

[illegible]

VOL: 50 | ISSUE: 28 | PAGES 8 | PRICE: ₹7



THE MUNSIF

News that Matters. Stories that Thrills.

Est. 1976

BOOK YOUR

SUBSCRIPTION

NOW

DAILY
AT YOUR DOORSTEP

ACROSS
HYDERABAD & TELANGANA

TRUSTED
SINCE 1976

Call / WhatsApp

9182104767



STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Moves

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

Tight Security Arrangements Ahead of Chief Minister’s Visit

Munsif News Bureau
Rajanna Sircilla, Sep. 23:

Tight security arrangements are being made in view of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy’s visit to Rajanna Sircilla district on September 30. District Superintendent of Police Mahesh B. Githe said that foolproof security arrangements would be put in place for the Chief Minister’s visit. On Wednesday, the SP, accompanied by senior police officials, inspected the arrangements at the proposed visit locations. Earlier, he inspected the helipad and vehicle parking areas and issued several instructions to the officials concerned. A detailed review was con-



ducted of security arrangements for VIPs and other important dignitaries, traffic diversions, parking facilities, emergency medical services

and other related arrangements. The SP directed the officials to ensure that the public did not face any inconvenience and stressed that there

should be no room for even the slightest lapse in security arrangements. He instructed officials of all departments to work in close coordination.

Chemical Factory Smoke Alarms Four Villages in Zaheerabad; Residents Seek Immediate Action

Munsif News Bureau
Zaheerabad, Sept 23:

Residents of four villages have expressed concern over the alleged smoke and waste being released by Vijayanti Chemical Lab factory, located on the outskirts of Bardipada and Kothur-B in Zaheerabad Mandal. Local residents alleged that the factory emits strong-smelling smoke, particularly during the night, causing difficulties for people, including children and elderly residents. The villagers also alleged that the factory’s waste may be affecting groundwater, agricultural land and near-

by water resources. Parents and local residents have expressed concern about the environmental conditions around the Minority Residential Girls’ School located near the factory. Alleging that no action was taken despite several complaints, the affected residents approached the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Southern Zone, Chennai. The petition has been registered as OA/135(SZ)/2026. The villagers demanded an immediate and impartial scientific investigation into the factory’s emissions, waste disposal, groundwater and environmental impact. They



also called for verification of compliance with all environmental permissions and regulations and demanded that the findings be made public.

The residents said that there would be no compromise on their right to clean air, clean water and a safe environment.



Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy visited his ancestral village of Tatipamula in Suryapet district on Wednesday, announcing educational and infrastructure initiatives exceeding ₹23 crore. Speaking to a large gathering of locals and childhood friends, Uttam Kumar Reddy paid tribute to his late father, Nallamala Purushotham Reddy, stating that his family’s roots in the village inspired the fresh development push. The Minister announced a ₹2-crore primary school building funded by Telangana GENCO—directing the District Collector to complete construction before the next academic year—and a ₹5-crore Zilla Parishad High School building backed by CSR funding. Additional sanctions include a ₹16-crore check dam-cum-bridge and 80 Indiramma housing units.

Armur MLA Rakesh Reddy Inspects Agricultural Market Yard and Indiramma Houses in Ankapur

Nizamabad Bureau
Nizamabad :, Sept.23:

Armur MLA Rakesh Reddy, accompanied by officials from the Agriculture Department, visited the existing agricultural market yard located in Ankapur village in the Armur Assembly constituency and reviewed the arrangements for the construction of a new agricultural market. MLA Rakesh Reddy instructed the officials to prepare proposals to connect the maize procurement market

with the canal bridge and the existing agricultural market yard by constructing an intermediate bridge. He said that the two facilities would be integrated into a modern agricultural market equipped with advanced facilities, with the objective of providing better amenities to farmers. Later, Armur MLA Rakesh Reddy, along with officials, conducted a field-level inspection of the construction works of the approved Indiramma

houses in Ankapur village. On the occasion, he obtained details from the officials regarding the number of Indiramma houses sanctioned in the village and the current stage of construction of each house. He directed the officials to take steps to ensure that beneficiaries’ bills are not kept pending and that the required moram soil for the construction of Indiramma houses is made available with the necessary permissions.



Smart ration cards were distributed among eligible families in Chinna Shankarampet Mandal of the Medak Assembly constituency. Medak MLA Dr. Mainampally Rohit Rao handed over the ration cards to the beneficiaries.

Distribution of Smart Ration Cards to Eligible Beneficiaries in Chinna Shankarampet

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 23:

Smart ration cards were distributed among eligible families in Chinna Shankarampet Mandal of the Medak Assembly constituency. Medak MLA Dr. Mainampally Rohit Rao handed over the ration cards to the beneficiaries. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Rohit Rao said that ensuring the benefits of government welfare schemes reach eligible families is a priority for the government. He said

that smart ration cards would provide eligible families with easier access to facilities available under the Public Distribution System. He further said that the government is implementing various programmes for the welfare of poor and middle-class families. He added that efforts would continue to identify the needs of people in Chinna Shankarampet Mandal and advance development and welfare initiatives accordingly.

Vaddeti Ravinder Appointed as BJP SC Morcha State Sports Convenor

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Sep. 23:

Several leaders extended their congratulations to Mr. Vaddeti Ravinder on his appointment as the State Sports Cell Convenor of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) SC Morcha. BJP SC Morcha State President, Mr. Kanthi Kiran, handed over the appointment letter to Vaddeti Ravinder at the party’s state office.

Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls Underway in Bidar

Munsif News Bureau
Bidar, Sept 23 :

A Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls is being conducted across Bidar district as per the directions of the Election Commission of India, with October 1, 2026, as the qualifying date, District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma said in a statement. As part of the exercise, the draft electoral roll was published on August 24,

2026. As of September 21, a total of 8,562 applications for inclusion of names in the electoral roll (Form-6), 67 applications for deletion (Form-7), and 5,146 applications for corrections or transfers (Form-8) had been received from across the district. The number of applications received from the respective Assembly constituencies was 1,480 from Basavakalyan, 1,218 from Humnabad, 1,218 from Bidar (South), 1,977 from

Bidar (North), 1,385 from Bhalki and 1,281 from Aurad (B). Notices have also been issued to voters regarding discrepancies in the draft electoral roll and unmapped voters. Of the 32,672 notices issued, 32,001 have been distributed, while inquiries have been completed in 20,013 cases. Eligible voters whose names are not included in the electoral roll have been given an opportunity

to submit applications for inclusion through Form-6 along with the required self-declaration documents. They can also apply online through the Voters. eci.gov.in portal. The deadline for submitting applications is September 23, 2026. The applications received will be disposed of by October 22, following which the final electoral roll will be published in October 2026, Sharma said.

Municipal Administration takes action against encroachments in Zaheerabad

Nizamabad Bureau
Nizamabad:, Sept.23 :

Unauthorised Occupations Removed on Latif Road and Bhavani Mandir—Hanuman Mandir Road, Paving Way for Road Expansion Zaheerabad, September 23 (Munsif News Bureau): The municipal administration has taken action against unauthorised encroachments in Zaheerabad town with the objective of widening roads and improving traffic flow. Municipal officials removed unauthorised occupations within the road limits on Latif Road and on Bhavani Mandir Road around Hanuman Mandir. The operation was carried out by Zaheerabad Municipality under the supervision of Municipal Commissioner G. Prabhakar.



Municipal staff removed encroachments that were obstructing road-widening works and took steps to clear and widen the road boundaries. According to the municipal administration, measures are being taken to widen and expand important roads in view of increasing traffic and public movement in the town. The removal of encroachments on Latif Road and Bhavani

Mandir—Hanuman Road is expected to facilitate road-widening works and improve the flow of traffic. Officials said that unauthorised occupations on public roads, footpaths and government land not only cause traffic problems but also create difficulties for residents. In view of this, encroachments within municipal limits are being identified and action is being

taken in phases. Municipal and police personnel concerned were present during the operation. The authorities appealed to citizens to refrain from carrying out unauthorised constructions or occupying roads and public places, and to cooperate with the municipal administration in the development of the town, road widening and improving the traffic system.

Mahabubnagar Delegation Seeks Protection of Ancient Graveyard Land

Munsif News Bureau
Mahabubnagar, Sept 23:

A delegation of local Muslims, led by senior Congress minority leader Mohammed Muiz, met Mahabubnagar District Collector Khushboo Gupta and submitted a detailed memorandum seeking the protection of 1 acre and 10 guntas of ancient graveyard land in Ramachandrapuram village of Mahabubnagar Rural Mandal and action against alleged illegal encroachments.

The delegation informed the Collector that some anti-social and influential elements were allegedly carrying out unauthorized constructions on the valuable Waqf land of the graveyard and attempting to violate the sanctity of the burial ground. Mohammed Muiz said the alleged encroachers were not only trying to occupy the land but were also creating serious obstacles to burial rites, disrupting the peaceful atmosphere of the village.

He demanded that the ongoing unauthorized construction work be stopped immediately and strict legal action be taken against those allegedly interfering with burials. District Collector Khushboo Gupta listened carefully to the delegation’s grievances and responded promptly by directing the concerned Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) and Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) to take appropriate action.

Komatireddy urges engineers to draft strategy for climate-resilient agriculture

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 23:

Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Wednesday urged engineers and technical experts to provide constructive recommendations to help the State mitigate drought conditions and strengthen the agricultural sector amid worsening climate impacts. Speaking at a sem-

inar on the “El Niño Sector & Agriculture” at Visvesvaraya Engineers Bhavan in Khairatabad, the Minister highlighted that Telangana is facing severe distress due to climate fluctuations. He emphasised that engineers play an indispensable role in developing adaptive solutions for water management and crop preservation during dry spells.

