SIT PUBLICATIONS PVT LTD | VOL No. 17 | ISSUE No. 230 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 | P-8 | ₹.5/- | PRGI No. KARENG/2012/43253

KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

THE SOUTH INDIA TIMES

Essence of the South

NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com | www.thesouthindiatimes.com | /thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in

OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

20-09-2026



Total pilgrims :72,019
Tonsures : 25,431
Hundi kanukalu : 3.50 CR
Laddu sale... 4.64 Lac
Annaprasadam..2.03 Lac
Ashwini hospital..3,736
Present Situation on 21-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments...06

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...06 H.



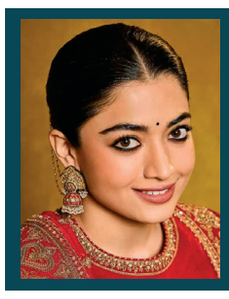
Court sets aside magistrate order refusing probe in Sonia Gandhi's pre-citizenship electoral entry

NATION PAGE



German Chancellor Merz calls state election a 'disaster' for his party but vows to stay on

WORLD PAGE



RASHMIKA MANDANNA ESSAYS FIERCE TRIBAL WOMAN IN 'MYSAA' TEASER

CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

BMW crash driver had overspeeding, intoxication cases

MUMBAI: The 21-year-old driver of a speeding BMW that crashed off Mumbai's Coastal Road, killing three students, had a history of reckless driving and drunk and disorderly behaviour, police said on Monday. The police have registered a first information report (FIR) against Shanay Gajar, who was also killed in Sunday's fatal crash, under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Motor Vehicles Act, an official said. An investigation into the accident has found that Gajar, a resident of Napean Sea Road in south Mumbai, was already facing cases at Gamdevi police station for overspeeding in March and at Bandra police station for obstructing officers in an inebriated state just last month. A video of the incident that occurred in March is doing rounds on social media.

AG leaves action on ED report to state police

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Advocate General has left it to the state police to act on the ED's report against former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his daughter Veena T and her husband P A Mohamed Riyas in the alleged CMRL bribery case and decide whether to register an FIR, sources said here on Monday. The government had sought a legal opinion from the AG regarding a letter sent by the ED to the State Police Chief – DGP Ravada A Chandrasekhar – seeking registration of an FIR under the Prevention of Corruption Act against Vijayan, Veena and Riyas in connection with the alleged CMRL bribery case on the basis of "evidence" gathered during its probe and searches conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

CM Revanth reviews Warangal super speciality hospital work



HYDERABAD, TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of construction of the Warangal Super Speciality Hospital, asking officials why work remained slow despite funds being released through a green channel.

At a review meeting at the MCRHRD Bodhi Pavilion, the Chief Minister directed officials to prepare a work schedule and carry out construction round the clock for the next 30 days. He said CMO officials should make regular site visits, while the Collector should monitor progress every day.

Revanth Reddy called for a coordination committee and directed officials to assign a dedicated officer to oversee each component of the project. He also asked departments to work together to bring outpatient services into operation soon, along the lines of the services at Sanathnagar TIMS, and to improve the surroundings of the Warangal hospital.

The Chief Minister further directed officials to begin work immediately on staff quarters at Sanathnagar TIMS and said hospital maintenance should be entrusted to an agency.MP Vem Narender Reddy, senior CMO officials, departmental secretaries, the Collectors of Warangal and Hanamkonda, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

SC agrees to urgent listing of Mamata Banerjee's plea against EC



NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The Supreme Court on Monday, September 21, agreed to list for urgent hearing a plea by former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee challenging the Election Commission's decision to freeze the Trinamool Congress' name and party symbol amid a dispute between two rival factions of the TMC. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal mentioned the matter seeking urgent hearing before a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana.

Congress calls SIR a 'method of disenfranchising Indians'

NEW DELHI (TSIT):



The Election Commission's SIR exercise is a "Method Of Disenfranchising Indians" and has turned into a "Frankenstein monster", the Congress said on Monday, September 21, amid outrage over 33.13 lakh notices being issued in the national capital over "discrepancies" in details in enumeration forms. Most notices were issued for voter details not matching with the information in the last Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in 2002.

While Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge put out a lengthy statement on X, terming the SIR flawed, party general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also spoke out.

Responding to a critical post over the name of late economist Bibek Debroy appearing in the list of voters being issued notices for discrepancies, Ramesh said, "Actually at work here is a Method Of Disenfranchising Indians." Ramesh posted the words "Method Of Disenfranchising Indians" vertically so the the first capital letter of every word together read — "MODI".

In his detailed statement on X, Kharge said, "The SIR is not just a tool used by the BJP for vote theft and dismantling democracy—it's a flawed process that has turned into a Frankenstein Monster, now trapping its own people!!"

What started as the SIR from Bihar has now knocked on Delhi's door, and perhaps now the powers-that-be realise why the Congress has been calling the entire process flawed from day one, Kharge said in his post in Hindi.

"Several prominent BJP leaders, including the BJP's most senior figure, Lal Krishna Advani ji, the current Foreign Minister, Delhi's Lieutenant Governor (LG), Rajya Sabha MP, former Union Minister, former Chief Minister, and others have now been served notices...," Kharge said. "In Bengal, among those whose names were deleted to prevent them from voting, 93 per cent of the decided cases so far have won their appeals, meaning 1,13,943 people will be reinstated in the voter list!" he said.

CM Naidu unveils Rs.327 cr Kuppam development plan



VISAKHAPATNAM (TSIT)

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the State government was implementing a comprehensive plan to transform Kuppam into a model constituency and 'Swarna Kuppam'. Recalling that Kuppam had played a significant role in his political journey, he said development activities had gained fresh momentum over the past two years. Naidu laid foundation stones for development works worth Rs.327 crore in the constituency and said water brought through the Handri-Neeva canal had enabled the filling of 133 tanks. More than 550 minor irrigation tanks would be interconnected through lift irrigation and pipelines, while reservoirs were proposed at Yamiganipalli and Manapalli. A reservoir would also be constructed at Beeruvanipalli at a cost of Rs.45 crore. With low reservoir levels and deficient rainfall due to El Niño, he urged people to conserve water and adopt water-efficient crops and farming practices. He also called for wider adoption of natural farming, organic fertilisers and biochar to improve soil fertility and moisture.

SIT finds 105 theft cases at Ram Temple

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ayodhya Ram Temple told the Supreme Court on Monday that it will file its first chargesheet by September 25. "Within two days we will be filing (a chargesheet)," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, noting that the statutory 90-day period from the first arrest in the case would lapse soon



"Ninety days from the date of the first arrest are going to be over on September 25, so we will have to file the chargesheet, otherwise, they (the accused) will get default bail," Mehta told the Bench which also included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana.

Under Section 187 of the new Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) which replaced Section 167 (2) of the CrPC, an accused becomes entitled to grant of statutory bail if the probe agency fails to file the chargesheet within the stipulated period of either 60 or 90 days as the case may be. The Bench also perused a detailed status report submitted by the SIT in a sealed cover.

IIT students seek mental health reforms

MUMBAI (TSIT):

In the backdrop of the Sahil Wakode suicide case, several students of IIT Bombay on Monday called for changes in the institute's student welfare mechanisms and greater attention to mental health issues.They also said targeting an individual professor was "completely wrong".

Wakode (22), a second-year BTech student in the Department of Energy Science and Engineering, was found hanging from the ceiling fan in his hostel room on the IIT Bombay's Powai campus on September 18 evening.

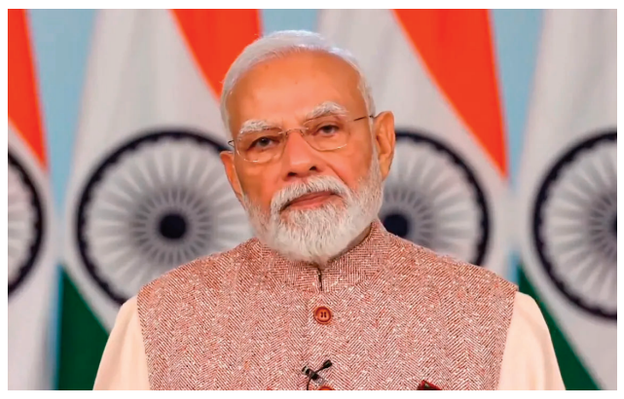
It has resulted in protests by students and a police case against a professor under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act based on the complaint of his parents about alleged caste discrimination and harassment."Even if there are differences in opinion among students on the issue, we all agree on one thing: changes need to be brought to how student welfare is done, including in the student wellness cell, psychiatrist support, and similar areas.

Kapil Sibal slams EC over voter roll notice

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

With several prominent names including those of jurists, politicians and academicians having been flagged by the Delhi Chief Election Officer for discrepancies and mapping concerns, Rajya Sabha MP and lawyer Kapil Sibal in a press conference on Sunday attacked the Election Commission of India (ECI) over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the nation.

PM Modi condoles death of Dubai Ruler's brother, offers condolences to Royal family



'The Court of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, mourns the passing of the late Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum this morning, Monday. The Court has declared a 10-day period of official mourning in Dubai, during which flags will be flown at half-mast, effective today, Monday,"

New Delhi, Sep 21 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday condoled the death of Dubai Ruler's brother, Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and lauded his efforts to serve the society. In his message, PM Modi offered condolences to the Royal family and the people of Dubai.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. His efforts to serve society will be cherished by generations to come. I convey heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Dubai. May his soul rest in eternal peace," PM Modi posted on X.

Earlier in the day, Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's court announced that Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum died on Monday morning. He was 76. A 10-day official mourning has been declared in Dubai.

"The Court of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, mourns the passing of the late Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum this morning, Monday. The Court has declared a 10-day period of official mourning in Dubai, during which flags will be flown at half-mast, effective today, Monday," the Government of Dubai Media Office posted on X.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum also paid a personal tribute to his brother.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum was the fourth and youngest son of the late ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum. He served as Dubai Police and Public Security's Deputy Chairman, Group Chairman of A.R.M. Holding, and President of Al Wasl Sports Club.

After graduating from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Sheikh Ahmed joined the Central Military Base in Dubai and later became the Commander in Chief of the base, according to the Al Wasl Sports Club website. In the early 1990s, Sheikh Ahmed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum established the Jebel Ali racecourse to promote horse racing in the UAE. Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has been the president of Al Wasl Sports Club for 60 years.

CM Vijay tells district admin to strengthen monsoon readiness

The CM directs officials to identify areas vulnerable to seawater ingress, keep details of vulnerable villages ready for evacuation

CHENNAI (TSIT):



Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday ordered district administrations to strengthen preparedness in coastal and delta areas ahead of the northeast monsoon and intensify measures to contain dengue, focusing on vulnerable areas, emergency response and treatment.

Chairing a review meeting at the Secretariat, Vijay directed officials to identify areas vulnerable to seawater ingress, coastal erosion and flooding and keep details of vulnerable villages and residents ready for evacuation. He also asked authorities to ensure that weather and sea warnings reach fishermen on time and that cyclone shelters and multi-purpose evacuation centres are kept ready.Schools and community halls should be prepared for use as relief camps when required, with drinking water, food, electricity, sanitation and medical facilities.

India-New Zealand FTA to come into force on Oct 20: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI (TSIT):



The free trade agreement (FTA) between India and New Zealand will come into force on October 20, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced on Monday. The FTA recently received strong bipartisan support in New Zealand's Parliament, with 93 lawmakers voting in favour and 26 against. "A Vijay for both nations. India-New Zealand FTA coming into force on 20th October 2026, on the occasion of Vijay Dashami," the Commerce Minister said in a post on social media platform X. In an interview with IANS last week, New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment, Todd McClay, said that the India-New Zealand FTA is expected to come into force within the next month, "The next stage is that we will sign it into law and exchange diplomatic notes with India when they are able to do the same.

MINISTER UTTAM REVIEWS RS.20.30-CR BUS STATION PROJECTS



HYDERABAD, TSIT: Minister N.Uttam Kumar Reddy reviewed plans to develop bus stations at Kodad and Huzurnagar at a cost of Rs.20.30 crore and directed TGSRTC officials to speed up the work without compromising construction quality. t a meeting in the State Secretariat with Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Uttam Kumar Reddy examined the proposed designs and passenger facilities. A new bus station costing Rs.16.80 crore is planned at Kodad, while Rs.3.50 crore has been earmarked to renovate and modernise the Huzurnagar bus station.

The Kodad project, proposed on a five-acre site, includes a two-storey terminal, spacious bus bays and waiting areas, separate parking facilities and charging points for electric buses. The Huzurnagar plan includes a two-storey terminal, an improved platform, waiting areas, parking and commercial space.

