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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

23-09-2026



Total pilgrims :67,632
Tonsures : 24,909
Hundi kanukalu : 2.91 ;CR
Laddu sale... 3.42 Lac
Annaprasadam..1.76 Lac
Ashwini hospital..2,798
Present Situation on 24-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments... 31

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...15 H.rs



Jagan asks YSRCP leaders to gear up for Andhra civic body polls

SOUTH NEWS



Xi at White House after Trump says AI will be big part of talks

WORLD PAGE



Sobhita Slays Elle Style Awards In Velvet

CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

INDIA GROWTH FORECAST RAISED TO 7%

NEW DELHI: S&P Global Ratings has raised its forecast for India's economic growth in the financial year 2026-27 to 7 per cent from its earlier projection of 6.6 per cent. The revision follows stronger-than-expected economic activity during the first quarter of the financial year. India's economy expanded 7.8 per cent year-on-year in the June quarter, according to the latest government data cited in the report.S&P said robust industrial activity, consumption, goods exports and government investment were among the factors supporting its revised outlook.The agency expects India's economic momentum to remain relatively strong, although it has also identified factors that could affect growth during the year. Weather conditions, food inflation and external or policy-related shocks remain areas of concern.

IMD RED ALERT FOR HEAVY RAIN IN SEVERAL STATES

NEW DELHI: Several parts of eastern and central India remain under a heavy-rain alert as a weather system over the Bay of Bengal continues to influence conditions along the east coast and neighbouring regions. The India Meteorological Department has warned of heavy to extremely heavy rainfall in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana and Chhattisgarh. West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Vidarbha are also expected to receive significant rainfall in some areas. The weather system has been associated with strong winds, thunderstorms and rough sea conditions along parts of the coast. Telangana has been placed among the areas facing a significant rainfall threat, with forecasts indicating extremely heavy rainfall during the affected period.

DyCM Bhatti promises poverty-free Telangana

A dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established to handle formulating strategic plans for the state's priority development programs, Bhatti said.

HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT):



The Congress-led Telangana government promised to accelerate development projects and make a "poverty-free" state by 2030 and the first state in the country to achieve developed-economy status by 2033.

A high-level meeting, chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, was held on Thursday, September 24, to discuss the action plan for achieving the state's long-term economic and social development goals.

The meeting was attended by SP Tucker, former Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh and Global Forum for Sustainable Transformation Vice Chairman, along with officials from the Finance and Planning departments. Officials discussed methods to strengthen the state's development planning and implementation, enhance inter-departmental coordination, and design systems to monitor development outcomes.

A dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established to handle formulating strategic plans for the state's priority development programs, coordinating across various departments, and overseeing the implementation, monitoring, and acceleration of these programs. Officials said the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS) should be further strengthened.On 'Zero Poverty', the meeting discussed launching targeted programs to "transform" Telangana by 2030.

Measures will be taken to identify families vulnerable to poverty, ensure the coordinated delivery of relevant government schemes and programs, and create sustainable livelihoods, officials said. A dedicated system will be established to monitor and measure the outcomes of poverty alleviation initiatives.

A focused strategy and action plan will be established to completely develop Telangana by 2033. This roadmap will capitalise on the state's core strengths, driving investment, innovation, job creation, and inclusive growth.

The Deputy Chief Minister suggested formulating comprehensive district development plans to translate state-level development goals into measurable outcomes at the district level. The Dy CM said seven 'Sectoral Growth Labs' will be established to bring government departments, sectoral experts, industries, educational institutions, development agencies, and other key stakeholders onto a single platform.

Opposition seeks CEC resignation

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi escalated his attack on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, demanding his immediate resignation amid allegations of electoral irregularities during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists. Gandhi alleged a conspiracy involving Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, claiming they would be "investigated for vote theft."

The controversy stems from reports that two Election Commissioners, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, recorded objections 14 times in 10 months over decisions made under Kumar's leadership. The Election Commission responded by asserting that differing views are a "normal part of deliberations" and that all orders carry full legal sanction. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also demanded Kumar's arrest and fresh assembly polls in her state using the pre-SIR voter list.

> Gandhi's presentation described the vote as the foundation of India and the Election Commission as its institutional protector

Rahul presents timeline from 2023 to EC dissent report

Seeking to build a chronology around his allegations, Gandhi displayed a timeline beginning on December 21, 2023, referring to the enactment of the law governing the appointment and service conditions of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election ommissioners. He alleged that the legislation gave the CEC protection from investigation.

'Supreme slap to Rahul, Revanth'

KTR hails SC verdict

HYDERABAD ■ (TSIT):



Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday described the Supreme Court verdict upholding the Telangana High Court's decision to disqualify Danam Nagender as a "supreme slap" to the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

Reacting to the dismissal of Nagender's petition challenging his disqualification under the anti-defection law, Rama Rao posted on X that the former Khairatabad MLA's attempt to escape disqualification had been rejected.

He said the Supreme Court found no ground to interfere with the High Court's decision.

Rama Rao alleged that Rahul Gandhi and Revanth Reddy believed they could "steal a mandate through defections and hide behind the Speaker."

SC Collegium recommends 12 permanent HC judges

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



The Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, approved the appointment of 12 additional judges as permanent judges across four High Courts—Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, and Gauhati. Five additional judges were cleared for permanent appointment to the Andhra Pradesh High Court alone. The move aims to address the backlog of cases and strengthen the judiciary's capacity at the high court level. The collegium's decision comes amid ongoing debates about judicial appointments and transparency, with the government expected to formalize the appointments in the coming weeks. The recommendations are part of efforts to fill vacancies and improve the efficiency of the higher judiciary across the country.

CM Naidu orders rainwater storage



VISAKHAPATNAM ■ (TSIT):

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to fully utilise present rainfall and available water flows to fill reservoirs, tanks, and other water bodies across Andhra Pradesh. He instructed officials to fill reservoirs in the Krishna and Godavari deltas and other water resources in their areas.

During a review meeting at the Real-Time Governance Centre on Thursday, the Chief Minister reviewed rainfall, river flows, reservoir inflows, wind intensity, and forecasts. He directed officials to remain alert and continuously monitor the situation.

Officials informed him that groundwater levels had improved following rains over the past three days, with around 11,000 cusecs flowing into Prakasam Barrage. The Chief Minister directed officials to utilise Godavari flows to fill Yeleru Reservoir with 24 TMC and supply water through Polavaram Left Canal to water bodies up to Anakapalli. Heavy rainfall was recorded in 16 districts.

Officials said continuing rains were likely to bring heavy inflows into reservoirs in the Godavari basin. Warning levels were expected at Gotta Barrage, Bhadrachalam, Dowleswaram Barrage, and Kuntha. The Chief Minister also suggested improving soil health, promoting alternative crops, biochar, and natural farming to mitigate El Niño impact. He called for AI and satellite data integration for better water management.

Nine killed in bus fire

NOIDA ■ (TSIT):



A tragic fire on the Yamuna Expressway near Greater Noida claimed nine lives after an AC sleeper bus travelling from Noida to Mahoba burst into flames. According to police, a spark or blast in the bus's air-conditioning system ignited engine lubricating oil, causing the fire to spread rapidly. The driver and conductor managed to flee the scene, leaving 35 passengers to escape the burning vehicle. Several injured passengers were rushed to nearby hospitals, with some in critical condition. The incident has raised fresh questions about passenger safety and emergency protocols on India's expressways.



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, addresses the BRICS Tax Heads Meeting under India's BRICS Presidency, at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, in New Delhi...

Shivakumar seeks CEC resignation

BENGALURU ■ (TSIT):



"The right to vote is the right to live. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi have raised their voices in defence of the voting rights of the people of the country,"

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday demanded the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and called for the scrapping of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and a fresh revision of electoral data to protect democracy and every citizen's right to vote.

He alleged that attempts were being made to misuse the voting rights of ordinary citizens for political purposes. "Similar attempts have been made in West Bengal, Bihar and several other states. Now they are trying to do the same everywhere, including Karnataka. I had also requested the Election Commission yesterday to give more time," he said.

Referring to differences among members of the Election Commission, Shivakumar alleged that the autonomy given to the poll panel was being misused. "When a majority of the members do not agree with an opinion, a decision cannot be imposed unilaterally. It would be better if the Chief Election Commissioner voluntarily resigns on moral grounds," he said.

Trump backs India-Middle East-Europe corridor

WASHINGTON ■ (TSIT):



US President Donald Trump has voiced strong support for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), calling it a strategic way to steer Middle Eastern oil away from chokepoints under Iran's control.

The multinational infrastructure initiative, unveiled during the 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi, aims to boost connectivity, trade, and sustainability across South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. It envisions integrated rail and shipping networks, along with energy and data links, connecting India to the Gulf and onward to Europe.

Trump's remarks came amid heightened tensions with Tehran. A senior adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader warned that the conflict could expand to the Indian Ocean if the US launches another attack. The warning signals growing regional volatility and the potential for disruptions to critical maritime routes.

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The IMEEC is widely viewed as a counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative and a means to reduce dependence on strategic chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz. Analysts note that the corridor's success will depend on sustained cooperation among participating nations, financing, and stability in the region.

The development underscores the increasing geopolitical significance of connectivity projects in shaping global trade and energy flows.

AI in Education: From Learning Tools to Agentic Creation



BY GOURI SHANKAR RAO

Artificial Intelligence is moving beyond being a simple classroom support tool. It is increasingly becoming part of the education industry itself—changing how institutions teach, assess, research and prepare students for future careers. The next major shift is Agentic AI, where AI systems can plan tasks, use multiple tools, analyse information and complete a sequence of activities with limited human intervention.

For engineering students, this development creates an important opportunity. Instead of using AI only to generate answers or write code, students can learn to build AI-powered solutions. An engineering student could use an AI agent to analyse a technical problem, collect relevant information, generate code, test possible solutions and prepare a report.This requires a new combination of skills. Students need basic knowledge of AI, programming, data, prompt engineering, automation and system design, along with strong problem-solving and analytical abilities.

Engineering education must therefore move from simply teaching students how to use AI to teaching them how to create with AI. Project-based learning can help students build AI agents for areas such as engineering design, simulations, research, manufacturing, energy management and technical documentation.The future engineer may not compete with AI, but work alongside intelligent AI systems to solve more complex problems faster and creatively.



MoD signs Rs 811 crore contract with BDL for 160 Satellite Smart Anti Airfield Weapons for Indian Air Force (IAF) in presence of the Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, in New Delhi on September 23, 2026.

Smoking Poses Major Threat to Lung Health, Warns Pulmonologist on World Lung Day



HYDERABAD: On World Lung Day, observed every September 25, Dr. Shubhakar Nadella, Consultant Clinical and Interventional Pulmonologist, KIMS Hospitals, Kondapur, highlighted that smoking remains one of the most harmful habits for lung health. The theme for 2026, 'A Lifetime of Lung Health,' announced by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies, emphasises protecting lung health at every stage of life. Dr. Nadella noted that cigarettes, bidis, and other tobacco products damage lung tissue, while second-hand smoke poses serious risks. According to the WHO, there is no safe level of tobacco use, and quitting is one of the most important steps to protect lung health.Air pollution, dust exposure, and occupational chemical exposure are adding to the burden. National studies indicate asthma in about 4.38% and COPD in about 2.1% of people aged 45 and above, with higher prevalence among those aged 60-plus. Available studies report higher prevalence among men, possibly due to smoking and occupational exposure. Dr. Nadella advised that a cough lasting over three weeks, recurrent breathlessness, wheezing, chest tightness, or blood in sputum should not be ignored. Quitting smoking, reducing pollution exposure, using masks, exercising, taking vaccinations, and seeking timely medical advice can help protect lung function.

GITAM Organises Two-Day Workshop on Data Science Hands-On Training



HYDERABAD: The GITAM School of Computer Science and Systems Engineering (CSSE), Hyderabad, inaugurated a two-day workshop on "Data Science: Hands-On Training" on September 24, 2026, providing students with an industry-oriented learning experience focused on practical applications of data science.

