

NATIONAL | NEWS

**Demand surges for TN
Assembly visitor passes ahead
of CM Vijay's reply in House****ISRO says it will neither
be privatised nor lose
importance**

Its focus will further move towards R&D, human space-flight, next-gen launch systems, deep-space, planetary missions, and strategic national capabilities

CINEMA | NEWS

**WHEN TABU OPENED UP
ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE
OF A DIRECTOR**SCAN FOR
E-PAPEROM NAMO
VENKATESAYA

05-09-2026
Total pilgrims : 84,176
Tonsures : 36,673
Hundi/kankals : 4,08 CR
Laddu sale : 474 lac
Annaprashadam : 3,01 lac
Ashwin hospital : 4,230
Present Situation on 04-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments : Outside
line of Bala Gangamma Temple.
Approx. Darsan Time for Sarvadarshanam (with
out SSD Tokens) : 24H.

Short Takes

**TWO MILITANTS
KILLED, TWO
INJURED IN GUN
BATTLE WITH
SECURITY FORCES IN
MANIPUR**

Imphal, Sep 6 : At least two militants of the United Kuki National Army (UKNA) were killed and two others injured in a gun battle with security forces during an intelligence-based operation in Manipur's Churachandpur district, officials said on Sunday. An official said that the Indian Army and the Assam Rifles launched a joint operation based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of militants at Phaibong village under the Henglep sub-division in the mountainous Churachandpur district. Forces established surveillance over a UKNA camp and commenced tactical closing when UKNA cadres opened indiscriminate fire and the troops quickly retaliated with controlled fire. "Two UKNA cadres neutralised and two injured in the firing," the official said. Search of the camp yielded two foreign made MA Rifles (5.56 mm), one AK-56 Rifle (7.62 mm), one Lathode Gun (40 mm), seven Lathod Grenades, 15 AK magazines, 371 AK-56 rounds, 601 MA Rifle rounds, 172 SLR rounds, 15 combat uniforms, 7 ammunition pouches, 5 backpacks, 3 combat bags and 5 pairs of jungle shoes.

**Nepal rescuers continue search
for missing as identification of
dead remains challenge**

KATHMANDU (TSIT): (SEP. 6)

Rescuers in Nepal continued searching for those missing, as authorities faced continuing difficulties in identifying the dead, 11 days after devastating floods struck large parts of the country.

The death toll stood at 1,344, while nearly 5,000 people, including 589 foreign nationals, remained missing, according to Nepal Police. Around 13,400 people

have been rescued so far. The disaster was triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border on August 26, sending a massive surge of water and debris downstream through the Bhotekoshi River and devastating settlements in northern and central Nepal. Homes, vehicles, roads, bridges and hydropower infrastructure were swept away or damaged.

**9 dead after
suspected spurious
liquor consumption
in MP's Sagar**

Sagar (Madhya Pradesh), Sep 6 : At least nine people have died after allegedly consuming spurious liquor in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh, while around 35 others have been admitted to hospitals, officials said on Sunday.



Some of those undergoing treatment are reported to be in critical condition and have been referred to Bundelkhand Medical College and the District Hospital in Sagar. District Collector Pratibha Pal said reports of illness and deaths allegedly linked to illicit liquor consumption had emerged since morning and an investigation was underway at the Civil Hospital. "There have been reports of illness-

India, Saudi Arabia hold talks to boost labour cooperation

Riyadh (TSIT): Minister of State for External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh, on Sunday, September 6, met Saudi Arabia's Human Resources and Social Development Minister Ahmad bin Sulaiman Alrajhi and discussed cooperation in labour and manpower sectors.

"Pleased to meet Ahmad bin Sulaiman Alrajhi, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development of Saudi Arabia. Held wide-ranging discussions on further strengthening India-Saudi Arabia cooperation in the labour and manpower sector, reflecting the depth and growing momentum of our Strategic Partnership. Grateful to Ahmad bin Sulaiman Alrajhi for the invitation and warm hospitality," MoS Singh stated on X.

Singh arrived in Saudi Arabia, on his first official visit, on Saturday and was received by the country's



Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, Dr Tariq Al Hamad. "Arrived in Riyadh on a bilateral visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Warmly received by Ambassador Shri Vipul and HE Dr Tariq Al Hamad, Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources and Social

Development. I look forward to fruitful engagements with Saudi counterparts and meaningful interactions with Indian diaspora and business leaders in the Kingdom," MoS Singh stated on X.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), during the visit, which will go on till September 8, MoS Singh will also be meeting the Minister of State for Foreign

Affairs and Climate Affairs Envoy, the Vice Minister for Environment, Water and Agriculture, as well as other dignitaries.

MoS Singh will interact with a large cross-section of the Indian community in Saudi Arabia and Indian business leaders, entrepreneurs and professionals during the visit. "He will interact with Indian workers, reflecting the Government of India's unwavering commitment to the welfare of Indian workers overseas," the MEA said in a statement.

"The visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to discuss issues of mutual interest in the areas of human resources, skill development, environment, climate change and international affairs and further strengthen the multifaceted strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia," it added.

**India emerges
as key diesel
supplier to Europe**

New Delhi, Sep 6 : India is emerging as a crucial supplier of diesel to Europe as Russian exports remain severely constrained and US shipments begin to weaken, with Indian refiners accounting for around 60 per cent of diesel volumes transiting the Bab-el-Mandeb to Europe in August, according to energy intelligence firm Vortexa. Around 2,00,000 barrels per day (bpd) of diesel, or gasoil, transited the Bab-el-Mandeb in August on vessels bound for Europe. The volume was close to year-ago levels after flows through the strategically important shipping route had nearly stalled in March and April. India supplied roughly 60 per cent of the August volumes, highlighting the growing importance of Indian refineries to Europe's eastern diesel supply. India's position is underpinned by its large refining capacity. The country is the world's fourth-largest refiner, with installed capacity of 258.1 million tonnes per annum, significantly higher than domestic fuel demand.

This surplus has enabled Indian refiners to remain major exporters of petroleum products. India exported 61.5 million tonnes of petroleum products during 2025-26, making it one of the world's largest exporters of refined fuels. Increasingly, these products are finding markets across Europe and, in some cases, Russia, as sanctions, refinery disruptions and changes in global trade routes reshape refined-product flows.

