

Tamil Nadu Assembly disrupted over law and order, corruption allegations



Chennai, Sep 7: Proceedings in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly were disrupted following a heated exchange between the ruling party and opposition over the state's law and order situation, women's safety and allegations of corruption involving the previous government.

The ruling side stressed its governance priorities and maintained that freedom of speech could not be used as a pretext to disrespect women. It also referred to findings of earlier inquiry commissions and reports of the Enforcement Directorate concerning alleged irregularities in municipal tenders and revenues of state-run corporations.

The remarks triggered strong protests from opposition legislators, who demanded that Leader of the Opposition be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations on the floor

of the House.

As the opposition members continued their protests and entered the well of the Assembly, Speaker declined permission for the Leader of the Opposition to speak, citing the disorder in the House.

Opposition members subsequently staged a walkout from the Assembly in protest against the Speaker's decision. Despite the disruption, legislative business continued, with the House taking up scheduled departmental discussions and demands for grants for various departments.

The confrontation added to tensions in the Assembly, with the opposition accusing the ruling side of avoiding a proper debate, while the government maintained that allegations concerning governance and past administrations could be raised during legislative proceedings.

Delhi court defers decision on framing charges against Lalu Yadav, family in money laundering case

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday deferred the pronouncement of its decision on framing of charges against Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, his family members, and others accused in the alleged money laundering case linked to the IRCTC hotel scam being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The Rouse Avenue Court, which was scheduled to pronounce the order, deferred the decision and is now likely to deliver it on September 10.

The ED case relates to the alleged laundering of proceeds of crime arising out of the IRCTC hotel scam registered by the Central Bureau



of Investigation (CBI).

The probe agency has claimed that irregularities were committed in the awarding of contracts for the operation of IRCTC hotels during Lalu Prasad Yadav's tenure as Railway Minister between

2004 and 2009. According to the prosecution, the hotel maintenance contracts were allegedly awarded without following prescribed norms to a private company linked to close associates of the RJD supremo.

It has further been alleged that, in return, three acres of prime land were acquired through a benami company allegedly linked to the family members and associates of Lalu Prasad Yadav.

The accused in the case include Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi, sons Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav, daughters Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav, besides others. Earlier, the Special Judge had reserved the order on framing of charges after hearing detailed arguments advanced by counsel appearing for the accused persons and the ED. The Delhi High Court is also seized of criminal revision petitions

filed by Lalu Prasad Yadav, Rabri Devi, and Tejashwi Yadav challenging the trial court order directing framing of charges against them in the corruption case linked to the same alleged scam.

In October last year, the Rouse Avenue Court framed charges against the accused persons for offences related to cheating, criminal conspiracy and corruption under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Act after they pleaded not guilty. Lalu Prasad Yadav has consistently denied the allegations and maintained that the tenders for the IRCTC hotels were awarded in a fair and transparent manner.

2 groups clash at Hyderabad pub; police file 3 cases

Hyderabad : Two people were injured in a brawl at a pub in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills, officials said. The incident took place during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday at a pub located in a hotel in the Jubilee Hills area, where two groups reportedly clashed, resulting in damage to property and parked vehicles and injuries to two people. Telangana Congress Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav's brother Arvind Yadav was also present during the scuffle. Police have registered three separate cases in connection with the incident.

India's path to world's largest economy needs demographic dividend: Former RBI Deputy Governor

New Delhi: Former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India Dr. Michael Patra said India can emerge as the world's largest economy if it fully leverages its demographic dividend and implements structural reforms in employment, manufacturing, infrastructure and women's labour force participation.

The report from Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd. said its event saw Patra mentioning India's demographic window of opportunity which extends to about 2055 and must be harnessed to sustain higher incomes, savings and investment.

With a young popula-



tion and a rising working-age population, the country must effectively utilise this demographic dividend to sustain higher growth over the coming decades, he said.

"India's time has come," he noted, pointing to the convergence of several favourable forces that could provide sig-

nificant tailwinds to the country's economic journey.

India has averaged 7.7 per cent growth since FY22 and is currently the second-largest contributor to global growth, behind China. Dr. Patra highlighted that India's growth trajectory has strengthened significantly following the

and assessing the deeper shifts shaping India's markets and its place in the global economy," said Nirav Sheth, CEO – Institutional Equities, Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd.

India has also strengthened its economic buffers across the external, fiscal and financial sectors, the report said.

Foreign exchange reserves, a relatively contained current account deficit, an improving fiscal position and stronger banking-sector balance sheets provide resilience against external shocks. Fiscal consolidation is also being accompanied by a shift towards capital expen-

diture, creating greater space for private-sector investment.

The report highlighted the need to raise women's labour force participation, increase reskilling and align education with employment.

Manufacturing, currently accounting for 17 per cent of GDP, was identified as critical to absorb unskilled labour and build capabilities for higher-value services. The opportunity extends to exports, with India's growing electronics exports and expansion of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) demonstrating its ability to integrate more deeply with global supply chains.

despite geopolitical uncertainty and changing economic conditions," said Romit Theophilus, Director – Marketing & Sales Office, India, GNTO. Indian travellers are increasingly seeking safe, diverse cities, heritage, natural landscapes and efficient public transport network, he added.

"The Indian audience for Germany is also young and experience-driven, with an average traveller

Indira Gandhi University celebrates 14th foundation day

Meerpur (Rewari): Indira Gandhi University (IGU), Meerpur, celebrated its 14th Foundation Day with enthusiasm at the Kalpana Chawla Auditorium on the university campus. The celebrations began with a Hawan ceremony at Sardar Patel Bhawan, in which university officials, faculty members, staff and students participated and prayed for the institution's continued growth and academic excellence.

The main function commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Aseem Miglani welcomed Chief Guest Dr. Raj Nehru, OSD to the Chief Minister, Haryana and Founder Vice-Chancellor of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, along with Guests of Honour Prof. Sanjay Kaushik, Vice-Chancellor of Gurugram University, and Prof. Rajbir Singh, former Vice-Chancellor of MDU Rohtak.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Raj Nehru stressed the need for institutions to have clarity of purpose and focus on long-term objectives. He urged the university to explore independent revenue sources to support sustainable growth. Prof. Rajbir



Singh said Foundation Day provides an opportunity to assess past progress, celebrate achievements and set goals for future development. Prof. Sanjay Kaushik congratulated the university fraternity and called for collective efforts and proactive preparation to meet future challenges.

Outstanding students, teams and faculty members were felicitated for achievements in youth festivals, sports competitions and research. Winners of various competitions organised during the three-day Foundation Day celebrations were also awarded trophies, certificates and prizes.

Presenting the university's achievements, Prof.

Aseem Miglani said NEP-2020 had been fully integrated and three new departments—Defence Studies, Journalism and Mass Communication, and Sanskrit—had been established. Undergraduate programmes increased from four to 12, postgraduate courses from 21 to 24, and Ph.D. programmes from 11 to 18. Industry-oriented programmes, including B.Tech in AI and ML, BCA, B.Com in Logistics, MHMT and LL.M., have also been introduced.

He said research publications increased from 323 to 487, while the university recorded 6,567 citations and an H-index of 36. Seven patents have been granted, nine published and 15 research

projects sanctioned. The university has also entered into MoUs with several institutions and organisations to strengthen academic and professional collaborations.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the establishment of the Indian Knowledge Systems Centre and Sanskrit Department, launch of the Skill Enhancement Center, students' achievements in All India Inter-University and Khelo India University Games, and progress in infrastructure projects. The 260-capacity Bhagini Nivedita Girls' Hostel has been operationalised, while construction of a sports complex, library extension and faculty residences is progressing.

Indian visitor nights in Germany steady in Jan-June

New Delhi, Sep 7 : India maintained a stable contribution to Germany's inbound tourism with Indian visitor nights up 0.1 per cent year-on-year and the country's ten leading city destinations accounting for about 61 per cent of all Indian overnight stays, a statement said on Monday.

Germany recorded 36.4 million international overnight stays in the first half of 2026, "while India maintains stable growth and strong long-term potential," a statement from the German National Tourist Office said.

Germany's international overnight stays saw year-on-year growth of 0.5 per cent, and June overnight stays rose 1.6 per cent compared with June 2025. "India remains an important and highly promising source market for Destination Germany. The stable performance during the first five months of 2026 demonstrates the resilience of Indian travel demand

despite geopolitical uncertainty and changing economic conditions," said Romit Theophilus, Director – Marketing & Sales Office, India, GNTO. Indian travellers are increasingly seeking safe,

diverse cities, heritage, natural landscapes and efficient public transport network, he added.