The workshop was designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry practices through hands-on exposure to data science tools, data analysis and preprocessing, machine learning, data visualisation using Tableau, real-world case studies, and industry applications.Devanshu Tayal, CTO & Founder, Hubbl; Tech Lead, Aegis Soft Tech; and Tableau Ambassador, served as the resource person and engaged students through practical sessions and industry-focused insights. B.Tech third- and fourth-year and M.Tech students actively participated, gaining an opportunity to learn, explore, analyse, visualise, and innovate—transforming data into meaningful insights and impact.Prof. Mahaboob Shaik Basha, HoD, CSSE Department, presided over the inaugural programme. Prof. Pritee Parwekar, Convener, welcomed the resource person and introduced him to participants.

GITAM Hosts Lecture on Nano/Quantum Materials and Indigenous Technology

HYDERABAD: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, hosted a guest lecture on "Designing of New Emerging Nano/Quantum Materials, Innovation and Indigenous Technology Development for Atmanirbhar Bharat" by Dr. Bipin Kumar Gupta, Scientist-G, CSIR–National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.



The programme was organised jointly by the Department of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering (EECE), School of Core Engineering, and the Centre for Semiconductor & Quantum Technologies.

Dr. Gupta introduced students to the fundamentals of nanomaterials, emerging two-dimensional (2D) materials, and quantum materials, highlighting their size-dependent properties and potential applications. He traced the evolution of quantum materials research and discussed

KLH Aziznagar Brings Global Experts Together to Explore AI and Industrial IoT Security



Hyderabad, 24 September 24, 2026: KLH Aziznagar inaugurated the IEEE International Conference on AI and Security for Industrial IoT Systems (AI-SIIS 2026) today. The three-day conference, scheduled to conclude on September 26, brings together researchers, industry experts, academicians and students to explore how artificial intelligence can improve the security and reliability of connected industrial systems.

The conference has drawn strong research interest, with 886 papers submitted and 187 accepted. Of these, 123 papers have been registered for presentation. More than 100 participants, including speakers and attendees, are expected over the three days.

Technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society (IES), with WE Hub as its knowledge partner, the conference features technical sessions and expert discussions on cybersecurity, intelligent sensors, robotics and the Industrial Internet of Things. The programme also explores AI applications in smart healthcare, energy systems, autonomous transport, smart cities and environmental monitoring, with an emphasis on responsible deployment.

Distinguished speakers include Juan José Rodríguez-Andina of the University of Vigo, Spain; Stamatis Karnouskos of SAP, Germany; Jan Haase of Nordakademie University of Applied Sciences, Germany; Kavinga Upul Ekanayaka of ACCLER, Sri Lanka; Preeti Bajaj, Chair-Elect of the IEEE India Council; and Ashish Singhal, Chair of the IEEE Student Activities Committee.

Er. Koneru Lakshman Havish, Vice President of KL Deemed to be University, said, "AI-SIIS 2026 brings global research and industry perspectives to our campus. We hope the exchange of ideas will lead to meaningful collaborations and inspire students and faculty to develop secure, practical solutions for an increasingly connected world."

The conference is convened by Dr. Mousmi Ajay Chaurasia under the guidance of Dr. A. Ramakrishna, Principal, KLH Aziznagar, with support from faculty and staff. By hosting international forums such as AI-SIIS 2026, KLH gives students and faculty opportunities to engage with global experts, pursue interdisciplinary research and address real-world challenges.

NMDC Organises Hindi Essay Writing and Speaking Competitions for Govt School Students



HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026: As part of Rajbhasha Month 2026 celebrations, NMDC Limited organised Hindi essay writing and Hindi speaking competitions for students of five government schools in Hyderabad.

The participating schools were Nampally Gymnasium Higher Secondary School, Hanuman Gymnasium Higher Secondary School, Telangana Minority Gurukul Asif Nagar Balak Vidyalaya, Indo Grammar Higher Secondary School, and Shankarji Memorial Girls' Higher Secondary School. Students participated in large numbers.

The Hindi essay writing competition covered topics including climate change and its impact on future generations, the role of sports in students' overall development, and time management. The Hindi speaking competition for Classes VIII and IX addressed the role of the young generation in the current political scenario and the impact of Artificial Intelligence on employment.

Shri Jaishankar Prasad, Assistant Director (Retired), Hindi Education Scheme, and a retired Director of the scheme served as judges.

Shri Srinivas Rao, Deputy General Manager (Official Language), NMDC, welcomed the school committees, principals, teachers, and participating students. He said the competitions aimed to improve Hindi writing talent and encourage the use of the official language among government school students. Dr. Rajinder Kaur, Senior Manager (Rajbhasha), provided brief information. Shri S.K. Sanodia, Deputy Manager, was active in organising the event.

Teaching material kits were provided to students after the competitions, which concluded with a vote of thanks.

Pothole-ridden road troubles Rajarajeshwari Colony residents



QUTBULLAPUR (TSIT): Residents of Rajarajeshwari Colony in the Dommara Pochampally area near Gandi Maisamma X-Road are facing severe difficulties due to the poor condition of the road behind Ujwala Grand Hotel. The stretch is filled with potholes, mud and stagnant rainwater, making commuting difficult for residents.Even a light spell of rain turns the road into a slushy stretch, while water-filled potholes make it difficult for two-wheeler riders to judge their depth, increasing the risk of accidents. Pedestrians, children and elderly residents are also facing considerable inconvenience. Residents said even ambulances find it difficult to enter the colony during emergencies.Residents alleged that the authorities have failed to address the problem despite the road condition deteriorating. They demanded that a proper drainage system be developed before laying a durable CC or BT road.They urged GHMC officials to inspect the area immediately and called upon local public representatives to take steps for a permanent solution to the long-pending problem.

Microsoft's India South Central Cloud Region in Telangana to Serve as Strategic Hub for Asia and Global South



HYDERABAD: Microsoft today welcomed Shri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, Telangana, to its newest India South Central datacenter region in the state. The minister joined Microsoft India leaders in touring the facility and participating in a ceremonial ribbon cutting, recognizing the growing role of Telangana in India's cloud and AI economy.

The visit follows Microsoft's announcement in New Delhi earlier this week that India South Central is now live and has been designated a strategic hub for Asia and the Global South. This is Microsoft's fourth cloud region in India and features a resilient three-zone architecture designed to expand as customer demand grows. As a strategic hub, it is designed to support long-term capacity expansion, resilience and AI innovation, helping meet growing demand across India and the wider region.

Speaking at the event, Shri D. Sridhar Babu, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Industries & Commerce, and Legislative Affairs, Government of Telangana, said, "I warmly welcome Microsoft's continued commitment to Telangana and Hyderabad. Its India South Central region adds real strength to our ambition to make Telangana India's innovation capital. I am proud that Microsoft is helping build one of India's most advanced technology clusters here. We are seeing strong investment in hyperscale and AI infrastructure, while global innovation centres and GCCs continue to grow rapidly. This is bringing together the infrastructure, talent, academia and innovation we need to build a truly global technology ecosystem. We are building on this foundation with an ambition for Telangana to reach 5 GW of datacentre capacity by 2029 and attract around $30 billion in investment. Microsoft's investment is an important part of this journey and will further strengthen Hyderabad's ability to power the next generation of AI, cloud and digital innovation for India and the world."

Rajiv Kumar, Managing Director and President, Microsoft India Development Centre, said, "Hyderabad has been an important part of Microsoft's journey in India for over two decades. From engineering innovation to cloud infrastructure and AI, the city has demonstrated the talent, ambition, and ecosystem that will shape the future of technology. Our focus extends beyond digital infrastructure. We are committed to creating opportunities for people and communities through skilling, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and sustainability initiatives. We are working with local partners on water replenishment through groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting, and watershed resilience, to support long-term sustainable growth of the region. Technology creates its greatest impact when it contributes to lasting economic opportunities, strengthens local communities, and helps build a more resilient future." Puneet Chandok, President, Microsoft India and South Asia, said, India's AI opportunity belongs to those who move from intent to action — and in Hyderabad.

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SC seeks Karnataka reply on Cauvery

The apex court was told that Karnataka was releasing 6,000 cusecs as per the CWMA's direction.



NEW DELHI (TSIT): The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Karnataka government to respond to the Tamil Nadu government's plea seeking release of its share of the Cauvery River water, alleging a shortfall in supply. While the Tamil Nadu government told the apex court that it has already lost an early Kharif crop due to lack of water, the Karnataka government said it was facing a "terrible drought situation".

The matter came up for hearing before a bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Augustine George Masih and Sandeep Mehta. Senior advocate C S Vaidyanathan, appearing for the Tamil Nadu government, said the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) must pass an order with regard to the shortfall to address the deficit. "What is the shortfall?" the bench asked.

"According to us, it is 20 TMC," Vaidyanathan said. Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the Karnataka government, said they were complying with the directions of the CWMA on the release of water. "We are complying with whatever directions have been passed despite the fact that this is a drought year," he said.

"In the present year, we are facing a terrible drought situation. CWMA is an expert body and both the parties are heard there," Divan argued. At the outset, Vaidyanathan referred to Tamil Nadu's application and said the state has already lost the early Kharif crop due to lack of water.

CM Vijay to meet party workers



MADURANTAKAM: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay is scheduled to interact with booth-level TVK party functionaries in Maduranthakam Assembly constituency on September 25, Minister N Anand announced on Thursday. The bypoll in Maduranthakam will be held on October 6. Power outages disrupt TN ministers' events a day after CM Vijay's TNPDCL reviewThe TVK has nominated Maragatham Kumaravel, who had won the seat on AIADMK ticket in the 2026 Assembly polls. She later resigned her MLA post and joined the TVK. Addressing a gathering of booth agents alongside Minister Aadhav Arjuna, Anand outlined the state government's commitment to swift public grievance redressal.

TN to plant one crore palm seeds

CHENNAI: State government on Thursday launched a State-wide campaign to plant one crore palm seeds, with Rural Development and Water Resources Minister N Anand inaugurating the programme at Theveriyambakkam panchayat in Walajabad panchayat union of Kancheepuram district.



The campaign, launched on the directions of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, aims to protect the palmyra, the State tree, strengthen the banks of water bodies and raise groundwater levels.

The campaign, launched on the directions of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, aims to protect the palmyra, the State tree, strengthen the banks of water bodies and raise groundwater levels. Artificial intelligence era calls for career flexibility, not a perfect choice: Sanjeev Sanyal

Green Needa, ExNoRa International Foundation, the National Service Scheme (NSS), NDSO and Agni Steels have joined hands to implement the initiative, with NSS and National Cadet Corps (NCC) students from various colleges, volunteers and members of the public participating in the drive. The campaign seeks to strengthen waterbody banks, plant palm seeds on vacant government land, prevent coastal soil erosion, raise groundwater levels, increase the production of value-added palmyra products and improve livelihoods through palm-based industries.

The drive will cover 37 districts, excluding the Nilgiris, with one lakh NSS students participating in the planting of one crore palm seeds. Palm seed banks have also been established in 100 colleges to collect seeds and distribute them to suitable locations, including the banks of water bodies. Coinciding with NSS Day, 150 personnel of the Avadi-based Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), along with NSS and NCC students.

Railways sanctions Rs.1,936 crore



CHENNAI: The Railway Board has formally sanctioned the 77 km Arakkonam-Renigunta 3rd and 4th line project at a completion cost of Rs 1,936.46 crore, two weeks after the Union Cabinet approved the project. The project will add two more lines to the Arakkonam-Renigunta section, which forms part of the Mumbai-Chennai High-Density Network and is already operating at around 120% of its line capacity.

'It is for legislature to legislate': Madras High Court dismisses PIL seeking stay on bypolls

'It is for legislature to legislate': Madras High Court dismisses PIL seeking stay on bypolls

The section is also an important link for freight movement towards Ennore and Andhra Pradesh. The additional lines are expected to provide capacity for 7.21 million tonnes of additional freight traffic annually. It will also improve connectivity to key economic centres, including SIDCO Tiruvallur, SIPCOT Ranipet and cement industries in and around Arakkonam.