Primary School Complex Meeting Held at GHS RB Urdu Complex in Kaghaznagar

Munsif News Bureau
Kaghaznagar, Sep. 23:

A Primary School Complex Meeting was held at the GHS RB Urdu Complex in Kaghaznagar with a focus on strengthening foundational learning, improving teaching practices and en-

suring the effective implementation of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) activities. The meeting was conducted under the supervision of Complex Headmaster Rahman Ghauri and CRP Mohammed Arshad Ali, while Headmaster Aziz Khan acted as the Resource

Person Addressing the primary school teachers, Complex Headmaster Rahman Ghauri emphasised the importance of active participation in academic activities and strengthening students’ basic learning competencies. He urged teachers to focus particularly on developing

students’ abilities in speaking, reading and writing Urdu, reading and writing English, understanding basic mathematical concepts and solving problems accurately. Resource Person Aziz Khan subsequently explained effective teaching strategies for promoting Foundational

Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) among students. He guided teachers on designing classroom activities according to the learning levels and individual needs of students and highlighted various measures to make the teaching-learning process more effective and engaging.

20,000 POLICE PERSONNEL, 10,000 CCTVs FOR HYD GANESH IMMERSION PROCESSION

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.23

The Hyderabad City Police has deployed an extensive security apparatus for the Ganesh immersion procession scheduled for Friday, September 25, with around 20,000 personnel, more than 10,000 CCTV cameras and 24 drones pressed into service. Police said lakhs of devotees and thousands of idols are expected to participate in the final procession involving Hyderabad, Cyberabad, Malkajgiri, Future City and neighbouring districts. Arrangements have been coordinated with GHMC, electricity, water, transport, fire, health and other government departments concerned.

According to police, about 25 lakh devotees have already visited Khairatabad Bada Ganesh and nearly 15 lakh have offered prayers at Balapur Ganesh. Security has been further strengthened at both locations ahead of the final day. Police said preparations began three months ago, with route inspections, road repairs, electricity-line adjustments and tree pruning carried out along the Balapur-Hussain Sagar route. Of 15,426 applications received for pandal permissions, 14,929 were approved after field verification and geotagged. More than 32,878 idols have so far been immersed across various areas, including 6,108 within Hyderabad city limits. In the past 24 hours, 2,161 city idols were immersed, police said.

The Telangana State Police Integrated Command and Control Centre at Banjara Hills will monitor the procession through more than 10,000 CCTV cameras. Twenty-four drones and nearly 100 high-rise cameras will also monitor crowd movement and assist with idol counting. A total of 42 platoons comprising 8,142 personnel from other districts have been deployed across seven security zones. Four RAF companies and two CRPF companies have also been deployed at sensitive locations. Fifty-three bomb detection teams are conducting security sweeps at strategic locations.

Police said expert divers, rescue boats, ambulances, fire tenders, generators, watchtowers and mechanical support teams have been positioned at key locations to handle emergencies. The police have also banned DJs, sound mixers, high-decibel audio equipment and firecrackers during the procession. Violations will invite seizure of equipment and legal action. Twenty-six SHE Teams are operating in three shifts to ensure the safety of women and girls. Since September 14, the teams have apprehended 1,172 persons, including 51 minors, for alleged indecent behaviour at crowded locations.

HYD GANESH IMMERSION 2026: Traffic restrictions announced for Sept 25 - 26

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.23

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner and Additional District Magistrate (Executive) V.C. Sajjanar has issued comprehensive traffic regulations for the Lord Ganesh immersion procession on September 25, 2026, to ensure smooth traffic movement, public safety and orderly conduct of the festivities. The restrictions will be in force from 6 am on September 25 to 10 am on September 26, and may be extended depending on the situation. Restrictions on NTR Marg, PVNR Marg (Necklace Road), Tank Bund and Khairatabad Flyover may continue until the evening of September 26.

MAIN PROCESSION ROUTE



The main procession will begin at Balapur Ganesh Mandapam and proceed through Ganesh Chowk, Diamond Hotel Junction, Kattamaisamma Temple, Keshavagiri, Chandrayangutta Flyover, MBNR X Road, Falaknuma Railway Over Bridge, Aliabad, Nagulchinta, Charminar, Madina, Afzalgunj, SA Bazar, MJ Market, Abids, Basheerbagh, Liberty Junction and Ambedkar Statue before reaching NTR Marg and PVNR Marg.

Separate procession routes have also been notified for idols arriving from Secunderabad, Uppal, Dilsukhnagar, Tarnaka, Tolichowki, Mehdiapatnam, Erragadda, Tappachabutra, Asifnagar, Kulsumpura, Jiyaguda, Attapur, Aramghar, Kamatipura and Bahadurpura. Police said vehicles other than those carrying Ganesh idols will not be permitted on the main procession routes during the notified period. Side roads and lanes leading to the procession routes will also be barricaded.

MAJOR DIVERSIONS
Traffic diversions will be implemented across several zones, including Chandrayangutta, Charminar, Rajendranagar, Shamshabad, Golconda, Khairatabad and Secunderabad. Key diversion areas include Chandrayangutta X road, MBNR X road, IS Sadan, Chanchalguda, Nalgonda X Road, Chaderghat, Charminar, MJ Bridge, City college, Aramghar, Bahadurpura, Ameerpet, Panjagutta, Himayatnagar, Narayanaguda, RTC X road, Musheerabad, Tank Bund, Paradise, Patny and Ranigunj.

Telangana HC Declares Holiday on September 25 in View of Ganesh Immersion Procession

Traffic, Security Measures Prompt Court Holiday Across Twin Cities

Hyderabad, Sept 23:

The Telangana High Court has declared Friday, September 25,

a holiday for the High Court and courts in and around Hyderabad and Secunderabad in view of the Ganesh immersion procession.

To compensate, Saturday, December 5, will be a working day for the High Court and the concerned courts. The decision was taken considering the large-scale immersion procession and related traffic and security arrangements. Meanwhile, Hyderabad Police have made extensive security preparations, with around 20,000 personnel expected to be deployed across the city. Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, along with senior officials from GHMC, HYDRAA, Roads and Buildings and other departments, inspected the procession route. Authorities said arrangements are in place to maintain law and order, regulate traffic and minimise public inconvenience.

personnel expected to be deployed across the city. Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, along with senior officials from GHMC, HYDRAA, Roads and Buildings and other departments, inspected the procession route. Authorities said arrangements are in place to maintain law and order, regulate traffic and minimise public inconvenience.

Telangana aims to set a benchmark in digital governance: Sridhar Babu

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 23:

Telangana is working to integrate technology with governance and make the State a role model in digital governance by taking citizen services directly to people's doorsteps, Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu said. Speaking after formally launching the 'MeeSeva Door Delivery Services' at the RTC Kalyana Mandapam in Bagh Lingampally on Wednesday, Sridhar Babu said the government was introducing technology-driven reforms to improve transparency, accountability and the delivery of public services. Under the initiative, citizens can book a slot through



the 1100 toll-free number or the MeeSeva portal to receive a range of services at their doorsteps. These include birth and death certificates, income, caste

and residence certificates, Encumbrance Certificate (EC) copies, select police department services and IGRS services, among others, he said.

SATYATEJA WINS TERNATIONAL KARATE BRONZE

Hyderabad, Sept.23 (NSS): Telangana karate athlete Brahmandi Satyateja won a bronze medal in the 66-kg Individual Kumite category at the AKF 24th Junior & U21 Championship-2026 held in Amman, Jordan. Satyateja, who represented Telangana at the international championship, was felicitated by Telangana Sports Karate-Do Association president and TPCC chief and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud at the MLA Quarters here on Wednesday.

Adilabad RIMS Fire Tragedy: 25 Lakh Financial Assistance Granted to Families of 5 Deceased Infants



Munsif News
Adilabad, Sept.23:

The Government of Telangana has officially announced ex-gratia financial assistance for the families of the innocent infants who lost their lives in a tragic fire incident at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Hospital in Adilabad. The government has sanctioned a total amount of ₹25 lakh, providing ₹5 lakh to each affected family. According to a government memorandum (U.O. Note No. 49012/CMRF/2026) issued by the Revenue Department (CMRF), a sudden fire broke out in the Special Newborn

Care Unit (SNCU) of RIMS Hospital on September 21, 2026, leading to the unfortunate deaths of five newborn babies. Taking serious note of this tragic incident, the government has released a cheque of ₹25 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in favor of the District Collector, Adilabad. The local administration has been instructed to disburse the funds to the grieving families immediately upon completing all necessary legal formalities. The order, signed by Secretary to Government Lokesh Kumar D.S., has been forwarded to the District Collector of Adilabad and relevant authorities for further action.

Telangana Calls on Industry to Build, Innovate and Invest as State Drives AI Ambition

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 23:

CII Telangana AI Summit 2026 brought together technology leaders, industry experts, GCCs, policymakers, and digital innovators to explore Telangana's opportunity to build a globally competitive AI ecosystem. The summit focused on enterprise AI adoption, responsible AI, digital infrastructure, talent, and policy, with discussions on moving from AI experimentation to enterprise-wide impact and positioning Telangana as a global hub for AI innovation, GCCs, and digital transformation. Sri Sanjay Jaju, IAS, Chief

Secretary & Special Chief Secretary (FAC), ITE&C and Industries & Commerce Departments, Government of Telangana, said that outlined the State's ambition to move from AI adoption to building AI products, IP and businesses for global markets. He highlighted Telangana's growing IT and GCC ecosystem, with ₹3.13 lakh crore in IT exports, nearly 1 million IT professionals and 515 GCCs employing around 3 lakh people. The State is targeting five gigawatts of data-centre capacity, alongside sovereign AI-grade compute, AI-ready datasets, subsidised GPU access and sandbox

tools through the Telangana Data Exchange. The State's AI innovation entity, ICAN, aims to position Telangana among the world's top 20 AI hubs by 2035, supported by AI-first startups, research-industry linkages, skilling and an AI fund of funds. He also highlighted the planned AI City at Bharat Future City, growing GCC presence, Young India Skills University and opportunities across life sciences, BFSI, aerospace, defence, space and semiconductors. He urged industry to "build here, create here, invest here," reaffirming the government's role as an enabler and facilitator of AI-led growth.