However, the sustainability of India's growing role in Europe's diesel market is coming under scrutiny as crude supplies into the country tighten. Crude and condensate shipments into India fell for a second consecutive month in August to around 3.8 million bpd, compared with 4.8 million bpd a year earlier, Vortexa data showed. The pressure on European die-

Building collapses in south Delhi's Satya Niketan; 3 dead, 5 critical, many trapped

Locals claim the building was nearly 20 years old and construction work in the basement was on when the incident occurred at around 1.30 pm

NEW DELHI (TSIT)

A 50-year-old five-storey building housing a boys' hostel in a congested bylane in Satya Niketan near Delhi University's South Campus collapsed on Sunday afternoon, leaving three students dead and many trapped. Locals claimed that there could be between 30 and 50 people in the building at the time. Authorities, however, gave no figure for those trapped.

Eight people have been pulled out of the debris so far, of whom two were brought dead to the hospital, while a third died during treatment. Five are critical, the police said.

Repair work was under way in the basement of the five-floor structure, which was used as a paying guest (PG) accommodation, when it collapsed at around 1.30 pm, a senior officer said.



Several vehicles also came under the rubble as the structure crashed. Locals claimed that the collection of water in the basement over days of rain had weakened the building's foundation, leading to its eventual collapse.

Delhi has seen spells of heavy rain since Friday. A police officer said the structure was nearly 50 years old. Two NDRF teams comprising 70 personnel and a canine squad have been deployed to look for signs of

life. Oxygen cylinders were dropped under the rubble for those stuck to breathe, an NDRF officer said. Fire tenders have been stationed at the site.

The area is marked by narrow, congested bylanes lined with eateries and PGs. Densely packed buildings often leave little room for movement, with locals saying most of the students staying in the locality were from Kerala, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and study at colleges across the road.

**DFC Carries Over
14% of Rail Freight on
Just 4% of Network**

NEW DELHI (TSIT): Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) are significantly improving India's freight productivity by carrying more than 14% of railway freight on just 4% of the rail network. The dedicated infrastructure is helping expand freight capacity while reducing pressure on passenger routes. The DFC network is expected to lower national logistics costs, strengthen industrial corridors and improve the competitiveness of Indian manufacturing. Faster and more reliable movement of raw materials and finished goods can support the growth of the Make in India and Make for the World initiatives. Electrified freight operations also help reduce diesel consumption,

carbon emissions and dependence on imported fossil fuels, contributing to India's energy security and environmental goals. The corridors provide dependable movement of essential commodities such as coal, iron ore, steel, cement, fertilisers, food grains and petroleum products. Improved freight connectivity is also expected to attract foreign investment, promote industrial development beyond major cities and strengthen multimodal logistics by connecting rail with highways, ports, airports, waterways and logistics terminals. Greater reliance on rail for long-distance cargo will create a more balanced and resilient national transport system.

TEHRAN (TSIT): Iran's aerospace forces attacked an aircraft carrier and a destroyer of the US military with several ballistic missiles after the vessels harassed Iranian ships and participated in the naval blockade against the country, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said Sunday.

The two military vessels fled the conflict zone after suffering damage, the IRGC said in a statement published by its official news outlet, Sepah News.

It warned that if the "hostile and aggressive" actions continue, the US government must await "formidable" responses from the Iranian armed forces.

On Saturday night, the IRGC's navy said it had targeted three oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz and three US-affiliated vessels elsewhere in retaliation for US attacks on Iranian tankers earlier in the day, Xinhua

**Iran's IRGC says it attacked
two US Navy vessels**

News Agency reported.

The three tankers struck in the strait were crossing the waterway via an "unauthorised" route, the navy said in a statement, adding that the other three vessels were hit in other regions.

US Central Command said Saturday on social media platform X that US forces had struck three Iranian crude oil carriers after IRGC "launched ballistic missiles toward two US Navy warships patrolling regional waters."

"A US aircraft carrier and guided-missile destroyer successfully evaded multiple unprovoked Iranian attacks.

No American personnel were harmed," it said.

In a statement published early Sunday by its official news outlet Sepah News, the IRGC said its aerospace forces had fired several ballistic missiles at a US aircraft carrier and a destroyer in the preceding hours, alleging that the vessels had harassed Iranian ships and participated in a naval blockade against Iran. The IRGC also said its naval forces had attacked a US Army unmanned surface vessel that attempted to enter a protected area of the Strait of Hormuz.

EDITORIAL

Bullets, Blows,
No Procedure

Siwan (Bihar): When student protests broke out in Bihar last month, Aman Kumar Lal came into form. Bihar records the highest number of student protests after Kerala, national data show. Nineteen-year-old Lal has been a part of quite a few of those protests in recent years. He knew the drill. Gather around Patna's Gandhi Maidan. Some angry slogans, some tongue-in-cheek digs. Wait for the police to arrive. Dodge their lathis. Enjoy their water cannons. Climb their barricades. Feel powerful. Return home pleased. Except, Patna now had a new dispensation. For the first time ever, the Bihar government was being run by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with chief minister Samrat Choudhary at the helm. Lal didn't think twice. He left home on the morning of July 22, when students called for a protest. Except, this time, he couldn't follow the script. A few hours into the protest, he was detained and then arrested by the police. "We thought they would let us go. But they refused to," said Lal, adding that he felt "surprised" at this change of tactic. In custody, Lal was interrogated repeatedly, and was asked questions about who was "funding" him. Lal laughed. "I said, all the ration the government gives people like us has fuelled me." The cops didn't see the humour in it. Lal spent seven days in custody, and was released only on July 29. Lal's experience, in a state known to tolerate student protests, even if grudgingly, is a part of a larger pattern: the changed approach of the Bihar government in quelling such demonstrations. The most glaring sign of this was the clutch of visuals that emerged from Siwan, where police officials fired AK-47 rifles and pistols at crowds gathered in the heart of the city on July 25, when student outfits had called for a Bihar Bandh. At least three people were injured when officials fired multiple rounds of bullets into the crowd. The Wire had, on August 25, reported how the three are struggling to recover, even one month after the incident. In quelling the protests, the Bihar Police had filed 64 First Information Reports (FIRs) against protesters and thousands of 'unknown' persons. It had also arrested or detained 694 people, of which at least 339 were minors. More proof of this came into public sight when, on August 26, hundreds of Bihari students and job aspirants gathered to demand the cancellation of the 70th Bihar Public Service Commission preliminary exam. As part of its effort to shut them down, the Bihar Police forcefully took a six-year-old protester out of the protest site by carrying him in their arms. Such excesses are increasingly the norm. Our reporting from across Bihar shows that the state police adopted violence, intimidation and arbitrary detentions as methods to quell the protests. In the process, they ended up violating constitutional safeguards and procedural norms. The Wire reached out to the head of Bihar police, Director General of Police Vinay Kumar over emails for his response to these findings. However, Kumar did not respond. When visuals of the Siwan police firing multiple rounds from an AK-47 rifle and a pistol flooded the internet, Vishal Yadav was as stunned as the rest of the country. After all, Yadav, as one of the organisers of the protest, was at the site minutes before the firing took place. Yadav is the vice-president of the Inquilab Naujawan Sabha, the youth-wing of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation (CPI-ML). The CPI-ML continues to have pockets of influence across Bihar – it has two MLAs and MPs each from the state.

