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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

19-09-2026
Total pilgrims: 68,265
Tonsure: 26,569
Hard Karak: 436 GS
Laddu sale: 521 Lac
Annaprasadam: 122 Lac
Acharya hospital: 5,572
Present Situation on 18-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments: 31

Approx. Duration Time for Saravali darshan (with-out SSP lanes): 30-45

ED arrests accused in TTD ghee case

Hyderabad (TSIT): The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hyderabad Zonal Office, has arrested Kailash Chand Mangla in connection with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) ghee adulteration case. Kailash Chand Mangla, promoter of Sukriti Foods Pvt. Ltd., was arrested on Thursday under Section 13 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. He was produced before the Special Court (PMLA), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, which remanded him to judicial custody, the central agency said in a release on Friday. The ED initiated the investigation based on an FIR registered at Tirupati East Police Station, alleging criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery, and corruption related to the fraudulent supply of adulterated ghee to TTD. Investigators revealed that adulterated ghee was allegedly manufactured using refined palm oil, palm kernel oil, palmolein, and various chemicals, including MG-90, mono-glycerides, Myvacet Soft 400, and acetic acid ester.

India rejects Pakistan's ship collision allegations

Islamabad sought to blame the INS Kolkata for the incident, and lodged a protest with New Delhi.

NEW DELHI (TSIT): India Friday rejected Pakistan's allegations on the alarming incident in the high seas where a Pakistani naval ship dangerously collided with INS Kolkata earlier this week.

Islamabad sought to blame the INS Kolkata for the incident, and lodged a protest with New Delhi. Randhir Jaiswal, the official spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, underlined that the Indian naval ship was on "routine deployment" before the PNS Hunain "conducted itself in an unacceptable and unprofessional manner" that resulted in the collision.

"We have seen Pakistan's response to the protest we had lodged. It is the usual prevarication that we expected. We reject the allegations and insinuations contained therein," Jaiswal said at a regular press briefing. He added: "The dangerous overtaking manoeuvre



Islamabad sought to blame the INS Kolkata for the incident, and lodged a protest with New Delhi.

by PNS Hunain was in gross violation of Article 10 of the Agreement between India and Pakistan on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements of April 1991, which specifies that naval units at sea are not to be within 3 nautical miles of each other. In addition, the Pakistani ship also infringed the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea."

India urged Pakistan to ensure all military units

"observe due care" and respect the existing agreements in place between both countries to manage such situations. The INS Kolkata continued with her deployment, and is currently at sea. The incident occurred late Tuesday evening in the North Arabian Sea, when the PNS Hunain collided dangerously with the INS Kolkata. The Pakistani naval ship, built by Damen Shipyards in Romania, was commissioned in July 2024.

The INS Kolkata issued warnings to the approaching Pakistani vessel. Towards the end of the encounter, the PNS Hunain attempted a close-range manoeuvre, which resulted in the collision, as reported. The Pakistani vessel suffered a dent, and potentially even a crack, thereby being forced to return to harbour. The PNS Hunain was unable to steer clear of the Indian vessel.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders to develop greenfield shipyard at Andhra's Dugarajapatnam



AMARAVATI (TSIT): Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), a Navratna Defence PSU under the Ministry of Defence, will develop a modern greenfield shipyard at Dugarajapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, it was announced on Friday.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) towards this effect was signed between MDL Chairman & Managing Director Captain Jagmohan (retd) and National Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Park-Andhra Pradesh (NSHIP-AP) Managing Director Praveen Adhithya on Friday in the presence of Chief Minister

N. Chandrababu Naidu, according to an official release.

The Andhra Pradesh government is envisaging the development of a greenfield shipbuilding-cum-port cluster at Dugarajapatnam, and the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report estimates the shipbuilding and ship repair yard cost at approximately Rs 29,254 crore and the port at Rs 9,513 crore. The port is proposed to be developed by the Centre.

Under the MoU, MDL envisages an investment of around Rs 15,000 crore over the next five to seven years, subject to the required approvals and clearances.

World is looking towards Hyderabad, says CM Revanth



HYDERABAD (TSIT):

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Friday that the world is looking towards Hyderabad, not just for investments and business, but for knowledge, skills, talent, innovation, and the ideas that will shape the future of the world. In a post on X, the Chief Minister said he met a delegation of leading UK business schools and universities to deepen partnerships in executive education, research, global skills, and industry-academia collaboration.

He announced that from December, Harvard Executive Education programmes will be offered in Hyderabad, with collaborations also underway with MIT, Purdue, University of

London, Virginia Tech and Northeastern University. "Bharat Future will take this vision further - bringing together a world-class Education Hub, Young India Skills University, global companies, cutting-edge research and the talent for the future.

Our goal is clear: make Telangana a place where the world comes to learn, innovate and invest. \$1 Trillion by 2034 | \$3 Trillion by 2047. That's our target.!"

Earlier, the Chief Minister announced that the world-renowned Harvard University will start an academic programme by offering executive education courses to aspirants in Hyderabad from December 2026.

During a meeting with a delegation from UK business schools on Thursday, the Chief Minister stated that the Telangana government is taking rapid strides toward transforming the state into a 'Global Knowledge Hub.'

Telangana HC disqualifies Danam Nagender as Khairatabad MLA

- VERDICT PUTS OTHERS' DEFECTION CASES UNDER FRESH LEGAL SPOTLIGHT

HYDERABAD,
TSIT BUREAU:



The Telangana High Court's disqualification of Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender has implications well beyond one Assembly seat, putting the spotlight back on the fate of nine other BRS MLAs who crossed over to the ruling Congress after the 2023 Assembly elections.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G. M. Mohiuddin on Friday set aside Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar's decision rejecting the disqualification petition against Nagender and held that he stood disqualified from April 23, 2024, when he contested the Secunderabad Lok Sabha election as a Congress candidate while being a BRS MLA.

The court also declined a request to keep the order in abeyance to enable Nagender to appeal, citing the interests of the constituency. It directed that copies of the order be communicated to the Assembly Secretary, Speaker and Election Commission.

Nagender had won Khairatabad on a BRS ticket in December 2023. He subsequently joined the Congress and contested the Secunderabad Lok Sabha election on its ticket without resigning his

Assembly seat. BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy and BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy challenged the Speaker's March 2026 decision rejecting the disqualification plea.

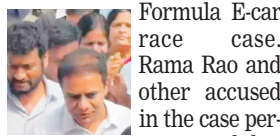
Nine other cases in focus

The immediate political and legal significance of Friday's ruling lies in the other defection petitions pending before the High Court. The Speaker had rejected petitions concerning a total of 10 BRS MLAs, and challenges to those decisions have been filed in the High Court. Danam Nagender ruling does not, by itself, automatically determine the outcome of those cases. Each petition will have to be considered on its own facts and the court's orders in the respective matters.

See More on Page 5

KTR appears before court in Formula E-car race case

HYDERABAD (TSIT): Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao on Friday appeared before the special ACB Court here in the



Formula E-car race case. Rama Rao and other accused in the case personally appeared in court in response to the summons. Indian Administrative Service officer Arvind Kumar and the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority's former Chief Engineer B.L.N. Reddy also appeared before the court. The court later adjourned the hearing in the case to October 30. This is the second time former minister Rama Rao has appeared before the court in the Formula E-car race case. He had earlier appeared on July 31 but had sought exemption from personal appearance on August 25.

India identifies 2,000 Indian residents in Nagoya as accommodation backup for Asian Games contingent

Nagoya, Sep 18 : With accommodation concerns emerging ahead of the Asian Games, India has identified around 2,000 Indian residents living in Nagoya whose homes could be used to accommodate athletes and officials in a worst-case scenario, as a three-layer contingency programme has been put in place to ensure the Indian contingent does not face any further lodging-related difficulties.

According to details available with IANS, the three-layer programme is being handled jointly by the Indian Sports Ministry, Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Chef de Mission and the Indian diaspora in Nagoya.

Under the first layer, two personnel will be stationed at the airport to coordinate the arrival and movement of Indian athletes and officials. The second layer com-



prises three personnel at the Athlete Welcome Centre, who will assist the contingent with accommodation and other logistical requirements. The third layer involves the Indian diaspora in Nagoya, with around 2,000 local Indian residents identified as a potential support network. In a worst-case scenario, their homes could

be used to provide temporary accommodation to Indian athletes and officials if required.

The contingency plan has been put in place after some athletes faced accommodation-related difficulties following their arrival in Nagoya. The Indian contingent has since made additional arrangements to ensure that athletes have

suitable accommodation and that lodging issues do not affect their preparations for the Games. The three-layer mechanism is aimed at providing immediate assistance at the airport, support at the Athlete Welcome Centre and, if necessary, a wider accommodation safety net through the Indian community in Nagoya.

Mamata Banerjee moves SC challenging ECI order freezing TMC name, symbol

NEW DELHI (TSIT) :

Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Election Commission of India's (ECI) decision to freeze the party's name and its election symbol amid the ongoing dispute between rival factions. The plea, filed on Friday, has been registered under Diary No. 58005/2026, with Mamata Banerjee as the petitioner and the Election Commission of India, its Secretary and rebel leader Ritabrata Banerjee as respondents.

The plea comes a day after the poll panel passed an interim order barring both the Mamata Banerjee-led faction and the Ritabrata Banerjee-led faction from



using the Trinamool Congress name and its reserved 'Flowers and Grass' election symbol.

