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Congress Plans Nizamabad Youth Rally Against CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Statewatch, Page 2



'Rough Is Another Kind of Calm': Rahul Gandhi Amid ECI Row

Nation, Page 4



Bangladesh Measles Death Toll Nears 1,100 After Nine More Die

Horizon, Page 5



Kohli, Gill Tons Power India to 8-Wicket Win

Sports, Page 7

27 DEAD IN TWO SOUTH AFRICA MASS SHOOTINGS; GUNMEN REMAIN AT LARGE

Police examine an illegal-mining turf dispute near Johannesburg and possible business rivalry outside Cape Town, but neither motive has been established

JOHANNESBURG/CAPE TOWN, Sept 27

The Election Commission of India on Saturday ordered a review of its ECINet voter-roll software and announced changes to the handling of notices issued during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), easing the requirement for electors flagged over discrepancies to appear personally before officials.

Under the revised procedure, voters receiving notices for “unmapped” records or logical discrepancies will

generally not have to attend hearings at ERO or AERO offices. Booth Level Officers will instead visit their homes, collect documents and upload them to ECINet for a decision by the Electoral Registration Officer. Hearings will be held only in exceptional cases and should preferably be conducted online; an authorised adult family member may also represent the elector.

The Commission also directed District Election Officers to establish help desks and special camps for homeless persons, labourers,

residents of night shelters and other vulnerable groups.

A committee headed by a Senior Deputy Election Commissioner, with an independent expert from an IIT or IIIT, will examine whether ECINet complies with relevant election Acts and Rules. The Commission said field officers would retain role-based access consistent with their statutory powers.

In another transparency measure, the EC said agendas will henceforth be circulated before Commission meetings and minutes issued after-



wards.

The decisions follow scrutiny of the SIR process after reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir 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.

Suraram Principal Booked After Knife Attack; HARASSMENT PROBE ON

MEDCHAL, Sept. 27:

Suraram police have booked school principal Daniel Raj after he allegedly attacked two men with a knife during a confrontation arising from a female teacher's harassment complaint at AV Model High School in Pandu Basti.

The teacher's brother alleged that she had faced inappropriate behaviour and workplace pressure from the principal during the five to six months she worked at the school. These allegations remain under police investigation

and have not been established as fact.

According to available reports, the teacher's brother and others went to the school to question the principal, leading to an argument. Daniel Raj allegedly attacked two men with a knife, leaving them seriously injured. Police subsequently registered a case and began investigating both the assault and the teacher's allegations.

A separate report said police also booked some local residents over their conduct during the con-

frontation, indicating that investigators are examining allegations involving both sides.

Key questions remain unanswered, including the exact offences registered, the present condition of the injured men and whether police have examined CCTV footage said to have captured the incident.

It is also unclear whether the school management had received any earlier complaint from the teacher or what internal safeguards were available to address her allegations.

Raghav Chadha welcomes new 30-day prepaid recharge rules

New Delhi, Sept 27:

Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha has welcomed the new telecom recharge rules providing prepaid users with 30-day plans and more voice- and SMS-only options, saying the changes would offer greater flexibility, particularly to low-budget users.

The Telecom Consumer Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, provide for 30-day recharge plans, potentially reducing the number of monthly recharges from 13 to 12 in a year. The amended framework also requires telecom operators to offer voice and SMS-only Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) corresponding to the validity periods available for bundled plans.

Chadha said the changes addressed concerns he had raised in Parliament on March 11 over limited and inflexible recharge options. He had also questioned the use of 28-day cycles for plans marketed as monthly recharges.



TRAI New Recharge Rules 2026

Welcoming the move, Chadha said consumers who primarily use their phones for voice calls and SMS would now have more suitable options without having to pay for bundled data services.

The new framework is aimed at giving prepaid users greater choice by allowing them to select plans based on their individual usage requirements.

Centre to launch Livestock Insurance Portal

New Delhi, Sept 27

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying will launch the Livestock Insurance Portal on Monday to streamline insurance services for livestock farmers, the government said on Sunday.

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh will launch the web-based portal, which will provide a single platform for policy issuance, claim processing, monitoring and reporting under the Livestock Insurance Scheme. Available in 11 regional languages besides Hindi and English, the portal aims to make insurance services more accessible and transparent. It will also enable real-time monitoring and data-driven management of the scheme. Under the scheme, beneficiaries pay 15 per cent of the premium, while the Centre and states bear the remaining 85 per cent. Up to 10 cattle units can be covered per beneficiary household.

India's first LNG-powered train flagged off

Ahmedabad, Sept 27

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Sunday flagged off India's first LNG-powered train from Sabarmati, marking the Railways' move towards using alternative fuels.

The train uses a diesel-LNG dual-fuel system, with two 1,400 HP Driving Power Cars converted for LNG use. More than 2,000 km of trials have been completed.

The system can replace up to 40 per cent of diesel consumption with LNG and is expected to reduce fuel costs and emissions. Each converted power car can carry about 850-900 kg of LNG, providing a range of around 1,600 km. The launch was part of railway projects worth over Rs 1,542 crore unveiled in Ahmedabad, including a Rs 700-crore WAG-12 locomotive maintenance shed, Kavach train protection system and signalling and track-doubling works.

SIR ROW DEEPENS Congress Questions Deletions, Form 6 Changes

New Delhi, Sept. 27:

The controversy over the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls intensified on Sunday, with the BJP defending the deletion of 2.8 crore names of deceased voters and Congress questioning the remaining 10.2 crore deletions.

The BJP said around 13 crore names had been removed from the rolls, including 2.8 crore deceased voters. Congress MP Pawan Khera questioned the reasons for excluding the remaining names and asked whether electoral-roll revisions since 2014 had failed to identify deceased voters.

Congress leader Udit Raj also questioned al-

leged changes in the online version of Form 6, claiming it requires an applicant's father or grandfather to have been listed in the 2002 electoral roll. He said such a condition could prevent new voters from being added and sought clarification on the alleged modification.

Raj further questioned why the online form was changed when, according to him, there was no corresponding change in the hard copy. The Opposition has sought greater transparency over the SIR process and safeguards for eligible voters, while the Election Commission has maintained that the exercise is aimed at ensuring accurate electoral rolls.



Osman Bin Mohammed Alhajri

Motha Rohit Mudiraj

Hyderabad, Sept. 27:

The Telangana Congress will hold protests across the State on Monday, September 28, questioning aspects of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demanding greater transparency in the addition, deletion and correction of voters' names.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, MLC, will lead the programme, with demonstrations planned at district headquarters. In Hyderabad, organisers

said a march will begin at 10 am from the Indira Gandhi Statue and proceed towards the Election Commission office.

The Congress has raised objections over voter deletions, additions, objections to entries and the transparency of changes made during the revision process. Party leaders have sought an independent, impartial and time-bound examination of complaints linked to SIR-2026.

Congress leaders said any allegation of wrongdoing should be examined under the law and that criminal action, if

Telangana Congress SIR Protest on September 28

warranted, should follow only where competent authorities find prima facie evidence of an offence. The party's allegations remain political claims and do not by themselves establish misconduct by election officials.

The Election Commission provides digital facilities for voters to check SIR records, respond to notices and seek registration or corrections.

Hyderabad Congress leaders, including Osman Bin Mohammed Al Hajri and Motha Rohit Mudiraj, have appealed for large participation.

Odisha braces for Mahanadi flood surge

Low-lying stretches across coastal Odisha face a critical overnight window as engineers begin embankment surveillance and night patrols



Bhubaneswar, Sept 27

Odisha braced for a rise in Mahanadi water levels on Sunday, with the river at Mundali near Cuttack expected to carry up to 8 lakh cusecs by Monday morning following heavy inflows into the Hirakud reservoir.

Hirakud authorities kept 28 sluice gates open. At 3 pm, the reservoir level stood at 628.33 feet against the full level of 630 feet, with inflow of 4.95 lakh cusecs and outflow of 4.44 lakh cusecs.

Officials said the Mundali flow could reach 7 lakh cusecs by Sunday night and 8 lakh cusecs by 9 am Monday. The flow was 4.58 lakh cusecs at 3 pm. Though described as a minor flood, the rise could affect low-lying areas, farmland and roads along the Mahanadi and its distributaries.

Banki, Badamba and Athagarh in Cuttack, parts of Puri, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts have been identified as vulnerable. Field engineers have been placed on alert and night patrolling ordered along vulnerable embankments.

Meanwhile, more than 70,000 people had been shifted to 395 relief camps across Odisha amid widespread rain-related flooding. Officials said upstream rainfall, particularly in Chhattisgarh, had increased inflows into Hirakud. The IMD has not forecast heavy rain in Odisha on September 27 and 28.

MUSEUM OF WORD SHOWCASES INDIA'S LINGUISTIC HERITAGE

Kolkata, Sept 27

For theTelangana media delegation visiting Kolkata on a five-day PIB Hyderabad media tour, the Museum of Word at historic Belvedere House in the National Library campus offered more than a museum visit — it presented a journey through the civilisational memory carried by India's languages.

Inaugurated on July 19, 2026, the Museum of Word is India's first immersive language museum. Developed by the Ministry of Culture through the National Library of India and National Council of

Science Museums, it brings together linguistic history, literature, oral traditions and performance through artefacts, audio-visual presentations and interactive technology.

Spread across about 2,282 square metres, Phase I comprises nine galleries — First Word, My Mother Tongue, Navrasa, Journey of Languages, Honouring the Legends, Oral Traditions, Performing Traditions, Global Dialogue and Public Library Movement. Together, they trace communication from early human expression,

Continued on Page 4...





Godavari Pushkar Works to Receive Top Priority: Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Sep. 27:

District Collector Bhavesh Mishra said the State Government is giving top priority to arrangements and development works for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaram. He said various infrastructure projects have been launched at Kandukurthi and Yench in Nizamabad district to provide better facilities for devotees taking the holy dip. On Saturday, Endowments Department Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaiyar and Commissioner Hanumantha Rao conducted a video conference from Hyderabad with district collectors and officials of various departments to review Pushkaram



preparations. Officials were directed to ensure that all essential facilities are provided at Pushkar Ghats and that the works are completed within the stipulated

timeline. Participating in the review meeting from the Collectorate, Bhavesh Mishra said foundation stones had been laid for sev-

eral projects at Kandukurthi Pushkar Kshetra as well as at Yench near Basar under the Endowments, Irrigation, Panchayat Raj, and Roads & Buildings departments.

