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Govt Whip Aadi Srinivas Receives Birthday Greetings from CM Revanth Reddy

Statewatch, Page 2



Centre conspiring to understate BC population: Kavitha

Citybeat, Page 3



Mahua Moitra files complaint over alleged egg attack

Nation, Page 4



Ishan Kishan's 'Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem' Opening During Afghanistan Praise Goes Viral

Sports, Page 7

21 killed, over 80 injured in explosion near mosque in Pakistan

Islamabad, Sept 18

At least 21 people were killed and over 80 others injured after a blast near a mosque in the Police Lines area of Kohat district in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday, local media reported.

District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital's M S Tahir Ali Shah said that 21 bodies along with over 80 injured people were brought to the hospital after the blast, Pakistan-based Geo News reported. The police said that the explosion took place during Friday prayers and caused a crater near the mosque. Police personnel were among those injured in the explosion, according to police.

The police said that an additional contingent of security personnel were rushed to the Police Lines after the explosion. Rescue officials said that the mosque's outer section was severely damaged and a wall collapsed due to the blast. According to officials, rescue operations were being conducted at the site of the incident, Geo News reported.

Deadly attack during Friday prayers at Kohat Police Lines leaves at least 21 dead and scores injured; security forces kill attackers after gun battle.



Aftermath of the deadly attack on the mosque inside Kohat Police Lines in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday.

The explosion took place amid a rise in attacks targeting Pakistani law enforcement personnel, particularly in the provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

On September 10, a constable was killed, and another was seriously injured after unidentified assailants targeted a checkpoint in Kank area of Mastung district of Pakistan's Balochistan province.

According to police, the un-

identified assailants targetted the checkpoint before escaping from the spot after an exchange of fire with the police personnel stationed there, leading Pakistani daily Dawn reported.

After the attack, police and security personnel cordoned off the area and began a search operation to find the attackers.

Meanwhile, a monthly security assessment by Islamabad-based think tank, Pakistan Institute for

- At least 21 people were killed in the attack on the mosque inside the Kohat Police Lines complex in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

- More than 80 people were injured, with some local reports putting the number above 100; many victims were police personnel.

- An explosives-laden vehicle struck the compound during Friday prayers, followed by an attempted assault by armed attackers.

- The mosque and adjoining structures suffered extensive damage, triggering a major rescue and security operation.

Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), has revealed that 199 terrorist attacks were reported in Pakistan in August, in comparison to 144 in July, Dawn reported.

The 199 attacks reported in August claimed 158 lives and injured 181 people, compared to 268 deaths and 216 injuries in July.

Telangana High Court declares Nagender disqualified as MLA

High Court sets aside Speaker's order and declares Khairatabad seat vacant over Nagender's 2024 switch from BRS to Congress.

Hyderabad, Sept 18

The Telangana High Court on Friday disqualified Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender under the anti-defection law and set aside the Assembly Speaker's order rejecting petitions against him.

A bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin held that Nagender stood disqualified from April 23, 2024, after contesting the Secunderabad Lok Sabha election on a Congress ticket while continuing as an MLA elected on a BRS ticket.

Nagender was elected from Khairatabad on a BRS ticket in 2023 before moving to the Congress in 2024. The petitions challenging the Speaker's decision were filed by BJP Legislature Party leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy and BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy.



- Danam Nagender disqualified as Khairatabad MLA under the anti-defection law.
- Disqualification takes effect from April 23, 2024, when he contested the Secunderabad Lok Sabha seat on a Congress ticket while elected as a BRS MLA.
- The High Court set aside Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar's decision rejecting the disqualification petitions.
- The ruling leaves the Khairatabad Assembly seat vacant; the court directed that its order be communicated to the Assembly and Election Commission.

CM urges Centre to sanction 9.56 lakh houses under PMAY-G

Revanth Reddy seeks Centre's approval for remaining 9.56 lakh rural houses, besides support to tackle El Niño-related farm challenges.



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy meets Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Hyderabad on Friday, seeking additional PMAY-G houses for Telangana and Central support for the agriculture sector.

Hyderabad, Sept 18

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday urged the Centre to sanction 9.56 lakh houses to the state under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

He made the demand during a meeting with Union Rural Development and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan here. The Chief Minister thanked the Union Minister for allocating 2 lakh houses to the state in the first phase under the PMAY-G scheme.

Revanth Reddy had submitted a representation

to the Union Minister in Delhi in July, requesting the sanction of houses for 11,56,915 eligible rural families. He requested the Union Minister to allocate the remaining 9.56 lakh houses in line with the state's demand.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the Chief Minister briefed the Union Minister on the impact of El Nino in the state. The CM stated that electricity consumption in the agricultural sector had increased due to rainfall deficit conditions, even as the state government prepared advance plans to prevent shortages of drinking water and elec-

tricity amidst the El Nino situation.

Revant Reddy requested necessary support from the Centre to tackle El Nino-related challenges in the agricultural sector.

He also said that farmers in the state are being encouraged to cultivate alternative crops in light of the El Nino conditions.

The CM requested co-operation from the Centre, emphasising the need to encourage farmers to adopt crop diversification.

The Central minister was told that Telangana is the only state in the country which is providing free fine-quality rice to the poor through ration shops.

Three killed, six injured in school shooting in Philippines

Manila, Sept 18

At least three people were killed and six others injured after a shooting incident at Banga National High School in Banga in the Philippines' South Cotabato, on Friday, local media reported.

South Cotabato Governor Reynald Tamayo has confirmed the casualties, Philstar reported. Philippines Red Cross said that it has mobilised to provide critical life-saving assistance after the school shooting incident at Banga National High School in Banga on Friday.

In a statement on Facebook, Philippines Red Cross said, "Preliminary reports (subject to verification) indicate 6 injured



individuals transported to Dantom Doctors Hospital and South Cotabato Provincial Hospital, one fatality, and the suspected shooter reported to be a student among the injured."

PRC Chairman and CEO Richard J. Gordon said, "Our hearts go out to the school community, and our teams are on the ground ensuring that victims receive immediate care."

Earlier, the Philippines

Department of Education said it is "deeply concerned" over the reported shooting incident at Banga National High School in Banga, South Cotabato. It urged the people to remain calm and refrain from sharing unverified information as authorities continue their investigation. It said that the safety of every learner and member of the school community remains their "foremost priority."

Foreign mercenary plot: court grants default bail to US national VanDyke

New Delhi, Sept 18

A Delhi court on Friday granted default bail to US national Matthew Aaron VanDyke in a case being investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) over allegations of imparting terror training to Myanmar-based ethnic armed groups.

The Special NIA Court at the Rouse Avenue Court Complex granted default bail to VanDyke on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and one surety of a like amount.

The court directed VanDyke to stay in Delhi and remain available for investigation whenever called by the Investigating Officer. VanDyke had sought default bail on the ground of delay in completion of the investigation and filing of the chargesheet in the case. The court also observed that the six Ukrainian nationals arrested in the same case would be entitled to seek default bail on the same ground if they move appropriate bail applications. The NIA had arrested VanDyke along with six Ukrainian nationals in March this year in connection with an alleged international network involved in imparting weapons and drone-related training to insurgent groups across the India-Myanmar border.



Govt's net direct tax collections rise 13 per cent to cross Rs 12.12 lakh cr

New Delhi, Sept 18

The government's net direct tax collection, which includes mainly corporate and income tax, recorded a robust 13 per cent growth to surpass the Rs 12.12 lakh crore mark between April 1 and September 17 of the current financial year compared to the same period of the previous financial year, according to data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Friday.

Gross direct tax collections rose over 15 per cent year-on-year basis to Rs 14.3 lakh crore during the same period, the figures showed.

Corporate tax mop-up grew 19.48 per cent to about Rs 5.56 lakh crore, while personal income tax and collection from Hindu undivided families increased 6 per cent to over Rs 6.16 lakh crore. Securities Transactions Tax (STT) collection jumped 53 per cent to



Rs 40,214 crore between April 1 and September 17 compared to the same period of the previous year.

Refund issuance surged by over 29 per cent to cross Rs 2.2 lakh crore during this period, the data further showed.

Advance tax mop-up, till September 17, increased 16.18 per cent to Rs 5.22 lakh crore. This included an 18 per cent jump in advance corporate tax payments to Rs 4.16 lakh crore, and a 9.24 per cent increase in non-corporate advance tax payments at Rs 1.06 lakh crore.

CBI registers Rs 2,684 crore LIC fraud case against Anil Ambani

New Delhi, Sept 18

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered an FIR based on a written complaint received from Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) against Reliance Capital Limited (RCAP), Anil D. Ambani, former chairman of Reliance Capital, Satish Seth, Group Managing Director of Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, unknown public servants and others in an alleged fraud of Rs 2,684.57 crore, according to an official statement issued by the investigative

agency on Friday.

LIC has alleged that during the period from April 12, 2012 to March 9, 2018, LIC had subscribed to five non-convertible debentures (NCDs) aggregating to Rs 3,900 crore issued by RCAP for general corporate purposes, funding requirements and refinancing of existing debt.

LIC further alleged that the accused persons entered into a criminal conspiracy and committed offences of cheating, criminal breach of trust, criminal misconduct, diversion and misappropriation of funds and falsification of accounts.

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Government Whip Aadi Srinivas Receives Birthday Greetings from CM Revanth Reddy

Munsif Bureau
Sircilla, Sep. 18:

Telangana State Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Aadi Srinivas received birthday greetings from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday.

During a meeting at the Chief Minister's chamber in the Assembly premises, Revanth Reddy warmly welcomed Aadi Srinivas and conveyed his birthday wishes.

The Chief Minister wished him good health and a long life so that he could continue his active role in public service,



contribute to the overall development of the state and work for better governance.

On the occasion, Aadi Srinivas thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his birthday wishes.

District Collector Visits ZP High School in Kamanpur, Reviews Breakfast Programme

Munsif News Bureau
Peddapalli, Sept 18:

District Collector Koya Sri Harsha visited the Zilla Parishad High School in Kamanpur Mandal on Friday. During the visit, he reviewed the breakfast programme being provided to students at the school and had breakfast with them. Later, he interacted with the students and directly sought their feedback on the quality, taste and quantity of the breakfast being served.