The ECI directed both groups to submit alternative names and symbols for the upcoming by-elections. The poll panel had said that there were two rival groups claiming to be the All India Trinamool Congress and that the dispute required a substantive determination under Paragraph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

Tulu to be second additional official language: K'taka CM

MANGALURU (TSIT):

A special cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar approved projects worth Rs.32,611 crore, including granting Tulu the status of 'second additional official language' for Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts, the Coastal and Malenad Karnataka Tourism Policy 2026, and a 150-acre fisheries park.

Shivakumar said Rs.16,000 crore is allocated for rural development, with the rest for coastal districts. He recalled former Minister Ramanath Rai first demanding Tulu's recognition and congratulated all who worked towards it. A decision on renaming



Dakshina Kannada to Mangaluru will follow public opinion. Other approvals include a fisheries university, a Rs.549-crore medical college in Puttur, and plans to hold cabinet meetings at 10-12 locations over 15 months.



Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Chanchal Kumar administers the pledge on the occasion of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day, in New Delhi

EDITORIAL

Advertising, newspapers and the question of accountability

When paid content begins to resemble news, the question becomes not just about advertising, but about the credibility of the media. Any content published on a newspaper's front page evokes a certain credibility in the reader's mind. This is why, when a full-page advertisement in support of a controversial individual or organization appears, presented as news or factual investigation, the issue goes beyond mere advertising and payment. It also involves media credibility, editorial discretion, and social accountability. On September 12, 2026, a full-page advertisement related to a Dera appeared in the Delhi, Mohali, and North India editions of The Hindu. A similar advertisement was also reported to have appeared in the Delhi edition of Dainik Bhaskar. The advertisement was titled, "What is a Dera? Fact vs. Fiction." It presented several claims in favor of the Dera and its jailed leader, as well as a defense of the cases against him. Following the growing controversy, The Hindu published an unconditional apology on its front page on September 13th. The newspaper apologized to readers, calling the advertisement "objectionable" and "highly objectionable." On September 15th, the newspaper also stated that it would not foot the bill for the advertisement and did not intend to derive any commercial benefit from it. This raises a significant question about the media's responsibility. If, after publishing a piece of content, the publisher himself admits that the content was seriously objectionable, the obvious question is: what kind of system was in place to vet and evaluate it before publication? Institutional distance between the advertising department and the editorial department is essential, but does this distance alone completely insulate a newspaper from the social impact of its published content? The issue is serious because the advertisement wasn't simply promoting a product or service. According to available reports, it addressed the legal cases involving the Dera chief, the allegations against him, and the organization's social activities. The advertisement also presented statistics related to the Dera's activities related to drug de-addiction, blood donation, tree planting, and other social activities. Independent verification of these statistics was not provided in the advertisement. It's important to understand an important distinction here. An individual or organization has the right to present its point of view. Newspapers also have the commercial right to publish advertisements. However, clearly marking an advertisement as an advertisement and informing the reader that its claims are those of the advertiser is only part of a media organization's responsibility. When the same content is presented on the front page, directly below the newspaper's name and reputation, with news-like headlines and statistics, the question of its impact naturally arises in the reader's mind. The disclaimer on the advertisement is also a significant aspect of this controversy. The publications concerned stated that the newspaper had no editorial or journalistic role in the advertisement's creative content. However, media experts understandably question whether a disclaimer alone is sufficient, especially when the paid content is published in a prominent location and its language appears newsworthy. According to photographs and reports that surfaced on September 13th, the same advertisement also appeared on the front page of Dainik Jagran.

Pak's Drone Deal With A US Firm Is No Windfall. But India Must Still Be Worried

Aishwaria Sonavane

A US drone company, Powerus, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Pakistan Army that includes an initial, undisclosed order for unmanned aerial systems. Powerus co-founder Brett Velicovich confirmed the deal, but refused the disclosure of details pertaining to the technology or its value, citing security-related sensitivities. Powerus, according to reports, is due to merge with Aureus Greenway Holdings, which is backed by US President Donald Trump's two sons. The merger is expected to be completed by October. The current deal, despite the limited information, brings to light a few thoughts - including how Washington's private sector, closely linked to US President Donald Trump's family, is occupying the space vacated by cold state-to-state aid and defence ties, how Trump's family business interests are increasingly intertwined in ties with Pakistan, and how little any of these developments have historically translated into reliable, long-term strategic gains for Pakistan. American military aid to Pakistan has remained suspended since January 2018, during Trump's first term, but a commercial arms sale is separate from this arrangement. The suspension essentially concerns the US government assistance, including Foreign Military Financing and Coalition Support Fund reimbursements, such as grant assistance and counter-terrorism reimbursements. However, these measures do not prohibit American defence companies from selling military technology to Pakistan. US defence exports are generally channelled through two avenues - Foreign Military Sales (FMS), through which the US government facilitates sales to foreign governments, and



Direct Commercial Sales (DCS), which allow foreign governments or entities to purchase defence services from American private companies directly; DCS transactions, however, remain subject to US export-control requirements and relevant licensing. On the Pakistani side, the Directorate General Defence Purchase (DGDP), under the Ministry of Defence Production, oversees defence procurement policy, contracting, and the acquisition of defence equipment. While the deal falls within the existing legal framework, the more consequential details, such as the specific authorisations of the drones, the quality, and value of the initial order, remain undisclosed. On Again, Off Again The current private defence deal comes in the context of a long, tumultuous relationship between Washington and Islamabad, which has traditionally remained centered on security

engagements. The first major institutionalisation came in 1954, when the US and Pakistan signed the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement, which involved defence equipment and military training for Pakistan. Subsequently, Islamabad - quite reluctantly - became part of the US-backed regional security bloc and a crucial recipient of American aid. The transactional relationship, despite its current warmth, has fundamentally been marred by deep institutional mistrust and frustration. Both countries have often sought different things from the partnership - Islamabad has wanted a more assertive posture against India from the US, and Washington has sought to align Pakistan's security policies with its own. Despite the lowest point of ties in 2018, and after the ouster of NATO forces from Afghanistan in 2021, military-to-military contact did

not entirely end. In December 2025, Washington approved a USD 686 million package for Pakistan's existing F-16 fleet, covering Link-16 systems, cryptographic equipment, avionics, training, and logistical support. This was designed to keep the US-made aircraft operational and interoperable. Even as Trump has exalted Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir as his "favourite Field Marshal" for his mediation role between the US and Iran in the ongoing West Asian conflict, the security relationship continues to be narrow, selective, and conditional. Nevertheless, the optics of this deal deserve greater attention, given the reported involvement of Trump's sons through an investment fund in the company. This development demonstrates a larger pattern in the nature of US-Pakistan ties, in which diplomacy, personal rapport, and private capital are closely linked. This was also seen

in the cryptocurrency deal in January 2026, when the Pakistani government signed an MoU with an American company affiliated with World Liberty Financial, the Trump family's crypto venture. Given Pakistan's growing role in West Asia, the deal seems consistent with Pakistan's historic strategy of keeping itself relevant to Washington, largely through its rentier-state model. The idea is to deliver enough to remain indispensable to the US, while the military establishment consolidates more power at home. Pak's Drone Capabilities Given the May 2025 conflict with India, where the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) became a key feature of this conflict, this deal could have implications for Pakistan's defence industry and drone capabilities. Pakistan's defence industry has already established a sustained UAV ecosystem. The state-linked

defence company Global Industrial & Defence Solutions (GIDS) publicises the Shahpar-II and Shahpar-III UAVs alongside smaller tactical UAVs, loitering munitions, surveillance payloads, and anti-drone systems. The Shahpar-II Block-II is marketed as a MALE armed UAV with autonomous flight, redundant datalinks, and a 120-kg external payload capacity. Pakistan has primarily relied on China and Turkey, its two biggest defence markets, for drone technology. Pakistan's inventory currently includes Bayraktar TB2, Akinci, and Chinese Wing Loong II, alongside indigenous platforms. Thus, its recent deal with the American company, which reportedly involves a "joint technology relationship", could potentially expand Pakistan's indigenous capabilities. As of now, it remains unclear whether Pakistan has security-licensed production of the Powerus systems; the MoU does not constitute an established joint production line. Should local manufacturing materialise, Pakistan could gain credible exposure to integrating technology, foreign sensors, communications, and mission systems, in addition to its existing drone ecosystem. Overall, this also suggests Pakistan's efforts to diversify technological architecture. For India, the immediate military significance of this development would become clearer with time. An expansion of the MoU to licensed production, technology transfer, and a boost to indigenous design would note a consequential push in Pakistan's defence-industry complex. That said, the history of the US-Pakistan relationship over the last seven decades offers useful insight. These ties have deepened when Washington has needed Islamabad and receded dramatically when American priorities shifted.

