

ALL YOU NEED. EVERY DAY.

THE 100% VEGAN ALL-IN-ONE HEALTH SUPPLEMENT

PLANT-BASED
100% VEGAN
100% RDA
100% TRUSTED BY DOCTORS
CHOSEN BY PATIENTS.

₹499/-
(16.63 per day only)

TRUSTED BY DOCTORS. CHOSEN BY PATIENTS.

Call / WhatsApp
+91 93919 45448

M CORE

100% VEGAN

ALL YOU NEED. EVERY DAY.

Plant-Based Omega 3 (DHA + EPA)
100% RDA of Omega 3
100% RDA of Omega 6
100% RDA of Omega 9
100% RDA of Omega 12
100% RDA of Omega 15
100% RDA of Omega 18
100% RDA of Omega 20
100% RDA of Omega 22
100% RDA of Omega 24
100% RDA of Omega 26
100% RDA of Omega 28
100% RDA of Omega 30
100% RDA of Omega 32
100% RDA of Omega 34
100% RDA of Omega 36
100% RDA of Omega 38
100% RDA of Omega 40
100% RDA of Omega 42
100% RDA of Omega 44
100% RDA of Omega 46
100% RDA of Omega 48
100% RDA of Omega 50
100% RDA of Omega 52
100% RDA of Omega 54
100% RDA of Omega 56
100% RDA of Omega 58
100% RDA of Omega 60
100% RDA of Omega 62
100% RDA of Omega 64
100% RDA of Omega 66
100% RDA of Omega 68
100% RDA of Omega 70
100% RDA of Omega 72
100% RDA of Omega 74
100% RDA of Omega 76
100% RDA of Omega 78
100% RDA of Omega 80
100% RDA of Omega 82
100% RDA of Omega 84
100% RDA of Omega 86
100% RDA of Omega 88
100% RDA of Omega 90
100% RDA of Omega 92
100% RDA of Omega 94
100% RDA of Omega 96
100% RDA of Omega 98
100% RDA of Omega 100



SP Nithika Pant Reviews Ganesh Visarjan Arrangements
Statewatch, Page 2



ACB Searches 10 Locations in DSP Assets Case; ₹1.35 Cr Seized
Citybeat, Page 8



Congress says 13 crore voter names deleted: SIR row
Nation, Page 4



Ancelotti: 'India Lacks Football Culture' Ahead of Brazil Friendly
Sports, Page 7

CJP Gives CEC Gyanesh Kumar 48 Hours to Resign, Threatens Nationwide Agitation

CJP's ultimatum comes as Rahul Gandhi seeks CEC's resignation and Mahua Moitra demands FIR over alleged irregularities in SIR process



New Delhi, Sept 24

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar faced mounting political criticism on Thursday over the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, with the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) giving him 48 hours to resign and threatening a nationwide agitation if he fails to do so.

The development came amid separate attacks from opposition leaders over reports of differences within the Election Commission concerning

the SIR exercise. The Election Commission, however, has rejected the reported account and maintained that decisions relating to the exercise were taken unanimously.

The controversy centres on reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections concerning electoral-roll decisions and the SIR process. The reported issues include the addition, deletion and restoration of voters' names, changes involving Form 6 and the handling of electoral-roll data.

The Election Commission has maintained that all decisions concerning the SIR exercise were taken with the approval of all three Election Commissioners and that individual views expressed during deliberations should not be treated as separate decisions of the Commission.

The escalating political confrontation has placed the functioning of the Election Commission and the SIR exercise at the centre of a growing dispute over electoral-roll management and the protection of voters' rights.



CJP issues ultimatum: CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke demanded Kumar's resignation within 48 hours and warned that the party would launch a nationwide agitation if he did not step down.



Rahul Gandhi seeks resignation: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi reiterated his demand for Kumar's resignation and urged the CEC to become an "approver" over what he alleged was the "stealing" of votes.



Mahua Moitra seeks FIR: Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra filed a complaint at Delhi's Parliament Street Police Station seeking an FIR and investigation into alleged irregularities connected with the SIR process.



Sahani makes controversial remark: Vikassheel Insaan Party chief Mukesh Sahani launched a sharp attack on Kumar and made a violent remark against the CEC, while saying he would abide by the Constitution.

Nagender Eyes Khairatabad Comeback as KTR Targets Congress After SC Verdict

Former MLA confident of winning bye-election after disqualification; BRS leaders attack Rahul Gandhi and Revanth Reddy over defection row

Hyderabad, Sept 24

Former Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender on Thursday expressed confidence of winning the proposed bye-election from the constituency after the Supreme Court declined to interfere with the Telangana High Court's order disqualifying him under the anti-defection law.

The verdict also triggered a political attack from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), with party Working President K.T. Rama Rao targeting Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over Nagender's defection from the BRS to Congress.

Nagender was elected from Khairatabad on a BRS ticket in the 2023 Assembly elections before switching

Nagender confident: Says he is confident of winning the Khairatabad bye-election.



SC backs HC order: Court declines to interfere with his disqualification.



KTR attacks Congress: Targets Rahul Gandhi and Revanth Reddy over defections.



BRS demands resignations: Harish Rao calls for defectors to seek fresh mandates.



to Congress in 2024. He subsequently contested the Secunderabad Lok Sabha election as a Congress candidate.

The Telangana High Court had declared the Khairatabad Assembly seat vacant while disqualifying Nagender under the anti-defection provisions. The Supreme Court's dismissal of his

challenge has paved the way for a bye-election, subject to the Election Commission's schedule.

With Nagender signalling his readiness to contest and the BRS intensifying its attack on the Congress leadership, the Khairatabad bye-election is set to become a closely watched political contest in Telangana.

FSSAI proposes to prohibit manufacturing, sale of analogue paneer across country

New Delhi, Sept 24

India's food regulator has proposed to prohibit manufacturing and sale of analogue paneer across the country, notifying draft amendments for consultations. According to the FSSAI draft, "the amendment is proposed in the following regulation to restrict manufacturing and sale of analogue product as paneer so as to prevent misleading consumers regarding the nature and composition of the product".

Products already licensed or registered under 'Analogue in Dairy Context' category shall discontinue the use of the term "Paneer" in their nomenclature, labelling or marketing. It added.

Several state governments have banned the sale and manufacturing of analogue paneer.

FSSAI has decided to introduce draft amendments in the Food Safety and



Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) regulations.

The draft regulations "shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Official Gazette in which this notification is published are made available to the public".

The food regulator has taken regulatory action against several food businesses after inspections found food safety violations and non-compliance. The regulator suspended licences and issued prohibition orders relating to non-compliant ghee products and adulteration concerns.

Telangana to Procure G-9 Coal for Yadadri Plant

Hyderabad, Sept 24

The Telangana government will procure G-9 grade coal from Mahanadi Coalfields and Coal India to address the shortage that has halted power generation at the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to take steps to restore full-scale generation at the plant by Dasara. Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Mallu

Bhatti Vikramarka said he would discuss the coal supply issue with Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy.

Officials told the Chief Minister that Yadadri requires G-9 grade coal, which is currently not available from Singareni. They said there was no possibility of Singareni producing the required grade in the near future.

The government also reviewed the additional transportation burden arising from the plant being located away



from the coal pithead. Bhatti alleged that the previous BRS government's decision to build the plant at the location had resulted in an additional financial burden of around ₹40,000 crore on the state.

Meanwhile, the BRS has announced a fact-finding exercise

at major thermal power plants and Singareni headquarters. A team of senior leaders, former ministers and MLAs will assess power generation, project progress and operational issues before preparing a report on the projects undertaken during the previous KCR government.

J&K Approves Six Free LPG Cylinders for AAY Families

Srinagar, Sept 24

Scheme announced in Assembly amid opposition protest over election promises

The Jammu and Kashmir government has approved a scheme to provide six free LPG cylinders annually to families covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Food and Civil Supplies Minister Satish Sharma informed the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

The announcement triggered protests from BJP members, with Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma accusing the government of going back on its alleged election promise of providing 12 free cylinders to every household.

Sharma questioned why the benefit had been limited to six cylinders for AAY families and also raised the government's promises relating to jobs and free electricity.

The issue led to heated exchanges between the treasury and opposition benches, with BJP legislators raising



slogans and the Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, intervening to restore order.

The BJP has also been protesting during the ongoing Assembly session over issues including the regularisation and job security of contractual workers, higher honorariums and the recent 6.83 per cent electricity tariff hike.

Cop on Ganesh Immersion Duty Dies in Hit-and-Run Case

Hyderabad, Sept 22

A 57-year-old Sub-Inspector of Police died after being hit by a speeding two-wheeler while on Ganesh immersion duty at NTR Marg near Hussain Sagar in Hyderabad, police said.

K. Venkanna, posted at Kothagudem II Town Police Station in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, had been deployed in Hyderabad for the immersion arrangements. Around 2 a.m. on Wednesday, he was crossing NTR Marg with another police official when a speeding bike hit him. The rider fled the spot.

Venkanna sustained head and other injuries but later went to Saifabad Police Station to lodge a complaint. He subsequently travelled to his village in Warangal district and fell ill later in the day. Doctors at MGM Hospital in Warangal found a blood clot in his brain, and he died while undergoing treatment. The incident was captured on CCTV, and police registered a case at Saifabad Police Station. The motorcycle was traced, while preliminary investigation indicated that the rider had fled Hyderabad. Senior police officials expressed condolences to Venkanna's family.



9 Charred to Death as Massive Fire Engulfs Bus in Greater Noida

Greater Noida, Sept 24

Nine passengers, including a woman, were charred to death after a massive fire engulfed a double-decker bus on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida on Thursday, officials said.

The bus, carrying more than 30 passengers, was travelling from Noida towards Mahoba when it suddenly caught fire within the jurisdiction of Jewar police station. Several passengers managed to escape by jumping through windows, while others were rescued after the windows were broken open.

Firefighters and police

personnel rushed to the spot after receiving information and began rescue operations. The nine victims were trapped inside the bus and could not escape the blaze.

The exact cause of the fire was not immediately known. A preliminary report indicated that the bus was carrying a large quantity of luggage, including baggage loaded on its roof.

Authorities are investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. The fire has also renewed concerns over passenger safety and emergency arrangements in long-distance buses. Further details are awaited.

Banks to Open on Sunday Ahead of Strike

New Delhi, Sept 24

Public sector banks and Regional Rural Banks will remain open on Sunday, September 27, ahead of the proposed three-day nationwide strike by bank employees from September 28 to 30. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the operation of bank branches, offices, ATM-linked branches and currency chests on Sunday to ensure essential services remain available to customers. The United Forum of Bank Unions has called the strike seeking a five-day banking week and withdrawal of the Performance Linked Incentive scheme.



STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Moves

Governance, development, welfare and districts shaping the State

SP Nithika Pant Reviews Ganesh Visarjan Arrangements at Kagaznagar, Asifabad

Munsif News Bureau
Kagaznagar, Sep. 24:

District SP Nithika Pant, IPS, inspected the security and other arrangements made by the district police for Ganesh Visarjan at the Pedda Vagu immersion points in Kagaznagar and Asifabad, even as rain continued.