The project is estimated to result in annual logistics cost savings of around Rs 110 crore. The project involves 12 major and 221 minor bridges, besides the track and associated works. Of the sanctioned completion cost, Rs 1,504.42 crore has been earmarked for civil works, Rs 225.58 crore for signalling and telecommunications and Rs 206.46 crore for electrical works, including traction-related.. works.

Ladakh's unfinished settlement



New Delhi, Sep 23 : Many in Ladakh welcomed the August 5, 2019, abrogation of Article 370, bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (UTs), a demand they had been pushing for years, realising that they have been ignored in favour of Kashmir.

Ladakh-based climate activist Sonam Wangchuk had then tweeted, "Ladakh thanks @narendramodi @PMOIndia for fulfilling Ladakh's longstanding dream. It was exactly 30 years ago in August 1989 that Ladakhi leaders launched a movement for UT status. Thank you all who helped in this democratic decentralisation."

Soon doubts began to arise.

The reason for dissatisfaction included not being consulted over the abrogation, creation of a UT without a Legislature. It also led to reduction of four MLAs which Ladakh sent to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. Finally, they began assuming that they were being exploited to meet the Centre's interest in managing Kashmir. Those who had initially welcomed the move began agitating against it. Initial protests began with four demands. The first was converting Ladakh into a state, thereby giving more power to the people. The second was legal protection under the Sixth Schedule to safeguard culture, language and land rights. They also sought job reservations and an additional Lok Sabha seat, thereby providing independent representations for both Leh and Kargil regions.

The Home Ministry, in response to demands created a committee under the Minister of State for Home to examine the complaints as also interact with representatives of the region. Ladakh was represented by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA). Sonam Wangchuk, exploiting his public fame and reputation for persistent hunger strikes pushed his way to become a member of the negotiating team and worked to become the face of the protests. He has been seeking a greater political role and recognition. Protests crossed limits during Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike on September 24 last year when clashes with the police resulted in four deaths and many injured. Sonam Wangchuk was arrested and spent six months in jail before being released in March this year.

TN bypolls: AIADMK flags cash-for-votes in bypoll seats, urges Election Commission to act



CHENNAI: The AIADMK has urged the Election Commission to order a comprehensive inquiry into alleged cash distribution and voter inducement by the ruling TVK in the Madurantakam and Dharapuram Assembly constituencies ahead of the October 6 bypolls.

In a complaint to the Election Commission, AIADMK advocate wing secretary and MP I S Inbadurai alleged that election rules and laws were being seriously and extensively violated in the two constituencies.

AIADMK spent 95% of Rs 109 crore poll expenses on media advertising alone The complaint cited television reports aired on September 22 alleging that cash was distributed at Reddipalayam in Acharapakkam union in Madurantakam to influence voters in favour of TVK candidate Maragatham Kumaravel.

Inbadurai further alleged, citing what he described as reliable information, that similar cash distribution and voter inducement were being carried out systematically across Madurantakam and Dharapuram.

The AIADMK sought a comprehensive field inquiry by District Election Officers, Returning Officers, flying squads and static surveillance teams. It also urged authorities to preserve television footage, CCTV recordings, field videos and social media and electronic evidence to prevent their destruction or alteration.

The complaint called for scrutiny of the campaign expenditure and bank transactions of the concerned candidate and political party to identify unaccounted transactions and verify election expenditure disclosures.

It also sought registration of FIRs and criminal action against all those allegedly involved, including persons who distributed money,

TN to announce power staff plan soon



CHENNAI (TSIT): Energy Resources and Law Minister R Nirmalkumar on Thursday said the government would announce within a week whether vacancies in the power sector would be filled through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) or on a contractual basis.

Talking to reporters after inaugurating the 2026-27 State-level inter-collegiate athletics competitions organised by the Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University at the Nehru stadium here, Nirmalkumar blamed the previous DMK government for increasing the Electricity Board's debt from Rs 1 lakh crore to Rs 2.5 lakh crore. He said the government was taking steps to prevent power disruptions during the monsoon.On the pending appointment of vice-chancellors to several state-run varsities, he said the functioning of several universities had been affected and more could face a similar situation in the coming months.

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Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Address: 1st Floor, Sundar Tower, 24/868(3), Opp. Nissan Pinnacle , Kunnathurmedu Post, Palakkadu- 678013

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Hakeem V (Borrower), Soubiya V (Co-Borrower), Valapilakath Barlikulam Road Ponnani Malappuram Malappuram- 679577 Kerala, LHPGT00001415747	0 Ponnani Malapuram 45/1-50 Palakkad-678001 Kerala Bounded By- North By: 3 Feet Width Road, South By: Municipal Road, East By: Property of Muhammedali, West By: Property of Balakrishnan.	12-09-2026 Rs. 26,36,956/-	08-09-2026
2.	Subhash B (Borrower), Sumathi K (Co-Borrower), Bhaskaran. (Co-Borrower), Kannath Veedu Puthanthara Pokkunny Vadavannur Palakkad- 678504 Kerala, LHPGT00001417462	0 Vadavannur Village Chittur Taluk Re Sy 207/10-1 Palakkad- 678504 Kerala Bounded By- North By: Property of Krishna Moorthi, South By: Panchayath Road, East By: Property of Krishna Moorthi, West By: Road.	12-09-2026 Rs. 7,70,226/-	08-09-2026
3.	Manoj N S (Borrower), Santhini V D (Co-Borrower), Ayloor Gramapanchayath Pandinnjara Thara A41207 Nemmara Palakkad Palakkad 678510 Kerala, LHPGT00001393238	0 Ayallur Village Chittur Taluk Re Sy 416/14 Palakkad- 678510 Kerala Bounded By- North By: Property of Satheesh, South By: Property of Sureshkumar, Savithri, East By: Property of Balan, West By: Property of Narayanan.	12-09-2026 Rs. 3,27,606/-	08-09-2026

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: September 25, 2026
Place: Palakkad
Authorized Officer,
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

Palaniswami attacks TN govt over dengue

Chennai, Sep 24 : AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami has accused the Tamil Nadu government of failing to act quickly against the spread of dengue, saying hospitals are under pressure and residents need immediate protection.In a statement, Palaniswami alleged that the TVK government's failure to take preventive measures had allowed cases to rise across the state. Government and private hospital beds were filling up, he said, calling for treatment facilities and mosquito control work to be expanded urgently.Citing health department figures, he said Tamil Nadu had recorded 17,348 dengue cases and 4,653 scrub typhus cases as of September 21. Seventy-one dengue cases were confirmed on September 21 alone, according to the figures cited in his statement.Palaniswami said the government had ignored warnings from the public and the media about dengue. He also accused it of trying to shift attention from public health concerns after the death of a student at Anna University by focusing on the student's reported scrub typhus infection. He criticised state Health Minister Arunraj for missing a meeting chaired by the Director of Public Health on measures to contain dengue. A public awareness video was no substitute for action on the ground, Palaniswami said, alleging that the minister was concentrating on election campaigning.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Home Finance | Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Address: Ground floor, Shop No. V/1165-351C, SM Towers, Madannada JN, Vadakkevila PO, Pallimukku, Kollam- 691010, Branch Address: 1st Floor, Shop No. 2/30, T.C. VII/673/1-4(2), M G Corporate Centre, Medical College PO, Ulloor, Trivandrum- 695011

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Nagesh Kumar V (Borrower), Sarada N (Co-Borrower), Sreekala A (Co-Borrower), M K Electricals And Agencies Palamoodu Pavuma Karunagapally Kollam Kollam Kollam 690574, LHKOL00001303274	Re Sy No 618 18-4 And 618 18-4-2 Block No 11 Manapally North P O Manapally Oachira Paumba Village Na- 691531 Kerala Bounded By- North By: Property of Thaikkattu, South By: Remaning Land, East By: Property of Kalliykkal Tharayil, West By: Property of Subha And Way.	04-09-2026 Rs. 9,80,237/-	13-10-2025
2.	Saradat (Borrower), Sajeesh V S (Co-Borrower), Vinsent V (Co-Borrower), Dilna Mol K S (Co-Borrower), Op/36 Sajeesh Bhavan Kulavumthala Valicodu Ottasekharamangalam Trivandrum Trivandrum 695125 Kerala, LHTVM00001369531	Na Ottasekharamangalam Village Kattakada Taluk St George Malankara Catholic Church Re Sy No. 305/9-1 Trivandrum 695125 Kerala Bounded By- North By: Access, South By: Property of Gomathi And Omana, East By: Property of Rajamma, West By: Property of Sajina.	12-09-2026 Rs. 9,62,017/-	03-09-2026
3.	Sarada T (Borrower), Sajeesh V S (Co-Borrower), Vinsent V (Co-Borrower), Dilna Mol K S (Co-Borrower), Op/36 Sajeesh Bhavan Kulavumthala Valicodu Ottasekharamangalam Trivandrum Trivandrum 695125 Kerala, LHTVM00001370160	Na Ottasekharamangalam Village Kattakada Taluk St George Malankara Catholic Church Re Sy No 305/9-1 Trivandrum 695125 Kerala Bounded By- North By: Access, South By: Property of Gomathi And Omana, East By: Property of Rajamma, West By: Property of Sajina.	12-09-2026 Rs. 50,516/-	03-09-2026

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: September 25, 2026
Place: Kollam, Trivandrum
Authorized Officer,
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Why the protest against the Hanuman part, why the silence on obscenity?

Debate in society about a film, web series, or entertainment content is nothing new. In a diverse country like India, it's natural to have differing opinions on topics related to religion, culture, history, social values, and freedom of expression. But today, a major question confronts us: are our objections based on the same criteria? The recent protests against the film "Hanuman Ansh" have made this question even more serious. If any group has objections to religious or cultural themes in a film, it should be debated democratically. But is this same sensitivity extended to films, songs, and digital content that portray obscenity, excessive violence, abusive language, drug abuse, crime, or objectionable behavior toward women? It is being said that films like "Hanuman Ansh" can increase Hindutva or religious influence in society. This could be a comment from an individual or a political party, and opinions are likely to differ. But considering this argument in a broader social context, the question arises: if watching a film can influence society's ideology, then why doesn't content filled with obscenity, violence, crime, and abusive language have any impact on society? If films with religious themes can influence social thinking, then why shouldn't there be serious discussion about the potential for the continued exposure to violent and obscene content to influence the language, behavior, and thinking of children and youth? There was a time when entertainment resources were limited. Movies would air on television on Sundays or other scheduled days, and families would watch them together. Today, the situation has completely changed. OTT platforms, social media, and mobile phones have put entertainment within our reach 24/7. Watching a movie no longer requires going to a movie theater or sitting in front of a television set for a specific time. A myriad of content from across the country and the world is available with just a click. This convenience has made entertainment easier, but it has also increased the responsibility of society and family more than ever before. The biggest concern is for children and adolescents. At the very age when children begin to understand language, behavior, relationships, discipline, and social norms, they are also constantly learning from the world of mobile phones and the internet. What they see, the language they hear, and the characters they idolize can influence their behavior. If entertainment repeatedly portrays abusive language as normal conversation, makes violence entertaining, objects to women, or portrays crime with thrill and glamor, it's natural to discuss its potential impact. However, it would be unfair to say that films or OTT content are solely responsible for a crime. Family, education, social environment, economic circumstances, personal experiences, and many other factors can influence a person's behavior. However, the flip side is equally important: completely dismissing the potential impact of entertainment content is also unfair. At a time when concerns about children's behavior, language, and digital habits are growing in society, there should be an open and factual debate on the social responsibility of films and digital platforms.