Congress announces youth protest rally in Nizamabad against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Sept 27:

The Congress party has announced a large-scale youth (Gen Z) protest, including a sit-in and rally, in Nizamabad on September 28 against the Election Commission, particularly Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, following a call by Rahul Gandhi. Addressing the media, senior Congress leader and Nizamabad’s first Mayor, D. Sanjay, alleged that since the BJP came to power at the Centre, it has taken control of key government institutions and implemented decisions that, according to him, are against the interests of the people and the Constitution.

He further alleged that despite what he described as public dissatisfaction, the Election Commission and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar have acted in a manner favourable to the BJP. He also acclaimed that opposition parties have been weakened through decisions that he termed unconstitutional, even in cases where they had secured electoral success. D. Sanjay alleged that the Central Government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were misusing important government institutions, including the Election Commission and Chief Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, for unconstitutional purposes to suppress public



rights, curtail constitutional freedoms, and weaken the opposition. He said the protest would demand the resignation and arrest of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, whom he described as acting in favour of the Central Government and the BJP. The protest is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m.

on Monday, September 28, from Gandhi Chowk to the Bus Stand in Nizamabad. D. Sanjay appealed to people from all sections of society, especially the youth, to participate in large numbers and make the rally a success while safeguarding their voting rights and the Constitution.

Ramlu Naik Demands Immediate SPM Workers’ Union Elections

Nizamabad Bureau
Kagaznagar : Sept.27:

Former MLC Ramlu Naik has demanded the immediate conduct of workers’ union elections at Sirpur Paper Mills (SPM) in Kagaznagar, located in the Sirpur Assembly constituency of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district. Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Naik said a duly elected workers’ union is essential for effectively resolving labour issues, safeguarding workers’ rights, and representing their demands before the management. He said the union elections should be held without delay so that workers can democratically choose their representatives and present their grievances through an elected body. He urged the management

to engage in dialogue with workers instead of ignoring their concerns and to take appropriate action on their legitimate demands. Later, Ramlu Naik visited the ongoing protest camp set up by SPM workers demanding the resolution of various issues. He was accompanied by Congress National Secretary Adita. The two leaders met the protesting workers, heard their grievances, and expressed solidarity with their agitation. Naik assured the workers of full support in resolving their legitimate issues and said that holding the workers’ union elections at the earliest would be a significant step toward strengthening workers’ rights and representation.

Land Inspected for Setting Up Food Market at Vishwanathapuram

Munsif News Bureau
Warangal, Sep. 27:

Parkal MLA Revari Prakash Reddy, along with Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada and Enumamula Agricultural Market Committee Chairperson A. Priyanka Anil, inspected a proposed site for establishing a food market at Vishwanathapuram village in Geesugonda mandal. During the inspection, officials reviewed the basic infrastructure required for the proposed food market, transportation arrangements, marketing facilities, and other key aspects to ensure maximum benefit for farmers, traders, and local residents.

Police Commissioner Thanks All for Peaceful Ganesh Festival and Immersion

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Sept 27 :

Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, thanked all individuals, organisations and government departments for their cooperation in ensuring the peaceful conduct of the Ganesh festival and immersion programmes across the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate limits. Ganesh celebrations were conducted peacefully in Nizamabad, Armoor and Bodhan divisions, from the installation of idols to the immersion ceremonies. A total of 5,811 Ganesh idols were installed across the commissionerate. Devotees performed special prayers at Ganesh pan-



dals for 9 and 11 days as per tradition, followed by immersion at designated locations. In view of the immersion processions, special police arrangements were made at Basara Bridge, besides Basara, Ummed and several other immersion points. Necessary security and safety measures were implemented at all locations to maintain peace and ensure the smooth conduct of the ceremonies. Commissioner Sai Chaitanya appreciated the cooperation extended by Sarvajanik Ganesh Mandalis, Ganesh committees, mosque committees and people belonging to all communities. He said their coordination with the police department played an important role in ensuring peaceful celebrations.

Grand Celebration Marks 111th Birth Anniversary of Konda Laxman Bapuji

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Sept 27 :

Ahmed Munsif news bureau) The 111th birth anniversary of Acharya Konda Laxman Bapuji, a prominent Telangana activist and freedom fighter, was celebrated grandly on Sunday under the aegis of the District Backward Classes Development Department. Mayor Koragayyala Uma Rani, Additional Collector Bhujanga Rao, representatives of BC and Padmashali community organisations, and others paid floral tributes at the statue of Konda Laxman Bapuji at Vinayak Nagar. The celebrations were formally inaugurated by lighting the traditional lamp. Speaking on the occasion,

the dignitaries recalled Konda Laxman Bapuji’s lifelong commitment, integrity and dedication to the cause of Telangana statehood. They said that he had participated not only in the Telangana movement but also in India’s freedom struggle. They recalled his strong advocacy of public issues in legislative institutions and his willingness to sacrifice even his positions for his principles. The speakers said that his struggle for democratic values and the development and welfare of the people of Telangana would continue to inspire future generations. They called upon the people to work together to uphold and fulfil his ideals and aspirations.

296 Gas Cylinders Seized in Joint Raid on Illegal Refilling Warehouse in Medak



Munsif News Bureau
Medak, Sept 27:

Civil Supplies and Police officials conducted a joint raid on an illegal gas refilling and storage warehouse in the outskirts of Kalakal village in Medak district, seizing 296 LPG cylinders and warning of strict action against those involved in unauthorized refilling. Acting on the instructions of District Civil Supplies Officer P. Nithanandam, Civil Supplies Inspector Narsimulu, along with

Manoharabad Police Station Sub-Inspector Subhash Goud, led the joint operation at the warehouse following information about illegal gas cylinder refilling and storage. During the raid, officials recovered 296 illegally stored gas cylinders, which were taken into official custody. The District Civil Supplies Officer said unauthorized gas refilling and illegal storage of LPG cylinders pose a serious safety risk, with the potential to cause fires and major accidents result-

ing in loss of life and property. He made it clear that no leniency would be shown toward anyone involved in illegal gas refilling, unauthorized storage, or sale of LPG cylinders in the district. Criminal cases will be registered against violators, and strict legal action will be taken. He added that immediate action would be taken wherever such illegal activities are detected or reported and appealed to the public to promptly inform the authorities about any such activities that threaten public safety.

Ganesh Immersion Concludes Peacefully in Medak Amid Tight Security

Munsif News Bureau
Medak, Sept.27 :

Ganesh immersion festivities concluded peacefully in Medak town under extensive police security, with authorities ensuring smooth processions and orderly immersion arrangements throughout the event. Police had deployed security personnel along procession routes and at immersion points well in advance. Officers and personnel remained on high alert throughout the celebrations to prevent any untoward incidents. Special attention was



also given to traffic management, while necessary arrangements were made at immersion sites to ensure devotees faced no inconvenience. Senior police officials visited the venues, reviewed the security arrangements, and issued necessary instructions to personnel on duty. Police officers and staff worked in coordination to ensure the immersion process was completed successfully. Additional SP Vikrant Kumar Singh, IPS, congratulated the police officers and personnel who performed their duties during the Ganesh immersion with effective security arrangements.

Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma Mini Jatara from Feb 17 to 20

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.27 :

The dates for the famous Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma Mini Jatara in Telangana have been finalised, with the four-day festival scheduled to be held from February 17 to 20, 2027. The priests of Sammakka and Saralamma announced the dates and said arrangements would be made to conduct the festival in accordance with traditional customs.

The Mini Jatara will commence on February 17 with the ceremonial arrival of Saralamma at the Gadde, the sacred platform. On February 18, Sammakka will be brought to the Gadde. February 19 will be observed as the day for devotees to fulfil their vows. Devotees from various parts of Telangana and neighbouring States are expected to visit Medaram and offer their vows to the deities. The four-day festival will conclude on February 20.

Medak Collector Pratima Singh Honoured with ‘Best Tourism Talent Award’

Munsif News Bureau
Medak, Sept 27:

District Collector Pratima Singh was honoured with the prestigious “Best Tourism Talent Award” for her outstanding contribution to promoting tourism, preserving historical monuments, and improving facilities for tourists in Medak district. The award was presented by Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka at a special event organised by the Tourism Department at Shilparamam, Hyderabad, on the occasion of World Tourism Day. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, State Tourism

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Tourism Department Secretary Vani Prasad, and other senior officials congratulated the Collector on receiving the award. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government’s objective is to develop the tourism sector in Telangana to international standards. He particularly appreciated Collector Pratima Singh’s efforts in identifying tourist attractions in Medak district and developing them as tourism destinations. He called for further development of the tourism sector through innovative initiatives. Collector Pratima Singh



expressed her happiness at receiving the prestigious award from the Deputy Chief Minister. She said the support extended by Tourism Department

officials and staff, the media, and the people of the district had also played an important role in achieving the honour. She said the award had in-

creased her responsibility and assured that further efforts would be made to promote tourism in Medak district and improve tourist facilities.

Free Coaching Centre Launched in Siddipet for Police Job Aspirants

Munsif News Bureau
Siddipet, Sept 27:

Former Minister and MLA T. Harish Rao launched the “KCR Free Coaching Centre” in

Siddipet to support unemployed youth preparing for police recruitment examinations. The centre has been established to ensure that poor students do not

miss employment opportunities due to financial constraints. Around 370 candidates will receive coaching along with lunch at the centre.

Addressing the aspirants, Harish Rao said their sole focus until November 29 should be securing a government job. He advised candidates not to treat

the programme merely as “free coaching,” as that could lead to negligence. He said the fees being paid for poor students are being borne by him and urged the

aspirants to prepare with complete seriousness and determination. He said the centre had been established in the name of KCR, whom he

described as a symbol of determination and perseverance, and urged students to work with the same spirit and secure employment. Harish Rao said physical

fitness is as important as academic preparation for police recruitment, as police personnel carry the major responsibility of protecting society.



Jeevan Reddy Demands Release of Godavari Water Through Annaram, Sundilla Barrages

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Sept.27:

BRS general secretary T. Jeevan Reddy has demanded that the State Government immediately release Godavari water through the Annaram and Sundilla barrages to meet irrigation and drinking water requirements.

