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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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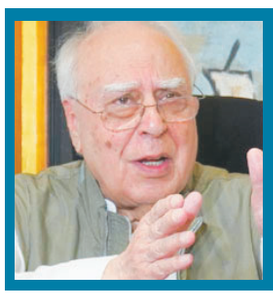
OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

22-09-2026



Total pilgrims :82,198
Tonsures : 23,743
Hundi kanukalu : 3.37;CR
Laddu sale... 4.58 Lac
Annaprasadam..1.83 Lac
Ashwini hospital..3,603
Present Situation on 23-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments... Present Direct line

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...00 H.



Sibal questions ECI decision-making over CEC appointment

NATION PAGE



US and Iran hold first talks since June after Trump's 'annihilation' threat

WORLD PAGE



"MISS KALIKA MISSING" COMPLETED POST-PRODUCTION WORKS

CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

8 luxury cars burnt as fire breaks out at Mercedes workshop

Jaipur, Sep 23 : A massive fire broke out at a Mercedes workshop in Balaji Market in Rajasthan's Jaipur, destroying around eight cars along with expensive spare parts and accessories. Thick smoke from the blaze was visible from nearly five kilometres away. The incident happened late Tuesday night.The workshop falls under the jurisdiction of the Sanganer Sadar police station. Soon after the fire was reported, police and fire brigade teams rushed to the spot and launched efforts to contain the flames. Power supply to the surrounding area was also cut off as a precautionary measure to prevent the fire from spreading. More than 50 cars, including both new and old vehicles, were parked at the workshop when the fire broke out.

3 OBC officials get 7-year RI in bank fraud

New Delhi, Sep 22: A CBI Court in Jaipur has sentenced three former public servants of Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) to seven years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) in a bank fraud case involving the unauthorised release of mortgaged securities and a loss of more than Rs 12 lakh to the bank, officials said on Tuesday. The court on September 18 convicted Ramji Lal Meena, then Branch Manager; Murari Lal Meena, then Special Assistant; and Than Singh Lashkar, then Peon-cum-Housekeeper at OBC's Sheosinghpura branch in Lalsot, Dausa. The court sentenced all three to seven years of RI and imposed a fine of Rs 85,000 on each. The CBI registered the case on February 1, 2019, based on a complaint filed by the then Deputy General Manager of Oriental Bank of Commerce.

Rahul attacks ECI over SIR row

Congress leader alleges poll panel wrongdoing; ECI rejects claims of recorded dissent by Election Commissioners

NEW DELHI (TSIT) :

Amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) row, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday accused the Election Commission of India (ECI) and election officials of wrongdoing and issued a warning, saying that the "time will come, we will not spare you". Taking to social media platform X, Gandhi said, "'Vote chori' is a crime against the Indian people and a direct attack on our Constitution."

"The BJP, RSS and EC who organised it have committed an act of treason. Justice will be served," he said.

Gandhi also shared a video in which he said, "Main Election Commission aur election officers ko saaf keh raha hoon. Aap jo kar rahe ho, galat kar rahe ho (I am clearly telling the Election Commission and election officers: What you are doing is wrong)." "Ye treason hai. Yeh rajdroh hai. Time aayega! Hum aapko pakdenge, bachne wale nahi ho (This is treason. This is an act of sedition. The time will come! We will catch you; you will not be able to escape)," he added. The latest controversy comes after a leading daily published an investigative report claiming that on 14 occasions over a period of 10 months, two Election Commissioners had objected on record to steps taken by the Commission.



The BJP, RSS and EC who organised it have committed an act of treason. Justice will be served," he said.

According to the report, the objections related to a range of decisions and processes, including allegations that the commissioners were kept in the dark about certain matters and issues concerning the addition of new voters and deletion of names from electoral rolls.

Earlier in the day, the ECI rejected a report by a leading newspaper claiming that two Election Commissioners had "objected on record" to several decisions taken by the poll panel, allegedly without their knowledge.

People familiar with the developments and having direct knowledge of the matter said that no Election Commissioner had recorded any dissent on the decisions taken by the poll body. They said the two commissioners had only made certain observations, which were subsequently examined by the Commission.

Meanwhile, Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Wednesday said that all decisions taken by the poll body in recent years should be reviewed by a Parliamentary Committee. He also demanded that the Special Intensive Review (SIR) process, which is currently underway across several parts of the nation, should be immediately suspended.

Yadadri plant must reach full output before Dasara: CM Revanth

HYDERABAD TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka questioned power officials on why the Yadadri Thermal Power Station was not operating at full capacity during a review meeting at MCRHRD.

Officials told the meeting that the plant required G9-grade coal, but Singareni had no blocks producing that grade and was unlikely to produce it in the near future. The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister asked why the plant had been built to use coal that was unavailable from Singareni.

They also questioned the decision to build the station away from the coal mines instead of at the pithead. Officials said the location had been chosen for political reasons and estimated that supplying coal to Yadadri would impose an additional burden of 40,000 crore on Telangana. They said the previous government's decision not to participate in coal-block auctions had affected Singareni's ability to supply G9 coal. Fourteen Singareni coal blocks had already closed, they added.



In view of the State's current power needs, Revanth Reddy and Bhatti Vikramarka directed officials to begin arranging coal purchases from Mahanadi Coalfields and Coal India. The Chief Minister asked Bhatti Vikramarka to discuss the matter immediately with Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy.

Revanth Reddy instructed officials to ensure that the Yadadri plant reaches full power generation before Dasara.

Mamata Banerjee demands arrest of CEC Gyanesh Kumar

KOLKATA (TSIT):

Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday demanded that Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar be impeached and arrested immediately, alleging that he conducted assembly polls in several states after deleting names of genuine voters through the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise.

Banerjee went live on Facebook in the afternoon and demanded the CEC's arrest. Referring to reported differences within the top brass of the Election Commission of India (ECI), she claimed the "ill-deeds" of the CEC had now been exposed.

According to her, by resorting to electronic voting machine (EVM) hijacking, voter list manipulation, and administrative interference, the CEC helped the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win assembly elections in several states, including West Bengal earlier this year. "Now, I demand that fresh voting should be conducted according to the old voter lists. Gyanesh Kumar has been exposed," Banerjee said in her social media message.She further alleged that the CEC first helped the BJP grab power at the Centre in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and later win assembly elections in several states.



Banerjee went live on Facebook in the afternoon and demanded the CEC's arrest.

"The current CEC was solely responsible for bringing back the BJP to power in 2024. He is not fit for this chair. He is solely responsible for the ultimate dictatorship that the BJP is running. Gyanesh Kumar has misused the police and central forces in elections after election. As long as he is in the chair, the movement against him will continue. Even though an impeachment was brought against him, the Speaker did not allow it to be presented in the Lok Sabha.

Indian national killed in attack on a vessel, says Embassy in Oman

The embassy says it is closely monitoring the attack and is in coordination with Omani authorities regarding the safety of all crew members on board, including 19 Indian nationals

DUBAI (TSIT) An Indian national was killed in an attack on merchant vessel MV Cape Dao while it was transiting towards India, the Indian Embassy in Oman said on Wednesday. The embassy said it was closely monitoring the attack and was in coordination with Omani authorities regarding the safety of all crew members on board, including 19 Indian nationals."We are deeply saddened by the loss of one Indian national in this attack. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family," the Indian mission said in a post on X. It is not yet clear who attacked the vessel.The embassy said it was coordinating with the RPSL and was in touch with the family of the deceased.

Priyanka objects to heavy security cover

MALAPPURAM (TSIT):

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday objected to the extensive security cover during her visit to the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency and said she would stop sharing her travel plans with security personnel if the arrangements continued. Vadra asked the security personnel to keep their distance,



saying she would otherwise stop informing them of her travel plans. "Please tell your men to stand back," she told the officers.

Murmu urges students to ask right questions

Vadodara, Sep 23 : President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday called for a multidisciplinary approach in higher education, saying complex contemporary challenges such as climate change, artificial intelligence, poverty alleviation and democracy could not be addressed through a single field of study.

Addressing the 75th convocation of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in Gujarat, President Murmu said the university's range of academic disciplines placed it in a position to bring together different streams of knowledge.

"From arts to science, technology to medicine, law to social work, fine arts to performing arts, management to journalism, this university is providing education in many fields of knowledge," she said.President Murmu said problems confronting society were increasingly interconnected and required knowledge from multiple disciplines.



Today, solving all important problems requires a multidisciplinary approach," she added.

"Climate change is not only a subject of environmental studies. Artificial intelligence is not only a subject of computer science. Health is not only a subject of medicine or medical science. Poverty alleviation is not only the subject of an economist.

K'taka Agrees to Release Water to Jurala for 10 Days Telangana Ministers

HYDERABAD, TSIT:

Karnataka has agreed to release water to the Jurala project for 10 days under a rotational schedule, Telangana Ministers Vakiti Srihari and Jupally Krishna Rao said on Wednesday.

The ministers said they met D.K. Shivakumar twice to explain the low water level at Jurala and the difficulties faced by farmers in its command area. According to them, he responded positively to Telangana's request despite water shortages in Karnataka.The ministers said Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy had written to Shivakumar on September 20 on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's instructions. They assured farmers dependent on the Jurala, Bhima, Nettampadu and Koilsagar projects that the government was taking steps to meet irrigation and drinking water needs.



A meeting of public representatives from the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district and irrigation officials will be held on Thursday to plan the use of available water, they added.

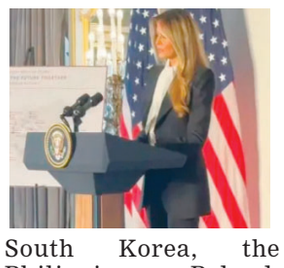
Melania Trump expands child-tech coalition

UNITED NATIONS (TSIT) :

US First Lady Melania Trump has expanded her global technology and education coalition for children to 57 countries and announced partnerships with six major technology companies.

The First Lady unveiled the expansion of Fostering the Future Together during a gathering held alongside the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Melania Trump welcomed leaders and representatives from Britain,



South Korea, the Philippines, Poland, Ukraine, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, Panama and Canada, among other countries.

"Together, we are a beautiful range of cultures, languages, histories, and traditions. And yet, we stand unified around one everlasting truth: the future of our world will be determined by what we do for our children today," she said. Fostering the Future Together seeks to expand children's access to technology and education while helping them develop the knowledge and skills needed to use new tools.

The First Lady said access to technology alone was not sufficient to empower young people. Children must also learn how to use emerging technologies responsibly and effectively, she said.

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Sibal questions ECI decision-making over CEC appointment



New Delhi, Sep 23: Former Union Minister and Rajya Sabha member Kapil Sibal on Wednesday claimed that the majority in the Election Commission of India (ECI) was not with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and alleged that he was taking decisions "arbitrarily" according to his own wishes.

Sibal's remarks came amid a controversy over an investigative report published by a leading daily, which claimed that two Election Commissioners had objected "on record" on 14 occasions over a period of 10 months to various decisions and steps taken by the poll panel. According to the report, the objections concerned several issues and procedures, including allegations that the Election Commissioners were kept unaware of certain matters and concerns over the addition of new voters and deletion of names from electoral rolls.

Speaking to reporters, Sibal said the Election Commission earlier had a single member, but an amendment later led to the creation of a three-member Commission, with decisions to be taken by majority.

"So today, it has been established that the majority was not with Gyanesh Kumar. Gyanesh Kumar was making decisions arbitrarily according to his own whims -- how to run the election, what the ERO should do, which form to file; Gyanesh Kumar was deciding all this," he alleged.

Referring to Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, Sibal said they had repeatedly raised objections to the decisions being taken by Kumar.

"Joshi Sahab and Sandhu Sahab, who are Election Commissioners, protested several times against what Gyanesh Kumar is doing. And almost, I think, 14 times in 10 months, they protested," he said.

Sibal argued that since decisions in the three-member Commission are required to be taken by majority, objections raised by two Election Commissioners should not have been ignored.

RS.10 LAKH DONATION TO TTD SV PRANADANA TRUST

Tirumala, 23 September 2026: Smt. Konduru Rajeshwari and her husband from Manikonda, Hyderabad, donated 10 lakh to the TTD SV Pranadana Trust. The couple met TTD Chairman Sri B.R. Naidu at the TTD Camp Office in Tirumala and handed over the donation cheque. TTD Board Member Smt. Panabaka Lakshmi also participated in the programme.



