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Two die as heavy rains, thunderstorms lash Andhra Pradesh

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India Turns BRICS Summit into Major Diplomatic Win, Strengthens Global Role: Report

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DRC says Ebola outbreak 'under control' but warns of persistent risks

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'I had to sit while sleeping': Naveen-ul-Haq opens up on injury layoff ahead of return

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Telangana had surplus budget because of former CM Rosaiah's foresight: CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Sept 13

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Sunday that Telangana had a surplus budget thanks to the foresight of (un-divided) Andhra Pradesh's former Chief Minister K. Rosaiah.

When Telangana was formed on June 2, 2014, with a surplus budget of Rs 16,000 crore, the credit went to Rosaiah, Revanth Reddy said at the groundbreaking ceremony of Arya Vysya Atma Gourava Bhavan (community and cultural centre) at Uppal Bhagayath here.

He noted that former Chief Ministers Chenna Reddy, Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, and Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy entrusted the responsibility of managing the state's finances (the treasury) to Arya Vysyas.

Rosaiah, belonging to the Arya Vysya community, was the longest-serving Finance Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh. He presented the state Budget



16 times, including seven times in a row.

CM Revanth Reddy said it was the Congress that gave Rosaiah the opportunity and the respect he deserved.

He recalled that Rosaiah was the one who recognised his potential early on, revealing that when he used to speak aggressively in the Legislative Council, the veteran leader would call him aside and advise him to control his temper and move forward with experience to achieve greater heights.

Rosaiah was not one to criticise harshly or use abusive language; instead, he would deliver sharp and witty remarks, he said.

Revanth Reddy said his government installed a statue of Rosaiah in the heart of Hyderabad to honour and uphold his dignity.

1.51 lakh criminal cases settled during Lok Adalat in City

Hyderabad, Sept 13

More than 1.51 lakh compoundable criminal cases, including 3,896 cyber fraud cases, were settled during the third National Lok Adalat held in Hyderabad, Telangana Police said on Sunday.

A total of 1,51,164 cases were successfully disposed of during the National Lok Adalat, held to facilitate the amicable settlement of various types of compoundable cases across the state through compromise and mutual agreement between the parties, it said.

The initiative aimed to reduce the pendency of cases in courts while saving valuable time and expenses for litigants.

The National Lok Adalat achieved remarkable success across the state by resolving a wide range of legal disputes and providing financial relief to

victims of cyber fraud, according to a release from the office of the Director General of Police.

People were encouraged to fully utilise this opportunity to settle their cases efficiently and expeditiously. In furtherance of the same, the Police department identified eligible compoundable cases for settlement and served notices to both parties.

According to the Director General, CID, the settlement process began on September 3 and concluded on September 12. A total of 1,51,164 cases, including 3,896 cyber fraud cases, were successfully liquidated during this process.

TS Police facilitates refund of Rs 139 cr to cyber fraud victims

Telangana Police have facilitated the refund of Rs 139.68 crore to 24,189 cyber fraud victims in 2026 till now, Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) Director Shikha Goel revealed on Sunday.

At the recently held national Lok Adalat in Hyderabad, the TGCSB, in coordination with the Telangana State Legal Services Authority (TSLSA), banks, digital payment service providers, all Police Commissionerates, and district police units across the state, successfully facilitated the refund of Rs 42.28 crore to 3,896 victims.

The top-performing unit in facilitating the refund through Lok Adalat is Cyberabad, which ensured a refund of Rs 14.19 crore to 942 victims. The TGCSB stood second with a refund of Rs 10.55 crore to 41 victims, while Malkajgiri was third with 1,024 victims.

PM held 15 bilateral meetings in three days as BRICS Summit wraps

New Delhi, Sept 13

The highly successful 18th BRICS Summit hosted by India at New Delhi's Bharat Mandapam once again showcased Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tireless energy and commitment towards nation as he not only attended and addressed the summit sessions but also held as many as 15 sit-down bilateral meetings with the visiting Heads of State and government from Friday till late Sunday afternoon.

This is in addition to a number of pull aside meetings with various world leaders and leaders of international institutions who attended the BRICS sessions and the Outreach/BRICS Plus Dialogue segment of the summit.

Prime Minister Modi began the diplomatic sprint on Friday afternoon as he held discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Bharat Mandapam.

It was followed by bilateral meetings with

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN), the same evening.

On Saturday, PM Modi began the day by hosting Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali for bilateral discussions at the Hyderabad House.

It was followed by meetings with Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Vietnam



Prime Minister Le Minh Hung.

Prime Minister Modi then welcomed the BRICS leaders from member countries as they arrived at Bharat Mandapam to attend the summit.

A closed session on 'Inclusive Global Governance and Strengthening Multilateralism' followed next with PM Modi ad-

ressing the same.

PM Modi then witnessed the 'Bharat Innovates' exhibition' with BRICS leaders, engaged in the customary family photograph session and also participated in the joint tree plantation with the leaders on the lawns of Bharat Mandapam.

The significant bilateral with Chinese President Xi Jinping was PM Modi's next engagement.

The day ended with the Prime Minister hosting a gala dinner for the visiting leaders at the same venue.

On Sunday, PM Modi met the leaders of BRICS Partner Countries and Outreach Invitees and engaged in a family photo session before addressing the session on 'Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability: Shaping the Future for Inclusive Global Growth', at the summit hall.

Back-to-back bilateral meetings followed next for PM Modi as he met Kazakhstan Prime Minister Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Philippines President Ferdinand R.

Marcos Jr., Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa, Burundi President Evariste Ndayishimiye, Nigeria Vice-President Kashim Shettima and Uganda V-P Jessica Alupo at the Bharat Mandapam.

In between the bilateral sit-downs, PM Modi also had crucial discussions with the participating leaders and heads of several institutions who participated in various BRICS meetings.

Illegal coal mine collapses in Jharkhand; 3 killed

Ranchi, Sept 13

Three people were killed, and several others are feared trapped under debris after an illegal coal mine collapsed in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district on Sunday morning, Vimalash Chaubey, Regional President of the National Colliery Mazdoor Union, said.

The accident took place at around 7 a.m. in Keshalpur Kumharpatti, located in the Ramkanali OP area of Katras in Dhanbad district.

According to Chaubey, a number of men and women had entered the illegal mine tunnel to cut and collect coal when the upper portion of the tunnel suddenly collapsed, trapping several people beneath the debris.

"Some men and women had gone into the illegal tunnel to cut and pick coal. The upper part of the tunnel suddenly collapsed, burying several people under the debris. Following the accident, nearby villagers rushed to the scene and began removing the debris using spades, pickaxes, and other tools.

Nine die after consuming spurious liquor in Nagaland

Kohima, Sept 13

At least nine people, including three members of a family, died at the Civil Hospital in Nagaland's Tuensang district over the past three days after allegedly consuming suspected spurious liquor, prompting the state police to issue a red alert and urge people to refrain from consuming liquor obtained from unknown or unauthorised sources, officials said on Sunday.

Police officials said that the victims reportedly com-

plained of breathlessness after consuming the suspected adulterated liquor and subsequently died.

Though the circumstances leading to the deaths are yet to be officially ascertained, Nagaland Director General of Police (DGP) Rupin Sharma said that the victims reportedly succumbed to what is suspected to be spurious liquor.

An official release said that a total of nine deaths were reported in Tuensang Town and Chendang Saddle on September 10 and 11.

Will not quit Congress, says Konda Surekha



Hyderabad, Sept 13

Konda Surekha, who was dropped from the Telangana Cabinet early this month for indiscipline, and her husband Konda Murali made it clear on Sunday that they will not leave the Congress party.

They said that positions were never important to them and that they would like to be always remembered by people.

The couple was addressing their supporters in Warangal. This was the first public address since Surekha was dropped from the Cabinet by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

The action was taken against her after the Congress high command took serious note of her reply to the show-cause notice issued by the party after her daughter Konda Sushmitha's outbursts against the Chief Minister.

UCC will be implemented before 2029: Amit Shah

Mumbai, Sept 13

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday announced that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be rolled out across all 21 states currently governed by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) before 2029.

Addressing a press conference in the city after attending several public programmes, the Home Minister addressed a wide array of national issues, outlining the Centre's roadmap on governance, national security, illegal immigration, and regional language disputes.

Speaking on the rollout of the UCC, HM Shah expressed firm confidence in achieving the goal ahead of the 2029 general elections. "We have already introduced the Uniform Civil Code in several states. I am confident that before 2029, we will implement the UCC across all 21 states governed by the BJP-led NDA," he stated.

Highlighting the Modi government's national security apparatus, the Home Minister asserted that key counter-terrorism measures—including surgical strikes, airstrikes, and Operation Sindoor—have firmly established a policy of "zero tolerance" against cross-border terrorism.

210 prisoners freed after capture of port city: Houthis

Sanaa, Sept 13

Yemen's Houthi group freed 210 of its members held by government forces after seizing a prison during its rapid advance along the country's Red Sea coast, a Houthi military official told Xinhua on Sunday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Houthi forces stormed a government-run prison after capturing the strategic Red Sea port city of Mocha in southwestern Taiz province on Thursday.

"Before retreating, the mercenary forces gathered all 210 prisoners in a large hall and locked them inside," the Houthi official said, referring to government forces.

Iraq approves Iran's request for joint probe into border drone launch sites

Baghdad, Sept 13

Ali al-Zaidi, Iraqi Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, approved Iran's request to conduct a joint investigation to find drone launch platforms near the Iraq-Iran border, Sabah al-Numan, Spokesman for the Commander-in-Chief of the Iraqi forces, said on

Saturday.

The decision came as Iraqi authorities intensified security measures following confirmation that recent drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia were launched from a site within Iraq's southern province of Maysan.

Earlier on Saturday, al-Zaidi dismissed the Maysan Operations Commander and Maysan

Police Commander, and ordered the formation of a special investigative council to probe the issue, according to separate statements by al-Numan.

Meanwhile, Iraqi security forces have also initiated administrative and security reorganisation operations at several border crossings that necessitate their closure to investigate security

breaches, Xinhua news agency reported.

Necessary legal measures have been taken, and intelligence, investigative and audit efforts have been intensified to determine the circumstances surrounding the breaches and violations that occurred at these crossings and to devise appropriate solutions and remedies, the Security Media Cell affiliated with the Iraqi Joint Operations Command, said in a statement.

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Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the People’s Government had accorded priority to the Arya Vysya community in filling nominated posts. Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for the Arya Vysya Atma Gourava Bhavan here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said the government had already appointed an Arya Vysya representative as chairman of a corporation. He said the key post of chairperson of his own Kodangal Municipality had also been given to a member of the Arya Vysya community.

Madhol Police Reunites Destitute Woman with Her Family

Munsif Bureau Madhol, Sep. 13

Madhol Police once again displayed compassion by safely reuniting a destitute woman found wandering in Madhol with her family. With the assistance of Navipet Police and Banola village Sarpanch, the police traced her relatives, admitted her to a government hospital for care, and later handed her over to her family. Nirmal SP appreciated SHO B. Prasees and the police team for their prompt and humanitarian response. Photo Caption: Madhol Police reunites a destitute woman with her family after tracing her relatives with the help of Navipet Police and local representatives.



