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KOCHI I VIJAYAWADA I CHENNAI I BENGALURU I HYDERABAD

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

26-09-2026



Total pilgrims :82,181
Tonsures : 37,633
Hundi kanukalu : 3.94 CR
Laddu sale... 4.89Lac
Annaprasadam.2.82 Lac
Ashwini hospital..3,893
Present Situation on 27-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments... Outside line at Silathoranam.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with out SSD Tokens)...20 - 24H.rs



NATIONAL NEWS

Raghav Chadha welcomes 30-days recharge rules

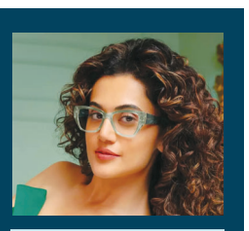
Kohli masterclass powers India to win

Virat Kohli smashed an unbeaten 139 while skipper Shubman Gill struck 110 as India crushed the West Indies by eight wickets in the first ODI at the Greenfield International Stadium here on Sunday and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. After the West Indies made 295/7, with Kuldeep Yadav picking a four-wicket haul, Rohit Sharma and Gill gave India a quick start with a 74-run opening stand. After Rohit fell, Gill and Kohli batted West Indies out of the game with a 151-run stand.



SPORTS NEWS

Taapsee Pannu Turns Up Retro Glam Game



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

3 ELEPHANTS KILLED BY LIVE WIRE

Kolkata (TSIT): The bodies of three elephants – a mother elephant and her two calves – were spotted in a paddy field at Salboni in West Midnapore district of West Bengal, on Sunday morning. An initial investigation has suggested that the three elephants came in contact with a high-tension electricity wire. The bodies were first noticed by the local villagers in the morning, who subsequently brought the matter to the notice of the local forest department office. According to local sources, a herd of elephants was passing through the village. An electric pump was installed to irrigate the farmland with a live wire passing through the land. It is believed that the three elephants died after touching the wire and getting electrocuted.

UPI PAYMENT SYSTEM SURGES AHEAD

New Delhi (TSIT): The UPI payments system, operated by the National Payments Corporation of India, is the world's largest retail fast-payment system by transaction volume, according to an IMF report. UPI has anchored a digital revolution in India, helping bring large sections of the population into a formal economy and becoming a backbone of a digital economy in which electronic payments are increasingly integral to everyday commerce, according to an article in the South China Morning Post. According to government data, annual transaction volume surged to 241.62 billion in the financial year that ended in March 2026 from 17.8 million in 2016-17, while transaction value zoomed from Rs 7,000 crore to Rs 3.14 lakh crore over the same period.

Dy CM Bhatti calls booth agents Congress pillars

He was addressing a meeting, the Chintakani Mandal Congress BLA Atmeeya Sammelanam, as the chief guest at the Nagulavanch village in the Chintakani mandal.

NAGALUVANCH ■ (TSIT): :



Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said on Sunday, September 27, that Booth-Level Agents (BLAs), who take the Congress' ideology and the government's welfare programmes to the people, are the true pillars of the party.

He was addressing a meeting, the Chintakani Mandal Congress BLA Atmeeya Sammelanam, as the chief guest at the Nagulavanch village in the Chintakani mandal.Emphasising that BLAs have a major responsibility to ensure that government welfare schemes reach every household, he said that every grassroots worker would receive due recognition for their hard work.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the Madhira Assembly constituency had fallen behind in development because there had been no Congress government for the previous ten years. He said that the development backlog accumulated over the last 15 years would be completed within the present five-year term by workinug at a rapid pace.

He assured that all pending works relating to schools, roads, hospitals and other infrastructure would be completed on a priority basis during the next two years, enabling party leaders and workers to confidently move among the people in their villages. Bhatti Vikramarka said the Congress government was working with public welfare as its primary objective. He stated that nearly 1.06 crore families across the state were being provided six kilograms of fine rice per month free of cost, describing it as an exemplary "Telangana Model" for the country.He said that the government was providing financial relief to women through free bus travel and had revived the DWCRA loan system, with a target of providing loans worth Rs.1 lakh crore.

Under Gruha Jyothi, free electricity is being provided for consumption of up to 200 units. He said that in villages, around 80 to 90 per cent of households were benefiting from quality electricity without having to pay electricity bills.

For the treatment of poor people, the Rajiv Aarogyasri health insurance coverage has been increased from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh, he said. He also announced that the 'Indiramma Bheema' scheme, providing Rs.5 lakh of free insurance coverage to every family in the state, would be launched on November 19.

New ED takes charge in Mahabubabad

But Questions Linger Over Who Holds What Power

MAHABUBABAD ■ (TSIT) :



A regular Executive Director has taken charge in Mahabubabad's SC Corporation, yet administrative questions persist over who is presently exercising which powers—and under what orders.

V. Upendra assumed charge as Executive Director on September 23 following G.O.Rt.No.233 dated September 11, 2026. With a full-fledged ED now in position, the spotlight has shifted to earlier temporary arrangements.

Earlier records show K. Srinivasa Rao serving as Executive Officer/ Officiating Executive Director on deputation, with his substantive post being Statistical Officer. Proceedings dated February 19, 2026, permitted him to continue as Executive Officer on deputation until November 20, 2026.

A key document is the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes Development's circular dated October 25, 2021, which categorically states that employees working in Government Corporations shall not be appointed Full Additional Charge for Government posts. The circular also required District Collectors to forward FAC proposals for ratification.

Questions remain: Was the DSCDO-FAC proposal sent for ratification? Was it approved? Does the 2021 prohibition apply to a Government employee serving a Corporation on deputation? Who presently holds DSCDO charge?

The Collector has been urged to place the complete chain of orders, ratifications, and allocation of powers in the public domain. A consolidated file review, officials said, can establish the entire sequence conclusively.

Rajnath backs self-reliant defence

Minister stresses domestic manufacturing & critical technologies.

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said India must strengthen domestic defence manufacturing capabilities and achieve greater control over critical technologies to attain strategic autonomy in an increasingly complex global security environment.

Addressing the NDTV Defence Summit 2026 here, Singh said the country's approach was guided by a simple philosophy of producing domestically whatever could be made within India instead of relying on imports.

"From chips to ships, from screws to complete weapon systems, this will take India to strategic autonomy," he said, underlining the importance of indigenous design, innovation and adaptation across the defence sector.

The minister said India's ability to manufacture and control key components of the defence supply chain would play a critical role in enhancing national security and reducing dependence on overseas vendors.

According to him, long-term defence preparedness would require mastery over critical technologies and greater self-reliance across the manufacturing ecosystem.

Highlighting recent policy measures, Singh said the government had undertaken structural and transformative reforms to strengthen the domestic defence industry, helping the sector gain significant momentum in recent years.

"We are not limited to meeting current needs; we are self-reliant and future oriented," he said.

Drawing a comparison with the evolution of the telecommunications sector from 2G to 5G technologies, Singh said warfare had also entered a fifth-generation phase, where advanced technologies would increasingly shape military capabilities and outcomes.

He noted that artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, robotics, autonomous systems and cybersecurity were becoming integral parts of modern warfare.

Singh said India was actively promoting indigenous quantum technologies while simultaneously strengthening the policy framework required to support emerging defence innovations.

Vijay govt revokes RTI exemption

CHENNAI■(TSIT):



After strong backlash from Opposition, defenders of transparency, and even some TVK allies, the C. Joseph Vijay-led Tamil Nadu government Sunday withdrew the order to exempt the Public (Law and Order) Department from the purview of Right to Information Act, 2005. The order had declared the department an intelligence and security organisation.

A gazette notification by the Human Resources Management Department on 21 September had stated that under sub-section (4) of Section 24 of RTI Act, the Governor had specified the Public (Law and Order) Department as an intelligence and security organisation established by the state government. As a result, the provisions of the RTI Act would not have applied to it.

Asian Games 2026



The Indian men's kabaddi team won gold just hours after their female counterparts did the same.

India will act against terror: Jaishankar at UN

UNITED NATIONS ■ (TSIT) :



"Yesterday, a serial practitioner of terrorism misrepresented facts before this assembly," Jaishankar told the General Debate. "Our right to defend ourselves against terrorism will be exercised."

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said Saturday that India would exercise its right to defend itself against terrorism, accusing an unnamed country of misrepresenting facts at the UN General Assembly a day earlier.

"Yesterday, a serial practitioner of terrorism misrepresented facts before this assembly," Jaishankar told the General Debate. "Our right to defend ourselves against terrorism will be exercised."He did not name the country in the remarks provided. He said arguments had been made to normalise terrorism and claim immunity from its consequences. "That will not stand," he said.

Jaishankar called state-sponsored terrorism with a cross-border purpose a direct challenge to the global order. Governments engaged in such practices must be held accountable, he said, and the financing of terrorism must be exposed and countered."Friendship and goodwill cannot coexist with terrorism," he said, adding that the perpetrator must change its ways. He called for continued zero tolerance towards terrorism.

The warning formed one part of a wider speech on peace, development and the pressures facing poorer nations. Jaishankar said the world was seeing "a weaponisation of everything", from finance and market access to supply chains and technology.Countries were responding by reducing risks and diversifying their ties, he said. But the broader atmosphere was losing trust and goodwill.

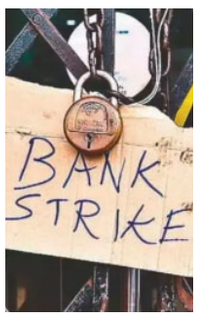
11 killed in South Africa crash

JOHANNESBURG ■ (TSIT):

As many as 11 people were killed and eight others critically injured in a head-on collision between a minibus taxi and a truck in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province, local media reported on Sunday.The accident occurred at around 4 am local time (0200 GMT) on the N2 highway in the Inkosi Mtubatuba Municipality, Independent Online reported, citing the provincial Department of Transport and Human Settlements.The northbound minibus taxi collided with the southbound truck and caught fire. Eight people sustained critical injuries, including burns, and were transported to hospital, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Bank unions begin three-day strike

NEW DELHI ■ (TSIT):



Banking services, including cheque clearance, cash withdrawals, and deposits, are likely to be disrupted for three days beginning Monday as bank unions go on a nationwide strike pressing for a five-day working week and other pending demands.

The impact is expected mainly at public sector banks, old-generation private sector banks, and regional rural banks, though digital banking and other online services will remain available. Branches of new-generation private lenders such as ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and Axis Bank will remain open. The strike follows a one-day nationwide strike observed on September 11.

SBI advised customers to complete essential transactions in advance and use ATMs, YONO, UPI, and digital channels.

The United Forum of Bank Unions has threatened an indefinite strike from October 26, 2026, if demands are not met. The Finance Ministry urged employees to resolve issues through dialogue.

CJP seeks release of detained volunteers

GUWAHATI ■ (TSIT):



The Assam Police detained Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)'s co-convener Ashutosh Ranka and at least 30 other volunteers ahead of their meeting in Guwahati Sunday. CJP has alleged that the police were not letting their legal counsel speak to Ranka and the volunteers. Speaking to the reporters, Ranka said that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was afraid of CJP. "Himanta Biswa Sarma fears that we will reveal the truth about Assam's schools, Kaziranga National Park, and the state's 'man-made' floods to the nation", Ranka said.

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Chadha welcomes 30-day recharge rules

New Delhi, Sep 27 : The new 30-day recharge rules, aimed at giving prepaid mobile users greater choice in the pre-paid recharge have been welcomed by Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, who called it a victory for the low-budget mobile phone users.

Hailing the new plans, which offer a validity of 30 days, the noted Parliamentarian said that the changes would offer more flexibility to consumers, including those who primarily use their phones for voice calls and SMS.

He highlighted the government's new Telecom (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations and said that the introduction of 30-day plans would reduce the need for consumers to make 13 monthly recharges in a year to 12.

"Many of you had shared your concerns with me about limited and inflexible recharge options. I raised this issue in Parliament on 11th March, seeking greater choice and more affordable options for consumers. I am grateful to the Government of India and TRAI for resolving these concerns in the interest of greater consumer choice and convenience," he added.

Chadha had earlier raised concerns over 28-day "monthly" recharge cycles and called for more consumer-friendly telecom options. Notably, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released the Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, introducing changes to the framework governing Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) for voice and SMS services.

Special Tariff Vouchers are prepaid tariff products offered by telecom service providers for specific services and validity periods. Under the amended framework, telecom operators will be required to offer more voice and SMS-only STVs for consumers who do not require bundled data services.

The new regulations require telecom service providers to offer voice and SMS-only STVs with validity periods corresponding to each validity period of 30 days and less than 30 days that is available for bundled voice, SMS and data STVs.