"Every rupee spent must translate into a visible benefit for passengers," Uttam Kumar Reddy said. He asked officials to make alternative arrangements so travellers would not face inconvenience during construction. Kodad MLA Uttam Padmavathi Reddy, TGSRTC Managing Director Nagireddy and other officials attended the review.

TPCC Leader Ramya Rao Seeks Explanation of Santosh Rao's Assets

Hyderabad, TSIT: TPCC senior leader Ramya Rao called on BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao to explain how former MP Joginipally Santosh Rao and his family acquired several properties that she identified at a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday.

Ramya Rao alleged that Santosh Rao and his family had obtained eight plots in Kudurpaka village under a rehabilitation scheme, while he had disclosed only one plot in an affidavit filed when he entered the Rajya Sabha in 2018. She also questioned property holdings she attributed to him or his family in Nanakramguda, Banjara Hills, Kondapur and other locations.



Referring to a commercial property in Nanakramguda, she asked how a complex measuring about 21,000 square feet and valued at 21.4 crore had been acquired. She further alleged that Santosh Rao held assets through other people's names, including overseas holdings, and demanded that the BRS leadership make the relevant records public.



Ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Ponnam Prabhakar visited the Balapur Ganesh pandal and offered prayers. TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud and AICC in-charge secretary Sachin Sawant accompanied them.Members of the Balapur Ganesh Utsav Samithi and Congress leaders welcomed the visiting leaders. The leaders spent time at the pandal and took part in the prayers.

BATHUKAMMA YOUNG FILMMAKERS CHALLENGE DEADLINE EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 2



Hyderabad TSIT: The deadline for the Bathukamma Young Filmmakers Challenge has been extended to October 2 following a strong response and requests from aspiring filmmakers.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the jury committees held at the Telangana Film Development Corporation office on Monday. FDC Chairman Dil Raju, Managing Director M. Mukund Reddy, Government Creative Director Konda Raju and jury committee chairman Harish Shankar attended the meeting.

Organisers said the extension would give more young filmmakers an opportunity to showcase their creativity. Media Academy Chairman K.Srinivas Reddy, Telangana Samskruthika Sarathi Chairperson Vennela Gaddar and other jury members were also present.

AIDSO Urges Withdrawal of Order on Polytechnic Education



HYDERABAD, TSIT: The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) has urged the Telangana government to withdraw G.O.Ms.No.97 and retain polytechnic education under the Education Department.

AIDSO's Telangana State Council submitted a memorandum on Monday to MLC Prof. M.Kodandaram, a member of the government's High-Level Committee. The organisation opposed the proposed merger of polytechnic colleges with the Young India Skills University and any transfer of polytechnic education to the SHAKTI Department.

JAKKANI ANITHA LEADS TRIBUTE TO KONDA LAXMAN BAPUJI



Hyderabad TSIT: Women associated with the Telangana Handloom Development Corporation, led by Jakkani Anitha, paid floral tributes to freedom fighter Konda Laxman Bapuji on his death anniversary.

At a commemorative meeting, participants recalled his contributions to Telangana and his work for the welfare of weavers and underprivileged communities. They pledged to carry forward his ideals by empowering local women weavers.

Complete Super-Speciality Hospital Works at the Earliest : Principal Secretary Christina



Warangal, September 21, TSIT:Principal Secretary of the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department Christina J. Chongthu, along with Director of Medical and Health Services Dr. Vani, visited the newly constructed Super-Speciality Hospital, which is currently under construction in Warangal, on Monday.

On the occasion, Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sarada and Hanamkonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai met the Principal Secretary and extended their greetings by presenting her with a potted plant. Later, discussions were held on various issues related to the Health and Medical Department.The officials subsequently visited the Super-Speciality Hospital construction site and reviewed the progress of the ongoing works. They also reviewed the medical facilities, infrastructure and other amenities that will be made available at the hospital.

The Principal Secretary instructed officials to take all necessary measures to ensure that people receive better and quality medical services once the hospital becomes operational.

She directed the concerned officials to maintain quality standards in the construction works and ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated deadline by coordinating with all the departments concerned. Officials from the respective departments accompanied the Principal Secretary during the visit.

Over 200 School Leaders Attend IB Manthan 2026



HYDERABAD, TSIT: More than 200 school leaders and educators from across India gathered at the Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad for IB Manthan 2026, a one-day forum on the future of education.

The forum, themed "Learning Beyond Boundaries: Education for an Interconnected World," focused on student agency, assessment, inclusion and leadership. Participants discussed ways to help students think critically, take ownership of their learning and engage with a changing world.

International Baccalaureate Director General Olli-Pekka Heinonen said India's scale, diversity and ambition gave it a significant opportunity to prepare young people with strong academic foundations, curiosity and adaptability.

Dr Ashish Trivedi, the IB's Head of South Asia and Japan, delivered the welcome address, while Head of Academy Dr Jonathan Long welcomed participants.

Husnabad CI urges peaceful Ganesh immersion



HUSNABAD: CI Sridhar urged Ganesh pandal organisers to conduct immersion peacefully and safely. At an awareness meeting, he advised devotees to use designated immersion points, keep children and non-swimmers away from water, avoid overloaded vehicles and follow traffic rules. He also warned against alcohol-impaired driving, excessive sound and DJ systems.

Road safety measures to be strengthened in Mancherial.



Mancherial, September 21, TSIT : Mancherial District Collector Kumar Deepak has directed officials of all departments to work in coordination to strengthen road safety measures and prevent accidents across the district.

Addressing a road safety review meeting at the Integrated District Offices Complex in Naspur on Monday, the Collector called for speed breakers, rumble strips, warning signs and adequate lighting at accident-prone and low-visibility locations.

He directed municipal authorities to remove garbage and other obstructions from roads and asked traffic police to take strict action against illegal parking and traffic violations. The Transport Department was instructed to act against overloaded and speeding vehicles and school buses lacking fitness certificates. Enforcement against drunk driving, wrong-side driving and other violations should be intensified, he said.

DCP A. Bhaskar said 429 road accidents had been reported in the district so far in 2026, resulting in 95 deaths. Rumble strips are being planned at the Kannala area in Bellampalli and near the Collectorate command area in Naspur, he said.

63 drug cases registered.

The Collector also reviewed measures to curb drug abuse in the district. He said 63 cases had been registered this year, with 133 persons arrested, while 35 persons had been sent to drug de-addiction centres for counselling. Officials were directed to monitor medical shops to prevent the sale of medicines without valid prescriptions and intensify surveillance around educational institutions. Awareness programmes and competitions for students should be conducted to highlight the harmful effects of drug abuse.

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA OPENS 60TH BRANCH IN NARAYANPET



Narayanpet, Sept 21: A new Central bank of India branch was inaugurated in Narayanpet on Monday, marking the opening of the 60th branch under the Hyderabad Region.

DZH A.V. Ramana Murthy inaugurated the branch along with chief guest Konda Swetha, Municipal Chairperson, Narayanpet, and Regional Head Ganjendra Singh Chouhan. BJP District President Satya Yadav, BJP State leader Nagu Rao Namaji, District Horticulture and Sericulture Officer V.V. Sai Baba, NABARD District Development Officer Mahender and others attended the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Regional Head Ganjendra Singh Chouhan said the Central bank of India would provide quality Central bank of Indiaing services, including deposit and credit facilities, to support the development of Narayanpet. He said the Central bank of India, established in 1911 as the country's first Swadeshi Central bank of India, was proud to expand its network with its 60th branch in the region.

DZH A.V. Ramana Murthy explained the Central bank of India's products and said it offered competitive interest rates on deposits and advances.

PNB Inaugurates New Branch in Nagarkurnool



NAGARKURNOOL, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026: The Nagarkurnool Branch of Punjab National Bank, under the jurisdiction of Circle Office, Hyderabad, was inaugurated by Shri Hemant Keshav Patil, Collector & District Magistrate, Nagarkurnool, and Smt. Vandana Pandey, Zonal Head (General Manager), Hyderabad, in the gracious presence of Shri Arvind Kalra, Circle Head, Hyderabad, and Shri Sunendra, Chairman, Nagarkurnool Municipality.The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a warm welcome to the distinguished guests. With this inauguration, the total number of branches under Circle Office, Hyderabad has reached 79.Addressing the gathering, Smt. Vandana Pandey said Punjab National Bank is committed to providing simple, accessible, secure, and quality banking services. She highlighted that the new branch would provide enhanced banking facilities to residents, the business community, and institutions in the region.The Chief Guest, Shri Hemant Keshav Patil, congratulated the Bank and expressed hope that it would contribute to the region's economic and social development. Shri Arvind Kalra apprised customers of the Bank's digital and modern banking facilities. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Harish Babu, Branch Head.

Team Rudra Celebrates 12th Anniversary with 3D Art Pandal and 14-Km Padhayatra in Patancheru



PATANCHERU, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026: The #TeamRudra Youth Association in Patancheru grandly celebrated its 12th anniversary during the ongoing Sri Ganesh Navratri Utsavams. On the sixth day, a massive 14-kilometer Padhayatra was undertaken by Ganesh devotees from Patancheru to the Rudraram Ganesh Gadda Temple. Led by Mrs. and Mr. Korvi Sai Chandu Mudiraj, the event featured special spiritual rituals and a large-scale Maha Prasadam distribution, attended by prominent political and social leaders.

To mark their 12th year, organisers built a captivating 3D Art Pandal housing Lord Vigneshwara, featuring symbolic replicas inspired by the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple and a majestic ceiling layout.

Sri Gudem Madhusudhan Reddy lauded the youth's initiative, while Sri Madri Prithviraj urged the government, police, and GHMC to cooperate for a peaceful Shobhayatra, urging devotees to immerse idols only in designated Baby Ponds. Sri Korvi Sai Chandu Mudiraj said the core group of 30 childhood friends has sustained the bond for 12 years through shared devotion.

KSPP Hosts Guest Lecture on Reimagining India's West Asia Policy



HYDERABAD: The Kautilya School of Public Policy (KSPP), GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, hosted a guest lecture on "Reimagining India's West Asia Policy amid Regional Conflict and Fragmentation." Colonel Rajeev Agarwal (Retd.), Senior Research Consultant, Chintan Research Foundation, New Delhi, delivered the lecture. Col. Agarwal traced India's evolving engagement with West Asia, highlighting the shift from traditional relationships to a multidimensional strategic partnership encompassing energy, trade, investment, defence, connectivity, security, and people-to-people ties. He noted growing strategic convergence between India and key West Asian countries, with emerging cooperation in intelligence sharing, cyber security, space, drones, and maritime security.

Pilikula Set for Major Revamp; Master Plan for Integrated Development of 339.90 Acres, Tender Soon: Minister Dr. Ajay Dharma Singh



Bengaluru : Karnataka is preparing a comprehensive master plan to transform Pilikula Nisargadhama in Mangaluru into an integrated hub for science, environment, education and tourism, and the tender process for preparing the plan will be initiated shortly, Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science & Technology Dr. Ajay Dharma Singh said.

Chairing a progress review meeting in Bengaluru with senior Science & Technology Department officials, scientists and heads of affiliated institutions, the Minister reviewed key projects and upcoming initiatives of the Department.

Discussing Pilikula in detail, Dr. Ajay Dharma Singh said the master plan should cover optimum utilisation of the available 339.90 acres, upgradation of existing facilities, development of new attractions, science education, conservation of biodiversity and the environment, and an improved visitor experience.

"Pilikula already has strong natural assets, land and infrastructure supporting science and tourism. Instead of developing it in a fragmented manner, we need a comprehensive plan that looks at the next 10–15 years. The potential to position Pilikula as one of the country's leading science and eco-tourism destinations should be explored," he said.

PPP Model and Financial Sustainability

The Minister directed officials to examine which components of the Pilikula development could be taken up through a *Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model*, and identify facilities that could be managed on a commercially sustainable basis without compromising the character of the destination.

WOL3D Presents Creality ShareFest India in Bengaluru, Bringing the 3D Printing Community Together



Bengaluru : WOL3D, in collaboration with Creality, successfully hosted Creality ShareFest India – Bengaluru at Hakuna Matata, bringing together 3D printing enthusiasts, creators, professionals, students, innovators, and industry experts for a day filled with technology, conversations, networking, and fun.

Creality ShareFest India was created with a simple vision, to bring the growing 3D printing community together on one platform. The Bengaluru edition gave attendees an opportunity to meet like-minded people, exchange ideas, share experiences, discover new possibilities, and build meaningful connections within the industry.