I Lost My Entire Family In Kanishka Bombing. 41 Years Later, Canada Wants The Case Closed

SANJAY LAZAR

The horror of the Air India 182 Kanishka tragedy isn't easy to forget. Even today, 41 years after the world's worst aviation bombing, the families of the Air India 182 Kanishka victims have been shaken by suggestions from the RCMP in Canada that the investigation should be wound up. On June 23, 1985, two bombs exploded. One at Narita airport killed two baggage handlers; the other, 54 minutes later, exploded over the Atlantic Ocean, 90 miles out to sea from Cork, Ireland, killing all 329 people on board, including 86 children under the age of 13. Orphaned as a teenager and losing my entire family at 17, I began the struggle for justice and accountability. As families, we made the trek through tragedy to search for people in Cork, where I spent 25 days sifting through bodies and body parts in a makeshift morgue to identify our loved ones. That trauma was revisited every anniversary as no leads were forthcoming. In June 1995, the Canadian government announced a reward of \$1 million for information leading to the arrest of the conspirators, but the fear was so rife among Canadians that not a peep came in. Delays And A Failed Trial It took almost 18 years for charges to be filed in 2000, only for a multi-million-dollar trial to fail to convict the accused. Witness after witness had either been murdered (while in RCMP protection, no less) or intimidated beyond the pale, or had their children's lives threatened. They all developed selective amnesia in the dock. The fact that most of the witnesses were identified only by letters - Ms A, D, E, etc. - itself indicates the level of secrecy and the extent to which the witness protection programme failed in the Air India 182 case and in dealing with the Khalistani extremists. Discriminatory Treatment The discriminatory attitude of the Canadian system towards the victims of the Air India bombing in 1985 was brutally exposed by Justice Major. Even in matters of compensation, Indians were ignored, and Canadians of Indian origin



were offered much lower amounts than "westerners". In an interview with me this week, retired Justice John C Major expressed his pain over the way Canada had looked at this tragedy, in stark contrast to the way it treated other Canadians. Canada continued to treat it as an "Indian problem", he said, and not a "Canadian tragedy". No Consensus Still That attitude became clearer this week, when the families were called for a meeting with the RCMP in Toronto, during which the Canadian police force expressed an intention to wind down the Air India task force to zero investigative staff, with only administrative staff remaining to return the victims' personal effects. The RCMP said it felt there were no further leads to pursue in the investigation to bring the culprits to book. This admission comes barely months after the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) made a public acknowledgement that Canada-based Khalistani extremists (CBKE) were responsible for the Air India Flight 182 bombing on its 41st anniversary on June 23, 2026. So, while the left hand (CSIS) was admitting that Khalistani extremists bombed Air India Kanishka, the right hand (RCMP) said it had nothing further to look for. The RCMP even went so far as to suggest that if families could provide fresh leads, they might then be taken up. In the interim, the

RCMP had informed us that it was communicating with the Indian government for the release of the wreckage and personal effects of the victims, indicating that this government and the RCMP have thrown in the towel. The Indian government will be acutely aware that the Kanishka bombing is a fiercely sensitive subject in India, and Indians the world over will not accept the summary closure of the hunt for the killers. We have written to Prime Minister Modi on his birthday, advising him that the families will never accept such a summary closure. The victims' families, the Canadian people, and the peace-loving people of the world will never let that happen. How US-Israel Will Deal With Terrorism That this RCMP meeting should happen in the shadow of the 25th anniversary of 9/11 is tragic, especially considering that the second of the 1988 Lockerbie criminal trials is about to begin in New York in autumn 2026. The Canadian government, rather than give up the AI-182 case, needs to increase the reward and reissue it. Can anyone imagine the state of the world had the US thrown in the towel after 9/11 or Lockerbie and not hunted down Al-Qaeda and the Libyans? Or had Israel not hunted down Klaus Barbie or Franz Stangl and found the perpetrators of those crimes? Some of those hunts took more than 35 years.

SAUDI ARABIA'S YEMEN NIGHTMARE HAS COME BACK TO HAUNT IT

HARSH V PANT

Saudi Arabia is once again confronting the limits of its ability to insulate its domestic transformation from the strategic turbulence of the Middle East. What began as an effort to contain the Houthi threat on its southern frontier has acquired a much wider geopolitical dimension. The Kingdom now faces pressure from the Houthis in Yemen, Iran-aligned actors in Iraq, and the broader consequences of the US-Iran confrontation. More importantly, the conflict is intersecting directly with Saudi Arabia's energy security and the ambitions of Vision 2030. The significance of the current escalation lies not simply in the intensity of Houthi attacks but in their geography. The Houthis' advance along Yemen's Red Sea coast, including their capture of Mocha and movement toward Perim Island, has brought them closer to the Bab al-Mandeb, one of the world's critical maritime chokepoints. At a moment when disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz have made alternative routes more important, the Red Sea is becoming less secure. Saudi Arabia consequently finds itself exposed at both ends of its maritime energy architecture. From De-escalation To Exposure The relative calm following the 2022 UN-brokered truce allowed Riyadh to rethink Yemen. After years of costly military intervention beginning in 2015, Saudi Arabia increasingly sought to stabilise its southern border, reduce the financial and political costs of the war, and concentrate on eco-



nomics diversification. The logic was straightforward: Saudi Arabia could not simultaneously transform its economy at home and remain indefinitely trapped in a war in Yemen. Yet, the Yemen conflict was never simply a bilateral Saudi-Houthi confrontation. The Houthis emerged as a powerful actor after seizing Sanaa in 2014, while Iran became an important source of military and technological support. The Houthis retain considerable autonomy, but their relationship with Tehran has enabled them to become part of a wider Iranian network capable of exerting pressure across the region. The post-2022 political process consequently remained fragile. Questions surrounding salaries in Houthi-controlled territory, ports, flights, restrictions, governance, and economic resources remained unresolved. The regional upheaval following the October 2023 Hamas attack and the subsequent disruption of Red Sea shipping further complicated the possibility of a durable settle-

ment. The present crisis has exposed the weakness of that uneasy equilibrium. The Iran War The US-Iran confrontation has transformed the strategic value of Yemen. With the Strait of Hormuz severely disrupted, the Red Sea and Saudi Arabia's western infrastructure have assumed greater importance for the movement of energy. The East-West Pipeline and Red Sea ports such as Yanbu provide Riyadh with an alternative to routes through Hormuz. That alternative, however, is useful only if the Red Sea remains secure. The Houthis appear to have recognised this vulnerability. Their attacks on Saudi territory and energy infrastructure, combined with efforts to increase their control over the approaches to Bab al-Mandeb, have turned Yemen from a peripheral security problem into a direct component of the wider struggle over regional energy flows. The result is a strategic dilemma for Riyadh. It cannot accept persistent attacks on its territory and critical

infrastructure. Yet, a return to the kind of large-scale intervention that characterised the 2015-2022 period risks recreating the military quagmire that Saudi diplomacy had sought to escape. The Two-Strait Problem The most consequential feature of the current crisis is the convergence of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb. For Saudi Arabia, this is not merely a military problem; it is a problem of economic geography. Vision 2030 depends on foreign investment, tourism, logistics, infrastructure, and the perception that Saudi Arabia is becoming a stable centre of regional commerce. A prolonged conflict on its borders directly complicates that ambition. The vulnerability of Saudi energy infrastructure has become increasingly evident. Drone attacks attributed to Iraqi militias have affected the East-West Pipeline, while Houthi advances toward the Red Sea have increased concerns over the security of Saudi exports through western routes. The consequences extend well beyond Saudi Arabia. Threats to both Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb place upward pressure on oil prices, shipping costs, and insurance premiums. If both maritime corridors remain contested, the repercussions will be felt across Asia and Europe. The strategic assumption that energy producers can compensate for disruption at one chokepoint by relying on another is consequently becoming less reliable. For Riyadh, diversification of export routes is becoming almost as important as diversification of the economy itself.

INDIA'S MOST CELEBRATED DESIGN FESTIVAL RETURNS TO HYDERABAD

Hyderabad, India – 18th September 2026: Design Democracy, India's Most Celebrated Design Festival, today announced the fourth edition of its flagship event, to be held on 18-19-20 September 2026 at the HITEX Exhibition Center, Hyderabad. Over the last three years, Design Democracy has established itself as one of India's most influential platforms for architecture, interiors, furniture, product design, lighting, furnishings, accessories, art, and craftsmanship. The 2026 edition promises to be its largest and most immersive yet, bringing together over 200 leading design brands, 150+ speakers, and an expected 30,000+ visitors from across the country. Spread across four distinctive halls, Canvas, Muse, Atelier, and Alchemy, the festival will showcase the very best in design through exhibitions, installations, conversations, and curated experiences. This year's edition introduces an exceptional line-up of curated exhibitions, each celebrating a unique dimension of design and creativity: Museum of Telangana, curated by Supraja Rao of Design House Gallery of Sustainability, curated by Jasem Pirani & Huzefa Rangwala of MuseLab Precious Objects, curated by Monika & Sarah

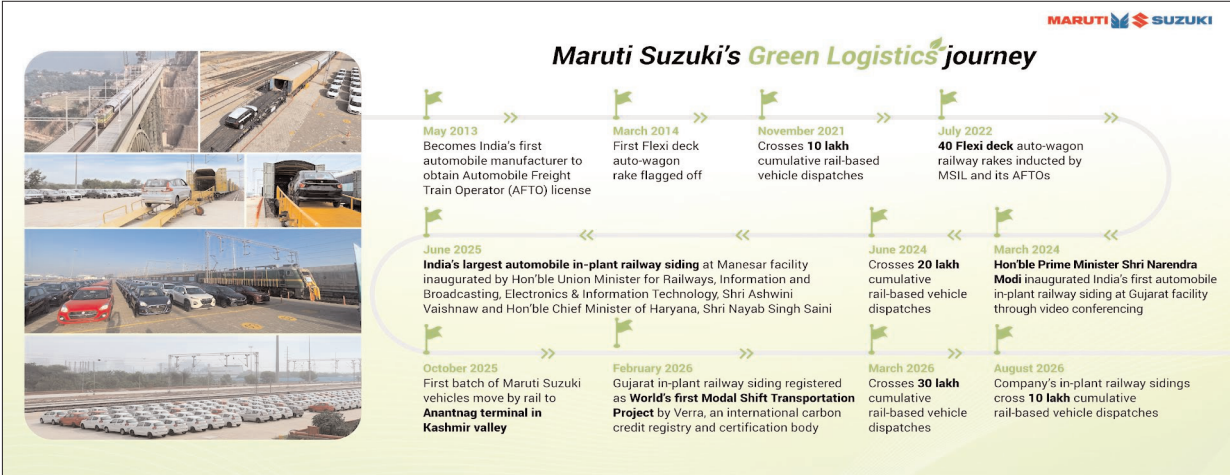


Choudhary of Habitat Architects The Art Edit, curated by Anish Gawande in collaboration with Sakshi Art Gallery The Fabric of Design, a new immersive textile showcase featuring celebrated names including Gaurang Shah, Divani, and Yavi, explores the intersection of heritage, craftsmanship, and innovation. The festival will also feature DD Talks and DD Focus, bringing together more than 150 architects, designers, artists, entrepreneurs, and thought leaders for keynote sessions and panel discussions on the future of design. Some of the key speakers include Alfaz Miller, Ravinder Reddy, Sandeep Khosla, Ankon Mitra, and Sussanne Khan. Adding to the experience will