The changes are intended to provide consumers with greater flexibility in selecting prepaid plans based on their individual usage requirements. In particular, users who primarily require voice calling and SMS services will have additional options without having to subscribe to bundled data services.

Chadha said he had raised concerns over limited and inflexible recharge options in Parliament on March 11 and had sought greater choice and affordability for consumers.

The regulatory changes now provide a wider framework for telecom users to select plans based on their specific requirements, including options focused solely on voice and SMS services.



Chadha posted on X: "Good news for Prepaid Mobile Users in India. The Govt just introduced Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, consumers will now have: 30-day recharge plans, reducing the need for 13 monthly recharges to 12 in a year, Voice and SMS-only plans for those who do not need data and more suitable options for low-budget consumers who primarily need basic voice calls"



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah at launch of various initiatives related to women empowerment and cooperation at the Pavithram Convention Centre, in Kollam, Keralam....

GITAM opens Innovation Challenge 2026

HYDERABAD: GITAM Innovation Challenge 2026, formerly SmartIDEAthon, has opened applications for its national student pitching competition, inviting students from across India to present innovative ideas and early-stage ventures.

The competition is organised by GITAM's Venture Development Centre (VDC), Hyderabad, and GITAM Entrepreneurs Club (E-Club), in collaboration with GITAM i-TBI, GITAM TEC, Bower School of Entrepreneurship, Wadhwani Foundation, and Balavikas, USA.



Now in its seventh year, the 2026 edition offers more than Rs.50 lakh in combined cash prizes and ecosystem value, including Rs.5.9 lakh+ in cash prizes and Rs.44 lakh+ worth of venture coaching, mentorship, incubation, and entrepreneurship programmes.

The competition is open across two tracks: the Junior Track for Classes 10–12 and the Main Track for undergraduate students and graduates from 2025 onwards. Participants can present ideas at concept, prototype, or MVP stage across five themes: Planet & Sustainability; Bio Economy & Agriculture; DeepTech & Manufacturing; Sports & Fitness; and D2C & Consumer Brands.

Participants will undergo online screening and mentoring rounds, with the Junior Track featuring in-person regional rounds in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Visakhapatnam. The Grand Finale will be held at GITAM Hyderabad on December 11, 2026.

Aster Prime Hospital, 100 Bullet Riders Take Heart Health Awareness to Hyderabad Streets



HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026: The roar of 100 Bullet motorcycles carried an important message for healthier hearts across Hyderabad as Aster Prime Hospital, in association with Wanderers Bulleters Hyderabad, organised the 'World Heart BIKE-E-THON,' a 15-km heart health awareness ride ahead of World Heart Day.

The initiative brought together 100 riders, senior cardiologists, hospital leadership, and staff to promote preventive heart health. The ride began at Aster Prime Hospital and passed through Moosapet, Kukatpally Y Junction, Narsapur Cross Road, and Balkampet before returning.

Dr. Hari Kumar Reddy, CEO, Aster Prime Hospital, said heart health awareness needs to become part of everyday conversations. Prevention begins with simple but consistent actions—staying active, eating healthy, managing stress, avoiding tobacco, and undergoing regular health checks.

Dr. Sai Ravi Shankar, HOD & Senior Consultant – Cardiology, said heart disease does not always announce itself with obvious symptoms. High blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol can remain unnoticed for years. People should know their numbers and understand their individual risk factors.

Dr. Lanka Satyarama Krishna, Senior Consultant – Interventional Cardiologist, stressed that warning signs of a heart attack should never be ignored, including chest pain, unexplained breathlessness, excessive sweating, or discomfort spreading to the arm or jaw.

Mr. Lalit Jain, Founder, Wanderers Bulleters Hyderabad, said the riding community was proud to use its passion for a larger social purpose. Doctors noted that people routinely maintain their vehicles but often postpone preventive attention to their own health.

Kamineni Hospitals Felicitates Community Leaders Through 'Community Champions' Initiative

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026: Recognising the contribution of community leaders towards creating safe, healthy, and well-managed neighbourhoods, Kamineni Hospitals hosted 'Kamineni Community Champions,' a special community recognition initiative in Hyderabad on Saturday. Representatives from more than 50 gated and residential communities participated, where Presidents and Secretaries were felicitated for their contribution towards the well-being, safety, and better living of residents.

Community Presidents and Secretaries play an important role in addressing day-to-day concerns, coordinating essential services, maintaining facilities, and bringing residents together. The initiative was built around the thought: "You Care for Your Community. We Care for Its Health."



As part of the event, Kamineni Hospitals launched its Community Health Privilege Card, offering special healthcare benefits to residents and families of participating communities. The card provides eligible members access to benefits across selected OP consultations, diagnostic services, inpatient services, and other healthcare offerings.

The event brought together around 150 community representatives and guests, along with the leadership and clinical teams of Kamineni Hospitals. Dr. Gayatri Kamineni, Executive; Dr. Gokul Raghu Ram, Chief Operating Officer; Satyanarayana ARS; and other senior team members participated. The hospital team also interacted with community representatives on preventive healthcare, health awareness programmes, screening camps, emergency support, and opportunities for closer engagement with residential communities. The initiative marked another step towards strengthening community-centric healthcare.

ROTARY HONOURS 30 TEACHERS WITH NATION BUILDER AWARDS

HANAMKONDA, (TSIT): The Rotary Club of Hanamkonda organised the Rotary Nation Builder Awards–2026 at Birla Open Minds School Auditorium, Warangal, under the presidentship of Rtn. Vanga Rajireddy. A total of 30 teachers were honoured with the prestigious Nation Builder Awards in recognition of their professional excellence, dedication, and contributions towards students' academic and overall development. Prof. Kurapati Venkatanarayana, Chairman, Telugu Academy, attended as Chief Guest. Assistant Governor Rtn. Sharu Prabhakar Reddy congratulated the award recipients. Prof. Venkatanarayana said teachers' influence extends far beyond the classroom, shaping future generations through discipline, ethical values, and social responsibility.

BITS Pilani teams lead NTPC Electron Quiz

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026: The Regional Round (South) of the NTPC Electron Quiz 2026 was conducted at the JNTU Auditorium, Kukatpally, Hyderabad, bringing together talented engineering and management students from leading institutions across the region for an engaging contest of knowledge, quick thinking, and teamwork.



The event provided a vibrant platform for young minds to demonstrate their knowledge, analytical ability, presence of mind, and awareness of contemporary developments in technology, business, and management. The competition also reflected the growing importance of interdisciplinary learning.

NMDC commissions Rs.5,427 cr projects

HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026: NMDC Ltd has commissioned its 2 million tonne per annum (MTPA) pellet plant at Nagarnar in Chhattisgarh, as part of a Rs.5,427-crore integrated project of iron ore processing, pipeline, and pellet making connecting its Bacheli operations with the Nagarnar steel plant.

The project includes a new iron ore processing plant at Bacheli, a 15 MTPA slurry pipeline, and the 2 MTPA pellet plant at Nagarnar. The 135-km slurry pipeline carries processed iron ore concentrate from Bacheli to Nagarnar, providing an alternative to road transport.



The maiden production was monitored live from NMDC's headquarters by Chairman and Managing Director Amitava Mukherjee and senior leadership, as adverse weather prevented travel to the site.

The facilities will enable NMDC to process iron ore fines and slimes from its Bailadila mines into concentrate and convert it into pellets. The pellet plant uses Straight Grate Induration technology.Mukherjee said, "Today is a day of immense pride for everyone at NMDC. This has not been an easy project to execute. Today is a red-letter day—a day we have been waiting for a long time."The commissioning strengthens NMDC's presence across the iron ore value chain, from mining and beneficiation to slurry transportation and pellet production. The pipeline passes through 61 villages in Bastar and Dantewada districts, reducing road movement and lowering dependency on Railways.

Kalasalingam University hosts 'Euphoria-2026'

SRIVILLIPUTHUR, SEPTEMBER 27 (TSIT): Kalasalingam University organised the two-day National Techno Management Meet, Euphoria-2026. Chancellor Dr. S. Arivalagi Sridharan inaugurated the meet and addressed the gathering. Vice President Dr. S. Shasi Anand, Vice Chancellor Dr. S. Narayanan, and Registrar Dr. V. Vasudevan felicitated.



Mr. M. Palaniappan, VP, TMB, delivered a special address. Conveners Dean Dr. K. Sundar and Dean Dr. C. Ramalingan welcomed all, and Dr. Rajini, Director-Academic, briefed the programme schedules. Over two days, 61 programmes including 10 flagship events were held, with 11,000 students and research scholars, including 3,000 from 110 other institutions nationwide, participating. Events included a 24-hour hackathon, business quizzes, paper and poster presentations, coding, crime analysis, court debates, and drawing competitions. Deans distributed cash prizes and certificates to winners.

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Jiji Thomson: Gyanesh Kumar urged poll fight

Thiruvananthapuram, Sep 27 : A former Kerala Chief Secretary, Jiji Thomson, has alleged that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had asked him to contest an election on a BJP ticket and offered the possibility of a "Union Ministerial berth if he won". Thomson's claims triggered a sharp political attack from CPI state secretary Binoy Viswam.



Former Chief Secretary Jiji Thomson, who retired from service in 2016, said Kumar made the suggestion during a flight to Delhi when the two were travelling together.

According to Thomson, Kumar asked him whether he would be willing to contest the election on a BJP ticket and said that, if elected, he could become a Union Minister. Kumar also suggested that Thomson join the BJP after his retirement as Chief Secretary, Thomson claimed. Thomson said he told Kumar that he had no interest in entering electoral politics and rejected the suggestion. He also said he was surprised that such an offer had come from Kumar.

The disclosure assumes significance at a time when Kumar is facing mounting political criticism over the functioning of the Election Commission.

Various parties have demanded his removal and called for protests from September 26 to October 2. Reacting to Thomson's disclosure, CPI state secretary Binoy Viswam launched a scathing attack on the CEC and demanded his immediate resignation. Viswam described the alleged offer as "shameless" and said it raised serious questions about Kumar's political affiliations and his conduct while in government service. The disclosure, Viswam said, showed the extent to which Kumar was prepared to go for the BJP. He alleged that Kumar had become an insider of the BJP through the successive positions he had held.

Viswam demanded that Kumar resign immediately from the post of Chief Election Commissioner. The allegations come amid an escalating political confrontation over the Election Commission.

Viswam had on Friday alleged that the poll panel was functioning as a tool in the hands of the BJP governments and said Left parties had a duty to protest. The Election Commission, meanwhile, has rejected claims that internal objections raised by other Election Commissioners amounted to institutional dissent, saying that queries, observations and technical suggestions are part of the normal functioning of a multi-member constitutional body. The fresh disclosure by Thomson is likely to add another political dimension to the controversy surrounding Kumar.

George calls for AI-driven tourism



BENGALURU: Artificial Intelligence and digital technology should go beyond simply making tourism "smart" and be used to make the sector more inclusive, sustainable, and meaningful, Energy and Tourism Minister K.J. George said on Sunday.

Speaking at World Tourism Day 2026 celebrations, where he joined Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in presenting the Karnataka Tourism Awards, the Minister said tourism must move beyond digital marketing towards a fully connected digital ecosystem that improves the entire visitor experience. "We should use Artificial Intelligence not merely to make tourism smarter, but to make it more inclusive, sustainable and meaningful. The benefits must reach not only large companies, but also homestay owners, tourist guides, artisans, small entrepreneurs and young people," he said.

He said AI-based tourism services could help visitors create personalised itineraries, provide multilingual information, and connect them with recognised service providers. AI and data analytics could also help the Department understand visitor movement, seasonal demand, and infrastructure requirements, enabling evidence-based destination planning.The Minister stressed the need to digitally empower small hotels, homestays, guides, transport operators, artisans, and local entrepreneurs through training and technology support. He noted Bengaluru's strong technology and startup ecosystem could be leveraged to develop solutions for smart destinations, multilingual services, and sustainable tourism. For the first time, the Karnataka Tourism Awards were presented across 35 categories, recognising excellence in hospitality, tour operations, tourist guiding, startups, rural tourism, sustainable initiatives, and heritage destinations.

Karnataka explores airport bioenergy projects



Bengaluru(TSIT): Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSBDB) Chairman S.E. Sudheendra met Fairfax Financial Holdings Chairman and CEO Padma Shri V. Prem Watsa to explore collaboration in bioenergy, waste-to-energy and sustainable airport infrastructure.Sudheendra briefed Watsa on Karnataka's initiatives to promote biofuels using the state's available bioresources and feedstocks. Discussions covered Compressed Biogas (CBG), biodiesel, other biofuels and renewable energy solutions, along with the proposed new bioenergy policy.

