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No fresh September 3 MEA advisory specifically responding to the latest exchange was found in the official material reviewed.



Ponnam asks Telangana BJP leaders to question Centre on State’s pending dues

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday accused BJP leaders in Telangana of competing with one another in criticising the Congress government in an attempt to retain their political relevance amid internal differences within the party.

“If BJP leaders are genuinely committed to protecting Telangana’s interests, they should go to Delhi and question Prime Minister Narendra Modi instead of criticising the

State government,” he said in a statement.

The Minister questioned why Telangana BJP leaders were not raising issues concerning funds due to the State from the Centre, pending projects and approvals required for Telangana.

He said it was their responsibility to exert pressure on the Union government to secure the funds, projects and clearances due to the State.

Ponnam Prabhakar also asked BJP leaders to explain why funds and projects being sanctioned to BJP-ruled States were not

being similarly extended to Telangana.

He said it was misplaced for BJP leaders to believe that they could retain their political relevance or attract the attention of the party’s central leadership merely by targeting the Congress government.

As an Opposition party, the BJP should play a constructive role by raising Telangana’s rights and pressing the Centre on pending issues, rather than limiting itself to political criticism, he said.

The Minister also questioned why BJP leaders had remained silent when

the erstwhile TRS government, which was in power in Telangana for 10 years, left behind several pending dues.

He said the present Congress government was making payments regularly while also working to clear the arrears left by the previous administration.

Ponnam Prabhakar further said that despite the BJP-led government being in power at the Centre for nearly 13 years, several promises made to Telangana, besides funds and projects due to the State, were still pending. (NSS)



Hyderabad | Telangana BJP State President Ramchander Rao, along with Ps, MLAs and BJYM leaders, staged a protest at the Telangana State Secretariat in Hyderabad, demanding permission to enter and submit a representation to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy regarding pending fee reimbursements for students. The police detained Telangana BJP State President Ramchander Rao and other leaders and shifted them to local police stations.

Applications Invited for Free Admissions to Minority Post-Matric Boys Hostel

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, September 3:

District Minority Welfare Officer P. Vishnu Nandan has issued a press note stating that applications for admission to the Post-Matric Boys Hostel for the academic year 2026–27 will be accepted from September 3 to September 21.

He said that the hostel is run under the Telangana Government’s Minority Welfare Department. Every year, 50 students (both fresh and renewal applicants) are provided free accommodation, and a monthly mess charge of ₹2,100 is deposited directly into the students’ bank accounts.

Mr. Vishnu Nandan urged eligible minority students to take advantage of this government facility and continue their education.

According to the District Minority Welfare Officer, minority students studying in Intermediate, Degree, Engineering, or other professional courses are eligible to apply. The annual income of the student’s parents or guardians must be less than ₹1.50 lakh.

Interested students should submit the following documents to the Hostel Welfare Officer or the District Minority Welfare Office, Mahabubnagar:

- White Ration Card or Income Certificate
- Aadhaar Card
- Transfer Certificate (TC)
- Bonafide Certificate (photocopy)

Two passport-size photographs

For further details, contact the District Minority Welfare Office, Room No. 205, Second Floor, IDOC Building (Collectorate Complex), Mahabubnagar, or call 9440075553.

Laptop theft gang busted in Hyd; 19 Laptops Recovered

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Narayanguda Police of Khairatabad Zone on Thursday arrested a laptop theft offender and an alleged receiver, police said.

According to police, Vineeth targeted unattended laptops at study halls, particularly during lunch and dinner breaks. He allegedly committed thefts near KMIT College and the Telugu Academy area within two days and subsequently sold the stolen laptops to Srinivas.

Police recovered seven Dell, six HP, three

Nagar, Secunderabad, and Vemunuri Srinivas (29), a computer sales worker and alleged receiver, police said.

According to police, Vineeth targeted unattended laptops at study halls, particularly during lunch and dinner breaks. He allegedly committed thefts near KMIT College and the Telugu Academy area within two days and subsequently sold the stolen laptops to Srinivas.

Police recovered seven Dell, six HP, three

Lenovo, two Acer and one Asus laptop, with a total estimated value of Rs.7.6 lakh. Investigation revealed that the accused were allegedly involved in 16 laptop theft cases registered at police stations across Hyderabad City, Malkajgiri and Cyberabad Commissionerates, including Saifabad, Malakpet, Narayanguda, Abids, SR Nagar, Nallakunta, Chaitanyapuri, Kushaiguda, Uppal, LB Nagar, Alwal and Kukatpally.

BJP Leaders Arrested Near Secretariat Over Fee Reimbursement Dues

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Tension prevailed near the Secretariat here on Thursday as Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao and several party leaders were arrested while attempting to submit representations signed by over eight lakh students seeking immediate clearance of the State’s pending fee reimbursement dues of Rs 15,000 crore.

Rao, who had written to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy three days ago seeking an appointment to personally submit the representations, alleged that there had been no response from the government. With the government failing to respond to the students’ concerns, Rao led BJP workers in a march towards the Secretariat to hand over the representations.

Police stopped the BJP leaders near the Secretariat

gates, leading to a protest. The police subsequently took Rao into custody and shifted him to Chikkadpally Police Station. Among those arrested were BJP state general secretary Goutham Rao, BJLP leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, MP D K Aruna, MLC Malka Komaraiah and state secretary Bhandaru Vijaya Laxmi. Condemning the arrests, Rao accused the Congress government of adopting an “arrogant and

anti-student” attitude. He said he had undertaken a hunger strike, written to the Chief Minister and collected over eight lakh representations from students, but the government had failed to act.

Rao asserted that the Congress government could not silence nearly 40 lakh students and warned that the BJP would continue its agitation until the pending fee reimbursement dues were cleared. (NSS)

Revanth inaugurates Chanchalguda-Santoshnagar steel flyover

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated the Chanchalguda–Santoshnagar steel flyover in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Mohammed Azharuddin, MPs Asaduddin Owaisi, Vem Narendar Reddy, Anil Kumar Yadav and Raghuvver Reddy, besides MLAs, MLCs and corporation chairpersons, attended the event.

The four-lane flyover, constructed at a cost of ₹620 crore, stretches 3.2 km and is 16.6 metres wide. (NSS)

Hyderabad: TGSRTC Launches Night Bus Services

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept 3:

To improve convenience for commuters in Hyderabad, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has introduced night bus services. Under the Miyapur-1 Depot, special buses are being operated on

Route 195W during nighttime. These services will run on the Bachupally–WaveRock, JNTU–WaveRock, and WaveRock–Bachupally routes. The buses will operate daily from 9:15 PM to 4:25 AM. TGSRTC officials have appealed to employees, students, and IT professionals to make the best use of these night bus services.

PDS rice black-marketing offender detained

Hyderabad, Sept.3 (NSS): Hyderabad Police have executed a Preventive Detention (PD) order against Mohd Nahid (30 years) for his alleged repeated involvement in the illegal procurement, diversion and black-marketing of subsidised PDS (Public Distribution System) rice and wheat. Police said Nahid and his associates allegedly procured PDS commodities from beneficiaries at low prices.

Cyberabad gears up for Ganesh Utsavam; 54 Immersion Points Identified

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 3:

Cyberabad authorities have stepped up preparations for

Ganesh Utsavam 2026, with a high-level coordination meeting held to finalise arrangements at 54 immersion

points across the commissionerate.

Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner G. Srijana and

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Sunpreet Singh along with Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Committee

members, civic officials and representatives of various departments, reviewed the action plan and preparedness.

Complete Pending School Works Within the Deadline: Ramagundam Peddapalli District Collector

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept 3:

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

other social groups?” she asked. Konda Surekha said it was not appropriate to adopt one approach in her case while following a different approach towards members of other social groups. The Minister also pointed out that several allegations had been levelled against other Ministers and leaders in the government and questioned what explanations would be sought from them and what action would be taken in those cases. She further said she had already submitted a detailed written report to the party high command explaining the issues concerning her.



The Collector instructed officials to complete all pending renovation and repair works in schools within 15 days. He directed that kitchen sheds, toilet construction, and other repair works be completed on a war footing and made available for students within one month.

Revanth blackmailed Congress high command: Surekha

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Minister Konda Surekha on Thursday alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had “blackmailed” the Congress high command into recommending her removal from the State Cabinet.

Speaking to the media at her residence after the Chief Minister’s decision to drop her from the Cabinet,

Konda Surekha alleged that she was dismissed without even seeking her explanation.

“Even a person sentenced to death is asked about his last wish. I strongly condemn my dismissal without being told what mistake I had committed or why action was being taken against me,” she said. Konda Surekha claimed that the Congress high command had no intention of remov-

ing her from the Cabinet, but alleged that Revanth Reddy had pressured it to act against her.

“The Congress high command had no intention of removing me from the Cabinet. I know this 100 per cent. But Chief Minister Revanth Reddy blackmailed the high command. He threatened them, asking whether they would remove me from the Cabinet or ask me to resign,” she alleged.

AP Revokes Suspension of IPS Officers Vishal Gunni, Kanthi Rana Tata

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Amaravati, Sept.3 (NSS): The Andhra Pradesh Government on Thursday revoked the suspension of senior IPS officers Vishal Gunni and Kanthi Rana Tata, reinstating them in service with immediate effect.