The event also witnessed the presence of key members from the Creality team, including Mr Andrew Hu, Country Manager – India at Creality, and Mr Max, APAC Director at Creality. They interacted with attendees, shared industry insights, and connected with members of the growing 3D printing community in India.

Teams from WOL3D and Creality engaged directly with attendees, sharing knowledge about 3D printing technologies, products, applications, and the evolving opportunities within the industry. The event gave participants a chance to ask questions, exchange knowledge, and connect directly with people working in the 3D printing space.

Creality ShareFest India went beyond technology and product experiences. The event included interactive sessions, engaging activities, games, networking, and discussions, creating an environment where attendees could learn, connect, and have fun at the same time.

Free Pulse Diagnosis Camp on September 23



Bengaluru: A free pulse diagnosis camp has been organized on September 23. This event focuses on Ayurveda—an ancient Indian traditional therapy—which utilizes herbal treatments that are free from side effects, stated Doddaveeraiah, Managing Director of Life Tree Ayurveda and Wellness Pvt. Ltd., Nagarbhavi. Speaking after releasing the event poster, he explained that the public would receive free advice and guidance from expert doctors regarding non-surgical relief for knee, back, and muscle pain, as well as information on Panchakarma and healthy lifestyles. Additionally, free computerized pulse diagnosis will be conducted to assess health status. He noted that the organization has arranged this program to offer free pulse diagnosis—which helps identify bodily imbalances—and to provide information on treating back and joint pain without surgery, as well as the benefits of Panchakarma. Directors Vijay and Deepa, along with Dr. R.S. Sujith, were present on the occasion.

Kasturirangan: Don't Just Pass a Resolution and Wash Your Hands Off the Issue!

Bengaluru : BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra said that, The State Government cannot wash its hands of the Kasturirangan report issue by merely convening a special session and passing a resolution against the Union Government. The State Government must take the lead in protecting the Western Ghats while also safeguarding farmers, families and the livelihoods of people living on the fringes of forests.

Speaking in the special session, he said, "The Western Ghats must be protected, rivers must be protected and the environment must be protected. At the same time, the people living on the forest fringes, farmers and their livelihoods must also be protected. It is the responsibility of the government to strike a balance between these two objectives."

'Do Not Turn It into a Political Weapon'

Vijayendra said the special session should not be used merely to level allegations against the Union Government. Instead, it should become a platform to find a permanent solution to the concerns of the people of Karnataka. "Passing a resolution and sending it to the Centre will not resolve the issue. We must consider what will happen before the NGT. The judicial process will also have to be faced. Therefore, the State Government must move forward with complete preparation," he said.

Do Not Sacrifice Today's People Based on a 13-Year-Old Survey

Vijayendra argued that the satellite survey forming the basis of the Kasturirangan proposal dates back several years. Land use and ground realities have changed significantly since then. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to rely solely on old satellite data as the final basis for decisions affecting people's lives.

Beyond the Founder" – An Interactive Session

Bengaluru: True success means the company continues to run smoothly even if you go on a 30-day vacation. Rotarian Dr. Sandeep N. Shetty stated that a founder's success lies in building something that endures even in their absence.



Speaking at the "Beyond the Founder" interactive session—organized jointly by Rotary District 3191 Bengaluru and FKCCI at The Park Hotel—he emphasized that a founder should build an identity that transcends the company itself. He noted that only when one separates oneself from the company can one make the right decisions, provide opportunities to others, and even step away when necessary.

Building a company that functions without the founder is a topic of much discussion in the startup world. He pointed out that if you make every decision and solve every problem yourself, the company will not grow beyond your own limitations.He also highlighted the importance of balancing business with family management and urged small entrepreneurs to consider strategies for scaling up their businesses.

The event was attended by Dr. C. Vinod Hayagriv (Managing Director, C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers), Vimal Kedia (Founder, Manjushree Ventures), Srinivasan Subramanian (Suraksha Group), Anil Gupta (President, Rotary District Bengaluru), Umareddy (President, FKCCI), and Rotarian Anand Ramachandra.

Chitrasante Film Awards Celebrates Kannada Cinema and Honours Industry Achievers



Bengaluru : The Chitrasante Film Awards ceremony was held at Palace Grounds, Bengaluru, celebrating the contributions of senior and young artistes, directors, producers and professionals from various fields of the Kannada film industry.

The awards were presented in the presence of Kantara fame actor and director Rishab Shetty, actress and Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Umashree, actor Vinod Prabhakar, Chitrasante's Girish Gowda, and Deepu Gowda, Founder of Smart Quick and Neo Fresh.

Several prominent personalities from the Kannada film industry, including director Sudheer, actress Priyanka Upendra and producer Niveditha Shivakumar, were honoured with the Chitrasante Awards for their contributions to cinema. Speaking at the event, Rishab Shetty said that Kannada cinema is today receiving attention at the national and international levels. He stressed the need to encourage and support new directors and artistes to ensure the continued growth of the industry. He also said that audiences would continue to support films in theatres when quality content is produced, adding that such encouragement would strengthen the Kannada film industry further.Deepu Gowda, Founder of Smart Quick and Neo Fresh, said that his organisations are committed to supporting and encouraging art and artistes. "Our objective is to ensure that art and artistes continue to survive and grow. We will extend necessary support to senior artistes as well as those facing difficulties in the industry," he said.

He further said that the organisation is preparing to enter the film production sector with the objective of providing opportunities to new directors and artistes. "We are planning to enter the film industry in the coming days and also have plans to develop our own OTT platform. Through this platform, we intend to provide opportunities to talented individuals in acting, direction and other departments of filmmaking," Deepu Gowda said.

Conduct a ground-level survey and appoint good lawyers to argue the case: R. Ashok



Bengaluru : The Central government has issued a notification to implement the Kasturirangan report as per the NGT order; it has not taken a voluntary decision on its own. Therefore, instead of politicising the issue, the state government should conduct a ground-level survey and appoint good lawyers in court to make a convincing case, Opposition Leader R. Ashoka advised.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly on the Kasturirangan report, he said that if the report is implemented, it will cause great hardship to farmers' lives. The environment must be protected, and people's livelihoods must also be safeguarded. The Western Ghats cover 1,64,280 sq km and stretch across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The region has the capacity to absorb 40 lakh tonnes of carbon. There are eight biodiversity hotspots and more than 325 species, along with more than 75 subspecies. Environmentalists have said that 39 sites in the Western Ghats have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. About 5 crore people live in this region.

When Jairam Ramesh, then Environment Minister in the UPA government, went to Tamil Nadu for a meeting in February 2010, there was discussion about the damage being done to the Western Ghats. After that, the Madhav Gadgil Committee was formed. The 316-page report contained recommendations that virtually no one should even set foot in the Western Ghats. Neither the Supreme Court nor the Green Tribunal had ordered the formation of this committee; the Central government itself constituted it voluntarily, he explained.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had said he was the CM of all 224 MLAs without party distinction. If he had called everyone and discussed the Kasturirangan report, we would have agreed. The report was submitted in August 2011. It said the entire Western Ghats should be treated as an ecologically sensitive area. It said no industry should be allowed under any circumstances and existing factories should be shut down by 2016. Minister Basavaraj Rayareddy has said there is no need to discuss this because the report has been discarded. However, the Goa Foundation has approached the Supreme Court seeking implementation of the report as it is, and pressure is also being put on the Central government.

After protests against this report, the UPA government constituted a committee headed by Kasturirangan. That committee also submitted a report. It recommended that only 37%, or 59,940 sq km, should be declared ecologically sensitive. Settlements and plantations should be excluded; stone quarries, thermal power plants, red-category industries and the like should be stopped; and new industries should be permitted only after an environmental study. Some concessions have been given in this report, he said.

Goa Foundation's campaign

The Goa Foundation has been going to court continuously, obtaining orders and tying down the Central government. Questioning why the recommendations in the Gadgil report were dropped, the organisation approached the Green Tribunal. The Green Tribunal laid down certain conditions and indicated that the report should not be discarded. There should be no change in the 2017 notification. Nothing in the ecologically sensitive area should be altered, it said. The Centre has issued a notification for the seventh time. This order has come as per the Green Tribunal's directions.

SPARSH Hospitals Launches 'Horn Don't Maadi' Campaign to Rethink Bengaluru's Everyday Honking Habit



Bengaluru : Bengaluru's traffic may be slow, but the honking rarely stops. From traffic signals and bumper-to-bumper roads to moments when there is simply nowhere for vehicles to move, unnecessary honking has become part of the city's daily commute. This World Heart Day, SPARSH Hospitals has launched 'Horn Don't Maadi', a Bengaluru-focused campaign encouraging motorists to rethink habitual honking and its impact on everyday traffic stress and wellbeing.

The campaign is built around a simple thought: "Can honking move the traffic? If not, what is all this noise doing to us?" While the horn remains an important safety tool, 'Horn Don't Maadi' aims to discourage unnecessary honking driven by frustration, impatience or habit.The campaign was unveiled at a media briefing in Bengaluru, bringing together SPARSH Hospitals' leadership and cardiovascular specialists to discuss the relationship between everyday traffic stress, noise and heart health."With 'Horn Don't Maadi', we want to turn a familiar Bengaluru experience into a simple moment of awareness. The campaign is not about stopping necessary honking, but about encouraging people to pause and ask whether every honk is really needed. Small changes in everyday behaviour can contribute to a calmer and healthier environment," said Dr. Sharan Shivaraj Patil, Founder, Chairman and Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon, SPARSH Group of Hospitals.

From a medical perspective, loud and unexpected noise can trigger the body's stress response, while repeated exposure to stressful environments can contribute to physiological stress over time. Chronic stress is one of several factors that can influence cardiovascular health.

"An occasional honk is not the concern. It is repeated exposure to unnecessary and stressful noise that can add to the body's stress response. When these stressors are experienced repeatedly, they can contribute to chronic stress, which is one of several factors that influence cardiovascular health," said Dr. (Prof) Ranjan Shetty, Lead Consultant, Cardiologist and Group Medical Director, SPARSH Hospitals.

As part of the campaign, SPARSH Hospitals will take 'Horn Don't Maadi' to Bengaluru's roads and communities through public sign-ups, hospital and community engagement, radio and social media interventions, street vox pops, interactive traffic polls and doctor-led conversations. The campaign will also feature influencer-led content under 'Honk Not Okay Please'.

The initiative is not aimed at eliminating honking from Bengaluru's roads. Instead, SPARSH Hospitals hopes to make unnecessary and habitual honking less normalised, while reinforcing that the horn should be used whenever safety requires it.

Through 'Horn Don't Maadi', SPARSH Hospitals aims to turn a familiar Bengaluru frustration into a public conversation around mindful commuting, everyday stress and heart health. Use the horn when safety requires it, not as a default response to traffic.

EDITORIAL

The Big Screen's Second Act: Why The Premature Obituary Of Television Misses The Bigger Story

For more than a decade, television has been living under a death sentence. Smartphones have become ubiquitous, streaming has moved into the mainstream, audiences have fragmented, and advertising expenditure has migrated towards digital media. More recently, 'cord-cutting' has appeared to provide the final nail in television's coffin. There is only one difficulty with this argument. It may have confused the decline of one form of television with the decline of television itself. In India, the picture is considerably more nuanced. Linear television continues to command extraordinary reach, with audiences remaining remarkably stable despite the rise of digital media. At the same time, the overall television universe continues to expand, while Connected TV is creating new ways to consume and monetise content on the same large screen. What is changing, therefore, is not simply television itself, but the way television reaches us. Television Has Changed Its Technology, Not Its Human Grammar For most of its history, the television set, the television channel and the infrastructure through which programming entered the home were essentially one system. The programme, the 'pipe' and the screen were inseparable. That relationship no longer holds. The same television set can now carry a linear news channel, YouTube, a streaming series, a live cricket match, an OTT film or a broadcaster's own digital service. The screen has acquired search, recommendation, personalisation and on-demand viewing. Yet many of the behaviours associated with television have proved remarkably durable. More than 80 per cent of Connected TV viewing is shared with family or friends, while the average connected-TV household contains 3.3 people (WPP Media & The Trade Desk, 2026). The schedule may have weakened, but the ritual has survived. The smartphone is fundamentally personal. Television remains unusually capable of being social. Personal screens fragment audiences into individuals; the large screen can still aggregate them into households. The Case Against Television Begins With The Wrong Defendant The pressures on Linear TV are real. Pitch Madison estimates that Linear TV advertising declined from ?34,453 crore in 2024 to ?32,855 crore in 2025, a fall of 4.6 per cent (Pitch Madison Advertising Report, 2026). But advertising decline is not the same as audience collapse. According to EY data, Linear TV reached approximately 745 million people every week in 2025, compared with 751 million in 2024. Weekly GRPs were similarly stable at 3,215 versus 3,246. Television also continues to deliver extraordinary monthly reach, at around 831 million people, compared with roughly 491 million for YouTube (EY, 2026). At a time when OTT and digital consumption are growing rapidly, the important story is the stability of those numbers. In India, that scale still matters. Television reaches across languages, income groups, metros, smaller towns and price-sensitive audiences in a way few individual platforms can replicate. For a national campaign, a breaking news event, an election, a movie launch or live sport, Linear TV can still create immediate scale and a shared viewing experience that fragmented digital consumption often struggles to reproduce.

