

ALL YOU NEED. EVERY DAY.

THE 100% VEGAN
ALL-IN-ONE HEALTH SUPPLEMENT

3% PLANT-BASED OMEGA-3

100% RDA VITAMIN D3 + B-COMPLEX

100% VEGAN VITAMIN C (ASAC) + B6

100% PLANT-BASED IRON + B12

100% VEGAN ZINC + B1

100% VEGAN FOLIC ACID + B9

M CORE
All You Need. Every Day.

M CORE
All You Need. Every Day.

30 CAPSULES

₹499/-
(16.63 p per day only)

TRUSTED BY DOCTORS.
CHOSEN BY PATIENTS.

Call / WhatsApp
+91 93919 45448



Pic. Syed Omar



News that Matters. Stories that Thrills.

THE MUNSHIF

News that Matters. Stories that Thrills.

Est. 1976



THE MUNSHIF

News that Matters. Stories that Thrills.

Est. 1976

Greater Inclusive Sex-Work-Girl Found Dead, Accused Killed in Police Encounter



Modi Gets Warm Welcome in Bhopal Ahead of SCJ Summit

BOOK YOUR

SUBSCRIPTION

NOW



Call / WhatsApp

9182104767



DAILY
AT YOUR DOORSTEP



ACROSS
HYDERABAD & TELANGANA



TRUSTED
SINCE 1976



STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Moves

Politics, governance, districts, development, welfare and issues shaping the

Senior Woman Naxalite Leader Nakka Sushila Rani Surrenders Before Nizamabad Police Commissioner

**Munsif Bureau
Nizamabad, Sept. 16:**

Senior woman Naxalite leader Nakka Sushila Rani, alias Latha, Lalitha, Rela and Jyothi, a resident of Shakarnagar, Bodhan, Nizamabad district, surrendered before Nizamabad Police Commissioner Sai Chaitanya on Wednesday after remaining underground for 34 years. She decided to give up her underground life and return to mainstream society.

Police Commissioner Sai Chaitanya welcomed her decision and handed over ₹5 lakh in government financial assistance under the Telangana government's rehabilitation policy for surrendered Naxalites.

Addressing a press conference at the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate Conference Hall along with Sushila, Commissioner Sai Chaitanya gave details about her background.

Sushila's father, Rama Krishna, had worked as a worker at Nizam Sugar Factory in Bodhan and passed away in October 2005. Her mother, Kamala, died in 1976 due to ill health.

Sushila completed her Class 10 education at Narayanguda in Hyderabad in 1985 and pursued Intermediate and Degree studies at Nampally, Hyderabad, from 1987 to 1990. She subsequently completed her B.Ed. at Nagarjuna Sagar,

Nalgonda, during 1990-92.

Later, after marrying Sankara Ram Mohan Rao, ACM Secretary of the Konagal dalam in Nalgonda district, she went underground and became involved in activities associated with the banned CPI (Maoist). During her underground period, she held various positions as a leader of the banned CPI (Maoist) Naxalite organisation.

The Commissioner said that in view of her recent health problems and the Telangana government's rehabilitation policy for Naxalites, Sushila had decided to return to mainstream society.

Sai Chaitanya stated that Naxalite activities had been

eliminated in Telangana and that the state government was providing opportunities for surrendered Naxalites to lead normal lives through various welfare and rehabilitation schemes.

He said that during the two-year period from 2024 to 2026, a total of 334 Naxalite leaders and cadres had surrendered after giving up their activities, while 238 firearms had also been surrendered to the government. Speaking on the occasion, Sushila said that, considering her health condition and the prevailing circumstances, she had decided to lead a normal social life and benefit from the government's rehabilitation schemes.



Police Commissioner Sai Chaitanya welcomed her decision and handed over ₹5 lakh in government financial assistance under the Telangana government's rehabilitation policy for surrendered Naxalites. Addressing a press conference at the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate Conference Hall along with Sushila, Commissioner Sai Chaitanya gave details about her background.

Ganesh Immersion Day: Tractor Drivers Advised to Exercise Caution; Strict Action Against Drunk Driving: CI

**Munsif News Bureau
Adilabad, Sept 16:**

With the aim of ensuring that the Ganesh immersion procession is conducted peacefully and safely, an important meeting was held at the Adilabad One Town Police Station.

Addressing the meeting, One Town Inspector B. Sunil Kumar issued necessary instructions to tractor owners and drivers. He said every driver must carry the vehicle's original documents



and a valid driving licence. Driving a tractor under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating substance will be strictly prohibited on the day of the immersion. Strict legal action will be

taken against drivers who violate the rules.

The CI further instructed drivers to exercise extreme caution while transporting Ganesh idols on tractors, particularly by keeping

a close watch on electric wires, lights and tree branches along the roads.

He also directed all drivers to remain present with their respective vehicles at the immersion site until the immersion process is completed. The Circle Inspector emphasised that the cooperation of citizens and drivers with the police is essential to ensure that the Ganesh Navratri celebrations in Adilabad city conclude peacefully, safely and without accidents.

Departments Told to Coordinate for TB-Free Nirmal

**Munsif News Bureau
Nirmal, Sept 16:**

District Revenue Officer Rathod Ramesh has directed all government departments to work in coordination with the Medical and Health Department to achieve the goal of making Nirmal a TB-free district.

He was speaking at an awareness and orientation programme for district officials and Mandal Special Officers organised at the Collectorate on Wednesday as part of the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Ramesh said tuberculosis should be treated not merely as a medical issue but as a social responsibility requiring



collective action. He called for intensified awareness campaigns and early identification of suspected cases.

People suffering from cough or fever for more than two weeks, unexplained weight loss, night sweats or loss of appetite should be identified and encouraged to undergo testing, he said. Officials were also asked to ensure uninterrupted free treatment for TB patients and monitor their regular intake of medicines.

The DRO stressed the need to screen family members and close contacts of TB patients and ensure nutritional support for those undergoing treatment.

Nirmal Wooden Toys Get Push for Preservation and Promotion

**Munsif Bureau
Nirmal, Sept. 15:**

The district administration will take special measures to preserve the traditional Nirmal wooden toy craft and support artisans by improving cultivation of Poniki trees and creating new marketing opportunities, Collector Bhavesh Mishra said on Tuesday.

Mishra inspected the Nirmal wooden toy premises in the town and reviewed the his-



tory of the craft, manufacturing process, availability of raw material, marketing facilities and the issues faced by artisans.

The Collector said Nirmal wooden toys had earned recognition in India and abroad and had given the district a distinct identity.

MLA Dr. P Harish Babu Raises Minority School Issues in Assembly

**Munsif Bureau
Kohir :, Sept.15:**

Kagaznagar, September 16 (Munsif News Bureau): Sirpur MLA Dr. Palvai Harish Babu raised several issues concerning minority residential schools in the State Assembly and urged the government to take immediate action. He said TMREIS Boys-1 and Boys-2 residential schools are functioning in Kagaznagar. Boys-1 has 9 regular and 19 outsourcing employees, while Boys-2 has a similar staff strength. Dr. Harish Babu highlighted the dumping yard



near the schools, stating that it was creating sanitation and health concerns for students. He urged the authorities to ensure proper cleanliness and a hygienic environment around the institutions. He also

appealed to the concerned Minister to visit the district, conduct a special review meeting and take necessary steps to resolve the schools' administrative and infrastructure-related issues.

Ozone Day Awareness Programme Held at Govt. Degree College, Kagaznagar

**Munsif News Bureau
Kagaznagar:, Sept.16 :**

An awareness programme was held at the Government Degree College, Kagaznagar, on Wednesday to mark World Ozone Day, jointly organised by the Departments of Chemistry and Physics. College Principal K. Sridevi said the ozone layer protects living organisms from the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays and stressed the need to prevent its depletion caused by environmental pollution. Chemistry Department Head

Dr. E. Sharada explained that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting substances damage the ozone layer and increase exposure to harmful UV radiation, which may cause skin cancer and other health problems. She urged everyone to follow the spirit of the Montreal Protocol and take steps to reduce pollution and protect the ozone layer. Vice-Principal Dr. D. Lakshmi Narasimham, Academic Coordinator D. Janardhan, faculty members M. Rajeshwar, and students participated in the programme.

Planning for Kharif Paddy Procurement and Storage

**Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Sept 16:**

Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to take advance and systematic measures for the procurement of Kharif 2026-27 season paddy and for the safe storage of the procured paddy. On Wednesday, a review meeting was held with officials of the concerned departments and tahsildars at the Integrated District Offices complex to assess the arrangements for paddy procurement.

The Collector stated that paddy is being cultivated over approximately 4.35 lakh acres in the district this season, with an estimated production of around 12 lakh metric tonnes. Of this, a target has been set to procure

6.50 lakh metric tonnes through procurement centres. To facilitate farmers, 736 procurement centres will be established across the district. There were 660 centres during the previous Rabi season, while 76 additional centres are being established this time.

As paddy production becomes available earlier in Nizamabad district compared to other parts of the state, steps are being taken to make procurement centres available to farmers from the first week of October itself.

The Collector instructed officials to ensure adequate availability of gunny bags, moisture-testing machines, weighing machines, tarpaulins

and other essential facilities at every centre.

He made it clear that tablets for the procurement centres would be provided only after all necessary facilities are made available and the relevant details are uploaded online.

The Collector further stated that this time, the paddy procured through the centres may not be sent to rice mills. Therefore, warehouses and suitable locations should be identified in advance for safe storage of the paddy. Officials were instructed to conduct field-level inspections of warehouses belonging to the Central and State governments, as well as Market Committee warehouses and private warehouses.

On public transit and infrastructure, Rama Rao emphasised that expanding high-speed rail networks would significantly ease the burden on major metropolises over the next decade. He further identified access to capital as a primary hurdle for municipal authorities.

the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi—Rama Rao joined JMM MP Mahua Maji, YSRCP MP S. Niranjan Reddy, and Janaagraha CEO Srikanth Viswanathan for a panel discussion on improving urban livability.

Highlighting urban decentralisation strategies implemented during the BRS administration, KT Rama Rao cited the establishment of medical colleges in every district headquarters and

the expansion of IT Towers into Tier-II cities as key steps that successfully reduced pressure on Hyderabad.

On public transit and infrastructure, Rama Rao emphasised that expanding high-speed rail networks would significantly ease the burden on major metropolises over the next decade. He further identified access to capital as a primary hurdle for municipal authorities.

