



Four Tirupati pilgrims among seven killed in separate road accidents in Karnataka

NSS Bengaluru, Sept 7:

Seven people were killed in two separate road accidents in Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts of Karnataka, including four members of a family who were returning to Bengaluru after visiting the Tirupati temple on Monday.

In the first incident, four pilgrims from Bengaluru were killed after their car reportedly lost control and overturned near Dodd Kari village in KGF taluk of Kolar district on the Chennai-Bengaluru

Expressway.

The deceased have been identified as Sharadamma, 70, Deekshita, 25, Devendra Kumar, 41, and Jishnu, 13. They were residents of Vidyaranyapura in Bengaluru.

The family members had travelled to Tirupati for the darshan of Lord Venkateswara and were returning to Bengaluru when the accident occurred. The Toyota car reportedly lost control and hit the median before overturning, resulting in the deaths of four occupants on the spot.

Three others travelling in the vehicle — Vikas,

Neethu and Advika — sustained injuries and were shifted to the Bangarpet government hospital for treatment.

A case has been registered at the Bethamangala Police Station, and further investigation is underway.

In a separate incident in neighbouring Chikkaballapur district, three women were killed after an Omni car carrying agricultural labourers collided with a mini goods vehicle near Kothanur Gate in Shidlaghatta taluk.

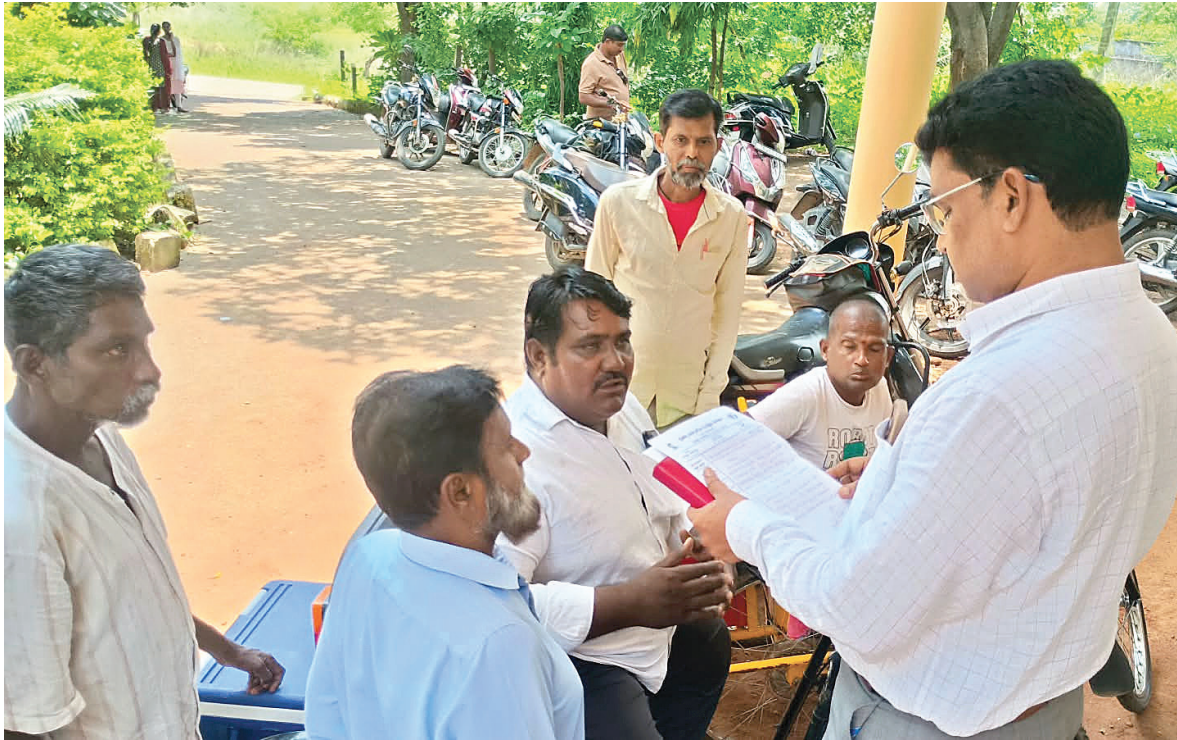
The accident occurred when 10 labourers from Mallikarjunapura village

were being taken in an Omni car by a man identified as Ramachandrappa to Hujuguru village for flower harvesting.

Three women from Mallikarjunapura were killed on the spot in the collision. Several others sustained injuries and were shifted to the Shidlaghatta Taluk Hospital for treatment.

A case has been registered at the Shidlaghatta Rural Police Station in connection with the accident.

The two separate accidents have claimed seven lives and left several others injured in the two districts.



District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada, IAS, paid a surprise visit on Sunday to the Telangana Residential School and Junior College located in Nekkonda Mandal headquarters.

Disabled Welfare Association Submits Memorandum

Munsif Bureau Kagaznagar, Sept 7:

A demand has been made for the immediate resolution of various issues faced by persons with disabilities and for ensuring that every eligible beneficiary receives the benefits of government welfare schemes and facilities.

In this regard, representatives of the Maitri Disabled Welfare Sangh met Kagaznagar Mandal Tahsildar Madhukar on Monday and submitted a memorandum outlining their demands.

Speaking on the occasion, the association's representatives said that persons with disabilities face numerous challenges not only in their daily lives but also in accessing government services and benefits. They pointed out that many eligible individuals are unable to fully benefit from government pensions, financial assistance, essential certificates, employment opportunities, and other welfare schemes.

The association demanded that the difficulties faced in obtaining necessary documents and disability certificates be removed, pensions and financial assistance be provided on time, and effective measures be taken to create dignified employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Speed Up the Resolution of Public Grievances: Municipal Commissioner Venkanna

Munsif Bureau Warangal, Sept 7:

Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) Commissioner T. Venkanna said that the corporation's primary objective is to resolve public complaints and petitions promptly while providing better civic services. He made it clear that any negligence or delay in disposing of Praja Vani petitions would not be tolerated.

During the Praja Vani program held at the Council Hall of the Municipal Corporation's Head Office on Monday,



the Commissioner received petitions from the public. After carefully examining each application, he directed that they be forwarded to the concerned departments based on the nature of the issue. He also instructed officials to work in coordination and with

a humanitarian approach to resolve the grievances within the stipulated time.

The Commissioner also reviewed the department-wise progress of petitions received during last week's Praja Vani. He instructed officials to dispose of all pending

applications immediately and inform the respective complainants about the action taken.

He warned that officials would be held accountable if there were unnecessary delays in resolving public grievances.

He further directed officials to ensure transparency, accountability, and promptness in every service provided to citizens. Venkanna emphasized that Praja Vani should not merely be a platform for receiving petitions, but an effective mechanism for resolving public grievances.

Basara set for 354-cr makeover ahead of Godavari Pushkaralu

Munsif Bureau Nirmal, Sept. 7:

The Telangana government on Sunday launched a ₹354-crore comprehensive redevelopment of the historic Sri Gnana Saraswati Temple at Basara and laid the foundation stone for ₹20-crore Pushkar Ghat development works, marking the beginning of large-scale preparations for the Godavari Pushkaralu 2027.