The meeting also explored waste-to-energy projects at airports, focusing on scientific waste management, energy recovery and reducing landfill waste. Fairfax has significant investment experience in airport infrastructure, including Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.

Sudheendra proposed an "Airport Bioenergy and Circular Economy Model" integrating waste generated within airport ecosystems into sustainable energy systems. Under the model, used cooking oil from airport restaurants, hotels and canteens could be collected for biodiesel production, while food and green waste could be processed to produce CBG.The discussions covered investment opportunities, technology collaboration, project development and knowledge exchange.

K'takaCM invited to Alampur Navaratri



Bengaluru: The Navaratri Mahotsava is being celebrated with great devotion, reverence and grandeur at the sacred Sri Jogulamba Shakti Peetha in Alampur, Telangana, from 11 October 2026 to 20 October 2026. On this occasion, Sri Krishnaram Bhoopal of the Gadwal Samsthanam, in the presence of S. E. Sudheendra, Chairman, Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board, extended a special invitation to the Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar to visit the Sri Jogulamba Shakti Peetha, seek the darshan of Goddess Sri Jogulamba, receive Her divine blessings, and participate in the Navaratri Mahotsava.

The Chief Minister was also requested to participate in the sacred traditional ceremony of offering and presenting a famous Gadwal saree, which represents the distinctive cultural heritage and devotional tradition of the Gadwal Samsthanam, to Goddess Sri Jogulamba. The participation of the Chief Minister would add special significance and grandeur to this sacred Navaratri Mahotsava and would further strengthen the historical, spiritual, cultural and emotional bonds between Karnataka and the Gadwal–Alampur region. Sri Jogulamba Devi is revered as one of the ancient and sacred Shakti Peethas and occupies a unique place in the spiritual and cultural heritage of the region.

Pepe Jeans London expands Bengaluru presence



BENGALURU, (TSIT): Pepe Jeans London has strengthened its retail presence in Bengaluru with the opening of two new stores in Indiranagar and HSR Layout, as part of a three-store expansion across the city. The third store opened at Phoenix Marketcity White Field, marking a significant retail push in one of India's key fashion markets. The Indiranagar store on 100 Feet Road offers an expansive Pepe Jeans experience across men, women, and kids, while the HSR Layout store brings the brand's latest denim and casualwear collections to a rapidly evolving lifestyle destination.

Both stores feature denim innovations like Shiruku and Powerflex ranges.

CEO Rakesh Jallipally said Bengaluru is a very important market and stores should bring the brand's spirit to life. With over 200 stores across India, Pepe Jeans plans to add another 100 stores in the next 18 months.

Over 6,000 Bengalureans Join Kauvery BEATS Ahead of World Heart Day

BENGALURU: More than 6,000 Bengalureans came together in Electronic City for the sixth edition of Kauvery BEATS, the annual community heart-health initiative of Kauvery Hospitals, held ahead of World Heart Day on September 29.



The 5 km event brought together children, families, working professionals, runners, cyclists, and fitness enthusiasts, who were encouraged to move at their own pace. In a striking moment, participants formed a large human-heart formation, turning the gathering into a visual expression of collective responsibility towards heart health.

The event was flagged off by Dr. B. Dinesh, Director and Professor of Cardiology, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, and Sri Narayana M, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Electronic City Division.

Dr. B. Dinesh said physical activity remains fundamental to cardiovascular health, but prevention cannot begin only when symptoms appear. People should know their blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol, understand family history, and seek medical advice when risk factors are present. Dr. Vivek G, Director, Institute of Cardiology, Kauvery Hospitals, said the initiative goes beyond fitness—through Kauvery Sankalpa 2.0, the community supports surgery for 50 underprivileged children, including 25 requiring congenital heart surgery and 25 needing complex spine surgery. Kauvery BEATS began in 2021 with around 600 participants and has grown steadily over six editions.

Manohar targets Rajeev Chandrasekhar



Bengaluru: KPCC General Secretary S. Manohar lashed out at Kerala BJP President Rajeev Chandrasekhar, stating that he lacks the moral standing to criticize Rahul Gandhi, especially given his own history as a tax evader.

Speaking after burning an effigy during a unique protest organized by the KPCC, Manohar alleged that Rajeev Chandrasekhar is a political power broker for the BJP; the entire country is aware that he secured his position by making donations to the party.

He noted that the nation is closely watching the confusion among the three election officials regarding the SIR issue, adding that Gyanesh Kumar has aided the BJP by suppressing opposition parties and excluding genuine voters.

He further stated that for nearly two years, Rahul Gandhi has been campaigning to protect genuine voters and ensure voting rights for everyone; the country's youth are rallying behind this cause, raising their voices against the BJP central government's misrule and the Election Commission's machinations. It was stated that the nature of the relationship between the BJP and Gyanesh Kumar becomes evident when considering the statement made by former Kerala Chief Secretary Thomson, who claimed that he had been promised a BJP ticket to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Kerala BJP President Rajeev Chandrasekhar made his recent statement in an attempt to downplay Thomson's remarks; Rajeev should first resign from his position and apologize to the people of the country, and the demand for the Prime Minister's resignation has been raised in light of Thomson's statement.

Self-Discipline Key to Academic Excellence: CSIR Director General

BENGALURU: Self-discipline is essential for achieving excellence in education, research, and innovation, said Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), on Sunday.Addressing an academic dialogue organised by CIRAD and ABRSM under the 'Voice of Bengaluru Academicians' initiative at RV Teachers College, Jayanagar, Dr. Kalaiselvi said individuals, particularly students and academicians, need to develop discipline and focus to make meaningful contributions to society and the nation.



Speaking on "Role of Academia in Empowering India Through Research and Innovation: The Vision of Viksit Bharat," she cautioned against growing dependence on mobile phones. "Self-discipline is the key objective. Mobile phones have become a major barrier between people," she said, stressing the need for meaningful human interaction and focus on goals.The dialogue brought together academicians and education professionals to deliberate on the role of higher education and research institutions in strengthening India's research and innovation ecosystem. Participants discussed the need to encourage research-oriented thinking, nurture young talent, and create stronger links between academic institutions and societal needs.The discussions highlighted the importance of translating research outcomes into practical solutions contributing to the country's economic and social development.

CRY launches child online safety campaign

Chennai: The digital world has opened unprecedented opportunities for children to learn, play, participate, and express themselves. At the same time, it has exposed them to new and evolving risks including cyberbullying, online grooming, image-based abuse, misinformation, privacy breaches, and digital exploitation. In this backdrop, CRY – Child Rights and You launched a nationwide campaign 'Ting Tong' aimed at building safer digital behaviours through one simple and powerful habit – taking a pause before doing anything online.

The Emerging Threat

Recent National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data analysed by CRY underline the growing scale of the challenge. Between 2017 and 2024, cybercrimes against children have increased 20-fold across India (88 cases in 2017 to 1,753 cases in 2024), with offences related to Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) increasing 157-fold (from just 7 cases in 2017 to 1,099 in 2024).

In Tamil Nadu too, cybercrimes against children rose from just three cases in 2017 to 52 in 2024. Nationally, the state ranked 12th in the number of cases in this category, accounting for nearly 3 percent share of the total. Notably, the state's number of cases came down from 35 in 2020 to 19 in 2023 before surging to 52 cases in 2024.

The composition of the cases shows that online sexual exploitation remains the dominant component of the problem. CSAM cases accounted for 20 of the state's 52 registered cases in 2024. This is nearly 38 per cent of the state's total cases – the major share falling under NCRB's 'Cyber Pornography/ Hosting or Publishing Obscene Sexual Materials depicting children' crime head. However, the highest number of cases (30) were categorised under 'Other Cyber Crimes against Children', which is 58 percent of the total.

The high percentage of CSAM cases underscores the severity of the online sexual exploitation threat. The district-level picture also shows a concentration of reported CSAM cases. Trichy recorded five cases in 2024, followed by Madurai with three. Thirunelveli and Avadi districts recorded two each. Together, these four districts accounted for 12 of the state's 20 CSAM-related cases, or nearly 60 per cent.

"These numbers point to a changing reality where children's safety and wellbeing are increasingly shaped not only by what happens around them, but also by what happens on their screens. Yet, many children continue to suffer in silence – hesitant to report harmful online experiences for fear of being blamed or punished," said John Roberts, Regional Director, CRY South.

Tamil Nadu's Digital Safety Response

The dominance of CSAM cases makes prevention, early detection, reporting and rapid removal of such material a central child-protection priority, alongside action on bullying, stalking, harassment and other forms of online harm. Tamil Nadu's initiative 'Agal Vilakku' (Guiding Light), supported by school-level Cyber Clubs, embeds digital safety into the school curriculum, educating students on cyberbullying and grooming. The police Cyber Crime Wing drives community awareness through "Cyber Street" camps and aggressively tracks and removes CSEAM, supported by emergency helplines.

The Challenges

"The challenge will be to ensure that technology-led surveillance and regulation are matched by child-friendly reporting, digital literacy, trained teachers and counsellors, and sustained engagement with parents and children. The continuing presence of cybercrimes against children calls for a response that combines enforcement with prevention. Technology platforms also have a responsibility to strengthen age-verification systems and simplify child-safety reporting tools," said John Roberts.

CRY's 'Ting Tong' Campaign

"Recognising this urgent need CRY has launched a nationwide campaign 'Ting Tong', themed 'Think twice when online for a safer digital world for children.' The campaign uses the familiar sound of a notification or alert as an internal warning signal: Before you trust – Ting Tong. Before you click – Ting Tong. Before you share – **Ting Tong," he explained.**

Campaign highlights include building awareness and digital resilience among children, parents, caregivers and educators; integrating online safety into community and school-based child protection interventions; empowering children with knowledge and confidence to navigate online spaces safely; driving sustained public engagement and discourse through multi-platform partnerships; and positioning online safety of children as an urgent issue in policy and governance discourse.

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EDITORIAL

INDIA DRYING UP UNDER THE FIELDS

Behind the glitter of India's agricultural achievements lies a grim reality—rapid groundwater depletion. More than 78 percent of the country's irrigation needs depend on groundwater, and the agricultural sector accounts for nearly 90 percent of groundwater withdrawals. In agricultural states like Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, groundwater withdrawals far exceed annual recharge; in Punjab, the rate has reached 152 percent. This situation not only threatens long-term agricultural sustainability but also has serious consequences, including rural inequality, rising energy demand, and ecosystem degradation.

The roots of this crisis lie in structural policies and incentives. Since the Green Revolution, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and guaranteed government procurement have pushed farmers toward monopolizing wheat and rice cultivation, especially in Punjab and Haryana. Water-intensive crops like rice, which are not suited to the local climate, have been cultivated extensively as markets and policies reward them. Furthermore, free or heavily subsidized electricity for agriculture has reduced pumping costs to negligible, making the marginal cost of extracting additional groundwater zero for farmers and encouraging indiscriminate extraction. The rapid expansion of tubewells and private borewells, weak regulation, and a lack of community-level management have exacerbated this situation. Irrigation methods also contribute to the problem. Traditional flood irrigation is still widespread, with high water wastage and low efficiency. Schemes to promote micro-irrigation (drip and sprinkler) exist, but high initial costs and maintenance concerns for small farmers limit adoption. The uncertainty of climate change and the vagaries of monsoons have made farmers increasingly dependent on groundwater.

The consequences of this crisis extend far beyond the farm. Falling water levels force farmers to install deeper borewells and more powerful pumps, increasing irrigation costs and disproportionately affecting small and marginal farmers. Extracting water from deeper levels requires more energy, further tightening the water-energy relationship. Ecologically, over-extraction poses the risk of land subsidence, salinity intrusion into coastal areas, and long-term degradation of water quality. At the social level, water scarcity fuels conflict between agriculture, industry, and domestic use, and between states with shared river basins. Economically, rising irrigation costs reduce farm profitability. This challenge cannot be addressed solely through technological improvements, but rather by realigning incentives, institutions, and practices to ecological limits. First, crop diversification must be transformed from a slogan into a strategy. Paddy cultivation in Punjab and Haryana cannot continue in the same way as in Bengal or Assam; less water-intensive crops like maize, pulses, oilseeds, and horticulture must be promoted with similar market guarantees, processing infrastructure, and price support. Without economic viability, diversification will remain only on paper. Second, rapid expansion of irrigation efficiency is essential. The 'Per Drop More Crop' component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) has promoted drip and sprinkler systems with up to 55 percent subsidy for small farmers, but coverage remains limited. Expanding micro-irrigation, adopting water-saving practices like direct-seeded rice and alternate wetting and drying in paddy, and investing in laser land leveling can reduce farm-level water use by 30–50 percent.