The District SP inspected the immersion process, police deployment, safety arrangements, traffic management, and measures taken for the convenience of devotees.

She instructed the concerned officers and police personnel to remain extra vigilant in view of the rain and take all necessary precautionary measures to prevent any untoward incidents.

SP Nithika Pant directed police personnel to perform



their duties with full responsibility, alertness, and coordination until the completion of the Ganesh immersion process, giving top priority to public safety.

She appealed to devotees and Ganesh mandap organisers to strictly follow police

instructions and safety guidelines and cooperate with the police to ensure that the immersion process is completed in a peaceful, safe, and orderly manner.

The SP said that Ganesh immersion is currently proceeding peacefully across

the district. Extensive security arrangements have been made by the district police to ensure public safety and maintain law and order, and police personnel will remain on continuous alert until the immersion process is completed.

District Collector Conducts Surprise Inspection of Tribal Welfare Hostel in Sircilla

Munsif News Bureau
Rajanna Sircilla, Sept 24:

Students should be provided quality food as per the prescribed menu, Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Grima Agrawal directed officials.

The District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the Tribal Welfare Department hostel located in the district headquarters at Sircilla on Thursday. She first inspected the attendance registers of the officials and staff and reviewed the students' attendance register after enquiring about the total number of students staying at the hostel.

After examining the menu chart, the Collector checked the quality of rice, pulses, vegetables, and other food items stored in the kitchen



warehouse. She also verified whether the food prescribed for the day had been prepared according to the menu.

Later, she inspected the residential rooms and is-

sued various instructions to the officials. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Grima Agrawal said quality food must be provided to students as per the menu in

accordance with the State Government's guidelines. She directed the authorities to take necessary measures to maintain cleanliness across the hostel premises.



As part of the week-long programmes being organised in connection with the International Day of Older Persons on October 1, a special programme was held at the Wanaparthi District SP Office on Thursday.

Wife Sentenced to Life Imprisonment, Fined Rs 6,000 for Husband's Murder

Nizamabad Bureau
Medak :, Sept.24:

A district court has sentenced a woman to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 6,000 in connection with the murder of her husband in the Manoharabad Police Station limits in 2021.

District SP D.V. Srinivas Rao, IPS, said the court delivered the verdict based on strong evidence and an effective investigation.

According to police, Murali of Parki Banda village and Vijayalakshmi of Manoharabad had been married for around 22 years.

Due to domestic disputes, differences frequently arose between the couple, and the police had counselled them several times.

On the night of March 15, 2021, while Murali was asleep, Vijayalakshmi allegedly attacked him with a sickle, causing severe injuries that resulted in his death. Based on a complaint, Manoharabad police registered a case on March 16, 2021, and launched an investigation.

During the investigation, evidence was collected and a chargesheet was filed before

the court. The investigating officers and police personnel presented witnesses before the court, while Public Prosecutor Venkatesh argued the case effectively.

After examining the evidence, District Principal Judge Neelam sentenced the accused to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 6,000. The District SP congratulated the investigating officers, court liaison officers, and police personnel for their effective investigation, presentation of strong evidence, and efforts that contributed to the conviction.



Warangal City Police Commissioner Shwetha and Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) Commissioner T. Venkanna visited the immersion arrangements near Chinna Vaddepally Tank on Thursday morning to review the situation on the ground.

Senior Citizens' Welfare and Empowerment Week 2026 Begins

NSS
Nizamabad,Sept 24:

The inaugural programme of Senior Citizens' Welfare and Empowerment Week 2026, organised in connection with the International Day of Older Persons, was held on Thursday in the chamber of Additional Collector (LB) Bhojang Rao.

Pamphlets highlighting various government welfare schemes for senior citizens and laws related to their protection and welfare were re-

leased on the occasion.

The programme was attended by District Welfare Officer D. Soundarya, Supervisors Srinivas and Rekha, SI Raju from the Police Department, members of the District-Level Senior Citizens Committee Anjaneya, Mayawar Rajeshwar, Narayana Reddy, and Faiyazuddin, Vasavi Club member Ravi, and presidents, secretaries, and representatives of various senior citizens' forums, associations, trusts, and foundations across the district.

Kaushik Reddy Welcomes Supreme Court Verdict

Munsif News Bureau
Adilabad,Sept. 24:

BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy welcomed the Supreme Court's decision upholding the disqualification of former Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender.

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed Nagender's plea challenging the Telangana High Court's disqualification order, holding that there was no ground to interfere with the High Court's interpretation of the law.

Demand to Hand Over 5 Acres Sanctioned for Muslim Graveyard in Narsapur

Munsif News Bureau
Medak, Sept 24 :

A memorandum was submitted to the Medak District Collector on Thursday, urging the authorities to hand over at the earliest the five acres of land sanctioned for a Muslim graveyard in Survey No. 731 within the limits of Narsapur Municipality.

The representatives appealed to the district administration to expedite the remaining formalities concerning the land earmarked for the Muslim graveyard and officially hand it over to the Muslim community. They said this would provide a permanent solution



to the difficulties faced by local Muslims in arranging burials.

The delegation said that providing a proper graveyard facility for the Muslim population of Narsapur is an important basic requirement.

They stated that handing over the sanctioned land at

the earliest would facilitate burial arrangements and help reduce graveyard-related problems in the future.

The memorandum was submitted to the District Collector in the presence of Narsapur Assembly Constituency MLA Vakiti Sunitha Laxma Reddy.

Warangal Officials Closely Monitor Ganesh Visarjan Amid Rain

Munsif News Bureau
Warangal:, Sept.24 :

Authorities are keeping a close watch on the Ganesh Visarjan process in view of the ongoing rains. Warangal City Police Commissioner Shwetha and Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) Commissioner T. Venkanna visited the immersion arrangements near Chinna Vaddepally Tank on Thursday morning to review the situation on the ground.

The two officials inspected the immersion process, move-

ment of devotees, security arrangements, and sanitation measures.

They sought details from officials on the number of Ganesh idols immersed so far and the number of idols still awaiting immersion. Considering the rain, Commissioner Shwetha and Commissioner Venkanna instructed officials to advise festival committees and organisers to transport idols to the immersion centres as early as possible and complete the immersion process without unnecessary delay.

Officials were directed to ensure that devotees, organisers, and motorists do not face inconvenience due to the rain by implementing all necessary precautionary measures at the immersion centres.

They were also instructed to continuously monitor conditions at immersion sites and take immediate action whenever required.

The Police Commissioner and GWMC Commissioner said all concerned departments and personnel must remain alert and perform their duties effectively

until the immersion process is completed. They directed officials from the Police, Municipal Administration, Irrigation, Health and Medical, Revenue, and other departments to work in close coordination to ensure the programme concludes peacefully and safely.

Commissioner Venkanna also instructed sanitation workers to immediately clear idol remains and other waste after the immersion is completed and to keep cleaning teams deployed continuously to maintain cleanliness in the surrounding areas.

Complete safety audits of govt hospitals within a month: Rajanarsimha

NSS
Hyderabad,Sept. 24:

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha has directed officials to complete comprehensive fire, electrical, and structural safety audits across all government hospitals in the state within a month. Presiding over a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat on Thursday, the Minister stressed that patient and staff safety must take top priority.

Collector Calls for Faster Crop Booking, Says No Fertiliser Shortage in Rajanna Sircilla

Munsif News Bureau
Rajanna Sircilla,Sept 24:

District Collector Grima Agrawal has directed Agriculture Department officials to expedite the crop booking process and ensure the district achieves its targets for oil palm cultivation while promoting alternative crops. The Collector issued the instructions during a review meeting held on Thursday at the Integrated District Offices Complex with officials from the Agriculture and

Horticulture Departments, PACS Secretaries, Assistant Registrars, and MARKFED representatives.

She said 56 percent of crop booking has been completed so far and instructed officials to finish the remaining registrations as per schedule through field-level inspections and close monitoring. No fertiliser shortage The Collector said the district requires an estimated 21,000 metric tonnes of fertiliser for the current cultivation season. So far, 23,000

metric tonnes have already been sold, while an additional 2,000 metric tonnes remain in stock.

She clarified that there is no shortage of fertiliser in the district and urged farmers not to worry, while directing Agriculture Department officials to remain ac Grima Agrawal instructed officials to create greater awareness among farmers about the profitability of oil palm cultivation and the subsidies offered by the government.

Liquor Shops to Remain Closed from September 25 to 27 Ahead of Ganesh Visarjan

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad,Sept 24:

To maintain law and order during the Ganesh Visarjan festivities, all liquor and related excise establishments within the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate limits will remain temporarily closed. The Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, said the orders have been issued under Section 20(1) of the Telangana Excise Act, 1968, covering toddy shops,

toddy depots, IMFL liquor shops, 2-B bars, clubs, T.D.-1 establishments, and T.S.B.C.L. outlets in the Nizamabad, Armoor, and Bodhan divisions. The closure will remain in force from 6:00 pm on September 25, 2026, until 6:00 am on September 27, 2026. The Police Commissioner appealed to the public to cooperate with the police and administration to ensure peaceful Ganesh Visarjan celebrations.

BRS Delegation Visits Singareni Thermal Power Plant: Scathing Attack on Govt Over Halting Power Generation

Munsif News Bureau
Adilabad,Sept. 24:

Following instructions from Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), a high-level BRS delegation visited the Jaipur Singareni

Thermal Power Plant (STPP) in the Chennur assembly constituency of Mancherla district. The visiting delegation comprised senior leaders and key party functionaries from the erstwhile undivided Adilabad district. During the visit, the BRS delegation reviewed the operational conditions, current power gen-

eration status, and overall plant maintenance. Speaking to the media, Boath MLA Anil Jadhav assured that the BRS would consistently bring facts to light in order to safeguard public interests and the state's energy sector. Anil Jadhav claimed that during interactions with the plant staff, it was revealed that power gen-

eration had been halted strictly on instructions from higher officials. He questioned how authorities could shut down power production on such a large scale without direct government interference and approval. Sharply criticizing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Anil Jadhav alleged that the

public and farmers of Telangana are being pushed into an artificial crisis at the behest of N. Chandrababu Naidu. He remarked that the people of Telangana had previously rejected Naidu's policies and accused Revanth Reddy of acting as Naidu's proxy to execute political vengeance against the state.



Man Arrested for Murder of Elderly Woman for Gold Ornaments: SP Nithika Pant, IPS

Two Others Arrested for Assisting in Sale of Stolen Gold 4 grams of gold ornaments, 1,500 cash and a blood-stained stone seized

Munsif News Bureau Kaghaznagar, Sept.24

District Superintendent of Police Smt. Nithika Pant, IPS, stated that police have arrested the prime accused in the murder of an 80-year-old woman, allegedly committed with the intention of stealing her gold ornaments.