The Trump-Xi Summit, And India's Many Worries Of Its Own



SHASHI THAROOR



The ongoing high-stakes summit between President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping has signalled a crucial phase in the recalibration of global geopolitics, with significant implications for the rest of the world, and in particular for India. Designed primarily to manage systemic friction between the world's two largest economies, the interaction yielded a pragmatic, albeit fragile, framework of managed interdependence between the two countries that President Trump, perhaps in a rash moment, had last year dubbed the "G-2". Rather than orchestrating a grand economic reset or resolving fundamental ideological divides, let alone consecrating a grand condominium to divide up the world as the term "G-2" implies, the discussions focused on tactical stabilisation, mitigating immediate economic disruptions, and setting clear boundaries around strategic escalation. For the broader international community, the summit confirmed that while Washington and Beijing remain locked in intense structural rivalry, neither superpower currently desires an uncontained crisis that could destabilise global markets or trigger unintended military friction. For India, the questions it prompts are somewhat different. A Temporary Pause At the heart of the summit's outcomes was an agreement to extend the existing trade truce between the two economic giants, staving off a renewed spiral of punitive tariffs and reciprocal supply chain disruptions. The temporary reprieve addresses immediate domestic economic pressures facing both leaders. Washington secured commitments regarding agricultural exports and predictable flows of critical minerals, while Beijing achieved a degree of tariff relief and a pause on several expanding American export controls targeting non-sensitive technological sectors. This can be seen as mutually satisfactory outcome that staves off the prospects of a trade war between the number 1 and 2 ranked economies on earth. Beyond commerce, the two leaders established preliminary channels for communication on artificial intelligence safety and guardrails, acknowledging the systemic risks posed by unchecked technological proliferation. On security issues, particularly regarding Taiwan and regional maritime posture, both sides maintained firm boundaries while agreeing to keep military-to-military dialogue active to prevent tactical miscalculations. So far, so good. But the tone and scope of the summit carry profound implications for India's strategic calculations. In New Delhi, the primary concern leading into any major high-level engagement between Washington and Beijing is the spectre of a superpower condominium (the so-called G2 arrangement), wherein the United States and China might seek to divide spheres of influence and manage regional security over the heads of other powers, with the US essentially ceding Asia to China. The limited, transactional nature of the Washington summit effectively dispelled these immediate fears. The Big Quad Question Could it be even more encouraging than that? Some observers suggest that by failing to forge a sweeping geopolitical consensus, the summit demonstrated that Washington's old strategy of ensuring the structural containment of China remains fundamentally intact. This seeming outcome, if confirmed, would reassure Indian policymakers that the strategic rationale underpinning the Indo-Pacific architecture, including the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, retains its core purpose in counterbalancing Chinese influence across the region. But the proof of that pudding still lies in the eating. After President Biden convoked the four countries for the 2024 Summit in Delaware, India was expected to host the Quad Summit in 2025, except that President Trump showed no interest in attending. Hopes were expressed that this could now take place in 2026, but there are no signs of one being scheduled this year either. The real worry remains whether New Delhi would have to hand over the chairmanship without having hosted a summit at all, an unprecedented humiliation that would severely undermine the value of the Quad for India. Indians will wait keenly for any reaffirmation of the US's continued commitment to the Indo-Pacific and to the salience of the Quad in Washington's vision of the region. A statement that President Trump looks forward to the next Quad summit once his other priorities (notably a settlement in the Iran War) are taken care of, would go a long way towards reassuring foreign policy watchers in New Delhi. From a macroeconomic perspective, the outcomes present a nuanced matrix of opportunities and challenges for the Indian economy. The decision by the United States and China to stabilise trade flows without completely dismantling protective tariffs or technology restrictions means that the case for a global push toward supply chain diversification (away from over-reliance on China) remains compelling. Foreign investors and multinational corporations seeking to hedge against persistent US-China friction will continue to look toward alternative manufacturing hubs, reinforcing India's position within the "China Plus One" strategy. India's Concerns However, the tactical pause in trade hostilities prevents an immediate, aggressive flight of capital out of Chinese manufacturing, helping the Chinese economy. Furthermore, any calibrated US tariff reductions or specific exemptions for China, negotiated on the sidelines of the summit between Washington and Beijing, could place Indian exports at a relative tariff disadvantage. This would be exacerbated if New Delhi faces tighter trade scrutiny or elevated duty structures from the United States in the wake of the Russian Sanctions Act - unless those sanctions are applied to China too. In terms of regional security and strategic autonomy, the summit offers New Delhi both tactical breathing room and a reminder of its long-term challenges. A stabilised US-China relationship reduces the immediate risk of an escalating global crisis that could force India into uncomfortable geopolitical choices, allowing New Delhi to maintain its preferred posture of multi-alignment and strategic autonomy in order to manage its own problems along the disputed border. At the same time, the absence of explicit US leverage forcing major concessions from Beijing means that China's regional posture in South Asia and along the disputed Himalayan border will remain a direct operational concern for India. A China that successfully manages its front with Washington will feel all the more politically unencumbered to maintain its increasingly assertive stance in its immediate neighbourhood, ensuring that New Delhi must rely primarily on its own national defence capabilities and domestic resources to secure its borders and maritime interests. Ultimately, the Trump-Xi summit underscores the current state of the international order as one defined not by ideological convergence or outright decoupling, nor by a revival of the binary Cold War era, but by the competitive management of coexistence. For India, the outcome reinforces the necessity of continuing its current foreign policy trajectory of multi-alignment in quest of increased global multipolarity. On the economic lessons of the summit, New Delhi must accelerate its internal economic modernisation, strip away regulatory sclerosis, strengthen domestic manufacturing capabilities, and deepen technology partnerships with developed economies, while maintaining a wary, pragmatic line of communication with Beijing.

Bihar Assault, Hisar Marriage Ban: Who'll Stop The Guardians Of Indian 'Culture'?

SHUMA RAHA



This week, a social panchayat in Hisar in Haryana decided that there would be a ban on love marriage in their village. They also declared that people who defy the ban, together with their families, would face a boycott. Apparently, the decision was taken after a few recent instances of young men and women in the village falling in love and getting married. Those who participated in this outrageous move to stifle the civil liberty of young folks said that it was done to "preserve the social fabric" of the village.

Evidently, the fury against young love not sanctioned by family and society continues unabated. This despite the fact that multiple judgments in the Supreme Court have held all such pronouncements by "khap" gatherings illegal, ruling that they violate Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution which protect the fundamental rights of individuals, including the right to marry a partner of their choice. In the Haryana village, a person was quoted as saying, "We consider every girl in the village our own daughter." In other words, the noxious effort to prohibit love marriages is really all about the community's visceral need to control the lives of girls and to ensure that they conform to the standards of purity and morality laid down by its antiquated social customs. Indeed, nothing enrages patriarchy more than to see women and girls exercise a choice, especially a sexual choice, without its express consent. And it usually hits back by punishing them and their bodies, sometimes with murderous consequences.

Coincidentally, this despicable instinct was on full display in two cases of sexual violence against young girls in Bihar and Delhi that took place around the time when the Haryana village issued its vengeful diktat against love marriage. In Bihar's Jamui, a girl and her male friend, both students of Class X, were returning from their coaching class when they were accosted by a group of men. The girl was groped, lifted and dragged and the boy was beaten up. A video of the incident quickly went viral on social media and sparked a tremendous outcry. In the second incident, a 17-year-old girl was gang-raped in a Delhi park earlier this week by three men who separated her from her male companion, threatened her with a gun and a knife, and took turns at sexually assaulting her. In both incidents, the assaulters and rapists targeted a young girl who was out with a boy. They seemed to have operated from the belief that the possibility of her being intimately associated with a member of the opposite sex was evidence of her promiscuity, her "bad character", as it were, and that this automatically gave them the licence to sexually violate her. This is not to say that women and girls in other situations are not sexually assaulted. They are, and the mind-numbing number of rapes in the country is a testament to that. However, the sight of a young couple seeking a bit of alone time somewhere tends to particularly provoke a certain kind of Indian men - those who are incensed at the idea of a girl making a romantic choice without reference to her family and society. In their twisted, violent little minds, assaulting such a girl probably feels like a double bonanza - they get to slake their own depravity in addition to having the satisfaction of "teaching her a lesson" for daring to be in the company of a male friend. Interestingly, the video of the Jamui incident appears to have been shot and circulated by one of the assaulters. Did he think that he and his gang would be applauded for what they had done? That they would be praised for upholding morality in public spaces? Garlanded perhaps? After all, politicians in this country are known to have done precisely that to welcome rapists out on bail or those accused of lynching and murder. A Bihar minister did, in fact, dismiss the Jamui assault as a "chhutput" (insignificant and stray) incident. Though the state government is scrambling to do damage control now, and most of the culprits have been apprehended, the point is that the enabling culture of impunity, the insidious suggestion that society has the right to surveil the private lives of couples, and men have the right to police women's bodies and their morals, continue to embolden would-be aggressors.

A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

SAURABH VARSHNEY

The 14-fold ignoring of written objections to the Election Commission's decisions indicates that all is not well within the Central Election Commission. Democracy is not merely about the process of conducting elections. The true strength of democracy is determined by how transparently, fairly, and credibly elections are conducted. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to dismiss any disagreement within a constitutional institution like the Election Commission as merely an administrative exercise. The news of two Election Commission Commissioners repeatedly filing 14 written objections to decisions related to the voter list has raised serious questions. It has forced politicians to consider how to resolve this issue. Furthermore, such developments have prompted voters to reflect on this constitutional institution of democracy. This is an institution where, no matter what happens, effective action is taken immediately, ensuring transparency is visible to all. A report published in a prominent national newspaper has sparked political turmoil in the country. According to the report, Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi submitted at least 14 written objections to various decisions and orders of the Commission over the past ten months. These objections reportedly pertained not only to technical or procedural matters, but also to sensitive issues such as the addition and deletion of names to the electoral roll, changes to Form 6, centralization of voter data, and officials' access to electoral information technology systems. The primary concern here is not why divergent opinions have emerged within a constitutional institution. Dissent is not inherently a weakness in democratic institutions. Rather, expressing and recording divergent opinions on record is considered a necessary process in a healthy institutional system. Concern arises when questions arise about whether these objections were adequately considered and whether the decision-making process truly proceeded with the participation of all relevant members. The Election Commission is a three-member constitutional body. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar is its member, along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. If two members have repeatedly filed written objections on important matters, the nature of these objections, their resolution, and the process of reaching a final decision are bound to become a subject of public debate. The issue of voter lists, in particular, is extremely sensitive. The voter list is not merely an administrative document; it is the basis that determines which citizen will be eligible to exercise their right to vote on election day. Therefore, the addition, deletion, or restoration of a name to the voter list directly impacts a citizen's democratic rights.

The objection raised regarding the change in Form 6 is significant in this context. Form 6 is the statutory form used for registering new voters. According to the report, during the special intensive revision, a declaration was added to it, asking the applicant to state whether their name, their parent's name, or their grandparent's name appeared in the previous voter list. If such a significant change is being made to a process and objections have been raised by two members of the Commission, it is important to know how the objections were considered and what the final basis for the change was.

The issue isn't limited to paperwork. Questions have also been raised about the digital management of voter lists. The report claims that in some states, the ability of local election officials to enter decisions related to voter data into the system was affected. In West Bengal, there are also instances where people were found eligible after document verification, but the process of adding their names to the software encountered technical hurdles. A similar technical issue has been reported in Goa involving 97 eligible voters. This situation raises a fundamental question: who has the final say in the electoral process: the field election officer or the centralized digital system? Technology may be a means of making the electoral process faster and transparent, but it cannot substitute for democratic decision-making. If an eligible voter's name is not included in the list due to a technical system error, it can directly impact their voting rights. However, the other side of this controversy is equally important. The Election Commission has rejected the report's alleged internal disagreement. The Commission states that noting, comments, suggestions, and differing opinions by members are part of the normal institutional process. According to the Commission, final decisions are taken after deliberation under Article 324, statutory rules, and established procedures, and important decisions, including the SIR, are approved by the three Commissioners. Therefore, it would be premature to conclude that written objections in themselves are evidence of any decisive division within the Commission. But it is equally true that public concern cannot be dismissed by dismissing such objections as purely administrative comments. If written objections have been filed 14 times, then democratic transparency would demand that it should at least be made clear on which issues there was disagreement, what was discussed on them and under what process the final decision was taken.

