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NATIONAL NEWS

Barrier-free tolling on highways to be rolled out by Feb: Gadkari

PM MODI HOLDS TALKS WITH IRANIAN PRESIDENT PEZESHKIAN



CINEMA NEWS

KRITHI SHETTY GLOWS IN SUN-KISSED – UP CLOSE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

09-09-2026
Total pilgrims: 71,670
Tonsures: 33,904
Handi karukulu: 3,95 CR
Laddu sale: 4,59 Lac
Annasprasad: 3,04 Lac
Ashwin hospital: 3,932
Present Situation on 10-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments... Outer line
at Bata Gangamma Temple.
Approx. Dueson Times for Saravandhanam
(with out SSD Tokens), 24 H.

INBRIEF

PM Modi remembers 9/11 victims

REAFFIRMS RESOLVE AGAINST TERRORISM



NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday remembered the victims of the September 11 terror attacks and reaffirmed India's unwavering resolve against terrorism in all its forms. In a post on social media, the Prime Minister said the world must never forget the innocent lives lost in the 2001 attacks and must stand united against the forces of terror. He reiterated India's commitment to fighting terrorism and said the nation would continue to work with the global community to eliminate this menace. He stressed that terrorism has no place in a civilised world and that collective action was essential to defeat it.

■ **PM Modi Nudges Russian leader to end Ukraine conflict**

Modi raises safety of Indians in Black Sea in talks with Putin

■ NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday raised the safety of Indian seafarers in the Black Sea with Russian President Vladimir Putin, reiterating India's readiness to support any peace initiative to end the Ukraine conflict even as both leaders agreed to shore up bilateral trade ties amid growing uncertainties and geopolitical upheaval.

The meeting took place hours after Putin landed in New Delhi on a three-day visit to participate in the high-stakes BRICS summit. Following the talks, the two leaders travelled in the same car inside the Bharat Mandapam complex to reach the venue of a business forum.

Signalling their resolve to maintain deeper engagement across diverse sectors, the two leaders agreed to work on further strengthening the India-Russia Special and



Privileged Strategic Partnership.

According to an Indian readout, the partnership continues to register "significant growth" and has "shown resilience in the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties".

While reviewing trade and investment ties, the two sides resolved to push annual bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by 2030, up from the current USD 65 billion. In a social media post, Modi said he and the

Russian leader talked about closer trade ties, including implementation of the Programme for Economic Cooperation 2030 besides delving into engagement in areas like infrastructure, energy, technology, defence and culture.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in the readout that Modi accepted Putin's invitation to travel to Russia for the annual summit talks between the two countries.

In their over 45-minute talks, Modi and Putin also agreed to step up cooperation in defence, critical minerals, civil nuclear energy, fertiliser supplies and people-to-people exchanges. The two leaders "shared perspectives on key regional and global issues of mutual interest, including the conflicts in West Asia and the Black Sea region which have impacted maritime trade and the safety and security of Indian seafarers", the MEA said in the readout.

"The prime minister once again reiterated that dialogue and diplomacy was the way forward in resolving conflicts and India stood ready to assist in peace efforts," it said.

Five Indian seafarers died in the Black Sea due to ongoing Russia-Ukraine hostilities, prompting India to strongly raise the incidents with both Moscow and Kyiv.

Caste must be part of Census to eliminate inequalities: Bhatti



■ Hyderabad (TSIT):

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said on Friday, September 11, that including a caste census in the national Census was essential to eliminating social inequalities and ensuring justice for weaker sections.

Participating in a debate on the census and the caste census in the Assembly, he demanded an explanation from the BJP members if they supported the caste census or not, media reports said. Bhatti said that after the Congress government came to power in Telangana, it conducted a comprehensive survey across the state to assess

Participating in a debate on the census and the caste census in the Assembly, he demanded an explanation from the BJP members if they supported the caste census or not.

the people's social, economic and political conditions. He said that as the Deputy Chief Minister in charge of the Planning Department, he reviewed the process on a daily basis. He recalled that even Opposition members had appreciated the survey when its report was presented in the Assembly.

Bhatti said that while the

Congress has been demanding that a caste census be conducted across the country on the lines of the survey undertaken in Telangana, and CM A. Revanth Reddy has visited Delhi over the same, there has been no response from the Centre.

Saying it was unfortunate that the caste census was not being included in the Census currently underway, he demanded that the Centre honour its commitment, reported the Deccan Chronicle. "How can the actual conditions of weaker sections of society be identified without a caste census?" he questioned, adding, "BJP members should clearly state whether they want a caste census or not. If they support a caste census, the Assembly should unanimously call upon the Central Government and the Prime Minister to conduct it." He said the Congress was only demanding a replication of the Telangana model across the country.

■ **No security yet:**

Nishu Azad says no action despite SC directions



■ **Hyderabad (TSIT):** The 14-year-old Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protestor whose father was assaulted during the Jantar Mantar protests by Hindutva worker Swatantra Bhardwaj has

claimed that despite Supreme Court intervention, she continues to face obscene threats and that she fears for her family's safety.

In a post on X, she said that due to continuous threats, she is "genuinely afraid for the safety" of herself and her family. Nishu added that several cross-FIRs have been registered against her in different states days after she filed a first information report against the threatening messages.



PM in a group photograph with BRICS leaders during the BRICS Business Forum 2026 on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi...

T'gana govt placed over 1 cr acres in prohibited list, claims BRS

■ HYDERABAD (TSIT):

The BRS has alleged that the Telangana government has placed over one crore acres of land in the prohibited list, affecting farmers and landowners across the State.

Addressing a press conference, BRS leaders claimed that the move would deprive thousands of families of their rightful land and demanded that the government immediately withdraw the decision. They alleged that the Congress government had failed to protect the interests of farmers and was instead creating hurdles for them. The leaders



said the prohibited list included agricultural lands, which would adversely affect cultivation and livelihoods. The BRS urged the government to release the details of the lands placed under the prohibited category and provide clarity on the criteria adopted.

CM Naidu calls for 'Trishul' strategy on drugs, women's safety, road accidents

■ AMARAVATI (TSIT):

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday directed district Collectors and Superintendents of Police to adopt a comprehensive strategy to strengthen law and order and ensure greater safety for people across Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing the eighth District Collectors' Conference, the Chief Minister called for the formation of State- and district-level committees under the banner 'Trishul', with three key objectives — zero drugs, zero



tolerance towards atrocities against women and zero road accidents. Mr. Naidu instructed officials to prepare a detailed action plan to achieve these targets and ensure coordination among various departments. He

called for stringent action against obscene posts and objectionable content on social media, and directed authorities to strengthen cyber policing and constitute a specialised team of cyber technology experts in the CID.

He directed officials to take special measures for women's safety and called for a sustained campaign against drugs, including ganja, with a dedicated calendar of awareness and enforcement activities. He proposed De-addiction Centres of Excellence in Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and

Amaravati. Expressing concern over road accidents, he instructed district administrations to conduct regular reviews and audit every accident to identify its causes. The Chief Minister said crimes in the State had declined by 14 per cent over the past two years, while crimes under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act fell by 29.2 per cent. He directed officials to reduce DNA testing turnaround time, ensure police reach crime scenes within 30 minutes, and called for a 'One Court-One Constable' system.

Siddaramaiah meets Rahul, raises K'taka Cabinet vacancy, caste census implementation

New Delhi (TSIT): Former Karnataka Chief Minister and Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Siddaramaiah met Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Friday and held discussions on various issues concerning the party and Karnataka politics.

Insiders said Siddaramaiah raised the issue of the vacant Cabinet post in Karnataka and urged the party leadership to fill it at the earliest. He is also understood to have stressed the need to protect



the interests of the Ahinda (Kannada acronym for minorities, Backward Classes and Dalits) sections while deciding political and organisational opportunities.

Siddaramaiah is also learnt to have pressed for the early implementation of the caste census report in Karnataka. He is under-

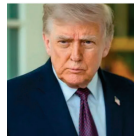
stood to have conveyed that the findings of the report should be implemented without further delay.