be large-scale outdoor installations, experiential showcases, networking events, and The Gourmet Zone, a curated culinary destination featuring cafés, concept kitchens, and craft bars. Speaking about the fourth edition, Pallika Sreewastav, Co-Founder, Design Democracy, said: "Design Democracy was born from a simple belief that great design has the power to inspire, connect, and bring people together. Over the years, it has grown into a platform where ideas are exchanged, collaborations are forged, and creativity is celebrated. As we welcome the fourth edition, our commitment remains the same: to build an ecosystem that champions Indian design while bringing together the people who shape its future."

Shailja Patwari, Co-Founder, Design Democracy, added: "India's design story deserves a platform as bold and layered as the country itself. With every edition, we are not just building a festival; we are nurturing a community that thinks, questions, and creates together. Design Democracy 2026 is our most ambitious chapter yet, and we look forward to welcoming the country's design fraternity once again." Arjun Rath, Co-Founder, Design Democracy, said: "Design Democracy is about creating experiences that spark curiosity and meaningful dialogue. Every space, every installation, and every conversation has been thoughtfully envisioned to celebrate the richness, diversity, and future of Indian design."

MARUTI SUZUKI ACHIEVES 1 MILLION VEHICLE DISPATCHES THROUGH ITS IN-PLANT RAILWAY SIDINGS IN GUJARAT AND MANESAR



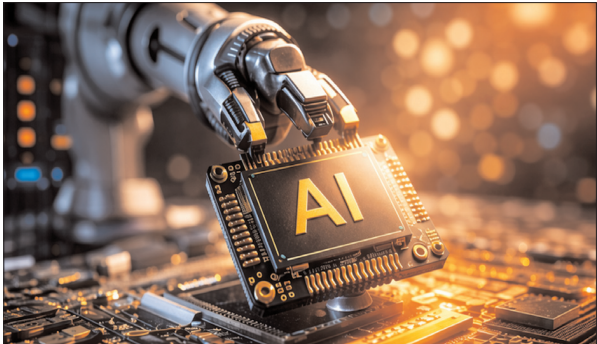
Hansalpur/Manesar/ New Delhi, 18 September 2026: Maruti Suzuki India Limited ("Maruti Suzuki") has achieved a significant milestone of 1 million (10 lakh) cumulative vehicle dispatches through its in-plant railway sidings at Hansalpur, Gujarat and Manesar, Haryana. Approximately 0.79 million (7.9 lakh) vehicles were dispatched via the Gujarat railway siding while the Manesar railway siding contributed to around 0.21 million (2.1 lakh) vehicles. The milestone was achieved in just three years and five months since operations commenced at the Gujarat railway siding in March 2023 and the Manesar railway siding in June 2025. Maruti Suzuki is the first and only

passenger vehicle OEM in India to have in-plant railway sidings at its manufacturing facilities at Hansalpur and Manesar. The shift of vehicle transportation from road to rail through these dedicated in-plant facilities has helped avoid GHG* emissions, while reducing fuel consumption and easing overall road congestion. In the current fiscal year till 31 August, Maruti Suzuki's rail-based vehicle dispatches have crossed 3 lakh vehicles. Speaking on the milestone, Mr. Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "Reaching one million cumulative vehicle dispatches through our in-plant railway sidings marks a landmark achievement in our green

logistics journey. Developed under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, these sidings demonstrate how integrated multi-modal infrastructure can deliver both operational efficiencies and environmental benefits. With our Gujarat and Manesar in-plant railway sidings contributing to 70% of total rail-based dispatches in the current fiscal, we are making strong progress in scaling up rail-based vehicle transportation." He added, "Our share of rail-based vehicle dispatches has grown from 5% in FY 2014-15 to 26.5% in FY 2025-26. Our mid-term goal is to increase rail-based vehicle dispatches to 35% by FY 2030-31# through continued investment in rail infrastructure, including an

in-plant siding at our new Kharkhoda facility. This will improve the efficiency of our sustainable logistics network and support India's Net Zero ambitions." Maruti Suzuki has cumulatively dispatched over 3.3 million (33 lakh) vehicles via rail since FY 2014-15. Out of this, 1 million is through the Company's in-plant railway sidings in Gujarat and Manesar, while the remaining rail-based dispatches were undertaken using loading terminals located outside the manufacturing facilities. An in-plant railway siding is a dedicated rail terminal built inside a manufacturing facility that allows vehicles or goods to be loaded after production onto trains within the plant itself.

AI hiring trusted by 52 PC in India, report flags bias concerns



New Delhi: Amid a surge in job-hunting and recruitment activity, over half of respondents expressed confidence in the use of artificial intelligence in hiring but organisations must ensure AI hiring processes are fair and transparent, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants said on Wednesday, September 16. The statement from professional accountancy body said 52 per cent of respondents in India are confident about AI algorithms in hiring processes, well above the global figure of 43 per cent. The trend is mirrored

at board level with 40 per cent of leaders trusting their use of AI when selecting talent. Generationally in India, Gen Z is the most positive about the use of AI to support transparency in the recruitment processes, with 54 per cent of the cohort confident that it can support fair and unbiased hiring. Gen Y is more balanced – with 48 per cent showing confidence, while Gen X is wary by comparison – with only 27 per cent feeling the same. Across different seniority levels, the confidence levels around AI-based hiring in India are higher compared to global

figures. Respondents in our survey said that using AI in hiring is proving to be a strong recruitment funnel – helping them sift through large applicant pools, but it requires human ownership and intervention, said Sajid Khan, Director – India at ACCA. "However, AI models can have inherent biases and are not automatically objective or fair. Context blindness is another risk – explaining career decisions like career breaks, changes, and growth come with subjectivity and personal stories – something that genetic AI can't be expected to be mindful about. Khan added. The accountancy body said that one of the main concerns is the lack of human touch in processes – less personal feedback on applications, and the increased anonymity of processes that are less human-centric. The statement noted growing interest in the appropriate governance around the use of technologies.

India's retail inflation hits 4.8% in August, rises for 10th straight month



India's consumer price inflation rose to 4.82% in August from 4.45% in July, adding to pressure on the country's central bank to raise key benchmark rates. The headline inflation number was slightly above economists' expectations for a 4.80% rise, according to a Reuters poll. Inflation has been on the rise for 10 straight months in the world's fastest-growing economy, according to data from LSEG. India's food inflation climbed to 5.95% in August from 5.52% a month ago, India's Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation said in a Monday release. Goods transport service inflation

rose the sharpest to over 14% in August, while personal transport inflation rose over 7%, the release said. India is among the countries most vulnerable to the supply disruptions caused by the Iran war. It imports nearly 85% of its fuel needs and relies on the energy supply chain through the Strait of Hormuz. Global oil prices have soared past \$100 a barrel and rose further on Monday after Saudi Arabia closed a key East-West energy pipeline following damage from a drone attack. Despite rising food and fuel prices over the last several months, India's economic

growth for the June quarter was stronger than expected at 7.8%. Global brokerages Morgan Stanley and Citi have raised their economic growth forecast for the 12 months ending in March 2027 to 7.3% from less than 7% earlier. However, economists do see the pace of growth slowing down in the second half of the year. "Even as GDP growth has held up well thus far, some softening could be in order," HSBC said in its report at the beginning of September. High base, cuts to public capex for meeting fiscal deficit targets and the impact of deficient rains on sowing patterns are some of the key reasons the brokerage expects India's growth to slow over the next few quarters. The Indian central bank has repeatedly emphasized its focus on core inflation, which is yet to become a major concern. But prolonged higher energy and food prices tend to increase core inflation through higher input, transportation, and operational costs.

