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BENGALURU I CHENNAI I HYDERABAD I VIJAYAWADA I KOCHI

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OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

29-09-2026



Total pilgrims :77,082
Tonsures : 34,039
Hundi kanukalu : 4.22 CR
Laddu sale... 4.13 Lac
Annaprasadam.2.90 Lac
Ashwini hospital..4,094
Present Situation on 30-09-2026:
Waiting Compartments... Outside line at Silathoranam.

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



Nation News

INDIA bloc renews CEC resignation demand

India's Double Boost At Asian Games: Sumit Nagal Advances, Deepu Mallesh Breaks New Ground



SPORTS NEWS

Payal Rajput Rules Fashion As Dark Queen



CINEMA PAGE

SCAN FOR E-PAPER

INBRIEF

MIZORAM DESTROYS DRUGS WORTH RS 11.82 CR

Aizawl: Mizoram on Wednesday destroyed seized narcotic substances worth more than Rs 11.82 crore in Aizawl as part of the state's intensified crackdown on drug trafficking, officials said. The Mizoram Excise and Narcotics Department destroyed the seized drugs at Bethani Multipurpose Farm in Phunchawng after the related cases were disposed of by courts. The action was carried out in accordance with Section 51A of the Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and the NDPS (Seizure, Storage, Sampling and Disposal) Rules, 2022.

EC WITHDRAWS SIR DECLARATION FROM FORM 6

New Delh: The Election Commission has withdrawn the additional Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-related declaration from the online Form 6 in states where the electoral roll revision exercise has been completed.The additional declaration has been removed from the ECINET app and portal as well as the respective Chief Electoral Officer portals in states where the SIR has concluded. New applicants in these states will now have to fill only the statutory Form 6 prescribed under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, for enrolment in the electoral roll. In states and Union Territories where the SIR exercise is still underway, the additional declaration remains available on the ECINET portal.

Rahul vows punishment for democracy destroyers

New Delhi ■ (TSIT) :

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said that the INDIA bloc will ensure that those involved in "destroying" Indian democracy are punished.

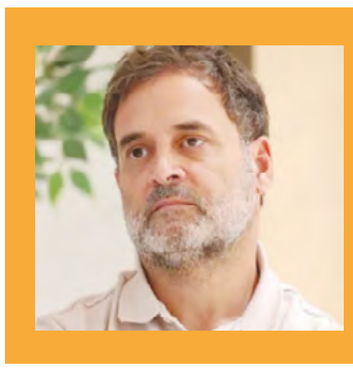
Gandhi also said that the Opposition leaders are "collective defenders" of India's Constitution and "will bring serious changes in the country" as he accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar of "attacking" democracy.

Addressing the media after the INDIA bloc meeting at the Constitution Club here, Gandhi said: "The main issue was 'vote chori'. Every party has an opinion that BJP, Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and Gyanesh Kumar have attacked Indian democracy." "This is a personal commitment of all INDIA leaders -- we are going to ensure that the people who have destroyed Indian democracy are punished; it doesn't matter how senior they are, who they are; Indian democracy is bigger than every single person in this country," he added.He said that there was also a feeling in the room that the Opposition has been "quite successful" in putting across to the people of India that "elections are stolen; that Narendra Modi, Amit Shah have destroyed democracy".

"There is a new sense of resistance, particularly among young people, that what is happening in India is wrong and needs to be stopped," Gandhi said

."I also mentioned to all the Opposition leaders that they are the collective defenders of the Indian Constitution, and it is an honour for us to work together, and we are confident that over the next few months, we will make serious changes in the country," he added.

As the key stakeholders of the INDIA bloc held a crucial meeting in the national capital for chalking out a roadmap for nationwide protests against the Election Commission's "flawed and partisan" approach, the Congress has called for the rollback of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, asserting that the "ballot belongs to people of the country".



"The main issue was 'vote chori'. Every party has an opinion that BJP, Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and Gyanesh Kumar have attacked Indian democracy are punished"

Blast, fire at Mangaluru refinery kills 1, injures 9

Mangaluru ■ (TSIT):



A major blast, followed by a fire, was reported at Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) in Karnataka's Mangaluru on Wednesday, leaving one person dead and nine others injured.The blaze has now been brought under control.Mangaluru Deputy Commissioner Darshan H.V. told the media that one person was killed and nine labourers were injured in the incident. The deceased has been identified as Manish, 30.

According to police, Manish, a resident of Haleyangadi on the outskirts of Mangaluru, was working as an electrician at the MRPL plant. Present at the site along with injured worker Rajesh Baptist, Manish suffered fatal burn injuries in the explosion, and fire personnel launched an operation to recover his body. The injured have been identified as Baptist from Surathkal, Prasad, Indrajit, Raman, Jarome, Jayaram, Avinash, Akshay, and another person. Baptist suffered 30 per cent burn injuries and is being treated in the ICU of Srinivasa Hospital. The others have been admitted to AG and MRPL hospitals.Preliminary investigations revealed that a major explosion occurred at MRPL's hydro-treating unit at around 12.15 p.m. on Wednesday while testing was being carried out.

A major tragedy was averted as workers had left the unit following a shift change at 11.30 a.m. The incident could have resulted in heavy casualties had the workers been inside the unit at the time of the explosion.

Shivakumar declares Rs 1,400 cr assets

Bengaluru ■ (TSIT) :

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday hit back at Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy over allegations about his assets, saying he acquired his properties legally and disclosed them to the Income Tax Department.



"Yes, I have assets worth Rs 1,400 crore at today's valuation. I have acquired them within the legal framework. Kumaraswamy is frustrated and is speaking like this," Shivakumar told the media in New Delhi.He alleged that differences within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-JDS alliance had left Kumaraswamy frustrated. Shivakumar also questioned why Kumaraswamy had remained silent about the NICE project when he was Chief Minister.

BIHAR **FLOOD**:

Flood victims raise slogans against MP, MLAs in West Champaran

Patna ■ (TSIT)



Tension prevailed during Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary's visit to flood-hit West Champaran on Tuesday when affected residents raised slogans against local MPs and MLAs at a relief camp in Bathna under Bairia block.

Choudhary had visited the flood-affected area to assess the situation and review ongoing relief and rescue arrangements. He first conducted an aerial survey of the affected regions before reaching the relief camp set up at PM SHRI Government Plus-2 High School in Bathna.

During his interaction with flood victims at the camp, several residents began raising slogans against local leaders, including the area's MP and MLA. The protesters also expressed dissatisfaction with relief arrangements and levelled allegations about the role of their elected representatives in addressing the crisis.

As the atmosphere became increasingly charged, security personnel strengthened arrangements around Choudhary. Amid the growing unrest, he left the relief camp.

The protests came against the backdrop of a worsening flood situation in several parts of West Champaran, where rising water levels in the Gandak River have affected low-lying areas and disrupted normal life.

According to local reports, tensions escalated further after Choudhary left the school premises. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Sanjay Jaiswal and the local Narkatiaganj MLA remained inside the school campus for some time amid security concerns.

CM Vijay accuses AIADMK of DMK alliance

CHENNAI ■ (TSIT):



Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay on Wednesday accused the AIADMK of becoming an "offshoot" of the DMK, alleging that the two parties were functioning alike and sharing a common political interest. Campaigning in Dharapuram for TVK candidate Sathyabama ahead of the October 6 Assembly bypoll, Vijay said he had come to meet voters as a son and a family member, rather than in his capacity as Chief Minister. He said his government was committed to eliminating corruption and fulfilling its election promises in phases. Rejecting what he described as a monarchical approach to politics, Vijay alleged that some leaders continued to behave as though they remained in power. Vijay claimed that the AIADMK, which he described as a former offshoot of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had now aligned indirectly with the DMK.He alleged that this undermined the legacies of former Chief Ministers M.G. Ramachandran and J. Jayalalithaa.Referring to DMK General Secretary Duraimurugan's remarks about defeating rulers by fielding ordinary people, Vijay said TVK had done the same by giving ordinary candidates a chance to contest elections.

Traders withdraw 'No UPI Day' protest

New Delhi ■ (TSIT) :

Leading traders' bodies have withdrawn their call to observe October 2 as "No UPI Day" following a meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday in the national capital. A delegation of around 20 trade representatives from various states met the finance minister on Wednesday to express concerns over the proposed 0.4 per cent fee on merchant UPI transactions above Rs 2,000.The traders said the move could increase the burden on small and medium businesses and affect digital payment adoption among merchants.

BEYOND CHIPS, BEYOND AI: IEEE CEDA SWEAT 2026 KICKSTARTS INDIA'S AGENTIC SEMICONDUCTOR REVOLUTION

BENGALURU:

As artificial intelligence moves deeper into semiconductor design and manufacturing, the question facing the industry is no longer whether AI will transform chip development, but how human can cowork with the AI in the continuously evolving semiconductor ecosystem?That question was at the heart of **IEEE CEDA SWEAT 2026 – Symposium-cum Workshop on Emerging AI/ML Trends**, held at DoubleTree Suites by Hilton, Whitefield, Bengaluru, under the theme **"The Agentic Semiconductor Revolution."**



The two-day event brought together more than **500+ engineers, researchers and students**, along with semiconductor industry leaders, AI practitioners, academia and, entrepreneurs. With more than 25 speakers, 10 technical sessions and 16 hours of AI agent hackathon, the event examined how AI agents are beginning to influence semiconductor design, verification, manufacturing and engineering workflows.But alongside the enthusiasm surrounding agentic AI, one message emerged consistently across the sessions: **AI may increasingly automate engineering tasks, but accountability and final judgment remain with people.**

FROM LEARNING TO BUILDING

The first day of SWEAT 2026 focused on taking participants from understanding AI applications in semiconductor engineering to building practical solutions.The morning featured two industry-led workshops. The **AI for Pre-Silicon Workshop** brought together from Samsung Semiconductor India Research (SSIR). The workshop showcased the application of agentic AI across design and verification, highlighting the potential of AI agents to improve engineering productivity.The focus then shifted from pre-silicon to post-silicon such as validation, wafer sorting, cherry picking, etc. during the **AI for Post-Silicon Workshop**, led LAM Research. Drawing on experience in machine learning, predictive analytics, LLMs and enterprise AI systems, the workshop examined applications of intelligent agents in testing, validation, yield analysis, fault detection and post-silicon optimization.The learning sessions were followed by the 16-hour overnight **Hackathon with 1-1 mapped mentors from the leading semiconductor industry,** where teams worked on real-world semiconductor challenges spanning RTL design, verification, physical design, DFT, silicon validation, EDA automation and open innovation.The objective was not simply to demonstrate AI capabilities, but to provide confidence to students on how they can build and leverage AI agents for the different aspects of semiconductor design-to-product cycle.

FROM INTELLIGENCE TO AUTONOMY

After the energy-packed first day of IEEE CEDA SWEAT 2026, the Main event day broadened the discussion to the future direction of using AI agents for the semiconductor industry.Aloke Kumar Das, Founding Chair of IEEE CEDA Bangalore Chapter officially welcome the participants, delegates to the IEEE CEDA SWEAT 2026, followed by the energetic address by the Sajal Mittal, General Chair and current Chair of IEEE CEDA Bangalore Chapter on the journey of IEEE SWEAT highlighting the purpose and theme. Garima Srivastava, General Chair, provided the event outline and motivate them to attend the session and enrich their knowledge database.

Delivering the inaugural keynote, **Dr. Satya Gupta, President of the VLSI Society of India (VSI)** and Chief Guest of SWEAT 2026, spoke about the need to transform India into a semiconductor product nation. He also emphasized that AI integration into semiconductor design is becoming inevitable and that organizations embracing this transformation will participate in the next phase of technological innovation.The industry's transition toward agentic engineering was examined further in the keynote **"AI Agents in Silicon Design: From Intelligence to Autonomy"**, delivered by **Manish Goel, Vice President and Head of System LSI at Samsung Semiconductor India Research**. Drawing from real-world deployment experiences, Goel discussed how AI is already being used in pre-silicon design, verification and optimization. He encouraged engineers to think beyond incremental productivity improvements while emphasizing that human supervision remains essential as AI becomes more deeply integrated into silicon development.



CAN AI TAKE ACCOUNTABILITY?

One of the central discussions at SWEAT 2026 moved beyond productivity and automation to address a more fundamental question: **who remains responsible when AI becomes part of engineering decision-making? Girishankar G, Deputy Director, Compute and Artificial Intelligence Group at MediaTek**, challenged participants with two questions: "What can AI not do?" and "Can AI take accountability?"The discussion highlighted a distinction that surfaced repeatedly throughout the symposium. AI agents and large language models can increasingly assist with engineering tasks and automate portions of workflows, but ownership, ethics, judgment and accountability remain human responsibilities.

INDUSTRY LOOKS TOWARDS 2030

The marquee panel, **"The Agentic Semiconductor Revolution: Road to 2030 Chip Era,"** brought together representatives from across the semiconductor ecosystem.Moderated by **Nikhil Singla, Google**, the panel featured **Alpa Sood**, Teradyne, **Sriram Muthukumar**, Meta; **Gururaj Bankapur**, Karmic Design; **Amit Jain**, Samsung Semiconductor India Research; and **Karthik Ramaswamy**, MediaTek.The discussion focused on practical applications of AI rather than technological hype. Panellists discussed the growing role of AI in RTL generation and design productivity, while noting that areas such as **Power, Performance and Area (PPA) optimization** continue to require close collaboration between AI systems and experienced engineers. Verification is also evolving toward a stronger partnership between engineers and AI systems. However, the panellists were aligned on one point: **final signoff remains a human responsibility.**The discussion also highlighted how AI could change the nature of engineering jobs. As intelligent systems take over repetitive activities, engineers could devote more time to architecture, innovation and complex problem-solving. For students entering the semiconductor industry, the advice was straightforward: **build strong semiconductor fundamentals first and then develop AI expertise.**



AI ACROSS THE SEMICONDUCTOR LIFECYCLE

The symposium continued with technical sessions examining AI applications across different stages of semiconductor development.The tutorial **"Transforming RTL Signoff with Microarchitecture Analysis and AI"** was delivered by **Saurav Choudhary, Real Intent** alongside **Sunil Kashide, Samsung Semiconductor India Research**.The Cadence team —lead by Sundararajan — demonstrated AI-enabled verification technologies and autonomous EDA workflows. The manufacturing perspective was addressed by **Rajdeep Kaur Gambhir, Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh**, whose distinguished lecture explored AI applications in yield analysis, test-data analytics, defect classification and intelligent silicon manufacturing.