The meeting comes amid speculation over Siddaramaiah's efforts to secure Cabinet opportunities for some of his close associates following the recent expansion of the state Cabinet. Sources said Siddaramaiah was unhappy with the second phase of Cabinet expansion as some names he had backed were left out, while several names that he had not favoured found a place in the list.

Trump unveils sweeping mid-term agenda

■ **Washington (TSIT):** US President Donald Trump has laid out a sweeping Republican agenda for the November midterm elections, promising changes to healthcare payments, permanent tax cuts, tighter border laws and stricter voting requirements if his party retains control of Congress.

Addressing a Republican convention in Dallas, Trump urged his supporters to treat the congressional contest as if his own name were on the ballot.



India crossed 80 lakh HPV vaccinations: Ministry of Health

■ **New Delhi (TSIT):** The Union Ministry of Health on Friday announced that India has crossed 80 lakh Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations, marking an "important milestone" against HPV infection and HPV-associated cancers.

In a post on X, the Health Ministry said: "India has crossed 80 lakh HPV vaccinations, marking another important

milestone in strengthening preventive healthcare and advancing protection against HPV infection and HPV-associated cancers." "With every vaccination, India takes another step towards a healthier, cancer-free future for its daughters," it added.

The nationwide HPV vaccination campaign for girls aged 14 years and above was launched by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi from Rajasthan's Ajmer in February.

The initiative aims to eradicate cervical cancer among women in India.

By expanding access to the HPV vaccine, the programme is expected to protect millions of girls across the country from developing life-threatening cancers in the future.

Earlier this year, Indian-American radiation oncologist



Dattatreya Nori said HPV vaccination could give India a decisive

advantage in its fight against cervical cancer and help eliminate the dis-

ease in the coming years.

"Now, with the HPV vaccination, we have an upper hand, and in few years, we'll be able to eliminate cancer of the cervix from India," Nori said in an interview with IANS. The 2026 Padma Bhushan awardee described cervical cancer as preventable, detectable and curable, making the continued loss of lives particularly distressing for doctors work-

ing in oncology. "Cancer of the cervix is preventable, is detectable, is treatable, and curable," he said.

Nori said about 200 women die of cervical cancer every day in India. He welcomed the introduction of free HPV vaccination for girls, saying it could substantially strengthen prevention efforts. He also praised the changes he said had taken place in India's healthcare

sector over the past 12 years, particularly in cancer prevention and treatment. "A lot of significant positive changes have happened in healthcare," he said.

Nori also cited the establishment of the National Cancer Institute and the expansion of cancer treatment facilities among the important steps taken during this period.

PanIIT AP Summit 2026 to anchor Andhra's DeepTech decade

VIJAYAWADA, SEPT 11 (TSIT):The PanIIT Andhra Pradesh Summit 2026, aimed at strengthening Andhra Pradesh's position as a global hub for DeepTech, innovation and technology-led growth, will be held on October 3, 2026, at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Convention Centre, Vijayawada.

The Summit, organised by PanIIT Alumni India, will be held under the theme "Andhra's DeepTech Decade: Anchored by PanIIT - Swarnandhra to Viksit Bharat 2047." Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu will be the Chief Guest, while Minister for Education, IT & Electronics Sri Nara



Lokesh will also participate. The event will bring together IIT Directors and faculty, senior government officials, industry leaders, policymakers, investors, entrepreneurs, startups and technology experts to deliberate on building a globally competitive DeepTech ecosystem. Sectors to

be discussed include Artificial Intelligence and DeepTech, Semiconductors and Data Centres, Quantum Technologies, Defence and Aerospace, Green Energy, MedTech, Agriculture, Entrepreneurship and Skilling, and AI-enabled Governance. Proposed

initiatives include a PanIIT Amaravati Council, DeepTech investment mechanisms and a Global IIT Mentor Network. Prominent participants include Dr. Sunil Kumar Barnwal, Sri G. Sai Prasad, Sri Hitesh Garg, Prof. Ravindran, Sri Amith Singhee, Sri Arun Ramchandani, Sri Yaram Vijay Kumar, Dr. Giridhar Parvatham and Sri Lalit Aggarwal. PanIIT Alumni India Chairman Sri Prabhat Kumar said the Summit would bring together government, industry, academia and the global IIT alumni community to contribute to Andhra Pradesh's growth story.

SIH-2026 poster launched at KITS Warangal campus

HANAMAKONDA, SEPTEMBER 11 (TSIT):The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), in association with the Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (Centre for i2RE) and the Institutions Innovation Council (IIC), Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal (KITSW), will hold an internal hackathon for Smart India Hackathon-2026 (SIH-2026).

The SIH poster was launched by former MLA and KITSW Additional Secretary Vodithala Satish Kumar, along with Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy, Head of CSE Dr. P. Niranjan, and the association



body at the KITSW campus. The event will be held on September 18, 2026, at the Civil Seminar Hall, KITSW. Satish Kumar said skill-oriented education is the need of the hour. He noted that SIH provides students a platform to solve pressing daily-life problems and builds a culture of product innovation and problem-solving. Themes include smart automation, fitness and sports, heritage and culture, MedTech, agriculture and rural

development, smart vehicles, robotics and drones, transportation and logistics, smart education, clean and green technology, blockchain and cyber security, renewable energy, disaster management, toys, space technology and fintech. Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy said the hackathon promotes innovation and entrepreneurship through workshops, conferences and interactions with successful entrepreneurs.

PERFORM DUTIES WITH DEVOTION: TTD ADDITIONAL EO



Tirumala, 11 September 2026: The TTD Additional Executive Officer Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary called upon the deputiation officers and staff deployed for the annual Srivari Brahmotsavams, to discharge their duties with devotion and dedication and make the festival a grand success. An orientation programme was conducted for the deputiation staff at the Asthana Mandapam in Tirumala on Friday evening.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional EO said that every employee should have a clear understanding of the arrangements and responsibilities involved in conducting the twin Brahmotsavams this year as a large number of devotees are expected to visit Tirumala. He directed officials and staff of all departments to work in close coordination, drawing on their past experience. He instructed the staff to immediately bring any issues relating to the facilities.

Collector Haimavathi Inspects EVM Warehouse in Siddipet

The South India Times Siddipet: Siddipet District Election Officer and Collector K. Haimavathi inspected the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) warehouse located beside the Collectorate on Friday as part of the quarterly inspection process. In the presence of represen-



tatives of recognised political parties, the EVM warehouse was opened in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI). The Collector inspected the doors and seals securing the EVMs stored constituency-wise for Siddipet.

EDITORIAL

Public participation is essential in the campaign to save water

The water crisis in India is becoming increasingly serious. Groundwater levels are declining in many areas, ponds and wells are drying up, and dependence on ground-water for agriculture and drinking water is increasing. At this time, the responsibility of conserving water cannot rest solely with the government. Public participation is also essential. With this vision, the "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" campaign has been launched. Launched on September 6, 2024, the primary objective of this campaign is to conserve rainwater, increase groundwater levels, and strengthen local water sources. Emphasis is placed on building low-cost water conservation structures, reusing old and defunct tube wells, and implementing water conservation measures tailored to local needs. The unique feature of this campaign is that, along with the government, the general public, panchayats, social organizations, and companies can also participate. Its foundation is three Cs—community, corporate social responsibility, and cost. This means community participation, corporate social responsibility, and cost-effective water conservation. This is an attempt to transform water conservation from a mere government scheme to a public campaign. To this end, a large number of water conservation structures have been built. Under the first phase, more than 2.7 million water conservation structures were built across the country by May 2025. Following this, the second phase was launched in June 2025. By May 2026, more than 15 million groundwater recharge structures had been built. By September 3, 2026, this number had increased to more than 15.8 million. This data indicates that water conservation is being promoted on a large scale in the country. But simply building structures isn't enough. They also need to be properly sited, regularly maintained, and used correctly. If rainwater doesn't reach these structures or if they become clogged with mud and debris over the years, their purpose will be defeated. Therefore, local people must also take responsibility for their maintenance. India has long had a tradition of water conservation. Village ponds, wells, stepwells, johads, and small dams met people's needs. Ancient water sources remain a reminder of this in many parts of the country, including Haryana and Rajasthan. During modern development, we neglected these sources and began overusing groundwater. Now is the time to combine ancient wisdom with modern science. To this end, the water conservation public participation campaign has been integrated with the "Rainwater Harvesting" campaign. In June 2026, it was redesigned as the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan—Rainwater Harvesting." Its simple message is to prevent every possible drop of rain from flowing away and to channel it into the ground. A major cause of the water crisis is excessive water use in agriculture. Many farmers grow crops that require a lot of water. Tube wells are constantly operated to extract groundwater. This rapidly depletes groundwater. Therefore, to conserve water, it is important to promote crop diversification, drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, and water-efficient crops. Gram Panchayats can also play an important role in water conservation. Each village can prepare its own "water budget."

