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US-Iran Strikes Widen Across Gulf; Tehran Calls Wedding Deaths ‘War Crime’

US attacks hit military sites along Iran’s southern coast, while Tehran claimed retaliatory strikes on American military facilities in the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan and Iraq.

Munsif Bureau
Tehran, Sep 2:

The United States and Iran exchanged fresh attacks on Wednesday, widening the conflict across the Gulf. US Central Command said American forces struck Iranian air-defence systems, radar installations, maritime assets, communications facilities and mine-laying capabilities along Iran’s southern coast.

Iranian authorities reported attacks around Bandar Abbas, Chabahar, Qeshm Island and other locations near the Strait of Hormuz. Iran’s health minister said 18 people were killed and 108 injured in the latest US strikes. Fresh US attacks on Iran and Iranian retaliation against US-linked military facilities across the Gulf have intensified fears of a broader regional conflict.

Wedding Deaths Trigger ‘War Crime’ Charge

Iran accused Washington of committing a “war crime” after an attack in Kuhestak, Hormozgan province, reportedly struck or damaged a house hosting a wedding celebration. Iranian media said four people — two women and two children aged four and 16 — were killed, while at least 68 others were injured. The circumstances of the incident have not been independently verified. US Central Command said it was aware of the reports but maintained that American forces were targeting military infrastructure and did not deliberately target civilians.

Iran Claims Strikes Across Gulf

Iran subsequently announced retaliatory missile and drone attacks against US military facilities across the region. Tehran claimed attacks on Al Dhafra and Al Minhad bases in the UAE, Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, Sheikh Isa Air Base in Bahrain, US positions in Jordan and facilities in Erbil, northern Iraq. Kuwait and Bahrain reported intercepting incoming threats, while Jordan said it destroyed 10 of 13 Iranian ballistic missiles that entered its airspace. Initial US assessments reported no American casualties from the attacks in Jordan.

Nepal Flood Toll Reaches 1,204 as Health Crisis Deepens and Climate Compensation Call Grows

Over 4,200 remain missing as damaged water systems raise disease fears in Rasuwa and Nuwakot.

KATHMANDU, Sep 2:

The death toll from Nepal’s devastating Bhotekoshi floods has risen to 1,204, while 4,216 people remain missing or unaccounted for, as rescue teams continue searching devastated settlements and hydropower tunnels a week after the disaster. The August 26 flood, linked to a glacier and rock collapse near the Nepal-China border, swept through the Bhoti Koshi-Trishuli river system, destroying homes, roads, bridges and hydropower facilities. Rescue teams from Nepal, India, China and the United States are involved in efforts to reach workers feared trapped underground. As the humanitarian crisis grows, Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal has called for climate “justice and compensation” rather than charity.

He said Nepal contributes very little to global greenhouse-gas emissions but is suffering severe consequences from warming in the Himalayas, and argued that major emitters including China, the United States and India carry historical responsibility. Nepal has also formally approached the international Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage for assistance. Meanwhile, a second emergency is emerging in Rasuwa and Nuwakot, where drinking-water pipelines and sanitation

systems have been badly damaged. In Bidur Municipality alone, the main network serving nearly 6,000 households and about 7–8 km of pipeline were damaged. WHO and Nepalese health teams are testing water for E. coli, expanding disease surveillance and supplying emergency medical material. WHO says overcrowded shelters, unsafe water and disrupted healthcare increase the risk of diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases, infections and other public-health problems.

CM Revanth Reddy to Inaugurate Saidabad Steel Bridge; 1,000 Police Deployed

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sep 2:

Around 1,000 police personnel have been deployed for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy’s inauguration of the Saidabad steel bridge on Thursday. A public meeting will be held at Chanchalguda Degree and Junior College Ground. DCP Charminar Kiran Khare said security arrangements cover parking, traffic control and Task Force deployment. The 3.24-km GHMC bridge, built at a cost of about ₹620 crore, is expected to ease congestion in surrounding areas. Traffic diversions will be in force on the Nalgonda X Road–Owaisi Junction corridor from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Three Arrested in Hyderabad Fake Currency Case; ₹2.91 Lakh Seized

Police say a **Shamshabad Task Force–Balapur operation** uncovered a small-scale setup allegedly used to print ₹500, ₹200 and ₹100 notes; a fourth suspect remains at large.

Hyderabad, Sep 2:

Hyderabad police have arrested three persons for allegedly printing and circulating counterfeit currency notes in an operation by Hyderabad Commissioner’s Task Force (Shamshabad Zone) and Balapur police. They recovered counterfeit notes with a face value of ₹2,91,100, comprising 437 ₹500 notes, 39 ₹200 notes and 648 ₹100 notes. Accused were identified as Ramavath Ramu alias Mohammed, 36, Ramavath Mithilal, 35, and Ramavath Gandhi, 19, residents of Chintal Thanda, Vaddipatla, in

Nalgonda district. Police allege that Ramu and Mithilal learnt the process from YouTube and Instagram videos, bought a colour printer, scanner, laminator and supplies, and attempted to reproduce features such as watermarks. The notes were allegedly circulated in small quantities at wine shops and vegetable markets, at night, with Gandhi assisting. Police named Sudheer John Chela alias Vamshi of Nagole-Bandlaguda as an associate on the run. The accused and seized material were handed over to Balapur police for further investigation.

Telangana Groundwater Level Improves to 7.87 Metres in August

Ground Water Department monitored 1,771 piezometers across all 33 districts.

State average improved by 1.61 metres from July.

Telangana recorded a 17% rainfall deficit up to August 31.

Hyderabad, Sep 2:

Telangana’s average groundwater level stood at 7.87 metres below ground level (mbgl) at the end of August 2026, according to the State Ground Water Department. Officials monitored 1,771 piezometers covering all mandals in the State’s 33 districts. Groundwater was shallowest in Adilabad at 3.48 mbgl and deepest in Medchal-Malkajgiri at 12.12 mbgl. Compared with July’s 9.48 mbgl, the State recorded an average improvement of 1.61 metres, with water levels rising in 27 districts. Kamareddy recorded the largest rise at 4.65 metres, while six districts registered declines. However, groundwater remains 2.09 metres deeper than in August 2025, when the State average was 5.78 mbgl. Telangana received 474 mm rainfall against the normal 574 mm up to August 31, a deficit of 17%.

TG SAFE INSPECTS 19 HYDERABAD CAFES; TWO SHUT, SHADAB LICENCE SUSPENDED

Special drive found alleged hygiene, licensing, storage and pest-control violations across cafes and snack points in the CURE area.

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sep 2:

Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) inspected 19 cafes and snack points across Hyderabad’s Core Urban Region on Wednesday as part of a special food-safety drive. Nine enforcement teams comprising Food Safety Officers and police personnel carried out the inspections. Dreamz Cafeteria at Bagh Lingampally and Asiatic Café at Panjagutta were closed for allegedly operating without valid FSSAI licences or registrations. The FSSAI licence

of Shadab Hotel at Madina was suspended and management was directed to stop operations after officials reported multiple hygiene, sanitation and food-storage violations. Inspectors also reported expired or spoiled food, open dustbins, improper storage, pest infestation, labelling violations and missing food-handler records. Suspected adulterated items were seized analysis. Improvement and show-cause notices are being issued to several establishments, with follow-up inspections planned.

- Clock Tower Tea Cafe (Secunderabad)
- Blue Sea Cafe (Secunderabad)
- Mirosa Cafe (Himayatnagar)
- Dreamz Cafe/Cafeteria (Bagh - Lingampally)
- Diamond Point (Sikh Village)
- Imroz Cafe (Ameerpet)
- Adab (Nampally)
- Cafe Persia (Nampally)
- Friends Cafe (Khairatabad)
- Golden Cafe (Khairatabad)
- Persis Cafe (S.R. Nagar)
- Honeymoon Cafe
- Deccan Cafe (Erragadda)
- Nimrah Cafe (Ali Jah Kotla)
- Shadab Hotel (Madina)
- Taiba Cafe (Masab Tank)
- Asiatic Cafe (Panjagutta)
- Kaadhale (Secunderabad)
- Rio Cafe (Secunderabad)

TG SAFE

TELANGANA STANDARDS AUTHORITY FOR FOOD AND ESSENTIAL DRUGS

More Time for Voters: Telangana SIR Final Roll Shifted to October 19

- Final voter roll moved from October 1 to October 19.
- Claims and objections can be filed until September 16.
- Hearings and disposal of claims will continue until October 15.

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sep 2:

The Election Commission has extended Telangana’s Special Intensive Revision timetable, pushing publication of the final electoral roll from October 1 to October 19, an 18-day extension. Under the revised schedule, the draft roll published on August 17 remains open for claims and objections until September 16. Electoral Registration Officers will continue serving notices, holding hearings and disposing of claims and objections until October 15. The exercise covers

TELANGANA SIR

FINAL ROLL

EARLIER DEADLINE

OCT 19

more than 3.38 crore electors. Around 2.65 crore submitted enumeration forms, while 73.39 lakh were classified under absent, shifted, deceased, duplicate and related categories during the draft-stage exercise. More than 92 lakh electors have also been flagged for anomalies or failure to establish linkage with the 2002 SIR roll.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has separately asked the ECI for still more time, seeking a four-week extension for claims and objections and a corresponding revision of the final-roll date.

158 MEDICAL SHOPS ISSUED NOTICES OVER HABIT-FORMING DRUGS

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sep 2:

Telangana’s TG SAFE Drugs Wing has issued show-cause notices to 158 medical shops after a statewide crackdown on the alleged illegal sale of habit-forming prescription medicines. Officials said inspections focused on tramadol, pregabalin formulations, nitrazepam, alprazolam, tapentadol, zolpidem and codeine-containing cough syrups. Violations allegedly included dispensing medicines without prescriptions from registered medical practitioners, selling drugs without bills, failure to

maintain Schedule H1 and prescription registers, and dispensing prescription medicines without a registered pharmacist present. TG SAFE warned that departmental action could include suspension or cancellation of licences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules. The Union Health Ministry had moved pregabalin to Schedule H1 in May 2026 amid concerns over misuse, requiring prescriptions and stricter sales records. The authority said illegal diversion of prescription medicines for abuse would invite stringent action.

Royal Greetings for The Munsif English Daily Relaunch

MUNSIF DAILY

English Daily

www.munsifdaily.com

Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan, 9th Nizam of Hyderabad of the Asaf Jahi dynasty by royal consensus, greeted Mohd Abdul Jaleel, Editor-in-Chief, on the relaunch of The Munsif English Daily. Former Doordarshan News Director Dr Shujath Ali Sufi is also seen in the photograph.



STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Moves

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

Azharuddin distributes financial aid, livelihood kits to minority beneficiaries

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.2 (NSS):

Minister for Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises Mohammad Azharuddin, along with Telangana Minorities Finance Corporation (TGMFC) Chairman Mohd. Obedulla Kothwal, on Wednesday distributed financial assistance and livelihood support to minority beneficiaries in Rangareddy district.

Under the Indiramma Minority Mahila Yojana, the Minister distributed 278

cheques of ₹50,000 each to minority widows. He said the financial assistance would help the beneficiaries and their families improve their livelihoods and strengthen their financial condition.

As part of the Rehabilitation of Turka Kasha for Minority Communities scheme, 13 generator and tool kits, each worth ₹60,000, were also distributed to members of the Turka Kasha Muslim community. The kits are aimed at promoting self-employment and

supporting sustainable livelihoods among the beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Azharuddin said that Rangareddy is one of the richest districts in India because of its large and diverse industrial areas.

He said the growth of industries is creating more employment opportunities in the district.

The Minister urged women to come forward and make use of the employment opportunities available in Rangareddy. “Women are very capable

in their work and have strong professional values. Giving women more opportunities in employment will also have a positive impact on the State’s economy,” he said.

Azharuddin encouraged women to make full use of sewing machines, generator and tool kits, and other government schemes provided for their development and self-employment.

The Minister said that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is very keen about the financial development of minority women and is deeply concerned about the

welfare of minorities.

He said the Chief Minister’s concern for minorities is clear from his quick action during the Madina bus fire incident, when he took a decision to provide compensation to the victim families within minutes of the incident.

The Minister also said that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has sanctioned ₹7 crore for works related to Haj arrangements, showing the Government’s commitment towards the needs and welfare of the minority com-



Parkal MLA Reviuri Prakash Reddy alleged that BRS leaders came to power through false promises and misleading statements and pushed the prosperous state of Telangana into a heavy debt burden.



Minister for Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises Mohammad Azharuddin, along with Telangana Minorities Finance Corporation (TGMFC) Chairman Mohd. Obedulla Kothwal, on Wednesday distributed financial assistance and livelihood support to minority beneficiaries in Rangareddy district.

Burglars break into house in Jubilee Hills; steal gold,

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept 2,

Burglars struck at a businessman’s house and reportedly stole over 10 tolas of gold ornaments and a diamond ring on Road No 10 in Jubilee Hills.

According to police, Neelu Kaur, a Rajasthan-based businessman, lodged

a complaint stating that the burglars had entered the house through the rear side after removing the window grills.

The house was unoccupied at the time of the incident. The stolen jewellery included an emerald ring, bracelets, necklaces, earrings and other ornaments. Based on the complaint,

the Jubilee Hills Police have booked a case and taken up the investigation.

Before targeting Kaur’s house, the burglar allegedly attempted to break into two other houses in the same locality.

However, he fled when the residents woke up after hearing noises.

As part of the investiga-

tion, the police collected fingerprints from the crime scene and are examining CCTV footage from houses and surrounding areas to identify the suspects.

Officials suspect the burglars may have targeted Kaur’s house after noticing that no one was present. Further investigation is underway.



AIMIM president Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi, accompanied by Yakutpura MLA Jaffar Hussain Mehraj, visited SIR (Special Intensive Revision) hearing centers across the Yakutpura Assembly Constituency on Wednesday. They reviewed the hearing process for individuals who had received notices and inspected the arrangements and ongoing work at the centers.

Owaisi Visits Five SIR Hearing Centres in Yakutpura

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept: 2

The process of checking and verifying electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is currently underway in Hyderabad. As part of the exercise, AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi, accompanied by Yakutpura MLA Jaffer Hussain Meraj, visited five hearing centres established by Electoral Registration Officers in the Yakutpura Assembly constituency. Owaisi visited the various hearing centres and

reviewed the voter verification process being conducted under the SIR. He sought details regarding cases involving voters who had been served notices concerning the verification of their names and entries in the electoral roll. During the visit, Owaisi also inspected the arrangements at the hearing centres and sought information from officials about the documents being submitted by voters, the verification process and the procedures being followed during the hearings.

He also reviewed wheth-

er voters who had received notices were being provided adequate facilities to submit their documents, clarify their electoral-roll entries and present their case.

Jaffer Hussain Meraj accompanied Owaisi during the visit. The two leaders observed the proceedings at various centres and also interacted with voters to understand the situation and difficulties they were facing. The hearing process is considered important for voters whose names or electoral entries have been questioned during the SIR.

Konda Surekha turns up heat on Revanth, questions disciplinary action

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.2 (NSS):

Hyderabad, Sept.2 (NSS): Forests and Environment Minister Konda Surekha’s remarks have triggered a fresh political debate in Telangana, with the Minister making pointed comments about Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and questioning the disciplinary action proposed against her.

Speaking to the media informally after

meeting AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge during her visit to New Delhi on Wednesday, Konda Surekha questioned whether Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s repeated assertion that he would remain in office for 10 years did not amount to a violation warranting disciplinary action.

“If disciplinary action has to be taken against me, then action should first be taken against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy,”

she said.

Konda Surekha also clarified that no one had so far approached her seeking her resignation. She said it would be unfair to hold her responsible for remarks made by her daughter, Susmitha Patel, and initiate disciplinary action against her on that account.

The Minister said AICC leader Rahul Gandhi had been advocating that women should be financially and socially independent, and

claimed that her daughter had made the remarks only after being provoked by certain circumstances. ‘One justice for BCs and another for others?’

Konda Surekha also raised questions over social justice within the Telangana Congress, asking whether different standards were being applied to leaders from different social groups.

“Is there one set of rules for BCs and another for

Nothing Beneficial to People During BRS’s 10-Year Rule: Revanth Prakash Reddy

Munsif Bureau
Hanamkonda, Sept 2:

Parkal MLA Reviuri Prakash Reddy alleged that BRS leaders came to power through false promises and misleading statements and pushed the prosperous state of Telangana into a heavy debt burden. He said BRS leaders should first review their own 10-year record in government before criticising the Congress government.

Reviuri Prakash Reddy addressed a media conference at the DCC

Bhavan in Hanamkonda on Wednesday. Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavya, MLC Baswaraj Saraiah, and Congress presidents of Hanamkonda and Warangal districts Engala Venkata Ram Reddy and M.D. Ayub were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Prakash Reddy said that after allegedly looting the state, BRS leaders had now started blaming others, likening their conduct to the saying, “the thief’s beard has a straw in it.” He alleged that K.

Chandrashekar Rao had misled the people from the Telangana movement until 2023 and attempted to suppress opposition voices. He claimed that during the previous government, voices questioning the administration were systematically silenced.

The Parkal MLA said BRS leaders should stop resorting to emotional politics in the name of the Kaleshwaram project. He also alleged that the previous government failed to fulfil its promise of providing three acres of

land to Dalit families. He further recalled the incident involving farmers in Khammam being handcuffed, alleging that it occurred during the BRS government.

He said Telangana contributes around 5.4% to the country’s economic growth, but the previous government had neglected the needs of poor people by failing to provide ration cards. According to him, Telangana had 87.57 lakh ration cards in 2014, while 2.83 lakh cards were subsequently cancelled.

TTD Cracks Down On Middlemen, Fake Websites; Tightens Vigilance

NSS
Tirupati, Sept.2:

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has stepped up security, vigilance and pilgrim-management measures to ensure a safe, comfortable and peaceful Srivari Darshan amid the growing rush of devotees.

TTD said coordinated arrangements are being made for slotted Sarva Darshan, Special Entry Darshan and other categories, with officials closely monitoring queues, crowd management, drinking water, Annaprasadam and security arrangements.

The temple administration has also intensified its crackdown on fraudsters

and middlemen. This year about 30 criminal cases have been registered against persons allegedly cheating devotees by promising Darshan and accommodation, while departmental disciplinary action has been taken against 43 employees for violating conduct rules.

TTD has identified 249 fake websites allegedly misleading devotees through attractive advertisements and false promises, particularly regarding accommodation. Two criminal cases have been registered and the identified websites have been removed with the assistance of concerned agencies.

Security checks have

also been strengthened at Alipiri and Srivari Mettu. So far this year, 261 drones and 105 Meta smart glasses have been detected and seized at Alipiri, as such devices are prohibited in the Tirumala temple area.

TTD appealed to devotees to rely only on official information and avoid middlemen, and avoid middlemen, suspicious links and fake websites while booking Darshan, accommodation and Sevass.

The temple administration urged pilgrims to follow the prescribed guidelines, cooperate with security personnel and maintain patience and a peaceful atmosphere during their visit to Tirumala. (NSS)

184 Rowdy Sheeters Counselling In Rajendranagar, Shamshabad Zones

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.2 (NSS):

Police conducted a two-day counselling programme for 184 rowdy sheeters in the Rajendranagar and Shamshabad zones on September 1 and 2, warn-

ing them against reoffending and directing them to lead law-abiding lives.

The counselling was conducted under the supervision of the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Rajendranagar and Shamshabad Zones, along with police inspectors. Of

the 184 participants, 136 were from Rajendranagar zone and 48 from Shamshabad zone.

Police instructed the rowdy sheeters to maintain good conduct, stay away from criminal and anti-social activities and strictly comply with the law. They

MANUU: Spot Admissions in Regular B.Ed. and Polytechnic Courses

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, September 2:

Spot admissions are being offered in the regular B.Ed. and Polytechnic programmes at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU).

According to the Director of Admissions, Professor Syed Imtiyaz Hasan, under the spot admission process, students who qualified in the entrance examination but could not secure a seat during the initial admission phase are being given an opportunity to seek admission against the limited number of vacant seats available at the University’s Colleges of Teacher Education and Polytechnic Colleges located in various cities. Information regarding the seats available at the respective campuses can be obtained from the University website.

NIMS Nursing Admissions: First Phase Counselling On Sept 12

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.2 (NSS):

The Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) has scheduled the first-phase counselling for provisional selection of candidates seeking admission to the B.Sc. Nursing course for 2026 on September 12 (Saturday). Candidates whose names figure in the eligible candidates list displayed on the NIMS website must report at 9 am at the Learning Centre, Old OPD Block, NIMS.

Massive Protest Held Against Congress Government Over Unfulfilled Promises

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept 2:

A large-scale protest was organised in front of the Collectorate office against the Congress government, alleging failure to fulfil promises made to the people before the elections. The protesters said that the Congress government

had completed around 1,000 days in office, but several of the assurances given during the election campaign were yet to be fully implemented. Addressing the gathering, the protest leaders alleged that the government had made several promises, including the implementation

of six guarantees, creation of employment opportunities and fulfilment of other commitments made to the public. They expressed dissatisfaction over the alleged delay in implementing these assurances. The protesters particularly raised the issue of employment and jobs for unemployed youth, alleging

that the government had failed to fulfil its commitment to provide the promised number of jobs. They also demanded that the government implement its election promises without further delay. The speakers criticised the government for what they described as its failure to address the

problems of unemployed youth, farmers and other sections of society. They called upon the government to honour its commitments and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits promised to them. A large number of party leaders, workers and supporters participated in the protest.



