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NATIONAL | NEWS

Demand surges for TN
Assembly visitor passes ahead
of CM Vijay's reply in HouseISRO says it will neither
be privatised nor lose
importance

Its focus will further move towards R&D, human space-flight, next-gen launch systems, deep-space, planetary missions, and strategic national capabilities

CINEMA | NEWS

WHEN TABU OPENED UP
ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE
OF A DIRECTORSCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

05-09-2026
Total pilgrims: 84,176
Tonsures: 36,673
Hundi/kankals: 4,08 CR
Laddu sale: 474 Lac
Annaprasadam: 3,011 Lac
Ashwin hospital: 4,230
Present Situation on 04-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments... Outside
line of Bala Gangamma Temple.
Approx. Darsan Time for Saravadarshanam (with
out SSD Tokens): 24H.

Short Takes

TWO MILITANTS
KILLED, TWO
INJURED IN GUN
BATTLE WITH
SECURITY FORCES IN
MANIPUR

Imphal, Sep 6 : At least two militants of the United Kuki National Army (UKNA) were killed and two others injured in a gun battle with security forces during an intelligence-based operation in Manipur's Churachandpur district, officials said on Sunday. An official said that the Indian Army and the Assam Rifles launched a joint operation based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of militants at Phaibong village under the Henglep sub-division in the mountainous Churachandpur district. Forces established surveillance over a UKNA camp and commenced tactical closing when UKNA cadres opened indiscriminate fire and the troops quickly retaliated with controlled fire. "Two UKNA cadres neutralised and two injured in the firing," the official said. Search of the camp yielded two foreign made MA Rifles (5.56 mm), one AK-56 Rifle (7.62 mm), one Lathode Gun (40 mm), seven Lathod Grenades, 15 AK magazines, 371 AK-56 rounds, 601 MA Rifle rounds, 172 SLR rounds, 15 combat uniforms, 7 ammunition pouches, 5 backpacks, 3 combat bags and 5 pairs of jungle shoes.

Nepal rescuers continue search
for missing as identification of
dead remains challenge

KATHMANDU (TSIT): (SEP. 6)

Rescuers in Nepal continued searching for those missing, as authorities faced continuing difficulties in identifying the dead, 11 days after devastating floods struck large parts of the country.

The death toll stood at 1,344, while nearly 5,000 people, including 589 foreign nationals, remained missing, according to Nepal Police. Around 13,400 people

have been rescued so far. The disaster was triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, sending a massive surge of water and debris downstream through the Bhotekoshi River and devastating settlements in northern and central Nepal. Homes, vehicles, roads, bridges and hydropower infrastructure were swept away or damaged.

9 dead after
suspected spurious
liquor consumption
in MP's Sagar

Sagar (Madhya Pradesh), Sep 6 : At least nine people have died after allegedly consuming spurious liquor in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh, while around 35 others have been admitted to hospitals, officials said on Sunday.



Some of those undergoing treatment are reported to be in critical condition and have been referred to Bundelkhand Medical College and the District Hospital in Sagar. District Collector Pratibha Pal said reports of illness and deaths allegedly linked to illicit liquor consumption had emerged since morning and an investigation was underway at the Civil Hospital. "There have been reports of illness-

India, Saudi Arabia hold talks to boost labour cooperation

Riyadh (TSIT): Minister of State for External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh, on Sunday, September 6, met Saudi Arabia's Human Resources and Social Development Minister Ahmad bin Sulaiman Alrajhi and discussed cooperation in labour and manpower sectors.

"Pleased to meet Ahmad bin Sulaiman Alrajhi, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development of Saudi Arabia. Held wide-ranging discussions on further strengthening India-Saudi Arabia cooperation in the labour and manpower sector, reflecting the depth and growing momentum of our Strategic Partnership. Grateful to Ahmad bin Sulaiman Alrajhi for the invitation and warm hospitality," MoS Singh stated on X.

Singh arrived in Saudi Arabia, on his first official visit, on Saturday and was received by the country's

Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, Dr Tariq Al Hamad. "Arrived in Riyadh on a bilateral visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Warmly received by Ambassador Shri Vipul and HE Dr Tariq Al Hamad, Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources and Social



Development. I look forward to fruitful engagements with Saudi counterparts and meaningful interactions with Indian diaspora and business leaders in the Kingdom," MoS Singh stated on X.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), during the visit, which will go on till September 8, MoS Singh will also be meeting the Minister of State for Foreign

Affairs and Climate Affairs Envoy, the Vice Minister for Environment, Water and Agriculture, as well as other dignitaries.

MoS Singh will interact with a large cross-section of the Indian community in Saudi Arabia and Indian business leaders, entrepreneurs and professionals during the visit. "He will interact with Indian workers, reflecting the Government of India's unwavering commitment to the welfare of Indian workers overseas," the MEA said in a statement.

"The visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to discuss issues of mutual interest in the areas of human resources, skill development, environment, climate change and international affairs and further strengthen the multifaceted strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia," it added.

However, the sustainability of India's growing role in Europe's diesel market is coming under scrutiny as crude supplies into the country tighten. Crude and condensate shipments into India fell for a second consecutive month in August to around 3.8 million bpd, compared with 4.8 million bpd a year earlier, Vortexa data showed. The pressure on European die-

India emerges
as key diesel
supplier to Europe

New Delhi, Sep 6 : India is emerging as a crucial supplier of diesel to Europe as Russian exports remain severely constrained and US shipments begin to weaken, with Indian refiners accounting for around 60 per cent of diesel volumes transiting the Bab-el-Mandeb to Europe in August, according to energy intelligence firm Vortexa. Around 2,00,000 barrels per day (bpd) of diesel, or gasoil, transited the Bab-el-Mandeb in August on vessels bound for Europe. The volume was close to year-ago levels after flows through the strategically important shipping route had nearly stalled in March and April. India supplied roughly 60 per cent of the August volumes, highlighting the growing importance of Indian refineries to Europe's eastern diesel supply. India's position is underpinned by its large refining capacity. The country is the world's fourth-largest refiner, with installed capacity of 258.1 million tonnes per annum, significantly higher than domestic fuel demand.

This surplus has enabled Indian refiners to remain major exporters of petroleum products. India exported 61.5 million tonnes of petroleum products during 2025-26, making it one of the world's largest exporters of refined fuels. Increasingly, these products are finding markets across Europe and, in some cases, Russia, as sanctions, refinery disruptions and changes in global trade routes reshape refined-product flows.

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Building collapses in south Delhi's Satya
Niketan; 3 dead, 5 critical, many trapped

Locals claim the building was nearly 20 years old and construction work in the basement was on when the incident occurred at around 1.30 pm

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

A 50-year-old five-storey building housing a boys' hostel in a congested bylane in Satya Niketan near Delhi University's South Campus collapsed on Sunday afternoon, leaving three students dead and many trapped. Locals claimed that there could be between 30 and 50 people in the building at the time. Authorities, however, gave no figure for those trapped.

Eight people have been pulled out of the debris so far, of whom two were brought dead to the hospital, while a third died during treatment. Five are critical, the police said.

Repair work was under way in the basement of the five-floor structure, which was used as a paying guest (PG) accommodation, when it collapsed at around 1.30 pm, a senior officer said.



Several vehicles also came under the rubble as the structure crashed. Locals claimed that the collection of water in the basement over days of rain had weakened the building's foundation, leading to its eventual collapse.

Delhi has seen spells of heavy rain since Friday. A police officer said the structure was nearly 50 years old. Two NDRF teams comprising 70 personnel and a canine squad have been deployed to look for signs of

life. Oxygen cylinders were dropped under the rubble for those stuck to breathe, an NDRF officer said. Fire tenders have been stationed at the site.

The area is marked by narrow, congested bylanes lined with eateries and PGs. Densely packed buildings often leave little room for movement, with locals saying most of the students staying in the locality were from Kerala, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and study at colleges across the road.

DFC Carries Over
14% of Rail Freight on
Just 4% of Network

NEW DELHI (TSIT): Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) are significantly improving India's freight productivity by carrying more than 14% of railway freight on just 4% of the rail network. The dedicated infrastructure is helping expand freight capacity while reducing pressure on passenger routes. The DFC network is expected to lower national logistics costs, strengthen industrial corridors and improve the competitiveness of Indian manufacturing. Faster and more reliable movement of raw materials and finished goods can support the growth of the Make in India and Make for the World initiatives. Electrified freight operations also help reduce diesel consumption,

carbon emissions and dependence on imported fossil fuels, contributing to India's energy security and environmental goals. The corridors provide dependable movement of essential commodities such as coal, iron ore, steel, cement, fertilisers, food grains and petroleum products. Improved freight connectivity is also expected to attract foreign investment, promote industrial development beyond major cities and strengthen multimodal logistics by connecting rail with highways, ports, airports, waterways and logistics terminals. Greater reliance on rail for long-distance cargo will create a more balanced and resilient national transport system.

Iran's IRGC says it attacked
two US Navy vessels

TEHRAN (TSIT): Iran's aerospace forces attacked an aircraft carrier and a destroyer of the US military with several ballistic missiles after the vessels harassed Iranian ships and participated in the naval blockade against the country, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said Sunday.

The two military vessels fled the conflict zone after suffering damage, the IRGC said in a statement published by its official news outlet, Sepah News.

It warned that if the "hostile and aggressive" actions continue, the US government must await "formidable" responses from the Iranian armed forces.

On Saturday night, the IRGC's navy said it had targeted three oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz and three US-affiliated vessels elsewhere in retaliation for US attacks on Iranian tankers earlier in the day, Xinhua



News Agency reported.

The three tankers struck in the strait were crossing the waterway via an "unauthorised" route, the navy said in a statement, adding that the other three vessels were hit in other regions.

US Central Command said Saturday on social media platform X that US forces had struck three Iranian crude oil carriers after IRGC "launched ballistic missiles toward two US Navy warships patrolling regional waters."

"A US aircraft carrier and guided-missile destroyer successfully evaded multiple unprovoked Iranian attacks.

No American personnel were harmed," it said.

In a statement published early Sunday by its official news outlet Sepah News, the IRGC said its aerospace forces had fired several ballistic missiles at a US aircraft carrier and a destroyer in the preceding hours, alleging that the vessels had harassed Iranian ships and participated in a naval blockade against Iran. The IRGC also said its naval forces had attacked a US Army unmanned surface vessel that attempted to enter a protected area of the Strait of Hormuz.

EDITORIAL

Bullets, Blows,
No Procedure

Siwan (Bihar): When student protests broke out in Bihar last month, Aman Kumar Lal came into form. Bihar records the highest number of student protests after Kerala, national data show. Nineteen-year-old Lal has been a part of quite a few of those protests in recent years. He knew the drill. Gather around Patna's Gandhi Maidan. Some angry slogans, some tongue-in-cheek digs. Wait for the police to arrive. Dodge their lathis. Enjoy their water cannons. Climb their barricades. Feel powerful. Return home pleased. Except, Patna now had a new dispensation. For the first time ever, the Bihar government was being run by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with chief minister Samrat Choudhary at the helm. Lal didn't think twice. He left home on the morning of July 22, when students called for a protest. Except, this time, he couldn't follow the script. A few hours into the protest, he was detained and then arrested by the police. "We thought they would let us go. But they refused to," said Lal, adding that he felt "surprised" at this change of tactic. In custody, Lal was interrogated repeatedly, and was asked questions about who was "funding" him. Lal laughed. "I said, all the ration the government gives people like us has fuelled me." The cops didn't see the humour in it. Lal spent seven days in custody, and was released only on July 29. Lal's experience, in a state known to tolerate student protests, even if grudgingly, is a part of a larger pattern: the changed approach of the Bihar government in quelling such demonstrations. The most glaring sign of this was the clutch of visuals that emerged from Siwan, where police officials fired AK-47 rifles and pistols at crowds gathered in the heart of the city on July 25, when student outfits had called for a Bihar Bandh. At least three people were injured when officials fired multiple rounds of bullets into the crowd. The Wire had, on August 25, reported how the three are struggling to recover, even one month after the incident. In quelling the protests, the Bihar Police had filed 64 First Information Reports (FIRs) against protesters and thousands of 'unknown' persons. It had also arrested or detained 694 people, of which at least 339 were minors. More proof of this came into public sight when, on August 26, hundreds of Bihari students and job aspirants gathered to demand the cancellation of the 70th Bihar Public Service Commission preliminary exam. As part of its effort to shut them down, the Bihar Police forcefully took a six-year-old protester out of the protest site by carrying him in their arms. Such excesses are increasingly the norm. Our reporting from across Bihar shows that the state police adopted violence, intimidation and arbitrary detentions as methods to quell the protests. In the process, they ended up violating constitutional safeguards and procedural norms. The Wire reached out to the head of Bihar police, Director General of Police Vinay Kumar over emails for his response to these findings. However, Kumar did not respond. When visuals of the Siwan police firing multiple rounds from an AK-47 rifle and a pistol flooded the internet, Vishal Yadav was as stunned as the rest of the country. After all, Yadav, as one of the organisers of the protest, was at the site minutes before the firing took place. Yadav is the vice-president of the Inquilab Naujawan Sabha, the youth-wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation (CPI-ML). The CPI-ML continues to have pockets of influence across Bihar – it has two MLAs and MPs each from the state.

