

Sivakasi/Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu – The Tamil Nadu Fireworks and Amorces Manufacturers' Association (TANFAMA), in association with the South Indian Defence Suppliers and Startups Association (SIDA), will organize a National Roundtable on Fireworks Manufacturing Safety, Technology and Zero-Accident Framework on 25–26 September 2026 at Rathinam Grand Hall, Coimbatore.



The two-day conference, held as part of the SIDA Defence Expo 2026, will be conducted under the theme "Technology for Safer Fireworks Manufacturing – Towards a Zero-Accident Vision."

The Roundtable will bring together industry leaders, government authorities, regulatory bodies, researchers, academia and technology experts to develop a roadmap for a zero-accident, professionally managed, technology-driven and globally competitive Indian fireworks industry.

Participants expected at the event include representatives from TANFAMA, fireworks manufacturers from Sivakasi and other regions, worker representatives, PESO, explosives regulatory authorities, Fire and Rescue Services, DRDO and defence R&D institutions, automation and robotics companies, sensor and instrumentation providers, fire safety technology providers, technology startups, MSMEs, engineering colleges, universities and industrial safety experts.

Key areas of discussion will include manufacturing risk reduction, worker safety and regulatory compliance, fire prevention and emergency preparedness, mechanisation and automation, robotics, sensors and real-time monitoring, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for predictive safety, electrostatic control, environmental monitoring, industry-government-academia collaboration, and sustainable manufacturing practices.

The conference aims to promote safe fireworks manufacturing, enhance worker welfare and safety through continuous training and skill development, encourage mechanisation and technology adoption, professionalise the industry through standard operating procedures and scientific manufacturing practices, and boost exports of Indian fireworks by improving quality, safety standards and international compliance.

It also aligns with the national vision of Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat by promoting indigenous manufacturing, innovation, employment generation and MSME development.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ganesan Panjurajan, President, TANFAMA, said, "The future of the Indian fireworks industry lies in safety, mechanisation, technology, professionalism and global competitiveness. This National Roundtable provides a unique platform for manufacturers, regulators, researchers and technology experts to jointly develop a roadmap for achieving zero accidents, improving worker welfare, promoting exports and strengthening India's position as a world-class fireworks manufacturing hub."

The fireworks industry, centred in Sivakasi, provides direct and indirect employment to several lakh workers and supports ancillary sectors including printing, packaging, paper, transport and chemicals. It also contributes substantially to government revenue and rural economic development.

Expected outcomes of the Roundtable include an Industry Safety Priority Matrix, identification of technology intervention areas, potential pilot projects, research and development opportunities, an industry-technology collaboration framework, recommendations for worker safety and welfare, export promotion strategies and expert recommendations for relevant authorities.

TANFAMA has invited all fireworks manufacturers, industry associations, safety professionals, researchers, academic institutions, technology providers and government agencies to participate in the National Roundtable and contribute to the transformation of the Indian fireworks industry.

# SRM AP Launches UNITES Global Innovation Society to Connect Science, Innovation and Collaboration for Sustainable Solutions

Amaravati – SRM University-AP, Amaravati, has launched the UNITES Global Innovation Society – United Network for Sustainable Development Solutions, in association with the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE), to bring global scientists, academia, industry, government and young researchers onto a common platform to address complex challenges. The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (CIDR), SRM University-AP, will serve as the Founding and Host Institution of the new society, envisioned as a sustained platform for collaborative research, innovation, scientific exchange and public engagement. The central philosophy of UNITES is "problems first, disciplines second", bringing together expertise based on the challenge being addressed rather




than limiting collaboration to traditional disciplinary boundaries.Prof. Sarangam Vijaya Bhaskara Rao, Chairman In-charge, APSCHE and Chief Guest at the launch, highlighted the importance of strengthening the connection between scientific research, higher education and society, emphasising multidisciplinary collaboration to address complex societal challenges. Prof. Achanta Venu Gopal, Director, CSIR–National Physical Laboratory and President, UNITES Global Innovation Society, stressed the need to transform India's scientific capabilities into practical solutions, calling for greater collaboration among experts across disciplines to develop indigenous technologies and solutions for both local and global challenges.Prof. Ch Satish Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SRM University-AP, said, "Societal problems do not exist in silos, and neither should our solutions. UNITES seeks to break academic boundaries and bring diverse minds together to create meaningful solutions for society." Prof. Vijayamohanan Kunjukrishna Pillai, IISER Thiruvananthapuram, emphasised the need to equip India's young scientific talent to tackle emerging global challenges, particularly in areas such as clean energy, water, sustainability and environmental protection, through interdisciplinary approaches.Dr Kiran Mangalampalli, Associate Professor, CIDR and General Secretary, UNITES Global Innovation Society, said, "UNITES aims to create a challenge-oriented scientific ecosystem where researchers can find collaborators, emerging technologies can progress towards application, and scientific innovations can ultimately reach society."

## South Central Railway Intensifies Water Quality Checks at Stations, Colonies and Hospitals; No Unfit Samples in Last Seven Days

Secunderabad – South Central Railway (SCR) has laid special focus on the quality of water supplied at railway stations, colonies and hospitals, with regular checks being conducted as per guidelines stipulated in the Indian Railways Medical Manual. The quality of water is being supervised by a team of supervisors and inspectors from the Medical Department of Railways and monitored by officers. Water quality is tested across three aspects — residual chlorine, bacteriological analysis and chemical analysis — for water supplied to stations, colonies and hospitals.

Under the first aspect, the availability of residual chlorine in drinking water after disinfection is checked daily at the source of water and at the tail-end point of supply. If a sample is found unfit, the concerned Senior Section Engineer (Water Works) is intimated to ensure proper chlorination.

For bacteriological analysis, which detects the presence of E. Coli or Coliform bacteria, water samples are collected once a month at major stations, colonies and hospitals, and once in two months at minor stations and colonies. If a sample is found unfit, the concerned Senior Section Engineer (Water Works) is directed to clean the ground-level reservoir or water tanks. In the case of water coolers, the Senior Section Engineer (Electrical) is intimated for cleaning. A repeated sample is then collected in the presence of Engineering Department officials. If the sample is again found unfit, a joint inspection or sanitary survey is conducted along with Engineering Department officials.

For chemical analysis, water samples are collected once in six months from the existing source of supply, and testing is also carried out for any new source of water.

## INDIA, JAPAN AIR FORCE CHIEFS FLY TEJAS DURING VEER GUARDIAN 2026 EXERCISE

Jodhpur, Sep 20 : Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh and Japan Air Self-Defense Force Chief of Staff General Takehiro Morita flew in India's indigenous fighter aircraft, Tejas, on Sunday, showcasing the growing defence and aerial cooperation between the two countries. The two air force chiefs boarded the Tejas aircraft at the Jodhpur Air Force Station. The flight by the air chiefs of both nations comes as the Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force are conducting the joint air exercise 'Veer Guardian 2026' in Jodhpur.

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# Why not Secretariat at Koyambedu or Guindy: Shanmugam

**The Marxist party demanded that the proposal be immediately dropped as fishermen will be affected and the neighbourhood around the chosen site is heavily congested and hence, unsuitable.**




CHENNAI: The CPM, which supports the government from outside, on Saturday staged a protest here strongly opposing the TVK regime's plan to build a new Secretariat complex at downtown Pattinapakkam near the Marina beachfront. The Marxist party demanded that the proposal be immediately dropped as fishermen will be affected and the neighbourhood around the chosen site is heavily congested and hence, unsuitable.

The proposal must be withdrawn and an all-party meeting must be held to solicit views on alternative sites and a suitable place must be selected within the Chennai city, the CPM said and warned that it will "stop work" in case authorities commence construction at the proposed site near the beach. The CPM, which supports the government from outside, on Saturday staged a protest here strongly opposing the TVK regime's plan to build a new Secretariat complex

Speaking to reporters after leading the demonstration, CPM state secretary P Shanmugam said that the decision to construct the Secretariat-Assembly complex in Pattinapakkam was "flawed and unacceptable" in view of several relevant factors. The proposed project near the seashore, if implemented, will seriously affect the livelihoods of fishermen and also their residential neighbourhoods.

"Whoever may have proposed this site, it is unacceptable and must be rejected," he said. He said the Tamil Nadu government should accede to the demand of fishermen to build houses for them at that site.

"In case the Secretariat plan at Pattinapakkam fructifies, and if the CM and Ministers frequent this place, due to congestion, people will not wish to continue to live there," he said. He asserted: "I would like to make it very clear that Pattinapakkam is not suitable by any parameter." To a question on the work for setting up a new office space for the CM at Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai building's 10th floor with the Fort St George campus, the state CPM chief said that a new Secretariat may take years for completion. "In the meantime, they need space, so its okay."

# Citing discrepancies, school education department to verify non-teaching staff data




CHENNAI: Taking cognisance of the discrepancies in data on non-teaching staff in the School Education Department, the department has taken steps to verify the details of non-teaching staff working in schools and offices on the Educational Management Information System (EMIS).

The exercise is to be completed by September 25. Officials have been instructed to verify the existing entries and make necessary corrections. Decision on stalled Uppur power project in 40 days, says Minister Nirmalkumar

The exercise covers details relating to transfers, deputation, change of post or cadre and other service-related changes of non-teaching staff.

The department said the process would help ensure that the EMIS database reflects the current status of employees. The department has also issued instructions for staff who have moved between schools or offices. Such personnel are to be transferred through the administrative transfer module so that their records are linked to the appropriate institution.

The department has asked officials to complete the verification and updating process by September 25. Chief Educational Officers and other concerned officials have been instructed to monitor the exercise and ensure that accurate staff information is available in EMIS.

# Union Minister L Murugan insists TVK govt on Navodaya schools

CHENNAI: Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Broadcasting L Murugan on Saturday urged the TVK-led Tamil Nadu government to facilitate Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in every district and asked it to reconsider the proposed Secretariat-cum-Assembly complex at Pattinapakkam.

Speaking to reporters here, Murugan said that besides enabling children to study in their mother tongue and learn other Indian languages, the Navodaya schools would provide quality education to poor and disadvantaged students. "Navodaya schools should be brought to all districts of Tamil Nadu. They will enable poor and disadvantaged students to receive quality education.