Madhol Police reunites a destitute woman with her family after tracing her relatives with the help of Navipet Police and local representative

Basar Police Intensifies Vigil to Prevent Suicides Near Godavari River

NSS Warangal, Sept 13:

The Nagpur–Warangal Greenfield Highway in Telangana will be completed

by December 31, 2027, and opened to the public immediately after, Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced in the Legislative

Council on Saturday. Replying to questions raised by MLCs Pochampally Srinivas Reddy and Prof. Kodandaram, the Minister underscored the critical role

Vigneshwara is a guiding light: Former Minister Harish Rao

NSS Siddipet., Sept.13

Former Minister and BRS party MLA Harish Rao on Sunday stated that Lord Vigneshwara was not merely a deity but a guiding light for people belonging to Hindu community . He spoke as the chief guest at a program organized by the Amarnath Annadana Seva Samithi near the Venkateswara Temple in Siddipet town, where clay Vinayaka idols were distributed. Speaking on the occasion, He remarked that the size of the idol was not what matters; rather, the devotion

and sincerity with which it is worshipped are paramount. He recalled his earlier suggestion that a single clay idol should be installed and worshipped for each village. He announced that he would construct a permanent shed for any village or ward that installs just one clay idol. He noted that immersing chemically treated Vinayaka idols in ponds kills aquatic life and contaminates the soil potentially leading to dangerous health issues like cancer. He explained that the form of Lord Vinayaka conveys many messages. “ His large head signifies the importance of thinking big and his large ears



suggest listening to the people while his small eyes indicate the need to focus on one’s goal. His trunk teaches us to move forward while adapting to changing circumstances. Therefore, Ganapati is not

just a god to be worshipped but a guide for our lives,” he said . He stated that the people of Telangana possess a magnificent culture that cherishes nature and flowers. He mentioned that the Amarnath Annadana Seva Samithi had earned renown across South India. He remarked that providing services in the snow-capped mountains for 16 years under the aegis of the Amarnath Annadana Seva Samithi was a remarkable achievement. He commended the initiative of distributing 10,000 clay idols annually in Siddipet for the past 16 years reflecting a love for nature.

Nirmal Police Conduct Special Drive Against Anti-Social Activities in Basar

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Sept 13:

Nirmal Police conducted a special drive against anti-social activities in Basar by carrying out simultaneous inspections at lodges and roadside eateries on the directions of SP Janki Sharmila and ASP Sai Kiran. Madhol Circle Inspector Ravindra Naik warned that illegal activities would not be tolerated in the famous pilgrimage town and instructed lodge owners not to rent rooms without verifying identity documents and recording complete guest details.

BRS Criticises Government for Not Allowing Discussion on Public Issues in Council

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Sept 13:

Hyderabad, September 13 (Munsif News Bureau): BRS MLCs criticised the Congress government for allegedly preventing discussion on key public issues in the Legislative Assembly and Council and for deploying a heavy police force on the premises. They demanded that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy apologise for the manner in which the Legislative Council proceedings were conducted. Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Leader of the Opposition in the Council V. Madhusudhan Chary questioned the deployment of a large number of police personnel despite the Chief Minister’s claim that the Congress government

was protecting democratic values. He alleged that adjournment motions moved by the BRS were rejected every day and that the government’s failure to allow discussion on 20 issues showed its reluctance to face public scrutiny. He also alleged that BRS MLAs and MLCs were stopped by police outside the Assembly premises and that some members were prevented from entering the House wearing pink shirts. Madhusudhan Chary further criticised the suspension of two BRS MLCs, alleging that the ruling party wanted to avoid discussion on the disqualification of MLCs who had allegedly defected. BRS MLC S. Vani Devi alleged that nearly 500 police personnel were deployed around about 40 elected representatives.

She also questioned how members could properly examine and debate a bill running to nearly 463 pages when it was circulated only minutes before its introduction. MLC Deshapathi Srinivas alleged that the Congress government had adopted a confrontational approach towards the BRS after what he described as a lack of achievements during its 1,000 days in power. He questioned why discussions were not held on Krishna and Godavari water allocations and implementation of the six guarantees. The BRS leaders alleged that important public issues were being sidelined and demanded greater opportunity for opposition members to raise matters concerning the people of Telangana.

Two die as heavy rains, thunderstorms lash Andhra Pradesh

Munsif Bureau Amaravati, Sep. 13

Two people died of lightning in Andhra Pradesh’s Palnadu district as heavy rains lashed parts of the state since Saturday night under the impact of a low-pressure area, officials said. Heavy rains accompanied by thunderstorms lashed Narsaopet in Palnadu district. One person each in Petlurivaripalem and Lakshimpuram villages died after hearing the frightening noise of the thunderstorm. The deceased were identified as Nagamma (63) and Mekala



Venkayamma (60). Both suspected to have died of cardiac arrest. Heavy rains were lashing Visakhapatnam and Gajuwaka areas. Parts of East Godavari district also received heavy rains. Bus stand at Nidadavole was inundated, causing inconvenience to commuters.

According to the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority, a low-pressure area is centred over the Vidarbha and Madhya Pradesh regions. The APSDMA said in a bulletin on Sunday

morning that it is likely to move in a west-northwest direction over the next 24 hours and is expected to cause moderate to heavy rains in isolated parts of the state. Gusty winds with a speed of 40-60 kmph are likely along the North Andhra coast. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea. Rain accompanied by lightning is likely in some areas of Eluru, NTR, Krishna, Nandyal, and Kurnool districts. APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain has advised people not to stand under trees or hoardings during lightning and gusty winds.

NO RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE VEHICLES TO TIRUMALA - TTD

Munsif Bureau Tirumala :, Sept.13

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has appealed to its devotees not to believe in fake propaganda making rounds on social media platforms over that restrictions are being imposed on private vehicles. The reports said that only 15,000 vehicles would be permitted per day to Tirumala. Afterwards the vehicles would be halted at checkpoint itself. TTD has clarified that



devotees not to believe the misinformation being circulated on social media. TTD also stated that important decisions and official information would be communicated only through the official TTD website and its channel. It is inappropriate to create confusion among devotees by circulating unverified and false information and also warned that strict legal action would be taken against those spreading fake news and false information in the name of the TTD. (NSS)

Farmers of Malpur Protest and Stage Dharna Over Electric Motors

NSS Hyderabad, Sept.13:

Farmers of Malpur mandal staged a protest and dharna over issues related to electric motors. According to the handwritten report, the farmers expressed their grievances regarding the electricity supply and related problems and demanded that the concerned authorities take immediate action to resolve their issues. The protesters said that the government should address their problems and ensure a regular and uninterrupted electricity supply for agricultural purposes.

Warangal Collector Holds Emergency Teleconference as Heavy Rain Alert Issued

Munsif Bureau Warangal, Sept 13:

Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada has directed officials to remain on high alert following a weather warning issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which forecasts extremely heavy rainfall in Wardhannapet and Raiparthymandals, along with heavy to moderate rain in other parts of the district. During a teleconference with officials from various departments on Sunday, the Collector reviewed the preparedness measures and instructed authorities to maintain constant vigilance over the situation and ensure all precautionary arrangements are in place to handle any emergency. Dr. Satya Sharada also instructed Health

Department officials to remain fully prepared by organizing health camps at various locations and creating awareness among residents about hygiene and disease prevention during the rainy season. She appealed to residents living in low-lying areas to remain cautious and directed officials to continuously monitor tanks, streams, culverts, and bridges. She emphasized that all necessary preventive measures should be completed in time to minimize inconvenience to the public. The Collector further instructed all departments to coordinate closely and remain ready to shift residents from vulnerable low-lying areas to safer locations if required. She stressed that timely weather-related information and warnings should be communicated

to people in vulnerable areas without delay. Appealing directly to the public, Dr. Satya Sharada urged residents to immediately inform concerned officials in case of any emergency or difficulty, adding that public safety remains the administration’s top priority. For public convenience, a 24-hour Control Room has been established at the District Collectorate. Residents can seek emergency assistance by calling the toll-free helpline: 9154252936. Photo Caption: Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada conducts a teleconference with officials, directing all departments to remain on high alert and strengthen preparedness following the heavy rainfall warning issued for the district.

Peddapalli District Hospital Achieves Another Medical Milestone with Three Successful Complex Surgeries

Munsif Bureau Peddapalli, Sept 13:

Peddapalli District Hospital has achieved another milestone in advanced healthcare by successfully performing three complex surgeries, with Hospital Superintendent Dr. K. Sridhar congratulating the medical team for the achievement. A 75-year-old man from Gajulapalli village in Manthani mandal, suffering from a severe knee infection, underwent debridement and drainage to remove accumulated pus, followed by a successful skin grafting procedure after the infection was brought under control. In another case, a 50-year-old man from Shivapalli village, diagnosed with a liver abscess after complaining of fever, vomiting, jaundice and abdominal pain, underwent the district’s

first-ever Ultrasound-Guided Pigtail Catheterisation, allowing doctors to drain the pus without major surgery. A third patient, a 75-year-old man from Kannagarti village with diabetes-related tissue damage in his foot, underwent surgery in which infected tissue and the first metatarsal bone were successfully removed. The surgeries were carried out by a multidisciplinary team of plastic surgeons, interventional radiologists, orthopaedic surgeons, general surgeons, anaesthetists, nursing staff and operation theatre personnel. Dr. K. Sridhar said the hospital now provides several advanced medical services free of cost, including laparoscopic surgery, laser treatment, fistula care, urology surgery, arthroscopy, cataract surgery, root canal procedures and interventional radiology.



Farmers of Malpur mandal staged a protest and dharna over issues related to electric motors. According to the handwritten report, the farmers expressed their grievances regarding the electricity supply and related problems and demanded that the concerned authorities take immediate action to resolve their issues.

Unity vital for Arya Vysyas to secure due political share: Revanth

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.13

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the People's Government had accorded priority to the Arya Vysya community in filling nominated posts. Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for the Arya Vysya Atma Gourava Bhavan here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said the government had already appointed an Arya Vysya representative as chairman of a corporation.

He said the key post of chair-

person of his own Kodangal Municipality had also been given to a member of the Arya Vysya community.

Revanth Reddy said unity among community members was essential for securing their due share in politics.

He observed that foresight and prudence were embedded in the DNA of the Arya Vysya community. Praising the community for being gentle by nature and possessing a strong sense of self-respect, he said many Arya Vysyas faced financial hardships but never wished to be identified as poor.

They attached greater importance to dignity and continued to live with self-respect despite difficulties and struggles, he said.

The Chief Minister recalled the yeoman service rendered by Mahatma Gandhi, describing him as a truly global leader. Gandhi's principle of non-violence, he said, had played a significant role in the freedom struggles of several countries.

Revanth Reddy also recalled the contributions of several prominent Arya Vysya leaders to the Congress party.

Recalling his association

with former Chief Minister K. Rosaiah, he said that whenever he spoke aggressively in the Legislative Council, Rosaiah would call him and advise him to exercise restraint. Rosaiah, he said, was among the senior leaders who recognised his potential to emerge as a future leader in Telangana politics.

"We installed the statue of Rosaiah in the heart of Hyderabad to honour and uphold his legacy after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. However, some political forces criticised the installation of Rosaiah's statue.



Shiv Sena national leader, Daily Saamana Mumbai editor, and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut, a prominent leader of the Uddhav Thackeray faction of Shiv Sena, was accorded a warm welcome during his visit to Deglur. Addressing the gathering, Sanjay Raut said that Shiv Sena is not merely a party confined to Maharashtra but has a presence at the national level. He said that under the leadership of former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, party workers and floor leaders are increasingly reaching villages and rural areas to serve farmers and the public and to take up their problems. This has generated considerable enthusiasm among Shiv Sena workers and leaders.

BJP demands Cong govt include Sept 17 history in school textbooks

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 13

BJP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao on Sunday said that the sacrifices of Operation Polo martyrs are memorable who laid down their lives for the integrity of India.