Although gone are the days when I used to cover the Dahi Handi festival on the ground, I still visit some of the festive locations every year just for one simple reason - nostalgia. Yes, Dahi Handi makes me nostalgic. As a true blue Mumbaikar I have grown up watching and participating in this festival. Later on, when I became a TV journalist, I covered this celebration year after year. I have seen the transformation of this festival over the decades. From the modest matkis hung in the middle of streets at moderate heights, broken by local Govinda pathaks, the celebration is now enveloped in glamour and commercialisation. Without passing any judgement, I appreciate how the festival continually adapted to stay relevant across generations. Opinions may differ but the credit to transform the festival and keep it youthful and innovative goes to a few politicians like Jitendra Awhad, Sachin Aher, Pratap Sarnaik and Ram Kadam who belong to different parties. Awhad was the first one to organise a fashion show below the Dahi Handi in Pachpakhadi Thane. He also invited Spanish Castellars to Thane who celebrated a similar festival of forming human towers in Catalonia. Students of a business school attended his event to see the practical application of the concepts like goal-setting, team-building, risk management and so on. Sarnaik was instrumental in giving a professional structure to the festival. Aher gathered Bollywood celebrities at Jambori Maidan in Worli and Ram Kadam infused big cash into the festival in the form of rewards to participants of tall human pyramids. Some of the politicians have genuine love for the festival while others seem to capitalise on its popularity. In any case, their involvement has benefitted the festival. Despite all the



risks, commercialisation and politicisation, Dahi Handi festival remains an event which synthesises culture, religion and sports. The slogan "Govinda Ala Re..." still triggers excitement in me and makes my adrenaline rush in my mid 40s as it did during my teenage years. Moreover, in the time of growing social polarisation on communal lines, it is worth remembering that the song from the film Bluff Master (1963) , which has become the anthem of this Hindu festival, was sung by Mohammed Rafi, a Muslim. Every Janmashtami, I still miss that pandal at Pach Pakhadi in Thane from where I have broadcasted this event live for over 15 years. I really longed for the day and enjoyed the coverage. The last

chapter of my novel 'Bombay 3' is based on it. Janmashtami is being celebrated across India on September 4 with devotion and joy as devotees mark the birth of Lord Krishna. The festival is observed with prayers, fasting, devotional songs and visits to temples, making it one of the important occasions in the Hindu calendar. The celebrations are followed by Dahi Handi, which is traditionally observed on the day after Janmashtami. Also known as Gopalakala in Maharashtra, Dahi Handi 2026 will be celebrated on Saturday, September 5. The celebration involves groups known as Govinda Pathaks forming human pyramids to reach and break a suspended earthen pot filled with curd and

other dairy products. The term Dahi Handi comes from two words: 'dahi', meaning curd, and 'handi', referring to the traditional earthen pot used to store and process milk products. On the day, streets come alive with chants, music and energetic celebrations as Govinda Pathaks compete to reach and break the hanging pots. The tradition is rooted in the childhood stories of Lord Krishna. According to Hindu mythology, young Krishna was fond of butter and used to steal it from earthen pots kept in his neighbours' homes. To keep the dairy products away from him, the women of the neighbourhood began hanging the pots high from the ceiling. However, Krishna, known for his playful and mischievous nature, found a

way to reach them. He and his friends would form human pyramids, climb over one another and break the hanging pots to get the butter inside. Significance Of Dahi Handi Dahi Handi reflects the playful childhood of Lord Krishna. According to folklore, Krishna was very fond of butter and curd and would often steal them from his neighbours' homes. Because of this, he is often known as "Maakhan Chor". His mother, Yashoda, was irritated by his habit and suggested keeping butter, curd and milk high enough so that young Krishna could not reach them. However, Krishna and his friends found a way to get them by forming human pyramids. Once they reached the pots, they would break them,

share the butter among themselves and enjoy it. Over time, this act became an important part of Indian culture, especially during Janmashtami celebrations. The Dahi Handi event represents strength, coordination, teamwork and focus. The human pyramid can have up to nine tiers, with strong individuals forming the base and supporting the weight of those above them. The tradition also celebrates Lord Krishna's playful and mischievous nature, adding joy and happiness to the festivities. In Maharashtra, Dahi Handi celebrations on September 5 are expected to feature Govinda Pathaks competing to break the suspended pots amid music, dancing and festive gatherings.

In Bengal, Tribunal Remedy Has Been Slowest
Where the SIR Has Affected Muslim Voters the Most

Judicial officers reviewing the electoral rolls in Murarai, a constituency in West Bengal's Birbhum, in March this year marked 14,870 names not eligible and struck them off the voter list. Ninety-five percent of these names were Muslim. The Appellate Tribunal set up to hear their appeals has, in the last five or so months, decided exactly one case in Murarai. That one person was excluded from the list. Murarai is an extreme case and shorn of context, it perhaps should not be read as a pattern. But its theme holds across West Bengal, and it can be stated in one sentence – the places where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) affected the most number of Muslim electors are the places where the process of correction has been slowest and least effective. The scale Of the 27,05,162 names on the Election Commission's published lists of those found "not eligible" to vote, approximately 18.98 lakh were Muslim. This is 70.2%, in a state where Muslims are around 25% of the electorate. The removal of Muslim names was not spread evenly across the state. The districts Malda, Murshidabad and Uttar Dinajpur, with 43 constituencies between them, account for 31.8% of the total number of electors in West Bengal. In these three districts, 94.4% of the removals were Muslim. Measured against the electorate they started with, those three districts lost 7.63% of their voters to the revision, against a state figure of 3.53%, more than double the rate. Eighteen of the 43 constituencies sit on an international border. In these constituen-



cies, 42% of Muslims were deleted, against the 15% figure of the state, and their electorates had grown 50.1% since 2011 against the 36.7% statewide figure. It is no surprise that rapid growth of an electorate on a border attracts suspicion of ineligible enrolment. Statewide, the removals at border seats were 79.9% Muslim against 66.5% in non-border seats. One explanation can be ruled out, and it is the one the Commission is likely to reach for first. The SIR functioned through the process of matching each elector against the 2002 roll. Those who could not be matched were recorded as 'unmapped'. In these three districts, the share of those unmapped was 2.21% of the electorate, against 3.99% across West Bengal and 4.30% in the rest of the state. Therefore, voters in these three districts were able to map themselves to the old rolls in more numbers than anywhere else in the state. What separated them was what happened after that. The share of their electorate placed under adjudication was 21.36%, against 5.50% in the rest of the state, and it was

at that stage – after the draft roll had been published – that the removals were made. Across the 23 districts of the state, there is no relationship at all between the share who failed to map themselves to the 2002 rolls and the share of the electorate who were eventually struck off. Bankura had the lowest unmapped share in the state at 0.85% and removed 0.21% of its electorate. Malda had 1.88% who were unmapped and removed a whopping 7.48%. Where the remedy has not arrived Murshidabad have 6,83,683 removals between them, a quarter of the state total. Out of this figure, 6,52,858 were Muslim electors. The tribunals have put 2,833 people back on the rolls in the two districts. Ranked by restorations for every thousand electors removed, Murshidabad stands at 4.05 and Malda at 4.13, against a state average of 27.77. Only Purba Bardhaman at 0.90 and Paschim Bardhaman at 3.75 are worse. Malda has more appeals waiting than any other district in West Bengal, and has decided a smaller share of them than any other

district. The Election Commission's Right to Information reply on August 17 to Isha Khan Choudhury, the Congress MP for Dakshin Malda, gives two different counts for how many appeals Malda has, 6,85,341 in one of its tables and 5,31,149 in another. The previous article on this series has already reported that one of the two must be wrong. Here, it makes no difference. On the larger count Malda has decided 0.150% of its appeals. On the smaller, 0.193%. The next worst district in the state is 0.265%, so Malda is last either way. In its constituency of Malatipur, 86,989 appeals are pending and 90 have been decided. Sixteen constituencies statewide have restored nobody at all. The obvious explanation is that Malda and Murshidabad were simply handed more than any tribunal could process. However, this explanation is put to doubt by the example of Uttar Dinajpur. Adjudication there marked 1,76,869 electors not eligible and 90.4% of them were Muslim. It marked Muslims ineligible at 13.3 times the rate at which it marked everyone else.

Swatantra Bhardwaj Remanded to a Day's Custody;
Nishu Azad's Lawyer Flags 'Strange' Hearing

New Delhi: Hindutva worker Swatantra Bhardwaj, who had publicly boasted about cracking the skull of the father of a student activist during the Jantar Mantar protests, was produced before the court on September 5 and has been sent to a day of police custody. However, clarity eludes his arrest, the charges he has been held under and the curious circumstances in which he was produced in court. Bhardwaj, in an interview uploaded two days ago, had claimed that he avoided going to jail despite inflicting serious injuries on his victim Sanjay Azad because he enjoys support from the establishment, including from Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kapil Mishra. Bhardwaj said that he had "cracked" Sanjay's skull. He also said that Sanjay's daughter, prominent student activist Nishu Azad, will be targeted – "now the child will also be beaten." Nishu Azad wrote on X at 5.43 pm that there is "still no official confirmation from Delhi Police regarding the SC/ST or POCSO Acts." Saurav Das, the spokesperson for the Cockroach Janata Party which had led the Jantar Mantar protests in July, had said a day ago that the police have now invoked the BNS provision pertaining to criminal intimidation threatening death or grievous injury against Bhardwaj in their existing FIR against him, in addition to sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Azad today wrote in her tweet, "As the victim, I seek only truth,



clarity, and justice." Congress lawyer Rishav Ranjan noted that the hearing was "strange and special." Ranjan wrote on X at 2.27 pm that at around 1.45 pm, Bhardwaj was presented before the Patiala House Court judge at the judge's residence through a special video conference arrangement. "Judge was not sitting in Court. No idea about which charges are being freshly pressed. No Idea about how many days of remand was asked by the Police," Ranjan wrote. Bhardwaj is being represented by advocate Umesh Sharma, who was quoted by ANI as having said that since "this arrest happened suddenly, there is a lot of confusion." "They picked him up at night and took him away, so we are looking into all these things. We have not spoken to him yet..." Sharma said according to a post by ANI at 3.15 pm today. Sharma said that Bhardwaj has to be produced tomorrow. "It is possible that he may be produced at the same place or some-

where else, depending on the IO's [investigating officer] decision and what senior officers direct..." he added. "Police officers have assured us that Swatantra will be arrested within 72 hours. They have promised to take action, and we hope there will be no further delay," the Dalit victim's daughter was quoted as having said. CJP spokesperson Saurav Das said on Friday (September 4) night that the police have now invoked the BNS provision pertaining to criminal intimidation threatening death or grievous injury against Bhardwaj in their existing FIR against him, in addition to sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. They will also invoke either the attempt to murder or attempt to commit culpable homicide provision against the 21-year-old, Das added. Bhardwaj, in an interview uploaded two days ago, had claimed that he avoided going to jail despite inflicting serious injuries on his victim Sanjay Azad because he enjoys support from the

establishment, including from Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kapil Mishra. Bhardwaj said Sanjay had to undergo 'seven stitches' on his head, and added that this is something that would have warranted an attempt to murder case against himself. Bhardwaj said that he had "cracked" Sanjay's skull. He also said that Sanjay's daughter will be targeted – "now the child will also be beaten." "I didn't even go to jail, the whole world must know that. We were roaming outside the whole night. On the one hand we have the blessings of Balaji and Hanuman ji. On the other hand there's some -Kapil Mishra is our elder brother ... Modi ji is my elder brother too..." Bhardwaj was heard saying in Hindi. After the uproar, Bhardwaj denied making such remarks and alleged that he attacked the other person in "self-defence", and that otherwise, he would have been "lynched". "If I had not acted in self-defence, I could have been lynched by the mob or killed.