Two others who allegedly assisted in selling the stolen jewellery have also been arrested. A1. Mekarathi Dhanunjay, 34, S/o Mondaiah, labourer, resident of Buruguda village, Asifabad Mandal. A2. Namevath Praveen, 22, S/o Kondaiah, employee at Mahaveer Collections,

Asifabad, resident of T.R. Nagar, Asifabad. A3. Raparathi Mahesh, 28, S/o Tirupathi, tractor driver, resident of T.R. Nagar, Asifabad.

he deceased, Mekarathi Mallakka, 80, wife of Sambayya, was a homemaker who lived alone at her residence in Buruguda village. According to the investigation, A1, a close relative of the deceased, knew that she was living alone.

Needing money for his personal expenses, he allegedly planned to steal her gold ornaments.

Fearing that she might recognise him, he allegedly

ly decided to kill her. On August 30, 2026, at around 10:30 p.m., A1 allegedly entered her house and struck her on the head with a stone, causing her death.

He then allegedly took her gold earrings, broke open the almirah and searched for other valuables. He allegedly concealed the body under firewood before fleeing the scene. Later, A2 allegedly assisted in selling the gold ornaments, while A3 allegedly kept them in his possession. The investigation revealed that A1 received the sale proceeds through A3.

Police seized the following items: 4 grams of gold ornaments ₹1,500 cash A blood-stained stone

SP Nithika Pant, IPS, stated that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in the crime. She urged the public to remain vigilant and immediately report any suspicious persons or illegal activities to the police. The SP appreciated DSP B. Ashok, CI B. Ravikumar, ASI Bhoja Goud, and police personnel Prem Kumar, Shesharao and Sagar for their efforts in swiftly detecting the case and apprehending the accused.



The prime accused in the murder of an 80-year-old woman, allegedly committed with the intention of stealing her gold ornaments. Two others who allegedly assisted in selling the stolen jewellery have also been arrested.

Andhra woman death case: Suspect Ravi Teja hospitalised after alleged suicide bid



Munsif News Adilabad, Sept.24:

Srinivasa Ravi Teja, the suspect in the death of a young woman in a room in a hotel in Madhapur, allegedly attempted suicide at his residence in his native village in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. He was shifted to a hospital, and the Parawada police informed their Hyderabad counterparts about the incident.

Ravi Teja hails from Edumetla Marripalem village in Parawada mandal of Andhra Pradesh.

According to the information available, he attempted suicide at his house on Wednesday.

The development comes as the Madhapur police formed special teams to trace and apprehend Ravi Teja in connection with the death of Sharon Nikita in a hotel room in the city.

The police said the investigation was being conducted from all possible angles, and the sequence of events before and after the incident was being verified through CCTV footage, technical evidence and statements from relevant

Deep depression crosses Andhra coast, triggering heavy rain

NSS Visakapatnam, Sept 24:

The Deep Depression in the Bay of Bengal crossed the coast between Kalingapatnam and Polaki in the early hours of Thursday, triggering heavy rains accompanied by gusty winds in north coastal Andhra Pradesh.

The landfall, which began late on Wednesday night, continued for two hours, said officials of Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDA). Heavy rains were lashing Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts, inundating low-lying areas and disrupting road traffic.

The Deep Depression crossed the coast close to the southwest of Kalingapatnam between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m., with maximum sustained wind speed of 55-65 kmph gusting to 75 kmph.

The Deep Depression moved at a speed of 3 kmph over the last six hours and is expected to continue as a severe depression for another 12 hours.

It is likely to gradually weaken over the subsequent 24 hours, APSDMA said on Thursday morning.

Prakhar Jain, MD, APSDMA, asked people to remain vigilant for 48 hours after the landfall. Low-lying areas must be alert to the risk of flash floods.

Officials on the ground must remain on high alert, Prakhar Jain said.

Heavy rains are likely in isolated areas of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Manyam, and Alluri Sitarama Raju districts on Thursday. Heavy rains are also likely in isolated areas of Polavaram, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, and Kakinada districts. Extremely heavy rainfall was recorded in the last 24 hours. Rainfall exceeding 100 mm was recorded in 80 locations.

Meanwhile, authorities have deployed teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

Collector Inspects Godavari Pushkaralu Arrangements at Basara

Munsif News Bureau Mudhole, Sept 24:

Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to ensure all necessary facilities are provided to devotees visiting Basara during the Godavari Pushkaralu.

On Thursday, Collector Bhavesh Mishra, accompanied by concerned officials, inspected the arrangements for the Pushkaralu and ongoing development works at Basara.

During the inspection, he reviewed the proposed locations for general dev-

otees' parking, VIP and VVIP parking, and the construction of a helipad, and issued necessary instructions to the officials.

The Collector said arrangements should be made keeping in view the expected heavy rush of devotees. He directed officials to



make adequate parking arrangements at different locations based on traffic flow and vehicle capacity.

He instructed officials to complete all works related to the provision of basic amenities within the stipulated time and ensure every possible facility is made

available according to the needs of devotees.

The Collector further directed the concerned officials to continuously monitor the Pushkaralu works and ensure that all works are completed as per prescribed quality standards. Later, the Collector

also inspected the proposed site for the construction of a new Tahsildar office.

Bhainsa Sub-Collector Ajmeera Sanket Kumar, R&B Executive Engineer Subhash, Tahsildar Poon Chandra, along with other officials and staff, were present.

Six-member committee begins probe into RIMS-Adilabad tragedy

NSS Adilabad, Sept 24:

An inquiry by a six-member committee constituted by the government to probe the tragic explosion of ACs at the Special Neonatal Care Unit (SNCU) in RIMS-Adilabad began on Thursday, with the committee visiting the institute. The explosion, supposedly caused by an electric short circuit, claimed the lives of five infants on Monday night. Led by Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA)-Umooor project officer Manda Makarandu, the members inspected the site of the accident and inquired about the causes

of the mishap. They gathered details of technical lapses and reasons that led to the accident by visiting the site. The members spoke to staffers of the SNCU and other wards as well.

It was learnt that the members laid special focus on the causes of the explosion of ACs. They would audit electricity, fire safety and other amenities. They will then submit a comprehensive report to the government soon. It will suggest recommendations to prevent similar accidents in future.

On Monday around 11.30 pm, while a newborn died on the spot.

Nizamabad CP, DM&HO Review Hospital Safety Measures

NSS Nizamabad, Sept 24:

In light of the incident that occurred at RIMS Hospital in Adilabad district, a special meeting was held at the Command Control Hall to review safety standards in government and private hospitals providing medical services to children in Nizamabad district.

Administrators, doctors, and concerned officials from government and private hospitals attended the meeting, which was conducted under the leadership of the Honorable Nizamabad Police Commissioner, Sri P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, and the District

Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO).

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on various aspects, including the safety of children in hospitals, measures to be taken during emergencies, and preventive steps regarding fire hazards.

A comprehensive review was conducted specifically on fire safety. Aspects such as the availability and functionality of fire-fighting equipment, emergency exit routes, fire alarm systems, electrical safety, staff awareness regarding fire safety, and protocols for the safe evacuation of patients during emergencies were examined.

Officials directed hospital managements to strictly implement precautionary safety measures to prevent any untoward incidents in areas where children are undergoing treatment. They advised that necessary arrangements be made and mock drills conducted to ensure a rapid, co-ordinated response by police, fire services, and medical personnel during emergencies.

During the meeting, it was emphasized that relevant officials must continuously monitor the implementation of safety standards in hospitals to ensure there is no negligence and that any identified deficiencies are rectified immediately.



Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to ensure all necessary facilities are provided to devotees visiting Basara during the Godavari Pushkaralu. During the inspection, he reviewed the proposed locations for general devotees' parking, VIP and VVIP parking, and the construction of a helipad, and issued necessary instructions to the officials.

Tummala slams Centre over reduction in palm oil import duty

Hyderabad, Sept.24 (NSS): Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday strongly opposed the Centre's decision to reduce the import duty on crude palm oil, warning that the move could adversely affect oil palm farmers in Telangana.

The Minister criticised what he termed the Centre's "dual approach" of encouraging states to expand oil palm cultivation while simultaneously making imported palm oil cheaper.

Following the latest decision, the overall import duty on crude palm oil has been reduced from 16.5 per cent to 11 per cent. Tummala Nageswara Rao said the reduction would give imported palm oil a competitive advantage and could exert pressure on the prices of domestically produced oil palm bunches. "The Telangana government has been urging the Centre to increase the import duty, but reducing it at this juncture is an irresponsible decision. At a time when farmers need price assurance, whom does the Centre seek to benefit by taking decisions in favour of foreign imports?" he asked.

630-Kg Ganesh Laddu Fetches Rs 25 Lakh in Auction Amid

NSS Machilipatnam, Sept.24

A massive 630-kg Ganesh laddu in Machilipatnam was auctioned for Rs 25 lakh through a Zoom-based bidding process amid heavy rains.

The auction began with a base bid of Rs 63,000 and attracted around 600 devotees, who participated both online and offline. After a competitive bidding process, Gummadi Bhavani Shankar, head of FCS Trading Pvt Ltd, emerged as the highest bidder with a final bid of



Rs 25 lakh.

The organisers congratulated Shankar on winning the auction

and said the laddu prasadam would be handed over to him by the committee.

IJU TO OBSERVE NATIONWIDE "DEMANDS DAY" ON GANDHI JAYANTI

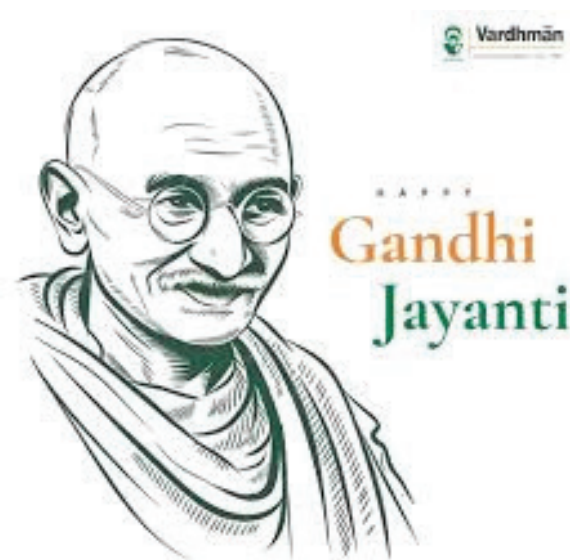
NSS Vijayawada, Sept 24:

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) will observe October 2, Gandhi Jayanti, as a nationwide "Demands Day" to highlight key issues concerning press freedom and the socio-economic security of media professionals.

The decision was taken at the IJU National Executive Committee meeting held recently in Bengaluru.

As part of the programme, affiliated state unions will submit memoranda to the President of India and respective Chief Ministers, seeking intervention on four major demands.

The IJU, led by President Balwinder Singh Jammu and Secretary General D. Soma Sundar, demanded the constitution of a new Media



Commission, noting that the last Press Commission submitted its report in 1982. It said the growth of television, digital news platforms and social media requires a comprehensive review of media ownership, regulafes-

sionals.