Marking the commencement day of Operation Polo (September 13), Rao paid rich tributes to the martyrs and grandly felicitated ex-servicemen at the historic War Tank on Tank Bund under the auspices of the Telangana State Liberation Festival Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, he praised the War Tank located on Tank Bund as a continuous source of inspiration for the people of Telangana. He stated: "If not for the firm resolve of Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the initiative of K.M. Munshi, and the Operation Polo military action, it is terrifying even to imagine what the condition of Hyderabad would have been today. On September 13, 1948, Patel initiated Operation Polo to eliminate anti-national forces that posed an obstacle to the country's integrity." He recalled that during this four-day struggle, many soldiers

sacrificed their lives to liberate the Hyderabad Princely State by September 17.

Rao noted that September 17 is a sacred Liberation Day for all people of Telangana and the BJP has been fighting for decades for the government to celebrate this day officially.

He criticized the previous BRS government for promising an official celebration but stepping back out of fear of the Majlis (MIM) party. He further criticized the current Congress government, stating that it conducts the event merely as a party program at Gandhi Bhavan rather than holding a full-scale official government

event, thereby obscuring the true history under the guise of 'Praja Palana' (People's Governance).

He demanded that the government fulfill its responsibility to teach future generations the history of the September 17 Telangana Liberation struggle in school textbooks. He specially congratulated the Telangana State Liberation Festival Committee for successfully organizing the event to honor the sacrifices of the soldiers. (NSS)

Telangana aims to become robotic surgery hub: Rajanarsimha

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.13

The Telangana government is prioritising a comprehensive overhaul of state medical services, aiming to establish the region as a hub for advanced robotic surgery, Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha announced on Sunday.

Speaking at the inauguration of a state-level multi-specialty robotic surgery workshop at TIMS Hospital in Sanath Nagar, Rajanarsimha outlined plans to introduce robotic surgical units across Government General Hospitals (GGHs) and major teaching facilities within the next six months.



Following the milestone of 1,000 successful robotic procedures at NIMS Hospital, the government plans to extend these services to MNJ Cancer Hospital, the new Osmania, Gandhi, and Niloufer hospitals, TIMS facilities, the Super Specialty Hospital in Warangal, and former district-level GGHs,

he said.

The Minister further informed that the completion of the ongoing construction at TIMS and the new Osmania Hospital complex will add more than 40,000 beds to the state's healthcare network.

Rajanarsimha said TIMS Hospital has earmarked 100 dedicated beds for international patients under the state's Medical Tourism Policy. Dedicated policies for cancer care and trauma care are also being actively implemented. In addition, 79 new dialysis centres are being established to supplement the 102 centres currently operational across the state, he added. (NSS)

Cyberabad traffic police catch 292 for drunk driving during weekend checks

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept, 13

Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) has conducted a special drunk driving enforcement drive over the weekend, resulting in the apprehension of 292 offenders.

The total cases booked 240 two wheelers, 12 three wheelers and 40 four wheeler based on their Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels 248 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 36 mg/100 ml to 200 mg/100 ml , 30 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 201 mg/100 ml to 300 mg/100 ml and 14 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml

All the offenders will be produced before the Court.

Cyberabad Police reiterate that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence. If anyone is found to be driving in an inebriated condition and causes a fatal accident, such individuals will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder). The maximum punishment under this section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine.

In the last week (September 7 to 12) a total 681 drunk driving cases were disposed in the courts, in which 18 persons got fine and jail , 7 persons got fine and social service and 656 persons got fine only. (NSS)

Telangana attained liberation through the sacrifices of Operation Polo martyrs: K. Laxman

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 13:

A tribute ceremony was held under the leadership of Telangana Liberation Committee Convener Nelli Sri Vardhan Reddy to honor the brave soldiers, who sacrificed their lives for the country during Operation Polo. Floral tributes were offered in memory of the martyrs at the battle tank located on Tank Bund.

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramachandra Rao, Dr. K. Laxman, Liberation Committee Chairman Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud, MLA Harish, MLC Komaraiah, the party leaders Dr.

Gautam Rao, Kasam Venkateswarlu, Bhasha and others participated in this event, which was organized with the resolve to pass on the history of Telangana's liberation to future generations.

Speaking on the occasion, MP Dr. K. Laxman said that the integration of the Hyderabad princely state into the Indian Union on September 17, 1948, was a pivotal moment in Telangana's history. He highlighted that the people of Telangana fought heroically against the tyranny of the Nizam and the Razakars.

He remarked that

the sacrifices of the martyrs in places like Veerabhairanpally and Appampally would remain immortal in the history of Telangana's liberation. He noted that the 'Operation Polo' was launched under Sardar Patel's leadership to liberate the Hyderabad state in accordance with the aspirations of the people.

He criticised successive state governments for overlooking this history of liberation. He asserted that this history was not merely a matter of elections or politics but a historical responsibility to convey the sacrifices of freedom fighters to future generations.

CM Revanth greets people on Ganesh Chaturthi

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 13

CM A. Revanth Reddy extended his greetings to the people of Telangana on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. In a statement issued on Sunday, the Chief Minister offered prayers to Lord Ganesha to remove all obstacles from the lives of the people and bless them with happiness, prosperity and good health. He urged devotees to offer prayers with devotion and reverence at Ganesh pandals set up across neighbourhoods. In view of the Ganesh Navaratri celebrations, the CM directed police officials to ensure smooth traffic movement without causing inconvenience to the public in Hyd and at all district headquarters.

200 Engineers and Scientists Honored on Engineers' Day

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept, 13

Approximately 200 engineers and scientists were felicitated at a special event held in Hyderabad to mark Engineers' Day. The event took place at the Admiral Gopal Rao Birla Conference Hall within the B.M. Birla Science Centre complex in Adarsh Nagar of the city .

The event was organized by the Scientists, Engineers and Architects Wing of the Brahma Kumaris, in collaboration with Brahma Kumaris Peace House, Hyderabad, under the theme "Honoring Nation Builders."

The Engineers and scientists from various organi-

zations including All India Radio, NGRI, NTPC, VCT, Osmania University, Avanthi Engineering College, DRDO, SCCL Kothagudem, St. Mary's Group, GHMC, RTC, and ECIL participated in the program.

The event commenced with a welcome dance performed by children from the Navajeevan Orphanage. Subsequently, Devayani Pramod Shinde, Director of Urban Arts, delivered the welcome address.

Delivering the keynote address, the Program Coordinator of the Scientists and Engineers Wing BK Anjali emphasised the need for spiritual growth alongside material progress. "A balance between materialism

and spirituality is essential for happiness. We must also look within ourselves," she stated.

It was noted that the current times call for change and added that the efforts made by the Brahma Kumaris towards positive transformation were commendable.

The Chairman of the Institution of Engineers Telangana State and the event's chief guest Dr. Ramana Naik extended his greetings on the Engineers' Day. While appreciating the initiatives of the Brahma Kumaris, he invited them to conduct programs for the engineering professionals at the Institution of Engineers as well.

Sahasra Modaka Ganapati Homam to be held for Nine Days

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.13:

As part of the Ganesh Navaratri celebrations, a 'Sahasra Modaka Ganapati Homam' (a ritual offering of a thousand modaks) will be performed specially over the course of nine days. This ritual, which involves offering modaks—a delicacy beloved by Lord Ganesha—is expected to draw significant interest from the devotees.

The Devotees will participate in this special Homam to seek blessings for family well-being, health, longevity, prosperity and peace.

Allotment Letters for 'Indiramma Towers' LIG Housing Beneficiaries to be Issued this Week: V.P. Gautham

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept, 13

The Vice Chairman and MD of the Telangana Housing Board V.P. Gautham on Sunday stated that a total of 7,340 applicants were selected through the lucky draw for 'Indiramma Towers' LIG (Low-Income Group) houses and added that Of these, field verification had been completed for 6,643 applicants with 5,521 applicants confirmed as eligible so far.

In a statement, He mentioned that the field verification for the remaining applicants would also be completed within this week. He added that the official al-

lotment letters to the selected beneficiaries would be issued this week in accordance with government regulations. He reassured the applicants selected in the lucky draw that there was no need for anxiety regarding whether or not they would be allotted a house? He clarified that the field verification and the eligibility confirmation process was proceeding with complete transparency and in strict adherence to state government rules.

He noted that it had come to their attention that some brokers and middlemen were attempting to exploit this process by collecting money from unsuspecting benefi-

ciaries, promising to secure house sanctions or offering to help by speaking to officials. "Brokers, middlemen or other individuals have no role in the housing allotment process.

The Beneficiaries should not pay money whether as a bribe, commission or in any other form—to anyone. The Housing allotment is conducted strictly based on the government regulations, prescribed eligibility criteria and the official process," clarified V.P. Gautam.

He stated that details regarding the official bank account for the first installment, the amount due, the payment deadline and other

instructions would be officially communicated along with the allotment letter. He advised that the specified amount must be paid only to the official bank account mentioned in the allotment letter. He warned against depositing the money into the bank accounts suggested by others or into the personal bank accounts under any circumstances.

He advised the beneficiaries to immediately inform the Telangana Housing Board officials or the police if anyone demands money with the promise of securing a house allotment or asks for payments to be made to the unauthorized accounts.



Dr. Ramana Naik, Chairman, Institution of Engineers, Telangana State Centre, the Chief Guest, extended his greetings on Engineers Day and shared inspiring thoughts with the gathering. Appreciating the initiatives of the Brahma Kumaris, he invited the Brahma Kumaris to visit the Institution of Engineers and conduct programmes for engineering professionals, particularly to introduce them to the benefits of Rajyoga Meditation and spiritual values.

BRS demands CM Revanth's apology over Council proceedings

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 12

Hyderabad, Sept.13 (NSS): The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) has slammed the Congress government for refusing to discuss critical public issues and for deploying

a heavy police force on the Assembly and Council premises, demanding an apology from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over the handling of the Legislative Council proceedings.

Addressing a press

conference at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday, Leader of the Opposition in the Council V. Madhusudhana Chary questioned the administration's democratic credentials.

He noted that while the Chief Minister claims the

Congress government implements a "Seventh Guarantee" aimed at protecting democratic values, its actions tell a different story.

Madhusudhana Chary alleged that the government disregarded decisions made

by the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) and convened the House solely to serve its own political interests.

He stated that the BRS submitted adjournment motions daily, all of which were rejected, and that the

government ignored a list of 20 key issues submitted by the opposition for debate.

The BRS leader added that the ruling party avoided open discussion to conceal its lack of progress over its 1,000 days in

power.

Speaking at the briefing, MLC Surabhi Vani Devi condemned the treatment of women legislators during the session, describing it as a serious insult and warning that the party would take the matter to

New Delhi if justice was not served locally.

MLC Deshapati Srinivas further accused the Congress leadership of adopting a confrontational stance toward the opposition to deflect from its governance record. (NSS)



At a Glance

Punjab targets record sugarcane output

FIANS
Candigarh Sep. 13

Punjab has set a target of producing 700 lakh quintals of sugarcane in the 2026-27 season, with the crop’s acreage rising to 1,16,131 hectares, Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian said on Sunday.

Calling sugarcane the state’s third-most important crop after wheat and paddy, Khudian said the government was promoting mechanisation, technology and financial incentives to raise productivity, improve sugar recovery and reduce cultivation costs.

Farmers setting up demonstration plots will receive an incentive of Rs 3,200 per acre in 12 districts. The plots will promote wide-row spacing, trench planting, intercropping, mulching and scientific ratoon management.

The government is also offering a 40 per cent subsidy on sugarcane harvesters, small tractors, cane planters and ratoon managers to address labour shortages.

Congress questions Modi over Xi meeting

FIANS
New Delhi, Sep. 13

The Congress questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, raising concerns over border issues, China’s alleged support for Pakistan, Arunachal Pradesh and the trade deficit.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh accused the Modi government of “calibrated capitulation” before China. He questioned Modi’s June 19, 2020 statement that no one had entered Indian territory after the Galwan clashes, alleging India had since lost traditional patrolling and grazing rights in parts of eastern Ladakh.