How Mumbai's Dahi Handi
Resonates Across Generations

Although gone are the days when I used to cover the Dahi Handi festival on the ground, I still visit some of the festive locations every year just for one simple reason - nostalgia. Yes, Dahi Handi makes me nostalgic. As a true blue Mumbaikar I have grown up watching and participating in this festival. Later on, when I became a TV journalist, I covered this celebration year after year. I have seen the transformation of this festival over the decades. From the modest matkis hung in the middle of streets at moderate heights, broken by local Govinda pathaks, the celebration is now enveloped in glamour and commercialisation. Without passing any judgement, I appreciate how the festival continually adapted to stay relevant across generations. Opinions may differ but the credit to transform the festival and keep it youthful and innovative goes to a few politicians like Jitendra Awhad, Sachin Aher, Pratap Sarnaik and Ram Kadam who belong to different parties. Awhad was the first one to organise a fashion show below the Dahi Handi in Pachpakhadi Thane. He also invited Spanish Castellers to Thane who celebrated a similar festival of forming human towers in Catalonia. Students of a business school attended his event to see the practical application of the concepts like goal-setting, team-building, risk management and so on. Sarnaik was instrumental in giving a professional structure to the festival. Aher gathered Bollywood celebrities at Jambori Maidan in Worli and Ram Kadam infused big cash into the festival in the form of rewards to participants of tall human pyramids. Some of the politicians have genuine love for the festival while others seem to capitalise on its popularity. In any case, their involvement has benefitted the festival. Despite all the



risks, commercialisation and politicisation, Dahi Handi festival remains an event which synthesises culture, religion and sports. The slogan "Govinda Ala Re..." still triggers excitement in me and makes my adrenaline rush in my mid 40s as it did during my teenage years. Moreover, in the time of growing social polarisation on communal lines, it is worth remembering that the song from the film Bluff Master (1963) , which has become the anthem of this Hindu festival, was sung by Mohammed Rafi, a Muslim. Every Janmashtami, I still miss that pandal at Pach Pakhadi in Thane from where I have broadcasted this event live for over 15 years. I really longed for the day and enjoyed the coverage. The last

chapter of my novel 'Bombay 3' is based on it. Janmashtami is being celebrated across India on September 4 with devotion and joy as devotees mark the birth of Lord Krishna. The festival is observed with prayers, fasting, devotional songs and visits to temples, making it one of the important occasions in the Hindu calendar. The celebrations are followed by Dahi Handi, which is traditionally observed on the day after Janmashtami. Also known as Gopalakala in Maharashtra, Dahi Handi 2026 will be celebrated on Saturday, September 5. The celebration involves groups known as Govinda Pathaks forming human pyramids to reach and break a suspended earthen pot filled with curd and

other dairy products. The term Dahi Handi comes from two words: 'dahi', meaning curd, and 'handi', referring to the traditional earthen pot used to store and process milk products. On the day, streets come alive with chants, music and energetic celebrations as Govinda Pathaks compete to reach and break the hanging pots. The tradition is rooted in the childhood stories of Lord Krishna. According to Hindu mythology, young Krishna was fond of butter and used to steal it from earthen pots kept in his neighbours' homes. To keep the dairy products away from him, the women of the neighbourhood began hanging the pots high from the ceiling. However, Krishna, known for his playful and mischievous nature, found a

way to reach them. He and his friends would form human pyramids, climb over one another and break the hanging pots to get the butter inside. Significance Of Dahi Handi Dahi Handi reflects the playful childhood of Lord Krishna. According to folklore, Krishna was very fond of butter and curd and would often steal them from his neighbours' homes. Because of this, he is often known as "Maakhan Chor". His mother, Yashoda, was irritated by his habit and suggested keeping butter, curd and milk high enough so that young Krishna could not reach them. However, Krishna and his friends found a way to get them by forming human pyramids. Once they reached the pots, they would break them,

share the butter among themselves and enjoy it. Over time, this act became an important part of Indian culture, especially during Janmashtami celebrations. The Dahi Handi event represents strength, coordination, teamwork and focus. The human pyramid can have up to nine tiers, with strong individuals forming the base and supporting the weight of those above them. The tradition also celebrates Lord Krishna's playful and mischievous nature, adding joy and happiness to the festivities. In Maharashtra, Dahi Handi celebrations on September 5 are expected to feature Govinda Pathaks competing to break the suspended pots amid music, dancing and festive gatherings.