State Excise, Tourism, Culture and Archaeology Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, who is also the district in-charge minister, said the government had initiated infrastructure works a year in advance to ensure the river festival, beginning on June 27, 2027, is conducted



on a grand scale.

After performing special prayers to River Godavari and offering worship at the Saraswati temple, the minister said Basara would be developed into a world-class spiritual and religious tourism destination with modern amenities and improved facilities for devotees.

Reviewing the Pushkar preparations with officials,

Jupally directed departments to complete all works within the stipulated deadline.

He stressed the need for expanding bathing ghats, constructing new ghats, providing dedicated parking areas, traffic management plans, separate dressing rooms and toilets for women, and uninterrupted drinking water and sanitation services.



District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaikh has directed officials to resolve petitions received through the Praja Vani program promptly without keeping them pending.

34 Petitions Received at Gadwal Collector's Praja Vani Program

Munsif Bureau Gadwal, September 7:

District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaikh has directed officials to resolve petitions received through the Praja Vani program promptly without keeping them pending.

The Collector issued these instructions during the Praja Vani program held on Monday at the IDOC Conference Hall. He was joined by Additional Collectors Madhu Mohan and Narsinga Rao, along with Trainee Deputy

Collectors Manoj Kumar Reddy and Raj Kumar, who received petitions from the public.

The Collector said that 34 petitions were received during this week's Praja Vani. He added that 98 petitions remain pending at the district-level Praja Vani, while 247 petitions are pending at the mandal level. Officials of the concerned departments have been instructed to dispose of all pending petitions within the stipulated time.

He emphasized that the gov-

ernment attaches great importance to public grievances and warned that delays in addressing them are unacceptable, as the matter is being reviewed even at the Chief Secretary's level.

The Collector noted that a large number of complaints relate to the Electricity Department. He directed officials at the SE, DE, ADE, and AE levels to remain available in the field and resolve public grievances promptly.

DCC President Sanjeev Mudiraj Welcomes "RaGa for India" Padyatra in Mahabubnagar

NSS Mahabubnagar:, Sept.7

Mahabubnagar District Congress Committee (DCC) President A. Sanjeev Mudiraj warmly welcomed Andhra Pradesh High Court advocate and social activist K. Venkateswarlu during his thousands-of-kilometers-long nationwide padyatra, "RaGa for India," from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. On behalf of the District Congress Committee and party workers, he congratulated Venkateswarlu and expressed complete solidarity with the campaign.

Addressing the gathering, Sanjeev Mudiraj said that the long march, launched with the firm resolve of seeing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi become the Prime Minister and spreading his ideas and vision across the country, was highly commendable.

He praised Venkateswarlu's determination to walk thousands of kilometers despite intense heat, rain, exhaustion, and physical hardships, saying his commitment to protecting the nation and democracy serves as an inspiration for everyone.

Sanjeev Mudiraj said that Rahul Gandhi has been consistently fighting for justice, equality, democracy, and social justice in the country.

He added that by directly understanding people's problems and interacting with ordinary citizens, Rahul Gandhi has further strengthened public confidence in his leadership.

Godavari River tragedy: Woman rescued, three family members found dead

PTI Elamanchili, Sept.7

(Andhra Pradesh): A family of four reportedly jumped into the Godavari River from a bridge here, police said.

Search operations on Sunday led to the recovery of three bodies, while a woman was rescued by local fishermen, a police official said. The incident occurred around 6.15 am on Saturday, the official said.

"The family jumped into the Godavari River from the bridge at Chinchinada. Three bodies have since been traced during search operations, while a woman was rescued by local fishermen," the official told PTI.

The rescued woman was identified as Namburi Padmini (42), who was shifted to the Government Hospital in Razole, he said.

Police said two motorcy-

cles were found at the scene and, based on their registration numbers, the family was identified as residents of Tanuku town.

The three deceased were identified as Padmini's husband, Namburi Srinivas (45), and their two minor children, police said.

Further investigation was underway to ascertain the circumstances that led to the incident, they added.

Medak villager dies by suicide after alleged forest officials' harassment

Munsif Bureau Medak, Sept.7:

Suspected harassment by forest department officials forced a villager, Bussa Pochaiah, to hang himself in the village on Monday morning. The deceased, Bussa Pochaiah (55), and his son Raghupathi were taken into custody by forest authorities on charges of killing a monitor lizard three days ago.

Raghupathi alleged that forest officers Arjun Chary and

Sai Krishna had beaten them black and blue multiple times and that they were summoned to present themselves at the forest office again on Monday. Raghupathi lamented that his father Pochaiah hanged himself in the early hours of Monday at their residence.

He maintained that they had not hunted the monitor lizard, but their dog had hunted and killed it while they were collecting firewood in the forest. Even though they pleaded with the forest officials, the

officers beat him multiple times. Raghupathi said that the officers further threatened to make them visit their office for the next one month.

The family of Pochaiah demanded that the police file criminal cases against the officers besides paying compensation to them. Speaking to 'Telangana Today', District Forest Officer (DFO) M Joji said that the officers had enough evidence that the monitor lizard was killed by them.

Farmers from several villages block traffic demanding power for 15 hrs a day in Nirmal

NSS Nirmal:, Sept.7

Farmers from several villages staged a rasta-roko on the Kubheer-Bhainsa road on Monday, demanding quality power supply for agricultural needs.

Farmers from Kubheer and neighbouring villages blocked traffic on the road to protest against interruptions in power supply, which they said were causing crops to wither.

The protesters said power outages had become a regular affair and urged officials to ensure quality power supply for agricultural needs.

They raised slogans against the officials over the outages. They declared that they would not withdraw the road blockade until officials promised to provide power for 15 hours a day. Due to the protest, traffic on both sides of the road came to a grinding halt for over two hours. Motorists expressed displeasure over the traffic blockade.

Assembly BAC decides to hold monsoon session for a week

Hyderabad, Sept.7 (NSS): The Telangana Legislative Assembly's Business Advisory Committee (BAC) met at the Speaker's chamber on Monday under the chairmanship of Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar to finalise the agenda and schedule for the ongoing monsoon session.

Ganesh Festival to Be Celebrated Peacefully, Says Nirmal Collector

Munsif Bureau Nirmal :, Sept.7

Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra has called upon people to celebrate the upcoming Ganesh festival peacefully and in a spirit of communal harmony.

The Collector was speaking at a Peace Committee meeting held at the Collectorate on Monday to review arrangements for the forthcoming Ganesh festivities. District SP Janaki Sharmila also par-

ticipated in the meeting.

The Collector said festivals of all communities should be celebrated with brotherhood and mutual respect. He assured that the district administration would make all necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of Ganesh festivities in both rural and urban areas.

He directed officials to take measures to prevent electrical accidents by rectifying faulty or unsafe power lines.

He also appealed to festival organisers to exercise caution and cooperate with the authorities in ensuring public safety.