A large-scale protest was organised in front of the Collectorate office against the Congress government, alleging failure to fulfil promises made to the people before the elections.

Telangana Tax Sleuths Raid 25 Premises, Bust Illegal Gutkha Unit

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.2:

The Telangana Commercial Taxes Department has intensified its crackdown on illegal Pan Masala and tobacco trade, inspecting 25 premises across Hyderabad on September 1 based on specific inputs. During the inspections, officials uncovered an unauthorised Pan Masala and Gutkha manufacturing unit operating from a residential premises at Erragunta near Barkas. Large quantities of raw materials, chemicals and

manufacturing inputs were found and seized. Officials also recovered counterfeit packaging materials carrying the names and branding of several popular brands, including RMD, Goa 100, Badshah, Zaffrani Gold and Vimal Pan Masala. Machinery, goods and packing materials at the unit were seized. Further inspections at Begum Bazaar, Feelkhana, Tolichowki, Golconda, Bada Bazaar, Langar Houz and Babanagar led to the detection and seizure of unaccounted stocks of Pan

Masala and other tobacco products. The department said further investigation is underway to trace the source and distribution network and determine the extent of tax evasion. Action will be initiated under the Telangana GST Act, 2017 and Central GST Act, 2017, besides other applicable laws. Officials warned the manufacturers and traders involved in clandestine manufacture, tax evasion, unaccounted stock or suppression of taxable transactions of strict action. (NSS)

Nearly 1.94 Million Voters in Hyderabad Flagged for Deletion During SIR

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.2:

Around 1,941,444 voters across Hyderabad's 15 Assembly constituencies have been flagged for deletion during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. According to an initial analysis by the Saber Institute and the Constitutional Guardians Forum, the number of voters marked for deletion is equivalent to approximately 46.1% of the January 2023 electoral roll. The report states that this figure is also higher than the combined victory margins of the winning candidates in

all 15 constituencies in the 2023 Assembly elections. The analysis further claims that approximately 40.7% of the voters marked for deletion have names that correspond to Muslim names. However, the researchers clarified that the Election Commission does not publish voter data based on religion. Therefore, this figure has been derived solely through an analysis of names and should not be treated as definitive religious data. Across Hyderabad's 4,094 polling stations, a total of 1,941,444 voters have been identified for possible deletion. Of these, 69.3% have

been classified as permanently shifted, while 17.5% have been categorised as missing or absent. Another 5.1% have been listed as deceased, and a further 5.1% as already enrolled elsewhere. The study noted that the process of submitting documents and verifying voters during the SIR could create difficulties, particularly for migrant workers, women, students, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and transgender persons. Significant constituency-wise variations were also reported. According to the report, the proportion of Muslim names among

voters flagged for deletion was 12.1% in Secunderabad Cantonment, while it reached 85.9% in Bahadurpura. The study further found that 19.8% of voters with Muslim names were classified as missing or absent, compared with approximately 16% among voters with non-Muslim names. The researchers stressed that these figures are based on a preliminary analysis. Since the Election Commission does not provide electoral-roll data classified by religion, the figures concerning Muslim voters were derived through name-based analysis.

Singareni rules out privatisation of underground coal mines

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.2:

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has clarified that the reports claiming that Singareni's underground coal mines are being privatised are completely false. In a statement on Wednesday, the SCCL said there is currently no proposal under consideration by the company to privatise Singareni's underground mines. As a responsible public sector undertaking with extensive experience in the mining sector, Singareni is currently producing coal

Nepal floods: 28 Andhra pilgrims safely cross affected area after Kailash

NSS
Tirupati:, Sept 2

At least 28 pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh who travelled to Nepal for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra are expected to return to their respective destinations on Friday after completing the pilgrimage and safely crossing a flood-affected area.Natural Disasters Venkatramana, proprietor of the Tirupati-based travel agency that organised the trip, said the group left for Nepal on August 21 and comprised 28 people, all from Andhra Pradesh. “Twenty-eight pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh who

travelled to Nepal for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra have completed their pilgrimage and are expected to return to their respective destinations this evening after safely crossing the flood-affected area,” Venkatramana told PTI. Geographic Reference He said the pilgrims encountered the flood situation while travelling towards an immigration office, but their vehicle had crossed the stretch shortly before floodwaters reached the area. The waters arrived approximately five minutes after the vehicle had crossed the location, he

added. Venkatramana said all 28 pilgrims were safe and that none had suffered injuries or faced any other reported difficulty due to the floods. The group was travelling from Nepal to Delhi, following which the pilgrims would take separate flights to their destinations. Some were scheduled to travel from Delhi to Visakhapatnam, while others would fly from Delhi to Hyderabad and then proceed to their respective places in Andhra Pradesh. Venkatramana also said he would travel to Tirupati on August 29 from Kathmandu.

HYDRAA Launches Demolition Drive Against Alleged Unauthorized Constructions in Hafeezpet

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.2:

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has launched demolition action against alleged unauthorized constructions in various areas of Hafeezpet, falling under the Serilingampally Assembly constituency. According to officials, action against illegal and unauthorized structures in the area has been intensified. The move comes in the wake of the collapse of a building constructed on a 50-square-yard plot in

Anjaiah Nagar, Gachibowli, which raised concerns over the safety of unauthorized constructions in the area. HYDRAA officials said unauthorized structures could pose serious risks to public safety. As a result, such constructions are being identified and action is being taken against them. Officials said the objective is to remove illegal structures in a timely manner and prevent major accidents or loss of life in the future. Further unauthorized constructions in Hafeezpet and surrounding areas are also being inspected. The HYDRAA action is

Telangana-Maharashtra Meeting on Tummidihetti Barrage Ends Without Final Decision

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.2 (NSS):

A crucial meeting between Telangana and Maharashtra officials over the construction of the Tummidihetti Barrage across the Pranahita River ended without a final decision. The meeting was held by the Central Water Commission (CWC) on Tuesday, September 1, with officials discussing several issues, including a proposal to increase the height of the barrage. According to sources, Telangana presented its case for raising the proposed height of the Tummidihetti Barrage from 148 metres to 152 metres. Telangana officials said a study conducted by the Central Water and Power Research Station

(CWPRS), Pune, indicated that increasing the barrage height would not significantly increase the area at risk of submergence. Telangana officials also assured Maharashtra that if any rehabilitation or resettlement of affected people in Maharashtra becomes necessary due to the barrage, the Telangana government would bear the entire cost. Telangana further maintained that the Tummidihetti project would not affect Maharashtra's existing water rights in the Godavari River. However, the meeting ended without reaching a consensus. Maharashtra officials sought additional technical information and documents related to the project. Telangana has been asked to share the findings

of the CWPRS study as well as the project's pre-feasibility report with Maharashtra officials for detailed examination. According to local reports, another meeting between the two states is likely to be held in about three weeks. Further discussions on various aspects of the project are expected at the next meeting based on the technical reports and other details to be provided by Telangana. The Tummidihetti Barrage project remains an important inter-state water issue between Telangana and Maharashtra. Reaching an agreement on the barrage height, submergence, rehabilitation and the water rights of both states is considered crucial for the project to move forward.

GHMC orders closure of meat shops, slaughterhouses on Sept 4

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.2 (NSS):

Hyderabad, Sept.2 (NSS): The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has issued orders directing the closure of all sheep & goats and cattle slaughterhouses and retail meat & beef shops within the GHMC limits on September 4, in view of Sri Krishna Janmashtami. As per the notice issued under Section 533(b) of

the GHMC Act, 1955, the decision has been taken considering the significance of Janmashtami. GHMC Commissioner R. V. Karnan has requested the Commissioners of Police of Hyderabad to extend full cooperation to the municipal authorities in enforcing the closure of all the sheep & goats and cattle slaughterhouses and meat & beef shops in the GHMC limits. (NSS)



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday invited Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to attend the Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026, being organised by the Telangana government at Bharat Future City from December 7 to 9.

TG SAFE raids medical shops over illegal sale of habit-forming drugs

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept.2 (NSS):

Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) – Drugs Wing, as part of a special drive to curb the illegal sale of habit-forming drugs, conducted raids at medical shops across the State on

Wednesday, September 2, 2026. The raids were conducted at several retail medical shops across the state, focusing on detecting the illegal sale of habit-forming drugs, including Tramadol tablets, Pregabalin containing formulations, Nitrazepam tablets, Alprazolam tab-

lets, Tapentadol tablets, Codeine- containing cough syrups, Zolpidem tablets among others. Discrepancies were detected in 158 medical shops during the raids, and Show Cause Notices were issued for initiating departmental action, including suspension / cancellation of drug licences.

Maulana Qazi Asad Sanaei Congratulates Daily Munsif on Launch of English Edition

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept 2,

The Daily Munsif is not merely a newspaper in the journalistic history of Hyderabad Deccan; it represents a movement, a culture and the dignity of Urdu journalism. I was delighted to learn that this historic and long-established institution has launched its English edition, keeping pace with the changing needs of the times. This is undoubtedly an important need of

the hour. Connecting the sweetness and cultural heritage of Urdu with the wider reach and global accessibility of the English language is a reflection of Munsif's vision and foresight. This initiative will not only take Munsif's message of truth and justice to a new generation and a wider readership, but will also give the voice of Hyderabad Deccan greater impact on the global stage. Munsif has always stood as the voice of the oppressed

and has demonstrated courage and impartiality while covering important national issues. Its contribution remains unparalleled in Urdu journalism. At a time when the shadows of bias are growing over the media, Munsif's decision to uphold the banner of truth and justice in the English language as well as a highly welcome step towards strengthening democracy. I am fully confident that the English edition, like its Urdu counterpart, will also

become a voice for truth and justice. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Muhammad Abdul Jalil, Chief Editor of Daily Munsif, and the entire Munsif team on this historic initiative. I pray that: May Allah bless this new journey of Munsif with even greater success and prosperity, and may the institution continue to serve as a guardian of the culture and journalistic values of the Deccan.

Congress failed to fulfil six guarantees even after 1,000 days: Harish

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.2 (NSS):

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday accused the Congress government of completely failing to fulfil its six guarantees, despite promising to implement them within 100 days of coming to power. A 'charge sheet' highlighting the alleged failures of the Congress government was released at Telangana Bhavan here under the

leadership of BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao, marking 1,000 days since the Congress government assumed office. Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao said former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, who played a key role in achieving statehood for Telangana, had built the new State with his experience and hard work in accordance with the aspirations of the people. He claimed that the BRS government had

provided nine-and-a-half years of good governance and implemented several programmes that became models for the country. However, after the Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy came to power, the systems developed during the previous regime were gradually deteriorating, he alleged. “Education, healthcare, power supply, drinking water and law and order have all collapsed,” Harish Rao

alleged. He said farmers had received 24-hour free power during the KCR regime, whereas they were now facing difficulties in getting adequate electricity under the Revanth Reddy government. Harish Rao also alleged that Telangana's healthcare system, which he claimed had emerged as one of the best in the country, had deteriorated to the extent that even basic medicines were unavailable in government hospitals.