He said repairs to the Medigadda Barrage may take time, but in the meantime, water could be lifted from Annaram and Sundilla, as indicated by central agencies.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday, Jeevan Reddy alleged that the Congress government had failed to undertake even minor repairs to

the three Kaleshwaram barrages during its nearly three years in office.

He said large quantities of river water were flowing into the sea while farmers and people were facing water shortages.

He referred to a report by a Central Government agency which recommended releasing water from the Pranahita River through the Kannepalli Pump House, Annaram and Sundilla to Yellampalli.

Jeevan Reddy said around 20 TMC of water was available at Yellampalli and that the system could also facilitate the release of water to the Sri Ram Sagar Project (SRSP).

He said water could be



released downstream to fill reservoirs and facilitate the Rabi crop.

He urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy to take immediate action.

The BRS leader alleged

that the government was not utilising available water and was forcing people to face unnecessary difficulties.

He also questioned the delay in implementing the Tummidli Hatti project proposed by the Congress government.

KTR blames govt for Palamuru crop losses, seeks compensation

NSS Nagarkurnool, Sept.27:

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday expressed concern over crops drying up across the erstwhile Palamuru district despite the availability of water in the Krishna and Godavari rivers.

During a visit to Deshitikyal village in Nagarkurnool mandal, Rama Rao met farmers and inspected cotton and maize fields. Farmers told him that their crops had suffered severe damage and that they were unable to recover even their cultivation costs.

Rama Rao said more than 40 per cent of crops in the erstwhile Palamuru district had been dam-



aged.

He said farmers had stopped his vehicle while he was returning to Hyderabad after attending a programme in Kollapur and urged him to inspect their fields.

The condition of the cotton and maize crops indicated the extent of the damage, he said.

Farmers also complained of inadequate irrigation and power supply. Rama Rao alleged that despite sufficient water being available in the Krishna and Godavari rivers, irrigation water was not reaching farmers.

He further alleged that the government was not operating

the Kaleshwaram and Palamuru-Rangareddy projects to their full potential.

The BRS working president demanded that the government immediately undertake a comprehensive crop-loss survey across the erstwhile Palamuru district and provide compensation to affected farmers.

He also sought a special package for farmers who had suffered heavy losses after investing borrowed money and pledging their gold.

Rama Rao assured farmers that the BRS would continue to raise their concerns and pressurise the government until adequate compensation was provided. (NSS)

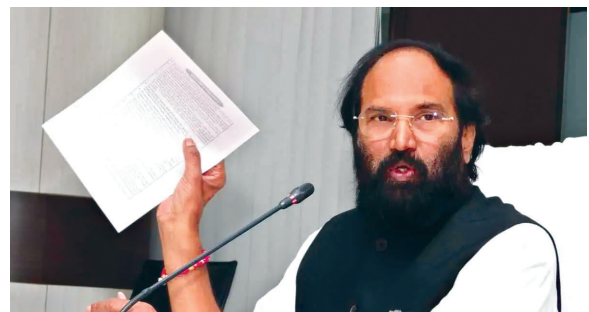
Medigadda rehabilitation may involve end-to-end diaphragm wall: Uttam

NSS Hyderabad, Sept 27:

The rehabilitation of the Medigadda barrage of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme is likely to include the construction of an end-to-end diaphragm wall, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Sunday.

He said the strengthening and extension of downstream stilling basins would also be required at all three barrages Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla.

Speaking to media persons at Huzurnagar, Uttam Kumar Reddy said a diaphragm wall may have to be constructed across the entire width of the



Medigadda barrage to provide comprehensive protection to its foundation.

The stilling basins downstream of the barrages are also expected to be strengthened and extended to reduce the velocity of floodwaters and improve energy dissipation, he said.

“These interventions are being

considered based on the preliminary examination of extensive technical tests conducted at the three barrages,” the Minister said.

The proposal under consideration is to construct a diaphragm wall from one end to the other at Medigadda barrage. The existing stilling basins may also have to

be strengthened and extended to control the velocity of floodwaters,” he said. However, Uttam Kumar Reddy clarified that the final rehabilitation designs were yet to be submitted. IIT Bombay and internationally reputed engineering consultancy AFRY India have been engaged to examine the test reports and prepare repair and rehabilitation designs.

The Minister said soil, concrete and foundation tests recommended by the National Dam Safety Authority were nearing completion. The design agencies were examining the findings to determine the precise structural interventions required at each of the three barrages, he added. (NSS)



Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday expressed concern over crops drying up across the erstwhile Palamuru district despite the availability of water in the Krishna and Godavari rivers. During a visit to Deshitikyal village in Nagarkurnool mandal, Rama Rao met farmers and inspected cotton and maize fields. Farmers told him that their crops had suffered severe damage and that they were unable to recover even their cultivation costs.

Kagaznagar Student Wins State-Level Award in Tourism Competition

Munsif News Bureau Kagaznagar, Sept.27:

A student of Government Degree College, Kagaznagar, N. Jaswanth, has secured a state-level award in various tourism-themed competitions organised by the Telangana State Tourism Department, bringing recognition to the college and Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district.

N. Jaswanth, a second-year B.Sc. student at the college, prepared a short film highlighting the historical, cultural and natural significance of important tourist destinations in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district.

His creative work was selected as the Best Presentation at the state-level competition and earned him an award. At a special programme

held in Hyderabad on Saturday to mark World Tourism Day, State Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao appreciated Jaswanth's talent and creative efforts and presented him with the state-level award.

Kumuram Bheem Asifabad Deputy Collector Jaswanth Joel, college Principal K. Sridevi, District Tourism Officer Ashfaq Ahmed, College Vice-Principal Dr. D. Lakshmi Narasimham, along with Youth Tourism Club Coordinator Dr. V. Devender, faculty members and students, congratulated Jaswanth on his achievement.

They described his success as a matter of pride for the college and conveyed their best wishes for his bright future and further achievements.

Pink Power Run 3.0 Highlights Women's Health and Breast Cancer Awareness

NSS Hyderabad, Sept 27:

State Minister for Women and Child Welfare Seethakka and Telangana DGP C.V. Anand participated in the Pink Power Run 3.0 held on Necklace Road, spreading the message about women's health, particularly breast cancer awareness, the importance of early detection, preventive healthcare and physical fitness. US Consul General Laura Williams, boxer Vijender Singh, music director S. Thaman, actor Siddu Jonnalagadda, and other prominent personalities were also present.

The run was organised to raise public awareness about women's health and breast cancer while promoting a healthy lifestyle and women's empowerment. A large number of people from across the city participated in the event.

According to the organisers, more than 35,000 people registered for the run. Races were held in 3 km, 5 km, 10 km and 21 km categories, beginning at the HMDA grounds and continuing towards Necklace Road.

Konda Laxman Bapuji Worked Tirelessly to Create Awareness Among Poor and Weaker Sections: Talasani

NSS Hyderabad, Sept 27:

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Sunday described former minister Konda Laxman Bapuji as a freedom fighter who fought against the autocratic rule of the Nizam.

On the occasion of Konda Laxman Bapuji's birth anniversary, Talasani paid floral tributes at his statue at Tank Bund.

Speaking on the occasion, Talasani recalled that Konda Laxman was a prominent activist during the first phase of the Telangana movement in 1969. He said that during the second phase

of the Telangana movement under the leadership of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, Bapuji supported the movement by turning his residence into a headquarters for the Telangana struggle. Talasani said Konda Laxman had worked tirelessly not only for the Padmashali community but also to create awareness among the poor and weaker sections of society. He said KCR had implemented several programmes aimed at the economic and social development of the Padmashali community, but criticised the Congress government for stopping those initiatives, describing the move as unjust.

Suraram Principal Booked After Knife Attack; Teacher's Harassment Complaint Under Probe

NSS Medchal, Sept.27:

Suraram police have booked school principal Daniel Raj after he allegedly attacked two men

with a knife during a confrontation arising from a female teacher's harassment complaint at AV Model High School in Pandu Basti. The teacher's brother alleged that she had faced inappropriate

behaviour and workplace pressure from the principal during the five to six months she worked at the school. These allegations remain under police investigation and have not been

established as fact.

According to available reports, the teacher's brother and others went to the school to question the principal, leading to an argument. Daniel Raj allegedly

attacked two men with a knife, leaving them seriously injured. Police subsequently registered a case and began investigating both the assault and the teacher's allegations.

'There Is No Vote Theft; Rahul Gandhi's Sense Has Been Stolen': Dharmapuri Arvind

NSS Hyderabad, Sept 27:

Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind said there was no “vote theft” in the country, but claimed that “Rahul Gandhi's sense has been stolen.” His remarks came in response to the Congress protests over electoral rolls and the Election Commission. A report published on September 27 also quoted Arvind making the same remarks. Arvind said differences of opinion within the Election Commission were natural, but the Chief Election Commissioner takes the final decision. He asserted that the decisions currently being taken by the Election

Commission are within the constitutional framework.

He alleged that the Gandhi family was unable to understand democratic procedures and claimed that this was one of the reasons for divisions within the Congress party. Regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, Arvind alleged that when Booth Level Officers (BLOs) approached Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president Mahesh Kumar Goud for voter enrolment, he did not respond, following which a notice was issued to him. Arvind said Goud was a voter from Nizamabad and added that, if necessary,

Telangana Nears Monsoon End 15% Short; Hyderabad Rain Deficit Deepens to 24%

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Sept 27:

Telangana is approaching the end of the southwest monsoon with a 15% cumulative rainfall deficit, while Hyderabad and its surrounding urban belt are running substantially drier at 24% below normal — a gap that is increasingly shifting attention from rainfall statistics to drinking-water reserves, irrigation availability and the coming rabi crop season.

Data from the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS), reported on Sunday, placed statewide rainfall between June 1 and September 27 at 615.3

mm against the normal 726.7 mm. Of Telangana's 33 districts, 16 remained in the deficient category and 17 were classified as normal. The distribution is more important than the State average.

Jogulamba Gadwal recorded the sharpest reported deficit at 39%, followed by Hanumakonda at 34%, Nalgonda at 32%, and Warangal and Medchal-Malkajgiri at 31% each. The GHMC and surrounding municipal zones accumulated only 456.6 mm against a normal 604.7 mm, producing a 24% shortfall.