THE POLITICS ON OUR PLATE:

HOW POWER AND INEQUALITY SHAPE WHAT WE EAT



ANAND TELTUMBDE

Eating is the elemental activity we share with all living beings. It's a process of providing food – fuel needed to sustain the physiological engine that is the body. The body needs carbohydrates for energy, proteins for growth and repair, fats for multiple physiological functions and vitamins and minerals for maintaining health. Yet between the body's need for nourishment and the food that finally reaches one's plate lies an entire social world comprising income, caste, religion, gender, geography, culture, state policy and, increasingly, corporate power. It is this distance between what the human body needs and what society permits, which constitutes the subject matter of Sylvia Karpagam's The Meat of the Matter: How the Politics of Food Shapes Our Health (Harper Collins, 2026). As a public health doctor, researcher and activist, she is uniquely qualified to write a book that provides scientific facts about food and nutrition and explains its sociology and political economics in the most accessible manner. Beginning with apparently straightforward questions of nutrition, the book gradually moves into much more contentious terrain: vegetarianism and its claims to moral and nutritional superiority, the politics of beef, exclusion in the mid-day meal programme, corporate influence over food and finally the need to learn – and unlearn – what we think we know about nutrition. Today, when the Hindutva forces seek to hegemonise every sphere of social life, this book assumes particular importance to liberate food from their clutches to serve the needs of multitude. The body has no caste The initial chapters of the book explain proteins and fats; vitamins and minerals and their importance to human body. This scientific groundwork is necessary to understand the nutritional situation in India and the politics around it in later chapters. This politics thrives by blurring the boundary between nutritional evidence and cultural beliefs which are notoriously linked to caste, religion and notions of purity and pollution. More secularly, the discussion on nutrition tends to abstract food away from material conditions of people. The question before a large population in India is not as much to know nutritionally optimal food as to choose the food they can afford. Protein, milk, fruit, vegetables, eggs, fish and meat compete with rent, transport, education, healthcare and every other demand on a meagre household income. Dietary diversity consequently becomes a question of class long before it becomes a question of nutritional knowledge. But class is only one determinant. In India, like any other thing, food carries the additional burden of caste. Caste has historically regulated occupation, marriage as well as commensality – who may eat with whom, who may accept food from whom, who may cook for whom and which foods signify purity or pollution. The apparently private act of eating thus belongs to a much larger system of social classification. Food becomes a means through which hierarchy enters everyday life. Karpagam's great merit lies in bringing nutritional science into confrontation with this socio-political reality. The myth of the innocent vegetarian Karpagam goes on debunking myths associated with food. One of the big myths brazenly promoted by the current regime is about vegetarianism. The provocative title of one chapter, "The Innocent Vegetarian", marks one of the book's principal targets. People may choose vegetarian food for religious, ethical, cultural, economic or personal reasons. But what the myth does is to elevate vegetarianism to a moral and cultural norm and consequently undermines dietary practices of the majority. India is routinely represented, both domestically and abroad, as a predominantly vegetarian civilisation. This is a big lie. As per India's own National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019–21) data, 83.4% of men and 70.6% of women eat non-vegetarian food daily, weekly or occasionally – up from the previous 2015–16 round. With Karpagam's explanation how milk and milk products are animal sourced foods, the entire discourse may rather collapse. Even going by the conventional notions, the country's actual food culture is extraordinarily diverse. Dietary practices vary across regions, castes, religions, tribal communities, occupations and ecological conditions. The image of an essentially vegetarian India privileges tiny but hegemonic Brahminical castes. Scholars have established how this representation was historically constructed and normalised. The scriptures of Brahminism are replete with evidence of cattle sacrifice and the consumption of beef by the Brahmins. The practice was gradually abandoned and adopted vegetarianism, in response to the Buddhist ethic of ahimsa and the challenge it posed to Brahmanical authority. It is from here that food got associated with caste. Vegetarianism, with its association with notions of ritual purity among dominant castes, assumed prestige and conversely meat-eating became a mark of inferiority. The food practice thus got casteised. Projection of India as a vegetarian country is a mere reflection of hegemonic culture of Brahmanism. The issue as Karpagam explains is the attempt to confer moral superiority upon one dietary regime and then convert that superiority into social prescription. The strongest argument of The Meat of the Matter is consequently not a case for eating meat. It is a case against allowing ideology to decide nutrition. When beef becomes more than food Nowhere is the transformation of food into ideology clearer than in the politics of beef unleashed by the current regime. "To beef or not to beef" is a matter of ideology. The cow occupies a sacred position within sections of Hindus, but beef has historically been consumed by other communities, including Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims and Christians. Cattle are simultaneously religious symbols, agricultural assets, sources of livelihood, commodities and food. The entire agrarian economics of rural India depends on cattle but its religious association sourced the divisive politics at a huge cost to the nation. Do the religious beliefs of one section of society give it the right to determine what others may eat? Seen this way, beef politics becomes a question of citizenship and power. And this politics has produced legal restrictions, vigilantism and lethal violence against people involved in cattle trading, transportation, leather work and meat production – predominantly Muslims and Dalits.

LPU Students Ransack University Premises, Block NH-44 Over Alleged Rape of a Student in Hostel

KUSUM ARORA



Jalandhar: Amidst slogans of 'We want justice' and 'Tanashahi nahi chalegi', hundreds of agitated students of Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Phagwara ransacked the varsity and torched vehicles after reports of an alleged rape of a girl on the university's hostel premises surfaced late on Saturday night. The students also blocked the Jalandhar-Phagwara highway or National Highway-44, where heavy police force was deployed to avert any major tragedy. The students' protest continued till the filing of this report while traffic on the highway remained blocked for hours. LPU is a private university owned by BJP Rajya Sabha MP, Ashok Mittal, who is its founder and chancellor. Mittal was earlier an AAP MP but joined the BJP in April this year. As the news of the rape case spread, agitated students started protesting and ransacked the university premises. It was learnt that a mall within the university was looted while vehicles parked on the campus were either smashed or torched. "We have learnt that many outsiders also barged inside the university, looting iPhones, laptops, electronics and other goods. The gym on the campus, its machines and all the nearby buildings were ransacked too," said some students staying in a nearby paying guests (PG) facility. The students were agitated over the fact that the alleged rape of the girl student took place three days ago, but LPU authorities did not take any action. "We came to know that the victim approached the university staff but instead of being heard, the university authorities sent her back home. How can this be tolerated? We want a fair probe, justice and safety of the girls, as the crime was committed by a worker of LPU," said a group of protesting students. Notably, LPU claims to have around 40,000 plus students from across the country and from other friendly nations like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Indonesia, Bhutan, DR Congo and Mali to name a few. The university has a sprawling campus spread over 600 acres. Reportedly, students' protest and anger escalated as neither the faculty nor the other staff on the varsity premises came forward to listen to them. "We want justice, transparency and answers from the LPU authorities," the students said. "It should be probed who committed the crime and why were the LPU authorities trying to save him. It is shocking to see the university's silence over this case. Instead of action against its staff and justice, they are trying to hush up the case," the students said. Incidentally, LPU's protest escalated a day after a similar case of student unrest in Chitkara University, Rajpura took place. The students at Chitkara University also led protests after reports of two girls missing from the campus surfaced on social media. The students of Chitkara university had conflicting statements while videos of protest went viral on social media. Police registers FIR, forms SIT Talking to The Wire, Superintendent of Police (SP) Phagwara Major Singh said, "We have lodged an FIR under section 64 of Bhartiya Nayay Sahita, punishment for offence of rape against unknown persons, but it appears to be a false rumour." SP Phagwara also said that they have been talking to the protesting students since 2 am Sunday but there was lack of clarity in this case. "The students are making different statements, and we are reaching out to them," he said. Earlier, Deputy Inspector General (Jalandhar Range) Naveen Singla, who arrived at the university premises to review the situation, spoke to the media and said, "The students have informed that a girl was raped three days ago in the GH-3 hostel of the university premises and that no action was taken by the varsity authorities. We have lodged an FIR, recorded the statements of the student leaders and constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the matter." LPU categorically denies the incident: Meanwhile, LPU authorities have strongly refuted the allegations, calling them 'rumours, false, and fabricated news' being spread on social media. In its statement, the LPU said that it has come to their notice that certain anti-social elements are spreading completely false, baseless and fabricated rumours through social media and other channels, thereby creating unnecessary confusion among students and attempting to disturb the peaceful academic environment of the university.

Chief Minister Nayab Saini's frequent visits to Punjab - Politics Beyond Message Politics

SAURABH VARSHNEY

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's frequent visits to Punjab are a topic of discussion in political circles these days. Under normal circumstances, it's not unusual for a Chief Minister of a neighboring state to visit another state. However, when the frequency of these visits increases, and they are accompanied by political gatherings, social interactions, religious events, and organizational activities, the question naturally arises: what is the broader political message of these visits? Why is the Haryana Chief Minister displaying such activism in Punjab?

Limiting Saini's recent visits to Punjab solely to government or social events may not be sufficient to understand the full extent of the events. His presence in Patiala, Faridkot, Ferozepur, Jagraon, and other areas has varied contexts. Sometimes it's a religious event, sometimes a public meeting, sometimes an interaction with farmers and rural representatives, and sometimes a BJP organizational event. When viewed together, all these activities reveal a broader political dimension to his activism in Punjab.

The first reason is the deep social and economic ties between the two states. Haryana and Punjab are not just neighboring states, but their history, agricultural economy, rural life, trade, and social relations are intertwined. Issues such as farmers' issues, agricultural technology, industry, employment, transportation, water, and regional development directly or indirectly affect both states. Therefore, dialogue and contact between the two states are a natural necessity.

But the question is: if the objective is merely regional cooperation, why do the number of political meetings and organizational events appear so significant? This is where Saini's role as Chief Minister and the BJP's primary political face intersect.

The role of farmers and rural society is crucial in Punjab politics. Therefore, reaching out to rural representatives, farmers, and social organizations is crucial for any political party. Saini's increased engagement with these groups during his Punjab visits indicates that the BJP is striving to broaden its political and social reach in the state. The joining of people from diverse political and social backgrounds with the BJP can also be considered part of this organizational expansion process.

Another important aspect of Saini's activism in Punjab is religious and cultural outreach. His presence at religious sites like Nanaksar in Jagraon, participation in kirtans, and langar seva may be seen as mere expressions of religious faith, but in political life, such socio-cultural outreach also serves as a medium for public communication. Given the social structure of Punjab, engagement with religious and cultural institutions has its own significance.

The drug problem is also a major issue in Punjab politics. Saini's activism on this issue should be seen within the context of this broader political discourse. Discussions on de-addiction measures such as treatment, rehabilitation, sports, education, and employment are not merely a matter of law and order, but also a social issue concerning youth and families. However, it is important to examine the allegations and counter-allegations of political parties on this issue by distinguishing between facts and political claims.

Saini's visit to Punjab also has an important political aspect: the BJP is continuously working to strengthen its organization in Punjab. Therefore, it is difficult to view the Haryana Chief Minister's activism as merely a personal political event. As a prominent BJP leader, he is playing a role in expanding the party's political discourse in the neighboring state.

An important question here is how this political activism will impact the sensitive issues between Punjab and Haryana. Issues related to water, Chandigarh, agriculture, and farmers have long held political significance in both states. Any leader's statement on these issues is not merely a simple political statement, but also has regional implications. Therefore, it would not be sufficient to view Saini's Punjab visits solely through the lens of BJP versus other party politics.

These visits also have a connection to Haryana politics. As Chief Minister, Saini has consistently made public relations an important part of his political career. Disseminating government schemes to the public, communicating with social groups, and fostering direct contact between diverse communities have become crucial in today's politics. His activism in Punjab may be an extension of this broader public relations approach.

Indeed, today's politics is not limited to election-time rallies. Political parties engage in organizational expansion, social outreach, and public opinion-building throughout the year. Religious institutions, farmers' organizations, Panchayat representatives, business, youth, and social organizations—all have become important centers of political discourse. Therefore, it is more appropriate to understand Saini's continued presence in Punjab within the context of this changing political landscape.

Yet the ultimate measure of any political activism is its results. If, through frequent visits, genuine cooperation between Haryana and Punjab on shared issues such as industry, trade, agricultural technology, employment, skill development, and de-addiction is fostered, the people of both states can benefit. However, if this activism is limited to political meetings, accusations, and organizational expansion, it will be seen as primarily electoral politics and public relations.