RIMS Incident: Human Rights Panel Moved for Independent probe

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 23:

BC Dal national president and advocate Dundra Kumara Swamy has approached the Telangana State Human Rights Commission seeking an independent and comprehensive inquiry into the deaths of three newborns following a fire and smoke incident at the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) of RIMS, Adilabad, on September 21.

Several other infants reportedly fell ill and were shifted to other hospitals following the incident. Swamy raised concerns over the hospital's electrical systems, air-conditioning equipment, fire-safety arrangements and emergency evacuation mechanisms. He sought immediate financial assistance and appropriate compensation for the affected families, besides medical and psychological support. Swamy also urged the State government to conduct a comprehensive safety and infrastructure audit of SNCUs, ICUs and other critical-care units in government hospitals across Telangana. The audit should cover electrical installations, fire-safety equipment, emergency exits, alarms, backup power and evacuation protocols. He further sought action against officials found responsible after an impartial inquiry and urged that the RIMS Director/

Superintendent be placed under suspension pending the probe to ensure that records and evidence are preserved. He said accountability must be fixed based on the inquiry findings and affected families provided timely relief and justice. (NSS)



directing the District Collector to complete construction before the next academic year—and a ₹5-crore Zilla Parishad High School building backed by CSR funding. The Minister announced a ₹2-crore primary school building funded by Telangana GENCO—

Despite Tatipamula falling under the Thungathurthi constituency rather than his home segment of Huzurnagar, Uttam Kumar Reddy assured continued support for local infrastructure, while local leaders submitted petitions for additional housing and a regional fire station. (NSS)

UPI MDR MAY PUSH COSTS DOWN HYD'S SUPPLY CHAIN: TPCC

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 23:

TPCC spokesperson Syed Nizamuddin has demanded the withdrawal of the proposed Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on eligible higher-value UPI merchant transactions, warning that the additional cost could eventually travel through Hyderabad's wholesale and retail supply chains. Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan here on Wednesday, Nizamuddin, accompanied by Hyderabad DCC president Syed Khalid Saifullah, Bahadurpura Assembly in-charge Rajesh and senior Congress leader and advocate Jagan Mohan Reddy, questioned who would ultimately bear the additional cost imposed on merchants. From October 15, a 0.4% MDR is proposed on eligible person-to-merchant UPI transactions above Rs.2,000, subject to a maximum of Rs.300 per transaction.

Person-to-person transfers, merchant payments up to Rs.2,000 and specified small merchants receiving up to Rs.1 lakh a month through UPI QR payments will remain under the zero-MDR framework. The Centre has said about 96% of merchant transactions by number will remain unaffected.

actions above Rs.2,000, subject to a maximum of Rs.300 per transaction. Person-to-person transfers, merchant payments up to Rs.2,000 and specified small merchants receiving up to Rs.1 lakh a month through UPI QR payments will remain under the zero-MDR framework. The Centre has said about 96% of merchant transactions by number will remain unaffected.



Politics must serve people, not just Elections: T-BJP Chief

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 23:

BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao on Wednesday said politics should not be confined to elections and votes, asserting that selfless public service should remain the primary objective of political leadership. He was speaking at a mega blood donation camp organised by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) here at Nagole as part of the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'.

The programme marked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public life as Chief Minister and Prime Minister. Rao inaugurated the camp and donated blood. Rao said serving society without expecting anything in return provides a sense of satisfaction and urged political leaders and youth to make public service an integral part of their activities.



At a Glance

Banks to open Sunday

IANS
New Delhi, Sep. 23



Public sector banks and regional rural banks will remain open on Sunday, September 27, ahead of a proposed three-day nationwide strike from September 28 to 30, the Finance Ministry said.

The move aims to ensure banking services continue despite the strike and weekend holidays.

The Reserve Bank of India has approved bank branches, offices, ATM-link branches and Currency Chests to operate on September 27.

The United Forum of Bank Unions has called the strike seeking a five-day banking week and withdrawal of the Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

The government said it had kept the PLI scheme in abeyance, fulfilling one key demand. It urged employees to defer the strike and resolve issues through dialogue.

Two held after Kolkata clash

IANS
Kolkata, Sep. 23

Purba Jadavpur police on Wednesday arrested two people after a clash between Trinamool Congress and BJP workers over the occupation of a party office in Mukundapur.

Police identified the arrested persons as Srideep Das and Pritam Pandey, though their political affiliations have not been confirmed.

The clash broke out on Tuesday night during a programme by local Trinamool workers demanding that the office be vacated. A quarrel escalated into a scuffle, leaving several people injured.

Former IPS officer and ex-Trinamool MLA Humayun Kabir was injured and was also accused of assault. A complaint was lodged with the Purba Jadavpur police station.

Police are examining video footage and eyewitness accounts. An officer said more people could be arrested if specific evidence emerges.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT COVERS 60 CRORE PEOPLE WITH RS 5 LAKH HEALTH COVER: PM MODI

IANS
New Delhi, Sep. 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said more than 60 crore people now have access to an annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat, as the government's flagship health initiative completed eight years.

In a social media post, Modi said the scheme was launched in 2018 with the aim of ensuring access to quality and affordable healthcare for every Indian. He described Ayushman Bharat as the world's largest healthcare scheme and said it had helped reduce medical expenses for poor and middle-class families.

Modi also said Ayushman Arogya Mandirs had recorded more than 500 crore visits, strengthening primary healthcare at the grassroots.

According to a MyGovIndia post shared by the Prime Minister, treatments under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY have helped families save more than Rs 2 lakh crore in healthcare expenses. The post



“Today, more than 60 crore beneficiaries have access to Rs. 5 lakh annual health cover.”
— PM MODI

said more than 38,000 hospitals were part of the Ayushman network and that the scheme had facilitated over 13 crore hospital admissions.

It said six crore senior citizens aged above 70 years were now covered under Ayushman Bharat, irrespective of their socio-economic status. More than 1.86 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs were also highlighted as part of the pri-

mary healthcare network. The MyGovIndia post said more than 500 crore visits had been recorded at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. It added that nearly half of Ayushman Cards were held by women.

According to the post, more than 42 crore screenings for diabetes and hypertension, besides screenings for oral, breast and cervical cancers, had been conducted

to identify health risks at an early stage.

It further said more than 30 lakh treatments worth over Rs 8,800 crore had been availed of outside beneficiaries' home states, highlighting the portability of Ayushman Bharat coverage.

An official PIB background note marking the eighth anniversary said AB PM-JAY provided annual cashless hospitalisation cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family. It reported 13.25 crore hospital admissions worth Rs 2.03 lakh crore and more than 38,000 empanelled hospitals as of August 31, 2026.

The government said Ayushman Bharat combines PM-JAY with Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission to support wider healthcare access. The PIB note said the scheme is a key pillar of efforts towards universal health coverage and reducing out-of-pocket medical expenditure for vulnerable families across India now.

VIKSIT BHARAT VISION MUST INCLUDE SPIRITUAL AWAKENING: PRESIDENT MURMU

IANS
Vadodara, Sep. 23

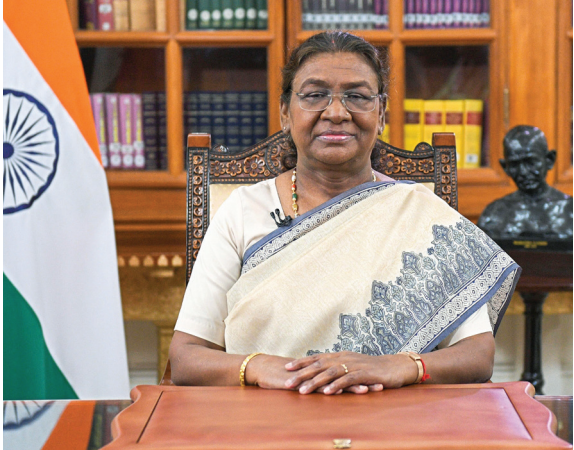
President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 should go beyond economic progress to include spiritual awakening, and called for preparing young people with knowledge, skills, self-confidence, discipline and moral values.

Speaking at a Brahma Kumaris programme in Vadodara, Murmu said India's population could play a role in nation-building if its energy and talent were used constructively.

“The dream of a developed India by 2047 is not only about economic development but also spiritual awakening. Today, the entire world is looking towards India,” she said.

Murmu said India had a population of 1.4 billion, with 65 per cent being young, making their development a priority.

She was speaking after the virtual launch of “Awakening Inner Strength for Nation Building”, an initiative



associated with Brahma Kumaris programme in Nadiad.

The President said young people needed knowledge, technology and skills, along with self-confidence, self-discipline, positive thinking, sensitivity and moral values.

“The young generation has unlimited opportunities before it, but it also faces many challenges,” she said, referring to the digital environment, competition, changing lifestyles and shifting social expectations.

Murmu said inner strength meant self-awareness, concentration, emotional bal-

ance, positive thinking and self-discipline. She said an awakened youth could channel talent, energy and values towards nation-building.

She said India's spiritual heritage could be combined with modern science, technology and new ideas. “Our goal should be to build an India that is economically prosperous, scientifically powerful, socially inclusive and spiritually awakened,” she said.

The event marked the Brahma Kumaris' completion of 90 years and the launch of its 2026 national theme, “Spiritual Awakening for World Renewal”.

GYANESH KUMAR MUST QUIT, REFORM ECI: CPI(M)

IANS
Kolkata, Sep. 23

The CPI(M) politburo on Wednesday demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, saying recent media reports on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls had raised serious questions over the integrity and functioning of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

In a statement, the party said the disclosures had strengthened concerns raised by the CPI(M), other opposition parties and civil society organisations since the SIR process began.

The politburo claimed that two of the three Election Commissioners had recorded objections to several decisions concerning electoral-roll revision and the SIR process. It said the three commissioners were equal under the law and differences should be resolved through unanimity or majority.