In Bengal, Tribunal Remedy Has Been Slowest
Where the SIR Has Affected Muslim Voters the Most

Judicial officers reviewing the electoral rolls in Murarai, a constituency in West Bengal's Birbhum, in March this year marked 14,870 names not eligible and struck them off the voter list. Ninety-five percent of these names were Muslim. The Appellate Tribunal set up to hear their appeals has, in the last five or so months, decided exactly one case in Murarai. That one person was excluded from the list. Murarai is an extreme case and shorn of context, it perhaps should not be read as a pattern. But its theme holds across West Bengal, and it can be stated in one sentence – the places where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) affected the most number of Muslim electors are the places where the process of correction has been slowest and least effective. The scale Of the 27,05,162 names on the Election Commission's published lists of those found "not eligible" to vote, approximately 18.98 lakh were Muslim. This is 70.2%, in a state where Muslims are around 25% of the electorate. The removal of Muslim names was not spread evenly across the state. The districts Malda, Murshidabad and Uttar Dinajpur, with 43 constituencies between them, account for 31.8% of the total number of electors in West Bengal. In these three districts, 94.4% of the removals were Muslim. Measured against the electorate they started with, those three districts lost 7.63% of their voters to the revision, against a state figure of 3.53%, more than double the rate. Eighteen of the 43 constituencies sit on an international border. In these constituen-



cies, 42% of Muslims were deleted, against the 15% figure of the state, and their electorates had grown 50.1% since 2011 against the 36.7% statewide figure. It is no surprise that rapid growth of an electorate on a border attracts suspicion of ineligible enrolment. Statewide, the removals at border seats were 79.9% Muslim against 66.5% in non-border seats. One explanation can be ruled out, and it is the one the Commission is likely to reach for first. The SIR functioned through the process of matching each elector against the 2002 roll. Those who could not be matched were recorded as 'unmapped'. In these three districts, the share of those unmapped was 2.21% of the electorate, against 3.99% across West Bengal and 4.30% in the rest of the state. Therefore, voters in these three districts were able to map themselves to the old rolls in more numbers than anywhere else in the state. What separated them was what happened after that. The share of their electorate placed under adjudication was 21.36%, against 5.50% in the rest of the state, and it was

at that stage – after the draft roll had been published – that the removals were made. Across the 23 districts of the state, there is no relationship at all between the share who failed to map themselves to the 2002 rolls and the share of the electorate who were eventually struck off. Bankura had the lowest unmapped share in the state at 0.85% and removed 0.21% of its electorate. Malda had 1.88% who were unmapped and removed a whopping 7.48%. Where the remedy has not arrived Malda and Murshidabad have 6,83,683 removals between them, a quarter of the state total. Out of this figure, 6,52,858 were Muslim electors. The tribunals have put 2,833 people back on the rolls in the two districts. Ranked by restorations for every thousand electors removed, Murshidabad stands at 4.05 and Malda at 4.13, against a state average of 27.77. Only Purba Bardhaman at 0.90 and Paschim Bardhaman at 3.75 are worse. Malda has more appeals waiting than any other district in West Bengal, and has decided a smaller share of them than any other

district. The Election Commission's Right to Information reply on August 17 to Isha Khan Choudhury, the Congress MP for Dakshin Malda, gives two different counts for how many appeals Malda has, 6,85,341 in one of its tables and 5,31,149 in another. The previous article on this series has already reported that one of the two must be wrong. Here, it makes no difference. On the larger count Malda has decided 0.150% of its appeals. On the smaller, 0.193%. The next worst district in the state is 0.265%, so Malda is last either way. In its constituency of Malatipur, 86,989 appeals are pending and 90 have been decided. Sixteen constituencies statewide have restored nobody at all. The obvious explanation is that Malda and Murshidabad were simply handed more than any tribunal could process. However, this explanation is put to doubt by the example of Uttar Dinajpur. Adjudication there marked 1,76,869 electors not eligible and 90.4% of them were Muslim. It marked Muslims ineligible at 13.3 times the rate at which it marked everyone else.

Swatantra Bhardwaj Remanded to a Day's Custody;
Nishu Azad's Lawyer Flags 'Strange' Hearing

New Delhi: Hindutva worker Swatantra Bhardwaj, who had publicly boasted about cracking the skull of the father of a student activist during the Jantar Mantar protests, was produced before the court on September 5 and has been sent to a day of police custody. However, clarity eludes his arrest, the charges he has been held under and the curious circumstances in which he was produced in court. Bhardwaj, in an interview uploaded two days ago, had claimed that he avoided going to jail despite inflicting serious injuries on his victim Sanjay Azad because he enjoys support from the establishment, including from Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kapil Mishra. Bhardwaj said that he had "cracked" Sanjay's skull. He also said that Sanjay's daughter, prominent student activist Nishu Azad, will be targeted – "now the child will also be beaten." Nishu Azad wrote on X at 5:43 pm that there is "still no official confirmation from Delhi Police regarding the SC/ST or POCSO Acts." Saurav Das, the spokesperson for the Cockroach Janata Party which had led the Jantar Mantar protests in July, had said a day ago that the police have now invoked the BNS provision pertaining to criminal intimidation threatening death or grievous injury against Bhardwaj in their existing FIR against him, in addition to sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Azad today wrote in her tweet, "As the victim, I seek only truth,



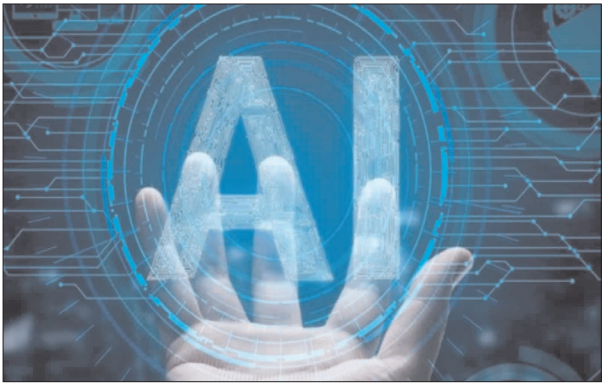
clarity, and justice." Congress lawyer Rishav Ranjan noted that the hearing was "strange and special." Ranjan wrote on X at 2:27 pm that at around 1:45 pm, Bhardwaj was presented before the Patiala House Court judge at the judge's residence through a special video conference arrangement. "Judge was not sitting in Court. No idea about which charges are being freshly pressed. No idea about how many days of remand was asked by the Police," Ranjan wrote. Bhardwaj is being represented by advocate Umesh Sharma, who was quoted by ANI as having said that since "this arrest happened suddenly, there is a lot of confusion." "They picked him up at night and took him away, so we are looking into all these things. We have not spoken to him yet..." Sharma said according to a post by ANI at 3:15 pm today. Sharma said that Bhardwaj has to be produced tomorrow. "It is possible that he may be produced at the same place or some-

