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BLOS TO VISIT VOTERS AT HOME; MEETING AGENDAS, MINUTES TO BE FORMALISED

The decisions follow scrutiny of the SIR process after reports that Election Commissioners Sukh Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised concerns on several electoral-roll and software-related issues. The Commission has maintained that differing views are part of institutional deliberations and that its final decisions, including SIR, were unanimous and lawful.

Importantly, the High Court clarified that its observations do not amount to a finding of guilt. The trial court was directed to decide the case independently on evidence, while the petitioner's existing bail remained undisturbed.

A 40-year-old private employee from Hastinapuram allegedly lost ₹3.73 crore in an online investment scam after being lured by a WhatsApp advertisement promising high returns. Over nine months, he made 1,106 transactions to multiple bank accounts after being shown fake profits on a fraudulent trading portal.

When he tried to withdraw the money, the operators allegedly cited bonus conditions and blocked the withdrawal; the website went offline on September 17. The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau registered a case after his complaint and launched an investigation.

He also stressed the importance of supporting traditional skills, promoting entrepreneurship and creating sustainable opportunities through handicrafts and local enterprises.

Ramakrishna alleged that the recent decision allowing registration of eligible 22-A properties had not fully addressed the concerns of Cantonment residents. Under the new orders, open plots, houses and flats with valid layout or building permissions from GHMC, HMDA, DTCP and other competent local bod-

Ramakrishna urged the government to ensure that genuine owners and residents were not put to hardship and said residents would mobilise if their concerns were not addressed. He recalled earlier efforts to secure funds and rights for Secunderabad Cantonment and said similar legal and public action would be pursued on the 22-A issue.

Das traced the Metro's journey from its first commercial service in 1984 to a network spanning 73.42 km, 58

The delegation was also

Officials said 45 km of Metro network was commissioned between 2014 and 2025, while work continues on the Yellow, Purple and Orange corridors.

At least 12 people were killed and over 35 injured when a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a police and anti-smuggling checkpoint in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan district on Saturday, officials said.

The TTP claimed responsibility for the attack, while militants later opened fire on an ambulance carrying victims, killing at least one rescue worker.

Lucknow, Sept 26 The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court has held that hospitals and doctors cannot refuse or delay emergency treatment to road-accident victims for want of medico-legal formalities or police procedures.

A division bench of Justices Rajan Roy and Manjive Shukla said doctors have a professional duty to protect human life and provide immediate care, irrespective of who was responsible for the accident. It directed the Uttar Pradesh government to file a counter-affidavit within 10 days on steps taken to implement guidelines on accident treatment and protection of Good Samaritans.

The court also sought details of hospital inspections and complaint-redressal mechanisms, and imposed ₹25,000 costs on the State for failing to file its response for over 25 years. The matter will be heard next on October 1.



Massive Blast in Umarkhed Kills Two, Injures Five

Munsif News Bureau Umarkhed, Sep. 26:

Two people were killed on the spot and five others sustained serious injuries in a tragic blast on Dhanki Road in Umarkhed town at around 11:30 a.m. on Saturday.

According to details, a tractor carrying a gas cylinder used in well and crusher blasting had arrived at a welding workshop on Dhanki Road for welding work. During the process, the gas cylinder suddenly exploded with a powerful blast.

According to eyewitnesses, the intensity of the explosion was so severe that after the smoke cleared, two people were found dead at the scene, while several



others were injured. The blast also shattered the windows of several vehicles in the vicinity.

Five seriously injured persons have been shifted to Nanded for treatment.

Police temporarily closed the area to traffic following the incident.

A forensic team also reached the spot and is investigating the incident from various angles.

1,000 crore sanctioned for own buildings for all gram panchayats: Seethakka

NSS Hyderabad, Sep. 26:

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dr. Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka) announced that the state government is constructing gram panchayat buildings on a saturation basis to ensure every local body in Telangana operates from its own premises. Reviewing development programmes across the erstwhile Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Ranga Reddy, and Medak districts at the Ranga Reddy Collectorate on Saturday, the Minister said the government had sanctioned ₹1,000 crore to construct buildings for 5,118 Gram Panchayats currently lacking facilities.

CM Breakfast Scheme Is a Unique Initiative; Providing Nutritious Food to Students: Minister Vivek Venkataswamy

Munsif News Bureau Rajanna Sircilla, Sept 26:

Telangana Labour, Employment, Mines and Geology Minister and Medak District In-charge Minister Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy said the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme (CM Breakfast Scheme) launched by the state government for students of government schools is among the world's unique welfare initiatives. He said the primary objective of the scheme is to provide students with quality, healthy and nutritious breakfast. On Saturday, Minister Vivek Venkataswamy, along with Medak MLA Dr. Mynampally Rohith Rao and District Collector Pratima Singh, inaugurated a newly constructed Centralized Kitchen at the Market Yard in Medak town.



He inspected various machines and equipment installed at the kitchen and enquired with officials about their functioning and capacity. Later, breakfast was served to government school

students at a private function hall in Medak. The minister sat with the students and had breakfast with them, while also enquiring about the quality and taste of the food.

Addressing the gathering, Vivek Venkataswamy said the Congress government had launched the CM Breakfast Scheme in accordance with its election promise.



Haj pilgrims was organized at the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Hall in Warangal. The session was presided over by Dr. Anees Siddiqui, President of Anjuman-e-Hujjaj Warangal

Nizamabad Prioritises Godavari Pushkar Works at Kandakurthi, Yench

Nizamabad Bureau Nizamabad :, Sept.26:

Collector Bhavesh Mishra said that top priority is being given to Godavari Pushkar works and works have already been started at Kandakurthi and Yanch to provide facilities for devotees to take holy dips for their convenience.

Principal Secretary of the State Endowments Department Shailaja Ramaiyer and Commissioner Hanumantha Rao held a video conference on Saturday from Hyderabad with the Collectors of the respective districts along with officials

of the concerned departments regarding the arrangements for Godavari Pushkaras. They suggested that extensive arrangements should be made at the Pushkar ghats, as the government is determined to organize the Godavari Pushkaras in a prestigious manner. They said that as the deadline for Pushkaras is approaching, the works should be taken up immediately and completed expeditiously.

Speaking on the occasion of participating in the video conference from the Collectorate, Collector Bhavesh Mishra said that foundation stones have been completed to

take up works under the auspices of Endowment, Irrigation, Panchayat Raj, R&B and other departments at Yanch, which is very close to Basara, along with the Kandakurthi Pushkar Kshetra in Nizamabad district. He said that it will take some more time for the construction of a new Pushkar ghat at Kandakurthi due to water flow in the Godavari. He said that currently there is water storage of up to 46 TMCs in Sriram Sagar Project (SRSP), and it will be possible to take up Pushkar ghat works once the water level reaches 20 to 25 TMCs.



Collector Bhavesh Mishra said that top priority is being given to Godavari Pushkar works and works have already been started at Kandakurthi and Yanch to provide facilities for devotees to take holy dips for their convenience.

CHAKALI ILLAMMA'S IDEALS SHOULD INSPIRE SOCIETY: MAHESH KUMAR GOUD

NSS Nizamabad, Sept 26:

MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud and Additional Collector Bhujanga Rao called for working with dedication to achieve the ideals of Telangana armed struggle warrior, brave woman Chakali Illamma. On the occasion of Chakali Illamma Jayanti, on Saturday, MLC, Additional Collector, other district department officials and representatives of various caste associa-

tions garlanded the statue of Chakali Illamma at Vinayak Nagar Hanuman Junction and paid rich tributes.

Later, under the auspices of the District Backward Classes Development Department, a Chakali Illamma Jayanti meeting was held by lighting the lamp. Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector recalled that Chakali Illamma fought an armed struggle against the feudal system. He

praised her for waging an uncompromising fight for rights and inspiring others. He suggested taking Chakali Illamma as an ideal and working to achieve her ideals. In this programme, former ZP Chairman Dadannagari Vittal Rao, officials of the District Backward Classes Development Department, representatives of various caste associations, and leaders of political parties participated.

Warangal Haj Camp Offers Medical Fitness Checks and Pilgrim Guidance

Munsif News Bureau Warangal, Sept 26 :

Under the joint auspices of the Government of Telangana and the Telangana State Haj Committee, a comprehensive medical fitness and orientation camp for prospective Haj pilgrims was organized at the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Hall in Warangal. The session was presided over by Dr. Anees Siddiqui, President of Anjuman-e-Hujjaj Warangal, with Janab Syed Ghulam Afzal Biyabani, widely known as Khusro Pasha—Chairman of the Telangana State Haj Committee and Sajjada Nasheen of Dargah Kazipet—attending as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Chairman Khusro Pasha emphasized that the pilgrimage of Haj is not only a sublime act of worship but also demands considerable physical endurance. He urged all pilgrims to pay special attention to their physical fitness, diet, and overall health both prior to departure and throughout their journey so that the sacred rituals can be performed with devotion and peace of mind. Highlighting the updated guidelines, mandatory vaccination protocols, and travel arrangements issued by the Haj Committee of India, he assured that the Government of Telangana is leaving no stone unturned to guarantee maximum convenience and comfort for the pilgrims. In his presidential address, Dr. Anees Siddiqui offered crucial

medical advice tailored to the harsh weather conditions of Saudi Arabia, emphasizing heatstroke prevention, proper hydration, the consistent management of routine medications, and necessary health precautions while navigating dense crowds; he also advised the pilgrims to engage in daily light exercise and brisk walking. Renowned Islamic scholar Maulana Mufti Zakaria delivered a sermon on the spiritual significance of the holy pilgrimage and the importance of patience and forbearance. Former corporator Mohammed Abubaker, program convener M. A. Naeem, and Sarwar Mohiuddin Ghazi also spoke, reviewing logistics and welfare support.

phased that the pilgrimage of Haj is not only a sublime act of worship but also demands considerable physical endurance. He urged all pilgrims to pay special attention to their physical fitness, diet, and overall health both prior to departure and throughout their journey so that the sacred rituals can be performed with devotion and peace of mind. Highlighting the updated guidelines, mandatory vaccination protocols, and travel arrangements issued by the Haj Committee of India, he assured that the Government of Telangana is leaving no stone unturned to guarantee maximum convenience and comfort for the pilgrims. In his presidential address, Dr. Anees Siddiqui offered crucial

Welfare Schemes Being Implemented for the Benefit of All Sections

Munsif News Bureau Rajanna Sircilla:, Sept.26 :

Telangana Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said the people's government is implementing welfare schemes with the objective of ensuring the well-being of all sections of society.