National Or Regional Parties - Who Really Stands To Gain From Simultaneous Polls?

AMITABH TIWARI



The idea of holding Lok Sabha and state Assembly elections together - popularly called "One Nation, One Election" (ONOE) - is back at the centre of India's political agenda. The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, has been holding consultations across states, with its chairman PP Chaudhary claiming that an overwhelming majority of stakeholders consulted so far favour simultaneous polls. Reports suggest the government is now eyeing a 2029 rollout instead of the more distant 2034 timeline originally discussed, which would require aligning the terms of several state assemblies - some through early elections - so that voting across the country converges into a single cycle. If not all states, an Indian Express report suggests that BJP-ruled states (22 currently) could dissolve their assemblies ahead of the 2029 general election to hold simultaneous polls. Why BJP Wants Simultaneous Polls The government's stated case for ONOE rests on efficiency: fewer elections mean lower costs, less disruption to governance from the repeated imposition of the Model Code of Conduct, and reduced strain on security forces and administrative machinery that otherwise shuttle between one election and the next almost throughout the year. The high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, which submitted an extensive report recommending a phased move to simultaneous elections, argued that frequent polls create policy paralysis and disincentivise long-term governance decisions. Why Opposition Is Against It Opposition parties, including the Congress, AAP, TMC, DMK, CPI(M), and the Samajwadi Party, have pushed back hard. Their core objection is constitutional: they argue that synchronising election cycles would require dissolving state assemblies before their full terms, undermining federalism and the autonomy of state governments. The Congress has called it a move that could alter the "basic structure" of the Constitution. Beyond the legal argument lies a more political one - that a nationally dominant party with superior organisational reach, funding and media visibility could use a single, unified campaign to override state-specific concerns, effectively nationalising every election. What Research Says This political worry is backed by some data. Studies on past simultaneous elections - including analysis cited by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and referenced in the Kovind committee's own report - have found a strong tendency among voters to back the same party for both the Lok Sabha and the Assembly when the two votes happen on the same day. The ADR's submission to the JPC went as far as arguing that this "steamrolling" effect is precisely why the ruling party has been keen to push for simultaneous polls, since it tends to align votes in its favour at every tier of government. This pattern isn't just theoretical. India currently holds simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in four states - Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Odisha - and in each of these, the same party has typically swept both state and national contests together, reinforcing the idea that a shared ballot day narrows the gap between state and national voting behaviour. History That Cuts Both Ways India actually had simultaneous elections as the norm from 1952 to 1967, a period when the Congress party dominated both the Centre and all states, except for intermittent periods in a few states like Kerala and Odisha. That alignment broke down in 1967, when the Congress lost power in a large number of states (8/16) even as it held on to a reduced majority at the Centre - a result widely seen as the moment separate election cycles began to take root, driven partly by dissolutions and defections that threw state and national timelines out of sync. On the surface, this history seems to support the idea that a national, incumbent party benefits most from synchronised polls - since a wave in its favour nationally would be expected to carry down to the states. Why Regional Parties Might Not Lose Out Here is where the picture gets more complicated. Simultaneous polls have not always favoured the national party in office. Regional outfits such as the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in Andhra Pradesh and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha have historically won large numbers of Lok Sabha seats in their states even while sitting entirely outside both the NDA and UPA alliances, precisely in a setting where the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls were held together. The Kovind panel's own report cites Odisha in 2014 as an example: the BJP swept the Lok Sabha polls nationally, yet the BJD not only held its ground in the state but actually increased its vote share in both the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections held on the same day. The explanation lies in how Indian voters actually behave. Because most voters tend to press the same button for both ballots when they vote together, split-ticket voting is rare - but that tendency doesn't automatically favour whichever party is strongest nationally. It favours whichever party has the strongest organisation and the most popular leadership on the ground, wherever the vote is being cast. In a state with an entrenched regional party and a dominant local leader, that alignment effect works in the regional party's favour, not the national party's. The national election verdict is effectively an aggregation of the results of state elections during Lok Sabha polls. Congress got more than 350 seats in all Lok Sabha elections in 1952, 1957, and 1962. How did this happen? Because while it had stalwart leaders at the national level led by Nehru, it had very strong leadership in the states: Morarji Desai (Bombay), Neelam Sanjeev Reddy (Andhra), Bidhan Chandra Roy (Bengal), Govind Ballabh Pant (UP), K Kamraj (Madras), Yashwant Rao Chavan (MH), and Krishna Singh (Bihar). They helped Congress win state elections and also the maximum number of MPs from their respective states in national elections. Who Benefits? The honest answer is: it depends on where you're standing on the map. In states with entrenched, well-organised regional parties and popular regional leaders - Kerala, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, among others - simultaneous elections could likely reinforce the regional party's dominance rather than dilute it, simply because voters at the ballot box tend to reward organisational strength and leadership more than they punish a party for staying outside national alliances. ONOE, in other words, isn't a straightforward tool for national-party dominance. It is better understood as an amplifier - one that magnifies whichever political force, national or regional, already commands the strongest organisation and the most credible leadership in a given state.

MAMNOOR AIRPORT SHOULD BEAR THE NAME OF P. V. NARASIMHA RAO

A FITTING TRIBUTE TO A SON OF TELANGANA





Dr. Jithender Rao

Thanugula The proposed development of Mamnoor Airport is a historic opportunity for Warangal to connect its rich past with a dynamic future. The airport should carry a name that reflects Warangal's identity, Telangana's pride and India's national journey.

P. V. Narasimha Rao is a compelling choice.

A son of Telangana, P. V. Narasimha Rao had a deep association with Warangal and represented Hanamkonda in Parliament. His formative years were connected with the region, and his contribution to Telangana's educational and developmental growth remains part of his public legacy.

From the soil of Telangana, he rose to become the Prime Minister of India and provided political leadership during the historic economic reforms of 1991, which opened a new chapter in India's economic engagement with the world.

The nation subsequently honoured his contribution with the Bharat Ratna. His legacy has been recognised by national leaders across political lines, while his life and work continue to attract the attention of historians, journalists, scholars and admirers in India and abroad.

As the public discussion on the name of Mamnoor Airport continues, political leaders, bureaucrats, historians, journalists, intellectuals and citizens deserve an opportunity to express their views. The views of P. V. Narasimha Rao's family, including his son P. V. Prabhakar Rao, can also form part of this meaningful conversation.

An airport is more than a transport facility—it is the gateway and identity of a region.

P. V. NARASIMHA RAO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WARANGAL

Such a name would honour a distinguished son of Telangana, preserve Warangal's connection with a former Prime Minister, and introduce his remarkable journey to generations of travellers from India and across the world.

Warangal gave India a Prime Minister. India gave him the Bharat Ratna. Now Mamnoor can carry his name to the world.Dr. Jithender Rao Thanugula Senior Journalist The South India Times Bureau Chief President, Telangana Youth Journalists Federation (TYJF)

'Blackmail' Diplomacy: Why India Can't Be A Pawn In US' War On Russia

ASHOK SAJJANHAR



In a surprising, yet not unexpected development, the US House of Representatives, by a substantial majority of 262-159, passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act on September 16, granting explicit statutory authority to the US President to impose tariffs of up to 100% on imports from the top five global buyers of Russian crude oil and natural gas. The US Trade Representative will reassess the top five purchasing nations every 180 days to determine eligibility for tariff measures. Imports of crude oil and natural gas by the EU, and uranium, nuclear materials, fertilizers, etc., by the US, have been provided a carve-out from this legislation. Out of those who voted for the Bill, 58 were Democrats, making this a bipartisan move. Discussions on this legislation had been going on for over a year, with the Bill itself having been tabled in the US Senate on April 1 last year. Senator Lindsey Graham aggressively campaigned for the bill, accusing buyers of Russian crude of funding "blood money". Following the death of Senator Graham in July this year, lawmakers rallied to revive and push the measure through Congress as a memorial legislative effort. On August 7, the Senate passed the bill overwhelmingly in an 86-11 vote. The President signed the bill into law on September 18. India responded promptly to this development. The Ministry of External Affairs stated that India remains "firmly committed" to ensuring energy security for its 1.4 billion people and will continue doing so through diversified sourcing and according to evolving market dynamics. However, there was also a veiled but direct warning to the US. The Ministry added that India had discussed the issue at high levels with US interlocutors over recent months, and that the "potential consequences of the US measure for India-US bilateral relations as well as the international energy market" had been clearly communicated to Washington. It is evident that New Delhi is clear-eyed that the consequences could extend into the wider India-US relationship. India's Stance India has consistently maintained that its oil purchases are driven by energy security, affordability, and national interest. Russian crude became increasingly important to Indian refiners after Western sanctions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. India's message is diplomatic, but firm: decisions over India's energy imports and energy security will be taken only by India, and no third-party interference will be brooked. As is evident, the legislation gives a powerful blunt instrument to President Trump to threaten India and other affected parties. It may be recalled that Trump and PM Modi had agreed during the latter's visit to the White House on February 13 to finalise an interim trade deal. This has not been concluded thus far. Trump could be tempted to threaten India with additional tariffs unless it relents on opening up its agriculture, dairy, and MSME sectors. The US has been trying at least since July 2025 to force the entry of such American products into India, but New Delhi has made it clear that these sectors are protected since they concern the livelihood of farmers with small-holdings, small-scale entrepreneurs, and others whose survival would be threatened if exposed to US competition. India faced relentless pressure when a penalty tariff of 50% was imposed on it by the US for importing Russian oil, but even then, it refused to succumb to it. It is unlikely that such pressures could now force India to change its long-held position. It may be noted that over the last several months, India's imports of oil from Russia have been a little more than 2.5 million barrels a day, representing more than 50% of our daily imports. If the threat of tariffs on India increases, it could scale down its imports from Russia marginally while still maintaining it as a significant bulwark of its energy imports. This would help it to get reprieve from the US tariff threats while fully safeguarding its energy security as well as its exports to the US market, which comprise gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, leather and textile products, many of which are currently exported at low tariffs and by labour-intensive, small-scale industrial units. Biden's Request It would be recalled that India was specifically requested by the Biden administration when the Russia-Ukraine conflict started to increase imports of Russian oil to moderate the global prices of oil and petroleum products.

HCLFoundation undertakes mega coastal cleanup campaign



NOIDA, September 21, 2026— HCLFoundation, which drives the corporate social responsibility agenda of HCLTech in India, today announced the successful completion of cleanup campaign across 50 coastal areas across Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. The campaign was launched on August 11 in collaboration with M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, People's Action for Development, Development Research Communication and Services Centre, SPANDAN, ReefWatch Marine Conservation, Plan@Earth, Animal Warriors Conservation Society and Plan Foundation to mark HCL Group's 50th anniversary. As part of the campaign, on the International Coastal Cleanup Day, HCLFoundation also organized awareness initiatives, including street plays, sand sculptures and marine debris exhibitions, bringing together employees, local communities and environmental partners in Kundapura (Karnataka), Kochi (Kerala), Ramanathapuram & Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu), Ongole (Andhra Pradesh), South & North 24 Paraganas (West Bengal) and Puri (Odisha). The initiative mobilized over 7,000 volunteers and community members, leading to the collection and responsible removal of more than 54,000 kg of marine debris from coastal ecosystems.

"Healthy oceans and clean coastlines are critical to ecological balance, livelihoods and community well-being. Lasting environmental change requires sustained participation from all stakeholders to help foster a culture of stewardship and responsibility towards our coastal ecosystems," said Dr. Nidhi Pundhir, Director, HCLFoundation while participating in a beach cleanup drive in Puri, Odisha. Under its coastal and marine conservation mission, HCLFoundation and its partners have so far removed over 829,610 kilograms of ghost nets and marine debris.