At a Glance

NCW Seeks Strict Action

IANSS
New Delhi, Sep. 02



National Commission for Women Chairperson Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has called for strict punishment for those accused of allegedly gang-raping a 16-year-old girl inside a moving sleeper bus in Greater Noida. She said swift and stringent action could deter others from committing such offences. Rahatkar also stressed the need for a change in society's mindset towards women's safety. The NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of the August 4 incident and sought reports from the police on the investigation and compensation to the victim.

Aimim Spokesperson Asim Waqar Joins Congress

IANSS
Kolkata, Sep. 02

Senior All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader and national spokesperson Syed Asim Waqar joined the Congress on Wednesday, ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Waqar joined the party at the Congress headquarters in New Delhi in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Congress in-charge Rajendra Pal Gautam, state president Ajay Rai and Minority Department chairman and Rajya Sabha MP Imran Pratapgarhi.

Explaining his decision, Waqar alleged that while AIMIM claimed to oppose the BJP, its political activities on the ground were directed against Opposition parties, including the Congress and Samajwadi Party, thereby benefiting the BJP.

He said those seeking to defeat the BJP and estab-

After 200 Years, Maharashtra Family Welcomes Baby Girl in Chariot

IANSS
Maharashtra, Sep. 02

The Dahifale family in Maharashtra's Beed district celebrated the birth of baby girl Gargi with a grand chariot procession, saying she was the first daughter born in the family in generations.

Gargi and her mother were brought home from hospital in a decorated chariot amid drums, cymbals and dancing.

Heavy Rain Lashes Bengal; Yellow Alert Issued for Kolkata, South Bengal

IANSS
Kolkata, Sep. 02

Kolkata and several south Bengal districts are likely to receive more rain over the next two days due to a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, the Regional Meteorological Centre said on Wednesday

Monday.

A yellow warning has been issued for all south Bengal districts, with gusty winds of 30-40 kmph and moderate to heavy rain likely in some areas. Purulia, West Burdwan and Birbhum may receive heavy rain. Scattered rain and thunderstorms are expected

with heavy rain forecast and extremely heavy rain possible in Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar on Thursday. Persistent rain has caused waterlogging in several areas. In Birbhum's Bolpur, roads, homes and institutions were affected, while water reportedly reached knee-deep levels at Gitanjali Theatre.



The system has brought moderate to heavy showers across south Bengal, including Kolkata, since

across West Bengal until September 8.

North Bengal is also likely to remain unsettled,

Kolkata also witnessed heavy rain and waterlogging on Wednesday.

23 Crore Aid Reaches 78,000 Assam Women

IANSS
Guwahati, Sep. 02

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said more than 78,000 pregnant women and mothers received financial assistance of over Rs 23 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) during the first 100 days of his government's tenure.

In a post on X, Sarma said the assistance was aimed at helping women take better care of themselves and their newborn children.

The PMMVY is a centrally sponsored maternity benefit scheme that provides financial support to eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers, particularly those from economically vulnerable sections. The scheme is intended to partly compensate for wage loss and encourage health-seeking behaviour.

Sarma said the latest figures reflected the government's efforts to strengthen maternal and child welfare and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive financial support during pregnancy and the early stages of motherhood.

The assistance is also intended to ease the additional household expenses associated with



Assam to Recruit up To 20,000 Youths into Police Force

IANSS
Guwahati, Sep. 02

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday announced that the state government will recruit 15,000-20,000 youths into the Assam Police to strengthen the force and create employment opportunities.

Addressing a passing-out ceremony at the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy in Dergaon, Sarma said the recruitment would bring more young men and women into the police force.

The ceremony marked the induction of 32 Deputy Superintendents of Police and 371 constables after completion of their training.

Sarma urged the newly inducted personnel to uphold discipline, courage and professional integrity. He also praised the Assam Police for its efforts against drug trafficking, saying the force had seized drugs worth around Rs 3,253 crore and apprehended 26,537 drug traffickers so far.

The Chief Minister said tackling drugs, organised

crime and other security challenges remained a priority and stressed the importance of a strong, professionally trained police force.

He also highlighted the role of the Lachit Borphukan Police Academy, saying it had produced around 21,000 trained police officers and personnel over the years. The proposed recruitment drive, he said, would strengthen policing while providing jobs to a large number of young people across Assam.

pregnancy, childbirth and newborn care.

The state government has been highlighting direct delivery of welfare benefits as part of its governance agenda.

Officials are also focusing on registering eligible women and ensuring that benefits reach them directly.

The government is expected to continue efforts

to expand awareness and coverage of maternity welfare schemes, particularly among women in rural and economically disadvantaged communities.

ED Arrests Key Accused in CGPSC Scam

IANSS
Raipur, Sep. 02

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday arrested key accused Utkarsh Chandrakar over alleged irregularities, question-paper leaks and corruption in the recruitment process of the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission (CGPSC). The agency also searched premises in Raipur, Durg, Dhamtari and Jashpur under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The probe stems from FIRs registered by the Economic Offences Wing of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Raipur, and the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch, Raipur. The cases concern alleged manipulation and corruption in the CGPSC State Service Examinations held in 2020 and 2021, involving former CGPSC chairman Taman Singh Sonwani and others.

According to the ED, question papers were allegedly leaked to relatives of accused persons and selected candidates through private brokers for illegal gratification, facilitating fraudulent selections to

posts including Deputy Collector and Deputy Superintendent of Police.

The agency said Utkarsh Chandrakar and Dr Vikash Chandrakar allegedly generated proceeds of crime exceeding Rs 3 crore by collecting cash from aspirants for promised leaked CGPSC-2021 papers. Around Rs 2.80 crore was allegedly handed over to Anil Chandrakar.

The ED further alleged that Utkarsh Chandrakar used the name and influence of his maternal uncle K.K. Chandravanshi, then a Personal Assistant to the former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, to influence aspirants and collect money.

The agency said evidence from earlier searches, statements under Section 50 of the PMLA, digital data and bank-account analysis indicated his alleged involvement in handling and projecting proceeds of crime as untainted property.

Chandrakar was arrested on September 1 under Section 19 of the PMLA. Officials seized documents, digital devices, financial records and property papers during the searches. Further investigation is underway.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar Begins Two-day Goa Visit to Review Poll Preparedness

IANSS
Kolkata, Sep. 02

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar arrived in Goa on Wednesday for a two-day visit focused on reviewing ground-level electoral processes, interacting with election officials and engaging with young voters ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Kumar's visit is centred on field-level experiences and electoral awareness. He is scheduled to interact with more than 1,000 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) on Wednesday and review their feedback from the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise conducted earlier this year.

On Thursday, the CEC will interact with students associated with Electoral Literacy Clubs as part of efforts to promote democratic and electoral awareness among young citizens.

Goa Chief Electoral Officer Dr Sanjay Goel and other officials welcomed Kumar upon his arrival in



the state.

Officials said there is no scheduled interaction with political parties during the visit. A separate meeting of the full Election Commission to review election preparedness is expected to be held in Goa in October or November.

The visit assumes significance as Goa prepares for its next Legislative Assembly elections, expected in February 2027, before the current Assembly's term expires in March.

The electoral roll revision resulted in a 10.2 per cent net reduction in Goa's voter list, with the number of electors falling from 11,85,034 to 10,57,566

following the deletion of 1,39,634 names.

The deletions had triggered a political controversy, with the Opposition Congress alleging that the exercise disproportionately affected its supporters and resulted in the removal of eligible voters.

In the 2022 Assembly elections, Goa recorded a voter turnout of 79.61 per cent across its 40 constituencies. The BJP won 20 seats, while the Congress secured 11. The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party and Aam Aadmi Party won two seats each, while the Goa Forward Party and Revolutionary Goans Party secured one seat each. Independent candidates won three seats.

The current two-day engagement will give the Election Commission an opportunity to assess electoral administration at the grassroots level and review voter-enrolment and polling arrangements ahead of the next electoral cycle.

Chennai Civic Body Opens Nental Health Centre for Staff

IANSS
Kolkata, Sep. 02

Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner G.S. Sameeran on Wednesday inaugurated the Mind Mandira Wellness Centre at the

Ripon Buildings complex to provide professional counselling and emotional support to Corporation employees.

The centre, established in the Revenue Department building, is part of a mental

health initiative jointly launched by the Greater Chennai Corporation, CREDAI Chennai Foundation and Dhriti Foundation. The programme aims to raise mental health awareness, help employees manage

workplace stress, build emotional resilience and encourage timely professional support.

Employees can register at the centre or contact the helpline on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. In-person consultations

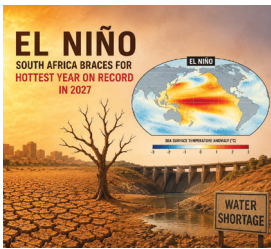
with psychologists and trained counsellors will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The initiative also seeks to reduce stigma around mental health and promote a supportive workplace culture.



At a Glance

El Nino May Make 2027 Hottest

IAN S
Cape Town, Sep. 02



South Africa could record its hottest year in 2027 amid an intensifying El Nino event, the South African Weather Service (SAWS) has warned. The agency said the event could become the strongest in living memory, with Pacific sea temperatures potentially rising more than 3 degrees Celsius above normal.

SAWS forecast below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures across much of South Africa. Combined with global warming, the 2026/27 El Nino could make 2027 the warmest year on record. The agency also warned of severe heatwaves and water scarcity.

EAM Jaishankar Arrives in Poland To Strengthen Bilateral Ties

IAN S
New Delhi, Sep. 02

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived in Poland on Wednesday for an official visit aimed at further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

India’s Ambassador to Poland, Neeta Bhushan, received Jaishankar at Warsaw Chopin Airport.

“On his arrival in Warsaw, EAM Dr S Jaishankar was warmly welcomed by Amb Neeta Bhushan at Warsaw Chopin airport,” the Indian Embassy in Poland said in a post on X.

During his visit, Jaishankar is scheduled to hold talks with Poland’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski.

After concluding his engagements in Poland, Jaishankar will travel to Ukraine, where he is scheduled to meet his Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the visit will focus on strengthening bilateral relations and provide an opportunity to exchange views on region-



al developments and issues of mutual interest.

The visit follows discussions held in July between MEA Secretary (West) Sibi George and senior Polish officials Wladyslaw T. Bartoszewski, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Michal Baranowski, Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology.