"The Indian audience for Germany is also young and experience-driven, with an average traveller

demand during the second half of 2026. Hotel occupancy also increased by 1.2 percentage points to 65.5 per cent during the same period. Germany offers a compelling combination of



well-connected destinations that offer authentic cultural experiences, premium hospitality and excellent value, Theophilus said. Germany is strongly positioned to meet these expectations, with its

age of 38 years. Around 95 per cent of Indian travellers to Germany are below the age of 55, highlighting the market's significant long-term potential," Theophilus said. He also expressed optimism about continued

vibrant cities, historic attractions, nature, premium experiences and convenient onward connections across Europe for Indian travellers, the German National Tourist Office said.

Border villages turn into economic hubs under Vibrant Villages Programme

New Delhi: Once neglected and cut off from the rest of the country, villages along India's international borders are gradually emerging as centres of economic activity, driven by the Centre's efforts to strengthen local economies and prevent migration from sensitive frontier areas. A major component of the initiative is the decision to turn paramilitary posts along international borders into local markets by requiring security forces to pur-

chase essential supplies directly from nearby villages. The move is part of the Centre's Rs 11,639-crore push under the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) to keep border communities populated and economically active.

The VVP covers 2,616 villages located along India's international borders in two phases. The villages include 455 in Arunachal Pradesh, 75 in Himachal Pradesh, 51 in Uttarakhand, 46 in Sikkim



and 35 in Ladakh. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), which guards the Himalayan frontier with

China, has been directed to procure daily-use items directly from these model villages. Milk, vegetables, eggs, grains and other

essential commodities will be purchased from local residents, creating a steady market for agricultural and other rural produce.

The government aims to use army and paramilitary border posts as local economic centres where deployed personnel can purchase everyday necessities from surrounding villages. Officials believe this will provide farmers with a dependable source of income and help reduce the economic isolation

that has contributed to migration from remote border areas.

The paramilitary forces have already begun the procurement process, the Centre said on Sunday. The Border Security Force (BSF) has also initiated the process in areas under its jurisdiction.

According to government sources, the initiative has begun showing a positive impact in Arunachal Pradesh, with some residents returning to villages they had previ-

ously left in Kurung Kumey, Dibang Valley and Shi-Yomi districts. The Centre is now also considering measures to strengthen basic infrastructure in these villages, including revamping schools and establishing hospitals and colleges in clusters, a senior government official said.

The Vibrant Villages Programme is being implemented in two phases. The first phase, launched in April 2023, has an outlay of Rs 4,800

crore for the period from 2022-23 to 2026-27. The second phase, launched in February this year, has an outlay of Rs 6,839 crore and will run through 2028-29. The Centre sees the programme not only as a development initiative but also as a strategic measure to strengthen India's presence in remote border areas by improving livelihoods, infrastructure and connectivity and encouraging people to remain in or return to their villages.

EDITORIAL

The Day A Building Fell And Delhi Watched In Horror

For the past two years, I have been working the 5 am shift for the channel - anchoring and then reporting from ground zero after my bulletins. Sunday, September 6, was meant to be no exception to this protocol. But it was, for reasons beyond belief and comprehension.

At 2:15 pm, as I was heading back home after taking a few political reactions, I got a call. A building in Satya Niketan had collapsed. The flash on our reporters' group did not even hint at the scale of devastation that I was about to witness. Soon, I began giving lives from the car, hoping, praying that the tragedy wouldn't be so grim. With a glimmer of hope in my eyes, my cameraperson Momin and I rushed to the spot. We were amongst the first few journalists on ground.

What we saw next was total chaos. Ambulances, NDRF, police, fire brigade, and MCD officials were on the spot. A sea of people had come in to see the extent of the tragedy. What was once a multi-storeyed structure lay as pure debris before our eyes. Bulldozers moved through the narrow lanes as officials kept pushing people aside to make way. Often, officials had to physically intervene and diffuse scuffles that broke out while the operations were underway. One related yet inalienable detail was that the incident occurred right in time for the DUSU elections, so student leaders were present in large numbers. Occasionally, tempers flared and arguments even occurred. Over the next few hours, we saw leaders from across the political spectrum come in to assess the situation. My cameraperson and I reported continuously for over 8-hours. Issuing advisories on loudspeakers, the NDRF kept digging their way in to reach all those who were trapped. Despite hours having passed since the tragedy, the authorities faced numerous difficulties reaching those trapped beneath the rubble.

The incident and the gory visuals of students crying out for help, being taken away on stretchers, has cast a shadow on the memory of the national capital forever. Occurring shortly after the Prime Minister's visit to DU and ahead of BRICS Summit in the capital, the incident poses serious questions, the most important being: How many more such incidents do we need to learn from? A total of 13 people have been rescued from the debris of the nearly 50-year-old building. According to officials, five victims were brought dead to AIIMS Trauma Centre, while another critically injured patient died during treatment, taking the death count to six. An AIIMS update said 11 injured patients were brought to the trauma centre. Three remain admitted and are undergoing treatment. One patient underwent surgery on an injured limb, while another, who suffered minor injuries, was discharged after observation. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Amit Goel said one more person was rescued during overnight operations but was declared dead, pushing the count to six.

Round-The-Clock Rescue Efforts

Rescue workers continued operations throughout the night as fears remained that several people, most of them students, could still be trapped under the debris.

Edit

LET THE WATER FLOW, NOT THE DISPUTE

SON WATER AGREEMENT PAVES A NEW PATH FOR COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

— Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Interstate rivers are not just flowing streams, but lifelines that support agricultural production, drinking water supplies, industries, ecosystems, and the livelihoods of millions. However, rivers can also cross state boundaries, so their management can lead to conflict between states. The recent Bihar-Jharkhand agreement on the Son River, which aims to resolve a nearly 25-year-old water dispute through dialogue, is an important example of sustainable water management—a water issue that can only be resolved through cooperation, not conflict. The main reason interstate water conflicts persist is due to conflicting interests in water development. One state may want to use more water for irrigation, while another for drinking water, industry, or urban development. All of these needs are legitimate, but water is limited. If multiple states depend on the same river, resources become scarce, and balancing these needs poses a challenge for the federal administration. Water imbalances across regions and seasons further compound the complexities. Areas that receive good rainfall during the monsoon season may experience heavy rainfall during that time, but may experience a lack of rainfall during the summer. Thus, a river may be abundant one year and scarce the next. This situation is becoming even more uncertain due to climate change. Changing rainfall patterns are altering river flows, while prolonged droughts and extreme weather events are also affecting water availability and making projections about water availability less reliable. Administrative reorganiza-



tion can also lead to disagreements over historical agreements. This is also the case with Bihar-Jharkhand relations. Agreements reached within the same administrative structure may have to be reconsidered if states are reorganized and their agricultural, demographic, and economic needs evolve. The concept of "fairness" prevalent decades ago may not necessarily apply in the current context. Another major source of conflict is the development and utilization of ongoing projects in the upstream areas. Dams, barrages, and irrigation schemes can impact water supply and discharge schedules in the

downstream areas. Lack of information sharing and project coordination between states can also lead to mistrust in technical expertise. The lack of transparent and real-time hydrological data further fuels disputes. States may have different goals regarding the amount of water allocated and the amount of water available. Without shared, scientifically accepted information on rainfall, river flows, reservoir levels, and water use, negotiations can easily devolve into debates over conflicting demands. If people become politically organized, the situation could worsen. The water issue is emotive and

directly impacts farmers, families, and local economies. If a technical problem becomes a regional issue or a political dispute, compromise becomes difficult. This is the purpose of institutional dialogue, so that it does not become a protracted federal conflict. The Bihar-Jharkhand status agreement for the Son River exemplifies the importance of negotiations. Both states have attempted to resolve the dispute non-violently by engaging with each other to find a mutually agreed solution. According to reports, Bihar received a water allocation of 5.75 billion acre-feet (MAF) and Jharkhand 20 million

acre-feet (MAF). But the impact of this agreement is not limited to these figures; it has far-reaching consequences. Its real significance lies in the message it sends that states are capable of protecting their own interests while also understanding the needs of other states. Dialogue can also provide opportunities for better utilization of shared infrastructure. Integrated water management, rather than fragmented water management, can yield greater benefits from the Indrapuri Barrage and its associated canal network. Shared infrastructure should become the basis for cooperation, not a new cause for divi-

sion. It is time for India to move away from a state-based approach and adopt a river-basin-based approach. A river basin is a single ecological-economic unit. Therefore, water planning must take into account upstream and downstream communities, groundwater, environmental flows, agricultural, drinking water, and industrial uses. First, it is crucial to establish open and up-to-date processes for sharing hydrological data. All interested states should have access to the same reliable information. Technology can help improve the accuracy of river monitoring and reduce conflicts over data from different sources.

