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Delhi airport expands international capacity before BRICS summit

PIER C AT TERMINAL 3 BECAME PROGRESSIVELY OPERATIONALISED FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

New Delhi (TSIT): With heads of state, senior delegations and international dignitaries expected in the Capital for the BRICS Leaders' Summit, the Delhi airport is opening up additional international capacity at Terminal 3, with Pier C being pressed into service and its overseas passenger-handling capability set to jump by 50 per cent.

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said on Wednesday that Pier C at T3 became progressively operationalised for international flights from Wednesday night after completion of security and operational checks.

International arrivals will be handled first, while both arrivals and departures are scheduled to operate from Pier C from Thursday evening, just hours before the start of the three-day BRICS summit. Once the additional infrastructure becomes fully operational, Delhi airport's annual international passenger-handling capacity will



increase by 50 per cent to 31 million passengers per annum (MPPA), giving India's busiest airport considerably more room to absorb international traffic.

The expansion assumes immediate significance with New Delhi hosting the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit from September 11 to 13 at Bharat Mandapam. The summit is expected to bring leaders and senior delegations from BRICS member and partner countries, besides heads of international organisations and busi-

ness representatives, leading to increased aircraft movements and heightened security measures at the airport. The phased opening of Pier C is intended to give airport operators greater flexibility in handling this traffic without disrupting regular international passenger operations. DIAL said preparations were being undertaken in coordination with the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), immigration and customs authorities, airlines, ground-

handling agencies and other stakeholders.

The airport operator has also activated enhanced coordination mechanisms to maintain operational continuity during the high-profile event. "The Delhi airport is fully geared up to welcome leaders, dignitaries and international delegations arriving in the national capital for the summit," DIAL CEO Pradeep Panicker said.

He said the airport had undertaken comprehensive preparations with security and operational agencies to manage the anticipated increase in international traffic while maintaining safety, security and passenger experience. "The operationalisation of Pier C further strengthens our international handling capability at Terminal 3 and provides us with additional flexibility during this important global event," Panicker said, adding that airport teams were working round-the-clock.

Rajnath, Dissanayake reaffirm regional security ties

■ Colombo (TSIT): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake in Colombo on Wednesday, and both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work together for the welfare and development of both nations.

During the meeting, Singh conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's warm greetings to Disanayake. They also discussed ways to ensure the safety, security, peace and prosperity of the region. India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha and other officials were present during the meeting.

In a post on X, Singh wrote, "Had a warm and extremely productive meeting with H.E. Mr Anura Kumara Disanayake, President of Sri Lanka in Colombo, today. I conveyed to him greetings on behalf of PM Shri Narendra Modi



and extended felicitations on successful completion of two years of his government." "We reaffirmed that as civilisational twins, close neighbours and maritime partners India and Sri Lanka, would continue to work together for the development of our countries and welfare of our people as well as work jointly to ensure the safety, security, peace and prosperity of our region," he

added. On Tuesday, Rajnath Singh interacted with the Indian community in Colombo and hailed their role in strengthening ties between the two nations. "Delighted to interact with the Indian community in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Indian diaspora plays a crucial role in strengthening friendship between India and Sri Lanka.

Rahul speaks to family of Manipur guitarist killed in Delhi

■ New Delhi (TSIT): Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday spoke to the brother of C Vikram Singh, a guitarist from Manipur who was brutally beaten to death outside his home in Delhi on Monday, and conveyed his deepest condolences to the bereaved family. According to information shared by his



office, Gandhi expressed solidarity with the family in their moment of grief. He assured

them that their demand for justice would not go unheard. Senior Congress leader Pawan Khara wrote on his X handle, "This afternoon, Leader of the Opposition, Shri Rahul Gandhi, spoke to the brother of C Vikram Singh, a guitarist from Manipur who was brutally beaten to death outside his home in Delhi yesterday.

Aadhaar authentications could touch 300 million a day as usage expands: UIDAI Chairman

Aadhaar's role has evolved considerably since its early years, when its use was largely concentrated around government programmes.

New Delhi (TSIT) Aadhaar is witnessing a sharp rise in authentication activity, with the system currently handling around 100 million transactions every day and preparing to scale up to as many as 250-300 million daily, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Chairman Neelkantha Mishra said at the Global Fintech Festival 2026.

Mishra said the pace of Aadhaar adoption has exceeded expectations, with the number of daily authentications now touching around 10 crore. UIDAI is preparing its technology infrastructure to handle volumes that could rise to 25-30 crore authentications a day.

The number of entities using Aadhaar has also crossed 600, reflecting the expanding role of the digital identity platform across India's economy. Mishra said establishing identity remotely and at low cost has helped create trust between individuals, businesses and institutions. This, in turn, has supported greater collaboration and enabled digital services to operate at scale.

UIDAI is also pushing the Aadhaar ecosystem towards more digital and paperless interactions. The Aadhaar app has seen a rapid increase in downloads, rising to nearly 60 million from around 50 million



within a few weeks.

The application allows users to carry out certain identity-related updates, including changes to mobile numbers and addresses, without necessarily having to visit an Aadhaar Seva Kendra.

Mishra pointed to areas such as telecom onboarding and access to risk capital as examples of use cases that can benefit from digital identity infrastructure. He also highlighted the potential for Aadhaar-linked systems to support the formalisation of gig workers as the sector expands.

The growing number of entities using Aadhaar indicates that the identity platform is becoming more deeply embedded in digital transactions and service delivery across sectors.

UIDAI is simultaneously working on the next generation of its technology architecture. Mishra said an Aadhaar Vision Committee, which worked over a period of four months, has prepared a technology road-

map covering the next decade. Cybersecurity is among the key priorities under the roadmap, including preparations for the emergence of quantum computing.

UIDAI is working towards adopting post-quantum cryptography to protect the Aadhaar ecosystem against future threats. Mishra said current public and private-key cryptographic systems could face greater vulnerability over the next three to five years, making advance preparation important.

colleges Artificial intelligence is also being deployed to strengthen Aadhaar's fraud detection capabilities. This includes the use of AI in areas such as facial recognition-based checks and fingerprint liveness detection.

Mishra described the security challenge as a continuing contest between fraudsters and technology providers, with both sides constantly adapting to new techniques.

Govt plans ethanol blending beyond E20 with flex-fuel vehicles: Advisor to PM

■ New Delhi (TSIT) The government is working to permit ethanol blending beyond the current E20 level, enabled by flexi-fuel vehicles, Advisor to the Prime Minister Tarun Kapoor said on Wednesday.

Addressing virtually the fourth edition of The India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference 2026, Kapoor said the E20 programme has been "very successful" so far and several automobile companies have announced plans to roll out flexi-fuel vehicles soon. "Now our focus is on going



into flexi-fuel vehicles and allowing blending at a percentage which will be higher than E20," he said, adding that availability of pure ethanol at fuel outlets will need to be expanded alongside the rollout of such vehicles. Kapoor said

the push for biofuels has become more critical amid the West Asia crisis, which has disrupted supplies and pushed crude oil prices to nearly USD 100 a barrel, with fears of a further increase.

"It is important that we try to have whatever is available in the country," he said. He said ethanol production capacity in the country has surpassed requirements for blending, and the industry will need to explore additional uses for ethanol to utilise this surplus capacity fully.

India sends 35 tonnes of fresh relief aid to flood-hit Nepal

New Delhi (TSIT) India on Wednesday sent a fresh tranche of humanitarian aid comprising 35 tonnes of relief material and equipment onboard a C-17 transport aircraft to flood-ravaged Nepal, officials said. The death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal climbed to 1,365 on Wednesday as more bodies were recovered from the affected areas, according to authorities.

India, South Africa pave way for preferential trade agreement

New Delhi (TSIT) India and South Africa have paved the way for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), with the Terms of Reference for negotiations already signed, opening the door for a significant expansion in bilateral trade currently valued at USD 18.01 billion.

Speaking at the India-South Africa Business Forum, MP Dr Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Member, BRICS Business Council, said the proposed PTA will give a major boost to trade and investment between the two countries by creating greater



market access and unlocking new opportunities across minerals, manufacturing, agriculture, food security, fertilisers, services and skilled manpower. "The agreement could become a transformational step in taking the economic partnership between India and South Africa to the

next level," Sahney added.

Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of South Africa to India, said India's engagement with Africa has grown across multiple fields and has evolved into a broad-based partnership encompassing trade, investment, technology, skills and development cooperation. He added that the proposed PTA has tremendous scope to significantly expand trade and investment between India and South Africa, creating new opportunities for businesses and helping both economies flourish.

CM Vijay steers meeting of alliance parties, key leaders take part

■ CHENNAI (TSIT): A meeting of the allies of the ruling TVK, chaired by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, commenced here on Wednesday to hammer out key issues, including an official name for the combine. Notably absent were the leaders of the Left parties. Both the CPI(M) and the CPI, which support the government, have skipped the meeting at TVK headquarters in Panaiyur. Tamil Nadu Congress Committee President B Manickam Tagore, the

grand old party's Rajya Sabha member and Assembly floor leader, Praveen Chakravarthy and Tharai Chuthbert respectively have taken part in the meeting. Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam top leaders Vaiko and his son Durai, Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) chief Thol Thirumavalavan, and Indian Union Muslim League leaders KM Kader Mohideen, AM Shahjahan and Syed Farooq Basha were among the participants.

Iran's IRGC says captured US unmanned submersible in Hormuz Strait

■ Tehran (TSIT): The navy of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said that its forces captured one of the US Army's "most modern, smart" unmanned submarines at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement published on the IRGC's official news outlet, Sepah News, on Tuesday (local time), the IRGC navy said the unmanned underwater vehicle was captured in a complex intelligence and

operational operation.

The submersible vehicle, identified as a Dive-LD, is equipped with the world's most modern subsurface vehicle technology, it said, noting that its images will be released in the coming hours. The IRGC also said in a separate statement on Tuesday that its air defence systems had shot down an MQ-9 Reaper drone over the Strait of Hormuz, reports Xinhua, quoting Sepah News.