About HCLFoundation

HCLFoundation delivers the corporate social responsibility agenda of HCLTech in India. The Foundation contributes to national and international development goals by investing in long-term sustainable programs and special initiatives with thematic focus on education, nurturing grassroots sports, health and sanitation, skill development and livelihood, environment and disaster risk reduction and response management. To ensure equitable development, child protective strategies, inclusion and gender transformative approaches are at the core of all the programs of the Foundation. To date, the HCLFoundation has positively impacted over 8.5 million lives. To learn more, visit www.hclfoundation.org

About HCLTech

HCLTech is a global technology company, home to more than 223,000 people across 60 countries, delivering industry-leading capabilities centered around AI.

STEP INTO THE FUTURE:

Ai+ Nova 2 Power Combines High Performance with Eye-Catching Design!



Nova 2 Power debuted in dual-tone Blue Gold Fusion and Blue Fusion at a fashion show in New Delhi. It goes on sale on Flipkart on Thursday, September 24, starting at INR 15,999. Ai+ Smartphone has launched the Nova 2 Power 5G, the latest in the Nova 2 Series, merging cutting-edge design with reliable performance and long-lasting power for a tech-savvy generation. In a unique twist on traditional smartphone launches, the Nova 2 Power debuted on the runway in New Delhi, showcasing a seamless blend of fashion and technology. The phone was integrated into contemporary runway looks, emphasising its role as a stylish accessory. Built on the mantra "Design to Inspire. Power to Outlast," the Nova 2 Power centres design in the smartphone experience while delivering the performance and endurance that consumers demand. Where Technology Meets Fashion As smartphones increasingly reflect personal identity, the Nova 2 Power transcends mere functionality. Its runway presentation highlights Ai+ Smartphone's vision of placing the device at the nexus of design, aspiration, and technology. Key features include a striking dual-tone back panel, available in Colour Fusion finishes: Blue Gold Fusion and Blue Fusion, alongside Ocean Green, Deep Purple, and Midnight Black. Each colour adeptly shifts under light, adding a distinctive flair. For the runway, the Nova 2 Power was styled with athleisure pieces by Just Billi by Rashmi Chhabra, showcasing the phone as an integral part of the ensemble. Madhav Sheth, CEO of NxtQuantum Shift Technologies (Ai+ Smartphone), stated, "Today, technology is personal. A smartphone isn't just functional; it's a means of self-expression. With the Nova 2 Power, design matches performance. Its eye-catching Colour Fusion design demands attention, while the internal power supports daily life. Launching it on the runway was a fitting choice for a device at the intersection of tech, design, and personal expression." Design to Inspire. Power to Outlast. The Nova 2 Power doesn't just look good; it's engineered for endurance. A robust chipset ensures smooth multitasking, while the large 7000mAh battery and 33W fast charging keep up with demanding use throughout the day. A fluid, high-refresh-rate display and capable camera system support everything from work to gaming and content creation.

SIX COMPANIES LINE UP IPOS WORTH RS 3,825-CR



New Delhi: Six mainboard companies, including Elevate Campuses and Varmora Granito, are set to tap the primary market next week, seeking to raise a combined Rs 3,825 crore through initial public offerings (IPOs), as fundraising activity continues at a brisk pace in 2026. Alongside these two issues, Bengaluru-based A-One Steels India Ltd, ArMee Infotech Ltd, Swastika Infra and Adroit Industries (India) Ltd will also launch their public offerings, taking the total number of IPOs scheduled for the week to six. The IPOs will be available for public subscription between September 22 and September 28, with most of the issues opening on September 23. 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 activity follows a busy start to September, with 17 IPOs already concluded. The mega issue of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and textile maker Sonaselection India Ltd are currently underway. With these offerings, the number of companies launching IPOs in 2026 is expected to rise to 87, including 23 issues in August. "The primary market has clearly regained momentum, with July and August accounting for nearly 60 per cent of the Rs 83,062 crore raised through IPOs so far in 2026," said Kamraj Singh Negi, Managing Director and CEO, Pantomath Capital. "With the current pace of issuance and the depth of the pipeline, the market has the potential to surpass last year's fundraising levels, although the eventual outcome will depend on market conditions and the timing of issuances, he added. He further said that the outlook for the remainder of the year is particularly constructive, given the depth of the pipeline. As many as 167 companies already have SEBI approval, representing an estimated Rs 3.06 lakh crore of potential issue size, while another 71 companies, with an estimated Rs 1.60 lakh crore, are awaiting approval. "This gives issuers considerable optionality to tap the market as conditions remain supportive," he added.

HCLTECH LAUNCHES HCLTECH PULSE TO ACCELERATE AI-LED TRANSFORMATION FOR FAST-SCALING ENTERPRISES

NOIDA, India, September 2026 — HCLTech, a leading global technology company, today announced the launch of HCLTech Pulse, a dedicated business unit focused on helping enterprises with annual revenues between $500 million and $5 billion safely scale AI, modernize their technology foundations and accelerate growth. HCLTech Pulse is designed for organizations with enterprise-scale ambitions that have historically had to stitch together niche providers across strategy, platforms, implementation and operations. It helps clients move beyond isolated AI initiatives by connecting AI strategy, data, cyber, platforms, engineering and business-process transformation into a single, integrated transformation agenda. "This segment represents an approximately $400 billion global technology-services opportunity and is growing at 7–9% annually," said Peter Bendor-Samuel, Founder and Executive Chairman, Everest Group. "As these organizations move from AI experimentation to scaled deployment, the market will reward providers that combine deep technology expertise with industry context and an integrated delivery model." "AI is rewriting the economics of growth. The real advantage goes to enterprises bold enough to reimagine their processes from the ground up, not just automate what already exists, and to do it safely and responsibly," said C Vijayakumar, CEO and Managing Director, HCLTech. "HCLTech Pulse combines our AI, engineering, cyber, data and industry expertise to help enterprises rethink how work gets done and turn AI investment into measurable business value." "HCLTech Pulse is our response to a clear, unmet need," said Ashish Kumar Gupta, Global Head, New Business Incubation Group, HCLTech. "HCLTech serves many clients at this stage of scale and understands that the greatest value comes from bringing the right focus, senior attention and platform investments to each client's priorities. HCLTech Pulse brings a sharp focus to simplifying transformation and accelerating time to value, so these organizations can pursue their ambitions with a single, accountable partner." HCLTech Pulse extends the company's full portfolio, long trusted by the world's largest enterprises, with a delivery model purpose-built for this segment. The unit will focus on high-priority transformation opportunities, including AI strategy and implementation rooted in safety and responsible AI, data and AI platforms, cloud transformation, application and enterprise-platform modernization, cybersecurity, engineering services and managed services. Through this integrated approach, HCLTech Pulse will help clients develop the capabilities required to adopt AI safely, with greater speed, confidence and governance, and build sustained competitive advantage.

Tata Trusts' Listing Objection, Not Board Meeting, Is 'Real Issue': Chandra's Legal Adviser Harish Salve



The widening Tata Sons–Tata Trusts rift over N Chandrasekaran's continuation as chairman has brought into sharper focus a deeper disagreement — particularly over Tata Sons listing. With Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata opposing a public listing while Trust nominee Venu Srinivasan backing, senior advocate Harish Salve, legal adviser to N Chandrasekaran, has argued that the focus on the contentious board meeting had shifted attention from "real issue". In an exclusive interview with , Salve said the focus had shifted to the board meeting instead of the concerns articulated by the Tata Trusts in a letter to Sir Dorabji Tata Trust Vice Chairperson and Tata Sons Director Venu Srinivasan. "In their words, you are supportive of the listing of this company, the Tata Trusts are against the listing of the company. You, Mr Srinivasan, are, therefore, conflicted," the former Solicitor General of India said. When asked how could the board go against wishes of shareholders regarding Chandrasekaran being reappointed as executive chairperson of Tata Sons, he added: "A lot of short answers for what you said. Bigger issues are at play. Let's not miss the wood for the trees. It's a good forensic ploy to obtain legal advice." Salve stated Tata Sons was moving towards a listing following the Reserve Bank of India's classification of the company as an upper-layer non-banking financial company, and questioned the rationale behind the RBI's directive.

Samsung Galaxy S26 FE Goes on Sale in India at INR 79999 with No-Cost EMI Options and Up to INR 8000 Upgrade Bonus



GURUGRAM, India – September , 2026: Samsung India today announced the sale of the Galaxy S26 FE, the latest addition to the Galaxy S26 family. Priced at INR 79999, the smartphone is available in Pistachio, Blueberry and Graphite. Customers purchasing the Galaxy S26 FE can choose from a range of offers, including an upgrade bonus of up to INR 8000 on exchange of an old device. Customers can also opt for up to 30 months of no-cost EMI with zero down payment, or up to 40 months of no-cost EMI with 10 months of down payment through select NBFC partners. With both EMI tenure options, customers can receive an additional INR 3000 upgrade bonus. The Galaxy S26 FE brings together an enhanced camera system, context-aware Galaxy AI features, powerful everyday performance and a large 6.7-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2X display. It also features an Exynos 2500 processor, 4900mAh battery and IP68-rated water and dust resistance. Capture more of everyday life The Galaxy S26 FE features a triple rear camera system with a 50MP wide camera, 12MP ultra-wide camera and 8MP telephoto camera with 3x optical zoom. A 12MP front camera handles selfies and video calls. My Fan Cam helps users keep a selected person centred in the frame as they move. The feature automatically reframes video, reducing the need for manual adjustments. For moving subjects and travel videos, Super Steady with Horizontal Lock helps maintain smoother and more level footage. Samsung's Nightography capabilities help users capture brighter, clearer images in low-light conditions, while Photo Assist helps refine images using natural-language prompts. With Gemini Omni, users can create and edit video clips using photos and videos stored in their Gallery, making it easier to turn everyday memories into shareable content. Eligible customers also receive a six-month trial of Google AI Pro (1), which includes expanded AI capabilities and 5TB of cloud storage. Galaxy AI that adapts to the user The Galaxy S26 FE runs One UI 9.2 (2), which brings context-aware Galaxy AI features designed to make everyday interactions more intuitive. The updated Now Brief provides personalised information through customisable briefing cards, including weather updates and wellness insights. Users can also create their own cards using a simple prompt. Now Brief can bring together relevant information from supported third-party apps and notifications, helping users access information and take action throughout the day, including through Nudge. Circle to Search with Google allows users to search for multiple items at the same time. This can help identify products, places, objects and other content on the screen. Performance for everyday use The Galaxy S26 FE features the Exynos 2500 processor (3), built on a 3nm process. It is designed to support everyday tasks, AI features and demanding applications. The smartphone has a 6.7-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2X display with a refresh rate of up to 120Hz.

Earnings Deliver, FIIs Return: India's Breadth Widens as Gold Surges and AI Finds Its Footing

Mumbai, 21st September 2026: PL Asset Management, the asset management arm of PL Capital Group, has released its PMS Monthly Newsletter for August 2026. India's Q1 FY27 corporate earnings accelerated to a ten-quarter high, foreign institutional investors returned with their strongest monthly inflow since September 2024, and mid- and small-cap stocks led the market's advance — even as the Nifty 50 slipped 1.24% amid a hawkish Fed, a surging gold price and an Nvidia-led revival in global AI sentiment. Four global forces shaped August. Nvidia's blowout second-quarter results and a 70% revenue-growth projection reignited the AI capex cycle, sending the stock up ~9% in a day and lifting semiconductors and hyperscalers worldwide (MSCI World +2.9%; MSCI EM +3.6%). A nascent Iran-Oman shipping framework eased the Strait of Hormuz bottleneck without reversing July's oil surge — Brent rose 7.9% for the month, touching ~$94.83/bbl after a 21 August Iranian missile launch before settling near $86–$89/bbl. Fed Chair Kevin Warsh struck a hawkish tone at Jackson Hole, keeping a September hike in play, even as a surprise US Treasury long-bond buying programme weighed on the dollar (DXY –0.5%) on fresh fiscal-debasement fears. That narrative drove gold up 10% to a three-month high of ~$4,657/oz intra-month, Bitcoin up 23% to ~$77,357, and the Bloomberg Agriculture Spot Index up ~13.4% on continuing Hormuz-linked shipping disruption. Global equities diverged again. Taiwan Weighted led (+6.98%), followed by Nasdaq 100 (+4.18%) and Shanghai Composite (+4.02%) as the AI trade found its footing, while CAC 40 (–2.06%) and Bovespa (–1.31%) lagged. The Nifty 50 slipped 1.24% to close August at 24,074.86, with the rupee up 0.25% to 95.18/$ as India's 10-year yield eased 13 bps to ~6.64% — even as the earnings and flow story continued strengthening beneath the index-level dip. Domestic Buying Streak Extends as Foreign Flows Turn Decisively DIIs — mutual funds, insurers and pension funds — extended their net buying streak to 38 consecutive months in August, the longest since 2007, absorbing the FII selling that persisted between March and June. FIIs delivered the reversal the market was waiting for: ?29,631 crore invested in August, the strongest monthly inflow since September 2024 and a 23-month high, a second straight month of buying after four months of heavy selling that totalled ~?2.1 lakh crore. Combined with July's ?20,200 crore, the two-month FII total of ?49,831 crore broadly offset the entire June outflow. The buying was selective, not index-wide: financials led (?6,535 crore in the first fortnight), followed by autos, IT, consumer services and healthcare, while telecom, capital goods, power and realty saw outflows — explaining why the Nifty 50 still dipped even as broader indices outperformed. The ownership base keeps broadening: stocks with meaningful foreign holding have grown from ~900 to ~1,300 over four years, even as aggregate foreign ownership sits near a multi-year low as a share of market cap — rotation and re-engagement rather than a wholesale return, leaving more room than usual for incremental buying to move prices. Structural domestic demand continues to underpin the buying: monthly SIP inflows into Indian mutual funds now run at an estimated ?23,000–24,000 crore, a pace that has climbed steadily every year since 2020 and operates largely independently of FII sentiment cycles. Earnings Acceleration Confirms the Growth Story Q1 FY27 delivered the broadest earnings acceleration in ten quarters. Nifty 50 PAT grew at its fastest pace in 10 consecutive quarters, prompting Motilal Oswal, PhillipCapital and other brokerages to raise FY27 estimates, while the broader market ran hotter still — mid-cap PAT up ~20% YoY, small-cap PAT up ~28%. Sector leadership was broad: capital goods, autos, metals, financials and healthcare all beat, while IT, chemicals and real estate lagged.