The discussions reaffirmed the two countries’ commitment to strengthening cooperation in political engagement, trade and investment, technology, defence, culture, the fight

against global terrorism and other areas of mutual interest.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X that the talks reflected the depth of the India-Poland Strategic Partnership.

“Secretary (West) Sibi George met with the Polish Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Wladyslaw T. Bartoszewski and Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Mr. Michal Baranowski,” Jaiswal said.

He added that the wide-ranging discussions

reaffirmed the shared commitment to expanding cooperation across political engagement, trade and investment, technology, defence, culture and counter-terrorism.

India and Poland have longstanding friendly relations, marked by high-level political contacts and economic engagement.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1954. According to the Indian Embassy in Poland, India and Poland have shared common perspectives on issues including opposition to colonialism, imperialism and racism.

FM Sitharaman Meets Global Finance Leaders, Discusses India’s Growth Trajectory

IAN S
Asheville, Sep. 02

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held a series of bilateral meetings with global economic leaders on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting, discussing the global economic outlook, India’s growth trajectory and opportunities to deepen economic cooperation.

Sitharaman met European Commissioner for Economy and Financial Affairs Valdis Dombrovskis and discussed strengthening the India-EU Economic and Financial Partnership through the India-EU macroeconomic dialogue and the Trade and Technology Council (TTC).

The two sides reviewed ongoing negotiations on the India-EU Free Trade Agreement and Investment Protection Agreement and discussed resilient and diversified supply chains, including cooperation in critical raw materials and technologies. Sitharaman stressed the need not only

to secure critical minerals but also to develop processing and value-addition capabilities.

They also explored greater cooperation in FinTech, artificial intelligence and generative AI, including stronger engagement between Indian and European start-ups.

Sitharaman also met IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva to discuss the global economic outlook and India’s evolving growth trajectory. Georgieva appreciated India’s strong economic performance and track record, an official statement said.

The discussions covered structural shifts in India and the need to appropriately reflect these developments in macroeconomic assessments and growth projections. Sitharaman highlighted India’s strong macroeconomic fundamentals and called for robust, evidence-based surveillance frameworks that adequately capture structural changes in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies.

The two leaders also discussed the IMF’s

capacity-development initiatives aimed at strengthening institutional capacity, macroeconomic policymaking and statistical systems in EMDEs.

Sitharaman separately met South Korean Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Koo Yun-cheol. She discussed strengthening bilateral economic and financial cooperation, including early working-level consultations for the India-Korea Finance Ministers’ Meeting.

She also stressed the need to expand cooperation in strategic areas such as critical minerals and resilient supply chains. Sitharaman held talks with Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov on bilateral cooperation, regional and global economic developments and issues of shared interest in multilateral forums.

The two ministers discussed cooperation through the New Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and explored areas to strengthen both institutions as effective multilateral development banks.

Heatwaves, Drought to Cut French GDP Growth by 0.1 Percentage Point in 2026

IAN S
Paris, Sep. 02

Heatwaves and drought in France are expected to shave 0.1 percentage point off the country’s GDP growth in 2026 due to lower agricultural production, the Ministry of Economy and Finance said on Wednesday.

The estimate was presented by the French Treasury during a National Assembly hearing examining the economic cost of heatwaves.

Preliminary data showed that the weather conditions had considerably affected some agricultural production, particularly corn, with output expected to fall 35 per cent from 2025.

The ministry said the impact on agriculture had been compounded by the Middle East conflict through higher gas prices, which increased nitrogen fertiliser costs, and disruptions to global fertiliser trade.

France’s GDP growth

was meanwhile revised to zero quarter-on-quarter in the second quarter of 2026, from a preliminary estimate of 0.2 per cent, according to revised data released by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE).

INSEE said the revision reflected a further deterioration in agricultural production compared with information available at the end of July, Xinhua news agency reported.

At a drought crisis meeting on August 12, French Minister for Ecological Transition Monique Barbut said this summer’s heatwaves could cost the French economy between 10 billion and 15 billion euros.

Heatwaves, prolonged drought and wildfires have affected large parts of Europe this summer, damaging crops, reducing harvests and raising operating costs for farmers and businesses.

Extreme weather is also

altering grape-growing and harvesting patterns. In France, growers from Languedoc to Burgundy and Champagne have begun harvesting one to two weeks earlier than last year as repeated heatwaves accelerated ripening.

In Italy, Sicilian cooperative Cantine Ermes began harvesting early white grapes in late July. Its president, Rosario Di Maria, said yields were likely to fall below normal levels.

Egypt: 16 Killed, 28 Injured as Bus

IAN S
Cairo, Sep. 02

At least 16 people were killed and 28 injured after a bus overturned on the Dahab-Nuweiba road in Egypt’s South Sinai on Wednesday, local media reported, citing the Health and Population Ministry.

The accident occurred near the Al-Saada area as the bus was travelling towards Nuweiba. Twenty ambulances were rushed to the spot to evacuate the injured and provide first aid. Health Minister Khaled Abdel Ghaffar directed officials to ensure



proper medical care, while Solidarity Minister Maya Morsy ordered emergency assistance for those affected.

The crash comes amid a rise in road deaths in Egypt. CAPMAS figures showed 5,829 people were killed and 84,553 injured in road accidents in 2025, increases of 10.8 per cent and 10.7 per cent, respectively.

Imran Khan’s Sister Files Second Contempt Plea In Pakistan SC

IAN S
Islamabad, Sep. 02

Uzma Khan, sister of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, on Wednesday filed a second contempt petition in the Supreme Court, alleging non-implementation of its August 18 orders on his family meetings and communication.



Fifth Indian Aircraft Lands In Nepal with Relief Supplies

IAN S
Kathmandu, Sep. 02

A fifth Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft landed in Nepal on Wednesday carrying an 11-member rescue team with specialised equipment and 5.5 tonnes of essential medicines as India continued its humanitarian assistance following devastating flash floods that have killed more than 1,100 people.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Indian Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava handed over the latest consignment of relief material to the local authorities.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on X that the aircraft was carrying the specialised rescue team and medicines.

India has so far sent more than 68 tonnes of emergency relief supplies and specialised rescue teams to Nepal. The assistance includes blankets, sleeping bags, heavy-duty tarpaulins, plastic sheet-



ing, hygiene kits, medicines, food packets, solar lamps, water-purification tablets and portable generators.

The assistance comes after catastrophic flash floods struck Nepal following a glacial collapse in Tibet on August 26.

According to Nepal’s National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), 1,114 bodies swept away by last week’s floods had been recovered by 9 a.m. Wednesday. Around 3,916 people remain unaccounted for.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Wednesday called for stronger international attention to climate-related risks in the Himalayan region. Addressing the House of Representatives, he said Nepal needed to highlight more forcefully the disasters it was facing due to climate change.

Experts said an avalanche blocked the Lengde Khola, a tributary of the Bhotekoshi River near the Nepal-China border. The accumulated water later breached the natural barrier, triggering a massive flood that swept downstream towards the

Trishuli River and devastated settlements and infrastructure.

Shah said the disaster had raised questions about how such an event occurred and what it meant for Nepal’s future.

“The huge disaster, whose impacts of climate change we have suddenly experienced, has kept us working around the clock to manage the damage. At the same time, another profound question has arisen in our minds: How did this disaster come upon us?” he said.

India, Seychelles Move to Deepen Parliamentary Ties

IAN S
New Delhi, Sep. 02

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday met Seychelles National Assembly Speaker Azarel Ernesta and a visiting parliamentary delegation to discuss strengthening parliamentary exchanges and cooperation in capacity building, Digital Parliament, Artificial Intelligence, technology, infrastructure, renewable energy and healthcare.

Birla said sustained parliamentary engagement would provide fresh momentum to the bilateral partnership and strengthen the close ties between India and Seychelles.

In a post on X, Birla said the discussions reaffirmed the enduring friendship between the two countries, rooted in shared democratic values. He also highlighted the importance of strengthening the voice of the Global South and



said Seychelles remained an important partner in advancing India’s Vision MAHASAGAR in the Indian Ocean region.

The meeting comes as India and Seychelles mark 50 years of Seychelles’ independence and 50 years of diplomatic relations.

In June, Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a three-day State Visit to Seychelles at the invitation of President Patrick Herminie. He held talks with Herminie, attended the golden jubilee celebrations of Seychelles National Day as the Guest of Honour and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the

Peace Park in Victoria.

Modi also offered prayers at the Arulmigu Navasakthi Vinayagar Temple in Victoria. During the visit, he was conferred the ‘Guardian of the Blue Horizon’, Seychelles’ highest distinction for leadership in environmental conservation and sustainable development.

According to the Indian High Commission in Seychelles, India’s engagement with the island nation is marked by historical ties and longstanding Indian support for Seychelles’ security and development. The two countries share close friendship, understanding and cooperation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Adiala Jail Superintendent Sajid Baig and other senior officials were named respondents. The plea alleged that Imran Khan was denied a meeting with his sisters on Tuesday and had not spoken to his sons, Kasim and Sulaiman, since March. It also claimed that twice-weekly phone calls ordered by the court had not been arranged.

The petition urged the court to ensure compliance with its directions. Uzma Khan’s earlier contempt plea concerned the alleged non-implementation of an order to transfer Imran Khan to Shifa International Hospital. Though ordered on August 18, he was taken to PIMS on August 21 and later returned to Adiala Jail after doctors declared him fit.

PTI criticised the denial of family meetings, alleging violations of Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court orders, and urged authorities to comply with judicial directions.

Mohan Bhagwat’s Message on Muslims: A Welcome Change or a Question of Double Standards?

By Dr. Shujath Ali Sufi, Veterana Journalist

Mohan Bhagwat’s recent statement in New York that a Hindu who believes there should be no Muslims in Bharat cannot truly be called a Hindu is, on the face of it, a powerful message of religious coexistence. Speaking at an event in New York, the RSS chief emphasised that Hindu philosophy recognises the unity of humanity, that different religions can follow different paths, and that India’s diversity must be protected and respected.

The statement deserves to be welcomed. In a country as diverse as India, no citizen should be told that his or her religion makes them less Indian. Muslims have been an inseparable part of India’s history, society and culture for centuries. The idea that Muslims should be driven out of India is incompatible with the constitutional principle of equal citizenship.

But Bhagwat’s statement also raises an uncomfortable question: Will this principle be applied consistently?

This is where the debate about the RSS chief’s alleged “double standards” begins.



It is one thing for Bhagwat to say in an international forum that a Hindu who wants Muslims out of India is not a Hindu. It is another thing to ensure that the same principle is reflected consistently in the political and social environment associated with the RSS. The credibility of such a statement ultimately depends not only on the words of the RSS chief but also on whether exclusionary rhetoric is challenged when it comes from people within the broader Hindutva ecosystem.