Preventing this would amount to denying them their rights," he said. On the proposed Secretariat complex, Murugan said the government should shift the project from Pattinapakkam, where fishermen depend on the sea. "Fishermen's livelihood is entirely dependent on the sea. I know the difficulties they face. Chief Minister Vijay played a fisherman in the film 'Sura'. Merely acting as a fisherman is not enough. He should understand the genuine pain of fishermen," he said.

# Tasmac scraps equal stock allocation, shifts to outlet-wise demand




CHENNAI: Tasmac has scrapped the equal-apportionment system for supplying stocks to retail vending (RV) shops, directing district managers to issue indents strictly based on each outlet's actual requirement from Monday.The decision was conveyed in a circular dated September 19, issued by TASMAC Managing Director to all senior regional managers.

TVK fires back at Stalin over Vijay jibe, asks: 'Mupperum Vizha or Oppari Vizha?'"All District Managers are hereby instructed to issue indent to Retail Vending (RV) Shops strictly based on the actual requirement/ request raised by the respective RV Shops," the circular said.The move ends the equal-apportionment arrangement introduced from July 20, under which quantities of products from all suppliers were distributed equally among RV shops. "The earlier circular on equal apportionment will stand discontinued with effect from Monday," Tasmac said.Senior regional managers have been directed to instruct district managers and depot managers to follow the revised procedure. Copies of the order have also been sent to all district managers, depot managers and RV shop incharges through the respective district managers.The revised system effectively shifts stock ordering from uniform allocation to outlet-specific demand. It is expected to reduce the accumulation of slow-moving stocks at retail outlets and help ensure that brands witnessing stronger demand are intended for shop requirements.

# TVK fires back at Stalin over Vijay jibe, asks: 'Mupperum Vizha or Oppari Vizha?'

*Taking a sarcastic dig at Stalin, the ruling party said he appeared to be repeatedly watching the Chief Minister's every move*



CHENNAI: The ruling TVK on Sunday hit back at DMK president and former chief minister M K Stalin over his remarks against Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, accusing him of turning the DMK's Mupperum Vizha into a platform to target the Chief Minister's appearance, mannerisms and public image.

In a statement, the TVK IT Wing asked, 'Mupperum Vizha or Oppari Vizha?' and said Stalin had not uttered a single word about former chief minister and DMK founder CN Annadurai, but had extensively analysed Vijay's walk, dress and mannerisms.

Governor Arlekar congratulates Elavenil Valarivan as DIPR posts wishes, CMO handle has no messageTaking a sarcastic dig at Stalin, the ruling party said he appeared to be repeatedly watching the Chief Minister's every move, describing him as a 'former...present-day fan' who was enjoying Vijay's movements repeatedly.

Referring to Stalin's remarks thanking the people of Kolathur after his defeat in the 2026 Assembly election, the TVK questioned why he had gone in for revaluation three times after thanking the constituency's voters for what it termed a 'Koththu Parotta' outcome.

# Chest discomfort may not be 'just gas':Warning signs of heart trouble

New Delhi, Sep 20: Chest discomfort is often attributed to acidity, gas or indigestion, but doctors warn that some heart-related symptoms can closely resemble digestive problems and should not be ignored. Dr Sunil Kumar Mandal, senior consultant interventional cardiologist and head of cardiology, said reduced blood flow to the heart does not always cause the classic crushing chest pain. It may instead feel like pressure, heaviness, burning, tightness or unusual discomfort in the centre of the chest.

Heart-related chest pain is more concerning when it feels like pressure, squeezing, heaviness or tightness, particularly when it lasts for more than a few minutes, keeps returning or occurs during physical activity or emotional stress. Pain spreading to the left or both arms, upper back, neck or jaw can also be a warning sign.




Other symptoms that require urgent attention include breathlessness, cold sweating, nausea or vomiting, dizziness, unusual weakness or a feeling of impending doom.

Heart attacks may not always follow the typical pattern. Women, older adults and people with diabetes can experience subtler symptoms such as unexplained breathlessness, severe fatigue, nausea, upper abdominal discomfort or pain in the back and jaw, sometimes without significant chest pain.

There is no foolproof way to distinguish gas or acidity from heart-related pain at home, the doctor said. Acid reflux more commonly causes a burning sensation after meals or while lying down and may be accompanied by a sour taste or regurgitation. However, these symptoms cannot reliably rule out a heart problem.

Temporary relief after taking an antacid should also not be considered proof that the discomfort was caused by acidity, as symptoms can fluctuate even during a cardiac event.

People with diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, a history of smoking, established heart disease or a strong family history of premature heart disease should be particularly cautious. Cardiac events are also increasingly being reported among younger adults with multiple risk factors, making age alone an unreliable reason to dismiss concerning symptoms.

Doctors advise seeking emergency medical care if chest discomfort is new, severe, persistent or recurrent, occurs with exertion, or is accompanied by sweating, breathlessness, faintness or pain spreading to other parts of the body.

# Governor Arlekar congratulates Elavenil Valarivan as DIPR posts wishes, CMO handle has no message



Sports Development Minister Aadhav Arjuna also congratulated Elavenil Valarivan, noting that she had won her second silver of the day after being part of India's silver-winning women's 10m air-rifle team

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Governor in-charge Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Sunday congratulated shooter Elavenil Valarivan on winning silver in the women's 10m air-rifle individual event at the Asian Games in Japan, while the State government's DIPR also issued congratulatory messages, but no such post was made on Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's official CMO Tamil Nadu social-media handle.

"Her outstanding performance, dedication and sporting excellence have brought immense pride to Tamil Nadu and the nation," Arlekar said, describing Elavenil's achievement as an inspiration to aspiring sportspersons and the youth.

TN Finance Minister Marie Wilson seeks funds, fairer tax share from Union Government

Sports Development Minister Aadhav Arjuna also congratulated Elavenil Valarivan, noting that she had won her second silver of the day after being part of India's silver-winning women's 10m air-rifle team. He said her perseverance, dedication and sustained hard work would serve as an example to Tamil Nadu's youth.

The DIPR, in two separate social-media posts, congratulated Elavenil Valarivan and Chennai-based motorcycle racer Jagathishree Kumaresan. Elavenil was congratulated for her individual silver, while Jagathishree was praised for securing third place for India in the FIM Asia Women's Cup of Circuit Racing in Thailand.

The DIPR post described Elavenil Valarivan's individual medal as India's first medal, though India had earlier secured silver in the women's 10m air-rifle team event, in which Elavenil was part of the Indian trio.

The individual silver thus gave Elavenil her second medal of the day, making her the only Indian shooter to win two medals on the opening day of the Games.

# 17-year-old donates stem cells to brother battling leukemia

Chandigarh, Sep 19: A 17-year-old girl donated her stem cells to give her 10-year-old brother a second chance at life after he battled leukemia, as Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (HBCH&RC) near here successfully performed its first allogeneic bone marrow transplant (BMT).

The boy, a resident of Durgapur in West Bengal, was diagnosed with a second relapse of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) in April. His family travelled to HBCH&RC, a unit of Tata Memorial Centre under the Department of Atomic Energy, to continue his treatment.

Following intensive chemotherapy, the child achieved remission. However, given the high risk of recurrence, doctors recommended an allogeneic stem cell transplant as the best curative treatment. An allogeneic bone marrow transplant, also known as a stem cell transplant, involves replacing a patient's diseased blood-forming system with healthy blood-forming stem cells obtained from another person. "The patient's elder sister was identified as the most suitable donor after detailed donor evaluation. Her stem cells were collected and infused into her brother through a vein.

# Inherited gene variant may help predict lung cancer risk in non-smokers

New Delhi, Sep 20: A rare inherited mutation in the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) gene is strongly associated with an increased risk of lung cancer, potentially helping doctors identify high-risk individuals who have never smoked, researchers have found.

The study, which analysed genetic data from more than 3.3 million people in the 23andMe database, found that carriers of the EGFR T790M variant had an overall 25-fold higher risk of developing lung cancer.

Among smokers, the mutation was associated with 10 times higher odds of developing the disease. The association was even stronger among people who had never smoked, with carriers found to be more than 60 times as likely to develop lung cancer compared with non-carriers.

Researchers said the findings could eventually lead to lung cancer screening being guided not only by smoking history but also by inherited genetic risk.

"Today, lung cancer screening is driven almost entirely by smoking history," study leader Dr Jaclyn LoPiccolo of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston said. She said the findings raise the possibility that screening could in the future also be based on inherited genetic risk.

The variant was not associated with any of the 17 other common cancers examined in the study, suggesting its effects may be largely specific to lung cancer.EGFR T790M was first identified in 2005 in a European family with multiple cases of lung cancer.

Researchers said the variant has since been identified in other families with unusually high rates of the disease.

The study was published in Science.A simple local anaesthetic technique may make intrauterine device (IUD) insertion significantly less painful, according to a clinical trial involving 370 women who had never given birth.

In the trial, half of the participants received a small amount of the local anaesthetic mepivacaine through a thin plastic catheter placed in the uterus several minutes before the procedure.