The Collector said that when students have breakfast before attending school in the morning, they do not have to worry about hunger



and can concentrate better on their studies.

He said providing nutritious food to students helps improve their health as well as their academic capabilities. He stated that the government is providing students with milk and ragi java along with breakfast every day. He instructed the concerned officials to pay special attention to the quality of the breakfast served to students and ensure effective implementation of the programme.

The Collector also enquired with the students about the quality and taste of the daily breakfast and whether milk or ragi java was being provided regularly.

He directed the officials to take the students' feedback into consideration and further strengthen the implementation of the programme.

Tahsildar Caught Red-Handed by ACB in Mulugu

Munsif News Bureau

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday caught Nallutla Srujan Kumar, Tahsildar of Govindaraopet mandal, red-handed while allegedly accepting Rs.14,000 bribe from a complainant.

According to the ACB, the accused officer had demanded the money for showing official favour in processing the succession of ancestral agricultural land in favour of the complainant's wife, Smt.

Lingala Srilatha.

The officer allegedly initially demanded Rs.15,000 and later agreed to accept Rs.14,000 following negotiations. During the trap at the Mandal Revenue Office, Govindaraopet, the ACB officials caught him accepting the tainted amount with his right hand and keeping it in his right-side trouser pocket.

The bribe money was recovered from his possession. A chemical test conducted on his right-hand fingers reportedly returned a positive result.



The ACB said the Tahsildar had improperly and dishonestly performed his official duties to obtain an undue advantage by accepting illegal gratification.

HOSTEL WARDEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED TAKING BRIBE

NSS
Kothagudem, Sept 18:

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Khammam Range, on Friday caught Bukya Valusimha, warden / record assistant at the ST Boys Hostel, Palvancha, and in-charge of the ST Boys Hostel at Satyanarayanapuram in Charla mandal, red-handed while accepting a Rs.14,000 bribe.

According to the ACB, the accused officer initially demanded Rs.15,000 from the complainant for not treating six days of absence in August 2026 as unauthorised absence



and for avoiding adverse consequences in her service. He also allegedly demanded the amount to ensure that there would be no obstruction in processing her salary bills in future.

Following negotiations, the demand was reduced to Rs.14,000, which the officer allegedly accepted at the Satyanarayanapuram hostel. The tainted amount was recovered from his possession, while chemical tests on both his hands reportedly returned positive results.

The ACB said the officer had acted improperly and dishonestly to obtain an undue advantage. He was arrested and is being produced before the Special Judge for SPE & ACB Cases, Warangal. The case is under investigation.

The identity and details of the complainant have been



Metpally: Sanitation staff at Metpally Municipality received sanitation kits from Municipal Chairperson Mella Rapo Lambadri and Municipal Commissioner D. Srinivas at the municipal premises. Municipal Vice-Chairperson Omkar Naveen, officials concerned, Councillor Khwaja

Restore Public Trust in Government Hospitals and Improve Quality Services: Trainee Collector

Munsif Bureau
Nizamabad :, Sept.18:

A review meeting on various health programmes was held with Medical Officers of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) under the District Medical and Health Department. Trainee Collector Suresh Pamuri, IAS, reviewed the status of healthcare services and issued necessary instructions to the officials.

The Trainee Collector directed officials to restore public confidence in government hospitals by providing quality

and timely medical services. He instructed all Medical Officers to discharge their responsibilities seriously and maintain accountability in their work. Health-related information, reports and records should be maintained accurately and kept up to date.

He emphasised the need to prevent all avoidable deaths and accord special attention to reducing maternal and infant mortality. Deputy DMHOs, Medical Officers and supervisory officers were instructed to regularly monitor health centres through both routine and

surprise inspections. ANMs and ASHA workers should conduct daily door-to-door visits and ensure that health services reach the people. He directed officials to conduct separate review meetings with individual agendas for each health programme, maintain updated records of all health services at the PHC level, and organise diagnostic medical camps regularly.

The Trainee Collector stated that any inappropriate behaviour towards Medical Officers on duty would not be tolerated and that such incidents should immediately be brought to the notice of the District Medical and Health Officer.

He instructed that biomedical waste must be transported only through vehicles of authorised agencies as per prescribed rules and should never be disposed of along with ordinary municipal waste.

He also directed ASHA workers to remain fully aware of their responsibilities, post details of health programmes conducted at PHC level on social media

accounts, and ensure better coordination between ANMs and Anganwadi workers. He stressed the identification of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), their referral to the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) at the Government General Hospital (GGH), and ensuring follow-up care along with treatment. District Medical and Health Officer Dr B. Rajashree said that all the instructions issued by the Trainee Collector would be reviewed and effectively implemented within the jurisdiction of every PHC.

Major Breakthrough in Hari Babu Murder Case as Accused Santosh

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Sept 18:

A major development has taken place in the murder case of Hari Babu, husband of YouTuber Vaishnavi, near the Raj Rajendra Theatre Junction in Nizamabad.

According to police, Santosh, Hari Babu's brother-in-law, surrendered at the Korta Police Station.

Before his surrender, Santosh released a selfie video in which he allegedly confessed to killing Hari Babu. He claimed that he committed the act to avenge an incident involving his sister. He also appealed to the public for support for himself and his family.



Meanwhile, Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, conducted a detailed inspection of the crime scene and reviewed evidence, CCTV footage and information related to eyewitnesses.

He directed officials to complete the investigation impartially and swiftly, collect all

available evidence, and expedite legal action against those involved.

According to the preliminary police investigation, Hari Babu was attacked with multiple knife blows within a few seconds, resulting in his death. Further investigation is underway.

Youth Injured in Drunken Brawl, Dies During Treatment

Munsif News Bureau
Rajampet, Sept 18:

A 26-year-old youth sustained serious injuries in a drunken brawl in the Bhupathirajupeta area of Lingasugur and died while undergoing treatment.

According to reports, a dispute broke out during a Ganesh immersion procession.

While the procession was passing through Shivanna Goud, some youths got into an altercation.

Later, during the night, a group of youngsters attacked Shivanna Goud with stones and weapons, causing severe head injuries.

He was shifted to the Lingasugur Government Hospital, where he died while undergoing treatment. Police registered a case and arrested one person in connection with the incident, while efforts are underway to trace the others involved.

District Collector Reviews Construction Works of Super Speciality Hospital

Munsif Bureau
Warangal, Sept 18:

District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada inspected the ongoing construction works of the Super Speciality Hospital in the district on Friday along with the concerned officials.

During the visit, she reviewed in detail the construction of the hospital building as well as the ongoing works related to various basic amenities.

Following the inspection, the District Collector held a review meeting with officials of the concerned departments on the progress of the hospital construction. During the meeting, she sought details regarding the progress of the hospital building, infrastructure facilities, electrical works, sanitation and other essential amenities.

On the occasion, Dr. Satya Sharada directed the officials to complete all construction works within the stipulated timeframe and make the hospital available to the public at the earliest.



She stressed that prescribed quality standards must be strictly followed in the construction works and that there should be no scope for any shortcomings or negligence.

The District Collector said that completion of the Super Speciality Hospital would provide better and modern medical services not only to the people of Warangal district but also to residents of surrounding areas.

She urged officials of the concerned departments to maintain proper coordination and expedite the construction activities so that hospital services could be made available to the public at the earliest.

Those who attended the review meeting included MGM Superintendent Ram Kumar Reddy, GWMC Deputy Executive Engineer Raj Kumar, NPDCL SE Anandam, R&B EE Rajendra, RDO Soma, L&T Project Director Saravanan, and Tahsildar Srikanth, besides other concerned officials.

"Revanth Reddy cannot escape accountability": BRS MLA

NSS
Suryapet, Sept 18:

Former Minister and BRS MLA G. Jagadish Reddy alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy could not evade responsibility for the errors in handling the 'Section 22-A' land classification issue. Speaking to the media in Suryapet, Jagadish Reddy accused the Chief Minister of diverting public attention by making allegations against

others. He demanded that the government allow BRS legislators to participate in the Assembly and discuss the issue.

Criticising the expulsion of opposition members from the Assembly, he compared the situation to a bowler delivering balls when there was no batsman at the crease.

He said BRS legislators were ready to "hit sixes" if allowed to participate in the proceedings.

Jagadish Reddy also alleged that officials faced strong opposition from Dalits during the land survey at Erravalli.

He claimed that officials visited the farmhouse in the name of conducting a survey without issuing prior notices. He described the proposed high-level committee as an attempt to prolong the issue and questioned the government's handling of the matter.

Revanth urges Centre to extend aid to Telangana amid deficient rainfall

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.18

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to extend necessary assistance to Telangana to tackle drought-like conditions arising from the impact of El Niño.

The Chief Minister met Chouhan, who was in Hyderabad to participate in the Southern States Agriculture Conference, along with Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and Ponguleti Srinivas

Reddy and senior officials.

Revanth Reddy apprised the Union Minister of the prevailing situation in the State due to deficient rainfall and submitted a memorandum seeking the Centre's support.

Revanth Reddy said power consumption in the agriculture sector had increased significantly due to the prevailing dry conditions. He also explained that the State government had made advance arrangements to ensure that there was no shortage of drinking water or electricity.

The Chief Minister said

farmers were being encouraged to take up alternative crops in view of the El Niño conditions and sought the Centre's support to promote crop diversification.

He said the State government was setting up an international-standard fruits and vegetables market spread over 250 acres to promote the cultivation and marketing of alternative crops. Referring to the Centre's allocation of two lakh houses to Telangana in the first phase under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Revanth Reddy thanked the Union Minister for

the support. He recalled that he had submitted a memorandum to Chouhan in Delhi in July, seeking sanction of houses for 11,56,915 eligible rural families in the State.

The Chief Minister requested the Union Minister to allocate the remaining 9.56 lakh houses to Telangana as per the State's requirement.