Ahead of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's proposed visit, Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ponnam Prabhakar and Vakiti Srihari, along with District Collector Garima Agrawal and SP Mahesh B. Gite, jointly inspected the venue

of the public meeting near the Raggu Bypass Road in Rajanna Sircilla district headquarters.

During the inspection, the ministers reviewed the arrangements for the public meeting, parking facilities and other logistics, and directed officials to ensure seamless coordination among all departments and complete the preparations according to the planned schedule.

Tummala Nageswara Rao said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will visit Rajanna Sircilla district on September 30 to lay foundation stones for



several development works. He stated that during the 33-month tenure of the people's government, various welfare schemes have been implemented with the

Officials Directed to Coordinate and Ensure Arrangements for CM Revanth Reddy's Visit

NSS Rajanna Sircilla:, Sept.26 :

Agriculture, Marketing, Handlooms, Textiles and Cooperation Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao directed officials to make all arrangements in coordination with one another for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to Rajanna Sircilla district headquarters on September 30 to lay foundation stones for various development works.

Earlier, District Collector Garima Agrawal welcomed the ministers by presenting bouquets. Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao also inspected the guard of honour presented by the police. In view of the Chief Minister's September 30 visit, a meet-

ing was held on Saturday at the District Integrated Offices complex by District In-charge Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, Minister for SC, ST, Minority, Disabled and Senior Citizens Welfare Adhuri Laxman Kumar, Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas, Telangana State Waqf Board Chairman Syed Azmathullah Hussaini, District Collector Garima Agrawal, SP Mahesh B. Gite, Additional Collector Gaddam Nagesh and officials of various departments.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will lay foundation stones for several development works and also address a public meeting at a venue near the Raghavudu Bypass Road in Sircilla.

Chakali Illamma's Ideals and Struggle Should Inspire Social Development: Minister Vivek

Munsif News Bureau Medak, Sept 26:

Telangana Labour, Employment, Factories, Mines and Geology Minister and Medak District In-charge Minister Vivek Venkataswamy said the courage and bravery of Veera Nari Chakali Illamma, and her struggle for the rights of backward communities, continue to serve as a great source of inspiration for the present generation. He said everyone should play their part in the development and welfare of all sections of society by drawing inspiration



from Chakali Illamma's ideals and struggle. A birth anniversary programme of Veera Nari Chakali Illamma was organised with due respect in Medak town on Saturday under the auspices of the District Backward

Classes Welfare Department. On the occasion, District In-charge Minister Vivek Venkataswamy and Medak MLA Dr. Mynampally Rohith Rao garlanded Chakali Illamma's statue and paid floral tributes.

HEAVY DEMAND DRIVES COMPETITION FOR RS.300 DARSHAN TICKETS

NSS Tirumala, Sept 26:

The release of Rs.300 Special Entry Darshan tickets has led to intense competition, with lakhs of devotees attempting to book tickets simultaneously. TTD clarified that its online booking system is functioning efficiently and is equipped with advanced technologies, including Google Cloud Platform, load balancing, auto scaling and distributed architecture. During peak

booking periods, around six lakh users may access the system at once. Considering an average of four tickets per user, the potential demand may reach 24 lakh tickets, against an available quota of approximately 2.69 lakh tickets. As a result, tickets for popular slots may be exhausted within a very short time. TTD explained that the Virtual Queue is used to regulate heavy traffic and protect the stability of the booking platform.

Promote Tourism Destinations on a Large Scale: Collector Garima Agrawal

Munsif News Bureau Rajanna Sircilla:, Sept.26 :

Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Garima Agrawal called for large-scale awareness among youth and students about the tourist destinations in the district.

On the occasion of World

Tourism Day, District Youth Tourism Club competitions were organised at Nampally Gutta in Vemulawada mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district. Collector Garima Agrawal attended the prize distribution programme as the chief guest and inaugurated the event. She also inspected the Indian Air Force aircraft being

installed under the auspices of VTDA. Certificates and shields were presented to school and college students who excelled in the competitions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector advised students and youth to develop and demonstrate their talents in at least one field alongside their education,

saying this would create opportunities for success in various sectors. She also urged youth and students to read newspapers daily and make use of libraries to stay informed about developments in their surroundings and current affairs.

She said that on the occasion of World Tourism Day, extensive

awareness campaigns would be conducted about the tourist and historical sites in the district. Various programmes are being organised to attract tourists. She directed officials to create awareness about prominent destinations such as Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple in Vemulawada.



OP Services Launched at 100-Bed Government Area Hospital in Parkal

Providing Better Healthcare to Poor and Needy Is Government's Goal: Revuri Prakash Reddy

Munsif News Bureau Parkar, Sept.26:

Parkal: Providing quality medical services to the poor and needy is the government's primary objective, said Parkal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy. He said the newly constructed 100-bed Government Area Hospital in Parkal would provide better and quality government healthcare services to people in the region.

On Saturday, MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy, along with Hanamkonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai, inaugurated OP medical services at the newly constructed 100-bed Government Area

Hospital in Parkal. A Ganesh Puja was also performed on the occasion, with the MLA, Collector and concerned officials participating. Later, the MLA himself underwent a medical check-up by the hospital doctors, formally marking the commencement of OP services.

The MLA, Collector and medical officials also inaugurated various facilities in the hospital, including the pharmacy, general ward, gynaecology department, ANC services and laboratory. Medical examinations were subsequently conducted for patients who arrived for treatment.

Addressing the gathering, Revuri Prakash Reddy said a modern Government Area Hospital equipped with advanced facilities had been made available to the people of Parkal, enabling residents of the region to access better and quality healthcare. He said the commencement of OP services would greatly benefit the public and appealed to people to make full use of the medical facilities provided by the government.

He said any additional medical facility required at the hospital should be brought to his notice and stressed that better healthcare must be provided to the

public in accordance with the state government's commitment. He urged doctors and medical staff to remain available to patients round the clock. Public confidence in government hospitals would strengthen only when quality medical services are provided, he added.

Revuri Prakash Reddy said the Telangana government is providing modern healthcare facilities in government hospitals on par with those available in private hospitals. With the cooperation of doctors, efforts would be made to develop the Parkal Area Hospital into an A-Plus category hospital, he said.

"Protect the Rights of SPM Workers and Local Youth": Former MLC Ramulu Naik

NSS Kagazmagar, Sept.26:

Former MLC Ramulu Naik strongly criticised the management of Sirpur Paper Mills (SPM), alleging that despite receiving government subsidies and various facilities, the management was neglecting the rights of workers and the employment interests of local youth. Addressing a press conference at the residence of Adhitha, National Congress Party Secretary, in Kagaznagar on Saturday, Ramulu Naik said that trade union elections had not been held at SPM for the past eight years, despite the workers' demand for elections. He noted that elections were



being conducted for 97 RTC depots with around 36,000 employees, while SPM workers, numbering about 370, had been observing a relay hunger strike for 130 days. He questioned the delay by the Labour Department and demanded that the management withdraw the

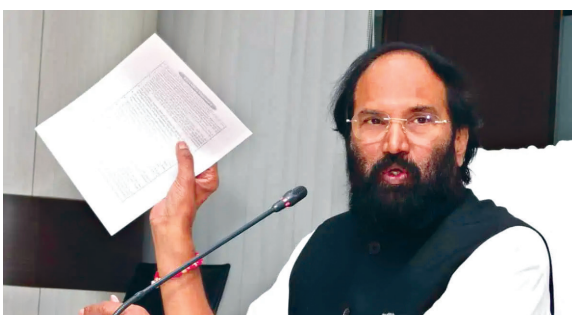
cases pending before the High Court and facilitate immediate elections. Ramulu Naik warned that failure to announce an election schedule would lead to a large-scale agitation involving workers' families and people from the four constituencies. Ramulu Naik also alleged that

local unemployed youth were being denied employment opportunities, while migrant workers from states including Bihar and Assam were being engaged on a contractual basis. He demanded that local youth be provided proper training and permanent employment opportunities and alleged that contract workers were being deployed in core production activities instead of being limited to services such as housekeeping, gardening and canteen work. Ramulu Naik reiterated that he would continue to fight for the rights of SPM workers and employment opportunities for local youth until their demands were addressed.

Kaleshwaram repairs to begin mid-November, end before 2027 monsoon: Uttam

NSS Hyderabad, Sept 26:

Comprehensive rehabilitation works on the three Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme barrages—Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla—will commence by mid-November 2026 and be completed before the onset of the 2027 monsoon, Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy announced on Saturday. Reviewing proposals with senior Irrigation officials at his official camp office in Hyderabad, the Minister confirmed that the State government has finalised designs to restore the structural safety and operational reliability of all three



barrages.

The restoration scheme, formulated by the project designer, focuses on strengthening foundations through grouting, extending stilling basins, and constructing fresh cutoff walls.

These interventions address previous deficiencies in energy-dissipation arrangements,

foundation stability, and under-seepage control, the Minister said. He stated that the strategy incorporates safety concerns raised by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and other expert bodies. "There will be no compromise on structural safety or the quality of rehabilitation. Works will be executed

strictly on the basis of scientific studies and recommendations from national technical institutions," Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised.

The proposed designs are currently undergoing Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) modeling at the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) in Pune to evaluate hydraulic behavior and verify energy-dissipation efficiency across various flow conditions. On October 5, the designs will be submitted to the Central Water Commission's (CWC) Technical Oversight Committee in New Delhi for expert evaluation and final recommendations, he said.