Separate orders issued by the General Administration (SC.D)

department said the suspensions of both officers had been reviewed and extended periodically under Rule 3(1) of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969. Their latest suspension extensions were due to expire on September 4, 2026.

The two IPS officers were first suspended on September 15, 2024,

and their suspension was subsequently extended multiple times for their alleged involvement in “harassing” a Mumbai-based actor-cum-model, Kadambari Narendra Kumar Jethwani.

In the case of Vishal Gunni, the decision was taken based on circumstances reported by the Director General of Police (HoPF), Andhra

Pradesh. In the case of Kanthi Rana Tata, the government considered his representation dated August 24, 2026, along with the report submitted by the DGP.

After examining the matter, the government decided to revoke their suspension, with Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad issuing the orders under Rule 3(7)(c) of the All

India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969.

The reinstatement, however, is without prejudice to the disciplinary and criminal proceedings pending against both the officers, the orders said.

The DGP (HoPF), Andhra Pradesh, has been directed to serve the orders on the two officers and obtain their acknowledgements. (NSS)

Telangana State Arekatika Election Committee announces schedule

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

The Telangana Arekatika Trust and the Telangana State Arekatika Election Committee have jointly announced the schedule for the Telangana State Arekatika Sangh Presidential Election 2026. The election will be held on Friday, October 2, 2026 (Gandhi Jayanti) at Hyderabad. Polling will be conducted from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with the results scheduled to be declared on the same day.

The Election Committee has stated that the election process will be conducted in a peaceful, democratic, fair, and transparent manner, in accordance with the rules, guidelines, and instructions issued by the Committee. The elected President will hold office for a term of four years.

Election Schedule

ESIC Sanathnagar emerges as Healthcare Hub

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Hyderabad, Sept.3 (NSS): The ESIC Medical College, Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital at Sanathnagar has emerged as a major hub for affordable public healthcare, advanced clinical services, medical education and digital healthcare.

A 15-member media delegation from Uttarakhand visited the ESIC campus here on Thursday to witness its healthcare infrastructure and technology-enabled patient services.

Welcoming the delegation, ESIC Medical College and Hospital Dean Dr. S. Seethalakshmi said the ESIC network covered all 33 districts of Telangana through four ESIS hospitals, 70 dispensaries, eight branch offices and 10 Dispensary-cum-Branch Offices. The State has 20.47 lakh insured persons and 74.32 lakh beneficiaries, supported by more than 1.63 lakh employees, she said.

The Sanathnagar campus houses a 1,044-bed integrated healthcare facility, including an 800-bed medical college and hospital and a 244-bed super speciality hospital. It has 159 ICU beds, 45 dialysis beds and 15 modular and advanced operation theatres, besides round-the-clock emergency services. The hospital has witnessed a sharp rise in patient utilisation. Annual OPD attendance increased from 6.93 lakh in 2022 to 9.80 lakh in 2025, while admissions rose from 78,086 to 95,037.

Forest Officer, Associate Caught in ACB trap over Rs.30k bribe

NSS
Kothagudem, Sept.3

A Forest Beat Officer and his associate were caught in an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) trap while allegedly accepting a Rs.30,000 bribe in Bhadradri Kothagudem district on Thursday.

According to the ACB, accused officer Banoth Ravi Kumar (A1), Forest Beat Officer of Kachanapally Beat and in-charge of Ramanujagudem Beat

in Allapally mandal, allegedly demanded Rs.30,000 from a complainant to extend undue favour by not obstructing podu cultivation and refraining from action such as digging trenches.

The officer allegedly directed the complainant to hand over the bribe to Patan Sadiq Khan (A2), an associate, and said he would collect the money from him later.

Acting on the complaint, ACB officials laid a trap and the complainant handed over the

tainted amount to Sadiq Khan at his residence in Ramanujagudem village. The Rs.30,000 was subsequently recovered during the trap proceedings. The ACB said the chemical test on Sadiq Khan’s hands yielded positive results, establishing the acceptance of the bribe on behalf of the Forest Officer.

Both the accused were taken into custody and arrested. They will be produced before the Special Judge for SPE & ACB Cases concerned.

Talasani sets Sept 7 deadline to withdraw GO 97, threatens CM residence siege

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Former Minister and BRS deputy floor leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Thursday demanded immediate withdrawal of GO 97, warning that polytechnic students would lay siege to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy’s residence if the government failed to revoke the order by September 7.

Talasani, who extended support to polytechnic students staging a protest

at Indira Park, said the government had ignored their 20-day-long agitation against GO 97, which, he alleged, threatened the future of more than one lakh students.

He accused the government of introducing the GO with an ulterior motive of taking control of polytechnic college assets and described the proposed transfer of institutions to the Skill University as a step towards their privatisation.

Talasani alleged that

efforts were being made to hand over or mortgage polytechnic assets to private individuals. He also questioned the rationale behind the government’s decision, saying its policies had forced the students onto the streets.

The BRS leader claimed that the Skill University’s public-private partnership model raised concerns about the long-term future of polytechnic institutions, and alleged that the government support to the university could be limited to

the Congress government’s tenure. Urging students not to lose heart, Talasani called upon them to intensify their agitation and fight with determination. He recalled how the Prime Minister Narendra Modi had yielded to the struggle led by Gen Z and forced a Union Minister to resign? He urged the students to fight with that same spirit.

Sustained student mobilisation could force the governments to reconsider controversial decisions, he added. (NSS)

Andhra ACB arrests TTD Deputy Executive Officer after searches

IANS
Tirupati, Sept.3

Andhra Pradesh’s Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam’s Deputy Executive Officer (EO) Mendu Lokanatham after searches at premises linked to him in connection with the investigation into the alleged adulteration of ghee supplied to the TTD.

The ACB arrested Lokanatham after searches at his house, office and other premises were completed on Thursday.

The TTD official is likely to be produced before the ACB Court later in the day. Lokanatham is currently serving as Deputy

EO of the Tirumala temple. He had reportedly held key positions in the erstwhile YSRCP government. ACB officials simultaneously raided four premises linked to Lokanatham in Tirupati district on Wednesday.

They seized evidence, including property documents, Rs 12 lakh cash, two kg gold, 6.5 kg silver and other material.

Searches were conducted at Lokanatham’s residence in Peddakapu Layout in Tirupati, the residences of his wife’s brothers, Munikrishna and Ramesh, and the house of his younger brother in Yerpedu mandal.

The anti-graft agency identified assets worth around Rs 5 crore. The

value could be higher according to prevailing market rates.

According to the agency, a residential property in Peddakapu Layout was purchased in the name of Lokanatham’s wife, Manjula. Officials also identified two house plots in Gollavanigunta, a plot in the Padiredu forest area of Vadamalapeta mandal, and a house plot in Srinivasanagar in Tirupati city in the name of his son. Four fixed deposits held in the names of Lokanatham and his son were also identified.

The ACB said it conducted the searches as part of its surveillance of officials suspected of facilitating irregularities in

connection with the investigation into the alleged adulteration of ghee supplied to the TTD.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the alleged ghee adulteration case, had recommended that the involvement of TTD officials and other suspects linked to the irregularities be established.

As a follow-up, ACB Visakhapatnam registered a case against K. Chinna Appanna, who served as personal assistant to the then TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy, for his alleged role in influencing ghee suppliers. The investigation further led to the doorstep of Deputy EO Lokanatham.

“My focus is on Genuine cong corkers”, says Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy on Thursday said his primary focus was to ensure that genuine Congress workers who had stood by the party during difficult times were not subjected to injustice.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for road development works worth Rs.76.20 crore at Sarvel village in Narayanapur mandal of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district, he said several major road projects were being taken up in the Munugode constituency.

Rajgopal Reddy said village roads, earlier limited to around 3.75 metres, were being widened to 5.5 metres to meet growing traffic and improve connectivity, as cars, two-wheelers and buses were now reaching even remote villages.

He thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and his brother and Roads & Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy for their cooperation in taking up the works.

He appealed to villagers, officials and the media to extend cooperation for their smooth execution. On the proposed

cabinet expansion and allocation of ministerial portfolios, Rajgopal Reddy said the decision rested entirely with the Congress high command and that he would abide by whatever decision was taken by party leader Rahul Gandhi.

Referring to the issue concerning Minister Konda Surekha, he said that too was for the high command to decide. “Whenever I speak on these issues, my concern is that genuine party workers who worked hard for the Congress during the last decade should not face injustice.

I will continue to speak for those hard working activists”, he noted. (NSS)



BJP Leadership Anti-Dalit and Anti-Scheduled Castes: Insult to AICC President Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge Unbearable: Press Conference by Mr. Jagga Reddy, President, Telangana Working Congress Committee at Gandhi Bhavan Req-Reg.

Ponnam asks Telangana BJP leaders to question Centre on State’s pending dues

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday accused BJP leaders in Telangana of competing with one another in criticising the Congress government in an attempt to retain their political relevance amid internal differences within the party.