The launch of EOS-05 is the first step taken by India in the field of continuous Earth observation

-Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Earth observation satellites have now become essential tools in governance, disaster relief, agriculture, environmental protection, and national security. These satellites provide remote sensing data about the Earth's surface, atmosphere, and oceans, helping governments monitor changes that cannot be easily detected by ground systems. India's Earth observation mission has been well established for years, and the launch of EOS-05 on GSLV-F17 is a significant step towards enhancing its capabilities. This is particularly significant because its ability to image from geosynchronous orbit enables repeated observations of the Indian region. The launch of EOS-05 is part of a shift in the nature of satellite remote sensing. Earth observation has traditionally been a major application of satellites operating in low Earth orbit (LEO). These satellites will provide extremely detailed images, but due to their orbit, they will only pass over a specific area at regular intervals. This is very useful for periodic coverage, but it could be even more useful in rapidly changing conditions. These systems could be complemented by a geosynchronous imaging satellite that can observe a large area over a long period of time. This is especially important when events occur over a period of hours rather than days. Cyclones can suddenly intensify or change direction, floods can spread across a wide area, forest fires can ignite or become uncontrollable, and maritime activity can be in a state of

constant flux. Continuous satellite observations can provide authorities with more dynamic information about such events. Therefore, EOS-05 should be viewed as a complementary element to LEO satellites in the Earth observation system. LEO satellites can be used to obtain detailed images, while geosynchronous satellites can provide greater stability and continuity. This capability is crucial for a diverse and disaster-prone country like India. Natural disasters like cyclones, floods, landslides, and forest fires frequently impact the country. Early warning, rapid assessment, and continuous monitoring are essential for effective disaster management. Frequent satellite observations can help authorities assess the evolution of a disaster situation and quickly locate affected areas. Satellite images can also be helpful in mapping inundated areas during floods. In the event of a forest fire, regular monitoring can be useful in observing changes in burned areas. This monitoring can also help understand changing weather patterns during cyclones. But imagery is only valuable if time and skill are invested in converting it into a useful product. The real challenge for India is to make satellite observations an integral part of disaster management platforms, providing administrators, disaster management agencies, and local authorities with real-time, easily accessible information. The aim is to bridge the gap between data collection and decision-making. Another sector that will benefit from EOS-05 and India's overall

space Earth observation capabilities is agriculture. Regular monitoring of the agricultural landscape at the ground level in India is challenging and resource-intensive. Satellite observations can be helpful in assessing agricultural indicators such as vegetation, crop conditions, and land use changes. Satellite images can be used in conjunction with weather data, soil data, and ground observations to detect the development of stress in crops and changing environmental conditions. As the use of AI increases, this process can become even more efficient. Due to the sheer volume of data sent by modern satellites, manual interpretation alone is becoming increasingly difficult. AI-based systems can quickly process images, detect anomalies, and flag areas requiring immediate attention. These technologies can help accelerate crop assessment, disaster mapping, and environmental monitoring, reducing the time spent on manual analysis. The benefits of continuous observation are also significant from an environmental perspective. India is undergoing rapid urbanization, land-use changes, increasing pressure on forests and ecosystems, and increasing stress on water resources. Satellite monitoring can be used to regularly monitor long-term vegetation changes, wetlands, water bodies, and other ecosystems. Permanent datasets can help policymakers and researchers detect trends and make more effective environmental decisions. Satellite-based observation is also of immense strategic impor-

ance to India's maritime interests. The country's long coastline and location in the heart of the Indian Ocean region mean increased awareness of the marine environment is essential. Satellite monitoring can be used in conjunction with other monitoring methods to enhance knowledge about activities and changing conditions in the maritime domain. The importance of EO is also growing from a strategic perspective. In the modern security environment, timely and reliable information has become a strategic asset. Continuous imaging can enhance situational awareness and can be used in conjunction with airborne, ground-based, and other space-based surveillance systems. Furthermore, the country needs the capability to respond to such situations. India should not rely heavily on any single satellite and should build a diverse satellite constellation that can ensure continuity of essential services even if a specific satellite is unavailable. Therefore, building an integrated and intelligent Earth Observation (EO) ecosystem should be the key to moving forward. Data from EOS-05 should be integrated with other platforms, such as satellites, meteorology, agriculture, and disaster management. Image processing should be accelerated by implementing artificial intelligence (AI) tools and information should be made available for decision-making. The next step is for India to invest more in indigenous sensors, satellite platforms, communication systems, and data processing infrastructure.

BOOK REVIEWS

SHORT STORIES FILLED WITH THE FRAGRANCE OF SOIL



Satyaveer Nahadia

The short story has carved out a unique and original place for itself in fiction. This is why, after being published in various languages, work on short stories is also being continuously conducted in dialects. From national magazines to local newspapers, short stories have carved a special niche for themselves. Various literary magazines have published special issues on short stories, research on short stories, and continuously produced innovative works and new experiments with short stories. In this series, senior literary figure and keen experimenter, Dr. Ramniwas 'Manav' Under his guidance, a collection of Haryanvi short stories, 'Mhari Matti, Mhare Akhar', has emerged as an innovative experiment in the field of Haryanvi mother tongue and short stories. Three short stories each by thirty-three writers have been



included in the skillful editing and careful compilation of the divine couple Dr. Satyawan Saurabh and Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, who are associated with the continuity of multifaceted creativity. This collection, focused on folk culture, folk life, folk values and human values, can be called a living document drenched in the fragrance of the soil. This collection of short stories, by some established and mostly emerging writers, offers a diverse range of subject matter, including sharp satire on social inconsistencies and social distortions,

and poignant descriptions of subtle human emotions. Some highlight social hypocrisy, while others portray vividly social devaluation. A sense of authorial responsibility is evident in all the short stories in the collection. Except for a few, most of the works embody the essence of short story writing. The linguistic underpinnings of some of the works reveal a failed attempt to translate them from Hindi to Haryanvi, as short stories written in pure Haryanvi have a distinct air of levity. It would have been better if the collection had been

titled 'Mhari Matti, Mhare Akkhar' instead of 'Mhari Matti Mhare Akkhar.' Similarly, many short stories also suffer from Haryanvi spelling errors. The collection's consistent, concise introductions of all the short story writers, a highly artistic, attractive cover, and beautiful printing are additional highlights. It is believed that this collection will serve as an inspiring offering in the grand yagya of preserving the Haryanvi mother tongue, enriching short story literature, and making the Haryanvi dialect a language.

China to pump \$54bn into state banks and insurers to boost economy

China is pumping tens of billions of dollars into eight state-owned banks and insurance companies to help shore up the country's financial system and boost its slowing economy. The cash injection, which is being led by China's finance ministry, will total 360 billion yuan (\$53.6bn; £39.7bn), state news agency Xinhua said on Sunday. The outlet said the move "will help further enhance their sound operating capabilities, risk resistance capabilities, and ability to serve the real economy". It marks the latest move in Beijing's attempts to reinvigorate the world's second largest economy as it faces issues including trade tensions with the West, the impact of the Iran war and an aging population. The package will boost the finances of three big lenders and five insurers including the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the Agricultural Bank of China and China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation.



State news outlet Global Times said this "will give banks and financial institutions more resources to channel into credit for the real economy, while strengthening their ability to withstand external shocks at a time of global financial uncertainty". President Xi Jinping has long seen financial stability as key to China's national security. This weekend's announcements come as Beijing is aiming to reshape the economy in the face of a number of challenges such as a shrinking workforce, a years-long property market

slump and ongoing trade and technology rivalry with the US. China's economic growth slowed sharply between the start of April and end of June as weak domestic demand and the Iran war's impact on oil prices overshadowed the country's strong exports. Official gross domestic product (GDP) figures released in July showed China's economy grew in the second quarter by 4.3%, below Beijing's annual target, and after a 5% rise in the first quarter. In March, Beijing cut the growth target to a range of 4.5%-5%.