WPI INFLATION RISES TO 9.92 PC IN AUGUST



New Delhi: Wholesale price-based inflation rose to 9.92 per cent in August, compared to 9.78 per cent in July, on rising prices of food, manufactured items, and fuel and power, government data showed on Monday. Inflation in the food index rose to 7.05 per cent in August, from 6.65 per cent in July. In manufactured items, WPI inflation was at a series high of 8.37 per cent, higher than 8.29 per cent in July. In the fuel and power basket, wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation was 22.93 per cent. "Across groups, mineral oils (containing petroleum products), food articles,

manufacture of food products, manufacture of basic metals, non-food articles, and manufacture of chemicals and chemical products have been major drivers of WPI inflation in August 2026," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said while releasing the WPI data. The WPI has been on an upward trajectory since the beginning of this fiscal year as the West Asia war and the resultant blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which the majority of crude oil is imported into India, pushed up global crude and fertiliser costs with a spillover effect on food prices.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launches 'Nothing Small About Us' campaign with R. Madhavan as Brand Ambassador

Andhra Pradesh, September 2026: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited (Ujjivan SFB), serving over 1 crore customers through 800+ branches across 26 States and Union Territories, announced the launch of its new brand campaign 'Nothing Small About Us', featuring acclaimed actor and Padma Shri awardee R. Madhavan as its Brand Ambassador. The campaign is rooted in a key customer insight: the word 'Small' can sometimes create a perception that the Bank caters primarily to small-ticket financial needs, has a limited range of banking products and offerings, or operates at a smaller scale. 'Nothing Small About Us' seeks to address this perception by showcasing the Ujjivan Small Finance Bank of today. Ujjivan offers a comprehensive range of banking solutions across savings, deposits, lending and business banking, forex and NRI services, as well as investment and wealth solutions. Its loan offerings range from ₹6,000 to ₹250 crore, catering to customers with diverse financial needs. Commenting on the campaign, Lakshman Velayutham, Chief



Marketing Officer, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, said: "Nothing Small About Us' comes from a very real customer insight. We found that the word 'Small' can sometimes lead to a perception that our offerings, ticket sizes or even our scale may be limited. The Ujjivan of today is very different from that perception, with an extensive branch network and a comprehensive range of banking and lending solutions catering to diverse customer needs. Through this cam-

paign, we want everyone to see Ujjivan for what it is today, a bank with the scale, reach and breadth of offerings to serve the diverse financial needs. R. Madhavan, with the credibility, authenticity and trust he has built over the years, is a natural fit to convey this message." The choice of R. Madhavan as Ujjivan's Brand Ambassador stems from the strong alignment between the values he represents and those of the Bank. Over the years, R. Madhavan has built

an image associated with integrity, humility, versatility and authenticity, earning trust through consistency, and establishing a strong connect across audiences and geographies. These qualities closely align with Ujjivan's values and the relationship the Bank seeks to build with its customers and stakeholders. Commenting on his association with Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, Padma Shri awardee R. Madhavan said: "Whenever I associate with a brand, I like to understand it first. So, before coming on board with Ujjivan, I did my own due diligence. I read about the Bank, its journey and what it has built over the years. I was genuinely happy with what I learnt, and it gave me the confidence to associate with Ujjivan. And trust me, there is nothing small about them. I believe there is a lot more about Ujjivan that people should know, and I am happy to be associated with the Bank." The integrated campaign will be amplified across television, print, digital, OTT/CTV, outdoor, social media and Ujjivan's branch network, creating a consistent brand narrative across consumer touchpoints.

Max Fashion Brings Its First New Identity Store to Hyderabad with a 13,000 Sq. Ft. Flagship Store at Nexus Mall, Kukatpally

HYDERABAD, 18th September 2026: Hyderabad has a new fashion destination, and it opened with star power to match. Actor Mrunal Thakur joined Max Fashion to inaugurate its newest store at Nexus Hyderabad, Kukatpally, marking the debut of the brand's first New Identity store in the city, timed to the launch of Max Project New, the brand's festive collection curated by Kalki Koechlin and designed by Artists. Spanning 13,000 sq. ft., the store brings Max's evolving retail experience to Hyderabad, a fresh way for customers to discover, explore and shop. The curtains parted, and there she was. Mrunal Thakur, joined by Sumit Chandna, CEO, Max Fashion, stepped forward to cut the ribbon and open the store's doors. What followed was the moment the room had been waiting for. Mrunal unboxed the Max Project New collection live, a festive line curated by Kalki Koechlin, rooted in Sanganer block printing from Rajasthan, and featuring original art by specially-abled artists from Kairassi Foundation, Chennai. It was



a fitting reveal: Max Fashion, showing in real time just how far its retail experience has come. A New Way to Experience Max The inauguration may have brought the crowd, but the new store itself is the bigger story. Designed around a simple idea, walk in and experience the difference the New Identity store offers a more open, immersive fashion experience, one built for how people actually shop today: at their own pace. Every element of the space has been rethought with intent, wider aisles that invite browsing, collections that speak for themselves, and a layout that moves as naturally as the cus-

tomers does. It's a space made to spend time in. "Hyderabad has always been an important market for Max Fashion, and we wanted our first New Identity store in the city to feel like a meaningful step forward. The idea was to create a space where customers could discover fashion differently, with more room to explore, find inspiration and make the experience their own. Having Mrunal Thakur join us for the inauguration made the opening even more special. As the festive season begins, we are excited to welcome Hyderabad to this new chapter for Max," said Sumit Chandna, CEO, Max Fashion. "Walking through

this store today, what struck me most was how different it felt, more like stepping into an experience than a store. Every corner has clearly been thought through, from how the collections are displayed to how easy it is to just walk in and find your own style. It's exciting to see Max bring this kind of energy to Hyderabad, and I'm glad I got to be part of the celebration," said Mrunal Thakur. The store also marks Max Fashion's 39th store in Hyderabad, bringing together the brand's complete Fashion for All proposition across men, women and kids, alongside footwear and accessories.

17 killed after vehicle loaded with explosives rams Pakistan mosque

At least 17 people have been killed and 73 others wounded after a vehicle laden with explosives rammed into a mosque in north-western Pakistan, according to Pakistan's news agency. Seven police officers and a four-year-old child are among those killed in the attack, which also involved gunmen opening fire within a police facility in the city of Kohat in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported. Video found by BBC Verify shows the site covered in rubble and people tending to casualties. Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari expressed "his best wishes for the swift recovery of those injured in the explosion" in a statement. The blast is reported to have occurred around 13:15 local time (08:15 GMT) while Friday prayers were taking place. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police Insp Gen Zulfikar Hameed described it as a "suicide attack", according to news agency Reuters, which also reported that police had confirmed all seven attackers had been killed in the explosion and the gun battle that followed. A police spokesperson said the seven armed militants attempted to infiltrate the police facility following the blast, according to the APP. No group has immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif condemned the blast. Militancy in Pakistan's border areas has risen sharply



in recent months, with armed groups targeting the military and police. Islamabad says militants use Afghanistan as a safe haven to train and plan attacks in Pakistan. Afghanistan's Taliban government denies the accusation and says militant groups are a domestic problem for Pakistan. A vehicle bomb exploded Friday at a mosque near police offices in northwestern Pakistan as gunmen tried to storm the compound, killing at least 21 people and wounding 80 others, police and rescue officials said. Among those killed and wounded were police officers attending prayers at the mosque. The bombing occurred in Kohat, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, when an attacker apparently rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the mosque, said Zulfikar Hameed, the provincial police chief. Most of those killed were police officers, hospital officials said. Bilal Faizi, a senior rescue official, said most of the dead and wounded had been attending prayers at the mosque. At least seven armed gunmen also attempted to enter the police compound and exchanged fire with officers. Six of the gunmen were killed, according to police, who said one suicide bomber attacked the nearby office of an intelligence agency. The police compound housed counterterrorism police, who had carried out operations against militants across the

province in recent years. Photos from the scene showed the outer wall of the police offices had collapsed and the mosque was badly damaged. Smoke rose over the site after the blast, which witnesses and residents said was heard far away, followed by gunfire. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack and expressed sorrow over the casualties. He directed authorities to accelerate rescue operations. No immediate claim of responsibility. The attack came as violence has surged in the region, with security forces targeting militants. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion was likely to fall on the Pakistani Taliban, formally known as

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP. It comes a day after a roadside bomb struck a security forces convoy in the northwestern Hangu district and killed six soldiers. Government troops also conducted raids in various areas on Thursday and killed 10 militants believed to be members of the Pakistani Taliban, the military and police said. Pakistani Taliban have stepped up attacks on police and civilians in recent years. In 2023, a suicide bomber killed 101 people in an attack inside a mosque in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The group is separate from but allied with Afghanistan's Taliban, which returned to power in 2021.

Russian hybrid attacks against Europe intensifying, says Macron

French President Emmanuel Macron has warned that the threat of hybrid attacks by Russia against Europe and France has intensified. In a news conference at the Elysee Palace, Macron said he had ordered a plan to protect critical infrastructure and defence industry sites in the face of this threat. He said France had been targeted by Russian hybrid attacks in the past few weeks which would not be left "without a response". A growing number of European leaders have warned that Russia may be preparing attacks to test their commitment to supporting Ukraine. War may be coming. Are we psychologically ready? Hybrid warfare or hybrid attacks are loose terms which tend to describe non-military methods, for example cyberattacks, sabotage or misinformation, designed to exert pressure and destabilise an adversary. These are quite often employed using proxies, but Russia always denies involvement in such attacks despite growing evidence to the contrary. The French president was speaking to journalists after meeting party leaders to discuss the security impact of the wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. Macron mentioned last month's drone attack on Leipzig airport in Germany, blamed on Russia, and remarks by Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk suggesting Russia was planning drone and missile strikes against Poland and other countries on Nato's eastern flank. "In recent weeks, the Russian hybrid threat



against Europeans and against France has intensified," he said. "The intent is to intimidate us and break our effort to support Ukraine. The result will be the exact opposite. We are not intimidated because we know that our security today and tomorrow is at stake in Ukraine." On Thursday Tusk told Polish MPs that Russian plans included strikes by drones and missiles on countries supporting Ukraine. He said there was a "real risk" of such strikes on the territory of Nato countries, with Moscow then claiming that they were "accidental", in an attempt to split the alliance. Last Sunday, a Russian drone hit a passenger train near the Ukraine-Poland border shortly after former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and top European security officials had passed through along the same line. Ukraine said all the passengers had been evacuated just minutes before the strike at Yahodyn, which hit the train's engine. There have also been a number of suspicious fires at defence facilities from Italy to Estonia, with some of the affected

countries blaming Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly said Russia does not plan to attack Europe, but Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned European nations against sending troops to Ukraine, which would be seen by Russia as a declaration of war. "If Europe attacks Russia, it will be a completely different war, and it will be very short," he said. Meanwhile on Friday, Russia reiterated its warning to the UK that any British military facilities in Ukraine used to strike Russian territory were "legitimate targets". It reserved the right to take "necessary counter-measures" in response to the UK's "fiercely confrontational stance regarding Ukraine", referring to its supply of drones and other weapon systems to Kyiv. Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Macron also addressed the energy situation, saying that the government had been tasked with protecting critical infrastructure and the "most sensitive" defence industry and technology sites against drone and cyberattacks.