Following the IRGC's



announcement, the US military said in a statement that one of its underwater drones "malfunctioned" over a day earlier during a survey of regional waters, without mentioning

whether the device was seized by Iran. Meanwhile, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tuesday that the country will continue its resistance with strength until the "aggressors" are brought to complete regret. In a post on social media platform X, he also highlighted Iran's opposition to war. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been opposed to war and considered the

preservation of the people's interests and ensuring the (West Asia) region's security to lie in refraining from warmongering," Pezeshkian said.

"However, just as it has courageously risen to defend against aggression up to this day, Iran will continue this resistance with strength until the aggressors are brought to complete regret, and will remain the guardian of the rights of the great Iranian people," he added.

EDITORIAL

WHEN LIFE NEEDS
A PAUSE, NOT A
FULL STOP

Some days begin in a hurry, and end in the same hurry. By night, there is a strange feeling that the whole day has gone somewhere. Life has become a continuous routine for many people. Wake up, go to work, attend to responsibilities, come back home and start again the next morning. There may be nothing seriously wrong, but there may also be nothing that gives a person real satisfaction. A person keeps moving because there is no time to stop and ask whether the direction is right. Sometimes, sitting quietly for ten minutes can tell more than a whole day of running around. A little silence can make a person understand what a busy mind keeps hiding. A change in life does not always mean leaving a job, moving to another place or making a big decision. Sometimes it simply means changing a habit that has been draining energy for years. It can mean spending less time on unnecessary things, giving more time to family, sleeping properly, reading something useful or simply taking a walk without looking at the phone every few minutes. People often think that starting again means admitting that something went wrong. But there is nothing wrong in saying, “This is not working for me anymore.” A person may spend years trying to satisfy everyone around him. He may choose a career because others suggested it, live in a particular way because society expects it, and continue relationships only because he is afraid of what others may say. After some time, he may realise that he has been living according to everybody’s expectations except his own. At that point, a small change can feel like a big relief. Sometimes, the first step is simply being honest with oneself. Modern life has made many things easier, but it has also made life crowded. There are messages to answer, calls to attend, targets to complete, bills to pay and endless information to consume. Even when the body is resting, the mind continues running. This constant movement slowly makes a person forget what genuine rest actually feels like. A mobile phone can be switched off for a while. A tired mind also deserves the same kindness. There is also a difference between being busy and being useful. A person may remain busy throughout the day and still feel that nothing important was achieved. Hours can disappear in unnecessary conversations, endless scrolling, repeated worries and work that could have been planned better. The problem is not always a shortage of time; sometimes it is the way time is being spent. At the end of the day, the question is not only, “What did I do?” It is also, “Was it worth giving my time to?” A reset in life does not require erasing the past. Past mistakes, disappointments and failures have their own place in a person’s journey. They teach lessons that success sometimes cannot teach. The important thing is not to keep reopening old wounds and calling them memories. Some things are better learned from and left behind. Carrying every old burden will only make the next journey harder. There comes a stage when a person starts valuing peace more than appearance. Money remains important, success remains important and responsibilities cannot be ignored.

Subimal Bhattacharjee

Every week is exciting with something new and possibly worrisome in the world of artificial intelligence. This week, Jacob Coxon, a 27-year-old researcher, resigned from Anthropic and skipped the polite goodbye, posting a warning instead. He had spent three years training AI models, first at OpenAI, then at Anthropic, joining the latter because he thought it was the careful one. This week, he decided careful wasn't the same as safe. Neither company, he wrote, is "acting responsibly". Both are "racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives". That an insider said it is the whole point. The striking part of his letter isn't the doom, as we have heard such talk before. But his account of why clever people keep building a thing they're frightened of is interesting. Coxon anticipates the obvious retort: if you really believe this, why is anyone still doing it? His answer splits the two labs neatly. At OpenAI, he says, most people have simply not "deeply internalised the civilisational stakes". At Anthropic, they have, and that is worse. There, the danger is understood, but everyone is "locked in a race to get there first", each convinced that if they hesitate, someone less scrupulous grabs the wheel. So the knowledge sits right beside the accelerator and does nothing to slow it down. Two years ago, Geoffrey Hinton, the "godfather of AI", a Turing Award winner, walked out of Google to say much the same thing. He warned that



machines might soon outsmart us, could one day slip out of our control, and might pose a threat even more urgent than climate change. And asked how he could have spent a whole career building the very thing he now feared, he gave an answer that ought to haunt this industry: "If I hadn't done it, somebody else would have." That sentence is no longer a personal excuse; it has hardened into a business model. What Hinton offered as a confession, the labs now offer as a strategy. Coxon's resignation is the sound of that excuse being said out loud from the inside and somehow not picked up at its frequency and concern. The specific fear is about thresholds. Coxon describes systems that will soon be able to "hack any-

thing", rebuild entire fields overnight, and go out and gather power and money on their own. These aren't upgrades. They are lines, and once a self-improving system steps over one, there may be no stepping back, because each capability makes the next quicker to reach. Progress, he notes drily, is "not slowing". Colleagues inside the labs have started using words like "crunchtime" and "endgame". A recent scare involving AI agents and the platform Hugging Face, he calls a "warning shot". To the Wall Street Journal, he even put a date on it: by the end of next year, he thinks, "things could be out of control already". He may be wrong about the timing; plenty of respected researchers think he is.

But the shape of his worry doesn't depend on the calendar. It is that the company doing the racing cannot also be the one holding the stopwatch, and that self-improving machines shrink the window for second thoughts to almost nothing. So, what is the recourse? Is it regulation? Does it have to come quickly? By Coxon's own logic, yes. The danger of a threshold is precisely that it shuts the door on acting later, which makes any rule arriving after the fact worthless. He calls for the labs to coordinate, and even floats a temporary freeze on new capabilities. The awkward truth is that fast and effective rarely travel together. Law written in a hurry aims at the wrong target, and rules built around this year's

models are stale by the time they are signed. A perfect American statute does nothing about a lab in Shenzhen, and the same "someone else will anyway" reflex that pushes companies pushes whole countries too. You cannot police a capability you cannot measure. And the firms being regulated have a long habit of quietly holding the pen. Fast regulation is necessary. It is nowhere near enough. Two steps could still begin now. First, make safety testing mandatory and public: before any model above a set size or capability is trained or released, its makers should have to hand independent regulators their evaluations for self-replication, cyberattack, deception, and those regulators should have the

power to hit pause. Second, build an international registry of large training runs, with compulsory incident reporting and mutual inspection, on the model of nuclear or aviation safety. It is the only thing that answers the race at its root. India has moved, but only at a layer. The IT Rules amendment that took effect in February 2026 is a serious piece of work: it defines "synthetically generated information", forces platforms to label AI content, including deepfakes, embeds traceable metadata, and demands take-downs within hours. All of that goes after the symptom with fake content already loose on our feeds. None of it touches the thing Coxon is shouting about, which is the model itself, before it ever ships. So here in India, the next move has to climb a level. It needs a statutory AI safety institute with the technical muscle to evaluate frontier models trained or deployed here, not merely the content they produce. It should peg obligations to compute and capability, not to whether a clip looks real. The government should stop treating this as a purely domestic content problem and claim a seat where the international rules around the registries and the inspection regimes are being drawn up. A country that will soon run on these systems cannot afford to regulate only their exhaust. Coxon's exit will not slow the race. But when someone who was helping build the thing steps off the track to tell you the finish line might be a cliff, that is not a warning that governments and stakeholders file away for later.

ONLY IF THE SOIL IS SAVED,
FARMING WILL SURVIVE



Indian agriculture is now entering a new era where growth is no longer the only criterion for assessing progress. Declining soil fertility, groundwater depletion, biodiversity loss, climate variability, and rising cultivation costs are putting increasing pressure on farmers and the agricultural sector. In this context, regenerative agriculture offers a promising path. It is a holistic approach that will not only conserve existing natural resources but also actually sustain agricultural productivity by improving soil health, biodiversity, water systems, and ecosystem functions. The key is to focus on regenerative agriculture and restore the ecological pillars of agriculture. Intensive farming, excessive reliance on chemical inputs, and monoculture cultivation have led to nutrient imbalances and degraded soil quality in some regions over the past several decades. Regenerative agriculture is an approach that places living soil at the heart of agricultural production. Soil management, including composting, green manure use, crop residue management, and the use of organic matter, can help improve soil structure, reactivity,

and nutrient cycling. The principle of soil cover is another important aspect. Soil is easily lost to erosion and can also be damaged by excessive evaporation or sudden changes in temperature. Mulching, cover crops, and retaining residues in the soil help maintain the soil surface and retain moisture. This is especially useful in rain-fed and drought-prone areas because it improves soil health and moisture retention, reducing the impact of short-term droughts on crops. Regenerative agriculture also recognizes that biodiversity is an asset, not a burden, to agricultural productivity. More resilient production landscapes can be developed by implementing crop diversification, agroforestry, mixed farming, and integrated farming systems. Agricultural land managed with crops and livestock, fisheries, or trees can help diversify farm income and improve nutrient cycling. Such systems can also help support beneficial insects and other organisms, rather than making the system more vulnerable and, in some cases, dependent on external inputs. This shift has become even more important in light of climate change. Rainfall patterns are becoming erratic, heat waves are increasing, and droughts and floods are becoming more common. Irregular rainfall, heat waves, droughts, floods, and changing pest populations are exacerbating the challenges faced by Indian farmers. Regenerative practices

increase soil organic carbon, water holding capacity, and biological activity, which can help build resilience to climate change. Crop diversification can reduce the risk of loss of total agricultural income due to climate change shocks to any single crop. Similarly, integrated farming can mitigate economic risks arising from different production sources. This shift must be integral to water management. Irrigation remains one of the largest freshwater consumers, and it is essential that irrigation is done efficiently. Micro-irrigation (drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation) can be used in conjunction with regenerative soil management to increase water use efficiency. In addition to appropriate crop selection, soil moisture management, and good agricultural management, government initiatives such as "More Crop Per Drop" can also be important. Another potential benefit is reduced dependence on expensive external inputs. When properly designed and scientifically proven, low-external-input agricultural practices can reduce the cost of some of the chemical inputs used in natural farming. But don't sell the concept of regenerative agriculture as a universal solution. India has highly diverse soil types, crop varieties, rainfall, and agricultural practices. Strategies that work in the semi-arid region of Haryana may not yield the same results in the humid agricultural regions of Kerala or Assam.