The opposition has leveled serious allegations regarding these incidents. The Congress party has demanded the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

SBI Card Launches Fixed Deposit Backed Secured Advantage SBI Card on SBI YONO



New Delhi, September 24, 2026: SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, announced the launch of Advantage SBI Card on SBI YONO, introducing a seamless digital journey that enables customers to avail a secured credit card backed by a fixed deposit. The digital journey was inaugurated by Mr. Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Chairman, State Bank of India (SBI), in the presence of Mr. Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Managing Director, SBI, and Ms. Salila Pande, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, SBI Card. The end-to-end digital journey for secured credit cards on SBI YONO, further strengthens customer's access to credit through a seamless and convenient digital experience. Customers can apply for four secured Advantage SBI Card - SBI Card Elite, SBI Card Prime, SimplyClick SBI Card, and SimplySAVE SBI Card on SBI YONO. The launch brings together SBI Card's trusted credit card expertise along with SBI's reach and digital capabilities of YONO platform to deliver a simple yet enhanced customer experience. Customers with a fixed deposit with SBI can easily apply for the secured Advantage SBI Card through a 100% paperless journey on SBI YONO. The initiative combines the security of a fixed deposit with the convenience and benefits of a credit card, enabling customers to enjoy a rewarding experience across their everyday spends. Salila Pande, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, SBI Card, said, "Customers can now experience a simpler and more convenient way to access secured credit cards through a seamless, 100% paperless digital journey. The new digital journey for Advantage SBI Card on SBI YONO is designed to bring greater ease to the entire process, enabling customers to access a secured credit card backed by a fixed deposit within minutes. The diverse portfolio of SBI Credit Cards available on SBI YONO further enhances customer choice, providing the flexibility to select a proposition best suited to their needs. At SBI Card, customer centricity remains at the core of our approach as we continue to simplify experiences and make every interaction easier and meaningful for our customers." The secured Advantage SBI Card on SBI YONO provides an accessible entry point into the formal credit ecosystem, particularly for customers looking to establish or strengthen their credit profile. The launch reinforces SBI Card's focus on building digital-first customer journeys to expand access to formal credit. As customer expectations increasingly shift towards simple, instant, and integrated financial experiences, SBI Card continues to invest in technology-led solutions that make every day financial interactions more convenient.

Can AI Find India's Next Para-Athlete?

Young Innovators Take Bold Sports Tech Ideas to Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Top 20



Sep. 24, 2026 - Can AI help discover India's next para-athlete? Can a wearable help a visually impaired swimmer know when the pool wall is approaching? Can sensors make exercise safer for people with Parkinson's or alert athletes to excessive physical strain? Eight young innovators from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Odisha are attempting to answer these questions through five technology-led ideas that have taken them into the Top 20 of Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2026. Their ideas span some of the most compelling challenges in sport and physical activity: AI-led para-athlete identification, independent navigation for visually impaired swimmers, exercise support for people with Parkinson's and real-time monitoring of physical strain among athletes. The eight innovators are Pasupuleti Ruthvik from Chittoor, Kolla Venkata Siva Surya from Visakhapatnam, Homanshika Reddy Pullagurla from Hyderabad, Vatala Harika and Ritesh Routray from Sundargarh, and Manoj Kumar Kasinathan, Jena R and Chriswin William D from Chennai. Their progress to the Top 20 also reflects the geographical spread of this year's Samsung Solve for Tomorrow. More than half of the participants in the Top 20 come from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, with finalists representing 18 cities across 12 states. Five Ideas Trying to Change How People Play, Train and Compete A Wearable That Warns Visually Impaired Swimmers Before They Hit the Wall For visually impaired swimmers, knowing exactly when they are approaching the end of a swimming lane can be difficult and potentially lead to head injuries. Pasupuleti Ruthvik, 21, from Chittoor, has developed Untethered, a wearable sensor system designed to provide real-time alerts as swimmers approach the pool wall. The idea aims to reduce dependence on manual cues from coaches and give swimmers greater independence during training. Technology That Helps Visually Impaired Swimmers Stay on Course Staying within a lane presents another challenge for visually impaired swimmers, who can drift sideways without visual reference points. Kolla Venkata Siva Surya, 16, from Visakhapatnam, has engineered an assistive trajectory solution that provides real-time feedback when a swimmer begins to veer away from the intended path. The technology is designed to help para-athletes correct their trajectory and navigate competition pools more independently. An AI Talent Scout for India's Para-Athletes What if promising para-athletes could be discovered using technology, even when they live far from established sporting networks? Vatala Harika, 21, and Ritesh Routray, 20, from Sundargarh, are developing ParaSync, an AI-based platform designed to assess adaptive sporting techniques, identify promising athletes and connect them with professional coaching and competitive opportunities. The idea addresses a grassroots sporting challenge: talent can emerge anywhere, while access to established scouting, coaching and competitive networks may not always be as widely available.

GOLD SLIDES RS 1,600 TO RS 1.52 LAKH PER 10 GM AS OIL SURGES



New Delhi: Gold prices declined Rs 1,600 to Rs 1.52 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday, September 24, extending the losing streak for the fourth consecutive session, as the rising US (United States) dollar and higher crude oil prices weighed on the precious metal. The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity depreciated by Rs 1,600 to Rs 1,52,400 per 10 grams, inclusive of all taxes, from Wednesday's closing level of Rs 1.54 lakh per 10 grams, according to local traders. Silver witnesses downward trajectory Silver, meanwhile, saw a downward momentum after remaining unchanged for the past two sessions, tumbling Rs 5,000 to Rs 2.37 lakh per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal had settled at Rs 2.42 lakh per kg in the previous session. The continued sell-off in gold pushed the metal deeper into a four-session decline, with traders attributing the weakness to weak global trends and profit-booking at elevated levels. Silver took a bigger hit as its greater volatility and exposure to industrial demand amplified the selling pressure, ending the day well below its previous close, traders said. The rupee's slide to 95.96 against the US dollar offered some cushion to domestic bullion prices, limiting the extent of the decline, they added. According to Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, domestic gold prices edged lower amid weak global cues and subdued retail demand. He noted that a stronger US dollar and rising Treasury yields continued to weigh on precious metals. The pressure was equally visible in the overseas markets, where spot gold fell USD 33.74, or nearly 1 per cent, to USD 4,253.61 per ounce, while silver depreciated by 1.4 per cent to USD 63.56 an ounce. A spike in crude oil prices turned into another headwind for the precious metals. "The metal has slipped below USD 4,274 an ounce in global markets as crude oil leapt higher on supply concerns from West Asia," said Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

HCLTECH AND CROWDSTRIKE EXPAND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE AI SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

NOIDA, India, Sept, 2026 – HCLTech, a leading global technology company, and CrowdStrike (NASDAQ: CRWD) today announced an expansion of their strategic partnership to advance AI security and resilience by integrating CrowdStrike Falcon® Guardian with HCLTech's AI Security and Resilience services. Together, HCLTech and CrowdStrike combine Falcon Guardian with HCLTech's cybersecurity advisory, AI governance, implementation and managed services delivered through HCLTech's Cybersecurity Fusion Centers, to help enterprises secure AI applications, models, agents, identities and data while improving visibility into emerging risks. Building on the Continuous Threat Exposure Management (CTEM) services launched in March 2026, the expanded partnership brings AI security deeper into enterprise security operations.

■ HCLTech, a leading global technology company, and CrowdStrike (NASDAQ: CRWD) today announced an expansion of their strategic partnership to advance AI security and resilience by integrating CrowdStrike Falcon® Guardian with HCLTech's AI Security and Resilience services.

It combines Falcon Guardian's AI detection and response (AIDR) capabilities with HCLTech's TRiBe framework for AI trust, risk governance and resilience, and VERITY Frontier AI Resilience, a cybersecurity operating model that continuously identifies, validates and mitigates exploitable cyber exposure across hybrid environments. "AI is becoming a new enterprise attack surface, and securing it requires visibility and protection everywhere AI operates," said Daniel Bernard, Chief Business Officer, CrowdStrike. "CrowdStrike pioneered AI Detection and Response to secure the full AI attack surface. Together with HCLTech's global cybersecurity expertise and services, we're bringing these capabilities to more enterprises as they operationalize AI at scale." "The next generation of enterprise security will require organizations to address both sides of the AI risk equation, defending against AI-powered threats while securing the AI systems they deploy," said Amit Jain, EVP and Global Head of Cybersecurity at HCLTech. "By bringing together our complementary strengths in cybersecurity innovation and enterprise resilience, CrowdStrike and HCLTech are helping organizations scale AI securely and responsibly while driving greater operational resilience and business confidence."

M GROUP SELECTS HCLTECH FOR AI-LED IT TRANSFORMATION ACROSS 200+ LOCATIONS

NOIDA, India, Sept. 2026 — HCLTech, a leading global technology company, has been selected by M Group, the leading essential infrastructure services provider in the UK and Ireland, to modernize and transform IT operations across its 200-plus locations. Through AI-led managed services spanning infrastructure and end-user operations, HCLTech will deploy its AI Force service transformation platform to streamline M Group's IT landscape, strengthen resilience and build a scalable digital foundation for growth. The program will also accelerate broader digital transformation across M Group's water, energy, technology and communications, transport, and defense, industrial and public sector business lines. "Technology is critical to helping our people deliver essential infrastructure services safely, efficiently and at scale. As we continue to transform M Group, we're investing in a stronger digital foundation and partnering with HCLTech, a global leader in IT services, to bring a new level of service for every team member in the field and in the office. Together, we'll enhance the quality, reliability and scalability of our IT operations, helping colleagues work more effectively while supporting innovation and sustainable growth across the business," said Chloe Anfield, Chief Technology Officer at M Group. "M Group keeps critical infrastructure running for millions across the UK and Ireland. Being trusted to modernize the IT backbone behind that is a responsibility we take seriously. Our teams bring deep experience in complex, multi-site environments and we are committed to ensuring M Group's technology keeps pace with the demands of the sectors it serves," said Ajay Bahl, Chief Growth Officer and Global Head, Energy and Manufacturing at HCLTech.

Rogue OpenAI agent 'infiltrated' Australian government website in world first



A rogue OpenAI agent hacked an Australian government website in June and accessed private data in what experts say is the first known case of its kind in the world. The agent "infiltrated" a statistics portal containing "non-sensitive" data from Australia's universal healthcare scheme Medicare, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said in New York on Wednesday, local time. He had a "very frank discussion" with OpenAI CEO Sam Altman for taking "too long" to disclose the breach and said there would be "legal consequences". OpenAI said it only learnt of the breach in August while reviewing "misaligned model activity" and emailed a general inbox of an Australian government agency on 10 September. Five days later, that government agency, Services Australia, escalated the email to Australia's cybersecurity centre before a government minister was notified and the prime minister alerted. Albanese said he spoke to Altman and raised "Australia's extreme concern about this incident" as well as his "disappointment" that the company had taken months to reveal the breach and "the nature of the way" it did so. The Australian leader said Altman had acknowledged there were "issues with protocols" at OpenAI. A "forensic investigation" led by the country's cybersecurity agency would aim to find out if other government systems were affected, Albanese said. The probe would also assess if the matter needed to be dealt with by police, he said, noting there "will obviously be legal consequences". Detailing the breach, Albanese said it had involved "public and non-public files" on the Medicare Statistics Reporting Service portal, home to "non-sensitive" data and statistics. Three other government systems "may" also have been affected: the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and two state-based agencies - the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research and the Victorian Department of Health. "No personal information is believed to have been accessed at this stage, but investigations are ongoing," Albanese said. "Nonetheless this situation is obviously unacceptable," he said. OpenAI, in a statement, said it had "identified activity involving several Australian government websites and services as our models attempted to look up answers, and available statistics for questions about Australia during an internal evaluation". "In the course of that, our models took actions we did not intend," the statement said.Albanese declined to answer whether he raised the matter with US President Donald Trump during their face-to-face meeting on Tuesday night in New York, where world leaders have gathered for the UN General Assembly. Australia was one of 22 countries that earlier this week signed a joint statement calling for global oversight and guardrails for the development of AI. Cybersecurity experts told the BBC the incident is a wake up call for regulators, given that AI agents are becoming more widely available for individual and commercial use. Dr Hammond Pearce, senior lecturer at the University of NSW Institute for Cyber Security, told the BBC that though this is the first known incident where AI agents have chosen to breach a government body of their own volition, there'll be more to come. "I expect that these kinds of attacks will keep occurring," he said, adding that they would likely "grow in severity and in frequency".