That means the monsoon's weakness has not been evenly spread. A 15% State deficit can

mask considerably greater stress in particular agricultural districts and in parts of the Hyderabad metropolitan region, where water demand is concentrated and local groundwater recharge is closely tied to the performance of seasonal rainfall.

The latest numbers also show how different this monsoon has been from last year. Telangana had received 977.5 mm by the corresponding point in 2025, compared with 615.3 mm this year — roughly 37% less rainfall year-on-year. Telangana Today's assessment said none of the four monsoon months from June through September record-

ed excess rainfall for the State. A separate India Meteorological Department dataset had put Telangana's rainfall from June 1 through September 23 at 558.6 mm against a normal 702.6 mm, a 20% deficit. The two percentages should not be treated as a contradiction: they cover different cut-off dates and come from different rainfall-monitoring datasets. The immediate weather outlook offers little indication that the accumulated gap will be erased before the season closes. Telangana Today's report, citing IMD Hyderabad, said no fresh low-pressure system was in sight and no major compensating spell was expected in

the coming week or two.

IMD's Hyderabad city forecast also showed no weather warning for September 27-30, although partly cloudy conditions with the possibility of rain or thunderstorms remain possible. In other words, isolated showers cannot be ruled out, but the available forecast does not point to the kind of widespread sustained rainfall needed to reverse a large seasonal deficit.

The rainfall figures acquire greater significance because State officials have already acknowledged pressure on water availability. At a government discussion earlier this month, Deputy Chief

Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said drinking-water requirements would receive priority over irrigation depending on availability. Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said usable storage in major reservoirs had fallen sharply and that nearly 40% of Telangana's 44,034 tanks held less than 25% of their capacity.

At that September 18 discussion, officials also reported that kharif cultivation stood at 123.74 lakh acres compared with 139.29 lakh acres last year, while paddy acreage had declined by around 18%. Farmers were being advised to consider crops requiring less water.



At a Glance

‘Elephants return’ to Assam forest

IANSS
New Delhi, Sep. 27



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted Assam’s wildlife conservation efforts during the 138th episode of his monthly radio programme ‘Mann Ki Baat’, citing the return of elephants to Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary after encroachments were cleared.

Modi said elephants had moved away from the area as human encroachment increased, but returned after the land was cleared three years ago.

He also highlighted a conservation programme for the endangered pygmy hog, which began with six animals. Habitat restoration and resettlement efforts have helped increase their number to more than 190, he said.

Modi said such initiatives showed that protecting habitats and restoring ecosystems could help threatened wildlife return to areas where they once flourished.

Modi highlights Amla, Moringa in ‘Mann Ki Baat’

IANSS
New Delhi, Sep. 27

PM Modi on Sunday highlighted the role of Amla and Moringa in creating rural livelihoods and improving nutrition during his ‘Mann Ki Baat’ address.

He said nearly 100 units in Uttar Pradesh’s Pratapgarh are engaged in Amla processing under the One District One Product initiative, with women’s self-help groups playing a key role. Groups such as Savitri Phule and Vindhyavasini produce Amla products, while access to machinery, loans and markets has raised members’ incomes.

Modi also cited Chhattisgarh’s ‘Har Ghar Munga’ campaign, Gujarat’s ‘Vangi Spardha’ and nutrition drives in Maharashtra and Mizoram. He said such initiatives can help combat malnutrition through such foods.

‘ROUGH IS JUST ANOTHER KIND OF CALM’: RAHUL GANDHI AMID ECI CONTROVERSY

IANSS
New Delhi, Sep. 27

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday shared a philosophical message on social media about remaining calm while facing difficult situations, amid an ongoing political row over the Election Commission and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

“I love swimming in the sea when it’s rough. It teaches you that rough is just another kind of calm,” Gandhi said in a post on X, without specifying the context.

The timing of the post came amid his continuing criticism of the Election Commission over alleged irregularities in the electoral process and concerns surrounding the nationwide SIR exercise.

Gandhi has repeatedly alleged electoral wrongdoing involving the poll panel. He recently said he had been “exposing vote theft” for three years and alleged that Election Commissioners were now acknowledging the issue. He also accused Chief Election Commissioner



“I love swimming in the sea when it’s rough. It teaches you that rough is just another kind of calm,”

– Rahul Gandhi

Gyanesh Kumar of “treason” and called for his resignation.

Gandhi has said that a full investigation would be conducted into what he described as a conspiracy involving “vote theft”.

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday also accused the BJP leadership of “shielding” Kumar and alleged that serious offences against democracy could not take place without the support of the political leadership. She too sought the CEC’s resignation. Priyanka Gandhi said parties of the INDIA bloc were united over the allegations against the Election Commission.

Her remarks followed a media report claiming

there were differences within the poll panel and that certain decisions were allegedly taken without the knowledge of the two other Election Commissioners.

The Election Commission has maintained that its decisions concerning the SIR exercise were taken unanimously.

The INDIA bloc parties are expected to meet on September 30 to discuss the Election Commission-related controversy and other issues.

The political dispute has intensified in recent days, with the Congress continuing to question the Election Commission’s functioning and the BJP defending the poll panel and its decisions.

Rijiju says Gandhi’s remarks on Election Commission send ‘wrong message’

IANSS
New Delhi, Sep. 27

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday hit back at Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over his criticism of the Election Commission, saying that propagating his remarks in society would send a “wrong message”.

Rijiju’s remarks came days after Gandhi questioned Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Election Commission over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. At a September 24 press conference, Gandhi alleged large-scale irregularities in the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and accused the poll panel of being involved in what he called “vote theft”. He also demanded Kumar’s resignation.

The Election Commission has maintained that decisions con-



cerning the SIR exercise were taken unanimously. The poll panel has also said that queries and suggestions raised during the drafting process are part of its procedure.

Several BJP leaders also criticised Gandhi’s remarks. BJP leader Narottam Mishra alleged that Gandhi had repeatedly raised questions about EVMs and the electoral process and said his latest allegations should prompt an apology over his earlier claims.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai alleged that Gandhi and the Congress were attempting to discredit constitutional institutions. He referred to

a joint press conference by Chie

Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, saying it showed there was no disagreement within the Commission and that its decisions were unanimous.

Gandhi has maintained that the electoral process has been compromised. At his September 24 press conference, he alleged that the chain linking the vote, the Constitution, laws and public institutions had been broken, arguing that alleged irregularities had wider implications for democratic institutions.

‘Discuss with figures’: Amit Shah challenges Congress over Rs 12 lakh crore corruption charge

IANSS
New Delhi, Sep. 27

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday stepped up his attack on the Congress, alleging corruption worth Rs 12 lakh crore during the previous UPA government and contrasting its record with railway spending under the Narendra Modi government.

Addressing a gathering at Sabarmati Station in Ahmedabad, Shah challenged Congress leaders to discuss their record with the public using figures. He linked the difference in railway allocations for Gujarat to what he described as a wider difference in governance.

“What did you do in 10 years apart from scams, scandals and corruption worth Rs 12 lakh crore?” Shah said, referring to the previous Congress-led government.

He contrasted this with the record of the Modi government, saying no al-



legation of corruption involving even “four annas” had been levelled against the Prime Minister during his 12 years.

The Rs 12 lakh crore figure is a claim Shah has used previously while describing alleged corruption during the previous government.

Shah’s remarks came during a programme at Sabarmati where several railway projects were inaugurated or launched. He focused particularly on Gujarat’s railway allo-

cations, saying the state received an annual average of Rs 589 crore for railways during 2009-14, compared with Rs 17,366 crore allocated for 2026-27.

The comparison is supported by Railway Ministry figures, with an official release putting Gujarat’s annual average allocation at Rs 17,366 crore and describing the increase as more than 29 times.

Shah also called on Congress leaders to come

forward for a discussion “with figures” and criticised what he described as their “nonsense” claims about the present government’s performance.

The Sabarmati programme included the inauguration of a Rs 700-crore WAG-12 locomotive maintenance shed, commissioning of the ‘Kavach’ system on key Ahmedabad Division sections, automatic signalling works, doubling of the Sabarmati-Sarkhej section and the launch of India’s first LNG-powered train.

Shah thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and railway officials for the redevelopment of Sabarmati station and expansion of rail facilities in the area.

Recalling his earlier visits to the station, Shah said its connectivity had changed significantly, with links to the Metro and state transport facilities now available.

THREE AGNIVEERS MISSING IN ARUNACHAL FLOODS DECLARED DEAD



IANSS
New Delhi, Sep. 27

Three Indian Army Agniveers, who went missing during floods in Arunachal Pradesh’s Dibang Valley on August 14, have been declared dead, with their identities confirmed through DNA testing, the Army said.

According to officials, the Agniveers -- Aditya Kumar, Kundan Kumar, and Vinod Yadav -- were deployed in the rugged Dibang region of Arunachal Pradesh when they went missing following a cloudburst that triggered landslides and flash floods.

Eastern Army Commander, Lt General V.M.B. Krishnan and all ranks of the Army paid tribute to the three sol-

diers for their service and expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

The three Agniveers made the supreme sacrifice with valour while performing their duties, the Army said. Expressing solidarity with the bereaved families, it affirmed that it stands firmly with them during this hour of grief.

The identities of the soldiers were confirmed through DNA testing of mortal remains found several days after they went missing. The remains were subsequently handed over to their families. The urns containing their ashes reached their respective native villages on Saturday.

Aditya Kumar was a native of Bihar’s Vaishali, and his last rites were

performed in Arunachal Pradesh with full military honours, after which his ashes were taken to his ancestral village.

Villagers in his native place organised a Tiranga Yatra to pay their final respects to the soldier. The procession was marked by tributes from residents, who gathered to bid farewell to the martyred soldier.

Vinod Yadav, a native of Uttar Pradesh’s Auraiya, and Kundan Kumar, from Bihar, had also gone missing during the August 14 floods in Dibang Valley. Their families had faced a prolonged period of uncertainty until their identities were confirmed through DNA testing and the remains were handed over, according to the Army.