The symposium concluded with the guidance panel **"Engineer in Loop: Balancing Innovation and Judgement."** The panel featured **Anil Dalwani, Analog Devices, Joy Thomas, Applied Materials, John JM Tan, Tata Electronics and Vasudevan Perincheeri, Sophrosyne Semiconductor**, and was moderated by **Rajeela Deshpande, Samsung Semiconductor India Research**. Reflecting the broader IEEE mission of **"Advancing Technology for Humanity,"** the discussion emphasized that technological innovation ultimately has value when it contributes positively to society.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT FOR SWEAT 2026

The event was supported by a broad industry and academic ecosystem. **Samsung Semiconductor India Research** served as the AI Strategic Partner, while **MediaTek** was the Platinum Sponsor. **Karmic Design Pvt. Ltd.** and **Sophrosyne Semiconductor** joined as Gold Sponsors, with **Cadence** and **Teradyne** as Silver Sponsors. **Real Intent** supported the event as Tutorial Sponsor and **Kaynes Semicon** as Bronze Sponsor.

The knowledge ecosystem was further supported by the **VLSI Society of India (VSI), IET, L&T EduTech, RNS Institute of Technology, K.S. School of Engineering and Management, and KLE Technological University. Backbone of IEEE CEDA SWEAT 2026** The event was led by IEEE CEDA Bangalore Chapter team consists of Aloke Kumar Das, Lab & Lecture as an advisory committee. **Sajal Mittal** and **Garima Srivastava, Samsung Semiconductor India Research**, serving as General Chairs, Rajeela Deshpande, Samsung Semiconductor India Research as Sponsorship Chair; Vishal Shah, Industry Liaison Chair, L&T Semiconductor Technologies; Lakshmanan Balasubramanian, Hackathon Chair; Dr. Renuka V. Tali, KSSEM, Communication Chair; Gaurav Pathak, Cisco, Design & Publicity Chair; Vamsi Krishna Addepalli, Finance Chair; Rakshita M B, Student Lead; and Muzammil Pasha, Ground Operations Chair.

HACKATHON: FROM IDEAS TO PROTOTYPES

Running alongside the second day's keynote and panel sessions, the 16-hour IEEE CEDA SWEAT 2026 Hackathon Demo gave participating teams an opportunity to demonstrate their AI agents to judges, mentors and attendees.After evaluation by industry mentors and jury members, **Team ByteForge** won the first prize, followed by **Team Zevora** in second place and **Team Silicon Synapse** in third place. Awarded the cash prize of 25,000 rupees distributed between the 3 teams.The projects covered a wide range of applications, including RTL generation, verification and debugging, PPA and design-space optimization, semiconductor root-cause investigation, C/C++-to-FPGA flows, and AI-assisted RF and microstrip design.The hackathon demonstrated the breadth of problems that emerging AI-agent technologies can address when combined with semiconductor domain knowledge.

ENGINEERING THE FUTURE

IEEE CEDA SWEAT 2026 brought together two rapidly converging technology domains — artificial intelligence and semiconductor engineering.Across workshops, keynotes, technical tutorials, panels and the hackathon, the discussion moved from what AI could do toward what engineers can realistically build with it today.The larger message from the event was equally clear: the semiconductor industry is entering an era in which engineers will increasingly work alongside intelligent systems. Yet technological progress does not remove the need for human expertise, judgment and accountability.From silicon design to manufacturing, from learning to building, and from automation to responsible innovation, **IEEE CEDA SWEAT 2026 highlighted a future in which AI may become an increasingly capable engineering partner — while humans remain responsible for the decisions that matter.**

More details: sweat.ieeebangalore.org

'Govt should take responsibility': DU students intensify protests over women's safety



New Delhi, Sep 30 : Students from Delhi University have intensified their protests over rising cases of crime against women in the national capital, taking to the streets with posters and placards, challenging restrictions imposed on women, and demanding accountability for incidents of sexual violence.

The protests, which have gained widespread attention for their sharp slogans and wordplay, have largely brought together students from several colleges, including the Shyama Prasad Mukherji College for Women, Miranda House, Lady Shri Ram College (LSR), Kamala Nehru College, and Gargi College. This comes after the gang-rape of a 17-year-old girl near Kalkaji's Aastha Kunj Park earlier this month. The incident has renewed long-standing concerns and anger among students over the safety of women in Delhi, particularly their freedom to move around the city without fear.

Students have also used humour, satire, and familiar Delhi expressions to voice their anger and question the prevailing conditions. Among the slogans that have gained attention is the line, "1 kachori, 2 samosa, in mardon ka kya bharosa". The protesters have also displayed placards and raised slogans that range from sarcastic and creative to direct and confrontational, including 'My favourite season will be the fall of patriarchy' and 'Abort Patriarchy'.

A student speaking to IANS said that the protests were aimed at demanding greater responsibility from the government and the right of women to move freely and safely in public spaces.

"We want the government to take responsibility for all the rape cases. Why can't we go outside? Being able to walk safely outside is our right, and we are here to demand it," the student said.

Another protester said the students were taking to the streets because they wanted safety and questioned why women should be forced to remain indoors because of the threat of sexual violence.

"We are here out on the streets for our safety. If girls were safe here, a gang rape would not have happened in Kalkaji. Till when will we stay indoors? Why should we be confined to our homes?" the protester said.

Another student alleged that the government had failed to take concrete measures to ensure the safety of women and said the protesters wanted stronger action against those accused of sexual violence.

"The government has not done anything concrete for the safety of women. We want to be able to walk freely. We want strict action against the rapists," the student said.

KITSW Conducts Entrepreneurial Skills Development Activity at TS Model School, Kamalapur



Warangal, September 30, TSIT : The Centre for Innovation, Incubation, Research & Entrepreneurship (C-i²RE), Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science, Warangal (KITSW), conducted an engaging activity on "Developing Entrepreneurial Skills" at TS Model School, Kamalapur, with the participation of around 90 students. The activity was conducted as part of the SIC & DICE Programme of the Ministry of Education (MoE), aimed at encouraging creativity, innovation, problem-solving and entrepreneurial thinking among school students. Dr. V. Raju Reddy, Coordinator – AICTE Idea Lab and SAiL Team,

Secretariat Cultural Festival Draws Enthusiastic Response



Hyderabad, TSIT: The two-day "Secretariat Cultural Festival–2026 organised by the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat Association, concluded on Wednesday with enthusiastic participation from employees across departments.

The festival provided a platform for Secretariat employees to showcase their talents in music, literature, theatre and dance, while strengthening friendship and unity among colleagues.Telangana Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, who inaugurated the festival as chief guest, said such programmes encouraged employees to pursue their interests in the arts alongside their official responsibilities.

The second day featured a traditional dress competition, monologues, skits and solo and group dance performances. Participants showcased attire reflecting Telangana's traditions and the cultures of different regions, creating a festive atmosphere.

Employees impressed the audience with expressive monologues and skits exploring social issues, family values and human relationships.

INDIA bloc renews CEC resignation demand



New Delhi, Sep 30 : After the meeting of the INDIA bloc on Wednesday, the opposition parties reiterated their demand for the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) referred to the alliance as "political opportunism".

The DMK, which had left the alliance due to its differences with the Congress, assured support to the impeachment motion against the CEC in the Parliament.

Speaking to reporters following the meeting of the INDIA bloc, Congress MP KC Venugopal reiterated his allegation that the Election Commission is "totally working for BJP", which is why, he said, the party is "protecting" the poll panel.

Samajwadi Party MP Pushpendra Saroj said that the INDIA bloc parties have agreed that "democracy is being undermined" today.

He also alleged that the Election Commission has been "pressurised" by the BJP and claimed that if the current CEC continues, "free and fair elections won't be possible".

Speaking to IANS, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Bihar Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav said: "We have all come together to save democracy. We will fight to protect democracy, whether in Parliament, on the streets, or in court. The conspirators are plotting one conspiracy after another against the democracy, and they will not be spared."

"One Gyanesh Kumar will go, and another Gyanesh Kumar specimen will come. The people of the country will have to remove the BJP. We have to save the Constitution of the country and save democracy," he added.

While leaving after the meeting of the alliance parties, CPI-M Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas said: "It is the responsibility of every citizen to rally behind the demand for Gyanesh Kumar's removal, so that the democracy can be saved."

However, DMK Spokesperson T.K.S. Elangovan asserted that mere meeting of the INDIA bloc won't lead to Gyanesh Kumar's removal as the CEC. "It is the Parliament where it needs to be done (impeachment motion)... when the issue comes up before the House we will stand up against the CEC. Just by not attending the meeting, does not mean that we will backtrack on issues concerning the country," he told IANS.

Similarly, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Sasmit Patra also said though BJD is not a part of the INDIA bloc, the party sticks to its chief Naveen Patnaik's stance, demanding the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal accused the INDIA bloc parties of being "opportunists". "This is not the INDIA bloc; it is an alliance of political opportunism among those who desire power and whom the people repeatedly reject... So, whether they meet or not has no significance, because the result will ultimately be zero. There is no constructive approach; it is a destructive approach, which has no place in society," he told IANS.

BJP leader Shazia Ilmi also said: "The INDI Alliance meeting has been quite strange. Some people are there, some are not, some are participating virtually, and some are sending representatives." "Now they (Opposition) have problems with the Chief Election Commissioner, earlier they had problems with the EVM and VVPATs, then how do they want elections to be conducted? As far as SIR is concerned, do they want the deceased, duplicate and shifted voters to be retained? It's a strange thing if they don't want electoral rolls to be revised," she added.

Who Watches the Election Commission? The Questions Surrounding Gyanesh Kumar

BY BINISH THOMAS
SENIOR JOURNALIST



The Election Commission of India is not supposed to work for a political party. It is not supposed to work for a government. And it certainly is not supposed to work for an individual politician.

Its responsibility is to something much larger: the voter.

That is why the latest revelations about what has been happening inside India's three-member Election Commission are so significant.

An investigation by The Indian Express has revealed that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi formally objected at least 14 times over 10 months to decisions and actions they said were taken without their knowledge. Their concerns touched some of the most sensitive parts of India's electoral machinery - adding new voters, deleting and restoring names, the functioning of the electoral-roll database and the security and control of the technology behind the voters' list.

At the centre of these questions is Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, who took charge as India's 26th CEC on February 19, 2025. The Election Commission itself describes the institution as an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering elections in India. The issue, therefore, is bigger than one individual.It is about whether the institution entrusted with protecting the voter's right to choose is itself operating with the transparency, checks and internal safeguards that democracy demands.

When Two Election Commissioners Raise Objections

The most striking aspect of the Indian Express investigation is not that there were disagreements inside the Election Commission.

Disagreements can happen in any constitutional institution.It is that two of the three commissioners reportedly put their objections on record repeatedly.In one case, Sandhu reportedly described an action as "unauthorised and illegal" and called for it to be removed.The concerns were not merely about administrative procedure.They went to the heart of the question: Who controls the voter database, and who has the final say when the system determines whether a citizen's name appears on the electoral roll?

The Form That Determines Who Becomes a Voter

One of the disputes concerned Form 6, the form through which an eligible citizen applies to become a voter.In July 2026, a new declaration was added to the form asking applicants whether their name, or the name of a parent or grandparent, appeared in the electoral roll of the last Special Intensive Revision.

The Indian Express reported that internal records showed both Joshi and Sandhu had raised objections in May, arguing that the change could not be made without an amendment to the relevant electoral rules.

Despite those objections, the change was introduced.On August 13, Sandhu reportedly recorded that the change was "unauthorised and illegal" and should be removed.This raises an uncomfortable question.

If the rules governing voter registration are changed without the agreement of all members of the constitutional body responsible for elections, what safeguards prevent an administrative decision from becoming a political or electoral consequence?

A voter registration form may appear to be a routine piece of bureaucracy.It is not.It is the gateway through which a citizen enters the electoral system.

When Technology Becomes the Gatekeeper

The second major concern is even more consequential.India's electoral system has traditionally been decentralized. Electoral Registration Officers, or EROs, at the constituency level are responsible for preparing and maintaining electoral rolls.But according to the Indian Express investigation, the two Election Commissioners raised concerns about the "gradual centralization" of the electoral-roll database through the Election Commission's technology systems.

The concern was that officials responsible under law for updating voter records could find themselves unable to carry out those functions because the software controlled from the Commission's headquarters in Delhi restricted what they could do.

The newspaper cited a case in Goa in which 97 people had reportedly been found eligible by the relevant Electoral Registration Officer but could not have the decisions properly recorded because of software-related restrictions.

That creates a fundamental problem.A citizen may produce the required documents.An officer legally authorised to examine those documents may determine that the citizen is eligible.

But what happens if the computer system does not allow that decision to be entered?Who then has the final word? The officer appointed under the law, or the software?That is not merely a technology question.It is a democratic question.

The Cabinet Secretary Gets Involved

The concerns became serious enough for Sandhu and Joshi to take an unusual step. They separately wrote to Cabinet Secretary T. V. Somanathan, the country's senior-most civil servant, over changes to the allocation of work that, according to the Indian Express, affected oversight of the technology supporting electoral rolls.

The two commissioners had previously raised concerns about the centralisation of access to the electoral database.Now they were taking those concerns outside the Election Commission.

That makes the episode particularly significant. The Election Commission is a constitutional authority designed to function independently in administering elections. When two of its three members feel compelled to raise concerns about the functioning of its electoral technology with the Cabinet Secretary, the matter deserves public scrutiny.

Not because it automatically proves wrongdoing. But because the public has a right to know what happened.

What Does the Election Commission Say?

The Commission has not denied the existence of the internal notes.Instead, its response has been that the notes were part of the normal decision-making process.

In a statement reported by The Indian Express, the ECI said that differing views and observations are a normal part of institutional deliberation and described the written notes, technical suggestions and internal checks as standard practices. It also said that decisions taken by the Commission during the previous year, including electoral-roll revision and the Special Intensive Revision, were unanimous decisions of the full Commission.

That response is important.The existence of disagreement within an institution does not, by itself, establish that an election has been compromised or that any individual has acted illegally.

But the questions raised by the two commissioners remain questions that deserve answers.Why were changes to Form 6 introduced despite objections recorded by two commissioners?Why were concerns raised about centralised access to the electoral-roll database?

Why did the two commissioners believe it necessary to approach the Cabinet Secretary?

And were the concerns they raised ultimately resolved?

These are questions that cannot simply disappear behind the assertion that the final decisions were unanimous.

The Bigger Question Is Not Gyanesh Kumar

Political parties have predictably entered the controversy.

Opposition leaders have accused the Election Commission of favouring the ruling establishment, while some have demanded Kumar's removal or a wider investigation.