Flawed caste Census could hurt OBC quota, warns MK Stalin

CHENNAI: DMK president and former Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday (September 6) urged the Centre to revise the proposed methodology for recording caste details in the 2027 Census, warning that an open-ended system could lead to serious discrepancies and undermine the exercise's objective of determining the actual population and socio-economic status of OBC communities.

Stalin took exception to the Centre's decision to record caste details through an open-ended format without a predeter-



mined drop-down list or standardised menu, describing the move as disappointing. He rejected the Centre's

explanation that the entries in the OBC list represented classes rather than castes. He said the Centre should consult state governments, obtain and compile the lists of castes covered under the backward and most backward categories in each state, and provide respondents the option to select their caste from the relevant list.

Allowing people to enter caste names on their own, he argued, could create confusion and potentially produce an erroneous figure suggesting that India has 46 lakh castes.

Sonalika Clocks Highest-Ever August Overall Sales of 12,581 tractors to outpace industry growth by 1.9X (est.)

Bengaluru : India's No. 1 tractor export brand Sonalika Tractors has continued with its formidable FY'27 momentum, clocking its Highest-Ever August Overall Sales of 12,581 tractors in Aug '26. This is powered by a staggering 1.9X growth against the overall industry performance which also reflects its strong position among leading players in the Indian market - the world's biggest tractor market. Adding an incredible milestone to its glorious 30th anniversary year, the company has also recorded its highest ever Monthly production of 18,067 tractors at its World No. 1 tractor manufacturing plant in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, reinforcing its preparedness to cater to farmer demand during the upcoming festive season. The twin milestones underline the strength of Sonalika's integrated business ecosystem, where manufacturing muscle, product strength and market agility are operating in perfect sync. Sonalika continues to sharpen speed, precision and responsiveness across its operations with its Dumaar tractors led by the new Gold series tractors. Its vertically inte-

grated manufacturing capabilities provide the company with greater control over quality and build customised tech powered tractors, thereby enabling it to address unique market demands. With the festive season expected to further energise farmer demand, Sonalika is entering this important period with an all-prepared dealership network to deliver farm prosperity across diverse applications and regional requirements. The company has already launched its biggest annual festive offer 'Heavy Duty Dumaar Dhamaka' that brings exciting opportunities for farmers to take home their Dumaar farm partners. Sharing his views on the performance, Mr. Raman Mittal, Joint Managing director, International Tractors Limited, said, "We are excited to have delivered our best-ever August overall sales of 12,581 tractors, surpassing industry growth by 1.9X in Aug'26. Simultaneously, we have also achieved our highest-ever monthly production record of 18,067 tractors that demonstrates the depth of our alignment which we have built across our value chain.

Not wrong to meet Union minister to seek funds for TN, says Thirumavalavan



CHENNAI: VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan defended his recent decision to meet Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, who was visiting Coimbatore, saying there is nothing wrong with meeting with Union government leaders to raise the people's issues.

The VCK chief, along with the State Social Welfare Minister Vanni Arasu, met the Union minister on Sunday and submitted a detailed memorandum seeking Rs 466.33 crore in central assistance for various tribal welfare schemes in Tamil Nadu. He defended meeting the BJP leader hailing from Odisha, despite his staunch opposition to the saffron party, saying that meeting people for the benefit of Tamil Nadu's people isn't wrong.

Meanwhile, in response to statements positioning Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay as a potential prime ministerial candidate, the VCK president said it should not be construed as the par-

ty's official position. Thirumavalavan said that some TVK leaders and ministers may have expressed such views out of personal enthusiasm, but their remarks should not be taken as the party's stand.

"Why should we discuss the prime ministerial candidate now when the next Lok Sabha election is due only in 2029? Some North Indian media organisations have unnecessarily included Vijay in the race for Prime Minister, perhaps for political reasons. This does not mean that the TVK is opposed to the Congress," he said. Thirumavalavan said the VCK would participate in the TVK's second post-poll electoral meeting to be chaired by Vijay on September 9. On the law-and-order situation in the State, he said it was currently good but stressed that sustained efforts were necessary to maintain peace and security, regardless of which party was in power.

“Education is not just a certificate; good attitude, discipline and human values are the foundation of true success” – Padma Shri Dr. C. N. Manjunath

Bengaluru: The Inaugural Function for the first-year B.E. students of BMS College of Engineering (BMSCE) for the academic year 2026-27 was held today at the Indoor Stadium, BMSCE Campus, Bull Temple Road, Bengaluru.

Padma Shri Dr. C. N. Manjunath, Member of Parliament from Bangalore Rural, attended the programme as the Chief Guest and addressed the students.

Dr. Manjunath said that education is not merely about scoring marks in university



examinations and earning certificates. True education should develop good character, discipline, professional skills, humanity and a positive attitude.

He highlighted the importance of continuous learning and gaining knowledge of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning in today's rapidly changing world.

He encouraged students to make the best use of the opportunities provided by a

prestigious institution like BMSCE and to build their careers with hard work, commitment, curiosity, compassion and continuous learning. Dr. B. S. Ragini Narayan, Chairperson and Donor Trustee, BMSCE; Dr. P. Dayananda Pai, Life Trustee, BMSSET and President, BMSCE & BMSCA; Mr. Aviram Sharma, Trustee, BMSET; Dean-FYB Dr. S. B. Bhanu Prashanth, along with members of the management, faculty, staff, parents and students were present.



KPCC South Street Vendors Secretary Chand Pasha celebrated his birthday on Saturday. On this occasion, KPCC South Media Unit President Girish Kumar, Congress workers Irfan (Gorur), Syed Wasim, Nadeem, Salman and many other youths celebrated the birthday of their favorite leader at their own expense.

Teachers' Day Celebration: Pillanna Garden GBA Combined Pre-University College Teachers Honored



Bengaluru: Teachers' Day Celebration and Honoring Program for Outstanding Teachers was organised in Pillanna Garden GBA Combined Pre-University College.

Amma's Pastries Bakery Founder A.J. Anthony, Senior Assistant Director Smt. Bhuvaneshwari, Retired Assistant Academic Officer H.J.

Kumar, Principal Somashekar N.S., Physical Education Officer Venkatakrishnaiah, Bhandari inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp.

Principal N.S. Somashekar said that a good teacher can change the society, without teachers, it is fatal to the development of the society.

Education is the building of an educated society, and to get education, we need teachers.

Education and teachers are like the eyes of the society. After father and mother, teachers are seen as equal to God in the society. He said that teachers play a significant role in the development of children.

Integrated Push for Coastal-Malnad Tourism; River Cruises, Houseboats and Beach Development on the Agenda: Minister K.J. George



Mangaluru : The Karnataka Government is planning an integrated tourism push for the Coastal and Malnad regions, with a focus on river tourism, cruises, houseboats, beach development, water sports and community-based tourism, Energy and Tourism Minister K.J. George said. During a review of key tourism locations in Mangaluru, the Minister inspected the Netravati riverfront, Tannirbhavi Blue Flag Beach, coastal tourism sites and the New Mangalore Port, and held discussions with officials on their tourism potential and future development.

River Cruises and Houseboats on the Netravati The Government is working on plans to develop river cruises and houseboat tourism on the Netravati River.

The proposed model will seek to actively involve

local fishermen and coastal communities, creating new livelihood and income opportunities through tourism. The State also plans to strengthen tourism circuits and supporting infrastructure so that cruise passengers arriving in Mangaluru can access major attractions across the coastal region more easily.

Mangaluru-Karwar-Goa Cruise Tourism

The Government is exploring ways to utilise the capacity of the New Mangalore Port to attract more domestic and international cruise vessels. Private and international operators will be encouraged to participate in developing domestic cruise services along the Mangaluru-Karwar-Goa circuit. The State is also coordinating with the Central Government for permissions required for jetties and other tourism infrastructure along the coast.

H5N1 detected in Gentoo Penguins on Heard Island, first avian case in Australian External Territory

Australia , Feb 20: Gentoo penguins have become the first bird species confirmed to be infected with the highly pathogenic H5 avian influenza in an Australian external territory, after testing positive on Heard Island, the Australian government has announced.

The virus has also been detected in southern elephant seals and Antarctic fur seals on the remote sub-Antarctic island. While southern elephant seals were confirmed to have contracted the disease in November 2025, the latest findings mark the first known infection of birds in Australia's external territories.

The deadly H5N1 strain (clade 2.3.4.4b) has infected and killed millions of seabirds, wild birds and poultry worldwide.

Preliminary testing was conducted at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness. Samples were collected during a research voyage to Heard Island on February 3, 2026. According to a government statement, Heard Island lies more than 4,000 kilometres southwest of Perth and about 1,700 kilometres north of Antarctica in the Southern Ocean, making it one of Australia's most remote territories. Authorities said the additional detections do not substantially increase the risk to mainland Australia beyond current elevated levels.

Australian Chief Veterinary Officer Beth Cookson said preliminary laboratory results indicated that species beyond southern elephant seals had been impacted. "Preliminary laboratory results indicate that species beyond southern elephant seals have been impacted by H5 bird flu, with a small number of confirmed additional detections in species including the southern elephant seal, Antarctic fur seal and gentoo penguin from the second voyage," she said.



However, scientists aboard the RSV Nuyina reported no signs of ongoing mass mortality events in the areas visited. The government noted that the findings were consistent with current scientific understanding of how H5N1 spreads among wildlife populations.

Officials stressed that Australia's H5 bird flu-free status for mainland poultry remains unchanged. Nevertheless, the detections highlight the need for continued vigilance, coordinated biosecurity measures and preparedness. The government said it is investing more than A\$100 million to strengthen national bird flu preparedness and response

capabilities, including rapid response equipment across all states and territories and targeted measures to protect vulnerable native species.

Environment and Water Minister Murray Watt said experts have been closely monitoring the global spread of bird flu, including researchers stationed in Antarctica, the Southern Ocean and sub-Antarctic regions.

Agriculture Minister Julie Collins added that the government takes the threat of H5 bird flu seriously and that additional funding reflects strengthened preparedness and response planning. Monitoring efforts will continue as authorities work to safeguard wildlife and biodiversity in the region.

M.B. Patil-led delegation heads to Europe to attract investments

Bengaluru: A high-level delegation led by Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil will visit France and the Netherlands from Monday (Sept. 7) to Friday (Sept. 11) to hold roadshows and discussions with companies as part of efforts to attract greater investment to Karnataka.

The Minister-led delegation left for France in the early hours of Sunday. Industries Department Principal Secretary S. Selvakumar, Commissioner Khushboo Goel, KIADB CEO Govind Reddy, Chief Minister's Deputy

Secretary R. Yathish and other officials are part of the delegation.

In France, the delegation will be there from Monday to Wednesday. During the visit, it will hold discussions on investment opportunities in Karnataka with companies such as Roquette and LFB Group in the pharmaceuticals sector; bioMérieux, known for its expertise in in-vitro diagnostics; leading aerospace and defence companies Hutchinson, Safran, Thales, LSI Aerospace and GICAT; automotive company Somfy; precision engineering company Mecachrome; dairy



company Savencia; and materials company Arkema, among others, Minister Patil said.

On September 10 and 11, the delegation will be in the Netherlands, where it will hold discussions on investment

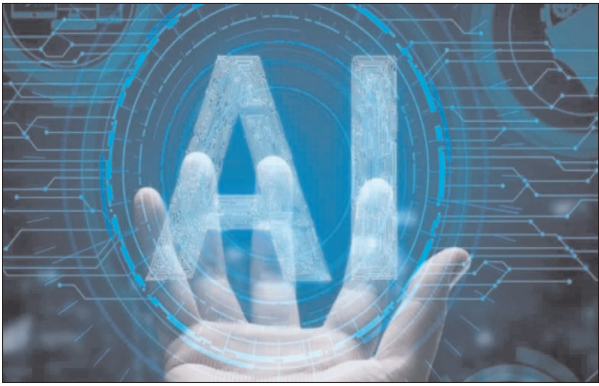
opportunities in Karnataka with Nexperia in the semiconductor sector, Royal De Hues in animal nutrition, Royal Boskalis, Royal Swinkels in the breweries sector, and Perfetti Van Melle in the chocolate sector, Minister Patil said.

"If we want to attract more investment to the State and create jobs, we have to go to where the investors are. Otherwise, companies may choose to invest in other States. Given the intense competition from neighbouring States, we have been conducting roadshows and holding discussions in different countries

and States over the past three years. The visit to France and the Netherlands is a continuation of this effort. It is an ongoing initiative," he said. The delegation will brief investors on the State's new industrial policy, with its focus on manufacturing and exports; the speedy services available under the single-window system; the incentives and concessions being offered; and facilities such as land, water, power and airports. It will also highlight the Industrial Facilitation Act, along with the State's energy and EV policies, among other initiatives, Patil said.