“If BJP leaders are genuinely committed to protecting Telangana’s interests, they should go to Delhi and question Prime Minister Narendra Modi instead of criticising the State government,” he said

in a statement. The Minister questioned why Telangana BJP leaders were not raising issues concerning funds due to the State from the Centre, pending projects and approvals required for Telangana. e said it was their responsibility to exert pressure on the Union government to secure the funds, projects and clearances due to the State.

Ponnam Prabhakar also asked BJP leaders to explain why funds and projects being sanctioned to BJP-ruled States were not being similarly extended to Telangana.

He said it was misplaced for BJP leaders to believe

that they could retain their political relevance or attract the attention of the party’s central leadership merely by targeting the Congress government.

As an Opposition party, the BJP should play a constructive role by raising Telangana’s rights and pressing the Centre on pending issues, rather than limiting itself to political criticism, he said.

The Minister also questioned why BJP leaders had remained silent when the erstwhile TRS government, which was in power in Telangana for 10 years, left behind several pending dues.

No Cong leader is above party discipline: Mallu Ravi

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.3

Telangana Congress Disciplinary Committee Chairman Mallu Ravi on

Thursday asserted that no leader, irrespective of stature, would be spared if they crossed the party’s “Lakshman Rekha” or violated its code of conduct.

Citing the action against former minister Konda Surekha and State Planning Board Vice-Chairman G Chinna Reddy, Ravi said both were removed from their

posts after the disciplinary committee examined complaints and their statements and submitted its report to the Congress high command. The disciplinary process took

time as the party wanted to resolve the matter democratically. The delay was also due to AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal being abroad, he added.

Ravi said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had given Surekha two opportunities to present her case before the high command. The disciplinary action, he

stressed, was intended to send a clear message to the Telangana Congress cadre that violations of party discipline would have consequences.



At a Glance

Tejashwi Attacks Centre, Bihar Govt Over Floods

IANS Patna, Sep. 01

Bihar Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav on Thursday criticised the Centre and state government over the worsening flood situation, alleging that neither had taken steps towards a permanent solution to the recurring crisis. He said the situation was serious and urged authorities to strengthen rescue and relief measures to protect affected residents. Tejashwi said he would visit flood-hit areas of his Raghupur constituency, meet residents and review relief operations with officials and ministers. He also alleged that the ruling JD(U) was facing internal attempts to sideline former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and claimed a “coterie” was seeking to merge the party with the BJP.

Tejashwi further accused the state government of being “anti-poor” and questioned claims of 125 units of free electricity, alleging that consumers were instead receiving high bills. On the economy, he said India continued to lag several countries in per capita income and accused the Centre of projecting an overly positive economic picture.

Two Assam Cops Killed in Outpost Firing

IANS GUWAHATI, Sep. 03

Two Assam Police personnel were killed and two others injured after a colleague allegedly opened fire with an AK-47 at the Gamerimura Police Outpost in Kamrup district late Wednesday, officials said. The deceased were identified as Fazrul Ali and outpost officer-in-charge Indrajit Bora. Police personnel Chiranjeev Choudhury was identified as the alleged shooter. The motive remains unclear.

Court Rejects Bail Plea of BJP MLA’s Daughter in Cop Assault Case

IANS MANDYA, Sep. 03

A court in Karnataka’s Mandya district on Thursday rejected the bail plea of Aishwarya, daughter of BJP MLA Suresh Gowda, in a case involving the alleged assault of a woman police sub-inspector at a temple in Srirangapatna taluk. The Srirangapatna Town Court reportedly questioned the alleged assault of a police officer

India, Belgium Stress Dialogue and Diplomacy to Address West Asia Crisis

IANS New Delhi, Sep. 03

India and Belgium on Thursday called for dialogue and diplomatic engagement to deal with the challenges emerging from the ongoing situation in West Asia and stressed the need to address the crisis through peaceful means.

The issue was discussed during a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Belgian counterpart Bart De Wever in New Delhi. The two leaders exchanged views on several major international developments, including the situation in Ukraine and West Asia.

According to the joint statement issued after their meeting, both sides reaffirmed their support for efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy, in line with the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

On West Asia, the two leaders discussed recent developments and expressed concern over the



situation in the region. They underlined the importance of dialogue and diplomatic engagement to resolve challenges peacefully. They also highlighted the need to ensure the safety and security of maritime routes and maintain safe and uninterrupted shipping.

The two Prime Ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening and diversifying the India-Belgium partnership, based on mutual trust and a shared vision of peace, prosperity and development.

They said the growing partnership would con-

tinue to be guided by common commitments to democracy, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and a rules-based international order. The leaders also expressed confidence that stronger India-Belgium ties would benefit both countries and contribute to closer cooperation between India and Europe in tackling shared global challenges.

People-to-people ties and better connectivity were also discussed, with both leaders stressing the importance of efficient and timely visa services.

The joint statement said visa-processing capacity

at diplomatic missions in India and Belgium would be significantly increased as exchanges between the two countries continue to grow. The leaders also welcomed the ongoing strengthening of Belgian visa delivery services in India.

Modi and De Wever welcomed the European Union’s Memorandum of Understanding on a Comprehensive Framework of Cooperation on Mobility and the launch of a pilot EU Legal Gateway Office in India. They said these initiatives would create more legal pathways for profession-

als, skilled workers and students to move between India and the EU.

The leaders also stressed the need for greater mobility of skilled professionals, students, researchers and business travellers. They encouraged airlines to explore establishing direct air connectivity between India and Belgium to further strengthen people-to-people links.

The two sides welcomed ongoing cooperation in healthcare, including initiatives to facilitate the mobility of qualified Indian nurses to Belgium. They also acknowledged the wider cooperation between civil society organisations in the fields of healthcare and education.

India and Belgium further agreed to continue discussions on signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Mobility and Migration.

As bilateral ties continue to expand, Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Belgium at a mutually convenient time.

Ganga Surges, Choudhary and Nitish Review Bihar Flood Threat

IANS Patna, Sep. 01

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Thursday inspected the rising Ganga in Patna and directed officials to take precautionary measures to protect lives and property as the flood threat intensified.

Former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also reviewed the situation, visiting JP Setu and the Patna-Raghupur bridge before travelling to Saran. JD(U) National Working President Sanjay Jha accompanied him.

Jha said rising water levels in several rivers



were partly linked to heavy rainfall and flooding in Nepal. He said timely measures by the state government had helped prevent major loss

of life and property so far. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary separately reviewed the situation through the Water Resources

Department’s Command and Control Centre. Officials assessed river levels, embankment damage and vulnerable locations, particularly in

Toll Plaza Scam: ED Raids 14 Sites, Seizes 1 Crore Cash

IANS New Delhi, Sep. 03

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday searched 14 premises across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and Delhi-NCR in a money-laundering probe into



an alleged toll plaza scam, officials said.

The searches by the

ED’s Allahabad Sub-Zonal Office were conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The case stems from an Uttar Pradesh Police FIR alleging fraudulent toll collection at Atraila Toll Plaza in Mirzapur and other plazas.

The ED said unautho-

rised apps, ‘Mobdata’ and ‘Any’, were allegedly used to collect tolls from vehicles without FASTag or with insufficient balances. The apps generated fake receipts and kept collections outside the NHAI system. Investigators said the same mechanism was detected at around 100 toll plazas.

Bhagalpur, where erosion has intensified.

Teams have deployed mega geo-bags and other emergency measures to strengthen embankments and check erosion. River and embankment conditions are being monitored in real time.

The Disaster Management Department has warned that the Ganga could cross its highest flood level at Gandhi Ghat on Thursday night and at Hathidah on Friday afternoon. Residents in vulnerable areas of Bhojpur, Patna, Saran, Vaishali, Nalanda, Begusarai, Lakhisarai and Jehanabad have been urged to remain alert.

The agency also examined intermediaries and toll collection entities associated with NHAI. Searches yielded ₹1.03 crore in cash, financial records, bank documents and digital devices. Eight bank lockers were frozen. Further investigation into the alleged money-laundering network is underway.

Raghav Chadha’s Name Marked ‘Shifted’ in Punjab Draft Rolls

IANS NEW DELHI, Sep. 03

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Thursday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Punjab government of political vendetta after his voter record in Mohali was marked “permanently shifted” in the draft electoral rolls prepared under the Election Commission’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Chadha, who joined the BJP in April along with six other AAP Rajya Sabha MPs, said the classification was not a clerical error and alleged that state government officials involved in the electoral revision process had acted under political pressure.

However, Chadha acknowledged that the rolls were still in draft form and that corrections could be sought through the ongoing Claims and Objections process. He said the final electoral rolls were scheduled to be published in October 2026.

Referring to Paragraph 4(d) of the Election Commission’s SIR guidelines, Chadha claimed that public representa-



tives whose names had been flagged were required to be included in the draft rolls so that necessary documents could be submitted during the claims period.

“If at all my name was flagged, Paragraph 4(d) required my inclusion in the draft electoral rolls,” he said, alleging that the provision had been “willfully violated” in his case.

Chadha also alleged that the Punjab government had used police and administrative machinery against AAP leaders who left the party and joined the BJP. He said he was already pursuing remedies available under the SIR guidelines.

The allegations could not be independently verified. The draft-roll process remains ongoing, with an opportunity for claims and objections before publication of the final rolls.