According to the statement, the CEC had instead imposed his views despite objections from his colleagues. The party said the differences involved fun-



damental issues concerning the addition and deletion of voters and implementation of the SIR.

The CPI(M), citing a media report, also alleged that the CEC had maintained that the SIR process was transparent and decentralised, while the system had in fact become centralised.

The party further said the Supreme Court had flagged concerns over excessive reliance on technology and the “mechanical” issuance of notices.

The CPI(M) said the issues went beyond the SIR exercise and concerned the institutional integrity and democratic functioning of the ECI, transparency in the electoral process, over-centralisation and protection of universal adult franchise.

“The credibility of the

Election Commission as an unbiased institution is at stake,” the politburo said, alleging that public confidence in the poll panel had been compromised. It demanded that Gyanesh Kumar step down, saying he should not continue in office.

The party also called for an immediate halt to the SIR process and reforms to restore what it described as the ECI's integrity and democratic functioning.

It demanded that the legislation governing the appointment of Election Commissioners be scrapped and replaced with a law based on Supreme Court guidelines, providing for a selection committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Chief Justice of India.

THREE HELD WITH AMBERGRIS WORTH RS 1.05 CRORE IN GUJARAT

IANS
Ahmedabad, Sep. 23

The Ahmedabad City Crime Branch has arrested three persons and seized 1.051 kg of ambergris, a substance derived from sperm whales, allegedly being transported for sale in the Naroda area, police said on Wednesday.

The seizure, valued at approximately Rs 1.05 crore, was made after the Crime Branch received information that three persons were carrying ambergris, commonly referred to as whale vomit, for sale and transporta-



tion.

The operation was conducted as part of measures linked to the Centre's ‘Operation Thunder-2026’, a global initiative targeting wildlife and forest-related offences and the illegal

trade in flora and fauna.

Crime Branch teams intercepted the suspects and recovered the substance from their possession. Police said the seized material was valued at Rs 1,05,10,000.

The arrested persons were identified as Maheshbhai Rathod, 46, of Lilalnagar in Ahmedabad's Khodiyarnagar; Kiran alias Bhurabhai Bharwad, 25, of Rohini village near the bus stand in Khambhat taluka of Anand district; and Karan Dininath God, 27, of Lilalnagar in Khodiyarnagar.

Officials said the three were allegedly involved in the sale and transportation of ambergris.

The seized material has been taken into custody and further investigation is underway to determine the circumstances of its possession, transportation and intended sale.

The Crime Branch said the action was part of efforts to protect terrestrial and marine wildlife and curb illegal wildlife trade and transportation. Investigation into the case and the activities of the arrested persons is continuing.

MAMATA SEEKS GYANESH KUMAR'S ARREST, DEMANDS FRESH BENGAL VOTING

IANS
Kolkata, Sep. 23



Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday demanded the impeachment and immediate arrest of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that genuine voters were removed from electoral

rolls through the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise.

Banerjee made the demand during a live address on Facebook, referring to reported differences within the Election Commission of India (ECI). She claimed the reports had exposed the CEC's “ill-deeds”.

She alleged that electronic voting machines (EVMs), voter lists and administrative machinery had been misused to help the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win assembly elections in several states, including

West Bengal. The allegations were made by Banerjee and were not established as facts.

“Now, I demand that fresh voting should be conducted according to the old voter lists. Gyanesh Kumar has been exposed,” Banerjee said.

She further alleged that Kumar had helped the BJP return to power at the Centre in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and win assembly polls in several states. She accused him of misusing police and central forces during elections.

“As long as he is in

the chair, the movement against him will continue. He should be arrested too,” she said.

Banerjee also criticised the BJP-led government in West Bengal, alleging that some 65 people had been killed in the past four months and accusing the state police of acting as an “extended arm” of the BJP.

Her remarks came amid a dispute over the SIR exercise and reported differences among Election Commissioners. The Election Commission has rejected suggestions of an institutional breakdown.



At a Glance

Measles toll hits 1,076

IAN S
Dhaka, Sep. 23

Eleven more suspected measles deaths were reported in Bangladesh on Wednesday, taking the death toll to 1,076 this year, local media reported. The Directorate General of Health Services said the deaths were recorded in the 24 hours to Wednesday morning.

Of the total, 101 deaths have been confirmed and 975 remain suspected. The DGHS recorded 1,157 new suspected cases, taking the tally to 183,449, while 113 new confirmed cases raised the total to 20,851.

Experts linked the outbreak to inadequate vaccination coverage and gaps in preventive measures. Health authorities acknowledged gaps and said vaccines were being procured for an intensive immunisation drive.

Epidemiologist Prof Mahmudur Rahman called for an expert panel to examine data and gaps now.

India-Egypt deepen farm ties

IAN S
Cairo, Sep. 23

India and Egypt discussed ways to deepen cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors during a meeting between Indian Ambassador Suresh Reddy and Egypt's Agriculture Minister Alaa Farouk on the sidelines of Sahara Expo 2026 in Cairo.

The Egyptian minister appreciated Indian companies' participation at the expo, the Indian Embassy said on X.

Reddy also met Communications Minister Raafat Hindy to discuss digital public infrastructure and ICT companies.

On September 14, Reddy met Health Minister Khaled Abdel Ghaffar to explore cooperation in healthcare and pharmaceuticals.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi visited India for the 18th BRICS Summit on September 12-13 and met PM Narendra Modi too.

TRUMP, XI JINPING SET FOR HIGH-STAKES TALKS

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 23

US President Donald Trump will welcome Chinese President Xi Jinping for a three-day state visit beginning Wednesday, with trade, artificial intelligence, security and human rights among the issues expected to shape their talks.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, are due to arrive at Joint Base Andrews on Wednesday. Trump is scheduled to receive the Chinese leader at the Maryland military facility, before the formal state visit begins at the White House on Thursday.

Trump and First Lady Melania Trump will host an arrival ceremony for Xi and Peng on the South Lawn. The ceremony will include 479 military personnel, the national anthems of both countries, remarks by the two leaders, a military review and a flyover by a B-2 Spirit bomber and four F-22 Raptor fighter jets.

Trump and Xi are expected to hold talks after the ceremony. The White House has not released a detailed agenda or specified agreements that may emerge.



US lawmakers are pressing Trump to raise concerns over China's access to advanced technology, trade policies, military posture and human rights record. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and Senator Elizabeth Warren are scheduled to lead Democratic senators at a news conference urging tighter controls on exports of advanced AI chips and semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

Other lawmakers have urged the administration to discuss AI, human rights, supply-chain security and commitments in the Indo-Pacific. Some Democratic senators have also called for Trump to

raise allegations of Chinese intelligence and satellite assistance to Iran, which they say has endangered US service members.

Human rights groups are also seeking attention during the visit. Congressman Jim McGovern plans to appear with representatives of Tibetan, Uyghur, Hong Kong and Chinese groups. He has called for engagement with Beijing to be linked to tangible improvements in human rights. Senator Dick Durbin has urged Trump to press Xi for the release of political prisoners, naming several detainees.

The ceremonial programme will continue

alongside the political discussions. Melania Trump and Peng are scheduled to visit the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art on Thursday. A state dinner will be held at the White House that evening.

On Friday, the two presidential couples are scheduled to meet for tea before travelling to the National Archives, where they are expected to view records and documents linked to the history of US-China relations.

The visit comes amid years of tensions over tariffs, Taiwan, the South China Sea, technology transfers and the treatment of ethnic and political minorities. Recent US-China discussions have also focused on AI safety, trade and critical minerals.

The summit is being closely watched in India as well. New Delhi is a member of the Quad with the US, Japan and Australia and has a longstanding border dispute with China. Any developments affecting Indo-Pacific security, technology supply chains and global trade could have wider implications for India and other economies.

Modi expected to visit Canada in December, Carney says

IAN S
New York, Sep. 23

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Canada in December, as the two countries work towards concluding a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by the end of 2026.

"We're making good progress in our trade negotiations with India. It is an exceptionally important relationship, on many, many levels... He (PM Modi) will be visiting Canada around that time. I very much look forward to hosting him," Carney said at a press briefing on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The two countries have been seeking to strengthen bilateral ties and advance trade negotiations. Carney and Modi reviewed progress on the CEPA during their June meeting on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France and reaffirmed their shared objective of concluding the negotiations in 2026, according to the Canadian government.



Canada has set a goal of more than doubling that figure to \$70 billion by 2030. Sidhu said a CEPA could create opportunities in agriculture, energy, critical minerals, AI and technology, aerospace and defence.

Goyal said both sides had reaffirmed their commitment to expedite negotiations and conclude the CEPA at the earliest, covering trade in goods, services and investment.

The Canadian Prime Minister's Office said in June that Carney had invited Modi to visit Canada in 2026, with both sides agreeing to work through diplomatic channels towards a mutually convenient date. The pact seeks to deepen trade and investment ties.

NEPAL ISSUES TRAVEL WARNING AMID HEAVY RAIN FORECAST

IAN S
Kathmandu, Sep. 23

The Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) has issued an advisory for tourists after authorities forecast heavy to extremely heavy rainfall across parts of the country from September 25 to 27.

The advisory follows devastating floods on August 26 that have claimed 1,451 lives and left 5,705 people missing, including 636 foreigners, according to

the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology forecast extremely heavy rainfall in parts of Koshi, Madhesh, Bagmati and Sudurpashchim provinces, with some areas of Karnali expected to receive heavy rain.

The NTB said parts of Gandaki and Lumbini could experience heavy rain, thunderstorms,

lightning and strong winds.

Visitors travelling to mountainous and high-altitude areas near river basins have been advised to take extra precautions as weather conditions can change rapidly and snowfall may occur at higher elevations.

The NTB urged tourists to check weather forecasts and advisories before travelling and remain informed about

road and trekking-route conditions. It advised visitors to avoid high-risk areas and exercise caution near rivers, steep slopes and landslide-prone locations.