BRICS HAS GROWN UP: NOW IT MUST BEHAVE LIKE AN ADULT



AJAY BISARIA

The India-China accommodation will be a key driver of the grouping, but a 'non-Western' agenda will work well only if it focuses on ending global conflict as much as on stabilising the global economy. The BRICS summit that India hosts this year is its fourth, with the fifth opportunity not coming for a decade. That alone should make us pause. This is a grouping that began life in 2001 as a clever acronym coined by a Goldman Sachs economist, Jim O'Neill, to sell emerging markets to investors. The summits followed from 2009. In its eighteenth year, the question worth asking is a simple one: is BRICS ready to grow up? In some ways, it clearly is. What started as an investment thesis is now a premier emerging-market forum with summit-level heft. Like every serious economic gathering in a disorderly world, it has encountered geopolitics, exactly as the G20 did. The proof is in the action. Over 350 meetings in the run-up to the summit, and the outcomes catalogued. The last one in Rio produced a declaration running to 126 paragraphs, sweeping across trade, climate, technology, humanitarian concerns, and global governance. A club that issues a 126-paragraph communique signed off by heads of state and government is no longer a niche investors' huddle. It has also grown in girth. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE have joined the founding five. Every new member bar Ethiopia is a Muslim-majority country, which could read as a tilt, yet the truth runs the other way. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, and Ethiopia are, for strategic reasons, in no hurry to pick fights with the West. With them inside the tent, India has more

elbow room to keep BRICS from hardening into an anti-Western caucus. A wider BRICS is, counterintuitively, a more moderate one. None of this means the club is in good working order. Its challenges are real and worth naming plainly: China's weight. With the largest economy in the room, BRICS risks being read as a Beijing-led vehicle, which is why most members resist Sino-centric agendas like a common currency. The India-China strategic rivalry. The current summit comes at a time of tactical accommodation between the two Asian giants. Much of the BRICS dynamic will depend on how sustained a positive India-China economic relationship can be. Thin consensus. Eleven members pull in eleven directions, and Rio's 126 paragraphs papered over as much as they settled. The de-dollarisation mirage. There is no workable common currency and no obvi-

ous anchor, only a patchwork of local-currency deals. The anti-West trap. Pushed too hard against the West, BRICS forfeits its usefulness and invites retaliation. No spine. Eighteen years in, it still has no secretariat, no home, and no one in charge between the summits. Take the fear that most animates Washington: de-dollarisation. It is neither India's agenda nor Brazil's, and it remains a long way off. A common currency is a fantasy, and the yuan is no anchor, which leaves a slow diffusion of trade into local currencies, including the rupee, as the likelier path. As for the anxiety in the US Treasury, a little of it does no harm. It costs nothing and concentrates minds. Here is the real argument. If BRICS is coming of age, it must behave like an adult, and that means building institutions. For eighteen years, it has met, declaimed, and dispersed, with no permanent address,

no professional staff, and no one whose full-time job is to turn summit rhetoric into follow-through. It needs a secretariat, a home city, and a secretary-general. Meeting for the form is easy. Meeting for substantive outcomes requires machinery between the summits, someone to track commitments, nurse the local-currency plumbing along, and prepare the ground so that leaders arrive to decide rather than to discover. India could lead this. As a founding member, it could offer New Delhi (or Goa) as the home of BRICS and put forward the first secretary-general. This is a structural role, and India can hold the group's contradictions together in a way no other member can. India chaired the G20 in 2023 and BRICS in 2025, in close succession, sitting precisely at the intersection of the established economies of the G7 and the rising powers of the

BRICS core. The G7, for its part, would do well to reinvent itself as a wider club of industrial democracies, with India, Australia, and South Korea at the table. An institution with a spine could do more than draft communiqués. With the Gulf, Iran, and Africa now inside the tent, a steadier BRICS could lend its weight to quiet peace-making, stepping in where Western forums are stalemated, and give the global economy a stabilising, confidently non-Western voice. None of this is to pretend that BRICS is a model of unity. It will lack unanimity for years. Yet, even a fractious BRICS, enlarged and growing, can both challenge and supplement Western groupings. It reminds the old order that the rest of the world has options, and pushes towards a fairer, more just multipolarity. Eighteen is the age of adulthood in much of the world, when you get the vote.

9/11, And The Price Of Fighting Terror For A Quarter Century



SHASHI THAROOR

A quarter-century has elapsed since the bright, cloudless Tuesday morning of September 11, 2001, in New York, when the world stood still in collective horror at the television images broadcast from the Big Apple. The image of the Twin Towers collapsing into a mountain of ash and steel in Lower Manhattan remains permanently etched into the global consciousness, and "9/11" (in the American dating style) became the term for an era-defining day. Twenty-five years later, 9/11 is no longer merely a lived memory for those who witnessed it in real time, as I did as a UN official. It has fully entered the realm of history; 9/11 marks a pivotal inflection point that irrevocably cleaved the post-Cold War era from the turbulent twenty-first century to follow. Looking back across two and a half decades provides a sobering vantage point. The catastrophic attacks carried out by al-Qaeda did not just claim nearly three thousand innocent lives and shatter the domestic invulnerability of the United States; they recalibrated the architecture of international security, reshaped the balance between individual liberty and state authority, fundamentally altered the trajectory of global politics, and left a profound psychological mark on societies worldwide. An Era Of Anxiety To understand the full magnitude of September 11, one must recall the geopolitical climate that preceded it. The 1990s were characterised by an overwhelming sense of



Western optimism. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, political theorists spoke of the "End of History" - a widespread belief that liberal democracy and market capitalism had permanently triumphed, promising a future defined by global economic integration and worldwide peace. The attacks of 2001 brutally shattered that illusion in a matter of hours. The threat was no longer a competing superpower operating under the logic of mutual assured destruction, nor a government anxious to expand the benefits of globalisation to its own populace; it was a decentralised, non-state terror network willing to weaponise civilian vulnerability to inflict maximum devastation. The era of effortless American hegemony gave way to a new age of existential anxiety, ushering in a security paradigm focused on asymmetric warfare, counterterrorism, and non-state violent actors. The immediate American response to the attacks set in motion two decades of military campaigns under the umbrella of the "Global War on Terror". The invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003 transformed the geopolitics of the

Middle East and Central Asia with consequences that continue to echo today. While counterterrorism operations successfully dismantled al-Qaeda's core infrastructure and eventually brought Osama bin Laden to justice, the broader strategic costs were immense. The prolonged conflict in Afghanistan became the longest war in American history, concluding in 2021 with a traumatic withdrawal and the return of Taliban rule. Meanwhile, the war in Iraq destabilised the region, gave rise to sectarian violence, created the conditions for the emergence of ISIS, and reshaped regional dynamics in favour of adversaries of the West-led consensus, like Iran. The quarter-century since 9/11 demonstrates that while military power can dismantle terrorist infrastructure, it cannot easily build stable polities or substitute for political reconciliation. Over twenty-five years, the human and financial toll of these conflicts-trillions of dollars spent and hundreds of thousands of lives lost, both military and civilian-fundamentally altered public attitudes toward foreign intervention across Western democracies.