Those are political positions, not established findings.The more important issue for citizens lies elsewhere.The Election Commission belongs to neither the BJP nor the Congress nor any other political party.

Its constitutional responsibility is to administer elections and protect the integrity of the electoral process.That means the question should not simply be whether Gyanesh Kumar is loyal to one political party or another.

The question should be whether every decision taken under his leadership can withstand public, legal and institutional scrutiny.That is the standard any CEC should face.

Democracy Depends on More Than Election Day

India's democracy is often discussed in terms of polling day - queues outside polling booths, electronic voting machines, campaign speeches and counting of votes.But an election begins much earlier.It begins with a name appearing on the electoral roll.It begins when a first-time voter submits an application.It continues when an eligible citizen's name is retained, when a wrongly deleted name is restored and when an officer is able to perform the function assigned to that officer under the law.The integrity of that chain matters as much as what happens inside a polling booth. That is why the allegations and objections now emerging from inside the Election Commission deserve more than partisan shouting. They deserve documentation.They deserve answers. And, where necessary, independent scrutiny. Because the Election Commission is ultimately not accountable to the BJP, the Congress, the Opposition, the government of the day or even to the person occupying the office of Chief Election Commissioner.It is accountable to the Constitution and to the people whose votes give India's democracy its legitimacy.

K'taka CM hits back at umaraswamy,

NICE land allegations act of desperation

Bengaluru (TSIT) Union Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Tuesday, September 29, accused Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and his family members of illegally acquiring land around Bengaluru that had been notified for the controversial Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMICP). Shivakumar has rejected the charges, calling Kumaraswamy "very, very desperate."



Holding a press conference in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy alleged that Shivakumar was instrumental in modifying the original framework agreement (FWA) of the BMIC project which was promoted by the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise (NICE).

Between 2002 and 2004, Shivakumar served as a minister in the SM Krishna government and was also the Chairman of the BMICP Authority (BMICPA). "That's where the deviations began," Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged, adding that Mr. Shivakumar oversaw an Outline Development Plan that "deviated substantially" from the original framework agreement.

The Union Minister released 26 Records of Rights, Tenancy and Crops (RTC) documents. They show that besides Shivakumar, his parents Gowramma and the late DK Kempegowda, daughter Abharana, and brother and former MP DK Suresh acquired land parcels in BM Kaval, near Kengeri, which the state government had notified for the project.

Kumaraswamy claimed the parcels were acquired after NICE gave no objection certificates (NOCs) to the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB), stating the land was no longer required for the project. "NICE has given 420 NOCs so far.... Shivakumar and his family have acquired 150 acres to 200 acres in the NICE project notified area. His wealth has grown from Rs 4 crore in 2003 to Rs 1,413 crore in 2023, mainly due to these deals," Kumaraswamy told presspersons. He alleged that about 500 acres of notified land had been given away through NOCs, and pinpointed about 22 acres held by the Chief Minister and his family. He alleged that Shivakumar became BMICPA Chairman by influencing then Chief Minister Krishna, and that both he and NICE promoter Ashok Kheny were involved.

"The Karnataka High Court has also termed the illegal land deals as a fraud on statute and Constitution, and state authorities to be accomplice in this fraud," he said. He also claimed "NICE is bigger than the 2G and coal scams."

Asked about Shivakumar's fre uent claim that his allegations stem from "jealousy," Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "If the Chief Minister takes action on the fraud, I will felicitate him. If he does not have the ability to take action and stop the loot, let him resign." sought criminal action against Mr. Kheny, urging authorities to impound his passport and arrest him over the alleged fraud, which he estimated at Rs 3 lakh crore.

Karnataka CEO suspends physical hearings for voters flagged in SIR exercise

The move follows ECI directions that voters flagged as "unmapped" or for logical discrepancies generally need not appear before election officials.

Bengaluru (TSIT) The Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer has ordered the immediate suspension of physical hearings for voters flagged during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, following directions from the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Under the revised procedure, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will visit the homes of voters who have received SIR notices over "unmapped" entries or logical discrepancies, collect the required documents, and upload them on the ECINET portal. The documents will then be considered by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), who will take a decision on the voter's case.

District Election Officers (DEOs) have also been directed to set up help desks for flagged voters who need assistance in submitting documents. Physical hearings will be held only in exceptional cases, at the discretion of the ERO, and preferably online. The ECI has been asked to facilitate such online hearings.

If a hearing is required, the voter can authorise an adult member of their family to appear on their behalf, the ECI said.

Of the 43.82 lakh notices issued for SIR hearings in Karnataka, 28.80 lakh hearings had been completed and 12.82 lakh remained pending as of September 26. The last date for the hearings had earlier been fixed for October 12, Deccan Herald reported.

The decision comes amid a controversy over reported differences between Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi over the implementation of the SIR exercise.

On September 26, the full Election Commission met at its headquarters in New Delhi and announced changes to the procedure for voters who had received SIR notices for being "unmapped" or for having logical discrepancies. Such voters would generally not be required to appear before election officials, the ECI said. Instead, BLOs would visit their homes to collect supporting documents and upload them on the ECINET system. The ERO would then decide the matter based on the documents submitted, the Commission said.

Karnataka HC orders Rs 2.77 crore compensation for Bengaluru man hurt by falling tree branch

Bengaluru (TSIT) More than two years after a tree branch fell on a motorcyclist on a busy Bengaluru road, leaving him with severe spinal injuries, the Karnataka High Court has ordered the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to pay him Rs 2.77 crore in compensation.

Allowing the writ petition in part, Justice Suraj Govindaraj directed the GBA's Commissioner and Deputy Conservator of Forests to jointly pay petitioner Chandan G, 38, Rs 2,77,29,625, with 6 per cent annual interest from the date of the accident until the date of payment. Chandan was on his way to work on Richmond Road on March 7, 2024, when the branch of a Gulmohar tree that stood on the premises of Good Shepherd Convent School fell on him. He suffered serious neck and spinal injuries and was taken by passersby to a nearby hospital, and then to Sparsh Hospital, where he was treated for months. A disability certificate from Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital assessed his disability at 85 per cent, but the court accepted his contention that his functional disability is 100 per cent. The school told the court it had written to the civic body on February 22, 2024, 14 days before the accident, seeking permission to prune the branch.

Fake drug racket: Alleged kingpin who fled abroad arrested at Bengaluru airport

The Karnataka Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing a multi-state fake drug racket has arrested alleged kingpin Prashanth, who had been absconding for nearly one-and-a-half months. Prashanth, 36, was arrested at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru early Monday, September 28, after he arrived from Sharjah. He had reportedly travelled to Sharjah from Azerbaijan, where investigators had earlier traced him.A lookout circular had been issued against Prashanth after he allegedly fled following the discovery of the racket. Airport authorities alerted the SIT when he arrived in Bengaluru, following which a team led by Assistant Commissioner of Police Anjan Kumar took him into custody.

Global Education Fair 2026 held at GITAM



HYDERABAD (TSIT): The Directorate of Training, Mentoring & Career Guidance (TMCG) – Alternate Career Services at GITAM Deemed to be University organised the Global Education Fair 2026 at its Hyderabad Campus on September 30, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, providing students with valuable opportunities to explore higher education options abroad for the Fall 2027 intake.The fair brought together representatives from 25+ international universities across multiple countries, including Australia, Canada, France, Singapore, Switzerland, the UK and the US. It offered students a platform to explore Master's programmes, understand admission requirements and gain insights into scholarships, financial aid and application procedures. Students had the opportunity to interact one-on-one with university representatives, explore study destinations and programmes, seek guidance on scholarships and financial assistance, and avail application fee waivers, wherever applicable. The event was inaugurated by Dr. M. Reza, Principal, School of Science, in the presence of DVVSR Varma, Resident Director.

Karnataka's new data centre policy puts water, energy in focus: What does it say?

The policy, issued by the Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, aims to position Karnataka as a "Sustainable Data Centre Hub of India."

Karnataka (TSIT) Karnataka wants to dramatically expand its data centre footprint. But this time, the state says the growth must come with a tighter check on how much power and water these facilities consume.

Its new Sustainable Data Centre Policy 2026–2031 targets 1 GW of cumulative data centre IT load by 2031 and a 10–12% share of India's AI-ready data centre ecosystem. At the same time, it proposes incentives linked to energy and water efficiency, resource mapping to identify areas with adequate power and water, and greater use of renewable energy and treated water. The shift comes as Karnataka already has 32 data centres, even as questions remain over how much water the existing facilities consume. TNM had earlier reported that neither the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) nor the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) separately tracked water use by data centres. The IT department estimated that the state's 32 data centres consume around 4,000 kilolitres of water a day, based on informal inputs from operators. Now, the new policy proposes to map water and energy availability across existing and proposed data centre locations before planning further expansion. Renewable energy, energy efficiency and water conservation The policy encourages data centres to increase their use of renewable energy through state power procurement and open-access mechanisms.



It also introduces incentives linked directly to how efficiently data centres use electricity and water.

Data centres will have to report Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) and Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE) on a plant-wise basis. PUE measures the total energy consumed by a facility against the energy used by its IT equipment, while WUE measures water consumption in relation to IT energy consumption. PUE is calculated by dividing a data centre's total energy consumption by the energy used by its IT equipment. A PUE of 1.0 is ideal, as it means all the power is being used by the computing equipment, with no additional consumption for cooling and other supporting systems. WUE measures how much water a data centre uses for every unit of energy consumed by its IT equipment. It is calculated by dividing annual water consumption in litres by IT equipment energy consumption in kWh. A lower WUE indicates lower water use. Up to Rs 20 crore for energy-efficient data centres

The government will provide PUE-linked financial incentives to encourage energy-efficient data centre design and operations.

Explosion reported at MRPL refinery in Mangaluru, rescue ops underway



Bengaluru : A loud explosion was reported at the premises of Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) near Jokatte in Mangaluru, Karnataka, on Wednesday, September 30. One person has been seriously injured. MRPL PRO Rudolf Noronha told TNM that one person had suffered 35% burn injuries, and that he was out of danger. "No major injuries have been reported. One minor injury has been reported and shifted to hospital and is out of danger and necessary medical attention is being provided," an official press release said. Mangaluru city Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy told media that a person identified as Rajesh Baptist sustained burn injuries to around 35% of his body and was taken to Srinivasa Hospital. He is currently undergoing treatment in the ICU. Six others who sustained minor injuries at an adjacent office were given outpatient treatment and underwent medical checkup,

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.
Corporate Office : Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra- 400 028

POSSESSION NOTICE (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Loan Account No./Branch	Brief details of secured assets	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1.	Sameer D Kavalur/ Anisa Sameer Kavalur/ Mamataj D Kavalur/ Mahabubsab Davalsab Kavalur/ Shaheen Mabusab Kavaloor/ HUB-HL-000171/ Hubli	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No.23-518-84 Ie Old No.3/280, Plot No.89, Measuring 48.30956 Sq Mtr E-w 7.9248 and N-S 6.0960 Situated in Ward No.11, Yalishirund Road, Kacheri Plots, Shirahatti Town, Taluka And Sub-registrar Jurisdiction in Gadag District, and Bounded On The; East By- CC Road West By- Property Belongs To Nagari, North By- Mud Road, South By - Property of Belongs To Sunagar.	30-Jun-2026/ Rs. 10,19,099.5/- Rupees Ten Lakh Nineteen Thousand Ninety Nine And Paise Five Only.	29-Sep-2026

Date: October 01, 2026
Place: Gadag
Sd/- Authorized Officer, Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited

NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly, Niwas Housing Finance Private Limited)
Regd. Address: - A1, 6th Floor, Trade Star, Andheri Kurla Road, J B Nagar, Andheri (E), Mumbai – 400059.

Notice under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

NHFL has sanctioned home loan/mortgage loan/construction loan to the following borrowers against mortgage of residential premises. The repayment of the said loans were irregular and the accounts are finally classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with directions and guidelines of National Housing Bank/RBI.
NHFL has therefore invoked its rights and issued a notice under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 and called upon the below listed borrowers to repay the total outstanding mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the demand notice. The following borrowers are hereby called upon by this publication to pay the total dues mentioned against them plus further charges & interest accrued till payment within 60 days from the date of the said demand notice, failing which NHFL shall resort to all or any of the legal rights to take possession of the secured assets, dispose/sale it and adjust the proceeds against the outstanding amount.
The borrowers are also restrained from alienating or creating third party interest on the ownership of the properties.

Sr. No	Location/ Loan Account Number	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor	NPA Date	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice
1	BANGALORE KARNATAKA LNLEALAP-11230037347	YESHWANTH RS (BORROWER) GADDAM NANDHINI(CO-BORROWER)	07-Sep-2026	17-Sep-2026 Rs.9,70,154 As on 16-Sep-2026

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY/SECURED ASSET: "ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF NORTHERN PORTION OF PROPERTY BEARING NO.52, KATHA NO.506/52, OLD KATHA NO.160/3, LATER KATHA NO.315/52, SITUATED AT AGRAHARA VILLAGE, KENGERI HOBLI, BANGALORE SOUTH TALUK, PRESENTLY WITHIN THE LIMITS OF AGRAHARA VILLAGE PANCHAYATH, MEASURING EAST TO WEST 30 FEET OR (9.144 METERS), AND NORTH TO SOUTH 20 FEET OR (6.096 METERS), IN ALL MEASURING 600 SQUARE FEET OR (55.74 SQUARE METERS), ALONG WITH BUILDING CONSTRUCTED THEREON, AND BOUNDED ON: EAST BY : OTHERS PROPERTY, WEST BY: ROAD, NORTH BY: SITE NO.51, SOUTH BY: REMAINING PORTION OF SAME SITE NO.52, SOUTHERN PORTION BELONGS TO SRI.ARUN KUMAR.S."