The Collector said special attention would be given to sanitation and that all necessary arrangements would be made for the Ganesh idol immersion programme.

He added that potholes on roads would be repaired and routes would be made suitable for processions.

Telangana DGP directs police to strengthen security for Ganesh festivities

NSS Hyderabad:, Sept.7

Telangana DGP C V Anand has directed police officers to make comprehensive security arrangements for the Ganesh festivities, which will begin on September 14 and conclude with the immersion of idols on September 25.

Addressing senior police officers and station-level personnel through a video conference, Anand reviewed the preparedness for the cele-



brations and directed officers to remain vigilant from the setting up of pandals until the completion of the immersion process.

PM Modi ‘most dangerous person’ for country: Revanth

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.7

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the “most dangerous person” for the country and called upon the Communist parties to join hands with the Congress to defeat the BJP-led government at the Centre.

Addressing a memorial meeting organised in memory of veteran Communist leader Comrade Sarampalli Malla Reddy here, the Chief Minister alleged that the BJP was adopting new tactics to win elec-

tions after failing to secure the people’s trust through democratic means.

He alleged that the Union government was deleting votes perceived to be anti-BJP under the guise of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, with SCs, STs and minorities being the main targets.

Revanth Reddy accused the BJP of replicating its strategy in West Bengal in Telangana by systematically removing anti-BJP votes from every polling booth.

He alleged that the BJP was conspiring to delete one crore votes in

Telangana and claimed that private agencies were also being engaged to conduct surveys and facilitate deletion of votes.

The Chief Minister criticised the BJP for allegedly using the Election Commission to pursue its political agenda and questioned the BRS for maintaining silence over what he termed “vote theft” during the SIR exercise.

Appealing to the Communist parties to support the Congress in its fight against alleged vote theft, Revanth Reddy said the defeat of Prime Minister Modi would amount to a victory for

the Communists and urged them to safeguard the voting rights of the poor.

“We should be united and fight against Modi in the country. Elections and fundamental rights of the poor are different aspects,” he said.

Revanth Reddy commended the Communist parties for their long-standing struggle for the rights of the poor, saying the “Red Flag” had given the underprivileged a sense of reassurance and confidence.

He highlighted various laws enacted for the welfare of the poor and claimed that the Congress



had addressed several issues raised by the Communist parties.

The Chief Minister also recalled the contributions of Sarampalli Malla Reddy, who rose from a remote area to the national stage and dedicated his life to the cause of farmers.

He described Malla Reddy’s death as an “irreparable loss” to the farming community and praised his deep understanding of farmers’ issues and his cultured and articulate manner of raising them.

“Our government will strive to address farmers’ issues by keeping in mind

the books Malla Reddy wrote and the points he raised. The government will also take a decision on developing a memorial for Malla Reddy after consulting my Cabinet colleagues,” Revanth Reddy said. (NSS)

BRS protest sparks tension at Telangana Assembly

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept.7

An unexpected and tense situation prevailed at the Telangana Legislative Assembly on Monday as police stopped BRS MLAs and MLCs from entering the Assembly premises wearing black T-shirts bearing protest slogans.

When police objected to their entry, stating that permission had not been granted for the protest, former minister T. Harish Rao and several other BRS legislators removed their T-shirts and staged a sit-in at the spot wearing only their vests. A heated argument broke out between the legislators and police, following which Harish Rao and several other BRS leaders were taken into custody.

As the protest intensified, police began detaining the protesting legislators. Harish Rao, after removing his T-shirt, attempted to



proceed towards the Public Gardens but was stopped by police and forcibly put into an Innova vehicle.

MLAs Malla Reddy, Prashanth Reddy, Sanjay Rao and Kaushik Reddy were also lifted and carried by groups of policemen before being shifted into buses.

High drama unfolded when BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao was taken into custody. As police attempted to put him into a vehicle, KTR resisted and held his foot against the road.

All the protesting BRS legislators were detained and shifted from the Public Gardens to different police stations.

The situation gradually returned to normal, even as

Speaker breaks down in tears in Telangana Assembly

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept7

Emotional scenes unfolded in the Telangana Legislative Assembly on Monday when Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar was moved to tears during House proceedings.

The emotional moment occurred as Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka) addressed the House with a heavy heart, raising serious objections to alleged derogatory remarks made by MLC Tata Madhu targeting the Speaker’s late mother.



“I DID NOT INSULT SPEAKER”

Hyderabad, Sept.7 (NSS): BRS MLC Tata Madhu on Monday denied allegations that he had insulted Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar or Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy.

Madhu accused the Congress of spreading false propaganda and clarified that although he had used strong language, his remarks were directed at police personnel over their alleged behaviour towards BRS women MLAs.

He alleged that his comments were being distorted to create a false impression that he had made objectionable remarks against the presiding officers of the Assembly and Council.

Seerat Quiz Held to Connect the Younger Generation with Masjid-e-Noor

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept7

The Managing Committee of Masjid-e-Noor, Surya Nagar Colony, Shaikpet, organised a Seerat Quiz titled “Know Your Prophet, Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ,” in which more than 300 boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 18 participated enthusiastically. The children showed keen interest in learning about the Seerah of the Prophet ﷺ, his blessed life and teachings.

Cash prizes worth ₹50,000 were personally provided by Mr Asif Hussain Sohail. He said, “A mosque should not be merely a place of worship; it should also serve as a centre of knowledge, character building, youth development and service to humanity.” The Seerah of the Prophet ﷺ teaches compassion, justice, respect for neighbours’ rights, assistance to those in need and dignity and respect for every human being.

Worshippers appreciated the efforts of the Managing Committee. According to them, during the past 15 years, Masjid-e-Noor had largely remained focused on conducting prayers. However, the new committee has taken important steps towards developing it into a centre for education, healthcare, community service and youth development.

The programme was held under the guidance of Mr Zafar Masood, President of the Managing Committee of Masjid-e-Noor.

Kavitha Leads Student Rally in Hanamkonda

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept7

Telangana Rakshana Sena President Kalvakuntla Kavitha has demanded that the government immediately release pending fee reimbursement dues and resolve the issues faced by students. During her visit to Warangal, Kavitha participated in a student rally in Hanamkonda and alleged that the present government has not cleared fee reimbursement dues for the past three years, pushing many small private colleges toward closure.

She said that poor students have also not received scholarships and pending fee reimbursements, while the government’s promise to provide scooters to female students has also remained unfulfilled.

Kavitha urged the government to discuss fee reimbursement, scholarships, and other student-related issues during the Assembly session and announce concrete measures to address them. She pointed out that students had walked nearly



four kilometers in the rally to demand the release of the pending funds and said the government should respond positively to their hardships.

Demanding the clearance of fee reimbursement arrears and the resolution of student issues, Kavitha led a rally with students

El Niño, KCR’s failures responsible for Telangana’s water crisis: Uttam

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept 6:

Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday attributed Telangana’s prevailing water scarcity to two factors — the impact of El Niño and what he described as the irrigation failures of the previous BRS government headed by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

Speaking to journalists in the Assembly lobbies, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the adverse global climatic

phenomenon had affected rainfall and water availability, while the failure of the previous government to complete key irrigation projects despite spending around ₹1.81 lakh crore had left Telangana more vulnerable to water stress.