The IJU further demanded restoration of statutory protections earlier available under the Working Journalists Acts, which were replaced following the introduction of the new Labour Codes.



At a Glance

No FIR in CMRL-Exalogic Case?

IANSBengaluru, Sep. 24

Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Thursday asked Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan why no FIR had been registered in the CMRL-Exalogic case despite the Enforcement Directorate sharing information with the state government. Chandrasekhar said there were allegations that CMRL had paid money to Exalogic without receiving services in return. He said the allegations involved Exalogic, a company linked to T. Veena, daughter of former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. He asked why the government had not registered an FIR or ordered a Vigilance probe. Chandrasekhar also referred to reports that Satheesan’s name appeared in a CMRL diary and sought clarification on whether he had received any money mentioned in it. He said corruption allegations should be examined through a lawful investigation. He criticised the UDF government after 150 days, alleging practices of the previous LDF government continued.

CONGRESS SAYS 13 CRORE VOTER NAMES DELETED: SIR ROW

IANSBengaluru, Sep. 24

AICC General Secretary and Karnataka Congress in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala on Thursday alleged that around 13 crore voter names had been deleted from electoral rolls across 19 states during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise and demanded an immediate halt to the process. Surjewala accused the BJP of “hijacking” the Election Commission of India (ECI) and demanded the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, besides seeking an independent probe into the functioning of the poll panel. He claimed that SIR undertaken since June 2025 had resulted in around 13 crore names being removed from electoral rolls, including 1.43 crore in Karnataka. The figures were presented as allegations by the Congress leader. Separately, data reported by The Indian Express showed more than 13 crore names had been struck off draft rolls across 30 states and Union Territories during the exercise. Surjewala alleged that



the exercise was targeting eligible voters and said removal of eligible citizens from electoral rolls amounted to depriving them of their democratic rights. He also alleged that the functioning of the three-member Election Commission had become centralised under the CEC, citing reported objections by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. Reports have detailed objections raised by the two commissioners on several issues linked to the SIR process. The ECI, however, has maintained that its decisions were unanimous and disputed the characterisation of an internal split. Surjewala further alleged that control over electoral-roll databases had been centralised, reducing the role of Electoral Registration Officers, District Election Officers and Chief Electoral Officers. He also criticised alleged changes to Form 6, used for new voter registration, saying additional requirements could create difficulties for first-time voters. Referring to West Bengal, he cited 16 lakh appeals seeking deletion of names. The ECI has told the Supreme Court that 38.31 lakh appeals were filed there, including 22.21 lakh seeking inclusion and 16.10 lakh seeking deletion. Surjewala demanded a review of voter deletions since June 2025, restoration of the statutory powers of electoral-roll officials and an independent IT and cyber-forensic audit of electoral databases. He also sought a special Parliament session to discuss the SIR exercise and the functioning of the ECI.

CJP GIVES CEC GYANESH KUMAR 48 HOURS TO RESIGN

IANSNNew Delhi, Sep. 24

The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) on Thursday demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar within 48 hours and warned of a nationwide agitation if he does not step down. Addressing a press conference, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said the party would launch a nationwide agitation if Kumar failed to resign within the deadline. Dipke criticised the CEC following reports of differences within the Election Commission of India (ECI) over decisions related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. He alleged that the functioning of the poll panel under Kumar had undermined democracy. “The Election Commission of India has been hijacked. The voter list has been taken over, and the CEC is involved,” Dipke alleged. He claimed that the government was effectively deciding who could vote and who could not, and described the situation as “autoc-



racy”. These were allegations made by Dipke against Kumar and the ECI and were not independently established. Referring to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Dipke alleged that subsequent developments involving several political leaders showed a pattern. He said several leaders who had campaigned together in 2024 were later defeated. Dipke also alleged that voter deletions had affected constituencies associated with political leaders. He claimed that 50,000 votes were deleted from Mamata Banerjee’s constituency, one lakh from M.K. Stalin’s constituency and 40,000 from Arvind Kejriwal’s constituency. He linked the alleged deletions to the leaders’ election defeats. These claims were made by Dipke and were not independently substantiated. He further alleged that the ECI had played a role in the split of the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the allocation of its election symbol. Dipke accused the poll panel of favouring the BJP and alleged that Kumar was responsible for what he described as the undermining of electoral processes. Dipke demanded that the SIR exercise be stopped and called for action against Kumar. He also alleged that the ECI had contributed to

similar developments involving other political parties. CJP co-convenor Saurav Das also criticised the electoral system, describing it as “corrupt” and “broken”. He said the right to vote was an important instrument available to citizens to bring about political change. “If your right to vote, which is the only tool you have to bring about change in your life, is taken away from you or stolen from you, then how will change come?” Das asked. The CJP reiterated its demand that Kumar resign within 48 hours, failing which it said it would launch a nationwide agitation. Dipke also alleged that the ECI had “rigged” elections and ensured that the BJP remained in power, while calling Kumar the “real culprit” behind the developments he cited. He said the issue was not merely about political leaders but about citizens’ right to choose their representatives through elections. The CJP said it would continue its campaign until Kumar resigned.

CGCRI Showcases Indigenous Technologies for Healthcare, Defence and Clean Energy

Telangana media delegation visits premier Kolkata research institute; focus on advanced materials, strategic applications and Viksit Bharat@2047

MunsifKolkata, Sep. 24

A Telangana media delegation, including Munsif Daily Correspondent Syed Ifteqar Hussain, visited the CSIR-Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI) in Kolkata on Thursday as part of a media tour organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Hyderabad. During the visit, Professor Bikramjit Basu, Director, CSIR-CGCRI, briefed the journalists on the institute’s work in advanced ceramics, glass and materials technologies and their applications in healthcare, defence, space, clean energy, industry and sustainable development. Speaking on “Materials-Led Innovation for Viksit Bharat: A Developed India,” Professor Basu said scientific research must move beyond laboratories and translate into technologies capable of industrial adoption and wider societal benefit. Established in 1950, CGCRI has completed 75



PIB Media & Communication Officer Shivacharan Reddy presents a memento to CSIR-CGCRI Director Prof. Bikramjit Basu during the Telangana media delegation’s visit in Kolkata. Munsif Daily Correspondent Syed Ifteqar Hussain is also seen.

years of scientific research and is working extensively with industries, MSMEs, startups, academic institutions and strategic organisations. From Hip Implants to Kidney-Stone Treatment Among the healthcare innovations showcased was a zirconia-toughened alumina ceramic femoral head developed for hip-joint replacement. The technology has been transferred to an Indian company and has reached the market. The institute has also developed materials for spinal implants, a thulium fibre laser system for lithotripsy

to fragment kidney stones, a non-invasive breath analyser with diabetes-related applications and advanced materials for sanitary hygiene products. During the interaction, Syed Ifteqar Hussain and other members of the Telangana delegation showed particular interest in how indigenous scientific technologies could be translated into affordable products with wider public benefit, particularly in healthcare and emerging industrial applications. Strategic Technologies for India CGCRI officials also presented technologies de-

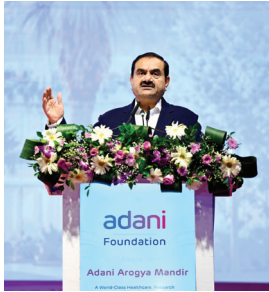
veloped in collaboration with organisations such as DRDO and ISRO, including ceramic radomes for high-temperature applications, chalcogenide glass used in thermal imaging, high-energy laser glass and specialised optical glass for space applications. Professor Basu said the institute had achieved stringent optical homogeneity standards required for space-grade glass, high-lighting India’s growing capability in specialised materials manufacturing. Green Hydrogen, Battery Innovation In the clean-energy sector,

the institute showcased solid oxide electrolyser technology for green hydrogen production and advanced ceramic materials for rechargeable batteries. Another innovation presented was “PEPARETOR,” a paper-based ceramic separator designed for lithium-ion and sodium-ion batteries as well as supercapacitors. Researchers described it as a potentially low-cost and flame-retardant alternative to conventional polymer separators. Professor Basu said greater collaboration between research institutions, industry and startups would be crucial for transforming laboratory discoveries into commercially viable technologies. The visit offered the Telangana journalists an insight into how indigenous materials research is increasingly supporting fields ranging from medical treatment and national security to space technology, batteries and green hydrogen, strengthening India’s technological capabilities under the broader Viksit Bharat@2047 vision.

For India’s Next Trillion Dollars of Growth, East Must Rise: Gautam Adani

IANSKolkata, Sep. 24

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani on Thursday said the eastern region must emerge as a new centre of economic growth as India moves towards its next trillion dollars of expansion, describing West Bengal as strategically important to the Viksit Bharat vision. “For India’s next trillion dollars of growth, the East must rise. And this is where Bengal becomes essential to fulfil the vision of Viksit Bharat,” Adani said while addressing the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Kolkata. He highlighted Bengal’s geographical advantages, with Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh to its



west, the Northeast to its north and east, and the Bay of Bengal providing access to Southeast Asia and Indo-Pacific markets. Adani said the group plans to invest more than Rs 1 lakh crore in West Bengal over the next decade. The investments will cover ports, logistics, power generation, transmission and distribution, roads, bridges, ropeways, green cement and data centres. He said development must ultimately be mea-

sured by its human impact. He cited the proposed Adani Arogya Mandir, a 2,000-bed medical institute in New Town, with half the beds intended for those unable to afford quality healthcare. The group will also support the revitalisation of Kumartuli Ghat and conservation of the historic Writers’ Building. Recalling his entrepreneurial journey, Adani said Mundra in Gujarat had become his first “karmabhoomi” and expressed hope that Bengal would become his second. “Not because Bengal must become another Gujarat — but because Bengal must become the strongest version of Bengal itself,” he said.

UPI’s New MDR Framework Aims to Fund Digital Payments Ecosystem

IANSNNew Delhi, Sep. 24

The introduction of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on select high-value UPI merchant transactions is being viewed by stakeholders as a way to create a sustainable revenue stream for India’s expanding digital payments ecosystem while keeping most transactions free. Under the new framework, all person-to-person UPI transactions remain free, while merchant payments up to Rs 2,000 and eligible transactions by small merchants receiving up to Rs 1 lakh a month through UPI QR codes also attract zero MDR. RuPay debit card transactions remain exempt. About 96 per cent of UPI merchant transactions are below Rs 2,000,



according to the government. The 0.4 per cent MDR will apply to specified person-to-merchant payments above Rs 2,000, capped at Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 and above. Essential sectors such as railways, telecom, insurance, fuel and agricultural inputs will face a flat Rs 5 charge above the threshold. MDR is a payment-processing charge rather than a tax or government levy. The revenue stays within the payments ecosystem and is shared among participating banks, payment service providers and

technology platforms. Supporters say the charge can fund investment in cybersecurity, fraud detection, technology and customer support as transaction volumes grow. They also point to newer services, including Credit on UPI and feature-phone payment solutions such as UPI 123Pay. Under the proposed distribution, 40 per cent of MDR would go to the issuing bank, 30 per cent to the merchant acquirer, 20 per cent to the UPI application provider and 10 per cent to the payer’s PSP partner. Stakeholders note that merchant fees are common across digital payment systems and argue that the policy seeks to balance UPI’s expansion with the need to finance infrastructure required to keep the network secure and reliable.