Nayab Singh Saini's frequent visits to Punjab are therefore significant on many levels. This includes communication with the neighboring state, social outreach, religious-cultural connections, and an effort to expand the BJP's organizational structure. When the constitutional role of Chief Minister and the political role of party leader are reflected in the same person, it is not always easy to distinguish between the two.

SC to hear plea against MDR on UPI payments above Rs 2,000



New Delhi: The Supreme Court will on Monday hear a plea challenging the Centre's decision to impose a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on specified UPI person-to-merchant transactions of over Rs 2,000. Ending nearly six years of fully free UPI payments, the government has introduced a 0.4 per cent fee on transfers worth over Rs 2,000 made to merchants through the UPI platform from October 15 while explicitly ring-fencing everyday person-to-person transactions and small payments from any charge. The MDR will be capped at Rs 300 for payments of Rs 75,000 and above. Essential and thin-margin sectors — railways, telecom, insurance, fuel and agricultural inputs — will pay a flat MDR of Rs 5 per transaction above Rs 2,000. Payments into mutual funds, securities and through stockbrokers and dealers will attract 0.02 per cent MDR, also capped at Rs 300. Person-to-person (P2P) transfers — which make up 37 per cent of UPI's transaction volume and 70 per cent of its transaction value — will continue to attract zero charges, irrespective of size. According to the apex court's cause list of September 28, the plea would come up for hearing before a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana. The public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate Anjan Datta has challenged the Centre's September 14 notification and the MDR framework announced on September 15, which is stated to come into effect from October 15. The plea alleged that the levy has been introduced without adequate statutory safeguards, transparency or public consultation. It challenges the constitutional validity of the amended Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, alleging that it gives unguided powers to the executive to decide which electronic payment modes would receive the no-charge protection. "Declare that no MDR or analogous compulsory charge may be imposed or recovered merely on the strength of a press release or FAQs absent a duly authorised, authenticated and published statutory instrument," it said. The petitioner has also questioned the distinction between UPI transactions and RuPay debit card payments, pointing out that the notification continues the no-charge protection for RuPay debit cards without a monetary ceiling. The plea alleges that the framework is arbitrary and discriminatory, and may adversely affect merchants, particularly those with low margins, while also raising concerns over possible indirect consumer burden and digital exclusion. It has sought the quashing or suspension of the framework insofar as it imposes an MDR on UPI transactions of above Rs 2,000. Alternatively, it has sought a reconsideration of the framework after transparent consultation, publication of empirical data and an impact assessment, besides safeguards for micro and small enterprises. "Direct that any future MDR classification be based on relevant considerations including merchant turnover, statutory MSME status, actual margins, geography and ability to bear the cost, and avoid cliff-edge treatment unsupported by evidence," the plea said. It has made the Centre and others, including the Reserve Bank of India, as party respondents in the matter.

Signature Global to Create a New Benchmark in Privileged Luxury Living with 194 Acre Farmhouse Villa Destination



New Delhi September 2026: Signature Global, one of India's leading real estate developers, today announced its entry into Gurugram West, i.e. Farrukhnagar, with plans to develop an exclusive 194.22-acre ultra-luxury farmhouse villa destination, conceived as a privileged, low-density enclave for a select few. The Company has acquired 25 acres of land and entered into a Collaboration Agreement for an additional 169.22 acres in the region.

Designed as an uber-premium, invitation-only residential offering, the development will represent a distinctive expression of luxury, space and privacy. Conceived for a discerning clientele seeking a more private and unhurried way of living, the project will comprise exclusively designed luxury farmhouse villas set amidst expansive greens and carefully planned landscapes.

The development will bring together exceptional residences with a curated world of sport, hospitality, leisure and lifestyle experiences, creating an environment where architecture, nature and bespoke amenities come together seamlessly. Rather than a conventional high-density residential development, the project is envisioned as a low-density, highly exclusive private enclave, offering expansive spaces, heightened privacy and an elevated lifestyle experience. Every aspect of the development will be thoughtfully curated to reflect a refined standard of living, from the scale and design of the villas to its sporting, hospitality and leisure experiences. With an emphasis on space, exclusivity, greenery and privacy, the project is intended to create a differentiated luxury address for a select community of residents.

Strategically located approximately 15 minutes' drive from the Dwarka Expressway, the land parcel enjoys connectivity to the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway and frontage along the Farrukhnagar-Wazirpur Road. The location provides access to Gurugram's established residential and commercial hubs, as well as Delhi and the wider NCR. With approximately 6.77 million sq. ft. of developable potential, the project is expected to have a Gross Development Value (GDV) of approximately INR 5,500–6,000 crore, making it a significant addition to Signature Global's development pipeline and marking the Company's foray into an emerging segment of ultra-luxury privileged residential real estate.

Gurugram West (Farrukhnagar) is witnessing a significant transformation in its infrastructure landscape, with the Farrukhnagar–Gurugram road slated for a four-lane upgrade at an estimated investment of INR 365 crore, while the region's new master plan prioritises enhanced road connectivity, bypass infrastructure and civic amenities. The proposed Gurugram–Farrukhnagar–Jhajjar highway is also being progressed through alignment planning by NHAI, further strengthening the region's long-term connectivity potential. With strategic access to the KMP and Dwarka Expressways, proximity to the wider Gurugram–Manesar growth belt and expanding regional infrastructure, Farrukhnagar is emerging as a new growth corridor within the wider NCR.

Speaking on the development, Mr. Pradeep Aggarwal, Founder and Chairman, Signature Global (India) Ltd., said, "Farrukhnagar has been on our radar for some time. Its proximity to the Dwarka Expressway and KMP Expressway, combined with the scale of open land available here, creates an opportunity to approach luxury living very differently. We are not looking at this as a conventional residential development. The vision is to create an exceptionally private, low-density destination of luxury farmhouse villas for a select few, where space, greenery, privacy and curated experiences come together.

With nearly 6.77 million square feet of developable potential, this is also a meaningful addition to our development pipeline. More importantly, it allows us to enter a segment where the product is defined not simply by the residence, but by the quality of the environment, the exclusivity of the community and the experiences built around it. As infrastructure in this part of Gurugram continues to evolve, we believe Farrukhnagar offers the right setting for creating a distinctive ultra-luxury address."

Nandini price hike: Govt weighs farmer returns, consumer burden



Bengaluru: A proposed increase in the price of KMF Nandini milk has triggered a fresh debate in Karnataka, with milk unions pressing for a Rs 10 per litre hike and the government examining procurement prices, production costs and rates prevailing in neighbouring states. The issue was taken up after representatives of milk unions met Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and sought an increase, arguing that dairy farmers are facing mounting expenses. A delegation led by D.K. Suresh pointed to rising diesel, cattle feed, raw material and other operational costs affecting the dairy sector. Shivakumar has asked officials to prepare comparative data on milk prices and the amount being paid to farmers in Karnataka and other states. The government will study the figures before taking the matter to the Cabinet for a final decision. Procurement rates higher in southern states Karnataka currently pays around Rs 35 per litre to milk producers, according to the figures cited by the unions. This compares with around Rs 40.50 paid by Amul in Delhi, Rs 40.03 in Gujarat and Rs 40 in Maharashtra. Gokul in Maharashtra reportedly pays around Rs 40.05. The figures also show higher procurement rates in southern states. Vijay brand in Telangana reportedly pays Rs 41.05 per litre, while Heritage pays around Rs 42. Aavin in Tamil Nadu pays around Rs 42.24 and Arokya around Rs 41. Milma in Kerala reportedly pays Rs 41.80. Farmers have maintained that the present procurement price does not adequately cover the rising cost of dairy farming. They have cited higher fodder and cattle maintenance expenses, water shortages and declining milk yield as major challenges. Milk unions, meanwhile, say their own processing and administrative expenses have increased. They have proposed that the Rs 10 retail hike be divided, with Rs 7 going to farmers and Rs 3 being retained by the unions to meet operational costs.

Unions To Go On 3-Day Nationwide Bank Strike From Monday, Services To Be Impacted



Bank branches across India are likely to see disruptions from Monday as banking unions begin a three-day nationwide strike, pressing the government to introduce a five-day workweek and address a range of unresolved employee demands. The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella body representing seven major bank unions, has called the strike from September 28 to 30. The latest strike comes weeks after a nationwide one-day strike on September 11 and is expected to affect several branch-level services, including cash deposits and withdrawals, cheque processing and other routine transactions. The impact is likely to be greater at public sector banks and regional rural banks. Since the strike begins immediately after the weekend, customers could face disruption to physical banking services for five consecutive days. The timing also coincides with September 30, the half-yearly closing day for banks, when lenders typically carry out reconciliation, settlements and other financial work. This could add to the pressure on branch operations. However, digital banking services such as UPI, internet and mobile banking and ATM transactions are expected to continue as usual. New-generation private banks are also likely to see less disruption, as the strike is mainly being backed by unions representing employees of public sector banks and regional rural banks. State Bank of India has advised customers to complete any essential branch-related work in advance and use ATMs, internet and mobile banking, UPI and other digital channels during the strike. The bank said some services could still be affected despite efforts to keep essential operations running. The unions' main demand is the implementation of a five-day banking week, with all Saturdays declared holidays. The Indian Banks' Association had agreed to the proposal under the 2024 wage settlement, but its implementation requires government approval. Unions have also raised issues related to pension benefits, including updating pension benefits and a uniform dearness allowance formula for pensioners, besides seeking an option for employees covered under the National Pension System to shift to the Old Pension Scheme.

POVA 8 5G BRINGS POVA'S SIGNATURE ORANGE BACK IN STYLE



Ranchi - The POVA 8 5G gets a fresh new look with the introduction of Plasma Orange, bringing a vibrant new expression to its cool design. The colour adds more character to the phone, complementing the distinctive POVA Triangle camera module and interactive Alive Matrix Display. The rear display adds another visual element to the design, showing notifications, battery status and timers, while also doubling up as an ambient desk clock when the phone is placed face-down. With Plasma Orange, POVA is leaning into what has always made its design different: bold colour, personality and a look that refuses to blend in. Speaking on the launch, Mr. Arijeet Talapatra, CEO, TECNO Mobile India, said: "Orange has always been a part of POVA's identity. With Plasma Orange, we wanted to bring that familiar energy back in a way that feels fresh and unmistakably POVA. The new colour adds a distinctive design character to the POVA 8 5G, giving our young consumers another way to express their style and individuality. With this new variant, we're bringing a colour and design that speaks to the energy, confidence and individuality of today's youth."

The Sri Lanka tourism promotion bureau brings its destination wedding story to Hyderabad, surat and Pune



Hyderabad, September 2026: The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) concluded its three-city destination wedding roadshow across Hyderabad, Surat and Pune, taking Sri Lanka's wedding proposition to India's wedding fraternity. Bringing together wedding planners, travel professionals, media. The roadshow positioned Sri Lanka as a premium and versatile destination where couples can transform their wedding into a celebration and holiday with family and friends. With tropical beaches, resorts, heritage sites, misty mountains and intimate venues, Sri Lanka offers possibilities for destination weddings. Couples can exchange vows overlooking the Indian Ocean, celebrate amid the central highlands, host ceremonies at heritage properties or create spectacular multi-day celebrations at luxury resorts. From the southern coast and Colombo to Kandy and Nuwara Eliya, the destination offers flexibility to reflect each couple's personality, traditions and dreams. Sri Lanka's proposition is strengthened by experienced wedding planners and hospitality professionals who bring together venues, décor, catering, entertainment, photography, transport, guest management. The industry can accommodate Indian traditions, personalised menus, themed décor and pre and post wedding celebrations, giving families confidence to celebrate overseas. The roadshow also highlighted the appeal of the "wedding plus holiday" concept. Guests can combine celebrations with beach escapes, cultural excursions, wildlife safaris, wellness experiences, scenic journeys, shopping and culinary discovery. With convenient access from India and varied accommodation, families can celebrate together while discovering an international destination with ease. Speaking during the roadshow, Deputy Managing Director, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, Mr Chamila Jayarathne, said, "India continues to be an important market for Sri Lanka, and destination weddings offer an exciting opportunity to deepen this relationship. Indian couples and families are looking for beautiful settings, seamless hospitality, memorable experiences and ease of travel. Sri Lanka brings these strengths together, and this roadshow allowed us to take that proposition directly to the professionals shaping wedding decisions." Chairman, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, Mr Buddhika Hewawasam, said, "India remains a focus market, and our strategy is to develop propositions that reflect the changing interests of Indian travellers. Destination weddings allow us to present Sri Lanka as more than a venue: as a country where celebration, discovery and togetherness become part of one journey. By engaging wedding planners and travel professionals in Hyderabad, Surat and Pune, we aim to build visibility and bring Sri Lanka into the conversation from the beginning." Adding a vibrant cultural touch to all three roadshows was "The Heritage of Kandyan", a captivating presentation celebrating Sri Lanka's rich dance traditions. The performance brought the island's cultural heritage to life through powerful rhythms, graceful movements and the regal energy of the traditional dance, presented by male and female dancers in striking costumes and ornaments. More than a performance, it offered wedding planners and media a glimpse of how Sri Lanka's rich cultural heritage can add colour, character and a distinctive sense of place to an Indian wedding celebration. Through this initiative, Sri Lanka Tourism aims to deepen industry partnerships and position Sri Lanka as a destination for distinctive celebrations. From grand beachfront affairs to intimate mountain ceremonies, every wedding can become a story of love, discovery and togetherness. In Sri Lanka, the wedding is not where the journey ends - it is where the journey begins.