Telangana NSUI State Secretary S Gangaprasad Meets Former MLA Narayan Rao Patel

**Munsif News Bureau
Madhol, Sept 16:**

Telangana NSUI newly appointed State Secretary Saddul Gangaprasad paid a courtesy visit to senior leader and former MLA Narayan Rao Patel, who played a prominent role in the development of the Madhol Assembly constituency and is known for his concern for the poor, and sought his blessings.

On the occasion, Narayan Rao Patel felicitated Gangaprasad with a shawl and congratulated him. He advised him to give top priority to public welfare while rendering his services. Speaking on the occasion, Saddul Gangaprasad said that Narayan Rao Patel had left an indelible mark in the hearts of the people of the constituency through his exemplary personality and public service. He said that the development works undertaken by Narayan Rao Patel as an MLA, along with his constant availability and service to the people, continue to be remembered.

CM Gives Green Signal for Implementation of Nizamabad City Master Plan

**Munsif Bureau
Nizamabad, Sept 16:**

Distribution of 40 Financial Assistance Cheques under the CM Relief Fund by Government Adviser Mohammed Ali Shabbir; Addresses Press Conference

Nizamabad, September 16 (Munsif News Bureau): Government Adviser Mohammed Ali Shabbir distributed financial assistance cheques worth Rs. 16.95 lakh among 40 beneficiaries under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund at the R&B Guest House in Nizamabad.

Later, addressing a press conference, Mohammed Ali Shabbir expressed his gratitude to State Tourism Minister Juppally Krishna Rao and TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud for sanctioning Rs. 50 lakh for the renovation of the Rajiv Gandhi Auditorium, located in the heart of Nizamabad city, and a total of Rs. 5 crore for the construction and renovation of the Armour Guest House, Sadulla Gutta and other locations.

He said that the development of Nizamabad city had taken place only during Congress rule. He stated that after the present Congress government came to power, it implemented six-point schemes and recruited around



90,000 candidates to various government posts, particularly teachers, police officials, medical personnel and candidates who qualified through various group examinations.

He further said that the Telangana government was giving top priority to improving the education system. He alleged that during the 10-year rule of the BRS, nothing was done apart from propaganda.

Mohammed Ali Shabbir said that BRS opposition leaders K.T.

Rama Rao and Harish Rao were creating a hue and cry over the implementation of Section 22-A relating to lands, despite the fact that the 22-A land system had itself been introduced during the BRS regime. He alleged that the BRS was now criticizing the same system and described this as hypocritical. He also criticized BRS leader Harish Rao, alleging that he staged a body-building display in front of the Assembly and engaged in theatrics like a wrestling performer, calling the

conduct shameful. Government Adviser Mohammed Ali Shabbir alleged that the BJP and BRS were two sides of the same coin and that both were anti-Dalit. He said that during the TRS regime, promises were made to Dalits but later not fulfilled, and alleged that the BJP was also openly opposing Dalits. He further alleged that, on one occasion, BRS leaders had demonstrated what he described as a purification exercise on a road used by Dalits, while in Uttarakhand.

Revanth invites Singapore companies to invest in Telangana

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.16

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy invited Singapore companies to invest in Telangana as the state government is ready to extend all kinds of support to the prospective investors. A Singapore delegation led by Augustine Lee, Permanent Secretary of the Energy Market Division under Singapore’s Ministry of Trade and Industry, met Revanth Reddy at the Assembly on Wednesday. During the meeting, the Singapore representatives ex-

pressed their readiness to set up a semiconductor industry in Telangana. Welcoming the Singapore companies to set up their manufacturing units in Telangana, the Chief Minister assured that the government would extend full support to thier investments in the state. The representatives responded positively regarding the investment proposals. Revanth Reddy briefed the delegation about a slew of major development projects undertaken by the state government and sought the financial support of the Singapore.

The representatives from Singapore have been invited to attend the prestigious ‘Telangana Global Summit’ scheduled to be held at the Bharat Future City in December this year. Revanth Reddy outlined the important features of the Musi River rejuvenation project and the development of the ‘Future City’. The ongoing works of the first phase of the Musi project covering the stretch from the confluence of the Musi and Eesa rivers up to Gandhi Sarovar and the promotion of

a ‘night economy’ were discussed in the meeting.. The Chief Minister also highlighted the development of the ‘Bharat Future City’ as a net-zero city and the transformation of Hyderabad into a Knowledge Hub from a tourist destination. He informed the Singapore delegation about the agreements entered between Telangana government and the world famous Universities like Harvard, Oxford, MIT, and the London School of Business to establish their offshore campuses in Hyderabad.



CM orders probe into KCR’s farmhouse, alleges 1 lakh crore BRS land scam

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.16

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the Erravelli farmhouse belonging to former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao in Siddipet district, directing officials to complete the probe within 30 days. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly during a debate on prohibited lands under Section 22-A, the Chief Minister instructed officials to verify whether the premises spans 700 acres and questioned why KCR had undisclosed 388 acres of government land within it.



Revanth Reddy declared that any government land identified inside the farmhouse compound would be repossessed and distributed to the poor. Reading out landholding details in the House, the Chief Minister alleged that the Kalvakuntla family holds 439 acres across

31 villages in nine districts, including 123 acres by K.T. Rama Rao’s family, 79 acres by J. Santosh Rao, 67.5 acres by KCR’s immediate family, 37 acres by K. Kavitha, and 30 acres by T. Harish Rao. He added that other close associates and BRS leaders, including

Gangula Kamalakara, Errabelli

Reddy, collectively acquired 650 acres of government land. Revanth Reddy further flagged specific violations, questioning how 11.5 acres of Inam land were incorporated into BRS MLA Jagadish Reddy’s 50-acre farmhouse, and pointing to former MLA Pilot Rohith Reddy’s farmhouse constructed on assigned land at Aziznagar. He noted that under land ceiling laws, a family is limited to 27 acres of wet land or 54 acres of dry land, whereas all property held by KCR constitutes wet agricultural land.

Govt to set up 8 district study circles for minority students: Azharuddin

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.16

The Telangana government will set up eight new minority study circles across the state to make competitive examination coaching more accessible to minority students in rural districts. Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin told the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. Answering questions raised by Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin, the Minister said the new centers will be established in Adilabad, Mahbubnagar, Nalgonda, Hanamkonda, Nizamabad,



Sangareddy, Karimnagar, and Khammam. The decentralisation initiative aims to reduce the need for regional students to travel to the state capital. Azharuddin also highlighted infrastructure upgrades, not-

ing that the central Hyderabad Study Circle has been relocated from a private facility to a dedicated government building equipped with modernised course offerings and planned student housing.

Condolence Meeting Held for Teacher Nasreen Begum

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept, 16

A condolence meeting was held at Jamia-tul-Mominat, Moghalpura, to pay tribute to government teacher Nasreen Begum, wife of retired government school Headmaster Syed Waheedullah Hussaini. The meeting was held under the supervision of Maulana Mufti Dr. Hafiz Mohammad Mastan Ali Qadri, Founder and Administrator of Jamiatul-Mominat, Moghalpura. The programme began with Qur’an recitation and a Qur’-an-khwani conducted by Maulana Mufti Dr. Hafiz Mohammad Saber Pasha Qadri, Chairman of the Languages Development Organisation, for the Isal-e-Sawab of the deceased. Prayers were offered for the forgiveness of the departed soul and for patience and strength for the bereaved family. Speaking on the occasion, Syed Waheedullah Hussaini recalled the contribution of his late wife to education and said she had treated teaching as a responsibility rather than merely a profession. Abdul Aleem Baba also spoke about her life and services and expressed his condolences to the bereaved family. Dr. Saber Pasha Qadri paid tribute to Nasreen Begum’s academic and teaching services, observing that teachers played an important role in shaping the intellectual and moral development of future generations.

KIMS Hospitals Secunderabad conducts advanced training in manual therapy

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.16:

The Department of Physiotherapy at KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad, in association with the Manual Therapy Foundation of India, conducted a two-day advanced training programme on manual therapy, focusing on lymphatic and visceral manipulation, neural tissue mobilisation and craniosacral therapy. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Ramesh Babu Moparathi, Head of the Department of Physiotherapy, KIMS Secunderabad, with Dr. Umashankar Mohanty of the Manual Therapy Foundation of India serving as the resource



person. Physiotherapists and representatives from various States participated in the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ramesh Babu Moparathi said that physiotherapy was an evolving field and it was important for both young and practicing physiother-

apists to keep themselves updated with advances in treatment techniques and manual therapy approaches. “Continuous training in advanced therapeutic techniques helps physiotherapists strengthen their clinical skills and apply evidence-based approaches in their practice,

TGSRTC TO DEVELOP 13 MODERN ‘MODEL BUS STATIONS

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 16

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is set to modernise passenger facilities with the development of model bus stations at 13 locations across the state. Thanks to the innovative vision of the Telangana government and RTC managing director Y Nagi Reddy, the transport department has granted approval to construct the said ‘model bus stations’. The proposed facilities will go beyond conventional bus stations and feature modern amenities, including commercial complexes, food courts and entertainment zones.

Mohammed Al Hajri Congratulates Mahesh Kumar Goud on 2 Years as TPCC President

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept, 16

Hyderabad: Contested MLA & In-charge, Karwan Assembly Constituency, Janab Osman Bin Mohammed Al Hajri, extended his heartfelt congratulations and warm greetings to TPCC President and MLC Janab B. Mahesh Kumar Goud on successfully completing two years in office as the President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC). Janab Osman Bin Mohammed Al Hajri appreciated Mahesh Kumar Goud’s committed leadership, organisational efforts and active engagement with the Congress cadre, particularly his efforts



towards strengthening the party organisation at the grassroots and booth levels. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the TPCC

President’s dedicated efforts in strengthening the Congress organisation across Telangana and energising party workers during his tenure.

Tahreek Muslim Shabban to Organise Public Meeting on Hyderabad Merger Day and the Legacy of Nizam-e-Deccan

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.16:

Tahreek Muslim Shabban will organise a public meeting on the occasion of Hyderabad Merger Day and to commemorate the role and legacy of the Nizam of Deccan. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2026, after Zuhr prayers at 1:30 p.m. at Masjid Jodeh, King Kothi, Hyderabad. Mr. Mohammed Mushtaq Mallik, President of Tahreek Muslim Shabban, will preside over the meeting. Scholars and prominent speakers, including Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Engineer, Maulana Shuttari and Mr. Raheemullah Niyazi, will address the gathering. Other speakers will also participate in the programme.