# EDITORIAL

## THE 'PUSS' REACHED THE COURT FROM CHANDA MAMA

"Chand mama door ke, pue pakain boor ke"—there's hardly a lullaby in childhood that has such a deep connection with generations of Indians. A mother's lap, sleep-laden eyes, the idea of ??the moon as her uncle, and the image of sweet puddings—encompassing all of these, this line is not just a song, but a cultural memory of Indian folk life. Thus, the controversy surrounding the meaning of the word "boor" doesn't just provide an opportunity to debate a single word, but forces us to consider how we view language—from a narrow dictionary definition or from its historical, regional, and cultural context. India's linguistic diversity is so vast that the same word can have completely different meanings in different regions. As pronunciation changes, so can its meaning; as dialect changes, so can its connotation; and as time changes, so can its meaning. This is why a word's current meaning cannot be a reflection of its historical or regional usage. "Bur" or "Bura" has long been used in many North Indian dialects to refer to finely powdered sugar or sugar candy. Its use in the context of puris, laddus, and other traditional sweets is natural and intuitive. Therefore, if a word with a similar sound has an offensive meaning in another region, attributing that meaning to the entire song would not be fair to the linguistic context. The world of folk songs and lullabies is far older than written dictionaries. They are passed down through generations, and the meaning of their words is rooted in the culture and way of life of the community in which they originated. "Chandamama Door Ke" is a lullaby from this folk tradition, later gaining widespread popularity through the 1955 Hindi film "Vachan." Thus, a folk tune and a folk sentiment, through cinema, etched a lasting place in the memories of millions. To view it solely through the lens of today's local meanings would be to ignore that cultural journey. The history of language shows that words are not static. They travel, change languages, cultures, and their meanings change with them. From Sanskrit to Prakrit, Apabhramsha, and modern Indian languages, and from languages ??like Arabic, Persian, Turkish, English, and French, countless words have become so ingrained in Indian languages ??that their foreign origins are no longer even apparent. But knowing a word's etymology and accepting its current meaning as equivalent to its original meaning are two different things. Take the word 'Aurat'. In the Arabic etymological tradition, the meanings associated with '?awra' have been related to things or body parts that were considered to be covered or hidden. However, as it entered Indian languages, the general meaning of 'Aurat' became established as woman or lady. Today, it is used in everything from common Hindi colloquial speech to literature and journalism. Can every usage today be read in that old meaning based solely on its historical etymology? Clearly not. This is the reality of linguistic evolution. The word "madam" is also an example of semantic change and social evolution. Evolving from the French "ma dame," this term originally referred to a woman with respect. Different phases of history have had different social usages, but today, in English and Indian languages, "madam" is commonly used to address a teacher, an officer, or a respectable woman. Therefore, to define a word's current meaning by focusing on a single phase of its history would be to reduce the complexity of linguistics to a simple conclusion.

# A PRIMER ON BAIL, CUSTODY AND THE UAPA



On 21 September, a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court will hear the bail appeals of two men who have not been convicted of anything. Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid have both been in custody for over six years. Neither of them has been tried. No charge against them has been tested by cross-examination in these years. What has been tested, repeatedly, is how much of that fact the law is willing to look away from. At the bail stage, Section 43-D(5) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) asks a court whether an untested police record looks prima facie true, and lets that provisional opinion stand in for years on end. Courts have often read it as an instruction to make bail the exception rather than the rule, a reading the statute's own text does not contain. Co-accused facing the same FIR have been released. A separate Bench has since said, in terms, that Section 43-D(5) remains subordinate to Article 21 "at all times", and that a three-Judge decision cannot be quietly hollowed out by Benches of equal or lesser strength. That correction now sits referred to a larger Bench. Based on the Government's own figures, between 94 and 98 per cent of everyone arrested under this Act are likely to never be convicted. The 21 September hearing does not decide anything about guilt. It decides how much longer a speech can cost, before anyone has to prove whether it was a crime. The Case Summary of the Upcoming Hearing On 21 September 2026, a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court comprising Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Vikas Mahajan is listed to hear the bail appeals of Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid, together. Imam's appeal arises from the rejection of his second regular bail application; Khalid's from the rejection of his third. The High Court tagged the two on 31 July 2026, issued notice to the Delhi Police on Khalid's appeal, and additionally sought the prosecution's reply on his separate application for interim release. The hearing was originally listed for 27 August 2026, but a court holiday that day pushed it to 21 September. Both are accused in FIR 59 of 2020, registered by the Delhi Police Special Cell, which alleges a "larger conspiracy" behind the communal violence in North-East Delhi in February 2020 that left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured, and which charges them under the Indian Penal Code together with Sections 13, 16, 17, and 18 of the UAPA. Imam was arrested on 28 January 2020 from Jehanabad, Bihar, over speeches delivered at anti-CAA protests, and was formally arrested in August 2020. Khalid was arrested by the Special Cell on 13 September 2020. On the date of the upcoming hearing, Imam will have been in custody for roughly six years and eight months, and Khalid for six years. The principal chargesheet was filed on 16 September 2020 against fifteen accused, followed by supplementary chargesheets in November 2020, February 2021, March 2022, and June 2023. Charges have not been framed. No trial on the merits has begun. Nothing that either man is alleged to have done has been tested by cross-examination in the years they have spent in prison for it. On 2 September 2025, a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court refused bail to Imam, Khalid, and eight co-accused, holding that the release of Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal in 2021 did not entitle the others to parity. On 5 January 2026, the Supreme Court, in the Gulfisha Fatima v. State (Govt. of NCT of Delhi) case, released five of the appellants — Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, Shifa Ur Rehman, Mohd. Saleem Khan, and Shadab Ahmed — on twelve conditions, while holding that Imam and Khalid stood on a "qualitatively different footing" because the prosecution material placed them at the level of conceptualisation and orchestration. Their bail was refused on the footing that the Section 43-D(5) threshold was met, and their liberty even to apply again was deferred until the examination of protected witnesses was complete or one year had passed, whichever came first. This condition made the accused's right to ask for liberty contingent on the pace of the party opposing it. What followed in May 2026 is why the 21 September hearing has been listed. On 18 May 2026, in the Syed Iftikhar Andrabi v. National Investigation Agency, Jammu case, Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan recorded serious reservations about the January ruling, including its foreclosure of the right to reapply, and restated that Section 43-D(5) remains subordinate to Article 21 and that Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb (2021), a three-Judge decision, cannot be diluted by smaller Benches. On 22 May 2026, in Tasleem Ahmed v. State (NCT of Delhi), Justices Aravind Kumar and P.B. Varale replied that a Bench cannot overturn a legal principle established by an earlier Bench with the same number of judges simply by expressing strong disagreement. A doubt expressed by a Bench, however emphatic, remains a doubt, and not a declaration of law. As a result, they referred to a larger Bench to respond on the question of how Article 21 is to be applied where Parliament has restricted bail. The same order granted six months' interim bail, on eleven conditions, to the two co-accused in this very case, Tasleem Ahmed and Khalid Saifi. The reference awaits the constitution of a larger Bench by the Chief Justice of India. Khalid's third bail application was in the meantime dismissed by the Karkardooma court on 4 July 2026, not on any assessment of his custody or the state of the trial, but as premature: neither the examination of fifty further prosecution witnesses nor the expiry of one year had occurred, so the application was held not maintainable. He is therefore asking the High Court to release him on interim bail while a larger Bench decides how Section 43-D(5) applies in light of Article 21. Whether he can be kept in detention depends on the answer to that question. The posture on 21 September is thus, precise — two people have been held for six years or beyond, on a threshold finding made on untested material; their co-accused facing the same FIR have been released (some on regular bail and two on interim bail from the Supreme Court itself); the trial has not begun; the prosecution's witness list makes early conclusion that is arithmetically implausible; and the appellate authority governing whether any of that matters has been referred upward and remains undecided. The sections that follow contain — the statutory text Parliament actually enacted, the omitted sunset and review committees, the binding force of Najeeb, the 2-6% conviction rate, and the irreversibility of custody already served. Every element of these sections set out is present in concrete form.

# Disrupt, Deliver, Dominate

**Bhupendra Chaubey**

There is a trend of sorts in Indian families to celebrate milestone birthdays, anniversaries, and occasions. The 25th straight year in public life as an administrator is something certainly worth celebrating for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But sometimes these milestone moments are also an occasion for us to trace back the journey to where it started from. The crucible of this quarter-century began in the autumn of 2001 in Gandhinagar, under circumstances that would have broken a conventional politician. Taking charge of a state reeling from a catastrophic earthquake, an exhausted exchequer, and deep administrative paralysis, Narendra Modi immediately discarded the incrementalism of status-quo governance. Instead, he treated the crisis as a blank slate for structural reinvention. If you look at him now, you will figure out that he has followed this mantra all through. Break the status quo. Always! The way to really understand how PM Modi has kept a fine balance between the art of realpolitik and principled economic decisions. Gujarat is a great test case for this. Jyotigram Yojana was one of the many successful moves he made as Chief Minister. It was a fairly simple move. How do you uncouple agriculture power from politics? There were the shenanigans of state electricity boards, rampant corruption at the local level, and a general belief that " promise of electricity" was better than " actual supply of electricity." Narendra Bhai would have none of this. Many old-timers in Gujarat BJP have told me that the basic change Narendra Modi brought in political thinking was that "real delivery" could be converted into "election-winning" mechanism too. Why just talk about doing something during elections? Why not actually go ahead and do it? The vibrant Gujarat summit was his other major disruption to national political discourse. Gujarat has always been a state blessed with a massive NRI population. But it was never converted into an "aspirational form of domestic politics" as Modi managed to do. In 2003, a state event leading to garnering of MoUs worth over 14 billion USD was an unthinkable factor. But Modi managed to do this. If you look back now, the culture of each Indian state from Rajasthan to UP, from Maharashtra to Assam, wanting to compete with each other to attract foreign investment really started from the vibrant Gujarat summit itself. In its last edition in 2024, a total of 41,299 project MoUs were signed, securing proposed investment commitments totaling Rs 26.33 lakh crore (approximately $315+ billion USD). Of course, critics will point out to the actual conversion rate, but even a 10 per cent actual realisation over a period of time gives any state a huge momentum. But the real story of Narendra Modi at 76 is way beyond these numbers. Even after 12 years in power, still managing to be BJP's neta No.1, standing head and shoulders above all opposition leaders requires a special skill set. That skill set in one word could be traced to "connection". Narendra Modi still remains India's foremost "connected" leader. For someone often criticised for not doing press conferences, his ability to connect directly with his electorate through social media and not just political rallies is a masterclass in politics. But in spite of all this dominance, there is a challenge as well for the Prime Minister. How does he repackage himself for that generation which hasn't really seen the process how he changed the entire character of national politics. For that young generation, formulating its views on Instagram reels and AI videos, a leader must be seen to be constantly getting subjected to scrutiny. A leader who is accessible but also someone who can answer in unscripted environments. Given the fact that PM Modi has displayed his ability to identify the problems and take course-correction steps immediately, it is just a matter of time before he moves forward on this front too. In conclusion, these lines are perhaps the best way to capture his life. 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: ODOP - 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 ODOP 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.