SRI VARI SALAKATLA BRAHMOTSAVAM CONCLUDES WITH DHVAJAVAROHANAM



The Sri Vari Salakatla Brahmotsavam at Tirumala concluded with the traditional Dhvajavarohanam (flag-lowering) ceremony.TTD chairman B. R. Naidu, Eo m. Ravichandra, additional EO venkayya choudhary participated in this program.

HDFC Mutual Fund Launches India's First Indian Sign Language Platform for Financial Literacy

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026: On the International Day of Sign Languages, HDFC Mutual Fund launched a dedicated digital platform built entirely in Indian Sign Language (ISL) under its financial literacy initiative, Bharosa, designed for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) community.

With this launch, HDFC Mutual Fund becomes the first Indian Asset Management Company to build such a platform, extending financial inclusion through accessible, sign language-based investor education.

Launched in August 2025, Bharosa has already engaged around 6,000 individuals from the DHH community through ISL-based investor awareness sessions. Users can choose a financial goal, such as retirement or a child's education, and learn through curated ISL videos. They can also schedule one-on-one sessions with a DHH coach. Mr. Navneet Munot, MD & CEO, HDFC Asset Management Company, said access alone is not enough—people also need information in a form they can follow. He noted that Bharosa offers videos organised around savings goals and one-on-one coaching so more people can take well-informed financial decisions. To commemorate the launch, HDFC Mutual Fund released a digital film featuring actors from the DHH community, bringing authenticity to the narrative.

Aastha Gurukul in Dantewada Rebuilds Lives Through Education for Conflict-Affected Children

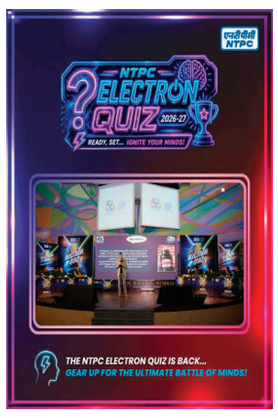
DANTEWADA: In a region that has lived through decades of violence, Aastha Vidya Mandir, also known as Aastha Gurukul, is offering children a different route into adulthood—through education, stability, and the possibility of a life far removed from the circumstances that shaped their childhood.



Located in Education City at Jawanga, Dantewada district, the state-run residential school is home to around 1,300 students from Class I to XII. More than half are estimated to have been directly or indirectly affected by violence associated with Left-wing extremism. The school gives priority to children orphaned due to such violence and students from affected areas in Dantewada and the wider Bastar region.

Principal Ravindra Panigrahi said the school relies on official documentation, including police certification and FIR records, while admitting children under special priority criteria. The objective goes beyond accommodation—the school creates an environment where children can recover, learn, and imagine a future beyond their inherited circumstances. The school follows the CBSE curriculum, with smart-screen-equipped classrooms. It was launched in 2013 with NMDC CSR support for infrastructure, and NMDC's CSR funding continues to support operations, with annual expenditure reaching around 3.5 crore.

NTPC ELECTRON QUIZ ALL SET TO HOST ON 26TH SEP



September 23, 2026: The biggest engineering and management quiz is all set to be hosted on 26th September this year at JNTU (Jawaharlal Nehru Technical University) Kukkatpally.

The quiz open to all engineering and management students has an attractive cash prize of Rs 60,000/-for the winning team, Rs 40,000/- for the Runners up and Rs 20,000/- for the second Runners Up. In addition to it, 4th, 5th and 6th position will each earn a cash reward of Rs 8000/- each team.

The team should comprise of 2 students of engineering or management disciplines only. Since its inception in 2004, the Electron Quiz has evolved into a prestigious platform that celebrates knowledge, curiosity, and innovative thinking — values that define NTPC's golden journey. The quiz comprises of two rounds -first a written preliminary followed by a stage round.

Designed exclusively for engineering and management students, the competition encourages analytical thinking and bridges academic learning with practical insight. The theme for this year is the world of business and management. Interested students can email their participation to electronquizntpc-south@gmail.com

Hyderabad doctors flag rising nerve pain in desk workers



HYDERABAD, : Long sitting hours, high-stress desk environments, and minimal physical activity are increasingly contributing to nerve-related discomfort among Hyderabad's working population. This Pain Awareness Month, medical specialists are drawing attention to an uptick in sciatica, neck-to-arm radiating pain, and early-stage neuropathic discomfort among young and mid-career professionals.

The discussion coincides with the International Association for the Study of Pain designating 2026 as the Global Year for Neuropathic Pain, aimed at closing diagnostic and treatment gaps for nerve disorders worldwide. Data from the ICMR-INDIAB study indicates urban India faces a higher prevalence of diabetes than rural regions, creating a dual risk where metabolic nerve sensitivity overlaps with posture-induced nerve compression.

Dr. P.S. Vijayender Goud, Pain and Palliative Care Specialist, Renova BIBI Cancer Hospital, said radiating pain, burning sensations, or numbness usually point to nerve involvement rather than simple muscle tiredness. He noted that conditions like sciatica and cervical radiculopathy are increasingly seen in individuals in their late twenties and thirties. Early clinical assessment, physical therapy, ergonomic corrections, and structured medical care are essential to prevent long-term impairment. Ms. Malavika Kaura Saxena, CMO, Rusan Healthcare, emphasised the need for awareness and proper medical advice instead of unguided self-medication. Doctors encourage desk-bound professionals to incorporate movement, review workplace ergonomics, and consult a physician if symptoms persist.

> Dr. Nirmala Rajaram, PCMD/ SCR personally reviewed the drinking water quality monitoring arrangements at Kazipet
>
> All 225 Water samples collected at Warangal & Kazipet Railway stations and colonies during 09th to 15th Sept, 2026 were found fit

South Indian Bank Expands in Vijayawada with New Branch and ATM at Patamata

VIJAYAWADA, : Continuing its strategy to expand in high-potential urban areas, South Indian Bank inaugurated a new branch and ATM at Patamata in Vijayawada, one of the country's leading business and technology hubs.



The branch was inaugurated by Mr. Gadde Ramamohan, MLA, Vijayawada East. The onsite ATM was inaugurated by Mr. Mumminei Venkata Prasad, Businessman and 13th Ward Corporator. The onsite strong room was formally inaugurated by prominent businessman Mr. Nalluri Kashi. Regional Head of South Indian Bank, Mr. Niranjan, along with BH Rayhaan and senior officials of the bank, participated in the event. Strategically located in Vijayawada, the branch is specially designed to cater to the banking needs of retail customers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, corporates, and residents in surrounding areas. It will offer a comprehensive suite of banking products and services supported by state-of-the-art technology and a customer-centric approach.

Indian Silk Gallery Expo to open in Warangal today



WARANGAL: The Indian Silk Gallery Expo, an exhibition-cum-sale of handloom products, will be inaugurated in Warangal on Thursday, September 24, 2026. The five-day expo will be held from September 24 to 28 at Alaknanda Banquet Hall, Hunter Road, Srinagar Colony, Shyampet,Hanamkonda.

The expo will showcase a wide range of traditional handloom and silk products, including Banarasi, West Bengal boutique items, Tussar Kantha, Chanderi, Maheshwari, Kota, Rajkot Patola, Pochampally Ikat, Bengaluru pure crepe silks, Bihar and Jharkhand Tussar, Gadwal, Kalamkari, Kanchipuram, Paithani and Venkatagiri/ Uppada Jamdani sarees.

Visitors can also find cotton dress materials, bed linen and jewellery at the exhibition. The expo will remain open from 10.30 am to 8.30 pm throughout the five days. Entry is free.

The organisers said the expo is aimed at offering customers a collection of handloom and natural-fibre products ahead of Dasara, Deepavali and the wedding season.

SCR steps up water quality checks in Kazipet, Warangal

HYDERABAD: South Central Railway (SCR) has intensified its water-quality monitoring and testing arrangements at Kazipet and Warangal Railway Stations and connected railway colonies, reinforcing its commitment to providing potable drinking water across its network.



As part of the initiative, overall water-supply arrangements were reviewed, including groundwater, municipal supply, storage, chlorination, and distribution systems. Monitoring has been strengthened with daily checks of residual chlorine levels and regular bacteriological testing to detect E. coli contamination.

A total of 225 water samples were collected from Kazipet Railway station, its colony, and Warangal Railway station between September 9 and 15, 2026. At Kazipet, 149 samples were tested, while 76 were collected at Warangal. All 225 samples were found satisfactory, with no sample reported unfit and no E. coli-positive sample detected. Ground Level Reservoirs and other storage tanks are being cleaned by the Engineering department as per schedule.

Dr. Nirmala Rajaram, Principal Chief Medical Director, SCR, personally inspected the drinking water quality monitoring arrangements at Kazipet and verified residual chlorine levels, noting adequate chlorination.

TIA Summit 2026: Focus on Funding for Startups

Bengaluru Offers Immense Opportunities in AI, Technical Skills Essential: Sindhu Gangadharan



Bengaluru : Bengaluru, India's technology capital, has immense potential to emerge as a leading hub for Artificial Intelligence (AI), and professionals with the skills to effectively leverage AI technologies will have access to significant career opportunities, said Sindhu Gangadharan, Managing Director, SAP Labs India.

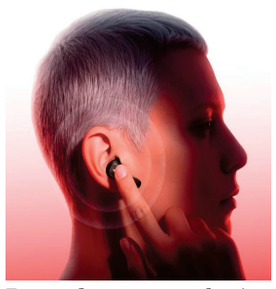
Speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day India Advantage Summit (TIA Summit) 2026 held in Bengaluru, Gangadharan said India has a strong digital infrastructure and is well positioned to harness the potential of AI. She also highlighted the richness of Indian languages, which, she said, provides considerable scope for developing and deploying technology solutions.

"Countries such as the United States and China are systematically building AI platforms, and India too has significant opportunities in this sector. India has the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, creating vast opportunities for young talent in AI," she said. Gangadharan emphasised the need for continuous learning and skill development among young professionals. She said developing the ability to use technology effectively and solve problems across different sectors would create unique opportunities for skilled talent.

Speaking at the event, TIA Summit and Future ICT Forum Chairman K. Jose Jacob said the summit witnessed strong participation from organisations and institutions focused on investing in startups.

He said aspiring entrepreneurs should develop well-structured business plans before launching startups. Representatives from the agriculture, pharmaceutical and manufacturing sectors, along with delegates from 12 countries, participated in the summit."India's next phase of growth will not be determined by technology alone. The ability to connect infrastructure, talent, capital, industry and global partnerships required to scale innovations will also play a crucial role," Jacob said. TIA Summit and Future ICT Forum Chairman K. Jose Jacob, Vedanta Group Fund Manager Agnes Agarwal, Stellaris Capital head Sudhir, Java Capital's Vinod Shekhar and others participated in the summit.

boAt launches AI-powered 'Intelligent Ears' with Gemini



Bengaluru : boAt, India's No. 1 audio and wearables brand, announced the first smart audio devices featuring boAt CREST AI, its AI-powered platform built with Google Gemini. With the launch, boAt is introducing a new proposition for personal audio — 'Intelligent Ears' — earbuds designed not just for listening, but to listen, understand, converse and assist.

Today, accessing AI typically means reaching for a phone, opening an app or looking at a screen. CREST AI is built around a simpler idea: bringing intelligence to something consumers already wear throughout their day — their earbuds.

No screens. No scrolling. No opening apps. Just talk.

At the heart of the experience are three capabilities — Crest Ask, G- Assist and Crest Translate, or simply: Ask. Assist. Translate.

With Crest Ask, users can ask questions, explore ideas, learn and have natural conversations with AI. Instead of repeatedly reaching for a phone or typing a query, users can ask follow-up questions and continue the conversation through their earbuds.

With G- Assist take the experience from conversation to action. With integration across Google Gmail, Tasks, and Calendar, users can access everyday productivity and communication capabilities through voice. From asking the assistant to "summarize my day" to "reply to an email," G-Assist helps users manage tasks, stay on top of schedules, and interact with their digital routines without reaching for their phones.

Vocational service focuses on business continuity



Bengaluru: What happens to a successful enterprise when its founder is suddenly unavailable to make the decisions on which the organisation still depends? That question was at the centre of "Beyond the Founder", a Vocational Service initiative of Rotary International District 3191, organised in association with FKCCI at The Park, Bengaluru. The programme brought together founders, business leaders and professionals to examine how founder-led enterprises can build the leadership, decision-making structures and governance required to remain strong beyond dependence on one individual.The initiative reflected the role of Vocational Service in applying professional knowledge and experience to practical challenges affecting businesses and the wider community. The continuity of an enterprise can influence not only its owners, but also employees, customers, suppliers and families whose livelihoods are connected with it.