BRS stalled Assembly session fearing exposure of its misdeeds: Revanth

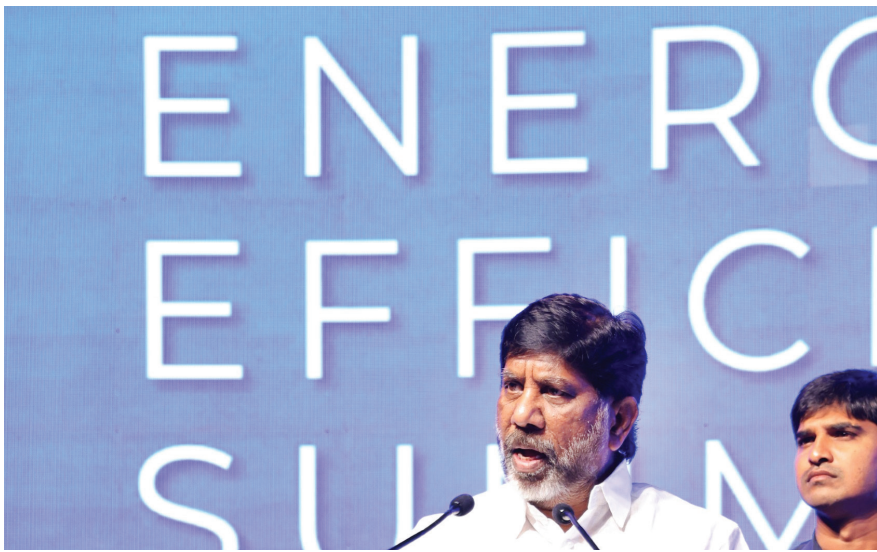
NSS
Hyderabad, Sept, 16

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday accused the opposition BRS of deliberately obstructing the Assembly proceedings out of fear that its alleged misdeeds would come to light during debates on land-related issues. Participating in the debate on the 22-A prohibited properties list in the Assembly, Revanth Reddy alleged that the BRS created pandemonium in the House to prevent discussions on issues such as alleged plundering of government lands, fee reimbursement, the drought

situation and occult rituals reportedly performed by some individuals. He also criticised BRS members for failing to respect the Speaker despite being allowed to attend the proceedings after allegedly making derogatory remarks against the Chair. “The BRS MLAs verbally abused the police, staged a semi-nude protest and even insulted the Speaker. The Speaker permitted them to attend the session in the hope that they would apologise and participate in the debate on issues concerning the people. Instead, the BRS MLAs created a ruckus in the House, forcing the

Speaker to suspend them,” he said. “Respecting the Speaker is a tradition that every member should follow. The Speaker is responsible for protecting the rights of every member of the House,” the Chief Minister added. Revanth Reddy pointed out that it was the previous government that had formulated certain rules governing the conduct of Assembly proceedings. The Speaker issued directions in accordance with those rules, and the police enforced the Speaker’s directives at Gate No. 3, he said. The Chief Minister also rejected the Opposition’s

claim that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had entered Parliament wearing a black T-shirt. He said the Lok Sabha Speaker had not imposed any such restriction in Parliament. “If the Speaker had issued orders prohibiting entry to members wearing T-shirts bearing slogans, they would have complied,” Revanth Reddy said. Highlighting his government’s focus on women’s empowerment, the Chief Minister said the government was committed to safeguarding the self-respect of women and had set a target of creating 10 million women ‘crorepatis’. (NSS)



Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that the growing demand for electricity can be met through efficient energy use and power conservation, and that it is not necessary to rely solely on generating additional electricity.Addressing the two-day 25th CII Energy Efficiency Summit-2026, held at HICC in Hyderabad on Wednesday, he said that one unit of electricity saved by avoiding unnecessary consumption is cheaper than one unit of electricity generated. He said energy efficiency should be viewed not merely as an environmental protection measure, but as a strategy to promote economic competitiveness and industrial growth.

CM Revanth announces high-level panel to resolve land-related issues

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 16

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday made a comprehensive statement in the Telangana Legislative Assembly on land-related issues, the prohibited properties list under Section

22-A and deficiencies in the Dharani portal. He announced that the government would constitute a high-level committee to address and resolve various land-related issues. The Chief Minister also announced several key deci-

sions concerning Indiramma housing beneficiaries, people affected by issues on the Dharani portal and residents of urban areas. Reddy said the government had decided to provide relief to beneficiaries who had received Indiramma houses on

government land. Under the rules, beneficiaries would be permitted to sell the properties after completion of the five-year lock-in period. The Chief Minister clarified that the registration process would be completed

immediately upon payment of the registration fee and applicable NALA charges. Explaining the inclusion of lands in the prohibited list, Revanth Reddy said the government had incorporated the properties in 2025 based on lists obtained from district

collectors following directions from the High Court. He said difficulties arose in cases where a single survey number comprised both government and private land, resulting in a lack of clarity among registrars and revenue officials. When the Dharani

portal was initially launched, more than seven lakh acres of land had been included in the prohibited list. However, following measures taken by the government, the extent had come down to less than three lakh acres by 2026, Revanth Reddy said. (NSS)



At a Glance

Newlyweds killed in Karnataka hit-and-run

IANSTumakuru, Sep. 16



A newlywed couple was killed after their motorcycle was allegedly hit by an unidentified vehicle near Dwaralu on NH-48, close to Sira in Tumakuru district.

Darshan, 25, and his wife Usharani, 21, residents of Hunasikatte village, died in the accident. The couple had reportedly married around one-and-a-half months ago.

According to police, the couple was out on a motorcycle ride when an unidentified vehicle hit their bike near Dwaralu. Darshan died on the spot, while Usharani suffered serious injuries and died while being taken to hospital. The vehicle fled the scene.

Tavarekere police have registered a case and launched an investigation to trace the vehicle and its driver.

AMIT SHAH TO VISIT GUJARAT, FLAG OFF BIKE YATRA ON MODI'S B'DAY

IANSAhmedabad, Sep. 16

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Gujarat's Vadnagar on Thursday to flag off the Bharatiya Janata Party's 'Vadnagar to Varanasi' Seva Sankalp Bike Yatra as part of a nationwide campaign marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, and 25 years in public life.

Shah will flag off the yatra at 9:30 a.m. from Vadnagar, Modi's birthplace, and participate in several programmes during the day. A parallel 'Varanasi to Vadnagar' yatra will begin simultaneously from Varanasi, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu among those expected to attend.

The twin yatras are the main feature of the BJP's 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' and will together cover around 40,000 km across 193 districts and nearly



1,159 villages in 10 states. Around 1,000 young people are expected to participate, with 500 travelling in each direction. The yatras are scheduled to conclude on October 7.

In Vadnagar, Shah's programme will begin at 8:15 a.m. with a Maha Aarti at Sharmishtha Lake, followed by a padayatra, preparations for the bike yatra and a cleanliness campaign at Hatkeshwar Mahadev Temple. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, state

BJP president Jagdish Vishwakarma and Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi are expected to attend.

The campaign will include tree plantation, cleanliness drives, Nasha Mukta Bharat and TB Mukta Bharat activities, and water-conservation awareness programmes. The yatras will also feature interactions with government scheme beneficiaries, youth and women associated with empowerment programmes, besides felicitations for sani-

tation workers.

Four preparatory sub-yatras began from Somnath, Shamlaji, Pavagadh and Unai Mataji on September 13 and are travelling towards Vadnagar. Water collected from rivers, lakes, wells and other sources along their routes will be taken to Vadnagar in a 'Jal Kalash Rath'. Water from Sharmishtha Lake will be added before a Jalabhishek at Hatkeshwar Mahadev Temple. The Jal Kalash will then travel to Varanasi, where additional water will be collected for a Jalabhishek at Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

After the Vadnagar programme, Shah will visit Ahmedabad. At 5:15 p.m., he will offer prayers at Shri Jagannath Temple in Jamalpur, followed by the 'Aashirwad No Deewo' programme at Kankaria Lake at 5:45 p.m. He will later attend the Ganesh Mahotsav organised by the Sardar Patel Seva Dal at Sardar Patel Chowk in Vastrapur at 7 p.m.

UNNECESSARY OPPOSITION CANNOT FORCE PM MODI TO BACKTRACK: RAJNATH SINGH

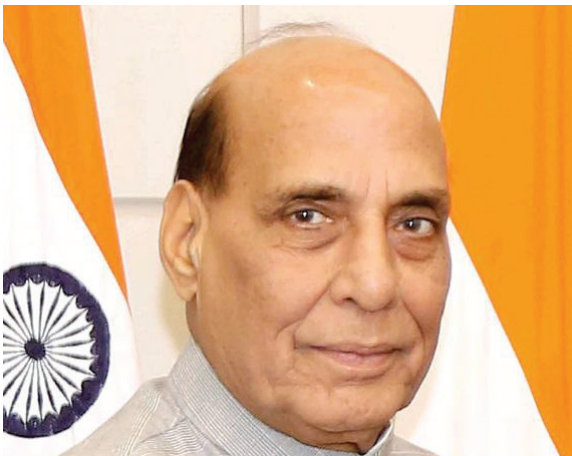
IANSKolkata, Sep. 16

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not backtrack from his commitments to the people despite opposition, which he described as unnecessary or baseless.

"Some people, when they face opposition, move away from their path. Our Prime Minister always faces a lot of opposition, but he never backs out. Instead, he becomes even more committed to securing the future of the country," Singh said at a programme in Kolkata marking the launch of the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan', being organised on the occasion of Modi's birthday on September 17.

Singh said 59 crore accounts had already been opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), with women accounting for a majority of the beneficiaries.

He said there had also been opposition to the opening of Jan Dhan accounts, but it did not



stop the Prime Minister from pursuing the initiative.

Singh also highlighted the growth of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), saying the digital payments system had received praise from French President Emmanuel Macron.

"When UPI was launched in India, many thought it would not succeed. Some even questioned whether it would benefit poor people. Today, UPI has been running in the country for the last 10 years. In August, 23.66 billion transactions were made," he said.

Singh said UPI was now being introduced in several countries and described it as more than a

technology, saying it had brought about a "revolution".

Later, speaking to the media, Singh praised West Bengal Chief Minister Suven- du Adhikari for his performance during the first four months of his tenure.

"Bengal will move forward under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under his leadership, the BJP formed the government in West Bengal for the first time since Independence. Suven- du Adhikari has become the Chief Minister," he said.

Singh said he believed West Bengal under Adhikari's leadership would emerge as the world's first shipbuilding hub.

WOMAN DRAGGED ON CAR BONNET AFTER DISPUTE IN LUCKNOW

IANSLucknow, Sep. 16

A woman was allegedly dragged on the bonnet of a moving car after she confronted a man she identified as her boyfriend for visiting Janeshwar Mishra Park in Gomti Nagar with another woman. A video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

According to reports, the woman tried to stop the car and speak to the driver after an argument. The vehicle initially moved slowly, with the woman lying across its bonnet and repeatedly asking the driver to stop. As the car gained speed, she fell from the bonnet and the driver allegedly fled the spot.