SEBI EXEMPTS FPIS INVESTING EXCLUSIVELY IN G-SECS FROM INVESTOR GROUP DISCLOSURES



Foreign portfolio investors that invest only in Indian government securities will no longer have to submit details of their investor group to regulators, following a SEBI circular issued on Sept. 7. The change is aimed at reducing compliance requirements for foreign investors that invest exclusively in government securities. Until now, the exemption was available only to FPIs investing through the Fully Accessible Route. Those investing in government securities through other routes were still required to furnish investor-group details. Investor-group disclosures are used by regulators to identify related investors and monitor whether concentration limits are being breached. However, the relevance of that requirement changed

after the Reserve Bank of India eased rules for foreign investors in government securities. On June 5, 2026, the RBI withdrew the requirement for FPIs investing in government securities through the General Route to comply with prescribed concentration limits. With those limits no longer applicable, the need to identify investor groups for such investors effectively fell away, the SEBI circular said. SEBI said that, as a result, the requirement for identification of investor groups by FPIs investing only in government securities is no longer relevant. The regulator has therefore expanded the exemption beyond the Fully Accessible Route and extended it to all FPIs that invest exclusively in government securities.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER TO CUT 4,000 JOBS OVER NEXT TWO YEARS

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) is to cut 4,000 jobs as the car-maker struggles with Chinese competition, US tariffs, and the transition to electric vehicles. The cuts will happen over the next two years and will mostly affect the head office, which is based in the UK. JLR's long-term issues were made worse after a cyber-attack last year caused the firm, which employs 43,000 people globally, to shut down production for more than a month. Chief executive PB Balaji said the firm was "committed to supporting everyone with care, fairness and respect" through the redundancy process. "The automotive industry faces significant challenges, with technological change amidst intense competition and ongoing geo-political uncertainty," he added. JLR is hoping to achieve the cuts through voluntary redundancy, with a window open until 4 October, but said it would make compulsory redundancies with less generous terms if necessary. Affected staff will receive an email in the coming days.



The redundancies are being made in an attempt to save £1.7bn over the next two years. JLR is "as strategically important as it gets for the UK economy", according to David Bailey, business and economics professor at Birmingham University. He said many UK jobs were dependent on its supply chain and the economy as a whole took a hit when the firm closed down production because of last year's cyber-attack. "It's the centre of our automotive industry," he added. Yet, the car maker has been losing sales to rivals from China, a country which JLR initially saw as a market for growth rather than a source of competition.

In addition, US President Donald Trump's tariffs have hurt the company, which unlike many of its rivals does not have a factory in the US. In its results for the year to the end of March, JLR said US tariffs and the cyber-attack were the main reasons why its sales had slumped by a fifth to £22.9bn from £29bn in the previous two years. Ian Robertson, former director at BMW, told the BBC's Today programme that JLR should have copied its rivals and started manufacturing in the US. "The biggest operation for BMW in the world is in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Mercedes have their plant further south in Tuscaloosa. JLR didn't take

that decision early enough in my view," he said. He also said JLR had been "somewhat late to the party in terms of producing their first electric car which is just about to go into production". Robertson added that Brexit had hurt the firm, despite its factory in Slovakia giving it "some flexibility". The prime minister's official spokesman said: "We understand that this will be an uncertain and concerning time for affected workers, their families and the wider communities." The spokesman added that Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds "is in close contact with JLR and he will be meeting them early this week", but ruled out "any form of bailout". Business and trade committee chair Liam Byrne called the cuts a "body blow for workers, families and communities across the West Midlands". "Whether or not these redundancies are voluntary, we now need urgent assurances that maximum support will be deployed to help everyone affected find new work," he added.

Defence ministry clears Rs 1.1L cr capital acquisition proposals

New Delhi: The Defence Ministry on Monday, September 7, approved the acquisition of military hardware for the three services, including radars, advanced light helicopters, and mechanical mine layers at an estimated cost of Rs 1.10 lakh crore to boost the military's overall combat prowess. The procurement proposals were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. "The DAC accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) that is, in-principle administrative approval, to various acquisition proposals of the defence forces at an estimated cost of about Rs 1,10,000 crore," the ministry said. Something for each service "For the Indian Army, approval was granted for the procurement of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) recec vehicles, high mobility vehicles (HMTs), self-propelled mechanical mine layers (MML), advanced light helicopters (ALHs), trawl tanks and the Sarvatra bridge system," it said. The CBRN recec vehicles will be capable of detecting, identifying, monitoring and mark-

ing of areas contaminated with CBRN agents. The HMTs are expected to enhance operational capabilities, logistic support and mobility in challenging terrains. "The ALHs will execute complex missions across all terrains and operational situations for the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. The trawl tanks and bridge system will be utilised to provide composite crossings to fighting formations during operations in varied terrains," the ministry said. For the Indian Navy, AoN was accorded for the procurement of Arudhra radars, design and development and subsequent procurement of Marine Gas Turbines (MGT). Arudhra radars will replace the existing Air Route surveillance radars at various Naval Air Stations, and MGT, a warship propulsion system, is expected to reduce

dependency on foreign vendors. For the Indian Air Force, approval was granted to various proposals to enhance the war-fighting capability of fighters, transports and helicopters. Approval was accorded for procuring Ground-Based Multi-Purpose Jammer (GBMPJ) and installing Defence Forces Secure Access Card system, according to the ministry. The GBMPJ will provide effective jamming against radars of adversaries, it said in a statement.



Amid global turmoil, India forged partnerships for growth: Amit Shah

Panaji: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday, September 7, said India's reach in the diplomatic world was increasing and asserted that the country had maintained the momentum of its economic growth despite global geopolitical turmoil. He said India had concluded nine free trade agreements (FTAs) by 2026, noting that wider economic engagement helped the country record a GDP growth rate of 7.8 per cent for the first quarter (April-June) of the financial year 2026-27. Addressing a function organised in Panaji to confer the President's Colour on the Goa Police, Shah noted the global diplomatic landscape had remained turbulent over the past few years due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and now the conflict involving the US, Iran and the Gulf countries. Nine FTAs by 2026 He pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to 22 countries over the past year, while heads of state from around 15 countries visited India during the same period. "At a time when the whole world was grappling with uncertainty over its economic growth because of this (geopolitical) turmoil, we engaged with other countries, presented strategic partnerships and maintained the momentum of our eco-



nomic growth," Shah said. India has entered into concrete agreements in areas such as defence, technology, energy, investment and trade, he stressed. Shah said India had concluded nine free trade agreements by 2026, while FTAs had been proposed with 38 countries as effective trade arrangements. He said India was pursuing FTAs with the UAE, Australia, the UK, Oman, New Zealand and the European Union with the objective of increasing trade. "This is also one of the reasons why, in the first quarter of this (fiscal) year, our GDP recorded a robust growth of 7.8 per cent," Shah said. The Union minister said India had shared its achievements

in different fields with the rest of the world and assisted several countries in disaster relief and capacity building. "India has shared its achievements in digital public infrastructure with the world and provided assistance to several countries in the areas of disaster relief and capacity building," he said. Modi earned respect for India The BJP leader emphasised that it is because of PM Modi's consistent efforts and global outreach that India's diplomacy has been able to establish its place firmly in the world today. "Whatever the issue facing the world, the entire world looks at what the Prime Minister of India has to say and what his perspective is on that issue.

After a long time, it is our leader Narendra Modi who has earned this respect for India in the world," Shah commented. He said Modi envisaged India as a fully developed country by the 100th year of its independence. "PM Modi has placed before all of us the vision of a developed India by 2047. He has envisioned a developed India that, when the country completes 100 years of independence, will be number one in the world in every field," Shah stated. The Union minister recalled that when this vision was put forward, there were many debates and arguments, but gradually, this vision has transformed into a resolve of 140 crore Indians.

CBI Files Supplementary Chargesheet In RCFL Case, Names 8 Reliance ADA Group Firms



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a supplementary chargesheet against 17 more accused persons in the Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd. (RCFL) case, including three executives of the Reliance ADA Group, eight group companies and six bank officials. The supplementary chargesheet was filed before the Special Judge for CBI Cases in Mumbai. The accused have been chargesheeted for alleged offences including criminal conspiracy, criminal misappropriation and cheating under the Indian Penal Code, along with offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The CBI's investigation has so far alleged that Rs 6,229.54 crore borrowed by RCFL was diverted through intermediary and conduit entities to various

Reliance ADA Group companies, allegedly in violation of the terms and conditions governing the borrowings. According to the agency, the alleged diversion resulted in wrongful loss to lending banks and financial institutions and corresponding wrongful gain to the accused persons and related entities. The three Reliance ADA Group executives named in the supplementary chargesheet are Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, Group Managing Director of the Reliance ADA Group; Amit Bapna, CFO of Reliance Capital Ltd.; and Ramesh Shenoy, Company Secretary of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. The eight companies named as accused are Reliance Power Ltd., Big Flicks Pvt. Ltd., Reliance Big Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

Bajaj Asset Management Limited marks three years, sees structural megatrends shaping India's next growth phase