Rtn. Anand Ramachandra, District Vocational Service Director, outlined the intent behind the initiative — to bring professional experience into conversations on issues of long-term relevance to entrepreneurs, business families and the wider business community. Chairman and Moderator Dr (HC) Sandeep N. Setty, a Bengaluru-based Family Continuity Architect, invited business owners to consider a practical test: if the founder were unavailable for 30 days, could the organisation continue to operate and make important decisions effectively?The session moved beyond succession as merely identifying the next person to lead the business. Participants were encouraged to examine their own organisations through a Continuity Check, covering leadership depth, decision-making authority, professionalisation, governance, ownership clarity, next-generation readiness and preparedness for transition.

The panel brought together complementary perspectives. Dr. C. Vinod Hayagriv of C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers contributed the family-enterprise perspective; Vimal Kedia, founder of Manjushree Packaging, shared his experience of building and institutionalising a founder-led enterprise; and Srinivasan Subramanian, CEO of Suraksha Group, brought the professional-management perspective.District Governor Rtn. Anil Gupta addressed the gathering, while FKCCI was represented by its Director, Mr. Pranam. Through Beyond the Founder, Rotary used Vocational Service to bring professional experience to a practical business-community challenge.

CHA brings Hong Kong cuisine to Bengaluru



Bengaluru : Bellona Hospitality's CHA Hong Kong Eating House is bringing the flavours, traditions and communal spirit of Hong Kong dining to Bengaluru, with outlets across Whitefield, Hebbal and Church Street.

Inspired by the city's traditional eating houses, CHA Hong Kong Eating House combines the casual and social character of Hong Kong dining with a contemporary setting designed for today's Bengaluru diner.

At the heart of the concept is a focus on Hong Kong's distinct culinary identity. Rather than taking a broad Pan-Asian approach, CHA Hong Kong Eating House draws specifically from the flavours, techniques and food culture that have shaped Hong Kong's dining scene.The menu features handcrafted dim sum, har gow, bao, cheung fun, noodle bowls and wok-fired dishes, alongside a selection of teas. The offering brings together familiar favourites and Hong Kong-inspired preparations, with traditional techniques remaining central to the experience.

Kia adds CNG options for Carens models



NEW DELHI : Kia India, one of the country's leading mass-premium automakers, announced the prices of the Carens CNG and Carens Clavis CNG, further strengthening its multi-powertrain portfolio and offering customers greater choice aligned with their diverse mobility needs. Priced from INR 1,211,800 (ex-showroom), the new factory-fitted CNG variants combine the practicality and versatility of Kia's three-row portfolio with the convenience and efficiency of CNG mobility.

The introduction of CNG options across the Carens and Carens Clavis combines the everyday practicality and efficiency associated with CNG mobility with the space, comfort and versatility of Kia's three-row portfolio. With the CNG system integrated as a factory-fitted offering, Kia aims to provide customers with a convenient and reliable ownership proposition suited to everyday urban commuting as well as family mobility requirements.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Atul Sood, Senior Vice President – Marketing & Sales, Kia India, said, "India is a diverse market where customers have distinct mobility requirements, and our approach is to offer them the powertrain that best complements their lifestyle and usage. CNG continues to be an important consideration for a growing set of customers seeking an efficient and practical mobility solution. By introducing factory-fitted CNG options on the Carens and Carens Clavis, we are responding to this demand with an integrated offering backed by Kia. Both models have established a strong proposition around space, comfort and family-focused practicality, and the addition of CNG further broadens their appeal while giving customers greater freedom to choose."

Yokohama expands retail network in Shivamogga



Shivamogga : Yokohama India has inaugurated a new Yokohama Club Network (YCN) outlet at Bhagath Auto Care Centre, located on 100 Feet Road, Gopala Gowda Layout, Shivamogga. This marks the second YCN outlet in the city, giving customers in Shivamogga and the surrounding areas greater access to Yokohama's tyre range and professional automotive services.Bhagath Auto Care Centre brings 35 years of experience in the tyre and automotive service business to this partnership. Over more than three decades, the establishment has built a reputation for reliability and technical expertise in the local market.

POCO X8 series brings powerful performance



Bengaluru : POCO India announced the launch of its latest smartphones in the POCO X8 Series – the POCO X8 and POCO X8 Power. Designed around the demands of modern smartphone users, the new series brings together powerful performance, expansive displays, versatile cameras, large-capacity Silicon-Carbon batteries and robust durability, giving users the freedom to do more across work, entertainment and everyday life.

Whether it is moving between multiple apps during a busy workday, watching content on the commute, capturing moments while travelling, staying connected through a long day or simply spending more time away from a charger, the POCO X8 Series is built to handle it. Both smartphones feature a 1.5K AMOLED Display, Silicon-Carbon battery technology, fast charging, IP66, IP68, IP69 and IP69K ratings, Corning® Gorilla® Victus® 2 and Five-Star Quality Certification from SGS and TÜV.

For Power That Keeps You Going

A smartphone that sits at the centre of the day needs to move easily between tasks. The POCO X8 is powered by the Snapdragon® 6s Gen 4 Mobile Platform, built on a 4nm process with CPU speeds of up to 2.4GHz, and comes with up to 8GB RAM and 256GB storage. This combination is designed for everyday productivity – from switching between work apps and calls to browsing, navigation and entertainment.

For users with heavier everyday demands, the POCO X8 Power brings the India Debut of the Snapdragon® 6 Gen 5 Mobile Platform, with CPU speeds of up to 2.6GHz, up to 8GB RAM and 256GB storage, LPDDR5X RAM and UFS 4.1 storage. The additional performance and memory make it suited to people who regularly juggle multiple applications, large files and content-heavy usage.

Girish Nelkudri meets MLA Managuli on schools



Bengaluru: A delegation from the 'Bhavishya Belaku Charitable Trust' held a cordial meeting with Ashok Mallappa Managuli, the MLA for the Sindagi Assembly constituency, at the Legislators' House in Bengaluru. The meeting focused on strengthening infrastructure and fostering educational progress in government schools across the state's rural areas.

Led by Trust President Girish Nelkudri, the delegation engaged in a detailed and productive discussion with the MLA regarding the government's ambitious initiatives aimed at the holistic development of government schools—specifically 'Vidyanjali 2.0', 'Namma Shale Namma Koduge' (Our School, Our Contribution), and 'Namma Shale Namma Javabdari' (Our School, Our Responsibility).

It was emphasized during the meeting that community and public participation is crucial for delivering quality education to rural children and modernizing school environments. The MLA responded positively to these efforts toward school empowerment and expressed his support.Trust office-bearers Pavan, Geetha, Suresh, and Maria, along with prominent figures from Devara Hippargi—such as Kumaragowda Mali Patil, Rajugowda Biradar, and Shivaraj Biradar—and other dignitaries were present at this significant meeting.

Bharatgas launches 'Zero Ka Dum' quality assurance scheme



Gulbarga : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Fortune Global 500 company and a Maharatna PSU, has strengthened its focus on LPG cylinder quality and customer safety through its 'Zero Ka Dum' (ZKD) programme, implemented across BPCL's LPG network as part of its wider efforts to strengthen operational excellence.

The 'Defect Mila Toh Refill Free' initiative brings quality assurance closer to customers in Gulbarga city, with a clear assurance that if a genuine defect is identified in a Bharatgas cylinder at the time of delivery, customers can get a free refill, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

The 'Zero Ka Dum' programme is designed to ensure that quality is maintained at every stage, well before a cylinder reaches the customer's doorstep. Under the programme, BPCL's LPG bottling plants undergo rigorous third-party certification audits conducted by independent agencies accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB). The audits assess every stage of the cylinder's journey from the plant to the consumer, with a focus on ensuring that only defect-free, high-quality cylinders reach customers. 55 LPG bottling plants have already successfully achieved 'Zero Ka Dum' certification.

Speaking about the initiative, Shri T.V. Pandiyan, Business Head (LPG) BPCL, said, "The 'Zero Ka Dum' programme reflects BPCL's unwavering commitment to quality, operational excellence and customer safety. Through rigorous quality checks, maintenance practices, safety checkpoints and independent certification, we are strengthening quality at every stage from the bottling plant to the customer's doorstep.

Inauguration of the Skill Development Lab at RNS Centre of Excellence

Bengaluru: A new chapter and a proud moment in the history of RNS Institute of Technology (RNSIT), Bengaluru an autonomous institution affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi. On the occasion of Engineers Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the institute entered into an MoU with NIELIT (National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology) an academic arm under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India (MeitY) to set up a skill development center in the campus which is the second center in Bengaluru.

The Skill Development Lab at RNS Centre of Excellence was inaugurated by Dr. Jayaraj U. Kidav, Executive Director, NIELIT



Calicut, in the presence of Dr. Ramesh Babu H.S, Principal, RNSIT, Dr. Rajini V. Honnungar Prof & HoD, Dept of ECE, Dr. Archana V. Kulkarni, Associated Prof & HoD, Dept of EE (VLSI), Mrs. Sumathi Vice-Principal, Heads of other branches, Deans and esteemed dignitaries from NIELIT Calicut Shri Rajesh M, Scientist 'E', NIELIT Calicut; Shri Sreejesh S. G, Senior Technical Officer; and Shri Manoj N, Principal Technical Officer, NIELIT Calicut.

Addressing the students in a formal function later on Chief Guest Dr. Jayaraj U Kidav highlighted the significance of NIELIT and courses offered through NIELIT Calicut especially in the arena of VLSI Design for upskilling which benefits the students in a broader way and opens up new avenues and bright prospects. Sreejesh S.G mentioned about the operations of NIELIT and Rajesh M encouraged the students to utilize the study centre to the fullest and motivated them to grow beyond horizons. The program was coordinated by Ms. Dhanusha A, Asst Prof and SPOC, Dept of ECE and concluded with a vote of Thanks by Ms. Deepa R Bhangi, Asst Prof, Dept of ECE.

The newly inaugurated Skill Development Lab marks an important step towards strengthening industry-oriented technical education and providing students with opportunities for hands-on learning, skill enhancement, and professional development. The facility is envisioned as a platform for nurturing technical competencies and preparing students to meet the evolving demands of the technology sector.

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EDITORIAL

WHO IS A JOURNALIST AND WHO IS A PROPAGANDIST?

In today's times, it's becoming more difficult than ever to distinguish between a journalist and a propagandist. The number of news outlets has increased, sources of information have expanded, and social media has given everyone a platform to express their views. But amidst this expansion, a serious question has arisen about the fundamental role of journalism—is journalism still a medium for questioning power, or is it becoming part of political and ideological factions? This question is not limited to any one person, organization, channel, or ideology. The question of journalism's credibility in a democracy is much broader than this. Today, the media is often accused of dividing journalism into two distinct camps. One camp appears to defend almost every policy, decision, and statement of the ruling party, while the other finds fault or flaw in almost every move by the ruling party. Both have their own audiences, readers, and supporters. Both have their own arguments, and both have their own ideological following. The problem isn't whether a journalist criticizes or supports a particular policy. The problem arises when a journalist's role is limited to supporting or opposing a political party. The job of journalism isn't to stand in favor of power. But its job isn't just to oppose power either. Its true responsibility is to stand up to power and question it. In a democracy, power isn't the private right of any one party, leader, or government. Power is a responsibility bestowed by the people, and journalism is an important means of public oversight of that responsibility. Therefore, a journalist's primary responsibility should not be to any party, leader, or ideology, but to facts, the Constitution, democratic institutions, and the public interest. This is why asking questions is the most important task in journalism. When the government makes a decision, the questions should be why it was made, what is its purpose, who will benefit from it, who will suffer its losses, how much public money will be spent on it, and how will its consequences be measured. Similarly, when the opposition makes a claim, the questions should be: what are the facts behind that claim, what is its basis, whether it has any alternative proposals, and how practical are its promises. The yardstick for questioning should be facts and public interest, not individuals or parties. The biggest challenge facing journalism today isn't just political pressure. Another challenge is equally serious—viewer and reader preferences. People often want to hear only what confirms their preconceived notions. This puts pressure on media organizations to produce content that resonates with their target audience. This is where the line between journalism and propaganda begins to blur. The purpose of propaganda is to create public opinion in favor of an idea, person, or system. The purpose of journalism is to inform the public based on available facts and raise relevant questions. The difference between the two is not always evident in words, but in the methodology of work. In journalism, it is important to verify sources, verify claims, examine context, and provide relevant parties with an opportunity to present their views. Conversely, when conclusions are predetermined and facts are selected solely to support them, the credibility of journalism is bound to be questioned.