where else, depending on the IO's [investigating officer] decision and what senior officers direct..." he added. "Police officers have assured us that Swatantra will be arrested within 72 hours. They have promised to take action, and we hope there will be no further delay," the Dalit victim's daughter was quoted as having said. CJP spokesperson Saurav Das said on Friday (September 4) night that the police have now invoked the BNS provision pertaining to criminal intimidation threatening death or grievous injury against Bhardwaj in their existing FIR against him, in addition to sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. They will also invoke either the attempt to murder or attempt to commit culpable homicide provision against the 21-year-old, Das added. Bhardwaj, in an interview uploaded two days ago, had claimed that he avoided going to jail despite inflicting serious injuries on his victim Sanjay Azad because he enjoys support from the

establishment, including from Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kapil Mishra. Bhardwaj said Sanjay had to undergo 'seven stitches' on his head, and added that this is something that would have warranted an attempt to murder case against himself. Bhardwaj said that he had "cracked" Sanjay's skull. He also said that Sanjay's daughter will be targeted – "now the child will also be beaten." "I didn't even go to jail, the whole world must know that. We were roaming outside the whole night. On the one hand we have the blessings of Balaji and Hanuman ji. On the other hand there's some –Kapil Mishra is our elder brother ... Modi ji is my elder brother too...", Bhardwaj was heard saying in Hindi. After the uproar, Bhardwaj denied making such remarks and alleged that he attacked the other person in "self-defence", and that otherwise, he would have been "lynched". "If I had not acted in self-defence, I could have been lynched by the mob or killed.

Karnataka seeks AI talent pipeline ahead of varsity launch

Bengaluru: Karnataka is looking to build a statewide AI talent pipeline by bringing together technology companies, academic institutions and the government, even as work progresses towards establishing the proposed Karnataka Artificial Intelligence University. The first meeting of the KAIU advisory committee, chaired by Infosys co-founder and Axilor Ventures chairman Kris Gopalakrishnan, was held in Bengaluru on Saturday, September 5. IT-BT and the Science and Technology Department secretary, Dr N Manjula, served as co-chair. The committee discussed immediate AI training programmes alongside a long-term roadmap for the university. Certificate and diploma courses, finishing schools, executive education and reskilling initiatives are expected to be developed in partnership with industry and educational institutions. Generative and agen-



tific AI, data analytics, cloud technology, cybersecurity, AI infrastructure and data centres, physical AI, semiconductors, hardware applications and AI literacy would be among the focus areas. The committee also proposed using existing academic infrastructure and AI learning laboratories across Karnataka to make practical training accessible outside Bengaluru. Committee mulls programmes, ways to measure outcomes Industry participation will form a key component of the initiative, with companies expected to contribute expertise,

faculty, mentors, certification support and industry-relevant projects. The committee discussed programmes for students, graduates, technology professionals, professionals from other sectors and rural youth. It also examined ways to measure outcomes through employment, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities. Gopalakrishnan said the immediate priority was to identify existing industry training programmes and academic capabilities and combine them to create AI skill opportunities.

IPO ACTION INTENSIFIES AS 11 COS TARGET RS 7,055 CR NEXT WEEK

New Delhi: The primary market is poised for another action-packed week, with 11 main-board companies, including Rentomojo, Karamtara Engineering and Kanohar Electricals, set to raise Rs 7,055 crore through initial public offerings (IPOs). The IPOs are scheduled to hit the market between September 7 and September 15, with most of the issues opening for subscription on Tuesday and Wednesday. "This multi-issue rush reflects an eagerness to lock in early-stage growth equity in young companies as all these companies are below USD 1 billion market cap at listing," Rajkumar Rath, Chief Investment Officer at YES Securities, said. The companies tapping the primary market include real estate developers, engineering and manufacturing firms, a payments and identity solutions provider, a specialty chemicals manufacturer and an online rental plat-



form. Of Rs 7,055 crore, Rs 2,722 crore (39 per cent) is primary capital issuance, where funds go into the company, and Rs 4,333 crore (61 per cent) is a secondary sale by existing shareholders. This mobilisation highlights strong corporate confidence and robust liquidity available within the Indian primary market, Rath said. The

funds raised through the fresh issues will largely be utilised for business expansion, capital expenditure, debt repayment, working capital requirements and other general corporate purposes. The upcoming IPO rush follows a busy start to September, with Rays of Belief and Deepa Jewellers already launching their IPOs

on September 1. With these issues, the number of companies launching IPOs in 2026 is expected to rise to 75. This includes 23 issues launched in August. Against this backdrop, Pranav Constructions will be the first among the 11 companies to open its IPO for public subscription on September 7. The over Rs 351-crore issue will close on

September 9. This will be followed by Kanohar Electricals, Prasol Chemicals and Glass Wall Systems (India), which will open their IPOs on September 8. Rentomojo, Manipal Payment and Identity Solutions, Arcil, LCC Projects, Karamtara Engineering and Steamhouse India will launch their issues on September 9, while Veegaland Developers will open its IPO on September 10. Pranav Constructions has fixed a price band of Rs 118-124 per share for its IPO, comprising a fresh issue of Rs 315.6 crore and an OFS of 28.57 lakh shares worth Rs 35.43 crore. Kanohar Electricals has fixed a price band of Rs 601-632 per share for its Rs 1,056-crore IPO. Prasol Chemicals has fixed a price band of Rs 643-676 per share for its Rs 500-crore IPO, comprising a fresh issue of Rs 80 crore and an OFS of up to Rs 420 crore.

INDIAN BANK TO OPEN REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN DUBAI



Chennai: Indian Bank has received board approval to open a representative office in Dubai, as it seeks to expand its overseas operations, leveraging the large Indian diaspora across West Asia. Currently, the bank has a full-service international branch in Singapore and branches in Colombo and Jaffna (Sri Lanka). Besides, it has an IPSC Banking Unit (IBU) functioning as an offshore/foreign branch from GIFT City, Gandhinagar. "We are getting good business from our GIFT City branch, including participation in various syndicated loans...my aim now is to open a rep office in Dubai...We have a good number of non-resident Indians settled in Dubai and about 33 per cent of the working population is Indian," Indian Bank MD and CEO Binod Kumar told PTI in an interaction. For

the representative office in Dubai, the bank's board has given its approval and the bank is in the process of seeking other regulatory approvals. Besides, Kumar said, the bank is exploring the possibility of having a presence in Malaysia and Indonesia. On the domestic side, he said, Indian Bank plans to add 100 branches this year with a primary focus on increasing the bank's presence in the central and western parts of the country. To manage growing business needs and replace retiring employees, the bank would increase its headcount by about 2,500 personnel, including specialist officers. "Last year, we opened 100 branches. This year too, we have similar plans. Just on August 15, which was our foundation day, the bank inaugurated 15 branches across the country," he said.