Regional diversity also poses a major challenge to the widespread implementation of regenerative agriculture. The transition period can be uncertain for farmers, especially if production takes time to adapt to the new model. The cost of transition can be challenging for small and marginal farmers with limited financial resources. Furthermore, regenerative agriculture requires extensive knowledge. Farmers need ongoing information about crop rotation, nutrient management, pest management, residue management, livestock integration, and water management. Another significant gap is the market. Without market recognition and/or rewards for farmers' additional efforts and risky changes, widespread adoption of environmentally beneficial practices by farmers is difficult. These incentives can be boosted by strengthening certification, traceability, producer organizations, institutional procurement, and differentiated market opportunities. Furthermore, policymakers should avoid creating complex compliance systems that prove too costly for small farmers. Therefore, scientific validation, farmer participation, and region-specific implementation should be the key focus of the path forward. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) can design and demonstrate experiments and practices on agricultural regeneration based on agro-climatic zones.

Non-Veg Is Not A Treat During
Durga Puja. In Bengal, It Is Bhog?

Manogya Loimal

"I am a vegetarian Bengali," I told the priest. Seeing my devotion and chanting of mantras during Sandhi Puja on Maha Ashtami, the priest at the Mudiali Puja pandal in South Kolkata asked me, "Are you a Bengali?" "I am a vegetarian Bengali," I underlined again. That sentence took many by surprise. As if Bengal and fish are one word. As if Durga Puja cannot be Durga Puja unless there is a piece of mutton on the plate and a silver hilsa on the thali. I grew up knowing both truths in the same location. In Bengal, Maa Durga does not come as a guest who must be wrapped in holiness. She comes as a daughter returning to her father's house. You do not put a daughter on a nine-day fast. You cook what the house knows how to cook. You cook what the river gave you. You cook what the family has always offered when the Goddess is in the courtyard. Here the Goddess is the daughter. In any Bengali home, "Maa" is a word used to call "Dear Daughter". That is why, in Bengal, fish and mutton during puja are not a "break from piety." They are piety. In the Shakta way of seeing the world, the offering is not a snack. Once it is placed before the deity, it becomes prasad. The same goat that was once "bali" (sacrifice), the same fish that was once the day's catch, is no longer ordinary meat. It is what the house has given, and what the Goddess has returned.



Navami carries that meaning most clearly. Ashtami is often the quieter, more satvik day: anjali, khichuri, labra, the long wait in the heat of the pandal. Navami is different. Traditionally, it was the day of the offering. In many "bonedi bari" (traditional Bengali households), the memory of sacrifice still lives in the kitchen, even when the sacrifice itself has become symbolic. The mutton cooked that day is niramish mangsho, no onion, no garlic. Yes, believe it or not. Mutton becomes a vegetarian meal for prasad when cooked without onion and garlic. Ginger, yoghurt, garam masala, patience. "Vegetarian mutton," we joke, because the spices that make everyday cooking "amish" (non-vegetarian) are kept out of the Goddess's plate. As Ashtami ends and Navami begins, that "muhurat" of 48 minutes, according to the "panchang" (Hindu almanack and calendar), is termed as Sandhi Puja. Sandhi does not mean

evening but the combination of 24 minutes of Ashtami and 24 minutes of Navami. The exact time when Mahishasura was killed by Goddess Durga. It is after this puja that meat is prepared and offered to Durga and then distributed as Mahaprasad to everyone. So, my dear Babaji from Central India, mutton is a vegetarian bhog during Durga Puja. Kali Puja carries the same logic, only sharper. On that Amavasya night, niramish mangsho is not a feast for the family first. It is offered to Maa Kali. Then it comes back as prasad. I have seen households where even those who keep a vegetarian kitchen the rest of the year will take a little of that prasad because it is no longer "meat" in the ordinary sense. It has passed through the ritual. It has been accepted. I do not eat it. I never have. And still I have never felt that Durga Puja was happening in some other room, without me. Because the fes-

tival is larger than one plate. For most Bengali families, yes, puja without fish feels unfinished. Hilsa, rui, the mustard gravy, the fried piece that disappears before anyone sits down properly. For many, Navami without mutton feels like a sentence without its last word. That is their inheritance. I do not argue with it. My inheritance is different, and it is also Bengali. I find the festival in the other bhog, the one that feeds the queue outside the pandal and the quiet plate at home. Khichuri that tastes of ghee and roasted moong and something you cannot recreate in a weekday kitchen at any other time of the year. Labra in which pumpkin, brinjal, raw banana and beans forget they were separate vegetables. Luchi so light it almost argues with gravity. Chholar dal with coconut. Aloor dum without onion. Tomato-khejur chutney. Payesh. Mishti doi. The long afternoon when the dhaak is still sounding, and someone is already asking for a second helping of something that has no meat in it at all. That meal is not a compromise. It is the public heart of puja. Community pandals feed thousands with it. Widows eat it. Children eat it. Visiting cousins who "don't eat non-veg in Navratri" eat it and go quiet because that is the flavour of the festival. I have stood in those lines not as a journalist but as a daughter of this culture. I have come back from shoots on highways and still timed my day around bhog.



IFAT India 2026 opens in Mumbai, focuses on water and waste management



Mumbai: The 13th edition of IFAT India 2026, the country's leading trade fair for water, sewage, solid waste management and recycling solutions, opened at the Bombay Exhibition Centre (NESCO) on Tuesday.

The three-day event brings together government officials, municipal bodies, industry leaders, technology providers and international organisations to discuss water security, wastewater treatment, sanitation, recycling and circular resource management.

More than 500 exhibitors from over 30 countries are showcasing technologies

and services covering water and wastewater treatment, water reuse, sewerage, waste collection, sorting and recycling, waste-to-energy, resource recovery, environmental monitoring and digital solutions. Six country pavilions from China, Germany, Italy, South Korea, Norway and the Netherlands are participating.

The opening session focused on practical solutions for urban infrastructure and improving implementation at the city level. West Bengal Urban Development Minister Agnimitra Paul said the exhibition offers an opportunity to explore global

best practices and identify technologies suitable for strengthening waste and wastewater management.

Isha Kalia, Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, highlighted the importance of keeping pace with rapid technological developments and adapting solutions to local requirements.

The event's knowledge programme will address investment, treated wastewater reuse, sanitation, municipal waste management, recycling, circular economy, digitalisation and climate-focused infrastructure.

Audi India opens bookings for the all-new Audi Q3



Bengaluru : Audi, the German luxury car manufacturer, today opened bookings for the all-new Audi Q3 in India. The SUV can be booked with an initial booking amount of INR 1,00,000, via the Audi India website, on the 'myAudi connect' application or at Audi India dealerships.Mr. Balbir Singh Dhillon, Brand Director, Audi India, said, "Today marks an exciting milestone as we open bookings for the all-new Audi Q3. The all-new Audi Q3 brings together everything today's Audi customer is looking for — a striking and progressive design, sophisticated technology, dynamic performance and everyday versatility. It is unmistakably Audi, yet more expressive, more intuitive and more connected to the way our customers live today. We have seen strong interest in the all-new Q3, and the opening of bookings is an important moment for us as we continue to strengthen our SUV portfolio."The new Audi Q3 brings together expressive design, confident performance and everyday versatility, further strengthening its position in Audi's Q range. Powered by a punchy 2.0-litre petrol engine, the all-new Audi Q3 will sport Audi's legendary quattro all-wheel drive amongst several other segment-first features.

Australia, India deepen space ties at Bengaluru Expo

Bengaluru: A 12-member Australian space industry delegation led by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) is participating in the 9th edition of Bengaluru Space Expo 2026, showcasing advanced capabilities and exploring new business opportunities in India's rapidly growing space sector.

The delegation, part of the Australian Government's Accessing New Markets Initiative and South Asia Business Exchange programme, is presenting technologies spanning launch and return services, earth observation, artificial intelligence, space biology, microgravity research, electric propulsion, radio astronomy, space radiation



testing and advanced communications.

Australia is a Tech Country partner at this year's expo. The delegation has also visited Indian com-

panies and engaged with industry stakeholders to identify opportunities for collaboration.

Several Australia-India partnerships were highlight-

ed at the expo. LatConnect 60 and NewSpace India Limited are working towards an agreement to support the SWIRSAT mission through access to Indian ground-sta-

tion infrastructure. The University of Western Australia and the Space Industry Association of India are also planning cooperation in education, research and industry engagement.

Space Angel Group has entered collaborations with Indian companies Inbound Aerospace and Red Balloon Aerospace for spacecraft recovery and future commercial space missions.

Austrade Trade and Investment Commissioner Nathan Davis said the two countries have built a strong foundation for space cooperation, with BSX 2026 providing an opportunity to turn technological connections into commercial partnerships, investment and long-term opportunities.

KSBDB Explores Strategic Roadmap for Clean Energy and Bioenergy Cooperation with Atlanta, USA – S.E.Sudheendra

USA : A high-level delegation of the Karnataka State Bioenergy Development Board (KSBDDB), led by Chairman S.E. Sudheendra, held a meeting with the Consul General of the United States at the Consulate General of the USA, Atlanta, to explore opportunities for collaboration in bioenergy, clean fuels and sustainable energy solutions between Karnataka and the State of Georgia. On this occasion, the Chairman presented Karnataka's multi-feedstock, decentralised bioenergy model, which focuses on community participation, sustainable biomass utilisation and the development of efficient biomass-to-fuel supply chains.

He highlighted the potential for adapting and sharing these approaches through international technical cooperation.

The discussions identified significant areas of mutual interest with ongoing clean-energy initiatives in the Atlanta region, including the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities-Georgia coalition, the I-75 Clean Corridor Programme, and initiatives focused on converting forestry residues into usable fuels. The Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) was also identified as a potential technical and research partner for future collaboration. The Consul General welcomed the proposal for strengthening Karnataka-Georgia cooperation in the areas of clean energy and bioenergy. The proposed next steps include exploring a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or knowledge-exchange arrangement, technical exchange visits between Clean Cities-Georgia and KSBDDB teams, and collaborative initiatives relating to forestry-residue conversion and carbon capture technologies.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss broader themes concerning global models of longevity,



health and well-being, including the Blue Zone concept associated with Costa Rica's Nicoya Peninsula. Dr. Sumith Seth highlighted the stringent testing and quality standards applicable to American produce and products, and their implications for cost.