A MAJOR POLITICAL BATTLE AROSE FROM THE COLOR OF THE CHARIOT

SAURABH VARSHNEY



The election bugle hasn't yet fully sounded in Uttar Pradesh's upcoming 2027 elections, but the political battles have already begun. The tussle between the Samajwadi Party's PDA politics and the Bahujan Samaj Party's "Sarvajan Sandesh" (all-people message) is now becoming apparent. The way BSP supremo Ms. Mayawati, while attacking Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav, has turned the color of the PDA chariot into a political issue, makes it clear that the upcoming elections will not be confined to the corridors of power. The real battle will also be over social equations, vote banks, and political narratives.

Mayawati has questioned why the SP's PDA chariot appears less influenced by its traditional red color and more influenced by the saffron of the BJP-RSS. In her words, this question isn't just about color, but about the changing nature of politics. Linking this to the SP's vote bank politics, Mayawati even asked whether Akhilesh Yadav no longer has the same trust in Muslim voters as before.

Symbols have their own power in politics. Whether it's the color of a flag, an election chariot, a slogan, or a yatra, each conveys a political message to the voter. However, it would be premature to consider political color as a direct indication of ideological change. The color of a campaign vehicle does not, in itself, constitute a decisive indicator of a party's policy, ideology, or electoral strategy. Nevertheless, the issue raised by Mayawati holds political significance because, using color as a pretext, she has directly targeted the social dynamics of the Samajwadi Party.

The PDA, an alliance of backward, Dalit, and minority social groups, has emerged as a key political formula in Akhilesh Yadav's politics. The Samajwadi Party has been presenting this social equation as an alternative political axis to the BJP. Mayawati questions the credibility of this axis. She is asking how strong the SP's actual social base is on the PDA grounds and what is the share of Dalits and minorities in it? This question is important because Dalit votes have long been a central political force for the BSP in Uttar Pradesh politics. Any attempt by another party to include Dalits as part of its social coalition naturally poses a political challenge for the BSP. Mayawati's attack can be seen as a response to this challenge.

Mayawati also made special mention of Muslim voters. She argued that if the Muslim community supported the Samajwadi Party in the last election, yet failed to prevent the BJP from coming to power, then Muslim voters should consider their political alternatives. This argument directly challenges the notion that Muslim voters will naturally stick with the Samajwadi Party.

But here too, an age-old truth of electoral politics comes to light. No vote bank is permanent. Voters are not permanently tied to any party. Circumstances change, issues shift, and political equations change. In a vast and socially diverse state like Uttar Pradesh, caste, community, local candidates, government performance, national issues, and electoral alliances all combine to influence voting behavior. Therefore, Mayawati's message to Muslim voters is not merely an attack on the SP. It is also an attempt by the BSP to open the door to political alternatives.

In her statement, Mayawati claimed a growing trend in favor of the BSP among upper castes, particularly the Brahmin community. This claim is politically significant, as a major chapter of the BSP's politics has been associated with social engineering. The practice of aligning Brahmins and other social groups with the Dalit base has previously been significant in Uttar Pradesh politics. Mayawati's claim suggests that the BSP is once again exploring the possibility of a broad social coalition. However, there is a difference between claims and ground reality. Only election results or reliable surveys can provide definitive proof of a shift in the political inclinations of any social group. Political claims made before elections are inherently linked to the interests and strategies of their respective parties.

Mayawati's second important weapon is the issue of law and order. She has linked her tenure to crime control, peace and order, and the rule of law, stating that the BSP has previously experienced such governance. This is not a new political argument, but a long-standing and important part of the BSP's electoral discourse.

Law and order has always been a major electoral issue in Uttar Pradesh politics. Different governments have made varying claims about their tenures, and the opposition has challenged these claims. Therefore, the real basis of the electoral debate should be the concrete data on crime, policing, judicial processes, investment, employment, and public welfare during the governments' tenures.

Mayawati's message of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" (For the welfare of all, for the happiness of all) is aligned with this administrative assertion. She doesn't want to limit the BSP to Dalit politics alone. She says the party practices the politics of bread, employment, respect, and self-respect for all sections of society. On one side is the SP's PDA, which seeks to bring backward classes, Dalits, and minorities under one political umbrella. On the other side is the BSP's Sarvajan Sandesh, which calls for broadening the social circle. The success of both strategies will ultimately depend on how many voters they can connect with on the ground.

The biggest question in the politics of Uttar Pradesh is whether the old social equations will remain in their old form or there will be a new recombination of voters?

Mayawati's statement hints at this potential realignment. She challenges the SP's claim that the PDA could provide a broad social support base for it. She also sends a message to Muslim voters that the BSP offers a distinct political option. By mentioning Brahmins and other upper caste groups, she also signals an attempt to broaden her social base.

The most important point in this entire exercise is that the politics of Uttar Pradesh is no longer simply a question of "who is with whom." The bigger question is: Who can align which social group with which political language?

This debate, PDA versus Sarvajan, could become a crucial political conflict in the upcoming election cycle. But the answer won't be found in slogans; it will lie in candidate selection, organizational activism, local issues, and ultimately, the voters' decision. Mayawati has, for now, put the ball in Akhilesh Yadav's court. She has questioned the PDA's authenticity, challenged the SP's hold among Muslim voters, and renewed the debate over its governance record. Now, it remains to be seen what political language the Samajwadi Party uses to respond to this attack. Overall, while the color of the PDA chariot may have been the immediate trigger for this political controversy, the real battle is not about colors, but about the social theater of votes. Red, saffron, and blue are not just colors in Uttar Pradesh politics, but symbols of distinct political identities and claims.

China Is No Longer Waiting For Trump To Set The Rules. And He Knows It

Zorawar Daulet Singh

Since the 1970s, US-China relations have been the fulcrum of the world order. While the strategic balance has always been shaped by the military balance of power between the US and the Soviet Union, and, in our time, between the US and Russia, China has been the classic 'swing power' in this global triangle. Both Washington and Moscow recognise this reality. There is no major geopolitical decision in Washington that does not involve a calculation of Chinese interests and reactions. When the Kremlin was on the verge of intervening in Ukraine, it was Beijing that Moscow kept on side to secure its back. During the late Cold War years, Washington enlisted China in its anti-Soviet containment strategy. In the post-Cold War era, the US sought to keep China from doing things that could complicate US geopolitical objectives. In some form or another, China's role has been central to prolonging a US-led order. An innate Chinese attitude to mind its affairs and secure its own periphery has allowed the US to recover from a series of geopolitical follies over the decades. China Has Changed The stakes in this game, however, have suddenly changed over the past decade. As China's power has grown and it has shed its previous inhibitions about projecting its own world order ideas and defending its interests, the US' juggling act in the great power triangle has become more and more complicated. By the mid-2010s, China itself became an object of US strategic concern, changing the fundamental conundrum of US geostrategy: responding to the emergence of a new peer competitor. Yet, when confronted with a stark choice of reorienting American strategic posture towards Pacific Asia and crafting an assertive policy, US administrations, without exception, have balked at such a move. The primary direction of pressure from the US has remained on the Eurasian heartland area and stubbornly focused on Russia. The outbreak of the Ukraine crisis in 2014 locked the US into a confrontation with Russia that finally escalated in 2022. With an unending and resource-guzzling NATO-Russia war of attrition in Ukraine, China became a secondary front that was managed by a mix of diplomacy and a non-provocative military posture to keep the Western Pacific stable. Confrontation with Russia and stability with China have become two sides of the same coin. It is because the US lacks the power to simultaneously pressurise Eurasia's great powers that US-China relations have acquired their unique character. The US debacle in the Iran war and military failure to subdue Tehran has removed all doubt about the ability of the US to contemplate a China containment policy in the traditional sense or bring to bear a credible military posture in Asia that could alter Beijing's calculus. 2026 has been a turning point. This is the big picture context that sets the backdrop to the Trump-Xi summit. American analysts are pessimistic that any clear policy line can emerge from a broken Washington and a dysfunctional White House that has lost control of its foreign policy agenda. In economic terms, "China has escalation dominance over the United States, meaning that at any level of threat, the Chinese government has the ability to inflict more pain on the United States than vice versa." The Trump White House has learnt this the hard way as all its bluster against China fizzled out in 2025. Shrewder analysts hope for the US to buy time by engaging in a renewed form of sophisticated interdependence while rebuilding domestic capacities. But will the Chinese oblige in helping the US revive and transform its industrial economy, only to be confronted with real hostility further down the road? The big shift in Sino-American relations is how the Chinese are articulating the terms of engagement. Following Xi Jinping's cue, Chinese scholars are more confident and realistic in how they define a framework for stable ties. Competition and differences are no longer shied away from but are to be managed and "not become a geopolitical roller coaster". The tables have turned. The once-worrying US rhetoric of competition from the past decade has now been adopted by China, which is "willing to recognize that the fundamental nature of US-Chinese relations is competitive". Indeed, "Beijing believes that competition can be effectively managed without presenting an existential threat". This new, confident attitude can be explained not merely by China's economic-technological advancements but also the broader geopolitical context of multipolarity. This Is No 'G-2' Some strategists have misinterpreted this Chinese discourse as foreshadowing a G-2 or a typical great power relationship where the rest of the world falls into line. These clichés belong to the past. The fact is that both these rivals, despite their interdependence, have opposing conceptions of world order in a fast-changing international landscape. One way to discern this is to see what the Chinese are not doing. They are not exploiting the Russia-NATO conflict to cut a side deal with the US, an opportunity that the latter has probed for years and would still relish. Neither is China helping the US extricate itself from a range of miscalculations, such as the trade standoff with China, or the catastrophic war in the Middle East, or mounting structural problems in the US economy. China is not encouraging a regional condominium with the US, the latter being a framework the US would quickly reciprocate in order to release scarce resources for its domestic transformation and lower the military burden of managing costly conflicts elsewhere in Eurasia. The Chinese strategy is to promote multipolarity by supporting an alternative architecture for world order because that is the surest guarantee of its own future as a major power and civilisation. World events have outpaced the US foreign policy framework. The idea of merely keeping China neutral as the US goes on a rampage elsewhere is over.

China Claims It Has Cut Troops At The Indian Border. But The Math Doesn't Add Up

ANUSHKA SAXENA



The Ministry of Defence released its Annual Report for 2025-26 on September 14 this year, and it speaks to vital challenges facing India's northern border with China, even as it sweeps the naval frontier under the rug. Nonetheless, an interesting facet buried in the Indian Army chapter is an assertion that becomes critical to understanding the organisation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Western Theatre Command (WTC), which is the theatre designed to operate exclusively in India's operational direction. It says: "The year 2025 witnessed a significant reduction in the deployment of PLA Forces opposite Northern Borders, with 10 Combined Arms Brigade (CAB) size forces each deployed in areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and in traditional training areas." A few important conclusions can be drawn from this assertion. Firstly, the operative phrase "each" indicates that 20 CABs/CAB-sized forces have been identified along the LAC and in the depths of the WTC's coverage, particularly in its Xinjiang and Tibet military districts (MDs). That troop strength lies somewhere between 90,000 and 1,20,000 in the theatre's India-facing posture, after what the report calls a significant reduction. But, the reduction, or drawdown, likely has more to do with the deployment along the LAC than the total strength active in the WTC - the former being closer perhaps to the 20,000-40,000 mark. Secondly, there is the vagueness induced by using the phrase "CAB-sized". A CAB is a specific unit that emerged in 2017, after the PLA underwent massive above- and below-the-neck reforms in 2015-16. As a unit of measure, it means little. These sweeping reforms in the PLA replaced the old, service-specific group army-division-regiment structure with a standardised group army-brigade-battalion one. In this new hierarchy, a CAB includes approximately 4,500 to 6,000 personnel, and can be classified by heft of deployment (heavy, medium, or light), or by whether it is tracked, wheeled, or high-mobility. Usually, each CAB features four combined arms battalions under its command, which host organic armour, infantry, mortars, and reconnaissance. Ten CABs are thus close to 50,000 troops, while 20 CABs constitute a field army. Reaching Conclusions The WTC fields two group armies, the 76th at Xining and the 77th at Chongzhou. They are garrisoned deep in provinces like Qinghai, Gansu, Ningxia, and Sichuan, and are the most likely occupants of the "traditional training areas", though not necessarily the only ones. They field their frontier deployments across the two MDs. The Tibet MD fields the 52nd and 53rd mountain brigades at Shigatse and Nyingchi, and the 54th Heavy CAB at Lhasa. Xinjiang MD, on the other hand, is the PLA's last division-based ground force, retaining four combined arms divisions (CADs) - 4th, 6th, 8th, and 11th - each roughly twice the strength of a brigade. Found in addition at the frontlines are three CABs from the 77th GA, which were permanently positioned there during the 2017 Doklam standoff to provide the Tibet MD's two lighter mountain CABs with greater firepower and capability. So, the complicated mathematics likely is that three Tibet MD brigades, the three 77th GA brigades transferred since 2017, independent border defence regiments, and troops from the four Xinjiang MD CADs together constitute the 10 "CAB-sized" forces at the LAC. The Xinjiang MD either fields its CADs in rotation, or composite elements are drawn from several of them - mostly the 4th, 6th, and 8th - under the umbrella of the PLA '506 Special Mission'. There is also an external benchmark to consider here, and it is provided by the US Department of War's annual 'China Military Power' Reports. The Report counted 10 CABs across the LAC's three sectors in 2022, and argued that some of them were borrowed from other theatre commands. These could further add to the MoD's CAB-sized assessment outside of the MDs' deployments, the BDRs, and the GA reinforcements.