Ramesh also cited alleged Chinese advances in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh and questioned the government’s stance on China’s alleged support for Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

He criticised the \$112.6-billion trade deficit with China in 2025-26 and sought a roadmap to reduce dependence on Chinese inputs. His remarks came a day after Modi told Xi that border peace was essential for better ties.

India Turns BRICS Summit into Major Diplomatic Win, Strengthens Global Role: Report

FIANS
New Delhi, Sep. 12

India’s approach at the 18th BRICS Summit helped align diverse interests, keep geopolitical differences from dominating the forum and strengthen its strategic relevance, according to a report by India Narrative.

The report said New Delhi’s strategy focused on making multilateralism more practical, strengthening cooperation and resilience within BRICS, and projecting India as a major global player capable of offering sustainable alternatives to global challenges.

It said India sought to prevent the summit from becoming a platform for geopolitical confrontation or a contest for influence between major powers, particularly Russia and China. Backroom negotiations, according to the report, reflected a combination of “strategic de-hyphenation” and strategic autonomy.

The report said India’s strategic de-hyphenation enabled it to keep the forum focused on cooperation beyond geopolitical conflicts, while strategic autonomy helped New Delhi promote convergence of interests and place economic issues at the centre of the BRICS agenda.

It drew a parallel with India’s handling of the



G20 Summit three years ago, when the grouping reached a consensus despite divisions over the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The report said concerns had emerged that the BRICS summit might fail to produce a declaration. However, India was able to bring divergent interests together and ensure that the Global South remained central to the agenda.

It also highlighted what it described as a diplomatic gain for India in the declaration’s strong condemnation of terrorism, including the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, in which 26 people were killed. The declaration also condemned cross-border movement of terrorists, terrorism financing and safe havens, while calling for zero tolerance towards terrorism and rejecting double standards in counter-terrorism efforts.

The report said India’s exercise of strategic autonomy had helped advance its interests and reinforce its role in shaping the BRICS agenda.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit, including with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and other world leaders.

Jaishankar meets counterparts from several nations during BRICS Summit

FIANS
New Delhi, Sep. 13

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his counterparts from several countries on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on Sunday, discussing bilateral ties and regional and global developments.

Jaishankar also shared a group photograph with visiting ministers, including Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

“Met many colleagues formally during BRICS India 2026. And as you can see, some more informally,” Jaishankar posted on X along with the photograph.



Earlier, Jaishankar met his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. The two discussed regional and global developments as well as ways to advance bilateral cooperation.

“Pleased to meet FM Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on the sidelines of BRICS India 2026. Exchanged perspectives on regional and global developments, as well as on advancing our bilateral cooperation,” Jaishankar said in a post on X.

India, as the BRICS chair

in 2026, hosted the two-day 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, bringing together leaders of BRICS member states, partner countries and outreach invitees.

BRICS comprises Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. Its partner countries are Belarus, Cuba, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

In his concluding remarks, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi said discussions at the summit had strengthened the belief that BRICS was an “ecosystem of solutions”. He called for the outcomes of the summit to be translated into time-bound action and last-mile impact.

Modi said the New Delhi Declaration would provide direction for the grouping’s shared vision and future cooperation. He thanked BRICS leaders for their participation and contributions, saying their presence reflected the grouping’s growing relevance, openness and inclusiveness.

As BRICS prepares to enter its third decade, Modi said the world expected concrete results from the grouping. He also extended his best wishes to China, the next host of BRICS, and thanked participating leaders and their teams for making the New Delhi Summit a success.

NINE DIE AFTER CONSUMING SUSPECTED SPURIOUS LIQUOR IN NAGALAND

FIANS
Kohima, Sep. 13

At least nine people, including three members of a family, died at the Civil Hospital in Nagaland’s Tuensang district over the past three days after allegedly consuming suspected spurious liquor, officials said on Sunday.

The deaths were reported in Tuensang Town and Chendang Saddle on September 10 and 11. Police said the victims reportedly developed symptoms including breathlessness,

blurred vision, severe headache, dizziness, nausea and vomiting after consuming liquor.

Nagaland Director General of Police Rupin Sharma said the deaths were suspected to be linked to spurious liquor, though the exact cause had not yet been scientifically established.

“Based on the information presently available, all the deaths have a direct or indirect circumstantial linkage with alcohol consumption and are being investigated accordingly,” the po-

lice said in a statement.

Preliminary enquiries found that most of the deceased had reportedly consumed liquor before falling ill. However, police said consumption of spurious or adulterated liquor could only be treated as a possible cause at this stage. Scientific and forensic examinations will be conducted to determine the exact cause of death and the nature of the liquor consumed.

Post-mortem examinations were not conducted in most cases as the bodies had already been

taken for funerals before police became aware of the pattern of deaths. The present assessment is therefore based on medical records, preliminary enquiries and other information gathered during the investigation.

Police said three members of a family from whose premises the liquor was reportedly purchased by some of the deceased were among those who died. One person, reportedly a family member of the liquor seller, also died by hanging. The circumstances of that death are being

investigated separately as a suspected suicide.

Tuensang police have launched raids and search operations across Tuensang Town and Chendang Saddle to identify and seize unauthorised, spurious or adulterated liquor. Around 470 bottles of Indian Made Foreign Liquor and beer cans were seized from different locations.

The police have issued a red alert and appealed to people to avoid consuming liquor obtained from unknown, unauthorised or suspected adulterated sources.

UCC TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 21 NDA-RULED STATES BEFORE 2029: AMIT SHAH

FIANS
Mumbai, Sep. 13

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would be implemented in all 21 states currently governed by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) before the 2029 general elections.

Addressing a press conference in Mumbai after attending several public programmes, Shah said the UCC had already been introduced in some states and expressed confidence that the remaining NDA-ruled states would adopt it before 2029.

“We have already introduced the Uniform Civil Code in several states. I am confident that before 2029, we will implement the UCC across all 21 states governed by the BJP-led NDA,” he said.

On national security, Shah said the Modi government’s counter-terrorism measures, including



surgical strikes, airstrikes and Operation Sindoor, had established a policy of “zero tolerance” towards cross-border terrorism.

Comparing the current government with the period before 2014, Shah said India had moved beyond an era of corruption, casteism and dynastic politics towards what he described as “performance-based politics”.

He said the country’s foreign and defence policies were on a strong footing and that the principle of “India First” guided the government’s strategic approach, with national interest remaining paramount.

On illegal immigration, Shah reiterated the Centre’s

commitment to identifying and deporting unauthorised foreign nationals. He said the government would systematically identify illegal immigrants and ensure their removal, while adding that details of the methods being considered for the exercise would not be disclosed.

On recent tensions surrounding regional linguistic identities, Shah said priority should be given to one’s mother tongue, while state-level political leadership should resolve such issues. He also accused political opponents of attempting to create divisions in society over the language issue.

MAJOR RAIL ACCIDENT AVERTED IN BIHAR’S KATI HAR AS TRAIN PASSES OVER BROKEN TRACK

FIANS
Patna, Sep. 13

A major rail accident was narrowly averted at Semapur railway station in Bihar’s Katihar district on Friday after the Dibrugarh-Chandigarh Express passed over a severely damaged section of track.

Train No. 15904 was entering the yard at around 9 a.m. when the loco pilot heard a loud, unusual clattering sound from beneath the train. The engine and the coach behind it had already crossed the broken section. The pilot immediately applied the emergency brakes and halted the train, subsequently informing the guard and station master.

The train was moving at a low speed as it was scheduled to be diverted to a loop line to al-



low a Rajdhani Express to overtake it. Railway officials indicated that the damaged track could have posed a serious derailment risk had the train been travelling at normal speed.

Railway and security personnel reached the site, following which engineers secured the damaged portion with clamps and fishplates as a temporary measure. The train remained stationary for nearly two hours before

being allowed to proceed at restricted speed after the track was declared fit.

Permanent repairs were later carried out by welding the broken rail, officials said.

RPF Outpost In-charge Manoj Kumar Singh confirmed that the loco pilot promptly stopped the train after noticing the rail fracture and said railway authorities acted swiftly to restore the track and normalise operations.

CHENNAI RECORDS SURGE IN FEVER, DENGUE CASES; DOCTORS URGE CAUTION

FIANS
Chennai, Sep. 13



4,500 fever cases were recorded, including 160 dengue cases.

Adyar, Anna Nagar and Valasaravakkam are among the areas reporting a relatively high number of fever cases. Health authorities and medical teams are monitoring the situation as patients continue to visit government and private hospitals with fever, body pain, cough and other symptoms.

Doctors said respiratory viruses, including Influenza A, Rhinovirus and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), are also circulating in the city. They advised people with fever to consult qualified doctors and undergo necessary tests instead of resorting to self-medication.

Doctors cautioned that delaying treatment or taking medicines without medical advice could complicate the condition, particularly

in dengue cases. People with persistent fever, severe body pain, vomiting, unusual tiredness or bleeding symptoms have been advised to seek immediate medical attention.

Residents have also been urged to prevent mosquito breeding by ensuring that water does not accumulate in flowerpots, discarded tyres, containers, terraces or open spaces. Stored water should be properly covered and containers cleaned regularly.

Health professionals stressed the need to clear garbage and waste from residential areas, construction sites and surrounding premises. Eliminating stagnant water remains crucial to reducing dengue transmission. Residents have also been advised to use mosquito nets, repellents and protective clothing, particularly during the morning and evening.



At a Glance

Iran, Oman agree on Hormuz routes

IAN S
Tehran/Doha, Sep. 13

Iran and Oman have agreed on new entry and exit routes for the **Strait of Hormuz** and will brief Gulf countries at a meeting in Muscat on Monday, Iranian officials said. The agreement follows intensive technical and diplomatic talks. Under the plan, the entry route from the Gulf will run entirely through Iranian territorial waters, while part of the exit route will also pass through them. Officials stressed that the agreement does not mean the strait will re-open. Iran has set seven conditions for reopening and conveyed them to the US, with the decision depending on Washington’s actions. Gulf foreign ministers, along with representatives from Iran and Iraq, will discuss the consultations and proposed safe shipping routes. The Strait of Hormuz is a vital global corridor for oil and gas shipments.

DRC SAYS EBOLA OUTBREAK ‘UNDER CONTROL’ BUT WARNS OF PERSISTENT RISKS

IAN S
Kinshasa Sep. 13

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) government has said its Ebola outbreak is “under control” and has passed its peak, but continued transmission, local flare-ups and the spread of the disease to a seventh province remain a concern.

Government spokesperson Patrick Muyaya, citing Health Minister Roger Kamba, said the 17th Ebola outbreak reached its peak in the third week of August. Authorities said major indicators were declining, with 10 affected health zones reporting no new cases for at least 21 days and transmission slowing in parts of Ituri province, the outbreak’s epicentre.

The government nevertheless called for continued vigilance and strict contact tracing, particularly in areas where new flare-ups have been detected.

Former Health Minister and parliamentarian Jean-Jacques Mbugani Mbanda urged caution,



saying declining cases in some areas did not mean transmission had been contained everywhere. He noted that areas with multiple transmission centres could peak at different times and that official figures could be affected by undetected infections.

The World Health Organization, in its latest weekly report, said the outbreak “remains uncontrolled and increasingly heterogeneous”, with transmission declining in some areas while increasing or spreading

elsewhere. It said the outbreak was showing a geographically uneven pattern rather than a uniform decline.

The government confirmed the first Ebola case in northwestern Sud-Ubangi province on Thursday, making it the seventh province affected. The province does not border the six previously affected provinces.