The Chairman and the Consul General also fondly remembered former Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi, who laid the foundation for the development of new and renewable energy in India, his birthday celebrating Akshay Urja Diwas on 20th of August every year also Dr. Manmohan Singh's contribution to strengthening India-United States relations.

S.E. Sudheendra emphasised the importance of further strengthening engagement with the Indian diaspora in Atlanta, particularly in the areas of knowledge sharing, innovation and economic cooperation. The Consul General expressed full agreement on the importance of strengthening these ties. The Chairman extended an invitation to an Atlanta/Georgia delegation to visit Karnataka and explore the State's bioenergy ecosystem, with the objective of taking forward the proposed areas of technical cooperation and knowledge exchange. The meeting attended by Delegation Members Dr. Shiju Sebastian, adviser, Alkesh Kanya Lal Patel, Vinod Ishwar Bhai Patel, Bhika Bhai Patel, Sarbjit Singh, Prashanth B.K. Lokesh Gowda, Private secretary to Chairman.

PCOS Is Showing Up Earlier,Why Parents Need to Start the Conversation in Adolescence

Bengaluru : Irregular periods, persistent acne or sudden changes in weight during the teenage years should not simply be brushed aside as "growing up," says senior gynaecologist Dr Vidya V Bhat urging parents to start conversations about PCOS much before their daughters reach adulthood.

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is no longer a concern discussed only when a woman faces difficulty conceiving. Gynaecologists are increasingly seeing younger girls and adolescents with symp-

oms that may warrant closer attention. At the same time experts caution that not every irregular period in a teenager indicates PCOS making informed medical evaluation important.

"We should not wait until a young woman is in her twenties and worried about fertility before we start talking about PCOS. The conversation needs to begin much earlier. A girl should understand that her periods are an important indicator of her health and just like her growth, nutrition and emotional wellbeing"

says Dr. Vidya V. Bhat, Medical Director, Radhakrishna Multispeciality Hospital & IVF Centre

For adolescents growing up long academic hours, sedentary routines, increasing screen time, irregular sleep and easy access to processed foods can make maintaining healthy habits more challenging. However, Dr Bhat stresses that PCOS cannot simply be labelled a "lifestyle disease" and is not limited to girls who are overweight.

"PCOS does not have one particular body type. I have

seen young women with PCOS who are overweight as well as those who are lean. The important thing is to recognise the pattern of symptoms and not judge a girl by her weight" she says.Parents should pay attention to persistent menstrual irregularities, prolonged gaps between periods, excessive facial or body hair, troublesome acne or other noticeable hormonal changes. At the same time irregular cycles are common in the early years after menstruation begins, so self-diagnosis should be avoided.

Government completely failed to protect the state's interests on the Cauvery issue: R. Ashok slams government

Bengaluru : Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok has alleged that the Cauvery Water Management Authority's direction to release 6,000 cusecs of Cauvery water every day is a mirror held up to the state government's failure.

He expressed outrage, saying the government had failed to effectively present before the Authority the actual condition of reservoirs in the Cauvery basin in Karnataka, drinking-water needs, farmers' situation, and water availability in the coming days, with scientific data. This is not merely an administrative lapse; it is serious neglect by the government in protecting Karnataka's water rights.

"Fifteen days at 6,000 cusecs works out to 7.5 TMC. Releasing water when we ourselves are in distress is impossible. The government must immediately climb the steps of the Supreme Court and convince it of the real situation. Under no circumstances should water be released now," he urged the government.

The Chief Minister and the Minister for Water Resources must own this failure and answer the people of the state. The government must disclose: what points were placed before the Authority on Karnataka's behalf? Was a report on the actual condition of the state's reservoirs submitted? Was the



impact on Bengaluru's drinking water and Karnataka's farmers if water is released to Tamil Nadu adequately explain.

What documents did the government place before the Authority to protect the state's interests? They should be made public.

Why was a scientific calculation of live storage in the reservoirs, inflows, and water requirement for the coming month not presented effectively?

Why was the reality of water scarcity—taking into account Bengaluru's drinking-water needs and water required for farmers' crops—not driven home? The government should issue a white paper on the performance of the technical and legal team that argued the state's case.

Identify who failed to present Karnataka's interests adequately and take action against the officers responsible.

A permanent Cauvery technical-legal strategy

should be formulated so that the state's situation can be presented strongly *before* any water-release order is issued in future.

"Releasing water even when there is none, and shedding tears after an order comes—this must not become the state government's Cauvery policy," Ashok said, criticising the government sharply.

Cauvery water is a question of Karnataka farmers' livelihood, Bengaluru's drinking water, and the state's future water security. The BJP will not accept, under any circumstances, political compromise that sacrifices the state's interests. The government must immediately press the Authority for a review and, if necessary, take the legal fight forward. The government must clearly and uncompromisingly assert that the first right over Karnataka's water belongs to the people of Karnataka, R. Ashok demanded.

Minister Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh Seeks ISRO Support for 'Student-Scientist Interaction' at Science Centres Across Karnataka

Bengaluru : With the objective of taking science beyond textbooks and making learning more experiential, Karnataka Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science & Technology Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh has sought the support of ISRO to organise direct interaction programmes between ISRO scientists and students at science centres across the State. During his meeting with ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan, the Minister formally proposed the initiative and requested support to enable students to learn directly from scientists about space science, research, satellite technology and career



opportunities in science and technology.

"When students get an opportunity to interact directly with scientists, science begins to appear not merely as a subject in a textbook, but as a future opportunity. The experiences and achievements of ISRO

scientists can inspire curiosity, a research mindset and bigger aspirations among young students," Dr. Ajay Dharam Singh said.

Taking Science to Students Through Experiential Learning The Minister said the State Government is

expanding science centres, mobile planetariums and telescope-based learning initiatives to promote practical and interactive science education among students.

The Science & Technology Department's Mobile Digital Planetarium programme has already reached 3,282 schools and benefited more than 5.46 lakh students and teachers.

In addition, under the Providing Access to Telescopes (PAT) programme, telescopes have been provided to KREIS schools and colleges, along with training for science teachers.

As a next step, the proposed ISRO Scientist-Student Interaction pro-

gramme at science centres would help bring space science and technology closer to students in a more engaging and meaningful way, the Minister said.

"Science must be shown, experienced and questioned. Direct interaction with scientists can strengthen scientific temper among students and help nurture the next generation of scientists, researchers and technology professionals," he said.

Through ISRO's partnership, the Government aims to extend these interaction programmes across science centres in the State and create opportunities for students not only in cities, but also in

Jindal Supreme sets Rs 88–93 price band for Rs 125 crore IPO

Highlights

■ Jindal Supreme (India) Ltd, a manufacturer of plastic piping solutions and related products, has fixed a price band of Rs 88-93 per share for its Rs 125 crore upcoming Initial Public Offering (IPO)

New Delhi: Jindal Supreme (India) Ltd, a manufacturer of plastic piping solutions and related products, has fixed a price band of Rs 88-93 per share for its Rs 125 crore upcoming Initial Public Offering (IPO), which is slated to open for public subscription on September 16. At the top end of the price band, the company's market capitalisation is estimated at Rs 474.52 crore post listing. The three-day public issue will conclude on



September 18, while the anchor investor portion will open on September 15, according to a public announcement. The IPO comprises a fresh issue of 1.07 crore equity shares aggregating to nearly Rs 100 crore at the upper end of the price band, along with an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 26.86 lakh shares worth about Rs 25 crore by promoter group entity VVJ Enterprise Private Limited. This takes the total issue to an estimated

Rs 124.88 crore. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for payment of debt and general corporate purposes. The equity shares of the company are proposed to be listed on both the BSE and NSE on September 23. Sarthi Capital Advisors is the book-running lead manager to the issue, while Bigshare Services is acting as the registrar. The equity shares of the company are proposed to be listed on both the BSE and NSE on September 23.

Indira Gandhi University Celebrates 14th Foundation Day; Dr. Raj Nehru Graces Event as Chief Guest

Meerpur (Rewari): Indira Gandhi University (IGU), Meerpur, celebrated its 14th Foundation Day with great fervor and enthusiasm at the Kalpana Chawla Auditorium on the campus. The celebrations began in the morning with a sacred Hawan ceremony held at Sardar Patel Bhawan. University officials, faculty members, non-teaching staff, and students participated in the rituals to seek blessings for the continuous growth, prosperity, and academic excellence of the institution.

The main function commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the esteemed dignitaries. Following the inauguration, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Aseem Miglani welcomed Chief Guest Dr. Raj Nehru, Guest of Honour Prof. Sanjay Kaushik, and Guest of Honour Prof. Rajbir Singh by presenting bouquets, shawls, and mementos. Registrar Prof. Dilbag Singh extended a warm welcome to



all dignitaries and attendees. Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, Dr. Raj Nehru, OSD to the Chief Minister, Haryana and Founder Vice-Chancellor of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, shared his foundational experience and emphasized that every institution must have absolute clarity of purpose. He advised focusing on core long-term objectives rather than minor distractions and

stressed influencing others rather than seeking control. Highlighting government budget constraints funded through taxpayer revenue, he encouraged the university to explore independent revenue streams for sustainable growth. Speaking as a Guest of Honour, Prof. Rajbir Singh, Former VC of MDU Rohtak, noted that a foundation day serves three primary goals: evaluating past progress, celebrating achievements,

and taking pledges for future growth. He emphasized that faculty should focus on teaching and learning, while administrators facilitate smooth academic governance. Guest of Honour Prof. Sanjay Kaushik, Vice-Chancellor of Gurugram University, congratulated the IGU fraternity and expressed confidence that the institution would reach greater heights. He highlighted the importance of

proactive preparation to overcome future challenges and called for collective dedication to drive institutional excellence. Felicitations of Achievers & Event Winners: On this auspicious occasion, outstanding performers across multiple disciplines were formally felicitated: Youth Festival & Sports Achievers: Participants and teams from the university and affiliated colleges who excelled in the Youth Festival and various sports competitions were honored with trophies and certificates. 3-Day Foundation Day Competition Winners: Winners of various competitions held over the past three days as part of the Foundation Day celebrations were awarded prizes. Faculty Research Project Recipients: University faculty members who successfully secured prestigious research projects from various funding agencies were specially recognized.