“Farmers in Telangana are facing difficulties because of two factors — El Niño and KCR,” he said.

The Minister explained that El Niño was a global climatic phenomenon linked to changes in conditions in the Pacific Ocean

and was neither created by the Telangana government nor confined to the State. Anticipating possible water stress, the government had repeatedly advised farmers to opt for alternative crops in areas where adequate water availability was uncertain, he said.

“Before KCR, political leaders did not speak in this manner. What was then projected as heroism has today become part of political discourse,” Uttam Kumar Reddy said, taking a swipe at the former Chief Minister.

He said the deterioration in political discourse had not happened overnight and argued that responsibility lay with those who had set such a precedent.

The Minister, however, said his principal criticism of the BRS was not about the language used in politics but its record in the irrigation sector. He alleged that despite substantial expenditure, several key irrigation projects remained incomplete, contributing to the State’s vulnerability to water shortages. (NSS)

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Rajendranagar Unit Organizes Grand Seerat-un-Nabi Expo

Munsif Bureau
Hyderabad, Sept7

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind’s Rajendranagar Unit organized a grand “Seerat-un-Nabi ﷺ Grand Expo” at Royal Hayat Convention, Pillar No. 211, Rajendranagar, attracting a large number of visitors who expressed their deep appreciation for the life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Islamic history.

The expo, held on Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., witnessed enthusiastic participation from men, women, children, and youth. Throughout the day, the convention hall remained packed as visitors explored creatively designed and informative models depicting various aspects of the Prophet’s life.

The exhibition was formally inaugurated by Mohammed Azharuddin, Ameer-e-Halqa of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Telangana.

Swimming Is Highly Beneficial for a Healthy Life

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept7

A Masters and Veterans Swimming Event was organized by the Butterfly Swimming Academy, where Professor Masood Ahmed set an inspiring example of healthy living and perseverance by successfully completing a 2-kilometre swim.

This achievement marks a significant personal milestone

for Professor Masood. He began learning swimming in 2015 at the age of 50, and through consistent practice and dedication, he had previously completed 400 metres, 1,000 metres, and 1,500 metres, setting personal records before reaching the 2-kilometre mark.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor Masood said his achievement reinforces the

message that good health is life’s greatest blessing. He urged people to include some form of physical exercise or sports activity in their daily routine. Describing swimming as one of the best forms of exercise, he said it provides a full-body workout, strengthens the heart, lungs, and muscles, and contributes significantly to overall fitness.

Minority welfare schemes get major budgetary push in Telangana: Azharuddin

NSS
Hyderabad, Sept7

Minister for Minority Welfare and Public Enterprises Mohammed Azharuddin said the Telangana government was implementing several welfare schemes for minority communities and had significantly enhanced budgetary allocations for their welfare.

Responding to questions from Members of the Legislative Council on the release and utilisation of funds for minority welfare schemes

on Monday, Azharuddin said detailed information had already been furnished to the House in writing.

For 2024–25, the government allocated ₹2,256 crore for minority welfare schemes, of which ₹2,122.74 crore was released and ₹961.54 crore was spent, he said.

Similarly, for 2025–26, an allocation of ₹2,844 crore was made, with ₹2,317.65 crore released and ₹1,010.63 crore utilised, the Minister said.

According to the 2011 Census, minorities account for

14.27% of Telangana’s total population, the Minister said.

Responding to a question on whether funds for minority welfare were allocated and spent strictly in proportion to the minority population, Azharuddin clarified that allocations were not determined solely on the basis of population percentage. Instead, allocations were made scheme-wise, taking into account the overall budget availability, requirements and the implementation of various welfare programmes for minority communities, he said.



At a Glance

5 lakh SIMs for Haryana students

IANSS Chandigarh, Sep. 07

The Haryana government has approved the procurement of five lakh data SIMs for students as part of its efforts to promote quality and technical education.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said five lakh tablets would be provided to students of Classes 10 to 12, with data SIMs to be procured for the devices.

At a high-powered purchase committee meeting chaired by Saini, approval was also given for 220-volt tubular-type lead-acid batteries for Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd.

The panel approved the operation of the HAFED-run Assandh Sugar Mill for one year at a cost of ₹11.90 crore, including overhaul, repairs and maintenance.

It also cleared 59 advanced life support ambulances under the National Health Mission, including 33 for the south zone and 26 for the north zone. Service-related works worth over ₹90 crore were also approved.

Modi’s reforms driving India’s fast – moving economy: Amit Shah

IANSS Panaji, Sep. 07

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s efforts since 2014 for transforming India into a rapidly moving economy, citing the country’s 7.8 per cent growth in the first quarter of the financial year.

Chairing the 28th meeting of the Western Zonal Council in Panaji, Shah said India recording such a growth rate amid global turbulence was a matter of pride. He said the Western Region had made a significant contribution to the country’s economic performance.

Shah said that over the past 12 years, the Modi government had worked to strengthen the principle of cooperative federalism enshrined in the Constitution. He also highlighted the rise in meetings of the Zonal Councils and their Standing Committees since 2014.

According to Shah, only 25 meetings were held between 2004 and 2014, whereas 71 meetings have been held since 2014, an increase of nearly three times. A total of 1,893 issues were discussed at these meetings, of



“ ‘W’ stands for wealth and finance, ‘E’ stands for exports and ports; ‘S’ stands for start-ups and semiconductors; and ‘T’ stands for tourism and the blue economy. – Amit Shah

which 1,445 have been resolved, he said.

Calling the Western Region extremely important from economic, industrial and financial perspectives, Shah described it as the country’s “WEST Engine” of economic growth.

He said “W” stood for wealth and finance generated in the region, “E” for exports and ports, “S” for start-ups and semiconductors, and “T” for tourism and the blue economy.

Shah said more than

one crore tourists visit Goa every year, including around five lakh foreign tourists, while tourism contributes 16 per cent to the State’s GSDP. Maharashtra, he said, ranks first in the country with 33,872 start-ups.

He said Dholera had emerged as a hub for the semiconductor sector, while Gujarat’s Mundra Port handles the highest volume of cargo. Deendayal Port in Kutch, he said, is the largest port in terms of

cargo volume. Mumbai, the country’s financial capital, is also emerging as a major hub for global capital.

The meeting also discussed the implementation of Fast Track Special Courts for speedy investigation and early disposal of rape cases involving women and children, besides issues related to the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112).

Other matters included food safety standards, Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, provision of brick-and-mortar banking facilities within the prescribed radius of villages, railway development projects and environmental clearances.

The meeting also took up issues of national importance, including urban master planning, electricity supply, strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACSS), tackling child malnutrition through Poshan Abhiyaan, reducing school dropout rates, increasing public hospital participation in Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY, cybercrime and digital infrastructure.

Bengal hikes allowances for contractual staff across sectors

IANSS Kolkata, Sep. 07



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Monday announced hikes in the monthly allowances of several categories of contractual employees following a Cabinet meeting at Nabanna.