On the occasion of World Tourism Day, District Youth Tourism Club competitions were organised at Nanapalli Gutta in Vemulawada Mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district. District Collector G. R. Agarwal attended the programme as the chief guest and inaugurated the event held for distributing prizes to the students who excelled in the competitions. He also inspected the Indian Air Force aircraft being installed under the auspices of the Vemulawada Tourism Development Authority (VTDA).

Govt committed to nutritious meals, skill-based education: Vivek



Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Sept.26:

The State government is committed to providing students with nutritious food from a young age while paving the way for better employment opportunities through enhanced education and skill training, Minister for SHAKTI and Mines Dr. G. Vivek Venkataswamy said on Saturday. Inaugurating a ₹5-crore Centralised Community Kitchen at the Medak Market Yard alongside the CM Breakfast Scheme, the Minister emphasised that the initiative

goes beyond mere policy announcements.

"The government is building robust operational systems—spanning cooking, quality control, transportation, and distribution—to ensure seamless, large-scale implementation," he said.

Set up in partnership with the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation, the Medak facility will supply daily breakfast to 29,183 students across 395 government schools and 10 government junior colleges in 11 mandals of the Medak and Narsapur Assembly constituencies, he said.

BRS demands voluntary resignation of CEC

NSS Hyderabad, Sept 26:

Mounting a sharp attack on the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has demanded that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar step down immediately. Speaking to reporters at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday alongside party general secretary Soma Bharat Kumar and Legal Cell member Lalitha Reddy, former MP B. Vinod Kumar accused the ECI of systematically deleting voter names—a pattern he alleged influenced election results in West Bengal and Bihar. Vinod Kumar raised alarm over the altered selection mechanism under Article 324, arguing that replacing the Chief Justice of India with a Cabinet Minister compromised the commission's neutrality. He urged PM Modi to intervene or, failing that, called on the Supreme Court to take suo motu notice and submit its findings directly to the President of India. (NSS)

"KCR lives in People's hearts": KTR

NSS Hyderabad, Sept 26:

BRS working president and MLA K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) said the Ganesh festival had once again brought K. Chandrashekar Rao into public discussion, claiming that people across Telangana were remembering the former Chief Minister and his welfare schemes. KTR was speaking at Telangana Bhavan after welcoming Congress leaders and activists from Inugurthi in Mahabubabad district into the BRS. Responding to criticism over KCR's limited public appearances, KTR said the former Chief Minister "lives in the hearts of the people". He cited pensions, Mission Bhagiratha drinking water connections, Kalyana Lakshmi and irrigation

projects as initiatives through which the people continue to remember KCR, he claimed.

KTR said elderly beneficiaries and women receiving welfare benefits continued to recall KCR, while farmers remembered the former government's implementation of Rythu Bandhu and irrigation initiatives.

Taking aim at the Congress government, KTR alleged that programmes for releasing financial assistance were being turned into political events dominated by criticism of KCR, instead of focusing on governance and delivery. He said the BRS would continue to highlight the 'differences' between the previous and present governments in implementing welfare and agricultural programmes. (NSS)

Govt shelved promises made to People: Jagadish Reddy

NSS Hyderabad, Sept 26:

Hyderabad, Sept.26 (NSS): Former Minister and BRS leader G. Jagadish Reddy on Saturday accused the Congress government of shelving its election promises and failing to ensure adequate supply of irrigation water, drinking water and electricity.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan here, Reddy said the previous BRS government under K. Chandrashekar Rao had transformed Telangana's power sector by ensuring 24-hour electricity supply.

He claimed the state invested Rs.36,000 crore in Transco and strengthened the transmission and distribution network.

Reddy said power infrastructure was expanded substantially, with 28,000 km of power lines laid and the number of substations increased across different voltage capacities. He recalled that the KCR government had also introduced 24-hour free power supply to farmers after strengthening the distribution network.

He alleged that the Congress government was now moving towards privatisation of the power

distribution sector. "Why hand over the power sector to private companies?" he asked, alleging that such moves were aimed at benefiting private interests.

Reddy further alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was attempting to hand over Transco, which is a revenue-generating public utility, to his close associates. Claiming that privatisation of power distribution had not produced positive results in several places, he cited Odisha, Delhi and Mumbai as examples and urged the government to reconsider any move to privatise the sector. (NSS)

Borabanda Police Invoke PD Act Against Woman Over Illegal Liquor Sales

NSS Hyderabad, Sept.26:

Borabanda Police on Saturday executed Preventive Detention (PD) Act orders against Vemula Sarala, 45, a resident of

Banjara Nagar, Borabanda, for allegedly running an illegal belt shop and repeatedly selling liquor without authorisation.

The action was taken on the orders of Hyderabad Commissioner of Police

V.C. Sajjanar following her alleged involvement in several cases linked to illegal liquor sales.

Police warned operators of unauthorised belt shops to immediately stop illegal liquor sales. Cases will be reg-

istered under the Telangana Excise Act against the violators, while the PD Act would be invoked against habitual offenders.

Police also cautioned those providing premises or shelter for illegal belt shops

that they could face legal action. The public has been urged to report unauthorised liquor sales to Borabanda Police through Dial 112, with police assuring confidentiality of informants. (NSS)

"GANDHI vs SANGH" REMARK REFLECTS REVANTH's DESPERATION: BJP

NSS Hyderabad, Sept 26:

Telangana BJP chief spokesperson and media in-charge N. V. Subash on Saturday criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's reported remarks that future electoral battles would be between the "Gandhis and the Sangh Parivar". Subash described the formulation as politically misleading and said the Congress should not treat the Gandhi surname as the exclusive legacy of one political family.

He questioned the historical basis of associating the Nehru-Gandhi family with Mahatma Gandhi and said the Chief

Minister's remarks had reduced the political contest to a battle between the Congress leadership and the wider Sangh Parivar network. Subash also criticised the Congress's "appeasement politics and vote-bank calculations", while highlighting the BJP-led NDA's stated development and welfare agenda. Centre's welfare schemes should be assessed through government data rather than political rhetoric, he added.

Subash further alleged that repeatedly framing elections around personalities and political families could create a counter-narrative favouring a "Congress-Mukt Bharat". (NSS)

47th BHAGYANAGAR GANESH IMMERSION PROCESSION ENDS

NSS Hyderabad, Sept 26:

The Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi (BGUS) has expressed its heartfelt gratitude to devotees, the general public, police personnel, government departments, volunteers and all stakeholders for their co-operation in making the 47th Bhagwan Ganesh Samuhik Nimarjan procession a grand success.

Samithi general secretary Dr Ravinutala Shashidhar said this year's Ganesh Utsav and immersion procession surpassed previous years in scale and participation, bringing further

glory to Bhagyanagar. He particularly appreciated the disciplined participation of lakhs of devotees and the coordinated efforts of various government agencies in ensuring the smooth conduct of the festivities.

The BGUS thanked the Telangana government, chief minister A Revanth Reddy, ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar, D Sridhar Babu, chief secretary Sanjay Jaju, DGP C.V. Anand, police commissioners, municipal commissioners and heads of various departments for their support and cooperation.

Special appreciation was extended to the GHMC, HMDA, HYDRAA, R&B, TGSPDCL,

TGSRTC, Endowments, Tourism, RTA, cultural department, South Central Railways, Metro Rail, MMTS and other government departments and agencies for providing essential services and ensuring arrangements for the festival and immersion.

The Samithi also thanked the Police Commissioners of Hyderabad, Cyberabad, Malkajigiri and Future City, along with the District Collectors of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medchal-Malkajigiri, for their efforts in maintaining law and order and facilitating the smooth conduct of the celebrations.





At a Glance

Skeleton found during Delhi cleanliness drive

IAN S
New Delhi, Sep. 26



A human skeleton was found in a scrap dealer's settlement in Delhi during a cleanliness drive by BJP workers on Friday, prompting a police investigation.

A BJP leader said workers found the skeleton inside a box near a hut while clearing garbage under the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'. Police were informed and examined it. Scrap dealer Mohammed Abrar claimed his nephew brought the skeleton from a nearby school in July along with discarded papers, books, almirahs and boxes. He said they believed it was used in a school laboratory and urged that CCTV footage be checked to verify the claim.

However, the BJP leader said the principal of the nearby school, which has classes up to Class 8, denied that it had a laboratory or had given any skeleton to the dealer. Police are investigating the source of the skeleton and how it came into the dealer's possession. The probe continues.

Maharashtra Opposition Slams Drought Relief Package, Demands Direct Aid and Loan Waiver

IAN S
New Delhi, Sep. 26

Opposition parties in Maharashtra on Saturday criticised the BJP-led Mahayuti government's drought relief package after the state declared 265 of its 358 talukas drought-affected.

Congress Legislature Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar described the Government Resolution as a betrayal of farmers facing crop losses due to deficient rainfall. He demanded compensation of Rs 1 lakh per hectare without the 2.5-hectare ceiling and sought the inclusion of Bramhapuri tehsil in Chandrapur district in the drought-hit list.

Wadettiwar also demanded an unconditional waiver of outstanding crop loans instead of restructuring and questioned the delay in conducting panchamas, or crop-loss assessment surveys. He said assistance should be based on actual crop damage and transferred directly to farmers' bank accounts.

NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar criticised the relief measures, saying the drought declaration should have been made earlier. He sought Rs 50,000 per hectare for farmers and Rs 25,000 for farm labourers, besides a complete waiver of crop loans and educational fees. Pawar warned that a mass movement could be launched with farmers if substantial assistance was not announced.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray, visiting drought-hit villages in



Marathwada, said crops including soybean and pigeon pea had withered because of lack of water. He said a declaration of drought on paper would not be enough and called for actual assistance to affected farmers.