Date: 01-10-2026,
Place: BANGALORE
Sd/- Authorized Officer, NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

M/S MINTIFI FINSERVE PRIVATE LIMITED
Reg. Office : Times Square, Unit No. 3b, 2nd Floor, Opp. Mittal Industries Estate, Andheri-kurla Road, Marol Naka, Andheri East, mumbai-400059.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)

WHEREAS,
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **M/s Mintifi Finserve Private Limited**, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as non-banking financial company having its registered office at Times Square, Unit No. 3B, 2nd Floor, Opp. Mittal Industries Estate, Andheri – Kurla Road, Marol Naka, Andheri – East, Mumbai – 400059, is issuing this notice under section 13 (4) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) issued a Demand notice dated 13.07.2026 calling upon the **Borrower BHARAT LINK POINT along with the Co-Borrowers VAHIDAKHAN KHANJADE AND SOPHIANAAZ KHANJADE** which was duly delivered at their registered entity address located at 122/C, OLD COURT ROAD, SAVANUR,HAVERI, KARNATAKA-581118 And Residential Address Located At HAVALDAR COMPLEX , POST ROAD, SAVANUR HAVERI -581118 And WARD NO.2, NEAR MAJID COLLEGE,NAVANAGAR,SAVANUR, PO-SAVANUR, DIST:HAVERI-581118. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice bearing of **₹.12,62,876.18/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Six And Paisa Eighteen only) as on 09/07/2026** along with further interest together with incidental costs expenses etc, thereon as stipulated under the respective financial documents executed between the Lender and the Borrower within a period of 60 (sixty) days from the date of the said demand notice.
The Borrower / Co-Borrower having failed to repay the amount; therefore, this notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 8 of the above said Rules on this **29th day September the year 2026**.
The Borrower/Co-Borrower mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the M/s Mintifi Finserve Private Limited for an amount **₹.12,62,876.18/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Six And Paisa Eighteen only) as on 09/07/2026** together with further interest and other charges thereon at contractual rates.
The Borrower / Co-Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
SCHEDULE'A' - DETAILS OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MORTGAGED TO THE M/S MINTIFI FINSERVE PRIVATE LIMITED,
All that piece & parcel of immovable property including constructed structures on a residential property bearing hesarur Grama panchayath RDPR No.15170060160040059, vpc No.28/2,Total Site Measuring 166.430000 sq Meters And Built up Area measuring 105.69000 Sq meter ,East & West Measuring 20.80, 10.30,10.50 Meter ,North &South Measuring 5.20,4.60,5.00 Meter,Situated at Basavankoppa Village , Taluka Savanur,District : Haveri, within the jurisdiction of the Hesarur Gram Panchayath. **Address (Property Location)- VPC No.15170060160040059**,Property No.28/2, Basavanakoppa Village, Hattimattur Hobli, Savanur Taluk, Haveri District-581118. **Boundaries as per Documents and As per Site : East-** Government Road , **West-** Property of Noorthamada Chowdhury, **North -** Property of Majidkhan Khanazade, **South -** Property of Noorthamada Khanazade

Date : 29.09.2026,
Place - Haveri
Authorised Officer, M/s Mintifi Finserve Private Limited

NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
(Formerly, Niwas Housing Finance Private Limited)
Regd. Address: - A1, 6th Floor, Trade Star, Andheri Kurla Road, J B Nagar, Andheri (E), Mumbai – 400059.

Notice under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

NHFL has sanctioned home loan/mortgage loan/construction loan to the following borrowers against mortgage of residential premises. The repayment of the said loans were irregular and the accounts are finally classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with directions and guidelines of National Housing Bank/RBI.
NHFL has therefore invoked its rights and issued a notice under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 and called upon the below listed borrowers to repay the total outstanding mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the demand notice. The following borrowers are hereby called upon by this publication to pay the total dues mentioned against them plus further charges & interest accrued till payment within 60 days from the date of the said demand notice, failing which NHFL shall resort to all or any of the legal rights to take possession of the secured assets, dispose/sale it and adjust the proceeds against the outstanding amount.
The borrowers are also restrained from alienating or creating third party interest on the ownership of the properties.

Sr. No	Location/ Loan Account Number	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor	NPA Date	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice
1	TUMKUR KARNATAKA LNTMKLAP-07250061264	NARASIMHARAJU H N (BORROWER) MRS PRATHIBA S K(CO-BORROWER) MRS SAROJAMMA (CO-BORROWER)	07-Sep-2026	29-Sep-2026 Rs.10,38,212 As on 16-Sep-2026

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY/SECURED ASSET: "ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING OLD KATHA NO.151/2, PRESENT KATHA NO.194/5/32, PID NO.152500501400100200 MEASURING E-W 17.0688 MTS AND N-S 3.66 MTS TOTALLY MEASURING 62.430840 SQ.MTS BUILDING PLINTH AREA 51.096672 SQ.MTS SITUATED AT CHINNENAHALLI VILLAGE, CHINNENAHALLI GRAMAPANCHAYATH, MADHUGIRI TALUK AND TUMKUR DISTRICT THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES ARE EAST-AS PER ACTUAL, WEST-AS PER ACTUAL, NORTH-AS PER ACTUAL, SOUTH-AS PER ACTUAL".

Date: 01-10-2026,
Place: TUMKUR
Sd/- Authorized Officer, NIWAS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

www.thesouthindiatimes.com

info.southindiatimes@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Social media and information warfare

Today, social media has become a vital part of our lives. Through Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube, WhatsApp, and other digital platforms, people access information about the country and the world in seconds. Social media has made the exchange of information easier, but it has also brought with it some serious challenges. Information can now be used not only to inform people but also to influence their thoughts and emotions. This is why information warfare has become a crucial national security issue.

Information warfare refers to the use of information to influence people's thoughts, feelings, beliefs, and decisions. This can include false news, incomplete information, linking old photos or videos to new events, presenting true information in a false context, and persistently conveying a specific message. The goal isn't always to damage a building or military base. It's often to create confusion, fear, anger, or distrust.

Social media has significantly accelerated information warfare. Previously, widespread dissemination of propaganda required newspapers, radio, television, or other media. Today, a video created on a mobile phone can reach thousands or even millions of people in a matter of minutes. People often forward messages without verifying their veracity, making it difficult to prevent misinformation.

This challenge becomes even more significant in a large and diverse country like India. India is home to people of different religions, castes, languages, and regions. If false or inflammatory information about a community spreads on social media, it can have a negative impact on society. A small local incident can be misrepresented and given a religious or communal spin. This can increase distrust and worsen law and order. The impact of rumors on social media can sometimes be very serious. False accusations against individuals, spreading false narratives against a community, or presenting a false picture of an incident can inflame mob sentiment. In such situations, the police and administration suddenly face a significant challenge. Therefore, it is crucial to quickly provide accurate and authoritative information during sensitive incidents. Deepfakes are a new form of information warfare. Artificial intelligence can be used to create fake videos by altering a person's face and voice. At first glance, these videos may appear real to the viewer. If a false video is circulated in the name of a politician, official, military officer, or other famous figure, it can create confusion. Such content can be especially harmful during elections, wars, terrorist incidents, or major crises.

The challenge of information warfare becomes even more serious in the military domain. During a military operation, false information can be spread regarding troop positions, movements, weapons, or casualties. Old war videos can be passed off as current events. Fake military videos or false statements can be presented as real, in an attempt to influence public morale. Therefore, special caution is required when sharing security-related information.

Information warfare isn't just about events within India. Social media can also be used internationally to influence a country's image and policies. Various organizations or foreign networks can manipulate events to suit their own interests. Influencing international public opinion can be done by continuously spreading specific information on border disputes, terrorism, Kashmir, internal unrest, and other sensitive topics.

Why India Cannot Keep 'Overestimating' Its Value To Washington

BRIG ANIL RAMAN



A few days before Donald Trump met Xi Jinping in Washington, I argued in these pages that the summit would reveal how much Washington values India after negotiating with its main rival. I outlined three possible results: Trump could get a big concession from China, the two sides could reach a limited deal that keeps the rivalry going, or the talks could fail. The summit led to the second outcome, though it was less substantial than the White House ceremony suggested. For India, the most important development was about Taiwan. Now, Washington treats its support for a partner as something it can trade with Beijing. This shift means India should reconsider how it values itself to the United States.

Managed Competition

Both sides agreed to extend their trade truce by just two months, which was less than most people expected. They also decided to create a working group on agricultural trade, with talks planned before the end of the year. Scott Kennedy from the Center for Strategic and International Studies called the results on trade, rare earths, refined oil, investment, and artificial intelligence limited and uncertain. Chinese analysts told reporters the relationship remains as tense as before. A two-month extension means both sides must check in often. Each government can watch the other's actions and put pressure again if needed. Regular meetings between the two leaders help keep things stable. This was their second meeting this year, after Trump went to Beijing in May. Trump will visit China again for the APEC summit in November, and Xi will come to Miami for the G20 summit in December. Experts call this setup managed competition. The two countries compete strongly but keep talking so problems do not get out of hand. Frequent meetings let both sides solve issues before they become crises.

Both leaders benefit from this approach. Xi can show his people that China is dealing with the United States as an equal while still growing its economy, technology, and military. Trump can show American farmers and businesses that his direct talks with Xi are getting results. For India, the key question is what each side had to give up to reach this point. Taiwan As A Bargaining Chip

The clearest example is Taiwan. After the May summit in Beijing, Washington paused a record USD 14 billion arms package for Taiwan. Trump called arms sales to Taiwan a "very good negotiating chip" with China. After last week's meeting, analysts in Washington expect the delay to continue, since the two leaders will meet twice more this year. The White House fact sheet did not mention Taiwan. China's official account of the talks recorded that Xi asked Washington to oppose Taiwanese independence. On Sunday, the American ambassador to China, David Perdue, said Trump described the Taiwan sale to Xi as just one of many regular American arms sales and even asked whether China itself would like to buy American weapons.

A Chinese scholar close to the government explained it simply before the summit. He said the results had been good for China because of the pause on American military exports. The deal was not balanced. China got a real strategic benefit, while the United States only got promises about farm purchases that may not happen.

This imbalance has a clear reason. In October 2025, China responded to American tariffs by limiting exports of rare earths, which are important for American industry and defence. Washington eased its stance within weeks. China had leverage and used it to influence the relationship. Now, lawmakers from both parties in the US, along with the government in Taipei, are urging the administration to approve the Taiwan arms deal. Whether they succeed will show how much Congress can still influence Trump's China policy.

WHAT US THINKS OF ITS 'FRIENDS'

In my own research for a Takshashila study on American decision-making, I interviewed 42 current and former officials, congressional staff, and policy experts in the US earlier this year. The study found that Washington now values its partnerships less and is less willing to pay a political price to keep them. I call this change repricing. The pause on Taiwan is the clearest sign of repricing since the study ended. When support for one partner becomes a bargaining chip with China, the value of every partner is up for negotiation.

India has already experienced this directly. In August 2025, Washington raised tariffs on Indian goods to 50% while working out a deal with Beijing. China responded with rare earth controls, and Washington changed its approach. India lacked a similar tool and had to accept the penalty for six months. Many in New Delhi have believed that India's importance to Washington increases as US-China rivalry grows. The events of 2025 challenged that belief. On September 18, President Trump signed a law, passed by large majorities in both houses of Congress, that allows tariffs of up to 100% on the largest buyers of Russian oil and gas, including India. China falls under the same law, yet a week later Xi arrived in Washington with rare earths as his counter-leverage. Last week's summit confirmed the lesson.

The comparison with Taiwan has limits. India is a sovereign power with its own influence, and the real issue is Washington's approach. New Delhi uses a similar approach with Beijing. Since the border disengagement deal in October 2024, India has steadily reopened its channels with China. Prime Minister Modi attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin in August 2025, and direct flights between the two countries started again on 26 October 2025 after five years. India maintains a working relationship with China while still seeing it as a rival. India should judge Washington by the same standards it uses for itself.

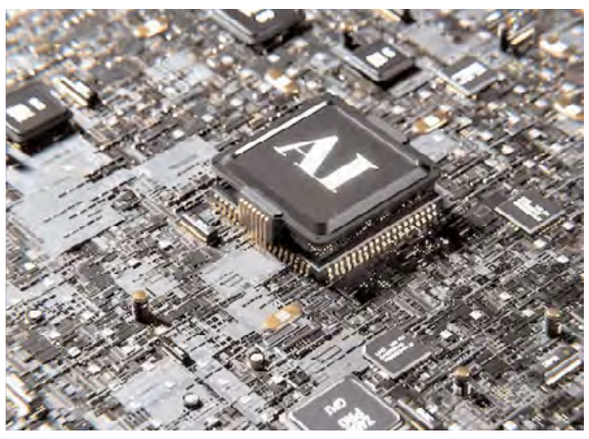
The main lesson is about the kind of value India creates. Some of India's value to Washington came from the tension between the US and China. For example, India became attractive for supply chains moving out of China, but this advantage fades when Washington and Beijing lower tariffs. Other strengths keep their value no matter what happens between the US and China. India's naval presence in the Indian Ocean, reliable large-scale manufacturing, and a defence industry that can support regional partners fall into this group. The more India builds these strengths, the less it depends on the ups and downs between Washington and Beijing.

WHAT TO WATCH

The next test is coming up soon. Indian readers should follow whether the Taiwan arms deal moves forward after Trump's November trip to China. If the deal remains on hold after the Miami meeting in December, it means repricing has become US policy. If Washington approves the deal, the pause was just a tactic for this round of talks. Either way, New Delhi will see how Washington balances a partner's security against making a deal with Beijing, and India should plan its own partnerships based on that lesson. The Trump administration's handling of Taiwan arms sales points to a broader shift in the way Washington is managing its China policy. A roughly USD 14 billion package for Taiwan, primarily air-defence systems, missiles and counter-drone capabilities, has reportedly been kept in abeyance, with Trump describing it as a "very good negotiating chip" with Beijing. The message is unmistakable: Taiwan's security assistance is no longer being treated simply as an element of US deterrence policy, but also as an instrument in the wider US-China bargain. That approach may offer Washington tactical leverage.

AI VS SKILLS: WHAT DOES INDIAN ECONOMY REALLY NEED?