# RAHUL GANDHI'S CHHATRON KI GOONJ MEETS REALITY AT DELHI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION POLLS

**Ravish Ranjan Shukla**



At the very moment Congress MP Rahul Gandhi was eliciting applause by engaging in mimicry with stand-up comic Pulkit Mani during the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' event, the ABVP was celebrating beneath the statue of Swami Vivekananda at Delhi University's North Campus. Until four days prior, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) had been fighting its toughest student union election since 2012 across both the North and South campuses. However, when the results were declared on Saturday, the ABVP decisively trounced the NSUI. So, has Rahul Gandhi's attempt to woo the youth through Chhatron Ki Goonj failed on his own turf? Let us try to understand this through the results. Looking at the figures, the NSUI had managed to win just one seat - the vice presidency - in the 2025 elections; this time, however, they were reduced to zero. Essentially, the 'Voice of Students' fell silent upon reaching Delhi University. It failed to penetrate the caste-based politics of the university - something NSUI strategists had hoped it would do. In the 2025 elections, the NSUI fielded two Jat and two Gurjar candidates. This time, however, they tried a new experiment: fielding Dalit candidate Vijay Meena for president, Punjabi candidate Veer Chathrath for vice president, Jat candidate Namrata Chaudhary for secretary, and another Jat candidate, Gopal Chaudhary, for joint secretary. In other words, they fielded two Jats, one Punjabi, and one Dalit. Yet, two NSUI rebels - Deepanshu Shaukeen and Vishesh Yadav - derailed this caste-based strategy, turning the NSUI's 'voice' in Delhi University into silence. One can also gauge the failure of Chhatron Ki Goonj by comparing last year's vote count with this year's? While Rahul Jhansi secured approximately 29,300 votes for the vice presidency in 2025, NSUI's presidential candidate Vijay Meena had to settle for 21,390 votes this year. The question arises, why was the NSUI unable to capitalise on the Gen-Z movement and student anger over deaths caused by a building collapse at a paying guest facility in Satya Niketan? In reality, the NSUI continues to lag behind the ABVP. It fails to field superior candidates or effectively champion student issues, a trend reflected in the NOTA (None of the Above) figures. While NOTA got 23,674 votes in the previous DUSU election, the count rose to 23,942 this time. Although the NSUI vigorously raised issues concerning NEET and hostel shortage, it sidelined Deepanshu Shaukeen, a student leader who had actively protested against the NEET exam and even marched barefoot over the Satya Niketan tragedy. This sent a message to the campus community that the NSUI prioritises the children of prominent leaders over student leaders who actually fight for causes. However, the only silver lining for the NSUI in this election was its attempt to rise above caste-based politics by fielding a Dalit candidate for the presidency, breaking the tradition of nominating a Jat. Will the Congress party also learn a lesson from the echoes of the NSUI's defeat in the campus election?

# THE FUTURE WON'T BE BUILT BY TECHNOLOGY ALONE



**Hyderabad, 2026:** AI, robotics, automation and advanced technologies are rapidly reshaping education, workplaces and industries in India and globally. In this environment, future-ready talent will need more than technical knowledge. It will need the ability to think computationally, experiment, collaborate, challenge assumptions and solve problems that do not yet have obvious answers. The three-day WRO India National Championship 2026 (Aug 26th - 28th) concluded at GMR Arena, GMR Aerocity Hyderabad, bringing together some of India's most promising young robotics talent. The national winners emerged after a nationwide journey of regional competitions, and will now qualify to represent India at the global WRO Championship 2026 in Puerto Rico, USA. Sudhanshu Sharma, Founder, India STEM Foundation, said: "The WRO India journey has shown us that future-ready talent is not created by technology alone. It is created when young people are given the freedom to build, experiment, fail, rethink and solve. From regional competitions to the national championship, we have seen remarkable depth of talent across India. Our ambition is to make experiential STEM learning a meaningful part of the education journey for many more students across the country." At Hyderabad, the country's strongest qualifying teams were challenged on technical execution, engineering, coding, creativity, teamwork and problem-solving. The jury faced a demanding task in evaluating the quality and diversity of robotic models and solutions presented by students from across India, a reflection of the depth of talent emerging through the country's school ecosystem. The road to the championship was itself a test of capability. Student teams competed through regional rounds across cities in India before qualifying for the national championship. Future Innovators progressed from the Virtual Championship through ten Regional Championships, while RoboMission, RoboSports and Future Engineers followed their respective qualification pathways. Director General, NCSM, Shri K. S. Murali, said: "The quality and diversity of the solutions presented at the national championship made the jury's task exceptionally demanding. What stood out was not only technical ability, but the curiosity, imagination and persistence with which students approached complex problems. Through NCSM's network of science museums, centres and Innovation Hubs, we want to create more opportunities for young learners to experience science and emerging technologies first-hand and nurture scientific temper and innovation from an early age." WRO India gives students an environment to build, test, fail, rethink and solve. Through robotics, students apply mathematics, science, engineering and coding to real challenges while developing creativity, confidence, collaboration and persistence.

# THE ALL AMERICAN DINER COMES TO HYDERABAD




**Hyderabad, September 2026 -** The legend is back! The All American Diner will open in Hyderabad on 23rd September reviving the legacy of one of New Delhi's most iconic restaurants. It first opened in Delhi in 2001 and developed a cult following for over 20 years. It closed in 2023, so that it could be recast in a new avatar. The All American Diner is now reopening in multiple cities all over India. The first shall open at The Loft, RMZ Nexity, Hyderabad. It will join the three recently launched EHV International restaurants in the same building, viz Fireback, Barback and Hosa. This restaurant is an ode to the chrome-and-checkerboard Diners of 1960s America and to the classic dishes that found fame in those diners. It was 25 years ago, that the group first brought the Diner concept to India with The All American Diner, New Delhi, and now the Hyderabad unit renews and revitalises that legacy with a new menu that combines the spirit of the Delhi original with more classic dishes from the heyday of Diners in America. The all-day menu spans breakfast classics like a stack o' pancakes, waffles and sunrise skillets to hot dogs, burgers and dinner plates like old bay garlic shrimp and barbecued baby back ribs. Desserts feature nostalgic diner favorites like the pecan pie, New York cheesecake and banana split. The team of chefs is led by Executive Chef Sumit Sawardekar under the creative and operational oversight of company veteran Chef Dhiraj Dargan, who has spent two decades with the company and coincidentally began as a Management Trainee at The All American Diner, New Delhi. Like every good Diner, beverage highlights include classic milkshakes, smoothies, malts and decadent crazy shakes. Head of Bars, Varun Sharma's cocktail menu takes flavors of American desserts and turns them into drinks like the Creamsicle Highball and the Mixed Berry Cheesecake Martini. Classic American cocktails like the Mint Julep and Manhattan are also on offer as are large frozen Margaritas. Speaking about the company's continued growth in Hyderabad, Rohit Khattar, Founder Chairman, EHV International, said, "The All American Diner has been an important part of the journey of our company. It was the second restaurant that I conceived after the original Chor Bizarre and for many Delhi regulars, it was more than a restaurant. A space where countless mornings, celebrations and memories unfolded. We are delighted to bring this much-loved concept to a new city, while preserving the warmth, nostalgia and sense of fun that made it so popular. Hyderabad has embraced Hosa, Fireback and Barback with tremendous enthusiasm, and we hope The All American Diner receives the same welcome in our beautiful home, The Loft, RMZ Nexity.

# Hamleys Unveils Its Flagship Jubilee Hills Store in Hyderabad




**Hyderabad, September 2026:** Hamleys, the world's oldest and one of its most iconic toy retailers, has opened its flagship Jubilee Hills store — the brand's most expansive destination in Hyderabad and its 10th store in the city. Spread across 10,000 sq. ft. and three storeys, the new flagship brings together an expansive world of toys, games, gifting and play for children, families and toy enthusiasts.

The store brings the theatre of Hamleys to life, with the iconic Hamleys family including the Toy Soldier, Male and Female Pirates, Englishman and Ragdoll, alongside the much-loved Hamley and Hattie. With 10,000+ toys, games and gifting options, the flagship is designed to offer discovery and play at every turn. A dedicated play area is also set to open in November, further enhancing the experience.

To celebrate the launch, Hamleys hosted an exclusive Grand Opening on 18th September from 6:30 PM onwards, welcoming top customers, influencers, creators, media and invited guests. The evening brought the store alive with My Little Pony, PJ Masks and the entire Hamleys family, alongside special DIY activities, F&B experiences and interactive engagements curated for guests.

The Jubilee Hills flagship reinforces Hamleys' focus on Hyderabad as a key market and its ambition to create destinations that go beyond shopping to deliver memorable experiences centred around play, discovery and imagination.

# Aditya Birla Housing Finance Expands Presence in Tamil Nadu with New Branch in Kovilpatti

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
HOME LOANS

**Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu, September, 2026:** Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited ("ABHFL"), a leading housing finance company and a subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, has expanded its footprint in Tamil Nadu with the launch of a new branch in Kovilpatti, as part of its broader plan to expand its pan-India distribution network. With this addition, ABHFL's total network in Tamil Nadu has increased to 22 branches, strengthening its presence in high-growth markets and improving customer accessibility. Kovilpatti's residential landscape is evolving, supported by its established industrial base, improving infrastructure and connectivity across southern Tamil Nadu. As the town continues to develop as a key commercial and industrial centre, growing employment opportunities and access to essential services are driving demand for housing among local families and working professionals. With homeownership aspirations rising, ABHFL's new branch will make customised home financing solutions more accessible to customers in Kovilpatti and the surrounding areas. ABHFL offers a comprehensive suite of housing finance solutions tailored to diverse customer segments, including affordable housing, prime housing, construction finance, and loans against property, catering to salaried individuals, self-employed professionals, self-employed non-professionals, and emerging income groups. Backed by a robust digital ecosystem, ABHFL enables a seamless onboarding, Faster Approvals, and enhanced transparency, ensuring a superior customer experience. To mark the launch, ABHFL is offering zero login fees along with spot loan sanctions of up to ?50 lakh, valid from September 17 to September 30, 2026, enabling faster and more affordable access to credit for customers at these new branches. Speaking on the expansion, Mr. Pankaj Gadgil, MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, said, "Tamil Nadu is a key growth market for us. With strong demand and rising aspirations, we are scaling our regional presence to deepen customer engagement. By combining our growing distribution footprint with robust digital capabilities, we aim to make the homeownership journey simpler, faster, and hassle-free for customers."