India's GDP growth is projected 6.7% in 2027, ahead of global growth. EVs, AI, data centres, manufacturing and premiumisation emerge as key growth megatrends. Earnings, credit growth, and government capex shape the FY27 market outlook; MF AUM projected at ₹130.5 lakh crore by FY30 (18.6% CAGR). Mumbai, September 7, 2026: As Bajaj Asset Management Limited (formerly known as Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Limited) marks three years of Megatrends Investing approach, the company at its Annual Market Symposium 2026, highlighted the structural changes that could shape India's next phase of growth and wealth creation. The symposium focussed on India's macro resilience, financialisation of savings, and on the long-term opportunities across tech, manufacturing, consumption, and energy. India continues to remain one of the faster-growing major economies as it continues to outpace major economies, with the IMF

projecting GDP growth of 6.7% in 2027, compared with global growth of 3.4%. Early trends point towards an acceleration in corporate earnings, with Q1FY27 revenue, EBITDA, and PAT growth for the Nifty 50 of 17%, 17% and 19%, respectively. BSE 500 companies recorded corresponding growth of 17%, 20% and 23%. Speaking at the symposium, Ganesh Mohan, Managing Director, Bajaj Asset Management Limited, said, "India is at a very interesting point today. We are seeing steady economic growth, consumption is holding up well, and companies are becoming much more globally competitive. At the same time, India is diversifying its trade relationships and becoming more integrated with the global economy. So, when we put all of this together, we see a long-term structural story building up for India, with opportunities emerging across sectors." Near-term market conditions could be supported by improving credit growth, indicating stronger

lending activity among banks, and a potential improvement in market sentiment, which could help lagging market segments catch up.

■ ROAD AHEAD: MEGATRENDS SHAPING INDIA'S GROWTH Bajaj Asset Management Limited believes that India's next phase of wealth creation may be shaped by long-duration megatrends. The themes include technology, AI, energy transition, electric vehicles, data centres, semiconductors, manufacturing, premiumisation and wellness. Nimesh Chandra, Chief Investment Officer, Bajaj Asset Management Limited, adds, "India's next phase of growth is likely to be shaped by three interconnected megatrends: domestic consumption, artificial intelligence and manufacturing. Rising incomes, urbanisation, formalisation, and wider access to credit are expanding demand across financial services, housing, travel, healthcare, discretionary products, and digital service-

es. AI, meanwhile, will have an impact far beyond technology companies. Its adoption can improve productivity, decision-making, customer experience, and operating efficiency across industries. It is also driving demand for data centres, power infrastructure, semiconductors, automation, physical AI, and robotics. India can participate both as an adopter and as a supplier of the capabilities and infrastructure enabling this transition. In terms of manufacturing, we are likely to see a resurgence in this sector as it caters to both domestic as well as global demand." Bajaj Asset Management Limited believes several megatrends remain in the early stages of evolution and could create new pools of economic activity and consumption. These include EVs and battery energy storage systems, physical AI and robotics, data centers and semiconductor manufacturing, aerospace and defence, recycling, premiumisation and wellness, engineering-goods manufacturing, and the commodity Supercycle.



Nepal observes national day of mourning for victims of flash flood disaster

KYIV AIR RAID ALERTS AT RECORD HIGH AS RUSSIA LAUNCHES ROUND-THE-CLOCK STRIKES

Kyiv is suffering more daily air raid alerts than at any time since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, according to BBC Verify analysis of government figures. Most air attacks used to come at night but Russia's new tactic of striking Ukraine's capital during the day is causing huge disruption to schools and businesses. The round the clock attacks have forced people to head for shelter as many as 13 times a day, with air raid alerts lasting from a few minutes to nearly four and a half hours. Residents in Kyiv are struggling to adapt to this new reality, adding to existing stress and anxiety. The alerts force pupils to leave their classrooms and workers their offices and leave commuters struggling to get home as overland trains stop. This has forced the government to plan a new, two-tier



warning system that allows people to carry on working, travelling and studying depending on the scale of the threat. There was a brief pause in attacks on Kyiv over the weekend while US envoys were in town for talks

about trying to end the war. But analysis of figures from the state-owned app Kyiv digital shows that since the round-the-clock Russian attacks began at the end of August, air raid sirens have sounded across Kyiv's skies on

average 10 times a day. In the seven days from Thursday 27 August, Kyiv endured 76 air raid alerts. The largest comparable number in 2022 was the week beginning 27 February when there were around 66 alerts. Absolute comparisons are not possible because data gathered in the first few days of the invasion was sometimes incomplete. But the trend shown by the numbers is clear: From the BBC's office, we hear the near constant rumble of air defences and drone explosions. The more frequent Russian strikes are exacerbated by a second development, the use of newer and faster attack drones powered by jet engines. Some of these fly almost 370 mph (595 km/h), three times as fast the older Shahed drones driven by propellers, and are harder to shoot down.

Austria's Islamic headscarf ban in force as under-14s go back to school



As the new school year begins in Austria, a law banning headscarves in schools for girls under 14 has gone into force. The law forbids "traditional Muslim" head coverings, such as hijabs or burkas, in public and private schools across the country. Integration Minister Claudia Bauer, from the conservative People's Party (ÖVP), says the headscarf is "a sign of oppression and a means of controlling girls from the earliest childhood". But critics say the new law is fuelling anti-Muslim feeling in the country and could be unconstitutional. The law was brought in by the conservative-led coalition of three centrist parties, the ÖVP, the Social Democrats (SPÖ) and the liberal Neos. They say the law is a "clear commitment to gender equality" and is intended to protect the rights of young girls. Carla Amina Baghajati, from the official Islamic Community in Austria (IGGÖ), told the BBC that the organisation "firmly opposes the ban".

"We believe it unjustifiably restricts the fundamental right to freedom of religion and disproportionately affects Muslim girls," she said. "Rather than protecting children, it singles out a specific religious practice and risks excluding the very children it claims to support." The IGGÖ said it would support legal challenges by girls and their families "who believe that their fundamental rights are being infringed" and who wished to bring their cases before the Constitutional Court. The court struck down a previous ban on headscarves in primary schools in 2020 on the basis that it contravened the principle of Austria's religious neutrality. Teachers are expected to enforce the new ban if they see a child wearing a headscarf by holding a series of talks with the student and their legal guardians. If there are repeated violations, child services must be notified and as a last resort, guardians could face fines of up to 800 (€685). Some teachers

have expressed concerns about having to enforce the ban. The Green Party's Sigi Maurer accused Education Minister Christoph Wiederkehr, from the liberal NEOS, of "creating new conflicts and offloading them onto the teachers". She said teachers were "already under enormous strain" and that Wiederkehr wanted to "foist the role of police officers onto them" on top of their other duties. The opposition far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) says the current ban doesn't go far enough. It is calling for a general prohibition on headscarves and face coverings in schools for students and teachers alike. The FPÖ's Ricarda Berger said there was "no place for political Islam in Austria, and certainly not in our schools". Austria's Chancellor Christian Stocker, leader of the ÖVP, recently called for a constitutional ban on political Islam, telling Austrian public broadcaster ORF he did not "want to live in an Islamic state".

PROBE BEGINS INTO WHY CARGO PLANE OVERRAN MIAMI RUNWAY



Officials are investigating what caused an Amazon cargo plane to overshoot the runway after landing at Miami International Airport in a deadly incident on Sunday. Five people were killed and five others seriously injured when the plane, which was operated by 21 Air, crashed just before 14:00 (18:00 GMT). None of the group have yet been identified. The plane, a Boeing 767-300, crossed a road beyond the runway and hit several vehicles on the ground. It is not yet clear whether those who died were in the aircraft, on the ground, or both. 21 Air, a charter company based in

North Carolina, said it was "devastated by the accident involving one of our aircraft in Miami". Both 21 Air and Amazon said they were co-operating with the investigation. "At least five people have lost their lives, and five others are injured," Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said at a news conference on Sunday evening. She added that rescue crews arrived at the scene within "seconds" of the crash. Three of the five people injured were in critical condition, Miami Fire Chief Raied Jadallah said. Several of the injured were trapped inside or under vehicles on the ground.