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Dreame Technology Launches Flagship X60 Ultra Complete Robot Vacuum in India

Redefining Whole-Home Cleaning with Smarter Intelligence and Powerful Performance



New Delhi, India, 23 September 2026: Dreame Technology, a global leader in smart home innovation, today announced the launch of its flagship Dreame X60 Ultra Complete robot vacuum in India — Dreame's thinnest robot vacuum with the highest suction in its category, delivering a new generation of whole-home cleaning designed to be more intelligent, adaptive, and autonomous. The Dreame X60 Ultra Complete is engineered to understand its surroundings, reach spaces other robots may miss, overcome challenging obstacles, and adapt its cleaning approach in real time. The Dreame X60 Ultra Complete will be available at INR 1,34,999 across Amazon India from September 27, 2026 and the Dreame India official website from September 22, 2026. It will also be available on Croma and select retail stores. Manu Sharma, Managing Director, Dreame Technology India, said, "We are entering a new phase in the evolution of intelligent home technology, where the focus is shifting from what machines can do to how intelligently they can understand and respond to the world around them. With the Dreame X60 Ultra Complete robot vacuum, we are bringing this vision to life through AI-powered recognition, adaptive navigation, and advanced cleaning technologies that enable the robot to deliver more effective performance as it moves through the home. It reflects a future where home technology is not just automated, but increasingly intuitive, adaptive, and designed to make everyday living more effortless. Our ambition is to make the future feel practical and effortless for consumers, beginning with the way they clean their homes. We are entering the future of Smart Living with our new launch." The launch also builds on Dreame's "Live Smarter" philosophy, which is being brought to life through its latest campaign featuring Kriti Sanon, Dreame Technology India's brand ambassador. The campaign explores how intelligent home technology can take everyday household chores off consumers' hands, giving them more time to focus on the experiences and moments that matter. With the Dreame X60 Ultra Complete, this vision comes to life through a more autonomous approach to home cleaning, allowing consumers to spend less time managing chores and more time living their lives. The Thinnest Robot Vacuum, Designed to Go Further At just 7.95 cm slim, the Dreame X60 Ultra Complete is Dreame's thinnest robot vacuum, designed to reach low-clearance spaces under beds, sofas, and cabinets. Its retractable DToF sensor lifts in open spaces for 360° scanning and automatically retracts in tighter areas, while the binocular obstacle avoidance system uses two AI cameras to detect, identify, and avoid 280+ objects. But its reach goes beyond spaces under furniture. The Dual Flex Arm Technology extends the side brush and mop pads into tight corners and hard-to-reach areas, helping deliver up to 100% cleaning coverage in these challenging spaces.

India ramps up LPG production as Gulf supply disruptions threaten festive-season deman



India's state-owned refiners have stepped up production of liquefied petroleum gas, as the country's festive season lifts demand for cooking fuel at a time when conflict in the Persian Gulf continues to disrupt contracted supply. The world's second-largest importer of LPG, India until recently took the bulk of its supply from the Persian Gulf, a concentration that left it heavily exposed to the conflict and trade upheaval of the past months. To cope, the country took a raft of measures, including cranking up domestic output. Indian refiners scaled back that production from wartime highs once alternative cargoes began arriving from the US and Africa over the summer months, and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. began supplying volumes at Oman's Sohar port. But output has since climbed again, standing currently at about 44,000 tons of LPG a day, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be named given the sensitivity of the issue. That is nearly a fifth more than the average in August. In part, this is to manage rising demand, as measures taken to ease consumption begin to ease. Last month, rural households were told they would have to wait only 25 days to refill cylinders, down from an emergency 45 days imposed back in March, with officials citing improved supply and lower backlogs. At the same time, the Hindu festival season has begun and will run until Diwali, the festival of lights, in November. Appetite is likely to stay 10% below the same period last year, largely as industrial demand destroyed during the war - when the government prioritized supply for households — fails to return. But consumers are buying, and winter weather typically provides another boost, potentially forcing refiners to raise domestic production further. On the supply side, meanwhile, a resurgence in fighting has complicated transits out of the Persian Gulf. One September cargo for Bharat Petroleum Corp. and two for Indian Oil Corp. — all due from Adnoc, the only major Middle East producer supplying LPG to India — could not be collected, the people said. The Abu Dhabi producer has indicated it will supply committed October volumes, including five cargoes to Indian Oil and three each to BPCL and Hindustan Petroleum Corp., they added. "As India's largest LPG supplier, ADNOC remains fully committed to meeting our customers' needs and supporting India's energy security," an Adnoc spokesperson said. "We continue to provide reliable and secure LPG supplies to our customers in India and work closely with them to meet their requirements." Indian Oil, HPCL and BPCL did not immediately respond to Bloomberg queries. The state refiners could also issue a tender this month seeking term supplies from the US amounting to as much as 20% of India's LPG imports next year, the people said. The US, which accounted for just 6% of India's LPG imports last year, has emerged as the country's largest supplier, with its share climbing above 20%. India signed its first term LPG supply deal with the US last year as part of an effort to diversify away from its heavy dependence on the Middle East. The latest procurement plans would deepen that shift as uncertainty persists over supplies from the Persian Gulf.

Abakkus could be valued at Rs 9,000-10,000 crore based on growth and business mix



The company is likely to remain an alternatives-led business in the near term, but mutual funds are expected to be the main source of incremental scale. That creates a valuation trade-off: Abakkus can grow AUM rapidly while its average revenue yield declines, experts say. Abakkus Asset Manager could be valued at around Rs 9,000-10,000 crore in its proposed IPO, based on its FY26 earnings and valuation multiples received by listed peers, although the company's shift towards mutual funds could moderate its high fee yields over time. Currently, listed peers include ICICI Prudential AMC, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC and UTI AMC. According to the DRHP filed on September 22, the company reported revenue of Rs 796 crore and profit after tax of Rs 327 crore in FY26, compared with revenue of Rs 707 crore and profit of Rs 258 crore in FY25. The IPO will be entirely an offer for sale of 1.5 crore shares by promoter Abakkus Expert Professionals LLP, with no fresh capital coming into the company. At 30x FY26 earnings, Abakkus would have an implied equity value of around Rs 9,810 crore, while a 35x multiple would value it at around Rs 11,445 crore. Sector analysts are broadly looking at a 30-35 times earnings framework, with the practical valuation estimate closer to Rs 9,000-10,000 crore. EPS for FY2026 as per the DRHP is Rs 21.80. Valuation compared to peers Listed asset managers are currently trading at a range of around 21x-45x, reflecting differences in business mix, profitability and growth. Analysts say that Abakkus' proposed valuation cannot be compared directly with a pure-play mutual fund company because a significant portion of its current earnings comes from alternatives. Vinit Boljinkar, Head of Equity Research at Ventura said Abakkus should be assessed against both AMC peers and wealth and PMS-AIF platforms, given its different business mix. FY26 quarterly average AUM stood at Rs 41,409 crore, with around 92% coming from PMS, AIF, PE and UCITS products, which carry relatively higher fee structures.

HCLFoundation undertakes mega coastal cleanup campaign



NOIDA, September, 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 clean-up drive in Puri, Odisha.

Samsung India Launches 2026 Range of Bespoke AI Appliances Designed to be Your True Home Companion



GURUGRAM, India – September , 2026 – Samsung India today launched its 2026 Bespoke AI appliances lineup, designed to enhance and simplify consumers' lives. At 'The Brief Gurugram', a cutting-edge experiential event, Samsung demonstrated how AI acts as a common thread across different product categories, connecting climate control, laundry, living room, and kitchen into an ecosystemcapableoflearninghabits,automatingtasks,andoptimizingenergyconsumptionthrough the SmartThings platform. With intuitive touchscreens, advanced voice intelligence, and inclusive design, the 2026 Bespoke AI appliances lineup offers a connected, easy-to-use, and secure smart home experience for everyone.

Integration Overtakes Supply as the Primary Semiconductor Challenge, reveals HCLTech Research

NOIDA, India, Sept., 2026 — HCLTech, a leading global technology company, today launched The Silicon Shift: When Every Industry Becomes a Chip Industry, a global research report on evolving semiconductor requirements across automotive, medical devices, network equipment and industrial automation verticals. The survey included 300 senior leaders across engineering, R&D, semiconductor/hardware, product, innovation and technology strategy in the United States, Europe and Asia. As AI accelerates demand for computing power, semiconductors are becoming increasingly central to business strategy. As per the report, 98% enterprises are more dependent on semiconductors than three years ago and 99% expect that dependency to increase over the next five years, while 71% say AI is increasing the importance of semiconductor architecture as a strategic business decision. The dependency is most acute in industrial automation, where 75% report being much more dependent on semiconductors than three years ago, the strongest acceleration of any sector in the study. However, integration emerged as the industry's biggest challenge, cited by the largest share of respondents as the primary reason current solutions fall short, outpacing supply chain constraints and performance limitations. Integration was the leading concern in medical devices and industrial automation and featured in the top two across all four sectors studied. To overcome these challenges, enterprises are looking to engineering service providers that can deliver greater value through hardware and software integration (67%), supply chain and lifecycle support (61%) and deeper industry expertise (59%). The findings suggest that competitive advantage is increasingly being shaped by the quality of engineering partnerships and integration expertise, rather than silicon performance alone. "Semiconductor dependency now shapes corporate strategy, not just engineering roadmaps. What this research reveals is that enterprises are no longer asking which chip to buy. Rather, they are asking how to build a durable capability around silicon across long product lifecycles, high regulatory stakes and complex integration environments. The companies that solve that problem, and the partners who help them, will define their sectors for the next decade," said Ameer Saithu, Executive Vice President & Global Head, Semiconductor Business, HCLTech. "Industries that once primarily consumed semiconductor technology are now helping define what the next generation of silicon must deliver. This silicon shift is happening now, and it creates a tremendous opportunity for deeper collaboration across our ecosystem," noted Ajit Manocha, President and CEO, SEMI, in the guest foreword of the report. While 79% of the enterprises rely entirely on off-the-shelf silicon or mostly commercial silicon with limited customization today, 66% expect to move to a different model within five years. The majority are choosing partner-led routes: 59% of all respondents expect their future approach to involve external engineering partners, hybrid models, co-development, or engineering services. Just 3% expect to increase internal investment in custom silicon and 4% expect greater reliance on off-the-shelf components. This research builds on over 30 years of HCLTech's experience engineering across every layer of the semiconductor ecosystem — designing and delivering turnkey silicon from specification to parts, co-engineering the tools and platforms of the world's leading equipment makers, and running, optimizing and digitalizing fab and OSAT operations around the world. HCLTech serves 90+ global semiconductor clients, including all top 5 equipment companies and 8 of the top 10 chip companies and over $70 million invested in advanced semiconductor labs.