Karnataka seeks AI talent pipeline ahead of varsity launch

Bengaluru: Karnataka is looking to build a statewide AI talent pipeline by bringing together technology companies, academic institutions and the government, even as work progresses towards establishing the proposed Karnataka Artificial Intelligence University. The first meeting of the KAIU advisory committee, chaired by Infosys co-founder and Axilor Ventures chairman Kris Gopalakrishnan, was held in Bengaluru on Saturday, September 5. IT-BT and the Science and Technology Department secretary, Dr N Manjula, served as co-chair. The committee discussed immediate AI training programmes alongside a long-term roadmap for the university. Certificate and diploma courses, finishing schools, executive education and reskilling initiatives are expected to be developed in partnership with industry and educational institutions. Generative and agen-



tive AI, data analytics, cloud technology, cybersecurity, AI infrastructure and data centres, physical AI, semiconductors, hardware applications and AI literacy would be among the focus areas. The committee also proposed using existing academic infrastructure and AI learning laboratories across Karnataka to make practical training accessible outside Bengaluru. Committee mulls programmes, ways to measure outcomes Industry participation will form a key component of the initiative, with companies expected to contribute expertise,

faculty, mentors, certification support and industry-relevant projects. The committee discussed programmes for students, graduates, technology professionals, professionals from other sectors and rural youth. It also examined ways to measure outcomes through employment, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities. Gopalakrishnan said the immediate priority was to identify existing industry training programmes and academic capabilities and combine them to create AI skill opportunities.

IPO ACTION INTENSIFIES AS 11 COS TARGET RS 7,055 CR NEXT WEEK

New Delhi: The primary market is poised for another action-packed week, with 11 main-board companies, including Rentomojo, Karamtara Engineering and Kanohar Electricals, set to raise Rs 7,055 crore through initial public offerings (IPOs). The IPOs are scheduled to hit the market between September 7 and September 15, with most of the issues opening for subscription on Tuesday and Wednesday. "This multi-issue rush reflects an eagerness to lock in early-stage growth equity in young companies as all these companies are below USD 1 billion market cap at listing," Rajkumar Rath, Chief Investment Officer at YES Securities, said. The companies tapping the primary market include real estate developers, engineering and manufacturing firms, a payments provider, a specialty chemicals manufacturer and an online rental plat-



form. Of Rs 7,055 crore, Rs 2,722 crore (39 per cent) is primary capital issuance, where funds go into the company, and Rs 4,333 crore (61 per cent) is a secondary sale by existing shareholders. This mobilisation highlights strong corporate confidence and robust liquidity available within the Indian primary market, Rath said. The

funds raised through the fresh issues will largely be utilised for business expansion, capital expenditure, debt repayment, working capital requirements and other general corporate purposes. The upcoming IPO rush follows a busy start to September, with Rays of Belief and Deepa Jewellers already launching their IPOs

on September 1. With these issues, the number of companies launching IPOs in 2026 is expected to rise to 75. This includes 23 issues launched in August. Against this backdrop, Pranav Constructions will be the first among the 11 companies to open its IPO for public subscription on September 7. The over Rs 351-crore issue will close on

September 9. This will be followed by Kanohar Electricals, Prasol Chemicals and Glass Wall Systems (India), which will open their IPOs on September 8. Rentomojo, Manipal Payment and Identity Solutions, Arcil, LCC Projects, Karamtara Engineering and Steamhouse India will launch their issues on September 9, while Veegaland Developers will open its IPO on September 10. Pranav Constructions has fixed a price band of Rs 118-124 per share for its IPO, comprising a fresh issue of Rs 315.6 crore and an OFS of 28.57 lakh shares worth Rs 35.43 crore. Kanohar Electricals has fixed a price band of Rs 601-632 per share for its Rs 1,056-crore IPO. Prasol Chemicals has fixed a price band of Rs 643-676 per share for its Rs 500-crore IPO, comprising a fresh issue of Rs 80 crore and an OFS of up to Rs 420 crore.

INDIAN BANK TO OPEN REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN DUBAI



Chennai: Indian Bank has received board approval to open a representative office in Dubai, as it seeks to expand its overseas operations, leveraging the large Indian diaspora across West Asia. Currently, the bank has a full-service international branch in Singapore and branches in Colombo and Jaffna (Sri Lanka). Besides, it has an IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) functioning as an offshore/foreign branch from GIFT City, Gandhinagar. "We are getting good business from our GIFT City branch, including participation in various syndicated loans...my aim now is to open a rep office in Dubai...We have a good number of non-resident Indians settled in Dubai and about 33 per cent of the working population is Indian," Indian Bank MD and CEO Binod Kumar told PTI in an interaction. For

the representative office in Dubai, the bank's board has given its approval and the bank is in the process of seeking other regulatory approvals. Besides, Kumar said, the bank is exploring the possibility of having a presence in Malaysia and Indonesia. On the domestic side, he said, Indian Bank plans to add 100 branches this year with a primary focus on increasing the bank's presence in the central and western parts of the country. To manage growing business needs and replace retiring employees, the bank would increase its headcount by about 2,500 personnel, including specialist officers. "Last year, we opened 100 branches. This year too, we have similar plans. Just on August 15, which was our foundation day, the bank inaugurated 15 branches across the country," he said.

‘IRANIAN FUNDS FLOWED THROUGH US BANKS,’ SAYS REPORT

Washington: Billions of dollars connected to Iran are passing through accounts at American banks each year despite sweeping US sanctions intended to isolate Tehran from the global financial system, according to a media investigation published on Sunday, September 6. Iran gains indirect access to dollar-clearing accounts through foreign banks with relationships with American financial institutions, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing Western officials, researchers and banking records. The transactions use correspondent banking, a system through which banks process cross-border payments for financial institutions that do not have a direct presence in the United States, the financial daily reported. Iranian entities reportedly conceal their involvement through front companies, currency exchanges and business partners in China, the United Arab Emirates and other jurisdictions. Foreign institutions then send dollar-denominated transactions through their US banking partners without identifying the Iranian connection. The US Treasury Department identified approximately \$9 billion in Iranian-linked funds that moved through American banks during 2024, the newspaper reported. The findings



raise questions about enforcement gaps in the US-led sanctions system as President Donald Trump's administration intensifies its military and economic pressure on Tehran, The Wall Street Journal said. On August 28, the Treasury Department proposed cutting off the UAE branch of Egypt's state-owned Banque Misr from US correspondent banking services. The department classified Banque Misr UAE as a financial institution of "primary money laundering concern". US officials said the branch had routed as much as \$1.8 billion through the American correspondent accounts for companies potentially connected to Iranian shadow-banking networks. Treasury said Banque Misr UAE maintained dollar accounts with three American banks but did not identify them.

access to the US dollar and the global financial system," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said while announcing the action against Banque Misr UAE. American banks say they work closely with the Treasury Department to enforce sanctions and file legally required reports when transactions appear suspicious or potentially connected to Iran. Elaine Dezenski, a former Department of Homeland Security official, said detecting the networks was difficult but possible. "US and correspondent banks are squarely on the hook, and that pressure is only increasing," she told the newspaper. The Treasury has issued warnings to financial institutions about indicators of Iranian sanctions evasion. According to the daily, these include companies with unclear ownership structures, businesses registered in Hong Kong but using Chinese bank accounts and UAE-based entities with little visible commercial activity. Iran has increasingly used the Chinese yuan and cryptocurrencies to reduce its reliance on the dollar. It still requires access to dollar transactions for some international trade, technology purchases and the acquisition of components that Washington says may support its military programmes.

Hyundai Motor India expects 30 pc sales to come from rural markets



New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Ltd is betting big on rural markets, which it expects to contribute around 30 per cent of its total sales in the next three to four years, according to its Managing Director & CEO Tarun Garg. The company, which has 68 per cent of its total sales coming from SUVs overall, is also witnessing SUV penetration of 69 per cent in the rural markets, he said in an interaction. Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) is also intensifying its rural focus on network expansion with six out of every ten new outlets being opened in such markets, he added. "I will not be surprised if in another three to four years we can reach about 30 per cent," Garg said when asked how the company is looking at rural penetration going up, especially with its two upcoming new products — a midsize SUV and a compact electric SUV. In the first quarter of this fiscal year, rural contribution reached 25.9 per cent, up from 22.6 per cent in Q1FY26, he added. In the April-August period of this fiscal, HMIL clocked domestic sales of 2,47,980

units as against 2,20,233 units in the year-ago period, up 12.6 per cent. In terms of growth, Garg said, "Rural (market) growth in quarter one was 23 per cent and urban growth was 2.8 per cent in quarter one of this fiscal." Elaborating the rationale for the bullishness on rural markets, he said, "There is still upside (for growth there) because if you see, the road infrastructure in India is continuously growing. There is hardly any difference now between the Tier 2 and Tier 3 road infrastructure and Tier 1 road infrastructure." Also, with data being very affordable in India, customers in the rural markets have access to information that helps in the traction of the company's products, including SUVs. "Our (overall) SUV penetration is around 68 per cent, and the best part is SUV penetration is equally strong in the rural markets as well. In fact, in rural markets, SUV penetration is 69 per cent," Garg noted. In order to tap the potential of the rural market, HMIL is also intensifying its focus there with network expansion.

1 Finance Elevates Anooj Mehta as Partner

Highlights

■ For Immediate Release: 1 Finance, a holistic personal finance advisory and wealth-tech firm with over ₹17,000 Cr+ in Assets Under Advice (AUA), has elevated Anooj Mehta as Partner, as the firm continues to scale its advisory platform across financial planning, qualified advisors, and research.



For Immediate Release: 1 Finance, a holistic personal finance advisory and wealth-tech firm with over ₹17,000 Cr+ in Assets Under Advice (AUA), has elevated Anooj Mehta as Partner, as the firm continues to scale its advisory platform across financial planning, qualified advisors, and research. Anooj, who previously served as Vice President at

1 Finance, brings 10 years of experience across financial advisory and risk management, with previous stints at KPMG, Credit Suisse and Marwadi Shares & Finance. A Chartered Wealth Manager (CWM), he holds an MBA in Finance from the Institute for Financial Management and Research and a BBA (Hons) from Ahmedabad University. Anooj was also conferred the Fellowship of the American Academy of Financial Management (FAAFM), USA, in 2022. As Partner, Anooj will focus on scaling the Financial Planning Centre network, strengthening advisor development and maintaining high standards of advi-

sory quality. He will also continue to work directly with clients on complex financial planning needs, while contributing to the firm's growth across South India. Jeet Marwadi, Founder & Managing Director, 1 Finance said, "Anooj's elevation comes at a pivotal stage in our growth. As we scale our advisory network and build deeper capabilities, his experience and understanding of client-centric financial planning will be valuable in ensuring that our growth remains anchored to our philosophy of being 'one with your

interest." Speaking about his new role, Anooj Mehta, Partner, 1 Finance, added, "Becoming a Partner is an opportunity to take greater ownership of the institution we are building. I look forward to strengthening our advisory capabilities, developing advisors and helping more clients experience financial planning that is truly personalised, holistic and aligned with their interests." Anooj is a Chartered Wealth Manager and currently heads 1 Finance's Financial Planning Centre in Hyderabad.

ABOUT 1 FINANCE:

1 Finance is a Mumbai-based personal finance advisory firm focused on holistic, goal-based financial planning. Through qualified advisors and unbiased, hyper-personalised advice, it helps individuals make confident money decisions and achieve financial well-being. 1 Finance is backed by the Marwadi Chandarana Group, a leading financial services institution with interests across education and alternative energy.