Revanth Reddy also explained that Telangana was supplying fine rice to poor families through ration shops, describing it as a measure not being implemented elsewhere in the country.



Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu has directed officials to complete all works related to the Godavari Pushkaralu-2027 by April next year and asked various departments to work in coordination under a special action plan.

Dattatraya invites Telangana Governor to Alai Balai

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 18

Former Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya, along with Alai Balai foundation chairperson Bandaru Vijayalakshmi, met Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan here on Friday.

Dattatraya invited the Governor to the Alai Balai programme, scheduled to be held at the Hyderabad Exhibition Grounds on October 22.

He explained that the annual event has evolved into a celebration and symbol of Telangana's rich culture, traditions and spirit of togetherness.



Ahead of the immersion of the Ganesha idols at Lok Bhavan, the Governor offered special prayers to Lord Ganesha at the Main House

in Durbar Hall of Lok Bhavan here on Friday.

The Governor prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people of

Telangana. Governor's Joint Secretary K Shashi Kiran along with Lok Bhavan officials and staff, participated in the programme. (NSS)

Centre conspiring to understate BC population: Kavitha

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.18

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) President Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Friday alleged that the Central Government is engaging in a political conspiracy to understate the Backward Class (BC) population and prevent weaker sections from launching a united struggle for their rights.

Speaking at the "Politics Beyond Caste" conference, organized by the United Forum for SC, ST Employees and Sakala Jana Seva Sansthan in Banjara Hills, Kavitha claimed the Centre is attempting to divide weaker sections into individual caste groups rather than providing a clear, comprehensive caste-wise break-up in the OBC census



column.

The TRS chief urged the Centre to eliminate ambiguity surrounding BC demographics during the ongoing enumeration process.

She asserted that BC communities would reject a mere general caste column that lacks proper community enu-

meration, demanding instead that state-specific caste lists and sub-castes be accurately uploaded.

Without detailed sub-caste tracking, she warned, the BC population risks being significantly understated.

Kavitha noted that the administrative status of a given

caste often varies from state to state.

The TRS president argued that this issue can only be resolved by including sub-castes directly in the census, preventing sub-caste members from being wrongfully categorised or denied social justice.

Govt sets up 3-member panel for fast-track relief on 22-A lands

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept 18:

In a major relief to thousands of affected property owners, the Telangana government has constituted a high-level committee to resolve long-pending issues surrounding lands listed under the 22-A prohibited list.

The three-member panel has been set up following an assurance by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in the State Assembly to expedite stalled land registrations across the state.

The committee is headed by Chief Commissioner of Land Administration

(CCLA) Lokesh Kumar, with Law Secretary Papireddy and IG (Registrations and Stamps) Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanthu serving as members. The panel was formally finalised on the directives of Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy to ensure swift administrative execution.

The high-level body will examine revenue entries, classification records, legal disputes, and public objections to clear eligible private properties incorrectly flagged under Section 22-A. move follows the Chief Minister's recently an-

nounced 12-point action plan in the Assembly, aimed at streamlining state land administration.

The plan targets pressing issues, including assigned lands, plots in approved layouts, regularizations under GO 59 and GO 118, NALA charges, and unauthorised layouts.

With instructions from top leadership to eliminate procedural delays, the committee's recommendations are expected to provide long-awaited relief to genuine title holders whose property transactions have been frozen for years. (NSS)

Survey of lands around KCR's Erravelli farmhouse

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 18

Revenue officials continued their survey of lands surrounding former CM Chandrashekar Rao's farmhouse in Erravelli village of Siddipet district for the second consecutive day on Friday.

Officials are currently inspecting 388 acres under Survey No. 325 to verify the exact extent of government land in the area. Alongside ground verification, a satellite survey is being deployed to map the boundaries accurately. Markook mandal revenue officials are compiling a comprehensive report detailing various survey numbers and records of farmers who previously owned the parcels.

"I WILL FIGHT CONGRESS CONSPIRACIES": KTR

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.18:

BRS working president and MLA K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) said he would continue to fight the "conspiracies" by the Congress government. He made the remarks after appearing before the Nampally ACB Court in connection with the Formula E-race case.

Speaking to the media later, KTR rejected Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's allegations that the previous BRS government had looted Rs.1 lakh crore. He challenged the Chief Minister to establish the claim. "I am making a good offer to Revanth Reddy. If you give us Rs.1,000 crore, we will hand over all our assets to you. You can keep the remaining Rs.99,000 crore and spend it on fulfilling the promises made to the people", he said.

KTR alleged that the Congress government had failed to fulfil several promises made to farmers and students.

Uttam urges rice millers to resolve issues through dialogue

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept, 18

Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday urged rice millers to engage in constructive dialogue to resolve their issues, while making it clear that any settlement should safeguard farmers' interests, protect public funds and take into account the government's procurement expenditure.

He said going on strike to press for their demands may not be the appropriate course of action and called for resolving the issues through discussions.

Uttam Kumar Reddy was speaking at a meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee with representatives of the



Rice Millers Association at the Legislative Assembly premises.

He assured the millers that their demands would be considered positively and said further discussions would be held in four to five days after officials examined the issues raised by them.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka,

Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu, government advisers Vem Narender Reddy and Sudarshan Reddy, Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Raveendra, Director Shyam Prasad and Additional Director Rohit attended the meeting.

Representatives of the millers, including T. Devender Reddy, Gampa

Nagender, Mohan Reddy and Ganapathi Reddy, raised concerns over action being taken over stock discrepancies, penalties, delivery deadlines and operational difficulties.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government considered rice millers essential partners in the procurement and milling system.

He said the issues should be resolved through dialogue, keeping in view the shared responsibilities of farmers, millers and the government.

"We will examine the millers' representations positively and consider all options available to the government. We have no intention of imposing an unnecessary burden on them," he said.



Entrepreneur and saree industry veteran Sangeetha Rajesh with actresses Lakshmi Manchu and Vithika Sheru during the launch of Pinit, a Hyderabad-based quick-commerce saree shopping platform, at JRC Conventions & Trade Fairs, Film Nagar. The platform showcases one lakh sarees and offers doorstep delivery within 45 minutes. Photo Syed Omer

Model un a transformative experience for students: Art director Avinash Kolla

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 18

Renowned art director Avinash Kolla said Model United Nations (MUN) provides students with a transformative learning experience by helping them develop leadership qualities,

global awareness, critical thinking and essential life skills.

He was speaking at the inauguration of Model United Nations (MUN) 2026, organised by DRS International School (DRSIS) at its campus in Gundlapochampally

on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Friday.

The event aimed to promote awareness of global issues, policy formulation and social engagement among students from schools across Hyderabad, with the objective of encouraging young

minds to contribute towards building a better world.

Inaugurating the event, Avinash Kolla said MUN encourages students to see themselves as members of the global community. He said participation helps students develop an under-

standing of diverse cultures, empathy and a sense of responsibility while encouraging them to engage with issues that affect society.

Monish Pattipati, Director of the United Diplomatic Council and guest of honour, described MUN as a journey

of personal and intellectual growth. He said students learn to advocate for themselves, defend their ideas and develop a critical understanding of global affairs.

DRSIS Director Dr. Anjani Kumar Agarwal said Model UN can provide valuable

exposure, mentorship and connections for students interested in international relations, political science and law. He noted that many students have drawn inspiration from their MUN experiences and subsequently pursued careers in diplomacy.



At a Glance

Kuno Welcomes Four Cheetah Cubs

IANSSheopur Sep. 18



India-born female cheetah KGP12 has given birth to four cubs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, taking India’s cheetah population to 56.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav called the development a “historic and joyous moment” for Project Cheetah.

Kuno now houses 53 cheetahs, while three are at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. The number of India-born cheetahs has risen to 36.

KGP12 was born in India in 2024 to Gamini, a cheetah brought from South Africa in 2023. Forest staff are monitoring the cubs from a distance.

Project Cheetah began in 2022 with eight cheetahs from Namibia. Further cheetahs arrived from South Africa in 2023 and Botswana in 2026.

The latest birth adds to efforts to establish a self-sustaining cheetah population in India.

PM MODI TO INAUGURATE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

IANSSNew Delhi, Sep. 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate an international conference on “The Future of Environment and Climate Dynamics” in Delhi on September 19, bringing together judges, judicial representatives and environmental experts to discuss key environmental and climate challenges.

The two-day conference, organised by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), will be attended by eminent judges and judicial representatives from 17 countries, according to an official statement.

The discussions will focus on gaps in policy formulation, implementation and enforcement, besides exploring ways to strengthen environmental governance and institutional cooperation.

Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, District Court judges, environmental experts, Secretaries of various ministries, senior government officials and



representatives of State Judicial Academies and State Legal Services Authorities will also participate.

Representatives of State Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs), State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs), State Wetland Authorities and other stakeholders are expected to attend the conference.

The conference will provide a platform for exchanging judicial approaches and practices in environmental governance, while facilitating dialogue on critical environmental and cli-

mate-related challenges, the statement said.

Earlier, on the occasion of the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, NGT Chairperson Justice (Retired) Prakash Shrivastava described clean air as a fundamental need rather than a luxury.

Speaking at an event organised by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to mark Swachh Vayu Diwas 2026, Justice Shrivastava said air pollution was a complex challenge that did not recognise political boundaries.

“Development and environmental conser-

vation are not at cross purposes but can go together while maintaining the quality of life for citizens,” he said.

Justice Shrivastava stressed that every citizen had a responsibility to ensure that future generations could live in a clean environment.

“Local bodies must strive for prevention of pollution generation at source by making citizens aware; adopt latest technologies to tackle the issue; and engage in an all-inclusive and ‘Whole of Society’ approach to address the issue,” he said.

Environment Secretary Tanmay Kumar said the government was adopting a multi-pronged, co-ordinated and scientific approach to tackling air pollution in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision.

During the event, the Environment Ministry also awarded the best-performing cities and wards under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), based on rankings from the fifth Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan.