Bhagwat has made similar conciliatory arguments before. His recent statement was presented as a reiteration of his position that Hindutva does not require the exclusion

of Muslims and that a Hindu Rashtra cannot simply mean a country without Muslims.

That raises an important question. If Muslims are an integral part of Bharat, why should their patriotism, loyalty or cultural belonging repeatedly become subjects of political debate

A consistent principle would be simple: Muslims should not have to prove that they belong to India any more than Hindus do.

The same standard must apply to everyone. If a Muslim leader makes an inflammatory statement, it should be condemned. But if a Hindu leader makes an inflammatory statement, it should be condemned with equal force. If Muslims are

criticised for communalism, Hindu communalism should also be criticised. If Muslims are expected to respect the Constitution, Hindu organisations and leaders must be held to exactly the same constitutional standard.

This is particularly important because the RSS is not an insignificant social organisation. Bhagwat leads an organisation with enormous ideological and social influence in India, and the RSS has a close relationship with the wider political ecosystem of the BJP. Reuters recently reported that critics, including the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, have accused the RSS of promoting majoritarian ideology

and intolerance towards minorities, allegations that the RSS rejects.

Therefore, Bhagwat’s words cannot be evaluated in isolation from the organisation he leads.

If Bhagwat genuinely believes that excluding Muslims is contrary to Hindu values, then this should become a clear organisational principle. Whenever a public figure associated with the broader Sangh ecosystem suggests that Muslims are outsiders, enemies or people who do not belong in India, the RSS leadership should unequivocally reject such rhetoric.

That would transform Bhagwat’s New York speech from a reassuring statement into a meaningful political and social intervention.

Otherwise, critics will reasonably ask whether the statement is primarily aimed at improving the RSS’s image rather than confronting the deeper problem of religious polarisation.

There is another important issue in Bhagwat’s formulation. He says that a person who wants Muslims to have no place in Bharat cannot really be a Hindu. This is a strong moral judgement. But who decides what makes somebody a Hindu?

RBI’s Dollar-Rupee Swap Facility Attracts

IANSA
New Delhi, Sep. 02

India’s banking system has attracted \$136.38 billion in foreign currency inflows through the Reserve Bank of India’s special dollar-rupee swap facility, with FCNR(B) deposits accounting for the bulk of the mobilisation, according to provisional RBI data released on Wednesday.

Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) or FCNR(B) deposits accounted for \$127.23 billion of the total inflows as of August 31. Overseas foreign currency borrowings (OFCBs) contributed \$5.26 billion, while external commercial borrowings (ECBs) brought in \$3.89 billion.

The RBI said the figures are provisional and subject to final reporting, accounting and reconciliation.

The central bank introduced the special USD-INR forex swap facility on June 8 to attract foreign currency into the Indian banking system and strengthen external buffers. The FCNR(B) deposit mobilisation window was initially scheduled to remain open until September 30.

The pace of mobilisation accelerated sharply in August. As of August 21, banks had raised \$65.4 billion through FCNR(B) deposits, while combined inflows through FCNR(B) deposits, ECBs



and OFCBs stood at around \$73 billion.

Following the strong response, the RBI advanced the closure of the FCNR(B) deposit mobilisation window to August 31. However, the swap facility for eligible FCNR(B) deposits already mobilised will remain available with the RBI until September 11.

The schemes covering ECBs and OFCBs will remain open until December 31, 2026, allowing banks and eligible borrowers additional time to access the facility through these routes.

The strong mobilisation of longer-tenure FCNR(B) deposits indicates increased demand among banks for overseas dollar funding, with the RBI’s swap facility helping manage foreign currency exposure.

The large-scale mobilisation has also influenced liquidity conditions in the domestic banking system. Banking-system liquidity rose to Rs 6.65 lakh crore on August 31, the highest level since May 2022. The weighted average call rate declined to 4.98 per cent, moving below the prevailing repo rate.

The latest mobilisation is significantly higher than the response to the RBI’s earlier FCNR(B) swap scheme introduced in 2013, when banks raised around \$26 billion through FCNR(B) deposits.

The RBI’s latest data confirms the total forex inflow at \$136.377 billion, comprising \$127.226 billion through FCNR(B) deposits, \$5.260 billion through OFCBs and \$3.891 billion through ECBs

Insurance Firms Ddvised to Improve Profitability, Speed up Grievance Redressal

IANSA
New Delhi, Sep. 02

Public sector general insurance companies have been advised to focus on profitable lines of business and take measures to reduce their incurred claim ratio (ICR), at a high-level performance review meeting chaired by Department of Financial Services (DFS) Secretary Sanjay Lohiya on Wednesday.

Lohiya urged National Insurance, United India Insurance, Oriental Insurance and Agriculture Insurance to accelerate digitalisation, make greater use of technology and optimise spending on IT and other digital initiatives.

He also stressed the need for prompt and quality redressal of customer grievances, according to an official statement.

The meeting reviewed the financial and business performance of the



insurers for 2025-26, including underwriting performance across business lines, key performance indicators, digital initiatives and other operational matters.

Lohiya called for stronger communication, publicity and customer outreach through social media and other platforms to improve awareness of insurance products and expand coverage in underserved segments and areas. The insurers were also

advised to increase insurance penetration and density while reducing protection gaps. The Secretary emphasised the need for a robust, standardised key performance indicator (KPI) framework to enable consistent and comparable assessment of financial and non-financial performance.

He said the KPIs should be reviewed quarterly to ensure closer monitoring of performance.

The meeting was attended by National Insurance CMD Rajeshwari Singh Muni, United India Insurance CMD Bhupesh S. Rahul, Oriental Insurance CMD Sanjay Joshi and Agriculture Insurance Company of India CMD Lavanya R. Mundayur.

Additional Secretary Debasish Prusty and other senior DFS officials also participated in the discussions.

Maharashtra FDA Suspends EatClub Outlet Licence Over Food Safety Violations

IANSA
New Delhi, Sep. 02

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has suspended the food licence of an EatClub Brands outlet in Mumbai with immediate effect after an inspection found multiple food safety, hygiene and operational violations.

The action, effective September 2, was taken under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the rules and regulations framed under it. The outlet is located at Royal Palms, Aarey Milk Colony, Goregaon East.

The suspension applies only to the concerned establishment and does not cover EatClub’s other outlets. The company operates food brands including Box8 and Mojo Pizza.

According to an official FDA press note, inspectors found inadequate

storage arrangements for food products, packaging materials and chemicals. They also reported poor hygiene, inadequate handwashing facilities, insufficient lighting and ventilation, and gaps in pest-control measures.

The regulator said the outlet lacked adequate measures to prevent pests from entering through its rear door. Inspectors also found that raw materials were not being properly checked for potential food safety hazards or adequately cleaned before being used in food preparation.

The FDA further said food handlers were not provided with required protective equipment, including aprons, gloves, headgear and shoe covers. Records relating to food-handler training and employees’ medical examinations were also found to be inadequate.

The establishment



was also found to lack an adequate mechanism for addressing consumer complaints and did not have the required technical personnel during the inspection, the FDA said.

In another violation, ice cream and carbonated beverages were being sold at the premises even though they were

not covered by the establishment’s food licence. Citing concerns over consumer health, the regulator ordered the immediate suspension of the licence.

The FDA has also suspended the food licence of Rani Diets Consultant and Service Providers on Kurla-Andheri Road in Jarimari, Kurla West.

An inspection of the premises found active rat and pest infestation, along with dirt, grease, food residue and stagnant water in food preparation and storage areas. Damaged flooring, inadequate drainage and improper waste disposal were among the other deficiencies identified by inspectors

Indian Scientists Find Thermal Shocks Could Aid Drug Delivery

IANSA
New Delhi, Sep. 02

Indian scientists have found that sudden changes in temperature can temporarily make jammed systems flow by erasing their memory of previous conditions, a finding that could potentially help in developing targeted and controlled drug-delivery systems.

Researchers at the Raman Research Institute (RRI), an autonomous institute under the Department of

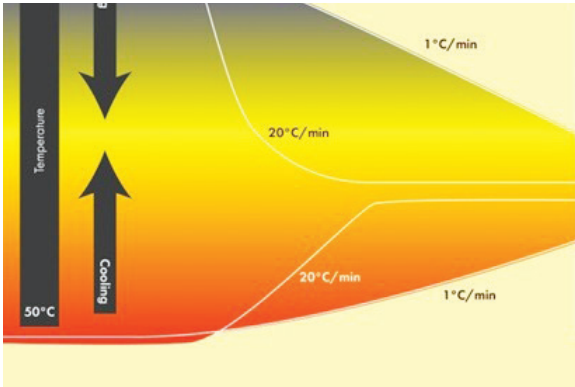
Science and Technology, used microgel particles to model glassy, jammed materials. They found that rapid heating could trigger rearrangements of the particles, temporarily pushing the system into a liquid-like state and reducing asymmetries in its response.

The study, published in the Journal of Colloid and Interface Science, examined how dense suspensions of microgel particles respond to thermal shocks. The research was led by Sonali Vasant Kawale, a

PhD student at RRI and the first author of the study.

Materials such as glass can have mechanical properties similar to solids while their structural characteristics resemble those of liquids. Such materials can also retain memory of their previous thermal or mechanical conditions.

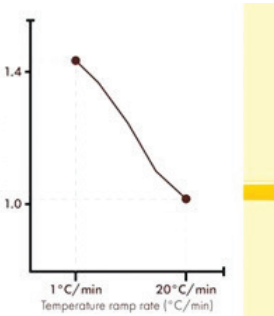
For the experiments, Kawale used soft microgel particles that can absorb 300-500 times their weight in water. The material is also used in products such as diapers and sanitary napkins.



The particles were synthesised, ground into a fine powder and suspended in water. The suspension was stirred for 24 hours, sonicated for 15 minutes and

refrigerated at 4 degrees Celsius for stability before the experiments.

The researchers observed that the path followed by the suspension



while being heated to a target temperature of 20 degrees Celsius differed from the path during cooling. The two paths were therefore not mirror

images of each other.

This indicated that the behaviour of the system depended not only on its initial and final temperatures but also on the route taken between them. The study describes this as path-dependent structural recovery.

The researchers said understanding how external disturbances such as thermal shocks influence the structural recovery of jammed materials could have potential applications in drug delivery, where controlled movement and release of materials are important.

The findings could eventually contribute to targeted and controlled drug-release approaches aimed at reducing unwanted side effects. However, the present work is a study of the underlying behaviour of microgel glasses rather than a demonstrated drug-delivery treatment.

The RRI team plans to investigate how the path-dependent behaviour of jammed systems changes under mechanical shocks and compare their effects with those produced by thermal shocks.