The patient, a 23-year-old man who later died, had reportedly travelled through several provinces, Rwanda and Uganda, using road and river

routes, raising concerns about further transmission.

As of September 10, the DRC had recorded 7,022 confirmed Ebola cases, including 3,398 deaths, giving a case fatality rate of 48.4 per cent. The outbreak has affected 62 health zones across seven provinces.

Declared in May, the current outbreak has become the largest and deadliest Ebola epidemic in DRC history and the second-largest globally after the 2014-16 West Africa outbreak.

INDIA'S ECONOMIC RISE STRENGTHENS GLOBAL ROLE AS US INFLUENCE FACES DRIFT: US LAWMAKER

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 13



India’s economic strength will sustain its position as a global leader, while US policies under President Donald Trump risk pushing Washington’s partners towards other powers, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said.

Speaking to IANS as India hosted the BRICS summit in New Delhi, Krishnamoorthi said India’s role as host of a major gathering of world leaders reflected its growing stature. He questioned whether the US was providing leadership on climate change, economic development and global trade. “The question is where is America going?” he said, warning

that Washington’s trade, economic and foreign policies were encouraging countries including India, Egypt and Brazil to engage more closely with Russia, China and Iran.

Krishnamoorthi said he did not see a fundamental realignment of the global order yet, but there was “drift” among US friends, partners and allies. He said they were waiting for Washington to reassert leadership on key global issues.

Cornell University scholar Allen Carlson also said India’s international profile had risen significantly over the past two decades, partly due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s more assertive foreign policy. He said India’s leadership of the BRICS summit demonstrated its growing global stature.

However, Carlson cautioned that China continued to wield greater influence within BRICS because of its larger economy and military capabilities. He said growing economic and military strength in Asia was reducing American influence, with China

and, to a lesser extent, India offering alternatives to Washington in Africa and South America.

Carlson said BRICS was seeking deeper institutions and cooperation that could provide an alternative to the US-led international order, though he cautioned that global power shifts would not occur overnight and member countries faced domestic challenges.

Krishnamoorthi said Washington should work with India and other partners to address what he described as Chinese economic, technological and military aggression. He argued that US trade and foreign economic policies had weakened America’s ability to build coalitions around shared objectives.

The BRICS summit addressed issues including conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, trade, energy security and global governance. Carlson also pointed to the India-China territorial dispute and Tibet as continuing challenges to closer bilateral cooperation.

China-Pakistan Corridor Hits Rough Patch Amid Rising Costs, Risks

IAN S
New Delhi, Sep. 13

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), once projected as a transformative initiative for Pakistan and a strategic milestone for China, is facing growing concerns over its economic returns, financial burden and implementation challenges, according to a report.

An analysis by European Times said several CPEC-linked projects had proved expensive while failing to deliver the expected economic benefits. Uncertainty also remains over the value and financial obligations under the original \$46-billion framework.

The report said Pakistanis were increasingly frustrated by the performance of CPEC projects, while China was concerned about the repayment of loans amid Pakistan’s worsening financial condition. It said the corridor, once portrayed as a driver of modern infrastructure, had itself become a source of economic difficulties.

Pakistan’s deteriorating fiscal position has added



to the pressure. Liabilities associated with CPEC-backed power projects reportedly exceeded Rs 543 billion in March 2026, even as the country continued to face energy challenges. Pakistani officials have sought more favourable repayment terms from Beijing, but significant relief has yet to materialise. Gwadar Port, described as the flagship project of CPEC, remains a major concern. Despite plans to develop it into a key trade and logistics hub, the port continues to face infrastructure and civic shortcomings, according to the report.

Delays, administrative hurdles, policy inconsistencies, financial constraints

and local opposition have also affected other CPEC transport and infrastructure projects.

The challenges have implications for China, with Beijing reportedly concerned about slow project progress, security risks and limited returns on its investments. Gwadar remains central to China’s wider economic and strategic objectives in the region, making the port’s performance crucial to CPEC’s future.

The report said a failure of CPEC could also affect the broader narrative surrounding China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), given the corridor’s status as one of its flagship programmes.

Iraq Reopens Iran Border Crossings in Phases

IAN S
Baghdad, Sep. 13

Iraq on Sunday announced a phased reopening of three major border crossings with Iran following administrative, security and technical reviews aimed at strengthening infrastructure and streamlining passenger and commercial movement.

According to the Security Media Cell (SMC), affiliated with the Iraqi Joint Operations Command, the decision was taken under directives from Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi to upgrade organisational and technical arrangements at the Shalamcheh, Mandali and al-Sheeb crossings, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Passenger movement through al-Sheeb and Shalamcheh resumed at 6 am on Sunday. Commercial activity at Shalamcheh will resume on Monday, followed by Mandali on Tuesday and al-Sheeb on Thursday, the SMC said.

Trade and passenger movement through the Zurbatiyah and al-Munthirya crossings have remained unaffected and continue to operate round the clock, it added.

Iraqi security authorities

began administrative and security reorganisation at several crossings on Saturday following reported security breaches. The closures came after Al-Zaidi dismissed the Maysan Operations Commander after authorities confirmed that attacks targeting Saudi Arabia had been launched from a site in Maysan province.

Al-Zaidi also approved Iran’s request for a joint investigation into suspected drone launch platforms near the Iraq-Iran border, according to Sabah al-Numan, spokesman for the Iraqi forces’ Commander-in-Chief.

Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Ministry said Friday that several drones launched from Iraq had attacked its East-West Pipeline, causing injuries and damage. Riyadh said it had refrained from responding at that stage following a request from the Iraqi Prime Minister.

Saudi Arabia has invested heavily in the pipeline, which transports crude from its eastern oil fields to Yanbu on the Red Sea, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz.

Bangladesh battles deadly measles outbreak amid immunisation gaps

IAN S
New Delhi, Sep. 13

Bangladesh is facing one of its worst public health crises in recent years, with a major measles outbreak exposing gaps in immunisation and healthcare systems, according to a report in The Daily Star.

Citing Directorate General of Health Services data, the report said more than 1.89 lakh people, mostly children, have been affected by measles or measles-like symptoms since March 15, 2026. At least 1.49 lakh patients required hospitalisation, while deaths from confirmed and suspected cases reached 1,012.

Health experts have cautioned that confirmed and suspected infections and deaths are not always comparable. However, the scale of child deaths has raised serious concerns over protection against a disease that is largely preventable through vaccination.

The outbreak has renewed questions about Bangladesh’s immunisation programme, once considered a success. The report attributed the current crisis to multiple factors, including disruptions to routine vaccination during the Covid-19 pandemic, gaps among hard-to-reach and marginalised communities, and inadequate follow-up of children who missed doses.



Authorities launched an emergency vaccination campaign and reported immunising nearly 1.97 crore children. Questions later arose over population estimates after a Vitamin A campaign reached around 2.23 crore children in the same age group. Authorities acknowledged that the original measles target had been underestimated.

Although infections declined temporarily in June and July, cases rose again in August. The report described the crisis as a preventable public health and governance failure, calling for a detailed investigation and stronger routine immunisation efforts to prevent a recurrence.

Department said the operation was evolving rapidly and that it was working with local partners to adjust assistance according to Nepal’s requirements.

“The safety of Americans in the affected area remains our highest priority,” the department said, expressing sympathy for those affected and their families. The US said it was prepared to work with the Nepalese government to provide further assistance based on emerging needs.

Guterres calls for UNSC reforms as BRICS reflects ‘irreversible’ rise of multipolarity

IAN S
United Nations,, Sep. 13

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the “irreversible” shift towards a multipolar world, reflected in the BRICS summit, has made reforms to the UN Security Council and global institutions essential.

Addressing the 11-member BRICS summit in New Delhi, Guterres said multipolarity could bring greater balance to global systems and promote development, but multilateral institutions must reflect present reali-

ties. He called for reforms to the Security Council and Bretton Woods institutions, including the IMF and World Bank.

Referring to the Equal Earth map endorsed by the UN General Assembly, Guterres said it represented the world more accurately than the Mercator projection. “Our institutional structures must do the same,” he said.

“As we move irreversibly to a multipolar world, all countries must work to strengthen and safeguard a multilateral system that delivers for all,” Guterres said.

He outlined four priorities for inclusive global growth: finance, technology including AI, climate justice and peace. He called for stronger multilateral development banks, more concessional funding, private investment and improved debt-relief mechanisms.

On AI, Guterres warned that its benefits could remain concentrated among a few companies and countries, widening inequalities in income, opportunity, security and sovereignty. He said BRICS nations had

talent and scale but could face gaps in computing capacity and data.

On climate change, he warned that a strong El Nino could intensify heat, glacier melt, wildfires and floods. He urged developed nations to fulfil their \$300-billion annual climate finance commitment to developing countries.

On peace, Guterres referred to conflicts in the Gulf, Ukraine and Sudan, stressing the need for peace, respect for territorial integrity and international navigation rights and freedoms.

US APPROVES EXTRA \$1 MILLION TO HELP NEPAL IDENTIFY FLOOD VICTIMS

IAN S
Washington Sep. 13

The United States has approved an additional \$1 million to help Nepal identify flood victims, taking State Department assistance for the disaster response to more than \$5 million.

The new funding will provide forensic support to Nepal Police, with US officials helping determine urgent requirements, including DNA analysis kits. FBI forensic specialists are

also working alongside Nepali police on disaster victim identification to help authorities identify those who died and provide answers to families, including relatives of US citizens.

The largest allocation is \$3 million for food and logistics through the World Food Programme. Another \$365,000 is supporting health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance through Jhpiego, FHI-360 and UNICEF.

With the latest forensic funding, listed State Department assistance totals \$5.05 million.

The US military has separately delivered 5,000 disaster victim recovery supplies, 500 first-aid kits, stretchers and front-end loaders to support Nepal-led search, rescue and recovery operations.

A four-member US Military Civil Affairs Team is also assisting with post-crisis humanitarian needs. The State

Embracing Femininity with Dignity

An Islamic Perspective in the Modern World



By: Arshiya Rafique shaikh
Akola Marashtra

In today’s rapidly changing world, the meaning of femininity has become increasingly complicated. Women are constantly surrounded by messages telling them how they should look, dress, behave, speak, succeed, and even feel about themselves. Social media presents carefully edited images of beauty, while modern culture sometimes suggests that a woman must reject her softness and femininity in order to be strong and independent. Between these conflicting expectations, many young women struggle to understand what it truly means to be feminine.

Islam offers a beautiful and balanced answer. It does not ask a woman to be ashamed of her femininity, nor does it reduce her worth to her physical appearance. Instead, Islam honours womanhood and gives it a deeper meaning based on faith, dignity, modesty, wisdom, compassion, strength, and responsibility. From an Islamic perspective, embracing femininity means accepting the qualities Allah has placed within a woman while expressing them with dignity and according to Islamic values.

The Qur’an establishes the fundamental dignity of both men and women by reminding humanity that Allah created mankind “from one soul and created from it its mate” (Qur’an 4:1). This teaches us that woman is not an inferior creation and that femininity is not a weakness. Men and women may have different physical and social responsibilities, but both possess human dignity and spiritual value. Allah further says, “Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is

the most righteous of you” (Qur’an 49:13). Therefore, a Muslim woman’s true worth is not determined by her appearance, wealth, marital status, profession, popularity, or the opinions of other people. Her real honour comes from her relationship with Allah and the character she develops.

One of the most important qualities of Islamic femininity is hayā, or modesty. In contemporary society, modesty is sometimes misunderstood as weakness, shyness, or a lack of confidence. Islam presents a much richer understanding of it. Hayā is a sense of dignity, self-respect, moral awareness, and consciousness of Allah. The Qur’an instructs believing women to lower their gaze, guard their chastity, and protect their adornment (Qur’an 24:31). Modesty, therefore, is not simply about clothing. It is also reflected in speech, behaviour, relationships, attitudes, and the way a woman carries herself.