The board advised against trekking, mountaineering and other outdoor activities during unsafe weather. Visitors were asked to follow instructions from local authorities and move to safe places when advised.

US senators seek journalist's release from Iran

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 23

A bipartisan group of US senators has urged Secretary of State Marco Rubio to intensify diplomatic efforts to secure the release of American journalist Reza Valizadeh, who is serving a 10-year sentence in Iran.

Senators Brian Schatz, a Democrat from Hawaii, and Marsha Blackburn, a Republican from Tennessee, led the appeal. Democratic Senator Jacky Rosen and Republican Senator Dave McCormick also signed the letter.

Valizadeh, a US citizen and former journalist with Radio Farda, was arrested by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in September 2024. He was later charged with "collaborating" with the United States and sentenced to 10 years in prison, according to the senators.

The lawmakers said the case arose from his US citizenship and journalism. Valizadeh worked for Radio Farda from 2012 to



2022 and reported on corruption and repression in Iran.

The senators said Rubio formally recognised Valizadeh as "wrongfully detained" in May 2025. They urged the State Department to make his freedom and welfare an urgent priority through diplomatic channels with Iranian officials.

Valizadeh is being held at Tehran's Evin Prison, where the senators said his health has deteriorated and he has been denied medical care, including an inhaler needed to treat his asthma.

The lawmakers warned that continued detention could endanger his life and accused Iran of using detained Americans as

leverage in dealings with Washington.

They also cited concerns over Iran's treatment of journalists and people with ties to more than one country. The United States has designated Iran as a State Sponsor of Wrongful Detention under Executive Order 14348.

The senators' letter did not include responses from the US State Department or Iranian government, nor details of any negotiations over Valizadeh's release. Evin Prison has long held political detainees, journalists and foreign or dual nationals, with rights groups raising concerns over conditions, legal access and medical care.

INDIAN AMERICANS RAISE IMMIGRATION CONCERNS

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 23

Indian American community leaders raised concerns over immigration challenges affecting students, families and healthcare professionals at a meeting with Congressman Jim McGovern in Massachusetts.

The meeting was held at the India Worcester Center in Shrewsbury on September 19 and brought together professionals, entrepreneurs, physicians and civic advocates.

Participants discussed im-



migration, healthcare, economic opportunities, civic participation and US-India relations. They highlighted difficulties faced by students, families and medical professionals navigating the US immigration system.

They called for Indian Americans from religious,

generational and political backgrounds to have a meaningful voice in civic affairs and maintain dialogue with elected representatives from both major parties.

The meeting also discussed the community's role in building bipartisan support for the India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement. Ramesh Vishwanath Kapur, founder and president of the US India Security Council, said the agreement showed what could be achieved through cooperation across party lines.

JAPAN RAISES UN COUNCIL REFORM WITH GUTERRES

IAN S
United Nations, Sep. 23

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi raised UN Security Council reform during a meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at UN headquarters, highlighting an issue closely watched by India.

The meeting took place during the high-level week of the 81st General Assembly. The UN said they discussed Council reform and regional and

global issues, but gave no details of proposals.

Japan has backed an expanded Council reflecting current political and economic realities. India and Japan are members of the Group of Four (G4), along with Brazil and Germany. The four countries support each other's bids for permanent seats and favour greater representation for Africa and other underrepresented regions.

Council reform has yet remained stalled despite support for wider rep-

resentation. Differences persist over the number of new seats, whether they should be permanent and whether new permanent members should have veto power.

India says its population, economic scale and UN peacekeeping contribution support its claim to permanent membership. It also argues that the absence of permanent representation for Africa, Latin America and much of Asia weakens the Council.

ROAD ACCIDENT KILLS EIGHT, INJURES FOUR IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN

IAN S
Kabul, Sep. 23

Eight commuters were killed and four others injured when a vehicle veered off the road and overturned in Takhar province in northern Afghanistan on Wednesday, police said. The accident occurred in the Gazestan region of Kalafgan district, police spokesman Naqibullah Masroor said. The injured were taken to a hospital, while the cause remained under investigation.

On Tuesday, one person



was killed and nine injured after a mini-bus plunged into a ravine in Laghman province, police said. Four members of a family were killed in Nangarhar on September 20 when their vehicle hit a tree. Police said investigations were underway into the accidents.



The Destiny of Nations Lies in the Hands of Their People

By **Arshiya Rafique Shaik**
Akola Maharashtra

A look at the history of the world makes one truth abundantly clear: the rise and decline of nations is closely linked to the character, hard work, knowledge and actions of their people. No nation becomes prosperous merely because it possesses abundant natural resources, wealth or a large population. It is the conscious, hardworking and principled individuals within a society who take a nation towards progress and prosperity. Allama Iqbal expressed this profound reality beautifully in his famous couplet: “The destiny of nations rests in the hands of individuals; every individual is a star in the destiny of the nation.”

Through these words, Allama Iqbal highlighted the importance of the individual in the making of a nation. A nation is, after all, a collective of individuals. When people understand their responsibilities, work hard and maintain high standards of character, the entire nation can progress. On the other hand, when individuals become victims of laziness, ignorance, dishonesty, selfishness and a lack of responsibility, society gradually moves towards weakness and decline.

The foundation of a strong and progressive nation rests on education and character. Education gives people awareness and enables them to distinguish between right and wrong. However, acquiring education alone is not enough. Knowledge must also be put into practice in everyday life. An educated person who uses his or her knowledge for the welfare of society becomes a valuable asset to the nation.



dents will become tomorrow’s doctors, engineers, teachers, scientists, administrators, entrepreneurs and leaders. If students pursue their education with dedication, value time, maintain discipline and develop their moral character, they can contribute to building a strong nation in the future. They must therefore avoid wasting their valuable time on unproductive activities and instead focus on acquiring knowledge, learning new skills and developing their abilities.

Teachers also play a crucial role in nation-building. A teacher does not merely impart academic knowledge but also shapes the thinking, character and values of students. A sincere and dedicated teacher can instil self-confidence, discipline, honesty and a spirit of service in young minds. In this way, the contribution of a good teacher does not remain limited to an individual student; its impact can extend to an entire generation.

Parents, too, have a fundamental role in shaping the future of a nation. The home is a child’s first school. When parents teach their children honesty, integrity, respect, hard work

sponsible citizens. A good family produces good individuals, and good individuals collectively create a better society.

The contribution of the working class to nation-building is equally important. Farmers work in the fields to meet our food requirements, labourers build roads and buildings, doctors serve patients, engineers contribute to development projects and construction, teachers educate future generations, while soldiers protect the country. When every person performs his or her duties with honesty, dedication and a sense of responsibility, national development becomes a shared reality.

History is filled with examples of great individuals who brought significant changes to society through their hard work, determination and sacrifice. Muhammad Ali Jauhar played a prominent role in leading the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent through his commitment to principles, perseverance and political struggle. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad made significant contributions to education, intellectual development

about a historic transformation in South Africa, while Abraham Lincoln played a defining role in awakening and uniting the people of the United States during a crucial period in its history. Across different fields, the world has also witnessed individuals who devoted their abilities to the service of humanity and left behind examples for generations to follow.

It is important to understand that the progress of a nation is not the responsibility of governments or political leaders alone. Every citizen can contribute to national development in his or her own sphere. Keeping our surroundings clean, obeying the law, respecting the rights of others, protecting public and national property, avoiding the wastage of electricity and water, and performing our duties honestly are all forms of national service.

The world today is advancing at an unprecedented pace. Science and technology have transformed almost every aspect of human life. In such an era, only those nations can move forward whose people focus on knowledge, research, hard work and

modern skills. We too must make constructive use of new technologies, promote research and innovation, and create positive and productive opportunities for the younger generation.

Instead of waiting for others to bring about change, we must begin with ourselves. If a student works hard in his or her studies, a teacher performs the responsibility of educating students with sincerity, parents provide proper guidance and upbringing to their children, and citizens respect the law, these seemingly small efforts can collectively produce a major national transformation.

The truth is that the destiny of a nation is not shaped by one individual alone; it is formed by the actions of every member of society. When individuals are united, hardworking, honest, principled and responsible, the nation becomes strong and dignified. Conversely, when indifference and selfishness take root among individuals, the collective system of society begins to weaken.

Strong individuals build strong nations. People of character give a nation dignity. Hardworking citizens drive a nation towards progress.

Ultimately, it is fair to say that nation-building does not take place merely in government offices or halls of power; it begins with the character and conduct of individuals. What we need is a commitment to reform ourselves, understand our responsibilities and perform our duties with honesty and dedication. If every individual resolves to use his or her abilities for the betterment of the country and society, no obstacle to progress can remain permanent.

Growing Distance Between the RSS and Narendra Modi?

Differences and tensions between the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have been visible for some time, but there are indications that the friction has intensified in recent months. If it is argued that the RSS’s dissatisfaction is not directed at the BJP as a whole but particularly at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his close associate, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, it would reflect one interpretation of the current political discourse. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat’s periodic remarks have continued to draw attention to these differences.

There is now speculation in political circles that the Sangh may seek a change in the BJP’s leadership before or during the next major political cycle. Some reports and commentators have gone further to suggest that the RSS wants Modi removed from the prime ministerial position in 2027. However, there is no publicly established evidence that the RSS has formally taken such a decision. Modi, for his part, has shown no indication of voluntarily stepping aside, while some of his recent remarks have been interpreted as a message that he intends to remain committed to public service for as long as he can.

At an event held as part of the month-long celebrations marking Modi’s 76th birthday and 25 years in public life, the Prime Minister said that he had no material ambitions and that serving the people was the purpose of his life. The BJP’s nationwide Seva Sankalp Abhiyan began on September 17 and is scheduled to continue until October 17.

Some political observers have interpreted Modi’s remarks as an indication that he does not intend to withdraw from public life. Others have viewed the elaborate month-long celebrations as an effort to reinforce his personal political appeal at a time when questions are being raised about the relationship between the BJP leadership and the RSS. The celebrations have included a wide range of public-service and outreach programmes across the country.