L&T BAGS MAJOR ONGC ORDER FOR WEST COAST PROJECTS



New Delhi: Larsen and Toubro (L&T) on Wednesday, September 9, said it has secured a large order from state-owned ONGC in India. According to the company's classification, a large order is valued between Rs 2,500 crore and Rs 5,000 crore. "L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore has secured a large offshore order from the Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for the Additional Development of Ratna-I (ADR I) and NLM-14 project off India's west coast," L&T said in an exchange filing. The project involves engineering, procurement, construction, installation and commissioning of three new well-head platforms, one riser platform, multiple segments of subsea pipelines and cables, and brownfield modifications to existing offshore installations. A large order is valued between Rs 2,500 crore and Rs 5,000 crore. The

project is aimed at enhancing production and supporting the continued development of ONGC's offshore assets in the region. LTEH Offshore is a leading provider of integrated EPCIC solutions for the offshore oil and gas industry. Supported by robust in-house engineering capabilities, world-class fabrication facilities and a dedicated fleet of marine vessels, it has successfully delivered complex shallow-water and deep-water developments across global markets. Over the past four decades, LTEH Offshore has executed a wide range of projects, including fixed platforms, subsea pipelines and structures, brownfield upgrades, as well as decommissioning assignments. Commenting on the order win, Parthasarathi Chatterjee, Senior Vice President & Head - L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Offshore, said,

Kinetic Watts and Volts Strengthens Presence in Andhra Pradesh with New 3S Facility in Vizag, Records 100 Deliveries in just Two Days

Vizag September 09, 2026: Kinetic Watts and Volts Ltd., the iconic two-wheeler brand that is steadily expanding its presence in India's electric mobility market, strengthened its presence in Andhra Pradesh with the inauguration of a new state-of-the-art 3S facility in Vizag, offering Sales, Service and Spares under one roof. The new facility marks an important step in Kinetic Watts and Volts's market expansion strategy, bringing its electric mobility offerings closer to customers while strengthening local service and after-sales support.

The new showroom has received an encouraging response from customers, with 100 bookings and deliveries completed within just two days of its inauguration. The strong initial response reflects growing customer interest in Kinetic's electric two-wheelers and highlights the potential of Vizag as an important market for the brand's continued expansion. The 3S facility has been designed to provide customers with a seamless ownership experience, bringing vehicle sales, servicing and access to genuine spares together at a single



location. With a dedicated service infrastructure, the new facility will enable Kinetic to offer timely and convenient after-sales support to customers in Vizag and surrounding areas. The expansion is part of Kinetic Watts and Volts's broader strategy of strengthening its retail and service network through a phased, market-by-market approach. The company has been expanding its dealership footprint across key markets, with each new facility aimed at improving customer accessibility and building a stronger local

ecosystem for electric mobility. Kinetic's recent showroom expansion has similarly focused on bringing its products, expert guidance and after-sales support closer to customers across emerging and established markets. Commenting on the inauguration, Mr. Ajinkya Firodia, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Kinetic Watts & Volts, said, "Achieving 100 bookings and deliveries within just two days of inaugurating our Vizag facility is a significant milestone and a strong reflection of the confidence

customers are placing in us. Vizag is an important market with considerable potential for electric mobility, and our new 3S facility strengthens our ability to serve customers across their entire ownership journey. By bringing sales, service and spares under one roof, we are not only making our products more accessible but also ensuring that customers have the support and convenience they expect from the brand. We look forward to building on this strong start and establishing a deeper presence in the region."

Hyundai India to launch localised mass-market EV SUV soon



New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Ltd plans to soon launch a localised mass-market SUV built on a dedicated EV platform, the company said on Wednesday, September 9. Hyundai Motor India Ltd's (HMIL) current EV portfolio comprises the IONIQ 5 and the CRETA Electric, it stated. The auto maker is preparing its sales and service network ahead of the launch, and training its dealer workforce to be EV-ready. It has also inaugurated 120 kW DC fast-charging stations in New Delhi on World EV Day 2026. HMIL also plans to expand its EV-ready sales and service network to 820 touchpoints and 650 workshops by the end of FY27. The company said it plans to train an additional over 7,000 sales personnel and

more than 5,000 service personnel for EV (electric vehicle) sales, maintenance and repair by the end of FY27. It has trained over 10,000 sales personnel till date to support customers through their electric mobility journey. HMIL currently has over 2,600 trained dealership service personnel available for EV maintenance and repair across HMIL EV service touchpoints. Tarun Garg, MD & CEO, HMIL, said, "By expanding our network of EV chargers, EV-ready sales and service touchpoints, investing in specialised infrastructure and systematically training our dealership teams, we aim to make the transition to electric mobility convenient, dependable and rewarding".

Haier India Returns to the Bigg Boss Telugu House as Associate Sponsor, Marking 7 Consecutive Years of Partnership

09 September, 2026: Haier Appliances India, the world's No. 1 global major appliances brand for 17 consecutive years, is back in the Bigg Boss Telugu house for the seventh consecutive year, extending its long-standing association with the franchise as an Associate Sponsor for the landmark Season 10. The association comes as Bigg Boss Telugu returns as part of JioStar's larger festive-season rollout of six regional editions of Bigg Boss, further strengthening Haier's connection with Telugu-speaking audiences through one of the region's most popular entertainment platforms. The partnership will bring Haier's portfolio of innovative home appliances into the Bigg Boss house, alongside an engaging consumer experience through a dedicated live washing machine task. As part of the association, Haier will bring its latest range of refrigerators, air conditioners and LED TVs into the Bigg Boss house, placing its technology at the heart of the contestants' everyday experiences. The integration will feature Haier's Lumiere 4-Door Side-



by-Side Refrigerator, BMR Refrigerator, Spartan Tower AI AC, Gravity AI ACs, and a range of Mini LED TVs, seamlessly becoming part of the house's daily routines, from everyday living and comfort to entertainment, while giving audiences an authentic glimpse of Haier's technology in action. Adding an interactive dimension to the partnership, Haier will also introduce a live washing machine task, bringing the brand's laundry technology directly into the action. Designed to turn an everyday household chore into an engaging on-screen experience, the task will see contestants interact with Haier's

technology in a fun and relatable format, creating a distinctive brand moment that brings product experience, entertainment and consumer engagement together. Commenting on the association, Mr. NS Satish, CEO, Haier Appliances India said, "For Haier, regional relevance is an important part of building a strong national brand and Bigg Boss Telugu has played a significant role in helping us strengthen that relevance over the years. The scale of the show, its deep connection with Telugu-speaking audiences and importantly, the sustained engagement it generates make it a powerful platform

for us to deepen our relationship with consumers in the region. Our return for the seventh consecutive year, as the show enters its 10th season, reflects the strategic value we see in this partnership. It allows us to bring our philosophy of 'More Creation, More Possibilities' to life while strengthening Haier's position as a technology-led brand that understands and evolves with the needs of Indian households." With Bigg Boss Telugu Season 10 set to build on the franchise's strong regional following, Haier's association will combine high-impact visibility with experiential brand integration.

AM/NS India launches premium galvanised steel brand 'Pelican' for construction and manufacturing sectors

Mumbai, Sept 09, 2026: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) today launched AM/NS Pelican, a premium galvanised steel brand designed to meet growing demand from India's construction, infrastructure, manufacturing and engineering sectors. The launch strengthens the company's portfolio of value-added steel solutions and underscores its focus on developing specialised products tailored to specific customer requirements. The launch comes amid rising demand for corrosion-resistant steel products driven by infrastructure development, industrial expansion and increasing preference for durable, low-maintenance materials across construction and manufacturing applications. The Indian galvanised steel market is estimated at 7.65 MnT in CY25 and is expected to grow at 8% annually over 2030. Galvanised steel has a protective coating that helps protect it from rust and corrosion. AM/NS Pelican has been developed to provide customers with reliable corrosion protection, consistent



quality and long service life. Its superior corrosion resistance, uniform coating quality and excellent formability make it suitable for applications where durability, appearance and ease of fabrication are critical. The product can be used across a wide range of applications, including roofing and roof support sections, tubes, air-conditioning and ventilation systems, cable trays, fencing, furniture, drums and barrels, and other general engineering uses. Pelican will be manufactured using AM/NS India's

advanced galvanising capabilities and will be made available through the company's extensive distribution and customer network across India. Ranjan Dhar, Director and Vice President - Sales & Marketing, AM/NS India, said: "Indian customers increasingly require steel solutions tailored to specific applications and performance needs. AM/NS Pelican offers a high-quality galvanised steel solution that combines reliable corrosion protection with consistent quality and performance. The launch further

strengthens our growing portfolio of specialised steel products and expands the range of value-added solutions we can offer customers across construction, manufacturing and engineering sectors." AM/NS India is expanding its portfolio of specialised, value-added steel brands to address evolving customer requirements across infrastructure, construction and manufacturing. AM/NS Pelican joins Structromax and Weldstar, two specialised steel brands launched by the company earlier this year.



Norway's royal family waves to crowds from palace balcony after King Harald's funeral

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE EXCHANGE STRIKES AS TWO KILLED AT MOLDOVA BORDER

Two people have been killed after Russian drones struck a border crossing between Ukraine and Moldova, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said. The Starokozache crossing, around 500km (310 miles) south of Kyiv, was closed after the overnight attack. Images from the scene showed several cars left completely scorched, with wreckage and debris strewn across the border post. Meanwhile, four people, including a child, were killed in the southern Russian city of Novorossiysk in a Ukrainian drone attack, the regional governor said. Both Russia and Ukraine have stepped up long-range strikes in recent months, despite renewed diplomatic efforts to end the war. Zelensky renewed calls for international support in the wake of the



Starokozache crossing attack, saying "the aggression must be stopped here and now before it spreads any further". The border link between Ukraine and Moldova was shut after the attack killed two people and

injured three others, Odessa regional governor Oleg Kiper said. A Moldovan driver was also injured, according to the country's foreign ministry. Moldova has increasingly found itself caught up in the conflict,

with Prime Minister Vasile Tofan confirming that 17 drones had struck Moldovan territory in August alone - more than during the whole of last year. "Those who ignore or downplay these threats - and refuse to name the aggressor - are denying reality," he wrote on social media. "Russia started this war. Russia alone bears responsibility." Russia's defence ministry said its forces had shot down 596 Ukrainian drones overnight. Novorossiysk - in the south of the country on the Black Sea coast - was hit hardest in what governor Veniamin Kondratiev described as a "massive overnight enemy drone attack". As well as the four deaths, 29 people were injured, and damage was reported to residential buildings, a church and a preschool.