SBI TO HIRE 12,000 PERSONNEL DURING FY27: CHAIRMAN SETTY

New Delhi: State Bank of India (SBI) intends to hire about 12,000 personnel and add around 250 new branches to its network in the ongoing financial year, said C S Setty, Chairman of the country's biggest lender. "In terms of recruitment, I think we would be looking at around 11,000 to 12,000 appointments across both clerical and officer cadres this year. This number may vary depending on retirements and emerging requirements, but I expect we should close the year with around 12,000 recruitments," he told PTI in an interaction. "Last year, we have done fairly large recruitment because we took 1,500 specialist IT officers. This year, we do not need such a large number on the IT (information technology) side," he said. With a workforce of over 2.45 lakh employees as of March 2026, SBI is among India's largest employers. SBI had hired 4,640 officers, 19,340 associates, and 1,653 contractual staff in 2025-26, taking the total number of hires to



25,633, as per the bank's annual report for FY26. On the branch expansion side, Setty said that, despite having a large network, there is still some white space in many areas; whether new colonies are coming up or even in commercially active districts, the bank's presence can be improved. "We also are looking at rationalisation of some of the branches, which means that our number broadly will be growing by maybe 200 to 250 per year on the net side," he said. About stake dilution in the National Stock Exchange

(NSE), Setty said, SBI and its subsidiary SBI Capital Markets Ltd together plan to dilute up to 1 per cent stake through the exchange's proposed Rs 30,000-crore initial public offering (IPO). "We are participating in that divestment. We propose to divest 0.65 per cent and 0.35 per cent by SBI Capital Markets because both of us hold the stake. So together, about 1 per cent as an SBI group... it could be less depending on any other shareholders joining," he said. SBI currently holds a 3.23 per cent stake in the

NSE, while SBI Capital Markets owns 4.33 per cent in the country's largest stock exchange. Last week, NSE received regulatory approval for the long-awaited Rs 30,000-crore initial public offering (IPO), which could potentially be the country's biggest-ever yet. The NSE IPO will surpass Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,858.75-crore listing in 2024 as well as LIC of India's Rs 20,557.23-crore offering in 2022. It will also dwarf Paytm's (One97 Communications) Rs 18,300-crore (2021), Tata Capital's Rs 15,511.87-crore (2025) and Coal India's Rs 15,200-crore (2010) listing. He clarified that there is no monetisation plan for other subsidiaries in the immediate future. In July, SBI, along with its foreign partner Paris-headquartered Amundi, diluted around a 10 per cent stake in SBI Mutual Fund, including pre IPO. The Rs 11,675-crore monetisation by the country's biggest fund house was a huge success as the issue was subscribed 41.66 times.



Volcano eruption leaves 170,000 passengers stranded in Indonesia

MAJORITY RUSSIAN-SPEAKING CITY IN UKRAINE
CONSIDERS LANGUAGE BAN IN THE ARTS

Ukraine's third-biggest city Odesa will decide this week whether to back a controversial plan to ban the Russian language in the arts. The proposal being considered by councillors in Odesa on the Black Sea coast aims to add to existing restrictions on Russian imposed by national legislation. It is particularly significant because Odesa is overwhelmingly Russian-speaking, although the ban would only affect public spaces and everyday usage of Russian would remain unaffected. For millions of Ukrainians, Russian is their first language including many of the troops defending the country in its war with Russia. But Ukrainian is the only state language and spoken by the majority, and some see Russian as a tool of Russian influence. The proposal in Odesa, which is targeted daily by



Russian drone and missile strikes, calls for a complete halt to Russian-language content in music and literature, in streets, parks, public institutions and state-run arts and entertainment venues. It would also recommend a ban

in privately owned spaces. In a city famous for Russian-language writers and musicians, it has provoked strong passions. The ban would extend in public spaces to old Odesa songs almost universally known throughout the for-

mer Soviet Union. All Russian-language books would be removed from display in public libraries. Currently, they can be shown, but not prominently. "The Russian language is a weapon of Russia, and we need to try to fix that," says Odesa lawyer Artem Kartashov, who has advised local authorities on an official programme to "decolonise" the city of its historic Russian legacy. "With Russian-speaking music and other things, Russians try to deconstruct Ukrainian identity and influence especially young people, because they grow up in a Russian-speaking environment." But comic actor Borys Barsky, one of Odesa's best-known entertainers, says: "Russian isn't [only] the language of Putin, it's the language of [writers like] Dostoyevsky and Bulgakov.

US ENVOYS HOLD TALKS
WITH ZELENSKY IN KYIV
AFTER MEETING PUTIN



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has held a first round of talks in Kyiv with Donald Trump's top envoys, in their first visit since Russia's full-scale invasion. Steve Witkoff, sitting opposite the Ukrainian leader, told reporters the US team felt "encouraged" by what he called a "substantive" and important discussion. Jared Kushner said the US president had instructed them to find a way to end the war and "create the right conditions for a long-term, durable peace". Ahead of the meeting, Zelensky said Ukraine was ready to talk about bringing "the end of the war closer". But he said security guarantees would be required as well as a dignified post-war peace. Kushner told the Ukrainian president that Trump was "very determined to see an end of this war", and thanked the UK, Germany and France for their efforts in trying to

achieve peace. Witkoff added that the US negotiators would continue for "as long as it takes", praising Zelensky for his "unsurpassed" hospitality on their trip. The Ukrainian leader earlier greeted Witkoff and Jared Kushner at Kyiv's St Sophia Cathedral, near where a Russian drone hit the headquarters of Ukraine's security services on Friday. On Saturday, the two envoys met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow for talks on ending the war that were described as "frank" and "constructive" by the Kremlin. The envoys travelled to Kyiv by train after flying to Poland - Zelensky told the media that it was not possible for them to land their plane despite preparations. Putin and Zelensky agreed to halt strikes on each other's capitals for three days while the negotiators carry out their trip. While Witkoff and Kushner were in talks at

the Kremlin on Saturday, Zelensky said he and his team were "ready for a substantive conversation". On Sunday, Zelensky wrote on social media that his country "has always been and will remain constructive". "We are interested in bringing the end of the war closer. Peace is needed. Security guarantees are needed. A dignified character of the postwar peace is needed. Our proposals are ready," he said. Overnight, Russian and Ukrainian forces continued to exchange strikes, with Ukraine confirming they struck an oil refinery, an airfield, and two air defence systems. The country's defence ministry said they targeted the Ryazan oil refinery, which supplies the Russian army, and an airfield in Rostov-on-Don. Earlier, Ukraine's Air Force reported that Russia attacked Ukraine with 108 long-range drones and small cruise missiles.

TV PRESENTER AMONG 12
SENTENCED TO DEATH IN
EGYPT DRUGS CASE



Egyptian television presenter Sarah Khalifa and 11 other people have been sentenced to death by hanging after being convicted of drugs charges. According to state-owned al-Ahram newspaper, they were part of a criminal gang which imported ingredients used to make drugs with the intent of selling them. They also had illegal firearms and munitions. Khalifa, 39, is best known for her TV programme Mission Impossible which dealt with crime issues. She has denied the charges. Nine fellow defendants have been sentenced to life imprisonment, while seven have been acquitted.

Khalifa's lawyer said she would appeal the death sentence. The verdict was first announced last month. However, it was only confirmed a month later after the court obtained a religious opinion from the grand mufti of Egypt - a legal requirement in death sentence cases. During the trial, the court heard that authorities had seized more than 750kg (1,653lbs) of narcotics and the imported raw materials to make them. Twenty witnesses had given statements to the prosecutors, al-Ahram said, in addition to electronic evidence that included conversations and video clips.

US AND IRAN TRADE RETALIATORY
ATTACKS ON SHIPS AS CONFLICT FLARES

The US and Iran traded retaliatory attacks on ships on Saturday, in the latest round of strikes since fighting flared up a week ago following a month of relative calm. The US military said it had "permanently disabled" two Iran-linked oil tankers, including one near Kharg Island, and "completely destroyed" a third in the Gulf of Oman. Iran's state media confirmed the strikes and said Tehran had attacked three US-affiliated vessels in response, as well as three oil tankers travelling through the Strait of Hormuz along an "unauthorised" route. The BBC has approached US Central Command (Centcom) for comment about Iran's latest claims to have targeted US ships. The strikes come a day after President Donald Trump dismissed the conflict as "small potatoes", with little apparent progress towards ending the six-month war. He has not commented on Saturday's attacks. The news of Iran's latest retaliation came hours after Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth



wrote on social media: "It's simple: if Iran shoots at US ships, we will destroy (and sink) their oil tankers." According to US Central Command (Centcom), two US warships had been targeted by Iran before the American attack on three Iran-linked oil tankers. Centcom said it "successfully evaded" the multiple attacks from the IRGC earlier in the day, which were targeting a US aircraft carrier and guided-missile destroyer. No American troops were harmed, it said. Centcom, which oversees US military operations in the Middle East, claimed that the three

Iranian oil tankers it hit were "part of a multi-billion-dollar shadow network that funds the IRGC and its regional proxies". Iranian state media outlet Irib reported that there were no casualties in Saturday's attack from the US on the tanker near Kharg Island. Kharg Island hosts Iran's main terminal to export oil. Some 90% of the country's crude oil comes through the island, transported through pipes from the mainland. The crews aboard the two attacked tankers in the Gulf of Oman were taken to shore in lifeboats, Irib reported. One of those tankers was

empty and the other was carrying a load of oil, it added. Several hours later, Irib reported that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) had retaliated against six ships in the region - three oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz and three vessels "affiliated" with the US "in other areas". According to Irib, the IRGC said the three oil tankers were using "unauthorised" routes through the strait and it warned other ships not to do so. The strait, which is crucial to the world's oil and gas industry, has been effectively closed since the war began in February, and has become a major source of leverage for Iran. Tehran has insisted it will not give up some measure of control over the waterway and has previously targeted vessels using a southern route through Omani waters that avoids its preferred route through Iranian waters. Despite the Iranian attacks, Trump has declared that the strait is "open" and the US military has been helping ships navigate the southern route.

PRINCE WILLIAM TO
ATTEND KING HARALD'S
FUNERAL IN NORWAY

The Prince of Wales will attend the funeral of King Harald V of Norway on Wednesday in Oslo, Buckingham Palace has announced. Also going to the funeral, in a personal capacity, is Princess Anne, who is godmother to Norway's new monarch, King Haakon VIII. The late King Harald, a popular, modernising figure who had been on the Norwegian throne for 35 years, died last month at the age of 89. Royal sources say Prince William's attendance, representing his father King Charles, follows the convention that the monarch does not usually go to the funeral of another head of state. Large crowds are expected for the farewell to King Harald on 9 September, with a funeral procession to be followed by a service at Oslo Cathedral. Thousands have queued to pay their respects to the late king, during his lying in state in the chapel of the Royal Palace in the Norwegian capital. At the funeral, alongside Prince William, will be the wid-



owed Queen Sonja, members of the Norwegian royal family including new King Haakon VIII, and other European royals. The service will be followed by a private burial in Norway's royal mausoleum in the Akershus Fortress. Among the tributes to King Harald was an emotional televised speech by his son King Haakon, who said: "Thank you for being such a good dad." Harald had been seen as a down to earth "people's king" who had helped to modernise the monarchy, broken with tradition by marrying a commoner and served as a unifying figure. His son said he represented the values of a "society built on law and justice."



Without Charlie Kirk, Turning Point is building a future for his movement — and for JD Vance

Germany's far-right AfD projected to win eastern state but unclear if it will be able to govern

The far-right Alternative for Germany surged into first place in state elections in Saxony-Anhalt on Sunday but it was unclear whether it would be able to form a government on its own, according to exit polls after voting closed. The AfD won 44.5% of the vote, with Chancellor Friedrich Merz's conservatives on 18.5%, with the center-left Social Democrats and environmental Greens both clearing the minimum threshold to enter parliament, an exit poll on the ARD broadcaster showed. The party's co-leader Alice Weidel hailed an "historic" result which had given the AfD a clear mandate to govern but it was not immediately clear whether it would be able to form a govern-



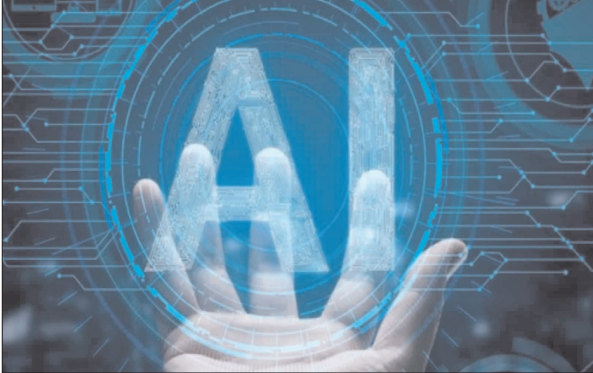
ment. If the AfD is unable to rule outright, it could trigger a protracted process of coalition building by mainstream parties who are determined to keep out of power a party investigated for right-wing extremism by Germany's domestic intelligence serv-

ice. The left-wing populist Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW), a potential AfD coalition partner, could also clear the threshold. While hard right parties have gained ground elsewhere in Europe, Germany's Nazi past has contributed to a reluctance

among mainstream parties to cooperate with the AfD, which wants a hard line on migration and warmer ties with Russia. The AfD, led in Saxony-Anhalt by the 35-year-old Ulrich Siegmund, sees accusations of extremism as scaremongering and an insult to its millions of supporters. Sunday's result is also another blow to the authority of Merz, whose popularity has sagged as his coalition government struggles to revive growth in Europe's largest economy. In a fracturing political landscape, the AfD is now Germany's most popular party nationally, though other parties have ruled out forging coalitions with the AfD in a policy known as the "fire-wall."