How Trump Is Doing More For BRICS Than Its Critics Ever Could

KANWAL SIBAL

India is chairing the BRICS summit in a most challenging international environment. A lot of burden lies on India's shoulders to ensure the summit's success, just as in the case of the G20 summit earlier presided over by India. If the G20 summit could have been derailed by the confrontation between its western members and Russia over the Ukraine conflict, the BRICS summit has to forge a consensus on the conflict raging in the Gulf, with this time Iran and the UAE pitted against each other. The BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting failed to issue a joint statement because, despite efforts made by India, Russia, China, and others, the positions of Iran and the UAE could not be reconciled. The stakes this time are much higher for the credibility of BRICS as a group if this summit also fails to issue a joint declaration. Both Iran and the UAE would normally want to avoid being seen as responsible for this failure and should be prepared for a minimally acceptable compromise language. A lot of pressure will be brought upon them by other members to accept a consensus language. In the SCO summit declaration, Iran received unequivocal support from the members for the war unleashed against it. At the BRICS summit, the text will have to be heavily moderated, keeping in mind the UAE's position. China, which will hold the next summit, would prefer to pre-



side over a BRICS that can show that it can handle its internal divisions through a pragmatic compromise in the larger interest of the group and its rising international role. India's Challenge The consequences of the conflict in West Asia has most serious international ramifications on several fronts. The opening of the Strait of Hormuz is critical for the Gulf region, including the UAE, and the international community as a whole. India's diverse interests in the region are being especially hit hard. India will no doubt work overtime to have a clean Delhi Declaration with a consensus on all paragraphs and no reservations appended to the text by any member. President Trump has upended the global order that the West itself created after 1945. The American unilateralism that the world saw after the collapse of the Soviet Union has resurfaced again dramatically. Trump has wrecked the global trading

order by using tariffs and US trade legislation as a weapon. He seeks to control the global oil market. Kidnapping a serving head of state, as in Venezuela's case, initiating a war against Iran, and seeking regime change are acts that spurn the UN Charter and international law. He is alienating his closest allies, including Canada, the UK, and the European Union. This indirectly gives more salience to BRICS in the eyes of those who want to hedge against the domineering policies of the US. The De-Dollarisation Question Trump sees BRICS as an anti-US grouping. He has threatened BRICS countries with 100% tariffs if they moved towards de-dollarisation. BRICS has no de-dollarisation agenda as such, but seeks to promote trade in national currencies between member states. The logic is clear - if the US uses the dollar and its control of the global financial system as a weapon to bend other countries to its will, there will

inevitably be moves to reduce dependence on the dollar and build alternative payment systems. The progress in this direction will be slow, as BRICS countries, barring Russia and Iran, which have little or no trade with the US, the other countries, including India, have close economic investment ties with the US, and in the case of some BRICS members, even security ties. Nevertheless, even those who currently have a close relationship with the US realise the need to develop political ties with BRICS-plus countries, as well as promote alternative financial and payment mechanisms to escape the arbitrary grip of the US-controlled global financial system that allows the US to use sanctions as a coercive tool. BRICS Is Ready - Even Now To assume that to be taken seriously, BRICS should have a readymade, effective answer to the challenges that the non-West faces would be wrong.



Bankers’ Books Evidence Act, 2026 to come into force from 1st October 2026

Highlights

■ The Government has consistently pursued reforms to strengthen the banking and financial sector, promote ease of doing business and modernise the legal and regulatory framework in line with the evolving needs of the economy.



The Government has consistently pursued reforms to strengthen the banking and financial sector, promote ease of doing business and modernise the legal and regulatory framework in line with the evolving needs of the economy. With banking practices and technology evolving rapidly, laws governing banking records also need to keep pace with these changes. The Bankers’ Books Evidence Act, 2026, which received the assent of the President on 13th August 2026, replaces the Bankers’ Books Evidence Act, 1891 and provides for a modern framework for the use of banking records as evidence in line with con-

temporary banking practices. The notification dated 10th September 2026 (Gazette Notification Link attached below) appoints 1st October 2026 as the date on which the provisions of the Act will come into force. The Act adopts a technology-neutral approach by recognising banking records maintained in physical, electronic, digital, virtual, cloud-based and other contemporary forms. It also provides for simplified and standardised certification of banking records, including through manual, digital or electronic signatures. Greater clarity has also been provided on the summoning of bank officials

where the bank is not a party to the proceedings, with a “special cause” to be recorded in writing by the Court for such summoning. Further, the Central Government may extend the provisions to specified financial sector entities or classes of entities, allowing the framework to cater to the evolving financial landscape. These reforms reflect the Government’s continued commitment to modernising laws in line with technological advancements and evolving economic needs, promoting ease of doing business and strengthening a modern and efficient financial system.

OP Bhatt Exit: Coforge Board 'Gobsmacked' As KPMG Reveals Withheld Ratings



A KPMG internal audit at Coforge has uncovered the misrepresentation and omission of former Chairman O.P. Bhatt’s performance scores from the board, casting a shadow over his abrupt resignation earlier this week. The review, mandated under SEBI’s Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR), found that Bhatt’s evaluation scores were sent to D.K. Singh, Chairman of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC), but were never shared with the full board. Coforge is yet to hear back from Singh on why the scores were withheld, according to persons privy to the matter. According to persons privy to the matter, the board was “gobsmacked” by the revelation. Directors had previously been shown only incomplete observations rather than the full KPMG report, which sources describe as

“stark.” The governance red flag follows Bhatt’s unexpected resignation on Sept. 8, well before his tenure was set to end in April 2027. The board did not ask him to step down, according to sources but he resigned soon after being asked to explain the discrepancy. In a late-night exchange filing at 1:19 a.m. on Sept. 9, Coforge maintained there were no other material reasons for his departure. In his resignation email, Bhatt, who previously served as SBI Chairman and sits on the boards of TCS, ONGC, and Wockhard, emphasised his track record of acting in good faith. He noted he had always sought to discharge his duties “independently, objectively, and in the best interests of the company.” Moving to stabilise leadership, the board has appointed Independent Director Vivek Sharma as Interim Chairperson until Jan. 31, 2027.

Minister Piyush Goyal Calls for Deeper, Resilient and More Balanced Intra-BRICS Trade



With BRICS accounting for nearly one-fourth of global trade, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal today underlined the need for member and partner countries to build deeper, more resilient and balanced trade partnerships. Addressing the Opening Session of the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi, Shri Goyal emphasised greater market access, diversified supply chains and simpler regulatory procedures to unlock the full potential of economic cooperation. He expressed hope that the Forum would deliver significant outcomes and take economic dialogue and business partnerships among BRICS countries to the next level. The Opening Session was also addressed by H.E. Maxim Reshetnikov, Minister of Economic

Development of the Russian Federation; Union Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar; Minister of State for Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology Shri Jitin Prasada; and Commerce Secretary Shri Rajesh Agrawal. Shri Goyal said India is an important pillar of intra-BRICS trade and highlighted the country’s strong capabilities in engineering goods and electronics, which account for the largest segment of India’s manufacturing exports. He also noted that India is known as the pharmacy of the world. He said India sees BRICS as an important market for these and other products that it seeks to take to the world as a trusted partner. Emphasising the importance of deep and resilient trade

among partners, Shri Goyal said supply chains must be diversified and trade should not become an impediment to growth and the well-being of people in any member state. He called upon BRICS countries to open their markets for each other’s products, including raw materials and critical minerals. Shri Goyal said supply chains would be resilient when they run both ways. Noting that non-tariff measures impose higher export costs than tariffs themselves for 88 per cent of countries, he called for easier and smoother market access. He urged BRICS member and partner countries to open their markets while working together to simplify regulatory procedures and facilitate faster clearance of consignments. Calling for greater cooperation in agriculture, Shri Goyal urged

BRICS countries to encourage agri-tech startups to jointly develop solutions for farmers across BRICS nations in the interest of food security. He also called upon countries to open their services markets to each other in a real sense, facilitate the movement of professionals across borders and make it easier to recognise each other’s professional qualifications. Highlighting women’s participation in India’s startup and entrepreneurship ecosystem, Shri Goyal said that more than 45 per cent of the 250,000 recognised startups in India have at least one woman partner or director. He said two-thirds of the small loans provided in the last decade have been given to women entrepreneurs, helping them stand on their own feet and become independent and self-reliant.