CALCUTTA BRACES FOR HEAVY RAIN AS DEEP DEPRESSION CROSSES ANDHRA-ODISHA COAST

MunsifKolkata, Sep. 24

Calcutta is likely to receive heavy rain on Thursday as a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal crosses the Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coast and moves west-northwestwards towards central India. A Met bulletin issued around 7.45pm on Wednesday said the system was about 30km south-southwest of Kalingapatnam,



90km east-northeast of Visakhapatnam and 160km southwest of Gopalpur. It was expected to cross the north Andhra Pradesh and

adjoining south Odisha coast between Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur within three to four hours. Calcutta received rain from

Wednesday morning, with Alipore recording around 28mm till 8.30pm. The maximum temperature was 29.6°C, three degrees below normal, and is likely to remain below 30°C on Thursday. Very heavy rain is likely in East Midnapore, West Midnapore and Jhargram, while heavy rain is expected in South 24-Parganas, Bankura, Purulia, West Burdwan, Birbhum, Howrah and Calcutta. Darjeeling,

Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar may receive heavy to very heavy rain. Squally winds of 45-55kmph, gusting to 65kmph, are likely along and off the Bengal coast till September 25. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the deep sea. Met officials said strong wind shear linked to active monsoon currents was preventing further intensification of the system.



At a Glance

Nepal Flight's Tyre Comes Off

IANSS Kathmandu, Sep. 24

A Sita Air plane carrying 16 people had a narrow escape after its right rear tyre came off while landing at Jughal Airport in Nepal's Dolpa district on Thursday, police said.

Police officer Anil Raj Giri said the incident occurred around 8:25 am and all 13 passengers and three crew members were safe.

The passengers included seven foreign nationals from France, Germany and Belgium, and six Nepali nationals. A video showing the tyre coming off and rolling down a slope circulated on social media.

The aircraft had taken off from Nepalgunj Airport and was bound for Jughal. Police said it remained on the runway.

Giri said a technical team would assess the aircraft before further decisions. The investigation is underway.

PTI march: Punjab bans gatherings

IANSS Islamabad, Sep. 24



Ahead of the PTI long march to Islamabad on September 27, the Punjab government has banned public gatherings for 13 days in Punjab, media reported.

The order prohibits gatherings and processions of five or more people in places, roads and open spaces. It also bans carrying or displaying weapons and encouraging unlawful gatherings, The Express Tribune reported.

The order exempts weddings, funeral prayers, burials and gatherings at mosques and other places of worship. The government cited security threats and possible attacks by militant groups.

The order comes amid the detention of several PTI leaders, workers and relatives of Imran Khan.

A petition has been filed in the Lahore High Court challenging the 30-day detention of Khan's sisters Aleema Khan, Noreen Niazi and Uzma.

NORTH KOREA TEST-FIRES UPGRADED 240MM MULTIPLE-ROCKET LAUNCHER SHELLS

IANSS Seoul, Sep. 24

North Korea said Thursday that it had test-fired shells for an upgraded 240mm multiple-rocket launcher system, stressing the need to deploy what it called its "deadliest" attack forces along the border with South Korea.

The test of upgraded 240mm-calibre controlled multiple-launch rockets was conducted Tuesday under a five-year plan to modernise the country's artillery and missile forces, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported, according to Yonhap News Agency.

Military cadres overseeing the test said the development of range-extended rockets would bring a "significant change" to firepower readiness along the southern border.

Pak Jong-chon, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the ruling Workers' Party, called for concentrating the "deadliest and most destructive attack forces on the southern border", KCNA reported.

The rockets are



equipped with an "autonomous pinpoint guide system" and can reportedly strike targets up to 100 km away in trajectory flight mode and 115 km away in combined glide mode.

The test comes amid tensions between the two Koreas. North Korea declared in 2023 that inter-Korean ties were relations between "two states hostile to each other". Since then, Pyongyang has now focused on improving weapons capable of striking targets in South Korea.

South Korea's military said it detected multiple rounds being fired towards the Yellow Sea on Tuesday and was conducting a detailed analysis. It said it was maintaining "overwhelming" capabilities against

possible provocations and closely monitoring North Korean activities under the combined South Korea-US defence posture.

North Korea also reported Tuesday that its missile bureau had successfully tested a new combat weapon system on Sunday in the presence of leader Kim Jong-un. KCNA described the test as significant in demonstrating advances in the country's weapons technology.

The 240mm system is part of North Korea's effort to modernise its conventional strike capabilities. The latest announcement highlights Pyongyang's continued emphasis on artillery and missile capabilities near the inter-Korean border.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU FOR XI AT TRUMP'S STATE DINNER

IANSS Washington, Sep. 24

US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump will host Chinese President Xi Jinping and Madame Peng Liyuan at a White House state dinner on Thursday evening, with a menu blending American ingredients with Chinese influences.

The dinner in the East Room will begin with a toast of Schramsberg "Blanc de Noir", an American sparkling wine chosen to recall the 1972 toast shared by President Richard Nixon and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in Beijing.

The first course will be yellow squash velouté with wild mushroom fricassée, crispy pancetta and scallion oil. The main course will feature sesame-crusted sea bass with braised baby bok choy, roasted garden eggplant and green herb sauce.

Dessert will be vanilla crèmeux and White House honey ice cream with walnut frangipane and sour cherry confit. The honey used in the ice cream will be harvested at the White House.

The White House said the menu seeks to bring together culinary traditions from both countries, with sesame, bok choy and scallion oil providing

Chinese-inspired touches.

Classically trained tenor Christopher Macchio will headline the entertainment. Military musicians from the US Marine Corps and US Army, including "The President's Own" United States Marine Band and the United States Army Chorus, will also perform.

Red will dominate the East Room décor, reflecting its longstanding cultural significance in China. Red blossoms, rich red linens, dahlias and ranunculus will feature alongside White House tableware and pieces from the Reagan State Service.

2,000 TIBETANS TO PROTEST XI'S US VISIT

IANSS Washington, Sep. 24

More than 2,000 Tibetans from North America will join Uyghurs, Hong Kongers, Taiwanese and Chinese democracy activists in Washington on Thursday to protest President Xi Jinping's visit.

The mobilisation will include a demonstration out-



side the Chinese Embassy, a US Capitol rally and a candlelight vigil.

Organisers said protesters

would highlight concerns over political prisoners, religious freedom and threats to cultural identities.

The Tibetan Youth Congress and Capital Area Tibetan Association are leading it.

Organisers will call for the release of the 11th Panchen Lama and political prisoners and demand dialogue with Chinese authorities.

TRUMP CONFIRMS IRAN WAR WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH XI

IANSS Washington, Sep. 24

US President Donald Trump will discuss Iran with Chinese President Xi Jinping when the two leaders meet at the White House on Thursday, with trade, artificial intelligence safety and detained Americans also drawing attention ahead of the talks.

Trump confirmed on Wednesday evening that Iran would be among the subjects he planned to raise with Xi. "I'll be talking about that and many other subjects," Trump told reporters.

Xi arrived at Joint Base Andrews on Wednesday and was greeted by Trump and First Lady Melania Trump. The welcome included a red carpet and flyover by two B-1 aircraft.

Thursday's programme includes a formal state arrival ceremony and an evening state dinner. The talks come amid congressional calls for progress on market access and technology safeguards.

Trade discussions have already taken place between senior officials. Speaking in New York on Wednesday, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said



Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had met Chinese representatives on Sunday for talks he described as frank and direct.

Asked whether Trump would seek Chinese help in addressing the conflicts involving Iran and Russia, Rubio said the President would raise relevant global issues but declined to specify what Washington would ask Beijing to do.

"We'll talk about everything that's relevant. We'll talk about everything that's important," Rubio said. He said positive outcomes or joint announcements would be made public.

Trump's confirmation put Iran specifically on the agenda. Rubio had earlier reiterated Washington's position that Iran must not acquire a nuclear weapon

and said the administration remained open to a negotiated agreement.

Agricultural trade is another issue lawmakers want addressed. Republican Senator Pete Ricketts and Representative Zach Nunn have urged the administration to secure dependable Chinese purchases of American soybeans and better access for US beef.

Technology is also drawing congressional attention. Seventeen Democratic senators, led by Chris Van Hollen, have asked Trump to pursue an AI safety agreement with China. Their proposals include common testing standards, oversight of advanced systems and consideration of a mutual pause in development.

These are congressional requests, rather than

an announced agreement or confirmed negotiating item between Washington and Beijing.

Detained Americans are also expected to feature in US representations. Rubio said their cases were raised in every engagement with countries holding them. Senator Ted Budd has urged Trump to address religious freedom and seek the release of detained Americans and religious figures in China.

The White House programme continues on Friday with tea for the two presidential couples and a visit to the National Archives. No joint outcome document was included in the announcements ahead of the talks. The talks will also cover key issues affecting bilateral relations.

China's Ethnic Unity Law: When 'harmony' becomes forced loyalty

IANSS Washington, Sep. 24

China's ethnic-unity law, effective from July 1, seeks to promote a national identity among its 56 recognised ethnic groups. Critics say it could further restrict minority languages, religions and cultural identities.

Passed by the National People's Congress on March 12, the law puts Party leadership and a unified Chinese identity at its centre. It requires Mandarin education and calls on families to promote loyalty to the Party, state and Chinese nation.

Rights groups warn that the law may weak-

en minority-language education and increase pressure on religious institutions to follow Beijing's "Sinicisation" policy.

Article 63 extends the law's reach overseas, raising concerns among exiled activists and diaspora groups.

UN human-rights chief Volker Turk and experts have criticised the law, warning of restrictions on language, religion, culture and expression. The US and Europe have also raised concerns.

Beijing says the law promotes stability and unity, and rejects allegations of forced assimilation as foreign interference.

UN LAUNCHES PLAN TO TURN CRITICAL MINERALS INTO JOBS

IANSS United Nations, Sep. 24

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has launched a mechanism to help developing countries turn demand for critical minerals into jobs and economic growth locally now.

Guinea, Indonesia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe will be beneficiaries of the Country Support Mechanism on Critical Energy Transition Minerals, the UN announced in New York.

It will provide assistance to strengthen governance, expand local processing and protect communities and the environment.

"The countries that hold the critical minerals pow-

ering the energy transition must be the first to benefit from them," Guterres said.

The UN said demand for copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements is projected to almost triple by 2030 as renewable energy expands. These resources are used in electric vehicles, batteries, solar panels and wind power.

UNDP and the UN Development Coordination Office will lead the mechanism, assessing needs and coordinating assistance on governance, industry and environmental safeguards.

Zambia's Foreign Minister Mulambo Haimbe said his country wanted to move beyond copper production and create value at home.