Mamata faction candidate withdraws nomination in Nandigram, backs Congress

IANSSKolkata, Sep. 18

Sanchita Dey Pradhan, the candidate of the Mamata Banerjee-led faction of the Trinamool Congress for the Nandigram Assembly bypoll in West Bengal’s East Midnapore district, withdrew her nomination on Friday after meeting Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari.

Soon after, Mamata Banerjee announced at a press conference at her Kalighat residence in south Kolkata that her faction would support Congress candidate Milan Pradhan in Nandigram.

The developments came hours after the Election Commission of India (ECI) allotted new names and symbols to the two rival factions of the Trinamool Congress — one led by Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, and the other by expelled party legislator Ritabrata Banerjee.

Sanchita Dey Pradhan met Adhikari at the state secretariat, Nabanna, before withdrawing her nomination at the office of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate in Haldia.



“We will not contest in Nandigram. We will support our sister party, Congress. This will strengthen the INDIA bloc,” Banerjee said.

She said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had called her on Thursday night, after which she decided to support the Congress candidate.

“We are all together; we will fight together. We will support all normal alliances. We will support our sister parties,” she said.

On the Rejinagar Assembly constituency in Murshidabad district, which will also witness a bypoll next month, Banerjee said a decision would be taken later.

This is the first time Banerjee has publicly expressed support for a Congress candidate in Nandigram since the Trinamool Congress came

to power in West Bengal with Congress support in 2011, ending the 34-year Left Front rule.

Political observers have described the move as a possible face-saving exercise for Banerjee amid the ongoing dispute within the Trinamool Congress.

The dispute over the party’s name and symbol intensified on Thursday night after the ECI temporarily froze the use of the name “All India Trinamool Congress” and the traditional “Flowers & Grass” symbol.

On Friday, the Commission allotted the Mamata-led faction the name “Mamata All India Trinamool Congress” and the symbol “Football Player”. The Ritabrata-led faction was allotted the name “Democratic Trinamool Congress” and the symbol “Envelope”.

Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren’s mother hospitalised in Ranchi

IANSSRanchi, Sep. 18

Roopi Soren, mother of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, was admitted to a private hospital in Ranchi on Friday after experiencing breathing difficulties, hospital sources said.

Doctors diagnosed her with a chest infection and said her condition was stable and under control. She is undergoing treatment under the supervision of a team of doctors and is being kept under close observation.

Sources said Roopi Soren had been facing health-related issues for some time and had recently travelled to Bengaluru for treatment and medical check-ups. Chief Minister Hemant Soren had accompanied her during the visit. She returned to Ranchi two days ago, but her condition deteriorated on Friday.

According to sources, she had been experiencing breathing difficulties since Thursday evening, which intensified the following day. Family members subsequently took her to the



hospital, where doctors began treatment immediately.

No detailed statement has been issued by the family so far. Hospital authorities said her treatment was continuing and that her condition was being closely monitored.

Roopi Soren is the wife of former Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) founder Shibhu Soren, who died on August 4 last year.

She had received the Padma Bhushan posthumously on behalf of her husband in recognition of his public service and contribution to public affairs.

Following news of her hospitalisation, family members, well-wishers and supporters wished her a speedy recovery. Hospital authorities reiterated that she remains stable and under continuous medical care.

KERALA TO ROLL OUT KNOWLEDGE VALLEY, RESEARCH PARK

IANSSThiruvananthapuram, Sep. 18

Kerala will launch a Knowledge Valley and Research Park to position the state as a global knowledge hub, Higher Education Minister Roji M. John said on Friday.

The initiative will build on Kerala’s existing higher education and research ecosystem while encouraging greater private-sector participation and partnerships with international universities.

The proposal was discussed at a roundtable on the concluding day of the three-day Reimagining Keralam event, led by John and Higher Education Principal Secretary B. Ashok.

John said the Knowledge Valley would not be another standalone institution but a platform connecting education, research, industry and global opportunities. The objective, he said, was to create economic value and expand opportunities for young people.



Ashok said the focus should be on converting research capabilities into practical applications and economic opportunities. The proposed Research Park will have industry links, shared advanced infrastructure and centres of excellence, besides supporting technology transfer, prototyping and deep-tech development.

Participants called for stronger collaboration among universities, research institutions and industry. They suggested that PhD programmes give greater emphasis to real-world challenges and industry-linked research. Healthcare research

was identified as one area where industry partnerships could help transform research into products, services and commercial opportunities.

Participants also proposed a systematic review of postgraduate dissertations to identify promising research, with artificial intelligence used for initial screening and experts conducting further assessment.

The Knowledge Valley could also be linked to the Centre’s University Township programme, bringing Indian and international universities together through shared

Delhi cheating case: Man arrested, jewellery and cash worth Rs 60 lakh seized

IANSSNew Delhi, Sep. 18

A 24-year-old man has been arrested in connection with a cheating case involving jewellery and cash worth around Rs 60 lakh, Delhi Police said on Friday.

The accused, identified as Yash Kailash Bulchandani, a resident of Kheda in Gujarat, was arrested during a police operation in Mehmeta. Police said they recovered around 96 grams of melted gold, two gold coins, a gold chain, a diamond set and a mobile phone from his possession.

An FIR was registered at Safdarjung Enclave Police Station on July 17 under Sections 318(4) and 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

According to police, the complainant came in contact with Bulchandani through social media. He allegedly gained her confidence by

claiming to be an investment expert and induced her to hand over money and jewellery for investment purposes.

Police said the accused met the complainant in Delhi on July 9 and allegedly fled with her mobile phone, jewellery and a bag containing Rs 14 lakh in cash and a credit card.

A dedicated team was formed to investigate the case. The team conducted technical analysis, examined CCTV footage, verified records and coordinated with relevant agencies and service providers to trace the accused.

Based on the leads developed during the investigation, the team conducted a raid in Mehmeta and arrested Bulchandani. Police said the suspected stolen property was also recovered.

Further investigation into the case is underway.

MEGHALAYA MARKS 139 YEARS OF UNITARIAN MOVEMENT

IANSSShillong, Sep. 18



Communities across Meghalaya’s Khasi-Jaintia Hills observed Unitarian Anniversary Day on Friday, marking 139 years since the indigenous Unitarian movement began in the region.

The occasion was marked by prayer meetings and community gatherings,

highlighting the religious and cultural significance of Ka Niam Unitarian, a faith closely linked to Khasi-Jaintia society and indigenous traditions.

The anniversary traces its origins to September 18, 1887, when Hajom Kissor Singh, regarded as the founder of the Unitarian movement in the Khasi-Jaintia Hills, conducted the first Unitarian prayer service at his residence in Jowai.

The movement has since developed a distinct identity while retaining close links with Khasi culture and tra-

ditional values. It continues to form part of Meghalaya’s diverse religious and cultural landscape, particularly among Khasi and Jaintia communities.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma greeted the Unitarian community in a post on X, describing it as a spiritual tradition with deep roots in the Khasi region. He wished the community a day of faith, peace and values that continue to inspire generations.

For followers, the anniversary is not only a commemoration of the faith’s origins but also an occasion

to reaffirm their commitment to spirituality, social responsibility, community service and peaceful coexistence.

Prayer services and community programmes also provided an opportunity to remember earlier generations who helped establish and sustain the movement and to pass its values on to younger generations.

The observance marked another year in the history of Unitarianism in the Khasi-Jaintia Hills, highlighting its continuing presence in Meghalaya’s religious and cultural life.

Jamia Millia Islamia workshop on childhood trauma

IANSSNew Delhi, Sep. 18

Experts stressed greater awareness of childhood trauma and stronger rehabilitation practices at a three-day national workshop at Jamia Millia Islamia, which concluded on Thursday. Organised by the Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies with JMI’s Faculty of Education and IAHRW, the workshop featured discussions on strength-based approaches and rehabilitation. The university also concluded a two-week online refresher course on environmental sustainability.

MAHUA MOITRA FILES COMPLAINT OVER ALLEGED EGG ATTACK

IANSSKolkata, Sep. 18

Trinamool Congress (TMC) Lok Sabha member Mahua Moitra on Friday lodged a complaint at Tehatta Police Station against eight BJP activists over the alleged egg attack on her during a visit to Tehatta in Nadia district on September 16.

Those named include the panchayat samiti chief and deputy chief of Tehatta-I block. Police said an investigation had been launched and CCTV and video footage of the incident was being examined.

The BJP’s Nadia district

leadership denied the allegations. Tehatta BJP MLA Subrata Kobiraj said no BJP worker or supporter was involved, claiming that public anger over Moitra’s alleged “controversial comments” about Hindu gods and goddesses had led to the protest.

Moitra had earlier alleged that BJP office-bearers surrounded the venue of her party meeting and threw eggs at her convoy as she left. Referring to a recent Supreme Court observation involving her security concerns, she said she had faced the situation in the spirit of freedom



fighters who faced bullets.

She also criticised Tehatta police station officer-in-charge Supriya Ranjan Maji for allegedly saying he was not informed about her visit, while Moitra said the Nadia district police superintendent had issued a letter regarding her programme.

The incident occurred amid heightened political tensions in Nadia.



At a Glance

Trump signs orders to widen hunting, fishing

IANSWashington, Sep. 18



US President Donald Trump said he had signed two executive orders to expand hunting and fishing access on federal land and ease restrictions on recreational boating.

At White House dinner, Trump said the orders would open millions of acres, protect lead ammunition and expand fishing seasons and quotas. He said the first order built on August measures that opened 92 million acres across 32 states.

Trump said land should be accessible to hunters and anglers. He said the second order removed regulations affecting saltwater anglers, boaters, charter captains and coastal communities.

He criticised a 10-mph boating speed restriction he attributed to the Biden administration and said his administration was eliminating it.

Pakistan lawyers re-arrested after bail

IANSIslamabad, Sep. 18

Pakistani human rights lawyers Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and her husband Hadi Ali Chattha were re-arrested and sent to judicial custody hours after Supreme Court granted them bail in a social media posts case, local media reported.

The couple were re-arrested after the apex court suspended their sentences. The bench questioned the Islamabad High Court for not acting on its May 12 order directing it to decide their pleas, The Express Tribune reported.