New wild cat species discovered - with only one known living member



A spotted cat from the forests of Bolivia has been confirmed as a new species. The small feline, about the size of a domestic moggy, went under the radar because it was confused with other wild cats that share similar spots and stripes. But DNA studies show the cat is actually in a class of its own, highlighting how much remains unknown about some of the world's most elusive mammals. Scientists hope the discovery will draw attention to the conservation of tiger cats, a group of small wild cats found in South and Central America that

receives far less public attention than their larger cousins like lions, leopards and tigers. Tiger cats are small, spotted wild cats found across Central and South America, from Costa Rica to Bolivia and Argentina. They look remarkably similar and even experts can struggle to tell them apart. "It's an amazing result that we have a new species for the world, which is the Leopardus tilcayo," said Paola Nogales-Ascarrunz of Universidad Mayor de San Andres in La Paz, Bolivia. "It's amazing that there are still new species waiting to be discovered: we don't have to go to a volcano, an island, or deep into the sea." Only one confirmed living member of the species is known - a cat in a rescue sanctuary in Bolivia - but scientists believe others exist. It was this 10-year-old cat, nicknamed "Tigrino", that set scientists on the path to discovery.

THREE DEAD AND EIGHT INJURED IN PHILIPPINES SCHOOL SHOOTING

A 16-year-old gunman has shot two students dead and injured eight others at a Philippine high school, before killing himself. The two deceased victims were 14-year-old pupils at a school in Banga in the southern province of Mindanao, the local mayor told the BBC. Albert Palencia said four of the injured were in critical condition. The education department said in a statement it was "deeply concerned" by the reported incident which took place on Friday afternoon at Banga National High School. This is the third deadly school shooting in the Philippines since June this year. "Our immediate priority is the safety and well-being of our learners, teachers and school personnel," the education department said, adding it was coordinating with authorities to verify the incident and provide necessary support. "We urge everyone to remain calm and refrain from sharing unverified



information as authorities continue their investigation." Palencia told Reuters news agency that during a lunchtime conversation on Friday, the gunman had urged friends to go home "because after lunch, [he would] be executing [his] plan". "His friends laughed because the shooter was a known joker," Palencia told the news agency. "After lunch, he started shooting students. He hit 10 students before killing himself." Classes have been suspended "in all levels in the entire municipality of Banga" due to the shooting, disaster

management authorities said in a statement. The Philippines Red Cross said it was alerted to the incident at 14:00 local time (06:00 GMT) and had dispatched an ambulance with four paramedics to provide life-saving assistance. Police are at the site investigating the shooting, local media reported. Gun crime is not uncommon in the Philippines, which has one of the highest rates of gun ownership in the region. Broadly speaking, school shootings are rare, but today's incident marks the third deadly campus shoot-

ing in the last four months. In June, three students were killed and more were injured after their peers opened fire at a high school in central Philippines. Investigators believed the deadly shooting had been motivated by a "grudge" over bullying. In August, a student at a Catholic junior high school in the southern Philippines shot dead a fellow student and later took his own life. In this case, the suspect had fired at the teacher, but missed, then moved to another classroom and shot a student, who later died. Following the shooting on Friday, Reynaldo Tamayo, the South Cotabato governor, urged adult gun owners to "be responsible in storing firearms" and ensuring that minors do not get access to them. "We cannot expect a handful of security personnel to monitor thousands of students. We need to work together because otherwise this will be very difficult for us to address," he told Reuters.

Lindsay Clancy holdout juror says he had no doubt she deliberately killed her children

The lone holdout juror in the trial of Lindsay Clancy has said he "didn't have any doubts" that she was criminally responsible for killing her three children. "Based on all the physical evidence, key witnesses and what the prosecution presents, I thought it was enough proof that she knew exactly what she was doing and planned it," Michael Desronvil said in a statement to CBS News, the BBC's US partner. The judge declared a mistrial on 4 September after the jury failed to reach a unanimous verdict following nearly 40 hours of deliberating. Clancy admitted to the killings but her lawyers argued she had been suffering from postpartum psychosis. Prosecutors said the killings were calculated. Warning: This article contains distressing details. The 36-year-old was charged with three counts of first-degree murder after strangling Cora, five, Dawson, three, and Callan, eight months, at the family's Massachusetts home



before jumping out of the second-floor window. To find Clancy guilty, jurors had to be unanimously convinced beyond reasonable doubt that she intentionally killed her children and that she did not do so as a result of postpartum psychosis, a rare and serious condition. The jury - nine women and three men - considered a range of options including not guilty by reason of insanity, manslaughter and first-degree murder. Several jurors have said following the mistrial being declared that the panel was ultimately divided 11-1 in favour of finding Clancy not criminally responsible.



Police begin operation to move migrants from Ceuta beaches

DOZENS OF SUSPECTED ILLEGAL MINERS DIE IN NIGERIAN CUSTODY

Thirty-seven people accused of illegal mining in north-central Nigeria have died in custody, official say. Police have set up an investigation into the deaths, which the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) blamed on an apparent disease outbreak. However, an intelligence report shared with AFP news agency suggested the group had died because of overcrowding and poor ventilation inside the detention facility in Niger state. The deaths have sparked disturbances including attacks on public buildings, and a 24-hour curfew has been put in place in the state capital, Minna, as a result. On Tuesday, a group of young men were arrested for suspected illegal mining near Borgu - a part of Niger



state known for small-scale gold mining. Two days later, 37 people were found dead inside the detention centre run by the NSCDC - responsible for protecting critical infrastructure and tackling crimes including illegal mining. NSCDC spokesperson Babawale Afolabi said more than 50 people had been arrested, and they had not been charged because profiling

and documentation were still under way before the deaths. The father of one of those detained said relatives went to the NSCDC office seeking their release but were repeatedly told to return later. "Unfortunately, the following day we got the news that our children had died," he added. Abdullahi Dalhatu told the BBC: "We believe they suffocated because

there was no ventilation." He said his son had survived because he was near a small window. "His friend slumped and fainted, and many others also collapsed." His son described how detainees fainted in the heat of the overcrowded and poorly ventilated cell, his father said. He said detainees repeatedly knocked on the door for help but nobody opened it. The BBC has not independently verified his account. One father told Nigerian media that his son had appeared healthy when relatives took him food the day before his death and called for an independent post-mortem examination. After news of the deaths spread, miners and relatives started attacking public buildings and buses.

CRISTIANO RONALDO NAMED IN PORTUGAL SQUAD FOR NATIONS LEAGUE

Cristiano Ronaldo was called up for the start of Portugal's Nations League campaign on Friday as Jorge Jesus named his first squad since taking over as coach. The 41-year-old Ronaldo said last month this would "probably" be his final season in football, bringing the curtain down on a remarkable career during which he has scored more than 950 goals for club and country. Jesus, 72, coached five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo at Al-Nassr before leaving in May after guiding the club to the Saudi Pro League title. He replaced Roberto Martinez after Portugal's last-16 exit at the World Cup. Ronaldo is the leading scorer in the history of men's international football with 146 goals in 233 appearances. He became the first player to score at six World Cups last summer, but his performances at the tournament drew criticism, while Martinez also faced scrutiny for continuing to back his ageing captain. Borussia Dortmund forward Fabio Silva has been recalled, earning his first call-up since making his sole international appearance in November 2024, while Benfica midfielder Joao Palhinha returns for the first time in nearly a year. Portugal

have won the Nations League twice in four editions. They are the reigning champions after beating Spain on penalties in the 2025 final. The Portuguese begin their 2026-27 campaign against Wales in Lisbon on September 24 before facing Norway in Oslo three days later and Denmark away on October 1, ahead of a return meeting with Norway in Porto on October 4. Ronaldo refused to confirm whether he would continue to play for his country after Portugal's World Cup round-of-16 defeat by eventual winners Spain in July. But the Al-Nassr forward is part of a 25-man group chosen for Portugal's four Nations League games between 24 September and 4 October. Jesus has replaced Roberto Martinez, who stepped down as Portugal coach after their World Cup exit. The 72-year-old was Ronaldo's club boss last season, when the pair helped Al-Nassr win the Saudi Pro League for the first time in seven years. The former Manchester United Real Madrid forward, who announced that this summer's World Cup would be his last, was in tears after Portugal's World Cup exit. When asked if he would keep playing for his

country, he said: "I will meet the family and take decisions with a calm head." This sparked speculation he could follow his great rival Lionel Messi and retire from international football. Ronaldo will turn 42 before next summer's Nations League finals and will be 43 by Euro 2028. The oldest player in the history of the Euros is Ronaldo's former Portugal team-mate Pepe, who was 41 and 130 days for his last game at Euro 2020. Manchester United pair Diogo Dalot and Bruno Fernandes are also in the squad, along with Ruben Dias (Manchester City) and Pedro Neto (Chelsea). Portugal are at home to Wales on 24 September (19:45 BST) and away to Norway three days later.