India’s Coastline Must be Viewed as an Integrated Space of Ecology, Security, Economy, Technology and Human Development: Dr. Jitendra Singh



India’s coastline must be viewed as an interconnected space of ecology, security, economy, technology and human development, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said today while virtually addressing the National Conference on Coastal Ecology, Security and Sustainability (CCESS) 2026. India’s 11,000-12,000 km long coastline offers significant potential for marine resources and the “Blue Economy”, he added. The Minister said that the country’s long coastline and extensive marine ecosystem offer significant opportunities, while also

requiring an integrated approach combining scientific knowledge, environmental sustainability, security and economic development. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India has an 11,000-12,000 km long coastal area, among the longest in the world, and emphasised the importance of the ocean and coastal regions in the country’s future development. He said that India’s historical association with the ocean also reflects the knowledge and understanding of the marine environment possessed by its ancestors. Highlighting the importance of the Deep Ocean Mission, the Minister said that India is moving towards exploring the largely unexplored resources of the deep ocean while simultaneously building indigenous capabilities. He noted that a totally indigenous research vessel, ORV Sagar Manthan, was launched recently, reflecting efforts towards self-reliance in deep-ocean research and exploration. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that robots and submersibles are being developed to explore the depths of the ocean.

MONSOON RESILIENCE: CAPTIVE MINES DELIVERING GROWTH

Captive mines have been a mainstay of coal production, and their output has grown steadily. Production from captive mines rose from 167.44 MT in FY 2024-25 to 184 MT in FY 2025-26, a growth of 10.10%. Along with commercial mines, which produced ~26 MT, the captive and commercial segment together accounted for 210 MT in FY 2025-26 against 190.95 MT the previous year. Captive and Commercial mines account for about 21% of total domestic coal production, which stood at 1,039 MT in FY 2025-26 and has remained above one billion tonnes for the second year running. The performance has carried into the current year. Captive mines produced 68.98 MT up to 10 September 2026, against 65.78 MT in the corresponding period of FY 2025-26. This is a growth of about 5%, or an additional 3.2 MT, and it comes on a base that was itself 10.12% higher than the year before it. The gain has been recorded in the first five months of the year, which include the monsoon, when mining and evacuation are at their most difficult.



Dispatch from captive mines has also been better than previous year. Captive mines dispatched 75.68 MT against 71.43 MT last year, a growth of 5.94% and an increase of 4.25 MT. Provisional figures indicate the pace picking up further as the monsoon begins to recede. In the ten days between 01 September and 10 September 2026, captive mines produced 4.12 MT and dispatched 4.21 MT. New capacity is being added steadily to this base. Nine captive & commercial mines are expected to commence

production during FY 2026-27, with a combined peak rated capacity of 20.67 MT. Three of these, with peak capacity of 7.51 MT, have already started production during the current year. The remaining six, are expected to commence production soon during the year. On this footing, production from captive mines is expected to cross 190 MT in FY 2026-27. Together with commercial mines, the two segments are expected to exceed 228 MT during the current financial year. Recently, reports have

appeared in media on the auction of the Tara Coal block. These reports are misleading and incomplete facts have been used in these reports. These reports do not take into account the important developments that took place after 2023, which ultimately led to the auction of Tara (Revised) Coal Block in 2026. It is a fact that the Tara coal block offered under the 7th Tranche in 2023 was taken out of commercial coal mine auctions as letter was received from Government of Chhattisgarh for the exclusion of coal blocks in Hasdeo Arand area from the commercial coal mine auctions. Accordingly, the coal blocks in Hasdeo Arand area having overlap with Lemru elephant corridor were not offered in the subsequent tranches of commercial coal mine auctions. However, a letter dated 11.12.2025 was received from Government of Chhattisgarh to include the Tara coal block stating that “the coal block is outside the Lemru Elephant Corridor, and the coal block may be offered in the upcoming tranche of auction”.

DECATHLON INDIA’S WHOLESALE BUSINESS GROWS 20-FOLD IN 5 YEARS

New Delhi: Decathlon Sports India, leading sports goods manufacturer and retailer, on Friday said its wholesale or Business-to-business (B2B) business has grown 20-fold over the last five years and the vertical contributed about 10 per cent to the total revenue. According to RoC filings, Decathlon India’s revenue from operations was Rs 4,133.10 crore for the financial year ended on March 31, 2025. It is yet to file the FY26 numbers with the Registrar of Companies (RoC). The wholesale business now delivers to more than 20,000 pin codes across India, covering over 90 per cent of the country. “Tier 2 and Tier 3 regions, including high-altitude terrains across Jammu & Kashmir, Leh & Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and the Northeast, contribute more than 40 per cent of total B2B revenues,” the company said in a statement. Decathlon India’s wholesale arm is evolving into an integrated sports solutions partner, expanding its footprint to defence establishments, govern-



ment bodies and over 20,000 corporate clients and entities. “Positioned as the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), the B2B business of Decathlon Sports India has fulfilled 1000+ orders across multiple sports categories, supplying high-altitude expedition tents, cycles, footballs and field equipment directly to more than 500 government organisations and PSUs,” it said. The company said its B2B business serves the defence

sector through CSD Army Canteens and the Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandar (KPKB), besides partnering with over 20,000 corporate clients for workplace sport and wellness programmes and gifting solutions. It also works with more than 500 educational institutions, non-profits and community foundations, the statement said. “Wholesale stands as a core growth pillar at Decathlon Sports India, now contributing about 10 per cent of our overall business,” Raghwendra Singh,

Wholesale Director at Decathlon Sports India, said in the statement. He said a robust B2B sporting ecosystem is vital for the country’s development and that the company is backing employee health across enterprise India while strengthening its domestic manufacturing supply chain through its “Make in India” network. The wholesale business now delivers to more than 20,000 pin codes across India, covering over 90 per cent of the country.



9/11 VICTIMS REMEMBERED 25 YEARS ON FROM ATTACKS

James Stanley, 41, is part of a group of runners who together ran from Shanksville, Pennsylvania to the Pentagon in Virginia to the Twin Towers in New York City - all the sites planes where the four planes crashed on 11 September 2001. The total trip, organised by the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, clocks in at 485 miles (780km), run in multiple legs by participants over the course of several days. Stanley himself ran 125 of those miles - approximately one marathon per day. As a Navy veteran of 17 years, Stanley says this is "just my way of saying thanks and remembering". Stanley was in high school when the 9/11 attacks happened, and he remembers watching the TV in utter disbelief after a plane hit the North Tower. At first, he says, he thought it must have been an accident, until he saw the second plane hitting the South Tower. He says he wants younger generations to remember that "a lot of heroes died that day". Away from New York, leaders from across the world have also been paying their respects to those that died in

the 11 September attacks. French President Emmanuel Macron writes on social media that the day remains "etched in the world's memory" Italian President Giorgia Meloni writes in her statement that "Today's anniversary reminds us that democracy and security are not taken-for-granted achievements. They are pillars of our civilization, which we have the duty to preserve together" Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, also shares her sentiments, recalling how "25 years ago, the world stood still". She adds: "Where the Twin Towers once stood, two columns of light now rise into the New York sky. They remind us that light triumphs even on the darkest of days" Former and current New York leaders and officials have begun arriving at the 9/11 Memorial plaza of the World Trade Center ahead of the commemoration ceremony (which gets under way at 8:30 ET/12:30 BST). Mayor Zohran Mamdani, Democratic New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who

lead the city's response to the 11 September attacks, have all been seen arriving. Mayor Zohran Mamdani, Democratic New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who led the city's response to the 11 September attacks, have all been seen arriving. It's an unusually quiet morning near the 9/11 Memorial in downtown Manhattan. The sombre, reverent atmosphere feels palpable. Streets are closed off several blocks outward from the memorial, where the 25th anniversary commemoration ceremony will be held. Onlookers and mourners can be seen standing near the gates, and there's a large police presence. In a nearby park, dozens of men in uniform are gathered, quietly chatting with friends and family. Nearby, a large group of people wearing "United We Run" shirts hold up American flags. Still, commuters and food stand workers are going about their day in the midst of the quiet gatherings around them. Former President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama have also just released a statement to