The criticism followed the state's drought declaration under Trigger-I of the Drought Management Code. The government said the measure covers 265 talukas, or about 74 per cent of the state's 358 talukas, after prolonged dry spells and deficient rainfall. The affected areas include parts of Marathwada, Vidarbha, western Maharashtra, northern Maharashtra and Konkan.

According to the government, the state recorded an 18.8 per cent rainfall deficit between June 1 and September 18. Officials said the Trigger-I criteria included a dry spell of more than 21 days and rainfall deficiency of over 25 per cent in the affected areas.

The government has announced measures including crop-loan restructuring, concessions in land revenue, deferment of recovery of agriculture-related loans, concessions on electric-

ity bills for agricultural pumps and relaxation of employment-guarantee norms. It has also ordered crop-loss assessments, with district authorities directed to collect photographs and GPS coordinates.

The government said drinking water and fodder arrangements would be made and water tankers deployed where necessary. A separate decision on financial assistance for crop losses will follow completion of the assessment process.

Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar said the government had announced 12 relief measures and officials had been directed to begin crop-loss assessments. The government has said actual assistance for crop losses will be determined after ground-level assessments.

Pawar said waiving farm tax and examination fees would not address the crisis and sought direct aid for farmers and farm labourers. Wadettiwar questioned why panchamas were being delayed until October 5. Thackeray said relief should reach affected farmers on the ground rather than remain on paper too.

DELHI SIR: ECI EXTENDS CLAIMS, OBJECTIONS DEADLINE TO OCTOBER 30



IAN S
New Delhi Sep. 26

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday extended by one month the deadline for Delhi electors to file claims and objections under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, setting October 30 as the new cut-off date.

The Commission also extended the deadline for disposal of notices, claims and objections to November 30. The earlier deadline for electors whose names were missing from the draft electoral roll to sub-

mit Form-6 with supporting documents was September 30.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and attended by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi at Nirvachan Sadan.

The ECI also eased the requirement for physical appearance by electors who have received SIR notices. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will visit the homes of persons flagged for being unmapped or having logical discrepancies, collect the

required documents and upload them on ECINet for consideration by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).

Such electors will generally not be required to appear before the ERO or Assistant Electoral Registration Officer. In exceptional cases, the hearing will preferably be held online. An elector may also authorise any adult family member to attend the hearing on their behalf.

The Commission said District Election Officers would strengthen online hearing facilities and arrange help desks or special camps, as required,

for people living in night shelters, labourers, poor people and homeless persons.

The ECI also extended the claims and objections deadline in Maharashtra to October 12 and the disposal deadline to November 10.

The Commission said SIR has been completed in 20 States and Union Territories, including Bihar and West Bengal. It added that eligible persons whose names are left out during or after SIR can apply to the concerned ERO for inclusion through the process of continuous electoral-roll updation.

PM MODI PAYS TRIBUTE TO MANMOHAN SINGH ON BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

IAN S
New Delhi Sep. 26

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday paid tribute to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on his birth anniversary, recalling his long years in public life and service to the nation.

"Tributes to our former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji on



his birth anniversary. He spent many years in public life and served the nation with dedication," Modi said in a post on X. Defence Minister

Rajnath Singh also remembered the former Prime Minister, saying his contribution to public life and India's progress would always be remembered.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also paid tribute to Singh.

Born on September 26, 1932, Singh served as Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014 and as Union Finance Minister from 1991 to 1996. He played a key role in the economic reforms introduced in 1991. Singh died in New Delhi on December 26, 2024, aged 92.

Tamil Nadu to outsource electricity meter reading from October

IAN S
Chennai, Sep. 26

The Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation (TNPDC) will hire contract workers to read electricity meters from October, amid a shortage of assessors and complaints of incorrect or inflated bills.

The utility has around 3.5 crore low-tension service connections, including 2.5 crore domestic consumers. Meter readings are taken every two months. Against a sanctioned strength of 7,565 assessors, only 3,063 are currently available, leaving

4,502 posts vacant.

TNPDC has so far used retired Tamil Nadu Electricity Board personnel for doorstep assessments. Under a new arrangement, contractors will provide additional manpower to ensure readings are taken on schedule and accurately.

According to a circular issued to field engineers, executive engineers can invite limited tenders to hire manpower for six-month periods. Contract workers must hold a degree or diploma. Each reader will have to cover at least 250 service connections daily in the Greater Chennai Corporation area and 220 in

other municipal corporations.

Readings must be recorded through a mobile application using an optical probe or Bluetooth transmitter. Workers have been instructed to take readings at consumers' premises, select the correct service connection and complete assessments within the billing cycle.

The move follows complaints over irregular assessments and bills that consumers say do not reflect actual usage. Field engineers will monitor the six-month contracts, while TNPDC reviews their impact on the billing process.

Oppn warns of protests over CEC

IAN S
New Delhi, Sep. 26

Opposition leaders stepped up demands for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, with Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan warning of street protests if he does not quit or an impeachment motion is blocked.

RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha said the issue now concerns citizens, who would decide their course of action. The Opposition is preparing a fresh removal motion.

FOUR DIE AFTER ELECTRIC CURRENT SPREADS THROUGH GANESH PANDAL IN MANDLA

IAN S
Bhopal, Sep. 26

Four youths were electrocuted to death and three others injured after an electric current spread through a Ganesh pandal at Hirapur village under Nainpur police station limits in Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district on Saturday morning, police said.

The deceased were identified as Jainu Bhanvre, 19, Ravi Jharia, 24, Krishna Kumar Bhanvre, 18, and Virendra Bhanvre, 24. One of the injured, Priyanshu, was in critical condition and



was referred to the district hospital, police said.

Nainpur SDOP Manish Raj said members of the Ganesh festival committee returned to the village around 4 a.m. after immersing the idol. Eight youths then stayed inside the pandal to guard materials used for the tableau.

According to police, an electric wire came in contact with the pandal while the youths were sleeping, causing the current to spread through the structure. Four youths died and three sustained injuries.

Police and district administration officials reached the spot after

being informed about the incident and launched an investigation.

Raj said the pandal was a permanent structure and the exact cause of the electrocution had not yet been established. A team from the electricity department was examining whether a power line had snapped and fallen on the structure or whether a short circuit caused the current to spread.

The bodies were sent for post-mortem examination, while the injured were provided medical treatment. Further investigation is underway.

OPERATION KAVACH: DELHI POLICE ARREST MAN FOR ILLEGAL SALE OF MEDICINES

IAN S
New Delhi, Sep. 26

Delhi Police have arrested a 36-year-old man for allegedly possessing and selling prohibited medicines illegally from a medical store near Turkman Gate. A police team conducted a decoy operation, sending a customer to the shop to purchase codeine syrup.

The accused, identified as Afsan, a resident of Chandni Mahal, was arrested by the Special Staff of Central District Police. Police said 14 bottles of codeine syrup, 55 Alprazolam tablets (Alzomac) and 43 Spasmed capsules were recovered from his pos-

session.

According to police, the action followed information received on September 25 about the alleged illegal sale of prohibited medicines at Al Madina Medicos near Turkman Gate. A police team conducted a decoy operation, sending a customer to the shop to purchase codeine syrup.

Police said the accused allegedly sold a bottle without asking for a valid doctor's prescription. After the pre-decided signal was given, the team raided the premises and recovered the medicines.



A Drug Inspector was called to the spot and the medicines were seized.

A case was registered under FIR No. 463/2026 under Sections 22/25 of the NDPS Act at Chandni Mahal police station on September 25. Police said Afsan was taken on one-day custody remand for questioning about the

source and distribution of the medicines.

Police said the accused has no previous criminal involvement. Efforts are underway to identify others allegedly involved in the supply chain and trace the source of the recovered medicines. Further investigation is underway.

TN CM Vijay to visit Madurai on Sept 28, security tightened

IAN S
Madurai, Sep. 26

Security has been stepped up in Madurai ahead of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's proposed visit on September 28, his first to the city since assuming office. His itinerary includes a programme for newborns, the inauguration of the renovated Gandhi Museum and a possible visit to the Meenakshi Amman Temple.

Vijay is scheduled to launch the 'Thai Maman Gold Ring' programme



at Government Rajaji Hospital at 12.30 p.m. The programme, originally planned at Usilampatti, has been shifted to the Madurai hospital. He is expected to inaugurate the renovated Gandhi Museum at 1 p.m.

He is also expected to visit the Meenakshi Amman Temple around

4.30 p.m., although the temple visit and timing have not been formally confirmed.

Police are reviewing security arrangements from the airport to the hospital and around the temple. Additional personnel may be deployed to regulate traffic and crowds.

The temple's consecration ceremony was held on September 17 after 17 years, while Mandala pujas are continuing until October 2. Officials are also carrying out preparatory works at Rajaji Hospital and along the expected travel routes.

Priyanka targets CEC

IAN S
Malappuram, Sep. 26

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused the BJP leadership of shielding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and demanded his resignation, alleging violations by the poll panel.

She said the INDIA bloc was united over the issue and called for removal of legal safeguards for Election Commissioners if they commit illegal acts. BJP leaders have defended Kumar, while the ECI rejected claims of an internal rift.



At a Glance

World Leaders Push for UN Reform

IAN S
United Nations, Sep. 26

World leaders at the UN General Assembly have renewed calls for Security Council reform, arguing that its structure no longer reflects today's world.

African leaders made the strongest case for permanent seats with the same rights as existing members. Kenya's President William Ruto said five countries have permanent power over war and peace while Africa's 54 nations have no permanent representation.

Sierra Leone called for two permanent African seats and five non-permanent seats. Nigeria, South Africa and Ghana backed the demand.

Japan urged urgent reform and supported expanding both permanent and non-permanent membership.

India, Brazil, Germany and Japan, the G4, support expansion of both categories and each other's bids for permanent membership. The African Union separately supports two permanent African seats.

The Security Council has 15 members. China, France, Russia, Britain and the US hold permanent seats with veto power, while 10 are elected for two-year terms.