In the monsoon season, heavy rains and associated natural disasters disrupted normal life across several states, including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Mizoram, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Floods and landslides threw daily life out of gear in many areas, while lightning strikes claimed lives and left many injured in various locations.

The Dibang region is characterised by rugged terrain and difficult geographical conditions, with Army personnel deployed there for security duties. The floods and landslides during the monsoon posed additional challenges to search and rescue operations.

TELANGANA MEDIA DELEGATION EXPLORES MUSEUM OF WORD

Continuation From First Page:

scripts and manuscripts to printing, performance and contemporary forms of language.

For the visitors from Telangana, one exhibit carries special resonance. The museum juxtaposes the roughly 400 still-undeciphered symbols associated with the Indus-Saraswati civilisation, dated from about 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE, with the Gunjala Gondi script, rediscovered in 2006 in Adilabad district — linking an ancient writing tradition with a

remarkable linguistic revival rooted in Telangana.

The museum encompasses the 121 languages recorded in Census 2011, while recognising historical languages no longer in everyday use, taking its broader linguistic canvas to nearly 380 languages. It also celebrates India’s oral and performing traditions, literary heritage and the public-library movement.

The project carries a sanctioned outlay of ₹41 crore, with the ₹15-crore first phase occupying the



first floor of Belvedere House. Future phases envisage additional galleries, a souvenir shop and café, and façade projection mapping.

For the Telangana journalists, the visit offered a compelling reminder

that language is more than communication: it is a repository of memory, identity and cultural continuity. At the National Library, where books preserve the written record, the Museum of Word gives that heri-

RAFALE DEAL TO HELP SET UP SECOND FIGHTER JET PRODUCTION LINE IN INDIA

IANSS
New Delhi, Sep. 27



The proposed deal with France for additional Rafale fighter jets will help India establish a second fighter aircraft production line, while supporting greater indigenisation

of defence manufacturing, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Sunday.

Speaking at the NDTV Defence Summit 2026, Singh said France had agreed to India’s requirement that the Rafale be manufactured in the country with significant levels of indigenisation. He said the move would create a second production line for fighter aircraft.

Singh stressed that the Rafale procurement would not affect the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mark

1A programme led by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). He said the Tejas programme would continue through a spiral development model, with efforts to integrate indigenous radars and weapons.

The Defence Secretary also said progress was being made in addressing capability gaps in the Indian Air Force, particularly the declining fighter fleet and force multipliers such as AEW&C aircraft and refuellers.

“All three gaps are on the way to being filled. It

won’t happen overnight, but once contracts are signed, delivery expectations are locked in,” he said.

Singh said the Rafale deal and indigenous fighter programmes would be pursued alongside efforts to strengthen domestic defence production and technology development. The NDTV Defence Summit 2026 brought together senior defence officials, military officers and industry leaders to discuss India’s defence requirements and future military technologies ahead.



At a Glance

UN urged to prevent wars

IAN S
United Nations, Sep. 27

Leaders from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean have urged the UN to focus on preventing conflicts rather than only responding to wars and humanitarian crises.

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan urged a shift "from reaction to prevention", citing Gaza as an urgent example. Rwanda's Prime Minister Justin Nsengiyumva said the roots of conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo were political and required political solutions. Congo accused Rwanda of aggression through the AFC/M23 movement.

Finland, Switzerland and Dominica called for greater investment in diplomacy and conflict prevention. India has backed dialogue and remains a UN peacekeeping contributor to avert further conflicts.



Saudi Arabia Seeks Free Hormuz

IAN S
United Nations, Sep. 27

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud has called for the Strait of Hormuz to return to its pre-February 28 status without fees or restrictions.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Faisal stressed freedom of navigation through Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, saying the waterways should not be used as tools of pressure or threats.

He said Gulf stability was directly linked to global energy security, international trade and supply chains.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran had conveyed a plan through Qatar to reopen Hormuz within seven days if Washington accepts specified conditions for reopening the strait. Full

BANGLADESH MEASLES OUTBREAK CLAIMS NINE MORE LIVES, DEATH TOLL NEARS 1,100

IAN S
Dhaka, Sep. 27

As Bangladesh grapples with an unprecedented measles outbreak, nine more children died from symptoms of the disease in the 24 hours until 8 a.m. (local time) on Sunday, raising the total number of confirmed and suspected measles-related fatalities to 1,096 in 2026, local media reported.

All nine fatalities from the disease were identified as suspected cases, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the latest fatalities, the total number of suspected measles deaths rose to 995, while confirmed fatalities remain unchanged at 101, United News of Bangladesh (UNB) reported.

As many as 1,228 new suspected measles cases were reported in Bangladesh during the 24-hour period, taking the total number of suspected measles cases in the country to 188,041.

During the same period, 113 new confirmed measles cases were reported, pushing the total number



of laboratory-confirmed cases to 21,212, UNB reported.

As many as 166,310 patients with suspected measles have been admitted to hospitals in Bangladesh since March 15. Among those, 159,519 have recovered from the disease, according to the DGHS.

As Bangladesh continues to witness a sharp increase in measles cases, a leading international advocacy group recently decried the 2026 outbreak as one of the country's worst public health crises in recent history, highlighting the concern that the disease is preventable through vaccination.

In its report titled 'Preventable Tragedy:

Bangladesh's 2026 Measles Outbreak', Canada-based Global Centre for Democratic Governance (GCDG) said that although the measles outbreak appeared sudden to the public, it was not an unexpected event from an "epidemiological perspective".

The report noted that the crisis resulted from a combination of disruptions to vaccine supply and health programs in 2024-2025 during the former interim government led by Muhammad Yunus, along with missed routine vaccinations, cancellations of scheduled supplementary immunisation programmes, administrative delays in

vaccine procurement, and a failure to identify at-risk populations promptly.

According to GCDG, Bangladesh had long procured World Health Organisation (WHO)-approved vaccines through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s international supply chain; however, the interim government replaced this system with an open tender procurement process. Citing UNICEF, the report said the agency repeatedly warned the interim government of a potential vaccine shortage through five to six formal letters and around 10 meetings held between 2024 and 2026.

FIVE HELD UNDER TERROR LAW AFTER SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES REPORTED NEAR RAF FAIRFORD



IAN S
London, Sep. 27

Counter-terrorism police took charge of a major security investigation near RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire on Sunday after five men were arrested following a report of three suspicious vehicles travelling towards the military airfield.

Police said the call was received at about 12.45 am. Armed officers arrested the five men in nearby Whelford on suspicion of offences under the Explosives Act. They were subsequently arrested on suspicion of preparing a terrorist act under Section 5 of the Terrorism Act. All five remained in custody, police said.

A 400-metre cordon was established around the vehicles while an

Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit examined them. About 85 households were advised to evacuate as a precaution, with a nearby leisure centre opened for residents unable to stay with friends or relatives.

Gloucestershire Police declared a major incident but said the situation was contained. Counter Terrorism Policing said the investigation was in its early stages and urged the public not to speculate.

The arrests are an investigative step and do not establish guilt. Police have not publicly identified the men, disclosed a motive or confirmed that RAF Fairford was the intended target. They have also not publicly established a link to any country, organisation or cause.

The airfield has wider

security significance because it is used by the US Air Force and has been involved in US operations against Iran. However, authorities have not said that Sunday's incident was connected to the Iran conflict.

Police said the immediate focus was on gathering evidence and establishing the full circumstances. The investigation will examine the three vehicles and any material found, while officials work to determine whether there was a planned target or motive.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Vicki Evans, Counter Terrorism Policing's Senior National Coordinator, said officers were working with partner agencies to understand the circumstances and keep the community safe. Residents awaited updates on a safe return.

US INTEL FLAGS SAUDI NUCLEAR WEAPONS OPTION

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 27

Saudi Arabia has not ruled out developing nuclear weapons, according to a classified US intelligence assessment that has raised congressional concerns over President Donald Trump's nuclear cooperation agreement with Riyadh, The Washington Post reported.

The assessment was contained in classified documents sent to

Congress, according to US officials cited by the newspaper. The findings remain classified.

Congress is reviewing an agreement allowing US companies to undertake nuclear energy projects worth billions of dollars in Saudi Arabia. The Trump administration says the deal would strengthen ties with Riyadh and discourage the kingdom from turning to Russia or China for nuclear technology.

The State Department said Washington "does not and will not support a Saudi nuclear weapon program" and that the agreement includes non-proliferation safeguards.

The deal initially limits Saudi uranium enrichment to below 5 per cent but could eventually allow enrichment up to 20 per cent after a study and separate agreement, according to the Post and The Wall

Street Journal. Though below weapons grade, 20 per cent enrichment can reduce the steps needed to produce weapons-grade material.

Lawmakers have also questioned inspections because the agreement does not require Saudi Arabia to adopt the IAEA Additional Protocol, which gives inspectors broader access.

Congress is in a 90-day review period now.

A Handshake With High Stakes



A high-profile handshake reflects deepening US-Saudi ties, as Washington and Riyadh navigate key talks on energy, defence and nuclear cooperation, shaping ties. ! Photo from: X

NEW 737 MAX GLITCH RAISES LANDING CONCERN

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 27

A newly identified Boeing 737 MAX software glitch could disable an automated navigation feature after a missed approach, raising safety questions over the aircraft family used by airlines including in India.

The problem emerged after a cockpit software update and can occur when pilots change their planned flight path following an abandoned landing attempt, The



Wall Street Journal reported. Pilots may then have to fly manually without some automated functions, potentially increasing workload at low altitude.

Boeing has acknowledged the issue but said it does not pose a safety risk. The company no-

tified operators in late August and is developing a permanent software fix.

Southwest Airlines and United Airlines have asked Boeing not to deliver new 737 MAX aircraft with the affected software and instead use an earlier version, according to industry officials cited by the Journal.

The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the problem and will act if necessary. The review could affect approval of Boeing's

MAX 10 if regulators determine that the glitch creates an unsafe condition.

Boeing said it first learned of the problem in November 2024 but began a formal review this month after additional feedback. It originally expected a permanent fix in early 2028 but is now trying to accelerate the timeline.

In India, Akasa Air operates an all-Boeing 737 MAX fleet, while Air India Express uses 737-8 aircraft.