Pawar Questions 7.8% GDP Growth, Flags Economic Concerns

IANS BARAMATI, Sep. 03

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday questioned the Centre’s claim of a robust economy following its announcement of 7.8 per cent GDP growth for the April-June quarter, alleging that changes in statistical methods were masking inflation and weakness in the real econom.

Speaking to reporters in Baramati, Pawar accused the Prime Minister and Finance Minister of projecting an overly positive picture of the economy despite what he described as signs of a slowdown. He also alleged that international developments were being used to divert attention from domestic concerns, including inflation and falling household savings.

Pawar raised concerns over sugar prices and farmers’ returns, opposing sugar

imports amid uncertainty over their impact. He welcomed Maharashtra FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe’s anti-adulteration drive in the dairy sector, saying consumers were willing to pay more for better-quality milk.

He also warned of a possible drinking-water and sowing crisis in Maharashtra due to rainfall deficits and called for collective relief measures.

Pawar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was likely to visit Baramati around October 16, when a presentation on local initiatives would be made.

His remarks come amid opposition criticism of the revised GDP methodology. Congress has also questioned the calculations, while the Centre and MoSPI have defended the 7.8 per cent figure as an accurate measure of quarterly economic performance.

Every Family Must Join Drug Fight: Chennithala

IANS IDUKKI, Sep. 03

Kerala Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala urged individuals and families to join the fight against drug abuse, stressing that the issue cannot be left to the police alone. Inaugurating the Idukki district-level ‘Toofan Jagaran’ programme, he said drug abuse was not merely a legal issue but a serious family and social concern. He said prevention should begin at home through pa-

rental attention and care, along with the intervention of teachers and friends. Under ‘Operation Toofan – The Narco Hunt’, the Kerala Police has arrested 10,748 people, registered over 9,000 cases and seized drugs worth nearly ₹170 crore, Chennithala said.

He added that investigations would target drug mafias’ financial networks, including those funding transactions and receiving proceeds. The Enforcement Directorate has conducted searches in four districts,

while links between drug trafficking and gold smuggling will also be examined.

Chennithala said police would take action without political bias and that no drug trafficker would receive protection. He noted that synthetic drugs were increasingly reaching children and said the police were adapting to evolving trafficking networks. The police dog squad has also received specialised training to detect drugs. An anti-drug pledge was administered at the event.



queue. Savitha stopped her, citing the heavy crowd. An argument reportedly followed after Aishwarya questioned why another officer, Circle Inspector Lakshmi, was allowed

towards the sanctum. Savitha explained that the inspector was entering as part of her official duty.

Police registered a case under Sections 132, 115(2), 352 and 351(2)

of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Aishwarya has not been arrested so far.

Aishwarya has alleged that the PSI used abusive language and made her two children stand amid the crowd. She also claimed that her complaint was not registered.

Suresh Gowda, who represents Tumakuru Rural, apologised for his daughter’s conduct and called for an end to the VIP darshan system in temples.



At a Glance

US Warns of EB-1 Squeeze for Indians

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 03



The US State Department has warned that the employment-based first-preference (EB-1) green card category for Indian applicants could become unavailable in the coming weeks because of high demand. The September Visa Bulletin said India’s pro-rated EB-1 limit could be reached before the US fiscal year ends on September 30.

The EB-1 final action date for India is October 15, 2022, while EB-2 India is already listed as unavailable. The EB-3 India cutoff is January 1, 2014, highlighting the prolonged backlog. The US has set the FY2026 worldwide employment-based preference limit at 186,317, with a general per-country limit of 7 per cent.

Nepal Seeks International Aid for Recovery, Reconstruction as Flood Death Toll Reaches 1,252

IAN S
Kathmandu, Sep. 03



Nepal will seek additional international assistance for the recovery and reconstruction of infrastructure devastated by the recent Bhote Koshi floods after completing a detailed assessment, Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal said on Thursday.

The death toll in the Rasuwa flood disaster rose to 1,252 by Thursday noon, while 4,216 people remained unaccounted for, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).

The floods caused extensive damage to roads, bridges, public and private buildings and hydropower projects along the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river corridors. The government is seeking domestic and international support for search, rescue and relief operations, including efforts to locate missing people, many of whom are believed to be trapped inside hydropower project tunnels.

“The Nepali government

will seek international assistance for the recovery and reconstruction of infrastructure damaged by the Bhote Koshi flood after completing a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA),” Khanal said at a briefing for the diplomatic community in Kathmandu.

Ambassadors, diplomatic representatives and officials from international organisations, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and United Nations, attended the briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Khanal said a preliminary assessment was under way to determine damage to houses, roads, bridges, hydropower projects and other critical infrastructure. The PDNA would establish the full extent of the destruction and identify resources required for recovery and reconstruction.

“Preliminary estimates indicate that a significant amount of resources will be required to reconstruct the infrastructure damaged by the Bhote Koshi flood,” he said, adding that international partners would be formally

approached after the detailed assessment.

Khanal said the government would manage international assistance with transparency, accountability and clearly defined priorities. He also said discussions were under way on holding an international donor conference for rehabilitation and reconstruction. Nepal had organised a similar conference after the 2015 earthquake, when donors pledged up to \$4.1 billion.

The Foreign Minister said the safety of foreign nationals remained a pri-

ority. As many as 583 foreign nationals were still unaccounted for, according to the NDRRMA. The Foreign Ministry is coordinating with the NDRRMA, Nepal Police, Nepal Tourism Board, diplomatic missions and families of missing foreigners.

An Emergency Control Room at the ministry and Nepali missions abroad are helping provide verified information, facilitate identification and arrange repatriation where necessary.

Describing the floods as a “Himalayan tsunami”, Khanal said the government was studying the causes and development of the disaster with technical experts. He said the crisis also highlighted growing climate risks in the Himalayan region.

Khanal stressed the need to turn commitments on climate justice, early-warning systems, disaster preparedness and resilient reconstruction into practical action. He added that Nepal had written to the co-chairs of the UN Loss and Damage Fund Board seeking immediate assistance.

Nepal Announces Business Recovery Package

IAN S
Kathmandu Sep. 03

The Nepali government on Thursday announced a comprehensive recovery package for industries, traders and commercial establishments affected by the Bhote Koshi floods, offering customs duty exemptions, tax relief, loan restructuring and faster insurance payments.

The Cabinet approved concessions for flood-hit businesses in the Nepal-China border area amid widespread damage and disruption. The death toll had reached 1,259 by Thursday evening, while 5,083 people remained unaccounted for, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.

Under the package, businesses can re-import replacement commercial vehicles, transport equipment, machinery and other equipment destroyed or swept away in the floods without customs duties, subject to conditions. Duties already paid on goods

destroyed before reaching their destination can also be adjusted if similar goods are imported through any customs office within six months.

The government has extended the deadline for filing tax returns and paying taxes until November 11. Businesses can claim the value of destroyed assets as a one-time tax deduction.

The central bank will facilitate loan restructuring and re-scheduling, including extensions for principal and interest payments for businesses whose goods imported through Rasuwa Customs were damaged.

Banks may provide additional recovery loans, including for employment protection. The Nepal Insurance Authority has also been directed to simplify claims and speed up compensation. Insurers may provide advance payments of up to 50 per cent based on preliminary damage assessments.

Israeli Defence Minister Threatens Strikes on Iran’s Energy infrastructure

IAN S
Jerusalem, Sep. 03

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz on Thursday warned that Israel would target Iran’s military and civilian infrastructure, including energy facilities, if Tehran attacks Israel.

In a video statement, Katz said economic pressure and fears of unrest could push the Iranian leadership towards “desperate measures”. “An Iranian attack on Israel will free Israel from any

existing restraint in attacking Iran,” he said, adding that Israel would target “all national military and civilian infrastructure in Iran — including energy infrastructure”. He also said Israel was prepared to respond “in defence and attack for any possibility” and threatened to return Iran “deep into the Stone Age and darkness”.

The remarks came amid heightened tensions between Israel, Iran and Hezbollah. Iran had reportedly warned Washington last month that



it would retaliate if Israel launched a major offensive against the Ali al-Taher Ridge in southern Lebanon, where Israel says Hezbollah has underground military facilities.

The ridge has become a key flashpoint in the conflict.

On Wednesday, Israel struck areas of southern Lebanon after Hezbollah launched two explosive

drones towards Israeli troops near the ridge. The Israeli military said one drone was intercepted and that it targeted Hezbollah infrastructure in the Nabatieh area and sites allegedly used to plan attacks against Israeli troops. Lebanon’s National News Agency reported Israeli shelling and airstrikes on Nabatieh al-Fawqa, Arab Salim and the Ali al-Taher Ridge, as well as machine-gun fire towards Zawtar al-Sharqiyah.

Leader Dies in Bangladesh

IAN S
Dhaka, Sep. 03

Awami League leader Nur Islam, 55, died after falling ill in Chattogram Central Jail on Wednesday, according to prison officials and local media reports. Islam, general secretary of the party’s Mirsarai Municipality unit, complained of chest pain and was first taken to the jail hospital before being shifted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Jail authorities said he had been arrested in a case under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009.