GOLD, SILVER FACE ANOTHER CHOPPY SPELL THIS WEEK AS US DATA, WEST ASIA TENSIONS TAKE CENTRE STAGE: ANALYSTS



Gold and silver are set for another volatile week as investors assess fresh US economic data, shifting expectations for Federal Reserve policy and escalating tensions in West Asia. Investors will turn their attention to a slate of key US data in the holiday-shortened trading week, including consumer confidence, third-quarter GDP and the Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation, the Personal Consumption Expenditures index. Eurozone inflation data, manufacturing purchasing managers' indexes and comments from Federal Reserve officials are also expected to influence market sentiment. The US non-farm payrolls report will be closely watched for clues on the central bank's next policy move. A stronger-than-expected labour market reading could reinforce expectations of tighter monetary policy and weigh on precious metals, while softer employment data could ease those concerns and provide support to bullion. Geopolitical developments will remain another important driver. Tensions between the US and Iran have added uncertainty to global markets after US President Donald Trump said he had rejected Tehran's proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within a week and resume nuclear negotiations in exchange for lifting the naval blockade. "The broader outlook remains cautious as volatility is likely to stay elevated. The market will closely focus on the upcoming US non-farm payrolls and unemployment data, which will be crucial in determining expectations around the Federal Reserve's October policy decision," Jateen Trivedi, vice president, research analyst-commodity and currency at LKP Securities, said. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold futures for October delivery fell Rs 3,500, or about 2.3%, last week to settle at Rs 1.5 lakh per 10 grams. Silver futures declined Rs 6,907, or 3%, to Rs 2.34 lakh per kilogram. Trivedi said gold remained under pressure as profit booking at elevated levels continued, with prices moving in the Rs 1.5 lakh-1.54 lakh range during the week. A sustained rise in the dollar index above 101 could add to the pressure, as a stronger US currency generally makes dollar-denominated bullion more expensive for overseas buyers.

IRANIANSAYS ONLY NEGOTIATION CAN END CONFLICT AFTER TRUMP REJECTS HORMUZ DEAL



Only a "negotiated solution" can end the conflict between the US and Iran, Tehran's foreign minister has said, after President Donald Trump publicly rejected a proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Trump told reporters at the White House that Iran's proposal was not "acceptable" and that Tehran wanted to make a deal to open the strait to commercial shipping within seven days because "they're losing so badly". In a post on Telegram, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi acknowledged Trump's rejection, but said Iran would wait for a "definitive" official US response. He said the president had made contradictory statements in the past. Araghchi said the conditions to open the strait were the same that had been included in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the US and Iran that was signed in June. Iran said it had raised reopening the strait and ending hostilities during negotiations on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York this past week. The vital waterway through which around a fifth of the world's gas and oil supply usually flows has been effectively closed since the outbreak of war in February. "I'm rejecting their deal," Trump said on Saturday, adding that the US already had "total control" of the strait, with "massive amounts of oil" passing through it, causing massive rises in global oil prices and steep fuel cost increases for consumers. Araghchi wrote on Telegram that Trump "has made many good statements, as well as many contradictory ones, which unfortunately we hear frequently". He continued: "We are waiting for the mediators to convey the definitive views to us, and we will make a decision based on them." Separately, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, who travelled to New York for the UN general assembly, told the BBC's US news partner CBS that "distrust created by this war needs to be overcome" in order for talks to be successful. He said the Iranians were open to talks on implementing the MOU in stages in order to end the impasse, but that the "US needs to show it does not intend to overthrow our government". Pezeshkian said Trump had "tore up" the MOU when the US resumed its bombing campaign, adding: "If we don't abide by what we have written down, can we really resolve it by dialogue?" He was also asked about Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, who was injured in the US strike which killed his father in February and has not been seen in public since. Reports have claimed he suffered serious injuries to his legs and face. Pezeshkian said he had met the supreme leader on two occasions, telling CBS he had "no specific ongoing health issues or challenges" and had been well enough to hold seven hours of talks. Oman, which has been acting as a mediator between the US and Iran, called for all parties to continue having open dialogue to resolve the crisis. Oman's foreign minister, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi, told the UN General Debate that "all parties" should cooperate with Oman in efforts to safeguard navigation in the strategic waterway. Trump's rejection of Iran's proposal was backed by US ambassador to Nato Matthew Whitaker. Speaking to Fox News on Saturday, Whitaker said that Iran had offered "half measures" and "illusory deals to make themselves look good on the world stage". "President Trump's right to reject it," he said. Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Saturday that economic sanctions imposed by the US were taking a toll on Iran. Posting on X, Bessent said Turkey, Oman and the United Arab Emirates had halted flights from various Iranian airlines, and some banks in the UAE and Turkey had stopped transactions with Iran. The Trump administration has dubbed an economic blockade on Iran "Operation Economic Outcast", with the White House attempting to use economic pressure to force Tehran to stop attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. But some economists have questioned whether the latest sanctions will be effective, as this depends on the reaction from Iran's major trading partners. These include China, the biggest buyer of Iranian oil, which has ignored previous US sanctions and continued to do business with Tehran. The Wall Street Journal first reported that Trump had rejected the Iranian proposal, citing unnamed US officials. It said Trump was privately sceptical that ?Iran would meet his demands and had told his staff that he sees a renewed bombing campaign as likely after the November US midterm election. A US ?official had said earlier that discussions ?with Iran through mediators were “positive and constructive”. The Iranians also engaged their Saudi rivals regarding the Strait of Hormuz, underscoring the stakes of a seven-month-old conflict that has disrupted oil flows ?through a critical shipping lane and taken a toll on the global economy.
Araghchi told reporters at the United Nations on Friday the proposed deal would trigger a seven-day countdown to reopening the strait and a pause in regional fighting. “If ?there ?is seriousness on the US side to come to a deal and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, everything is now prepared,” Araghchi said. If the US were to agree, ?the warring parties could start wider talks “on mutually agreed subjects”.

'Scourge' of abuse must be rooted out, says Pope, during Lourdes visit



Pope Leo has called on French bishops to root out the "scourge" of sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic church, telling them to "maintain the greatest vigilance", ahead of a meeting with abuse survivors. The Pope delivered the message to bishops during a private meeting at the Sanctuary of Our Holy Lady of Lourdes, a holy site in southern France, on the third day of his four-day official visit to France. A 2021 inquiry found that clergy or lay members of the Church had abused about 330,000 people as children in France over 70 years. The Pope said Mass in front of thousands of worshippers in Lourdes, before he was scheduled to meet survivors of abuse privately later. Before giving Mass the Pope told the bishops: "You have faced with determination the painful scourge of abuse of minors committed by members of the clergy or within an ecclesial context. "It is important to persevere along the path you have begun, maintaining the greatest vigilance." The gathering of senior church leaders was held behind closed doors and the remarks were later released to reporters. The Lourdes gathering came a day after an estimated 700,000 people flocked to the Place de la Concorde in Paris to hear the pontiff speak. Huge crowds cheered and waved as he rode down the Champs-Élysées Avenue greeting followers from his open-topped popemobile. On Friday, the Pope also met French President Emmanuel Macron. During Saturday's Mass in Paris, the Pope told worshippers that Catholics should not keep their faith to themselves but "let it overflow so that those you meet may be refreshed". The leader of the Catholic Church also addressed young people in his speech, describing them as "today's Church". "How beautiful it is to see your enthusiasm, energy and commitment, and the joy you bring to Christian communities," he said. The number of regular worshippers in France has fallen from 35% of the population in 1960 to less than 5% today, while the number of priests has shrunk by two-thirds from 25,000 in 1990 to fewer than 9,000. But in recent years there have been signs of a growing interest in religious tradition, with the number of adult baptisms more than doubling in five years to hit 10,000 in 2025. Later on Sunday the Pope will meet staff and residents at the health facility at Lourdes, before taking part in a torchlight procession in the evening. It is the Pope's first official visit to France since being chosen to lead the Roman Catholic church in May 2025. Pope's have regularly visited France, a country with an avowedly secular modern political history but deep Catholic roots.

Killer Christa Pike is to be executed within days but her defence say she's a victim too



Ashlee Sellars last heard from her friend Christa Pike earlier this week, when Pike texted her from her cell on death row as she prepares to be killed by lethal injection by the US state of Tennessee. Pike told Sellars she does not want any of her loved ones to be present on Wednesday when she is executed. "She doesn't want us to experience that," Sellars says. Sellars finds it hard to reconcile this woman, whom she has only known to be kind and protective, with the person who committed a heinous crime 31 years ago. Pike, now 50, was 18 when she and her boyfriend at the time, Tadaryl Shipp, beat, tortured and murdered Colleen Slemmer, a 19-year-old they met at a job training camp for troubled teens. The murder created a media frenzy in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1995 when Colleen was found with a pentagram, a symbol of Satanic ritual, carved into her chest. Pike had accused Colleen of insulting her and trying to steal her boyfriend. Two other residents at the camp later testified that Pike had bragged about the murder before and after, and showed them a piece of Colleen's skull. A year later she was sentenced to death, while Shipp - who was 17 at the time - was given a life sentence with the possibility of parole. Now, after years of failed appeals, Pike's execution has been set for Wednesday. If it goes ahead, she will be the first woman put to death in Tennessee in more than 200 years.

Before BTS and Blackpink, there was Big Bang: Now the Kings of K-pop are back



A sea of glowing yellow crowns. Thousands of voices chanting in Korean. An explosive surge of energy as the opening synth riffs of Fantastic Baby shatter the stadium air. Big Bang is back. Fourteen years after their first major European shows, and after a decade marked by military service, member departures and legal scandals, the South Korean group played at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London on Saturday as part of their 20th anniversary world tour. Inside the near-capacity venue, the crowd did not just watch a concert; they stepped into a significant moment in K-pop history. As the band emerged in their trademark high-fashion, glittering outfits, the crowd danced freely, setting the tone for an evening that felt less like a routine tour stop and more like a homecoming. For fans, it is a long-awaited reunion. But the significance of Big Bang's return extends beyond nostalgia. Years before BTS were selling out Wembley Stadium and Blackpink were headlining Hyde Park, Big Bang were already proving Korean pop could succeed far beyond Asia. The group filled arenas across the West, collaborated with major American artists, experimented with hip-hop and electronic music, and turned their own fashion and creative identities into part of their appeal. Having attended their European debut at Wembley Arena in 2012, the shift in atmosphere on Saturday was striking. Where their original UK shows were driven by a hunger to prove themselves and promote a new album, this return as a trio , comprising G-Dragon, Taeyang, and Daesung, felt entirely crafted for their dedicated community. By reworking classic tracks and cleverly remixing songs to accommodate absent members, the group relied on pyrotechnics, their signature live band and sheer stage presence rather than elaborate staging. The result was a reunion that felt celebratory, grounded and playful. In 2011, Big Bang became the first K-pop group to win a major Western music award when they took home the newly created Worldwide Act prize at the MTV Europe Music Awards. When they made their European debut at Wembley Arena in December 2012, a second show was added after the first sold out in under two hours. They were leading a pioneering generation that proved global crossover was genuinely possible. Then in 2016, Forbes estimated Big Bang had earned $44m (£33.2m) over the previous year, making them the first K-pop act to appear on its Celebrity 100 List. "When it comes to the global market for K-pop, there is no doubt Big Bang made a huge contribution," says Dr Haekyung Um, senior lecturer in music at the University of Liverpool. "Earlier acts were popular within Asian markets, but Big Bang were true international stars. I would call them the Kings of K-pop, just as we call Michael Jackson the King of Pop," Um adds. "Big Bang's success really was an early signal of how successful a K-pop stadium tour in the West could truly be." Before Big Bang, K-pop groups were often viewed as heavily manufactured by entertainment agencies. But music critics say Big Bang broke the mould.