MANISH KUMAR JHA



India's quarterly GDP growth were revealed recently, and one thing is very clear: India needs manufacturing of greater scale. However, India's manufacturing debate is asking the wrong question. It is increasingly framed as a choice between two futures: one in which factories are powered by artificial intelligence, automation and autonomous machines, and another in which India builds a large pool of highly skilled, specialised technicians and engineers. But if India seriously wants to become a manufacturing power - and compete with China in global supply chains - the choice is not between AI and people. India needs both, and more importantly, it needs to understand how the two fit together. At a recent national conference where I led a discussion on advanced military technologies, an observation by an Indian Air Force Vice Chief brought this dilemma into sharp focus. His point was simple but profound: imagine having to address a structural issue on a fifth-generation fighter aircraft. Even something as apparently mundane as fixing a nut or bolt on a stealth airframe can require a highly specialised technician who understands the material, structure, tolerances and consequences of getting the repair wrong. No AI model can substitute for that expertise. But the converse is equally true. The modern factory cannot remain dependent on human intervention for every inspection, calculation, prediction or adjustment. The sheer complexity and speed of modern manufacturing make that impossible. So, is AI the core of the factory or merely a helper? The answer lies somewhere more interesting: AI should become the multiplier of human industrial capability. As Manish Kumar, a global technology leader and CEO of SOLIDWORKS at Dassault Systèmes, puts it: "AI is the multiplier. You are the value." The distinction matters. A multiplier can dramatically increase an existing capability, but anything multiplied by zero is still zero. Without people who understand engineering, materials, machines, production and quality, there is little meaningful value for AI to multiply. Kumar has made the same argument publicly at 3DEXPERIENCE World, stressing that AI is intended to amplify engineering expertise rather than make it obsolete. That should be the starting point for India's manufacturing strategy. India does not have an AI problem alone. It has an industrial capability problem. Some of the world's largest technology companies are conducting advanced AI work through their India-based centres of excellence. Indian engineers are building models, algorithms, digital platforms and increasingly sophisticated applications. Yet there is a significant gap between being a major consumer and developer of digital technology and becoming a country capable of using that technology to design, engineer, manufacture and export complex physical products at scale. That distinction is crucial. China's manufacturing advantage was not created by AI alone. It was built over decades through industrial ecosystems, specialised suppliers, machine tools, materials expertise, engineering capabilities, logistics networks and enormous production scale. AI is now being layered onto that foundation. India cannot afford to jump directly to the AI layer while neglecting the industrial foundation underneath it. The objective must therefore be much more ambitious than "AI-enabled manufacturing". India needs AI-native manufacturing built on deep engineering competence. Consider what AI is already good at inside a factory. It can analyse enormous quantities of production data and identify patterns that would be almost impossible for a human to detect. Companies such as Mahindra are already applying AI and computer vision to manufacturing quality and predictive maintenance, while newer manufacturers such as Ather Energy have designed factories around extensive networks of machines, sensors and data systems. AI is exceptionally good at watching everything simultaneously. But watching is not the same as understanding. An AI system may tell a technician that a machine is drifting outside its normal operating parameters. The technician still has to determine why. Is it a tool-wear problem? A material variation? A calibration issue? A software fault? A mechanical failure? And then comes the most important question: should the line be stopped? That decision can involve production schedules, safety, quality, contractual commitments and engineering judgement. This is where specialised human expertise becomes indispensable.

STOCK MARKET CRASH – DOES POLITICS ALSO AFFECT THE MARKET?

Saurabh Varshney

The stock market is often called a mirror of the health of the economy. But the market isn't solely influenced by economic data, corporate performance, and global conditions. Political stability, election results, government policies, international relations, and public statements by political leaders can also influence investor sentiment. Political statements regarding the stock market during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the sharp decline in the market following the election results sparked a national debate about the limits of the relationship between politics and the stock market.

Referring to comments made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the potential direction of the stock market during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Congress leader and then-Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi raised serious questions. He demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation into the entire incident. He alleged that investors were given hope for a bullish market before the election results, and that the market suddenly experienced a significant decline after the initial trends of the election results. Rahul Gandhi cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statements on May 19 and 28, which mentioned the possibility of the stock market reaching record levels. He also cited Amit Shah's May 13 interview, which urged investors to buy stocks before June 4 and the possibility of a market rally after the election results.

Subsequent events further fueled the political controversy. On June 1, exit polls for the Lok Sabha elections were released. Most major exit polls predicted a landslide victory for the Narendra Modi-led coalition. The following trading day, June 3, saw a sharp rally in the stock market, with the Sensex and Nifty hitting record highs. This market rally was widely attributed to positive investor sentiment generated by the exit polls. But the picture suddenly changed on June 4th. Early trends in the actual election results revealed a political situation different from the exit poll predictions. This immediately impacted the market, with the Sensex and Nifty recording sharp declines. The market's decline of more than five percent in a single trading session sparked concern among investors. Electoral uncertainty and changing expectations about the likely form of government were cited as key reasons for the market reaction. This also raised political questions. Rahul Gandhi asked that if statements by political leaders could influence investor sentiment, why shouldn't there be clear mechanisms for accountability and transparency regarding such statements? He also demanded an investigation into the activities of major investors surrounding the exit polls. He also expressed the need to investigate potential links between statements made by the Prime Minister and Home Minister regarding the stock market, related media interviews, and market activity.

However, the BJP rejected these allegations. Then-Union Minister Piyush Goyal dismissed Rahul Gandhi's allegations as baseless, stating that it was inaccurate to directly attribute changes in the market's total market capitalization to actual losses for investors. The BJP also argued that market fluctuations are a normal phenomenon and that it would be inappropriate to attribute subsequent market activity solely to the election results. The most important aspect of this entire controversy is that a market decline in itself is not evidence of any political or financial irregularities. Stock market prices are influenced by many factors, including expectations, risk, supply and demand, global markets, foreign investment, interest rates, economic data, and political developments. A major event such as an election result can certainly alter investor expectations.

But on the other hand, this question is also crucial for a democratic system: when people in the highest political positions in the country make public comments about the direction of a sensitive financial market, should there be an independent investigation into the impact and context of such comments? The answer should be found not through political accusations, but through evidence, market data, and regulatory scrutiny.

Specifically, it should be examined what types of trades were made by which categories of investors around the election results, whether there was unusual market activity, whether a direct link can be established between public statements and trades, and whether available regulatory oversight identified any violations. If no irregularities are found, that should also be publicly disclosed to allay unnecessary suspicion. There's another important point to understand in this regard. A decline in the stock market's overall market capitalization doesn't necessarily mean that every investor has lost the same amount of money. Market capitalization changes based on the share prices of companies listed on the market. Therefore, equating a single-day decline in market capitalization directly to actual investor losses doesn't present a complete economic picture. Nevertheless, political leadership must take its public responsibility towards the stock market seriously. Millions of small investors may interpret statements by political leaders as market signals. Therefore, comments by those in public office regarding market direction require extra caution and factual basis.

In a democracy, the opposition's questioning is as important as the government's response. However, serious allegations should be resolved, not through political platforms, but through independent and credible facts.

Apple Pay now available in India: Who can use it and how



New Delhi: Tech giant Apple on Wednesday, September 30, announced that Apple Pay is now available for users in India across iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch, with support for Mac coming soon. Customers with Axis Bank-issued Visa and Mastercard credit cards can add their cards to Apple Pay and use them at thousands of in-store and online merchants across India, as well as anywhere that accepts NFC transactions, the company said in a statement. "India is home to a dynamic and digitally savvy population that continues to embrace a cashless future while expecting the highest standards of security and privacy, and we're so excited to bring Apple Pay to users in India today," said Jennifer Bailey, Apple's vice president of Apple Pay and Apple Wallet. The launch brings Apple customers an easy, secure, and private way to pay in stores, in apps, and on the web at retailers of all sizes — all without the need to type in PINs or use OTPs at checkout. Apple Pay makes everyday payments with a card easy, secure, and private — from simply tapping to pay in stores without an extra app, PIN, or OTP to checking out online without repeatedly entering payment information, Bailey added. When customers use a card with Apple Pay, the actual card numbers are not stored on the device or on Apple servers, nor are they shared by Apple with the merchant. Instead, a unique Device Account Number is assigned, encrypted, and securely stored in the Secure Element, an industry-standard certified chip designed to store the payment information safely on the device, said Apple. Apple said it does not retain transaction information that can be tied back to the user. Their transactions stay between the user, the merchant, and their bank or card issuer. If a user's iPhone is lost or stolen, they can use the Find My app to quickly locate, lock, or suspend payments from that device. Customers can add a card directly to Apple Wallet via the latest version of the Axis Bank app. Alternatively, simply open the Wallet app on iPhone, tap the plus sign, and follow the steps to add an eligible card. Once a user adds a card to their Apple device, they can start using Apple Pay right away, said the company. Amitabh Chaudhry, MD and CEO, Axis Bank, said the introduction of Apple Pay advances this ambition, bringing greater choice and flexibility to our Credit Card customers, with support across the Mastercard and Visa networks. "As India's digital economy accelerates and consumers seek seamless and secure payment experiences, the introduction of Apple Pay for our Axis Bank-issued Mastercard credit card holders ushers in a new era of contactless commerce, giving Indian consumers greater confidence and peace of mind with every transaction," said Gautam Aggarwal, Mastercard's president of India and South Asia. The launch of Apple Pay in India marks an important milestone in the evolution of the country's digital payments journey, added Suresh Sethi, Visa's group country manager of India and South Asia. When using Apple Pay, users will continue to earn the rewards and benefits offered by their cards.

OPPO Launches K14 Plus in India – A Smartphone That is Powered to Perform and Built to Last, Starting at INR 29,999



30th September 2026: OPPO India today announced the launch of the OPPO K14 Plus, a powerful new addition to the K Series that brings together performance, immersive entertainment, advanced imaging and long-lasting endurance. Powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 7360 MAX, the smartphone features a 1.5K 144Hz AMOLED Ultra Bright Display, 6-Year Durable 8000mAh Large Battery, 50MP OIS Main Camera with 4K video, 5000mm² Vapour Chamber for sustained performance. Built around OPPO's "Powered to Perform, Built to Last" proposition, the K14 Plus is designed to deliver a smooth, dependable experience that keeps up with demanding everyday use while offering the confidence of long-term performance and durability. Priced at INR 29,999 for the 6GB+128GB variant, INR 32,999 for the 8GB+128GB variant and INR 35,999 for the 8GB+256GB variant, the OPPO K14 Plus will be available for purchase starting 8th October 2026 - first day of Big Billion Days on Flipkart and OPPO India e-store from 00:00 hrs onwards in two vibrant colour options: Solar Orange and Star White. Consumers purchasing this smartphone can avail an INR 4,000 instant bank discount on the sale day with all leading banks, along with a 6-month No Cost EMI option. This brings the effective prices to INR 25,999, INR 28,999 and INR 31,999, respectively. Mr. Goldee Patnaik, Head of Communications, OPPO India, said, "A smartphone can be powerful on paper, but what matters to consumers is how that power translates into everyday life and how long it continues to do so. This is the thinking behind the OPPO K14 Plus. We have brought together the Dimensity 7360 MAX, 1.5K 144Hz AMOLED display, 6-Year Durable 8000mAh Large Battery, 50MP OIS camera with 4K video and 5000mm² VC cooling not simply to create a strong specification sheet, but to build a device that can keep pace with the way consumers use their smartphones today and over time. 'Powered to Perform, Built to Last' captures our belief that lasting value comes from performance you can depend on, experience after experience." Mr. Anshuman Bhatt, Head of E-commerce, OPPO India, said, "The way consumers discover, and purchase smartphones is increasingly shaped by digital-first research, and Flipkart continues to be an important part of that journey for us. With the K14 Plus, we are bringing a strong combination of performance, display, imaging and long-lasting battery life to consumers through a Flipkart launch. The Big Billion Days platform gives us an opportunity to connect the K14 Plus with consumers at scale, while offering the convenience of a trusted digital shopping experience. We look forward to making this powerful new addition to the K Series accessible to consumers across India this upcoming festive season." Engineered for Power, Built for Sustained Performance At the heart of the OPPO K14 Plus is the MediaTek Dimensity 7360 MAX.

Chinese AI tool told researchers how to make bioweapons



Chinese AI developer Moonshot is conducting an internal review after researchers were able to persuade two of its popular Kimi models to tell them how to make biological weapons and carry out assassinations. Mindgard, which tests the security of AI systems, told the BBC it discovered in July that Kimi K2.6 and K3 Swarm could evade safety limits put in place by developers. It arose during a process called "jailbreaking", where researchers use a series of complex instructions to see if AI tools ignore guardrails - which Mindgard said should have stopped Kimi from discussing concerning topics. Moonshot told the BBC it welcomed third-party input "as a key pillar for building better and safer AI". The company also told the BBC it was in discussion with Mindgard about its findings. Mindgard's founder Peter Garraghan told the BBC World Service programme Tech Life that its findings about Kimi K2.6 and K3 Swarm were concerning. "Once the jailbreak works it will talk about any topic, it will even freely offer up recommendations about other topics that are also nefarious and it will be inventive and creative," he said. Jailbreaks present a different kind of risk to those seen with the recent slew of high-profile AI incidents. These have seen autonomous AI tools known as agents, developed by US firms including OpenAI, Meta and Anthropic, hack some online services. While jailbreaks are complex processes that can take a lot of time and determination some experts fear hackers and other bad actors could try to use them to cause harm. Anthropic recently said it had identified and disrupted attempts to use one of its AI model for "malicious activity" that could support the development of biological weapons. Cyber-attack launchpad Mindgard has not proven whether the answers supplied by Kimi on concerning topics would work. But it argued guardrails should have prevented the models in question from entering into discussion with users on such subjects.

Cambridge launches new Excellenceseries in STEM learning for ICSE classrooms

Excellence Environmental Science 1-2, Science for Classes 3-8 and Excellence Mathematics for Classes 1-8

New resources bring together conceptual understanding, inquiry, real-world application and skills development

Cambridge University Press & Assessment (Cambridge) has launched two new series for ICSE schools, Excellence Mathematics and Excellence Environmental Science & Science, built to move students past recall and toward questioning, investigating and applying what they learn to real problems.

The series were unveiled at "Discover. Explore. Create: The Future of STEM Learning," a Cambridge event in Ranchi that brought together school principals, academic coordinators and teachers to talk through what more engaged, applied STEM teaching actually looks like in an Indian classroom.

The resources are aligned to NEP 2020 and the latest CISCE curriculum, built for schools navigating both frameworks at once rather than treating them as separate demands.

MeenakshiUberoi, co-author of the Excellence Mathematics series and part of De Pedagogics, spoke at the event on how the role of the educator is shifting as STEM classrooms move from rote instruction to environments built around inquiry.

■ BUILDING STRONGER MATHEMATICAL THINKING

Excellence Mathematics for Classes 1–8 takes learners from foundational number sense towards abstract and exam-ready mathematical thinking. The series is designed to help students understand the thinking behind mathematical concepts, rather than simply follow procedures. Its Misconception- First Learning approach identifies and addresses common misconceptions to strengthen conceptual understanding, while the dedicated Money Master strand develops practical financial literacy skills such as budgeting and saving. For Classes 6-8, a complimentary Skill Assessment Question Bank provides additional practice and assessment support. Teachers and learners can also access Cambridge GO, a digital repository with animations, interactivities, slide show videos, a Test Maker and online assessments.