NEW VIDEOS OF MAN IN 9/11 LAWSUIT REVEAL EXTREMIST LINKS

The man at the heart of a \$1 trillion (£733bn) lawsuit brought by 9/11 families had extensive links to Saudi government officials and went paintballing with one of al-Qaeda's future leaders, video obtained by the BBC reveals. The footage, which the FBI had within days of the 2001 attacks, stands in stark contrast to Omar al-Bayoumi's 25 years of denials that he was an extremist and a Saudi spy. Bayoumi, who claimed to be a student when he was in the United States, is seen in one clip embracing Anwar al-Awlaki, who would go on to lead al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. In another, Bayoumi and Awlaki are paintballing near San Diego with an official from Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Islamic Affairs. The videos form part of the 9/11 families' lawsuit against Saudi Arabia and have never been shown publicly before. The lawsuit argues Saudi Arabia was complicit in the attacks and that Bayoumi aided two of the 19 hijackers who flew planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon -



with another crashing in Pennsylvania. Bayoumi was arrested in the UK by the Metropolitan Police days after the attacks and the videos were found among his possessions, along with other crucial evidence. This included a diagram of a plane with a flight descent equation written alongside. Multiple FBI agents received copies of the diagram, but it was never shared with the British interrogators, even though it had been couriered to the police station where Bayoumi was being held in custody. The diagram was also kept from some FBI agents investigating Bayoumi, as well as from

the 9/11 Commission - the independent inquiry into the largest mass murder in US history, in which nearly 3,000 people were killed. Bayoumi was never prosecuted. He and the Saudi government did not respond to the BBC's requests for comment, but both have always denied any involvement in, or prior knowledge of, the attacks. The FBI declined to comment. After a judge ruled the lawsuit could go ahead in 2018, thousands of documents, as well as videos and photographs, have been released to the court and also declassified through an executive order made by former

President Joe Biden. BBC Panorama and Radio 4 have examined these documents, and spoken to dozens of special agents and investigators, to trace the evidence the FBI gathered about Bayoumi and Saudi Arabia's alleged involvement in 9/11 - and to understand why it was never fully pursued over 25 years. Our investigation also found: The plane diagram was sent to the FBI's New York office and was analysed, according to an FBI source. But a US Department of Justice (DOJ) official told the BBC he was never shown a proposal to prosecute Bayoumi based on the evidence, even though "we've convicted people for less" FBI agents in San Diego, where Bayoumi had lived in the US, repeatedly requested copies of evidence but never received most of it. The San Diego and Los Angeles FBI offices were both blocked from interviewing Bayoumi's Saudi government contacts. Staff on the 9/11 Commission objected to the conclusion that Bayoumi was "unlikely" to have been involved with extremists.

KENYA MINISTER WARNS FOREIGNERS AGAINST 'MIS-USING' VISAS TO TRADE

Kenya's trade ministry has warned foreign nationals that visa-free entry into the country does not grant them the right to work, as the government vows to shut down unlicensed small businesses run by migrants. President William Ruto had set today as the deadline for foreigners operating small-scale businesses to cease work. Hundreds of people have gathered at Burundi's embassy in Kenya as they rushed to get documents, after the embassy had earlier said it would offer emergency free travel documents to citizens who want to go back home. It is unclear how many foreign nationals are involved in small-scale trading or how many would be affected by the crackdown. In a statement, the trade ministry said there was a "deliberate misuse of visa applications by some visitors", adding that some entered Kenya as investors or tourists but then got involved in business activities in breach of their declared status. "Owing to the high number of foreign



ers involved in the retail and local trade sectors, there is therefore a need to align their activities and ensure compliance with work permit provisions," Trade Minister Lee Kinyanjui said. Last week, Ruto said that Kenya remained open to foreign investment, but it could not be "that a person comes from China or elsewhere to be a hawk or open a small shop". He argued that investors should create jobs and expand production rather than compete with Kenyans in small businesses. Ruto's comments sparked mixed reactions, with some critics describing them as a populist move that risked stoking xenophobia.



Indonesia volcano eruption leaves 270,000 stranded as airports extend closure

Germany's far-right AfD says 'democracy demands' parties work with them after state election win

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) is "very, very close" to taking power, its deputy parliamentary leader has told the BBC, after a historic victory in elections for the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt. Sunday's preliminary results show it fell three seats short of an outright majority, with 43.8% of the vote. It is now seeking support from other parties or individuals in order to govern. While most German political parties refuse to work with the AfD, Beatrix von Storch called for its opponents to enter talks and said: "You cannot say I do not accept the vote of the people". Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he was "deeply shocked" by the result, describing it as "seismic... not just in the country



but also in my own political party and I take that very seriously". His party, the conservative CDU, saw its share of the vote almost halved to 17.2% in the state's preliminary results. Merz said it was not possible to return to "business as usual", adding that the country needed "profound reforms" and the CDU needed to "reach people at an emotion-

al level. "This election result is a seismic result not just in the country but also in my own political party and I take that very seriously," he said. No far-right party has controlled a German state since World War Two, and governing at state level would mean powers over policing and local education. Von Storch said the state's results "were on the table and now democ-

rats have to talk to [one] another. This is what democracy demands". She added that if parties refused to work with the AfD, "then we might end up in severe chaos and maybe we have a new election". Her comments were echoed by AfD's leader in Saxony-Anhalt, Ulrich Siegmund, who told a news conference on Monday that the party had won a "clear mandate to govern". The state's defeated premier, the CDU's Sven Schulze, also said the mandate to govern Saxony-Anhalt "now lies with the AfD". Saxony-Anhalt has a small population of 2.1 million and the AfD in the state is assessed by domestic intelligence as "right-wing extremist", a classification rejected by Siegmund, 35.

"TOO LATE NOW":

Lewis Hamilton Laments Ferrari Approach After Italian GP Tangle With Charles Leclerc

Charles Leclerc admitted his opening-lap scrap with Ferrari team-mate Lewis Hamilton went "too far" before crashing out of Sunday's Italian Grand Prix, leaving a vast scarlet-clad crowd disappointed. The Monegasque driver clashed with Hamilton at the first chicane, where the Briton bounced into the gravel and dropped to 10th from fourth. "Charles pushed me off," moaned Hamilton on team radio. Leclerc then

slammed into the barriers at Parabolica on lap two and out of the race. After the recent Dutch Grand Prix, Hamilton complained that that the team had not issued orders to Leclerc. On Sunday the Briton was asked if the team should have made him the priority over Leclerc in the battle with the Mercedes-powered rivals atop standings. "It's too far

past that already, too late for that now and I lost a lot of points to those guys," said Hamilton. "We will do our best to keep pushing the rest of the season, but they are out and out ahead of us." Leclerc said he suffered slight vision problems, but was more concerned at suggestions that the two Ferrari drivers appeared not to be working together as a team. "I don't really know who is forcing the narrative, that we are one against the other. At Zandvoort, there were way too many talks already," he said. "Here, it's true though that we went too far, I

think, with Lewis in Turn One." Hamilton came into the weekend hoping for a record sixth win to boost his slim hopes for an eighth title. "That one hurts," he said. "That one definitely hurts. Thank you to everyone. To the tifosi, thank you for giving us your love, I'm sorry we couldn't give you the result you wanted." "I gave it absolutely everything, we just didn't have the speed on the straights. I was just mostly a sitting duck to those guys around me and up ahead, but we will look internally and try and figure out what we could have done better." Leclerc was checked over at the circuit medical centre after his crash and said he would require more checks before next weekend's first Spanish race at the new Madrid circuit.



ALL INDIA TENNIS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES TEAM FOR DAVIS CUP JUNIOR FINALS

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) on Monday announced the team for the Davis Cup Junior Finals, to be held at the Smash Sporting Club in Cairo, Egypt, from November 2 to 8, 2026. Hruthik Katakam, Ribhav Saroha and Tavish Pahwa are selected to represent the country in the junior tournament. It will be the first time the leading national team competition for players aged 16 and under, which is scheduled for 2-8 November at the Smash Sporting Club, is held in Africa. Over the past decade, Hungary, the United States, Turkey, Spain and Chile have staged the iconic event,



with Chile hosting most recently on the clay of Santiago's Estadio Nacional. Clay is the surface of choice this year, as the Smash Sporting Club welcomes some of the world's best junior players. The 20-acre venue is located to the west of the capital and has been home to the

World Tennis Tour Juniors J500 Cairo tournament since 2023. National teams compete in regional qualifying events in both competitions throughout the season, before the top 16 boys teams and top 16 girls teams contest the Finals. As host nation, Egypt qualify for the Finals automatically.

India joined seven other teams; Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czechia, Egypt, Spain, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Serbia, USA and Venezuela. The USA are the two-time defending champions. Previous winning teams at the Finals have featured some of the game's biggest names including Rafael Nadal (Spain, 2002), Felix Auger-Aliassime (Canada, 2015), Carlos Alcaraz (Spain, 2018), Joao Fonseca (Brazil, 2022). The Finals are contested as four round-robin groups of four teams over the first three days of play, followed by a rest day, then the knockout stages over the final three days.