Taking Stock: Market rebounds; Nifty above 23,400, Sensex up 299 pts; metals, realty lead



Indian equity indices rebounded on September 23, with the Nifty reclaiming the 23,400-mark, led by broad-based buying across sectors, barring IT stocks. Despite mixed global cues, the market opened higher and extended gains through the session, supported by buying in metal, realty and FMCG stocks. The continued decline in oil prices for a sixth straight session also aided sentiment, while selling pressure in IT stocks capped the upside. At close, the Sensex was up 299.17 points or 0.40 percent at 74,828.25, and the Nifty was up 117.80 points or 0.50 percent at 23,446.80. Broader markets snapped a two-day losing streak, with the Nifty Midcap 100 and Smallcap 100 indices rising 0.7% and 0.9%, respectively. Biggest Nifty gainers were Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Hindalco Industries, JSW Steel, Apollo Hospitals, while losers included Coal India, HCL Technologies, Titan Company, TCS and Infosys. Metals led sectoral gains, surging 2.4 percent, while Telecom, PSU banks, realty and FMCG rose more than 1 percent each. IT fell 0.8 percent and media slipped 0.5 percent. More than 170 stocks touched 52-week high, including Inventurus Knowledge Solutions, Welspun Corp, Shyam Metalics, Welspun Living, RBL Bank, Redington, among others. Click to View More Also Read - NSE shares to trade on Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India from tomorrow Among individual stocks, Prime Focus shares fell over 6% after Brahma AI raised $150 million through an equity issuance, while Optiemus Infracom rallied 17% as around 15.85 lakh shares changed hands in block deals. Bajaj Finance and L&T Finance gained 2-3% after UBS upgraded Bajaj Finance to 'Neutral' and L&T Finance to 'Buy'. Texmaco Infrastructure rose 7% after 1.28 crore shares changed hands in a block deal. Persistent Systems slipped 2.5% after acquiring a 61.15% stake in Nagarro SE, while Allcargo Terminals gained 8% after August volumes rose 6%, and 360 ONE WAM advanced more than 3% after Aashish Agarwal was appointed CEO. New Listings Hero Motors ended 17% higher at ?98.50 after a muted listing at ?82 on the NSE, a 2.38% discount to its IPO price of ?84 per share. SS Retail surged 80.87% to ?767 after making a strong debut, listing at a premium of over 50% to its IPO price of ?124 on the BSE. Jindal Supreme gained 81% to ?128 after listing at ?120, a premium of more than 29% over its IPO price of ?93 per share. Also Read - AI risk is rising so is its upside; buy the dip in tech: BofA The Indian rupee snapped its five-day gaining streak, ending 15 paise lower at 95.74 per dollar on Wednesday, compared with Tuesday's close of 95.59. Outlook for September 24 Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research, Kotak Securities Today, the benchmark indices witnessed narrow range activity. The Nifty ends 118 points higher, while the Sensex was up by 299 points. Among sectors, the metal index was the top gainer, rallying 2.40 percent, whereas Media indices shed nearly 1 percent . Technically, after a positive open, the entire day saw narrow range activity. In addition, on daily charts, it has formed a small bullish candle, and on intraday, it is holding a range-bound formation.

US and Iran hold first talks since June after Trump's 'annihilation' threat



❑ Oil prices flat as president says Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner had ëgood meetingí with Iranian delegation on the sidelines of the UN gathering

Senior US officials held talks with Iranian counterparts on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, hours after Donald Trump threatened to "annihilate" the Islamic republic in a combative speech to world leaders. The US president said after his address that envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner had "a very good meeting" with members of the Iranian delegation. Iranian state television reported that foreign minister Abbas Araghchi attended the first direct talks between the US and Iran since late June. Trump, who said the options for Iran were "potential greatness or obliteration", added that further talks were set to take place in "the near future".

Top Iranian and US officials have held talks at the UN in New York on a day when the US leader said he could "annihilate" the Islamic Republic if the conflict went unresolved. No breakthrough has been reported from the meeting mediated by Qatar and involving Iran's foreign minister and US President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff - the first since a June ceasefire unravelled. Witkoff said a round of discussions had been completed "that we hope will prove constructive and promising". Iran repeated its demand for the US to end its "acts of aggression". The US and Israel launched air strikes on Iran on 28 February. Iran responded by attacking Israel and US bases in the Gulf and Arab Gulf allies of the US - as well as blocking the Strait of Hormuz. Some 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas used to pass through the strait before the war and its closure has caused wild fluctuations of prices. It has also increased pressure on Trump to find a way of ending the conflict - particularly as the US heads to Congressional elections in November. In his address at the annual meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, Trump began by touting his accomplishments on the economy, immigration, the border and tackling violent crime - remarks that sounded more pitched to voters the US midterms than the diplomats in the hall. He spent much of his address justifying the war with Iran - a huge contrast with remarks earlier by UN Secretary General António Guterres, who warned global divisions were deepening and underscored the "interdependence" of the world's peoples. The US president argued that the conflict had prevented Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and demonstrated the value of what he described as peace through strength - ultimatums rather than deal-making or compromise. "Will a deal be made with Iran that lets them rebuild and create a far greater country than it ever was before?" he said. "Or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and destroy people and countries again? Do I drive them into hell?" Trump said he believed an Iran deal, which has so far eluded him, would come right after November's elections. The remarks were indicative of his foreign-policy strategy of coercive diplomacy - threatening overwhelming force while keeping negotiations open. Trump later told reporters that American officials had had a "very productive" three-hour meeting with the Iranian delegation on the sidelines of the general assembly. Iran state TV confirmed that Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had met Witkoff. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei, quoted by state broadcaster IRNA, later said negotiations took part through a Qatari mediator who communicated Tehran's conditions, including an end to the war on all fronts and to US "acts of aggression". The BBC asked Witkoff how the meetings had gone as he was leaving the UN building and he responded with a thumbs up. Witkoff later confirmed on X that the talks had been held "through the mediators, who shuttled between the two sides throughout the day". "They successfully completed a round of discussions that we hope will prove constructive and promising," Witkoff said. "The mediators will continue their work." Since the ceasefire collapsed, both sides have intermittently exchanged fire. Iran has attacked vessels it says have attempted to cross the Strait of Hormuz without authorisation. The US has attacked Iranian sites in the strait - as well as Iranian tankers off the country's coast. The US has also maintained a blockade of Iranian ports, causing a huge disruption to the Iranian economy. In an effort to force Tehran to agree a deal to end the conflict, President Trump has also threatened sanctions against any country that continues trading with Iran. But so far, there has been no indication of a change of course in Iran, which insists

Trump administration accuses banned media outlets of 'falsehoods' ahead of court hearing



The US Justice Department has filed documents that accuse three media outlets banned from the White House of "trafficking in verifiable falsehoods" and reporting which "threatened national security" as it prepared to defend the move in court. Last week, President Donald Trump barred CNN, Politico and MS NOW from the White House, accusing them of spreading "fake news". After their reporters had their passes confiscated and were denied access to the building, the three outlets jointly launched legal action, calling the move unconstitutional. On Wednesday, a judge is set to decide whether to issue an order temporarily lifting the ban, pending a full hearing. According to a court filing by the Justice Department in a District of Columbia court, the three outlets were issued with a list of "reporting incidents" by the White House ahead of the ban. The filing cites a number of stories about construction at the White House - including about a security bunker and the building of a new ballroom, as well as a report on an internal information leak investigation. It goes on to say that "access to the White House is a privilege, not a right". The three media organisations have argued that the ban breaches their rights under the First Amendment, which forbids the government from "abridging" the freedom of the press. In a joint statement confirming legal action against the government, they said: "Without notice or process, the White House revoked our journalists' credentials because it objected to our reporting. "Left unchallenged, this threatens press freedom and the public's right to independent journalism free from government interference." Major TV networks have withdrawn from a media-sharing arrangement of video and images of the president, known as the pool, in protest over the ban. Shortly after, the White House launched its own streaming channel, Trump TV, which operates a 24/7 feed of clips of the president. On Tuesday, tensions continued between Trump and some of the news outlets, as Trump told CNN reporter Kaitlin Collins before his speech to the United Nations General Assembly: "I'm surprised that CNN is here covering me. You should not be here covering me. You said you weren't going to cover me." Collins noted later on air that the network had made no such pledge. He also took to social media to attack Collins, once again asking why she and others were reporting on the president at the UN. The US president also hit out again at CNN , Politico and MS NOW, calling them "treasonous".

Dramatic eviction of woman aged 87 highlights Spain's housing shortage



The dramatic eviction of an 87-year-old woman from the home in Madrid where she lived for seven decades has drawn attention to the depth of Spain's housing crisis. The tenant of the flat in the Retiro area of central Madrid, Maricarmen, was unable to pay the rent set by the investment firm that owns it. Maricarmen's father first rented the property in 1956 and she continued as the tenant after her parents died, during which time there was a cap on the rent. However, the company that bought the property in 2018, Urbagestión, cited a legal glitch allowing it to raise her rent from 500 (£428; $572) to 2,650. It subsequently lowered the new rent to 1,650 but Maricarmen was still unable to pay it with her monthly pension of 1,350. Three previous attempts to evict her were blocked by the courts and the case has received increasing media attention. Supporters of Maricarmen camped outside the building on Tuesday night, joined by celebrities including Javier Bardem's brother, Carlos, and the singer Ana Belén, who read out the poem Desahucio (Eviction) by Rafael Alberti. Several hundred people, mostly youngsters, had gathered by the morning in a bid to prevent the eviction from taking place, chanting "Maricarmen stays".

Ethiopia and Tigray accuse each of launching offensives, fuelling fears of new war

Ethiopia's government and the party in control of the northern region of Tigray have accused each other of launching offensives, escalating fears of a return to full-scale conflict. Getachew Reda, a cabinet minister and adviser to Ethiopia's prime minister, said Tigrayan fighters had taken control of federally administered airports in Tigray and launched offensives in neighbouring Afar and Amhara regions. Earlier, the Tigrayan authorities said their forces had been forced to enter a "defensive war". The statement followed reports of drone strikes in Tigray. The two-year war in Tigray ended in 2022 - but over recent months both sides have been accusing each other of violating a peace deal. It was one of the most deadly conflicts this century - the African Union's mediator estimated some 600,000 people died as the fighting drove the region to the precipice of famine. On Sunday, the Tigray People's



Liberation Front (TPLF), the party that runs Tigray, announced an alliance with six other armed groups in Ethiopia to remove the government in Addis Ababa. Seven Ethiopian rebel groups form new alliance "It is rather heartbreaking to learn that, despite efforts by many, including the international community, to avoid yet another round of war in Tigray, the TPLF leadership early this morning launched an all-out offensive against government positions in Afar and Amhara," Getachew said in a statement shared on social media. The adviser to Prime Minster Abiy Ahmed previously led Tigray's interim administration, but he fell out with the TPLF in 2025 and joined the federal government. Following the seizure of the airports, Ethiopian Airlines has cancelled all flights to Tigray. Residents of Tigray's main city of Mekelle told the BBC that local forces had taken over control of the city's airport from the national police early on Wednesday. This followed reports of drone strikes in Tigray in recent days. On Tuesday, a strike in the southern town of Alamata killed at least 14 people and injured 22 others, according to the Tigrayan authorities. The town's mayor, Mogos Shiferaw, told the BBC that more than five drones and one fighter jet had carried out more than 21 strikes starting at around 03:30. "This caused a lot of psychological trauma in our city and our people were in a state of panic," he said. Mogos said all those killed and injured were civilians, accusing federal forces of targeting two secondary schools. He believed they were struck on suspicion that they were being used by Tigrayan forces. But the mayor said the schools, which had served as federal military bases during the civil war, were unoccupied as the academic year had not yet begun. The BBC has not independently verified the allegations and the government has not commented on the alleged strikes. On Wednesday, the Tigray authorities accused Addis Ababa of launching an "open invasion" of the region, urging people to support the regional forces and maintain unity.

Dolly Parton's manager accuses her nephew of 'threats and intimidation'



Dolly Parton's management company has accused her nephew of "threats, intimidation, and coercion", revealing a bitter battle over the late star's legacy and business interests. The accusations against Bryan Seaver, who was Parton's head of security and was handpicked to announce her death last month, have been made public in US legal documents filed this week. The company that manages Parton's businesses and properties, She's Alive, is seeking a temporary civil restraining order against him. In court filings, She's Alive alleged that Seaver mounted "an obscene, deliberate and escalating campaign of threats", claiming he said he would ruin her empire if the estate did not pay him. He has denied the claims. In a statement to TMZ, he said that text messages and emails quoted in the court application had been taken out of context to make it look like he was threatening people. "Nothing in this lawsuit were threats and most of the comments I stand by," he said. "A lot of these messages are two guys having rage talk and crying on the phone together while we were grieving." Seaver, the son of Parton's sister Cassie, owns a company that provided the singer's security detail for the last 20 years of her life. Last week, he was fired by She's Alive as head of security for her properties. In a statement at the time, Seaver and his company said the dismissal was "unexpected" and "unexplained".