US senators urge Trump to keep Putin out of G20

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 26

A group of 14 US senators has urged President Donald Trump to withdraw an invitation to Russian President Vladimir Putin to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami on December 14-15, saying his presence could legitimise Moscow while its war against Ukraine continues. Led by Democratic Senator Jeanne Shaheen, the letter was signed by seven Republicans and seven Democrats. The lawmakers asked Trump to bar sanctioned Russian officials from other G20 meetings hosted by the US.

They cited Russia's attacks on Ukraine and urged pressure on Moscow to push it towards peace talks.

Peace is most durable solution to forced displacement: UN refugee chief

IAN S
United Nations, Sep. 26

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Barham Salih said that the most durable solution to forced displacement is peace.

Humanitarians will continue to do their part: protecting people forced to flee, standing with the countries and communities that receive them, and pursuing every opportunity for solutions. But success means more than that, he told the UN Security Council in his first briefing as high commissioner, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Success cannot be that we become better at keeping people alive through another year of war. It cannot be that a refugee camp established in response to an emergency is still there 50 years later. And it cannot be that children inherit displacement from their parents," he said. "Success must ultimately mean creating the conditions in which people no longer need us."

Seventy-five years ago, the Refugee Convention established a promise to protect people when peace fails, Salih said. "We must keep that promise. But our



collective ambition must also be greater: to prevent that displacement where we can, resolve it where it has occurred, and create the conditions in which people can rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. Ultimately, the most durable solution to forced displacement is peace."

Members of the Security Council carry a unique responsibility to help make peace possible, he said. "For the millions of people forced from their homes -- and the millions more who should never have to flee -- I urge this great council to use that responsibility."

"Today, more than 117 million people have been forced to flee their homes by conflict, violence, persecution, and other threats to their safety," Salih said, adding that forced displacement reveals something fundamental about the state of the world.

Displacement is rapidly outpacing solutions. Conflicts are multiplying. Many are becoming more protracted. Political solutions remain elusive. And millions of people who fled what they hoped would be a temporary crisis find themselves displaced for years, sometimes for generations. This is not only a humanitarian challenge. It is fundamentally a challenge to international peace and security, said Salih.

Humanitarian organizations deal every day with the consequences of conflict. They protect people who are forced to flee. They support countless countries and communities that receive them, and work to help people find a

way out of displacement. But humanitarians cannot create peace, he said.

The UN Charter entrusts the Security Council with a unique responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. That responsibility matters profoundly to the millions of refugees, the internally displaced, and stateless persons that humanitarians serve.

Salih asked the Security Council to use its political influence to end the conflicts and sustain peace processes, to protect civilians and uphold international humanitarian law, to preserve asylum and uphold the principle of non-refoulement, to invest in solutions from the outset, and to support refugee-hosting countries and countries of return.

US TO HOST G20 TRADE MINISTERS IN MILWAUKEE NEXT WEEK

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 26

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will host G20 trade ministers in Milwaukee from September 29 to October 1 for talks on forced labour, food trade, industrial overcapacity and possible changes to a key global trade principle.

India will be represented by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. According to the US Trade Representative's

office, ministers will discuss removing forced labour from global supply chains and addressing structural excess production and capacity.

The meeting will also examine the World Trade Organisation's Most-Favoured-Nation principle, which generally requires members to extend the same trade advantage given to one member to others, subject to WTO exceptions. The US has not detailed any proposed changes.

The programme will open with a ministerial meeting of the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity. Greer and other ministers will later visit a Rockwell Automation facility in Milwaukee to meet workers and industry executives.

The formal G20 Trade Ministerial will begin on Wednesday afternoon, followed by a welcome dinner hosted by the US Trade Representative and the Department of Agriculture.

Principal negotiations will take place on Thursday, with Greer scheduled to hold a press conference between sessions.

The meeting will conclude with a reception at the Harley-Davidson Museum. The Milwaukee talks come as governments reassess supply-chain dependence and global trade rules. India and the US have expanding commercial ties but continue to differ over tariffs, market access and agricultural trade.

US SUPREME COURT REVIVES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S VOTER DATABASE

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 26

The US Supreme Court has allowed the Trump administration to resume expanding a federal database for checking voter eligibility, temporarily setting aside a lower-court order that had raised concerns over privacy, data accuracy and federal authority.

In an unsigned order issued on Friday, the court allowed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to expand its Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) programme and use additional federal information, including Social Security records, to help states verify the citizenship status of people on voter rolls.

The decision permits the administration to proceed with the system ahead of the November midterm elections while the broader legal dispute continues. The court said federal law limits large-scale changes to voter-registration lists shortly before an election, reducing the potential impact of the expanded system this year. States may



also conduct individual searches.

SAVE was originally created to help government agencies verify citizenship and immigration status for certain public-benefit applications. Its expansion followed an executive order signed by President Donald Trump in March 2025 directing DHS to develop systems for verifying the citizenship status of registered voters and people seeking to register.

A federal appeals court had blocked the expanded system after a lower court found that the changes were likely to violate federal privacy and administrative laws and questioned the reliability of some data. The Supreme Court's three

liberal justices — Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson — dissented. Jackson said the lower court had correctly found that the changes were likely unlawful and warned that mass searches could increase the risk of eligible citizens being wrongly affected by errors.

The administration has said the database will help states verify voter rolls, while critics have argued that inaccurate or incomplete records could wrongly flag eligible voters, including naturalised citizens.

The ruling is an interim order, not a final decision on the legality of the programme. The broader case will continue in lower courts.

22 US STATES OPPOSE PROPOSED \$103,265 H-1B FEE

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 26

A coalition of 22 US attorneys general has opposed the Trump administration's proposal to impose a \$103,265 fee on certain H-1B visa petitions, arguing that the measure exceeds federal authority and could worsen shortages of teachers, doctors and nurses.

The attorneys general, led by California and Massachusetts and including Virginia, filed a comment letter with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) urging the agency to withdraw the proposed rule. USCIS issued the notice on August 25. It would apply the charge to petitions from employers not exempt from the H-1B cap.

The coalition argues that the proposed payment amounts to a tax that cannot be imposed by the executive branch without congressional authorisation. It also contends that the measure exceeds USCIS authority under the Immigration and



Nationality Act and violates the Administrative Procedure Act.

States said the fee could make it harder for state and local institutions to recruit foreign workers for essential services, in education and healthcare. They challenged USCIS's 30-day public comment period, calling it unusually short and insufficiently justified.

The coalition noted that a previous administration effort to impose a similar H-1B charge had been struck down. The group includes attorneys general from California, Massachusetts, Virginia, New York, Washington and states, as well as the

District of Columbia.

The H-1B programme allows US employers to hire foreign workers in specialty occupations generally requiring specialised knowledge and at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent. Technology companies are major users, while hospitals, schools and universities also rely on the programme.

The proposed rule remains subject to the federal rulemaking process and has not yet taken effect.

The coalition's filing was confirmed by California Attorney General Rob Bonta's office on September 24.

UN CHIEF CALLS FOR GLOBAL APPROACH TO PANDEMIC THREATS

IAN S
United Nations, Sep. 26

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for a coordinated global approach to pandemic prevention and preparedness, saying no country can protect itself from pandemics alone.

In a message delivered by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed at a high-level meeting on Friday, Guterres said the COVID-19 pandemic had demonstrated the human

and economic cost of inadequate global preparedness. He urged countries to build lasting systems based on equity, solidarity, science and multilateral cooperation.

Guterres called for greater investment in community-based health systems capable of detecting, monitoring and containing disease outbreaks. He also stressed stronger engagement with communities and local health workers, along with predictable and

sustainable financing. He urged countries to adopt a "One Health" approach that recognises the links between human, animal and environmental health and called for efforts to prevent diseases from spreading to humans.

The UN chief also stressed equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics and other life-saving tools, saying this was both a matter of justice and an effective way to contain outbreaks.

Guterres said the patho-

gen access and benefit-sharing system being negotiated was critical to implementing the World Health Organisation's Pandemic Agreement. "There is no time to waste," he said, warning that the next pandemic would test health systems and international solidarity.

The UN General Assembly's second high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response was held in New York on September 25.

IRAQ SEEKS EXEMPTIONS FROM US SANCTIONS TO RESUME FLIGHTS WITH IRAN

IAN S
Baghdad, Sep. 26

Iraq is holding direct talks with the United States to secure exemptions from sanctions for some Iraqi airports, seeking to resume flights with Iran on humanitarian grounds, the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office said on Saturday.

The requested waivers would allow flights linked to medical treatment, education, religious visits and other civilian needs, the office said. Baghdad also stressed its efforts to re-



duce regional tensions and called for disputes to be resolved through dialogue.

The move follows US Treasury measures targeting Iran's aviation sector. The sanctions include restrictions affecting foreign companies that provide services or other support to

sanctioned Iranian airlines.

Several Iraqi airports have suspended flights to and from Iran following the measures. Najaf International Airport halted all incoming and outgoing Iranian flights from 2 am on Friday until further notice, following official in-

structions.

The Iraqi government is seeking exemptions as the disruption affects passengers travelling for medical care, education and religious purposes.

Separately, Iraq signed an agreement with the US Embassy to take over a diplomatic support centre at Baghdad International Airport. The handover is part of preparations linked to the planned conclusion of the US-led international coalition's military mission and foreign troop presence in Iraq by September 30.

Saudi Arabia’s Decades of Loyalty to Washington Have Bought It Nothing but Isolation - Saudi should change its behavior

By: **Mohd Abdul Jaleel**
Editor-in-chief

For decades, Saudi Arabia has been Washington’s most reliable partner in the Middle East. The kingdom provided the United States with oil when demanded, basing rights when needed, and diplomatic cover for wars from Iraq to Afghanistan. In return, Riyadh believed it had purchased an American security guarantee. That belief has now been shattered.