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

**Mumbai, September 20, 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 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-

**■ 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.**

# Vedanta Power Bets Big on Engineering Talent Nearing Half of Workforce



**New Delhi:** On Engineers' Day, Vedanta Power is highlighting the growing importance of engineering talent in building a young, diverse and future-ready workforce as India's power sector enters a new phase of growth. Engineers now account for nearly 50% of Vedanta Power's total workforce, reflecting the critical role of technical expertise across the company's operations and its efforts to build the capabilities required to operate complex power assets, adopt new technologies and respond to an evolving energy landscape.

The company is also strengthening diversity within its engineering workforce with significant engineers hired by Vedanta Power in the current financial year are women. The focus on bringing more women into engineering roles reflects Vedanta Power's commitment to creating a more diverse talent pool for the future of the power sector. Speaking on Engineers' Day and the importance of developing engineering talent for the future of the power sector, Mr. Rajinder Singh Ahuja, Chief Executive Officer and Whole-Time Director, Vedanta Power, said, "India's power growth story is entering an exciting phase. We are not only requiring to generate and deliver more power but strengthen engineering capabilities to operate complex power assets by adopting new technologies, improving efficiencies, and responding to an increasingly dynamic energy landscape". He further added, "We are seeing that reflected in our own workforce as at Vedanta, building capacity and building capability go hand in hand. With engineers now comprising nearly half of our workforce, we are also encouraged by the growing participation of women and young professionals in our engineering teams. We want to give them exposure to the business, access to experienced leaders and the opportunity to take ownership so they can grow into the power leaders who will shape the next chapter of India's power sector." The company's focus on young talent is supported by its campus engagement across engineering and management colleges. As part of its recent campus hiring, Vedanta Power has onboarded young professionals, engineers hired being women, bringing fresh talent and diverse perspectives into the organisation. The talent has been sourced from top institutions across the country including IITs, NITs, IIMs, etc. With engineers accounting for nearly half of its workforce, engineering talent plays an important role in the day-to-day operations of Vedanta Power's large-scale power assets. Across functions, engineers contribute to maintaining plant reliability, improving operational efficiency and enabling the adoption of technologies that support the evolving requirements of the power sector. The company is also focused on creating an environment where professionals from different backgrounds can bring diverse perspectives to engineering, operations and other functions.

# Maruti Suzuki Launches Auto Green Mission with the introduction of Automatic S-CNG SWIFT, DZIRE AND BALENO




**New Delhi September, 2026:** Maruti Suzuki India Limited (Maruti Suzuki), a pioneer in clean and green mobility, launches the Auto Green Mission with the introduction of the automatic S-CNG models for the popular Swift, Dzire and Baleno. Designed for new-age customers who refuse to compromise, the new range of Maruti Suzuki automatic S-CNG range of cars offer automatic car driving convenience with superior fuel-efficiency, making the Dzire automatic S-CNG India's most fuel-efficient sedan# with a fuel-efficiency of 36.47km/kg*. Introducing the new range of Maruti Suzuki automatic S-CNG cars, Mr. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "We at Maruti Suzuki are always listening to our customers. With modern Indian cities experiencing rapid growth, new-age customers are looking for the convenience of an automatic car without compromising on fuel-efficiency and performance in traffic conditions. Under the Auto Green Mission, our new range of automatic S-CNG models are perfectly suited for today's aspirational customers who seek the best of both worlds. The Swift, Dzire and Baleno are some of the country's best-selling cars, the introduction of the automatic S-CNG models is sure to delight customers and make these incredible cars win even more hearts." He added, "We have been receiving unprecedented demand for our S-CNG range of vehicles as evolving, environmentally conscious customer expectations are driving acceptance for eco-friendly options across all segments. During the first quarter of this year, we experienced a 58% increase in sales over the same quarter last year for our S-CNG vehicles. In July, we recorded the highest-ever S-CNG vehicle sales in a month at 83,000 units. The introduction of the new automatic S-CNG range of cars is sure to contribute to the growing share of clean and green cars in India." Powered by the Advanced Z12E 1.2L engine featuring Dual Variable Valve Timing (Dual VVT) and Idle Start Stop (ISS) technology, the Swift, Dzire, Baleno S-CNG are engineered to deliver exceptional performance and superior fuel-efficiency. The Z12E S-CNG engine is mated to Maruti Suzuki's popular Auto Gear Shift transmission. Commonly referred to as Automated Manual Transmission (AMT), the five-speed gearbox provides the convenience of automatic gear shifts, enabling customers to navigate traffic without the need for manual gear changes. The transmission system also has the option of manual gear changes, should customers want to change gears themselves, without the use of a clutch pedal.

# Largest attack on Moscow sees Ukraine fire hundreds of drones



Ukraine has fired its largest drone attack on the Moscow region, the mayor has said, hitting the city's main oil refinery and a residential building. Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said 450 drones heading for the capital had been shot down in what he called "the most massive" attack. The region's governor said at least two people were killed and 20 injured. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed Kyiv had hit a "key" Russian oil facility and a logistics site in the region with drones and missiles, representing "billions of dollars that sustain the war machine". Ukrainian officials meanwhile said nine people, including three children, had been killed in Russian attacks in the Kyiv and Sumy regions on Saturday. Russia and Ukraine have recently intensified their strikes, targeting energy-generating and transport facilities, as well as major logistics hubs. A 44-year-old woman was killed in Sofyino on Sunday after a drone hit a three-storey residential building, regional head Andrei Vorobyev said. Another five people - including two children - were injured. An elderly man died after a private house was hit in the Orekhovo-Zuevo district, Governor Andrei Vorobyev added. Videos have emerged on social media appearing to show explosions in the night skies above Moscow, and a burning warehouse. The footage has not been verified by the BBC. Mayor Sobyanin said a drone had struck a building near one of the capital's boulevards and the oil refinery - where Ukrainian military officials said three key units had been damaged. The site supplies more than a third of the Moscow region's fuel, according to the defence ministry in Kyiv, and some of its petrol, diesel and aviation fuel go to Russia's military. Ukraine's defence minister said attacking such facilities "directly undermines the enemy's ability to continue its war of aggression and supply its military formations". Sobyanin said the major attack was "an attempt to disrupt" Russia's parliamentary election, which was in its third day on Sunday. The vote is tightly controlled by the Kremlin and has been dismissed by critics as neither free, fair nor transparent. Russian state media reported that an election official was one of two people killed by a drone attack on a bus in a Moscow-controlled part of Kherson in Ukraine on Sunday, citing the head of Russia's election commission. Meanwhile, Moscow's biggest airport Sheremetyevo warned passengers "temporary restrictions" were in place overnight, while at the capital's Vnukovo airport all arrivals and departures were halted. Restrictions at both airports were lifted by Sunday morning but each warned some flights may still be delayed. It comes after a mother and her two small children, a boy and a girl, were killed in a Russian attack in the city of Fastiv, Kyiv on Saturday, according to regional head Tymur Tkachenko. He later said a child injured in a separate attack in Vyshhorod, north of Kyiv, had also died in hospital. In the north-eastern Sumy region, four people were killed when a Russian drone hit the car they were travelling in, top local official Oleh Hryhorov said. Russia also struck a monastery in the Kherson region with a drone on Saturday, Zelensky said, killing one member of the clergy and injuring four others. Both Russia and Ukraine have continued to hit energy infrastructure targets in the past week, despite US President Donald Trump claiming on social media that the two sides had agreed not to do so. Trump signed a sanctions bill on Friday that targets Russia's economy by implementing tariffs on the biggest buyers of the country's oil and gas which include China and India. The US legislation gives the US president powers to impose 100% tariffs on major purchasers of Russian energy. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

# GERMAN ELECTIONS UNDER WAY WHICH COULD DECIDE FATE OF CHANCELLOR MERZ



Local elections are taking place in two German states on Sunday which could increase the political pressure on Chancellor Friedrich Merz. Opinion polls in Berlin and Mecklenburg-Vorpommerm suggest Merz's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is at risk of damaging defeats, which would raise further questions about the chancellor's future. These latest elections come after the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party won a major victory in the state of Saxony-Anhalt two weeks ago, while the CDU saw its vote halved. There has been speculation in Germany that Merz could be replaced as chancellor mid-term unless the CDU's political fortunes improve. He has said he will carry on but is facing poor approval ratings amid rumours of a so-called chancellor swap, though his challengers are "still hesitating", writes German news site Tagesschau. According to the polls, Merz's conservatives could lose power in Berlin as it tussles with Die Linke (The Left) over first place. Meanwhile in the north-eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the CDU has only just been hovering above the 5% threshold needed for a party to enter the state parliament. It could spell their worst ever result in a state election. How did it come to this after just 16 months in power? Friedrich Merz is having to answer for the tumbling popularity of his own party, while the political force that he aimed to counter - the AfD - continues its rise. Some branches of the AfD are classed as right-wing extremist by domestic intelligence, a designation it strongly rejects. But its anti-immigration, Russian-friendly, Germany-first agenda has found fertile ground in the country's former communist east. The AfD is hoping to build on its recent landslide win in Saxony-Anhalt by topping the polls in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. However, the centre-left SPD has staged a late comeback to be in contention for the top spot through its lead candidate, Manuela Schwesig. Currently the state premier, Schwesig is trying to sweep up the anti-AfD vote as she bills herself as the "Die Frau gegen Blau" - "Woman against Blue", the AfD's party colours. But her local popularity belies the far poorer fortunes of her national party which is locked in a loveless coalition with Merz's CDU. In a queue for a campaign event in the city of Neubrandenburg, AfD supporter Reinhart tells us that the traditional parties are being washed away. "Not only in Germany. In Italy, in France, in Great Britain. Everywhere the traditional parties go down." He smiles when asked what he thinks of Merz, saying: "Oh well everyone thinks the same about him. "He is arrogant, out of touch, not on the same level as the general public." Merz's backers argue that the chancellor has had a tough time with global events and that a lot of the problems the nation faces are ones he has inherited. But whatever faith people had in his ability to fix those problems, it is apparently ebbing away - and, the brutal truth is, it can be hard to find voters who like him. The former corporate lawyer's tack to the right on issues like immigration has failed to erode AfD support while also alienating people further to the left. His blunt communication style has also caused irritation, such as his dismissal of "work-life balance", telling Germans they need to work more and take less sick leave.