For a Muslim woman, hijab can become a visible expression of this modesty and faith. It is not merely a piece of cloth; it represents a broader commitment to Islamic principles of dignity and modesty. At the same time, Islam does not teach that a woman must consider beauty itself shameful. A woman can take care of her appearance, dress neatly, maintain cleanliness, appreciate beauty, and feel confident while remaining within the boundaries of her faith. The purpose is not to deny beauty but to prevent beauty from becoming the foundation of a woman’s identity.

This is particularly important in an age dominated by social media. Young women are constantly ex-

posed to unrealistic standards of beauty. Perfect skin, perfect bodies, expensive clothes, fashionable lifestyles, and carefully edited photographs can make ordinary life appear inadequate. Women begin comparing themselves with people they have never met and may gradually develop dissatisfaction with their own appearance. Islam offers a powerful alternative to this culture of comparison. A woman’s value does not increase because she receives more attention, nor does it decrease because she does not fit a particular beauty standard. Allah has created human beings with different appearances, abilities, personalities, and talents. The Muslim woman learns to appreciate herself as a creation of Allah while continuously working on her character and spirituality.

Embracing femininity also means understanding that gentleness is not weakness. Compassion, patience, tenderness, emotional sensitivity, and the ability to nurture others are often considered feminine qualities. In a world that sometimes glorifies aggression and emotional hardness, these qualities may be undervalued. Yet Islam places great importance on mercy and kindness. A woman can have a gentle heart and a strong character at the same time. She can forgive without becoming foolish, love without losing her identity, and care for others without allowing people to take advantage of her kindness. True femininity is not helplessness. It is the ability to remain graceful while possessing the courage to stand for what is right.

Islamic history gives us remarkable examples of women who combined

femininity with strength. Khadijah (RA) was a respected and successful businesswoman known for her intelligence, dignity, generosity, and courage. She was also the first person to believe in the message of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and stood beside him during one of the most difficult periods of his life. Her strength did not require her to abandon her femininity. Her compassion did not make her weak. Her success did not separate her from her faith.

Similarly, Aisha (RA) became one of the greatest scholars of the early Muslim community. Men and women came to her to seek knowledge. Her example demonstrates that a Muslim woman can be intellectually strong, educated, articulate, and influential while remaining deeply connected to her faith and identity. These women remind us that Islam never defined femininity as ignorance or silence. A Muslim woman can possess a strong mind and a gentle heart.

Education, therefore, is an important part of embracing femininity in the modern world. A woman should be encouraged to learn, develop her talents, think critically, and contribute positively to society. She can become a teacher, doctor, researcher, entrepreneur, writer, scholar, administrator, or professional while maintaining her Islamic principles. There is no contradiction between intelligence and femininity, just as there is no contradiction between ambition and modesty. The important question is not whether a woman has ambitions, but whether those ambitions are pursued responsibly and without compromising her values.

“To Be Continued”

New PNG incentive scheme to accelerate domestic connections, cut payback period to nearly 3 years: Govt

The new incentive scheme for domestic piped natural gas (PNG) connections is aimed at accelerating the expansion of clean cooking fuel across households, with the initiative expected to bring down the payback period for companies investing in new connections from around 10 years to nearly three years, the government said on Sunday.

The Incentive Scheme for Promotion of Domestic PNG Connections was launched on August 18, 2026 and came into effect from September 1. It seeks to increase the number of active domestic PNG connections by incentivising City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities to convert unbilled connections into active, billed connections and expand PNG networks into new areas.

According to the government, as of August 18, there were around 1.74 crore domestic PNG connections across the country. The City Gas Distribution network is being developed by entities authorised by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), which has au-



thorised entities across 309 Geographical Areas covering the entire mainland of the country.

Under the new scheme, a minimum threshold of domestic connections has been fixed for every Geographical Area. Eligible CGD entities that add billed domestic connections above the prescribed threshold during the performance period will receive an additional allocation of 200 Standard Cubic Metres (SCM) of domestically produced APM gas for every incre-

mental connection.

The additional APM gas allocation is expected to replace more expensive liquefied natural gas (LNG) currently sourced by CGD entities for their Compressed Natural Gas (Transport) segment. The substitution of LNG with lower-priced domestic APM gas is expected to reduce the overall cost of gas sourcing for CGD companies.

The government expects the lower sourcing cost to improve the commercial viability of domestic PNG

connections. As a result, the payback period on capital expenditure for a household connection is projected to decline sharply from about 10 years to nearly three years, providing companies with a stronger incentive to expand household coverage.

The scheme will be implemented in two tranches over a period of six months and is designed to align the commercial interests of CGD companies with the broader objective of expanding access to cleaner household energy.

When Skincare Does More Harm Than Good



In the pursuit of glowing and healthy-looking skin, many people regularly turn to facials and a wide range of skincare products. A salon facial is often expected to leave the skin looking fresh and radiant. However, for some people, the experience can be quite different. Within a day or two of a facial, small red bumps, white pimples, itching or a burning sensation may appear on the face. These reactions are often dismissed as “skin purging”, but experts caution that not every post-facial reaction is purging.

Excessive rubbing, the use of harsh chemicals and prolonged steaming can damage the skin barrier, potentially leading to inflammation, allergic reactions and breakouts. Experts say that the sudden reaction of the skin after a facial is often linked to excessive stress placed on the skin barrier. Steam, vigorous massage and strong chemical ingredients can collectively damage the delicate protective layer of the skin, allowing irritating substances to penetrate more easily and trigger redness, swelling, itching and acne-like breakouts. Genuine skin purging, experts explain, generally occurs in response to certain active ingredients that accelerate the skin’s natural cell turnover.

Some chemicals commonly found in facial creams and peels may cause further irritation, particularly in sensitive skin. Synthetic fragrances, concentrated essential oils, strong preservatives, high concentrations of alpha hydroxy acids, pore-clogging oils and synthetic waxes require particular caution. Synthetic fragrances and concentrated essential oils such as lemon, lavender and eucalyptus may irritate the skin. Applying these ingredients through massage after steaming, when the skin is already more sensitive, may increase the risk of an allergic reaction. This can result in localised swelling, itchy bumps and inflammatory skin reactions.

Preservatives are also commonly used in skincare products to extend their shelf life. When such products are vigorously massaged into sensitive facial skin, they may disturb the natural microbial balance of the skin and contribute to irritation and redness. Some strong preservatives can directly irritate the skin and cause inflammation in its outer layer, medical evidence suggests.

Alpha hydroxy acids such as glycolic and lactic acid can help improve the appearance of the skin when used appropriately. However, rapidly applying highly

concentrated or improperly balanced acid peels during salon treatments can seriously damage the skin barrier. Sudden changes in the skin’s pH level may cause burning and weaken the protective barrier, potentially followed by inflammatory breakouts.

Facial massage creams and gels may also contain heavier oils and waxes to make massage easier. Ingredients such as mineral oil, isopropyl myristate and certain coconut-derived substances can accumulate on the skin. In some cases, this may cause heat, sweat and dead skin cells to become trapped inside pores, resulting in small white pimples. Such breakouts may appear within 24 to 48 hours after a facial.

When redness, burning, itching or sudden breakouts appear after a facial, it may be wise to temporarily stop using active skincare ingredients until the skin returns to normal. Products containing vitamin C, retinol, salicylic acid and alpha hydroxy acids should be avoided until the skin has recovered. Continuing to use products that further irritate already-sensitive skin can worsen the problem.

Basic precautions can make a significant difference. The face should generally be cleansed only once

or twice a day with a gentle, fragrance-free, soap-free cleanser. Vigorous rubbing, scrubbing and repeated facials should be avoided while the skin is irritated. A lightweight moisturiser containing ingredients such as ceramides, hyaluronic acid or centella asiatica may help support the skin barrier.

Sun protection is particularly important after a facial because temporarily sensitised skin can be more vulnerable to sun damage and pigmentation. Using a broad-spectrum sunscreen every day can help protect the skin from further irritation and the development of dark spots. When the skin is already inflamed, adequate protection from sunlight becomes even more important.

Testing facial products on a small area of skin before applying them extensively can also help identify potential reactions. People with sensitive skin, or those who have previously experienced adverse reactions to cosmetic products, should consider consulting a dermatologist before undergoing facial treatments.

The growing popularity of elaborate skincare routines should not come at the expense of the skin’s natural protective barrier. A temporary glow is hardly worth prolonged irritation, inflammation or breakouts. Rather than constantly adding more products and treatments, the focus should be on understanding the skin, choosing safe products and maintaining a simple, consistent skincare routine.

Healthy skin is not necessarily the result of more products, stronger chemicals or frequent salon treatments. In many cases, protecting the skin barrier, using appropriate products and giving the skin time to recover may be far more beneficial than chasing an instant glow.

India’s semiconductor industry attracts \$1.4 billion in equity funding: Report

India’s semiconductor sector has attracted a cumulative \$1.4 billion in equity funding across 281 funded companies with nearly half of the total capital, around \$701 million raised since 2025, according to a report.

A report by Tracxn showed that the nation currently hosts 3,557 semiconductor-related companies.

Of these, 281 firms have secured funding, while 142 have raised equity investments and the chip industry has garnered \$228 million in funding so far

in 2026, it said.

The analysis comes ahead of SEMICON India 2026 conference and exhibition which is scheduled to be held from September 17 to 19 here that will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The report highlighted electronic manufacturing services (EMS) as the largest funding segment, attracting \$313 million since 2025.

In addition, embedded hardware ranked second and secured \$51.9 million over the same period with all of it raised within

the last 12 months. While Power Management Integrated Circuits and Fabless Semiconductor Manufacturers also featured among the leading categories by funding.

According to the report, annual funding in the sector increased sharply from \$49 million in 2021 to \$473 million in 2025, a five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of more than 36 per cent.

City-wise, Bengaluru remained India’s leading semiconductor hub, accounting for 626 companies or around 18 per cent

of the sector’s total firms. The city also contributed 40.1 per cent of all equity funding raised to date.

However, Noida, Gurugram, Kochi and Hyderabad followed in terms of funding share.

On exits, acquisitions remained the preferred route with 62 acquisitions recorded compared to 42 initial public offerings (IPOs). The report noted that companies reached acquisition in an average of 11.8 years from their first funding round, while firms that went public took an average of 16.5 years.



Smriti Mandhana opens up about life's toughest

India opener says some World Cup memories remain painful, while recalling her discipline, emotions and journey in cricket.



New Delhi, Sep 13:

India opener Smriti Mandhana has opened up about some of the most difficult moments of her life, saying certain World Cup memories remain deeply emotional while making it clear that she prefers to speak publicly about cricket.

With India set to face Sri Lanka in the Women's Asia Cup final, Mandhana has been in impressive form and recently reached a significant milestone in international cricket. Ahead of the title clash, the left-handed opener spoke candidly about her personality, emotions and journey during a podcast with host Raj Shamani.

Asked about the toughest night of her life, Mandhana remained silent for a few moments and appeared emotional before saying, "Some World Cups." She did not reveal which World Cup or match she was referring to, instead making

it clear that she wanted to keep the discussion focused on cricket. Mandhana also recalled the difficult period during the Covid-19 pandemic, describing it as one of the challenging phases of her life. Speaking about revenge, Mandhana said she does not believe in taking revenge against anyone. She said she would not intentionally harm others but added that while she can forgive people, she does not easily forget what happened.

"I forgive people, but I don't forget them," Mandhana said, adding that although she is not someone who usually gets angry, she has a lot of anger within her.