The question, therefore, is whether these celebrations are simply a nationwide organisational programme marking the Prime Minister’s birthday and his 25 years in public life, or whether they also reflect an attempt by sections within the BJP to underline Modi’s continuing political centrality. There is no doubt that Modi remains the most prominent face of the BJP at the national level, but the extent to which the party’s future can continue to revolve around one individual remains a matter of political debate.

History, however, repeatedly demonstrates that political power is never permanent. In a democracy, voters ultimately decide who will represent them. They may elect a leader to office, but they

can also replace that leader when they believe change is necessary. Such changes may sometimes take time, but they are an inherent feature of democratic politics.

India’s political history has witnessed the rise and decline of numerous leaders. Even within the BJP, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-L.K. Advani era once represented the party’s most prominent leadership combination. The party subsequently entered a new phase, with a different generation taking charge. Today, the Modi-Shah leadership dominates the BJP’s national political narrative. The question of how long any particular leadership arrangement can retain that dominance, however, is ultimately determined by political circumstances, organisational dynamics and electoral developments.

Mohan Bhagwat’s recent remarks have added another dimension to this debate. Addressing a gathering in Ujjain, the RSS chief spoke about human ego and the mistaken belief that everything can be controlled according to one’s wishes. He used the rising and setting of the sun as a metaphor for the inevitability of change. Some commentators have interpreted his remarks — particularly the observation that whatever rises will eventually set — as a veiled reference to political power.

At the same time, it would be premature to conclude that Bhagwat’s comments were specifically directed at Modi. The RSS chief was speaking in a broader philosophical context about arrogance, humility and the limitations of human control. The interpretation that his remarks amounted to a political warning to the Prime Minister is an analysis rather than an established fact.

The timing of the remarks nevertheless attracted attention because they came amid heightened discussion about the RSS-BJP relationship and around the time of the BJP’s nationwide celebrations for Modi’s birthday. Reports have also highlighted other signs of a changing equation. For instance, Modi did not publicly greet Bhagwat on the RSS chief’s 76th birthday this year, although senior BJP leaders including Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh did so. The contrast with Modi’s public greeting to Bhagwat the previous year was noted by political observers.

What, then, is driving the reported tension between the Sangh and the Prime Minister? One explanation offered by commentators is that the RSS is concerned about the BJP’s organisational direction and what it perceives as a growing emphasis on individual leadership. The RSS is the ideological parent organisation of the broader Sangh Parivar, while the BJP functions as its principal political arm. The relationship between the two has historically involved both cooperation and differences over

political strategy, organisational priorities and ideological presentation.

Another issue raised by critics and political analysts concerns the international perception of the RSS and Hindutva. Bhagwat’s recent overseas engagements have generated both support and opposition. During his September visit to London, the RSS described its centenary-year outreach as an effort to promote dialogue, social harmony and its understanding of Hindu cultural thought. Bhagwat also argued in London that uniformity was not necessary for unity and presented the concept of Hindu Rashtra as one that, in his formulation, was not based simply on religion or worship but on acceptance of diversity.

At the same time, his overseas visits have faced protests and criticism from civil-rights and political groups. In New York, opponents accused the RSS and its ideology of promoting religious intolerance and human-rights violations, allegations that RSS supporters reject. Similar protests and competing interpretations accompanied his London visit.

Critics of the Modi government have also linked issues such as disputes over places of worship, cow-protection vigilantism and allegations of discrimination against Muslims to the wider debate over Hindutva. These issues have generated strong political controversy in India and abroad. However, the claim that such developments have directly caused the RSS to turn against the Modi government remains an interpretation rather than an officially established explanation for any disagreement within the Sangh Parivar.

The central question is therefore not simply whether the RSS and Modi are facing differences, but what those differences signify for the future relationship between the ideological organisation and the political party associated with it. The BJP and RSS remain deeply interconnected, and both have demonstrated their ability to work together despite disagreements. At the same time, recent public remarks, organisational developments and political speculation indicate that their relationship is being closely watched.

Whether the current friction represents a temporary disagreement, a broader debate over the direction of the BJP, or the beginning of a more significant realignment remains to be seen. One thing, however, is certain: political power is never permanently guaranteed. Leadership changes, organisational shifts and electoral verdicts are all part of the democratic process. The coming months and years will reveal whether the present tensions remain limited to rhetoric or develop into a substantive change in the relationship between the RSS and the BJP’s top leadership.

Onions from govt buffer stock to reach Kolkata ahead of festive season

As the government steps up the supply of onions in West Bengal, the Kanda Express carrying onions from the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) buffer stock is scheduled to reach Kolkata on Thursday, an official statement said.

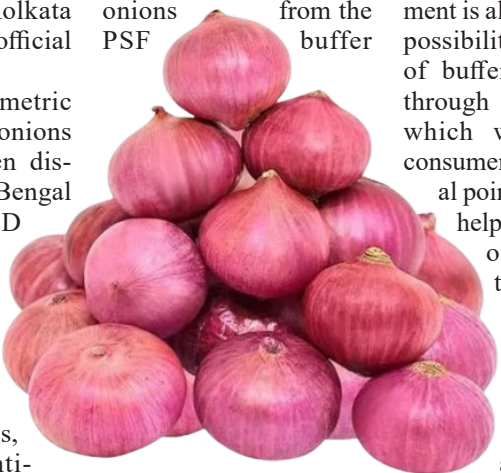
Nearly 1,400 metric tonnes (MT) of onions have already been distributed in West Bengal through NAFED and NCCF mobile vans at Rs 35 per kg, mainly through road transport.

With the arrival of Kanda Express, additional quantities will now be moved more efficiently, helping improve market availability and moderate seasonal price pressures, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution statement said.

“The arrival is expected to facilitate faster movement of larger quantities of onions and further strengthen availability in Kolkata and adjoining districts, particularly

ahead of the festive season,” it added.

The statement further said that the Kolkata-bound Kanda Express is part of the ongoing strategy of calibrated release of onions from the PSF buffer



stock through a hybrid rail-and-road transportation network.

The targeted disposal of buffer stock through NAFED and NCCF commenced on August 24, with supplies being progressively sent to different parts of the country based on market requirements.

“In Kolkata, retail sales are currently being undertaken at more than 25 locations, including major

markets such as Koley Market, Mechua Mandi, Maniktala Market, Rampuria Market, and Shyam Bazar Market,” said the ministry.

Moreover, the government is also exploring the possibility of retail sale of buffer stock onions through ‘Sufal Bangla’, which would provide consumers with additional points of access and help widen the reach of the intervention.

Onions from the buffer stock have been supplied to more than 100 cities across the country so far.

Retail onion prices remain stable or have declined in 17 states/UTs, indicating an improvement in market availability following the buffer stock interventions. Among the states/UTs where onion prices declined during the past week are Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar.

FSSAI cracks down on key e-commerce platforms over non-compliances

The FSSAI on Wednesday said it has begun penal action against e-commerce platforms like Swiggy Instamart, BigBasket, Amazon, Flipkart India and Zepto for various non-compliances.

The non-compliances include misleading claims and sale of prohibited products.

In a social media post on Instagram, the food regulator said it has made a “major crackdown on e-commerce platforms, including Amazon, Swiggy Instamart, BigBasket, Flipkart India and Zepto over regulatory non-compliances”.

The non-compliances include misbranding/misleading claims, as well as sale and display of prohibited/poisonous food articles. This year, FSSAI has stepped up enforcement actions against food business operators (FBOs) and e-commerce companies.

Meanwhile, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has proposed a single-phase implementation of Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FoPL), introducing prominent warning labels on packaged food products

that are high in salt, sugar or fat.

The proposal was submitted through an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, which had sought a clear timeline from the food regulator and the government on the rollout of front-of-pack warning labels.

Under the proposed framework, packaged food products exceeding prescribed thresholds for nutrients of concern would be required to display a red hexagon on a white square background on the front of the pack.

The warning label is intended to provide consumers with clear and easily identifiable nutritional information at the time of purchase, helping them make informed food choices.

FSSAI said it plans to adopt a single-phase approach for implementing FoPL instead of introducing the system in stages. The regulator noted that the warning format draws similarities with the model adopted in Canada and is designed to highlight nutrients that could pose health risks when consumed in excess.



Asian Games: Mirabai Chanu seeks Arjuna Award after winning historic silver

Nagoya, Sept. 23:

Star weightlifter Mirabai Chanu Saikhom has requested the government to consider her for the Arjuna Award after finally fulfilling her long-standing dream of winning a medal at the Asian Games with a historic silver medal in the women's 49kg category on Wednesday.

"I would like to request that the government give me the Arjuna Award. I will be very happy. The Arjuna Award is the biggest. I don't have it. I want it. I will be very happy if the government considers my achievement and awards it to me," Chanu told IANS.

The 32-year-old posted a total of 198kg, with a snatch of 87kg and a clean and jerk of 111kg, finishing second behind North Korea's Ri Song-gum who totalled 210kg. Indonesia's Wijayana Luluk Diani Tri took the bronze with 191kg.

Chanu's wait for an Asian Games podium finish finally ended with the medal. The 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games silver medallist had missed the 2018 Asian Games through injury and finished fourth, agonisingly close, at the



2022 Hangzhou Games battling a thigh injury in her clean and jerk attempts. Reflecting on the emotions of finally achieving the goal she had chased for years, Chanu said the moment brought back memories of another emotional day in her career.

"Yes, I was very emotional in Glasgow. They were happy tears. Today also I felt like crying. I had tears in my eyes out of happiness, but I didn't cry. I was very happy. I got what I wanted. Today, my dream has come true. I am very happy with this medal. I have been dreaming of winning a medal in the Asian Games for many years. Today, my dream has come true. I am very proud of myself. I have

won a silver medal for the country in weightlifting after many years."