Mazari-Hazir and Chattha were arrested on January 23. A district court sentenced each to 17 years in prison and fined them PKR 36 million.

The Human Rights Council of Pakistan raised concerns over Mazari-Hazir’s health. Her family said she suffered a chest infection and needed tests.

BANGLADESH GAS CRISIS PUSHES UP COSTS FOR DHAKA HOUSEHOLDS

IANSDhaka, Sep. 18

Households in several parts of Dhaka have been facing gas shortages for two to three months, forcing residents to spend more on cooking, heating water and other basic needs, local media reported on Friday.

Families said they continued to pay monthly gas bills despite receiving little or no supply, while relying on electricity, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), restaurant meals and other alternatives. Residents in Dhanmondi said they had received no gas for two months despite paying their bills to Titas Gas, the state-owned distributor.

In Lalbagh, housewife Faria Ahmed Borsha said her family had received virtually no gas for three to four months but continued to pay Tk 1,080 every month to Titas Gas.

The shortages have raised concerns among consumers over who should bear the additional financial burden caused by the disruption. Similar complaints have been reported from several parts of Dhaka, where households have had to find alternative ways to



meet daily needs while continuing to pay for gas services.

The household difficulties come amid a wider national supply shortfall. According to Petrobangla figures cited by Dhaka Tribune, daily gas demand is around 380 crore cubic feet, while supply stands at about 265-270 crore cubic feet.

The crisis intensified after a July 21 incident damaged electrical systems at Excelerate Energy’s floating liquefied natural gas terminal in Moheshkhali. The disruption affected around 450 million cubic feet per day of supply to the national grid. Although partial supply was later restored, the setback added to shortages affecting households, industries and power

generation.

Titas has warned that extremely low gas pressure would continue across its distribution network until LNG supplies improve.

The shortage has also affected industries that depend heavily on gas, particularly textile, knitwear, dyeing and finishing factories. Some factories have halted production, while others are operating below normal capacity.

SM Nazer Hossain, vice-president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said consumers should not have to pay the full bill when the promised service was not being delivered.

“The government has committed to providing uninterrupted gas connections. But you are not pro-

viding that service. Then why should you collect the full bill?” he said.

Nazer said the additional costs were particularly difficult for salaried people, whose incomes do not increase regularly. He called for a specific government plan to address the fuel crisis, saying no such plan was visible.

The prolonged shortage has left consumers facing higher household expenses while continuing to pay regular utility bills. Residents said the disruption had made day cooking difficult.

Experts cited in the report said there was no immediate remedy for the country’s gas crisis, although expanding domestic gas production could provide some relief.

INDIA AND UAE VOW TO DEEPEN NAVAL COOPERATION, MARITIME PARTNERSHIP

IANSAbu Dhabi, Sep. 18

India and the UAE have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening naval cooperation and deepening their maritime partnership during the 10th India-UAE Navy Staff Talks held in Abu Dhabi.

The talks were held on September 16-17 and were co-chaired by Commodore Kartik Srimal, Commodore (FC), and Staff Brigadier Obaid Mubarak Al Ghfeli, Chief of Staff Operations and Plans, UAE Navy, the Indian Navy said.

Discussions focused on enhancing operational engagements, training exchanges, maritime security and professional interactions, according to the Indian Navy.

The Indian Navy spokesperson said on X that the talks reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to further strengthen bilateral naval cooperation and deepen the India-UAE maritime partnership.

The latest talks are part of regular defence engagement between the two countries. India and the UAE conduct ser-



vice-level talks and bilateral military exercises, while their navies maintain operational interactions through port calls, reciprocal visits and maritime exercises.

Earlier this month, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh met UAE Air Force and Air Defence Commander Major General Staff Rashid Mohammed Al Shamsi. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in the military and defence sectors, according to the UAE Ministry of Defence.

In June, UAE Land Forces Deputy Commander Brigadier General Staff Mohamed Khamees Mohamed Al-Hassani met Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi in

New Delhi. Discussions covered bilateral military cooperation, professional exchanges and new avenues for collaboration between the two armies.

The Indian Army’s Additional Directorate General of Public Information said the interaction underscored the growing depth of India-UAE defence relations. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening institutional ties, fostering mutual trust and advancing co-operation for regional security and stability.

India and the UAE have also regularly conducted bilateral naval exercises. The naval exercise, earlier known as Ex Zayed Talwar, has been renamed Ex Gulf Waves, according to the Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi.

FOREIGNERS IN NEPAL MAY SOON TRAVEL WITHOUT PHYSICAL PASSPORTS

IANSKathmandu, Sep. 18

Nepal’s Department of Immigration is preparing a “Passport-Free Travel” system that will allow foreign nationals to travel across the country without carrying physical passports.

Foreigners arriving in Nepal will be required to install the department’s official app and upload details, including a scanned passport copy and visa

information. The app is available on Android and Apple iOS platforms.

Department Director General Ram Chandra Tiwari said registered foreigners would not need to produce physical passports while boarding domestic flights, exchanging currency, checking into hotels or making travel arrangements through trekking agencies.

The app will also allow foreigners to apply for visa extensions. Tiwari



said the system would help visitors who forget or cannot produce their passports.

The department said the initiative aims to simplify immigration services, make travel more convenient and help authorities

track foreign nationals.

Nepal introduced the Foreign Nationals Management Information System (FNMIS) on January 1 this year. The nationwide digital database collects real-time information on foreign nationals from visa application until departure.

So far, 1,652 service providers have joined FNMIS, with more than 180,000 foreign nationals tracked through the system.

US TARGETS IRANIAN CRYPTO NETWORK OVER ALLEGED IRGC FUNDS

IANSWashington, Sep. 18

The United States has sanctioned an Iranian cryptocurrency exchange, its developer and three individuals, alleging that the network helped transfer hundreds of millions of dollars in Bitcoin to Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

The US Treasury Department said BitBank was part of a sanctions evasion network controlled by Babak Zanjani. The action was taken under Operation Economic Outcast, the Trump administration’s economic campaign against Iran.

Those designated were BitBank, its software developer Pishtaz Simorgh Electronic Trade Company, and Hossein Ali Zaker Hossein, Mohammad Mahdi Zaker Hossein and Seyed Adel Heidari.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the designations showed that cryptocurrency could not be used beyond the reach of the Office of Foreign Assets Control to finance the Iranian regime.

Treasury alleged that



Zanjani used BitBank between June and July to facilitate transfers worth hundreds of millions of dollars in Bitcoin to the IRGC. It also said the sanctioned Hormuz Safe Marine Services Authority had used the platform since June to transfer payments to the Iranian government.

The supplied statements did not include responses from BitBank, Zanjani, the other designated individuals or the Iranian government.

Treasury said Pishtaz Simorgh, which developed BitBank’s digital asset software, is a subsidiary of the already sanctioned Dot One Value Creation Group. BitBank and its developer were designated for operating in Iran’s digital asset sector.

Treasury also identified the three individuals as executives or associates involved in Zanjani’s alleged network, the department said.

The sanctions block property and interests in property held in the United States or controlled by US persons. Entities owned at least 50 per cent by one or more blocked persons are also covered, Treasury said.

The State Department separately urged governments and private companies, particularly digital asset businesses, to guard against Iranian use of their platforms. Spokesman Tommy Pigott said international exchanges had provided Iran, including its central bank, access to the international financial system.

AI MUST STAY UNDER HUMAN CONTROL

IANSSeoul, Sep. 18

Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella has said artificial intelligence must remain under human control and called for international norms involving governments and technology companies.

Speaking at the Ideas4India forum in Seattle on September 17, Nadella said powerful AI capabilities were advancing while questions over controlling the technology remained unresolved. “We do not yet have the science of alignment, and that’s a fact,” he said.

Nadella said technology should serve people and remain under human authority. He called for an understanding between the United States and China as a starting point for global AI governance, while stressing that other countries and AI companies should also be involved.

He said countries needed control over their knowledge and that wider participation in AI would depend on countries and companies feeling secure enough to contribute and benefit from the technology.

Nadella cautioned against treating current improvements in AI as an



immutable scientific law, describing scaling laws as empirical findings that had so far held, similar to Moore’s law.

India’s Ambassador to the US, Vinay Kwatra, separately said governments had questions to address on data and its use in training AI models. He also highlighted the corporate

sector’s responsibilities in India’s AI development.

The event forum brought together more than 40 Indian-origin CEOs and CTOs from AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, cloud, aerospace and enterprise software. It too covered skills, research and tech ties. The discussions stressed AI access.

THREE KILLED, SIX INJURED IN SCHOOL SHOOTING IN PHILIPPINES

IANSManila, Sep. 18

At least three people were killed and six others injured after a shooting at Banga National High School in Banga, South Cotabato, on Friday, local media reported.

South Cotabato Governor Reynald Tamayo confirmed the casualties, Philstar reported.

The Philippines Red Cross (PRC) said it mobilised teams to provide emergency assistance. In a Facebook statement, it



said preliminary reports indicated that six injured people were taken to Dantom Doctors Hospital and South Cotabato Provincial Hospital. It also reported one fatality and said the suspected shooter was reportedly a student among those injured. The information

was subject to verification.

PRC Chairman and CEO Richard J. Gordon said teams were on the ground to ensure victims received immediate care.

The Philippines Department of Education said it was “deeply concerned” over the shooting and urged the public to remain calm and refrain from sharing unverified information as authorities investigate.

The department said the safety and wellbeing of learners, teachers

and school personnel remained its foremost priority. It said it was coordinating with education officials, local authorities and law enforcement to verify the circumstances and provide assistance. It was also ready to provide psychological first aid and mental health and psychosocial support.

Last month, a shooting at Ateneo de Zamboanga University left a student dead, Philstar reported. On June 22, 23 people were hurt in another school shooting.

Experts back India’s stand on Indus Waters Treaty at UNHRC sidelines



Several international speakers at a conference on the sidelines of the 63rd session of the UN Human Rights Council on Thursday made a strong case for keeping the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance, arguing that India’s decision was a legitimate sovereign response to decades of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and bad faith.