■ MAKING SCIENCE AN EXPERIENCE

Excellence Environmental Science for Classes 1-2 and Science for Classes 3–8brings together inquiry, hands-on learning, visual exploration, reflection, competency development and real-world application to help students build strong scientific foundations. Through hands-on activities, learners are encouraged to explore, investigate and arrive at conclusions, rather than simply receive information. The series also connects scientific concepts with India's scientific heritage and traditional knowledge systems, while linking classroom learning to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Built-in formative assessment through Pulse Check enables teachers to monitor learning and identify areas where students may need additional support, while clearly defined learning outcomes and progressive assessment support competency development alongside subject knowledge.

Features such as Challenge Corner, Cross Connect, Picture This and Case in Point provide varied opportunities to apply concepts and develop critical thinking.

For Classes 6–8, Excellence Physics, Chemistry and Biology take scientific thinking further, with greater emphasis on reasoning, evidence, application and examination preparedness.

The Claim-Evidence-Reasoning (CER) approach available for Classes 6-8, through a complimentary Skill Assessment Question Bankhelps students construct scientific explanations and arguments using evidence and reasoning, while Deep Dive extends learning through relevant real-world contexts and applications.

■ SUPPORTING TEACHERS TO CREATE WFUTURE-READY CLASSROOMS

The launch reflects Cambridge's focus on supporting educators as they create learning environments that develop curiosity, critical thinking, application and learner independence.

Speaking on the launch of the new resources, MeenakshiUberoi, Co-author, Cambridge Excellence Mathematics series said,"The future of STEM learning begins with how we engage students in learning today. It's not just about giving them knowledge, but encouraging them to ask questions.

INDIA INC STANDS TALL – CAN RESILIENCE OUTLAST GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY?

India Inc continued to demonstrate resilience in the first half of this fiscal year (H1FY27), with credit quality strengthening despite a persistently uncertain global environment marked by geopolitical tensions, volatile energy prices, inflationary pressures and renewed monetary tightening.

CareEdge Ratings' credit ratio, or the proportion of rating upgrades to downgrades, nearly doubled to 3.95 times in H1FY27 from 1.93 times in the second half of the previous fiscal year (H2FY26). This improvement reflected not only stronger upgrade momentum but also a meaningful decline in downgrades. Overall, there were 300 rating upgrades against 76 downgrades during the period.

The upgrade rate rose to 16% in H1FY27 from 13% in H2FY26, remaining above the 10-year average of 15%. More strikingly, the downgrade rate fell to just 4% from 7%, reaching an all-time low. Overall, with the reaffirmations at around 80% of the ratings reviewed during the past few years, these trends point to broad-based stability and a notably stronger credit environment across the rated portfolio. Also, corporate India today is fundamentally better positioned than it was a decade ago, underscoring the rating trends. Between 2016 and 2026, overall gearing nearly halved from 1.04 times to 0.50 times, while PBILDT margins expanded from 10% to 14%, and interest coverage sustainably increased from 4.10 times to 7.59 times. Healthier balance sheets and stronger profitability have improved India Inc's ability to absorb external shocks and navigate periods of uncertainty.

Sachin Gupta, Executive Director and Chief Rating Officer, CareEdge Ratings, commented on the evolving economic landscape, stating, "The improvement in credit quality comes at a time when the external environment has become considerably more challenging. Geopolitical tensions have kept global energy prices high, contributing to inflationary pressures across major economies. Global monetary conditions have also tightened, with the US Federal Reserve raising its benchmark rate in September and several other major central banks resuming policy tightening. The domestic economy, meanwhile, delivered a stronger-than-expected performance despite global headwinds. Buoyant consumption, a pickup in investment, a healthy external position and India Inc's leaner balance sheets give us confidence in the resilience of the Indian economy looking ahead in fiscal 2027."

The sectoral picture reinforces this broader resilience. The credit ratio for the manufacturing and services sector improved to 2.84 times in H1FY27, up from 2.06 times in H2FY26. Ranjan Sharma, Senior Director, CareEdge Ratings (Corporate Ratings), noted, "Upgrades were driven by resilient domestic demand across consumer-linked sectors such as auto ancillaries & dealerships, textiles and gold jewellery retailers, as well as infrastructure-led demand supporting the iron & steel and capital goods sectors, while robust leasing demand benefitted the real estate sector. Downgrades were concentrated largely among smaller entities with presence in limited value-added segments such as commodity trading and distribution, agricultural food & other products and road transport services. Going forward, the outlook for the manufacturing & services sector in H2FY27 remains stable, supported by resilient domestic demand, anticipated diversification benefits from various bilateral FTAs struck recently, and India Inc's deleveraged balance sheets. However, inflationary pressures in the economy arising from higher energy costs and abating benefits from last year's GST rate cuts could affect margins and growth to an extent. Evolving geopolitical uncertainties around the West Asia conflict and potential US tariffs warrant a cautious outlook on exports."

The infrastructure sector recorded the sharpest improvement among the major sectors, with its credit ratio increasing to 8.31 times in H1FY27 from 1.67 times in H2FY26. Part of this increase, however, was driven by a large portfolio-level rating action, wherein a change in the credit profile of a single large group resulted in upgrades across multiple linked entities. Even after adjusting for this action, the infrastructure credit ratio remained strong at around 5 times. Rajashree Murkute, Senior Director, CareEdge Ratings (Infrastructure Ratings), highlighted, "Project commissioning continued to support upgrades, particularly across Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) road projects and renewable power.

The start-ups hoping to return battery making to the US



As heatwaves scorched Europe this summer, workers at a US battery company noticed an uptick in demand. San Diego-based Unigrid sells a nine kilowatt hour battery for people's homes. Sweltering European homeowners were apparently looking for ways of storing power when it was available from the grid at lower rates. They could then run air conditioners more cheaply, off the battery, during the worst heat of the day. "We have requests coming from Spain, France, Germany, The Netherlands," says Darren Tan, co-founder and chief executive. "We've shipped the first 100 units and [expect to ship] 1,000 before the end of the year." Unigrid's battery is an emerging technology – it's a sodium ion, rather than lithium ion device. Sodium ion batteries have got energy storage experts excited because they could end up much cheaper to build and operate than lithium ion. They're potentially less likely to catch fire and should also work in a wider range of temperatures, even down to lows of minus 40C. But there's a debate over what constitutes the best, and safest, sodium ion battery design. Plus, more than one US company working in this space has floundered in recent years. China leads the world in sodium ion battery manufacturing at present so US competitors are going to have to work hard to keep up. The prize that awaits is the possibility of batteries made in the US with 100% US-sourced materials. This is unlike lithium ion batteries, where China dominates the materials supply chain as well as manufacturing. For Tan, China has helped his company get to market. The Unigrid battery currently uses sodium ion cells made there, rather than in the US. "We can switch back and forth and choose what battery we want to work with," says Tan, explaining that, in future, his firm might source cells from the US – though these may come at a different cost. There's another consideration. Unigrid's battery contains chromium-3 in its cathode. In a battery, electrons flow from cathode to anode when charging and in the opposite direction when discharging or providing power. Prof Dame Clare Grey at the University of Cambridge, who is co-founder of battery firm Nyobolt, points out that under certain conditions chromium-3 may form chromium-6, a toxic, cancer-causing material.

Russia launches largest attack on Ukraine energy infrastructure since spring



Russia has launched the largest attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure since the spring, primarily targeting Kyiv and the surrounding region, Ukraine's Prime Minister has said. At least five people were killed in overnight attacks across the country, including a child in the Kyiv region, Serhiy Koretskyi said. The strikes also impacted people's power supplies, with Ukraine's biggest private energy firm DTEK saying power to 8,000 homes had been restored following "a difficult night" for the capital. The Russian defence ministry said one of its targets was the Trypilska power station, the largest supplier of electricity to Kyiv. The operator confirmed damage to the plant. Koretskyi wrote on Telegram: "Since the summer, there has effectively not been a single day without enemy attacks on our energy infrastructure. "However, a mass and combined attack of this scale has occurred for the first time since the end of the last heating season." Ukraine has been expecting another protracted Russian assault on the country's energy grid. It has happened every winter so far since Russia's full-scale invasion began in 2022. In total, 11 regions of the country were attacked overnight, with residential buildings, social infrastructure, civilian enterprises and railways also targeted, Koretskyi said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said there had been strikes on critical infrastructure in the Zhytomyr, Mykolaiv, Kirovohrad and Rivne regions. On Wednesday, some households in the Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Sumy and Kharkiv regions remained without power, Ukraine's energy ministry said. State-owned grid operator Ukrenergo advised residents not to use powerful electrical appliances between the hours of 10:00 and 16:00 local time as electricity supplies were lower than usual. In Kyiv, people woke to find the city blanketed by thick, acrid smoke after a night punctuated by the sound of explosions. An air raid alert was still on and the distant sound of air defence gunfire echoed through the murky atmosphere. Residents in several districts were advised to close their windows until the smoke cleared. Among those killed in the overnight strikes was a child whose body was found under the rubble of a house, Kyiv regional head Timur Tkachenko said. Kyiv Mayor Vitaly Klischko said three people were killed in total in the capital, including a Ukrainian utility company worker who was killed at a warehouse building. Another person was killed in the southern Mykolaiv region, acting regional head Heorhiy Reshetilov said. Two more people were killed in the north-eastern Sumy region on Tuesday, regional head Oleh Hryhorov said. A school was also hit there in a separate strike, he added. Russia's defence ministry said it had launched massive overnight strikes on Ukrainian facilities. It said targets included the Trypilska thermal power plant, located some 40km from Kyiv, and claimed the plant supplied electricity to Ukrainian defence facilities. The operator of the plant, Centrenergo, said it was assessing the scale of the damage. Russia's military added that it had intercepted more than 380 Ukrainian drones overnight over a number of regions, including Moscow. Meanwhile, Ukraine's military said it had struck a number of Russian military targets, including a drone warehouse in the occupied Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine. Russia currently controls about 20% of Ukrainian territory, including a large area of Donetsk. On the battlefield, Ukraine's Third Army Corps said it had recaptured several settlements near the city of Lyman in Donetsk this week, as part of a counter-offensive called Operation Vivaldi. Zelensky visited troops in the area on Wednesday. But elsewhere, the front line remains largely stagnant, with both sides failing to make significant gains.

Netanyahu says pilot arrested after stabbing another pilot and apparently trying to crash Israel-bound plane



Passengers from the Flydubai flight have landed in Tel Aviv, hours after their scheduled arrival. Israeli President Isaac Herzog has thanked the "heroes" who "acted with immense courage" on the flight to Tel Aviv that was diverted to Saudi Arabia. "Hours of worry ended in a great miracle and exceptional heroism," he writes on X, as a recovery flight makes its way to Israel. "I strengthen the spirits of the plane's passengers making their way back home, and thank from the depths of my heart the heroes who acted with immense courage in these critical moments," he adds. "We will continue to act together with our Emirati partners to learn from the event and fight terrorism." Medics are waiting outside Israel's Ben Gurion airport where passengers whose plane was diverted earlier following a stabbing are due to arrive. Once they land, they will all be given medical checks and any necessary additional care, emergency officials say. Passengers from the Flydubai plane involved in today's incident have now departed Saudi Arabia, airport operator Cluster2 says. They left Tabuk airport at 17:40 local time (14:40 GMT, 15:40 BST), according to the Saudi operator. As we reported earlier, Flydubai airline had sent two replacement planes to Tabuk "to relieve the passengers and crew". The original flight had been travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv before being diverted to Saudi Arabia as this attack unfolded. Israel Ohayon's sister, Miriam Ohayon, was on board the Flydubai flight that was diverted to Saudi Arabia after one of the pilots was stabbed. Speaking to BBC Arabic at Israel's Ben Gurion airport, the flight's planned destination, he says there is a feeling of "helplessness, complete uncertainty". Ohayon says his sister reported "a lot of pressure and panic" with passengers feeling that they were "staring death in the face". He says his sister was sitting "directly behind" the pilots and "saw everything" that happened - adding that "a few Israelis took initiative" and subdued the attacker. "Mentally, she's not in a good state. We lost our brother on October 7, 2023, so this brings us back a little to that time," Ohayon adds. An Israel-bound plane plummeted 17,000ft in two minutes after one pilot stabbed another pilot and apparently tried to crash the plane, according to Israel's prime minister. Benjamin Netanyahu says he has spoken to an Israeli passenger onboard the Flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv who described how the plane "went into a spin and began to descend". The passenger told him that "somehow he managed to break into the cockpit with one of the crew members and, together, they overpowered the pilot who had carried out the stabbing while he was attempting to sabotage the aircraft's systems". Another crew member "entered the cockpit and managed to stabilise the aircraft", Netanyahu says, as he praised the "heroes" who "saved many lives and prevented a major disaster". In a new statement, Flydubai, says the plane was "successfully secured" by on-duty crew travelling on the flight who "diverted and landed the aircraft safely at Tabuk airport". The motives behind the attack remain unknown and are subject to a formal investigation, the airline says. The pilot who carried out the stabbing has been arrested and is being questioned by authorities in Saudi Arabia, according to Netanyahu. A series of extraordinary witness accounts have emerged, including from one passenger who described hearing "terrible screams throughout the plane" before "three to five guys burst into the cockpit" and subdued the attacker.

US ACTOR CHAD LOWE 'HEARTBROKEN' BY DEATH OF DAUGHTER FIONA AGED 13



US actor Chad Lowe and his wife, producer Kim Painter, have said they are "deeply heartbroken" following the death of their "beloved" 13-year-old daughter Fiona. "She was a loving young girl who was smart, creative and loved to dance," the family said in a statement to Page Six and People. "She was adored by her sisters and she was deeply loved by her parents. In fact, she was the light of our lives. "Her passing is devastating for our entire family and we ask for prayers and privacy at this time." The statement concluded: "If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, please reach out to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting 988." Chad Lowe, the brother of fellow actor Rob Lowe, won an Emmy Award in 1993 for TV show Life Goes On and has appeared in other programmes including Pretty Little Liars and Supergirl. He and Painter are also parents to daughters Mabel, 17, and Nixie, 10. "Her passing is devastating for our entire family and we ask for prayers and privacy at this time." The statement concluded: "If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, please reach out to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting 988." Chad Lowe, the brother of fellow actor Rob Lowe, won an Emmy Award in 1993 for TV show Life Goes On and has appeared in other programmes including Pretty Little Liars and Supergirl. He and Painter are also parents to daughters Mabel, 17, and Nixie, 10.