BCCI Tightens Fitness Policy, Players to Be Picked Only After Strong Medical Clearance



New Delhi, Sep 2:

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reportedly tightening its player-selection process following criticism over the handling of injured players in recent months.

The board has adopted a more cautious approach towards the fitness of players selected for international assignments. According to a report, the BCCI now wants to be completely certain about a player’s fitness and availability before confirming a place in the squad.

The issue gained attention after several players, including Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Washington Sundar and Nitish Kumar Reddy, were included in squads despite fitness concerns and were subsequently ruled out after being unable to fully participate.

Under the revised approach, players who are not yet completely fit

may still be considered, but their selection will be clearly made subject to fitness. This allows the selectors to keep alternative players ready if the concerned player fails to pass the required fitness assessment before the series.

BCCI officials have also explained that international squads are often announced three to four weeks before a tour or series. A player who is not fit on the day of selection could recover before the actual assignment begins. Therefore, the board does not want to rule out such players prematurely.

BCCI Centre of Excellence head VVS Laxman has previously stressed that fitness reports and selection decisions are being communicated transparently to both players and the public. He said the process remains focused on the interests of both the player and the team.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia also said that the

fitness condition attached to certain selections is intended to provide clarity, as a player may recover during the period between selection and the start of the series. The new approach comes amid growing scrutiny of the management of injured players and is aimed at avoiding last-minute withdrawals that could disrupt team combinations.

For the upcoming three-match T20I series against Afghanistan, Bumrah and Nitish Kumar Reddy are reportedly progressing well and are expected to be available for the opening match in Delhi on September 13, subject to final fitness clearance.

However, the availability of Harshit Rana and Washington Sundar remains uncertain. The BCCI is expected to take a cautious approach and make a final decision only after receiving clear fitness updates from the Centre of Excellence.

Meena Kumari’s ‘Pakeezah’ 4K Restoration to Premiere at London Film Festival

New Delhi, Sep 2:

Kamal Amrohi’s iconic 1972 classic Pakeezah, starring legendary actress Meena Kumari, is set to return to audiences in a newly restored 4K version, more than five decades after its original release.

The restoration has been undertaken by the non-profit Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) in collaboration with the Amrohi family. The restored film will have its world premiere at the Festival Lumière in Lyon, France, and will also be screened at the BFI London Film Festival.

Tajdar Amrohi, son of filmmaker Kamal Amrohi, recalled attending the grand premiere of Pakeezah in 1972 with his father and Meena Kumari. He said he never imagined that 54 years later he



would have the opportunity to present the restored film at a gala premiere in London alongside his family.

Tajdar also recalled how deeply his father was involved in the making of the film, describing Pakeezah as his life’s mission. He said much of his childhood revolved around the film and that he frequently visited its sets at Filmistan Studios.

Kamal Amrohi’s daughter Rukhsaar Amrohi described Pakeezah as her

father’s lifelong obsession and praised Meena Kumari’s performance, saying no other actress could have played the title character in the same way.

Released after years of production, Pakeezah went on to become one of the most celebrated films in Hindi cinema. The 4K restoration aims to preserve its visual and artistic legacy while allowing a new generation of audiences to experience the classic on the international festival circuit.

Urmila Matondkar Celebrates 25 Years of ‘Aa Hi Jaiye’: ‘Keep

New Delhi, Sep 2:

Actress Urmila Matondkar has marked 25 years of her popular song Aa Hi Jaiye from the 2001 film Lajja, thanking fans for keeping the track alive and showering it with love even decades after its release.

Urmila shared a short video on social media in which she appeared in a shimmering pink outfit, with Aa Hi Jaiye playing in the background. Reflecting on the song’s

enduring popularity, the actress expressed gratitude to fans for the affection they have continued to show towards it.

She also appreciated the numerous social media posts dedicated to the song and encouraged her followers to embrace life with positivity.

“What’s important is keep dancing through life, no matter what,” Urmila wrote, adding that there is a “diva” in everyone.

Directed and produced by Rajkumar Santoshi,

Lajja featured Manisha Koirala, Madhuri Dixit, Rekha and Mahima Chaudhry in key roles, along with Anil Kapoor, Ajay Devgn, Jackie Shroff and Danny Denzongpa.

Urmila made a special appearance in the song and was not part of the film’s main cast. Lajja revolves around four women who face patriarchy, abuse and social injustice in different ways, with their characters drawing parallels with different versions of Sita.

Dasgupta Urges India to Prepare for Life Beyond Jadeja

Ranchi, Sep 2:

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Deep Dasgupta has urged the team management to start planning for life beyond Ravindra Jadeja in Test cricket, saying the veteran all-rounder no longer appears as effective as he once was with the ball.

Jadeja, 37, took eight wickets in the recent two-Test series against Sri Lanka. However, Dasgupta felt India’s spinners lacked the expected penetration, particularly in the second Test in Colombo, where Sri Lanka’s lower order resisted despite being forced to follow on.

“Jadeja has been a great servant, but it’s done now,” Dasgupta said on his YouTube channel, while pointing to a de-

cline in the spinner’s accuracy and effectiveness.

Dasgupta also highlighted repeated no-ball issues involving India’s spinners, saying such mistakes often stem from training habits. Jadeja bowled one no-ball in the series, while Test debutant Saransh Jain overstepped four times.

Looking ahead, Dasgupta backed Washington Sundar as a potential long-term successor to Jadeja in the spin-bowling all-rounder role, while identifying young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar as another promising option.

Jadeja remains one of India’s most accomplished Test all-rounders and recently became only the fourth player in Test history to complete the milestone of 4,000 runs and 350 wickets.

US Open: Zverev Eyes Second Grand Slam Title After Strong Start

New Delhi, Sep 2:

World No. 2 Alexander Zverev has set his sights on a second Grand Slam title after making a strong yet challenging start to his US Open 2026 campaign.

The German top seed survived a tough opening-round battle against Italy’s Lorenzo Sonego at Arthur Ashe Stadium, eventually winning 6-4, 3-6, 6-7(7), 7-5, 6-4 in a match that lasted five sets.

Zverev arrived in New York with renewed confidence after winning his maiden Grand Slam title at the French Open earlier this year. The breakthrough ended a long wait for the 29-year-old, who had pre-

viously fallen short in several major finals.

Reflecting on his first Grand Slam triumph, Zverev said the victory had removed some of the pressure from his shoulders but had also in-



creased his hunger for more success.

“We’re in New York now, and I want to try and do it again. I feel like I’m finding my rhythm; I feel like I’m finding my game again,” Zverev said in an interview shared by JioStar.

The German also praised the special atmosphere at the US Open, particularly the energetic crowds and the famous night sessions in New York.

Zverev will next face Quentin Halys in the second round as he continues his pursuit of another major title. With his confidence growing and his form improving, the German will look to build on his hard-fought opening victory and make a deep run in New York.

Ananya Panday Gets Emotional After Completing Her First Pull-Up

New Delhi, Sep 2:

Bollywood actress Ananya Panday celebrated an important milestone in her fitness journey after successfully performing her first-ever pull-up.

The CTRL actress shared a short video of the achievement on her Instagram Stories, appearing emotional after completing the challenging exercise. She also revealed that she managed to complete 20 push-ups in a row during her workout session.

“20 push-ups in a row today,” Ananya wrote, celebrating her progress and adding that she was focused on increasing her repetitions.

Ananya regularly shares glimpses of her fitness routine on social media and follows a disciplined workout and diet plan to stay fit. She is sometimes joined by actor Sara Ali Khan during her exercise sessions.

The actress recently also gave fans a candid look at her skincare struggles,



sharing a picture of herself wearing pimple patches while talking about sudden breakouts.

Ananya made her Bollywood debut in 2019 with Student of the Year 2, alongside Tiger Shroff and Tara Sutaria. She later appeared in films including Pati Patni Aur Woh, Khaali Peeli, Liger and Dream Girl 2.

Her latest on-screen appearance was in Chand Mera Dil, directed by Vivek Soni and starring Lakshya opposite her. The romantic entertainer was released on May 22 this year.

Cricketer Shahrukh Khan Wants to Meet Salman Khan More Than His Famous Namesake

New Delhi, Sep 2:

Tamil Nadu cricketer Shahrukh Khan may share his name with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, but the batter says he would rather meet Salman Khan.

“I really wish to meet Salman Khan more than Shah Rukh,” the 29-year-old said in an exclusive conversation with IANS.

Shahrukh has never met the actor he was named after, despite several opportunities during his IPL career when his teams faced Kolkata Knight Riders. He hopes to meet Shah Rukh Khan someday and is curious about the actor’s reaction to meeting someone named after him.

Shahrukh recently led Kovai Kings to their third Tamil Nadu Premier League title after defeating Madurai Panthers by



84 runs in the final. He believes the TNPL has played an important role in developing young talent, with several players using the tournament as a pathway to the IPL.

The batter also revealed

that he worked on a technical flaw in his batting after a difficult IPL 2026 season with Gujarat Titans. He said correcting his front-foot movement helped him regain confidence and return strongly in the TNPL.

Gill Should Embrace Seniors’ Support, Stay True to His Leadership Style: Rhodes

New Delhi, Sep 2:

Former South Africa cricketer Jonty Rhodes has backed India ODI captain Shubman Gill to succeed as a leader, advising him to make full use of the experience of senior players such as Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli while remaining true to his own leadership style.

Gill took over as India’s ODI captain from Rohit Sharma last year and has so far recorded six wins and six defeats in 12 matches. Rhodes said seeking advice from experienced players should not be seen as a weakness for a young captain.

“The key with being a leader is understanding that you’ve got these senior players around you. It’s not a negative mark on your captaincy if you ask for help, opinions or ideas,” Rhodes told JioStar.

The former South African star added that

while senior players can provide valuable suggestions, the final decision must always rest with the captain. He also praised Gill for maintaining consistency in his approach and personality.

Rhodes stressed that Gill should avoid trying to imitate other captains and instead trust his natural instincts, particularly when facing pressure.

Looking ahead to the 2027 Cricket World Cup in Southern Africa, Rhodes said visiting teams will need to adapt quickly to different playing conditions, especially the impact of altitude at venues such as Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Rhodes also recalled his most memorable fielding performance, saying he cherished taking five catches for South Africa against the West Indies during the 1993 Hero Cup in Mumbai, where thousands of Indian fans cheered his name.

pakistan’s test shake-up reflects ‘cycle of internal chaos’: mohammad yousuf

New Delhi, Sep 2:

Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Yousuf has criticised the Pakistan Cricket Board’s sweeping changes during the ongoing England Test tour, saying the move reflects a familiar pattern of internal instability rather than being based solely on performance.

The PCB made major changes after Pakistan fell 0-2 behind in the three-Test series, releasing seven players and two members of the coaching staff ahead of the third Test.