Reports of violence against women in Gaza surge, UN agency finds

ELEVEN KILLED IN MASS SHOOTING AT HOUSE IN SOUTH AFRICA

At least 11 people have been killed in a mass shooting in a residential building near the South African city of Durban. Gunmen stormed a house in the KwaMakhutha township late on Tuesday and opened fire on 14 people. Ten were killed at the scene and four were taken to hospital, where one later died from their injuries, police said. Police said some of the victims were on their watch in connection with illegal activities, which they could not "divulge at the moment to protect investigations which have been launched". While the motive of the shooting has not yet been confirmed, the police said they could not rule out a "feud between rival groupings".



"Information available at this stage suggests that 13 men and one woman, who is believed to be pregnant, were reportedly having a party inside a house when three men arrived and opened fire on them," the police said in a statement. The woman is among those who died. A local TV reporter from the eNCA channel at the scene said the gunmen had set fire to a vehicle belonging to one of the victims before fleeing, with footage showing the burnt-out car. The police say they have launched a manhunt for the suspects, who were said to be carrying pistols and rifles. South Africa has one of the world's highest murder rates, with police data showing a murder rate equivalent to more than 60 deaths a day. In recent weeks, the gruesome discovery of at least nine murdered women, with some of the bodies dumped by the roadside, has heightened fears in the country. Last year, nine people were killed in a mass shooting at a tavern in Johannesburg. Rivalry among criminal gangs amid turf wars, drug trafficking and illegal mining is common in the country, often driving violence within communities. In February, President Cyril Ramaphosa said organised crime was "the most immediate threat to our democracy, our society and our economic development", as he announced that he would be deploying the army to support the police.

ASIAN GAMES:

MIRABAI CHANU'S SILVER

HEADLINES INDIA'S HISTORIC SHOW

India's Mirabai Chanu won the silver medal in the women's 49kg weightlifting event at the Asian Games 2026 in Japan on Wednesday. Mirabai Chanu, a Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist, finished with a total lift of 198kg (87kg snatch + 111 clean and jerk) at the Nagoya City Trade and Industry Center for her maiden podium finish at the Asian Games. This was also India's 15th Asian Games medal in weightlifting but the first podium finish in the sport in 28 years. Another Olympic medallist, Karnam Malleswari, was the last Indian lifter to stand on an Asian Games podium, having won silver in the women's 63kg division at Bangkok 1998. The Indian weightlifter had heartbreakingly missed out on a medal at Hangzhou 2023, finishing fourth after injuring herself during her final clean and jerk attempt. The



Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Ri Song-gum, the reigning world champion and two-time defending Asian Games champ, took the gold medal again with a world record total lift of 215kg (94kg+121kg). Both her snatch and clean and jerk efforts were also new world marks in the weight class. Indonesia's Luluk Diana Tri Wijayana took the bronze with 191kg (88kg+103kg). Mirabai Chanu was clinical in her snatch attempts, logging successful progressions of 83kg, 85kg and 87kg without much trouble. Trailing only Ri Song-gum and Luluk Diana Tri Wijayana heading into the clean and jerk section, Mirabai Chanu began with a successful 107kg lift before improving it to 111kg. She didn't attempt a third lift. "There was pressure, but not that much pressure that I could not win a medal," Mirabai Chanu said after the event. "I had the belief in me that I would be able to win. There were expectations, people who believed in me: my coaches, my support staff, and I made sure to win a medal for my country." A medal winner at the Olympics, the World and Asian Championships and the Commonwealth Games, the Asian Games was the only major meet where Mirabai had never stood on the podium heading into Aichi-Nagoya 2026. India have sent a four-member weightlifting contingent to contest for medals at the Asian Games 2026. Gyaneshwari Yadav competed in the women's 53kg category later in the day but failed to secure a medal, finishing eighth with a total of 195kg (87kg + 108kg). Seram Nirupama Devi (women's 61kg) and Harjinder Kaur (women's 69kg) are the other two Indian lifters in fray and will compete in the coming days.

Abhishek Sharma Creates Unwanted Record After Golden Duck Against Japan In One-Off T20I



Days after scoring a record-breaking century, India opener Abhishek Sharma endured a nightmare outing against Japan in the one-off T20I on Tuesday in Sano. Abhishek, who scored a 30-ball century against Afghanistan in the third T20I last week, was dismissed for a golden duck by Japan all-rounder Charlie Hara-Hinze. The southpaw thus scripted the unwanted record of being dismissed for a duck the most times in a calendar year. He also became the first player to be dismissed for a duck 10 times in a single calendar year. Abhishek produced a record-breaking century against Afghanistan in the third T20I at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium. The left-hander smashed 108 off just 34 balls, reaching his century in 30 deliveries, as India posted 221/7 after being asked to bat first. Overall, it was the third-fastest T20 hundred and the fastest by an Indian batter. Rohit Sharma held the previous record, scoring a century off 35 balls against Sri Lanka in 2017. Former Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya recently suggested that Abhishek has established himself in the Indian team, understands his importance and role, and consistently gives his best for the country. He hailed India's young talent as a positive sign for the country's cricketing future. "He is a player who has established himself in the team. He knows how important his place is and (he is) for the team, what he needs for the team. And he has given his best shot. So, the players individually, if you mention, everyone wants to do well for their country. And so these are the players, young players who are in India, so that's a good future for India cricket," he said.

SVIS U-14 BOYS WIN CBSE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP, QUALIFY FOR NATIONALS

Tirupati, September , 2026: Sree Vidyanikethan International School (SVIS), Tirupati, founded by Dr. M. Mohan Babu, renowned actor and educationist, has added another achievement to its sporting record, with its U-14 Boys Basketball Team emerging as the CBSE Cluster VII Champion for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana at the championship held in Hyderabad. Competing against 188 teams from across the two states, the team secured the top spot and has now qualified to represent SVIS at the CBSE National Basketball Championship in Punjab. The cluster victory also reflects the growing strength of SVIS's school-level sports programme,



supported by structured training, dedicated coaching and sporting infrastructure that enables students to compete at increasingly higher levels. The CBSE National Basketball Championship, scheduled to be held from September 29 to October 6, 2026, in Bathinda, Punjab, will bring together qualifying teams from CBSE clusters across India. The national-level tournament will give the young athletes an opportunity to compete against leading school teams from across the country and gain valuable experience on a larger competitive platform. Commenting on the achievement, Vinay Maheshwari, ED and Trustee, Sree Vidyanikethan Educational Trust, said, "It is an immensely proud moment to see our U-14 team compete with such confidence and emerge as Cluster Champions against some of the strongest teams from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
The players have demonstrated remarkable discipline, composure and team spirit, particularly at this early stage of their sporting journey. Beyond the title, we are delighted to see them gaining the competitive exposure and experience that will help them grow as athletes in the years ahead. I wish the entire team the very best as they carry this momentum into the national championship."

Ex-CSK Star Vansh Bedi Responds To Allegations As IPL Fixing Row Grips Indian Cricket: "Will Take Criminal Action"



Central Delhi Kings wicket-keeper-batter Vansh Bedi has addressed the reports surrounding an alleged corrupt approach during the recently concluded Delhi Premier League (DPL), reiterating his position amid the ongoing developments. Bedi denied reports linking him to allegations of match-fixing involving a Chennai Super Kings (CSK) player, calling the content circulating on social media and websites false and defamatory. Bedi categorically stated that he is not the individual referred to in the report and denied having any involvement in match-fixing or related activities. He said his legal team has initiated appropriate civil and criminal action against those responsible for the alleged defamatory content. Bedi also urged people to refrain from creating or sharing what he described as false and defamatory material. "I would like to clarify certain false and defamatory content circulating on social media and websites concerning me. I categorically state that I am not the individual referred to by Ex-Ranji Trophy cricketer Rachit Bhatia in the Tehelka sting operation concerning alleged match-fixing involving a CSK player, nor do I have any involvement whatsoever in any such activity," he wrote in an Instagram post. "Any attempt to falsely link me with these allegations is highly defamatory. My legal team is taking appropriate civil and criminal action against those responsible. I request everyone to refrain from creating or sharing such false and defamatory content," he added. Bedi has been associated with Delhi cricket and previously represented Purani Dilli 6 in the DPL. He was also picked by Chennai Super Kings in the IPL auction ahead of the 2025 season. The matter has since come under scrutiny, with the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) communicating the information available to it to the relevant authorities. DDCA has clarified that the allegations currently being reported are only allegations and have not been verified or established by any competent authority.

Bollywood Actor Ayushmann Khurrana Shows Ultimate Act Of Kindness, Sponsors Rifle For Indian Shooter

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana, famous for the film 'Vicky Donor', has stepped in to sponsor a rifle for current Asian Championship gold medallist Meghana Sajjanar after learning about her challenges with the equipment. Khurrana had not met Sajjanar or known her personally, yet offered to sponsor her rifle after learning about her circumstances. The support gave the athlete access to world-class equipment and allowed her to train and compete without having to compromise on her preparation. "He didn't know me. We had never met. He just wanted to see an Indian athlete win on the global



stage. That rifle levelled the playing field for me, allowing me to train without compromise, take on the best in the world, and achieve what I have today," Sajjanar posted on social media.
Recently she won gold in team event and an individual bronze in 10m Air Rifle category at the Asian Championship here at the Karni Singh Range. She won couple of bronze medals at 2022 and 2025 World Championship in Cairo.

Arman Tsarukyan Reveals The Real Reason Why N3on Didn't Pay Him $250,000

UFC lightweight contender Arman Tsarukyan has stated that he will not pursue the $250,000 promised by streamer N3on for a walkout with him at UFC 331, explaining that friendship mattered more than collecting a bet that he never expected to be paid in full. Tsarukyan entered the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles for his co-main event against Mauricio Ruffy accompanied by N3on, who had been promised a fourth spot in the Armenian fighter's corner. Tsarukyan had agreed to use N3on's track, "She Wants to Hang With an Indian," for his entrance, with the American streamer publicly offering $250,000.

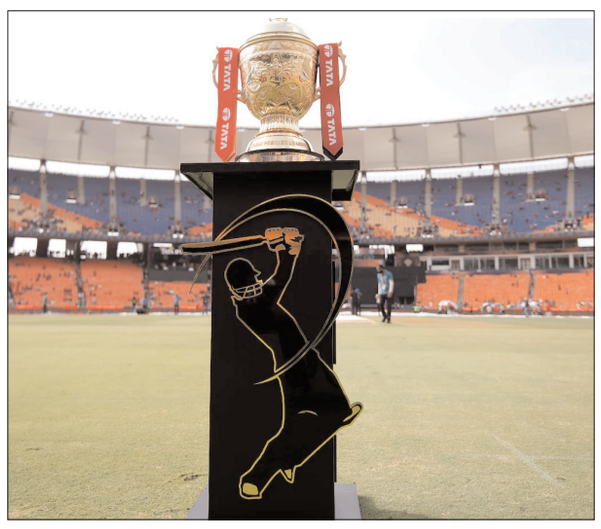


R Ashwin's Big CSK Coach Bombshell: This 2011 World Cup Winner Was In Frame Along With Zaheer Khan



Not just Hemang Badani, Ashish Nehra was also in the fray to become Chennai Super Kings' new coach, according to Ravichandran Ashwin. Ahead of IPL 2027, Zaheer Khan replaced Stephen Fleming, who was at the helm for 18 seasons and played an instrumental role in making CSK one of the most successful teams in the world's biggest T20 league. Zaheer had mentored the Lucknow Super Giants during the 2024 season in his last stint in the IPL. He had also worked with Mumbai Indians as their Director of Cricket Operations and later as Global Head of Cricket Development before joining the Super Giants. Fleming announced in July this year that he was parting ways with the five-time champions. The former New Zealand captain has now taken up the role of England's head coach in Test cricket. Former CSK player Ashwin said there were several names under discussion. "There have been conversations with several coaches," Ashwin said in a video on his YouTube channel. "In fact, if I'm not wrong, I think Ashish Nehra was also at some stage in the frame. Ashish Nehra doesn't need to leave GT. He's running an absolutely successful franchise in GT. "I think there are two other Indian legends whose contracts were also discussed. There were a few foreigners whose contracts were discussed, but the deals couldn't materialise for many reasons. The reasons were very different. In some cases, they were not ready to take a one-year contract. In fact, in one case I know well, the deal was almost done, but the issue was that he couldn't work in international tournaments other than CSK, because of which he could suffer financially." He also supported Zaheer Khan's appointment. "I think the choice of Zaheer Khan is fabulous. I do not doubt it," Ashwin said. "He ticks all the boxes. Smart man, knows cricket, knows bowling tactics well, and will blend in nicely. His relationship with Dhoni is very good.