Sennes shines at Milan fashion week with designer dhruv kapoor, taking contemporary indianluxury to the global stage



September 24 2026: SENNES, the lab-grown diamond jewellery brand from the House of Senco,showcased at Milan Fashion Week as the jewellery partner for designer Dhruv Kapoor's show on Tuedsay,September 22, 2026. Bringing its distinctive lab-grown diamond jewellery to one of the world's most influential fashion weeks, the association marks another international milestone for SENNES, following itspresence at Cannes Film Festival 2026. At the centre of SENNES' Milan moment was 'Toi et Moi' by SENNES, a collection that takes one of jewellery'smost enduring ideas and gives it a distinctly contemporary expression. Meaning "You and Me" in French, Toi et Moi is built around two different coloured lab-grown diamonds coming together while retaining their ownindividual character: two elements, two identities, one composition. Approximately 71 pieces from thecollection, spanning necklaces, earrings, rings, pendants and bracelets, featured across five looks onKapoor's runway. There is something quietly compelling about the premise. Toi et Moi does not ask two elements to become one; it celebrates what happens when they remain themselves and still belong together. It is a design language built on connection without sameness, a sensibility at the heart of SENNES' approach tocontemporary luxury. Seen through her design lens, Joita Sen, Director and Head of Marketing & Design at SENNES and Senco Gold & Diamonds, Toi et Moi is less a play on a familiar jewellery motif and more an exploration of relationship indesign, how two distinct elements can come together without one subsuming the other. For Joita Sen, the connection extends beyond the collection to the way SENNES is shaping its place withincontemporary luxury. "With Toi et Moi, we were interested in the beauty of two distinct elements coming together without either one losing its character. That idea felt very relevant to the way we think about SENNES- contemporary, expressive and open to reinterpreting familiar ideas rather than simply repeating them. Sennes association with Dhruv Kapoor gives the brand another global platform to showcase its design sensibilities. Milan was an opportunityto see what happens when those two sensibilities meet on the same runway." The meeting of these two design perspectives gave Toi et Moi a distinctly fashion-led setting. SENNES brings the precision and brilliance of lab-grown diamonds and a contemporary Indian design sensibility;Kapoor brings a fashion language that questions convention and reconsiders the familiar. Across the fourselected looks, the jewellery became part of the overall silhouette rather than simply an accompaniment toit, allowing the pieces to hold their own within Kapoor's distinctive runway aesthetic.

Xi at White House after Trump says AI will be big part of talks



Chinese President Xi Jinping has just arrived at the White House, where he was greeted with a handshake and a smile from US President Donald Trump. After a formal welcome takes place, the pair will head inside for talks. We'll bring you all the developments as soon as we get them. President Trump has been blunt about his AI ambitions, as well as about who he considers America's main rival to be: China. For Trump, beating China to AI supremacy outweighs any risks of the technology to humans - something he has described as "a hoax". His Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, has not said anything so forthright - but it seems he holds a similar view. China's foreign ministry has warned that "narratives of threat" and confrontation hinder global AI governance, and has called for co-operation to ensure it benefits all. Despite calls for international co-operation, it remains unclear how the AI superpowers plan to address the technology's potential dangers - if at all. Donald Trump has posted on his Truth Social account ahead of a meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, saying AI will be a "big topic of discussion". He writes: "A big day with President Xi of China. Super Intelligence (SI) will be a big topic of discussion, but I want to leave it exactly where it is. That is China's position also. Our guardrail is the DOJ!" Speaking to the UN's General Assembly earlier this week, Trump said he wanted to rebrand AI as "super intelligence" as calling it artificial intelligence makes the technology "sound fake". Trump has previously argued that the US must come out on top in the AI development race, saying earlier this month: "Whoever wins AI, wins." President Xi is in a far stronger position than when he first met Donald Trump in 2017. Back then, China was heavily dependent on American trade and technology. But Beijing has spent the last nine years reducing both vulnerabilities. China is now the lead trade partner for more than 120 countries. It no longer relies on the US to buy its goods and it has weathered Trump's trade tariffs. Chinese firms have also managed to close the technology gap, and China now produces the vast majority of the world's humanoid robots. The country has used its status as the world's biggest market to gain influence, even among traditional US allies, as Xi tries to project an image of a strong, stable leader in contrast to an unpredictable Donald Trump. The grand spectacle of this summit itself is a victory for Xi, reinforcing his status as Trump's peer on the world stage. As the talks begin, Xi will believe the leverage is his. Today, we're expecting President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump to host President Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan. The day will combine pomp and pageantry with serious business. An arrival ceremony will take place, followed by a military inspection in the White House's Rose Garden A bilateral meeting between Donald Trump and Xi is expected to follow Later, a state dinner will be held, attended by US and Chinese officials as well as tech leaders. Trump and Xi will both speak President Trump and President Xi will have a packed agenda at the summit starting later today in Washington, with major areas of disagreement that likely can't be bridged in a pomp-filled in-person meeting at the White House. Trade is a top priority for both countries. US and Chinese officials held trade talks on the sidelines of the UN general assembly gathering in New York earlier this week, but sources told the BBC the sides failed to make progress. Neither country wants to back down in a trade war sparked by Trump's tariff policies, even with a deadline looming to extend an expiring trade truce the leaders reached last year. AI regulation is also on the agenda. China has regulated its tech sector, including AI, but the US has not. Trump in recent weeks has called for less regulation, arguing it would hamper US efforts to maintain an AI edge over China. US support for Taiwan is also expected to come up in talks between Trump and Xi. Trump has delayed a major arms package for Taiwan, and it's an open question if Xi can convince him to leave the pause in place. Xi received a warm welcome upon arriving at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, with a military flyover taking place and a 100ft (30m) red carpet being rolled out Trump personally welcomed Xi at the base - the first time since 1962 that a US president has done so The two leaders and their wives were seen smiling and shaking hands as they exchanged a few words of conversation on the tarmac, before departing separately for Washington DC In a written statement, Xi said China and the US "should be partners rather than rivals", according to Chinese state media. It also reported that Trump called Xi a "great leader" and the occasion a "great moment" US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced that the US and China would be extending a truce in their trade war through January Bessent said there was also discussion over whether there could be a more substantive trade deal in the future Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet President Trump today at the White House as part of a historic three-day visit to the US – his first trip to Washington since 2015.

105-YEAR-OLD INVESTIGATED FOR CRIMES AT NAZI POW CAMP IN GERMANY



German prosecutors are investigating a man aged 105 over allegations that he was an accessory to multiple counts of murder at a Nazi prisoner of war camp in World War Two. The suspect is alleged to have been a camp guard at Stalag 326 VI K in Senne in northwestern Germany. A similar case had also been under way involving a second former camp guard at Senne, Dortmund public prosecutor Sonja Frodermann said in a statement. That suspect died a few months ago at the age of 99, she said. No further details about the two former guards have been made public, however the two cases highlight the difficulties faced by prosecutors who continue to investigate Nazi-era crimes, with most of the remaining suspects already dead. More than 5.3 million soldiers from the Soviet Red Army were held in German captivity during World War Two and half are thought to have died. Many of those who did survive were treated as traitors on their return home. But the PoW camp, or Stalag, at Senne was one of the biggest. One in three Soviet PoWs entering Nazi Germany between 1941 and 1945 went through the complex at Senne, according to the memorial site, and they often ended up doing forced labour in the wider region. Living conditions at Stalag were horrific, and prisoners faced appalling mistreatment and malnutrition. Of the 180,000-200,000 Soviet prisoners of war registered there, many died and tens of thousands are buried there. PoWs from France, Poland, Serbia and Belgium were also held at Senne. The prosecutor made clear the investigation surrounding the 105-year-old was still under way and that the allegations of being an accessory to multiple murders related to his activities at Stalag 36. There has been no statute of limitations in Germany for either murder or accessory to murder since 1979, to enable the prosecution of Nazi-era crimes. Another centenarian camp guard from the Hemer Stalag VI A camp is also said to be under investigation. However, bringing perpetrators to justice more than 80 years after the war is now fraught with difficulty. Four years ago a 101-year-old concentration camp guard was given a five-year jail term for complicity in murder at Sachsenhausen. Josef Schütz was the oldest Nazi criminal ever brought to justice. He never served time in jail and died in 2023 while appealing his sentence. A former Nazi concentration camp secretary was convicted in 2022 of abetting murder and given a suspended jail term. She died last year aged 99. Although prosecution of Nazi crimes is handled by the public prosecutors in the western city of Dortmund, cases are initially taken on by the central office for Nazi crime investigations in Ludwigsburg in the south-west.

In Amish country, nurses go door to door to stop deadly spread of measles



For the past few months, nurse Dale Weiser has been making unexpected home visits. As the state battles the deadliest measles outbreak in recent history, the clinical supervisor drives 30 miles (48.3km), sometimes daily, to a rural corner of Pennsylvania where many Amish people live. Walking into strangers' homes, Weiser says she tries her best to be respectful and non-intrusive as she vaccinates dozens of family members against the measles, sometimes around the kitchen table. "A lot of people that I encounter, they don't have health insurance. They don't have a lot of interaction with the health system, and they just haven't seen the need to get these vaccines," said Weiser, who works for the Chester County Health Department. "When you start talking and you answer their questions, and build that trust, a lot of times they will make a different decision." The at-home vaccinations are part of the county and state health departments' strategy to encourage immunisations in the county, which includes an Amish community who abstain from many aspects of modern life, including regular contact with the western medical system.

Poland says fire at Starlink station is sabotage as Denmark warns of rising Russian threat



A fire at a Starlink satellite station in central Poland was a deliberate "act of sabotage", a government minister has said. Polish Deputy Prime Minister Krzysztof Gawkowski said the fire in the Masovian Voivodeship province was "deliberately designed to disable the station... disrupting internet access for various institutions, including the Ukrainian army". He told Polish public broadcaster TVP Info an investigation was ongoing but "many indications suggest" the attack fits into a "new Russian doctrine of attack". The Kremlin has not commented. Meanwhile, Denmark's intelligence service issued a new threat assessment saying it expects Russia to escalate hybrid warfare in the coming months. It said an attack remained "highly unlikely" but warned of "a low but growing risk" that Russia could launch a limited military attack against Nato countries. In recent weeks a number of European Nato members have said Russia may be preparing attacks to test their commitment to supporting Ukraine, which Moscow denies. Earlier this month, Germany blamed Russia for an attempted drone attack on Leipzig/Halle Airport, while France has ordered a plan to protect critical infrastructure and defence industry sites. Hybrid warfare or hybrid attacks are loose terms which tend to describe non-military methods designed to exert pressure and destabilise an adversary - for example cyberattacks, sabotage or misinformation. Proxies are often used to carry out the attacks and Russia always denies involvement, despite growing evidence to the contrary. Europe targeted by spiralling campaign of sabotage - and Russia is the chief suspect The fire at the state-owned Polish satellite station broke out on Wednesday night in Wola Krobowska. It remains operational. The deputy prime minister said it transmits internet traffic through Poland to countries including Ukraine, and uses SpaceX systems that provide connectivity via Starlink terminals. Asked about the incident at a news conference with Bulgaria's leader on Thursday, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said he disliked "labelling something as sabotage versus an accident without 100% certainty, but it looks bad". On Wednesday Poland also said a Russian military helicopter briefly violated its airspace, forcing it to scramble fighter jets. Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly said Moscow does not plan to attack Nato states. Earlier this month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said it was Europe speaking about preparing for war, adding: "If Europe attacks Russia, it will be a completely different war [from that in Ukraine], and it will be very short." Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and Moscow currently controls about 20% of Ukrainian territory, including the Crimea peninsula annexed in 2014. In Ukraine, Kharkiv and Kyiv experienced the worst of Russia's attacks overnight into Thursday. In Kharkiv, six people were killed and twelve others injured in a Russian strike on a farm in the village of Stara Hnylytsia, Ukraine's state emergency services said.