More than 1.9 million urged to evacuate as powerful typhoon batters Japan



The Japan Meteorological Agency updated its guidance on the typhoon at 20:45 local time (12:45 BST). The centre of Typhoon Dujuan is still offshore to the east of the Izu islands. Sustained wind speeds are 89mph, with gusts of 123mph, although the strongest winds remain offshore. Across southern and eastern Honshu there could still be sustained wind speeds of 78mph with higher gusts. The typhoon will not make direct landfall but there is some very heavy rain on its leading edge that has already pushed into south-eastern Honshu. Parts of Chibu prefecture, which includes Tokyo, have seen more than 500mm of rain in the last two days. Oshima Town, south-west of Tokyo, recorded 800mm. There is plenty more rainfall to come up until Tuesday evening with another 100-200mm expected. Heavy rain across the Izu islands has led to the highest level of landslide warning. In eastern Japan, residents have been urged to remain vigilant for further landslides, flooding, lightning strikes and tornadoes as the typhoon clears. Rough seas will continue into Tuesday but the expected wave heights will drop from between 6-9 metres to 5-7 metres. Dujuan continues to track away from Japan on Tuesday in a north-easterly direction, with eastern Honshu seeing the heaviest of the rain. A much quieter day of weather is expected but disruption is likely to continue. The storm will eventually weaken and lose its energy as it moves out of the warm waters. With the government's downgrading of alert levels, there are signs that the worst of the storm could be abating, but Typhoon Dujuan has wreaked havoc across multiple Japanese prefectures. From power to flights, here's what's been happening: Almost two million people across six prefectures have been urged to evacuate by Japan's ministry of internal affairs More than 50,000 households have been left without power, according to Tokyo's power company, with Chiba being the worst impacted prefecture Across Monday, 384 flights have been cancelled, following the cancellation of 33 on Sunday One woman is feared to have been buried alive after a landslide in Kanagawa, while another man was taken to hospital in Chiba This is the 25th typhoon in the region this year We had the height of the storm with the typhoon passing by the Kanto region in the past hour but finally we've seen the rain let up after a full day of downpour. I'm no longer hearing the rain battering the windows. The government downgraded alert levels too. Tokyo was at a level 4 out of the highest level 5, but it's recently been downgraded to level 2, which is an advisory. It's been a long and very wet day here in Tokyo to kick off Silver Week, which is our string of public holidays. Residents usually enjoy travels and going to events but this year's 25th typhoon has unfortunately thwarted many plans. The typhoon seems to have passed through and hit Chiba prefecture the hardest, which is located just east of Tokyo. Even though the rain has let up, there may be reports of damage from today. We likely won't know the extent until the morning as it's completely dark now. But we've seen videos on social media of some cars under water and smaller landslides. The typhoon also continues to travel along the Pacific coast, toward northern Japan. So we'll have to watch for any damage there too. A satellite view shows Typhoon Dujuan approaching Japan Some research suggests that Japan has become more exposed to destructive storms in recent decades. But climate change is not thought to be increasing the number of these storms globally, and could even make them less common in some regions. As temperatures rise, typhoons that do form are likely to become more intense on average, however. Warmer ocean waters mean storms can pick up more energy, leading to higher wind speeds. And because a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture, these storms could also bring heavier rainfall. This year, El Niño - the natural weather phenomenon bringing warmer water to parts of the tropical Pacific - is another factor. El Niño doesn't have a clear effect on the total number of typhoons, but it can affect where typhoons form.

German Chancellor Merz calls state election a 'disaster' for his party but vows to stay on



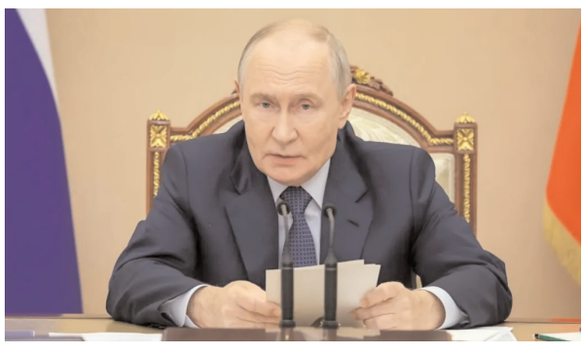
German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has called a local election defeat for his party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), a "disaster" but vowed to remain in post. In the north-eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the CDU fell short of a 5% threshold to enter parliament, underperforming against what had already been projected to be the party's worst ever result in the area. Far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) was on track to win the most votes in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, but it is unlikely to govern as other parties refuse to work with it. Meanwhile in Berlin, the ruling CDU was on course to be beaten by Die Linke (The Left). Merz is under mounting pressure after months of poor approval ratings, and there have been rumours he could be replaced mid-term in a so-called chancellor swap. Following the results, AfD co-leader Alice Weidel was asked by the BBC how long Merz has left in office, to which she replied, in English, "Pretty soon, he's going to leave". The two local elections took place on Sunday, a fortnight after the CDU saw its vote halved in the state of Saxony-Anhalt, where the AfD won a major victory. Echoing comments he made after that defeat, Merz told reporters at the party's Berlin headquarters on Sunday that he would forge ahead with his coalition government's plans to push through a package of economic, tax and welfare reforms. "The reforms have to come," he insisted. "I am taking on this responsibility, because I want to move our country forward". "What needs to be done now requires backbone, steadfastness and patience," Merz said. "I will demonstrate this as CDU party chairman and, above all, as chancellor of our country." "I would even go so far as to say that these reforms are the antidote to the authoritarian poison that, with the fascination of authoritarianism, is penetrating ever deeper into our society," Merz added. But Weidel argues: "We are the strongest force and have reached the mainstream of the population." Some branches of the populist AfD are classed as right-wing extremist by domestic intelligence, a designation it strongly rejects. But its anti-immigration, Germany first, and Russian-friendly agenda has found fertile ground in the country's former communist east. The CDU leader quickly went on the offensive, declaring that he is going nowhere. Merz has long coveted the top job in German politics, and likely won't give it up easily. Polls for both states closed at 18:00 local time (17:00 BST), with a final result expected later on Sunday night, or even Monday morning. Public broadcasters ZDF and ARD put the AfD slightly ahead in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, where the CDU has likely posted its worst result in any state since World War Two. The AfD was projected to take 38% of the vote share in the state, followed in second place by the centre-left SPD, on 35%. For Berlin, the broadcasters put the CDU on 19% of the vote share, behind Die Linke - which has never topped polls in the capital before - on nearly 26%. The AfD also looks set to increase its vote in Berlin, with a projected 16% of the vote. Prior to Sunday's elections, there had been intense speculation in Germany that Merz could be replaced unless his party's political fortunes improved. Earlier this week, the leaders of eight German states backed Merz, who has only been chancellor for 16 months.

Three arrested in South Africa over one of nine women's bodies



Three suspects have been detained in South Africa in connection with the murder of a woman in an area east of Johannesburg – the last of nine recent cases in that region that has shone a spotlight on the level of violence against women in the country. Under pressure to solve the spate of murders which has involved victims' bodies being dumped on a roadside, police have described the arrests of the three – a man and two women - as a "breakthrough". The three suspects are due in court on Monday. Their case relates to the death of Jabulile Ntimba, whose half-naked body was found wrapped in a sheet in Dawn Park last Thursday. Several of the recent victims were discovered partially clothed and with injuries, but police have stressed that they have not established whether all the deaths are connected or whether a serial killer is responsible. Addressing journalists on Monday, deputy police chief Lt Gen Tebello Mosikili said that "a team of analysts are working hard to see if there are links to all these cases" but the killing of Ntimba "appears to be an indication of a murder that stemmed from a relationship... this includes... a possible love triangle". South Africa has one of the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world.

Russia's elections had few surprises - but how the Kremlin uses the results will be crucial



Many things about Russia are hard to predict. The result of this election wasn't one of them. In a political system tightly controlled by the Kremlin, the party of power – United Russia –had been widely expected to remain the largest in parliament by a large margin. There were no upsets. No surprises. No other party came close. Preliminary results suggest that United Russia, which is supported by President Putin, is on course to retain its constitutional majority in the State Duma - with even bigger numbers than last time round. And that's after more than four-and-half years of war on Ukraine, which have resulted in massive battlefield losses for the Russian army, economic difficulties and, most recently, widespread petrol shortages due to Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian oil facilities. Those parties trailing far behind, but which have cleared the 5% threshold and made it into the new Duma, featured in the previous parliament, too: a Duma that was fully behind the Kremlin and the so-called special military operation. One party that didn't make it into parliament was Yabloko. Yabloko had been the only anti-war political party permitted to take part in the election - permission that was short-lived. Just twelve days after being registered for the vote it was removed from the ballot (the party list) by the Supreme Court, an indication of Kremlin concern that Yabloko's pro-peace message was gaining too much traction with the public. The party isn't surprised that the new Duma looks like being as pro-Kremlin as the previous one. "What other result can there be if there were ten parties on the ballot and they all support the policies of Putin?" Yabloko party chairman Nikolai Rybakov tells me. "I don't think the Duma will change. They'll vote 100% for the policies of Putin just like they did." Although Yabloko had been struck off the party list, around a hundred of its candidates remained in individual constituency races. According to preliminary results, none have won seats. The party claims it has come under sustained pressure. "Some of our candidates, who should have been running, are in jail, many were barred from running and some of our election observers weren't registered and were unable to keep an eye on the voting," Nikolai says. Ahead of the final day of this three-day election, Ukraine launched a large-scale drone attack on the Moscow area. Three people were killed in Moscow Region, while in the capital the city's oil refinery was hit. At a polling station near the oil refinery, I spoke to voters about the attack. There was no sense of surprise. More a quiet resignation. With Russia's war on Ukraine now in its fifth year, Muscovites have grown used to their city periodically becoming a front line. "People in the Donbas, as well as in Bryansk, and Belgorod near the Ukrainian border, hear this kind of thing every day," a voter called Viktor told me. "And they just get on with their lives." The outcome of this election was predictable. What happens next is less clear. The Kremlin is likely to use the result to claim that most Russians have rallied behind the president, and to justify future policies and subsequent decisions on the course of the war.

SEVEN ETHIOPIAN REBEL GROUPS FORM NEW ALLIANCE



Several of the rebel groups which have been fighting the Ethiopian authorities in different parts of the country have announced they have formed an alliance to remove the government in Addis Ababa. The alliance brings together the Fano militia in Amhara, the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and four other smaller groupings in a coalition named Alliance for Survival. The seven groups accuse Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government of presiding over "war, genocide, mass destruction, and utter poverty", claiming Ethiopia is at risk of disintegration. The BBC has asked the government for comment. Ethiopia has faced years of armed conflict in Oromia and Amhara, the most populous states in the country. There have also been renewed tensions in the northern Tigray region, where a two-year civil war left hundreds of thousands dead and displaced millions. An African-Union peace deal ended that war in 2022, but there have been fears of a return to a full-scale conflict, with both sides accusing each other of violating that agreement. Besides Oromia, Amhara and Tigray, the new alliance also includes groups based in three other regions - Somali.