The India opener also spoke about crying and dealing with emotions privately. She said she sometimes cries alone in the bathroom and avoids crying in front of other people. She also admitted to becoming emotional while watching films, recalling how a movie left her in tears. Mandhana said she enjoys spending time

alone and in peace, doing things she likes, with cricket remaining an important part of her life.

The 29-year-old also recalled the strict discipline she followed from a young age. She said that between the ages of 14 and 19, her life was carefully planned, with her mentor waking her up at 5 am for training. Her routine included Surya Namaskar and squat jumps, while she would also write down her goals on a page.

Mandhana said she used to write that she would become the ICC No. 1 batter and a World Cup winner. She added that many of those dreams eventually became reality, allowing her to look back at those pages with satisfaction.

As India prepare for the Asia Cup final, Mandhana's focus remains firmly on cricket. Her comments offer a glimpse into the discipline and emotional strength that have shaped her journey to becoming one of the leading batters in women's international cricket.

Sabalenka destroys racquet, yells at the cameraman after US Open loss

New Delhi, Sep 13:

Elena Rybakina denied Aryna Sabalenka a historic third consecutive US Open title with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 victory in the final. Rybakina will also become the new world No. 1 on Monday, ending Sabalenka's 99-week reign at the top of the WTA rankings.

Sabalenka, visibly frustrated after the defeat, smashed her racquet on the court and later shouted at a cameraman who tried to capture her reaction. Despite the disappointment, she admitted Rybakina had been the better player on the day and praised her aggressive tennis and outstanding serving.

The defeat means Sabalenka will finish the 2026 Grand Slam season without a major title for the first time since 2022. She had won at least one Grand Slam every year since claiming her maiden major at the 2023 Australian Open, where she defeated Rybakina in the final.

Rybakina's rise to No. 1 brings an end to Sabalenka's second stint at the top, which lasted 99 consecutive weeks. Sabalenka joked that Rybakina now has a tough challenge to match that record.

'I had to sit while sleeping': Naveen-ul-Haq opens up on injury layoff ahead of return



New Delhi, Sep 13:

Afghanistan pacer Naveen-ul-Haq has opened up about his difficult recovery ahead of his return to international cricket in the national colours after almost two years, with the 26-year-old eager to make the most of his comeback in the T20I series against India, which will commence on Sunday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Naveen has endured a difficult period on the sidelines due to successive injuries, including a stress fracture of his right shoulder, which ruled him out of Afghanistan's squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.

Reflecting on his lengthy rehabilitation, Naveen admitted that the time away from cricket was mentally challenging. "It is lonely. It's a very

tough time for a person. The stress fracture healed itself within eight to ten weeks. But I had a second surgery for labrum repair. For the first six weeks of rehab in the UK, I had to sit while sleeping," Naveen told Cricinfo.

Naveen, who made his Afghanistan debut in an ODI against Bangladesh in 2016 at 17, has since established himself as one of the country's leading T20 bowlers, particularly in the death overs.

He played a key role in Afghanistan's notable journey to the semi-finals of the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup, taking 13 wickets with an average of 12.30 and an economy rate of 6.00.

The pacer also shared how tough it was to witness Afghanistan's intense double Super Over loss to South Africa in Ahmedabad during

the 2026 T20 World Cup, all while being unable to assist. "I had the feeling that if I was there for the team, maybe I could have done something different in the death overs," he said.

Naveen announced his retirement from ODI cricket in 2023, with injuries playing a major role in his decision. However, his focus is now firmly on returning to the field and contributing to Afghanistan's T20 side.

He also highlighted the strong bond within the current Afghanistan team, noting that several players have grown together through the Under-19 system since 2018.

"In this generation, you will see nine or ten players who have been playing for Afghanistan since the Under-19s together, since 2018. Those players are now in the national team, playing franchise cricket all over," Naveen said.

With his body now ready for the demands of professional cricket, Naveen is keen to play as much as possible, despite the physical challenges faced by fast bowlers.

"We have to play as much cricket as we can, but one day, it's all going to end. Everyone has to leave, and we're going to miss it as cricketers. We have to play, get on the ground, and feel the pressure," he said.

Chaminda Vaas set to join Delhi Capitals as bowling coach

New Delhi, Sep 13:

Delhi Capitals have reportedly decided to bring former Sri Lankan fast-bowling great Chaminda Vaas into their coaching staff as the team's new bowling coach. The franchise is making changes to its coaching setup after inconsistent performances, with the experienced left-arm pacer expected to strengthen the bowling unit.

Vaas played 111 Tests and 322 ODIs, claiming 355 and 400 wickets respectively, and was part of Sri Lanka's 1996 World Cup-winning team. The 51-year-old has reportedly joined Delhi Capitals' preparatory camp in New Delhi and could play a key role in developing the pace attack. His appointment is part of wider coaching changes, with Yuvraj Singh and Amit Mishra also reportedly joining the setup.

Vaas brings extensive international and coaching experience as Delhi Capitals look to return to the IPL playoffs. His appointment comes after M. M. Munnaf was removed as bowling coach following two inconsistent seasons. Vaas is expected to strengthen Delhi Capitals' bowling attack with his experience as the franchise targets a return to the IPL playoffs.

Preity Zinta reveals why NRIs in the US still look for 'Indian-ness' in films



Mumbai, Sep 13:

Actress Preity Zinta has shared her perspective on how Indian cinema continues to resonate with audiences living abroad.

She said that NRIs, particularly those in the US, often hold on to their Indian identity through films and entertainment. Speaking exclusively to IANS, Preity said that geographical boundaries do not change the emotional connection audiences have with Indian cinema. She stressed that filmmakers need to respect viewers' time and money by offering them meaningful entertainment. "I think the audience is the same world-

wide. You have to give them value for their money and their time. You cannot insult the audience by promising them something and giving them something else," she said.

The 'Soldier' actress also pointed out that people living outside India can sometimes feel an even stronger need to stay connected to their roots. "People that live outside India in some ways are more Indian than people that live in India. Because you want to hold on to, me included, you know. I want to hold on to what I have and not get lost in another place."

Preity explained that people living outside India often

feel a stronger need to hold on to their roots and identity. She mentioned that this is why NRIs look for a sense of "Indian-ness" in the films they watch.

"So, they definitely look for that Indian-ness," she added.

At the same time, the 'Kal Ho Na Ho' actress believes humour has a universal appeal and can bring audiences together, especially at a time when people are dealing with increasingly stressful lives.

"But there is no second place for humor. If humor is there and people can laugh about it and a film can entertain you without insulting your intelligence, it's an all-out winner for everybody," she said. "Today, more than ever, it's a high-stress society, high-stress life. There's a lot more stress. So, I think comedies are the way to go because people want to just relax and have fun," Preity concluded.

Preity Zinta is based in Los Angeles, where she lives with her husband, Gene Goodenough, and their two children. The actress continues to travel to India for her professional commitments.

After tying the knot with Gene Goodenough in 2016, Preity welcomed twins through surrogacy in 2021. Since then, she has focused more on her family and has been living a quieter life in Los Angeles.

India men clinch record-extending sixth Junior Hockey Asia Cup title



Moqi (China), Sep 13:

India's junior men's hockey team won a record-extending sixth Asia Cup title after outclassing South Korea in the final 4-1 at the Moqi Training Base here on Sunday.

The Indian men's side won the continental title for the fourth straight time and also booked their spot for the FIH Junior Hockey World Cup.

The Indians dominated the contest against the fellow Asian side as Ajeet Yadav, Anmol Ekka, Prabhdeep Singh and Ashu Maurya scored for India, while Lee Minhyeok was the only goal-scorer for the Korean side.

Yadav opened the scoring sheet as early as the ninth minute before Ekka doubled the lead with a 13th-minute strike to put India 2-0 up at the end of the opening quarter.

Prabhdeep sounded the board in the 21st minute as India kept the dominance intact and went into the half-time break with more than an arm's distance from the Korean side at 3-0 up.

It needed something special for a comeback from the 2000 champions, but they could not inspire

a comeback as Maurya scored another for India in the 50th minute to give them a huge 4-0 lead with only 10 minutes remaining.

Minhyeok then pulled one back for the Koreans in the 54th minute, but his lone strike could not do the damage as India went on to see off the contest 4-1 and win the continental title for the sixth time.

India have now also won the Junior Hockey Asia Cup for a fourth consecutive time, breaking their tie with Pakistan for three straight titles. The Indian team won the 2015, 2023 and 2024 titles before this recent triumph.

India were already the most successful team in the history of the continental event, with Pakistan a distant second, having won three titles from 1988 to 1996. Korea won one title in 2000, while Malaysia won once in 2012.

Earlier, India's women's team also won the Women's Junior Hockey Asia Cup after beating China 1-0 in the final. This was India's third straight title, which ties them with China and South Korea as the most successful women's teams in the competition.

Hockey: India women edge China to clinch third successive Junior Asia Cup title



Moqi (China), Sep 13:

India women successfully retained their Junior Asia Cup crown after edging hosts China 1-0 in the final here on Sunday.

Sanika Chandrakant Mane's 17th-minute strike helped India retain the title and confirm a spot in the FIH Junior World Cup.

The Indian women's team lifted the AHF Junior Asia Cup trophy in the last two editions. The team has undergone a structured training programme under newly appointed coach Tim White, who assumed charge earlier this year, and successfully

completed a hat trick of titles on Sunday.

Hockey India has announced cash rewards for the women's team for their title-winning campaign at the Junior Asia Cup, awarding Rs 3 lakh to each player and Rs 1.5 lakh to each member of the support staff.

India and China were locked in a neck-and-neck contest through a goalless opening quarter. The breakthrough came in the 17th minute when Sanika struck to give India a 1-0 lead, which they held heading into halftime.

India maintained their slender lead throughout the

third quarter, frustrating the hosts and keeping them off the scoreboard. They held firm through to the final whistle to secure a 1-0 victory, triumphantly lifting their third AHF Women's Junior Asia Cup trophy.

India came into the summit clash after beating South Korea 5-1, courtesy of frag-flick specialist Supriya, after producing a sensational attacking display to beat Pakistan 19-0 in the quarterfinal. India finish the pool stage unbeaten with 10 points from three wins and a draw, securing the top spot in the Elite Pool on goal difference.

Ravi Shastri praises PM Modi, hails BRICS diplomacy with Putin and Xi

New Delhi, Sep 13:

Former India cricketer and 1983 World Cup winner Ravi Shastri has praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi after seeing him alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin during the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.

Shastri shared a photograph on social media platform X showing PM Modi, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin watering a plant together. Sharing

the picture, the 64-year-old former cricketer expressed his pride as an Indian and lauded the presence of the three leaders together on Indian soil.

"As an Indian, I have never felt prouder. President Putin, President Xi and our great Prime Minister Narendra Modi together in our motherland India. I have never seen such a spectacle of international diplomacy before. My salute to Modi ji," Shastri wrote.

The final day of the

BRICS Summit in New Delhi features an open session involving BRICS members and partner countries. Prime Minister Modi is also scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with leaders from seven countries, including South Africa, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Egypt, Burundi, Uganda and Nigeria. The BRICS grouping has 11 members and 10 partner countries, including India, China, Russia, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Vietnam.



Viral stories, social trends, public interest and issues capturing attention.