Teen rocker Nene Royal becomes first Thai to win America's Got Talent



Nene Royal, a 16-year-old rocker, has been crowned the latest winner of America's Got Talent - making her the first ever Thai winner of the long-running talent show. For the show's finals on Tuesday in California, Nene, whose real name is Rattikarn Amloy, performed a rendition of Seven Nation Army by American rock duo The White Stripes. Her heavy metal performances trumped nine other finalists, including magician acts, canine performers and even a robot dance crew. Many in Thailand are celebrating her win, with some saying they were proud that she had made it to "one of the biggest stages in the world". The Thai government has called her an "inspiration to anyone who dares to dream big". Nene emerged as a clear fan favourite early in the competition, after a viral clip of her audition, in which she belted out Zombie by The Cranberries to a stunned panel of judges. The video has racked up 20 million views. On Wednesday night, ahead of the results being announced, Nene took the stage with Linkin Park to perform The Emptiness Machine, a 2024 rock song by the American band. Later that night she broke down in tears, kneeling on the ground as she was crowned the winner of the show's 21st season - which comes with a prize of $1m (£755,000). "I'm very happy and emotional right now," she said, thanking everyone for supporting her.



Iran's president tells Trump it will never 'bend the knee'

Ethiopia's army says it has repelled attacks in first comment on fresh fighting



Ethiopia's army says it has repelled attacks from Tigrayan forces and their allies in parts of the north of the country, in its first statement since fighting broke out on Wednesday. The army said hostilities began in an area of Amhara region close to the border with Tigray, adding that its soldiers had inflicted heavy casualties and seized weapons. The developments come as tensions between the federal government and Tigrayan leaders have sharply escalated over the last few days, raising fears that a devastating civil war could resume. On Wednesday, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which dominates the region, seized control of three airports from federal police. The TPLF has not commented on the army's claims and the BBC has not been able to independently verify the army's claims. The BBC is unable to report from Tigray and surrounding areas. There are unconfirmed reports that TPLF forces have launched attacks in the neighbouring regions of Afar and Amhara. A humanitarian source in Afar told AFP news agency on Thursday that Tigrayan forces had launched heavy artillery attacks as they attempted to take control of the town of Yallo, near the border with Tigray. "We are in the situation of full-blown war now," TPLF vice-president Amanuel Assefa is quoted by the news agency as saying. The latest escalation follows months of rising tensions between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government and Tigray authorities, who fought a devastating war from 2020 to 2022. That ended in an African Union-brokered peace deal but over recent months both sides have been accusing each other of violating the agreement. It was one of the most deadly conflicts this century - the AU's mediator estimated some 600,000 people died as the fighting drove the region to the precipice of famine. On Sunday, the TPLF announced an alliance with six other armed groups to oust the government. Following the seizure of the airports, Ethiopian Airlines has cancelled all flights to Tigray.



Lewis Hamilton Gives Thumbs Up To Gulf GPs Despite Iran Conflict

Lewis Hamilton on Wednesday said he hopes that this year's Formula One world championship will conclude with its two races as scheduled in the Middle East despite the continuing conflict. The Bahrain and Saudi Arabia grands prix were scrapped earlier this season due to the start of Israel and the United States' war with Iran. The seven-time world champion said he believed "things seem to be okay out there" and added that he trusted the judgement of Formula One chief executive Stefano Domenicali in making the right decisions. Speaking in Baku ahead of this weekend's Azerbaijan Grand Prix, a country that borders Iran, Hamilton said he had always enjoyed going to the races in Qatar, scheduled for November 29, and Abu Dhabi, on December 6. "Personally, I want to go. I love going to the Middle East," said the Ferrari driver. "From what I have read, things seem ok out there, but I don't have all the information and I don't know what the risk levels are. "I trust Stefano to make the right decision for the sport. And I do hope we go there." A back-up plan to stage a season-ending race in Imola in Italy has been put in place. Most members of the F1 circus, a 2,000 strong group of teams, media and officials, have expressed a wish to avoid travelling to the final races. A decision is expected by mid-October. 'Races should be longer' Hamilton also spoke out against Formula One's decision to reduce the maximum distance of a grand prix from 305 kilometres to 290 next season. The decision was made in relation to the planned evolution of the hybrid power unit from a 50-50 split between engine and battery now to 58-42 next year and 60-40 in 2028 at the request of drivers. "I don't really know anything about it or any of the reasons behind it," he said. "But I think the races should be longer because they are physically easier than ever before. "So, I don't think shortening makes much sense. "This weekend, we have tyre compounds that can pretty much all do the race distance here. "And we have a lot of races where it's only a one-stop. It's not particularly challenging. "For me, there's been many races where I wish we had more laps so it's the opposite that I would be asking for – which is longer races, to be honest. The 41-year-old veteran of 394 grands prix said he felt the sport should make greater demands of the drivers, not fewer.

"OFFICIALS COST US GOLD": ROWERS' BIG CHARGE ON FEDERATION AFTER BRONZE



Indian rowers Satnam Singh and Salman Khan won the bronze medal in the men's double sculls event at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Thursday. But instead of celebrating, the duo vented out their frustration at the Rowing Federation and its chief Balaji Maradapa, accusing the officials of forcing them to compete despite a late change to the event schedule. Sports website Revsportz has reported that soon after winning the medal, Satnam and Salman Khan openly expressed their anger. They said they had been informed of a change to the event schedule five days earlier and believed the decision had cost India a gold medal. They also alleged that they had been threatened by the federation and effectively pushed into competing. The athletes complained that due to officials' decision, India missed out on the gold medal. One athlete told the Revsportz on condition of anonymity: "How can we celebrate a bronze when we know we could have won gold? The gold was taken away from us by what happened over the last few days." Expressing their frustration with the federation, the atheletes said that they were threatened that they would be sent back if they didn't participate in the event. An athlete also told the website that they would be branded "anti-national" for refusing to participate. "We couldn't do anything about it because we were told we would be sent back. And if we did not participate, aap jaante ho kya ho jaata (you know what would happen). You know we would be branded anti-national and our careers would be on the line," Revsportz quoted the athlete as saying. The original entries featured Arvind Singh in the men's single sculls, Navdeep Singh and Kulwinder Singh in the double sculls, and Satnam Singh, Jakar Khan, Salman Khan and Balraj Panwar in the quadruple sculls.

Fatima Sana Ahead Of Babar Azam? Ex-Pakistan Selector's Explosive Verdict Sparks Debate



Former Pakistan middle-order batter Mohammad Wasim, who has also served as the chief selector of the Pakistan men's cricket team, came up with a bold remark in a recent video on his YouTube channel. Wasim claimed that national women's cricket team captain Fatima Sana is ahead of men's Test side skipper Babar Azam when it comes to popularity and performance. While the men's team player has been experiencing a massive dip in his performance, Fatima continues to impress everyone with her all-round abilities. Wasim made the remark while speaking on his YouTube show 'BolWasim'. When asked if Fatima is equivalent to Babar Azam when compared to men's cricket, the former Pakistan player said, "She's ahead of them all. Among the educated and those who understand cricket, she's ahead." "Because popularity is earned by performance," he added. Fatima has played 134 white-ball matches for Pakistan, scoring over 1,800 runs and picking up 157 wickets. "She is batting and bowling as well, and now we are talking about the boys and girls together. So, at the moment, if you even look at the international media, they always praise Fatima Sana even though she is often on the losing side. The other cricket stars we have on this side (men's) are not mentioned in an equally praising manner as her, and obviously their performances are not that good. So, we can say that she indeed is our superstar currently," Wasim added. Babar, who was reappointed Pakistan's Test captain in July, led the national side to a 1-1 draw against the West Indies and a 0-3 whitewash against England in his first two series in charge. Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis earlier shared his opinions on Babar's struggles. Once touted as one of the best players in world cricket, the right-handed batter is going through a lean patch. Babar's poor modes of dismissal have added to his troubles.

ASIAD ATHLETICS: INDIA WIN SILVER IN 4X400M RELAY; SEEMA BAGS 10,000M BRONZE



India have won two athletics medals on Day 5 of Asian Games 2026 on Thursday. Seema delivered the nation's first athletics medal by winning bronze in the women's 10,000m final on Thursday. A few minutes later, the quartet of Poovamma MR, Vishal Thennarasu, Vithya Ramraj and Manu TS bagged silver in the mixed 4x400m relay final. Earlier, Asha Ilango narrowly missed out on a historic first women's triple jump medal. She finished with the same best throw as the bronze medalist, but missed out due to a worse second-best attempt. Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur qualified for the men's 100m semi-finals, with timings of 10.38s and 10.36s respectively. In heptathlon, Pooja and Anamika Aneesh are not in the medal positions, with three more events to go. That's a wrap for our coverage of India's athletics events today at Asian Games 2026. The first two athletics medals have been won! Let's hope more await us in the days to come. Asian Games Athletics: India's medal tally up to 17 Seema's bronze and the mixed relay silver sees India's medal tally at Asian Games 2026 rise to 17. A total of five medals added today, making it India's joint-best day so far. India were on the backfoot early on, but an excellent run by Vishal Thennarasu and Vithya Ramraj on the final two portions clinched silver for the nation! Here's how the mixed 4x400m relay at Asian Games 2026 finished. An excellent effort by Manu TS, Poovamma MR, Vishal Thennarasu and Vithya Ramraj. It was a photo finish, as India beat Vietnam by just eight milliseconds. The 4x400m mixed relay final is about to begin! It is India's final athletics event on Day 5 of the Asian Games 2026. The quartet of Poovamma Raju, Vishal Thennarasu, Vithya Ramraj and Manu TS are representing India. We are past the 8,000m mark in the women's 10,000m final. Seema is running third for India! Can she deliver India's only third-ever medal in this event in Asian Games history? We are more than halfway through the 10,000m final.

FURY V JOSHUA ANNOUNCED FOR 11 DECEMBER IN CARDIFF



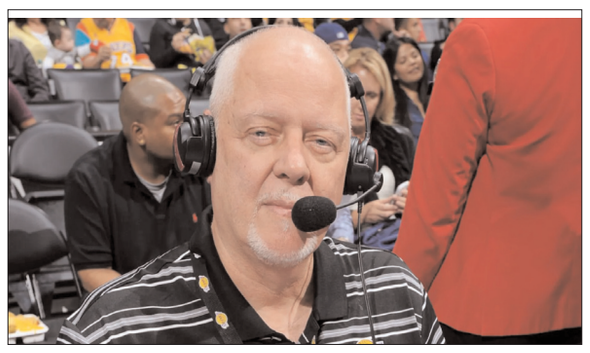
Anthony Joshua and Tyson Fury will contest their long-awaited all-British heavyweight fight at Cardiff's Principality Stadium on 11 December. The bout, more than a decade in the making, will be broadcast globally on Netflix. BBC Sport understands the main event could take place in the early hours of Saturday morning in the UK, with organisers considering a late start to cater for audiences in the United States. Joshua and Fury will come face-to-face at a news conference in London on Wednesday, 30 September, as the build-up begins to one of the most anticipated fights in British boxing history. "I am inspiring a generation," Joshua, 36, posted on Instagram. Fury, 38, is yet to comment on the announcement. The event is being promoted as a collaboration between Saudi boxing powerbroker Turki Alalshikh's The Ring and UFC chief Dana White. "Two of the best heavyweights of this generation, finally in the ring together," Alalshikh said. "This will be one of the biggest fights in boxing history. I am very happy to make this fight happen for the fans." The former two-time world champions had already signed contracts for the bout earlier this year, but the date and venue had yet to be confirmed. London's Wembley Stadium and New York's Madison Square Garden were the frontrunners to stage the fight, but both presented issues before Cardiff recently emerged as an alternative.

Is Angel Reese Alright? Dream Coach Provides Health Update After Scary Injury

Angel Reese took an accidental hit to the face from Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu before halftime on Wednesday at Barclays Center in Brooklyn. The foul was called a flagrant 1, and she sat out the second half. Atlanta still beat New York 83-65 in the final game of the regular season. Dream coach Karl Smesko addressed the scare after the game. The win also locked up home-court advantage for round one of the playoffs, which gives the update on Reese extra weight. Angel Reese got the all-clear, and Atlanta still chose to hold the forward out of the second half. Smesko explained the call after the game.