'IRANIAN FUNDS FLOWED THROUGH US BANKS,' SAYS REPORT

Washington: Billions of dollars connected to Iran are passing through accounts at American banks each year despite sweeping US sanctions intended to isolate Tehran from the global financial system, according to a media investigation published on Sunday, September 6. Iran gains indirect access to dollar-clearing accounts through foreign banks with relationships with American financial institutions, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing Western officials, researchers and banking records. The transactions use correspondent banking, a system through which banks process cross-border payments for financial institutions that do not have a direct presence in the United States, the financial daily reported. Iranian entities reportedly conceal their involvement through front companies, currency exchanges and business partners in China, the United Arab Emirates and other jurisdictions. Foreign institutions then send dollar-denominated transactions through their US banking partners without identifying the Iranian connection. The US Treasury Department identified approximately \$9 billion in Iranian-linked funds that moved through American banks during 2024, the newspaper reported. The findings



raise questions about enforcement gaps in the US-led sanctions system as President Donald Trump's administration intensifies its military and economic pressure on Tehran, The Wall Street Journal said. On August 28, the Treasury Department proposed cutting off the UAE branch of Egypt's state-owned Banque Misr from US correspondent banking services. The department classified Banque Misr UAE as a financial institution of "primary money laundering concern". US officials said the branch had routed as much as \$1.8 billion through the American correspondent accounts for companies potentially connected to Iranian shadow-banking networks. Treasury said Banque Misr UAE maintained dollar accounts with three American banks but did not identify them.

access to the US dollar and the global financial system," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said while announcing the action against Banque Misr UAE. American banks say they work closely with the Treasury Department to enforce sanctions and file legally required reports when transactions appear suspicious or potentially connected to Iran. Elaine Dezenski, a former Department of Homeland Security official, said detecting the networks was difficult but possible. "US and correspondent banks are squarely on the hook, and that pressure is only increasing," she told the newspaper. The Treasury has issued warnings to financial institutions about indicators of Iranian sanctions evasion. According to the daily, these include companies with unclear ownership structures, businesses registered in Hong Kong but using Chinese bank accounts and UAE-based entities with little visible commercial activity. Iran has increasingly used the Chinese yuan and cryptocurrencies to reduce its reliance on the dollar. It still requires access to dollar transactions for some international trade, technology purchases and the acquisition of components that Washington says may support its military programmes.

Hyundai Motor India expects 30 pc sales to come from rural markets



New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India Ltd is betting big on rural markets, which it expects to contribute around 30 per cent of its total sales in the next three to four years, according to its Managing Director & CEO Tarun Garg. The company, which has 68 per cent of its total sales coming from SUVs overall, is also witnessing SUV penetration of 69 per cent in the rural markets, he said in an interaction. Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HML) is also intensifying its rural focus on network expansion with six out of every ten new outlets being opened in such markets, he added. "I will not be surprised if in another three to four years we can reach about 30 per cent," Garg said when asked how the company is looking at rural penetration going up, especially with its two upcoming new products — a midsize SUV and a compact electric SUV. In the first quarter of this fiscal year, rural contribution reached 25.9 per cent, up from 22.6 per cent in Q1FY26, he added. In the April-August period of this fiscal, HML clocked domestic sales of 2,47,980

units as against 2,20,233 units in the year-ago period, up 12.6 per cent. In terms of growth, Garg said, "Rural (market) growth in quarter one was 23 per cent and urban growth was 2.8 per cent in quarter one of this fiscal." Elaborating the rationale for the bullishness on rural markets, he said, "There is still upside (for growth there) because if you see, the road infrastructure in India is continuously growing. There is hardly any difference now between the Tier 2 and Tier 3 road infrastructure and Tier 1 road infrastructure." Also, with data being very affordable in India, customers in the rural markets have access to information that helps in the traction of the company's products, including SUVs. "Our (overall) SUV penetration is around 68 per cent, and the best part is SUV penetration is equally strong in the rural markets as well. In fact, in rural markets, SUV penetration is 69 per cent," Garg noted. In order to tap the potential of the rural market, HML is also intensifying its focus there with network expansion.

1 Finance Elevates Anooj Mehta as Partner

Highlights

■ **For Immediate Release: 1 Finance, a holistic personal finance advisory and wealth-tech firm with over ₹17,000 Cr+ in Assets Under Advice (AUA), has elevated Anooj Mehta as Partner, as the firm continues to scale its advisory platform across financial planning, qualified advisors, and research.**

For Immediate Release: 1 Finance, a holistic personal finance advisory and wealth-tech firm with over ₹17,000 Cr+ in Assets Under Advice (AUA), has elevated Anooj Mehta as Partner, as the firm continues to scale its advisory platform across financial planning, qualified advisors, and research. The elevation comes at an important phase of 1 Finance's growth, reinforcing its core philosophy of being "one with your interest." As the firm expands its footprint, the focus remains on delivering consistent, unbiased and hyper-personalised financial advice to customers. Anooj, who previously served as Vice President at

1 Finance, brings 10 years of experience across financial advisory and risk management, with previous stints at KPMG, Credit Suisse and Marwadi Shares & Finance. A Chartered Wealth Manager (CWM), he holds an MBA in Finance from the Institute for Financial Management and Research and a BBA (Hons) from Ahmedabad University. Anooj was also conferred the Fellowship of the American Academy of Financial Management (FAAFM), USA, in 2022. As Partner, Anooj will focus on scaling the Financial Planning Centre network, strengthening advisor development and maintaining high standards of advi-



sory quality. He will also continue to work directly with clients on complex financial planning needs, while contributing to the firm's growth across South India. Jeet Marwadi, Founder & Managing Director, 1 Finance said, "Anooj's elevation comes at a pivotal stage in our growth. As we scale our advisory network and build deeper capabilities, his experience and understanding of client-centric financial planning will be valuable in ensuring that our growth remains anchored to our philosophy of being 'one with your

interest." Speaking about his new role, Anooj Mehta, Partner, 1 Finance, added, "Becoming a Partner is an opportunity to take greater ownership of the institution we are building. I look forward to strengthening our advisory capabilities, developing advisors and helping more clients experience financial planning that is truly personalised, holistic and aligned with their interests." Anooj is a Chartered Wealth Manager and currently heads 1 Finance's Financial Planning Centre in Hyderabad.