The revised allowances will benefit 20,343 primary para-teachers and 21,849 upper-primary para-teachers in the state-run schools. The monthly allowance of primary para-teachers will rise from ₹11,941 to ₹16,941, while that of upper-primary para-teachers will increase from ₹15,523 to ₹20,523. The revised rates will take effect

from November 1.

Around 2,000 forest assistants will receive an additional ₹5,000 per month from October 1. The Cabinet also approved an increase in the medical allowance of former MLAs from August 1.

Adhikari said the monthly remuneration of Shiksha Bandhus and special educators would also be increased by ₹5,000. The revised pay for 2,280 Shiksha

Bandhus will take effect from November 1.

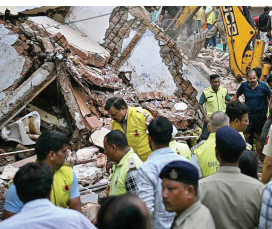
Management staff, SSK assistants and MSK assistants will also receive a monthly increase of ₹5,000, he said.

The Chief Minister also announced that the state government would introduce a Bill in the Assembly to facilitate mutual transfers of teaching and non-teaching staff in universities.

“The Cabinet has approved the proposed legislation today. It seeks to provide a statutory framework for mutual transfers at the university level. The Bill will be placed before the Assembly on a priority basis,” he said.

Two MP Students Die in Delhi Building Collapse

IANSS Kanti, Sep. 07



Two Madhya Pradesh students pursuing higher education in Delhi were among those killed after a building collapsed in the national capital’s Satya Niketan area on September 6.

Arpit Jaj, 21, from Dewas, and Akshat Yadav, 19, from Katni,

Arpit was a second-year B.Com student. Both had recently returned to Delhi after a festival break.

The tragedy has left their families and friends in shock. The nearly 40-year-old building was reportedly not listed as dangerous in MCD records, raising questions over the safety monitoring of ageing structures.

Delhi HC reserves verdict on Vimal Elaichi Ad plea involving Bollywood stars

IANSS New Delhi, Sep. 07

The Delhi High Court on Monday reserved its verdict on whether it can hear a plea filed by a company associated with Vimal Elaichi, challenging show-cause notices issued by the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to actors Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff over an alleged surrogate advertisement for Vimal pan masala.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma reserved the order on the plea seeking quashing of the notices.

The petitioner argued that the notices were issued only to the actors and not to the company, despite the com-

pany facing potential harm from action against the advertisement. It also contended that the Maharashtra FDA lacked jurisdiction to order that the campaign be stopped.

The Centre and the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) opposed the plea’s maintainability in Delhi, arguing that the matter should have been filed before the Bombay High Court since the action originated in Maharashtra.

The CCPA said it was independently examining the issue and had no objection to the state FDA issuing the notices. The court was also informed that the CCPA had initiated proceedings over

similar allegations but had not issued any direction against the campaign.

The dispute concerns a Vimal Elaichi advertisement featuring the three actors. The Maharashtra FDA alleged that it amounted to surrogate advertising for Vimal Pan Masala, which is prohibited in the state.

The regulator invoked Sections 24 and 53 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, concerning misleading food advertisements and penalties of up to ₹10 lakh.

The FDA has received replies from Shroff and Devgn, while Khan’s response was awaited. Further action will be considered after the responses are examined.

Women legislators key to stronger democracy, says Om Birla

IANSS Faridabad, Sep. 07

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday said strengthening the capabilities of women legislators would directly contribute to improving the quality of democracy and called for greater focus on their understanding of parliamentary processes, policymaking, legislation and budgets.

Addressing a two-day Capacity Building Workshop on “Gender Responsive Governance for Women Legislators” in Faridabad, organised under the National Commission for Women’s (NCW) ‘She is a Changemaker’ initiative, Birla urged women legislators to use public service as a means to promote inclusive governance and help shape the future of their States and the country.

He also underlined the

importance of dialogue, participation and trust in strengthening democratic institutions.

NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said the workshop had brought together more than 100 women legislators, including MLAs and MLCs from across the country, providing a national platform for dialogue, experience-sharing and capacity building.

Rahatkar said women legislators were not merely representatives of their constituencies but also important voices on issues ranging from education, health and the economy to technology, security and good governance.

She said women’s political participation brought a distinct perspective to governance and that their leadership could help drive wider social change.

Rahatkar urged the participating legislators to

make effective use of their constitutional authority and public platforms to represent the aspirations of millions of women. She also called upon them to ensure that women in their constituencies were aware of their rights and able to access the benefits of government schemes.

According to an official statement, the first day of the workshop featured four technical sessions covering leadership, legislative functioning, public policy and gender-responsive governance.

The sessions offered practical insights into public leadership and governance and provided participants with an opportunity to share experiences and best practices, it said.

The NCW said such capacity-building programmes were aimed at strengthening the capabilities of women legislators

and enabling them to contribute more effectively to policymaking, governance and public service.

The initiative was also intended to promote meaningful and sustained women’s leadership in public life, the statement said.

Those present at the inauguration included Surama Padhy, Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly; Laxmi Rajwade, Minister for Women and Child Development, Chhattisgarh; Bindhu Krishna, Minister for Women and Child Development, Kerala; K.A. Thulasi, Minister for SC, ST and OBC, Kerala; Rajesh Nagar, Haryana Minister for Food and Civil Supplies; Kalita Majhi, West Bengal Minister of State for Housing; and Sudeep Jain, Member Secretary, NCW.

Wife’s body found in fridge, husband held

IANSS Guwahati, Sep. 07

Ramanujan Goswami, accused of killing his 25-year-old wife Riya Talukdar Goswami in Guwahati’s Hatigaon area, surrendered at a police station and was arrested, officials said on Monday.

Police said the woman’s severed head was allegedly found in a polythene bag inside a refrigerator at the couple’s flat, while her fingers had also allegedly been cut off. The body was recovered after neighbours alerted police over a foul smell.

Investigators seized a machete from the premises and sent the remains to GMCH for post-mortem. Police said Goswami allegedly confessed during questioning, but his statement will be verified against other evidence. The investigation is underway.

Bengal BJP chief: Food, Clothing are personal choices, cannot be dictated

IANSS Kolkata, Sep. 07



West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya on Monday said what people eat or wear is a matter of personal choice and no one has the right to dictate such choices.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of an event, Bhattacharya said Bengal has a diverse food culture and people should be free to follow their preferences.

“What one eats or wears is a personal choice. Bengal’s food culture is

diverse, and everyone has the freedom to follow their own preferences. Bengalis won’t have fish or mutton? Even Swami Vivekananda approved of it. No saint, leader or anyone else has the right to decide what you should eat. Personal choice must remain personal,” he said.

His remarks came days after a nationally popular religious guru appealed that non-vegetarian food should be kept away from Durga Puja mandaps and during Navratri.

Bhattacharya said Bengalis traditionally eat mutton on Navami and luchi on Ashtami, adding that the religious guru could express his views but people were free to decide whether to follow them.