US TO BAN IMPORTS OF SOME CANADIAN ALCOHOL, DAIRY GOODS AND MOTORBIKES



The US will ban imports of a range of Canadian products, including alcoholic spirits, some dairy goods and motorbikes, after its neighbour's retaliatory tariffs on American goods came into force. In a series of executive orders on Tuesday, President Donald Trump said Canada was "discriminating" against the US and outlined the bans, which will begin on 29 September. Officials on both sides have said they would like to strike a trade deal, but no new talks have been scheduled since negotiations collapsed in late August. Dominic LeBlanc, Canada's trade minister, said the latest US measures were "unjustified" and that he would work to protect the country's workers, families and businesses. "Our core focus is on what we can control: building strength at home, diversifying our partnerships abroad, and building Canada strong for all Canadians," LeBlanc said. He said he had contacted his US counterpart and

promised to work "in good faith" to resolve tensions. Earlier on Tuesday, Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney said in a video address that his country's move away from the US as its largest trading partner "will come at a cost". The White House's new sanctions are the latest strike in a months-long trade war between the US and Canada. The two countries have historically been close allies, with each a key business partner to the other. Generally more than two-thirds of Canada's total exports go to the US. In 2025, Canada's exports of alcoholic spirits to the US were worth US\$687m (£507m), dairy products were worth \$269m and motorbikes were worth \$90m, according to UN data compiled by Trading Economics. But Stephen Brown, chief North America economist at Capital Economics, said the import ban covered just 0.25% of Canada's exports to the US. He said: "Nonetheless,

Trump's willingness to impose an import ban is further evidence, if it were needed, that these latest measures are about inflicting economic pain rather than raising revenue." Canada is the second-largest trading partner of the US after Mexico. Its exports are less diversified than those of the US. In recent months, business owners on both sides of the border have expressed fears over the trade war's fallout. Many expect prices of goods to rise and the number of customers to fall. Last month, the White House imposed 50% tariffs on around \$20bn (£14.8bn) of Canadian goods after several rounds of talks had broken down. Those tariffs hit sectors including Canada's furniture and wine industries, as well as some sporting and fishing equipment businesses. Canada responded with what Carney called "dollar-for-dollar" tariffs on US goods like steel, clothing and furniture.

Uganda pulling out of Prince Harry's Invictus Games, says military chief



Uganda is pulling out of the Invictus Games, a sports event for wounded military veterans run by the Duke of Sussex, only two months after the country said it would join. General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, chief of defence and son of the African country's president, made the announcement in a social media post on X. He said the decision to withdraw from the games was "in order not to be construed as being opposed to His Majesty King Charles III". A Uganda government spokesman confirmed this to the BBC: "General

Kainerugaba decides whether or not the UPDF [Uganda People's Defence Force] participates in the Invictus Games. What you saw is his stated position. If it changes, he will let the world know." The Ugandan military chief's announcement follows a letter sent this week on behalf of the King which made clear that Prince Harry and Meghan, who have now returned to the UK, were not working royals. A report in The Times newspaper quoted the general's concerns about the "Harry-Meghan nonsense", suggesting this was the background to the decision.

Germany's Merz attacks AfD in stormy debate after far-right election win

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has clashed with AfD leader Alice Weidel in parliament, calling her party a "destructive force" with a migration policy that amounts to "ethnic cleansing" for skilled workers. Merz was addressing the Bundestag in the aftermath of the anti-immigration party's sweeping victory in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt where it won almost 44% of the vote, while the chancellor's conservatives saw their vote halved. Weidel told MPs that voters had shown that Merz's coalition with the centre left was a total failure and his time was up. Merz hit back saying the AfD had harmed German interests by backing Russia, and its "remigration" policy would affect millions. It is not yet clear whether the party will be able to form a government or not in Saxony-Anhalt, having fallen three seats short of an outright majority. No far-right party has won power in any of Germany's 16 states since World War Two, and Merz has admitted the "seismic" result has changed Germany.



The AfD's success has been praised by US President Donald Trump, who said "the Populist Party in Germany just had a really big night", linking the victory to "absolutely horrible immigration rules and regulations". The AfD in Saxony-Anhalt has been labelled as "right-wing extremist" by German domestic intelligence and the party has promised a "deportation and remigration" offensive targeting irregular migrants. Trump had been due to speak by phone to the German chancellor on Wednesday to mark the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in the US, but

the government spokesman in Berlin said the call had been postponed without saying why. No new date has been set. Repeatedly heckled by AfD MPs, the chancellor told Weidel that one in six skilled workers had a migration background, and if her party had its way then its policy would amount to "nothing other than an ethnic cleansing in the skilled trades based on skin colour and origin". While the government understood some deportations were needed, he said it made a careful distinction between those who contributed to German prosperity and those without permanent residen-

cy. Disruption by AfD MPs became so loud that at one point Bundestag President Julia Klöckner threatened to start expelling people from the chamber: "We are not on a football pitch." Weidel said mass migration had left Germans with daily knife violence and attacks on trains and in stations, but Merz warned that the AfD's plans would mean that no single care home, hospital or restaurant could function. As leader of the main opposition party in the Bundestag, Weidel opened the session by telling Merz his Christian Democrats had been "pulverised" in Saxony-Anhalt, after winning 17.2% of the vote, and she accused his government with the Social Democrats of driving Germany towards bankruptcy. Merz said her party had not won an outright majority in Saxony-Anhalt and it would not achieve one in Germany. "You are and will remain a destructive force," he said, accusing the party of cheating the voters by saying before the election that their candidate for premier.

Colombia's new president loosens gun control rules

Colombian President Abeloardo de la Esperiella has signed a decree which eases restrictions on people carrying legal firearms in public. De la Esperiella, who during his campaign for the presidency promised to take an iron-fist approach to crime, said it was "not right that criminals are armed to the teeth while decent people can't defend themselves". The decree lifts a suspension that had been in force for a decade, which meant that even those in possession of a permit to carry guns could not do so without additional authorisation. De la Esperiella insisted that the decree would not create a free-for-all and that tight controls over who can own a gun would remain in place. While signing the decree, the president said he had made good on his campaign promise: "A man's word is his honour, and I have honour, that's why I keep my word." The restriction on carrying legal guns in public was brought in by the then-President Juan Manuel Santos in December 2015. It was originally meant to be a temporary measure, aimed at improving security



during the Christmas and New Year festivities. But the suspension was extended yearly by Santos and two subsequent presidents from opposing sides of the political spectrum: conservative Iván Duque and left-wing Gustavo Petro. Under the law, even those with a permit to carry a gun could not take it out of their homes unless they applied for - and were granted - additional authorisation. De la Esperiella has insisted that his decree has removed a restriction which had never been meant to be permanent. According to Spanish newspaper El Pais, the decree will affect almost 700,000 people in Colombia who are already in possession of a legal permit to carry a gun.



Reigning Miss Austria beauty queen dies aged 22

N KOREA HAS BUILT TWO-STOREY URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY, SAYS WATCHDOG

North Korea has built a new two-storey uranium enrichment facility, the head of the world's nuclear watchdog said this week, calling it a cause for "serious concern". The new building is part of the main Yongbyon nuclear complex, and reportedly capable of housing up to 28 centrifuge cascades used to enrich uranium. In a report published late last month, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Pyongyang has also begun operating an expanded annex at another enrichment site. These findings point to a steady expansion of the North's sanctioned nuclear infrastructure. The agency, which has no inspectors in North Korea since it was expelled in 2009, relies on satellite



imagery for assessments. "The continuation and further development of the DPRK's nuclear programme are clear violations of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and are deeply regrettable," IAEA director Rafael Grossi said in a statement earlier this week. The IAEA first referred to the existence of the building in June, although Grossi had mentioned the possibility

earlier in the year. In June, the agency said that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited a "newly inaugurated nuclear materials production factory" on 3 June, which it identified as the Yongbyon enrichment facility. Kim had praised the country's "greatly expanded production capacity", adding that this would "offer the possibility of carrying out larger plans",

according to the agency's report. Despite running one of the poorest countries in the world, Kim spends millions each year developing a secretive nuclear arsenal. A 2022 report by a non-proliferation think-tank put this figure at \$640m. "What makes North Korea's nuclear programme so concerning is that many of its facilities are unknown, concealed, and thus difficult to target," Edward Howell, a lecturer at the University of Oxford told the BBC. "Beyond Yongbyon, we know that other facilities exist: Kangson, for instance. The embeddedness of North Korea's nuclear doctrine within its foreign and domestic policy means that we should expect there to be more concealed production sites."

Australia Privatises Big Bash League. What It Means For IPL Team Owners

Cricket Australia's decision to allow private investment in the Big Bash League, the country's premier T20 league, starting with the 100% sale of the Melbourne Renegades for the 2027-28 season, has turned the cricket world upside down. While players like Pat Cummins have welcomed the decision, provided the privatisation is done in the right manner, many others in Australia have opposed the decision. For years, Australia remained the lone major cricketing hub that was closed to private capital investment in its T20 league. The league's answers remained the same even as Indian Premier League team owners expanded across the West Indies, South Africa, the UAE, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Opening the BBL to external investment has now blown open a big opportunity for IPL team owners. Conglomerates like Reliance Industries, Red Chillies



Entertainment, the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, and the GMR/JSW groups already own some of the top T20 franchises across the globe, be it in India, England, or South Africa. Acquiring a BBL team allows an IPL group to offer year-round, multi-tournament contracts to top stars and the opportunity to even keep players like Cameron Green, Tim David, or Glenn Maxwell under the same brand umbrella across

the IPL, SA20, MLC, and the BBL. With several players ditching national teams for franchise-based events, increased investment in the sport's shortest format could further change the shape of the sport. Unlike leagues built from the ground up with private owners in mind, Cricket Australia is taking a controlled approach with strict measures in place. The Australian board is set to retain central con-

trol over international scheduling, player availability, broadcasting rights, and salary caps, while holding explicit authority to approve or reject prospective buyers. The Australian board may cap the number of franchises sold to Indian entities to 2 or 3 teams to ensure ownership diversity. While Cricket Australia is yet to receive a bid for the Melbourne Renegades, reports have estimated that a BBL franchise

is currently valued at somewhere between 150 million and 200 million Australian dollars. Can IPL Owners Pull Indian Stars To BBL? At present, the December-January BBL window creates a direct clash with South Africa's SA20 and the UAE's ILT20, meaning an IPL franchise owning teams across these leagues will face internal competition for marquee overseas players. With the BCCI continuing to bar Indian players from participating in overseas leagues, BBL broadcast revenues would rely heavily on domestic Australian interest. In South Africa and England, IPL team owners haven't been able to pull Indian men's team players yet. However, women players like Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur are already playing in the BBL. Even if an IPL franchise buys a BBL team, it cannot immediately bring Indian superstars to Australian grounds.