The woman was injured and taken to a hospital. A complaint has been submitted to the police, which is examining the video and other evidence. Investigators are also using the vehicle's registration number to trace the driver.



The incident comes amid reports of another hit-and-run case in Greater Noida earlier this month. In that case, a man identified as Himanshu Rai was injured after being hit by a speeding vehicle while returning after buying a cake for his birthday.

Rai's wife, who was with him at the time, said the impact was sudden and severe. Rai is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital.

The latest Commons image of Janeshwar Mishra Park is dated June 29, 2026 and is licensed CC BY 4.0; attribution to photographer Yasmennn is required.

Samrat Choudhary, Shivraj Chouhan inspect flood relief camp in Munger

IANSPatna, Sep. 16

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary and Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited Munger on Wednesday to assess the situation of families displaced by floods in the Ganga and review relief measures.

The leaders inspected a flood relief camp at the High School in Sitakund under Sadar block and interacted with affected families. They heard their grievances and reviewed arrangements for drinking water, food and medical services. They also inspected meal distribution and oversaw arrangements for serving food to displaced people.

Choudhary told the affected families that the state government stood firmly with them during the natural calamity. He assured them that immediate steps would be taken to compensate for losses



to houses, livestock and private property.

"Displaced and affected families would receive financial and material assistance in accordance with established government norms," he said.

The Chief Minister said efforts were being made to help affected families return to normal life at the earliest.

Chouhan said the Centre and state governments were committed to supporting farmers affected by the floods. He said the Agriculture Department was conducting a detailed assessment of damage to

paddy, maize and vegetable crops, with officials instructed to complete the exercise promptly.

Once the assessment and damage data are finalised, eligible farmers would receive compensation directly in their bank accounts as per applicable norms, Chouhan said.

During the visit, the leaders inspected assistance stalls set up at the camp by the Health, Public Health Engineering and Animal Husbandry departments. They reviewed the distribution of relief packets, drinking water supplied through tankers and the

availability of medicines with divisional and district officials.

Choudhary and Chouhan directed officials to ensure that relief and rescue operations continued without negligence. They stressed that dry rations, cooked food and medicines must reach every affected family, particularly those in vulnerable and remote areas, without delay.

After the inspection, Choudhary returned to Patna as scheduled, while Chouhan proceeded to Bhagalpur for a further assessment of the flood situation.

Census Phase-1 field work completed within deadline in Bengal: Suven- du Adhikari

IANSKolkata, Sep. 16



West Bengal Chief Minister Suven- du Adhikari on Wednesday said the first phase of Census field work had been completed across the state within the prescribed deadline of September 14.

Taking to X, Adhikari described the achieve-

ment as a "proud and momentous milestone" for West Bengal and credited the state's administrative machinery for completing the exercise with speed and accuracy.

"I am immensely pleased to share that West Bengal has achieved 100 per cent field work completion for Census Phase-1 well within the deadline of September 14," he said.

According to Adhikari, all 1,73,066 Houselisting Blocks (HLBs) across every district, subdivision, block, municipal corporation and municipality had achieved complete coverage.

He said more than 3.68 crore census houses, or 3,68,30,150 houses, had been enumerated against a projected 3.69 crore, representing nearly 99.7 per cent of the expected households.

The Chief Minister said the large-scale exercise would not have been possible without the efforts of grassroots enumerators and supervisors, who reached households across different parts of the state, including hills, plains and riverine areas.

He also thanked district administrations, including District Magistrates, Sub-

Divisional Officers, Block Development Officers, Municipal Commissioners and other officials, for co-ordinating the exercise.

Adhikari expressed gratitude to citizens for their cooperation and hospitality towards the field workers.

"My deepest thanks to every citizen of our state for their warm hospitality, patient cooperation, and proactive participation in opening their doors to our enumerators," he said, adding that collective commitment and cooperation had helped West Bengal complete the exercise within the deadline.

8TH PAY COMMISSION BEGINS CONSULTATIONS IN CHANDIGARH

IANSLNew Delhi, Sep. 16

The Eighth Central Pay Commission began a three-day visit to Chandigarh on Wednesday for consultations on pay and pension-related matters.

The commission will meet civil service unions, pensioner groups and regional administration representatives till Friday. Stakeholders from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh are expected to submit their views on pay and pension revision.

Employee associations, pensioner organisations and groups representing railway and defence personnel will

also present their demands. The feedback will form part of the inputs considered while preparing the commission's recommendations.

The commission is headed by former Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai. Its members include former IAS officer Pankaj Jain, the Member-Secretary, and Pulak Ghosh, Professor of Finance and a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

The exercise could affect more than one crore employees and pensioners, including around 50 lakh Central government employees and 65 lakh pensioners.

Employee unions are seeking a higher fitment factor, changes to the Dearness Allowance framework and revisions to house rent, transport and hardship allowances.

Pensioner groups have sought stronger safeguards for retirement income, enhanced family pensions and improved healthcare support.

Employee bodies are also seeking changes in promotion structures and service conditions.

Under its Terms of Reference, the commission has 18 months from its constitution on November 3, 2025, to submit its recommendations.

Husband held in Delhi murder case

IANSLNew Delhi, Sep. 16

Delhi Police said they solved a murder case within 16 hours by arresting a 24-year-old man for allegedly strangling his wife after an altercation amid strained marital relations. The 32-year-old woman was found dead at her home in Punjabi Basti, Baljeet Nagar, on September 14. Her 10-year-old daughter told police she saw her father checking her mother's breathing before he left. Police said technical investigation and local intelligence led to the arrest of Chandrapal Bhati from Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh. He allegedly confessed during questioning; police said he had no prior record.

At a Glance

Bangladesh violence alarms rights body

IANSDhaka, Sep. 16

Bangladesh rights organisation Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has condemned rape, abuse and killings of women and children, calling it “deeply alarming and unacceptable”.

MJF expressed shock over the rape and killing of a seven-year-old girl in Madarganj upazila of Jamalpur district. Police said she was sexually assaulted before being killed, with her body found buried beneath a house floor, The Dhaka Tribune reported.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said the case reflects wider violence nationwide. She urged prompt investigations, accountability and stronger protection.

“We cannot allow these incidents to become headlines for a few days and then disappear,” Anam said.

MJF called for stronger safeguards, including functioning Sexual Harassment Committees in educational institutions. The Human Rights Support Society reported 249 cases of violence against women and children in August, including 79 rape cases and 46 child victims.

Diesel Hike Hits Pakistan Transporters

IANSIslamabad Sep. 16

Rising diesel prices are forcing goods transporters in Pakistan to suspend operations as fuel costs erode earnings, All Pakistan Goods Transport Owners Association President Muhammad Owais Chaudhry said. Chaudhry said expensive diesel, taxes and levies had turned vehicle savings into losses. He urged the government to cut petrol and diesel prices and provide relief.

On Tuesday, the government raised petrol by PKR 4.10 per litre and high-speed diesel (HSD) by PKR 6.41. Petrol will now cost PKR 384.34 per litre, while HSD has reached PKR 415.83W, Dawn reported. Taxes and duties remain high on both fuels. The new prices took effect Wednesday. Pakistan has shifted to regular fuel-price revisions amid international market fluctuations and renewed Iran-US tensions. Prices persist.

IRAN WAR COST US \$38 BILLION: CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

IANSWashington, Sep. 16

The US military campaign against Iran has cost the Pentagon about \$38 billion as of August 1, 2026, with monthly costs expected to range from \$2 billion to \$3 billion depending on the intensity of fighting, according to a new Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report.

The nonpartisan agency said the estimate covers the cost of replacing expended munitions and equipment lost in battle, increased flying hours, fuel and other operational expenses. CBO said the initial, intense phase of the conflict lasted just over a month, while lower-intensity combat operations have continued.

CBO estimated that an additional month of conflict would cost about \$2 billion if violence remained at the levels seen in May and June. If fighting returned to roughly the intensity recorded in July, monthly costs could rise to \$3 billion, with costs potentially higher if hostilities escalate further.

The agency said it relied on government databases and publicly available reports because



the Department of Defense did not respond to its requests for information. As a result, CBO said its estimates were subject to considerable uncertainty.

The report also highlighted the depletion of US missile-defence interceptors. CBO said the large expenditure had reduced the country’s inventory and could leave a shortfall for several years. It warned that such a shortage could become particularly significant if the US faced an adversary with large ballistic and cruise-missile arsenals, citing China in the context of a potential conflict involving Taiwan.

The conflict has also af-

fected energy markets, according to CBO. Reduced shipments of oil and natural gas through the Strait of Hormuz, along with disruptions to shipping through the Red Sea, have increased global energy prices and affected the cost of refined fuels such as petrol, diesel and jet fuel.

CBO estimated that higher energy prices added 2.3 percentage points to the annualised inflation rate in the second quarter of 2026. It projected that inflation in the first quarter of 2027 would be 0.5 percentage points higher than forecast in February. Higher inflation and interest rates were also expected to affect US Treasury

borrowing costs.

The report noted that its \$38 billion estimate did not include costs borne by other federal agencies, basic military operating expenses already included in the federal budget, or potential costs linked to diplomatic operations and foreign assistance.

The White House had requested \$87.6 billion in supplemental funding, including \$67.1 billion for the Department of Defense. CBO said about \$42.3 billion of the Pentagon request appeared directly related to the conflict, roughly 10 per cent more than its estimated costs at the time of the assessment.

SOUTH AFRICA PUSHES BACK AT US VISA CURBS, DEFENDS ITS DOMESTIC POLICIES

IANSJohannesburg, Sep. 16

South Africa on Wednesday rejected new US visa restrictions announced by Washington, saying the move mischaracterised its domestic policies and undermined efforts to resolve bilateral differences through diplomatic engagement.

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola said the announcement reflected what he described as a mischaracterisation of South Africa’s policies by groups claiming to represent minorities and Afrikaners. He said Pretoria recognised that Washington could hold different views on its policies, but expected South Africa’s sovereignty, democracy and Constitution to be respected.

Lamola said South Africa remained committed to addressing domestic challenges through constitutional institutions, democratic processes and the rule of law, with the aim of building a more equal and inclusive society. He added that ongoing bilateral discussions showed the importance both countries attached to finding a lasting solution. “Challenges in our bi-



lateral relations with the United States can only be resolved by constructive engagement through state actors on both sides of the diplomatic channel, not unilateral acts,” Lamola said.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the new visa policy on Tuesday, targeting foreign nationals whom Washington holds responsible for, or complicit in, laws or policies involving uncompensated land seizures, race-based discrimination or the incitement of imminent violence against minority ethnic or racial groups in South Africa.