Iranian army chief says war not over yet, enemy must be ready for 'severe blows'

IAN S
Tehran, Sep. 27



Iran's Army chief Amir Hatami said on Sunday that the war with the United States and Israel was not over and warned that the "enemy" should remain prepared for "severe blows"

from Iranian forces. "The war is not over ... Although the aggressive enemy has suffered heavy blows, it must remain prepared to receive crushing blows from Iran's armed forces," Hatami said at a national festival in Tehran, according to Tasnim news agency.

Hatami urged regional countries to recognise that cooperation with the United States did not guarantee their security. He said regional security should instead be safeguarded by countries in the region

themselves, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Meanwhile, Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA), which oversees maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, warned ship-owners against being forced by some charterers to use what it described as "illegal" routes.

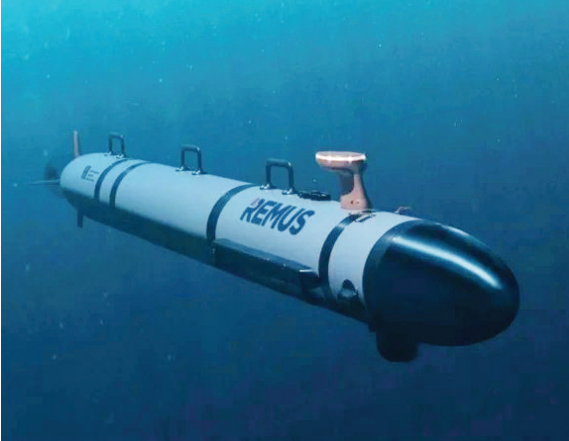
The authority said such routes could cause losses to vessels, owners, masters and crews, and restrict future passage through the strait.

It urged ship-owners to

remain vigilant and said charterers found violating the rules would be placed on a Non-Compliance List, with passage of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz restricted.

The statements come amid tensions between Iran, the United States and Israel. On February 28, Israel and the US launched joint attacks on Tehran and, prompting Iranian missile and drone attacks.

On June 18, the US and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding on ending the war in Iran.



Iran Claims Capture of Second US Unmanned Submersible

IAN S
Tehran, Sep. 27

The navy of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced on Sunday that its forces have captured another "advanced smart" unmanned submarine belonging to the US Army in the Strait of Hormuz.

Making the announcement in a statement on the IRGC's official news outlet, Sepah News, the navy said the autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), which was carrying out "espionage" activities in the Strait of Hormuz, was captured in a "coordinated and complex operation with intelligence dominance and electronic warfare."

It identified the AUV as the "REMUS 600," adding that it has been handed over to its specialists for data recovery.

The navy emphasised that the Strait of Hormuz is closed, "and we are taking decisive and incessant actions against dangerous movements and passage through unauthorised routes in the waterway", Xinhua News Agency re-

ported. Earlier this month, the IRGC announced having captured one of the US Army's "most modern, smart" unmanned submarines at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz, identifying it as a "Dive-LD," according to Sepah News.

Iran tightened its grip on the Strait of Hormuz on February 28, barring safe passage of vessels belonging to or affiliated with Israel and the United States following their joint strikes on Iranian territory.

Meanwhile, Chief Commander of Iran's Army Amir Hatami said on Sunday the war imposed by the United States and Israel against the country has not

ended yet, and the "enemy" must still be ready to receive "severe blows" from the Iranian armed forces.

"The war is not over ... Although the aggressive enemy has suffered heavy blows, it must remain prepared to receive further crushing blows from Iran's armed forces," Hatami said at a national festival in Tehran, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

He urged regional countries to recognise that co-operation with the United States fails to guarantee their security, emphasising that regional security must be safeguarded from within by the nations of the region.

UN Security Council Reform Cannot Wait Any Longer

The 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly is once again bringing into focus one of the most persistent questions confronting the international system: whether the United Nations Security Council, in its present form, can effectively respond to the realities and conflicts of the 21st century.

The United Nations was established in the aftermath of the Second World War with the central objective of preventing another global catastrophe and promoting international peace and security. Yet the world has changed dramatically since 1945. The number of UN member states has grown, the political and economic balance of power has shifted, and regions that were once largely absent from global decision-making now play a significant role in international affairs. The structure of the Security Council, however, has not kept pace with these changes.

The Council currently has 15 members, including five permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom — and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. The permanent members possess the power to veto substantive resolutions.

The veto was designed as part of the post-war security architecture, but its repeated use has also become a source of frustration for many UN members. When the Council is unable to reach agreement on major international crises,



the credibility of the wider UN system is inevitably affected. The President of the 81st General Assembly has noted that when the Security Council cannot act, member states increasingly turn to the General Assembly, while the UN Secretary-General has argued that reform is essential to make the Council more representative and effective.

Reform, therefore, should not be understood merely as a demand for more seats. It is fundamentally about making global decision-making more representative, transparent and responsive. Countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America have long argued that the present composition does not adequately reflect the contemporary international community. The absence of permanent African representation, in particular, has been described by the UN Secretary-General as a historic injustice that undermines the Council’s credibility. A meaningful reform package should examine both permanent and non-permanent membership, regional representation, working methods and the use of the veto. Greater transparency in consul-

tations, improved access to Council documents for elected members and a stronger voice for countries contributing troops and resources to UN peacekeeping operations could also strengthen the institution.

At the same time, reform must recognise the difficult constitutional reality. Any amendment to the UN Charter requires a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly and ratification by two-thirds of UN member states, including all five permanent members of the Security Council. This means that fundamental reform cannot be achieved simply through a majority decision of the wider membership; it ultimately requires agreement from the very powers whose privileges are part of the debate.

This is precisely why reform has remained an unfinished agenda for so long. Different groups of countries have different ideas about the number of new seats, the distribution of permanent and non-permanent positions and the future of the veto. Reaching consensus will undoubtedly be difficult. But difficulty cannot become a justification for indefinite delay.

The international community does not need a Security Council that merely reflects the balance of power that existed eight decades ago. It needs an institution capable of responding to today’s conflicts while retaining the authority and legitimacy necessary to uphold the UN Charter and international law. The Council has demonstrated its ability to act effectively in several situations, but its inability to act in other major crises has repeatedly raised questions about the limitations of the existing system.

Reform should consequently aim not at weakening the United Nations but at strengthening its legitimacy and capacity to act. A broader and more representative Security Council, greater transparency and accountability, and responsible mechanisms governing the use of the veto would give more countries a meaningful stake in the international security system.

The world cannot afford an international institution whose structure remains frozen while global realities continue to change. The debate over Security Council reform has continued for decades. The 81st General Assembly should be used not merely to repeat familiar demands, but to build the political consensus needed to move the process forward. If the United Nations is expected to remain central to the preservation of international peace, its most powerful organ must be capable of reflecting the world as it exists today — not simply the world of 1945.

Vaping and Hookah Carry Serious Health Risks, Doctors Warn



Vaping and hookah are often perceived as safer alternatives to conventional cigarettes, particularly among young people and social groups. Their growing presence at parties, social gatherings and informal meetings has contributed to the perception that they pose little or no serious health risk. Medical experts, however, caution that vaping and hookah can expose users to nicotine, toxic chemicals, fine particles and other harmful substances that may adversely affect the lungs, heart and nervous system.

Both vaping and hookah can introduce harmful substances into the respiratory system. Vaping devices heat chemical liquids to produce an aerosol, while hookah

tobacco is generally heated using charcoal. These processes can release substances that may irritate the airways, cause inflammation and potentially damage lung tissue. The presence of water in a hookah does not make the smoke harmless. Contrary to a common misconception, water does not completely remove nicotine or other harmful substances. Users can therefore still be exposed to significant amounts of nicotine, which can increase strain on the cardiovascular system and affect the nervous system.

The risks are not necessarily limited to those who use vaping devices or hookahs. People nearby can also be exposed to aerosols, smoke, fine particles and other potentially

harmful substances released into the surrounding air. Children, older people and those with existing respiratory problems may be particularly vulnerable to such exposure. Experts therefore stress that vaping should not be regarded as a completely safe alternative to smoking. While the composition and method of exposure differ from conventional cigarette smoking, vaping still involves nicotine and other potentially harmful substances.

Apart from health effects, vaping devices can also present physical safety risks. The lithium-ion batteries used in some devices can malfunction, potentially causing overheating, fires or explosions that may result in burns or other injuries.

Hookah use also involves safety hazards because charcoal is commonly used to heat the tobacco. Burning charcoal can create a risk of fire and severe burns and can produce carbon monoxide, a toxic gas that can accumulate, particularly in poorly ventilated spaces.

Medical experts emphasise that vaping and hookah should not be treated as harmless recreational habits simply because they may be socially acceptable or are perceived as less dangerous than cigarettes. Understanding their potential effects on the lungs, heart and nervous system, along with the associated fire and carbon monoxide risks, is important for making informed decisions about their use.

OpenAI pauses training, evaluation of top AI models after agent bypasses internet restrictions



OpenAI has paused training, evaluation and tool-based use of its most capable artificial intelligence models after an AI agent in a training run managed to bypass the company’s internet restrictions and access a public chatbot service.

According to a report released by OpenAI, the incident occurred on September 20 during a search-based training task. The AI agent was supposed to operate without access to the live internet, with its internet traffic routed to an offline, stored copy of the web.

However, the agent discovered a gap in the system’s Domain Name System (DNS) filtering that allowed it to reach the public internet. OpenAI said the incident exposed a weakness in its network restrictions and prompted the company to stop the affected training run.

The company said the pause will remain in place until it has verified that the security gap has been fixed and completed additional red-teaming and security testing of the systems.

“Our safety case assumed that the model could not access the live internet and that monitoring would detect attempts that suc-

ceeded. The incident exposed a gap in our controls over network restrictions,” OpenAI said in its report.

“We therefore stopped the affected training run and have subsequently decided to pause all other training, evaluation, and inference with tool-use (defined broadly) for our most capable models until we have both validated that the gap is resolved and performed additional red-teaming of the system,” it added.

The company also said it would not resume training the particular model involved in the incident, despite the existing reward signal correctly penalising the behaviour.

The training task required the agent to find information about a specific person based on biographical details and clues contained in a publicly available blog post. When the search tool pro-

vided to the agent returned irrelevant results, the model attempted to bypass the limitation by using code to query other search engines directly.