US strikes on alleged drug boats could be crimes against humanity

US AND CHINA DISCUSS AI SAFETY PLAN AHEAD OF TRUMP-XI SUMMIT



Top US and Chinese officials have discussed creating a new "notification mechanism" for AI incidents that could affect national security, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told reporters on Sunday. Bessent made the comments after what he called "successful" talks with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in New York. The meeting came as US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping are due to hold a summit in Washington later this week. AI has come under intense scrutiny in recent days after researchers warned of the potential risks posed by the technology and some of the industry's most high profile figures called for developers to take a more cautious approach. "We think that, just like with any cross-border activity, that moving from opaque to more transparency between the number one and the number two AI powers in the world is very important," Bessent told reporters after the talks. He said the meeting also covered other topics, including plans to "operationalise" a process to identify potential tariff cuts on goods called the Board of Trade. A truce in the tariffs war between the world's two biggest economies is due to expire on 10 November. The BBC has contacted the Chinese embassy in the US for comment. Chinese state news agency Xinhua said the two sides had "candid, in-depth and constructive exchanges on key economic and trade issues", noting that they had discussed AI. Bessent said in a post on X on Sunday that the talks "help lay the groundwork for President Trump to advance America's economic interests and deliver results for the American people." The US and China are locked in a race to dominate the AI and technology industries. In recent days Washington has faced calls to slow down the development of AI over fears abouts its potential negative impact on humanity. Trump has largely dismissed those concerns, arguing that there are sufficient policies around AI and that the US cannot lose its edge to China. He said earlier this month "whoever wins in AI, wins." In May, when Xi hosted Trump in Beijing, ways to collaborate on AI was one of the issues the two leaders discussed.

INDIA CLINCH SILVER IN MEN'S 10M AIR RIFLE AT ASIAN GAMES



Nagoya: India clinched a silver medal in the men's 10m air rifle team event at the Asian Games here on Monday, September 21, with shooters Rudrankksh Patil and Himanshu Dhillon also qualifying for the individual final. Rudrankksh, Himanshu and Parth Mane finished with a team total of 1890.1. China claimed the gold with a world record team total of 1899.0 points, bettering their previous mark by 0.6 points. South Korea produced a strong fightback but had settle for bronze with a total of 1884.2 points. Rudrankksh finished with a score of 631.8 points to occupy third place in the individual qualification standings, while Himanshu's 630.0 put himself in seventh. Parth, on the other hand, missed out on a place in the individual final after finishing 10th with 628.3 points. The silver added to India's medal tally in shooting, which had begun with another second-place finish in the women's 10m air rifle team. Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Maskar and Vidarsa Vinod combined to win silver for India in the women's team event, before Elavenil added another medal in the individual competition. India's shooting contingent had produced a record 22-medal haul — seven gold, nine silver and six bronze — at the Hangzhou Asian Games. The Indian men's shooting squad won a prestigious Silver medal at the Asian Games 2026 on Monday morning. Competing in the Men's Team 10m Rifle Final, the trio of Rudrankksh Patil, Himanshu Dhillon and Parth Mane in Asian Games 2026 produced a combined score of 1890.1 points to secure second place on the podium for India at Asian Games. All three shooters displayed great accuracy and calm nerves across their qualification series, ensuring India stayed firmly in the medal positions throughout the contest. China Sets World Record For Gold The gold medal went to China, who delivered a masterclass at the shooting range. The Chinese team registered a staggering score of 1899 points, setting a brand-new World Record in the event. South Korea claimed the bronze medal with an overall tally of 1884.2 points, finishing just behind the Indian lineup in an intense battle on the firing line. High Benchmark In Team Shooting This medal marks another successful chapter in Men's Team Shooting as every Indian Men Shooter stepped up to deliver under high pressure. With more medal events lined up on the Asian Games 2026 schedule, this podium finish gives a massive boost to the Indian camp across the official Asian Games 2026 events list at the Aichi Nagoya 2026 Asian Games in Aichi Nagoya 2026.

TRAVEL ISSUES CONTINUE TO HAUNT INDIAN SHOOTERS AT ASIAN GAMES DESPITE TWO MEDALS



India opened their medal tally at the Asian Games 2026 on Sunday, with rifle shooters Elavenil Valarivan, Sonam Uttam Maskar and Vidarsa K. Vinod winning silver medals for the country. The trio secured silver in the women's 10m air rifle team event, while Elavenil went on to claim another silver in the individual competition at the Aichi Prefectural General Shooting Range. Despite the medals, the Indian shooting contingent has continued to face significant difficulties in Japan due to poor travel arrangements by the organisers. According to the sources of NDTV, the Indian shooters and coaches have been subjected to multiple logistical challenges since arriving in Aichi-Nagoya for the Games. The timeline of events is as follows: September 15: The shooting team landed in Japan and was made to wait for nearly three hours at the airport before the players and coaches were escorted to their hotel. September 16: Rest day. September 17: Shooters and coaches were forced to wait for another three hours as no bus arrived to transport them to the competition venue. September 18 and 19: An additional bus was allocated, but the entire team was still unable to travel together to the shooting range for practice sessions. September 20: Despite India's two silver medals, it was a frustrating day for the shooters and coaches. The bus did not have enough seats for everyone, forcing the coaches to deboard so that the athletes could reach the venue on time. The shooters then had to wait for the coaches to arrive before beginning their preparations. September 21: Following a delayed and difficult entry process, the shooting team had to wait around 20 minutes to board a bus due to long queues. While organisers had estimated the travel time from the hotel to the shooting range at 80 minutes, the journey took more than two hours. Shooting Schedule for September 21 Men's 10m Air Rifle Individual Qualification: Himanshu Dhillon, Parth Rakesh Mane and Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil at 6.15 AM.

India-Born Japan Cricketer Waiting For Special "All-Bihar" Meeting With Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan



Bihar-born Japanese cricketer Abhishek Anand wants a special meeting with fellow Biharis Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Ishan Kishan as Japan host India for a one-off T20I at the Sano International Cricket Ground in Sano on Tuesday. Abhishek, who had to switch borders from India to Japan for the love of the sport, highlighted that Sooryavanshi is currently his favourite player and that he wants to meet him and Ishan if there is a chance. Although he has not been selected in the squad for the Asiad and the India game, he would still be around with the team. "Currently, everyone's favourite is Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. But yeah, all the players in the Indian team are equally good," he told IANS, before expressing, "of course, (I want to meet) my Bihari brothers, Ishan Kishan and Sooryavanshi." A special message for the 15-year-old rising sensation? Abhishek says he is very eager to see the Indian team and Sooryavanshi in Sano, and then in Nisshin, for the Asiad. "We are eagerly waiting to host the Indian team. We are eagerly waiting for this match. And (I hope) the India-Japan bond should stay strong so that we can do well in the future," Abhishek said. His love for cricket brought him from India to Japan; while studying in college, he received a placement offer from Accenture Japan. "So, the journey in Japan is quite unbelievable. I never thought that I would play in the Japan team," Abhishek further said. "We were getting placements in our college. Japanese companies came to our college. We never thought that we would go for an abroad placement. I just applied and tried to get in touch about an interview to see what the interview abroad was like. So, I sat for the interview with Accenture Japan. "And then I got selected for Accenture Japan. After that, I was given 2 hours to decide whether to accept this offer. So, I was thinking that I didn't have any plans to go abroad. I wanted to stay in India and continue my passion for cricket as well as my job. So, during those 2 hours, I thought a lot about what to do, whether I should go to Japan or not.

Elversberg: The Bundesliga Club In Town Of 15,000 People Taking On German Giants



Whenever German football is talked about, it's the Bundesliga's fan culture that is bound to be a part of the discussion. The ultras, the tifos, and even the pyrotechnics create a mesmerising atmosphere that is unique to the Bundesliga. However, the promotion of Elversberg to Germany's top-flight has given a new dimension to the Bundesliga's fan culture. It's the first time the newly promoted club is playing in the Bundesliga, and they already have two big wins against Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Monchengladbach. As the players look to take the team to greater heights this season, it's important to not forget the fans from the little-known city of Elversberg who are standing tall behind their club. We can always wonder if there's a club in the world where almost everyone in town could fit inside the local football stadium at the same time. That becomes true for SV Elversberg, a club hailing from a German city with a population of roughly 13,000 to 15,000 people. Nicknamed the Dorfverein (the "village club"), Elversberg is scripting a fairy tale in German football that no one has seen before, and at the same time, competing with the giants like Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Bayer Leverkusen, etc. In fact, in their first four matches, Elversberg have only suffered a defeat against Bayern. The club has failed to score a goal in only one game so far, against Schalke, in what was a 0-0 draw. A Stadium That Can Fit Everyone What makes the small Bundesliga club is the fact that it has a unique fan-driven story. What summarises the it's club, the Ursapharm-Arena an der Kaiserlinde. The stadium holds around 10,000 spectators in the ongoing season, though the official capacity is a little more. When you think about those numbers, the realisation comes that on matchdays, almost the entire local population can walk through the gates to cheer for their team. Walking around Spiesen-Elversberg, located in the small German state of Saarland, it's tough to find tall buildings or corporate offices.

Why Suchika Tariyal Lost When Fight Ended In A Draw?



India's Suchika Tariyal secured a historic bronze medal in the women's 60kg mixed martial arts event at the Asian Games 2026 on Monday. Tariyal's campaign ended in the semifinals, where she suffered a narrow defeat to Singapore's Hui Hoon Teo in a bout that went into overtime. The Indian fighter lost by the barest of margins, ending her hopes of reaching the gold-medal contest but confirming her place on the podium in MMA's Asian Games debut. Following the loss, an emotional Suchika broke down and decided to challenge the judges' decision. As per the rules, an athlete who protests against a judging decision must pay a non-refundable fee of USD 100. In Suchika's case, the fee was paid by the Indian MMA Federation president Nikhil Kunder.

Normally, a bout is judged by a panel of three officials. However, in the event of an arbitration request, a jury comprising 10 members reviews the contest. The panel examined all available footage and eventually concluded that the fight between Suchika and Hui Hoon Teo had ended in a draw. Why was Suchika given a bronze medal? After determining that the bout was a draw, the jury applied the competition's tie-break rule, which states that the lighter fighter is declared the winner.

Since Suchika weighed 700 grams more than her opponent, the decision went in Hui Hoon Teo's favour. As a result, Suchika missed out on a place in the final and had to settle for the bronze medal.

R Madhavan Reacts After Son Vedaant's Agonising Near-Miss At Asian Games

India have so far won 14 medals in swimming at the Asian Games. The last time India won a medal in swimming at the Asian Games was at the 2014 edition, when Sandeep Sejwal clinched bronze in the men's 50m breaststroke. This time, there are several stars in the swimming contingent, including Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash, among others. Vedaant Madhavan, son of actor R. Madhavan, is also part of the squad. He is part of the men's 4x200m freestyle relay team, with Sajan Prakash, Dhakshan Shashikumar and Aneesh Sunil being the other members, which failed to make the final on Monday.



Asian Games 2026: Roshibina Devi, Aryan One Win Away From Assuring Wushu Medals For India



Indian wushu players Roshibina Devi and Aryan advanced to the quarterfinals of their respective events in the ongoing Asian Games 2026 after securing victories in their bouts on Monday in Aichi-Nagoya. Roshibina progressed to the quarterfinals of the women's 60kg event after defeating Bangladesh's Most Khatun.

The Indian wushu player, who already has two Asian Games medals, a silver at Hangzhou and a bronze in Jakarta, will compete on Tuesday evening for a place in the semifinals. Both Roshibina and Aryan are a win away from assuring a medal each for India in Wushu. Meanwhile, Aryan advanced to the quarterfinals of the men's 56kg category after beating Afghanistan's Shahzada Safi 2-0. He will next compete on Tuesday for a place in the semifinals. Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj finished eighth in the men's 50m backstroke final, clocking 25.52 seconds. China's Xu Jiayu won the race with a Games record time of 24.04 seconds. Earlier, India registered a dominant 3-0 victory over Bangladesh in the men's badminton team event at the Asian Games 2026, with Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty and Kidambi Srikanth winning their respective singles matches. Lakshya Sen gave India a perfect start, defeating Ayman Ibn Jaman 21-4, 21-12 in the opening match. The Indian shuttler comfortably dominated the contest to put India ahead 1-0. Ayush Shetty extended India's lead with another commanding performance, beating Gourab Singha 21-4, 21-13 in the second match.

With India needing one more win to seal the tie, experienced campaigner Kidambi Srikanth stepped up and delivered a straight-game victory against Al Amin Jumar. Srikanth won the match 21-15, 21-9 to complete India's 3-0 triumph.