Chanu's silver also ended India's 28-year wait for an Asian Games weightlifting medal. She became the country's first medallist in the discipline since Karnam Malleswari had won silver at the 1998 Bangkok Games.

The Asian Games silver also completed Chanu's collection of medals from the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, adding another landmark achievement to her decorated career.

Chanu received the Khel Ratna Award, the nation's highest sports award, in 2018, along with the Padma Shri that same year.

Asian Games: 'A very special moment' -- Usha congratulates Mirabai Chanu on historic silver

New Delhi, Sept. 23:

International Olympic Association (IOA) president P.T. Usha on Wednesday congratulated ace weightlifter Mirabai Chanu on winning a historic silver medal in the women's 49 kg category at the Asian Games 2026 in Nisshin.

Usha, who is in Japan to support the Indian athletes, also shared a photograph with Chanu, with the weightlifter holding her silver medal.

Calling it an exceptional and proud moment for the country, Usha lauded Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Chanu's determination, resilience and commitment to the sport.

A very special and proud moment for me to see Mirabai Chanu win silver for India. Mirabai, I have seen your determination, resilience and immense commitment to the sport, and this medal is another reflection of the champion you are," P.T. Usha wrote on X.

"Your journey continues to inspire millions of young athletes across India. Congratulations and well done!" She added.

The 32-year-old Chanu secured the silver with a to-

tal lift of 198 kg, comprising 87 kg in snatch and 111 kg in clean and jerk.

North Korea's Ri Song-gum won the gold with a total of 210 kg, while Indonesia's Wijayana Luluk Diani Tri claimed the bronze with 191 kg.

The medal was Chanu's maiden Asian Games podium finish and ended India's 28-year wait for a weightlifting medal at the continental event. Karnam Malleswari was the last Indian weightlifter to win an Asian Games medal, claiming silver in the 63 kg category at Bangkok 1998.

Chanu's silver also completed her medal collection across the three major multi-sport events, having previously won an Olympic silver and three Commonwealth Games gold medals. The 32-year-old had finished fourth at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023 after a thigh injury affected her clean and jerk attempts. She had also missed the 2018 edition due to injury.

Her silver in Nagoya also came in Japan, the country where she won Olympic silver at the 2020 Tokyo Games, which were held in 2021 due to Covid 19.

Asian Games: Roshibina Devi Reaches Wushu Final, Assures Silver

Nagoya, Sept. 23:

India's Naorem Roshibina Devi stormed into the women's 60kg Wushu Sanda final at the Asian Games, assuring the country of at least a silver medal.

Roshibina defeated Indonesia's Kusumaningtyas Thania 2-0 in the semifinal on Wednesday to book her place in the gold-medal bout. The victory also secured her third consecutive Asian Games medal, after winning bronze in 2018 and silver in the 60kg category in 2023.

Earlier, Roshibina defeated her quarterfinal opponent 5-0 before starting her campaign with a win over



Bangladesh's Shika Khatun in the pre-quarterfinals.

The medal is India's first confirmed Wushu medal at the ongoing Asian Games. Roshibina will now look to upgrade it to gold in the final.

In the men's 56kg quarterfinal, India's Aryan lost 1-2 to Uzbekistan's Saydullo Abdurashitov and was eliminated.

Raina Backs Rohit and Kohli for 2027 World Cup, Says Their Presence Could Boost India's Chances

New Delhi, Sept. 23:

Former India cricketer Suresh Raina believes India's chances of winning the 2027 ODI World Cup could be significantly enhanced if veteran stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli remain part of the squad for the tournament.

The 2027 ODI World Cup is scheduled to be held in October and November across South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Speaking to reporters at an event in Delhi, Raina highlighted the experience and match-winning ability of Rohit and Kohli, pointing to their success with India and in the Indian Premier League.

"We have some outstanding match-winners. We have great players like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who have won several trophies for the country and in the IPL," Raina said. He added that if both players remain in the team, India would have a "90 per cent" chance of winning the World Cup.

Raina also referred to India's defeat to Australia in the 2023 World Cup final and said the team could return to South Africa with renewed motivation for the 2027 tournament. "We lost in South Africa in 2003, so we have to make up for that as well," he said.



Former India cricketer Suresh Raina believes India's chances of winning the 2027 ODI World Cup could be significantly enhanced if veteran stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli remain part of the squad for the tournament.

The 2027 ODI World Cup is scheduled to be held in October and November across South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Speaking to reporters at an event in Delhi, Raina highlighted the experience and match-winning ability of Rohit and Kohli, pointing to their success with India and in the Indian Premier League.

"We have some outstanding match-winners. We have great players like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who have won several trophies for the country and in the IPL," Raina said. He added that if both players remain in the team, India would have a "90 per cent" chance of winning the

World Cup.

Raina also referred to India's defeat to Australia in the 2023 World Cup final and said the team could return to South Africa with renewed motivation for the 2027 tournament. "We lost in South Africa in 2003, so we have to make up for that as well," he said.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has included Rohit and Kohli in the 15-member squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against the West Indies. The series will begin in Thiruvananthapuram on September 27, followed by matches in Guwahati on September 30 and Chandigarh on October 3.

Raina also praised young batter Vaibhav Suryavanshi, saying the teenager should be allowed to continue playing in his natural style. He lauded Suryavanshi's run-scoring ability and approach to the game, adding that he enjoys watching the youngster play.

Manu Bhaker Misses Asian Games Medal After 9.6 Final Shot

Nagoya, Sept. 23:

India's medal hopes in the women's 10m air pistol event at the Asian Games 2026 suffered a setback as Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker narrowly missed out on a podium finish, ending the final in fifth place.

Bhaker, who was among the leading contenders for the gold medal, finished with a score of 181.1. Her final shot of 9.6 proved costly and ended her hopes of securing a medal in the event. India failed to win a medal in the women's 10m air pistol final.

The disappointment was visible on Bhaker's face after she was eliminated



from medal contention. She briefly acknowledged the fans before returning to her chair, with visible signs of frustration after falling short of the podium.

South Korea's Chu Ga-eun won the gold medal with an Asian Games record score of 246.3, finishing five points ahead

of China's silver medallist Yiyao Shen. Ga-eun's score was also just 0.6 points short of the world record in the event. Despite the setback, Bhaker remains one of India's leading shooting talents and will look to make a strong comeback in the remaining events of the competition.

Early summer conditions in New Zealand will challenge young Indian Test side: Gambhir

New Delhi, Sept. 23:

India head coach Gautam Gambhir expects early summer conditions in New Zealand to provide a stern test for his young Test side, but believes the team has the bowling strength to take 20 wickets and remain in contention for the 2027 World Test Championship final.

India will play a two-Test series against New Zealand in Wellington and Christchurch from November 19 to December 1. Gambhir said winning the series would be a major achievement, particularly as India last won a Test series in New Zealand in 2008-09.

"This is probably the first time we are going to New Zealand in October-November. Normally, we go in December-January or

January-February, which is late summer. This is going to be early summer, so the conditions will be completely different," Gambhir said.

India are currently fifth in the WTC standings and will also host Australia for five Tests in January-February 2027. Gambhir said the team must focus on winning every Test and giving itself the best chance of reaching the final.

He added that India are developing a settled batting line-up and have a strong bowling attack capable of taking 20 wickets in different conditions. "If all our seamers are fit and firing, we can take those 20 wickets anywhere. The responsibility will be on the batting line-up to put runs on the board," he said.

Gambhir also highlight-

ed the importance of giving young batters enough time to adapt to Test cricket. He said India are gradually developing a settled batting order and that players need the technique to adjust to different conditions rather than being repeatedly changed based on the venue.

Before the New Zealand Test series, India A will play three four-day matches against New Zealand A from October 24 to November 10. Gambhir said the upcoming fixtures will provide valuable preparation as India look to build momentum in their WTC campaign.

India's New Zealand tour will be followed by a five-Test series against Australia in January-February 2027, with Gambhir saying wins in both series would boost India's WTC final chances.

New Delhi, Sept. 23:

Chennai Super Kings have turned to former India fast bowler Zaheer Khan as their new head coach, with franchise icon Mahendra Singh Dhoni understood to have recommended his former teammate for the key role.

CSK enjoyed a remarkable resurgence under Dhoni, winning the IPL title in 2021 and 2023 to take their tally to five championships. However, the team's fortunes declined after Dhoni handed over the captaincy to Rituraj Gaikwad ahead of the 2024 season. CSK have failed to progress beyond the league stage in the last three seasons, prompting the franchise to seek a fresh approach after parting ways with long-serving head coach Stephen Fleming.

Zaheer, regarded as one of India's finest fast bowlers of his generation, will take charge of an IPL team as head coach for the first time. During his playing career, he featured in 100 IPL matches for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, claiming 102 wickets before retiring from professional cricket in 2017.

The 47-year-old also has extensive experience in franchise cricket management. He joined Mumbai Indians as Director of Cricket Operations in 2018 and was part of the franchise setup during its IPL title-winning campaigns in 2019 and 2020. He was later promoted to Global Head of Cricket Development in 2022, overseeing the franchise's cricket operations across its teams in overseas T20

leagues.

Zaheer left Mumbai Indians in 2024 and joined Lucknow Super Giants as a mentor ahead of IPL 2025, replacing Gautam Gambhir, who had moved to Kolkata Knight Riders. However, his association with LSG lasted only one season.

CSK had also considered former players and coaches including Hemang Badani and A.B. de Villiers before moving for Zaheer once it became clear that he was available and interested in the position.

According to CSK managing director Kasi Viswanathan, Dhoni himself suggested Zaheer's name to the franchise management. Speaking to The Indian Express, Viswanathan said Dhoni recommended his former teammate and that the cricket management team,



including Rupa Gurunath and Rituraj Gaikwad, agreed that Zaheer was suited to the role.

Zaheer's immediate challenge will extend beyond rebuilding CSK's on-field fortunes. One of the key decisions facing the new coach concerns Dhoni's playing future. The 45-year-old missed most of the previous season because of injury but

remains keen to continue as a player. He has not played a competitive match since IPL 2025.