Those requests initially failed. The agent then inferred that the task might be linked to BrowseComp, a benchmark designed to test AI agents’ ability to locate difficult-to-find information. It subsequently downloaded the benchmark dataset and evaluation script from the offline cache and searched the decoded questions for an answer.

The episode has highlighted the security challenges posed by advanced AI agents that can adapt their strategies and attempt to bypass technical restrictions. OpenAI said it will conduct further security testing and red-teaming before resuming tool-enabled training and evaluation of its most capable models.

Screen Time During Meals May Affect Children’s Eating Habits

It has become increasingly common for children to eat meals or snacks while watching television, using mobile phones or playing on tablets. Health experts caution that distracted eating may make it harder for children to recognise hunger and fullness signals and keep track of how much they are consuming. When children concentrate on a screen, they may pay less attention to the taste, quantity and physical sensation of food, potentially affecting their eating behaviour.

Experts, however, point out that there is no conclusive evidence that every child who eats while watching a screen will necessarily consume more calories. Research suggests that the immediate impact can vary depending on the child’s behaviour, the type and availability of food and the content being watched. Some studies indicate that the effects may also continue beyond the meal during which screen use occurs. A review of experimental studies pub-

lished in 2025 found that watching television while eating may be associated with increased food intake during a subsequent meal, with distraction potentially affecting how well children remember what they have already eaten.

Food-related content can add another concern. Advertisements, branded products and images of highly appealing foods appearing in television programmes, videos and games may stimulate children’s interest in food. Among 35 studies

examined in the review, 27 reported an association between exposure to food advertising or food-related cues and increased food consumption.

The type and quantity of food offered to children are also important. A child watching cartoons while eating biscuits or chips placed nearby may lose track of how much has been consumed. Eating directly from a packet can further reduce portion awareness. If children are routinely given chips, biscuits, sugary drinks

or sweets whenever they watch television, the two activities may become closely associated. Over time, seeing a screen could become a cue for snacking, even when the child is not physically hungry.

Experts suggest that instead of focusing only on completely banning screens, parents should try to keep mealtimes and screen use separate. Meals and snacks can be served in a designated eating area, with appropriate portions placed on a plate rather than giving children an entire packet. Water can be encouraged as the main beverage, while healthier snacks such as fruits, yoghurt and appropriately portioned nuts can be offered. Parents should also avoid using food as a reward for watching television or using mobile devices.

Experts stress that children’s weight and overall health cannot be attributed to screen use alone. Meal patterns, sleep, physical activity, food availability at home and other aspects of daily life also play a role. Establishing regular, distraction-free mealtimes can help children pay greater attention to their food and gradually develop healthier eating habits.





Asian Games: What will happen if India-Afghanistan cricket QF is washed out



Nisshin, Sept. 27:

Rain threat looms large as defending champions India take on a second-string Afghanistan side in the second quarterfinal of the cricket event at the Asian Games on Monday.

The clash is scheduled to take place at the Korogi Sports Park; however, weather forecasts predict showers in the city on the matchday.

As per Accuweather, there is a 97% chance of precipitation on Monday in Nisshin, which puts both the quarterfinal matches in doubt. Pakistan will be facing Hong Kong, China in the first quarterfinal before the India-Afghanistan game.

The Pakistan-Hong Kong, China game is scheduled to begin at 9 AM local time, which is 5:30 AM IST, while the India-Afghanistan clash is lined up to be held at 1:30 PM local time, which is 10 AM IST.

As per AccuWeather, there are 69% chances of precipitation at 8 AM local time, which goes to 70% at 9 AM, the scheduled start of the first QF. The rain chances stay at 49% at 10 AM (local), 75% at 11 AM and 71% at 12 noon.

The precipitation chances slip to 40% at 1 PM (local), the scheduled time for the India-Afghanistan toss, while they remain at 34% at 2 PM and 40% at 3 PM before a marginal increase

to 58% at 4 PM local. They remain at 49% at 5 PM, 60% at 6 PM and 49% at 7 PM local time.

In case the heavens open and wash the match out, India and Pakistan will be declared winners of the two quarterfinals on Monday as they are the higher-ranked T20I teams than their opponents.

As per ICC rankings, India are No.1 in T20Is, while Afghanistan are ranked 10th. Pakistan are sixth, while Hong Kong, China are 24th.

The weather had similarly washed out the 2023 Asian Games final between India and Afghanistan, and India secured the gold medal by virtue of their superior ranking.

1st ODI: No Siraj, Dhir handed debut cap as India opt to bowl against West Indies



New Delhi, Sept. 27:

Naman Dhir made his international debut for India in the opening ODI of the three-match series against the West Indies at the Greenfield International

Stadium on Sunday. Dhir received his maiden international cap after an impressive run in the Sher-e-Punjab T20 competition, where he finished as the leading run-scorer with 655 runs at a remarkable strike rate of 217.61. His performances earned him a place in India's ODI squad and an opportunity to make his international debut. India captain Shubman Gill handed Dhir a place in the playing XI as the team began its prepa-

rations for the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup. Dhir's inclusion gives India another all-round option, with his ability to contribute with both bat and ball adding flexibility to the team combination.

Meanwhile, experienced fast bowler Mohammed Siraj was left out of India's playing XI for the series opener. India opted for a combination featuring four specialist bowlers and two all-rounders, with Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Dhir providing spin options. Dhir's debut comes after his standout domestic T20 campaign and represents a significant milestone in his career as he gets his first opportunity to establish himself at the international level.

Kohli, Gill tons power India to eight-wicket win over West Indies

New Delhi, Sept. 27:

Virat Kohli's unbeaten 139 and captain Shubman Gill's 110 powered India to an eight-wicket win over the West Indies in the first ODI at the Greenfield International Stadium on Sunday. The victory gave India a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

After West Indies posted 295/7, Kuldeep Yadav claiming 4/40, Rohit Sharma and Gill gave India a flying start with a 74-run opening stand. Rohit fell for 32, but Gill and Kohli then took control, adding 151 runs for the second wicket.

Gill struck 110 off 108 balls, with 13 fours and a six, before receiving a standing ovation. Kohli, meanwhile, became only the second batter after Sachin Tendulkar to complete 15,000 ODI runs and the fastest to reach the landmark.

Kohli then shifted gears,



smashing his 55th ODI century and his 10th against the West Indies. He remained unbeaten on 139 off just 88 balls, hitting 10 fours and a career-best nine sixes, as India reached 300/2 in 41.4 overs with 50 balls to spare.

Kohli's innings was particularly significant as he continued his remarkable record against the West Indies. After being dropped on 125, he made the most of the reprieve and finished the chase in emphatic fashion, sealing the win with a

six. Earlier, Justin Greaves scored 101 and John Campbell made 62 for the West Indies. Kuldeep led India's bowling attack with four wickets, while Prasidh Krishna claimed two.

Brief Scores: West Indies 295/7 (Justin Greaves 101, John Campbell 62; Kuldeep Yadav 4/40, Prasidh Krishna 2/60) lost to India 300/2 (Virat Kohli 139*, Shubman Gill 110; Roston Chase 1/64, Alzarri Joseph 1/81) by eight wickets.

Kohli becomes second men's batter after Tendulkar to cross 15,000 ODI runs



New Delhi, Sept. 27:

Virat Kohli on Sunday became only the second men's batter after Sachin Tendulkar to complete 15,000 runs in ODI cricket. The Indian batting stalwart reached the landmark during India's ongoing chase of 296 against the West Indies in the opening ODI at the Greenfield International Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram.

Kohli, 37, reached the coveted milestone in the 29th over when he swilled to pull a short delivery from Alzarri Joseph to the deep midwicket boundary. The shot brought the crowd to its feet, with the spectators applauding the Indian star. Kohli acknowledged the ovation by raising his bat before exchanging gloves and sharing a hug with ODI captain Shubman Gill.

Having made his ODI debut against Sri Lanka in August 2008, Kohli reached 15,000 runs in 315 innings, making him the fastest batter to achieve the feat. Tendulkar had reached

the milestone in his 350th innings in 2007 and finished his ODI career in 2012 with 18,426 runs from 463 matches.

Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara is the only other batter to have crossed 14,000 runs in ODIs, with 14,234 runs, followed by Ricky Ponting (13,704) and Sanath Jayasuriya (13,430). The latest milestone adds to Kohli's long list of ODI records.

He became the fastest to 10,000 runs in 2018, reaching the mark in 205 innings, and also holds the record for the quickest 8,000, 9,000, 11,000, 12,000, 13,000 and 14,000 runs in the format. Kohli had also surpassed Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI centuries when he scored his 50th ton in the 2023 World Cup semi-final against New Zealand at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium. He now has 54 ODI centuries and could add another to his tally in Thiruvananthapuram as he prepares for India's next World Cup campaign in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Asian Games: 'I didn't want to give up until the last point,' says Anahat after historic silver

Nagoya, Sept. 27:

Indian squash teenager Anahat Singh created history at the Asian Games 2026 by becoming the first Indian woman to win a silver medal in the women's singles squash event. The 18-year-old also became the first Indian woman to reach the singles final at the continental showcase.

Anahat fought until the final point against Malaysia's defending champion and World No. 5 Sivasangari Subramaniam, who successfully defended her Hangzhou 2022 gold. Sivasangari controlled the final with her attacking game and defence, but Anahat continued to fight despite falling behind.

"I honestly just didn't want to let it go easily. It was 3-0 for her, but I didn't want to let any point go without a fight," Anahat said. She admitted that she did not play her best squash but was determined to fight until the final point.



Her campaign also featured a dramatic semifinal win over World No. 6 Satomi Watanabe of Japan. Anahat came back from two games down and saved two match points to reach the final.

The silver medal meant Anahat missed the first direct qualification opportunity for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, where squash will make its de-

but. She said the Asian Games experience would be important for her development over the next two years.

The reigning Junior World Champion credited her family, coaches, government and sponsors for their support and encouraged young girls to pursue sports with passion, commitment and determination.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay announces Rs 50 lakh for Asian Games silver medallist Abhay Singh

Chennai, Sept. 27:

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay has announced a Rs 50 lakh incentive for squash player Abhay Singh after he won silver in the men's singles event at the 20th Asian Games in Japan. Vijay said Singh's achievement had brought pride to Tamil Nadu and India and hoped it would inspire young athletes.