The Houthis are raining ballistic missiles and drones on Saudi oil facilities, including the vital Yanbu terminal, and have advanced along Yemen’s Red Sea coast to control the Bab al-Mandeb Strait — a chokepoint for 12 percent of global oil trade. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman made a direct plea to President Donald Trump for military strikes against the Houthis. Trump initially agreed, then reversed course, calling off the operation at the last minute. Washington offered only

intelligence and targeting data — what the White House described as “all the support it needs”.

Imagine if the target had been Israel. The United States would not have hesitated a single day. The contrast is not lost on Riyadh. As a former US intelligence official warned, “MBS will not forget this”. The message is clear: American loyalty is transactional, and Saudi security is only as valuable as its price.

Saudi was merciless against Yemen: The kingdom’s predicament is largely of its own making. Saudi Arabia spent a decade bombing Yemen in the name of safeguarding its borders, killing more than 60,000 civilians — most of them women and children — and reducing an entire nation to rubble. It targeted mosques, schools, and hospitals. It imposed a blockade that created the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. Throughout it all, Riyadh was confident that the United States would



stand behind it, no matter the cost. When the royal family needed help, the throne was empty. Trump refused direct intervention, reportedly more concerned about American weapons stockpiles and oil market prices than about Saudi security. The Houthis are now

more aggressive precisely because they understand the new reality: the kingdom that once bombed with impunity is now exposed and alone.

Saudi is going through what it did to neighbouring countries: Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia

has never shown mercy to its neighbours. It has interfered in Iraq, Iran, Yemen, and Gaza, always with American blessing and often with American weapons. It has never lifted a finger for suffering Muslims in India, Palestine, or anywhere

else. Riyadh’s rulers were so arrogant in their reliance on Washington that they never learned to negotiate, never bothered to resolve conflicts through dialogue, never had to face the consequences of their aggression.

Now the chickens have

come home to roost. France is sending troops to protect Yanbu, and Pakistan and Turkiye are considering their obligations under the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement. But these are not substitutes for the American security umbrella Riyadh has spent decades funding. The kingdom is reportedly running critically low on missile interceptors and has been forced to seek air-defence support from multiple capitals.

Is China a better alternative for Saudi Arabia? Saudi Arabia’s turn towards China — with bilateral trade exceeding \$108 billion annually — is a rational response to American betrayal, but it will not solve the underlying problem. The kingdom is discovering that its decades of unconditional loyalty to the United States were a strategic miscalculation. It spent its treasure and its moral standing on a partner that views it not as an ally, but as a client — useful until no longer convenient.

The Saudi leadership now faces a choice that its predecessors never had to confront: learn diplomacy, or face the consequences of isolation. The Houthis, for one, are not waiting for that decision.

Saudi should Develop Relations with neighbours: Saudi Arabia’s future security lies in regional diplomacy, not dependence on distant powers. Riyadh must treat its neighbours with restraint and respect, ending cross-border interference and refusing to let any foreign power use Saudi soil to attack another Muslim or Arab state. If allies seek such help, Riyadh should demand public justification and reject it unless internationally lawful. Its wealth should fund poverty relief, reconstruction, and humanitarian aid, not war. It must build trust with Iran, Qatar, the UAE, and Yemen through dialogue, trade, and confidence-building. Only a generous, non-aggressive foreign policy can restore legitimacy and secure lasting regional peace.

Bank strike: Customers urged to finish key transactions before 3-day nationwide protest



Customers of several public sector and old-generation private sector banks have been advised to complete important banking transactions in advance as bank employees’ unions prepare for a three-day nationwide strike from September 28 to 30. The proposed agitation is expected to affect branch operations at many banks and comes during the crucial half-yearly closing period for the banking sector.

The strike has been called by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella body of bank employees’ unions that claims to represent nearly 90 per cent of the country’s banking workforce. The unions are pressing for the implementation of a five-day banking week, pension-related reforms and other measures aimed at improving employee welfare and working conditions.

The proposed strike could affect several branch-level services, particularly those that require physical visits to bank branches. Customers who need to complete urgent account-related work, submit documents, process certain transactions or access other branch-dependent services have been advised not to wait until the strike begins. In an effort to reduce inconvenience, the government has directed public sector banks to remain open on Sunday, September 27. The additional working day will give customers an opportunity to complete urgent transactions before the three-day strike. Customers have been advised to make use of this window, particularly if their banking requirements cannot be handled through digital channels.

The State Bank of India (SBI) has issued an advisory informing customers that it will make efforts to maintain essential services at branches and offices during the strike. However, the bank has cautioned that some operations could be affected because of the participation of employees in the proposed agitation. SBI has advised customers to

complete critical transactions before the strike and use its digital banking facilities wherever possible. These include YONO, internet banking, mobile banking, UPI, ATMs and cash deposit machines. Such services are expected to remain available for routine transactions, subject to normal technical and operational conditions.

Bank of India has also alerted its customers about the proposed strike and advised them to rely on its round-the-clock digital platforms. Internet banking, mobile banking, ATMs, business correspondent points and UPI services can be used for several routine banking requirements during the period.

The impact could extend beyond traditional public sector bank branches, as Regional Rural Banks are also expected to participate in the agitation. Their participation could affect banking services in rural and semi-urban areas, particularly for customers who depend heavily on physical branches for their transactions.

However, customers may have alternatives for routine banking needs. New-generation private sector banks such as ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and IndusInd Bank are expected to continue normal operations, as they are not part of the proposed strike. Customers with access to these banks may therefore be able to use their branches and digital services during the strike period.

The proposed strike comes as banks approach the end of the first half of the financial year, when administrative and reporting work increases. The Finance Ministry has appealed to unions to resolve their demands through dialogue, maintaining that most concerns have already been substantially addressed. Customers have been advised to complete urgent branch-related transactions by September 27 and use digital banking services during the three-day strike to minimise inconvenience.

Smaller stocks stay resilient in Aug even as large caps lag: Report

India’s equity markets showed a clear preference for smaller companies in August as micro-caps gained 2.6 per cent while small-caps were marginally positive, even as large-caps fell 4.1 per cent, a report has said.

Investors shifted towards safety, commodities and select pockets as equities fell 2.1 per cent amid broad-based pressure, the report from Vallum Capital said.

Only IPO and defence remained in positive territory among the 23 themes, returning over 2.2 per cent and over 1.4 per cent, respectively.

Auto and Railways were the biggest laggards, falling 6.5 per cent and 6.4 per cent, while Technology declined 6.1 per cent. The divergence within sectors was particularly sharp as Internet & Digital gained 3.2 per cent, while the IT Index fell 9.1 per cent.

The resilience of smaller stocks suggested that the weakness was not uniform across market capitalisation and that selectivity remained important. “The broader regime therefore remains one of domestic equity pressure, selective strength in smaller companies and momentum-led pockets, while traditional defensive labels have struggled,” the report noted.

The domestic market turned distinctly risk-off, with equity falling 2.1 per cent in August, while money market assets were the only major asset class to deliver a positive monthly return at over 0.5 per cent.

Commodities declined 0.5 per cent during the month but remained the strongest performer on a year-to-date basis, returning over 12 per cent, nearly nine times equity’s over 1.4 per cent YTD return.

Chronic Disease Care: Regular Medical Follow-Up Matters, but Avoiding Unnecessary Hospital Visits Is Equally Important



People living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, kidney disorders, respiratory illnesses and high blood pressure need regular medical care to keep their conditions under control. Routine consultations, recommended tests and timely treatment help doctors monitor the disease, adjust medication and identify complications at an early stage. However, experts point out that frequent hospital visits or prolonged hospital stays without a clear medical need can also expose patients to additional health risks and physical and emotional stress.

Hospitals treat patients with a wide range of infections, and repeated visits may increase the risk of exposure, particularly among elderly people and those with weakened immunity. Chronic disease patients often take several medicines and may consult different specialists for different conditions. Without proper coordination, medicines may be continued unnecessarily, duplicated or

interact with one another, increasing the risk of side effects. Regular medication reviews are therefore important, and patients should know why each medicine has been prescribed and how it should be taken.

Repeated hospital visits can also affect a patient’s daily routine and mental well-being. Long waiting periods, repeated investigations, medical procedures and disruption of sleep and normal activities can add to the burden of treatment. For older adults, prolonged hospitalisation can have an even greater impact. Spending long periods in bed or remaining physically inactive may lead to loss of muscle strength and reduced mobility, making it harder to regain previous levels of physical fitness and independence.

Another concern arises when several doctors are treating the same patient without adequate communication. In such cases, patients may have to undergo unnecessary repeat tests or receive treatment

plans that do not fully complement each other. Maintaining an updated record of medical history, current medicines and test reports can help doctors make better-informed decisions and improve coordination between different healthcare providers.

Regular monitoring does not always require a hospital visit. Where appropriate, follow-up consultations through clinics, primary healthcare centres or other suitable healthcare services can help patients stay on track with their treatment. Teleconsultation and digital health records may also assist in routine follow-ups, particularly for patients who have difficulty travelling frequently. However, such alternatives should be used according to medical advice and should not replace in-person assessment when it is required.

Families also have an important role in managing chronic illnesses. Keeping a record of medicines, previous reports, allergies and important medical information can

help healthcare professionals understand the patient’s condition quickly. Family members can also help elderly patients follow medication schedules, attend planned check-ups and recognise changes in symptoms that may require medical attention.

This, however, does not mean that people with chronic illnesses should avoid hospitals when medical attention is necessary. The aim should be to reduce avoidable hospital visits while ensuring timely care whenever it is genuinely required. Better control of chronic conditions, regular but planned check-ups, periodic medication reviews, a healthy lifestyle and awareness of warning signs can help achieve this balance.

Patients and families should have a clear treatment plan and understand when professional medical advice is needed. Any new, severe or rapidly worsening symptoms should not be ignored or treated at home simply to avoid a hospital visit. Timely medical intervention can be critical in preventing complications.

For people living with chronic diseases, the focus should therefore be on planned and coordinated healthcare rather than frequent hospital visits without a clear purpose. Ensuring necessary treatment at the right time, while avoiding preventable hospital exposure and unnecessary procedures, can help protect patients’ health, mobility and independence and improve their overall quality of life.