Gautam Gambhir's Blunt 'Sanju Samson Remark' As Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Gets Snubbed Again

India men's cricket team's head coach Gautam Gambhir said the 15-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will have to wait for his opportunity in the senior national team, stressing that players who have performed consistently over the last few years will remain ahead of newcomers. Speaking at the post-match press conference after India's 127-run win over Afghanistan in the third and final T20I at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Thursday, Gambhir said Sooryavanshi would get a longer run when his chance arrived. "From Vaibhav's point of view, it was a very clear conversation that he will have to wait for his opportunity. We know the kind of talent he has and what he can do, but someone who has been performing for the last 2-3 years will always be ahead of someone who has just entered the team. Whenever he gets his run, he will get a longer run as well. That is what Indian



cricket is all about—we want competition and talent in the dressing room, but that's how cricket goes. Whether you're a 15-year-old or a 30-year-old, when you have to wait for your opportunity, you have to wait for your opportunity," said the head coach. Sooryavanshi was not included in the playing XI in any of the three T20Is against Afghanistan, with Sanju Samson featuring throughout the series. Gambhir backed Samson's selection, saying the wicket-keeper-batter's talent and past performances warranted his place in the dressing

room. Samson scored 50 in the series-deciding match after registering another half-century in the previous game. "I think his [Samson's] talent itself is enough for him to be in the dressing room. I think he's shown what he's capable of. Someone doesn't become a Player of the Tournament in a World Cup without having that talent. So he's done enough. Obviously, it was tough—probably the toughest decision I've taken in my coaching tenure was leaving him out in that England series, considering how he performed prior to that," said Gambhir.

Accused Of Gambling, Mohammad Rizwan Submits Strong Response Against Pakistan's Cyber Crime Agency

Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Rizwan has submitted his response to the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency's (NCCIA) questionnaire while questioning the basis of the agency's inquiry against him. In his response, the wicketkeeper-batter also requested details of the allegations against him and questioned why the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit was not tasked with probing the matter. "As a cricketer, I have served the Pakistan team to the best of my ability," Rizwan stated in his response, as quoted by Samaa TV. The cricketer also stated that he had not been informed about the online gambling incident he was allegedly linked to and



sought details of the allegations against him. The wicketkeeper-batter questioned the basis on which the NCCIA was probing the matter, stating that the ICC ACU should have been conducting the investigation. "Despite being an active cricketer, the allegations against me were not reported to the ICC's Anti-

Corruption Unit," he stated. "It is incomprehensible why the NCCIA is conducting an inquiry into such a case," the cricketer said in his response. Rizwan also demanded details of the allegations against him. "I should be provided with full details of the allegations against me so that I can participate in the inquiry," he

said. Meanwhile, the Lahore High Court has also dismissed Rizwan's petition, in which he argued that the NCCIA had not explained why it questioned him and that it lacked jurisdiction over the matter. The petition was dismissed shortly after a hearing on Thursday. A few days ago, Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq appeared before the NCCIA in Lahore regarding alleged leaks of information from the team's dressing room. Imam completed his response to the questionnaire, while Rizwan chose to take the matter to court. The fallout continues after Pakistan's poor performance in England, where they suffered their first-ever 0-3 defeat on English soil.

ASIAN GAMES 2026: Gymnast Pranati Nayak, Male Coach Given Same Room In Midnight Chaos In Japan

Since the Indian contingent landed in Nagoya (Japan) for the Asian Games 2026, the issue of accommodation has been absolute chaos. On Thursday, another nightmare unfolded for the members of the Indian contingent. Gymnast Pranati Nayak and her coach, Ashok Mishra, faced a bizarre logistical challenge upon checking in to their official accommodation when organisers informed them that they had been allocated the same room on the cruise ship. Unhappy with the mixed-gender accommodation between athletes and support staff, the duo was forced to escalate the issue immediately. Despite continuous efforts to reach local organisers and team officials, the situation remained unre-



solved for hours. However, that was not the end of the chaos. When Ashok Mishra finally went to collect his keys for a separate room, hotel staff informed him that his booking could not be located in the register. The cause was a minor administrative oversight in official paperwork: the letter "T" had been omitted from his name in the system

records. Rectifying the clerical error and verifying his accreditation took another 45 minutes, keeping the coach waiting well past 2:00 am before he was finally able to rest in his room. When asked by NDTV, Pranati confirmed that such an incident took place and was only resolved by around 2:00 am. "Yes, there was a mix-up during the

accommodation. It was resolved around 2:00 am," the gymnast said. READ | Exclusive: Asian Games Chief Dismisses Backlash Over Container Housing, Accommodation Chaos Ever since the Indian contingent arrived in Japan, several accommodation-related issues have been reported. Various athletes had to wait for hours before being allotted a room. Access to training and nutrition has also been an issue. It has also been reported that the members of the Indian kabaddi contingent experienced similar hotel mix-ups and delayed check-ins upon their arrival, highlighting another episode of widespread administrative and coordination lapses during the team's arrival phase.

Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar Told To 'Move On' After BCCI's Latest Snub

In the India squads named on Wednesday for the series against West Indies, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammed Shami could not find a place. Bhuvneshwar took 28 wickets for IPL 2026 champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru. On the other hand, Shami, who last played for India in 2025, has been performing well regularly at the domestic level. Former India star Aakash Chopra says the time may be up for Bhuvneshwar and Mohammed Shami as far as their international ambitions go. "So I think the writing is on the wall when you look at things from Shami and Bhuv's perspective. From the T20I perspective, you could have thought about Bhuv. From the ODI perspective, you could have thought about Mohammed



Shami. But you are not thinking about them," Chopra said on his YouTube channel. "And with so many teams, so much overlap, so many new players getting opportunities, Aqib Nabi being named in the ODI team, Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav coming into the T20I setup, and neither Bhuv nor Shami being there, I think it tells us something. This is probably something we need to accept, make peace with,

and keep moving on. That's what I think." Meanwhile, India's veteran fast bowler Mohammed Shami reflected on his recent accomplishment of competing in 100 first-class matches during the Duleep Trophy 2026 final for East Zone. Shami, who has been out of the Indian team for quite some time now, called playing 100 matches "always special" and highlighted that his hunger remains the same as before.

Russian Tennis Player Anna Blinkova Switches Allegiance To France

Russian-born tennis player Anna Blinkova, the world number 94, announced on Friday that she now represents France. "After all these years spent in France, between my city, Cannes, and the tournaments, this country has become much more than a training base: it has become my country," the 28-year-old said in a post on Instagram. She said she was "deeply happy and proud" to be able to represent France on the world stage. Born in Moscow, Blinkova, who has represented Russia in the Billie Jean King Cup, once reached a career-high ranking of 34th in the world.



ASIAN GAMES 2026: QUIMCY DSOUZA CLOSES IN ON HISTORIC TEQBALL MEDAL FOR INDIA



India's Quimcy Joaquim Dsouza is just a win away from securing a historic medal for the country in Teqball after marching into the women's singles semifinals at the Asian Games at Nagoya, Japan on Friday. Making her Asian Games debut, Quimcy stunned top-seeded Yuina Sakamoto of Japan 2-1 (10-12 12-11 13-11) in her opening Group A match that lasted 43 minutes at the Nagoya City Higashi Sports Center. The young Indian carried the momentum into her second group match and defeated Cambodia's Koemyean DY 2-0 (12-9 12-7) in 24 minutes to top her group and qualify for the semifinals. Quimcy got a bye in the quarterfinals by virtue of topping her group. She will take on Indonesia's Sumaya in the semifinals on Saturday and a win will ensure the first-ever medal for India in Teqball, one of the six sports making its debut at the continental showpiece. If the 24-year-old

Indian loses in the last four match, she will still have a shot at a bronze on Sunday. However, the Indian pair of Quimcy and Mohammed Anas Imran Beg lost in the quarterfinals of the mixed doubles event. Quimcy and Beg lost 0-2 (7-12 10-12) against Vietnam's Hoang Minh Tan Nguyen and Gia Nghi Trinh in the quarterfinals. But the Indians still have a chance to finish on the podium on Sunday, as they won the repechage tie. The Indian duo started on a positive note defeating Philippines Jhoana Abulencia and Prince Augustin 2-0 (12-10 12-3) in their opening Group A tie before losing 1-2 (8-12 12-7 10-12) in the next match. Quimcy and Beg suffered defeats in the next two ties as they lost 0-2 (3-12 8-12) against Cambodia's Thunvireak Bun and Sophornraksme Yorn before going down 0-2 (3-12 8-12) against the Thailand combination of Phakpong Dejaroen and Suphawadi Wongkhamchan.

DDCA PRESIDENT ROHAN JAITLEY PRAISES SUCCESSFUL INDIA-AFGHANISTAN 'THE FRIENDSHIP CUP' IN DELHI



Mr. Rohan Jaitley, President, DDCA said, "Congratulations to Team India on a memorable 3-0 series victory against Afghanistan. 'The Friendship Cup' has been a wonderful celebration of cricket. It was heartening to see fans come out in such huge numbers (85000+) across all three matches at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, with thousands also travelling from Afghanistan to be part of the occasion. The incredible atmosphere throughout the series reflected the pas-

sion for cricket in Delhi. With Afghanistan playing its home series against India in Delhi, the occasion was also a great reflection of the strong bond between the two countries and the power of sport to bring people closer, in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of stronger ties with our neighbours. We are grateful to the Afghanistan Cricket Board, the BCCI and ICC Chairman Jay Shah for their support and efforts in making this series possible and

enabling Delhi to be part of this memorable chapter of international cricket. We are proud that the DDCA and Delhi could play a part in hosting three exciting encounters between India and Afghanistan, giving fans the opportunity to witness some really quality cricket from both teams." With Afghanistan playing its home series against India in Delhi, the occasion was also a great reflection of the strong bond between the two countries and the power of sport to bring people closer.