Karnataka seeks AI talent pipeline ahead of varsity launch

Bengaluru: Karnataka is looking to build a statewide AI talent pipeline by bringing together technology companies, academic institutions and the government, even as work progresses towards establishing the proposed Karnataka Artificial Intelligence University. The first meeting of the KAIU advisory committee, chaired by Infosys co-founder and Axilor Ventures chairman Kris Gopalakrishnan, was held in Bengaluru on Saturday, September 5. IT-BT and the Science and Technology Department secretary, Dr N Manjula, served as co-chair. The committee discussed immediate AI training programmes alongside a long-term roadmap for the university. Certificate and diploma courses, finishing schools, executive education and reskilling initiatives are expected to be developed in partnership with industry and educational institutions. Generative and agen-



tic AI, data analytics, cloud technology, cybersecurity, AI infrastructure and data centres, physical AI, semi-conductors, hardware applications and AI literacy would be among the focus areas. The committee also proposed using existing academic infrastructure and AI learning laboratories across Karnataka to make practical training accessible outside Bengaluru. Committee mulls programmes, ways to measure outcomes Industry participation will form a key component of the initiative, with companies expected to contribute expertise,

faculty, mentors, certification support and industry-relevant projects. The committee discussed programmes for students, graduates, technology professionals, professionals from other sectors and rural youth. It also examined ways to measure outcomes through employment, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities. Gopalakrishnan said the immediate priority was to identify existing industry training programmes and academic capabilities and combine them to create AI skill opportunities.

IPO ACTION INTENSIFIES AS 11 COS TARGET RS 7,055 CR NEXT WEEK

New Delhi: The primary market is poised for another action-packed week, with 11 main-board companies, including Rentomojo, Karamtara Engineering and Kanohar Electricals, set to raise Rs 7,055 crore through initial public offerings (IPOs). The IPOs are scheduled to hit the market between September 7 and September 15, with most of the issues opening for subscription on Tuesday and Wednesday. "This multi-issue rush reflects an eagerness to lock in early-stage growth equity in young companies as all these companies are below USD 1 billion market cap at listing," Rajkumar Rathi, Chief Investment Officer at YES Securities, said. The companies tapping the primary market include real estate developers, engineering and manufacturing firms, a payments and identity solutions provider, a specialty chemicals manufacturer and an online rental plat-



form. Of Rs 7,055 crore, Rs 2,722 crore (39 per cent) is primary capital issuance, where funds go into the company, and Rs 4,333 crore (61 per cent) is a secondary sale by existing shareholders. This mobilisation highlights strong corporate confidence and robust liquidity available within the Indian primary market, Rathi said. The

funds raised through the fresh issues will largely be utilised for business expansion, capital expenditure, debt repayment, working capital requirements and other general corporate purposes. The upcoming IPO rush follows a busy start to September, with Rays of Belief and Deepa Jewellers already launching their IPOs

on September 1. With these issues, the number of companies launching IPOs in 2026 is expected to rise to 75. This includes 23 issues launched in August. Against this backdrop, Pranav Constructions will be the first among the 11 companies to open its IPO for public subscription on September 7. The over Rs 351-crore issue will close on

September 9. This will be followed by Kanohar Electricals, Prasol Chemicals and Glass Wall Systems (India), which will open their IPOs on September 8. Rentomojo, Manipal Payment and Identity Solutions, Arcil, LCC Projects, Karamtara Engineering and Steamhouse India will launch their issues on September 9, while Veegaland Developers will open its IPO on September 10. Pranav Constructions has fixed a price band of Rs 118-124 per share for its IPO, comprising a fresh issue of Rs 315.6 crore and an OFS of 28.57 lakh shares worth Rs 35.43 crore. Kanohar Electricals has fixed a price band of Rs 601-632 per share for its Rs 1,056-crore IPO. Prasol Chemicals has fixed a price band of Rs 643-676 per share for its Rs 500-crore IPO, comprising a fresh issue of Rs 80 crore and an OFS of up to Rs 420 crore.

INDIAN BANK TO OPEN REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN DUBAI



Chennai: Indian Bank has received board approval to open a representative office in Dubai, as it seeks to expand its overseas operations, leveraging the large Indian diaspora across West Asia. Currently, the bank has a full-service international branch in Singapore and branches in Colombo and Jaffna (Sri Lanka). Besides, it has an IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) functioning as an offshore/foreign branch from GIFT City, Gandhinagar. "We are getting good business from our GIFT City branch, including participation in various syndicated loans...my aim now is to open a rep office in Dubai...We have a good number of non-resident Indians settled in Dubai and about 33 per cent of the working population is Indian," Indian Bank MD and CEO Binod Kumar told PTI in an interaction. For

the representative office in Dubai, the bank's board has given its approval and the bank is in the process of seeking other regulatory approvals. Besides, Kumar said, the bank is exploring the possibility of having a presence in Malaysia and Indonesia. On the domestic side, he said, Indian Bank plans to add 100 branches this year with a primary focus on increasing the bank's presence in the central and western parts of the country. To manage growing business needs and replace retiring employees, the bank would increase its headcount by about 2,500 personnel, including specialist officers. "Last year, we opened 100 branches. This year too, we have similar plans. Just on August 15, which was our foundation day, the bank inaugurated 15 branches across the country," he said.

‘IRANIAN FUNDS FLOWED THROUGH US BANKS,’ SAYS REPORT

Washington: Billions of dollars connected to Iran are passing through accounts at American banks each year despite sweeping US sanctions intended to isolate Tehran from the global financial system, according to a media investigation published on Sunday, September 6. Iran gains indirect access to dollar-clearing accounts through foreign banks with relationships with American financial institutions, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing Western officials, researchers and banking records. The transactions use correspondent banking, a system through which banks process cross-border payments for financial institutions that do not have a direct presence in the United States, the financial daily reported. Iranian entities reportedly conceal their involvement through front companies, currency exchanges and business partners in China, the United Arab Emirates and other jurisdictions. Foreign institutions then send dollar-denominated transactions through their US banking partners without identifying the Iranian connection. The US Treasury Department identified approximately \$9 billion in Iranian-linked funds that moved through American banks during 2024, the newspaper reported. The findings



raise questions about enforcement gaps in the US-led sanctions system as President Donald Trump's administration intensifies its military and economic pressure on Tehran, The Wall Street Journal said. On August 28, the Treasury Department proposed cutting off the UAE branch of Egypt's state-owned Banque Misr from US correspondent banking services. The department classified Banque Misr UAE as a financial institution of "primary money laundering concern". US officials said the branch had routed as much as \$1.8 billion through American correspondent accounts for companies potentially connected to Iranian shadow-banking networks. Treasury said Banque Misr UAE maintained dollar accounts with three American banks but did not identify them.

Banque Misr's website lists JPMorgan Chase and Citigroup among institutions with which it has correspondent relationships. Both banks declined to comment to the newspaper. Egypt's Foreign Ministry said it was communicating with US officials about the allegations. Banque Misr said it was engaging with the US Treasury Department and respected applicable regulatory and legal requirements. It added that its UAE branches continued operating normally. The Treasury action was taken under 'Operation Economic Outcast', the Trump administration's campaign to sever Iran's access to international financial networks and impose consequences on foreign institutions facilitating sanctions evasion. "We also warned that Iran's enablers cannot continue to enjoy

access to the US dollar and the global financial system," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said while announcing the action against Banque Misr UAE. American banks say they work closely with the Treasury Department to enforce sanctions and file legally required reports when transactions appear suspicious or potentially connected to Iran. Elaine Dezenski, a former Department of Homeland Security official, said detecting the networks was difficult but possible. "US and correspondent banks are squarely on the hook, and that pressure is only increasing," she told the newspaper. The Treasury has issued warnings to financial institutions about indicators of Iranian sanctions evasion. According to the daily, these include companies with unclear ownership structures, businesses registered in Hong Kong but using Chinese bank accounts and UAE-based entities with little visible commercial activity. Iran has increasingly used the Chinese yuan and cryptocurrencies to reduce its reliance on the dollar. It still requires access to dollar transactions for some international trade, technology purchases and the acquisition of components that Washington says may support its military programmes.

Hyundai Motor India expects 30 pc sales to come from rural markets



New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Ltd is betting big on rural markets, which it expects to contribute around 30 per cent of its total sales in the next three to four years, according to its Managing Director & CEO Tarun Garg. The company, which has 68 per cent of its total sales coming from SUVs overall, is also witnessing SUV penetration of 69 per cent in the rural markets, he said in an interaction. Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) is also intensifying its rural focus on network expansion with six out of every ten new outlets being opened in such markets, he added. "I will not be surprised if in another three to four years we can reach about 30 per cent," Garg said when asked how the company is looking at rural penetration going up, especially with its two upcoming new products — a midsize SUV and a compact electric SUV. In the first quarter of this fiscal year, rural contribution reached 25.9 per cent, up from 22.6 per cent in Q1FY26, he added. In the April-August period of this fiscal, HMIL clocked domestic sales of 2,47,980

units as against 2,20,233 units in the year-ago period, up 12.6 per cent. In terms of growth, Garg said, "Rural (market) growth in quarter one was 23 per cent and urban growth was 2.8 per cent in quarter one of this fiscal." Elaborating the rationale for the bullishness on rural markets, he said, "There is still upside (for growth there) because if you see, the road infrastructure in India is continuously growing. There is hardly any difference now between the Tier 2 and Tier 3 road infrastructure and Tier 1 road infrastructure." Also, with data being very affordable in India, customers in the rural markets have access to information that helps in the traction of the company's products, including SUVs. "Our (overall) SUV penetration is around 68 per cent, and the best part is SUV penetration is equally strong in the rural markets as well. In fact, in rural markets, SUV penetration is 69 per cent," Garg noted. In order to tap the potential of the rural market, HMIL is also intensifying its focus there with network expansion.

1 Finance Elevates Anooj Mehta as Partner

Highlights

■ For Immediate Release: 1 Finance, a holistic personal finance advisory and wealth-tech firm with over ₹17,000 Cr+ in Assets Under Advice (AUA), has elevated Anooj Mehta as Partner, as the firm continues to scale its advisory platform across financial planning, qualified advisors, and research.



For Immediate Release: 1 Finance, a holistic personal finance advisory and wealth-tech firm with over ₹17,000 Cr+ in Assets Under Advice (AUA), has elevated Anooj Mehta as Partner, as the firm continues to scale its advisory platform across financial planning, qualified advisors, and research. The elevation comes at an important phase of 1 Finance's growth, reinforcing its core philosophy of being "one with your interest." As the firm expands its footprint, the focus remains on delivering consistent, unbiased and hyper-personalised financial advice to customers. Anooj, who previously served as Vice President at

1 Finance, brings 10 years of experience across financial advisory and risk management, with previous stints at KPMG, Credit Suisse and Marwadi Shares & Finance. A Chartered Wealth Manager (CWM), he holds an MBA in Finance from the Institute for Financial Management and Research and a BBA (Hons) from Ahmedabad University. Anooj was also conferred the Fellowship of the American Academy of Financial Management (FAAFM), USA, in 2022. As Partner, Anooj will focus on scaling the Financial Planning Centre network, strengthening advisor development and maintaining high standards of advi-

sory quality. He will also continue to work directly with clients on complex financial planning needs, while contributing to the firm's growth across South India. Jeet Marwadi, Founder & Managing Director, 1 Finance said, "Anooj's elevation comes at a pivotal stage in our growth. As we scale our advisory network and build deeper capabilities, his experience and understanding of client-centric financial planning will be valuable in ensuring that our growth remains anchored to our philosophy of being 'one with your

interest." Speaking about his new role, Anooj Mehta, Partner, 1 Finance, added, "Becoming a Partner is an opportunity to take greater ownership of the institution we are building. I look forward to strengthening our advisory capabilities, developing advisors and helping more clients experience financial planning that is truly personalised, holistic and aligned with their interests." Anooj is a Chartered Wealth Manager and currently heads 1 Finance's Financial Planning Centre in Hyderabad.

ABOUT 1 FINANCE:

1 Finance is a Mumbai-based personal finance advisory firm focused on holistic, goal-based financial planning. Through qualified advisors and unbiased, hyper-personalised advice, it helps individuals make confident money decisions and achieve financial well-being. 1 Finance is backed by the Marwadi Chandarana Group, a leading financial services institution with interests across education and alternative energy.