Islam’s family and the Awami League alleged that he had been subjected to mental and physical torture and denied proper medical treatment, claims that have not been independently established. His wife said he had secured bail on August 31 but was arrested again at the prison gate the following day in another case. The Awami League accused authorities of arbitrary detention and alleged that political activists were being mistreated in prisons. Prison officials, meanwhile, said Islam developed chest pain and was transferred to hospital after his condition deteriorated.

Raghav Chadha to Represent India at IPU Meet

IAN S
New Delhi, Sep. 03

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha has been nominated to represent the Indian Parliament at the 12th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, scheduled from September 4-6 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.



Chadha announced the nomination on X and thanked Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan for selecting him for the Indian delegation. The IPU, founded in 1889 and headquartered in Geneva, comprises 180 Member Parliaments and 15 Associate Members.

The conference, themed “Reclaiming human rights, justice and dignity for all in turbulent times”, will discuss youth rights in conflict, digital rights and online safety, climate resilience, justice and economic opportunities for young people.

Chadha said India, as the world’s largest democracy with one of the youngest populations, has experiences to share and lessons to learn. He said India’s participation would also help strengthen parliamentary ties with Uzbekistan following Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit.

Zelensky Meets Jaishankar, Thanks India for Backing Peace Efforts

IAN S
Kyiv, Sep. 03

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Thursday met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Kyiv and thanked India for its stated desire to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The two leaders discussed bilateral ties, peace efforts and the situation in the Black Sea.

Jaishankar said he briefed Zelensky on his discussions with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha on deepening bilateral cooperation. “Our conversation centered on approaches to end the ongoing conflict,” he said in a post on X.

Zelensky said the talks covered “important issues”, including the Black Sea, and expressed gratitude for India’s position that the war should end. He said civilian shipping and food supplies must be protected and called for greater international efforts to establish peace.

The meeting came as



Russia launched another drone attack on Ukraine. Zelensky said the Indian delegation remained safe because Ukrainian combat aircraft intercepted most of the drones.

Jaishankar’s visit marks the first standalone bilateral visit to Ukraine by an Indian External Affairs Minister. Earlier, he held talks with Sybiha on peace efforts, Black Sea security, freedom of navigation, global food security and bilateral relations.

Sybiha said Russian aggression had turned the Black Sea into a zone of hostilities and noted that Indian seafarers had also been among those killed. He said Ukraine was ready for diplomacy and welcomed India’s potentially greater role in international efforts to end the conflict.

The two sides also discussed expanding trade, investment and Indian business participation in Ukraine’s reconstruction. Kyiv said bilateral trade

currently stands at \$2.6 billion and identified energy, infrastructure, transport, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, digitalisation and mechanical engineering as areas with further potential.

Sybiha described India as an important partner and said Ukraine sought continued Indian support for the principles of the UN Charter, Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, freedom of navigation and international law.

India, Australia Discuss Deeper army-to-army Defence Cooperation

IAN S
Canberra, Sep. 03

India and Australia on Thursday discussed ways to further strengthen their growing defence partnership, focusing on deepening army-to-army cooperation, training and exchanges.

India’s High Commissioner to Australia, Nagesh Singh, met Lieutenant General Susan Coyle, Chief of the Australian Army, and congratulated her on assuming leadership of the Australian Army.

“High Commissioner of India Nagesh Singh met Lieutenant General Susan Coyle AM CSC DSM, Chief of the Australian Army, and congratulated her on assuming the leadership of the Australian Army,” the High Commission of India in Canberra said in a post on X.

The discussions focused on strengthening army-to-army ties, en-

hancing training and exchanges, and expanding collaboration towards a secure and stable Indo-Pacific, it added.

The latest engagement comes amid continued efforts by India and Australia to deepen defence cooperation across their armed forces.

Last month, the two countries reaffirmed their maritime partnership and discussed ways to further strengthen naval cooperation. The discussions took place during a meeting between Singh and Australia’s Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Matthew Paul Buckley.

It was their first meeting after Buckley assumed command of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) on July 7, succeeding Vice Admiral Mark Hammond.

“High Commissioner of India Nagesh Singh paid a courtesy call on Vice Admiral Matthew Buckley AM CSC RAN, Chief of Navy, Royal

Australian Navy, on his assuming the leadership of the RAN,” the Indian High Commission said on X.

The meeting reaffirmed the strong India-Australia maritime partnership and focused on strengthening engagement between the Indian Navy and RAN.

Earlier in August, the two navies held the 17th Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks in Sydney on August 11-12. The talks focused on enhancing operational interoperability, increasing the complexity of bilateral exercises and expanding cooperation in capability building and training.

The talks were co-chaired by Rear Admiral Sachin Reuben Sequeira, ACNS (FCI), and Rear Admiral Christopher Smith, Commander Australian Fleet.

The engagement reaffirmed the shared commitment of the Indian Navy and RAN to building a stronger and more interoperable maritime partnership.

SEBI Proposes Netting of Mutual Fund Cash-Market Obligations to Ease Liquidity Pressure

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Thursday proposed allowing mutual fund schemes to net certain cash-market fund obligations, a move aimed at reducing temporary funding requirements and improving settlement efficiency for institutional investors.

Under the proposed framework, a mutual fund scheme would be permitted to offset eligible outright purchases against eligible outright sales within the same settlement cycle. However, the underlying securities would continue to be settled on a gross basis, ensuring that the delivery-backed nature of institutional transactions remains unchanged.

SEBI has invited public comments on the proposal by September 24, according to a consultation paper issued by the regulator.

The market regulator said mutual fund schemes can face temporary liquidity requirements and operational inefficiencies because cash obligations in the cash market are currently settled on a gross basis at the scheme level.

These liquidity pressures can become more significant during events such as index rebalancing, when passive funds may need to make large portfolio adjustments, as well as during periods of substantial inflows or redemptions.

SEBI said it had already introduced a net settlement of funds framework for foreign portfolio investors and was now proposing a suitably tailored mechanism for mutual funds, subject to appropriate safeguards.

TELANGANA CONGRESS: WHEN A CABINET BECOMES A BATTLEFIELD

Telangana Cabinet rift puts leadership, party discipline and the government’s focus on administration under scrutiny

By: **Shujath Ali Sufi**
Veteran Journalist

Internal disagreements within a ruling party are hardly unusual. Differences of opinion, competition for influence and divergent views on political strategy are natural features of any democratic organisation. However, when such differences spill into the public domain, they cease to be merely internal matters. They become questions of governance, credibility and political leadership.

The latest confrontation surrounding the Telangana Cabinet is therefore more significant than the fate of a single minister or political family. It raises a broader question: Is the Congress government in Telangana entering a phase in which internal power struggles could take precedence over administration?

The controversy involving Minister Konda Surekha has brought this question sharply into focus. What might otherwise have remained an internal party disagreement has assumed a public character, with issues of loyalty, discipline, political influence and competing claims over constituencies entering the debate. The fact that the matter has reached the party’s central leadership indicates that it cannot simply be dismissed as an ordinary disagreement between individuals.

At the heart of the issue is a fundamental

feature of coalition-style politics within a single party. The Congress came to power in Telangana with leaders representing different political generations, regions and social constituencies. They did not all reach positions of authority through the same political journey, nor do they necessarily share identical ambitions.

The Chief Minister, naturally, seeks to lead a government that speaks with one voice. Senior ministers and established political figures, however, have their own constituencies, supporters and political identities. The resulting tension is inevitable. The challenge lies in ensuring that it does not escalate into open confrontation.

A Chief Minister cannot govern effectively if every administrative decision is interpreted

through the lens of factional politics.

At the same time, a ruling party cannot maintain discipline merely by demanding unquestioning loyalty from every senior leader. Strong leadership requires authority, but authority becomes sustainable only when it is accompanied by consultation and political accommodation.

The present episode therefore represents a test for all sides.

For the Chief Minister, the question is whether he can consolidate authority without creating the impression that the government has become excessively centralised around a single political personality. For ministers and senior leaders, the question is whether they can express legitimate differences without undermining the government of which they are a part.



93 Apprentice Posts at DRDO-CVRDE; ITI Candidates Can Attend Interviews



The Defence Research and Development Organisation’s Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (DRDO-CVRDE), Avadi, Chennai, has invited applications from eligible ITI candidates for 93 apprentice positions for a one-year training programme.

The selection will be conducted through direct interviews on September 8 and 9, with candidates required to appear in person at the CVRDE premises in Avadi between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Of the 93 vacancies, 40 are earmarked for unreserved candidates, 25 for OBCs, 13 for SCs, six for STs and nine for

EWS candidates.

The vacancies are available across several trades, including Computer Operator and Programming Assistant, Draftsman (Medical), Carpenter, Technician, Electrician, Electronics, Fitter, Machinist, Mechanic, Sheet Metal Worker, Book Binder, Computer Networking Technician, Photographer and Food Production, among others.

Candidates who have passed ITI in the relevant trade during 2023, 2024 or 2025 are eligible to apply. Applicants must be between 18 and 27 years of age as on September 1, 2026.

Age relaxation is ap-

plicable as per rules, with five years for SC/ST candidates, three years for OBC candidates and 10 years for persons with disabilities. Eligible candidates must register themselves on the NCVT/SCVT MIS portal before appearing for the interview. The selection will be based solely on the interview.