Defending Champion Carlos Alcaraz Knocked Out Of US Open 2026, Loses To Ben Shelton

Defending US Open champion Carlos Alcaraz was knocked out of the tournament following a thrilling five-set defeat against America's Ben Shelton early on Thursday morning. The big-hitting Shelton claimed his first career win over Alcaraz, 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(7), ending the World No. 2's hopes of retaining his title in his first tournament back after a four-month injury absence. Alcaraz looked rusty throughout the match, failing to reach shots he would usually cover. The long injury lay-off clearly affected his sharpness on court, making the result less of a surprise despite going the full five sets. The quarter-final clash on Arthur Ashe Stadium unfolded as a late-night classic, featuring massive momentum swings and high-octane tennis. Alcaraz struck first by edging out a tightly contested opening set in a tiebreak, but Shelton responded furiously. Pushing up his return positioning and landing blis-



tering forehand winners, the American dominated the second set 6-1 before riding that wave of momentum to break early and claim the third set 6-3, putting the Spaniard firmly on the back foot. Refusing to yield, Alcaraz raised his level in the fourth, firing precise shots from the baseline and speeding through the set 6-1 to force a decider. As the thriller pushed deep past 2:50 AM local time, the contest officially set the record for the latest finish in US Open history. The contest eventually finished at 3:33 AM in the morning. The final set turned out to be as closely fought as the first, with neither player man-

aging a break. The match headed into a high-stakes super tiebreak, where the tension inside the stadium reached its peak. In the end, Shelton held his nerve, closing out the tiebreak 10-7 to seal a monumental victory and advance to his second Grand Slam semi-final. Driven by a partisan home crowd, Shelton's relentless serving and fearless shot-making proved decisive when the match hung in the balance. While Alcaraz showed flashes of his trademark brilliance, his lack of match sharpness ultimately told against an opponent playing at the absolute peak of his powers.

DULEEP TROPHY FINAL:

ISHAN KISHAN PLAYS ANOTHER IMPRESSIVE KNOCK AS EAST ALL BUT SEAL TITLE

Ishan Kishan and South Zone skipper Tilak Varma underlined their red ball chops with 99 and 80 respectively, but former's half-century has more contextual value as it placed East Zone firmly on course for a Duleep Trophy triumph on the fourth day of the final in Chennai on Wednesday. Tilak's 211-ball knock lifted South to 336 all out in their first innings but still remained 372 runs adrift of East's first dig total of 708. In their second innings, East moved to 212 for five at close, for an overall lead of 584 runs. Kumar Kushagra (34) and Kounain Quraishi (26) were batting at close and have raised 52 runs for the



unbroken sixth wicket. But those team numbers now carry a mere academic significance as East already have their hands around this season's Duleep Trophy, courtesy that irreversibly massive first-innings lead. However, with a couple of important Test assignments

coming up - away against New Zealand and subsequently at home against Australia - the selectors now have two solid options to mull over in front of them. Kishan, who made an expansive 270 in the first innings here, was comfortable from ball one in the

ensuing essay as well during his 98-ball knock. The left-hander started his run-making with a six off off-spinner Tripurana Vijay over mid-wicket and never really took his feet off the pedal. Kishan went after Vijay again towards the backend of his innings, hammering him for 4, 6, 6, 4 in successive balls in the 26th over. Moments before that DRS saved Kishan, who added 146 runs for the third wicket with Shikhar Mohan, from a leg-before decision after on-field umpire Rohan Pandit upheld leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal's appeal. East took tea at 95 for two, having swelled the lead by 467 runs.

"Are You Going Home?" England Greats' King Charles Jibe At Pakistan Team

With seven players and two coaches sent back home and multiple rookies set to make their debut, Pakistan's tour of England has truly turned into a laughing stock. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has also been in the line of fire, having been targeted by former cricketers not just in England but also back home. The likes of Michael Vaughan, David Lloyd, Michael Atherton, and Alastair Cook have often discussed Pakistan's cricketing affairs, calling the decision to send players home a new low. Former England cricketer Phil Tufnell, who has also been working as a pundit over the course of the series, called the PCB's decision to send players home 'terrible'. "But to send them



home - to actually send them home - I think it's terrible. It's a disgrace for the players. I mean, they've now got to get on a plane and go back to the country," Tufnell said. "I've had all sorts. I've been sent to the moon in a rocket by The Sun, and, you know, 'big ears' and 'bunny teeth' and everything. We always used to get that. But to actually say, two-

thirds of the way through a tour, 'Right, sorry lads, you've got to bugger off - I think that's something else.' While there have been cases where players were sent home due to injury or disciplinary issues, this is the first time in international cricket that as many as seven players and two coaches were asked to leave over

poor performance. "The thing is, usually you see one or two leave a tour because they've done something wrong in a bar or something. These have been sent home for just plain average cricket," said former England captain Michael Vaughan, as quoted by Hindustan Times. During a discussion, one of the panel members also spoke about the irony that members of the team were sent to meet King Charles despite the fact that some of them were due to fly home before the next Test. "They got an audience with King Charles, didn't they?" one of the panellists said. "They're all lined up, and you're being sent home. But just before you go, can you just go and meet the King?"

Jessica Pegula Outlasts Emma Navarro To Set Up US Open Semi-Final With Aryna Sabalenka



Megan Thee Stallion Reveals Biggest Lesson From Split With Klay Thompson

Megan Thee Stallion is looking back at her breakup with Klay Thompson, and she is not sugarcoating how difficult it was. In her latest InStyle interview, the rapper said she kept trying to make a relationship work while slowly feeling like she was losing herself. The couple's relationship ended in April 2026 after Megan said trust, fidelity and respect had been compromised. Months later, she says the experience taught her to protect her identity, set stronger boundaries and never put herself behind a partner. Megan did not describe the breakup as an easy decision. Speaking to InStyle, she said she often felt uncomfortable and "on edge all the time."



"Don't Have To Work": Ben Shelton's Cheeky Request To Sister's Boss After Beating Carlos Alcaraz At US Open



Ben Shelton had gone toe-to-toe with Carlos Alcaraz for five exhausting sets and finally at 3:33 a.m. Wednesday (local time) came the chance to end the U.S. Open champion's title reign. Shelton fired an ace at 146 mph, a ball that Alcaraz couldn't have gotten back even with fresh legs. That gave Shelton a 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (10-7) victory in a marathon tussle that was the latest-finishing match in U.S. Open history. "I'm tired. It was a war," Shelton said. "Carlos is one of the greatest champions of our sport. It was the most enjoyable match I've had in my career, for sure." Alcaraz had his 18-match winning streak in Grand Slam tournaments ended in a match that lasted 4 hours, 28 minutes, after he fought deep into the night and early into the next morning in a bid to get his hands on the trophy again. "I mean it was close, it was really close, so I was disappointed I didn't get the win at the end," the No. 2-seeded Alcaraz said. "But

I'm happy, I am proud of myself about how I fought. As I said, physically I was really tired but I found a way to push myself." Shelton next plays No. 11 seed Frances Tiafoe, who kept coming back until he had reached his third U.S. Open semifinal, beating Alex Michelsen 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (10-6) on Tuesday. The U.S. is guaranteed to have a representative in Sunday's final as it seeks its first men's major title since Andy Roddick lifted the title here in 2003. Alcaraz had played in the previous latest finish at the U.S. Open when he outlasted Jannik Sinner in a match that finished at 2:50 a.m. in the 2022 quarterfinals en route to his first Grand Slam title at 19. The U.S. Open craves its night matches and players love the energy the fans provide — even when a number of matches have already gone past 2 a.m. this year. Thousands stayed to the end, with Arthur Ashe Stadium perhaps still one-third full for the finish.



'I'm not a robot' - Kerr responds to criticism before Ingebrigtsen reunion

Great Britain's Josh Kerr says he is "very happy" to see Jakob Ingebrigtsen back competing - but he is "not going to lose" when they resume their fierce rivalry at this weekend's World Athletics Ultimate Championship. Their long-established war of words was recently reignited when Ingebrigtsen criticised Kerr's decision to miss last month's European Championships, where the Norwegian marked his return from long-term injury by winning 5,000m gold. The men's 1500m at the inaugural Ultimate

Championship in Budapest this weekend will have added edge after Ingebrigtsen, 25, labelled his rivals a "bunch of cowards" at last week's Diamond League Final. Speaking to the media before the championship, Kerr was reluctant to directly address Ingebrigtsen's recent comments towards him but admitted their presence would bring "a lot more energy" to the event. "When you boil it down, I'm very happy that he's back racing," said Kerr, 28. "I think it's great for our distance. He's one of the best 1500m and 5,000m run-

ners of all time. "I'm not going to lose, but I'm excited to go out there and race." Kerr added: "A championship 1500m or 5,000m is very different to what he's used to right now, coming off a long-term injury. "So I first foresee some struggling from his side." Although interest in their absorbing rivalry has transcended the sport, Kerr and Ingebrigtsen have not gone head-to-head for two years. In their last meeting, at the Zurich Diamond League in September 2024, Ingebrigtsen placed second and Kerr fifth -

one month after the Briton was edged to Olympic gold by American Cole Hocker, and Ingebrigtsen missed out on a medal. It is around the major championships where one of the sport's most compelling storylines of recent times has truly developed, both on and off the track. Their frequent exchange of words has built hype between exhilarating show-downs. Ingebrigtsen won Olympic gold five years ago. Kerr took the world title in 2023. Hocker stole in as they fought to outdo one another in Paris.