Rubio said the United States remained concerned about what it described as racially motivated crime and government-sponsored discrimination against Afrikaners and other minority populations. He cited race-based legislation, land expropri-

ation without compensation and alleged incitement of racial violence.

South Africa has rejected claims that it is confiscating land or mistreating specific groups. The two governments have continued to differ over issues including land reform and policies aimed at addressing racial inequality following apartheid.

Afrikaners are a white ethnic group in South Africa, largely descended from Dutch, French and German settlers who arrived at the Cape from the 17th century.

The latest restrictions add to tensions between Pretoria and Washington. In February 2025, shortly after beginning his second term, US President Donald Trump ordered his administration to facilitate the resettlement of Afrikaners from South Africa as refugees, citing alleged racial discrimination and persecution. South Africa rejected those allegations.

Lamola said Pretoria would continue to pursue its domestic policies through its constitutional and democratic framework and called for differences with Washington to be addressed through dialogue and diplomatic channels.

LUXURY BRANDS SCALE BACK CHINA STORES AS DEMAND WEAKENS

IANSENew Delhi, Sep. 16

International luxury brands are scaling back their retail presence in China amid weaker consumer demand, with store closures and falling sales highlighting the challenges facing the country’s high-end market.

A report by Uganda-based Nile Post said brands including Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Balenciaga and Rolex were closing outlets in China as wealthy consumers reduced spending. Recent reports also confirm a broader pullback. Louis Vuitton closed its only store in Guizhou on August 31 as it reassessed its retail network.

Sales at China’s 25 largest luxury brands fell by more than 10 per cent in July, according to research firms cited by Bloomberg. Louis Vuitton, Dior, Gucci, Bottega Veneta and Balenciaga recorded double-digit declines, while growth at Chanel



and Prada also slowed.

The slowdown comes as Chinese consumers face weaker property markets and subdued domestic spending. Official data showed retail sales rose only 0.4 per cent year-on-year in August, while property investment fell 19.9 per cent, according to Reuters.

The Nile Post report said high-net-worth consumers were planning to reduce luxury purchases amid tighter tax oversight, volatile financial markets and prolonged weakness in the property sector. It also said upper-middle-class households were cutting discretionary spending under pressure from mortgages, education costs and other expenses.

The report further said weaker demand was af-

fecting second-hand luxury markets, where prices of products such as Rolex watches and Louis Vuitton handbags had declined.

The developments reflect a broader reassessment by luxury companies of their Chinese store networks. Kering CEO Luca de Meo said in April that Gucci needed to rebuild its position in China after years of rapid expansion and weaker consumer spending.

China remains a major market for global luxury companies, but recent data indicate that softer consumption, property-sector weakness and changing spending patterns are forcing brands to become more selective about physical stores and investment.

Three killed as helicopter crashes in Los Angeles

IANSLos Angeles, Sep. 16

At least three people were killed after a helicopter crashed in the Chatsworth area of Los Angeles late Tuesday, local authorities said. One person was taken to a nearby hospital, though their condition was not immediately known.

NBC Los Angeles confirmed that its news helicopter crashed while its crew was covering an earli-

er SUV-Metro bus collision in Chatsworth during a live report.

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) reported the crash at 9151 N. Mason Avenue. Preliminary information indicated that the helicopter came down around 7 p.m. between two commercial buildings.

CBS News reported that the aircraft appeared to have landed on two shipping containers and several parked vehicles. The crash

triggered a fire, which was later extinguished by emergency crews.

KTLA, citing preliminary information, reported that at least one person had been pulled from the wreckage. The total number of injured remained unclear.

The helicopter crashed as authorities and news crews were responding to the earlier collision, in which an SUV struck a Metro bus, killing at least two peo-

ple. Several helicopters had reportedly been flying over the area during the response.

Emergency personnel continued recovery operations at the site, where a canopy was erected over one of the bodies.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) are investigating the helicopter crash. Further details were awaited.



Photojournalist Eliana Moreno and pilot George Marciniw

JAPAN'S OPPOSITION ALLIANCE SPLITS, NEW PARTY PLANNED

IANSTokyo, Sep. 16

Japan’s main opposition Centrist Reform Alliance (CRA) officially disbanded on Wednesday, with 48 of its 49 House of Representatives lawmakers quitting the party, local media reported.

CRA chief Junya Ogawa also stepped down as leader. The alliance had announced its split earlier this month. Of its 49 lower house members, 21 came from the Constitutional Democratic Party of

Japan (CDPJ) and 28 from Komeito.

According to Kyodo News, the CRA will retain one lawmaker to wind up its affairs. The 28 lawmakers affiliated with Komeito are expected to return to the party, while Ogawa plans to form a new party focused on “democratic reform”.

The new party is expected to bring together the remaining 20 former CDPJ lawmakers, although it is uncertain whether they will join. Ogawa will lead the party, with Takeshi Shina as Secretary General.

The CRA, the new party and Komeito will seek to form a parliamentary caucus under a centrist banner to maintain their position as the largest opposition force in the lower house.

Established in January, the CRA united lower house lawmakers from the left-leaning CDPJ and Komeito as a counterweight to the conservative-leaning administration led by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

In the February lower house election, however, the alliance won only 49

seats, falling short of expectations.

Ogawa was elected CRA leader in February, defeating Shina in a vote among the party’s 49 lower house lawmakers. A former CDPJ Secretary General, Ogawa had pledged to strengthen unity and expand external support after the alliance’s poor election performance.

The latest split marks another realignment in Japan’s opposition, with former CRA lawmakers preparing to regroup through a new party and parliamentary caucus.

Houthis say Saudi warplanes carried out 52 strikes across Yemen

IANSSanaa, Sep. 16

Yemen’s Houthi group claimed that Saudi warplanes carried out 52 airstrikes across five provinces over the past 24 hours, as cross-border hostilities between the two sides escalated.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a statement posted on X that F-15 and Typhoon fighter jets carried out the strikes after taking off from air bases in Khamis Mushait and Taif. Sarea said the strikes tar-

geted areas in Taiz, Al-Jawf, Al-Bayda, Saada and Amran provinces. He alleged that schools, bridges, roads and other civilian infrastructure were among the targets and warned that the strikes “will not go unanswered”.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi authorities on the claims, Xinhua news agency reported.

Houthi-run al-Masirah TV separately reported that three civilians, including two children, were killed and two others wounded

in airstrikes on the Dhubbab and Maqbanah districts of Taiz. It also reported further strikes on a government complex in Khadir district, saying there were casualties without providing details.

The reported strikes followed Houthi missile and drone attacks on Khamis Mushait, Abha and Taif on Monday. The Saudi-led coalition said those attacks injured 13 civilians and vowed a “responsible and firm” response.

The escalation comes

amid a Houthi offensive launched on September 3 that has shifted front lines along Yemen’s Red Sea coast. The group claimed to have captured Mocha on September 10 and later advanced towards Bab al-Mandab and seized Mayun Island on September 11.

Yemen’s conflict began in late 2014 when the Houthis seized Sanaa and large parts of northern Yemen. A Saudi-led coalition intervened in March 2015 in support of the internationally recognised government.



Drone Near Mecca: A Dangerous Escalation That Demands Restraint



The reported interception of a Houthi drone near Mecca has added a deeply sensitive dimension to an already dangerous escalation in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia said its air defences intercepted and destroyed a drone south of the holy city on Tuesday evening before it entered Mecca’s prohibited airspace. Saudi officials described the incident as an attempt to target the city, while the Houthis have strongly denied targeting Mecca or any other Islamic holy site.

According to Saudi-led coalition spokesperson Major General Turki Al-Maliki, the drone was intercepted at around 6:50 p.m. local time. He described the incident as the second reported attempt to target Mecca, referring

to a ballistic missile incident in July 2017. Saudi Arabia has stressed that the security of Mecca, the Two Holy Mosques and millions of pilgrims is a red line, and has warned of necessary measures against those responsible.

The Houthis, however, have rejected the Saudi account. Their military spokesman Yahya Saree said their targets were Saudi oil facilities and military positions far from the holy places, insisting that Yemen posed no threat to Islamic sacred sites. This conflicting account makes it important that claims surrounding the incident be examined carefully and independently rather than allowing an already volatile situation to become the basis for further escalation.

The significance of the reported incident goes far beyond the immediate military confrontation. Mecca is Islam’s holiest city and the birthplace of Prophet Muhammad. Millions of Muslims travel there every year for Hajj and Umrah, while the Kaaba remains the direction of prayer for Muslims across the world. Any military incident in its vicinity therefore carries an exceptional religious and humanitarian sensitivity.

The international reaction reflects that sensitivity. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, representing 57 member states, condemned the reported attacks and stressed the need to protect the sanctity of holy sites and mosques. Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

also condemned the reported attempted attack and reaffirmed support for Saudi Arabia.

India, too, has expressed deep concern. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said New Delhi condemns attacks on Saudi Arabia’s sovereign territory and actions that endanger civilian lives and infrastructure. He specifically described the incident near Mecca as particularly concerning because of the city’s special significance to Muslims worldwide, while expressing hope for an early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

The incident comes at a particularly dangerous moment for Saudi Arabia and the wider region. Houthi attacks on Saudi

targets have intensified in recent days, while the group has also expanded its control in parts of Yemen near strategically important Red Sea routes. Saudi Arabia has responded with airstrikes against Houthi-held areas of Yemen. The continuing cycle of attack and retaliation risks opening another front in a conflict that is already connected to wider regional tensions.

The security dimension is also closely linked to the global energy market. Recent attacks and disruptions have affected Saudi oil infrastructure and export routes, while the strategic importance of the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb has grown as shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remains under severe pressure. Any further deterioration could therefore have consequences far beyond Yemen and Saudi Arabia, affecting energy supplies, shipping and international markets.

For Saudi Arabia, the challenge is particularly delicate. The Kingdom must protect its territory and critical infrastructure while ensuring the safety of millions of pilgrims and residents. At the same time, a military response that expands the conflict could carry wider security, economic and humanitarian costs. The Houthis, for their part, face international scrutiny over attacks on Saudi territory and must address the consequences of any actions that could place civilians or sacred

sites at risk. The reported incident near Mecca should therefore serve as a warning rather than another trigger for escalation. Whatever the competing claims about the drone’s intended target, the proximity of military activity to one of Islam’s holiest cities makes restraint essential. Sacred places must remain protected from the wider cycle of regional conflict, and civilian populations should not become victims of geopolitical confrontation.