Candidates are advised to complete the required registration and appear at the CVRDE centre in Avadi on the specified date with the necessary documents. The recruitment drive provides ITI-qualified youth an opportunity to undergo practical training in a premier defence research establishment.



Gold Prices Stage Sharp Rebound After Three-Day Slide; Rates Jump Over 3,000

Gold prices staged a sharp rebound on Thursday after declining for three consecutive days, with rates rising by more than ₹3,000 per 10 grams in the Hyderabad bullion market.

According to GoodReturns, at around 10.30 a.m. on September 3, the price of 24-carat gold rose by ₹3,333 to ₹1,55,350 per 10 grams in Hyderabad.

The price of 22-carat gold also increased by ₹3,020, taking the rate to ₹1,42,400 per 10 grams. Meanwhile, 18-carat gold climbed to ₹1,16,510 per 10 grams.

Silver prices also witnessed a steep rise in Hyderabad. The price of silver increased by around ₹5,000 per kg compared to the previous day, reaching ₹2.50 lakh per kg.

The rebound in gold prices has been attributed to renewed demand amid a weakening US dollar and declining yields on US bonds, which have increased the appeal of the precious metal among investors.

Gold prices remained broadly similar across several major cities. In Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Thiruvananthapuram,

WhatsApp Rolls Out Bill Payments in India Through Bharat Connect

Meta-backed messaging platform WhatsApp on Thursday announced the rollout of a new bill payment service in India, allowing users to find, manage and pay household and utility bills directly through the app.

The feature is being rolled out gradually and will be available to all Android and iOS users over the coming weeks, the company said.

Powered by the Bharat Connect (BBPS) network, the service will provide access to around 22,722 billers across 30 categories, including electricity, gas, water, FASTag, insurance, credit card bills and loan repayments.

Users can access the bill payments feature by tapping the rupee icon at the top of the WhatsApp home screen.

They will also be able to view past and upcoming payments, manage multiple accounts under a single provider and make payments using UPI, credit cards or debit cards.

“For millions of Indians, WhatsApp is already the simplest way to stay close to family and friends, talk to businesses, access citizen services, and buy everything from metro tickets to insurance — all without leaving the app,” said Arun Srinivas, Managing Director and Country Head, Meta India.

“With Bill Payments, we are bringing that same simplicity to one of the most routine tasks in every household,” he added, saying the company aims to make paying bills on WhatsApp as easy as sending a message.

When Screens Replace Childhood: The Growing Cost of Smartphone Dependence Among Children

The smartphone has become an inseparable part of modern life. From education and communication to entertainment and information, digital devices have transformed the way people live and learn. Yet, when it comes to children, the growing dependence on smartphones and other screens raises an important question: are we allowing technology to occupy too much space in childhood?

A recent study published in the Journal of Pediatrics has once again drawn attention to the possible consequences of excessive smartphone exposure during the early years of life. The study, which examined 502 children and tracked their smartphone use from early childhood into middle childhood, suggested that greater exposure to smartphones at a young age was associated with poorer memory, reduced cognitive performance and weaker academic outcomes.

The findings deserve attention, particularly because childhood is a crucial period of brain development. During these formative years, children learn not merely by looking at screens but by interacting with parents, teachers and peers, playing, asking questions, exploring their surroundings and experiencing the real world. These everyday experiences contribute significantly to the development of memory, language, attention, social skills and problem-solving abilities.

The concern, therefore, is not simply about the number of hours a child spends holding a smartphone. It is also about what those hours replace.

If screen time begins to take the place of reading, outdoor play, conversation, creative activities, family interaction or adequate sleep, the consequences can extend beyond temporary distraction. Children may find it harder to concentrate on schoolwork, remember information, develop communication skills or engage patiently with tasks that require sustained attention.

Smartphones are particularly designed to capture and retain attention. Endless scrolling, short-form videos, online games and constantly changing digital content can encourage children to seek rapid stimulation. This can make ordinary activities such as reading a book, completing homework or listening to a teacher for an extended period appear less engaging.

Excessive smartphone use can also interfere with sleep. Children who spend long hours on devices, particularly during the evening, may find it difficult to maintain healthy sleep routines. Poor sleep, in turn, can affect concentration, mood, memory and academic performance.

However, it would be wrong to conclude that every form of screen use is harmful. Digital technology can be a valuable educational tool when used appropriately. Interactive lessons, educational videos, language-learning applications and other digital resources can help children understand difficult concepts and make learning more engaging.

The real challenge is distinguishing between purposeful screen use and passive or uncontrolled consumption. A child watching an educational programme for a limited period under parental or teacher supervision is very different from a child spending several uninterrupted hours scrolling through short videos or playing games. Technology should support learning and development, not replace the experiences that are essential for healthy childhood.

Parents should therefore pay attention not only to screen-time limits but also to changes in a child’s behaviour. Difficulty concentrating, frequent forgetfulness, declining interest in studies, irritability when a device is taken away, reduced physical activity, sleep problems and loss of interest in hobbies can all be warning signs that screen use may have become excessive.

The solution does not necessarily lie in completely banning smartphones. Such an approach may neither be practical nor desirable in an increasingly digital world. Instead, children need structured and supervised access to technology.

Parents can establish device-free periods during meals, study hours and before bedtime. Outdoor play, reading, family conversations and creative activities should be given priority. Younger children, in particular, need direct interaction with adults rather than using smartphones as a substitute for attention or companionship.

Schools also have an important role to play. Digital learning should be encouraged where it genuinely improves understanding, but it should complement—not replace—books, classroom interaction, physical activity and face-to-face communication.

Most importantly, adults themselves must set an example. Children are more likely to follow rules when parents and other caregivers practise responsible digital habits themselves. A household in which adults constantly remain on their phones cannot reasonably expect children to develop healthy screen habits without guidance.



VVS Laxman Named India's Head Coach for Asian Games

New Delhi, Sep 3:

Former India batter and Centre of Excellence (CoE) head VVS Laxman will serve as the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team at the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports confirmed on Thursday.

Laxman will take charge of the men's team as regular head coach Gautam Gambhir has been rested ahead of India's upcoming white-ball series against the West Indies, which begins on September 27.

According to the Sports Ministry, Sunil Joshi, Hrishikesh Kanitkar and Subhadeep Ghosh will join Laxman as part of the coaching staff for the Asian Games. Amol Muzumdar will head the Indian women's team at the continental event.

The Ministry also confirmed a 768-member Indian contingent for the Asian Games, comprising 503 athletes, 246 team officials and supporting staff, and 19 contingent staff.

Laxman recently took charge of the Indian team during the T20I series against Zimbabwe in July, when Gambhir was rested following the white-ball series against England.

India will enter the Asian Games as defend-



ing champions in both men's and women's cricket. At the 2022 Hangzhou Games, Ruturaj Gaikwad led the Indian men's side to the gold medal, while Harmanpreet Kaur guided the women's team to the top prize.

Meanwhile, arrangements for the cricket teams' accommodation in Japan have attracted attention ahead of the tournament. Naoki Alex Miyaji, CEO of the Japan Cricket Association (JCA), said participating cricket teams are being offered hotel accommodation despite room shortages in the host region.

Concerns had emerged last week over accommodation arrangements, particularly the room sizes and facilities available for teams participating in the men's and women's T20 competitions, scheduled to be held from September 19 to October 3. Miyaji said the Asian

Games organising committee, AINAGOC, is working with the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) to ensure suitable arrangements for the cricket event. He noted that organisers had only 17 months to prepare for the competition and had to develop cricket facilities from scratch, as Aichi Prefecture did not have venues of the required standard.

He said the ACC had been discussing accommodation options with AINAGOC for an extended period and confirmed that cricket teams are being offered hotel accommodation. Teams will also have the option of arranging their own accommodation if they prefer.

The Asian Games will mark another important assignment for Indian cricket, with both the men's and women's teams looking to defend their continental titles.

Hitesh Dolwani Wins ITTF World Para Future Title in Lahti



FINLAND, Sep 3:

India's Hitesh Dolwani produced a strong run at the ITTF World Para Future Tournament in Lahti, defeating opponents from Ireland, Brazil, Great Britain and France to clinch the title.

Dolwani began his campaign with a 3-0 win over Ireland's Brennan Sam Patrick in the pre-quarterfinals, taking the games 11-4, 11-6, 11-8.

He then defeated Brazil's world No. 13 Lucas dos Santos Carvalho 3-0 in the quar-

terfinals, winning 15-13, 11-7, 11-8.

In a closely fought semifinal, Dolwani overcame Great Britain's world No. 42 Maximillian Flint 3-2. After losing the second and third games, he fought back to win 11-4, 1-11, 7-11, 11-8, 11-6.

Dolwani completed his title-winning campaign with a 3-1 victory over France's world No. 27 Julien Cigolotti in the final. He won the opening two games 11-8, 11-8, dropped the third 4-11 and sealed the match 11-9 in the fourth.