SBI TO HIRE 12,000 PERSONNEL DURING FY27: CHAIRMAN SETTY

New Delhi: State Bank of India (SBI) intends to hire about 12,000 personnel and add around 250 new branches to its network in the ongoing financial year, said C S Setty, Chairman of the country's biggest lender. "In terms of recruitment, I think we would be looking at around 11,000 to 12,000 appointments across both clerical and officer cadres this year. This number may vary depending on retirements and emerging requirements, but I expect we should close the year with around 12,000 recruitments," he told PTI in an interaction. "Last year, we have done fairly large recruitment because we took 1,500 specialist IT officers. This year, we do not need such a large number on the IT (information technology) side," he said. With a workforce of over 2.45 lakh employees as of March 2026, SBI is among India's largest employers. SBI had hired 4,640 officers, 19,340 associates, and 1,653 contractual staff in 2025-26, taking the total number of hires to



25,633, as per the bank's annual report for FY26. On the branch expansion side, Setty said that, despite having a large network, there is still some white space in many areas; whether new colonies are coming up or even in commercially active districts, the bank's presence can be improved. "We also are looking at rationalisation of some of the branches, which means that our number broadly will be growing by maybe 200 to 250 per year on the net side," he said. About stake dilution in the National Stock Exchange

(NSE), Setty said, SBI and its subsidiary SBI Capital Markets Ltd together plan to dilute up to 1 per cent stake through the exchange's proposed Rs 30,000-crore initial public offering (IPO). "We are participating in that divestment. We propose to divest 0.65 per cent and 0.35 per cent by SBI Capital Markets because both of us hold the stake. So together, about 1 per cent as an SBI group... it could be less depending on any other shareholders joining," he said. SBI currently holds a 3.23 per cent stake in the

NSE, while SBI Capital Markets owns 4.33 per cent in the country's largest stock exchange. Last week, NSE received regulatory approval for the long-awaited Rs 30,000-crore initial public offering (IPO), which could potentially be the country's biggest-ever yet. The NSE IPO will surpass Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,858.75-crore listing in 2024 as well as LIC of India's Rs 20,557.23-crore offering in 2022. It will also dwarf Paytm's (One97 Communications) Rs 18,300-crore (2021), Tata Capital's Rs 15,511.87-crore (2025) and Coal India's Rs 15,200-crore (2010) listing. He clarified that there is no monetisation plan for other subsidiaries in the immediate future. In July, SBI, along with its foreign partner Paris-headquartered Amundi, diluted around a 10 per cent stake in SBI Mutual Fund, including pre IPO. The Rs 11,675-crore monetisation by the country's biggest fund house was a huge success as the issue was subscribed 41.66 times.

"HAPPY WE BROKE THE JINX":

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty Eye Asian Games Glory After China Masters Win

Indian men's doubles badminton pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty said their China Masters triumph has given them a major confidence boost ahead of the upcoming Asian Games, adding that they will continue to push themselves before the Asian Games. India's top-seeded men's doubles pair produced a stirring comeback to clinch their maiden China Masters title, defeating China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu 11-21, 21-13, 21-17 at the Shenzhen Arena on Sunday. After winning the men's doubles title at the China Masters, Satwik said the tournament has always brought positive results for the pair, especially after injury setbacks. "Playing here is always good. We have always played here coming back from injury. In 2024 after the Olympics, we played here and reached the semi-finals. Then last year we played when we weren't in good shape, but we reached the finals. I think this tournament, after coming back from injury, has given us a lot of confidence," Satwik spoke to the media after winning the China Masters. Reflecting on their performance in the tourna-



ment, Satwik said the pair stayed committed to their game plan and avoided mistakes in the final. "I think this week has been the same story except for the first round. Today, we didn't make mistakes, and that was a positive from today's match. We are just sticking to the game plan. We made a plan before coming here and wanted to execute that. If it works, it's good; if not, we will go back and work again," he said. The Indian shuttler added that the victory helped them end a difficult phase and marked their second title of 2026. "I am really happy that

we kind of broke the jinx. This is our second title in 2026, and I am really happy," Satwik said. Chirag Shetty said winning the China Masters title ahead of the Asian Games feels special and will provide the defending champions with added confidence. "It feels really special. Obviously, going into the Asian Games, winning a title definitely gives a huge boost that what we are working for is going in the right direction," Chirag said. However, he added that the duo will not get complacent and will continue their preparations before the

Asian Games. "We'll go back home, push ourselves to the limit, train for the next 10 days and go all guns blazing at the Asian Games. We want to go out there and have some fun," he added. The Indian duo, who had twice finished runners-up at the prestigious Super 750 tournament, overcame a slow start and a determined Chinese challenge to seal their second title of the season, as per ESPN. He and Ren came out firing in the opening game, putting Satwik and Chirag under sustained pressure with their pace and attacking play. The Indians struggled to find their rhythm and were comfortably beaten 21-11, leaving themselves with little room for error. But the top seeds responded in emphatic fashion. Satwik and Chirag raised their intensity in the second game, taking control of the rallies and forcing the Chinese pair into errors. Their improved defence and sharper attacking combinations helped them level the contest with a 21-13 win. The deciding game was a closely fought battle, with neither pair willing to give an inch. The Indian duo, however, held their nerve when it mattered most.

Ishan Kishan Gets Special Message From Rumoured Girlfriend Aditi Hundia After Duleep Trophy Ton: "Beautifully Earned"

Ishan Kishan lit up Day 1 of the Duleep Trophy 2026 final between East Zone and South Zone, slamming a phenomenal century. The East Zone captain walked in to bat at No. 5 and remained unbeaten on 111*, as his side took control of the match. Following the day's action, Kishan received a whole-some congratulatory message from model-entrepreneur and rumoured girlfriend Aditi Hundia. "A hundred, beautifully earned," posted Hundia on an Instagram story, with a picture of Kishan celebrating and three heart emojis. Ishan Kishan led from the front with an unbeaten century as East Zone dominated South Zone on the opening day of the Duleep Trophy 2026-27 final at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday. East Zone reached 385/4 at stumps, with Kishan unbeaten on 111 and Kumar Kushagra on 63 not out. The pair added an unbroken 144-run partnership in just 26.4 overs to



put East firmly in control after South had managed to make early inroads, as per Cricinfo. Kishan's knock was particularly significant as the East Zone captain continued his push to re-establish himself as a serious red-ball cricketer. The left-hander also crossed the 4,000-run mark in first-class cricket while bringing up his 10th century in the format. Earlier, Abhimanyu Easwaran and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi gave East a strong start, putting together a century opening stand. Easwaran, playing on his 31st birthday, looked in excellent touch and reached

72 before being run out following a mix-up with Shikhar Mohan. Sooryavanshi provided the early aggression, racing to 34 off 24 balls before falling to CV Millind. The youngster had earlier taken Mohammed Siraj apart with a sequence of 4, 6, 4 during the pacer's opening spell. Easwaran, meanwhile, combined his trademark solidity with an attacking back-foot game, particularly against the short ball. His fluent stroke-play allowed him to move ahead of Sooryavanshi and bring up his half-century off just 46 deliveries.

Pakistan Captain Fatima Sana's Cold Send-Off To Shafali Verma In Women's Asia Cup Draws Sharp Response

Pakistan's challenge ended in a whimper as Harmanpreet Kaur-led India romped to a seven-wicket win in a Women's Asia Cup match in Dubai on Saturday. History had offered little comfort to Pakistan coming into Saturday's clash in the 2026 Women's Asia Cup, having dropped four consecutive fixtures to their neighbours across formats. Shafali Verma set an explosive tone for the paltry 56-run chase by launching the very first delivery from Sadia Iqbal over long-off for a six. Shafali also became the youngest batter to reach 3,000 runs in women's T20Is at 22 years and 220 days, as well as the fastest in terms of balls faced (2,182). Pakistan captain



Fatima Sana mounted a spirited fightback when she removed Shafali (12) by extracting a soft leading edge, completed via a caught-and-bowled dismissal, before getting Pratika Rawal (4) caught behind. After dismissing Shafali, Fatima gave her a cold send-off. It drew a strong reaction on the internet. The

audacity to throw a "send-off" after getting all out for 55 in 18 overs, only for India to chase it down in 8 overs. At this point, Pakistani teams aren't just finding ways to lose, they're just exploring new and innovative ways to embarrass themselves. Fatima struck again in her second over by trapping

Smriti Mandhana lbw after the opener hit her for a boundary, leaving India at 29/3 in the fourth over. The three-wicket burst made Fatima just the fourth bowler from a Full Member nation to take three wickets in the powerplay of a women's T20I twice in her career. However, captain Harmanpreet and Deepti Sharma steadied the chase without further alarms. The duo took their time before Deepti released the pressure in the seventh over by stepping out to loft left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu over mid-wicket for four. Harmanpreet and Deepti carefully made the remaining runs by using soft hands and quick running to keep the scoreboard ticking.

"Pakistan Best Team In Women's Asia Cup": Coach Wahab Riaz After 55-All Out Show Against India

Pakistan women's team coach Wahab Riaz made a mind-boggling statement after the Women's Asia Cup 2026 match against India on Saturday. Up against India, Pakistan suffered a soul-shattering defeat after being bowled out for just 55 runs while batting first. Chasing the paltry target, India overhauled the total with 7 wickets in hand, in just 8.4 overs. Riaz, speaking to reporters after the match in the press conference, surprised everyone as he said that he still feels that the Pakistan team is the best in the ongoing Women's Asia Cup tournament. Pakistan were no match for India in the contest, as bowlers ran riot. The likes of Shree Charni, Deepti Sharma and Prema Rawat



picked up 3, 2 and 2 wickets each while Shafali Verma also bagged a solitary scalp to bowl out Pakistan for 55 in 18.1 overs. For Pakistan, barring the opening duo of Muneeba Ali and Shawal Zulfiqar, no one even registered a double-digit score. Yet, coach Wahab Riaz feels his side is the best in the Women's Asia Cup 2026. "I

believe that all the players in our team are very skilful, and they just need to trust themselves. Our next match is against Hong Kong. We will go back and discuss what we did wrong against India. We will try not to commit the same mistakes. I still believe Pakistan is the best side in this Asia Cup to lift the trophy because the condi-

tions really suit us," Riaz told reporters in the press conference. Pakistan captain Sana Mir, on the other hand, stands poles apart from Riaz on the way the team was set up. She slammed the management for making a plethora of changes in the squad for the Women's Asia Cup, especially after 7 players were left out. When asked about Sana's comments, Riaz said that he has nothing to do with the skipper's opinion. "Sana Mir has her own opinion. I have nothing to do with that opinion. We have made changes with the future in mind. The players who were playing before, they have played a lot of World Cups and Asia Cups but we weren't getting the results.

F1 Championship Leader Kimi Antonelli Wins Italian Grand Prix



Carlos Alcaraz Excited To Face 'Dangerous' Tommy Paul For US Open Quarter-Final Berth

Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz will be under the microscope again on Sunday taking on 20th-seeded American Tommy Paul for a place in the US Open quarter-finals. The Spaniard, playing his first tournament since a four-month absence with a wrist injury, acknowledges he has yet to play his best but says he's "getting there" with both the sharpness of his shots and his on-court decision making. He headlines a day that also features women's two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka and third-ranked American Jessica Pegula - just one of the players with a chance to supplant Sabalenka atop the world rankings in New York.



Olympic Champion Zheng Qinwen Storms Home To Reach US Open Last 16



Paris Olympics gold medalist Zheng Qinwen won the last seven games of the match to surge to a 1-6, 7-6 (7/3), 7-5 victory over Madison Keys on Saturday and reach the fourth round of the US Open. After coming through the second-set tiebreaker, Zheng appeared to be out of steam in the final set. The former world number four had to come through qualifying after a lengthy recovery from an elbow injury saw her ranking plummet. Keys took charge with an early break and broke Zheng again for a 4-0 lead in a game the Chinese player led 40-0. Keys held for 5-0 lead, but Zheng had a last stand in her. She saved match point at 5-1 and kept on rolling. Keys, former Australian Open champion and runner-up at Flushing Meadows back in 2017, had taken the first set in just 23 minutes without facing a break point, dropping just five points on her own serve. Zheng found her rhythm in a tight second set. A late exchange of breaks sent it to a tiebreak-

er, Zheng winning the last three points to force a deciding third set. Zheng, currently ranked 121st in the world, will face either six-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek or Czech Marie Bouzkova for a place in the quarter-finals. Zheng Qinwen won the last seven games to stun Madison Keys and reach the US Open last 16 in a day of upsets that dented American hopes on Saturday at Flushing Meadows. Fourth-seeded Coco Gauff battled through in straight sets, but Americans were hard hit with ninth-seeded Taylor Fritz and 2025 finalist Amanda Anisimova following Keys out the door. Fifth-seeded French Open finalist Flavio Cobolli of Italy also fell to 21-year-old Alexander Blockx. Zheng saved a match point in her 1-6, 7-6 (7/3), 7-5 triumph over Keys, the 2025 Australian Open champion and a US Open finalist back in 2017. After coming through the second-set tiebreaker, Zheng appeared to be out of steam in the final set.