ICC Takes Action Against Pakistan Captain Fatima Sana After India Match In Women's Asia Cup

Pakistan captain Fatima Sana has been fined 10 per cent of her match fee for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during a Group A match of the Women's Asia Cup against India in Dubai on Saturday. Fatima was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage, or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match." In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Fatima, for whom it was the second offence in a 24-month



period, taking her tally of demerit points in a 24-month period to two. Fatima received her earlier demerit point during the first match of a T20I series against Ireland in Dublin on 6 August 2025. The latest incident occurred in the second over of India's innings, when Fatima, after dismissing opener Shafali Verma, ges-

fourth umpire Rabab Ahsan levelled the charge. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points. THE RULE When a player reaches four or more demerit points within a 24-month period, they are converted into suspension points and a player is banned Two suspension points equate to a ban from one Test or two ODIs or two T20Is, whatever comes first for the player Demerit Points to remain on a Player or Player Support Personnel's disciplinary record for a period of twenty-four (24) months from their imposition following which they will be expunged.

Lionel Messi's Son Mateo Leads Inter Miami Academy To Naples Cup Title



Aryna Sabalenka Books US Open Quarter-Final Clash With Linda Noskova

Two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka subdued American Taylor Townsend in straight sets on Sunday to book a US Open quarter-final clash with Wimbledon winner Linda Noskova. Sabalenka rallied from 3-1 down in the second set for a 6-4, 6-3 victory on Arthur Ashe Stadium, where men's defending champion Carlos Alcaraz took on 20th-seeded American Tommy Paul in search of a quarter-final berth. Sabalenka needed all of her resolve against the multifaceted Townsend, whose blistering service returns and net prowess flummoxed the Belarusian star in a first set that opened with five breaks of serve.



PIETERSEN JOINS ENGLAND'S WHITE-BALL COACHING TEAM



England have appointed former Ashes-winning batter Kevin Pietersen to their white-ball coaching team in the build-up to the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup. Pietersen, 46, joins as a specialist mentor and will start in the role for the upcoming T20 and one-day matches against Sri Lanka. He will also be involved in this winter's tours to Australia and South Africa, before joining up with the teams again for the home series against Pakistan and New Zealand next summer, as well as the 50-over World Cup, which is being held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia in the autumn. "I've got immense respect for KP and what he's achieved in the game," said England's white-ball head coach Brendon McCullum. "He's had an amazing impact on English cricket, so for someone with his experience, knowledge and stature to want to play a role with this team is a fantastic result." Pietersen is one of England's most successful white-ball batters, being named player of the

tournament when they won the T20 World Cup for the first time in 2010. The right-hander scored almost 4,500 ODI runs at an average of 41.32 - bettered only by Joe Root - while in T20 cricket he has the highest average of all batters to hit more than 1,000 runs for England. He did, however, fall out with a number of former England players and coaches during his career. He was accused of being "divisive" in the dressing room and was dropped during a Test series against South Africa in 2012 for sending "provocative" text messages to opposing players, for which he apologised to then captain Andrew Strauss. He was only allowed to return to the team after a successful 'reintegration' period. Pietersen was also one of the first to advocate for England players being allowed to play in the Indian Premier League and other white-ball franchise leagues around the world - a stance which often put him at odds with his employers.

ANTONELLI 'WALKS OVER WATER' FOR WIN THAT WILL GO DOWN IN F1 FOLKLORE

Kimi Antonelli's stunning victory in the Italian Grand Prix from 19th on the grid will go down in Formula 1 folklore - and, remarkably, his team boss Toto Wolff said that he had seen it coming on Saturday. After Sunday's race, Wolff said that beforehand he thought that one of his two drivers was going to be standing on the top of the podium. It was an eye-opening statement given they started the race 17 places apart on the grid, George Russell on the front row alongside shock pole winner Pierre Gasly's Alpine;

Antonelli on the penultimate row. "I thought one of the two is going to win," Wolff said. "Either George, because he was on the front row, or Kimi because he's going to walk over water, here at Monza. And I felt that yesterday also," Wolff was asked to explain why he felt a performance he was comparing to a miracle was on the cards. "It's been a while that I've seen drivers," he said. "Energy levels, mindset or behavioural pattern. I knew that was his mission today, to win the race. I chatted with his father yester-

day. The father also saw that coming. "These are the moments where you can see how a weekend is panning out through the sessions that a special moment can come." For the Mercedes drivers, this race was all about the context of the weekend. Antonelli knew coming in that he would be starting at the back because of a grid penalty for using too many engines this year. Russell knew that he had to make the most of this opportunity and cut as much as he could out of his team-mate's 59-point championship lead.

Fifth or sixth was the general consensus for what might be realistically possible for Antonelli, who himself said after the race that he had "thought a podium was possible". What changed everything was his remarkable progress in the early laps of the race, which brought to mind another Biblical miracle, the parting of the Red Sea. Antonelli was 14th after a relatively conservative first lap, then 12th at the end of lap two, when Charles Leclerc crashed his Ferrari to bring the race to a temporary halt.



‘EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER’ WILL WIN HEARTS JUST LIKE ‘90S’: DIRECTOR ADITYA HASAN



later went to the UK for my Master's. I had already made a few short films, and after returning from the UK, I started trying to make films. After about six months, I made a film titled "Teacher" with Colors Swathi. It was produced by Naveen Medaram and Abhishek Nama, but unfortunately, the film was stalled due to certain reasons. "Naveen garu was a senior at the university where I studied in the UK. Since we shared an interest in cinema, I approached him and got introduced to him."

■ HOW DID '90S' HAPPEN?

"I wrote the story of '90s' based on my father's real-life experiences. Initially, an OTT platform liked the story and came forward to produce it. However, they backed out after six months. "ETV Win's Sai garu and Nithin garu already knew about the story and later called me. That's how '90s' eventually came to life."

■ HOW DID YOU GET THE NAME ADITYA HASAN?

"My original name is Aditya. I am a huge fan of Kamal Haasan garu. Out of that admiration, I changed my name to Aditya Hasan."

■ IS 'EPIC' YOUR BIOPIC?

"There is definitely inspiration from real-life incidents, but my life isn't that beautiful," he says with a laugh. "We have taken some cinematic liberties. "Even in '90s', the name of our hometown and the names of my family members are used, but not every incident shown in the series actually happened in our lives. We took incidents from different lives and crafted them into a story."

■ WHAT CAN AUDIENCES EXPECT FROM 'EPIC'?

"EPIC" will connect with everyone. The story is inspired by some beautiful incidents from real life. "EPIC" is actually a continuation of the world created in '90s'. It explores a phase in the younger brother's life from that story. I also have an idea of telling the elder brother's story and the sister's story as separate chapters in the future."

VIJAY DEVERAKONDA'S GRAND PAN-INDIA FILM "RANABAALI" TEASER TO RELEASE ON SEPTEMBER 9



The Film Set for a Worldwide Grand Theatrical Release on October 16 on the Auspicious Occasion of Vijayadashami Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna are playing the lead pair in the much-awaited Pan-India film "Ranabaali", directed by Rahul Sankrityan. Presented by T-Series and produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, the film is being made on a huge budget. Set against the backdrop of the 19th century, "Ranabaali" is based on real historical incidents that took place during the British rule between 1854 and 1878. The highly anticipated Pan-India film is gearing up for a worldwide grand theatrical release on October 16, on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami. Today, the makers announced the teaser release of "Ranabaali", revealing that the teaser will be unveiled on September 9. The teaser has already generated tremendous excitement among Vijay Deverakonda's fans and movie lovers alike. The makers are confident that the teaser will exceed all expectations and offer a glimpse into the grand scale and world of "Ranabaali".