ABOUT 1 FINANCE:

1 Finance is a Mumbai-based personal finance advisory firm focused on holistic, goal-based financial planning. Through qualified advisors and unbiased, hyper-personalised advice, it helps individuals make confident money decisions and achieve financial well-being. 1 Finance is backed by the Marwadi Chandarana Group, a leading financial services institution with interests across education and alternative energy.

SBI TO HIRE 12,000 PERSONNEL DURING FY27: CHAIRMAN SETTY

New Delhi: State Bank of India (SBI) intends to hire about 12,000 personnel and add around 250 new branches to its network in the ongoing financial year, said C S Setty, Chairman of the country's biggest lender. "In terms of recruitment, I think we would be looking at around 11,000 to 12,000 appointments across both clerical and officer cadres this year. This number may vary depending on retirements and emerging requirements, but I expect we should close the year with around 12,000 recruitments," he told PTI in an interaction. "Last year, we have done fairly large recruitment because we took 1,500 specialist IT officers. This year, we do not need such a large number on the IT (information technology) side," he said. With a workforce of over 2.45 lakh employees as of March 2026, SBI is among India's largest employers. SBI had hired 4,640 officers, 19,340 associates, and 1,653 contractual staff in 2025-26, taking the total number of hires to



25,633, as per the bank's annual report for FY26. On the branch expansion side, Setty said that, despite having a large network, there is still some white space in many areas; whether new colonies are coming up or even in commercially active districts, the bank's presence can be improved. "We also are looking at rationalisation of some of the branches, which means that our number broadly will be growing by maybe 200 to 250 per year on the net side," he said. About stake dilution in the National Stock Exchange

(NSE), Setty said, SBI and its subsidiary SBI Capital Markets Ltd together plan to dilute up to 1 per cent stake through the exchange's proposed Rs 30,000-crore initial public offering (IPO). "We are participating in that divestment. We propose to divest 0.65 per cent and 0.35 per cent by SBI Capital Markets because both of us hold the stake. So together, about 1 per cent as an SBI group... it could be less depending on any other shareholders joining," he said. SBI currently holds a 3.23 per cent stake in the

NSE, while SBI Capital Markets owns 4.33 per cent in the country's largest stock exchange. Last week, NSE received regulatory approval for the long-awaited Rs 30,000-crore initial public offering (IPO), which could potentially be the country's biggest-ever yet. The NSE IPO will surpass Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,858.75-crore listing in 2024 as well as LIC of India's Rs 20,557.23-crore offering in 2022. It will also dwarf Paytm's (One97 Communications) Rs 18,300-crore (2021), Tata Capital's Rs 15,511.87-crore (2025) and Coal India's Rs 15,200-crore (2010) listing. He clarified that there is no monetisation plan for other subsidiaries in the immediate future. In July, SBI, along with its foreign partner Paris-headquartered Amundi, diluted around a 10 per cent stake in SBI Mutual Fund, including pre IPO. The Rs 11,675-crore monetisation by the country's biggest fund house was a huge success as the issue was subscribed 41.66 times.

MANDAADI PRE-RELEASE EVENT HELD GRANDLY, TEAM RAISES EXPECTATIONS ON THE FILM



Kollywood Actor Soori and Tollywood Hero Suhas are coming together for the first-of-its-kind film Mandaadi. Presented by Elred Kumar and produced under the RS Infotainment banner, the film is directed by Mathimaran Pugazhendhi. Mahima Nambiar is playing the female lead, while Sathyaraj, Ravindra Vijay, Mithun, Bala Saravanan and others are playing key roles.

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Speaking at the event, Hero Suhas said, “Greetings to everyone. I am very happy to have made it this far. Today is Teachers’ Day, and all my teachers are here in front of me. With all your support, I crossed many phases in my journey and reached Mandaadi. We completed the film successfully because of the support of the entire team. Actor Soori said , “Love

you all. Greetings to everyone. Please let me go this time; I will definitely speak Telugu next time. I believe everyone will like Mandaadi. I am very happy to have worked with Suhas. I thank everyone who gave me this opportunity.” Mahima, Ravindra Vijay and Soori’s performances are the main assets of this film. Get ready to watch a unique film in theatres on September 10.”

VARANASI TO BE MORE EMOTIONAL THAN ADVENTUROUS!



SS Rajamouli’s Varanasi is being promoted as a massive adventure that combines time travel, mythology, and action. The film takes audiences to places like Africa and Antarctica and spans thousands of years, making it look like a full-fledged global adventure. But Rajamouli’s repeated comments about the film suggest that the emotional side may actually be more important than the spectacle. Rajamouli has clearly stated that the core of Varanasi is the emotional relationship between a father and son. He has

repeatedly highlighted this aspect while discussing the film, even when talking about its massive scale, mythology, and fantasy elements. This makes Varanasi feel more like a typical Rajamouli emotional roller coaster presented on an extraordinary canvas. Mahesh Babu plays Rudhra, while Priyanka Chopra Jonas plays Mandakini, and their characters are expected to share a strong romantic connection. This brings another emotional layer to the narrative, with the lovers’ track potentially becoming an important part of the story.

TELUGU ZEE5 UNVEILS PANCHANAMA, STREAMING FROM 11TH SEPTEMBER

A death is dismissed as an accident. Then another follows. And another. What initially appears to be a series of unrelated tragedies begins to reveal a disturbing pattern, setting one police officer on a path towards a truth far more dangerous than he expected. Bringing this gripping investigation to audiences, Telugu ZEE5 is set to premiere Panchanama, a six-episode Telugu Original investigative thriller, exclusively from 11th September 2026. Directed by Mohan Srivatsa, Panchanama stars Bharath Srinivasan as Jai Ram, a principled and determined police officer who refuses to accept the circumstances surrounding his younger brother’s death. What begins as a personal search for answers soon expands into an investigation involving multiple unexplained deaths, concealed connections and a criminal network that appears to have found a way to make murder look like fate. Haunted by a painful past, Jai is unwilling to let an official explanation stand in the way of the truth. As he re-examines cases that have already been classified as accidental deaths, unsettling inconsistencies begin to emerge. The investigation takes a darker turn with evidence pointing towards premeditated murder, the discovery of severed arms and fingerprints that connect more than one indi-



vidual to the mystery. With every clue, the distance between what is recorded as fact and what may actually have happened becomes increasingly difficult to ignore. But Panchanama is not simply a procedural investigation. For Jai, the case is inseparable from the personal loss that set him on this path in the first place. As the investigation deepens, long-buried secrets begin to surface, bringing his professional pursuit of justice into direct conflict with the forces determined to keep the truth hidden. What begins with one

death gradually leads him towards a much larger conspiracy, forcing him to question not only the evidence before him but also the people and events that have shaped his own life. At the centre of the series is a simple but unsettling question: how many deaths can be explained away as accidents before the pattern itself becomes evidence? By combining forensic clues, investigative tension and an emotional story rooted in family and loss, Panchanama builds its mystery around Jai’s relentless refusal to stop asking questions.