He said he had himself

met the guru and paid his respects, describing him as a person with devotees across the country. However, Bhattacharya maintained that the guru had no right to dictate what Bengalis should eat.

The BJP Rajya Sabha MP also referred to the growing campaign for vegetarianism and said doctors were advocating it in some cases. But, he asked, neither a saint nor a political party could decide what people should eat in their homes.

“Will Bengalis not eat meat? Will they not eat fish? Swami Vivekananda had approved this. It is still dangerous to rise above a political party could decide what people should eat in their homes.

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Tamil Nadu rolls out `100-cr plan to bolster forest protection workforce

IANSS Chennai, Sep. 07



The Tamil Nadu government on Monday announced a five-year Forest Field Workforce Revitalisation Scheme worth ₹100.72 crore to strengthen the State’s frontline forest personnel and improve its response to wildlife conservation challenges, forest offences and human-wildlife conflict.

Forest Minister R.V. Ranjith Kumar unveiled the scheme in the State Legislative Assembly, saying it would focus on enhancing the skills, pre-

paredness and operational capacity of personnel engaged in protecting forests and wildlife habitats.

The government will also implement a comprehensive Forest Fire Management Plan at a cost of ₹60.58 crore over five years to strengthen

preventive, monitoring and mitigation measures in areas vulnerable to forest fires.

As part of efforts to promote biodiversity and environmental awareness, 25 Nature Parks will be established in rural, urban and peri-urban areas at an estimated cost of ₹10 crore.

The State has allocated ₹12 crore for induction training for 1,947 newly recruited forest personnel. A Centre for Tree Taxonomy and Forest Products Analysis will be established with an investment of ₹5 crore, while ₹4.2 crore will

be spent on training 43 naturalist trainees.

A mobile laboratory for wildlife forensic examination and disease diagnosis will be set up at a cost of ₹1 crore. Other initiatives include a ₹50-lakh genomic study and genetic improvement project for palmyrah and a ₹5-lakh programme to identify District Biodiversity Symbols.

Five solar-powered or electric boats will be introduced at Pichavaram at a cost of ₹2 crore to promote environmentally responsible tourism and reduce pollution

in the ecologically sensitive mangrove region.

In a related announcement, Environment Minister V.K. Rajeev said 200 government and government-aided schools and five government colleges would be transformed into Blue-Green Campuses every year under a ₹53.75-crore programme.

The initiative aims to familiarise students with climate change, environmental conservation and sustainable practices while encouraging greater environmental responsibility among young people.



US, South Korea, Japan kick off 3-way military exercise

IAN S
Washington, Sep. 07

The United States, South Korea and Japan on Monday began a five-day trilateral military exercise in waters near South Korea, proceeding with the drills despite the recent scaling back of major Seoul-Washington exercises.

The fourth edition of the multidomain Freedom Edge exercise began in international waters east and south of South Korea’s Jeju Island, the country’s Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said.

The exercise will focus on improving the three countries’ operational and joint response capabilities across maritime, air and cyber domains. Major naval and air assets will participate, with a joint exercise control group overseeing operations.

The JCS described Freedom Edge as an annual defensive exercise conducted in accordance with international law and norms. It said the drills are aimed at strengthening deterrence and response capabilities against North Korean nu-



clear and missile threats while contributing to regional peace and stability.

The exercise is being held as scheduled despite last month’s reduction in the scale of the bilateral Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise between South Korea and the US. The UFS drills were reportedly cut by half after US President Donald Trump ordered their reduction, in what was seen as a conciliatory gesture towards North Korea.

Pyeongyang has repeatedly condemned joint military exercises by the allies, describing them as preparations for war.

The JCS did not provide details of all participating assets, but sources said six Aegis-equipped destroyers would take part, along with maritime patrol aircraft, fighter jets and aerial refuelling tankers.

South Korea is deploying the 7,600-ton ROKS Yulgok Yi I and ROKS Seoae Ryu Seong-ryong destroyers. Japan is expected to deploy the 7,700-ton Atago and 5,100-ton Asahi destroyers, along with P-1 maritime patrol aircraft, SH-60K helicopters and F-15 fighter jets.

The US Navy’s 7th Fleet last week announced the arrival of the 6,900-

ton Arleigh Burke-class USS Benfold at Busan, suggesting its participation in the exercise.

The US is not expected to deploy an aircraft carrier this year, with sources citing ongoing US military operations against Iran. Last year’s Freedom Edge was also held without a US carrier.

US Pacific Command said the 2026 exercise would feature enhanced real-time data sharing, synchronised coordination, air defence scenarios and maritime interdiction operations.

The second and third editions were held in November 2024 and September 2025.

Iran warns US: Strike our assets, and you will be hit

IAN S
Tehran, Sep. 07

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Monday warned the United States against targeting Iranian assets, saying Tehran would retaliate against American interests in the region.

His remarks came in response to comments by US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, who had warned that the US would target Iranian oil tankers if Iran attacked American ships.

“It’s simple: the oil and gas production chain here is sprawling, accessible, and exposed. American oil and gas companies across these waters and facilities share that exposure. Strike our assets, and you get struck. We’ve already proven it. Ask the bases that are no longer viable,” Ghalibaf said in a post on X.

Hegseth had said on Saturday that the US would destroy Iranian oil tankers if Iranian forces fired on US naval vessels. He said Iran’s tanker fleet was vulnerable and warned that US aircraft, ships and submarines could strike the vessels.

US Central Command



(CENTCOM) said its forces had struck three Iranian crude oil carriers on September 5, claiming the action was in response to attacks by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on two US Navy ships.

“Let the message to the IRGC be clear: If you shoot at two of our ships, we will impose an even higher economic cost — taking out three of yours,” CENTCOM Commander Admiral Brad Cooper said, according to CENTCOM.

CENTCOM claimed that Iranian forces had launched ballistic missiles towards two US Navy warships operating in regional waters. It said an American aircraft carrier and a guid-

ed-missile destroyer evaded the attacks and that no US personnel were injured.

The US military also said it had disabled the crude oil carriers M/T Downy off Kharg Island and M/T Stark 1 near Jask. It further claimed that the unladen crude carrier M/T Kylo, also known as Noxen, was destroyed in the Gulf of Oman after its crew was directed to abandon the vessel.

The claims by both sides could not be independently verified from the information provided. The exchange of warnings comes amid heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran over military operations and shipping in the region.

At a Glance

Jaishankar flags West Asia ties, security

IAN S
New Delhi, Sep. 07

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday highlighted India’s close ties with the Gulf and West Asia/ North Africa region at a Consultative Committee meeting in New Delhi amid the ongoing conflict. He said partnerships span trade, investment, energy, maritime cooperation and people-to-people ties. He stressed efforts to protect around 10 million Indians, ensure energy and fertiliser security, and advance trade and connectivity.

MoS Pabitra Margherita, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and officials attended. Earlier, the Cabinet Committee on Security reviewed India’s preparedness, focusing on energy and fertiliser supplies and the safety of citizens and seafarers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi directed officials to ensure uninterrupted fertiliser supplies and timely assistance to seafarers and their families.