US TARGETS BIRTH TOURISM WITH NEW VISA CURBS

IANSS WASHINGTON, Sep. 24

The United States has announced new visa restrictions targeting people who knowingly engage in or facilitate birth tourism, along with an online portal for reporting suspected visa fraud.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the restrictions would cover owners, operators and managers of commercial birth tourism networks, intermediaries who coach applicants to commit visa fraud, and foreign medical providers who



knowingly facilitate such travel and fraudulent use of Medicaid.

The policy, introduced under Section 212(a)(3) (C) of the Immigration

and Nationality Act, applies to people who knowingly engage in, have previously engaged in or facilitate birth tourism. Certain family mem-

bers may also be covered, the State Department said.

"Foreign commercial birth tourism networks have exploited the US immigration system to sell US citizenship for profit," Rubio said.

He alleged that such networks coach foreign nationals to lie on visa applications and charge tens of thousands of dollars to arrange births in the US to obtain citizenship for children.

Rubio said the policy was aimed at protecting citizenship, public benefits and taxpayers, as well as national security. The

department did not provide details of individual cases.

Separately, the State Department launched an online portal for public reports of suspected visa fraud. It said the portal would accept information on falsified documents and travel plans, sham marriages, shell companies, fabricated job offers and birth tourism.

Possible enforcement measures include visa revocations and referrals for further law enforcement investigation. The department said many people identified for visa fraud

during President Donald Trump's second term were discovered through public tips, but provided no case breakdown.

Birth tourism refers to travel to another country to give birth with the aim of securing citizenship for the child. The US debate over the practice is linked to its longstanding system of birthright citizenship.

The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, states that people born or naturalised in the United States and subject to its jurisdiction are citizens. Rules apply under US law too.



How Narcotics Money Enters Nightclubs and Businesses to Fund Terror

Investigations by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have exposed a complex narco-terror funding network operating across India, revealing how drug proceeds are channelled through illicit hawala routes and invested in domestic businesses to finance cross-border terrorism, according to officials.

The battle against narcotics smuggling, particularly its links to terror financing, has emerged as a major priority for the Indian government.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said the Narendra Modi government would leave no stone unturned to make India drug-free and that the fight against the narcotics menace would now be intensified at the district level.

Several agencies, including state police forces, the Intelligence Bureau, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Customs and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), are working to dismantle drug networks.

However, investigations by the ED have

brought to light another dimension of the problem. Recent probes by the ED have revealed how money earned through narcotics trade is making its way in and out of the country. A shocking revelation that came out of the ED probe was that the money that has been coming in is being invested in legitimate ventures.

An official said that the kind of investments being made in India look legitimate until the trail of the funds is traced.

“The money that is generated from drug smuggling moves in multiple directions. A syndicate backed by the ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) has its wings in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Dubai,” the official said.

The money first reaches Dubai, after which the hawala route is used to channelise the money into Pakistan, Afghanistan and India.

The money that reaches the ISI’s assets in Pakistan and Afghanistan is used entirely to fund terror activities against India, the official said.

Another official said

that the money that reaches India through a hawala channel is meant to be parked until further orders. Those part of the syndicate in India are instructed to park the money in legitimate businesses. Take the case of Gaurav Dawar, an accused in a heroin smuggling case. His arrest took place following major seizures in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana. This case came to light following the busting of a Rs 3,000 crore heroin smuggling case in Gujarat, in which one Harpreet Singh was named as the prime accused by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Investigations revealed that Dawar and Harpreet were reporting to one Vitaysh Koser alias Raju Dubai. Koser, according to the probe, was working on the instructions of ISI assets based out of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Dawar and Harpreet were roped in by Koser to facilitate narcotics smuggling in India. They would regularly visit Dubai, where they would be paid in kind and also cash.

The in-kind payments included cigarettes that are prohibited in India, dry dates, perfumes and betel nut consignments.

Officials say that these smugglers avoid routing cash through electronic bank transfers from across the border as it would immediately trigger the attention of the authorities. By exchanging high-value physical commodities, syndicates avoid the placement stage of money laundering completely eliminate the digital or paper trail.

Commodities such as cigarettes have a high demand and are lucrative due to big differences in global tax rates. Smugglers exploit bootlegging to clear massive profits with less risk when compared to moving narcotics. Perfumes and dried dates are compact and have high demand, carrying premium street value. An Intelligence Bureau official said that these are relatively safer payments that are made to those indulging in the narcotics trade in India.

“Instead of cash, they are paid in kind to avoid alerting the agencies,” the official said.

The ED probe also found

that Dawar had made investments in two Delhi nightclubs, Playboy Club and White Club, that were being operated through an entity called Newera Feast and Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.

An official explained that such clubs are used to fabricate ghost customers. Launderers inject illicit cash into the daily earnings registry. They also create fake bookings, dummy restaurant orders, and then mix dirty money with legitimate daily sales. Further, such clubs or bars are also used to sell cigarettes and perfumes at retail margins. This is then turned into legal business cash.

It has also been found that such hospitality businesses fund terror indirectly. Goods such as kitchen equipment, imported linens, and specialised food are purchased from an overseas shell company that is controlled by a terror network. They overpay these companies and accept fake invoices for these goods. What looks like a normal trade operation is actually an indirect way of terror funding through these overseas shell companies that are controlled by terror groups, an official said.

Drinking Water Shortage Hits Hyderabad and Secunderabad



By: Dr Shujath Ali Sufi

A growing drinking-water shortage is causing concern among residents of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Several localities are experiencing irregular water supply, forcing families to depend on private tankers and other sources to meet their daily needs.

The shortage has affected both residential areas and commercial establishments. In some neighbourhoods, residents have reported receiving water for only a limited period, while others have had to wait for tanker supplies. The situation has placed an additional burden on

families, particularly those with elderly people and children.

The problem is linked to a combination of factors, including declining water availability, rising demand caused by the city’s growing population, and inadequate groundwater levels in some areas. Hot weather can further increase household consumption and put pressure on existing water resources. Residents have appealed to the authorities to ensure regular and equitable water distribution. They have also called for repairs to leaking pipelines, better management of water resources and measures to improve groundwater recharge.

Officials and civic agencies face the challenge of meeting the increasing demand while conserving available water resources. Experts have stressed the importance of rainwater harvesting, reducing wastage and protecting lakes and other water bodies around the city.

The water shortage is therefore not only an immediate inconvenience but also a warning about the need for long-term planning. With Hyderabad and Secunderabad continuing to grow, ensuring a reliable supply of safe drinking water will require cooperation between authorities, communities and individual households.

How to Gain Weight in a Healthy Way

While losing weight is a common goal for many people, gaining weight in a healthy and controlled manner can be equally challenging for some. People with a naturally fast metabolism, high levels of stress or certain underlying health conditions may find it difficult to put on weight. However, healthy weight gain is not simply about eating more food. The focus should be on consuming nutritious, calorie-dense foods while supporting the growth of lean muscle through regular strength training.

The basic principle behind weight gain is to consume more calories than the body burns. A moderate calorie surplus can help the body gradually gain weight without relying heavily on unhealthy, high-fat or highly processed foods. Simply increasing food intake without exercising may result in a greater proportion of the additional weight being stored as body fat. Strength training, therefore, plays an important role in ensuring that a significant part of the weight gained comes from muscle mass.

Weight-based exercises and bodyweight workouts can stimulate muscle growth when performed consistently. Strength training two to three times a week can be beneficial for people trying to build muscle while gaining weight. Exercises should be progressed gradually by increasing weights, repetitions or the overall training volume as strength improves. Adequate rest between workouts is also important for muscle recovery and development.

People aiming to gain weight can consider adding around 300 to 500 calories

a day to their usual energy intake for gradual and controlled weight gain. Instead of relying on a few very large meals, eating more frequently and including nutritious snacks between meals can make it easier to achieve the required calorie intake. Each meal should ideally contain a combination of protein, carbohydrates and healthy fats to provide both energy and essential nutrients.

Adequate protein is particularly important for muscle development. Depending on individual requirements and activity levels, experts often recommend around 1.6 to 2.2 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight per day for people engaged in regular resistance training. Good sources include dairy products, eggs, fish, lean meats, pulses, beans, nuts and seeds. Whole grains and other nutrient-rich carbohydrate sources can provide the energy required for workouts and daily activities.

Healthy fats can also help increase calorie intake without requiring very large portions of food. Nuts, seeds, avocado and other nutrient-dense foods can be incorporated into regular meals and snacks. Whole grains, dairy products and other nutrient-rich foods can further improve the overall quality of the diet while supporting gradual weight gain.

People trying to gain weight should avoid excessive high-intensity cardio, particularly if it makes it difficult to maintain a calorie surplus. However, completely avoiding cardiovascular exercise is not necessary. Moderate cardio

can support heart health, fitness and overall physical wellbeing. The amount and intensity should be adjusted according to individual goals, calorie intake and training requirements.

Compound strength exercises that work several muscle groups at the same time can be particularly useful. Squats, deadlifts, overhead presses and rowing exercises are examples of movements that can form part of a structured strength-training programme. Proper technique is important, and beginners should increase the weight gradually rather than attempting to lift heavy loads immediately.

Sleep and recovery are also important components of healthy weight gain. Muscles need adequate recovery after resistance training, while insufficient sleep can affect overall recovery and physical performance. Maintaining a consistent eating and exercise routine can help support steady progress.

If a person continues to struggle with gaining weight despite eating adequately and exercising regularly, it may be worth seeking professional advice. Persistent difficulty gaining weight can sometimes be associated with an underlying health issue, and a doctor can help determine whether further evaluation is required. A qualified nutritionist or dietitian can also prepare an eating plan based on the individual’s calorie requirements, activity level and nutritional needs.

Healthy weight gain requires a balanced diet, enough protein, regular strength training and adequate rest.

Fair case for rupee to stabilise and appreciate from current levels: RBI Deputy Governor



The rupee has cumulatively depreciated by 13.1 per cent (on a point-to-point basis) from March 31, 2025 to September 16, 2026, and there is a fair case for the Indian currency to not only stabilise but also appreciate from current levels, according to Poonam Gupta, the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) Deputy Governor.

“If anything, there seems to be a fair case for the rupee to not just stabilise but perhaps even appreciate from the current levels, as was being anticipated by the market analysts when the capital flow measures were first announced,” she said.

She said the current account deficit (CAD) should shrink further in coming years, with the traditional strengths persisting and the new ones emerging, including the growing success in merchandise exports.

“With the RBI remaining committed to ensuring orderly conditions in the foreign exchange market and having the wherewithal to meet decades worth of CAD, or the net balance of payment (BOP) deficit, the current market dynamics do not appear especially well-founded,” Gupta said at the SBI conclave in Mumbai.

India has traditionally run a small current account deficit (CAD) and a larger capital account surplus, resulting in a net positive BOP.

Its CAD as percent of GDP has declined over

time, bringing resilience to the BOP.

“Furthermore, the CAD levels have remained far below the levels generally considered to be prudent for emerging market economies. Net services exports and remittances remain its great structural strengths. Together, they are large and resilient enough to absorb the merchandise trade deficit and keep the CAD contained at below 1 percent of GDP,” Gupta elaborated.