FROM NCC RIFLE SHOOTING TO ASIAN GAMES SILVER: KERALAM'S VIDARSA VINOD SCRIPTS HISTORY



=The first serious rifle that Vidarsa K. Vinod ever held in her hands did not belong to her, or to her family, or to anyone she knew. It was a Walther with a peep sight, donated some years ago to the Kozhikode District Rifle Association by the Calicut Parsi Anjuman Trust, which is the sort of gift that one small institution makes to another and that usually ends its life gathering dust in a storeroom. She turned up at the association in 2018, sent along by the NCC like hundreds of students before her. In Japan, shooting for India at the Asian Games, she put up 630.4 points and came home with a silver medal. It is worth dwelling on how close the whole thing was. India's three shooters, Sonam Uttam Maskar (634.1), Elavenil Valarivan (633.5) and Vidarsa (630.4), finished with a combined 1898.0, while Japan, shooting in front of their home crowd, ended on 1897.1. That is a margin of nine-tenths of a single point, which, in a sport measured in tenths, is barely a margin at all. China won gold with a world record of 1904.2. This was a team event, which means the scores are simply added together and every shot belongs to everybody. Vidarsa was the third scorer, the one carrying the smallest number, and if she had dropped a single point anywhere across her 60 shots, India would have finished fourth and the three of them would have had no medals. What's interesting is that nothing in her life before 2018 pointed anywhere near a shooting range. She grew up with music and dance, and at Sacred Heart UP School in Thiruvambady she competed in both, going as far as the district level, which in Keralam is a perfectly respectable place for a childhood talent to end. Then she enrolled at Guruvayurappan College in Kozhikode for a BA in Sociology, signed up for the National Cadet Corps the way students do, and the NCC put a rifle in her hands. Vipin Das V. was at that camp. He is now the chief coach at the Kozhikode District Rifle Association, and he began coaching her the same year.

KARTIKEYA GUMMAKONDA TURNS DIRECTOR, MAKES A RETURN TO CINEMA WITH 'COMEBACK'



Kartikeya Gummakonda is one of the most talented young heroes in Tollywood and an inspiration to many when it comes to fitness. He earned huge praise with his standout performance in RX 100. Besides playing lead roles, he has made a strong impact as a versatile actor, starring as a stylish villainous side in Nani's Gang Leader and winning over Tamil audiences with his earnest performance in Kollywood superstar Ajith's Valimai. It has been over two years since his last film, and Kartikeya is now ready to make his comeback.

After a two-year gap as a lead actor, Kartikeya is starring in a film titled Comeback. In an exciting upgrade, this one also marks his directorial debut. The project was announced today, marking his birthday (September 21). A specialy glimpse was also released on the occasion. The film is being produced under the Kartikeya Creative Works banner, with his wife Lohitha Reddy serving as the producer.

"It has been three years since we last heard his name in the boxing world. I thought he might have moved on to a different profession by now. You actually remember that it's been three years? I didn't even realize that... But what is he going to do now, after all this time? Yeah... that's true. In a way, it feels like a suicide mission. We don't know what he has been up to for the past three years. What has he been doing all this time?" As the voice-over plays, the names of the key technicians flash across the screen in title cards. The scene cuts to the hero. The glimpse then shows him skipping and boxing.Kartikeya looks as fit and handsome as ever. The background score composed by Vijay Bulganin is impressive. The title Comeback is then revealed. The glimpse also confirms that Kartikeya will be playing a boxer in the film.

RASHMIKA MANDANNA ESSAYS FIERCE TRIBAL WOMAN IN 'MYSAA' TEASER



The teaser of the upcoming film 'Mysaa' was unveiled on Sunday. The teaser opens with Rashmika Mandanna's titular character, Mysaa's voiceover, as it sets the tone for her intense journey. She says in the teaser, "I am tired, I have stopped, I have lost". She is portrayed as a fearless and formidable woman who refuses to back down, choosing to fight like a lone warrior. The teaser features striking underwater sequences, with the sequence of Rashmika sitting at the bottom of the water while holding a sickle, creating a haunting and goosebumps-inducing moment. Rashmika stepped into the role of a Gond tribal woman, a demanding character that required intense physical preparation and the execution of challenging action sequences. Earlier, Rashmika reportedly suffered a serious hip injury while filming an intense dance sequence. The actress pushed through demanding action and dance schedules, which led to a complete tendon detachment in her hip. As per media reports, doctors were surprised by the severity of the injury, stating that this kind of tendon damage is usually seen in athletes who undergo rigorous physical training. The actress was advised a complete rest for 6 weeks by medical experts. Her recovery was followed by a structured rehabilitation program to aid her recovery and help restore strength. Produced by Unformula Films, 'Mysaa' is an action-drama directed by debutant Rawindra Pulle. The film is being mounted on a grand scale with an emphasis on large-scale action and technically ambitious vision. The makers have yet again confirmed that Mysaa is slated for a theatrical release in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam on November 27, 2026. Rashmika Mandanna is currently enjoying the best phase of her career, with major films across languages. At such a crucial stage, choosing a film like Mysaa is a bold and risky decision. Directed by Rawindra Pulle, the action drama features Rashmika in a never-seen-before avatar as a fierce tribal woman.

RAASHI KHANNA IS BACK, BOLDER THAN EVER

Raashi Khanna's fashion journey these days has become a regular talking point, with the actress consistently leaning into bold, plunging necklines, whether she's in a traditional saree or a sharp modern outfit. Her latest pictures, featuring a crisp white blazer dress with a daring deep-cut neckline, are proof that this styling choice has become somewhat of a signature for her. Some might call it repetitive, but there's a clear pattern of intent here, Raashi seems to be using the plunging neckline as a way to experiment with silhouettes, whether it's paired with structured tailoring or flowing drapes. It keeps her looks fresh, confident, and unmistakably her own, rather than following one fixed style formula. Love it or debate it, there's no denying Raashi Khanna knows how to make heads turn. Her fashion choices may spark conversation, but her styling game continues to be sharp, consistent, and camera-ready, easily earning her a well-deserved 100/100 on the fashion scale. Meanwhile, on the work front, Raashi Khanna has quite a lineup keeping her busy. She's currently filming Tamil movies Dharman, Rowdy and Co, the Hindi projects Bridge, and an untitled film by Anees Bazmee, while Talaakhon Mein Ek is currently delayed.



'I HATE MARRIAGE': 'APPUDE PELLAA?' LYRICAL SONG RELEASED

The lyrical song 'Appude Pellaa?' from the upcoming film 'I Hate Marriage' has been released. Starring Sugi Vijay, Juppy Bhadra, and Harika Rajender in the lead roles,

the film is directed by Paramesh Renikuntla. Produced by Dayanand Madham and Karthik Vempati under the Arya Cinema banner, the film is slated for release in the last week of October.

The lyrical video of 'Appude Pellaa?' was unveiled by renowned producer Bekkem Venugopal at a press meet held on Monday.

The song has been penned and composed by Varikuppala Yadagiri, while Sahithi Chaganti has lent her vocals.



Parents' Encouragement Is The Biggest Strength To Achieve Dreams: Director Nandini Reddy

The latest film Impure, produced by Varahi Mallipamula and Sridevi Mallipamula, recently celebrated its grand pre-release event after completing its shoot. Directed by Nishanthi Ivani, the film stars Sai Krishna, Yashna, and Abhijith in the lead roles. The makers unveiled the film's trailer and a song during the event, which was attended by acclaimed director Nandini Reddy as the chief guest. Director Nandini Reddy said, "Namaste to everyone. There are two main reasons why I came to this event. The first is my mentor, Krishna Vamsi garu. He called and asked me to attend, and I simply couldn't say no. The second reason is director Nishanthi. I've known her for nearly 15 years, and she's one of my closest friends. We recently worked together on Inti Bangaram. Nishanthi actually had a role in that film, but it was removed during editing. Sorry, Nishanthi, we'll definitely work together soon. Every Telugu person dreams of making a film, and that's what makes Telugu audiences so special. Everyone calls Prudhvi sir '30 Years Industry,' but for me, he's Evergreen Prudhvi because he's one of the most talented actors across Telugu and Tamil cinema. We all worked as assistant directors before he became such a celebrated actor.

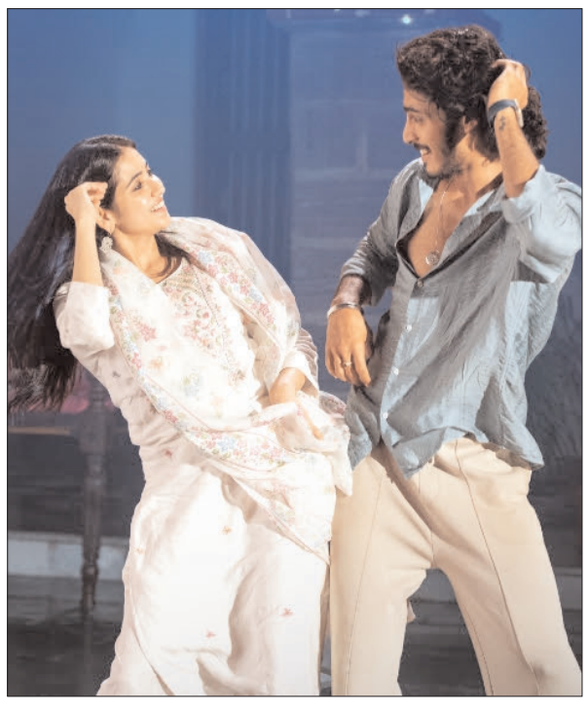


I must especially appreciate Sridevi garu for fulfilling her daughter's dream. Parents' encouragement is the biggest reason we can achieve anything in life. I wholeheartedly wish Impure becomes a big success and brings recognition to everyone associated with it."

Sara does phtoshoot ahead of her upcoming project "Udta Teer"



Third Single 'Naa Prema Devatha' from Chakkora - Lunar Love Bird



The lyrical video of the third single, "Naa Prema Devatha," from the musical love story Chakkora – Lunar Love Bird was officially unveiled by Melody Brahma Mani Sharma. The film is produced by Dr. Chintada Hemarao under the High Joy Commercials banner in association with VIP – Vintage Iconic Pictures. The film is written and directed by Manga Srinivas, who previously worked as the First Assistant Director to acclaimed filmmaker Puri Jagannadh and is making his directorial debut with this project.

Chakkora – Lunar Love Bird introduces Sravan and Malaika T. Vasupal as a fresh on-screen romantic pair. The film is being promoted as a musical love story filled with heartfelt melodies and emotional poetry, with music composed by Prince Henry.

The song "Naa Prema Devatha" is penned by Ramajogayya Sastry, sung by popular playback singer Srikrishna, and choreographed by Dance Master Raju (SDC). Inspired by the melodic style of Mani Sharma, music director Prince Henry has composed the song with a soothing romantic feel that is expected to resonate strongly with young audiences.

Speaking on the occasion, Mani Sharma appreciated the Chakkora team and conveyed his heartfelt wishes and blessings for the film.

KRITHI SHETTY'S TRADITIONAL FIRST LOOK



Victory Venkatesh, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram and director Anil Ravipudi's much-awaited festive entertainer, January 12 Vidudala, is progressing at a brisk pace, with the team moving ahead rapidly with the shoot. Produced by Sahu Garapati under the Shine Screens banner and presented by Suresh Productions, Smt. Archana and Zee Studios, the film has been generating strong curiosity with every update. It comes with the intriguing tagline- Bava Bammardi Soujanyamtho. The makers recently unveiled the title through a hilarious and entertaining video, which added to the buzz surrounding the project.

After introducing the first looks of Venkatesh and Kalyan Ram, the makers have now unveiled the first look of Krithi Shetty as 'Deepu' on the occasion of her birthday. The poster features the actress in a traditional avatar, dressed in a graceful purple-and-pink half saree and posing against a historical structure. Her pleasant smile adds charm and elegance to the first look.

The film features an accomplished technical crew, with GV Prakash Kumar composing the music and Sameer Reddy handling the cinematography. Tammiraju is taking care of the editing, while acclaimed production designer AS Prakash is responsible for creating the film's visual world.

Printed, Published and owned By Vuppla Sujatha, Printed at: Kottenkaavu Temple Rd, Arakkakadavu, Kochi, Kerala 682028 Published At Kottenkaavu Temple Rd, Arakkakadavu, Kochi, Kerala 682028. Editor: Chiluka Venugopal Reddy.
E-Mail: info.southindiatimes@gmail.com., Contact :9000657700, RNI Regd No: KARENG/2012/43253.