## Deadly US strike on Iran school may have been a war crime, UN report finds



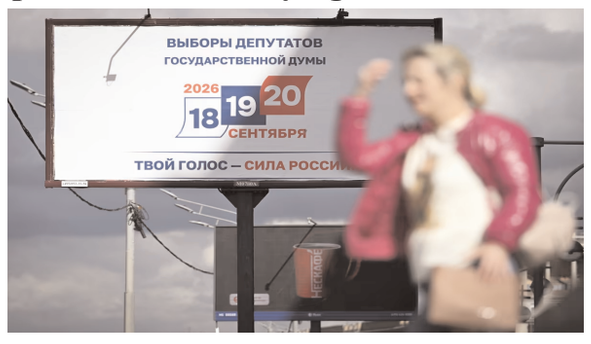
Two deadly US strikes on Iran during the opening salvo of the war, including one that hit an elementary school, may have been war crimes, a United Nations fact-finding mission concluded in a new report. The report by the independent investigators also found that Iran may have committed crimes against humanity in its crackdown against government protesters. The findings by the UN's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission, which will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council, could be used by international courts like the International Criminal Court. At least 156 people, including 120 children and 26 teachers, were killed when the school in the southern city of Minab was struck on February 28, according to Iranian officials. While there have been slight variances in the reported death toll, it would be considered one of the worst civilian casualty incidents in recent US military history. The investigators also examined a second US strike on the same day, which hit a sports center and residential area in the southern city of Lamerd. The strike killed 22 civilians, according to the UN. In both strikes.

## Israeli president overrules military to pardon soldier who killed incapacitated Palestinian attacker



Israeli President Isaac Herzog pardoned a soldier who shot and killed an incapacitated Palestinian attacker in the occupied West Bank in 2016, despite opposition from the military's chief of staff. Announcing the move on Saturday, Herzog said the decision would allow Elor Azaria, who was in his mandatory military service at the time of the incident, to "continue with his life." The decision expunges Azaria's criminal record. The case divided Israeli society as it risked politicizing the military - even playing a role in the resignation of then-Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon - with many on the right-wing, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calling for Azaria to receive a pardon. But the Israeli military made clear at the time that it viewed the shooting as a "grave breach of IDF values, conduct and standards of military operations." Video of the incident showed Azaria, then serving as a combat medic, approaching a Palestinian man, suspected in a knife attack, before shooting him in the head as he lay injured on the street. In a statement on X, Ya'alon blasted the decision to issue the pardon. "The soldier did not claim to have shot the terrorist because he felt his life was in danger, but 'because he deserved to die,'" Ya'alon said. Addressing Herzog directly, he said, "You decided to erase the criminal record without hearing from the soldier he takes responsibility or regrets his actions." Herzog, who issued the statement on the eve of Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, said the "circumstances, the length of time passed, and the sorrow Azaria expressed justify enabling him to be allowed to begin a new chapter in his life." Azaria was sentenced to 18 months in prison for killing Abdel Fattah al-Sharif, who was one of two men accused of stabbing another Israeli soldier in Hebron. Azaria faced up to 20 years in prison after he was convicted; critics said the shorter sentence amounted to a slap on the wrist. He ultimately served only nine months before he was released. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) did not issue a statement after the pardon. But in a July letter in response to the pardon request, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said "the request should not be granted." In direct contradiction to Herzog, Zamir's office stated that Azaria had never expressed sorrow or remorse about the killing. Zamir opposed the pardon because Azaria had not taken responsibility for his actions, and there were no "specific personal circumstances of significant weight" that warranted a pardon. Defense Minister Israel Katz celebrated the pardon, calling it a "humane and appropriate decision." He said in a statement the "time has come to allow (Azaria) to put the past behind him, rebuild his life and his future."

## Empty podiums, prizes for e-voting, no opposition: Russians head to the polls amid intensifying war in Ukraine

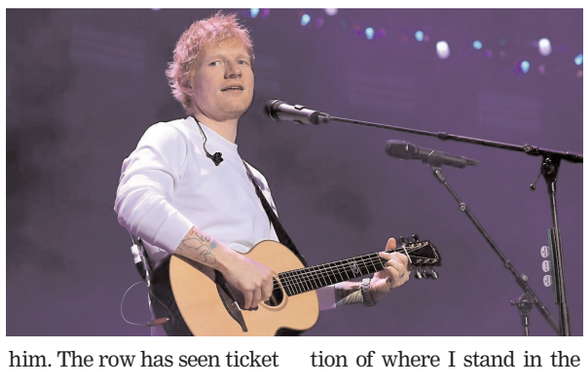



**Moscow —** "The candidates have not shown up at our studio, so I'll say goodbye for now," Elizaveta Dorokhina, a Russia-1 state TV anchor, told viewers, with three empty podiums visible either side of her in the studio. The broadcast switched to a commercial break. All six registered candidates in Ryazan, a city 122 miles southeast of the Russian capital, had failed to turn up for a televised debate ahead of upcoming elections. Russia is holding parliamentary elections, the first since its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, in a political landscape in which critical opposition is effectively nonexistent, with opponents barred or having fled the country. Voters will elect 450 members of the State Duma – the lower house of the Russian parliament. The empty studio offers a window into the democratic ritual Russia is so keen to put on display: the candidates, the debates, the appearance of choice. Projecting stability and an image of due processes has become a cornerstone of President Vladimir Putin's Russia. The voting will take place over a three-day period starting Friday. The United Russia party, which backs Putin and has dominated domestic Russian politics for over 20 years, is widely expected to win a majority of seats.



Houthis say they targeted Saudi capital with ballistic missiles

## Ed Sheeran admits 'mistakes' at first show since Macklemore controversy



Ed Sheeran has apologised to fans for making "mistakes" as he opened his first show since Macklemore was dropped from his tour for making pro-Palestinian remarks on stage. The singer began his concert in Philadelphia by addressing the controversy that has since engulfed the tour and prompted all of his support acts to quit. "I never wanted to be an activist musician, but this has put me in the middle of an important and passionate argument about free speech and the most complex political issue on the planet," Sheeran said. He described the 7 October 2023 Hamas-led attacks as "horrific" and called the situation in Gaza "unjustifiable". The singer has said the decision to drop Macklemore was made by his promoters, not him. The row has seen ticket prices drop and sales decline for the remaining US leg of his Loop Tour. Sheeran told the crowd that while he was used to facing criticism for his music, "this week, the criticism was about something much more important, and I've had to take and make difficult decisions - and I am making mistakes - and I'm so, so sorry". He said he wanted to "address the question of where I stand in the situation in Israel and Palestine, and whether my doing this concert here tonight implies where I stand". "I have tried in my career not to be a political commentator of any kind, because I want my music and shows to be about unity, not division", he continued. "But this is a humanitarian issue, and I cannot hide how I feel about it anymore." Sheeran said what happened in Israel on 7 October was "horrific and compounded centuries of Jewish pain", and what was happening in Gaza was "catastrophic and unjustifiable and disproportionate". "My heart has been broken by the scale of devastation and loss of civilian lives, of children's lives, and this systemic injustice we're seeing unfold in the West Bank cannot be overlooked." He said he was working out how to contribute in a way that would help "victims of these terrible times - and listening and learning, because I do not know enough". The British singer became emotional as he told the crowd his concert was "still a place where everyone is welcome, and everyone here can stand beside people that have opposing views".

# INDIA 'NOT CONSULTED' FOR NEW ZEALAND TOUR

## New Scheduling Chaos Engulfs Team: Report



Scheduling congestion could force the Indian team to rest some of their players for the final two of their five ODIs against New Zealand later this year, according to a report. India are scheduled to play five T20Is, five ODIs and two Tests during a gruelling two-month tour of New Zealand. However, concerns have been raised over the scheduling of the series, with the Test leg set to begin just four days after the fifth and final ODI on November 15. According to a report in Dainik Jagran, the likes of Shubman Gill, Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Siraj could be rested for the final two ODIs in Mount Maunganui to prepare for the subsequent Test series. The aforementioned players are expected to be part of both the ODI and Test squads, which could force the team management to prioritise their workload and availability for the red-ball leg of the tour. The report further claimed that India's coaching staff could be split into two groups to manage the demanding schedule. Two members from the quartet of head coach Gautam Gambhir, bowling coach Morne Morkel, assistant coach Sitanshu Kotak and fielding coach Subhadeep Ghosh are likely to remain in Mount Maunganui with the ODI squad, while the other two could travel with the Test-bound players to Wellington and oversee preparations for the opening Test.

ASIAN GAMES:

## India Women Fight Back In Table Tennis To Secure Second Straight Win



The Indian women's team scripted a fine comeback to script a 3-2 win over Singapore in their Group F match of the table tennis event at the Asian Games here on Sunday. India were staring at defeat after trailing 1-2 before Sreeja Akula and Yashaswini Ghorpade secured crucial wins to clinch the tie. Opening the proceedings, Ghorpade defeated Jian Zeng 11-7, 11-3, 8-11, 11-9. But Sreeja Akula suffered a narrow 8-11, 11-4, 9-11, 11-4, 6-11 loss to Loy Ming in the second match. Diya Chitale too went down 7-11, 4-11, 11-7, 5-11 against Tan Zhao to concede a 1-2 lead to Singapore. Returning for a must-win match against Zeng Jian, Sreeja shrugged off the earlier loss to register a 6-11 11-3, 11-7, 11-4 win to level the tie at 2-2. In the decider, Ghorpade beat Loy Ming 5-11, 11-8, 12-10, 4-11, 11-9 to notch up a memorable win for India. Earlier, India's men's and women's teams began their campaigns with identical 3-0 wins over Indonesia in their respective Group F openers The women's team began on a winning note as Sreeja, Diya and Yashaswini swept their Indonesian opponents. Sreeja beat Ni Maharani 3-1 in the opening rubber, recovering from an 8-11 second-game loss to win 11-3, 11-4, 11-4. Diya then defeated Almaira Nebuchadnezzar 3-0 (11-9, 11-8, 11-5) before Yashaswini sealed the tie with a 3-0 (12-10, 11-4, 11-4) win over Citra Rasmi. The men followed with an equally dominant 3-0 victory, though they were pushed harder in the second rubber. Sathiyan Gnanasekaran put India ahead with a 3-0 win over Muhammad Negara, prevailing 11-8, 11-7, 11-9. Manav Thakkar then survived a five-game battle against Muhammad Junindra, winning 3-2. Manav took the first game 11-7, dropped the second 8-11, and regained the lead by winning the third 11-6. Junindra forced a decider by taking the fourth 11-6, but Manav held his nerve to win the fifth 11-9. Manush Shah completed the men's sweep with a 3-0 win over Affan Pratama, prevailing 11-9, 11-9, 12-10. India's women are grouped alongside Indonesia, Pakistan and Singapore in Group F.