“Antha Ramuloru Choosukuntaru” is a Beautiful Love Story and Feel-Good Film



Young and promising hero Sangeeth Shoban is starring in the upcoming film “Antha Ramuloru Choosukuntaru,” with Anaswara Rajan playing the female lead. Presented by Smt. Sravani, the film is being produced by successful producer Dheeraj Mogilineni and new-age aspiring producer Giribabu Vallabhaneni under the banners of Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainment and VGB Entertainment. Talented director Palnati Surya

Highlights

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Pratap is helming this entertaining love story, with Lakshmi Bhupal serving as the writer. The grand title glimpse launch event of “Antha R a m u l o r u Choosyuntaru” was held today in Hyderabad.

THE FIRST LOOK LAUNCH OF THE MOVIE JAYANT AND THE JINGOPEN, WHICH WAS RELEASED GRANDLY ON TEACHER'S DAY

Directed by National Award Winner Naveen Deshoina, the film 'Jayant and the Jingopen' is under the banner of Namo Jayam Productions. Jayant is playing a key role in this film and it is notable that famous actor Tanikella Bharani is playing the grandfather and Satyam Rajesh is playing the role of a school teacher. Produced by Divya Praveen Bolishetti, the first look poster of the film 'Jayanth and the Jingopen' was released by the teacher Maram Pavitri who received the National Award on the occasion of Teachers' Day. On this occasion, Jayant said – 'This is a new type of film. In our movie, we are talking about the education system along with the problems we face in school. Director Naveen Deshboina said – 'I feel very proud to have made this film. My previous film 'Lata Bhagwan Khare', the film won 32 awards across the country. Along



with them, I also won Filmfare and National Award. Jayant and Jingopen' is a remake of the Malayalam film 'Philip and the Monkey Pen' which I made with Jayant as the hero. The film ran for 111 days in Malayalam and became a huge success. It was such a big success because there were so many family emotions. I believe it will be well received by

the Telugu audience too. Satyam Rajesh said – “It is a pleasure to launch the first look of the film I acted as a teacher on Teacher's Day at the hands of Upadhyaya Maram Pavitra, who won the National Award. I feel lucky to do this film,” he said. Producer Divya said – “My intention is to make the school a temple. I believe that teachers are gods.

'COMRADE KALYAN' WILL BE LIKE A VARIETY FUN RIDE



'King of Entertainment' Sri Vishnu is going to entertain with 'Comrade Kalyan' as a period elements, humor, romance, and emotional entertainer. Directed by Janakiram Marella, this film is being presented by Kona Venkat. Produced by Venkata Krishna Karnati and Seetha Karnati under the banner of Skanda Vahana Motion Pictures LLP. The film is getting ready to be released in theatres on October 9. The mak-

ers, who have already increased the interest with glimpses and songs, have recently released the teaser of the film. The story of 'Comrade Kalyan' is set in the backdrop of the Andhra-Odisha border in 1992. In it, Sri Vishnu appears as a theater owner. He is a huge fan of revolutionary film director R. Narayana Murthy. He mostly shows his films in the theater. An Odia girl enters his life, which is going on

happily and without any problems. After falling in love with her, things take an unexpected turn. Eventually, circumstances arise that lead him towards Naxalism. Despite the serious backdrop, it is clear from the teaser that director Janakiram Marella has mainly shot this story from a humorous angle. Except for a few scenes related to Naxalism, the entire teaser is lighthearted and entertaining.



PRODUCER CHASE ANASWARA RAJAN FOR 6 MONTHS!

Telugu cinema seems to have found another young actress to watch out for. Anaswara Rajan, who has already made an impression with her Malayalam films, is slowly becoming a popular choice for Telugu filmmakers. What makes her rise interesting is that Anaswara has had only one Telugu release so far. Her debut film Champion failed to create much impact at the box office. Despite that, the actress continues to land promising Telugu projects. Anaswara is already working on Chiranjeevi’s

Kaaka, Itlu Arjun and has now been signed opposite Santosh Shoban for Antha R a m u l o o r u Choosukuntaru. Producer Dheeraj Mogilineni’s comments about bringing her into the project have now caught attention. He revealed that Anaswara liked the story but initially could not give dates. However, the makers were keen on having her for the role and reportedly kept pursuing her for around six months before she finally agreed. That itself says a lot about the position Anaswara is currently enjoying.

AYESHA KHAN’S ROSES CAN’T OUTSHINE HER GLOW

Ayesha Khan, known for effortlessly blending sultry charm with traditional grace, is back in the spotlight with a breathtaking saree look. The actress was seen draped in a sage green sequin-embroidered saree paired with a contrasting teal blouse, exuding old-world elegance with a modern edge. Her statement silver jewellery, soft curls, and dewy makeup added to the regal vibe of the pictures. Holding a small bouquet of white roses, Ayesha posed against a warm, golden-lit backdrop that beautifully complemented the earthy tones of her outfit. Her calm

yet magnetic gaze once again proved why she is often praised for balancing tradition with sensuality on screen. On the work front, Ayesha Khan has featured in small roles in Telugu films like Om Bheem Bush and Gangs of Godavari. However, she currently has no upcoming projects lined up in Telugu or Hindi cinema. Ayesha Khan gained immense popularity after featuring in Dhurandhar’s chart-buster song Shararat, also featuring Krystle D’Souza. In an interview with Pinkvilla at the time, Ayesha had opened up about the physically and emotionally taxing shoot.