The recent oil price and gold price shocks have pushed CAD temporarily higher. In addition, in the last two years, capital account surplus has fallen short of CAD, resulting in a negative BOP of about \$5.0 billion in 2024-25 and \$23.6 billion in 2025-26.

She further said that India’s dependence on imported oil is set to decline, through alternative sources of energy and the quest to find its own oil reserves, both of which will further bolster the trend reduction in the demand for oil as percent of GDP.

“This would be in addition to oil prices themselves stabilising as soon as the conflict resolves. Meanwhile, the rest of the trade basket is responding well to the new trade opportunities that are being leveraged, a strength that will continue with the positive impact of recent FTAs materialising, and a conducive exchange rate,” she mentioned.

India expands digital payments footprint in UAE with regulatory nod



Indian digital payments major PhonePe has received in-principle approval from the Central Bank of the UAE for payment-related licences, marking a significant step towards establishing a regulated presence in the Emirates.

According to a report by Khaleej Times, the approvals cover Retail Payment Services and Card Schemes, along with Stored Value Facilities. PhonePe has completed the initial regulatory due diligence and will now work with UAE authorities to fulfil the remaining requirements needed to obtain final approval before commencing operations.

The company has selected the UAE as a key destination for its international expansion, citing the country’s favourable Financial Infrastructure Transformation (FIT) programme, regulatory framework and rapidly growing digital economy.

PhonePe said it aims to support the UAE’s transition towards a cashless economy by integrating its technology with the country’s existing financial in-

frastructure. The company also plans to explore collaborations with Aani and Jaywan, the UAE’s domestic payment platforms, by leveraging its technology and payment infrastructure.

With more than 700 million registered users and around 50 million merchants in India, PhonePe has experience in handling large volumes of digital transactions. The company said any deployment in the UAE would be designed to complement the existing financial ecosystem and facilitate payments for residents and businesses.

“As the UAE advances toward an interconnected, digital-first economy, PhonePe aims to be a committed, long-term partner supporting its evolving ecosystem,” said Ritesh Pai, CEO and Executive Director of International Payments at PhonePe.

Pai said the company plans to leverage its technology through local partnerships to strengthen economic and trade links between the UAE, India and international markets.

PhonePe already works

with NPCI International Payments Limited to facilitate cross-border payments in the UAE through NEOPAY and Network International terminals. Indian travellers in the UAE can use PhonePe to scan local QR codes and make instant payments at participating NEOPAY and Network International terminals.

The latest in-principle approval, however, represents a further step towards PhonePe establishing its own regulated presence in the UAE. The company will need to complete the remaining regulatory requirements and secure final approval before launching its proposed operations in the country.

The proposed expansion is expected to further strengthen digital payment connectivity between India and the UAE, particularly for Indian travellers and businesses. PhonePe’s local presence could also create new opportunities for seamless cross-border transactions as digital payments gain wider adoption across the Emirates.



Asian Games: India bags silver in thrilling mixed 4x400m relay final

Nishio, Sept. 24:

India won the silver medal in the mixed 4x400m relay at the 2026 Asian Games on Thursday, clocking 3:14.46 to finish behind Bahrain at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium.

The Indian quartet of Machettira Poovamma, Vishal Thennarasu, Ramraj Vithya and Thekkinalil Manu finished just 0.08 seconds ahead of Vietnam, who clocked 3:14.54. Bahrain claimed gold in a Games-record 3:12.87, while Japan finished fourth in 3:15.52.

The silver continued India's strong run in the event, following gold at Jakarta 2018 and silver at Hangzhou 2023, giving the country medals in all three Asian Games editions featuring the mixed 4x400m relay. Vishal Thennarasu added another highlight to his breakthrough year after becoming the first Indian man to run the 400m in under 45 seconds, clocking a national-record 44.98 at the 2026 National Federation Senior Athletics Championships in Ranchi. Paris 2024 Olympian Ramraj Vithya, veteran M.R. Poovamma and Manu Saji bring valuable international experience to India's relay team.

'India Lacks Football Culture': Ancelotti's Blunt Assessment Ahead of Brazil Friendly

Kolkata, Sept. 24:

Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti has said India lacks a strong football culture and does not have enough experience of facing top international teams ahead of their much-anticipated friendly in Kolkata on October 3.

Speaking to the media in Brisbane, Ancelotti said Brazil has an established football culture, while India still needs greater exposure to high-level international football. He, however, acknowledged India's strength in other sports and stressed the need for a stronger system to help young footballers develop and compete at the highest level.

Indonesia Chairman Abhiram Singh Yadav elected to ICC Chief Executives' Committee



Dubai, Sept. 24:

Persatuan Cricket Indonesia Chairman Abhiram Singh Yadav has been elected as an Associate Member representative on the influential ICC Chief Executives' Committee (CEC), the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Thursday.

Yadav won the contest to fill the vacancy created after France's Gurumurthy Palani was elevated to the ICC Board during its annual conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, in July this year. He will serve out the remaining 10 months of the two-year term alongside current Associate representatives Gurdeep Klair and Anuraag Bhatnagar.

"Mr Yadav will serve on the CEC until the next elections, which will be held at the ICC Annual Conference in June 2027," further said the statement from the ICC. The election of Yadav to the

influential panel marks another significant milestone for cricket in Indonesia, a rapidly growing nation in the sport's global expansion roadmap.

It is also likely to host the ICC's quarterly meetings in Bali in November. Yadav emerged victorious from a field that included candidates from European nations Jersey, the Netherlands and Germany.

Speaking previously to IANS, Yadav had stated his collaborative, tailored approach to supporting emerging cricket nations across diverse regions. "One member may be advanced in an area where another is only beginning, and somewhere else the position may be reversed. There is enormous knowledge within Associate cricket.

"We should be sharing it and helping each other to make progress in cricket. These are not six prescriptions that every country

must follow in the same way. They are areas where I believe representation can make a practical difference. The priorities within them have to come from the Members themselves.

"Some countries may need infrastructure, some more meaningful competition, others stronger domestic cricket, coaching, women's and youth pathways, governance or commercial capability. The approach has to be global in outlook, but relevant in application," he had said at that time.

Under Yadav's chairmanship in Indonesia, the country qualified for the inaugural 2023 ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup and made its debut at the 2026 Women's Asia Cup in Dubai. The nation is also developing permanent turf wickets through the Bali International Oval project, and earned public endorsement from ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta.

Boland 'Can't Remember Anything' of South Africa Ahead of Test Assignment

New Delhi, Sept. 24:

Australia fast bowler Scott Boland is set to return to South Africa after 10 years as he prepares for the upcoming Test series against the Proteas. Boland last played an ODI in South Africa in 2016 and admits he "can't remember anything" about that tour.

Boland featured in three ODIs during Australia's 0-5 series loss to South Africa, with an inexperienced bowling attack in the absence of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins.

Reflecting on his return, the 37-year-old said he now understands his body and game much better. He believes better training and workload management will help him remain fresh throughout a series, unlike a decade ago when he often over-trained and entered matches fatigued.

Boland recently completed a three-week 50-over preparation block for Victoria after taking two weeks off from bowling, saying the workload had prepared him well for the South Africa assignment.

Mumbai Indians Appoint Former RCB Coach Luke Williams as New Head Coach

New Delhi, Sept. 24:

Mumbai Indians have appointed Australian coach Luke Williams as their new head coach for the upcoming Women's Premier League (WPL) season. Williams will replace Lisa Keightley and take charge of the two-time WPL champions ahead of the fifth season.

The franchise announced Williams' appointment on Thursday through a post on X. He brings extensive coaching experience and a strong understanding of women's cricket to the Mumbai Indians setup.

Williams played a key role in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's maiden WPL title triumph and will now

Asian Games: Parveen marches into QF after receiving walkover, Sakshi loses to world champion

Nishio, Sept. 24:

Indian boxer Parveen made it to the quarterfinals of the Women's 65kg category after receiving a walkover from Tajikistan's Malika Nozimova in the round of 16 at the Nishio Gymnasium on Thursday here.

Parveen, whose bronze medal was taken off her at the Hangzhou Games, is now one win away from securing a medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Games 2026. She will be facing reigning world silver medallist Navbakhor Khamidova of Uzbekistan in the quarterfinals for a place in the semis.

Meanwhile, India's Commonwealth Games champions Sakshi Chaudhary bowed out of the Asian Games after her loss in the Women's 51kg pre-quarters to reigning world champion Alua Balkibekova 2-3. The Indian pugilist put up a strong fight for a place in the quarterfinals but lost the bout on three 27-30 cards and had two 30-27 and 29-28 cards in her favour.

Another Indian boxer, Sumit, was also in action in the Men's 79kg round of 16 bout. He was leading the bout after winning both the first two rounds, but suffered an injury early



in the third round and lost the contest as the referee stopped it. The Indian boxer wasn't even able to walk in what seemed to be a suspected knee injury.

Talking about Parveen, the Haryana-born is a 2022 Asian Champion in the 63kg category. She had moved down to 57kg for the 2023 Asiad and had initially secured a bronze medal and an Olympics quota for India. However, both those achievements were taken away from her after she was handed a suspension by WADA for three whereabouts failures within a 12-month period. She would be hoping to get the medal this time around.

Meanwhile, Sakshi is a CWG 2026 gold medallist, having made her name in the boxing circuit. Sakshi had defeated Paris

Olympics bronze winner Aira Villegas in the preliminary round at the Asian Games 2026 to march into the pre-quarters.

Chaudhary outclassed the Filipino pugilist by a unanimous decision of 5-0 as she displayed a stellar performance on her Asian Games debut at the Nishio Gymnasium.

Sakshi is already a renowned pugilist and has defeated some of the giants of the game. She got the better of two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen and reigning world champion Minakshi Hooda in the selection trials for the Commonwealth Games 2026. Dropping from 54kg, she defeated Nikhat in the semifinals of the trials, while she beat 48kg champion Hooda in the final to earn a ticket for CWH 2026.

He knows my thinking, I know his thinking: Gambhir opens up on equation with Rohit

New Delhi, Sept. 24:

India head coach Gautam Gambhir on Thursday said his strong bond with former captain Rohit Sharma goes beyond their captain-coach roles, with their long association helping them understand each other.

Gambhir and Rohit will reunite when India face the West Indies in the first ODI in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. Gambhir also praised Rohit, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill for putting the team first, while lauding Gill's leadership during the England tour.

India's First T20 World Cup Triumph: 19 Years Since the Historic Last-Over

New Delhi, Sept. 24:

It has been 19 years since India scripted history by winning the inaugural ICC Men's T20 World Cup, defeating Pakistan in a thrilling final that went down to the last over. Led by a young Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the Indian team produced a memorable campaign in the first-ever edition of the tournament in 2007.

T20 cricket has since become one of the most popular formats of the game, known for explosive batting, intense contests and dramatic finishes. But India gave fans a taste of the format's excitement right from the inaugural World Cup. The team reached the final after a remarkable campaign, which also featured Yuvraj Singh's



historic six sixes in an over against England.