Reacting to the decision, Yousuf said the recall of players and coaches appeared to have been influenced by issues beyond cricketing performances. He described the developments as part of a recurring cycle of “internal chaos, differences of opinion and controversies” that has affected Pakistan cricket over the years.

Yousuf also warned that continued instability could



hurt the team’s progress and weaken supporters’ confidence. He said Pakistan cricket must shift its focus from boardroom issues to performances on the field.

Pakistan suffered an innings-and-103-run defeat against England in the opening Test at Headingley before losing the second Test at Lord’s by 194 runs. Following the defeats, Mohammad Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq, Salman Ali Agha, Ali Usman, Aamir Jamal, Muhammad Awais Zafar

and Khurram Shahzad were released from the squad. Red-ball head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed and bowling coach Umar Gul were also sent home, with Mike Hesson and Ashley Noffke taking over the coaching responsibilities for the remainder of the tour.

Yousuf, who played 90 Tests for Pakistan, said only strong performances and consistent results could restore stability and silence the growing criticism surrounding the team.



From International Medals to Selling Vegetables: Ranchi Throwball Player’s Struggle Highlights Athletes’ Plight



Ranchi Throwball Player Amardeep Kumar, who won four international gold medals for India, is now selling vegetables and driving a cab to support his family, highlighting the financial struggles faced by athletes despite bringing glory to the country.

The difficult realities faced by many Indian athletes after their sporting careers have come into focus following a video of international throwball player Amardeep Kumar selling vegetables at Argora Chowk in Ranchi went viral on social media. In the video, Amardeep can be seen weighing and selling vegetables to customers, while several medals won during his sporting career are displayed on the wall behind him. The contrasting images have triggered a

debate over the lack of financial security and long-term support for athletes who represent the country at international competitions. Amardeep took up throwball after completing Class 10 and began training at Ranchi’s Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium. His performances eventually earned him opportunities to represent Jharkhand and India at national and international events. According to reports, Amardeep has won four gold medals for India in international competitions and has also secured several medals at the national level, bringing recognition to Jharkhand. Despite these achievements, Amardeep says he has struggled to find a stable source of income through sport. He is currently helping his father run a vegetable stall to support his family and also works as a cab driv-

er to meet his financial needs. Amardeep reportedly approached the state sports department several times seeking assistance and submitted applications for support. However, he claims that no concrete assistance or initiative has been provided so far. The video has prompted strong reactions from social media users, with many expressing disappointment that an athlete who represented India and won medals internationally is now struggling to meet basic financial needs. The incident has once again raised questions about the support available to sportspersons beyond the field and whether athletes who bring international recognition to the country receive adequate assistance to build a secure future after their competitive careers.

Bridge Over Lohit River Damaged, Remote Border Villages Cut Off in Arunachal Pradesh



A crucial bridge over the Lohit River in Arunachal Pradesh’s Anjaw district has been damaged, disrupting connectivity to several remote villages, including Kaho, located near the India-China border. The KKG-BSB bridge at Krowti in Kibithoo Circle serves as a vital

link for villages such as Musai, Kaho and Dong. Following the damage to the bridge, Kaho, one of India’s easternmost border villages, has been cut off from the rest of the region. The disruption has raised concerns over the difficulties residents may

face in accessing essential services and transporting supplies. The bridge is considered an important lifeline for the remote border communities, making its restoration crucial for maintaining connectivity in the strategically sensitive area.

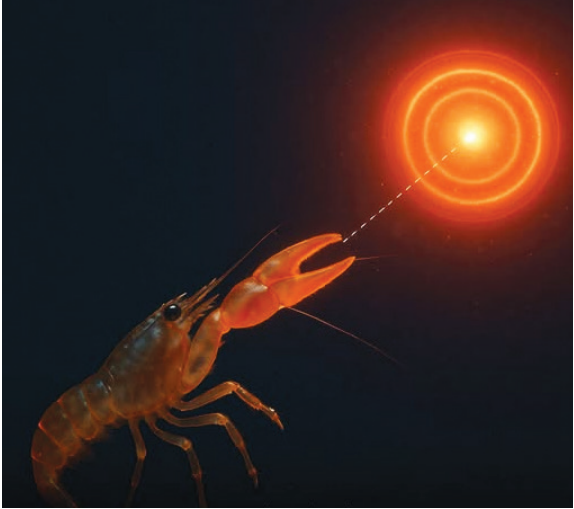
After Nearly 200 Years, Maharashtra Family Welcomes Girl Child With Drums, Fireworks and Sweets

A family in Maharashtra’s Beed district celebrated the birth of a baby girl in grand style after nearly 200 years. The Dahiphale family from Parli welcomed the newborn with drums, fireworks, decorations and sweets. The baby and her mother were discharged from the hospital on Saturday and taken home in a beautifully decorated chariot

as relatives, friends and well-wishers joined the procession. According to the family, no girl child had been born in the Dahiphale family for nearly two centuries. Limbaji Dahiphale, headmaster of Bhagwan Primary School in Parli, expressed immense happiness over the birth of his granddaughter. The family home was decorated with flowers

and lights, while jalebi was distributed among those present. Family members also performed an aarti to welcome the newborn. The grand celebration sent a strong social message that the birth of a daughter should be welcomed with the same happiness and pride as the birth of a son, while challenging the notion that a girl child is a burden.

Meet the Pistol Shrimp: The Tiny Sea Creature That Packs a Sonic Punch



Measuring only a few centimetres, the pistol shrimp may look harmless, but this tiny marine creature possesses one of the most remarkable natural weapons found in the oceans. Also known as the snapping shrimp, the pistol shrimp belongs to the Alpheidae family, which includes more than 600 species. Its most unusual feature is a specially adapted snapping claw that can create a powerful shockwave through the water. When the shrimp rapidly closes its oversized claw, it shoots a high-speed jet of water, creating a phenomenon known as cavitation. The resulting bubble collapses with enormous force, producing a loud snap that can reach around 218 decibels. For a brief moment, temperatures inside the collapsing bubble can reportedly rise to thousands of degrees Celsius. The shockwave can stun or kill small prey, while the shrimp also uses its powerful claw to de-

fend its shelter and create tunnels in rocks or sand. Pistol shrimps are also known for their relationship with goby fish. In some species, the shrimp provides a safe burrow while the fish acts as a lookout, warning its partner of approaching predators. The creature’s powerful snap has even been known to interfere with underwater sonar activity because large colonies can produce intense underwater noise. Scientists have also shown interest in the shrimp’s cavitation effect for understanding extreme physical phenomena and exploring potential applications in energy and engineering. Another remarkable ability is regeneration. If the shrimp loses its dominant snapping claw, its smaller claw can develop into a new snapping claw, while a replacement limb grows in its place. Despite its tiny size, the pistol shrimp is truly one of the ocean’s most extraordinary natural “weapons.”

One-Litre Milk Order Turns Into a Whole Buffalo Delivery



A bizarre and amusing milk delivery scene has gone viral on social media, leaving netizens laughing over the unusual way two delivery men reportedly transported milk. In the viral visuals, two men can be seen travelling on a motorcycle along with a baby buffalo, while also carrying milk supplies. The sight has sparked humorous reactions online, with users joking that the customer had simply asked for “one litre of milk,” but the delivery team decided to bring along the entire source of the milk. The unusual mode of transportation has been described as a “village dairy’s home delivery service”, with social media users adding their own witty comments to the unexpected sight. The incident has quickly attracted attention for its funny and unconventional take on milk delivery.

Akhilesh Yadav’s Viral Interaction With Maulana Sparks Debate Over Respect and Courtesy

A video showing Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav interacting with a Maulana has gone viral on social media, triggering a debate over political courtesy and respect. In the video, the Maulana appears to approach Yadav with a shawl as a gesture of honour. Yadav is heard asking him to move aside so that the photograph can be taken. The shawl is then reportedly placed around the neck of the party’s state president instead of Yadav. The incident has drawn criticism from several social media users, who questioned whether the interaction reflected a lack of basic courtesy towards the religious figure. The video has also sparked a wider discussion about how political leaders treat supporters and community representatives during public appearances. The incident has sparked mixed reactions online, with some criticising Yadav’s conduct while others urged caution before drawing conclusions.

RTC Bus Plunges into Farm Well in Karimnagar, Passengers Escape



A major accident was narrowly averted after an RTC bus travelling from Karimnagar to Husnabad lost control and plunged into an agricultural well in the fields of Sundaragiri village in Chigurumamidi mandal. The incident caused panic among the passengers, but all of them managed to escape safely. Some passengers reportedly suffered minor injuries and were given medical

attention. According to locals, the driver’s quick reflexes helped prevent a more serious tragedy. The incident could have resulted in major casualties had the bus fallen deeper into the well or the passengers been unable to escape in time. The accident triggered concern among local residents, while further details regarding the cause of the bus losing control are awaited.

Seven-Year-Old UP Girl Walks 400 Metres on One Leg to Reach School, Her Determination Moves Many



Seven-year-old Ragini from Uttar Pradesh’s Ballia district is winning hearts with her extraordinary determination to continue her education despite losing a leg and living in severe poverty. A resident of Ranipur village under the Digheda gram panchayat, Ragini suffered a serious road accident when she was just six months old, leaving one of her legs severely damaged. Her father, a daily-wage labourer, could not afford prolonged medical treatment, and the condition of the leg gradually worsened. Despite her disability, Ragini insisted on at-

tending school and was eventually admitted to Class 1 at a local primary school. With no crutches or wheelchair, she travels nearly 400 metres from her home to school every day, hopping on one leg. The journey is often painful and exhausting. At times, she reportedly sits by the roadside in tears before gathering the courage to continue towards school. Her determination deeply moved school headmaster Amit Pal Yadav, who appealed on social media for an artificial limb or a tricycle for the child. The appeal brought her plight to wider public attention.

Following the reports, Ballia District Magistrate Mangla Prasad Singh directed officials from the disability welfare department and a medical team to visit Ragini’s home and assured the family of government assistance. Representatives of the Aam Aadmi Party also visited the family and provided a wheelchair along with financial assistance of Rs 25,000. Efforts are also being made to arrange an artificial limb for Ragini. With support beginning to reach her, the young girl now hopes to continue her education without letting her disability stand in the way.

A Grandfather Is Often a Child’s First and Truest Friend, Sharing a Bond Filled

For many children, their grandfather is more than just a family member — he is often their first and truest friend. The special bond between a grandfather and his grandson is filled with love, affection, care and countless cherished memories. A grandfather’s love for his grandson is often described as uniquely deep and unconditional. From sharing stories and playing together to offering guidance and standing by him through every stage of life, grandfathers hold a special place in a child’s heart. There is a popular saying that a grandfather’s affection for his grandson can sometimes feel even greater than the love he has for his own son — a reflection of the unique joy and emotional connection that grandchildren bring into their grandparents’ lives.