The priority now should be preventing further escalation, establishing the facts surrounding the incident and creating space for diplomacy. Saudi Arabia’s security concerns, the safety of pilgrims, Yemen’s humanitarian crisis and the wider stability of the Gulf and Red Sea cannot be addressed through an endless cycle of retaliation.

At a time when the Middle East is already facing multiple interconnected conflicts, the reported drone incident near Mecca demonstrates how quickly a regional confrontation can acquire a much wider religious, humanitarian and economic dimension. The international community, particularly countries with influence in the region, should encourage maximum restraint and support diplomatic efforts aimed at restoring peace and stability. The sanctity of Mecca and the safety of those who travel there should remain beyond the reach of military confrontation.

UPI MDR can help make digital payments ecosystem sustainable: Fintech leaders



The introduction of a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions could provide a sustainable revenue model for the digital payments ecosystem and support its expansion to one billion users over the next decade, fintech industry leaders said on Wednesday.

MobiKwik Co-founder, Executive Director and CFO Upasana Taku said UPI has transformed India’s payments landscape over the past decade and played a significant role in expanding access to financial products and services.

However, the rapid growth of UPI has also created a significant cost burden for banks and financial institutions, she said, as transactions currently generate little or no direct revenue despite accounting for a substantial share of their payment portfolios.

“UPI has already transformed the Indian economy, but the ecosystem also needs a sustainable economic model to support its next phase of growth,” Taku said in an interaction with IANS.

She noted that around 500-600 million people currently use UPI and that expanding the platform’s reach to one billion users over the next 10 years would require a stable source of revenue. According to Taku, the server cost associated with a single UPI transaction is currently around 17-20 paise. In addition to these direct costs, banks and fintech companies have to invest heavily in engineering infrastructure, risk management and cybersecurity to operate and secure the payment ecosystem.

She said government incentives provided to support UPI operations have covered only around 10 per cent of the overall cost, making the introduction of MDR an important step towards improving the financial sustainability of the system.

MobiKwik Co-founder, Managing Director and CEO Bipin Preet Singh also backed the move, saying UPI has helped India build the world’s largest real-time payments ecosystem over the past decade.

He pointed out that the infrastructure is largely supported by banks and financial institutions, which incur significant operational and technology costs.

“Introducing UPI MDR can strengthen the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem,” Singh said.

The fintech executives said a sustainable revenue framework would be important for maintaining investments in technology, cybersecurity and risk management as UPI usage continues to expand across the country.

8th Pay Commission begins discussions in Chandigarh

The eighth Central Pay Commission is set to begin a three-day visit to Chandigarh on Wednesday, as part of its consultations on pay and pension-related matters.

The commission will hold meetings with civil service unions, pensioner groups and representatives of the regional administration till Friday.

The discussions are expected to focus on pay conditions and submissions from public sector stakeholders in northern India.

The eighth Central Pay Commission is led by former Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai while its members include Pankaj Jain, a former IAS officer serving as Member-Secretary, and Pulak Ghosh, a tenured Professor of Finance and a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

Representatives from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh are expected to submit their views on the pay and pension revision during the commission’s meetings.

Employee associations, pensioner groups and other stakeholder bodies, including those representing railway and defence personnel, will put forward their views before the panel.

The feedback gathered during these consultations will form part of the inputs considered while framing its recommendations.

The commission’s work could have a bearing on the financial interests of more than one crore employees and pensioners.

The affected population includes around 50 lakh Central government employees and about 65 lakh pensioners, covering defence and railway personnel as well as retirees.

Employee representatives are seeking a higher fitment factor, which would raise the base used to calculate salaries under the next pay revision. Unions are also calling for changes to the Dearness Allowance (DA) framework, including more frequent revisions and a possible merger with basic pay after a specified threshold is reached.

Several submissions seek a review of house rent allowance (HRA), transport allowances and hardship-related payments, with demands for higher rates that take account rising costs in cities and difficult postings. Pensioner organisations are seeking stronger safeguards for retirement income, enhanced family pension provisions and better healthcare support after retirement.

Employee bodies are also raising concerns over promotion structures, service conditions and the competitiveness of government compensation as part of efforts to sustain workforce morale and recruitment.

UPI Users Won’t Be Charged, New MDR Framework to Fund Ecosystem: PhonePe CEO



The new Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) framework for UPI transactions will not impose any charges on customers and the move is necessary to make India’s digital payments ecosystem financially sustainable, PhonePe CEO Sameer Nigam said on Wednesday.

In an interview with IANS, the PhonePe CEO clarified that customers will continue to use UPI without any charges, while small merchants with an annual turnover of less than Rs 1 lakh will also remain outside the MDR regime.

“No, there are no fees for customers on UPI at all. Customers have never been charged for using UPI, nor will they be charged in the future,” Nigam said.

For larger shops, 96 per cent of the transactions, which are all below Rs 2,000, there will be no charge, according to him. He added that merchants,

and not customers, would pay a 0.4 per cent MDR on transactions above Rs 2,000.

He said the revenue generated through MDR would help fund investments by companies and banks that form the UPI ecosystem.

“The industry spends about Rs 10,000 crore to Rs 12,000 crore a year minimum on just keeping UPI infrastructure alive,” Nigam told IANS.

Apart from infrastructure, the sector incurs costs related to KYC, cybersecurity, risk and fraud mitigation, merchant chargebacks and capital expenditure, he added.

“We needed a way to get that revenue back into the industry so that UPI grows in a sustainable manner,” Nigam said.

Asked whether consumers should be concerned about charges, Nigam said there would be no additional cost for them, either

Gold, Silver Miners’ Stocks May Outshine Metals: Report

Gold and silver mining stocks may offer investors a more attractive way to participate in the current precious-metals rally than the metals themselves, a report by Rational Equity Asset Management said on Wednesday.

The report said miners are generating double-digit free cash flow yields even with flat metal prices, supported by stronger balance sheets, healthy cash generation and limited new supply. Mining equities also remain below their decade-average valuations, creating potential for them to outperform bullion.

For Indian investors, who traditionally invest in physical gold and ETFs, mining equities offer additional benefits such as capital appreciation, dividends and buybacks. The report noted that global precious-metal gains combined with rupee movements can further boost INR-denominated returns.

According to the report, Rs 1 lakh invested in 24-karat physical gold at the 2023 breakout would have grown to Rs 2.30 lakh, compared with Rs 2.53 lakh in Indian gold ETFs and Rs 3.77 lakh in global gold mining equities (GDX, INR-converted).

for person-to-person or person-to-merchant transactions.

“There is no charge for the customer. Person-to-person is also free, person-to-merchant is also free,” he said, adding that merchants paying MDR would not be allowed to pass the charge on to customers.

Nigam also said he expected India’s digital payments market to continue growing rapidly despite the introduction of the MDR framework.

According to Nigam, UPI had around 20 crore users by 2020, while the number has now risen to around 50-55 crore.

He said the new revenue model could also help private companies in the fintech sector invest more in marketing, innovation and research and development.

“It is very important that businesses be able to make fair money,” Nigam said.

India approaches Q3 FY27 from a position of relative macroeconomic resilience, despite a more challenging external environment characterised by geopolitical tensions, volatile commodity prices and uneven monsoon conditions, a report showed on Wednesday.

India’s macroeconomic fundamentals nevertheless continue to provide an important buffer against external shocks, according to the Dun & Bradstreet ‘Economic Observer: Q3 FY27 Review’.

The latest GDP release points to a firm start to the fiscal year, with real GDP expanding by 7.8 per cent in Q1 FY27, compared with 6.9 per cent in Q1 FY26, while nominal GDP growth stood at 10.3 per cent.

The upturn was supported by stronger production-side activity, investment momentum and resilient services-sector performance, even as the RBI’s FY2026-27 growth projection of 6.7 per cent implies some moderation over the rest of the year, said the review.

Economic activity during Q1 FY2026-27 was firmly investment-led, with Gross Fixed Capital Formation growing by

11.9 per cent at constant prices, nearly double the 5.8 per cent growth recorded in Q1 FY2025-26.

Industrial production accelerated from 4.9 per cent in April 2026 to 7.3 per cent in June 2026, supported by manufacturing and capital goods, while construction and services activity also remained strong.

High-frequency indicators continued to point to resilient domestic demand, with GST collections, digital payments and electricity consumption holding up, and labour market conditions remaining broadly stable as the unemployment rate eased to 5.1% in Jul 2026.

Foreign exchange reserves remained sizeable, while strong services exports and remittance inflows continued to support external stability.

Going into Q3 FY27, the key macroeconomic risks are likely to arise from food inflation, adverse monsoon outcomes, elevated energy prices and persistent geopolitical uncertainty.

However, strong domestic demand, sustained public capital expenditure and healthy balance-sheet conditions should continue to support economic growth, the report noted.



AFG vs IND: When and where to watch third T20I, know all details

New Delhi, Sep 16:

With the series already secured, India will look to use the third and final T20I against Afghanistan as an opportunity to fine-tune their squad ahead of the Asian Games, with the Arun Jaitley Stadium set to host the contest on Thursday.

The match comes after India produced virtually identical seven-wicket victories in the opening two games. They successfully chased targets of 157 and 160, respectively, leaving Afghanistan with little to show despite moments of individual brilliance.

The second T20I followed a familiar pattern. Rahmanullah Gurbaz fell for a second straight duck before Ibrahim Zadran's 37 provided Afghanistan with some stability. Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan then added 48 for the sixth wicket, helping their side reach 159/8. Nitish Kumar Reddy and Arshdeep Singh claimed five wickets between them.

India's response was largely comfortable, with Sanju Samson's 57, Abhishek Sharma's 39 and Ishan Kishan's unbeaten 38 guiding the hosts home.

The result leaves India with a selection decision for the finale. Shreyas Iyer indicated after Tuesday's win that changes could be made, particularly with the team due to travel to Japan for the Asian Games, which begin on September 19. That could open the door for players who have remained on the sidelines, including teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

Sooryavanshi, the Player



of the Series in India's recent Zimbabwe T20I campaign, has not featured in this series. Samson, meanwhile, returned after being rested in Zimbabwe and has responded with form, while Abhishek has also contributed at the top. With both being established one-format players, breaking up the opening combination may not be an automatic decision.

Ravi Bishnoi is expected to retain his place after coming in for the injured Varun Chakravarthy. Afghanistan could also consider a pace change, with Naveen-ul-Haq having yet to feature despite being fit. Fazalhaq Farooqi, meanwhile, has gone wicketless in the series.