Five killed as Amazon Cargo plane crashes at Miami Airport

IAN S
Miami, Sep. 07

Five people were killed and five others injured after an Amazon cargo plane overran a runway and crashed at Miami International Airport in the US state of Florida, authorities said.

The accident occurred at 1:58 p.m. local time (1758 GMT) on Sunday, Miami-Dade County Sheriff Rosie Cordero-Stutz said at a press conference. Five people were hospitalised with injuries, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said.

Video footage showed thick smoke billowing from the aircraft after the crash. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue said on X that more than 60 units and approximately 200 firefighters responded to the scene, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said in a statement that Flight 7598 overran the runway after landing at the airport at around 2



p.m. Eastern Time (1800 GMT) on Sunday.

The aircraft, a Boeing 767-300 cargo plane, had departed from Luis Munoz Marin International Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the FAA said, adding that an investigation would be conducted.

Amazon spokesperson Kelly Nantel said the aircraft “experienced an incident while attempting to land”. “This is a fast-moving situation, and we’re still gathering details,” she said in the FAA statement.

Meanwhile, two people were killed and two others injured after a small plane crashed in Fresno, California, on Saturday,

authorities said.

The Fresno County Sheriff’s Office said first responders found a fixed-wing, single-engine aircraft on fire atop a bluff overlooking the San Joaquin River. Firefighters extinguished the flames and prevented them from spreading to nearby homes.

Four people were on board the plane. Two children were pronounced dead at the scene, while two adults, who were in critical condition, were rushed to a hospital, according to the sheriff’s office.

The US National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the Fresno crash.

Iran-Oman talks on Hormuz corridor near final stage

IAN S
Tehran, Sep. 07

Iran-Oman negotiations on establishing a temporary safe-passage route through the Strait of Hormuz have reached their final stage, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Monday.

He said the proposed arrangement could be registered with the International Maritime Organisation in the coming days. Baghaei attributed the insecurity in the waterway to what Iran described as US-Israeli military aggression.

He also said Qatar was engaging with Iran as part of efforts to reduce regional tensions. Iran and Oman had earlier agreed to work on a temporary joint shipping corridor, mine-clearance measures and the eventual establishment of a permanent route.

UN Chief urges Taliban to reverse ban on Afghan women working for United Nations

IAN S
New York, Sep. 07

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed deep concern over the Taliban’s continuing restrictions on Afghan women and girls, urging the authorities to immediately lift the ban preventing Afghan women from accessing UN premises and working for the global body.

Guterres said restrictions on women’s participation in public life, education and employment violate their fundamental rights and remain a major obstacle to Afghanistan’s economic development, stability and reintegration into the international community.

His statement came as September 7 marked one year since Afghan women were barred from accessing UN premises in Afghanistan. He called on the Taliban to ensure safe and unhindered access for all UN personnel to their



workplaces.

“These restrictions are contrary to international law, including the UN Charter, and undermine the organisation’s capacity to carry out its mandate and deliver life-saving and other assistance to the Afghan people at a time when needs remain high,” Guterres said.

He stressed that unrestricted access for UN personnel was essential to reaching vulnerable people, particularly women and girls. Allowing women to deliver humanitarian assistance and essential services to women and girls was also critical to an effective response, he added.

Guterres urged the Taliban to lift all restrictions on Afghan women and girls and uphold their right to full, equal and meaningful participation in society.

Last month, UN experts warned that institutionalised gender-based repression had deepened under Taliban rule, with women and girls facing mounting restrictions and an entire generation being denied secondary education.

“Five years may be a short period in the life of a country, but it is a long one in a child’s life,” the experts said, noting that girls who were in Grade 6 when the restrictions

began were approaching adulthood without returning to school.

The experts described the Taliban’s policies as “intentional and targeted gender-based deprivation” of fundamental rights and said they amounted to the crime against humanity of persecution on gender grounds. They also said the institutionalised system could be characterised as “gender apartheid” and urged the international community to support its recognition as a distinct crime against humanity.

The experts further cited Taliban decrees governing criminal courts and family matters. They said one decree permits violence against women as long as it does not “break bones” or leave obvious bruises. Another, they said, makes it difficult for women and girls to escape abusive or forced marriages and implicitly permits child marriage. The measures also discriminate against religious minorities, they said.

Kenya delegation arrives in India for smart governance programme

IAN S
Nairobi/New Delhi, Sep. 07

A 25-member high-level Kenyan delegation led by Secretary to the Cabinet Mercy Wanjau has arrived in India to participate in a specialised Strategic Capacity Building Programme on Smart Governance, the High Commission of India in Kenya said on Monday.

The executive programme, being hosted by the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) from September 7 to 12, is sponsored under the Indian Technical

and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Indian mission said the programme would provide an opportunity for senior Kenyan officials to strengthen their understanding of smart governance and capacity-building practices.

The visit comes amid efforts by India and Kenya to deepen bilateral ties. Last month, Indian High Commissioner to Kenya Adarsh Swaika met Kenyan Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign

and Diaspora Affairs Musalia W. Mudavadi and discussed recent bilateral developments and proposals to strengthen the partnership.

Kenyan National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang’ula also visited India in August to strengthen parliamentary exchanges, including through the recently constituted Parliamentary Friendship Groups.

During his meeting with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Wetang’ula highlighted the longstanding friendship and legislative exchanges

between the two countries.

Birla said the friendship groups would help deepen parliamentary engagement, promote greater understanding and strengthen people-to-people ties. Discussions also covered parliamentary capacity building through the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE), besides cooperation in technology and AI, education, healthcare, infrastructure, maritime connectivity, the Blue Economy and digital development.

Zelensky says US peace talks were ‘very substantive’

IAN S
Kyiv, Sep. 07

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said talks with US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner in Kyiv were “very substantive”, focusing on efforts to revive negotiations to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict, security and economic guarantees, and winter support for Ukraine.

Zelensky said Kyiv was seeking greater US assistance for air defence and energy supplies, includ-



ing access to American LNG. Representatives from Britain, France and Germany also joined the discussions, he said, adding that further meetings had been agreed.

He said efforts were un-

derway to revive trilateral talks involving Ukraine, the US and Russia.

Witkoff said the US envoys had made “significant progress” during their Moscow meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin and hoped trilateral negotiations could resume soon.

The Kyiv talks followed a three-hour-and-10-minute meeting between Witkoff, Kushner and Putin in Moscow. Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov described the talks as substantive, constructive

and frank, saying Putin reaffirmed Russia’s readiness to pursue political and diplomatic solutions.

Ushakov said Russia presented its assessment of battlefield developments and stressed the need to address what it considers the root causes of the conflict. Economic cooperation and potential Russian-US projects were also discussed.

Earlier trilateral talks involving Ukraine, the US and Russia were held in Abu Dhabi and Geneva but later stalled.