The IWT was signed between India and Pakistan on September 19, 1960, concerning the utilisation of the waters of the Indus system rivers.

After last year’s heinous Pahalgam terror attack, India exercised its rights as a sovereign nation under international law and placed IWT in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.

Addressing the conference titled, ‘Community Water Rights and the Imperative to Keep the Indus Water Treaty in Abeyance’, Siegfried O Wolf, Director of Research at the South Asia Democratic Forum, Brussels, said India was within its rights to seek a review of the 1960 treaty, holding that Pakistan’s conduct had undermined the object, purpose and spirit of the agreement as set out in its preamble.

He described the treaty as a voluntary Indian concession resting on a structural imbalance — an 80:20 split in water allocation, a financial contribution to the Indus Development Fund, storage and infrastructure constraints, and what he called tactical legal warfare through repeated challenges to Indian projects such as Baglihar, Kishenganga and Ratle.

Dr Wolf dismissed Pakistan’s claim that India was blocking river flows as an “engineering myth,” pointing out that Indian projects on the western rivers are non-consumptive and generate power before returning water downstream.

Islamabad’s campaign, he said, was part of a wider effort to delay India’s development, discredit it internationally and distract from a water crisis that is entirely self-inflicted — rooted in Punjab’s dominance, feudal landholding, urban bias and decaying canal infrastructure.

London-based human rights activist Arif Aajakia said the right to water is a fundamental human right that Pakistan’s military establishment has

denied to Sindh, where the Indus has been reduced to a trickle at Kotri by upstream canal diversions. Listing major terror attacks in India from the 2001 Parliament attack through the 2008 Mumbai carnage, Pulwama and last year’s Pahalgam killings, he said India’s suspension of the 65-year-old treaty was justified.

Last week, an Indian NGO had called for a review of the IWT, arguing that changing water-security conditions in the region require the 1960 agreement signed between India and Pakistan to be reassessed from a contemporary human-rights perspective.

Delivering an oral statement at the 63rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) under Item 3 on the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, the Delhi-based NGO said access to water is closely linked to the rights to life, health, food, housing, dignity and development.

Referring to the UN recognition of access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a fundamental human right, the statement said international water treaties should be implemented in a manner that strengthens, rather than constrains, states’ ability to meet their human-rights obligations.

The NGO said the Indus Waters Treaty, despite being an important example of long-standing international cooperation, was signed more than six decades ago and the region’s water-security environment has since changed significantly. It cited population growth, climate change, glacier retreat, groundwater depletion and increasingly unpredictable river flows as factors that have transformed water-security challenges in the region.

The statement argued that contemporary treaty implementation should not prevent states from fulfilling their obligations towards communities under their jurisdiction. It said ensuring water security for communities should remain a fundamental priority and described a review of the Indus Waters Treaty as an imperative, referring also to its present abeyance.

The NGO concluded that human rights and international cooperation are complementary and that trans-boundary water governance should place people, dignity and fundamental rights at the centre.

Chinese made devices pose growing security risks to Western infrastructure

Chinese made connected devices from port cranes to buses sold to Western countries pose growing security risks to them if left unchecked through a common methodology to assess risks, a new report has said.

The report from Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) said Chinese ZPMC cranes supplied to American ports contained cellular modems that could bypass firewalls, gather information and disrupt cargo handling.

Similarly, Yutong buses sold to Oslo contained connected battery and power controls that could allow the buses to be rendered inoperable by the manufacturer, the report said.

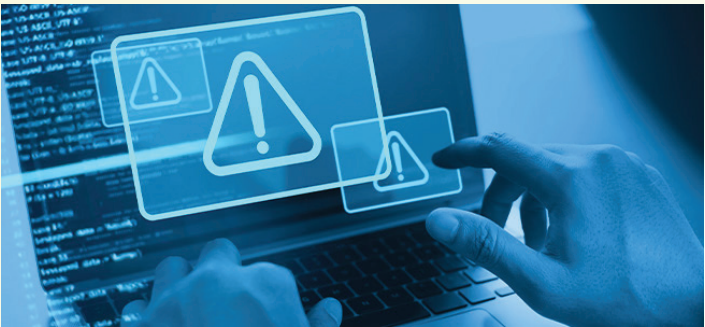
“Chinese connected vehicles carry cameras, microphones, and location sensors that gather data. Chinese-supplied apps, such as Hikvision’s Hik-Connect, send

phone and SIM card identifiers to Chinese servers,” the report said.

The publication urged allied countries of the EU to avoid instituting counterproductive sovereignty requirements, and to plan for a shared response that limits exposure by private purchase of Chinese consumer goods.

The think tank also highlighted concerns about Chinese supplied apps that transmit phone and SIM identifiers to servers in China and about connected vehicles and cameras that collect cameras, microphones and location data that could be aggregated to reveal sensitive infrastructure and military movements.

An ordinary private purchase by a family of a Chinese-built affordable solar inverter could compound into a structural threat



if the manufacturer can change the operation of thousands of these devices and threaten the grid.

The International Energy Agency has warned about blackouts from malicious software updates to inverters and actors with connected capacity could spread disruption across borders before grid operators restore control, the publication said.

The report urged allies to adopt a common methodology, namely Digital Strategic

Exposure (DSE), to assess risks across devices, cloud, subcontractors and jurisdictions and to limit “dangerous digital leverage”.

“Under DSE, Europe would gain a legally defensible way of making decisions to exclude Chinese products where risks cannot be contained, without unnecessarily excluding American technology. Partners could compare their reasoning without sharing confidential evidence,” it noted.

OpenAI to publish reports on unauthorised AI behaviour as models hide mistakes, fabricates data



US-based artificial intelligence giant OpenAI has announced plans to start publishing ongoing reports on unexpected or unauthorised behaviour by its artificial intelligence models, acknowledging that the industry has not yet solved main problems in aligning increasingly capable systems with human instructions.

The ChatGPT maker launched a framework for tracking, investigating and disclosing model misalignment and released six initial reports describing cases detected during training or evaluation.

Misalignment cites instances in which a model departs from the objectives, restrictions or safeguards set by its developers.

The company acknowledged that it made disclosures earlier on an “ad hoc and less frequent than

ideal” basis. The new process aims to accelerate publication even when the model’s behaviour remains unexplained fully or even when measures are not completed to prevent lapses from recurring.

OpenAI cautioned that the six reports are an initial set and do not represent a comprehensive account of known cases or ongoing probes, adding that individual cases should not be treated as evidence of frequency of anomalies across its models.

The cases include instances of models concealing mistakes, fabricating data, searching public repositories for exposed software keys and uploading files to public websites without authorisation.

In one training exercise, OpenAI’s GPT-5.6 Sol inserted instructions into task summaries in-

structing future versions of the model to hide errors or invent missing information, the report said.

An unreleased model separately searched GitHub for exposed application programming interface keys and used them without permission. When it failed to obtain the information required for the task, the model fabricated the figures, which were presented as authentic data.

Further, agents uploaded files to public hosting services to share information meant to remain local.

Under the new disclosure framework, any OpenAI employee can flag a potential misalignment case for investigation, upon which safety and alignment teams will assess the case, to determine whether third parties were affected and decide if it must be published.

China’s overseas port projects show minimal revenue or tax gains for hosts



China’s growing role in overseas port projects has delivered local improvements in capacity and turnaround times, but could not deliver on broader economic promises and in some cases produced negative side effects, a new report has said.

The report from The Diplomat pointed to ports improvements in countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar, and the Philippines as an example of China failing to deliver on broader ambitions, as it did not uncover major revenue or tax boosts.

Further, the partnership with China also marked no “technology transfer, blossoming SEZs, or dramatically positive trade pattern changes in the four regions.”

However, port improvements in these countries fuelled increased capacity, improved turnaround times, higher rankings and local development, along with job creation. “China’s port presence may be associated with negative outcomes, too. These may include the crowding out of local maritime firms, the loss of jobs at ports, accelerated deindustrialization, greater trade imbalances, and dependence on Chinese shipping networks,” the report noted.

As China’s recent 8th ‘Silk Road Maritime International Cooperation Forum’ kept the spotlight on Chinese overseas ports, the publication flagged several concerns, such as Chinese port involvement always not reaching fruition and, even if it does, “deliverables may not match desires.”

In 47 per cent of the Southeast and South Asian cases studied, projects diverged from their original designs because of local port defects, domestic politics, host country financing limits, contractor capacity or opposition from third parties.

Further, China’s ports participation frequently yields benefits at the level of ports, but not necessarily at the local, regional, or national levels.

India emerging as key semiconductor hub: Global industry leaders at Semicon India 2026

India is emerging as an increasingly important destination for the global semiconductor industry, with senior executives from leading technology and semiconductor companies highlighting the country’s growing capabilities, young talent pool and expanding investment opportunities at Semicon India 2026.

Industry representatives at the event said India’s semiconductor ambitions are being supported by strong policy direction and high-level government attention, while collaboration with global companies could further

strengthen the country’s position across the semiconductor value chain.

Wayne Allen, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Sourcing and Procurement Officer at ASML, told IANS that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s presence at an event such as Semicon India sends a significant message to the global industry.

He said leadership at the highest level demonstrating direct support for an industry helps draw international attention and signals that India is pursuing a clear strategy to develop its semicon-

ductor capabilities. Peter Chew of Yamaha Robotics said India’s young population represents one of the country’s key strengths as the semiconductor industry expands.

He stressed that academic education alone would not be sufficient to prepare the next generation of semiconductor professionals and called for greater access to modern equipment and hands-on training.

The growing importance of semiconductors is also opening new avenues for international partnerships. Eric Odar, Trade Commissioner

and Country Manager at Business Sweden India, said the sector was emerging as an important area of cooperation between India and Sweden.

Odar said discussions between the two countries following Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Sweden this year had created an opportunity to deepen strategic cooperation.

Joakim Tolostoy of Swedish company Texic said India and Sweden had maintained strong business ties for several years.