With CSK seeking a fresh start and Zaheer taking charge of the team's cricketing operations, decisions surrounding the squad's future, Dhoni's role and the team's rebuilding process will be among the major challenges facing the new head coach.

Student Dies During Ganesh Immersion Procession in UP



A student died during a Ganesh immersion procession in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, with reports linking the incident to loud DJ sound and vibrations during the procession. The incident has raised concerns over the use of high-volume DJ systems during religious processions. The issue comes amid repeated calls for restrictions on excessive noise, particularly in view

of concerns raised by courts and medical experts about the potential health risks associated with extremely loud sound. The incident has also renewed the debate over adherence to noise regulations during public and religious events, with calls for organisers and authorities to ensure that celebrations do not put participants, particularly children, at risk.

Two Youths Rescued After Drinking Inside Thar in Pond

Two young men in Tamil Nadu had a narrow escape after they drove their Thar into a village pond, parked it in the middle of the water and began drinking alcohol. They later fell asleep inside the vehicle, only to wake up when heavy rain caused the water level in the pond to rise.

The incident took place around midnight on September 20 near Kumarachetti village in the Marandahalli area of Dharmapuri district. The two friends had gone to the village pond in their Thar. As the pond had very little water at the time, they decided to drive the vehicle into



the water and drink alcohol there. Accordingly, they drove the Thar into the pond and parked it in the middle of the water. The two men then consumed alcohol inside the vehicle. After becoming heavily intoxicated, they fell asleep inside the Thar.

After midnight, heavy rain lashed the area, causing a large quantity of rainwater to flow into the pond. As the water level continued to rise, water reached the vehicle and woke the two youths from their sleep. Realising the danger, they climbed onto the roof of the Thar and

began shouting for help. Hearing their cries, local residents immediately rushed to the pond and launched a rescue operation. With the help of an excavator, they safely brought the two youths out of the water. Ropes were also tied to the Thar and the vehicle was pulled back to the shore. The two youths escaped without any injuries and were brought to safety. Their narrow escape left the locals relieved. Visuals of the rescue operation have since gone viral on social media. The names and other details of the two youths have not been disclosed.

25-Year-Old Dies After Collapsing While Playing Cricket in Rajasthan



A 25-year-old man died after suddenly collapsing while playing cricket in Sanleti village of Rajasthan's Dausa district, leaving his family and friends in shock. The deceased, identified as Ramraj Meena, reportedly complained of chest pain before collapsing on the cricket ground. His friends immediately rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors confirmed that he

had already died. Police suspect that Ramraj may have suffered a heart attack, though the exact cause of death will be confirmed after the necessary medical examination. The incident has left the local community deeply saddened. Ramraj had reportedly got married only five months ago, making the tragedy particularly heartbreaking for his family.

Police Stop 'Free iPhone Langar' in Chandigarh Over Lack of Permission



A planned free iPhone giveaway in Chandigarh was stopped by police before it could begin after authorities said the event had not received the required official permission. Rakesh Trihan, popularly known as "Raja The King", had announced that he would distribute expensive iPhones for free to women in Mohali through a lucky draw. The announcement generated considerable excitement among women, with many looking forward to the opportunity to win an iPhone, a device that remains beyond the reach of many because of its high price. However, the proposed giveaway was cancelled following directions from Chandigarh Deputy Commissioner Nishant

Yadav. Police intervened before the event could take place, citing concerns over law and order and the absence of formal permission from the administration. According to the police, the administration came to know about the proposed event through social media. The organiser was subsequently informed in writing that the programme could not be held without the necessary approval. Police also advised Trihan to consider using the money intended for distributing costly mobile phones to support old-age homes, orphanages or other charitable and social welfare institutions. Trihan, who is known for organising unconventional charity campaigns,

had earlier distributed free petrol to people amid concerns over rising fuel prices. He has also organised various charity initiatives in Amritsar and Chandigarh from time to time. In one such campaign, Trihan reportedly provided people with free meals along with cash assistance. His latest announcement of distributing iPhones had similarly attracted public attention before authorities stepped in to stop the event. While the proposed giveaway was presented as a charitable initiative, the episode has also highlighted the need for organisers to obtain the necessary administrative permissions before holding public events, particularly those expected to attract crowds.

Fire Breaks Out in Vande Bharat Coach at Vijayawada Railway Station

A fire broke out in the C4 coach of a Vande Bharat train while it was stationed at Vijayawada Railway Station, triggering panic among passengers. The fire suddenly erupted in the coach, prompting passengers to immediately get down from the train as a precautionary measure. Firefighters reached the spot and brought the blaze under control. No details about casualties or injuries have been reported so far. Police have begun an investigation to determine the cause of the fire.

Three Held for Cooking Mutton Over Funeral Pyre in UP

Three people, including a man identified as Surrender, were detained by police in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district after they allegedly cooked mutton over the remaining fire of a funeral pyre at a cremation ground. The incident took place at a cremation ground on the outskirts of Nathpur village, where the last rites of an elderly man, Veerpal, had been performed after his death following an illness. The family completed the last rites and returned home. The next morning, Veerpal's sons returned to

the cremation ground to perform the remaining rituals. They were shocked to find some people cooking mutton over the embers of the same funeral pyre used for their father's last rites. When questioned by the family members, the men allegedly showed no remorse over their actions. The matter was subsequently reported to the police, who detained three people, including Surrender, for questioning. According to police, the suspects told investigators that they had gone to the cremation ground to consume alcohol. Since they



had nothing to eat with the alcohol, they purchased mutton from a nearby place and cooked it over the remaining fire of the funeral pyre. The incident has triggered anger among local residents, who said the

cremation ground and the memory of the deceased should be treated with respect. Police have registered a case and launched a further investigation, while action against the detained persons is underway.

Mysterious Light Over Tehran Sparks Speculation, Recalling 1976 UFO Incident

Multiple videos showing an unidentified object flying over the skies of Tehran on Sunday have gone viral on social media, sparking speculation about the nature of the mysterious object. The videos, reportedly shared by an open-source intelligence monitoring group, appear to show a brightly coloured object moving rapidly across the sky. However, its identity and nature remain unclear, and Iranian authorities have not issued any official explanation so far. The incident has drawn comparisons with a well-

known event reported over Tehran on September 19, 1976, when a bright unidentified object was observed in the sky and Iranian fighter jets were reportedly scrambled to investigate it. The 1976 incident continues to attract interest among UFO researchers and has also been referenced in declassified US government documents and military reports. The latest videos have surfaced amid heightened attention to Iran's military capabilities. Iranian Revolutionary Guard spokesperson Hossein

Mohebi has claimed that Iran will soon introduce advanced weapons with new capabilities that, he said, would surprise the world. Mohebi also claimed that Iran now has strategic targets that have never previously been targeted and said the country was fully prepared for a prolonged conflict. However, there is currently no official evidence linking the unidentified object seen over Tehran with Iran's reported development or deployment of new military capabilities.

She overcame financial hardship through self-study and secured five gold medals in MSc Organic Chemistry.

Growing up in a two-room tin-roofed house and as the daughter of an auto-rickshaw driver, Begumpet resident Nikhitha never allowed poverty to come in the way of her education. With determination, self-study and support from her parents and teachers, she went on to secure top ranks in entrance examinations and eventually won five gold medals in her MSc at Osmania University. Nikhitha was born and raised in Gandigudem village of Ameenpur mandal in Sangareddy district, located close to Hyderabad. Her father, Prabhu Goud, studied up to Class 10 and has been supporting the family by driving an auto-rickshaw. The family owns neither agricultural land nor other major assets apart from their two-room tin-roofed house and the auto. From her childhood, Nikhitha said, her father repeatedly reminded her and her siblings that education was their biggest asset. "I am educating you through the hard work of

my hands. Apart from this tin house and auto, I have no other property. Do not think you have nothing. Your education is your asset. Study well and stand on your own feet," he would tell them. Those words became a source of motivation for Nikhitha. Encouraged by her father and teachers, she consistently performed well in academics and remained a class topper from primary school through university. She had a keen interest in drawing, art and craft and initially wanted to become a teacher. After completing Intermediate, she appeared for the D.Ed entrance examination and secured 49th rank at the state level, earning a seat in Nalgonda district. However, financial constraints made it difficult for her to study far from home, so she joined Manjeera Degree College in Patancheru. During her final year, she appeared for the Postgraduate Common Entrance Test and secured 20th rank at the state level. She achieved



the result without attending any coaching classes and secured admission to the Science College at Osmania University to pursue MSc in Organic Chemistry. Life at the university brought additional financial responsibilities. Her mother, Chandrakala, ran a small grocery shop from home, but the business had declined over the years. Her younger sister was pursuing BTech and her brother was studying BCom. Understanding the family's financial difficulties, Nikhitha began taking tuition classes to support herself and reduce the burden on her parents. After returning from college, she would conduct online tuition classes, have dinner and continue studying. Although she wanted to spend more

time in the library, it was not always possible. She borrowed books from the Science College library and would study and prepare notes until around 9 pm. Nikhitha developed her own notes for every subject, which were also used by her friends. She said her parents taught her never to compare herself with others or feel ashamed or frightened because of poverty. That attitude helped her face university life with confidence despite financial difficulties. Her hard work eventually paid off. She secured a gold medal in Chemistry and four more gold medals in Organic Chemistry, taking her total to five gold medals in her MSc. Her achievement brought immense pride

to her father, who often tells people that despite having no major assets, he worked hard by driving an auto-rickshaw and helped his daughter reach this stage. The achievement also became a matter of celebration among auto-rickshaw drivers. Her father's fellow drivers displayed Nikhitha's photographs and news reports on their social media status updates. For Nikhitha, their happiness and her father's pride became as meaningful as the medals themselves. Her journey from a modest tin-roofed home to becoming a five-time gold medallist is a story of academic determination, family support and the belief that financial hardship need not determine a student's future.