'One of the best' - boxing world reacts to Taylor's farewell win

Some of the biggest names in women's boxing have paid tribute to Katie Taylor after the Irish great ended her career with victory over Flora Pili at Croke Park. Unified lightweight champion Caroline Dubois called Taylor "one of the best to ever do it", while Claressa Shields said the 40-year-old deserved to "ride off into the sunset". Taylor beat Pili on points in Dublin to become undisputed light-welterweight champion and retires with 26 wins from 27 professional contests, Olympic gold and three undisputed title triumphs across two divisions. "Thank you so much for paving the way,"



Londoner Dubois wrote on X, "Wishing you happiness, success and joy for this next season." Taylor was sharper

throughout, repeatedly beating the Frenchwoman to the punch before finishing with one final burst of combina-

tions as the crowd rose to its feet. American Shields - the self-proclaimed Greatest Woman of All Time - added:

"Congrats Katie. Now ride off into the sunset. You deserve it all." Super-featherweight champion Alycia Baumgardner described Taylor as "a trailblazer who helped set the stage for all of us". "What a legacy," she wrote. "It's been a privilege watching your journey from the beginning." "There will never be another one like her" Taylor's farewell unfolded in front of more than 80,000 fans in Dublin, with Westlife performing before the main event and Croke Park providing a fitting backdrop to her final night. Former world champion Carl Frampton said Taylor's relationship with the Irish

public was unlike anything else in boxing. "You can tell that she doesn't enjoy doing stuff in front of the media, but she still has this adulation from everybody," the Northern Irishman said. "Katie Taylor is different, she's special and there will never be another one like her." Former cruiserweight world champion Tony Bellew described the occasion as one of the most remarkable exits the sport had seen. "I don't think in all of my years of watching this game, I have seen an exit as beautiful, amazing and fitting," he said. "She has just retired as the greatest champion ever.

“I hope the film ‘Epic’ becomes a huge success” – National Crush Rashmika Mandanna at the Trailer Launch Event



Epic – First Semester’, starring Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya, is directed by debut director Aditya Hasan. The actor says, “Do you know when a relationship becomes epic?” The final dialogues in the trailer are also sure to impress the youth. The trailer launch event was attended by National Crush Rashmika Mandanna and successful director Shiva Nirvana as chief guests.

film is produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas banners. The movie is going to be released on September 11. As part of the promotions, the trailer was released on Friday. The trailer starts with the dialogue, “My name is Anand.. sorry, sorry.. Aditya.. I want to become a director.. There is some magic in cinema. I want to make a good film, our film.” The trailer is engaging from beginning to end. The hero going abroad and the situations he faces there are likely to attract the youth. The scenes between the hero and heroine and their love track look refreshing. The scene featuring Kalyan Shankar and the dialogue he delivers are also likely to connect well with the youth. “If you didn’t even pay my college fees when you gave birth to me, then why, Mom?” The hero’s dialogue, “If we want to break up, do we have to break up by fighting, insulting each other and blaming someone?”, followed by the heroine’s words, gives a hint that the audience is going to watch a feel-good and emotional love story.

RASHMIKA’S TELANGANA SLANG BECOMES HOT TOPIC



Rashmika Mandanna is married to Vijay Deverakonda and earned the tag of Telangana Aadabidda. She is proud of her roots and also embraces her current family’s traditions. Since she has been staying in Hyderabad for some time, she is speaking in Telangana slang. She is not perfect, but she delivers it confidently, and it has become the talk of the town. While a few are appreciating her, some are criticizing the same. During the trailer launch event of Epic, Rashmika was the chief guest. While speaking at the event and talking about Anand, she presented the

Telangana slang. While some of the words are pronounced perfectly, a few other words are not. This has triggered a discussion on social media about whether someone should speak it without being fully aware of it. Many fans and netizens are praising Rashmika’s efforts and ease with her slang. While many praise her efforts and ease with her slang, some people think it looks forced for her to speak in Telangana slang. In general, when a non-Telugu-speaking actress does a film here, she tries to speak bits and pieces of it in order to learn the language.

THE LONGEST TITLE IN TELUGU CINEMA HISTORY - SET FOR RELEASE ON SEPTEMBER 18

Chandra Siddharth has carved a distinct identity for himself as a filmmaker with a unique sensibility through films such as ‘Aa Naluguru’, ‘Madhumasam’, ‘Andari Bandhuvaya’, ‘Idi Sangathi’, and ‘Aatagadharaa Siva’. His latest directorial venture is ‘Ee Paata Korinavaru Nimalipalem Nundi Rama, Jyotsna, Nandu, Murali, Kabir, Dhol Ravi Modalaguvuru’. The film carries the subtitle ‘A Forbidden Raga from a Forbidden Saga’. Produced by Chandra Siddharth himself under the Filmotsav banner, the film is based on a story by noted filmmaker and writer Madan. Harsha is making his debut as a lead actor, while AmmayraGoswami, Sujana Reddy, Inaya Sultana, Ravi Varma, Anirudh Srivastav, Ashokvardhan, Rekha Nirosha, Sunny, Giri and others play key roles. The makers are gearing up to release the film on September 18. Known for his powerful portrayal of human relationships and emotions in ‘Aa Naluguru’, Chandra Siddharth is now presenting another unconventional film, this time set against the backdrop of a Neuroscientific thriller. The film is described as the first-ever mystery musical. It explores the intriguing relationship between sound, music and the human brain, weaving elements such as sound therapy, brain mapping, memories and guilt into a gripping mystery narrative.



Speaking on the occasion, director-producer Chandr Siddharth said: “This is the longest title in the history of Indian cinema. My friend Madan and I had wanted to turn this story into a film. This was the last film Madan planned before his death. Earlier I had made ‘Aa Naluguru’ based on a story by Madan. “Coming to the story of this film, every night, exactly at 10:30 p.m., the same song is broadcast from a radio station. Rama, Jyotsna, Nandu, Murali, Kabir, Dhol Ravi and others from Nimalipalem keep requesting this song from the village called Nimalipaalem that no longer exists, hence the title ‘Ee Paata Korinavaru Nimalipalem Nundi Rama, Jyotsna, Nandu, Murali, Kabir, Dhol Ravi Modalaguvuru’ for the film. The protagonist Sagar’s obsession with this song leads him into the labyrinth of fragmented memories, guilt and a scientific experiment that had erased his very soul. This high-concept psychological thriller blends sound, neuroscience, memories, guilt and love. It is an experimental attempt designed to offer audiences a completely different cinematic experience.

TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT TO SAVE THEATRES: APFDC CHAIRMAN BHARAT BHUSHAN

APFDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan attended the Andhra Pradesh Cine Exhibitors Forum meeting in Vijayawada and discussed the major issues faced by theatre owners and exhibitors. He said the government has been requested to introduce a single-window licence renewal system with a five-year validity for all departments, including Fire and Cinematography. He added that discussions have already been held with ministers and MLAs, and the government has responded positively. Bharat Bhushan said Andhra Pradesh once had over 2,000 theatres, but the number has now fallen to around 1,200, with nearly 400 theatres closing in the last 3-4 months. He said increasing ticket prices alone will not solve the problem. The government should also



support theatres through affordable power tariffs, reasonable maintenance charges and uniform ticket pricing. He added that discussions are continuing on ticket price hikes, but exhibitors should consider market conditions and avoid excessive pricing. He stressed that exhibitors, producers and the government must work together to protect the theatre industry.

VISHWAK SEN’S ‘LEGACY’ LOCKS DECEMBER 4 RELEASE DATE

Mass Ka Das Vishwak Sen’s upcoming intense political action drama ‘LEGACY’ has locked its worldwide theatrical release date. The film, directed by Saikiran Reddy Daida and produced under the Kalaahi Media banner, will release worldwide on December 4, 2026. The intense political action drama is being produced by Yeshwanth Daggumati and Saikiran Reddy Daida, with Sanjay Sambrani and V.V.N. Prasad as co-producers. The makers unveiled a striking new release-date poster featuring Vishwak Sen and Ekta Rathod, officially announcing December 4th as the date audiences can mark on their calendars. Written and directed by Saikiran Reddy Daida, LEGACY marks his second feature film after his directorial debut Pindam. The film also marks the second production venture from Kalaahi Media, following Pindam. Set against a powerful political backdrop, LEGACY explores the collision of power, family, love



and betrayal. Vishwak Sen plays a character who is drawn into a dangerous world shaped by his father’s legacy, while acclaimed Hindi actor Kay Kay Menon takes on a powerful antagonist role. The film features a strong ensemble cast including Rao Ramesh, Sachin Khedekar, Murali Mohan, Ekta Rathod, Raja Ravindra, Rajeev Kanakala, Aneesh Kuruvilla, Khushee Ravi, Kalyani Natarajan, Ravi Kaale, Amit Tiwari and others. The technical team includes Jiju Sunny as cinematographer, Govind Vasantha as music composer, Sirish Prasad as editor, Rajeev Nair as production designer and Jashuva as action choreographer.

‘MUGGURU KOTHULU’ TITLE SONG RELEASED



Presented by GSR Creations and co-presented by Sky Flare Networks, ‘Mugguru Kothulu’ is a film produced by Shobharani Garimella and directed by Kartik Garimella. Teja Kondapally, Ganesh Bodda and Devansh play the lead roles in the movie, while Varshika Pasam is the female lead. The film’s first-look poster has already impressed everyone. Now, the team has come up with another update by releasing

the title song from the movie. The video song, which goes by the title ‘Mugguru Kothulu’, features the three heroes having a blast and enjoying themselves to the fullest. The song showcases the fun and carefree lives of bachelors and singles. Going by the song, it is evident that the film is set to be a youthful, fun-filled entertainer. The audience is likely to enjoy the catchy tune and the crazy antics of the three

heroes. Jagadeesh Busayavalasa’s lyrics and Chaitanya Gannavarapu’s vocals are expected to be major highlights of the song. The shooting of the film is progressing at a brisk pace. S. Suhas is composing the music for the movie. Raj Nomula is the cinematographer, while Jameer Shaik is handling the editing. The team is gearing up to entertain the audience with many more updates in the coming days.



UORFI JAVED MAKES WORRYING ADMISSION ABOUT HER MENTAL HEALTH

Uorfi Javed, who rarely filters her words, has now made a candid and concerning admission about her mental health. The social media sensation revealed that she is currently not in the best state of mind and spends most of her time sleeping. During a recent interview, Uorfi was asked how she takes care of her mental well-being. Responding with brutal honesty, she said, “I don’t take care of my mental health. I sit at home. Most days, I sleep. I sleep 18 hours a day.” When asked if she was seeking help from anyone,

Uorfi simply replied, “No.” Her brief response made the confession even more concerning, especially as she recently revealed that she had been unwell for nearly 12 days and felt mentally and physically exhausted. Uorfi has repeatedly spoken about facing relentless trolling, abuse and even threats over her bold fashion choices and outspoken personality. While she often shuts down critics with her unapologetic comebacks, her latest admission offered a rare glimpse at what may be happening behind the confident public persona.

‘Thella Kaagitham’ Is an Innocent Love Story. I Am Confident It Will Become a Big Hit: Ace Producer Dil Raju

Presented by producer Krishna Kommalapati under the banner of Arunachala Creations, ‘Thella Kaagitham’ stars Harsh Roshan in the lead role. The film is set to release on October 2. Harsh Roshan, who has earned recognition with films such as ‘Court’ and ‘Band Melam’, plays the protagonist, while Nakshatra is being introduced as the female lead. Ramesh Bandreddi is making his directorial debut with this youth-centric emotional love entertainer. The film has already generated considerable buzz, and the makers released its teaser on Saturday. Renowned producer Dil Raju and director Bobby attended the event as



chief guests. Writer-producer Bhanu Bhogavarapu, cinematographer K.V. Guhan, actor Ajay, Nandu, Ram Abbaraju, Bekkem Venugopal, BVS Ravi, ETV Win’s Sai Krishna, Harsh

Roshan, Nakshatra, Shravya and other members of the film’s team were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Producer Dil Raju said, “Everyone makes mistakes in life, knowingly or

unknowingly. That is what this film aims to convey. The story is about what happens when a red mark appears on a white sheet of paper. That is essentially what ‘Thella Kaagitham’ is about.