Yashvir Singh Set to Replace Neeraj Chopra at Asian Games, Eyes Javelin Glory



New Delhi Sep 3:

India's 24-year-old javelin thrower Yashvir Singh is set to make his mark at the prestigious Asian Games after being named as the replacement for Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, who will miss the tournament due to injury.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) confirmed on Thursday that Yashvir has been included in the Indian athletics squad in place of Chopra. The 24-year-old athlete recently impressed at the Commonwealth Games, winning a bronze medal with a throw of 85.41 metres.

Chopra, who has been one of India's biggest medal hopes in javelin throw over the past few years, will not compete at the Asian Games due to an injury involving a heel fissure. His absence leaves Yashvir and fellow Indian javelin thrower Rohit Yadav to carry India's medal hopes in the event.

Yashvir will now look to build on his Commonwealth Games success and produce another strong performance on the Asian stage. However, the Indian throwers are expected to face stiff competition from Sri Lanka's Ramesh Tharanga Pathirage, who won gold at the Commonwealth Games.

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, the reigning Olympic champion, is also expected to compete, adding further excitement to the men's javelin throw competition.

With several leading throwers in the field, the javelin event is expected to be one of the major attractions of the Asian Games. Yashvir will be aiming to make the most of the opportunity and help India maintain its strong presence in the discipline.

The Asian Games are scheduled to begin on September 19 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

BCCI 'Always Ready' to Host Women's Champions Trophy at Short Notice: Saikia



New Delhi, Sep 3:

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is fully prepared to host the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy at short notice after the International Cricket Council (ICC) shifted the tournament's hosting rights from Sri Lanka to India, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said on Thursday.

The six-team tournament, featuring Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka, will be held from February 14 to 28 next year at two venues — the Cricket Club of India's Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai and the Vadodra International Cricket Stadium.

Speaking to reporters after a performance review meeting at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai, Saikia said the board deserved credit for being ready to accommodate major international events even at short notice.

"The BCCI is always ready to host these kinds of international events," Saikia said, adding that the board was prepared to organise the tournament despite the change in hosting arrangements at the eleventh hour.

The ICC moved the event to India after withdrawing the hosting rights from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) amid concerns over government interference in the administration of the national cricket board following the appointment of a government-backed Transformation Committee.

India was chosen as the replacement host ahead of competing bids from Bangladesh and South Africa. Sri Lanka, however, retained its place in the tournament after gaining automatic qualification based on its global T20I ranking as of the July 6 cut-off date.

Saikia said the BCCI had offered four venues to the ICC, from which Brabourne Stadium and

Vadodra were eventually selected to host the competition.

Brabourne Stadium last hosted international cricket in December 2022 during India's women's T20I series against Australia. The Mumbai venue has also hosted Women's Premier League (WPL) matches in 2023 and 2025.

Vadodra has likewise established itself as an important venue for women's cricket, having hosted WPL matches in 2025 and 2026, besides staging the India-West Indies women's ODI series in 2024.

The tournament will feature a single round-robin league phase, with the competition concluding with the final on February 28.

The inaugural edition is expected to provide another major platform for the growth of women's cricket, with six of the leading teams in the world competing for the new ICC title on Indian soil.

Vishesh Sharma Opens Four-shot lead at Golconda Masters

Hyderabad Sep 3:

Hyderabad's 19-year-old Vishesh Sharma strengthened his grip on the Telangana Golconda Masters with a six-under 64 in the third round on Thursday, opening a four-shot lead at 20-under 190.

Playing at his home course, Sharma carded seven birdies and one bogey to continue his remarkable run after rounds of 60 and 66. He has held at least a share of the lead after every round.

Two-time DP World PGTI winner Amardeep Malik was second at 16-under 194 after a 68, while Delhi's Honey Baisoya was third at 14-under 196. Dhruv Sheoran slipped to fourth at 13-under 197.



Saptak Talwar produced the day's best score, a nine-under 61 featuring an eagle and eight birdies, to move to fifth at 12-under 198.

Sharma, currently 25th in the DP World PGTI Order of Merit, is one place outside the top 24 qualifying spots for the season-ending DP World India Championship. He said he would remain fo-

cused on his game rather than the rankings in the final round.

Fifteen-year-old Arjunveer Shishir, the youngest player to make the cut on the DP World PGTI, carded a bogey-free 67 to move into a share of 11th at eight-under 202. Defending champion Jamal Hossain was tied 41st at even-par 210.

Shahid Kapoor, Alia Bhatt Likely to Join Jr NTR's 'Dragon'?

Hyderabad Sep 3:

Expectations are soaring around the upcoming high-budget action entertainer 'Dragon', starring Jr NTR and directed by Prashanth Neel. Now, reports about the possible inclusion of Bollywood stars Shahid Kapoor and Alia Bhatt have created a buzz in both the Telugu and Hindi film industries.

According to reports circulating in film circles, Shahid Kapoor is being considered for a powerful antagonist role, while Alia Bhatt is said to be in talks for a key role opposite Jr NTR.

If the reports are confirmed, the presence of



Shahid and Alia would add further star power to the highly anticipated project. The combination of Jr NTR and Prashanth Neel has already generated considerable excitement among moviegoers, with the film being touted as a major pan-India action spectacle.

The film is being directed by Prashanth Neel and is jointly produced by Mythri Movie Makers and Vyra Entertainments. However, the reports regarding Shahid Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's casting have not yet been officially confirmed by the filmmakers.

I Still Regret Leaving Education Midway, Says Kareena Kapoor

Mumbai Sep 3:

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has spoken about her lingering regret over not completing her education.

In a recent interview, she said she still feels a sense of loss after leaving her studies midway to pursue her passion



for films. Kareena made her Bollywood debut at 19 in 2000 with Refugee, opposite Abhishek Bachchan. She lat-

er discontinued her studies after Class 11 as she focused on acting.

Reflecting on her experience, Kareena said she wants her sons to complete their education before choosing their careers. She stressed that education remains important and that her own journey shaped her views.

The actress also recalled her association with UNICEF campaigns promoting girls' education, saying her personal experience gave her a deeper connection with the cause.

Kareena will next appear in Daayra, directed by Meghna Gulzar, alongside Malayalam actor Prithviraj Sukumaran.

APS Golconda Dominates U-14 and U-17 Boys' Football Championships



Hyderabad, Sep 3:

APS Golconda emerged as the top-performing school in the boys' category, securing first place in both the U-17 and U-14 competitions.

In the U-17 boys' category, APS Golconda finished first with a commanding 6-2 victory, while TMRIES Cantonment, Secunderabad, secured second place. St. Patrick's School finished third with a 5-0 result, followed by HPS Ramanthapur in fourth place.

APS Golconda also claimed the U-14 boys' title, winning by a convincing 9-0 margin. TMRIES Shaikpet finished runners-up, while Chinmaya Vidyalaya secured third place with a 6-1 result. Springfield School fin-

ished fourth.

In the U-17 girls' category, Chinmaya Vidyalaya secured first place with a 4-3 victory, while TGSWREIS Mahendrahills finished second. Government High School, Ameerpet, took third place with a 3-0 result, followed by MJPTBC Chandrayangutta in fourth.

In the U-14 girls' category, Chinmaya Vidyalaya emerged victorious with a 2-1 win to claim the title. MJPTBC Khairatabad finished second, while HPS Ramanthapur secured third place with a 3-0 result. MJPTBC Secunderabad finished fourth.

In one of the notable boys' matches, APS Golconda, wearing black, dominated TMRIES Shaikpet 9-0 in the U-14 category.

'I just love batting' – Smriti Mandhana

DUBAI, Sep 3:

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana said her love for batting helped her produce a record-breaking 124 against Hong Kong-China in the Women's Asia Cup on Thursday.

Mandhana's 64-ball knock, featuring 14 fours and seven sixes, powered India to 193/5. She surpassed Mithali Raj's 10,868 runs to become the leading run-scorer in women's international cricket and registered her 18th international century, the most by a woman batter.

"I just love batting, and I'm happy that I could contribute," Mandhana said during the mid-innings break. She also became the first Indian woman to score multiple T20I centuries and recorded the highest individual score in Women's T20 Asia Cup history, surpassing Chamari Athapaththu's 119 not out.

Mandhana said the slow Dubai pitch made batting difficult initially but became easier after she adjusted to the conditions. "I was just trying to tell myself to watch the ball," she said.

India's other batters struggled to maintain momentum, but Mandhana accelerated in the latter stages before being run out on 124. India set Hong Kong-China a target of 194

Boy overcomes 90 pc spinal muscular disability to attain IIT BS berth

Determination and resilience in the pursuit of one's goal in life can overcome any challenge, whether physical or material, as a 17-year-old aspiring data scientist has proven here.

In an inspiring story of grit and determination, 17-year-old J. Santhosh has secured admission to the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) in its four-year Bachelor of Science (BS) degree programme in Data Science and Applications, despite living with 90 per cent spinal muscular disability and cerebral palsy since birth.

Given his condition, Santhosh relied on his family and teachers for support, through constant health challenges.

His father, an auto driver, struggled to provide for the family, but never let financial hardship stand in the way of his son's education.

The youth's achievement is being hailed as a landmark example of how inclusive education and perseverance can overcome seemingly insurmountable odds.