The Delhi conditions could again favour the batters, with short boundaries potentially encouraging another high-scoring encounter. Thunderstorms are forecast, with around 75 per cent cloud cover expected, making conditions worth monitoring before the start.

For India, the final game is less about the series result and more about determining who can make an

impact before the Asian Games assignment begins. For Afghanistan, it offers one last chance to disrupt an otherwise one-sided contest.

When: Thursday, September 17, 7:30 PM IST

Where: Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi

Where to watch: The match will be shown live on Sony Sports Ten 5 SD & HD channels. Live-streaming will be available on the FanCode app and website.

Squads:
India: Shreyas Iyer (c), Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Sanju Samson (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, and Yash Thakur

Afghanistan: Ibrahim Zadran (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Noor Rahman (wk), Sediqullah Atal, Darwish Rasooli, Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Nangyal Kharoti, Noor Ahmad, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Fazal Haq Farooqi, Abdullah Ahmadzai and Naveen-ul-Haq.

ICC Rankings: Abhishek rises to No. 2, Kishan retains top spot



New Delhi, Sep 16:

India's Abhishek Sharma climbed to second place in the latest ICC T20I batting rankings released on Wednesday, while teammate Ishan Kishan retained the top spot after the reigning T20 World Cup champions took an unsailable 2-0 lead in their three-match series against Afghanistan.

Abhishek moved up one place after his blistering 82 in the series opener, overtaking Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan. The left-hander now trails Kishan by 51 rating points, who continues to lead the T20I batting chart.

Sanju Samson was another Indian batter to make significant progress, climbing four places to 30th after his fine half-century in the second match against Afghanistan.

India also made notable gains in the T20I bowling rankings. Varun Chakravarthy rose two places to fifth, while Jasprit Bumrah climbed seven places to 10th. Arshdeep Singh made an 11-place

jump to 14th, and Axar Patel rose six places to 27th after a good display against the hosts. Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai also climbed the T20I all-rounder rankings after scoring an unbeaten half-century in the opening match of the series.

Three Australian players gained places in the ODI rankings following their 59-run victory over Zimbabwe in the series opener in Harare.

Australia pacer Nathan Ellis rose 20 places to 20th among ODI bowlers after taking a five-wicket haul. Matthew Renshaw, named Player of the Match for his 109, moved from outside the top 100 to 68th among batters. Cooper Connolly also climbed nine places to 77th in the ODI batting rankings after scoring 51 at No. 3 against Zimbabwe.

In the Test rankings, England pacer Ollie Robinson reached a new career-high rating and moved up two places to third among bowlers after taking 21 wickets in the recent three-Test series against Pakistan.

Jos Buttler Surpasses Rohit Sharma to Become Second-Highest T20 Run-Scorer

New Delhi, Sep 16:

England's white-ball captain Jos Buttler has surpassed India's Rohit Sharma to become the second-highest run-scorer in T20 cricket.

Buttler achieved the milestone during England's opening T20I against Sri Lanka in Southampton on Tuesday. He scored a quickfire 80 off 44 balls as England secured a commanding 119-run victory.

Before the match, Rohit Sharma had 4,231 runs in T20 cricket and occupied second place on the all-time run-scoring list. Buttler's 80-run knock took his career

tally to 4,292 runs, moving him ahead of the former India captain.

Buttler has reached the mark in 161 matches, averaging 34.33. His T20 record includes two centuries and 29 half-centuries.

England captain Harry Brook was the star of the match, smashing a sensational 114 off just 49 balls. Brook added

128 runs for the second wicket to put England in a commanding position.

Pakistan's Babar Azam continues to lead the T20 run-scoring charts with 4,596 runs at an average of 38.94. Buttler's latest milestone places him firmly among the leading run-scorers in T20 cricket.



So excited to be back: Djokovic confirms China Open return after 11 years



New York, Sep 16:

Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic has confirmed that he will return to Beijing for the China Open, marking his first appearance at the ATP 500 tournament in 11 years.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion made the announcement on social media on Wednesday, sharing a message in both Chinese and English as he expressed his excitement at returning to a city where he enjoyed remarkable success earlier in his career.

"I am very happy to announce that I'm coming back to Beijing after many years to play at the China Open. I'm so excited to be back and to perform in front of you all at the National Tennis Centre, one of the nicest venues in tennis, a place where I have incredible memories and great successes throughout my career. I want to thank all

the Chinese fans for their years-long love and support," Djokovic said in a video shared on Instagram.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion last played at the China Open in 2015 and had previously made six appearances at the tournament between 2009 and 2015.

The 39-year-old will head back to the Chinese capital after a difficult outing at the recently concluded US Open, where he suffered a shock first-round defeat to Argentina's Mariano Navone.

Navone defeated the fourth-seeded Djokovic 7-6(5), 5-7, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 in a marathon four-hour, 36-minute encounter at Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. It was Djokovic's first opening-round defeat at a Grand Slam since 2006.

Djokovic had made a strong start against Navone but struggled physically as the match progressed, par-

ticularly in the final two sets.

Following the defeat, Djokovic described his experience on court as 'an awful feeling' and revealed that he had been dealing with physical problems during matches this season.

"I think it was obvious that it was an awful feeling on the court for me. It's something that I've been carrying, unfortunately, pretty much every match this year. Vomiting, throwing up – a serious issue there. Then my whole body starts to collapse, basically cramping and in pain," Djokovic said after the loss, as quoted by ATP.

"Yeah, the back just gave up in the end and the shoulder, and I couldn't close it out," he added.

The US Open defeat also saw Djokovic drop out of the ATP top 10 for the first time in several years, with the Serbian currently ranked No. 12 in the world.

Rashid Khan Wants Afghanistan to Win a World Cup Before He Retires



New Delhi, Sep 16:

Afghanistan star Rashid Khan says his biggest career ambition is to help his country win an ICC World Cup before he retires. Rashid, who starred with 28 runs and 3/36 in the second T20I against India, said Afghanistan's rise began during the 2023 ODI World Cup, when they defeated major teams including England, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Rashid credited Gujarat Titans coach Ashish Nehra and batting mentor Naeem Amin for helping him develop as a batter. He said he has gained confidence by working more on his batting and believes Afghanistan must now focus on consistently beating top teams rather than celebrating individual upsets.

The leg-spinner also spoke about his improved fitness after back surgery and said he has had no back complaints in 2026. He credited a detailed assessment at Red Bull's High Performance Centre in Salzburg, Austria, for helping him understand areas for improvement.

Rashid said his son Azlan has also brought a new sense of happiness and described him as his "lucky charm", recalling strong performances whenever his son watched him play. He added that Afghan players carry dry fruits and drink green tea while travelling to recreate a feeling of home.

Rashid said playing an international match in Afghanistan remains a dream, but his biggest goal is to help Afghanistan win a World Cup before he retires.

'You have to be mentally positive': Nitish Reddy on injury comeback, management's trust

New Delhi, Sep 16:

Nitish Kumar Reddy's return from injury received a timely boost in India's second T20I against Afghanistan, with the all-rounder delivering a match-winning bowling performance to help India secure a comfortable victory. After an underwhelming outing in the series opener, Nitish said the confidence gained from his second-game performance was exactly what he needed as he continued his comeback from injury.

"It feels great. Every player needs confidence when they're coming back from injury. To be fair, the first game was not that great for me, but in the second game I'm feeling much happier because any player would need this confidence, and I hope I continue this confidence forward," Nitish said in a BCCI video on Wednesday.

Nitish was named Player of the Match after returning impressive figures of 3/24. His spell played a key role in restricting Afghanistan to 159/8 before India chased down the target with seven wickets in hand.

The performance came after the 22-year-old had spoken about the work he



put in at the BCCI Centre of Excellence to regain full fitness. Nitish also highlighted the confidence and backing he has received from the Indian team management since breaking into the national side. He said the trust shown by the management has allowed him to concentrate on his game without constantly worrying about his place in the team.

"It's always been a privilege to be a part of the Indian team and the management. Obviously, they have given me enough opportunities and shown a lot of trust. I think that is what a player actually needs, and that is what I'm getting from the management. I'm pretty happy with that," he said.

However, Nitish acknowledged that the road back from injury has also brought its own mental challenges. He revealed that spending long periods at the Centre of Excellence can be mentally tiring despite the facilities and training available there.

"I have a couple of best friends, and I talk to them every day. It's just mentally very fatiguing at the COE. Obviously, it feels great to have so many facilities there to train, perform and improve whatever ability you have. But I would say I talk to my friends and family, and here and there I go home and come back after one or two days. That gives me some relief," Nitish said.

Asian Games: Sri Lanka name Athapaththu-led 15-member squad

Colombo, Sep 16:

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Wednesday announced a 15-member women's squad for the cricket competition at the 2026 Asian Games, with veteran Chamari Athapaththu named captain.

The squad comes after Sri Lanka's runners-up finish at the recent Women's Asia Cup and features a mix of experienced campaigners and emerging players. Sri Lanka will begin their Asian Games campaign against Malaysia on September 18.

Athapaththu will lead a squad that includes several players who featured in Sri Lanka's recent Asia Cup campaign, although a few notable names have been left out.

Vishmi Gunaratne, who made important contributions during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup and the Women's Asia Cup, does not feature in the 15-member squad. Nilakshika Silva, another player who produced match-winning performances in both tournaments, has also been omitted.

Chetana Vimukthi, who returned to Sri Lanka's squad for the Asia Cup, is another notable absentee.

The selectors have also included two promising teenagers in the squad. Seventeen-year-old Chamudi Praboda, who impressed during the Asia Cup, has earned a place, while 19-year-old Rashmika Sewwandi also makes the

cut. Sewwandi's most recent T20I appearance came against Pakistan in August.

The squad retains considerable experience with Imesha Dulani, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Kaveesha Dilhari, Hasini Perera, Sugandika Kumari, and wicketkeeper Anushka Sanjeevani.

Sri Lanka Squad: Chamari Athapaththu (Captain), Imesha Dulani, Sanjana Kavindi, Hansima Karunaratne, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Anushka Sanjeevani, Kaveesha Dilhari, Hasini Perera, Kaushini Nuthyangana, Nimasha Meepage, Sugandika Kumari, Rashmika Sewwandi, Chamudi Praboda, Mithali Ayodhya, Kawya Kavindi.



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

Husband Allegedly Bites Off Wife’s Nose During Dispute at Her Parents’ Home in Mancherial



A shocking incident was reported from Telangana’s Mancherial district on Wednesday, where a man allegedly bit his wife’s nose during a violent confrontation at her parents’ home following a prolonged marital dispute.