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi Congratulates Indian Shooters After Double Silver Glory In Asian Games



Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Indian shooters Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Uttam Maskar and Vidarsa K Vinod after the trio won silver in the women's 10m air rifle team event at the Asian Games in Nagoya Sunday, while also praising Elavenil for securing another silver in the individual event later in the day. "Hard work and teamwork lead to an outstanding result! Proud of Sonam Uttam Maskar, Elavenil Valarivan and Vidarsa K. Vinod for winning the Silver Medal at the Asian Games 2026 in the 10m Air Rifle Women's event. Their success will inspire several athletes in the coming times: PM Narendra Modi," PMO wrote on X. The Indian trio accumulated 1897 points to finish second behind China in the 16-team competition at the Aichi Pref. General Shooting Gallery. Japan claimed the bronze medal. Elavenil and Sonam subsequently advanced to the individual final, where both shooters featured among the top eight. Elavenil then added another silver to her tally after finishing second in the women's 10m air rifle individual final. Japan's Hinata Taichi won gold with an Asian Games record score of 253.0, while Elavenil finished with 252.4. Elavenil remained in contention for gold deep into the individual final before Taichi produced a decisive finish. The Indian entered the final two shots with a 0.3-point advantage, but the Japanese shooter eventually edged ahead with her final shot. Congratulating Elavenil on her second medal of the day, PM Modi said the achievement made the occasion even more special. "Indian shooters keep making us proud! Congrats to Elavenil Valarivan for winning a Silver Medal in the 10m Air Rifle Women Individual event at the Asian Games. This was her second medal of the day, making this even more special. My best wishes to her for the endeavours ahead: PM Narendra Modi" PMO posted on X. India's shooters had won a record 22 medals at the 2023 Asian Games, including seven gold, nine silver and six bronze.

## Teqball Star Quimcy Dsouza Reveals Why India Missed Out On Asian Games Medal



India's teqball campaign at the 2026 Asian Games ended without a medal on Sunday after Quimcy Dsouza fell short in two bronze-medal contests, with the Indian athlete admitting that the pressure of competing on an unfamiliar continental stage impacted her. Dsouza first suffered a narrow 2-0 (12-11, 12-11) defeat to Japan's Yuina Sakamoto in the women's singles bronze-medal match. She returned later alongside Mohamed Anas Imran Beg for the mixed doubles bronze-medal playoff, but the Indian pair fell 0-2 (12-9, 12-6) to Vietnam's Hoang Minh Tan Nguyen and Gia Nghi Trinh. "To experience such pressure for the first time was where I fell back a little bit," Dsouza told Olympics.com. "We're not used to the pressure because from nobody covering us to suddenly everyone talking about teqball was too much to take on our chest," she added. Dsouza said representing India was a lifelong dream, and she felt immense pride at finally wearing the national jersey. She added that she hopes to keep giving her best to continue representing the country. "A lot of athletes in India dream about wearing India on their chest. The kid in me would be super proud today. It's always been a dream to wear India on my chest, and to be able to achieve that, I still can't sink in the feeling. I still can't believe I'm wearing it. India looks good on me, and I hope that I continue to give it my all to ensure this remains on my chest forever, " she said. Teqball, a sport that blends elements of football and table tennis and is played on a curved table, made its Asian Games debut at Aichi-Nagoya 2026. India fielded three athletes in the competition, Quimcy Dsouza, Mohamed Anas Imran Beg and Declan Marshall Gonsalves.

## India's Suchika Tariyal Books MMA Semifinal Spot In Asian Games



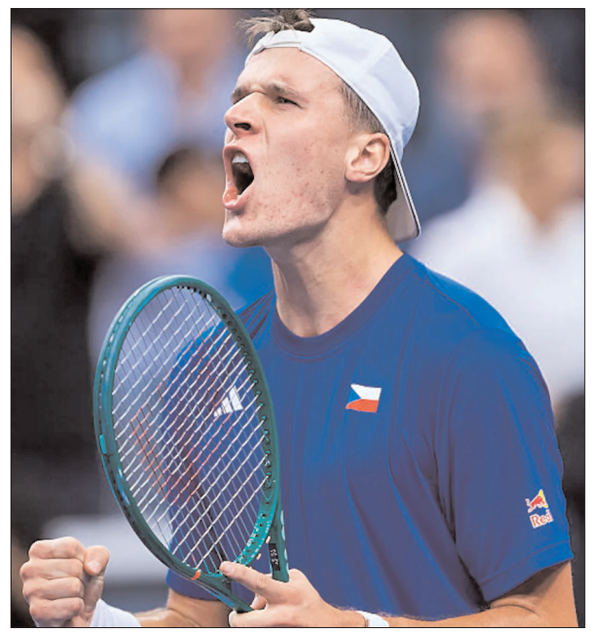
An incident of eve-teasing left Suchika Tariyal with a simple thought: 'I wanted to learn how to fight'. Twenty-four years later, that decision has taken the 36-year-old from judo mats in Haryana to the Asian Games podium, where she assured India of its first medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Games by beating Mongolia's Altanchimeg Baigalmaa 2-0 to enter the semifinals of the women's Traditional Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) 60kg event here on Sunday. The semifinals at the Nagoya City Inae Sports Centre here on Monday will give Tariyal a chance to turn her assured bronze into a gold. A place in the last four guarantees a medal, with both losing semi-finalists receiving bronze. "It's great to have assured one medal for the country. It's time for me to give that fight for a gold medal tomorrow," Tariyal said after her victory. The Women's Traditional MMA 60kg combines striking, takedowns, grappling and ground fighting, with athletes competing in the under-60kg category. The winner is decided by points, submission or stoppage, and reaching the semi-finals guarantees a medal, with both losing semi-finalists receiving bronze. It is making its Asian Games debut at Aichi-Nagoya 2026. It's another landmark moment for Tariyal in a career that has stretched across judo, jiu-jitsu and MMA. "I had a dream from childhood that I would learn some kind of fighting, so I chose judo. That journey has brought me here. It's like perfecting the base to go to the next level, and judo has helped me a lot with that," she said.

## Raphinha Treble Fires Perfect Barcelona To Win At Sevilla



Raphinha scored a superb hat-trick to earn Barcelona a 3-1 win at Sevilla on Saturday in La Liga and preserve their 100 percent record. Hansi Flick's side moved six points clear of Jose Mourinho's Real Madrid, who visit Atletico Madrid in a derby clash on Sunday. The Spanish champions were given the biggest test of their season to date but overcame Sevilla at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan thanks to Raphinha's treble. La Liga's top goalscorer, Raphinha reached 12 goals in seven league appearances with a second consecutive hat-trick, and scored twice more in the Champions League.

## CZECHS BEAT USA TO QUALIFY FOR DAVIS CUP FINALS



Jiri Lehecka downed Learner Tien in a deciding rubber Saturday as the Czech Republic stunned the United States 3-2 in Davis Cup qualifying for a second straight year, while South Korea reached the last eight for the first time. The Czechs knocked out the Americans at the same second qualifying round stage in a decider at Delray Beach a year ago, when Jakub Mensik beat Frances Tiafoe to secure a surprise victory. Tomas Berdych's men repeated the feat in similarly dramatic fashion, to the delight of a raucous home crowd in Prague, as Lehecka clinched a 6-3, 7-5 win over world number 13 Tien. The USA are record 32-time winners of the competition but their wait for a first title since 2007 goes on. The Czechs advance to the November eight-team finals in Bologna, where hosts Italy will bid for a fourth straight title. "The wins in Davis Cup are always a little bit different because this is a team competition," said Lehecka. After starting the day locked at 1-1, the USA nudged ahead as Christian Harrison and Austin Krajicek saved four match points to outlast Adam Pavlasek and Patrik Rikl in a thrilling 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (10/8) win. Mensik then fought back from a set down to keep the tie alive by defeating recent US Open runner-up Ben Shelton 5-7, 6-4, 6-3. Shelton took a tense first set after saving a set point when trailing 5-4, reeling off the last three games. Mensik created a set point at exactly the same stage of the second, but this time made no mistake with a booming forehand to level the match.

## VAN BEATS PANTOJA TO RETAIN UFC FLYWEIGHT TITLE



Joshua Van retained his flyweight title with a commanding win over Alexandre Pantoja in their rematch at UFC 331 in Los Angeles. The 24-year-old from Myanmar beat Brazilian Pantoja in December 2025 after Pantoja suffered an accidental elbow dislocation 26 seconds into the fight. Van, the first UFC champion born in the 2000s, defended the belt against Tatsuro Taira in May but can now claim to be the best in the division after soundly beating 36-year-old Pantoja again. "A lot of people said that was an accidental win, well, doubt me now," Van said after extending his professional MMA record to 18 wins and two losses. Pantoja took Van down in the first round, before landing heavy punches and knees in a fiery exchange, as Van retaliated with a slicing elbow. Van, who moved to the United States when he was 12, then peppered Pantoja with left-handed jabs in the second round, and rocked the Brazilian with a fluid combination of punches in the third. Pantoja controlled the fourth round as he took Van down but was unable to submit him. In the final round, Van stalked Pantoja and knocked him down with an overhand right, securing the win in the judges' scorecards. Scottish fighter Casey O'Neill also won on the night, beating Eduarda Moura with an armbar submission.Pantoja had suffered an accidental elbow dislocation 26 seconds into their first fight in December last year, resulting in Van becoming the UFC flyweight champion without an outright win over the Brazilian, who had reigned over the division for at least two years. Van, the first UFC champion from Myanmar, defended the belt against Tatsuro Taira in May but was left waiting to seal his status as the best in the division as 36-year-old Pantoja recovered from the injury. "A lot of people said that was an accidental win ... well, doubt me now," Joshua said after his second title defence, which extended his professional MMA record to 18 wins and two losses. Pantoja took Van down in the first round before landing heavy punches and knees in a fiery exchange, as Van retaliated with a slicing elbow. "You're too good to brawl with this guy," Van's coaches told him during the break, suggesting a more tactical approach.Van peppered Pantoja with left-handed jabs in the second round and rocked the Brazilian with a fluid combination of punches in the third.