NBK111 TITLED POWERFULLY DADA

God Of Masses Nandamuri Balakrishna's much-awaited stylish action entertainer #NBK111 under the direction of blockbuster maker Gopichand Malineni is already carrying strong buzz, ever since the glimpse titled "Entry Of An Era" was released on the star's birthday. Produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the Vridhhi Cinemas banner, the film's title has been announced through a poster and a small glimpse. #NBK111 gets a powerful title Dada, and it represents the nature of Balakrishna's character as a tough guy. Balakrishna is presented in a mass avatar, sporting sunglasses, a leather jacket and thick gold chain. With a weapon resting on his shoulder, his appearance gives off a strong rowdy and gangster-like vibe, perfectly complementing the title. His stern expression and commanding body language further add to the character's intimidating personality. Coming to the title glimpse, it opens with a voiceover describing the power and aura of Balakrishna's character, referring to him as Sher (lion). As police officers surround him and issue a stern warning to shoot in his chest, Balakrishna responds with a powerful dialogue about what it truly takes to pull the trigger-an exchange that is sure to send his fans and the masses into a frenzy. The glimpse looks extremely stylish, with director Gopichand Malineni presenting Balakrishna in a larger-than-life mass avatar. NBK is given the title- The



King Of Chaos. S Thaman amplifies the impact with his electrifying score, while the Raja Hoon Main track playing in the background adds even more energy and intensity to the sequence. Overall, the glimpse delivers a next-level mass experience, promising a high-voltage action entertainer. The makers through the poster and the title glimpse have also announced the film's release date. Dada is scheduled for its theatrical release on December 24, for Christmas to also offer perfect early New Year treat. Dada features Manoj Manchu and Kajal Aggarwal in important roles. The technical team includes cinematographer Arvind S Kashyap and composer S Thaman. AS Prakash is responsible for production design, while Navin Nooli handles the editing. Sai Madhav Burra penned the dialogues, with Ram Lakshman, Ravi Varma and Vvenkat overseeing the film's action choreography. The project marks the reunion of Balakrishna with director Gopichand Malineni following the blockbuster success of Veera Simha Reddy. Expectations are naturally high for their latest collaboration, which is being mounted as a grand-scale action spectacle.

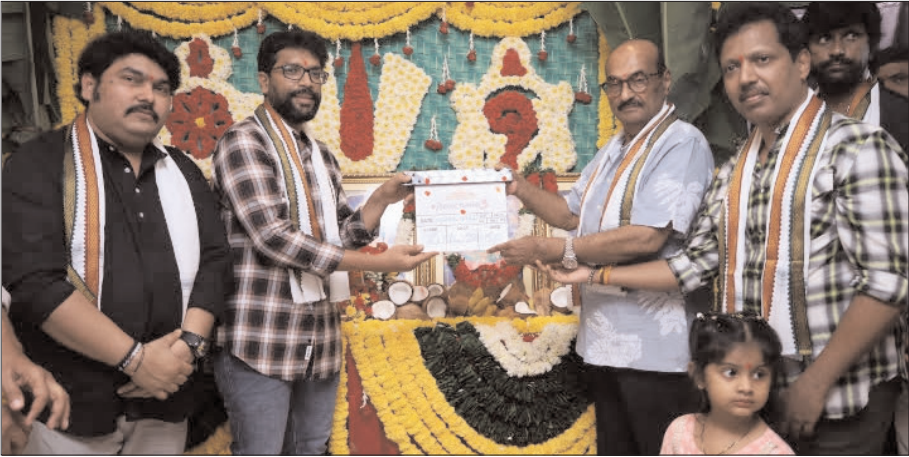
Mahendragiri Varahi is definitely a movie to watch in theaters: Hero Akhil Akkineni



Sumanth and Aishwarya Rajesh are playing the lead roles in the spiritual thriller 'Mahendragiri Vaarahi'. Star boy Siddu Jonnalagadda is appearing in a special role. Santosh Jagarlapudi has directed the film. Kalipu Madhu and Lakshman are jointly producing the film under the banners of

R a j a s h y a m a l a Entertainments and Bridge Films. The promotional content that has already been released has raised expectations on the film. The film will be released on September 11. On this occasion, the makers organized a pre-release event. Hero Akhil Akkineni attended the event as the chief guest.

SREE ISWARYA LAKSHMI MOVIES PRODUCTION NO. 3, LAUNCHED GRANDLY WITH A POOJA CEREMONY



Director Sridhar Gade, who impressed audiences across all sections with his directorial debut "SR Kalyanamandapam" and proved his mettle as a filmmaker, has now embarked on his next project. Producer Venkat Talari, who has previously produced the family entertainer "Chuttalabbayi" starring Aadi Saikumar and the unique thriller "Highway" starring Anand Deverakonda, is producing this film as Production No. 3 under the banner of Sree

Iswarya Lakshmi Movies. "Committee Kurrollu" fame Eshwar Rachi Raju is playing the lead role, while Nandu and Likitha are the female leads. Poojitha Ponnada and Sindhu Kasaram will be seen in other pivotal roles. The film was grandly launched today in Hyderabad with a traditional pooja ceremony. Veteran filmmaker Kodanda Rami Reddy sounded the clap for the auspicious muhurat shot and handed over the script to

the director and producer. Director Veerabhadram Chowdary switched on the camera. Kodanda Rami Reddy conveyed his best wishes to the entire team and expressed hope that the film would emerge as a successful venture. Set against a village backdrop, this is a horror film that promises to present a fresh and intriguing narrative. Director Sridhar Gade is set to showcase the story with a novel screenplay and distinctive storytelling style.

#LUB Launched with a Grand Pooja Ceremony in the Presence of Film Personalities

A new romantic entertainer titled #LUB was launched with a traditional and grand Pooja Ceremony. The film is jointly produced by Mahesh Kumar Sanka and Bhagawan under the banners of JJ Art Movies, Pavanasutha Productions and Gayathri Cinemas. With this film, Manikanta Pedamallu is making his directorial debut. The film introduces Pavaan Kesari as the male lead and Pramukhya as the female lead. The cast also includes Abhitej, JDV Prasad, Mallika Lella, Sai Kiran, Romancham fame Madhu, Viswanath & Sons fame Harika, Bhanu Prakash Kadiyala, Motha Rajender and others in key roles. Prominent writer BVS Ravi gave the ceremonial clap for the film, while Hanu-Man producer Chaitanya Reddy switched on the camera. The first shot was directed by Manikanta Pedamallu, while the script was handed over by Crazy Kalyanam producer B. Jagannath Reddy and BVS Ravi. The launch ceremony was attended by sever-



al personalities from the film industry, including Sambarala Yeti Gattu director Rohith KP, director Samudra, producers Lagadapati Srinivasa Rao and Srikanth, who extended their best wishes to the entire team. Speaking on the occasion, lead actor Pawan Kesari thanked the chief guests and media representatives for attending the film's launch. He said that #LUB is a refreshing blend of rom-com, comedy, love and emotions. Expressing his happiness

about being part of the project, he thanked the director and producers for giving him the opportunity and said that the team has begun the journey with a very good story and will work hard to bring it to audiences in the best possible way. Making her debut with the film, heroine Pramukhya expressed her gratitude to the makers for believing in her. She said, "This is my first film, and I am very thankful to the director and producers for selecting me after my audition.

‘SOGGADILA’ SONG FROM ‘MANA DOCTOR BAABE’ RELEASED

Presented by Sharanya-Sudhiksha, the film 'Mana Doctor Baabe' is being produced by Kruthakshi under the Skanda Films banner. Sri Skanda is making his debut as a hero with this film. Mohana Siddhi and Sruthi Shankar are playing the female leads. The film is written, screenplay-ed and directed by Theru Chalapathi Kumar Puvvala. The teaser of the movie has already impressed audiences. 'Mana Doctor Baabe' is a family entertainer set against a village back-



drop, packed with comedy and emotions. As part of the film's promotions, the makers have now released the song 'Soggadila'.

The 'Soggadila' song looks extremely pleasant and engaging. The chemistry between the hero and heroine, along with the

heroine's playful antics, is sure to entertain audiences. The lyrics penned by Girdhar Ragolu, along with the vocals by Lipsika and Sudhanshu, stand out as the major highlights of the song. The catchy tune composed by Manoj Kumar Boosam adds to its appeal. The beautiful rural backdrop further enhances the visual charm of the video song. The release date of the film will be announced soon. Kishore Boyidapu is handling the cinematography, while Selva Kumar is the editor.



SAANVE MEGGHANA KEEPS IT BREEZY AND BEAUTIFUL

Saanve Megghana is radiating pure charm in a white and green floral dress. The actress kept her styling minimal yet elegant, pairing the breezy outfit with dainty gold jewelry, including a starfish pendant that added a playful touch. Her curly updo and soft, natural makeup gave the pictures an easy, sun-kissed appeal. Whether flashing a candid laugh or striking a relaxed pose, Saanve's expressions carried an effortless charm that fans instantly connected with. The warm, earthy backdrop complemented her look beautifully, mak-

ing the photoshoot feel fresh and free-spirited. "I am happy that many rom-coms featuring young actors are coming out, which is good because these become stories the youth can relate to," says Elan, who has directed and starred in the lead in PPK. Saanve Megghana, who is playing the female lead opposite Elan, feels glad that many rom-coms like With Love have performed well. "Also, I have always been a fan of the genre. So I think I manifested being in a rom-com like this," she says with a wide smile.