LAST UK AND US TROOPS LEAVE IRAQ AS ANTI-ISLAMIC STATE MISSION ENDS



The last British and American troops have left Iraq after a military presence of more than a decade in the country. The exit of the remaining UK military personnel - around 100 - from Irbil, in the northern Kurdistan region, was co-ordinated over recent weeks with US forces, who also departed on Wednesday. It follows an agreement between the US and the Iraqi government, signed two years ago, to withdraw foreign troops by the end of this month. British and US forces have been present in Iraq since 2014, as part of the international coalition to help defeat the extremist Islamic State (IS) group. Their departure brings the mission, known as Operation Inherent Resolve, to an end. Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi said the end of the coalition's mission marked "Iraq's transition to a phase in which it assumes full responsibility for its security and stability". Iraq is set to hold four "Sovereignty Days" as a national holiday to mark the withdrawal. "Following more than a decade of operations, training and capacity building, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the Kurdish Peshmerga have secured the enduring territorial defeat of Daesh in Iraq and are now well placed to take primary responsibility for the country's security," the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a statement, referring to IS by an Arabic acronym. "With these objectives achieved, Iraq and its international partners can begin a new chapter focused on enduring security co-operation under Iraqi leadership." Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said the coalition's departure from Irbil marked "the successful conclusion of the military mission that defeated [IS] in Iraq". He added: "The primary responsibility for addressing Iraq's remaining security challenges, including [IS] remnants and Iran-aligned militias that undermine Iraqi sovereignty and regional stability, now rests with the government of Iraq." The Iraqi government declared the military defeat of IS in 2017, but coalition forces remained to help prevent the group's resurgence. A recent UN report assessed that sustained counter-terrorism pressure by Iraqi security forces had left IS with several hundred fighters who were "able to carry out unsophisticated operations only". The Iraqi government also faces the challenge of Iranian-backed militias in the country. Zaidi, who took office in May, has vowed to disarm them and bring all weapons under state control following the coalition's exit. But several powerful factions have resisted his plans and could now see their influence grow without the US presence. Since the start of the US and Israel's war with Iran earlier this year, militias have been targeting the remaining US and UK forces stationed at Irbil air base. Hundreds of Nato troops stationed in Baghdad left the country in March as tensions rose. A BBC team visited the coalition base in Irbil in April this year, during a fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran. They were forced to circle the base in an RAF transport aircraft while drones were being launched nearby. At the height of the US bombing campaign against Iran, the coalition base was being targeted by up to 28 drones and missiles a day.

Execution of US murderer Christa Pike halted shortly before it was due to happen



The execution of Tennessee inmate Christa Pike has been halted just over an hour before it was due to happen. Pike, 50, has been awaiting execution since she was convicted and sentenced to death in 1996 for the murder of Colleen Slemmer. In their ruling on Wednesday, judges from the Sixth Circuit Appeals court said they needed more time to consider the arguments in Pike's case. It is unclear how long the pause will last. This latest ruling comes after the Supreme Court denied a reprieve and the Tennessee governor declined to grant Pike's request for clemency earlier this week. Her lawyers said that for years, the state of Tennessee argued in court that Pike had lied about being sexually abused as a child. But at a recent hearing about her execution method, the State said it does not dispute she suffered sexual abuse and rape. Pike's legal team asked the appeals court to send her motion back to the district court, arguing that if the federal courts based their ruling on the state's earlier claim that she was lying, then the federal review was affected. The appeal that led to Wednesday's stay is different from that made to the Supreme Court, which refused to hear Pike's appeal.The execution of Tennessee inmate Christa Pike has been halted just over an hour before it was due to happen. Pike, 50, has been awaiting execution since she was convicted and sentenced to death in 1996 for the murder of Colleen Slemmer.



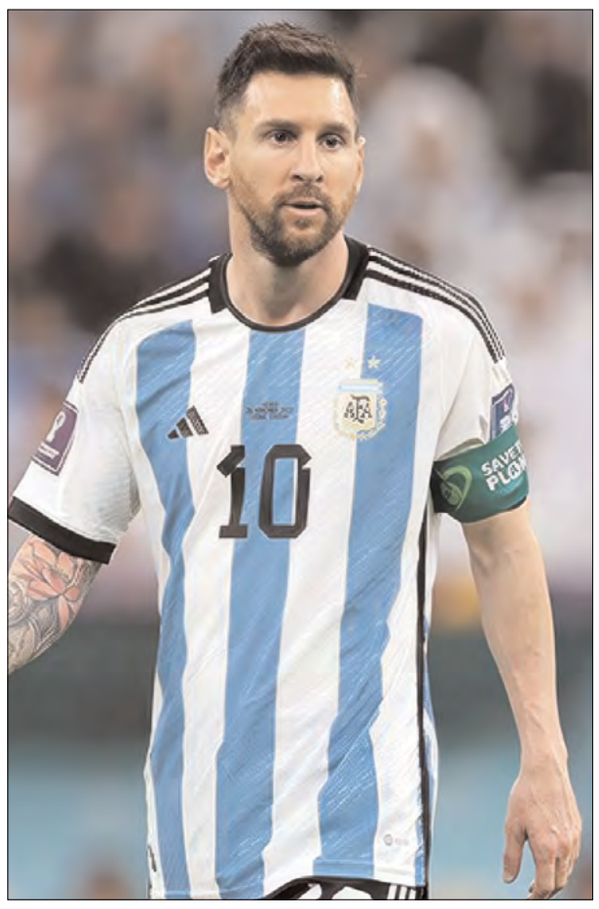
Botswana condemned for slaughtering 23 elephants for independence celebrations

SINGAPORE LAUNCHES MATCHMAKING SERVICE FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS



Singapore has rolled out a matchmaking service for its government workers, an initiative that comes as the country wrestles with a record-low fertility rate. FirstDate, which launched this week for those aged 21 to 35, boasts "a different approach to dating", where it uses a Nobel-winning algorithm to match participants to one date at a time. "Swipe fatigue ends here," its website reads. Participants sign in using the national digital identity system and answer a survey about their interests, habits and values. FirstDate's launch drew mixed responses among Singaporeans, with some describing it as "dystopian" and others saying they would be keen to give it a shot. On its website, FirstDate highlights the Gale-Shapley Stable Marriage algorithm which powers the programme. The mathematical framework pairs two equally sized groups of people based on their preferences. The late mathematician Lloyd Shapley was awarded the 2012 Nobel memorial prize in economic sciences for discovering the algorithm, which has been used in public school admissions, medical residency matching, and dating apps, among other things. "At the end of the day, I think the experience of meeting someone through an application doesn't change much across the [different types of] applications," Elizabeth, a 29-year-old who works in Singapore's defence ministry and is keen on trying FirstDate out told the BBC. "But it is nice to know that the likelihood of being scammed is much lower. We're all public servants looking for a partner, right?" But some social media users say the initiative, which is currently in its pilot phase, discriminates against those not working in government. Others criticised the age limit. "They are only doing this to raise the total fertility rate. They don't actually [care] about whether we find a partner otherwise. "Since there are higher risks involved in having kids at 35 and older, the government just writes [the older singles] off," wrote another Reddit user. It is not clear if the pilot programme will be available to the wider public in future. The BBC has reached out to GovTech, the statutory board behind the pilot, for comment.

Argentina's Post-Messi Era Begins Against Bolivia, Future Of Iconic No. 10 Unclear



With the iconic No. 10 jersey unassigned, Argentina will face its first test of the post-Lionel Messi era when it hosts Bolivia in a friendly on Wednesday. As the 39-year-old legend gets set for his farewell match for Argentina next week, coach Lionel Scaloni is already looking toward the future. Facing the immense challenge of replacing Messi, the coach remained pragmatic: "We'll find a way to play differently." "That's what these matches are for - to experiment," Scaloni said Tuesday ahead of the game against Bolivia at the Kempes Stadium in Cordoba. "That said, our core style still revolves around controlling the ball. From there, we'll see how we adapt." Scaloni has opted to field strikers Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez together up front, a tactical combination he had previously avoided. Scaloni stopped short of confirming the starting lineup, but Argentina is expected to field most of the players who featured in the World Cup final against Spain. Anticipated changes include Agustin Giay starting at right-back, Exequiel Palacios replacing the suspended Enzo Fernandez (following his red card in the final), and Valentin Barco slotting in as a third midfielder. Nicolas Paz, currently playing for Italy's Como, will take on the playmaking duties in Messi's absence. Scaloni confirmed at Tuesday's press conference that no player will wear No. 10 for now, Messi's jersey number when he lifted the 2022 World Cup trophy and throughout most of his 207 appearances for Argentina. Messi's farewell match is on Oct. 6 against Benin in Buenos Aires. "We aren't obligated to assign it for these matches, so we won't give it to anyone until Leo's farewell game," the coach said. "The idea is for someone to eventually take it on, given how special it is to wear. We just haven't decided who yet." Messi announced the end of his international career in late August. In his final World Cup, the sixth of his career, he played eight matches and scored eight goals. He concludes his national team career as Argentina's all-time leading scorer with 125 goals, 21 of which came in World Cup tournaments. Scaloni is close to renewing his contract, which is set to expire on Dec. 31. "The important thing is that the desire is there," the coach said. "I had to step back, re-evaluate, and look closely at the sporting side alongside the financial aspects. I needed to analyze what lies ahead. In the end, we're excited about the future, and that shared enthusiasm paved the way toward an agreement." Scaloni had previously hinted that he might step down following the World Cup final defeat on July 19. However, he recently met with Argentine Football Association president Claudio Tapia to negotiate an extension through the 2030 World Cup.

Mohammad Rizwan Asked To Appear Before NCCIA In Lahore For Mobile Analysis



Pakistan's former captain, Mohammad Rizwan has been summoned by the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency on October 2 in Lahore for forensic examination and analysis of his phone. A source close to Rizwan confirmed on Wednesday that the wicketkeeper-batsman had received the written notice from the NCCIA. "He has been asked to be present at the NCCIA office on October 2 so that the investigators can carry out the forensic examination of his phone in front of him," he added. Rizwan's phone has been in the NCCIA custody since it was taken away from him by the Pakistan Cricket Board security official during the second Test at Lords in England last month. Rizwan has already appeared once before at a NCCIA hearing after he was dropped from the Test squad and told to return home by the board before the third Test. The source said the NCCIA had not given any details of the reasons for the investigation being carried out against him even in the latest notice sent to him. Rizwan is expected to appear before the NCCIA with his lawyer. Rizwan on September 28 wrote to the NCCIA, asking them to return his phone and provide him with written details about what allegations/suspicions they are investigating against him. It was reported in the media that he was not cooperating with the inquiry which is alleged to centre around online betting and gambling claims. In a letter sent to the NCCIA which was available to the Pakistan media, Rizwan has also asked the NCCIA to use official channels while communicating with him in future. In his letter dated September 28, Rizwan noted that his mobile phone was taken on August 31 and that he was initially assured it would be returned within three hours. The wicketkeeper-batsman has noted in his letter that he was later informed that the phone would be returned after its digital forensic examination was completed. However, he said considerable time had now passed and requested that the device be returned without any further delay.

India vs West Indies, 2nd ODI: Rohit Sharma-Virat Kohli's Stunning Records In Guwahati



It will be another day of festivities for cricket fans globally, particularly those of the 50-over format, as two of the format's biggest legends, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli will grace Guwahati with their presence, evergreen strokeplay and records during the second ODI against West Indies on Wednesday. With the road leading upto the 2027 Cricket World Cup offering these two legends a chance to have one final encore in various parts of the world, the 'Ro-Ko' train will stop at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati, Assam, a state where both have played some of their best cricket. Guwahati is a place which has brought the best out of Rohit. In his two outings here, Rohit has scored 235 runs in two innings at an average of 235.00 and a strike rate of 127.71, with a century and a fifty. His best score is a 117-ball 152* against the West Indies way back in 2018. Rohit is also just 73 runs away from becoming the third Indian to reach 12,000 runs in ODIs. Currently, the 39-year-old sits at 11,927 runs in 289 ODIs and 281 innings at an average of 48.88, with 34 centuries and 62 fifties, including a best score of 264. This year in 10 ODIs, the graph has gone up and down for the Hitman as he has made 411 runs at an average of 41.10 and a strike rate of 98.56, with a century (an iconic 138 at Lord's) and a fifty to his name. After a 35-ball 32 in the previous match, Rohit will be aiming to convert his entertaining starts into something bigger. On the other hand, Virat's record at Assam is even grander, with the batter having peeled off three successive centuries across two venues: the Nehru Stadium and the Barsapara Stadium. A knock of 110 against New Zealand came in November 2010, when the 37-year-old had not experienced the magnitude of superstardom and expectations he faces today.

Rain To Washout India vs Sri Lanka Asian Games Men's Cricket Semi-Final?



The men's cricket event at the ongoing Asian Games has been plagued by rain, with almost every match affected by weather interruptions so far. Team India, which was scheduled to face Afghanistan in the quarterfinal at Korogi Sports Park in Nisshin, advanced to the semi-finals after the match was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to persistent rain. Not only that fixture, but the other three quarterfinal matches were also washed out. With India and Sri Lanka set to face each other in the semi-final on Thursday, all eyes will be on the weather in Nisshin . According to AccuWeather, there is no significant chance of rain during the match, and conditions are expected to remain clear. The temperature is likely to hover around 30 degrees Celsius, with only a one per cent chance of precipitation. Who will qualify if India vs Sri Lanka match gets washed out? If rain still spoils the semi-final game, India will advance to the final match of Asian Games, men's cricket. This is because India hold a higher rank than Sri lanka in the ICC T20I rankings. Sri Lanka had been eliminated at the quarter-final stage in the 2022 Asian Games, losing to Afghanistan. They will now take on India for a place in the final The other semi-final will see Bangladesh face Pakistan after Bangladesh's quarter-final against Malaysia was also washed out later on Tuesday. The two semi-finals are scheduled to be played on October 1, with Bangladesh taking on Pakistan in the first semi-final, followed by India facing Sri Lanka later in the day. India are aiming to retain the gold medal they won in the men's cricket competition at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou. India were awarded the gold medal after their final against Afghanistan was washed out, with the higher-ranked side taking the title. The women's Indian cricket team has already successfully defended its Asian Games title in Aichi-Nagoya.