BCCI SECRETARY DEVAJIT SAIKIA REVEALS IPL 2027 AUCTION VENUE IN INDIA



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Devajit Saikia on Wednesday announced that the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction for the 2027 edition of the league will be held in Goa in December this year. Speaking to ANI, Devajit Saikia said that after holding the IPL auction at three international venues — Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Abu Dhabi — in the previous three years, the BCCI will host this year's auction in Goa in December. "This year, after hosting the IPL auction in three foreign locations, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi last year, we are going to host it in Goa in the month of December," he said. Meanwhile, the multi-day match between India A Women and Australia A Women, scheduled from September 29 to October 2, has been shifted from Dharamshala to Mohali due to the impact of prolonged rainfall on the outfield and prevailing ground conditions. The fixture will now be played at the PCA IS Bindra Stadium in Mohali, which is also hosting the ongoing three-match One-Day series between the two teams, according to a media release from BCCI. The venue change comes after the opening One-Day match, in which India A Women registered a four-wicket victory while chasing a target of 236 runs. Speaking about the shift, the BCCI Secretary said the decision was taken due to persistent rainfall and unfavourable weather conditions in Dharamshala to ensure that cricketing activities continue without interruption. "We have recently shifted the upcoming T20 matches from Dharamshala to Mohali because the ongoing weather conditions in Dharamshala are not very conducive for cricket. A lot of rainfall has been taking place there. Because of this incessant rainfall in Dharamshala, we decided that the matches should be moved to Mohali to ensure cricket activities continue without any interference from the weather," he said.

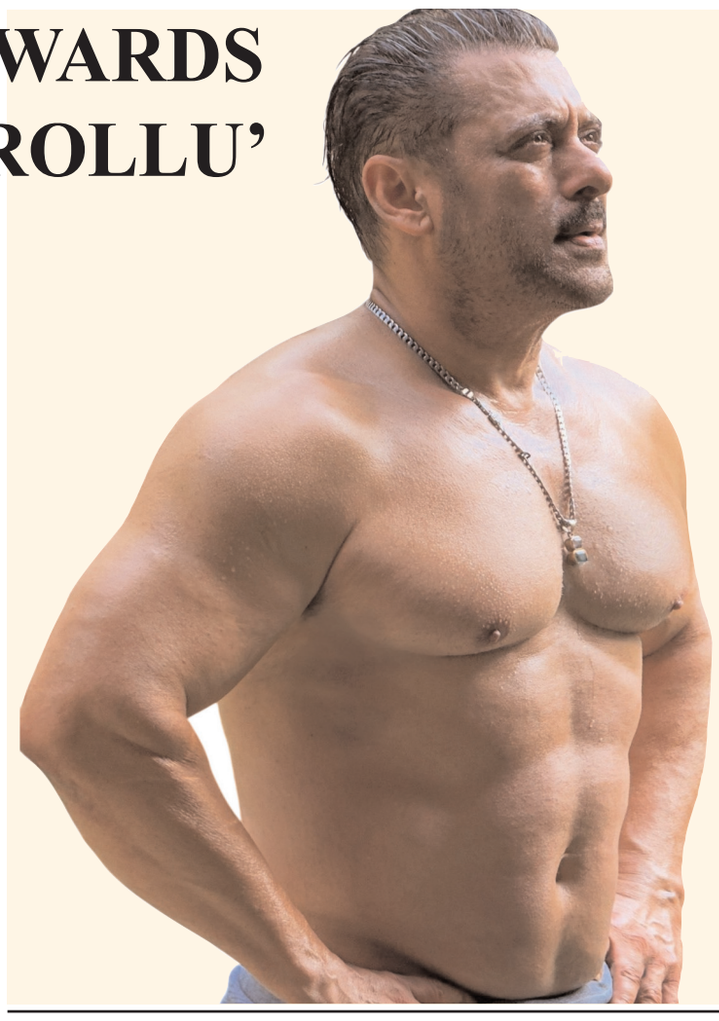
72ND NATIONAL FILM AWARDS FOR 'COMMITTEE KURROLLU'



Committee Kurrollu marked a landmark moment at the 72nd National Film Awards as the film's honours were formally presented at the National Film Awards ceremony. Niharika Konidela, representing the producers Pink Elephant Pictures LLP and Shree Radha Damodara Studios, received the Rajat Kamal for Best Telugu Film, while director Yadhu Vamsee was also honoured with the prestigious award for the film. Adding to the achievement, P. Ravi Kumar received the Best Make-up award for his work on Committee Kurrollu. The proud occasion was witnessed by members of the film's team and family, including Naga Babu, Padmaja Konidela and Phani Adapaka, who attended the ceremony alongside Niharika.

The ceremony marked the culmination of an extraordinary journey for Committee Kurrollu, which began as a rooted Telugu story backed by a new generation of talent and went on to earn the country's premier cinematic recognition. For Niharika Konidela, the occasion carried particular significance as Committee Kurrollu marked her debut as a feature-film producer.

Her decision to back a culturally rooted, content-driven story and place her faith in debutant filmmaker Yadhu Vamsee, alongside an ensemble of 16 newcomers, has now culminated in one of the most prestigious recognitions in Indian cinema.



SALMAN KHAN'S BODY BOOSTS BIGG BOSS VIEWS

Bigg Boss 20 Hindi has started on a sensational note, setting new viewership records and becoming one of the biggest television events in recent times. Hosted by Salman Khan, the latest season has grabbed attention with its high-voltage drama and entertaining contestants. As per the update, the latest episode recorded an impressive 21 million views, surpassing the viewership numbers of several major cricket broadcasts.

This highlights the immense popularity of Salman Khan and his unmatched appeal among television audiences. One of the biggest talking points was of Salman Khan's angry shirtless moment lecturing the trollers, which generated huge buzz on social media, with clips and discussions going viral within hours. The strong opening has once again proven that Bigg Boss remains one of India's most powerful entertainment brands. Salman is known for his aggressive hosting and the way he slammed all his trollers, supported the likes of Katrina Kaif, and made a statement, generated terrific views. Salman Khan has been associated with the franchise for over a decade and is making a whopping Rs 120 crore with this new season. With the season off to a flying start, expectations are now even higher. On the other hand, the Telugu Bigg Boss 10 has started on a dull note with not much happening in terms of masala.

Watch the movie 'Don't Trouble the Trouble' with the family and everyone will enjoy it.. Fahad Fazil at the trailer launch event



Don't Trouble The Trouble' is a movie produced by Shobhu Yarlagadda, Prasad Devineni and SS Karthikeya under the banners of Arca Media Works and Show Business. Fahad Fazil acted as hero in this movie. Shashank Yeleti is going to make his directorial debut with this movie. This movie is going to release on October 2. The trailer was released on Tuesday.

KAYADU SLAYS IN NAVY BLUE ROSEBUD DRAPE

Kayadu Lohar is giving full vintage-floral-dream energy in these new shots, and it's such a refreshing change from the usual ethnic glam. She's in a navy blue saree dotted with tiny red rosebuds, paired with a statement puff-sleeve blouse featuring an oversized painterly rose print, corals, blues, creams, all blending in so beautifully. The bishop sleeves add drama, while the red-gold embroidered borders on the blouse and pallu tie the whole thing together like a full-circle moment. A single red rose in hand, pearl-tassel jhumkas, chunky gold rings, and those loose voluminous curls, it's giving old-world romance meets monsoon-wedding heroine, honestly. Next, Kayadu's all set for The Paradise with Nani, releasing tomorrow,with huge expectations.



I hope that everyone will watch the movie 'Tella kaagitam and give it a big success: Sai Durga Tej at the trailer launch event



Presented by Mrs. K. Sridevi, the film 'Tellakagitham' is produced by Krishna Kommalapati under the banner of Arunachala Creations. Harsh Roshan and Nakshatra are providing the story, screenplay and dialogues for this movie. Ramesh Bandreddy is the director of this movie. The film is releasing on October 2. In this order, a trailer launch event was held on Tuesday. Supreme Hero Sai Durga Tej, Kona Venkat, Harish Shankar and others came as chief guests for this program. In this program..

Supreme hero Sai Durga Tej said.. 'I did the movie 'Jawan' with Krishna. Krishna is my favorite producer. He is also the producer who gave me full payment (laughs). A 'white paper' is like our minds. What we write on the white paper is the same in our mind. I hope that everyone will watch the movie 'Tella Nayip' and give it a big success. I wish Roshan, Nakshatra, Ramesh and Krishna get good success with this movie.

"MISS KALIKA MISSING" COMPLETED POST-PRODUCTION WORKS



"Miss Kalika Missing" is a film jointly produced by JSVV Entertainments and SS Art Productions. Directed by Satya Dhanekula and jointly produced by Ramakrishna and Padimala Yamuna, the film has now completed all its post-production works.

Speaking on the occasion, producers Ramakrishna and Yamuna said, "Our film is a complete suspense-filled entertainer. The film has been made with a never-before-seen narrative that will appeal to everyone. The movie will definitely earn good marks in terms of music as well. We have now completed all the post-production works and are making preparations to bring the film before audiences in October."

I WANT TO DO GOOD PERFORMANCE-ORIENTED CHARACTERS IN TELUGU - BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS HEMA SHARMA



Bollywood actress Hema Sharma, who gained good recognition by acting in films like Yamla Pagla Deewana Phir Se, One Day Justice Delivered, and Dabangg 3. She became even closer to the audience by participating as a contestant in Salman Khan-hosted Bigg Boss 18 reality show. Hema Sharma, who became famous as Viral Bhabhi on social media..the songs she did in Bhojpuri became chartbusters and garnered record-level views. This talented actress is now getting ready to make her entry into Telugu. As Hema Sharma is preparing to enter Tollywood, she spoke in a special interview with the media. - We are from Ghaziabad, near Delhi. Ours is a family with absolutely no connection to films. I am a complete outsider. I never thought of entering films. However, I have loved dancing since childhood. I was interested in becoming a choreographer. But destiny brought me in front of the screen as an actress. My lifestyle, fashion, and dance videos went viral on social media. They earned me the name Viral Bhabhi. That popularity brought me opportunities in Bollywood.

AP FDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan Gives Clarity on Andhra Pradesh Nandi Awards



Andhra Pradesh FDC Chairman P. Bharat Bhushan and AP FDC MD K.S. Viswanathan announced key details regarding the revival of the prestigious Nandi Awards for the Telugu film, television and theatre sectors. Speaking to the media, P. Bharat Bhushan said the awards, which have been pending for several years, will be presented under the guidance of the Andhra Pradesh Government. Awards announced for 2012–2016 will be presented, while 2017–2024 will have four awards for each year. The 2025 awards will be considered afresh. He also announced that pending NTR Awards, TV and Theatre Awards will be presented, with the process targeted for completion by December 25. Notifications for all categories have been released, and applications will be accepted until October 12. The jury and committees will be announced in the second week of October. AP FDC MD K.S. Viswanathan said the detailed award-wise information and application process will be made available on the designated website. He stated that the film sector has approximately 288 awards and 51 jury awards, while the television sector has 330 awards and 54 jury awards for the earlier period. He further said that from the 2017–2024 period, First Best, Second Best and two Jury Awards will be presented for each year, with the regular award system continuing thereafter. The Nandi Awards ceremony is proposed to be held in the Amaravati region, while the TV Awards ceremony will be conducted in Tirupati. The officials expressed confidence that the revival of the awards will provide a prestigious platform to recognise talent across the Telugu film, television and theatre industries. The AP FDC Chairman also announced that a Single Window system for film-related permissions is expected to be announced within the next 20–30 days.

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