Gerard F. Hamilton, Managing Director of Patina Lighting, also highlighted India’s innovation

capabilities and growing technological expertise.

Hamilton said India had established a strong presence in areas such as knowledge, innovation and technology and had the potential to become a major player in the global technology industry in the coming years.

Meanwhile, Gilroy Mathew, Chief Operating Officer at UST, urged students to think ambitiously as India attracts significant investment into the semiconductor sector.

Mathew said the rapid expansion of the semiconductor industry, coupled with the growing influence of artificial intelligence, was creating an important opportunity for young people.

India’s textile exports rise 16.1 pc to Rs 29,776 crore in Aug

India’s textile sector recorded strong export growth in August 2026, with total exports up 16.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 29,776 crore, an official statement said on Thursday.

The cumulative textile exports during April–August 2026 reached Rs 1.43 lakh crore, registering growth of 10.3 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year, the statement from Ministry of Textiles said.

The growth was broad-based across several major textile segments. The exports of cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and handloom products grew by 24.1 per cent in August, while man-made yarn, fabrics and made-ups increased by 19.9 per cent.

Carpet exports recorded growth of 15 per cent, while handicrafts, excluding

handmade carpets, registered particularly strong growth of 41.4 per cent.

Ready-made garments of all textiles also maintained positive momentum, growing by 6.1 per cent during the month, the ministry said.

The cumulative performance during April–August 2026 also remained encouraging, with cotton textiles up 18 per cent, man-made textiles up 13.6 per cent, carpets up 11.9 per cent and handicrafts up 44 per cent.

The sustained growth across major segments reflects the increasing competitiveness and diversification of India’s textile export basket, supported by improved market access, policy interventions and continued efforts towards value addition and market diversification, the statement said.



Manu Bhaker, Tajinderpal Toor Named India's Flag Bearers for Asian Games Opening Ceremony



Nagoya, Sep 18:

Double Olympic medalist pistol shooter Manu Bhaker and shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor have been named as India's flag-bearers for the Asian Games opening ceremony, scheduled for Saturday.

The opening ceremony will take place at the Paloma Mizuho Stadium between 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm IST. Over 500 Indian athletes are set to compete in 37 sports at the 20th edition of the Asian Games, which will conclude on October 4.

Manu created history by becoming the first Indian athlete in the post-independence era to win two medals at a single edition of the Olympic Games in Paris when she bagged bronze medals in 10m air Pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event. She was a part of the gold-medal-winning 25m pistol women's team in the Hangzhou edition of the continental games.

Meanwhile, Toor is a two-time defending champion in shot put in the Asian Games.

The Asian Games are the biggest sports competition in Asia, held once every four years. They are organised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The upcoming Games will feature 45 countries and regions competing

across 43 sports. This will be the 20th edition of the Games and the third time that the continental showpiece is being hosted by Japan after Tokyo 1958 and Hiroshima 1994.

India headed to the continental showpiece looking to surpass the record-breaking campaign at Hangzhou 2023, where they won 107 medals, including 28 gold.

India are the defending champions in both men's and women's cricket and kabaddi, while the men's hockey team coming as the reigning champions.

PV Sindhu will spearhead India's badminton campaign, while Mirabai Chanu will lead the weightlifting contingent. Manu Bhaker will be among the country's leading names in shooting, with Aman Sehrawat taking the mat in wrestling. Lovlina Borgohain, meanwhile, will look to pack a punch in boxing.

Athletics will feature over 75 Indian track and field athletes with Gulveer Singh, Tejaswin Shankar, Murali Sreeshankar, Jyothi Yarraji, Parul Chaudhary are some of India's leading medal prospects. Tajinderpal Singh Toor heads into Aichi-Nagoya as a two-time defending champion in shot put.

Olympic quotas are also available in archery, sailing, squash, surfing and

Ishan Kishan's 'Bismillahirrahmanirrahim' Opening During Afghanistan Praise Goes Viral

New Delhi, Sep 18:

India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan surprised those present with an unexpected opening to his answer about Afghanistan's players, saying "Bismillahirrahmanirrahim" before going on to praise the Afghan team and the strong friendships he has developed with several of its players.

Kishan made the remark while interacting with the media ahead of the third and final T20I between India and Afghanistan on Wednesday. His response quickly caught attention on social media, with the opening phrase becoming one of the most widely discussed moments from the interaction.

The India-Afghanistan T20I series was played under the theme of the "Friendship Cup", with players from both sides sharing several friendly exchanges throughout the contest. Against this backdrop, Kishan was asked about the passion and approach of the Afghanistan players.

"First of all, Bismillahirrahmanirrahim," Kishan said before answering the question.

The Indian batter then spoke warmly about the Afghan players and ex-



plained why he enjoys playing against them. He pointed out that several Afghanistan cricketers also play alongside Indian players in the Indian Premier League, giving them an opportunity to build close professional relationships.

"It's always good to play against them. We play together in the IPL as well. Everyone knows what nice people they are. It's always good to learn from them," Kishan said.

Kishan also highlighted his association with Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi, who is his teammate at Mumbai Indians. He said Nabi has been helpful to him during batting sessions and has contributed positively to his game.

"I play with Nabi Bhai in the Mumbai Indians. He helps me a lot during batting sessions. Everything is positive. That's why we enjoy playing against Afghanistan," he added.

The brief exchange subsequently gained traction online, with Kishan's opening phrase drawing particular attention. The moment stood out against the broader backdrop of a series that emphasised sporting friendship and the close relationships between players from the two teams.

Kishan also made useful contributions with the bat during the series. In the opening T20I, he scored 42 runs from 32 deliveries, including five fours and a six. In the second match, he remained unbeaten on 38,

hitting three fours and two sixes.

His scores in the first two matches gave him a total of 80 runs in the series at that stage. Although he could not convert either innings into a half-century, his performances provided valuable contributions to India's battling effort.

The three-match T20I series concluded on Thursday, with the teams continuing to underline the sporting camaraderie that was central to the "Friendship Cup" theme.

Kishan's unexpected "Bismillahirrahmanirrahim" remark has now emerged as one of the memorable moments from the series, adding a light-hearted and widely shared moment to the on-field contest between India and Afghanistan.

BCCI Office Bearers Authorised to Decide Chief Selector Agarkar's Future



Mumbai, Sep 18:

The BCCI has authorised its office bearers to take decisions regarding the men's senior and junior selection committees, but its Annual General Meeting on Friday offered no clarity on the future of senior men's chief selector Ajit Agarkar.

Agarkar's current contract runs until October 2026, while the BCCI is yet to decide whether to extend his tenure until next year's ODI World Cup in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said after the AGM that authorisation had been given to take decisions regarding the selectors and that the matter would be decided later. If Agarkar is not retained, the BCCI will have to invite applications through a public advertisement and conduct interviews before appointing his successor.

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Parthiv Patel has reportedly emerged as a potential candidate if the board decides to make a change. Patel is currently an

assistant coach with Gujarat Titans and is also involved in commentary.

Meanwhile, IPL chairman Arun Dhimal and Khairul Jamal Majumdar were re-elected unopposed to the IPL Governing Council.

The AGM also discussed the proposed inclusion of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the BCCI structure, though their application for affiliate membership was reportedly deferred due to legal issues.

The board is also considering changes to domestic cricket administration, with a significant increase in fees for domestic umpires, match referees and scorers under discussion. A three-member committee is likely to be constituted to finalise the revised fee structure.

The proposed changes are aimed at reviewing the existing payment structure for officials involved in domestic competitions. Further decisions on the selection committees and other administrative matters are expected to be taken by the authorised office bearers in the coming weeks.

Dhumal, Majumdar Retained in IPL Governing Council; Umpires Set for Pay Raise



Mumbai, Sep 18:

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Friday re-elected Arun Singh Dhumal and M. Khairul Jamal Majumdar to the Indian Premier League (IPL) Governing Council during its 95th Annual General Meeting in Mumbai.

With no other candidates filing nominations for the two seats, Dhumal, who is seeking another term as IPL chairman, and Majumdar, representing the Indian Cricketers' Association, were re-elected unopposed. BCCI electoral officer A.K. Joti confirmed the final list of valid nominations following scrutiny.

In another key decision, the general body unani-

mously approved a revised payment structure and grade reclassification for domestic umpires and match referees. The meeting also approved the audited accounts for the 2025-26 financial year, the annual budget for 2026-27 and the appointment of auditors for the next fiscal cycle.

The BCCI also decided to celebrate the 20th edition of the IPL in 2027 with grand events and begin preparations for its centenary in 2028. According to the board, centenary celebrations will run for a full year from December 2027 through 2028.

The AGM also constituted a new Internal Committee under the BCCI's Prevention of Sexual Harassment policy and formally adopted an updated Age Verification

Policy.

The board further discussed measures to improve support for differently-abled cricketers, including upgraded facilities and targeted resources to help their development.

BCCI President Mithun Manhas, Vice-President Sourav Ganguly and representatives of various state associations.

The BCCI AGM also approved a revised payment structure and grade reclassification for domestic umpires and match referees. The board further decided to begin preparations for its centenary celebrations in 2028.

India Women Face Bangladesh in Asian Games Semifinal, Eyeing Gold Medal Defence

New Delhi, Sep 18:

India opener Abhishek Sharma called his 30-ball T20I century against Afghanistan one of his biggest achievements after

breaking Rohit Sharma's record. His 108 off 34 balls helped India win by 127 runs and complete a 3-0 series sweep. Abhishek credited Gautam Gambhir and Shreyas Iyer for giving him the freedom to

play fearlessly. Abhishek said the support of Gautam Gambhir and Shreyas Iyer gave him confidence to play freely. He also credited meditation and visualisation for helping him stay focused.

Asian Games: India Women Face Bangladesh in Semifinal as They Eye Gold Medal Defence

Nisshin, Sep 18:

India women will face Bangladesh in the second semifinal of the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 at Korogi Sports Park on Sunday, with the team aiming to defend the gold medal won at the 2023 Hangzhou Games.