TEN CLIMBERS MISSING AFTER AVALANCHE HITS HIMALAYAN BASE CAMP



At least 10 Nepalese climbers who were preparing to lead an expedition in the Himalayas are missing after an avalanche hit a base camp on Sunday morning. The climb's organisers said the local guides were at a staging point close to the Himlung Himal peak in Manang district when the avalanche struck. Forecasts showed there was heavy snowfall around the 7,126m (23,380ft) peak in recent days, which lies on Nepal's border with Tibet. Poor weather has hampered rescue efforts, with helicopters and rescue teams unable to reach the site. Bibhuti Chand Thakur, of Himalaya Holidays Trekking, told news agency AFP: "Eight members of our expedition team and two more from another company have been reported missing." The Nepali team had been sent ahead of foreign climbers to prepare the camp, manage the route and fix ropes on the mountain. Nepal's mountain districts have seen persistent rain and snow in recent days, creating treacherous conditions for the country's economically important climbing tourism industry. Climbers were forced to leave Mount Manaslu, the eighth highest peak in the world, earlier this week due to the rising threat of avalanches.



Two mass shootings in South Africa leave 27 dead

FOUR KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH NEAR MONTREAL



Four people have died after a helicopter crashed in a small town 50km (31 miles) from Montreal, Quebec's provincial police have told the BBC. Emergency services were called to Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville shortly after 14:30 local time (18:30 GMT) on Saturday afternoon, where they found the aircraft on fire and declared its occupants dead at the scene. The victims have not yet been identified but the aircraft appeared to be a private helicopter, Sgt Audrey-Anne Bilodeau said. An investigation into the crash is being led by the Major Crime Unit of the Sûreté du Québec, working alongside crime scene technicians as well as investigators from the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. The crash site is located near the Rang des Écossais road off Highway 10, according to Bilodeau. Police were notified of a helicopter in distress that may have crashed and caught fire in an emergency call. An hour after the call, the fire at the site had been brought under control, though officials were still working at the crash site just before 22:00 local time. The victims have not yet been identified and Bilodeau said this process may "take a few days." Police said they have not yet confirmed the identities of the victims of the crash, with law enforcement still probing the cause of the incident. Sergeant Bilodeau said the process of identification may "take a few days". He said the helicopter seems to have been a private aircraft. Canada's transportation safety board has deployed a team for the investigation, which is being led by Sûreté du Québec's major crimes unit. Federal transport minister Steven MacKinnon offered his condolences in a post on social media. "My thoughts are with everyone affected by this tragedy," he wrote. MacKinnon said that safety of civil aviation operations is a top priority for Transport Canada, adding that the federal government was monitoring the situation and would provide necessary support. He also announced that Transport Canada would appoint a “minister’s observer” to monitor the response, provide the minister with investigation updates, and help identify regulatory issues or safety deficiencies.

3 Indian Boxers Storm Into Semi-Finals, Assure Medals In Asian Games



Indian boxers Parveen Hooda, Ankush Panghal and Narender Berwal assured the country of three medals with dominant quarterfinal wins at the Asian Games on Sunday, while Sachin Siwach's campaign ended in the last eight stage. Parveen defeated world championships silver medallist Navbakhor Khamidova of Uzbekistan by a 5-0 margin to move into the women's 65kg semifinals. Narender (90kg) added another medal to his bronze from the previous edition after forcing the referee to stop his quarterfinal against Thailand's Adthapong Saengtep in less than two minutes. The Indian super heavyweight unleashed a barrage of heavy blows on his Thai opponent, forcing the referee to give Saengtep three standing counts before stopping the contest. Ankush, who won Commonwealth Games gold last month in Glasgow, notched a 5-0 unanimous decision win over Tajikistan's Nekruz Salimov in the men's 80kg quarterfinal. It was, however, the end of the road for Commonwealth Games champion Sachin, who went down 0-5 to local favourite Shunsuke Kitamoto of Japan in the men's 60kg quarterfinal. Parveen vs Khamidova It was the Haryana boxer's first bout of the ongoing edition as she had received a walkover in the previous round, but Parveen showed no signs of rust, expertly landing a flurry of combination punches on Khamidova. "Im feeling very good. My coaches made a plan for how to fight. I managed the distance well and focused on counter-punching. That was our strategy for the bout," she said after the win. Parveen's bronze medal from the previous edition was taken away after the International Testing Agency (ITA) suspended her for 22 months for a whereabouts failure. Since returning from her suspension late last year, Parveen has moved up from 57kg to 65kg. She was one of only three boxers who failed to finish on the podium in last month's Commonwealth Games. "Im getting my confidence back. Being away from your sport for so long makes you doubt yourself and wonder how you'll perform in the future. "But now I feel confident again and want to achieve even more than what I lost during that time away," she added. Ankush dominates Salimov Making his Asian Games debut, Ankush put up a dominant display to outclass Salimov and book his place in the semifinals. "In the first two rounds I boxed at long range, and I had already won those two rounds. After that the opponent was just passing the time," Ankush said. "There was no difficulty at all. I am not satisfied with my performance. I have already secured a medal. But it doesn't matter because I am looking ahead," he added. The Haryana boxer started strongly, landing clean singles, including a straight left and a right hook, to keep Salimov on the back foot. The Tajik tried to counter, but his punches lacked the accuracy and impact to trouble Ankush, who took the opening round on all five cards. Ankush maintained the pressure in the second round, continuing to attack and landing a steady stream of punches.

ASIAN GAMES DAY 8: DAY OF HEARTBREAKS FOR INDIA IN SQUASH, ATHLETICS; MEDA



On a day of near misses, India collected four silver and three bronze medals, while also assuring three more medals in boxing, at the Asian Games on Sunday. Abhay Singh and Anahat Singh settled for silver in the men's and women's squash singles events, contributing India's 31st and 32nd medals of the Games. Athletics delivered a rich haul as Sarvesh Kushare (men's high jump) and Ancy Sojan Edappilly (women's long jump) clinched silver medals. The bronze-medal winners included Tejaswin Shankar in the men's decathlon, Parul Chaudhary in the women's 3000m steeplechase with a personal best effort, and Harita Bhadra in the women's 200m final. India ended the day with 37 medals. India wrapped up the day with 37 medals, collecting seven podium finishes on Sunday and assuring more medals in boxing. It was another productive day for the Indian contingent, with podium finishes across squash, athletics and boxing. The action resumes tomorrow with several Indian athletes in medal contention. The Indian men's cricket team will also kick off its campaign against Afghanistan, adding another exciting chapter to India's Asian Games journey. Thanks for tuning in and following our live coverage throughout the day. See you tomorrow for more action from Aichi-Nagoya 2026! Brilliant run from Abinaya Rajarajan as the anchor runner! India register their season's best time to finish in first position in the heats! They comfortably make it to the final of women's 4x400m relay race. 36th medal for India at Asian Games: Parul Chaudhary clinches women's 3000m steeplechase bronze with personal best timing, Ankita finishes fourth. India have added another medal to their Asian Games tally as Tejaswin Shankar clinched bronze in the men's decathlon, taking the country's medal count to 35. The medal marks another strong Asian Games showing for Tejaswin, who had won silver in the decathlon at the previous edition in Hangzhou.

Bengaluru Traffic Blamed For Panama's 1-1 Draw Against India, Coach Narrates Ordeal



As FIFA World Cup 2026 participants Panama arrived in India for a friendly match against the hosts, a goal-fest was expected, overshwhelmingly in favour of the touring side but it ended up being a 1-1 stalemate. Following the result, Panama's head coach pointed to severe traffic delays and exhausting travel logistics in Bengaluru as major factors behind his team's sluggish performance, whilst also acknowledging the scale of a squad transition. The Central American side, expected to handle the fixture with much greater control, struggled to settle into the match. As per the coach Thomas Christiansen, the grueling two-hour bus ride through Bengaluru's notorious traffic just to reach the stadium played a big role. Reflecting on the pre-match ordeal, he expressed frustration over the off-field arrangements that hampered their preparations. "I don't want this to sound like an excuse, but it is not easy to be in a bus for two hours in traffic to get to the stadium," the Panama coach Christiansen said in the post-match press conference. "The logistics and the travel here were also complicated. We have to be smarter when we sign these agreements again. I don't want this to sound like an excuse, but we have to be careful with how we handle things inside and outside the pitch because our players deserve better." Beyond the logistical hurdles, Panama fielded a heavily rotated side as part of a broader rebuilding phase, handing starting caps to five debutants. The lack of training time available to integrate the new-look lineup also seemed to have played a role once the match kicked off. "A generational change is not easy. Five players got their first start today," the coach noted. "The result is my fault. We didn't have time to work, to train, because of the travel and logistics. But I'm happy to see them start with five debutants. We have to learn from this experience." On the pitch, India took full advantage of Panama's defensive disconnect.

"We Have A Gold Medal To Win Next Week": Abhay Singh Looks Beyond Singles Final Loss



Indian squash player Abhay Singh expressed his disappointment after missing out on the men's singles gold medal at the Asian Games 2026 but credited Malaysia's Ng Eain Yow for delivering a strong performance in the final. Abhay Singh lost 9-11, 5-11, 5-11 to the Malaysian in the men's singles final on Sunday. Abhay, ranked 26th in the world, was unable to match the world No. 17's consistency in the gold-medal clash as Eain Yow completed a straight-game victory to defend his Asian Games title. Speaking to ANI after his final loss, Abhay credited Ng Eain Yow for playing a strong game, adding that he did not feel much went wrong from his side. "A bit disappointed, hopefully, next week we can put things in order and come back with a better medal. I don't think much went wrong on my end. I think I came up against a very strong opponent who got things right today. So all credit to him," he said. Looking ahead, Abhay said he remains focused on future challenges, including the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics and the Commonwealth Games, while aiming for further success in team events at the ongoing Asian Games. "Really looking forward to what's coming ahead with LA and hopefully the Commonwealth Games in India as well. We have a gold medal to try and win next week, so we're not really looking forward to anything else," he said. Notably, 18-year-old Anahat Singh also secured a silver medal for the nation in squash women's singles competition, losing the gold medal clash. Anahat lost to Malaysia's Sivasangari Subramaniam 3-0 on Sunday. Abhay backed Anahat after her defeat in the women's singles final, saying the 18-year-old deserves support following her performance against an experienced opponent. "I think we need to give the girl credit. She's only 18 years old. Um, she's come up against a very experienced opponent who she's struggled with a few times, but, you know, she has a long, long, long way to go and I think it's very important that everyone pats her on the back and gives her some, you know, makes it a very good environment for her.

Sania Mirza Makes Big Novak Djokovic Prediction, Backs Him For One More Grand Slam



Former India tennis player Sania Mirza believes Novak Djokovic remains the best player in men's tennis and hopes the 39-year-old Serbian can add one more Grand Slam title to his record haul. Djokovic, who holds the record with 24 Grand Slam singles titles, has seen his schedule reduced significantly as he manages his workload and continues to compete primarily at the sport's biggest events. His 2026 season has included a run to the Australian Open final, where he beat Jannik Sinner in the semifinals, while he exited the US Open in the first round and subsequently dropped out of the ATP top 10. Mirza, who has won six major titles – three in women's doubles and three in mixed doubles, was speaking to ANI on the sidelines of Niva Bupa's 'Walk for Healthy Cities' event in the national capital.

"Novak Djokovic, for me, in numbers, in the way that he plays, the way his body is, the way he is in general, is the best tennis player in men's tennis that there is. He's 39, so age is going to be a factor at some point with recovery, no matter how much of a superhuman you are. And because he's a superhuman, he's still able to be where he is. So, I really do hope he gets that one more Slam. I mean, that's what my heart's saying," Mirza told ANI.



'Mr Saturday' Russell 'comes through other side after real tough period'

For George Russell, this one felt like vindication, proof that he had "come through the other side" and was back to his best after what he acknowledged was a "real tough period" during this Formula 1 season.

The Mercedes driver's victory in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, holding off Red Bull's Max Verstappen in one of the closest finishes in history, was his first since the end of June - seven races ago. In that time, team-mate Kimi Antonelli has won three times, to take his tally of victories to eight for the season. So Russell needed this, his third victory, in a year that he started as championship favourite.