Abhijeet Dipke 'Resigns As MP CM' With Satirical Resignation Letter

Internet Says 'Misuse Of Govt Logo'

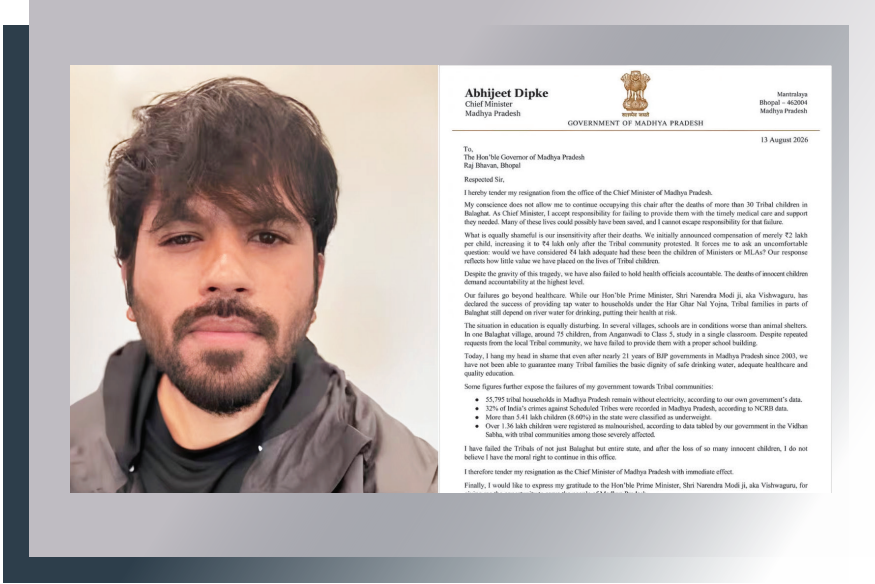
Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke sparked a fresh controversy on social media after sharing a satirical "resignation letter" claiming to step down as the "Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh with immediate effect."

The post came shortly after questions were raised over his delayed visit to Balaghat, where he met families of tribal children who allegedly died following infectious diseases.

In the letter, which Dipke shared on X on Sunday, he thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the "opportunity" to serve the people of Madhya Pradesh and admitted that he had "clearly failed".

He wrote, "I hereby resign as the Chief Minister of MP with immediate effect. I thank Hon'ble PM @narendramodi ji for giving me the opportunity to serve the people of MP, an opportunity in which I have clearly failed."

The post appeared to target Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and his government over several issues, including the Sagar hooch tragedy and the reported deaths of tribal children in



Balaghat.

Dipke's use of a government-style format and official-looking symbols, however, drew criticism from several social media users, with some questioning whether the satire crossed a legal line.

The controversy comes a day after Dipke's visit to Balaghat, where he reportedly faced questions from a group of influencers. He had travelled to Adori, Korka and Bondari villages in the district on Saturday to meet the families of tribal children who allegedly died after contracting infectious diseases. During the visit, he also sought to understand the healthcare facilities

available to people living in the region.

A video circulating on social media appears to show a woman described as an influencer approaching Dipke as he was leaving the area in a car. Holding a microphone towards him, she questioned why he had taken so long to visit the affected region and asked whether he had come to "do politics on corpses". Dipke was heard apologising for the delay.

The incident subsequently became part of the backdrop to his satirical "resignation". CJP spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka also joined in the satire, suggesting that

Dipke was "running away" from responsibility.

The post quickly attracted reactions, with some users criticising Dipke's approach and questioning the seriousness of the political messaging.

"Do you genuinely think this is funny or remotely sarcastic? It is incredibly childish. This kind of behaviour says a great deal about the level of the pressure group you seem determined to become. There is nothing clever or amusing about it, this simply comes across as petty, immature, and beneath the level one would expect from a serious group," said one user.

Man Throws Garbage On City Road, Taunts Biker Who Picks It Up



A confrontation between two men in Hyderabad has caught significant attention on social media, once again sparking a debate over civic sense and individual responsibility. The incident unfolded after one rider allegedly threw garbage on the road and then taunted the one who confronted him for his behaviour. The rider, Laishram Benedikson Singh, who filmed the incident, later shared it on Instagram.

Singh said he noticed the other man allegedly throwing something on the road. He picked up the discarded wrapper and told the man that he would keep it with him and dispose of it properly later. However, the rider took offence and began questioning why Singh was objecting.

In the video, the man can be heard saying, "Wo kachra bhi uthao, yeh kachra bhi uthao, jo tumhare bike se mitti gir raha hai road par, usse bhi road ganda ho raha hai, wo bhi uthao (Pick up that garbage too, pick up this garbage too. The dirt falling from your bike onto the road is also making the road dirty, so pick that up too)." Singh then explained that he had simply picked up the garbage and planned to throw it away later. "Yeh mereko bol rahe hain ki mereko GHMC ne kaam par lagaya hai (He is telling me whether GHMC has put me to work)," he said, referring to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC).

The argument escalated as the other rider pointed towards other waste lying on the road. Singh then questioned the logic behind using existing litter to justify throwing more garbage. "Toh matlab aap bol rahe ho ki logon ne phenkha hai toh aap bhi phenkoge. Yeh matlab nahi hai na, baaki karengo toh aap bhi karoge (So, are you saying that because other people have thrown garbage, you will throw it too? That's not how it works, is it? Just because others do it, doesn't mean you should do it too)," he said.

"It's Sad To See The State Of Our Nation"

Malaysian PM Sings Kishore Kumar's song During BRICS Summit Visit



Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim added an unexpected Bollywood twist to his diplomatic visit to India, breaking into Kishore Kumar's evergreen song 'Khwab Ho Tum Ya Koi Haqeeqat' during his stay in New Delhi.

Anwar shared a video of the performance on Instagram, in which the Malaysian leader can be seen singing the iconic Hindi number as a pianist accompanies him. The song, originally featured in the 1965 film Teen Deviyani, was composed by S D Burman and penned by Majrooh Sultanpuri, with Dev Anand among the film's lead actors.

The unexpected performance added a cultural touch to Anwar's otherwise busy schedule of diplomatic meetings and engagements. His familiarity with Indian cinema has surfaced during previous interactions as

well, including an earlier official video montage shared by him that featured 'Bole Chudiyan' from Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham.

Anwar Ibrahim Calls PM Modi 'Very Popular' The Malaysian Prime Minister also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday for bilateral discussions on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit. A video from their interaction showed the two leaders shaking hands before sitting together, during which Anwar made a candid remark about Modi's popularity.

Speaking to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Anwar said, "See, Prime Minister Modi is so popular; I got so many messages to pass on regards to him. The informal exchange came as the two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen India-Malaysia relations across several areas.

Man's BMW Delivery Takes Unexpected Turn As Transgender Group Seeks Rs 2 Lakh

A Hyderabad BMW owner faced an unusual situation soon after taking delivery of the luxury car. A group of transgender persons allegedly surrounded the vehicle and demanded Rs 2 lakh, according to claims shared online.

The incident was recorded on mobile phones, with the footage showing several people around the BMW near the showroom. Some of them appear to block the vehicle from leaving, while others are seen standing, leaning or sitting in front of it.

The exact circumstances behind the incident are not clear from the footage, and the claims about the money demand have not been independently verified.

Group Allegedly Blocks BMW From Leaving

The video shows the group gathered around the newly delivered car as people inside appear to try to deal with the situation. The individuals can also be seen engaging with the car's occupants while bystanders watch and record the scene.

According to claims accompanying the clip, the group asked the BMW owner for Rs 2 lakh. The footage has



since led to discussions about money being demanded during celebrations and other important occasions.

Similar claims have also been shared by social media users about incidents at weddings, housewarming ceremonies and new vehicle deliveries.

One Hyderabad resident recalled an incident from 2019 involving a housewarming ceremony. The user claimed that a group had allegedly asked the family for Rs 50,000. According to the post, the family offered a smaller amount, but the situation reportedly turned into an argument before the group eventually left.

How a Kolkata security guard's voice became the cause of his rise and fall and rise

Chander Agarwal, CEO and managing director of Indian logistics company TCI Express Limited, took the case to Singapore's High Court. His former girlfriend, Felicia Lee, rejected his claim, saying the money was not given as loans.

The court ruled in Lee's favour, finding that most of the payments were gifts and that Agarwal had not shown enough proof that she had agreed to repay him, according to CNN.

CEO Spent Crores On Gifts And Trips

Agarwal and Lee first met while travelling on a flight in 2019. Their relationship began in September 2022 and ended in December 2023 after Agarwal suspected Lee of being unfaithful.

During their time together, Agarwal paid for a range of expensive items and experiences. These included luxury products from Hermes, Dior and Prada, first-class flights, overseas holidays and life insurance payments. He also used his credit cards to cover Lee's personal expenses and paid for her participation in a Stanford-NUS executive programme.

Around S\$17,000 (about Rs 12 lakh) was also spent on a feng shui master for Lee's flat. Agarwal argued that this payment could only have been a loan because he did not believe in feng shui.



However, the judge did not accept this reasoning and noted that Agarwal himself had arranged the service.

Court Finds No Clear Proof Of Loans

Agarwal told the court that Lee had asked him for the money as loans and had agreed to pay it back. He also presented a handwritten document that he claimed contained Lee's initials.

Lee denied signing the document. The judge said Agarwal had not produced enough evidence to prove that Lee had asked for the payments as loans or had promised to return them.

The court also pointed out that there were no WhatsApp messages supporting his claim. This was despite the couple having exchanged a large number of messages during their relationship.

15-year-old boy survived after being stranded for 2 days in the freezing Bering Sea



Derek Parker Aghnaanga had set out on September 4 with his 35-year-old brother, Sidney Kulowiya, and their cousin to fish for halibut, according to reports by KTUU, The New York Times and the Associated Press. The three were expected to return to St Lawrence Island around 3 am on September 6. When they failed to return, authorities were alerted, and a search operation was launched. Dense fog initially prevented rescuers from searching the waters. The Coast Guard resumed the operation the following morning with support from the Alaska Air National Guard, local officials, and other agencies, an AP report stated.

15-year-old boy clings to capsized vessel At around 10.30 am on September 7, the Coast Guard spotted Aghnaanga clinging to the capsized vessel. A nearby fishing ship, the Northwest Explorer, was asked to rescue him. The vessel, carrying 13 crew members including NOAA scientists, was about 39 miles away and took nearly four hours to reach him.

Aghnaanga was found kneeling on the hull in a bright yellow jacket and suffering from hypothermia. Too weak to swim to an inflatable raft dropped by the Coast Guard, he was pulled aboard using a rope, the AP stated.

Noida Man Takes Over Cab's Wheel So Exhausted Driver Can Sleep On Way To Lucknow: 'Be Kind'

A cab journey from Noida to Lucknow took an unexpected turn for a passenger as he decided to take over the wheel after realising that the driver was too exhausted to continue driving. He later shared the experience of the unusual ride on social media, and urged people to be "kind" to the drivers. His gesture has now won praise from people online.

Shivam Mishra, who is also known as David on Instagram, shared in a video that he had booked a cab for the long journey to Lucknow

from Noida. However, during the trip, he realised that the driver had already been driving since the previous day and was extremely tired.

Rather than letting the driver continue the ride in that condition and push through the exhaustion, Mishra decided to drive the cab himself and let him rest in the back seat. He added that he did not feel it was right to get angry with the driver or insist that he keep driving simply because the cab was booked.

Driver Was Seen Taking Some Rest

In the clip, the creator showed himself driving the car while the driver was seen taking a nap in the rear seat. Mishra's brother was also seen sitting on the passenger's seat beside him as they continued their journey towards Lucknow.

"I had booked a cab, but the driver had been driving since yesterday and was really tired. You can see him sleeping in the back. So, in situations like this, I don't think you should get angry with the driver. Instead, I took over the wheel myself," Mishra said.



He further explained that he decided to look at it as an unexpected adventure. "There's no point getting angry and saying, 'I booked the cab, so

you have to drive me all the way. Keep driving.' Instead, I just decided to take it as an adventure and enjoy the journey," he added.

He shared that he decided to take over the wheel after learning that the driver had been driving his car throughout the previous day and asked him to get some rest