Brian Lara Left Behind, Shai Hope Joins Elite West Indies ODI Club



West Indies skipper Shai Hope went past legendary Brian Lara during the second West Indies ODI on Wednesday, becoming Men in Maroon's second-highest centurion in ODI cricket. During the 2nd ODI against India at Guwahati's Barsapara Stadium, Hope made 104 in 94 balls, with eight fours and three sixes at a strike rate of over 110. This is Hope's 20th ODI century in 157 ODIs, taking him past Lara, who scored 19 centuries in 295 ODIs from 1990-2007. The top century-getter for West Indies in ODIs is the 'Universe Boss' Chris Gayle, who has scored 25 centuries in 298 ODIs spanning from 1999 to 2019. Some of Hope's best ODI cricket has come against India, especially on their home turf. In India, across 16 ODIs and 16 innings, Hope has made 857 runs at an average of 71.41 and a strike rate of over 76, including four centuries and three fifties, with the best score of 123*. This year in ODIs, Hope has scored 315 runs across nine matches and eight innings at an average of 45.00 and a strike rate of 89.74, including a century and two fifties. In ODIs, Hope has been one of the format's most underrated servants, with 6,428 runs in 157 matches and 151 innings at an average of 50.21, including 20 centuries and 32 fifties and a best score of 170. Coming to the match, India won the toss and elected to field first. Incredibliely paced centuries from John Campbell (101 in 68 balls, with nine fours and five sixes), Shai Hope (104 in 94 balls, with eight fours and three sixes) and Amir Jangoo (114 in 77 balls, with nine fours and three sixes) took WI to their highest ODI total ever, of 405/7.

GUARDIOLA BACKING MAN CITY AFTER GUILTY VERDICTS

Former manager Pep Guardiola has backed Manchester City's owners and leadership and says he will "always" be behind the club after they were found guilty of all charges related to breaches of the Premier League's financial rules.

An independent commission found that City arranged "sham contracts" with a number of commercial partners as part of a scheme to disguise secret funding of more than £830m. The league confirmed City have been found guilty of all charges related to breaches of financial rules between the 2009-10 and 2017-18 seasons, and all but one in relation to failure to co-operate with the investigation.



India's Double Boost At Asian Games: Sumit Nagal Advances, Deepu Mallesh Breaks New Ground



India's Sumit Nagal continued his progress in the men's singles competition at the Asian Games 2026, defeating Uzbekistan's Sergey Fomin in straight sets to enter the quarterfinals, while Dhakshineswar Suresh's campaign came to an end after a third-round defeat on Wednesday. Seventh-seeded Nagal produced a controlled display against Fomin, securing a 6-3, 6-2 victory to book his place in the last eight. The Indian, ranked 249th in the world, maintained his composure throughout the contest and converted his opportunities to close out the match without being pushed into a deciding set. Nagal will face a significantly tougher challenge in the quarterfinals when he takes on third seed Wu Yibing of China. The Chinese player, ranked 111th in the world, has previously defeated Nagal in their only meeting. Nagal had entered the third round after overcoming South Korea's Seongchan Hong 6-4, 6-0 in the second round. Their match had been interrupted by weather on Monday, with Nagal leading 3-2 in the opening set, before play resumed on Tuesday. Hong initially took control after the restart, winning the first eight points and moving 4-3 ahead. Nagal, however, responded strongly and won nine consecutive games to take command of the contest and complete a straight-set victory. The Indian had earlier lost to Hong in the qualifying competition at the 2024 Indian Wells Masters. He had also endured a difficult Davis Cup outing against South Korea before the Asian Games, suffering defeats against Hyeon Chung and Soonwoo Kwon.

WHY VITHYA RAMRAJ AND CO COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AT ASIAN GAMES 2026



Before Tuesday, Vithya Ramraj had twice climbed the podium at the Asian Games 2026. She was part of the mixed 4x400m relay team that won the silver medal and also went on to break PT Usha's 42-year-old record, clocking a personal best of 54.75 seconds on her way to clinching bronze in the 400m hurdles. Yet, one dream remained. "I had never experienced the national anthem from the podium," Vithya said. That dream was fulfilled as the women's 4x400m relay team, comprising Prachi Choudhary, Kiran Pahal, M.R. Poovamma and Vithya Ramraj, combined to win gold in the event with a time of 3:29.69. This was the first and only gold medal that India won in athletics at the Asian Games 2026. "We all wanted to experience the national anthem from the podium," Vithya told NDTV about the campaign. Vithya ran the anchor leg of the relay team. "All three of them ran such good legs. After seeing them, I also wanted to do it, and that pushed me over the finish line." Kiran, who ran the opening leg, described the feeling when Vithya was running the final leg. "Vithya was running the anchor leg, but it felt like we were all running the final leg," she said. "We all wanted to hug Vithya very badly," added Poovamma. "Our strategy was to gain as big an advantage over the Bahrain team as possible. We knew that Salwa Eid Naser is a great athlete, and we wanted to give Vithya as much of a lead as possible going into the anchor leg." "Representing the country in a relay gives a very different feeling from competing in individual races. When we have the baton in our hands, we perform better." Prachi, who is from Uttar Pradesh, then described the qualities of her three teammates. "Poovamma Didi gets hyper very quickly. She doesn't have much patience. Vithya is very silent and calm, and she is positive. Kiran is also fairly quiet. She is very focused during training," she said.

Wishes 'Don't Trouble The Trouble' a huge success: Man of Masses NTR at pre-release event



Don't Trouble The Trouble' is a fantasy entertainer starring Fahadh Fazil as the hero and presented by Rajamouli. Produced by Shobhu Yarlagadda, Prasad Devineni and SS Karthikeya under the banners of Arca Media Works and Show Business, the film is directed by Shashank Eleti. The movie will release on October 2. In this background, a grand pre-release event was organized in Hyderabad. The man of masses, NTR, was present as the chief guest. In this program.. Hero Fahad Fazil said, "I have never seen so much fandom. This movie is very special for me. We shot in 90 percent live locations. Very good feeling. In the shooting of this film, the director, producers and all the film units supported a lot. We really enjoyed working. We got your support when this movie started. It is a pleasure to have you come to this event. Watch our movie on October 2," he said.
Child artist Sara said.. "Thank you very much to the director and producers for giving this movie a chance. It was a pleasure to work with Fafa. Everyone should watch this movie on October 2.. Jai NTR said.
Producer SS Karthikeya said, "This is my first film as a producer. This is a movie that the whole family can enjoy together. It is not like a debut director's film. Director Shashank has given a good output so that every scene is new in this movie. I learned from Shobu Gari that a producer should be like this. Keeravani Babai named my banner Showing Business. Special thanks to him. I am crazy about Fahad Fazil movies. In that madness, she heard the story of Shashank and said that she wanted to tell this story to Fahad Fazil. He is very happy to do this film. Baba (Rajamouli) I wish to take your name even higher. We shot this movie in 75 real locations in Hyderabad. The entire unit of the film worked very hard.Thank you very much for coming to our film event without asking Tarak Anna.
Director Shashank said.. "Thank you Shobu sir, Chinna sir, Rajamouli sir for giving me the opportunity to do this film, I am thankful to the entire unit of the film." Karthikeya is my pillar, he is everything to this movie. Our unit is lucky to come to the pre-release event of our movie Tarak Anna.
Music director Kalabhairava said.. "Everyone will like this movie after watching it on October 2. The whole team worked very hard together. Special thanks to all our lyricists and singers.
Special guest Raghavendra Rao said.. Karthikeya's movie 'Don't Trouble The Trouble' was made with a lot of effort. Shobhu Yarlagadda, Prasad Devineni, S.S. Karthikeya thought that you would have made Baahubali. We don't need Rajamouli, we will make this movie with Shashank Yeleti. Tell me why the movie is not a hit anymore. It is October 2 release, the blessings of that Gandhi should be on you. He said that he is very happy to come to such a ceremony.
Legendary music director Keeravani said.. "The director of this film, Shashank, wanted to be someone who was better than their mentor Chandrasekhar.. My boy Kalabhairava wanted to get a good name for background music, and my favorite actor Fahad Fazil wanted a good hit. My other boy Karthikeya came into the production of a film for the first time. If so many wishes come true, it is selfish, but as the trailer of this movie Balayya is a witness.. Jai Balayya, Jai NTR, Don't trouble the trouble.. and this movie is sure to be a success. Everyone should watch the movie. Director hero S.S. Rajamouli said. Tarak comes for his younger brother's function. Every movie of Fahad Fazil is mind blowing. He was really surprised by each character. FAFA has gone so far in the Telugu people. Three years later, Shashank came to tell the story. One line tells the story of a man who kidnaps an elf. Then he told the story for 3 hours.Immediately I did OK. I cried watching this movie. Surely this movie will be a big hit. Karthikeya is a very good business man. I believe he will go to a high position. It's a really great movie. Everyone will enjoy on October 2," he said.
Man of masses NTR said. Dragon will be released on time. A talent has slowly come to us during the tough times of Covid. Same Fahad sir. I saw his film for the first time in Bangalore. I like very few actors. The first one was Fahad Fazil. Fahadh is the proud actor of the country. I believe that Fahad Gari, who is acting as a lead actor for the first time in Telugu, will get good success. Shashank's first film as a director was Don't Trouble the Trouble. I wish this movie will give him great success. Karthikeya is very happy to stand here as a producer today.

ANAKAPALLI'S INTERVAL AND CLIMAX WILL BE SURPRISING: LAGADAPATI SRIDHAR



The raw and rustic film 'Anakapalli', produced by Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina under the banners of Bhavya Sri Movie Makers and Nakkina Narratives, features Vikram Sahidev, Sandhya Vasishta and Tarak Ponnappa in prominent roles, alongside Thrinadha Rao Nakkina and Kandregula Naidu. The film is directed by Khagesh Tammineni, with Thrinadha Rao Nakkina providing the story and screenplay. Kandregula Kumar Raja serves as co-producer. The film is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on October 2. Ahead of its release, the team interacted with the media on Wednesday and shared their experiences of making the film and their expectations for its theatrical run.

'VEIL' MOVIE TRAILER GRANDLY LAUNCHED BY ACTOR NAGAMAHESH



Veil' is an upcoming film starring Ravichandra, Aditya, Amrutha Srivastava, and Radhika Ram in the lead roles. The film is produced by G. Ashok (Raju) and Y. Murali (Raju) under the Kshatriya Productions banner and directed by Nagendra Avula.
The movie is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release next month.
The trailer of 'Veil' was grandly launched by popular actor Nagamahesh at an event held in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

PAYAL RAJPUT RULES FASHION AS DARK QUEEN



Payal Rajput is setting the style charts on fire once again. The actress stunned in an all-black look, wearing a beaded corset-style blouse with sheer detailing and a flowing drape saree.
She completed the look with a jewelled maang tikka, soft waves and glowing makeup. The elegant yet edgy styling has won hearts online and proves she knows how to own the camera.
On the work front, Payal was last seen on Telugu screens in Mangalavaaram in 2023. She had no release last year. This year, she appeared in the Punjabi film The Great Punjab Robbery, which did not work at the box office. Even so, her fashion game keeps getting stronger with every appearance, and her fans are waiting to see her back in a big Telugu project soon.

MAA INTI BANGARAM, SAMANTHA AND NANDINI REDDY INSPIRED ME TO TAKE IMPURE TO THEATERS: VARAHI



Varahi Mallipamula is debuting as a producer, actor and writer with the film Impure, which began with her mother's wedding savings.
"My mother saw me struggle for years, pitching, doing stand-up and theater, having movie projects come close but never come to full fruition. My mother spent a lot on my sister's wedding, so she said she would give me that money if I wanted to invest in a movie instead. I accepted the offer, but that money was not enough to make a complete movie. We borrowed a lot more, and I flew from New York to hire cast and crew."
Born in Kakinada, Varahi grew up in Pennsylvania and now lives in New York, with a double major in Engineering and Journalism from Penn State. She worked in tech to survive in cities like New York, LA and London, but never let go of her filmmaking dreams. She wrote the first script six years ago, working her day job and writing nights and weekends.
Impure is a movie about a woman whose wedding gets cancelled because her in-laws find out she's not a virgin.
Varahi made a movie about a woman's cancelled wedding using her wedding savings. The Telugu industry often casts North Indian women in Telugu roles, and women-centric films are a hard sell to producers. Varahi ensured Yasha Muthuluri, a Telugu woman, played the lead.
She said, "My belief in cinema has been strong from a very young age, but it is not easy to convince producers to take up a women-centric film. I wrote the first draft of the script and pitched it for years and many expressed their doubts. Finally, Samantha and Nandini Reddy broke those notions and proved that a woman-centric film can be celebrated worldwide. They gave me the inspiration to self-distribute Impure in theaters."

"The Suspense in Tatvam'"Will Give Audiences a Thrilling Experience": Director Arjun Kola



Directed by Arjun Kola and starring Dinesh Tej and Dashwika K. in the lead roles, Tatvam'"is jointly produced by Vamsi Seemakurthi , Swetha pashupulate under Trayathi Ishani Creations and S.K. Productions. The film is a murder mystery that promises to engage audiences with its suspense, intriguing screenplay and distinctive storyline.
The recently released trailer and songs have received an unexpected response from audiences. Tattvam is gearing up for its theatrical release on October 2. On this occasion, director Arjun Kola interacted with the media and shared several interesting details about the film.

WHAT KIND OF STORY IS TATTVAM?
Initially, I wanted to make a film set against the backdrop of a village panchayat. Later, we decided to incorporate elements of murder, mystery and courtroom drama into the story. So, I developed the narrative around cases and a murder mystery set in a rural backdrop. While writing the story, I also kept the commercial elements and production costs in mind.
I wanted to make the film within a controlled budget, and I managed to complete it within the planned budget and timeframe.

WHAT IS THE JUSTIFICATION BEHIND THE TITLE TATVAM?
There is a specific reason behind choosing the title Tattvam for this story. A murder mystery involves both truth and lies. When a person is confused about what to believe and what not to believe, the story moves forward from that point.
Ultimately, when a person discovers what is true and what is false, their true nature comes out. Along with the murder mystery, I have also explored the psychology of the characters in the film. The title is also connected to the way the protagonist's character transforms towards the end.
When I revealed the title, many people said that it suited the story very well.
You said you faced several struggles during the journey of this film. What happened?
We faced many struggles throughout the journey of Tattvam.

Romantic Melodies Begin:

'Nanu Thaakina' Out from '321: Love Marriage vs Arranged' Ahead of Late October Release



The musical promotions for the upcoming romantic drama 321 (subtitled Love Marriage vs Arranged) have kicked off on an enchanting note with the release of its first single, "Nanu Thaakina." Produced under the Brahma Art Creations banner by Shanthi Kumar Chilumula and Ramanuja Reddy Vangapati, the film features Mohith and Lavanya in the lead roles. With production wrapping up recently, director Shanthi Kumar Chilumula—who also handled writing duties—has steered the project toward a grand theatrical release planned for the final week of October.
A Soulful Romantic Track "Nanu Thaakina" establishes the film's musical palette as an earnest, soothing love song capturing the tender dynamic between the lead pair.
Composition: Calvin Joy crafts an evocative melody anchored by gentle instrumentation.

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