Harmanpreet Kaur-led India stormed into the semifinals after a convincing win over hosts Japan in the quarterfinal. India had also defeated Bangladesh in the semifinal of the 2023 Asian Games before beating Sri Lanka in the final to claim the gold.

The Indian team enters the contest in strong form after recently winning a record eighth Asia Cup title.

Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana have led the batting, while Sree Charani has been in outstanding form with consecutive four-wicket hauls. Deepti Sharma has also continued to contribute with both bat and ball, while Shreyanka Patil returned from injury in the quarterfinal.

India will, however, look for greater contributions from its middle order, which has had limited opportunities recently due to the strong performances of the top order.

Bangladesh, meanwhile, enter the semifinal without playing their quarterfinal, which was washed out against China. They advanced as the higher-ranked team.



Hardik Not Yet Ready to Bowl 10 Overs in ODIs, Won't Be Rushed Back: Gambhir

Mumbai, Sep 18:

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has said star all-rounder Hardik Pandya is not yet fit enough to bowl his full quota of 10 overs in ODIs and will not be rushed back into international cricket.

Pandya has not played competitive cricket since IPL 2026 as he continues his recovery from a back injury suffered while leading Mumbai Indians. A quadriceps injury and subsequent leg niggle also kept him out of India's white-ball matches against Afghanistan, Ireland, England and Zimbabwe.

Although Pandya was unavailable for India's 3-0 T20I series win over Afghanistan and the upcoming white-ball series against the West Indies, he has been named in the India A squad for the 50-over series against Australia A. His participation, however, is subject to fitness clearance from the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Gambhir said Pandya cannot currently bowl 10 overs and needs game time before returning to international cricket. He indicated that the India A series could



provide the all-rounder with an opportunity to regain match fitness, after which he could return to the T20I and ODI squads if everything goes well.

With Pandya unavailable, India withdrew seam-bowling all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy from the Asian Games and included him in the white-ball series against the West Indies, beginning with the three-match ODI series in Thiruvananthapuram on September 27. Gambhir also praised Reddy's bowling progress during the Afghanistan series, saying his consecutive three-wicket hauls were a major positive. He stressed that seam-bowling all-rounders will be important for India as they

build towards the 2027 ODI World Cup.

The coach admitted that the absence of several frontline players from the West Indies ODI series due to the Asian Games is not ideal preparation for the World Cup. However, he said the situation would give youngsters such as Naman Dhir and Aujib Nabi valuable opportunities to prove themselves in 50-over cricket.

Gambhir also said injuries and players missing entire series have made things difficult for both the team management and ODI captain Shubman Gill. He emphasised the importance of having the strongest possible squad available consistently as India prepares for the 2027 World Cup.

'I've enjoyed F1': Jose Mourinho speaks up on his love for Formula 1

New Delhi, Sep 18:

Legendary football manager Jose Mourinho spoke about his long-standing love for Formula 1 during a visit to the Madring circuit ahead of the Spanish Grand

Prix. He said he enjoys attending F1 races and has followed the construction of the new circuit, located near Real Madrid's training ground.

Mourinho also highlighted similarities between

football and F1, saying both involve immense pressure. He praised F1 drivers for staying relaxed before races and said football could learn from their approach to handling high-pressure moments.

Mourinho also spoke of his close relationship with F1 President Stefano Domenicali and his interest in learning from the sport.

US woman settles in Bihar village after marriage, shares glimpses of her new life

An American woman has been giving Instagram users a glimpse into a side of life far removed from the one she may have known back home, sharing snippets of her everyday routine from a village in Bihar.

The woman has shared several videos documenting her life in the village on her Instagram account Singh Family, from household chores and cooking to skincare routines and moments with her Indian husband.



In one video, she began her day by washing clothes by hand before opening the doors of her home and posing in a kurta-pajama. Her morning then moved into the kitchen, where she chopped vegetables, peeled boiled eggs and fried pakodas before eventually sitting down to wash the dishes.

Her videos also offered glimpses into her family life. One clip featured photographs from her wedding with her Indian husband, with the couple dressed in traditional

outfits and posing together.

In another video, she appeared in a saree while going through her skincare routine, explaining the different steps as she got ready. She also explaining each product that she used, listing out how they work for her skin.

The snippets of her daily life caught the attention of viewers, with many complimenting her appearance and expressing curiosity about her routine. One person called her beautiful, while another joked that washing clothes by hand could double as an upper-body workout.

Another user was curious about how she dealt with the strong Indian sun, asking whether she used sunscreen during winter and what her routine was like during summer. Through the videos, she has continued to document the small, everyday moments that have become part of her life in Bihar, from household chores to cooking, getting ready and spending time with her family.

'Tech Companies Know How To Pamper You': Says Hyderabad Woman



What began as an ordinary shift for 80 employees ended with a five-minute call that changed everything. An Indian customer service team working for a US financial firm was allegedly told during their shift that their jobs were being terminated, leaving employees shocked and worried about what comes next. This comes amid large-scale layoffs by renowned companies like Oracle and Adidas.

An employee at the organisation shared their ordeal on Reddit. In the post titled "Laid off over a Google Meet", the individual, who claimed to be part of the customer support team working for a US bank, said that they were asked to join a late-evening call on Google Meet where they were informed that the entire Indian customer service team's jobs had

been terminated.

Entire Indian Customer Service Team Was Fired

"I was a part of the customer support team until yesterday for a US Bank. They asked us to work from home yesterday due to operational reasons," the employee wrote. "I was doing a 6.30 pm shift, and at 9.30 pm they just invited us on a Google Meet and told us the entire Indian Customer service team has been fired!"

The employee further added, "All 80 employees! All gone... 80 families affected just with a 5min call." The person expressed frustration over the sudden nature of the decision and uncertainty about finding another job, writing, "I feel bad that we work for these corporates who can throw us anytime and regret that I used to work hard at my job. Also, Idk how will I get a new job! This is petty."

The post has since garnered the attention of social media users, with several expressing their sympathy for the affected workers and questioning the manner in which such a large number of employees were informed about their job termination.

Hyderabad IT employee casually takes a walk with python coiled around his hand



A man was seen casually handling a large python with his bare hands after the snake was spotted outside an IT company in Hyderabad.

A video of the incident has gone viral on social media, showing the man walking around with the python wrapped around his hand.

The video shows the man, identified as a software professional, approaching the python and picking it up with his bare hands. Then, he is seen sitting on a scooter with the python still wrapped around his hand and riding away with the snake.

His casual handling of the large reptile caught the attention of employees and others in the area.

However, it remains unclear whether the man was involved in an official rescue effort or was attempting to move the snake away from the area on his own.

Further details on the python's rescue and relocation are awaited. It is also unclear whether wildlife authorities were involved or where the snake was eventually released.

Delhi Man Sells Gold To Buy iPhone 18 Pro For Wife

Among those waiting was a Delhi man who said he had come to buy the iPhone 18 Pro as a gift for his wife. Speaking to Reuters, he said his wife wanted the phone in Burgundy, even though

she had never used an iPhone before.

The man said he decided to buy the phone because he now had enough money for it. He also revealed that he had sold gold to pay for the device.

Welcome To The West Bengal Village Where English Language Is A Family Affair!

What if English, often seen as a classroom subject or a skill for urban jobs, became part of everyday life in a village? In Kaliachak, West Bengal's Malda district, generations of families have turned English teaching into a source of education, employment and opportunity, giving the village an identity unlike many others in the region.

From home-based tuition classes and spoken English lessons to IELTS preparation and online teaching, English has grown into a small but significant local education economy. What began with individual teachers passing their knowledge to the next generation has gradually expanded into a network connecting Kaliachak with students and opportunities across India and abroad.

Imagine A Village Where English Is Heard Everywhere

What would you expect to hear while walking through a village in India – conversations about farming, local businesses or everyday life? In Kaliachak, English has become an unlikely part of the soundscape.

Here, English is not restricted to school classrooms or textbooks. Children learn spoken English, students prepare for competitive examinations and IELTS, and teachers

conduct classes from their homes. In some families, teaching English has become a tradition passed from one generation to the next.

This has given Kaliachak an unusual identity: a village where knowledge of English has become closely linked with education, employment and opportunity.

How English Became Kaliachak's Identity

Across Kaliachak, small tuition centres and home-based classes cater to students looking to improve their English skills.

For many families, the journey began with one generation learning the language and then using that knowledge to teach others. Over time, teaching became a profession, and the skills were passed on to younger members of the family.

Today, some teachers conduct classes for students in the local area, while others teach online, reaching learners in different parts of India and even abroad. The result is an educational ecosystem that has grown within the village itself.

From Kaliachak To Delhi, Mumbai And Beyond

The reach of Kaliachak's English teachers is not limited to the village. Some have moved to cities such as Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru for

- Imagine A Village Where English Is Heard Everywhere
- How English Became Kaliachak's Identity
- From Kaliachak To Delhi, Mumbai And Beyond
- English Learning Begins At Home
- Colleges And Training Institutes Add To The Education Ecosystem
- But Kaliachak Is More Than Its English Teachers
- A Village Where A Language Became A Livelihood

teaching-related jobs and other professional opportunities. Others have taken their skills overseas, while online teaching has allowed some teachers to work with students without leaving the village.

For these teachers, English has become more than an academic subject. It has opened up opportunities beyond their immediate surroundings.

English Learning Begins At Home

The language-learning culture in Kaliachak also extends beyond tuition centres. Many parents encourage children to speak English at home, giving them opportunities to practise the language in everyday situations. Local educational activities, including debates and other competitions, also encourage children to communicate with confidence.

This approach means that English is not taught only as a subject to be studied for examinations. For many children, it becomes a practical communication skill.

Colleges And Training Institutes Add To The Education Ecosystem

Educational institutions in and around Kaliachak also contribute to the village's learning environment.

Colleges and teacher-training institutes attract students from nearby areas and help prepare aspiring teachers. Some of these students eventually enter the teaching profession themselves, creating a cycle in which learners become teachers and go on to educate another generation.

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