'Panchanama' Crosses 25 Million Streaming Minutes, Emerges as a Compelling Telugu Investigative Thriller



ZEE5 Telugu's latest original investigative thriller Panchanama has crossed an impressive 25 million streaming minutes since its premiere on 11th September 2026, reflecting the growing curiosity around the six-episode crime thriller. Led by Bharath Srinivasan and directed by Mohan Srivatsa, the series has drawn attention for bringing together a personal investigation, a layered medical-crime mystery and a steadily expanding conspiracy, giving Telugu OTT audiences another home-grown thriller to engage with.

What gives Panchanama its central pull is the way its investigation begins with something deeply personal. When police officer Jai Ram refuses to accept his younger brother Aadi's death as an accident, his search for answers takes him into a disturbing chain of suspicious deaths, hidden identities and connections that eventually point towards a larger medical syndicate. Rather than treating the investigation as a purely procedural exercise, the series places Jai's emotional involvement at the heart of the mystery, allowing each new clue to carry a personal consequence.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A FILM WITH THE INTENSITY, WORLD BUILDING AND EMOTIONS OF 'THE PARADISE'

Natural Star Nani's Pan India period action entertainer 'The Paradise'. Directed by Srikanth Odela, the film is produced on a grand scale by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the banner of SLV Cinemas. The songs, glimpses and teaser that have already been released have raised huge expectations with a wonderful response. The film is set to release worldwide on September 24. On this occasion, the makers held a press meet in Bengaluru.



RASHMIKA'S VOGUE COVER IS A SKYLINE

Rashmika Mandanna has been on a bit of a roll lately, she recently appeared in Cocktail 2, an above-average watch that kept her firmly in the conversation, and now she's landed one of the biggest covers of the year. The actor fronts Vogue India's October issue, styled atop a surreal, hand-painted skyline of miniature buildings, cranes and red ladders, a sharp black pantsuit in one shot, a whimsical floral co-ord with a dramatic quiff in another. The shoot ties into her upcoming Milan trip, where she'll attend Vogue World as the magazine's representative, a big global flex for the Pushpa and Animal star. In the interview, Rashmika addressed her years-long accent debate, South fans say it's not South enough, North fans say it is. Her mother tongue is Kodava; she's stopped trying to fix the contradiction. On the work front, Rashmika Mandanna is playing legendary Carnatic vocalist MS Subbulakshmi in her upcoming biopic, MS: A Legacy On Screen. There's something incongruous about the way Rashmika Mandanna enters a room. I've spent a disproportionate part of my stint in magazines watching celebrities arrive, and every time, you can feel the ions in the air begin to shift even before they're seen. The agitation in the atmosphere, the quickening of footsteps, conversations tapering



into murmurs, attention migrating towards the door. A celebrity brings their own kind of weather to set. During the cover shoot at Mehboob Studios in Bandra, Mandanna crosses my orbit at least

three times before I get a chance to speak to her. She appears first in head-to-toe Gucci beneath a gravity-defying wig, then in pin-straight, jet-black hair, which turns a flaming red for the final look.

Premane Oorilo Song Launch Event

The upcoming Telugu film Premane Oorilo, produced by Chandu Srinivas, Suresh Kondeti and Mamatha Devendra M under the banners of Maharatna Productions, SK Pictures and Vanilla Entertainments, is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on September 25. Written and directed by Manoj Kumar, the film features Shriram, Ramika Shivu, Thapaswini Poonacha and Rangayana Raghu in key roles. The film has already generated interest with its teaser and previously released songs. The team recently unveiled another song from the film at a special song launch press meet, attended by actress Kamakshi Bhaskarla, producer Chandu Srinivas, producer Suresh Kondeti, hero Shriram, actresses Thapaswini Poonacha and Ramika, senior journalists Rambabu and Prabhu, singer Saketh, Aditya Music



Niranjan, co-director Shruthi and Mahadev. Kamakshi Bhaskarla: "Wishing Recognition for Everyone and Good Profits for the Producers" Speaking at the event, actress Kamakshi Bhaskarla said, "The title Premane Oorilo is very beautiful. Srikanth's voice-over in the teaser is impressive, and the song

released by Tanikella Bharani garu is also very good. I thank Suresh garu for making me a part of the promotions. I wish Srinivas garu great success with this film. The artistes look wonderful on screen. I sincerely hope everyone who worked on Premane Oorilo earns a good name and that the producers make good profits."

Chandu Srinivas: "The Film Connected with Audiences Across Generations" Producer Chandu Srinivas said, "I am stepping into film production with Premane Oorilo. I have loved cinema since childhood. I started my career as an artiste and have now reached this stage. Devender garu helped me in business,

and through him I came to know about this film. I liked the poster immediately. After watching the teaser, I called Suresh garu. Shruthi, Devender and I showed him the teaser, and we watched the film together that very day. We also showed the movie to Gen Z audiences, and the film was liked by audiences from different sections. Rambabu garu has given us wonderful lyrics. Shriram, Ramika and Thapaswini have performed brilliantly. I hope audiences embrace our film." Suresh Kondeti: "Premane Oorilo Will Be a Blockbuster" Producer Suresh Kondeti said, "Premane Oorilo will be on the level of my earlier films Premisthe, Journey and Shopping Mall. I used to advise Chandu to stay away from the film industry. But after hearing about and watching this movie, I changed my decision. I told Chandu that we should start our journey together.



"KALYANAM KAMANIYAM JEEVITHAM GRAND THEATRICAL RELEASE ON 25TH OF THIS MONTH

Under the banner of Vivifi Media Film Factory, Khan Durani and Sahithi Avancha are the hero and heroines of Ravi Lokireddy's direction and the film is jointly produced by Paila Prasad Rao and Kishore Gundala.

This movie is ready for grand theatrical release on 25th of this month. Rajvanshi is releasing this film in Telugu states. On this occasion, a media conference was held at the office of the film team of "Kalyanam Kamaniyam jeevitham

HERO SRI NANDU'S 'MAGALLU ZINDABAD' TITLE LAUNCHED

Golden Ark Production, owned by producers Prasad Bhaskarla and Chaitanya Vangavarapu, has announced its latest film 'Magallu Zindabad', starring young hero Sri Nandu, along with popular comedians Vennela Kishore and Viva Harsha. Written and directed by Nara Praveen, the film's title was officially unveiled at a grand event.



Nara Praveen, who is a protégé of renowned Telugu filmmaker Anil Ravipudi, has already created curiosity with the film's unique and attention-grabbing title. At a time when comedy-driven films are receiving strong appreciation from audiences, the makers expressed confidence that Magallu Zindabad will entertain viewers with its interesting title and engaging comedy content.

DIRECTOR NARA PRAVEEN
Director Nara Praveen said

that Magallu Zindabad is a satirical comedy film, and the title was chosen to reflect the central theme of the story. He explained that the film humorously explores the perception that the comfort, justice and sympathy often available to women in society are not always extended to men. The subject has been handled in a satirical tone while generating entertaining situations throughout the film.

He added that Magallu Zindabad is essentially a social satire packed with enjoyable comedy, and the entire film moves forward in a light-hearted and entertaining manner.

ACTRESS LAKSHMI DURGA
Heroine Lakshmi Durga said she believes Magallu Zindabad will appeal to audiences across sections. She thanked the producers for trusting her and giving her

the opportunity to make her debut with the film. She said that audiences have always supported good cinema and urged everyone to watch and encourage Magallu Zindabad.

HERO SRI NANDU
Speaking at the title launch, hero Sri Nandu said the title Magallu Zindabad is sure to make people think and, at the same time, bring a smile to their faces.

O NAA SIDDHAYYA' TITLE & POSTER UNVEILED

The title poster of the upcoming song 'O Naa Siddhayya', featuring Siddu Reddy and Katyayani Jagan, was unveiled here on Friday. The song has been written and directed by Ram Adnan and produced under the Kandakatla Creations banner. Kalyan Keys has composed the music, while Ram Adnan and Srinidhi have rendered the vocals. Arun Koluguri has handled cinematography and editing. Speaking at the launch, Chandrabose said he had known Siddu Reddy for only six to seven months but had developed a close bond with him. He said he had also written a song for Siddu Reddy, which would be released shortly. Appreciating the team of 'O Naa Siddhayya', he wished the song success and Ram Adnan well in his future projects. MLA Prakash Goud appreciated Siddu Reddy for his social service initiatives and said his



efforts included supporting people in need and constructing a government school. He also referred to Siddu Reddy's initiative of providing insurance coverage to 300 auto-rickshaw drivers. "Siddu Reddy* said the insurance initiative was prompted by an incident involving a woman whose husband was undergoing treatment in a hospital.

Despite financial assistance extended by him, the medical expenses had gone up to nearly Rs. 5 lakh, prompting him to explore insurance support for auto-rickshaw drivers. He thanked Ram Adnan and Arun for their support in making the song and said the project had given him the experience of working on a film rather than just a song. He

said 'O Naa Siddhayya' would be released soon. Ram Adnan said the song was based on Siddu Reddy's life and sought to portray family emotions and the relationship between a husband and wife. He expressed hope that the song would connect with audiences, particularly couples who had faced hardships together.