From heartbreak to gold: Shafali Verma's journey of finding her way back

New Delhi, Sept. 26:

India women's cricket team star Shafali Verma has opened up about the difficult phase when she was dropped from the national side, saying that accepting the setback and working on herself helped her make a strong comeback.

Speaking to IANS during a media roundtable facilitated by JSW Sports, Shafali described her exclusion from the team as the saddest moment of her cricket career. She said she used the period away from the team to work on her mental well-being, skills and fitness instead of allowing the setback to affect her confidence. Her opportunity to return came after Pratika Rawal was ruled out due to injury, allowing Shafali to join India's squad for the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup. She made the most of the opportunity, scoring 87 runs and taking two



wickets in the final against South Africa as India won their maiden Women's ODI World Cup title.

Shafali said the support of her family, teammates and coaches was crucial during her difficult period. She added that winning the World

leading run-scorer with 188 runs. She scored 40 against Japan, a 49-ball century against Bangladesh in the semifinal — the first women's cricket century in Asian Games history — and 48 in the final against Sri Lanka. India defeated Sri Lanka by 147 runs to retain the gold medal.

Shafali said her focus is now on helping India win more trophies and contributing to the growth of women's cricket. She also credited the positive team environment for helping players express themselves freely and perform without fear or hesitation.

The 22-year-old has already achieved several milestones in her career, including becoming the youngest player to score 1,000 runs in T20Is, reaching the top of the women's T20I batting rankings and scoring a remarkable 205 in a Test against South Africa in 2024.

Couldn't process it for 10 minutes – Dhir recalls seeing his name in India ODI squad

New Delhi, Sept. 26:

Naman Dhir said he was stunned for nearly 10 minutes after seeing his name in India's ODI squad for the upcoming West Indies series.

The Faridkot-based batter initially ignored a congratulatory Instagram message, thinking it was spam, before checking the official announcement and calling his emotional father.

After a seven-year gap following his Punjab U-16 stint, Dhir revived his career through the U-25 tournament, followed by his Ranji Trophy debut and an IPL contract with Mumbai Indians.

His latest breakthrough came in the Sher-e-Punjab T20 tournament, where he scored 655 runs at a strike rate of 217.61, including a 173 off 64 balls.

Hardik Pandya Set to Miss New Zealand Series After Fresh Leg Injury

New Delhi, Sept. 26:

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has suffered another injury and is set to miss the upcoming series against New Zealand. Pandya sustained a fresh injury to his right leg while undergoing rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Pandya reportedly experienced severe pain below his right knee while fielding. Following scans, he has been advised to take at least three weeks of rest. BCCI medical panel head Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala has reviewed his medical reports.

Pandya was originally expected to join the Indian team on September 20 and had also been selected for the ODI series against Australia A, beginning October 6. However, his latest injury has forced him to stay away from competitive cricket for the time being.

The T20I series against



New Zealand is scheduled to begin on October 22, followed by the ODI series. With the latest injury requiring a recovery period of several weeks, Pandya is unlikely to be fit in time for the New Zealand assignment.

The all-rounder was also being considered for India's Asian Games campaign in Japan, with the BCCI having taken his passport for visa-related formalities. However,

he developed pain shortly before the T20I series against Afghanistan and was advised to rest. The recurrence of pain during a fitness assessment has now raised further concerns over his availability.

If Pandya regains full fitness, he could make a return during India's subsequent ODI series against Zimbabwe. His recovery will now be closely monitored by the BCCI medical team.

All eyes on Rohit and Kohli as India kick off home season through first ODI against West Indies



New Delhi, Sept. 26:

All eyes will be on veteran batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as India begin their 2026/27 home international season with the first ODI against the West Indies at the Greenfield International Stadium on Sunday.

The series marks the beginning of India's preparations for next year's ODI World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. However, injuries and the ongoing Asian Games have left India without several key players, putting greater focus on the experienced duo. Rohit, who silenced questions over his future with a match-winning 138 against England at Lord's in July, has scored two centuries in 15 innings since the 2025 Champions Trophy. However, eight scores below 30 and a slower scoring rate during the powerplay remain areas of discussion.

Kohli, meanwhile, is just 51 runs away from becoming only the second player

after Sachin Tendulkar to score 15,000 ODI runs. With eight fifty-plus scores in his last 12 innings, the former captain enters the series in strong form and will be expected to anchor India's batting.

India will also have to manage a makeshift combination in the absence of Hardik Pandya and Harshit Rana due to injuries, while Axar Patel and Washington Sundar are away at the Asian Games. Nitish Kumar Reddy is therefore likely to feature, with Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav leading the spin attack.

The West Indies, led by Shai Hope, will look to make the most of India's depleted squad after suffering close series defeats to New Zealand and Sri Lanka. The series will also serve as useful preparation for their ODI World Cup qualifiers next year.

The match will begin at 2 pm IST on Sunday, with live coverage available on Star Sports Network and streaming on JioHotstar.

Asian Games: Prachi Choudhary wins bronze in women's 400m; Animesh Kujur qualifies for 200m final

New Delhi, Sept. 26:

India's Prachi Choudhary won bronze in the women's 400m at the Asian Games 2026, clocking 53.21 seconds. Bahrain's Salwa Eid Naser won gold in a Games-record 49.20 seconds, while Iran's Zahra

Jaree Manojan took silver.

Animesh Kujur qualified for the men's 200m final after finishing second in his semifinal with 20.81 seconds. India also secured two spots in the men's 1500m final through Gulveer Singh and Yoonus Shah.

Asian Games: India women's Kabaddi team clinches fourth gold with win over Iran

Tokai, Sept. 26:

India women's team defended its Kabaddi gold medal with a strong performance against an impressive Iranian side in the Asian Games 2026 final at the Tokai Citizen Gymnasium here on Saturday.

The Indian team clinched their fourth Kabaddi gold in the history of the Asian Games with a 37-34 win over 2018 champions Iran. This is India's fourth women's Kabaddi gold and third for the Indian contingent at the ongoing Asian Games.

The Women in Blue held their nerve in a thrilling gold medal match. They kept a lead for the majority of the final and went to the first half break with a scoreline of 22-16. The Iranian women gave the Indian women a good run and pushed them to the limits in the second half, collecting 18 points in reply to India's 15. However, the Women in Blue had done enough to seal the contest 37-34.



The contest began on a close note with the two teams level on 5-5 after four minutes into the first half. Iran took the lead at 6-5 with a super ankle hold on India's Sanju.

The two teams remained close in the next few minutes too, with Pooja bringing a point and Iran left with one player. India inflicted the first all-out when Bhavna Devi tackled the raider for a 13-10 lead for India.

India's Nikita then produced a multi-point raid to

give the defending champions a 15-10 lead before Sanju Devi earned three points for a bonus plus two. At the end of the first half, India had an arm's distance against the Iranians with a 22-16 lead.

The second half also saw some close battles on raids and defence. Iran ramped up a few points to reduce India's lead to three points. Indian were left with two players on the mat and unleashed a solid tackle to take a 25-20 lead with 10 minutes to go.

Iran did not give up anytime soon, with Zahra Karimi putting some crucial tackles as India were not allowed to run away with the game. Iran also inflicted an all-out on India with Madadi bringing two points to close the 27-26 in favour of India with eight minutes remaining on the timer.

However, Sanju produced another two-point raid to help India keep Iran at bay and lead 34-28. Pooja collected another point as India held their nerves to win the contest 37-34.

'Dhoni's 2011 six inspired me to take up cricket,' says Puri Titans' Aashirwad Swain



New Delhi, Sept. 26:

Puri Titans batter Aashirwad Swain said MS Dhoni's famous six in the 2011 World Cup final inspired him to take up cricket. Swain then held his nerve to guide Puri Titans to a thrilling two-wicket win over Keonjhar Miners in the Odisha T20 League.

Chasing 141, Puri Titans were 113/8 in the 18th over

and needed 15 runs from the final over. Swain remained calm and completed the chase, saying he had learnt from Dhoni to take the game deep and stay confident under pressure.

The 19-year-old also revealed that his jersey number 19 is inspired by football legend Lionel Messi and credited former India batter Wasim Jaffer for helping him develop his game.

Vinod Kambli's Video From Old-Age Home Raises Concern Among Fans

New Delhi, Sept. 26:

Former India cricketer Vinod Kambli has once again drawn attention after appearing in a video from an old-age home, where he said he was receiving treatment. The video has sparked concern among cricket fans, as Kambli appears to struggle while speaking.

In the video, Kambli said he was currently staying at the old-age home and undergoing treatment there. He also spoke positively about the facilities and said he did not feel far away from home because of the love and respect he was receiving from the people around him.

Kambli, who has faced health-related problems for several years, underwent angioplasty in 2013 after being diagnosed with



a blockage in his heart. He has continued to face health challenges in recent years, with reports also emerging about a blood clot in his brain.

A childhood cricket companion of Sachin Tendulkar, Kambli went on to represent India at the international level. He scored 1,084 runs in 17

Test matches and 2,477 runs in 104 ODIs.

The former left-handed batter was regarded as one of India's promising young talents during the 1990s and made a memorable start to his Test career with consecutive double centuries. His international career, however, did not last as long as many had

expected.

The latest video has renewed public interest in Kambli's well-being, with fans expressing concern and extending their support to the former India cricketer. His recent appearance has also brought renewed attention to the health struggles he has faced in recent years.



Samarkand, Sept. 26:

Reigning World Classical Chess Champion D Gukesh produced a crucial win as India defeated Germany 2.5-1.5 in the ninth round of the 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, moving to second place in the Open section.

R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin were held to draws on the first three boards before Gukesh secured the decisive victory against Alexander Donchenko. Playing with the black pieces, Gukesh fought back from a difficult

position with precise moves to seal the win for India.

India now have 15 points and share second place with Uzbekistan 2 and Armenia, while the main Uzbekistan team lead with 16 points after defeating the top-seeded United States.