# Kannada Star Vijay Raghavendra to Headline Director Sanjeev Megoti's 'On Duty'



Hyderabad: Creative director Sanjeev Megoti, known for bringing crime, action and thriller-based stories to the screen with a distinctiv gbe narrative style, is all set to make his comeback to Kannada cinema with an exciting new project titled 'On Duty'. Following the success of his Telugu crime-suspense thriller 'Police Complaint', which featured Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and Naveen Chandra in prominent roles, Sanjeev Megoti is now gearing up to direct a Kannada film. The upcoming movie, titled 'On Duty', will feature popular Kannada actor Vijay Raghavendra as the protagonist. Vijay Raghavendra belongs to the illustrious family of Kannada cinema legend Dr. Rajkumar. Vijay Raghavendra, who has already established himself with performances in several crime, suspense, thriller and action-oriented films, has reportedly given his nod to Sanjeev Megoti's fresh and intriguing storyline. His association with a director known for experimenting with crime and thriller narratives has generated considerable curiosity around the project. Vijay Raghavendra has several crime and thriller-oriented films in his filmography. His recent film 'Second Case of Seetharam' is currently streaming on the popular OTT platform Amazon Prime Video and has reportedly received a positive response from audiences. Meanwhile, Sanjeev Megoti's recently released Telugu film 'Police Complaint', starring Varalaxmi Sarathkumar and Naveen Chandra in key roles, was made against a crime, suspense and thriller backdrop. The film received a good response from audiences during its theatrical run and is also continuing to attract attention on Amazon Prime Video, where it has been trending. With both Vijay Raghavendra and Sanjeev Megoti coming off projects that have received a positive response, their collaboration on 'On Duty' has now become a topic of discussion in industry circles. The combination of a popular Kannada star and a filmmaker known for attempting unconventional crime and thriller narratives has already created expectations around the project. After a gap of nearly 15 years, Sanjeev Megoti is returning to Kannada cinema as a director. For his comeback, he is said to be working on a completely new story set against a crime and action backdrop.

# THE PARADISE' WILL MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE AUDIENCE: NANI

Natural Star Nani's Pan India period action entertainer 'The Paradise'. Directed by Srikanth Odela, Sudhak on a grand scale 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 will be released worldwide on September 24. On this occasion, Natural Star Nani shared the highlights of the film at a press conference.

**September has been good to you, hasn't it?**

-My career started in September. 'Ashta Chamma' was released in September. 'Bhale Bhale Magadivoy' also came out in September. Now I believe that that hit sentiment will work out for 'Paradise'.

What did you think when you heard about the character of Jadal?

-That's the look that came from the story. It felt very new to me. All the roles I've played so far have been very relatable and feel like a familiar person. The character in this is not someone who grew up in general society. You'll understand what that is when you watch the movie. That character has a madness from the beginning. The audience sees that character with a shock value. In fact, such a character is very new in Telugu. That character is still fresh on me.

**Your films are aimed at a family audience. What will this film be like?**

-This is a movie that all family audiences can watch. The mother-son emotion is amazing. It has everything you would expect from a commercial movie. Families can watch it together happily.



What will Anirudh's background score be like?

We did 'Jersey' and 'Gang Leader'. This film gave us the opportunity to hold the background score from the beginning to the end and hold it. He did it twice out of a hundred. Srikanth-Anirudh is a killer combination. Songs like 'Aya Sher' and 'Eshu Nagula Katta' were possible because of them.

**What about Mohan Babu's character?**

When Srikanth narrated the story, Mohan Babu said that it would be good. Otherwise, I doubt whether he would do this character or not. Because it is a very negative, brutal character. Srikanth went to Mohan Babu to tell the story. He felt very excited. I was shocked to see that. Mohan Babu was the first person who believed that this would be a big movie when he heard this story. There are some things he does as a villain in it. The audience will definitely be shocked to see all of them.

**What about Pan India promotions?**

The content of this film has reached all regions. It has been received very well. Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, and Malayalam audiences are giving it a lot of love. That is why I will not compromise on the dubbing at all. That is the minimum respect we give to the love they give. It will be released in all languages ??with excellent quality.



# KEERTHY SURESH SHINES IN WHITE SILK SAREE

Keerthy Suresh looked radiant at the trailer launch of her upcoming movie Dorothy, greeting the crowd with a warm namaste. She wore an elegant ivory Kattu Bapu saree with a golden zari border, paired with a matching embroidered blouse. Minimal gold jewellery and a sleek bun completed her graceful, traditional look, winning hearts online. The trailer of Dorothy has also created buzz, showing two childhood friends whose bond turns into rivalry over the years. Directed by Karthik Subbaraj, the gangster drama features Keerthy in the title role, with music by Ilaiyaraaja. The film releases in theatres on September 25. She also revealed her role in Karthik Subbaraj's Dorothy. The actress said that her character is written with a lot of subtlety, and opened up about how much screen time she actually has in the film, calling it a pivotal but understated presence in the story.The official trailer of Dorothy has been released by the makers, offering a closer look at the dark and violent world surrounding Keerthy Suresh's titular character. Written and directed by Karthik Subbaraj, the upcoming Tamil drama appears to blend crime, friendship and survival into a story that gradually draws its central characters into a dangerous conflict.

# SAMAVARTHI WILL GIVE AUDIENCES A GREAT ADVENTURE EXPERIENCE: SATYADEV

Young and talented actor Satyadev Kancharana, who has carved a unique identity for himself with versatile films, is playing the lead in the upcoming action thriller Samavarthi. This marks Satyadev's 16th film as a lead actor. The film is produced by Shivacharan Reddy Jakkidi and Shashidhar Reddy Padamati under the banners Rudra Pictures and Panchabhuta Productions, and is directed by Ajay Nag V. Touted as an ecological action thriller, Samavarthi is gearing up for a grand theatrical release in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam.



# Megastar Chiranjeevi Leaks His Character Name As Kadiri Kalidas In Most Successful Director Bobby Kolli

Megastar Chiranjeevi and director Bobby Kolli reunited after the blockbuster success of Waltair Veerayya, and their much-awaited action entertainer Kaaka continues to build hype with every new update. Produced by Venkat K Narayana under the KVN Productions banner, the film is being mounted on a lavish scale with a strong mix of action, emotion and family elements. The film's title glimpse released on Chiranjeevi's birthday occasion got thumping response, setting high expectations for the movie. The latest update has further heightened interest around the project, as Chiranjeevi revealed the name of his character at a recent event. The Megastar will be seen as Kadiri Kalidas in Kaaka, a powerful and striking name that itself hints at the commanding presence of his character in the film. While Kaaka is designed as a high-intensity action entertainer, the film will also feature a strong emotional and family-oriented narrative, making the protagonist's character arc one of the key attractions. Anaswara Rajan is part of the cast in a pivotal role. The movie features music by S Thaman, cinematography by Vijay Karthik Kannan, production design by Avinash Kolla and editing by Antony L Ruben. Kona Venkat and K Chakravarthy Reddy have penned the screenplay, with additional writing by Hari Mohana Krishna and Vineeth Potluri. Bhanu-Nandu are handling the dialogues. Kaaka is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on January 13, 2027, targeting the Sankranthi festive season.



## Ayesha Khan in Breathtaking Festive Saree Look



# TATVAM' TO HIT THEATRES ON OCTOBER 2

Dinesh Tej and Dashvika K. Starrer Murder Mystery Thriller Set for Theatrical Release The upcoming Telugu film 'Tatvam', starring Dinesh Tej and Dashvika K. in the lead roles, is gearing up for its theatrical release on October 2. Directed by Arjun Kola, the film is being made as a murder mystery and suspense thriller, promising a fresh cinematic experience with an intriguing story and gripping screenplay. The recently released trailer has received a positive response from audiences, raising expectations for the film. Produced jointly by Vrayati Ishani Creations and S.K. Productions, the film is produced by Vamsi Seemakurthi and Swetha Pasupuleti. Speaking about the film, producer Vamsi Seemakurthi said, "Tatvam is a thriller with a strong emotional connect. The film also has good scope for music, and Chetan Bharadwaj has delivered music that suits the story perfectly. The recently released trailer has been well received. All the elements have come together very well in the film, and everyone has extended great support throughout the journey. Director Arjun Kola has been waiting for this day for a long time. He has presented the story even better than we had imagined. We are confident that Tatvam will offer audiences a memorable theatrical experience."



# *Tamannaah Simply Stunning In Maroon Saree*

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia is once again winning attention with her traditional look. The actress looks elegant in a beautiful maroon saree from House of Masaba. The saree comes with heavy golden work on the border and pallu, giving it a rich and royal touch. Tamannaah is seen posing straight with her hands together. The full saree is clearly visible, with the dark maroon shade and golden detailing making the look perfect for a festive occasion. The close-up picture highlights her makeup, bindi and beautiful blue-green earrings.

The golden detailing on her blouse adds more charm to the traditional look. In another picture, Tamannaah gives a simple side pose with her long hair adding to the elegance. She then holds the pallu and poses with one hand on her hip, giving a clear view of the heavy golden embroidery. With a simple background and a classy traditional outfit, Tamannaah looks graceful and royal in these pictures.



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