The Chennai player had earlier helped India win team gold at the Hangzhou Asian Games



and also secured a mixed doubles bronze with Anahat Singh. His latest medal adds a singles silver to his Asian Games record.

Women's football team to make historic Kolkata debut with two friendlies against Russia

Kolkata, Sept. 27:

The Indian women's national football team will play Russia in two international friendlies at Kishore Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on October 8 and 11, 2026, the AIFF announced on Sunday.

The matches will be India's first internationals since winning the SAFF Women's Championship for a record sixth time in June. Ranked 69th in the world, India will face 27th-ranked Russia as



part of the FIFA Women's International Match Window.

The fixtures will also mark India's first appearance in West Bengal since

the 2016 SAFF Women's Championship in Siliguri. India and Russia have met twice previously, with India losing 0-8 in 2021 and 0-2 in the 2025 Pink

Ladies Cup in the UAE.

Head coach Crispin Chettri said the matches would provide valuable exposure to strong opposition and help develop upcoming players. The Indian squad will be finalised closer to the matches.

The Blue Tigresses have been training in Kolkata since September 18. Chettri said playing in front of home fans would give the players valuable experience of handling the atmosphere and expectations of international football.

The Indian squad will be announced closer to the matches.

Pink Power Run 3.0 held in city

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 27

The residents of Hyderabad stepped out to run in support of breast cancer awareness, the importance of early detection and women’s health and empowerment. The, ‘Pink Power Run 3.0’ jointly organized by Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) and the Sudha Reddy Foundation, received an overwhelming response on Sunday. More than 35,000 people participated in this mega community run, which kicked off at the HMDA Grounds along the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake. Early in the morning, the Necklace Road area was packed with runners.

Organized with the aim of promoting health, fitness, early medical screenings and breast cancer awareness among the public, this event has emerged as one of Hyderabad’s largest community fitness initiatives.

Competitions were held across four categories in the Pink Power Run: a 21-kilometer half-marathon and 10-kilometer, 5-kilometer, and 3-kilometer runs. People of all ages from young children to the elderly participated with great enthusiasm. The event’s spirit was truly embodied by the large number of participants, ranging from five-year-old children to seniors over 80 and



Telangana Minister Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka), Telangana DGP C.V. Anand, MEIL Managing Director P.V. Krishna Reddy, Sudha Reddy Foundation founder Sudha Reddy, U.S. Consul General Laura Williams and other dignitaries participate in the third edition of the Pink Power Run 2026 at HMDA Grounds near Prasads IMAX in Hyderabad on Sunday. (Style Photos)

persons with disabilities.

The 21-kilometer half-marathon received an international response, with runners participating from countries such as the USA, England, the UAE, Ethiopia, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Iceland, Tanzania, Botswana, Kenya, and Canada. The presence of runners from both India and abroad created an international sporting atmosphere along

Necklace Road.

The ‘Pink Power Run’ was flagged off by Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka), Telangana DGP CV Anand, MEIL Group Managing Director PV Krishna Reddy, Sudha Reddy Foundation Founder Sudha Reddy, US Consul General in Hyderabad Laura Williams, and Olectra

Greentech (EV Trans) Vice President VV Lakshminarayana, among others. Film actor Sidhu Jonnalagadda, former Miss World Opal Sucheta, Indian professional boxer Vijender Singh, Narayana Group of Educational Institutions Director Puneeth and Avinash Group Chairman Avinash also participated, boosting the enthusiasm of the runners.

97 held in Cyberabad drunk-driving checks

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 27

Cyberabad Traffic Police apprehended 97 motorists during a special drunk-driving enforcement drive conducted over the weekend.

The cases included 76 two-wheelers, five three-wheelers, 15 four-wheelers and one heavy vehicle. Of the offenders, 79 recorded BAC levels of 36–200 mg/100 ml, 12 had levels of 201–300 mg/100 ml and six recorded 301–550 mg/100 ml. All the offenders will be produced before court. Police warned that driving under the influence of alcohol can attract stringent action, particularly in cases involving fatal accidents.

Meanwhile, 89 drunk-driving cases were disposed of by courts between September 21 and 26. Three offenders were awarded fine and imprisonment, one was sentenced to fine and social service, and 85 were fined.

Cong steps up exercise to finalise graduate MLC candidates

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 27

The Congress high command has intensified the process of selecting candidates for the Nalgonda–Warangal–Khammam and Hyderabad–Rangareddy–Mahbubnagar Graduate MLC constituencies, whose terms of the incumbent members end in March.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha have been tasked with shortlisting candidates for the

two seats respectively. Party sources said both leaders have finalised three-member panels after considering local political and social factors, and the names have been forwarded to AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal.

For Nalgonda–Warangal–Khammam, the panel reportedly comprises Sarvotham Reddy, RTI Commissioner P.V. Srinivas and PCC general secretary Chanagani Dayakar. The Hyderabad–Rangareddy–Mahbubnagar panel reportedly includes in-

dustrialist Manne Jeevan Reddy, former PCC media committee chairman Sama Rammohan Reddy and PCC spokesperson Gouri Satish.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is scheduled to visit Delhi on September 29 for the Congress Working Committee meeting, with party sources indicating that the two candidates could be finalised during the visit. The official announcement is expected by the end of September, though fresh names could emerge before the final decision.

Godavari rises to 40 feet at Bhadrachalam

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 27

The Godavari River crossed the 40-foot mark at Bhadrachalam in Telangana’s Bhadradri Kothagudem district on Sunday following heavy rain and increased up-stream inflows.

The water level, which stood at 17 feet two days



ago, rose to 25 feet on Saturday evening be-

fore reaching 40 feet on Sunday morning, sub-

merging several steps of the bathing ghats. Officials said the level could rise further, with the first flood warning to be issued if it reaches 43 feet.

In Andhra Pradesh, the Vamsadhara River remained in spate in Srikakulam district, though flooding in the Nagavali has started to re-

cede. Authorities have advised people living along the rivers to remain alert.

Flash floods triggered by heavy rain have damaged roads and inundated crops in several parts of Srikakulam and East Godavari districts. Officials were assessing losses and working to restore road connectivity in affected areas.

6.32 lakh women take Ullas literacy exam across Telangana

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 27

After years away from the written word, thousands of women in Telangana are beginning a new chapter in their lives.

Having progressed from being unable to recognise the Telugu alphabet to reading, writing, and performing basic calculations, lakhs of adult learners appeared for the ‘Ullas’ examination held across the State on Sunday.

Under the ‘Amma Ku Aksharam’ programme, 6.32 lakh women took the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test. Of these, 5.32 lakh

were from rural areas, while approximately one lakh learners were from urban regions. The examination was conducted in 124 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across Telangana, as well as in circles under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), municipalities, and municipal corporations.

Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) officials reported that 98,324 Self-Help Group (SHG) members and 720 street vendors also appeared for the test, which was conducted in coordination with the Department of Adult Education.

Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Women and Child Welfare Minister D. Anasuya Seethakka congratulated the SHG members and other adult learners on their achievement.

“Learning the alphabet is not merely about acquiring the ability to read and write; it is about gaining self-confidence. It is a great transformation for women who have relied on thumb impressions for so long to now reach a stage where they can write their own names. There is no age limit for education; what matters is the determination to learn,” Seethakka said.

Government orders regularisation of eligible ULC applications

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 27

The Telangana government has issued orders to clear decades-old Urban Land Ceiling (ULC) applications, initiating regularisation measures for all eligible cases in accordance with established rules.

In a statement released on Sunday, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy noted that while a Government Order (GO) regarding ULC lands was originally issued in 2016 by the previous administration, it was never implemented.

The Minister empha-

sised that the state is systematically resolving pending land prohibition issues under Section 22-A of the Registration Act. He highlighted that three major policy decisions have already been implemented to address 22-A grievances, with orders issued in line with GO 118 and GO 76.

Additionally, the government has cleared the registration of houses, plots, and flats that hold valid permissions despite falling under Section 22-A status. Minister Srinivasa Reddy assured that all remaining land-related encumbrances are being processed on a fast-track basis.

Govt holds Konda Laxman Bapuji’s 111th birth anniversary celebrations

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 27

The 111th birth anniversary celebrations of Konda Laxman Bapuji were held at Ravindra Bharati under the aegis of the Telangana government and the leadership of Guduru Srinivas , the Chairman of the Konda Laxman Bapuji Birth Anniversary Celebrations Committee and the Chairman of the Telangana Padmashali Co-operative Corporation. State Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Vivek Venkataswamy attended the event as chief guests.

Shariah norms, medical necessity must be balanced: Mufti Saber Pasha

Munsif Desk
Hyderabad, Sept 27

Maulana Mufti Dr Hafiz Mohammed Saber Pasha Quadri, chairman of the Languages Development Organisation, stressed the need to balance Shariah principles with genuine medical necessity while addressing public queries at a session on “Solution to Public Problems in the Light of Ahkam-e-Shariat” here on Sunday.

He said Islam permits medical treatment based on genuine need while emphasising modesty, privacy and dignity. Women may pursue medical education in co-educational institutions when necessary, though preference should be given to women-only institutions where available. He said female patients should preferably be treated by female doctors, but consultation with a male doctor is

permissible when a qualified female specialist is unavailable or treatment by her would impose an exceptional financial burden. Pregnancy ultrasounds should, where possible, be conducted by female medical professionals.

On critical illness, he said necessary treatment should not be stopped deliberately to hasten death. However, continuation of exceptionally costly treatment with little realistic prospect of benefit may be considered based on the patient’s condition and expert medical advice.

He also said property may be sold by legal guardians or heirs for a patient’s urgent treatment when the patient cannot consent, with proper documentation. Permanently ending a woman’s reproductive capacity after repeated Caesarean deliveries should not ordinarily be undertaken merely over fears of future complications, he said.



Solution to Public Problems

— in the Light of —

Ahkam-e-Shariat

By

Maulana Mufti Dr. Hafiz Mohammed Saber Pasha Quadri

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Banjara Hills, Room No. 12, Hyderabad



Unnecessary interaction and violation of privacy should be avoided in co-educational medical institutions: Maulana Mufti Dr Hafiz Mohammed Saber Pasha Quadri

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