In the women's section, India defeated Uzbekistan 3-1. Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal won their games, while B Savitha Shri and Koneru Humpy were held to draws. India moved to 15 points and share second place with Kazakhstan and Mongolia, behind leaders China on 17 points.

CONGRESS SEEKS SIR SAFEGUARDS

Telangana Congress Seeks Seven Safeguards in SIR, Opposes Deletion of Voters for Missing Hearings

- Telangana Congress demands seven safeguards in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.
- Party seeks transparency in notices, segment-wise discrepancy data and daily disclosure of Form-6 applications.
- Congress says nearly 73.39 lakh electors were excluded from the draft roll under various categories.
- CM A. Revanth Reddy will raise Telangana's SIR concerns at the Congress Working Committee meeting on September 29.

Hyderabad, Sept 26

The Telangana Congress on Saturday demanded greater trans-

parency and safeguards in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, asserting that no eligible voter should be deleted merely for failing to attend a hearing.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, TPCC spokesperson Syed Nizamuddin listed seven demands, including disclosure of the exact discrepancies against each noticee, Assembly segment-wise data on discrepancies and daily publication of Form-6 applications received, accepted, rejected and pending.

The party also sought gender-wise data on voters facing exclusion, recognition of the Telangana government's new family certificate as a valid document and an independent audit of the electoral-roll



software.

Nizamuddin said Telangana had 3.38 crore electors when the SIR began, while around 2.65 crore names figured in the draft roll. He said nearly 73.39 lakh electors were excluded under the Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate categories.

He claimed around 92.87 lakh notices had

been issued, including 60.50 lakh relating to discrepancies and 32.36 lakh involving failure to map voters with the 2002 electoral rolls. Nearly 47 lakh noticees had not attended hearings, while another 7.41 lakh notices remained unserved, he said.

"Missing a hearing cannot be treated as proof that a voter is dead, shift-

ed, duplicate or ineligible," Nizamuddin said.

He added that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would raise Telangana's SIR concerns at the Congress Working Committee meeting in New Delhi on September 29. The party would announce a statewide protest programme after the meeting.

Telangana Prisons Wins SKOCH Award for NIVRUTTI De-Addiction Initiative

New Delhi, Sept 26

Telangana Prisons and Correctional Services department has won the SKOCH Award 2026 for its NIVRUTTI De-Addiction Centres initiative aimed at addressing substance-use disorders among prisoners.

The award was presented at the 109th SKOCH Summit-India

Economic Forum at the India Habitat Centre here on Saturday. Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services Dr. Soumya Mishra received the award from SKOCH Law Offices founder Rohan Kochhar and SKOCH Group Chairman Sameer Kochhar. Deputy Inspector General of Prisons M. Sampath was also present.



Governor Calls for Indian Knowledge-Modern Education Link

Hyderabad, Sept 26

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla called for integrating India's traditional knowledge systems with modern education and scientific learning to prepare youth for the future. Addressing a seminar in Varanasi on Saturday, he said education should promote ethical values, social responsibility and personality development alongside employability.

He said India's contributions to yoga, Ayurveda, mathematics and astronomy should be linked to contemporary learning, while stressing integrity, duty, compassion and care for nature.

SCR Employees Part of India's Asian Games Kabaddi Gold Double

Five South Central Railway employees were part of India's men's and women's kabaddi teams that won gold at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, on Saturday. Ritu Negi and Pinky Roy represented the women's team, while Sumit Sangwan and Ayan Lohchab were in the men's squad; SCR's Neetha Didwe was the women's team coach.

SCR General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava congratulated the five employees, saying their achievement brought distinction to South Central Railway and Indian Railways.

BRS intensifies preparations for Khairatabad bypoll

The BRS has stepped up preparations for the Khairatabad Assembly bypoll following the disqualification of former MLA Danam Nagender, a decision upheld by the Supreme Court.

Several names, including Manne Goverdhan Reddy, Dasaju Sravan, P. Vishnuvardhan Reddy and Talasani Sai Kiran, are being discussed within the party for the ticket, with the leadership weighing local political equations before finalising the candidate.

Dattatreya pays tribute to Chakali Ailamma

Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya paid tributes to Telangana freedom fighter Chakali Ailamma at her statue at Lower Tank Bund on Saturday, recalling her fight against landlords, forced labour and for the rights and dignity of the poor. Describing Ailamma as a symbol of women's courage and social resistance, he said her role in the Telangana armed struggle would continue to inspire future generations.

Kavitha Slams Telangana Govt Over Healthcare Neglect, Infant Deaths

Hyderabad, Sept 26

Telangana Rakshana Sena president K. Kavitha on Saturday accused the Revanth Reddy government of neglecting healthcare and education, alleging inadequate attention to public health facilities and infant deaths.

Addressing the media, Kavitha claimed around 4,000 infants die annually in Telangana and referred to recent infant deaths at RIMS, Adilabad. Citing government figures, she said infant deaths stood at 6,000 in 2020-21, 4,933 in 2022-23 and 3,853 in



2024-25.

She alleged that healthcare funds were not being fully utilised and cited overcrowding at Niloufer Hospital and long waits for surgeries at NIMS. She also questioned the

monitoring of government hospitals by district Collectors.

Kavitha said her party would launch a campaign on healthcare and education and contest the Khairatabad by-election.

KCR Pays Tribute to Chakali Ailamma on Birth Anniversary

Hyderabad, Sept 26

BRS chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday paid tributes to Chakali Ailamma on her birth anniversary, recalling her role in the Telangana Armed Peasant Struggle. In a statement, KCR praised Ailamma's resistance to feudal oppression and her fight for farmers and disadvantaged communities, describing her as a symbol of courage, Telangana consciousness and Bahujan self-respect. He recalled that the then BRS government had officially begun observing her birth anniversary to carry her legacy to future generations.

Tamil Nadu Crafts Take Centre Stage at 10-Day Expo in Sec'bad



Hyderabad, Sept 26

Traditional handicrafts and handlooms from Tamil Nadu are on display at a 10-day Mega Handicrafts Expo at Our Sacred Space, East Marredpally, Secunderabad, from September 26 to October

4. Organised by the Tamil Nadu Handicrafts Development Corporation (Poompuhar), the exhibition was inaugurated by Our Sacred Space founder Nayana Tara on Saturday. Around 30 artisans from different dis-

tricts of Tamil Nadu are participating and selling their products directly to visitors. The expo features bronze icons, brass lamps, Thanjavur paintings, wood carvings, stone sculptures, terracotta products, cane furniture, banana-fibre and palm-leaf products, jewellery, textiles and handlooms.

Organisers said the initiative aims to promote traditional crafts, improve market access for artisans and support their livelihoods.

The exhibition is open to the public free of charge from 10 am to 8 pm daily.

Sultan-ul-Uloom College of Law Holds Graduation Day

Munsif Desk
Hyderabad, Sept 26

Sultan-ul-Uloom College of Law held its Graduation Day for students completing three-year LLB and five-year BA LLB and BBA LLB programmes.

Principal Dr. V. Geeta Rao highlighted the college's moot courts, legal aid clinic, national competitions and legal awareness programmes aimed at strengthening students' advocacy skills.

Telangana High Court judges Justice N.V. Shraavan Kumar and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin congratulated the graduates and stressed ethics, continuous learning, human empathy and responsible use of artificial intelligence in legal practice.

Justice Shraavan Kumar urged students to develop knowledge and courage while exploring alternative methods to reduce litigation. Justice Mohiuddin said AI should remain a tool and cannot replace human empathy, while encouraging young lawyers to undertake pro bono



work and provide free legal aid.

Sultan-ul-Uloom Education Society Secretary Zafar Javed and Telangana Bar Council member D. Jagadishwar Rao, an alumnus, also addressed the gathering.

Khatija, of the 2025 batch, received the Justice S. Obul Reddy Memorial Gold Medal for Criminal Procedure Code from Osmania University.

The graduating students took the oath administered by the judges. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and the national anthem.

"Cong Puts Family First, BJP Puts Nation First": T-BJP Chief NRR

Hyderabad, Sept 26

Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao hit back at Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over his remarks describing the political contest as one between the "Gandhi Pariwar" and "Sangh Pariwar".

Rao, who is touring Australia, said Revanth's remarks reflected differences between Congress politics and the Sangh Parivar's organisational approach. He said national interest should remain paramount and argued that the BJP was not centred on a single family or

surname.

Rao questioned Congress over the Emergency and the 1984 anti-Sikh violence, citing them while criticising the party's record in government.

He also accused Congress of seeking to centre national politics around the Gandhi family and said political discourse should focus on citizens' interests and welfare.

His remarks came a day after Revanth Reddy criticised the BJP and Sangh Parivar and called on people to rally behind the Gandhi family and Rahul Gandhi.

Uttam Seeks CEC Resignation, ECI Roll Probe

Hyderabad, Sept 26

Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and an impartial probe into reported internal objections within the Election Commission of India over electoral-roll management.

Uttam cited a media report claiming that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised 14 objections over 10 months concerning voter registration, deletion and restoration of names, appeals and roll management.

He also referred to a reported Goa case, where 97 eligible voters were cleared for inclusion but could not be added to the final roll due to software limitations.

Uttam said the reported issues required scrutiny as they concerned the inclusion and deletion of voters and the functioning of officials responsible for electoral rolls.



Bhatti Calls for AI, Digital Push to Boost Telangana Tourism

Hyderabad, Sept 26

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday called for greater use of Artificial Intelligence and digital technology to promote Telangana tourism globally and improve visitor experiences.

Speaking at World Tourism Day-

tional marketing and development of wellness, temple, rural and nature tourism, besides international-standard hotels and infrastructure through the PPP model.

Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said the government was targeting ₹50,000 crore in tourism investments and five lakh jobs under the Telangana Tourism Policy 2025-30. He said investment proposals worth ₹22,174 crore had been received in the first year of the policy.