commemorate those who lost their lives on 9/11 and in the aftermath. "If you were young in 2001, or weren't even born yet, it can be hard to imagine what 9/11 felt like," they write in the statement. "The heartbreak of the families whose loved ones were taken with such swiftness and cruelty." The former president and first lady say that they were "remembering those we lost that day, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the wars that followed". "And we hope Americans everywhere remember the true lesson of 9/11: that we can survive even our darkest days as long as we move forward as one nation and one people," they add. The White House has just released a statement on social media, saying a quarter of a century has passed since the "peace of our Nation was shattered by terrorists". "Today, we remember the 2,977 precious lives taken from us, honor the heroes who answered the call, & keep their families in the heart of our Nation," the post on X reads. "Above all, we must ensure the memory of 9/11 never fades, but is carried from one generation of Americans to the next. We

will never forget," the post says. Today marks 25 years since the 9/11 attacks that killed 2,977 people. Memorial events are taking place on both sides of the Atlantic, with commemorations already having taken place at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. Earlier, PM Andy Burnham paid tribute to those killed, including 67 Britons, saying: "I know the grief is still felt just as deeply today". Ceremonies in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington will begin shortly at 08:30 EDT (12:30 GMT, 13:30 BST), remembering those who died at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and when hijacked Flight 93 crashed in a field in Shanksville. The thousands who have died from illnesses related to dust and smoke in the years since 9/11 will also be specially remembered, with a new moment being added to the New York ceremony. Six bell tolls - commemorating the moment each plane crashed and tower fell - will be increased to seven. We've been sharing accounts from families and survivors throughout the day.



Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick lost hundreds of colleagues and his brother in the attacks



New York Governor Kathy Hochul wears a pin to honour 9/11 victims



Former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has just arrived at the ceremony

'WE WILL NEVER FORGET':

WHITE HOUSE RELEASES STATEMENT COMMEMORATING 'HEROES' OF 9/11

The White House has just released a statement on social media, saying a quarter of a century has passed since the "peace of our Nation was shattered by terrorists". "Today, we remember the 2,977 precious lives taken from us, honor the heroes who answered the call, & keep their families in the heart of our Nation," the post on X reads. "Above all, we must ensure the memory of 9/11 never fades, but is carried from one generation of Americans to the next. We will never forget," the post says. Memorial events are taking place on both sides of the Atlantic, with commem-



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Britons, saying: "I know the grief is still felt just as deeply today".

OBAMAS THANK FIRST RESPONDERS AND THOSE WHO MADE 'ULTIMATE SACRIFICE' IN WARS



Former President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama have also just released a statement to commemorate those who lost their lives on 9/11 and in the aftermath. "If you were young in 2001, or weren't even born yet, it can be hard to imagine what 9/11 felt like," they write in the statement. "The heartbreak of the families whose loved ones were taken with such swiftness and cruelty." The former president and first lady say that they were "remembering those we lost that day, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the wars that followed". "And we hope Americans everywhere remember the true lesson of 9/11: that we can survive even our darkest days as long as we move forward as one nation and one people," they add. Jonas and his crew were heading down the North

Tower after the South Tower collapsed during the 9/11 attacks, when they found Josephine Harris. As they arrived at the fourth floor, Harris fell and told him: "Leave me, get away from me, don't touch me." In the video below, Jonas describes the moment he made what has been described as a "monumental decision". King Charles III and Queen Camilla recently paid tribute to the victims of the 11 September attacks while on their state visit to the US. The royal couple visited the 9/11 Memorial in New York and laid flowers at the South Tower Memorial Pool. A handwritten note said: "We honour the memory for those who so tragically lost their lives on 11th September 2001. "We stand in enduring solidarity with the American people and in the face of their profound loss. Charles R Camilla."



King Charles III and Queen Camilla paid tribute to victims on state visit

MAMDANI, GIULIANI, AND NEW YORK LEADERS ARRIVE AHEAD OF CEREMONY

Former and current New York leaders and officials have begun arriving at the 9/11 Memorial plaza of the World Trade Center ahead of the commemoration ceremony (which gets under way at 8:30 ET/12:30 BST). Mayor Zohran Mamdani, Democratic New York Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who led the city's response to the 11 September attacks, have all been seen arriving. Janice Brooks says the "horror film"

scream of a woman hit by debris as they escaped the South Tower "lives in [her] head", while terminally-ill photographer Paul Berriff says he "thought [he'd] done well" by escaping that day until he was diagnosed three years ago with pulmonary fibrosis. More than 1,200 firefighters from across the world climbed 110 floors - the same height of the World Trade Center towers - to honour the US firefighters who died in the attacks and aftermath on 11 September 2001.

Several participants were from the UK. The firefighters were in their full uniform and equipment for the climb during humid 27C (80.6F) temperatures at the Atlanta Braves stadium. Most of the 343 firefighters who died were killed when the towers collapsed. "To see a plane going into a building and still go in and not know what you're going to find, that's unmatched, that sort of bravery," firefighter Beth Jones of Herefordshire, said ahead of the climb.



Islam Makhachev Sets UFC Record With 17th Consecutive Win In Welterweight Title Defense

The bridge of Islam Makhachev's nose, right cheek and forehead were scraped or sliced open and his left cheek sported a baseball-sized bruise after taking a few too many brutal blows to the face. He may not have looked the part, yet Makhachev was again a winner — all while toppling one of UFC's most enduring records. Makhachev set the UFC record with his 17th straight victory, reaching the milestone with a unanimous decision over Ian Machado Garry to successfully defend his 170-pound championship in the main event of UFC 330 on Saturday night. Makhachev won 49-46 on two scorecards and 48-47 on the third in a competitive five-round fight that never rose to the level of greatness. "He gave me a hard time," Makhachev said, "but I still prove it every fight." Makhachev (29-1) was tied with UFC Hall of Famer Anderson Silva with 16 straight victories and has not lost since UFC 192 in 2015. Makhachev won the welterweight crown in his first attempt when he beat Jack Della Maddalena at UFC 322 in November 2025. He took his share of head kicks in his first title defense, notably in the third round

that did most of the cosmetic damage, yet bested a record set by Silva that had stood for 13 years. "If he keeps going like he says he's going to keep going, it might never be beaten," UFC CEO Dana White said. The 34-year-old Makhachev nearly ended the fight in the second when he threw his left foot and caught Machado Garry flush with a headkick that dropped the challenger to his rear end. Makhachev pounced with a series of punches that had the sellout crowd of 19,238 fans roaring in anticipation of a quick finish, only for Machado Garry — serenaded throughout with obscenity-laced chants — to hold on and finish the round. Machado Garry (17-2) won the third round on all three scorecards and rallied in the fifth round with seven significant strikes landed to none for Makhachev. Yet it wasn't enough to topple one of UFC's great fighters. "I believed in my heart and soul I was better than him tonight, and he won," Machado Garry said. "No complaints, no excuses. I'm 28, I have a decade of domination already. This

man won tonight." Makhachev — who held the lightweight championship and has seven total wins in title fights — continues to dominate in the welterweight class. Mackenzie Dern successfully defended the 115-pound championship in her first title defense with a unanimous decision victory over Gillian Robertson that could set her up for a fight with division great Zhang Weili.



"Rahul Dravid Behaving Like An Owner": European Team Coach Shares Inside Details

The European T20 Premier League (ETPL) sees India great Rahul Dravid in a never-seen-before avatar, as the coach of the Dublin Guardians franchise. Vikram Rathore, who is the coach of the franchise, is used to seeing Dravid as part of the support staff, having worked with him in the Indian team and the IPL, but it's quite an experience for him to see the former India captain donning the owner's hat. Rathore revealed that despite the fact that the Dublin franchise went five games without a win, Dravid has been thoroughly supportive. "Rahul is behaving like an owner. I mean, he hasn't been too involved. So, it's been good. But I mean, as I said earlier, it is great to have somebody like him on the other side, because he spent enough time being a coach. So, he understands how the teams can go and how the results can go. So, he's been very supportive through the initial phase of this tournament, where we haven't won anything. We didn't win any games out of the first five that we played.