Santhosh, who studied at a government-aided school in Tamil Nadu, had long nurtured the dream of getting into IIT Madras. That dream took root when he was unable to join his classmates on a school trip to the institute campus in 2025 due to his physical condition. He was the only student from his class who could not make the trip.



Instead of discouraging him, the missed opportunity strengthened his resolve to one day walk through the gates of the prestigious institution as a student.

Though the journey was not easy, Santhosh was supported by his mother and teachers in ensuring he could pursue academics with focus and determination. Their efforts bore fruit when Santhosh emerged as his school's Class 12 topper, a feat that set the stage for his next big leap.

The IIT Madras BS programme in Data Science and Applications, launched under the institute's "IIT-M for All" initiative, proved to be the perfect fit for Santhosh.

The programme is designed to be flexible, allowing students to learn online while attending campus only for exams and practical sessions.

This accessibility made it possible for Santhosh to attempt the qualifier exam, which he cleared on his second attempt, becoming the only student from his class to get admission for IIT-M's Bachelor of Science programme.

Man's June prediction draws attention after Nepal floods

A video shared by a pastor two months before the deadly floods in Nepal has drawn attention. It appears to mention floods and homes being buried under water in the country. The video was posted on June 12, 2026, by Pastor Perez Ndi on the YouTube channel Yeshua Gospel Ministries.

In it, he spoke about several events he claimed would happen in Nepal, including floods, fires, earthquakes and political trouble. His comments about flooding have now been linked by viewers to the disaster that hit Nepal on August 26.

The Pastor Spoke About Floods In June

In the video titled "Prophecies for Nepal", Pastor Perez Ndi made several predictions about the country. One part, at around the 1:26 mark, talks specifically about flooding.

"I see flood, I saw water, people's houses buried under water in Nepal. Pray for the nation of Nepal." The clip was posted nearly two months before the floods.

On August 26, Nepal's



Rasuwa district, near the border with China, was hit by a major flash flood. Reports cited in the original account said more than 1,000 people had died, including 987 in Nepal and 16 on the Chinese side. Thousands of people were also reported missing.

Nepal Was Hit By A Deadly Flash Flood

The floods caused widespread destruction in the affected areas. According to the United States Geological Survey, a glacial collapse triggered the sudden flow of water and debris. The

disaster was especially dangerous because there was reportedly no rainfall in the area when the flooding happened. This meant people had little or no warning before the water arrived.

The pastor's earlier video gained fresh attention because his comments about water and homes being buried appeared to match part of what happened in Nepal. However, the June video contained several other claims as well.

"Today is June 12, 2026. I'm seeing a strong fire in Nepal, and I'm

seeing a burning forest in Nepal. Watch out for the forest zones in Nepal. I'm also seeing strong earthquakes hitting Nepal, and this earthquake will be from 7 point, 8 points. I saw it kill a few people. I also saw floods; I saw water, people's houses buried under water in Nepal. Pray for the nation of Nepal. I also see a political crisis in Nepal. I'm seeing political struggle in Nepal. I see a certain type of cold in Nepal that will give people sickness, and people will start coughing blood," the pastor said in the clip.

Son reunited with mother after being separated in floods, internet moved to tears; video goes viral

A touching video capturing the emotional reunion of a mother and son amidst the devastating floods in Nepal has recently surfaced online. The moment the two saw each other, they broke down in tears—a scene that has left social media users deeply moved.

Whenever nature unleashes its fury, it washes away countless lives and

leaves behind painful scars. The catastrophic flooding that struck Nepal recently tore numerous families apart. Amidst this trail of destruction, a poignant video depicting the reunion of a mother and her son has been widely circulated across social media platforms.

After days of agonizing uncertainty with no news of her missing son, the

mother was overwhelmed with emotion upon seeing him right in front of her. The son, equally overwhelmed, rushed into her arms and wept bitterly. The heart-wrenching moment has brought tears to the eyes of onlookers and netizens alike.

Emotional reunion after days of tragedy

The viral clip opens with the emotional mo-



'Nature Is Not Your Personal Washroom' says Goa Tourism



Goa is known for its pristine beaches, stunning sunsets and breathtaking viewpoints, but a tourist's experience at the popular Cabo de Rama in South Goa, has sparked a conversation about some-

thing far less scenic: civic sense/ The woman alleged that a child was allowed to relieve herself in a public area while her parents stood nearby.

In a video on Instagram, Aishwarya

Singh Dhargotra showcased the scenic beauty of the place before turning the camera towards the litter and unhygienic conditions around Cabo de Rama. She questioned how visitors could expect

authorities to keep public places clean when people themselves fail to treat them with basic respect.

"It's Out Civic Sense" "People in India have no sense at all. They are so pathetic and they want the government to change. But, you can't change," she said in the clip while showing how tourists have left trash behind. What left her more disturbed was the moment when a child was made to publicly relieve herself while parents stood nearby.

In the caption of the post, she wrote, "Sometimes, it's not the place that needs to be cleaned... it's our civic

sense. I was sitting here, enjoying this beautiful view in Cabo de Rama, when suddenly I witnessed something that honestly left me shocked. A child was being encouraged by her own parents to use the washroom right here, in a public area."

"Nature Is Not Your Personal Washroom"

She added, "And the most disturbing part? The adults standing there saw absolutely nothing wrong with it. We love travelling to beautiful places. We love taking pictures, making reels and showing the world how beautiful they are... But do we ever ask ourselves what we are leaving behind?"

ment of their meeting, capturing the immense struggle both must have endured before finally finding each other. In the video, the mother holds her son tightly while crying, and the son, overcome with emotion, struggles to contain his tears. This brief embrace has turned the video into a deeply stirring tearjerker.

A long-awaited moment realized

According to reports, the young man was separated from his family during the peak of the flash floods. Following

an intense search amid perilous conditions, he was finally located. The sheer relief and joy of being reunited after days of despair are palpable in the footage. As the son calls out "Mother!" while clinging to her, the onlookers present at the scene can also be seen visibly moved.

Social media users react The video has drawn heartfelt responses from people around the globe:

Survival and Resilience: One user commented, "It is a miracle to come back from the jaws of death;

these memories will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

Bond of Love: Another noted, "After so many painful days, this reunion was so deeply necessary."

Universal Emotion: A third user shared, "The fear of losing family is universal; this emotional reunion between a mother and son touched my heart."

Shared Grief: Highlighting the broader crisis, another comment read, "So many families in Nepal have been torn apart by this tragedy."

Dolphins most frequently sighted marine mammals in Gulf of Kachchh

Dolphins were the most frequently sighted marine mammals during a scientific survey of the southern Gulf of Kachchh, with researchers recording 64 sightings involving 193 individuals between October 2023 and February 2025.

The findings, released ahead of 'National Wildlife Day' on September 4, identify reef edges, tidal channels, island margins and shallow coastal waters as important areas used by dolphins in the Gulf.

The survey was conducted by scientists of the Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation as part of its assessment of dugongs and other marine mammals and seagrass habitats around Narara and adjacent islands.

The study covered areas in and around the Marine National Park and Marine Sanctuary, described in the

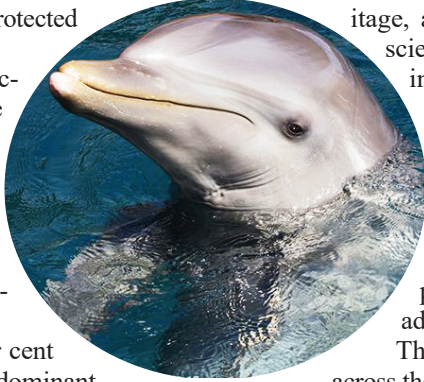
report as the country's first marine protected area.

The Gulf of Kachchh is also recognised as an important marine mammal area, with the Indian Ocean humpback dolphin (Sousa plumbea) among its qualifying species.

The boat-based surveys recorded 177 verified marine megafauna sightings involving 342 individuals.

Dolphins accounted for 36.2 per cent of all sightings, making them the dominant marine mammal group recorded during the assessment.

"Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, we are committed to protecting our natural her-



itage, and the latest study conducted by scientists of the GEER Foundation reinforces our resolve to protect marine biodiversity," Gujarat Forests and Environment Minister Arjun Modhwadia said.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has taken various measures to protect its marine biodiversity," he added.

The distribution of sightings varied across the surveyed locations.

Narara Reef recorded the highest number, with 14 sightings involving 39 dolphins. The Dedeka-Mundeka island complex followed with 12 sightings involving 41

individuals, while Pirotan Island recorded 11 sightings involving 32 dolphins.

Dhani Island accounted for nine sightings involving 28 individuals, while eight sightings involving 26 dolphins were recorded in the coastal waters of Sikka.

A further 10 sightings, involving 27 dolphins, were recorded at other surveyed locations.

"The survey provides a detailed picture of where dolphins are using the Gulf. Narara Reef recorded the highest number of sightings at 14, involving 39 dolphins. The Dedeka-Mundeka island complex followed with 12 sightings involving 41 individuals, while Pirotan Island recorded 11 sightings involving 32 dolphins. Dhani Island accounted for nine sightings involving 28 individuals, and eight sightings involving 26 dolphins were recorded in the coastal waters of Sikka.