‘EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER’ Will Be a Beautiful Film in Anand Deverakonda’s Filmography: Vijay Deverakonda



The much-awaited youthful entertainer ‘EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER’, starring the Baby blockbuster pair Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya, is gearing up for its theatrical release on September 11, 2026. Directed by young filmmaker Aditya Hasan, who won widespread appreciation for the hit web series 90s, the film is presented by Srikara Studios and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas.

Highlights

■ The much-awaited youthful entertainer ‘EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER’, starring the Baby blockbuster pair Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya, is gearing up for its theatrical release on September 11, 2026. Directed by young filmmaker Aditya Hasan, who won widespread appreciation for the hit web series 90s, the film is presented by Srikara Studios and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas.

Deverakonda and acclaimed filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga attended the event as chief guests. Vijay Deverakonda: ‘EPIC’ Will Be a Beautiful Film in Anand’s Filmography Speaking at the event, Vijay Deverakonda praised Anand Deverakonda’s choice of films and expressed confidence in EPIC. “I feel extremely proud of Anand’s choice of films. I believe EPIC will

stand as a beautiful film in his filmography. Aditya created a huge impact with 90s. Just as I eagerly waited for Tharun Bhascker’s debut after watching his short films, I waited for Aditya’s debut as well. “Anand is fortunate to have got the opportunity to act in Aditya’s first film. Vaishnavi is a brilliant actor. I thoroughly enjoyed 90s, and I am confident that EPIC too will become a huge success.”

‘EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER’ IS A BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY: ANAND DEVERAKONDA

It is a relatable story that reflects real-life experiences. Love, family and responsibilities are portrayed naturally and beautifully,” says Anand Deverakonda. The much-awaited youthful entertainer ‘EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER’, starring the blockbuster Baby pair Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya, is gearing up for its theatrical release on September 11, 2026. The film marks the directorial debut of Aditya Hasan, who won the hearts of Telugu audiences with the popular web series 90s. Presented by Srikara Studios and produced under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya, the film has generated strong expectations among youngsters. Ahead of the release, Anand Deverakonda interacted with the media and shared several interesting insights about the film, his character, Vaishnavi Chaitanya’s role and his experience working with director Aditya Hasan. You mentioned at the pre-release event that the film would be strong, recalling something Trivikram said. What made you say that? Trivikram garu once said at an event that an ordinary story should be told strongly. You don’t necessarily need twists or bloodshed to tell a compelling story. EPIC is exactly that kind of love story. It is about an ordinary young man from Wanaparthi who puts aside his passion and goes abroad for the sake of his parents. Once he gets there, how does his perspective towards life change? What happens when he falls in love with a girl and enters a live-in relationship? We have presented all these aspects very naturally. Although the film deals with the concept of a live-in relationship, director Aditya has handled it so beautifully that family audiences will never feel uncomfortable watch-

ing it. What can audiences expect from EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER? The entire team has been extremely confident about the film right from the beginning. I strongly believe that EPIC will connect with audiences across generations — whether they belong to the ’80s, ’90s or 2000s. It will not only connect with people who have gone abroad for education, but with anyone who has lived away from their family. In the life of a middle-class youngster, even the smallest things carry a lot of importance. The film naturally and beautifully explores several aspects of life, including career, love and family responsibilities. This is everyone’s story. Some of the situations in the film are like looking at real-life incidents in a mirror. The audience will relate to and discuss every aspect shown in the film — love, family, responsibilities and relationships. It is not like a regular film. It is like a beautiful journey. Did you see yourself in the character of Aditya? Absolutely, 100 per cent. When I heard the story of EPIC, I immediately felt, “This is so much like my story.” I studied in America, so I could personally relate to several aspects of the film. Whether they are in America, the UK, Australia, Germany or any other country, Telugu youngsters who go abroad for education will connect strongly with this story. Many people leave their families and go abroad in the hope of settling down in life and overcoming financial difficulties. I believe EPIC will emotionally connect with all of them. Tell us about your character, Aditya. The character of Aditya, whom I play, is very innocent. He is constantly confused about various aspects of life. Should he do what he wants or live according to his parents’ wishes? Is what he feels for the girl really love? Should he marry her? Can he spend the rest of his life with her? He keeps asking him-

self all these questions. Every scene and every dialogue in the film has been designed to touch the audience emotionally. How much of an impact will Baby have on EPIC? Baby became such a huge success that whenever Vaishnavi and I come together, it is natural for people to talk about that film. However, there is absolutely no comparison between Baby and EPIC. Both films are unique in their own ways. If Baby was a sensation, EPIC is like a beautiful journey. While people are talking about Vaishnavi and me coming together again, they are also talking extensively about the 90s web series and Aditya Hasan. That is definitely a positive for the film. Is EPIC a continuation of the 90s web series? No, EPIC is not a sequel to 90s. However, the story has emerged from that world and those characters. The film revolves around the younger son Aditya and what happens when he goes abroad to pursue his education. The roles of the parents have been incorporated into the film only as much as the story

requires. While 90s was a family story, EPIC is a love story. However, just like 90s, this film also has natural humour and heartfelt emotions. What can you tell us about Vaishnavi Chaitanya’s character Kadali? Kadali is a character that every girl can relate to. Just because a girl appears to be smiling on the outside does not necessarily mean she is happy. Behind that smile, there can be several fears, responsibilities and struggles. Kadali is a character who represents those emotions.



The Film Is Set for a Grand Worldwide Theatrical Release on September 18th



“Kalyanam Kamaneyam Jeevitham,” produced jointly by Paila Prasada Rao and Kishore Gundala under the banner of VIVIFY Media Film Factory, features Khan Durani and Sahithi Avancha in the lead roles and is directed by Ravi Lokireddy. The film is gearing up for a grand worldwide

theatrical release on the 18th of this month. Rajavamsi is releasing the film across the Telugu states. The trailer launch event of “Kalyanam Kamaneyam Jeevitham” was held grandly in Hyderabad on Tuesday evening. Director V.V. Vinayak and producers K.L. Damodara Prasad and Prasanna Kumar attended the event as chief guests.



SAMANTHA MAKES HOLLYWOOD REPORTER COVER UNFORGETTABLE

Samantha Ruth Prabhu is on the cover of The Hollywood Reporter India’s September 2026 issue, and she looks absolutely radiant. The actress, who is expecting her first child, poses in a stunning off-shoulder white ruffled gown for the cover, with soft waves and statement pearl earrings completing the look. Inside the magazine, she switches between bold looks, from a magenta cutout gown to a dreamy pink tulle dress and a fiery red ensemble. In the interview, Samantha opens up about this new chapter in her life, saying she is ready for her “life to change completely” as she awaits her first child. The cover story, titled “Next Act,” also touches on her journey as one of India’s top action stars, with a reported box office pull of over ₹100 crore. Fans and followers have been showering the actress with love, calling the shoot ele-



gant and empowering. Samantha continues to prove she can effortlessly

balance glamour with honesty about her personal milestones.

‘Haiku’ Teaser – The Cutest Poetry of Love, Painted with Striking Visuals, Breezy Romance & Adorable Chemistry, Wins Hearts!

The teaser of Aegan-Sridevi-Femina George starrer ‘Haiku’, the upcoming romantic entertainer from Vision Cinema House, has been unveiled by popular romantic hero Harish Kalyan, offering audiences a colourful, youthful and poetic glimpse into a love story that instantly catches the eye with its striking visuals and refreshing treatment. Filled with vibrant frames, breezy moments and an unmistakable fragrance of romance, the teaser introduces a world that feels contemporary, charming and wonderfully alive. At the centre of this vibrant world are Aegan, Sridevi and Femina George, whose adorable chemistry and expressive moments become one of the teaser’s biggest attractions. Aegan, who earlier won appreciation for his rustic and naturalistic performance in Kozhi Pannai Chelladurai, appears in a refreshing new avatar as an urban, cool and



innocent boy-next-door. Sridevi complements him with an equally engaging presence, with their chemistry lending the teaser its sweetest moments. The teaser also springs a surprise towards its closing moments with the arrival of Femina George, who makes her presence felt instantly

and manages to steal the spotlight with her brief yet striking appearance. The romantic mood of Haiku receives a major lift from Siddhu Kumar’s music. His soothing background score, particularly the gentle violin passages interwoven with classical ragas and contemporary fusion.

KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN GOES BOLD IN VINTAGE SHOOT

Kareena Kapoor Khan is back to prove why she remains one of Bollywood’s most stylish leading ladies. The actress fronts Ritu Kumar Couture 2026, and the pictures are dripping with old-world grandeur. In one look, Kareena stuns in a shimmering gold embroidered saree paired with statement jhumkas, striking a regal pose against a vintage

backdrop. The saree’s intricate detailing and flowing pallu add a timeless touch to her look. The shoot doesn’t stop at traditional glam. Kareena also switches things up in a bold printed cape-style ensemble, showing off her legs while lounging on a four-poster bed, and later dons a striking paisley blazer set with a plunging neckline, styled with a red scarf and dramatic tassel earrings. Each frame captures a different mood, from ethereal to edgy. With her effortless confidence and Ritu Kumar’s rich, heritage-inspired craftsmanship, the collaboration is being hailed as a perfect blend of tradition and boldness.



RASHI SINGH LOOKS LIKE A BREATH OF SPRING

Rashi Singh has had a busy year on the big screen, featuring in three releases, Transfer Trimurthulu, Gossip, and Ramha Urvashi Menaka. While the films may not have set the box office alight, the actress has continued to stay in the news for other reasons. Amid this phase, Rashi took a break to share a candid, joy-filled moment that has caught her

fans’ attention. In the pictures, Rashi is seen twirling freely on a tree-lined street, her hair flying loose and her smile lighting up the frame. She wore a flowy sage green gown with a delicate embroidered bodice, its hem trimmed with a contrasting floral print. The candid energy of the shot made the moment feel more like a joyful memory than a styled photoshoot.