PARSONS BECOMES RECORD TRY SCORER AS IRELAND BEAT JAPAN



Beibhinn Parsons became Ireland women's all-time record try scorer as they held off a late comeback from Japan to register a 31-24 win in the WXV Global Series at Dexcom Stadium. Tries from Brittany Hogan and Parsons gave the home side the lead after a dominant first half. Japan looked strong after the restart before Parsons registered her 24th Test try to take the scoring record and help them secure the win. Scott Bemand will be happy with his side's response after they let a 19-point lead slip away against the USA in their WXV Global Series opener at Tallaght Stadium. Both sides had to navigate a strong wind in Galway, and it was Ireland who adjusted to the challenging conditions the quickest with Hogan showing great persistence to cross from close range after 10 minutes. It was a scrappy first half with neither side able to carve open the opposition's defence and plenty of stoppages. Hogan once again showed her threat and extended Scott Bemand's side's lead when she finished a nice move from Aoibheann Reilly after the half-hour mark. A mistake in the Ireland defence then gifted Japan a great opportunity to register their first try before Anna McGann rushed back to stop Nami Asari's run. The home side extended their lead after a superb solo run from Parsons in her home town on 37 minutes. Following captain Erin King's yellow card, Japan scored a late first-half try when Moe Nagaoka crashed over. Japan started the second half brightly and Nagaoka crossed from a maul to narrow Ireland's lead.

3 Matches In 24 Hours: PV Sindhu Slams Scheduling After Early Asian Games Exit

Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu on Sunday expressed her displeasure at playing three singles matches in a span of 24 hours, saying the cramped Asian Games badminton scheduling "was not really well organised" and does not give enough recovery time. Sindhu was scheduled to play two matches on Saturday, with the second match ending after midnight. She then returned to the court on Sunday for her quarterfinal match against Chen Yufei of China which Sindhu lost . "Not really, because the scheduling was not really well organised is what I feel," said Sindhu when asked if she had ever played two matches in any major championships earlier. "We literally slept really late and then coming back in the morning (on Sunday), playing two matches in a day. Recovery is the most important priority." The two-time Olympic medallist played her second round match in the afternoon of Saturday. Her third round match ended after midnight (around 1am local time on Sunday). Her quarterfinal match started around 1:30pm local time on Sunday. Asked how she prepared herself mentally to play three matches in 24 hours, Sindhu said, "It's more than mentally preparing, you need to recover. Even though you think you are doing good, physically you might not be able to go there or you might not be able to play." "When there are long rallies, definitely yes, recovery. When you had a good thing, you would automatically (go) but your legs don't move. "But I think apart from that it was a good game overall but it's just that the scheduling should have been a bit better." Another Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda was also not happy with the scheduling as many players had to play more than one matches in a day. "I will not blame my loss (in quarterfinals) to that but the scheduling could have been managed better." Some of the line calls in Sindhu's quarterfinal match were close ones but she could not do anything as there was no provision of player challenge due to the absence of hawk eye which was installed only at show courts 1 and 2 at the Ichinomiya Gymnasium Hall. Sindhu played on Court 4. "There were no cameras here. That was really sad.

POWERFUL POSTERS OF FROM RAMAYANA RELEASED - VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Ramayana', jointly produced by Namit Malhotra's Prime Focus Studios, 8-time Oscar winner DNEG, and Yash's Monster Mind Creations, stars Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, and Yash in the lead roles.

Namit Malhotra's 'Ramayana', directed by Nitish Tiwari, is one of the most eagerly awaited films of this year. With expectations increasing with every new update from the film, the makers have recently released the first official poster of rocking star Yash as Ravana. In this, he has shown the larger than life avatar of Ravana in a powerful way.

Yash's portrayal of Ravana has been one of the most talked about elements of the film since the trailer was released. Yash, who has impressed with his intensity and powerful aura, is increasing interest in this iconic role.

In the latest poster, Yash dominates the frame with his powerful look. Yash is seen wearing a glittering gold crown adorned with precious gems, layered pearl necklaces, and heavy gold bangles. With his intense gaze and imposing presence, he brings the requisite majesty and seriousness to the role of Ravana.

Ravana was a powerful king. A man of immense knowledge. A powerful ruler who ruled Lanka. Yash has wonderfully presented Ravana's commanding demeanor and personality in his look. This



recently released poster gives a wonderful glimpse of how grandly Ravana's character is going to be unveiled on screen.

Along with this, the makers have also released another new poster introducing Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita Devi, and Ravi Dubey as Lakshmana. This poster, designed to reflect the journey of Lord Rama, Sita Devi, and Lakshmana together in the forest during the Vanavasa period, is very impressive. The look of the characters and the grandeur in the visuals are increasing the interest in the film. These two posters are currently going viral on social media.

'NARAYANAMMA' SONG FROM 'AADARSHA KUTUMBAM – AK47' RELEASED

Aadarsha Kutumbam' is not an ordinary family… it is on a whole different level," says Victory Venkatesh at the song launch

The much-awaited first single, 'Narayanamma', from Victory Venkatesh and Trivikram Srinivas' highly anticipated entertainer 'Aadarsha Kutumbam House No.47 – AK47' has been released. Composed by Thaman S, the energetic and peppy number is crooned by Prabha and Ram Miriyala, while the lyrics have been penned by Saraswati Putra Ramajogayya Sastry.

Featuring Dimple Hayathi in a special appearance, 'Narayanamma' is packed with vibrant energy and lively choreography. Dimple's energetic performance and screen presence add a special spark to the song, while Victory Venkatesh, Srinidhi Shetty and Nivetha Pethuraj further elevate its visual appeal. The song perfectly captures the fun-filled and celebratory mood of the film, offering a glimpse of the wholesome family entertainment that 'Aadarsha Kutumbam – AK47' promises to deliver.

The 'Narayanamma' song launch event was held in a grand manner on Sunday evening at Hotel Daspalla, with the film's cast and crew coming together to celebrate the beginning of the promotional campaign.



Speaking at the event, Victory Venkatesh said, "Namaskaram to everyone. Thank you to all the fans and media friends who have joined us for the launch of 'Narayanamma'. It is very happy and special to work with Trivikram after almost 20 years. 'Nuvvu Naaku Nachav' and 'Malliswari' are classic love stories. After those films, Trivikram has now come up with another wonderful story. This film has entertainment, action and sentiment, and the treatment is going to be very fresh. There are twists that you will not expect. I am sure you will thoroughly enjoy the film. 'Aadarsha Kutumbam' is not an ordinary family; it is on a whole different level. Trivikram has handled the film wonderfully. Thaman has given us some fantastic songs. Chinnababu Garu and Naga Vamsi Garu are wonderful people, and I am very happy to be doing a film under their banner."

Director Trivikram Srinivas said, "Today, the heroes are Thaman, Ramajogayya Sastry Garu, Venkatesh Garu and the heroines. First, I would like to thank Dimple Garu. She was not keeping well when we were shooting the song, but she willingly put in a lot of effort and completed it. Like all of you, Venkatesh Garu is also one of my favourite heroes. When I was new to the industry, the very first dialogue I wrote with a pen was for his film 'Pavitra Bandham'. My journey started with him, and I will always be grateful to him for that. At that time, Venkatesh Garu did not even know who I was. He told Muthyala Subbaiah Garu that there was a young writer who was writing well. Later, when I went to narrate 'Nuvvu Naaku Nachav', he remembered me. That is how my journey began with him." He further added, "Even though Venkatesh Garu and I are very close, I still feel a little nervous around him. I think it comes from the affection and respect I have for him. Even after doing so many films, he continues to show the same passion towards cinema. Despite not being well, he completed his dubbing. Speaking about Thaman and Ramajogayya Sastry Garu is like speaking about people from my own family. I have known them for 20–25 years. Let us meet in theatres on October 9. I hope everyone likes the film, and I sincerely wish that you all enjoy it."

Music director Thaman S said, "Doing a film with Venkatesh Garu is like a dream. I had been eagerly waiting to see a film with the combination of Venkatesh Garu and Trivikram Garu, and I am extremely happy to be a part of 'Aadarsha Kutumbam'. 'Narayanamma' is now before you, and there are many more songs to come. The next song is also going to be very special. I thank Chinnababu Garu and Naga Vamsi Garu for giving me this opportunity. Venkatesh Garu and Trivikram Garu together mean fun, and we have had a wonderful time working on this film. I believe 'Aadarsha Kutumbam' will become a big hit. While working on the background score, I have been thoroughly enjoying the film. I hope all of you enjoy 'Aadarsha Kutumbam' when it arrives in theatres on October 9."

Srinidhi Shetty said, "I am grateful to Chinnababu Garu and Naga Vamsi Garu for giving me this wonderful opportunity. I have always loved Trivikram Garu's films. I had heard that shooting a Trivikram Garu film is like going on a fun picnic, and I understood exactly what they meant after joining the sets. This has been the most enjoyable shooting experience of my career. I learnt a lot from Trivikram Garu, and during this journey I understood why everyone affectionately calls him 'Guruji'. Venkatesh Garu is a wonderful person. Naturally, there can be some pressure when you work with a senior actor, but he made sure that I never felt any pressure and allowed me to work comfortably. Trivikram Garu and Venkatesh Garu are a golden combination, and I feel honoured to be a part of their film."

NEW PAKISTANI DRAMA: HANIA AAMIR TO ROMANCE DANISH TAIMOOR?



Pakistani drama fans may have a new pairing to look forward to. A social media post has raised the possibility of Hania Aamir and Danish Taimoor sharing the screen in a drama titled Nawaab, sparking curiosity about the potential project.

The post, shared by Lollywood Film Industry, features both actors side by side and describes the pairing as one that could draw significant attention. It also suggests that their combined popularity could create buzz around the drama. However, the post does not include an announcement from the actors or a production team. For now, Nawaab and the reported casting should be treated as speculation. Details such as the story, supporting cast, channel and release date have yet to be confirmed.

TAAPSEE PANNU TURNS UP RETRO GLAM GAME

Taapsee Pannu's new photoshoot is proof that she's as fearless with her fashion as she's always been with her words. She's previously opened up about tough early career moments, being replaced from a film because the hero's wife didn't approve, being told she "wasn't pretty enough," and having her dubbed lines swapped without her knowledge. Instead of letting that define her, she chose to only take up roles that genuinely make her happy. In these latest pictures, she's serving full retro glam, voluminous curls, a black-and-gold floral mini dress, sheer stockings and gold heels, framed by warm, vintage-toned bathroom-suite backdrops. Every frame feels straight out of an old-school fashion magazine. On work, 2026 hasn't been kind at the box office, Advocate Raavi and Gandhari both underperformed. But she's got Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan?, playing ACP Komal Sharma, currently filming.



SHRIYA SARAN'S HEARTFELT NOTE MEETS SULTRY GLAM

Shriya Saran completed a glorious 25 years in the industry, and she celebrated the milestone in true diva fashion at the SIIMA Awards.

Dressed in a shimmery champagne-toned strapless gown with a thigh-high slit, she owned the stage with effortless glamour. Taking to social media, an emotional Shriya thanked everyone who has been part of her journey, directors, co-actors, cinematographers, and the hair and makeup teams who helped shape her memorable characters over the years. She expressed deep gratitude to her fans for their unwavering love and support through the decades. With her striking pose and radiant smile, Shriya proved that 25 years in cinema have only made her more confident and camera-ready. Here's to many more golden milestones ahead for the actress.



ZARINA WAHAB'S FIRST LOOK AS ZUBAIDA IN 'SLUM DOG' RELEASED

Zarina Wahab's first look as Zubaida from Vijay Sethupathi and Puri Jagannath's most awaited pan India action-drama 'Slum Dog' released

Dynamic filmmaker Puri Jagannath and versatile hero Vijay Sethupathi are teaming up for the pan-India action drama 'Slumdog: 33 Temple Road ' . Puri Jagannath and Charmee Kaur are producing this film under their Puri Connects banner in association with JB Narayana Rao Kondrolla and JB Motion Pictures. The first look and teaser have raised expectations on the film with a tremendous response.

Veteran actress Zarina Wahab is playing a key role in this film. The makers have introduced her character as Zubaida. The first look revealed as a heart full of love.. a life full of struggles has impressed everyone.

While Samyuktha is playing the female lead in this



film, Tabu is playing a powerful role. Duniya Vijay will be seen in a negative role. Brahmaji and VTV Ganesh are playing key roles.

Sam K. Naidu is handling the cinematography, while Harshavardhan Rameshwar is composing the music. Santosh Noojilla is editing.

The film will be released pan-India in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi.

STAR PRODUCER A.M. RATHNAM GRACES SHREE NANDU'S KAASU GLIMPSE



he glimpse launch event of Kaasu, starring Shree Nandu and Indu Kumar, was held grandly in Hyderabad with veteran producer A.M. Rathnam attended as the chief guest. Produced by Indu Kumar and Narendra Konda under the AKR Dream Pictures LLP banner, the film is written and directed by P.S. Harshavardhan. The makers announced that Kaasu will be released in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi.

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