The incident took place in Kotapalli mandal. According to reports, Manichander and Mamatha had been married for eight years and have two daughters. Mamatha had reportedly been staying at her parents’ home for some time amid ongoing family disputes.

Manichander allegedly went to his in-laws’ house on Wednesday to persuade Mamatha to return to their marital home. However, her father reportedly refused to send her with him. This led to an argument between Manichander and his father-in-law.

During the altercation, Manichander allegedly attacked his father-in-law with a stick. When Mamatha intervened in an attempt to protect her father, the accused allegedly assaulted her as well.

The situation reportedly escalated when Manichander allegedly bit Mamatha’s nose, causing a severe injury to the front portion of her nose.

Local residents reportedly intervened and provided her with first aid before she was shifted to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial (MGM) Hospital in Warangal for further treatment.

Police, who were informed about the incident, registered a case and launched an investigation. Further details regarding the case and the accused’s arrest were awaited.

Dutch Travel Couple’s India Experience Goes Viral, “Once You Visit India, You May Never Want to Leave”



A travel video shared by Dutch couple Tony and Lynn has gone viral on social media after they offered an unusual yet highly positive account of their India trip. In the one-minute video, the couple recalled their journey to India two years ago and explained, with a touch of humour, why they believe travellers may not want to leave the country once they experience its landscapes, food and culture.

The couple said that after arriving in New Delhi, they decided to leave the city almost immediately and head towards the mountains. They undertook a 15-hour overnight journey and reached Manali the following morning. Although they could not sleep prop-

erly during the bus ride, the spectacular scenery of Manali left them amazed.

During their stay, the couple visited a riverside café where they tasted Indian food. They praised the meal enthusiastically, describing it as some of the most delicious food they had ever eaten. However, they did not stay for long in the populated areas and instead decided to travel deeper into the mountains.

They later travelled in a tourist bus with three monks towards the high-altitude Himalayan region. On their journey, they crossed a high mountain pass before reaching Leh-Ladakh, a place they described as unlike anything they had seen before.

The couple then under-

took a five-day, unguided trek through the Markha Valley. During the trek, they stayed in small tents and, at times, slept on the floors of local residents’ homes. They also recalled drinking soup with popcorn and using basic toilets along the route. As they continued climbing higher, the surrounding Himalayan scenery became increasingly spectacular.

Their journey eventually took them to the summit of Kongmaru La, from where they witnessed breathtaking views of the surrounding mountain peaks.

The video had received around 500,000 views within about two hours of being posted, with the number continuing to rise rapidly at the time of writ-

ing. The post also attracted a large number of positive reactions and comments from viewers.

One user said they had recently completed the same trek with three friends and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The user added that the spectacular views of the mountain peaks from Kongmaru La were still fresh in their memory.

Another user suggested that the couple visit Kerala on their next trip, praising its backwaters, beaches, greenery, food and culture and describing the state as a “magical” destination. A third user invited Tony and Lynn to return to India, writing, “Tony and Lynn, please visit India again. Atithi Devo Bhava,” referring to the traditional Indian expression that means “the guest is like God.”

Concluding their video, Tony and Lynn gave a humorous twist to the phrase “you should never go to India.” They said that after reflecting on their experience, they realised the real reason one should never go to India is that once you get there, you may never want to leave.

NRI’s House Burglar Gets Trapped in Window Grills While Trying to Escape in Surat



An unusual incident in Gujarat’s Surat has gone viral on social media after a burglar who allegedly entered an NRI’s house to commit theft became trapped in the iron grills while trying to escape.

The incident reportedly took place at Rajaramanagar Society in Surat. According to reports, the man allegedly entered the house of an NRI with the intention of stealing valuables. However, while attempting to flee through the rear side of the house, he became stuck in the grills.

Unable to move either forward or backward, the alleged burglar struggled to free himself from the grills. His attempts to escape reportedly drew the attention of local residents, who gathered at the spot.

Videos circulating on social media purportedly show the man trapped in the grills as locals confront him. Some reports said that residents assaulted him with sticks and stones before the situation was brought under control.

The video of the incident has since gone viral on social media, attracting widespread reactions from users.

Meanwhile, the house owner clarified that no belongings were stolen from the house during the incident.

Girlfriend Jumps Onto Car Bonnet as Boyfriend Tries to Flee With Another Woman in Lucknow



A dramatic incident in Uttar Pradesh’s Lucknow has gone viral on social media after a woman reportedly jumped onto the bonnet of a car to stop her boyfriend from leaving with another woman.

The incident took place near Janeshwar Mishra Park in Gomti Nagar. According to reports, the man had arrived at the park in a car with another woman. After learning about this, his girlfriend reached the spot and confronted him, questioning him over allegedly being with another woman.

An argument reportedly

broke out between the two. The man then attempted to leave the place in his car. The woman stood in front of the vehicle to stop him and climbed onto the bonnet when he tried to drive away.

A video circulating on social media shows the woman striking the bonnet with her hand and shouting at the driver to stop the car. She is heard telling him that she would not move and asking him to stop.

The driver initially moved the car slowly for several minutes, prompting the woman to move back-

wards while remaining on the bonnet. He then reportedly accelerated and drove away. The woman lost her balance, fell onto the road and sustained minor injuries. Police reportedly took a complaint from the woman after learning about the incident. Officers are said to be attempting to identify and locate the man based on the vehicle’s registration number.

The video, apparently recorded by bystanders, has since gone viral on social media, drawing widespread attention to the dramatic confrontation.

2,000-Year-Old Terracotta Pottery Tool Unearthed in Nalgonda

A 2,000-year-old terracotta pottery tool, along with traces of a Kakatiya-era twin-shrine temple and an inscription, has reportedly been discovered at Appajipet village in Nalgonda mandal of Telangana. Members of the Kotha Telangana History Society, Chikkula Yadagiri and Meka Ashok Reddy, discovered the terracotta artefact on Tuesday. The object was found in an agricultural field at Vadlavaripadu, on the outskirts of Appajipet, near the road leading to Domalapalli.

According to Kotha Telangana History Society president Ramoju Haragopal, the artefact is believed to have been used by potters while making earthen vessels. The terracotta tool was reportedly placed inside a pot, while a wooden implement was used from the outside to strike and shape the vessel.

Haragopal said similar terracotta pottery tools have been discovered at Khirra in Indore and are believed to date from around 200 BC to 600 AD. Based on these comparisons, the artefact discovered at Appajipet is believed to be around 2,000 years old. He said the location where the terracotta object was found could potentially yield more ancient artefacts if systematic scientific archaeological research is undertaken.

The discovery of the terracotta object, along with the reported remains of a Kakatiya-era twin-shrine temple and an inscription, has added further interest to the historical significance of the Appajipet area.

Termite-Damaged Currency Notes Found Dumped Near Visakhapatnam Central Park

A large pile of torn currency notes found near Central Park in Visakhapatnam caused a stir after morning walkers noticed the notes lying in front of the park on Wednesday.

The pile contained damaged ₹500, ₹100, ₹50, ₹20 and ₹10 notes, along with several documents. The discovery raised questions about who had dumped such a large quantity of currency notes at the spot.

After receiving information from the walkers, police reached the location, examined the currency notes and launched an investigation. CCTV footage from the surrounding area helped police trace the person who had dumped the material to



Adimoolam Suryarao, a resident of Tadiveedhi in the KGH area.

According to police, Suryarao supplies grocery items to shops and had kept the cash and LIC receipts in a cardboard box at his house. The box was reportedly infested with termites, which damaged the currency notes and documents.

Believing the damaged material to be unusable,

Suryarao allegedly dumped it near Central Park. Police later recovered the currency notes along with LIC receipts and a PAN card and handed the documents back to Suryarao.

The incident attracted attention among local residents and morning walkers, who were initially puzzled by the sight of a large quantity of torn currency notes lying near the park.

Sepehran Airlines Boeing 737 Makes Emergency Landing in Iran After Tyre Problem, Cabin Ceiling Collapses



A Sepehran Airlines Boeing 737 operating from Mashhad to Kermanshah in Iran made an emergency landing at Mashhad Airport on Tuesday after reportedly losing a tyre shortly after takeoff. During the emergency landing, sections of the aircraft’s cabin ceiling collapsed, leaving parts of the internal structure exposed.

According to Brazilian news outlet UOL, citing the Razavi Khorasan provincial government, the aircraft developed a technical problem shortly after departure and the pilots declared an emergency before returning to

Mashhad Airport.

Video released by Iranian news agency Akharin Khabar showed sections of the cabin ceiling lining falling onto passengers during the landing. The footage also showed parts of the aircraft’s internal structure exposed as passengers remained inside the cabin.

Despite the frightening incident, no passenger injuries were reported. All passengers were safely evacuated from the aircraft after it came to a stop.

Initial reports suggested that one of the aircraft’s tyres may have burst

during the takeoff roll. Debris from the damaged tyre was also reportedly believed to have affected the aircraft’s engine. However, the exact nature of the technical problem had not been officially confirmed at the time of the reports.

According to UOL, Sepehran Airlines spokesman Hassan Jafari, citing Iran’s state-run Fars

news agency, said that all passengers disembarked safely and were later transferred to another flight bound for Kermanshah.

The incident occurred at around 5:39 pm local time, according to information released by the Razavi Khorasan provincial government. Mashhad Airport’s runway was temporarily

closed to allow authorities to assess the situation before being reopened later.

Footage from inside the aircraft showed passengers visibly alarmed as parts of the ceiling came down during the emergency landing. Despite the chaos inside the cabin, the pilots managed to bring the aircraft safely back to Mashhad Airport.

MG Windsor EV Moves Without Driver in Ludhiana, Video Goes Viral

A video showing an MG Windsor electric car apparently moving without its owner inside has gone viral on social media, sparking concerns over vehicle safety and technology.

The footage, reportedly recorded in Ludhiana, Punjab, shows the owner walking alongside the moving car and asking people to stay away. He is heard saying that the vehicle is locked and that he has no control over it.

The car’s front wheel appears to move erratical-

ly, while smoke is reportedly visible near the front section. Bystanders later intervened and reportedly broke a window in an attempt to stop the vehicle. The registration number visible in the video is PB10HA0345.

Social media users have raised questions about a possible technical malfunction. Some speculated that the auto-park assist system could be involved, but there is no official confirmation linking the feature to the incident.

The exact cause re-

mains unclear, and the video alone cannot establish whether the issue was related to software, sensors, mechanical components or another fault. Neither MG Motor India nor local police had officially confirmed the circumstances or cause of the incident at the time of reporting.

The viral footage has renewed discussion about the safety of increasingly software-driven vehicles and the need for proper technical inspection when such incidents occur.