The final against Pakistan on September 24, 2007, provided another unforgettable

chapter. Chasing India's target of 158, Pakistan were restricted to 152. After losing wickets at regular intervals, Pakistan relied heavily on

Misbah-ul-Haq, who scored 43 and kept his team within touching distance of victory.

With Pakistan needing a manageable total in the fi-

nal over, Dhoni handed the ball to Joginder Sharma. The tense finish saw Misbah attempt a shot towards fine leg, but S Sreesanth held on

to a crucial catch, triggering wild celebrations in the Indian camp and among millions of fans.

The victory marked India's first T20 World Cup title and added another landmark moment to the country's cricketing history after the 1983 ODI World Cup triumph. Dhoni's young side became the inaugural champions of the shortest international format, setting the stage for India's enduring success in T20 cricket.

Joginder Sharma, whose final over played a decisive role in the historic victory, was later rewarded with a government job by the Haryana government. He subsequently joined the police force and is currently serving in the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Warangal Player Selected for U-15 Asia Cup



Warangal, Sept. 24:

Warangal-based softball player Velpula Sai Varshini has been selected to represent India in the U-15 Women's Asia Cup Softball Championships, scheduled to be held in China from October 12 to 18.

Hanamkonda District Softball Association secretary Tabeta Rajender said Varshini will take part in

the fifth edition of the U-15 Women's Softball Asia Cup. Her selection has brought recognition to Warangal and the district's sporting talent.

City Police Commissioner Swetha congratulated Varshini on her selection and wished her success in the international tournament. She also appreciated Varshini's parents and coaches for encouraging and supporting her sporting career.

Govt orders probe into land irregularities across districts

Hyderabad, Sept 24

The Telangana government has constituted a high-level committee to inquire into alleged irregularities and issues relating to lands in certain villages across various districts, following a discussion on Section 22-A of the Registration Act in the State Legislative Assembly on September 16.

The decision was taken after the Assembly discussed several serious issues concerning land records and transactions. The committee has been tasked with examining possible violations of statutes, Acts, Rules, government orders and official instructions, besides fixing responsibility wherever violations are established.

As per orders issued by Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, the com-

mittee will be headed by A Sridevasena, commissioner of collegiate and technical education, with Rajeevgandhi Hanumanthu, special secretary to government (registrations and stamps) as convener. Sandeep Kumar Jha, collector and district magistrate, Jangaon, along with the collector of the district concerned, will be members.

The inquiry will cover a wide range of land-related issues, including government lands, ceiling-surplus lands, assigned lands, Jagir lands, Bhoodan lands, Inam lands, forest lands, land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement, water bodies and their catchment areas, and land records.

The committee will also examine violations and fix responsibility for any irregularities, recommending appropriate

State government forms a committee to investigate alleged land irregularities across districts.

Probe will examine government, assigned, forest, Bhoodan, Inam and other categories of land.

Panel will identify violations and fix responsibility where irregularities are established.

Committee can seek records and data from government departments and district authorities and submit interim reports if needed.

action wherever warranted. It has been authorised to examine other matters connected with the issues under investigation and any additional matters referred by the government.

The committee can requisition records, documents, data, information, personnel and other resources from government departments, Heads of Departments, district Collectors, local bodies, corporations and other

government-controlled authorities.

The government has directed all concerned departments and authorities to extend full cooperation and provide the required records and information promptly.

The committee has been asked to submit its report to the government expeditiously, with the provision to submit interim reports on specific issues whenever necessary.

Counterflow BRT Proposed on JNTU–HITEC City–Raidurgam Corridor

Hyderabad, Sept 24

Cyberabad Police on Thursday reviewed a proposal to introduce a counterflow Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system on the congested JNTU Junction–HITEC City–Raidurgam Metro Station–Waverock corridor to improve public transport and ease peak-hour traffic.

The proposal was discussed at a coordination meeting chaired by Cyberabad joint commissioner of police (Traffic) Sunpreet Singh, following a traffic-flow and road-safety survey conducted by the Foundation for Resources and Innovations Policy (FRIP) in coordination with the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC).

The 7-km corridor is operating close to its vehicular capacity, with

peak-hour travel time currently reaching about 45-50 minutes, according to the survey. The study identified bottlenecks relating to carriageway width, junction design, bus stops, U-turns, footpaths, parking and encroachments.

The proposed Counterflow BRT is aimed at providing a dedicated lane for buses and could cut travel time by up to 20 minutes, while increasing passenger-carrying capacity and avoiding major land acquisition. Bus stations are proposed along the median, with their location and spacing to be finalised based on passenger demand and operational feasibility.

Traffic Police and TGIIC officials suggested examining the feasibility of providing the dedicated lane along the left

side of the road, while TGSRTC officials proposed integrating existing bus services operating up to Waverock into the dedicated corridor.

CMC officials assured support for improving footpaths, bus bays, shelters and other supporting infrastructure.

However, the Joint Commissioner directed FRIP to undertake a further detailed study before proceeding, particularly on handling vehicle breakdowns and obstructions within the dedicated lane. He also pointed out that the BRT would require substantial infrastructure, manpower and financial resources.

FRIP has consequently been asked to identify simple, feasible and cost-effective short-term measures to provide immediate traffic relief.

Telangana to Host Raksha Expo 2026 in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Sept 24

Telangana will host Raksha Expo 2026 at Bharat Future City, Hyderabad, as part of the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 from December 7 to 9, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said. The expo will bring together global defence companies, Indian manufacturers, MSMEs and startups, with a focus on B2B meetings, technology partnerships and investment opportunities. Jaju highlighted Telangana's growing aerospace and defence sector, including its strong precision-engineering MSME base and capabilities in drones, avionics, propulsion, space technology and aircraft maintenance.

Govt Hospitals to Undergo Safety Audits

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha has directed officials to complete fire, electrical and structural safety audits of all government hospitals in Telangana within a month. He stressed that identified safety deficiencies must be rectified within strict deadlines, with focus on accident prevention and emergency evacuation.

SCR to Run Special Trains for Festival Rush

South Central Railway will operate 16 special trains between Secunderabad and Kakinada Town during October to meet the expected festival rush. The services will stop at several major stations, including Nalgonda, Guntur, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry and Samalkot. SCR has also extended eight other special train services.

Escape Unhurt as Bus Catches Fire

Thirty-nine passengers escaped safely after a private bus caught fire near Gayatrinagar in Meerpeta early Thursday. The driver noticed flames from the engine, alerted the passengers and helped them evacuate before the bus was completely gutted. Firefighters and police brought the blaze under control, and no injuries were reported.

Tummala Opposes Cut in Palm Oil Import Duty

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao opposed the Centre's decision to reduce the import duty on crude palm oil from 16.5% to 11%. He said the move could make imported palm oil cheaper and put pressure on prices received by oil palm farmers in Telangana.

BRS protests at Singareni office over power, coal supply

Hyderabad, Sept 24

BRS leaders staged a protest at the Singareni Head Office in Hyderabad on Thursday, alleging that the Congress government had failed to address power shortages and coal supply issues in Telangana.

The protest was led by former minister and TGBKS honorary president Koppula Eshwar, along with several BRS leaders. Eshwar alleged that frequent power cuts were affecting households and industries and claimed that restrictions could be imposed during the upcoming Yasangi and summer crop seasons.

He also alleged that the state government owed Singareni between ₹52,000 crore and ₹60,000 crore and attributed the decline in power generation to inadequate coal supplies.

The BRS leaders said they would continue protests over the issue.



ACB searches 10 locations in DSP disproportionate assets case; Rs.1.35 cr cash seized



Hyderabad, Sept 24

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday conducted searches at 10 locations in Hyderabad and Zaheerabad as part of its investigation into a disproportionate assets case registered against Sankireddy Bheem Reddy, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Police Computer Services, Office of the DGP, Telangana.

The case, registered under Section 13(1)(b) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018.

The searches were conducted pursuant to warrants issued by the Principal Special Judge for SPE & ACB Cases, Hyderabad. The premises searched in-

cluded the residences of persons suspected to be benamis who allegedly had financial and other transactions with the accused officer.

According to the ACB, several documents and other articles allegedly linked to suspected benami assets were seized during the searches.

The agency also reported finding Rs.1.35 crore in cash at the residence of Bomma Venkatesh. Foreign currency and approximately 14 litres of foreign liquor were also found.

The ACB said the Excise department had been informed about the liquor and that the concerned authorities were likely to initiate action under the relevant law. The investigation is continuing.

Congress Protests Over SIR Electoral Roll Revision

Hyderabad, Sept 24

The Khairatabad District Congress Committee on Thursday staged a protest from the Ambedkar Statue at Tank Bund to the Election Commission office, raising concerns over alleged irregularities and lack of transparency in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The protest was led by Khairatabad DCC President Motha Rohit, with Congress leaders and workers from the Karwan Assembly Constituency participating in large numbers under the leadership of Osman Bin Mohammed Al Hajri.

Congress leaders referred to recent reports by

The Indian Express, which they said had raised questions about electoral-roll procedures, including Form 6, additions and deletions of voters and the handling of electoral data. They also referred to reported objections by two Election Commissioners on certain aspects of the process.

The protesters demanded that the democratic rights of genuine and eligible voters be protected during the SIR exercise. They said no genuine voter should be excluded from the electoral rolls due to errors, inadequate verification or arbitrary decisions.

Osman Bin Mohammed Al Hajri demanded a transparent, independent



and time-bound investigation into the allegations concerning the SIR process. He said that if any violation of law or wrongdoing is established, those responsible should face appropriate legal action.

Al Hajri also demanded the resignation of Chief

Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, citing what he described as serious concerns regarding the functioning of the Election Commission.

The Congress leaders called for the SIR exercise to be conducted in a transparent and verifiable

manner, with every eligible voter given an effective opportunity to raise objections and seek corrections.

They urged the Election Commission to ensure that no genuine voter is removed from the electoral rolls without proper veri-

Hyderabad housing registrations fall 9% in August

Hyderabad, Sept 24

Hyderabad's residential property registrations declined 9% year-on-year (YoY) to 5,937 units in August 2026, according to Knight Frank India. Registrations were also down 4% month-on-month (MoM).

The total value of homes registered stood at Rs.4,576 crore, down 2% YoY but up 3% MoM, indicating relatively steady demand for higher-value properties.

For January-August 2026, registrations rose 2% YoY to 50,095 units, while the cumulative transaction value increased 6% to Rs.35,423 crore.

The market has remained uneven following the revision of guidance values effective June 5. A sharp increase in registrations in May was followed by a correction in June.

Knight Frank India Chairman and Managing Director Shishir Bajjal said the Hyderabad housing market was "trying to find its equilibrium" following the guidance-value revision. He said the 3% MoM rise in the value of registered properties in August indicated stability in demand for premium homes. The Hyderabad residential market spans four districts namely Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, and Sangareddy and includes transactions from both the primary and secondary real estate markets.