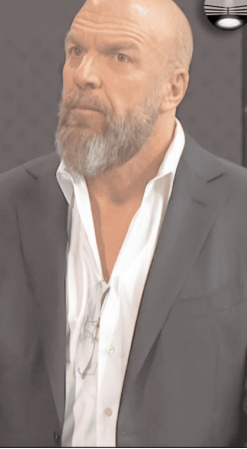


But he has been very supportive," said Rathore during a virtual media round-table. "He's been really good, which you expect from somebody like Rahul anyway," he added. The franchise is led by Ravichandran Ashwin, a modern-day cricket great, who is no longer involved in mainstream cricket. Rathore revealed that it's mostly Ashwin who has been taking up the responsibility of day-to-day cricketing affairs, be it strategies against opponents, selection or other matters. Dravid, despite being the owner, hasn't intervened in such decision-making. "As far as Ashwin is concerned, obviously, he has great knowl-

edge of cricket, of cricketers. He's basically almost a cricket fanatic, I call him. He watches so much cricket, and he has so much knowledge of players from all around the world. That is like phenomenal," said Rathore. The former India batting coach also admitted that his job has become easier because of Ashwin's presence in the team. "It surprises you, actually, at times, how much he knows about these conditions and these players. So, again, a great help to have somebody like him around. Because, like I said earlier, my time has been spent in Indian cricket mostly. So, for me, it was something very new and very different.

WWE's Triple H And Rob Fee Join Marvel's Amazing Spider-Man #1000 In A Major Creative Crossover

Triple H is taking on a very different kind of writing project. The WWE Chief Content Officer has been named as one of the writers for Marvel's Amazing Spider-Man #1000, the huge anniversary issue set to hit stores on September 30. Rob Fee, another WWE creative figure, is also credited as a writer, putting both names alongside some of Marvel's biggest Spider-Man contributors. The milestone comic is not just a regular issue with a bigger number on the cover. Marvel is bringing together a large group of writers for the oversized edition, mixing the ongoing Spider-Man story with several anniversary stories. Triple H has his own contribution, titled "The Big



Night," with artwork from Ed McGuinness. Fee is also listed in the writing credits, though Marvel's preview does not say which story he worked on. Triple H's contribution is one of the anniversary stories includ-

ed in the special issue. "The Big Night" will feature artwork by Ed McGuinness, giving the WWE executive a direct creative credit inside one of Marvel's biggest Spider-Man releases. His appearance on the issue's

writing team also adds another non-wrestling project to his work. Triple H is currently WWE's Chief Content Officer, but this comic puts his name into a completely different entertainment space. Why Rob Fee is also part of the issue Rob Fee is credited as another writer on Amazing Spider-Man #1000. Unlike Triple H's contribution, however, the available preview does not identify which specific story Fee wrote. Fee's credit comes alongside his work in entertainment and creative development, in addition to his role with WWE. That makes the issue a notable crossover for both WWE figures, but in different ways.

Pakistan Duo Questioned For Hours By Cyber Crime Unit, Sought More Time To Respond

Pakistan cricketers Mohammad Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq reported to the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), where they were reportedly questioned over the alleged dressing-room leaks during Pakistan's ongoing tour of England. Rizwan and Imam were among the seven players sent home by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) mid-series following the team's poor performance in England. According to a report in Geo News, Rizwan and Imam were investigated at the NCCIA headquarters in Lahore's Johor Town for around two hours. While the two were questioned about their contracts and meetings during their time in England, the players reportedly sought



additional time to provide further responses. The report added that, since the investigation is currently underway, the PCB would refrain from commenting on the matter. The PCB also labelled the allegations concerning the players and officials as 'unverified and baseless'. Reports had earlier claimed that a third cricketer was also

investigated by the NCCIA based on data retrieved from their mobile phones. Earlier this week, the PCB confirmed that an internal disciplinary inquiry had been launched following reports about issues related to "discipline and conduct" after media allegations that the investigations involving Imam and Rizwan had widened. In the aftermath of the Lord's Test, the PCB released seven players from the squad, including Mohammad Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq, Salman Agha, Ali Usman, Aamer Jamal, Awais Zafar and Khurram Shahzad. The PCB also roped in Mike Hesson and Ashley Noffke, who are part of Pakistan's white-ball coaching setup, as head coach and bowling coach, respectively.

'Animesh And I Will Win': Gurindervir Backs India For Sprint Double At Asian Games



"I Don't Really Take Pressure": Parul Chaudhary's Bold Asian Games Message

Defending 5000m champion Parul Chaudhary will take on an expanded programme at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026, adding the 1500m event to the 5000m and 3000m steeplechase, with the Indian distance runner viewing the increased workload as an opportunity rather than an added burden. Parul, who won 5000m gold and 3000m steeplechase silver at the Hangzhou Asian Games, is preparing for her second continental Games at the Sports Authority of India's regional centre in Bengaluru. The three-event schedule will mark a new challenge for the 30-year-old, but she is confident about her readiness.



FROM VILLAGE AKHADA TO 6 ASIAN TITLES: SUNIL KUMAR WANTS ONE MORE GOLD AT ASIAN GAMES



Sunil Kumar, who competes in the 87kg category in Greco-Roman wrestling, began his journey in the sport in his village, long before the six-time Asian champion had any idea of the heights he would go on to reach. What started as a personal pursuit soon grew into something bigger, a desire to represent and win for the country, and that motivation has stayed with him through every stage of his career since. "I started wrestling in my village, and in the beginning, it was just something I enjoyed doing. But as I grew and started competing, I began to think that I wanted to do something for my country, not just for myself. That thought has stayed with me ever since, and it is what pushes me even today," said Sunil. Now heading into the Asian Games as one of the most decorated wrestlers in the Indian contingent, Sunil arrives with a bronze medal from the 19th Asian Games already to his name, and his focus this time remains singular. As part

of his preparation, the Indian team recently trained at a camp in Uzbekistan, sharpening their game alongside some of the strongest wrestlers in the region, including reigning champions from the 2022 edition of the Games. "My full focus right now is on winning a gold medal for the country at the Asian Games. Everything I am doing is working towards that one goal. We recently had a training camp in Uzbekistan, and it went very well. The Uzbek wrestlers are very good, and there were a few gold medalists from 2022 training there as well. Training alongside wrestlers of that level pushed all of us to get better," he said. Sunil has had his own share of battles with injury over the years, including a knee surgery last year, and he is candid about the fact that the fear of getting hurt never fully goes away for any wrestler, even at his level. But he also sees that fear as something every athlete in the sport learns to carry rather than let hold them back.

Aryna Sabalenka Powers Past Jessica Pegula To Enter Final, Eyes Third Straight US Open Title

Top seed Aryna Sabalenka stayed on course for a third consecutive US Open crown on Thursday, storming into the final with a straight sets demolition of American third seed Jessica Pegula. Sabalenka — who beat Pegula en route to US Open wins in 2024 and 2025 — punched her ticket to Saturday's final with a 7-5, 6-2 win on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court. The 28-year-old Belarusian, bidding to join Chris Evert and Serena Williams as the only women to win three straight US Open titles, swatted aside Pegula with a dominant service game and a fearsome array of powerful groundstrokes. Sabalenka will face the winner of Thursday's

other semi-final between second seed Elena Rybakina or fourth seed Coco Gauff — who beat Sabalenka in the 2023 final. On the evidence of her semi-final win, Sabalenka will head into the final bristling with confidence after producing her best performance of the tournament to snuff out Pegula's dream of a first ever Grand Slam title. "I'm super happy I was able to play such tennis," said Sabalenka,

who sent down seven aces and 29 winners. "I was so desperate to win. I wanted it so badly." Both players gave away little in the first set, serving superbly to keep the match on serve until the 12th game, with Sabalenka leading 6-5. It was Pegula who would blink first, finding herself down 0-40 after a barrage of hefty groundstrokes from Sabalenka, who clinched the set when Pegula duffed a return into the net. Sabalenka kept the momentum rolling in the second set, attacking Pegula's suspect sec-

ond serve and grabbing the crucial break for a 3-1 lead when she lased a forehand into the corner. The rest of the set went with serve until the eighth game, when Pegula hit a return long to give up match point. Sabalenka sealed victory with another ferocious forehand.