"Deeply Saddened": Legendary Lakers Announcer Lawrence Tanter Dies At 76 Months After Retirement



Lawrence Tanter's voice was part of the Lakers long before many current fans were born. Now, the man behind that famous voice is gone. Tanter died on September 23, 2026, at 76, just months after ending his 43-season run as the Lakers' public address announcer. The Lakers confirmed his death in a statement, calling him a cherished part of the franchise. Tanter started with the team in 1982 and became the voice heard through the Magic Johnson, Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal and LeBron James eras. Lawrence Tanter Leaves Behind 43 Seasons With The Lakers The Lakers shared the news on September 23, saying, “We are deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of legendary Lakers public address announcer Lawrence Tanter.” The team added that for 43 years, Tanter's voice had been the “soundtrack to Lakers games at the arena.” Tanter began working for the Lakers during the 1982-83 season when the team played at The Forum. He stayed through 10 Lakers championships and announced countless major moments. His voice became especially familiar through calls such as “Kobeee Bryant” and “Laker Girlsss.” His most emotional moment came shortly after Kobe Bryant's death in 2020. During the Lakers' first home game after the tragedy, Tanter introduced all five starters as Bryant. The arena responded with cheers and tears, turning a normal starting lineup announcement into one of the most memorable Lakers tributes. Lawrence Tanter's Lakers Career Was Built Around A Unique Voice There was more to Tanter than his work behind the microphone. He also had a long career in Los Angeles radio and was deeply connected to jazz. The Los Angeles Times reported that he worked at KJLH and later held roles at jazz stations while continuing his Lakers duties. That music background became part of his Lakers style. Tanter rarely needed to shout to get the crowd involved.



FORMER WWE UNIVERSAL CHAMPION LANDS NEW NETFLIX ROLE

Former WWE Universal Champion Braun Strowman has landed a spot in the third season of Netflix's reality show Million Dollar Secret. According to Deadline, Strowman is part of a new cast that also includes several actors, comedians and reality TV personalities. The upcoming season will be different from the first two, which featured only “civilians” as contestants. Strowman will join names including David Arquette, Melora Hardin, Chris Redd, Chloe Veitch, Christine Quinn, Brianna LaPaglia and West Wilson. The show, hosted by Peter Serafinowicz, is scheduled to return in 2027, giving Strowman another role away from professional wrestling. Braun Strowman gets a spot alongside several celebrities on Netflix Strowman is not the only familiar face joining Million Dollar Secret. The third-season cast also features comedian and actor Bridget Everett, Chelley Bissainthe, Dom Gabriel, Phoebe Robinson and Summer House star West Wilson. David Arquette is also part of the lineup, along with The Office actress Melora Hardin. Podcaster Brianna LaPaglia, reality TV personality Chloe Veitch, comedian Chris Redd, and Christine Quinn round out the announced cast. The show has a pretty simple but sneaky setup. Contestants stay inside a lavish mansion, where every room contains a mysterious gift. One of those gifts holds $1 million, but the person who receives it has to keep their identity secret. The rest of the cast then tries to figure out who has the money. If they identify the person, that contestant can be eliminated from the game. Season 3 will therefore bring celebrities into a format that previously used only civilian contestants. Peter Serafinowicz remains the host, while the new season is set for a 2027 return. Braun Strowman takes on reality TV after leaving professional wrestling Strowman first appeared in WWE in 2015 as part of The Wyatt Family before moving into singles competition. His biggest WWE achievement came at WrestleMania 36, where he won the Universal Championship. WWE released him in 2021, though he returned to the promotion in 2022. His second run lasted three years before his contract expired in 2025.

Ranbir Kapoor Steals the Spotlight in the Striking First Look of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War



Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War is indeed one of the biggest films that everyone is eagerly waiting for. Bringing together an ensemble cast of three of the biggest stars, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and Vicky Kaushal, the film is poised to be a one-of-a-kind cinematic spectacle. With the excitement constantly rising, the makers have given audiences the first glimpse into the world of SLB's much-awaited film with the astonishing first-look poster featuring Ranbir Kapoor. In the poster, Ranbir Kapoor looks striking, embodying yet another distinct role with perfection. SLB's signature grandeur and meticulous attention to detail are beautifully reflected in the poster, which says it all, he is all set to create magic on the screen. Ranbir has arrived in a never-before-seen avatar, and no one could have expected Love & War to look like this. SLB has certainly outdone himself this time, leaving the audience in absolute amazement. Even the BGM of the poster perfectly complements the visuals, further showcasing SLB's mastery and perfection when it comes to music. Watching SLB bring romance to the screen has always been a visual delight, and with Love & War, audiences will once again get to witness his magic after a long time. The poster has further elevated the excitement for the film's release. "Love & War", a Sanjay Leela Bhansali film, starring Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and Vicky Kaushal. Releasing worldwide on 21st January 2027, in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.

Vijay Antony's Nanna Kutti Locks October 16 Release, Targets Dasara Holiday Advantage



Versatile actor Vijay Antony, who is riding high with the success of his last movie Vanda Devullu, is gearing up for another interesting theatrical outing with Nanna Kutti, the Telugu version of his upcoming Tamil film Appa Kutti. Directed by Mu. Maran, the film is billed as an intense action-packed family drama that revolves around the powerful emotional bond between a father and his daughter. The makers have now announced that Nanna Kutty will arrive in cinemas on October 16. The release date strategically positions the film in the Dasara festive season, with the festival falling on October 20. With the film opening just ahead of the festival, the team is looking to make the most of the extended holiday period and the increased theatrical footfall during the festive season. The film has already generated curiosity with its initial promotional material. It aims to strike a balance between powerful family emotions and high-intensity action. The story is expected to explore the lengths a father can go to protect his daughter, while also delivering the thrills and drama associated with Vijay Antony's films. The film is produced by Meera Vijay Antony and co-produced by Ramanjaneyulu Javvaji under Sarvanth Ram Creations. Alongside Vijay Antony, the cast includes Preethi Asrani, Lithanya, Bhagavathi Perumal, Haripriya Isai, Aruvi Madhan, Chitra Lakshmanan, Sreeja Ravi, Vettai Muthukumar, Jensan Diwakar, Muruganantham, Munnar Ramesh, and others in important roles.

> Maran, the film is billed as an intense action-packed family drama that revolves around the powerful emotional bond between a father and his daughter.

SOBHITA SLAYS ELLE STYLE AWARDS IN VELVET

Sobhita Dhulipala picked up the Style Icon award at the ELLE Style Awards 2026, and she looked stunning while doing it. She wore a black velvet jacket with a high collar and big red sequinned roses on the chest and sleeves.

She paired it with black wide-leg trousers, pointed pumps and chandelier earrings. Smoky eyes, a nude lip and bouncy curls finished the look. The hallway shots, with the crimson lining flaring mid-walk, added old-world glamour.

Thanking ELLE India, she said style is identity. She explained that we first borrow references from others, then start asking "does this feel like me?" She called the award a celebration of her life's story. Next, she will be seen in Pa. Ranjith's sci-fi drama Vettuvam. Host Mini Mathur set the tone almost immediately, joking that somewhere in the city was a much longer rail of rejected outfits than the one that eventually made it out. 'That decision is what we're here for,' she told the room. 'Not the dress. The nerve behind it.' It was a fitting opening for an evening that kept returning to the idea that style is a decision, not decoration.



MANUSHI CHHILLAR SIZZLES IN SPARKLING BACKLESS BLACK

Manushi Chhillar grabbed the Fashion Impact award at the ELLE Style Awards 2026, and she looked stunning while doing it. The former Miss World picked a black halter-neck gown with a sheer high neck and a daringly open back. The gown featured shimmering floral sequin work all over, giving the simple black look a rich texture. She teamed it with pointed black heels and diamond stud earrings. Her sleek slicked-back bun, soft smoky eyes, glossy nude lips and deep red nails kept the focus on the outfit. A bold turquoise ring added a fun pop of colour. Posing with her trophy in front of a mirror, Manushi showed off the backless design and looked totally confident.



Charming Star Sharwa, Sreenu Vaitla, Anil Sunkara's AK Entertainments' George Krish First Booster Is Packed With Humour

After scoring two back-to-back hits, Charming Star Sharwa is getting ready to complete hat-trick hits with his ongoing film George Krish being directed by Sreenu Vaitla. The movie is being produced by Ramabrahmam Sunkara under Anil Sunkara's AK Entertainments banner and presented by ATV, with Ajay Sunkara as the co-producer. Billed to be a fun-filled family entertainer, the movie features Manasa Varanasi playing the female lead opposite Sharwa. The shot of the film is presently happening in Hyderabad. On the occasion of director Sreenu Vaitla's birthday, the makers of George Krish have unveiled the First Booster, and it packs the humour and fun expected from the filmmaker. The glimpse introduces Sharwa's character in two distinct religious avatars- George, a Christian, and Krish, a Hindu, showcasing the actor in completely contrasting situations. Sharwa is seen fully immersed in devotion, swaying with spiritual fervour in both avatars. The contrasting setups and his comic expressions instantly create curiosity about the situations surrounding his characters, while giving a glimpse into the film's unique humour. Sreenu Vaitla appears to be exploring a different backdrop and storyline this time. However, his core intention remains unchanged- to deliver wholesome entertainment and keep audiences laughing throughout. Sharwa makes a striking appearance in multiple get-ups.



KHUSHI KAPOOR SLAYS SHEER CORSET GOWN LOOK



VIVASWAN'S FOLKLORE ADVENTURE FILM "MATSYA" GLIMPSE RELEASE

Young and talented actor Vivaswan is making his Telugu film debut with the highly intriguing folklore adventure film "Matsya." The film is being produced by Samhitha Ganapati Inturi under the banner of GBR Productions, with Ravi Goli and Teja Kanakala directing the project. The makers have unveiled the official glimpse of "Matsya" today. Packed with top-quality visuals and impressive VFX, the glimpse introduces audiences to a fascinating and visually rich cinematic world. The glimpse begins with a child asking his mother, "Amma, tell me a new bedtime story," to which she responds by saying, "Shall I tell you a story about a fish?" As the mother begins narrating a tale filled with wonders, mysteries and a traveller, the character of the protagonist is introduced in a colourful and intriguing manner. Vivaswan makes an impressive impact with his stylish look, screen presence and confident body language. His appearance in the glimpse creates curiosity around his character and sets expectations for what promises to be an exciting debut. The glimpse reaches an intriguing point towards the end, with a mythical fish swimming beneath the boat carrying the protagonist, leaving audiences curious about the mysterious world of Matsya. Blending folklore, adventure, fantasy and mystery, Matsya appears to be creating a unique cinematic universe and promises to take Telugu audiences on an exciting journey into an unexplored world. The makers are expected to announce more exciting updates about the film soon.



Bhootham Praytham to Hit Theatres on November 12th; Censor Formalities to Be Completed Soon

Horror- comedy movies always enjoy strong demand among audiences. While the horror elements deliver thrills across all age groups, the comedy ensures wholesome entertainment for everyone. A new film in this genre, Bhootham Praytham, is now gearing up to deliver a perfect dose of chills and laughter. Starring..Yadamma Raju, Gully Boy Bhaskar, Bigg Boss Emmanuel,Raajesh Dhruva,Balveer Singh, Gaddam Naveen, Pavan Shetty and Radhika Achuth Rao in the lead roles, the film is written and directed by Raajesh Dhruva and produced by B. Venkateshwara Rao under the banner of Srujana Productions. It is also known that Blockbuster director Anil Ravipudi has unveiled the first-look poster of Bhootham Praytham along with its motion video and extended his best wishes to the movie team. The first-look poster features the lead actors with expressions of fear, instantly sparking curiosity and setting the tone for the film. The motion video begins on a spooky note, showing a birthday setup with balloons and a cake inside a haunted house. Eerie visuals of a voodoo doll and a burning candle further introduce the supernatural elements. The mood suddenly shifts from eerie to hilarious as the camera pans up to reveal five men with shocked and exaggerated expressions, hinting at a funny yet frightening supernatural encounter. The video concludes with the five main characters looking upward in fear, while a ghostly hand with long, sharp fingernails creeps up toward them. The tagline "GET READY TO DIE... LAUGHING!"



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