Top seed Aryna Sabalenka stayed on course for a third consecutive US Open crown on Thursday

‘EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER’ Receives Positive Response; Anand Deverakonda

Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya, the popular pair from the blockbuster Baby, have teamed up once again for the youthful entertainer EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER. The film marks the silver-screen directorial debut of Aditya Hasan, who won the hearts of Telugu audiences with the successful web series 90s. Presented by Srikara Studios and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, EPIC – FIRST SEMESTER arrived in the theatres on September 11. The film had its premieres on the night of September 10 and received a positive response right from the premiere shows. With its natural humour, relatable emotions and youthful love story, the film is connecting particularly well with younger audiences. Following the encouraging response, the team held a press meet and shared their happiness while thanking audiences for their support. Anand Deverakonda: “Thank you to audiences for making our trust come true” Speaking at the press meet, Anand Deverakonda said, “The film has received a very good response right from the premieres. Many people are saying that, considering the content, this is a film that could have come five years later. The love story and family emotions are connecting with audiences. This is a film we made with complete honesty. “I studied abroad, so I



connected strongly with this story. The journey of a young man from a middle-class family, his emotions and the conversations he has with his father are very close to my heart. When I watched 90s, I felt that Aditya Hasan was a great writer. After watching EPIC, people are once again appreciating his dialogues and writing. “I connected with Aditya’s character, the writing and the love story. That is why I believed in this film and chose to do it. I am extremely happy that audiences are now responding positively to it. The comedy in the first half and the emotions in the second half are being appreciated by everyone.” Vaishnavi Chaitanya:

“Audiences are seeing themselves in the characters” Vaishnavi Chaitanya said, “Many people have messaged me after watching the film. They are talking about Aditya’s character and Kadali’s character, and many have told me that they felt as if they were seeing themselves on screen. “This is a new attempt that all of us believed in. I watched the film with my friends and cousins, and they particularly appreciated the way the film addresses subjects such as periods and PCOD. These are things that are difficult for someone to understand unless they actually experience them. “Every girl wants someone to care for her dur-

ing such situations. In this film, the boy genuinely cares for and loves the girl. I think that has connected with audiences. In particular, the response from female audiences has been very encouraging.” Suryadevara Naga Vamsi said, “EPIC is receiving a very good response, especially from the youth. We will plan a sequel soon. “As a viewer, I personally like romantic comedies. I have wanted to make a good love story for a long time. When Aditya Hasan narrated this story, we liked it and decided to make the film. “In a way, this can be called an experi-

ment. We did not make this film based on commercial calculations. We made it because we genuinely loved the story. The response from audiences has made us very happy. The positive feedback, particularly from women, is especially encouraging. “If you have not watched the film yet, please do watch it. There is no point where you will feel bored. I am confident that you will enjoy the film.” Aditya Hasan: “We wanted to tell the story naturally and honestly” Director Aditya Hasan said, “People who have studied abroad will connect strongly with this film. I wrote this story based on incidents I have seen in real life.

Mahesh Sriram’s Hollywood Film Cowboy and Indian Set for a Grand Release; Phani Gearing Up for Worldwide Release Soon

Telugu actor Mahesh Sriram is steadily carving a niche for himself in Hollywood with a series of English-language films. He is currently playing the lead role in Phani, directed by V.N. Aditya, which is gearing up for a grand release soon. The film has already generated good buzz among movie lovers through its impressive promotional content. Meanwhile, Mahesh Sriram’s Hollywood film Cowboy and Indian is all set for a grand releasing soon In the film, he plays Vijay, the close friend of Steve, a character portrayed by noted Hollywood actor Brad Knapp. Vijay is a loyal friend who values Steve’s opinions, understands his perspective, and stands by him with unwavering support. Mahesh Sriram is expected to impress audiences with his heartfelt performance in this role. The film is directed by Leo P. Shelley. Mahesh Sriram’s growing presence in exciting Hollywood projects has further increased the anticipation surrounding Phani. Acclaimed filmmaker Dr. V.N. Aditya is mounting Phani as a global-scale thriller with an international appeal. Produced by Dr. Meenakshi Anipindi under the OMG Productions banner and presented by AU & I Studio, Phani stars Catherine Tresa in the



female lead. The film is slated for release soon in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and several other international languages.

A Song That Celebrates Father’s Love – ‘AmmaPremaPanchuNanne’ from ‘Premane Oorilo’



AmmaPremaPanchu Nanne’ Brings Heartwarming Father-Son Emotions from ‘Premane Oorilo’ The upcoming Telugu film ‘Premane Oorilo’, produced jointly by Chandu Srinivas, Suresh Kondeti and Mamatha Devendra M under the banners of Maharatna Productions, SK Pictures and Vanilla Entertainments, has been creating interest with its refreshing rural backdrop and emotional content. The film is written and directed by Manoj Kumar, with Shree Ram, Ramika Shivu, Thapaswini Poonacha, Rangayana Raghu and others playing key roles. Following the recently released teaser, which generated good curiosity among audiences, the makers have now released a soulful song titled ‘Amma Prema Panchu Nanne’ from the film. The song beautifully showcases the unconditional love and emotional bond between a

father and his son. Penned by renowned lyricist Rambabu Gosala and composed by Sunaad Gowtham, the song gains further strength from the soulful vocals of Ram Miriyala. With its heartfelt lyrics, touching visuals and authentic village atmosphere, ‘Amma Prema Panchu Nanne’ is designed to connect emotionally with audiences, especially those who cherish the special bond between parents and children. The film’s dialogues have been written by Hanuman Chowdary, known for his work on films including KGF and Kantara. Rambabu Gosala has penned the lyrics, while Sunaad Gowtham is composing the music. Rajkanth SK handles cinematography and Harshith Prabh is the editor. With a blend of love, emotions, family relationships, strong characters and a beautiful rural setting, ‘Premane Oorilo’ promises to offer a wholesome cinematic experience.

Thank You to Udaya Bhanu Garu for Believing in My Talent and Giving Me an Opportunity

Popular anchor, actress and producer Udaya Bhanu, who has produced a few projects in the past, has turned producer for a series for the first time. She has passionately produced the six-episode series Panchanama, which is now streaming on ZEE5 from September 11. Directed by Mohan Srivatsa, Panchanama recently held a preview press meet ahead of its streaming release. At the press meet, producer Udaya Bhanu spoke about fashion designer Bhavana Polepalli, who worked on the costumes for the series.



IRUMUDI BLOCKBUSTER CELEBRATIONS IN FULL SWING

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja’s ‘Irumudi’ continues its successful run at the box office. Audiences from all walks of life are flocking to this movie. The movie, which is making huge collections, is still recording strong collections today. The makers of this movie, directed by Shiva Nirvana, recently organized blockbuster celebrations in the backdrop of this movie continuing its momentum at the box office. Speaking on the occasion, Hero Ravi Teja said.. Many, many thanks to all our directors, producers, and distributors. I have nothing more to say.. Everyone has said a lot about this success. This film has given me immense satisfaction. It has earned me a lot of respect. Thousands of thanks to everyone who worked for this film. Shiva made us work hard



for many nights and gave us a super success. We all had a lot of fun on the sets of the film. Ajay Ghosh is an actor as talented as Kota Srinivasa Rao Baba. He can do any character. Sai Anna and Priya

Bhavani, you are just super. When many people call me and tell me their reactions about each scene, my joy knows no bounds. The fact that I have received so much respect with this film

means that all that credit goes to Niv Nirvana. As an actor, I feel very proud now. Irumudi means Shiva, Shiva means Shiva Nirvana. "Thank you to everyone who worked on this film," he said.

KRITHI SHETTY GLOWS IN SUN-KISSED – UP CLOSE



Krithi Shetty is melting hearts with her latest close-up picture, and it’s giving pure natural beauty vibes. The actress is seen basking in golden sunlight, her hair softly tousled as she tilts her head with a playful, candid smile. Dressed in a delicate floral printed outfit, she keeps the look effortless and fresh, letting her sun-kissed glow do all the talking. The lighting in the picture beautifully highlights her features, from her rosy cheeks to her bright,

expressive eyes, giving the frame a warm, dreamy feel. Fans are loving how simple yet stunning she looks, proving that Krithi doesn’t need heavy styling to make heads turn. On the work front, Krithi Shetty has an exciting project lined up. She will be seen alongside Dagubati Venkatesh in a film directed by Anil Ravipudi, and fans are eagerly looking forward to more updates on this highly anticipated collaboration.