Hyderabad Engineer Ponnada Surya Prakash Wins FEIAP Engineer of the Year 2026

Eminent Hyderabad-based civil and structural engineer Er. Ponnada Surya Prakash, FIE, CE, PE, has been honoured with the prestigious FEIAP Engineer of the Year Award 2026 along with the Honorary Fellowship of FEIAP at the 34th General Assembly of the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

The event, hosted at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching, brought together around 500 delegates representing 28 member economies across the Asia-Pacific region. Er. Surya Prakash, a Council Member of The Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI), was nominated for the award by IEI, a full member economy of FEIAP since 2008.

The award recognises his nearly four decades of contribution to engineering practice, professional leadership, technological innovation and capacity-building. Speaking at the gala dinner after receiving the honour, Prakash said the recognition was a matter of pride not only for him but also for his native village Razole in Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh. He dedicated the honour to young engineers across the Asia-Pacific region and called for greater cooperation to address challenges such as climate change, sustainable development and rural transformation.

A graduate in Civil Engineering from JNTU Kakinada, Er. Surya Prakash holds an M.S. in Structural Engineering from IIT Madras. He is the founder of SatyaVani Projects and Consultants Pvt. Ltd., established in 1994, and Smart Infr-EST, a trust focused on improving employability and professional skills in civil engineering. He has mentored more than 10,000 engineers.

He has also held several prominent professional positions, including President of ACCE(I), Chairman of the Telangana State Centre of the Indian Buildings Congress, Founding President of PSI and Chairman of the Civil Engineering Division Board of IEI.

His professional contributions include serving on expert committees that reviewed major public projects valued at nearly ₹1 lakh crore and assessing earthquake-damaged structures. His engineering work has covered residential, commercial and industrial projects, metro rail, stadiums and bridges. He has also authored books on communication towers and construction standard operating procedures and developed the award-winning CABFADD software.

Er. Surya Prakash now joins a distinguished list of Indian engineers nominated by IEI for the FEIAP Engineer of the Year honour. The recognition is being seen as a significant achievement for the engineering fraternity of Hyderabad and Telangana and further highlights India's contribution to engineering excellence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Foods That May Lower Colorectal Cancer Risk



There is no guaranteed way to completely prevent colorectal cancer, but experts say that maintaining a healthy lifestyle and following a nutritious diet may help lower the risk. Including foods rich in calcium, fibre and polyphenols in the daily diet may support better gut health and contribute to overall well-being.

Studies suggest that yoghurt and other calcium-rich foods may be linked to a lower risk of colorectal cancer. Yoghurt also contains live probiotic bacteria, which may help maintain a healthy balance of bacteria in the gut. Foods that support beneficial gut bacteria are considered important for maintaining digestive health. Berries are another good option as they contain both fibre and polyphenols, nutrients that may support a healthy gut.

Experts recommend giving greater importance to fibre at every meal. Foods such as avocado, nuts,

seeds, beans and oats are rich sources of dietary fibre. Several studies have found that people with higher fibre intake may have a lower risk of developing colorectal cancer.

Coffee may also have some potential benefits. It contains polyphenols and other bioactive compounds, and some studies have reported that people who consume coffee regularly may have a lower risk of colorectal cancer. However, experts recommend consuming coffee in moderation and considering individual health conditions.

Adding yoghurt, fibre-rich fruits and vegetables, nuts, seeds, beans and oats to the daily diet can be beneficial for overall health. However, experts emphasise that no single food can completely prevent cancer. These foods should instead be considered part of a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle that may help reduce the risk of colorectal cancer.

Demolition of a Mosque: A Fatal Attack on the Constitutional Spirit of Our Motherland

By: **Shujath Ali Sufi**

When a mosque is demolished, India must ask a question far more consequential than whether a particular structure stood on disputed land: Is the State enforcing the law, or is the law being used to legitimise the exercise of power?

That question cannot be avoided. It cannot be buried under official statements about encroachment, illegality or administrative necessity. Nor can it simply be dismissed as communal politics. When a place of worship is brought down by the machinery of the State, the constitutional implications are too grave to be reduced to a routine demolition exercise.

Let there be no confusion: no place of worship should enjoy immunity from the law. A mosque cannot claim government land merely because it is a mosque. A temple cannot claim public land merely because it is a temple. A church, gurdwara or shrine cannot place itself beyond planning regulations and property law.

But the opposite principle is equally non-nego-

tiabile: the State cannot claim unlimited power merely because it alleges illegality.

That is why due process matters. Before a religious structure is demolished, there must be clear and credible determination of ownership, legality, notices, hearings, appeals and judicial remedies. The authorities must also be able to demonstrate that the same standards would have been applied had the structure belonged to another community. If there is a genuine violation, let the law establish it. If demolition is ultimately necessary, let it follow the law—not precede it.

A bulldozer is a machine. It cannot determine constitutional rights.

Yet India increasingly appears to be having a dangerous conversation in which the bulldozer itself has become a political symbol. That should alarm every citizen, regardless of religion. Once the State begins to communicate justice through demolition, the distinction between lawful authority and raw power becomes dangerously blurred.

For India's Muslims, the repeated spectacle of mosques or Muslim-associated properties facing demolition can generate a profound sense of insecurity, particularly when such action occurs amid heated communal politics. That perception cannot simply be mocked, dismissed or explained away.

In a democracy, the State has a responsibility not merely to be neutral, but to be visibly, demonstrably and consistently neutral. And neutrality must be measurable.

If an unauthorised religious structure belonging to one community is demolished swiftly, comparable unauthorised structures belonging to other communities must face comparable scrutiny. If government land is reclaimed in one place, the same principle must operate elsewhere. If the administration insists upon strict adherence to planning law, that strictness must not mysteriously disappear when politically influential interests are involved.

Selective legality is not legality. It is arbitrariness. This is where the social obligation of the nation begins. The ma-



jority community has a particular moral responsibility in a constitutional democracy. The test of majority confidence is not whether the majority can prevail over a minority. The real test is whether the majority is prepared to defend the minority's rights even when there is no immediate benefit in doing so. If a mosque is legally established, defend its rights. If it is illegally constructed, demand lawful action. If the procedure followed by the authorities is questionable, demand transparency. That is not appeasement. That is citizenship.

Similarly, members

of minority communities cannot demand that religious identity place unlawful construction permanently beyond regulation. Constitutionalism works both ways. Religious freedom is not a licence to occupy public land. But enforcement of property and planning laws is not a licence to humiliate or intimidate a religious community. The principle must remain simple: one law, one procedure, one standard. India's constitutional promise was never that every religious claim would be accepted. It was that every citizen would stand equal before the State. That distinction

is now more important than ever. The issue is not simply whether a particular mosque should stand or fall. The larger question is whether the rule of law itself will stand.

If the State acts according to law, follows due process and applies the same standards to everyone, public trust can be preserved. But if legality becomes selective, constitutional equality risks becoming an empty promise. The bulldozer may bring down a structure in minutes. The Constitution must ensure that it never brings down the faith of citizens in justice, equality and the rule of law.

FROM BEDSIDE TO BRONCHOSCOPY: How Respiratory Therapists Are Redefining Modern Pulmonary Care

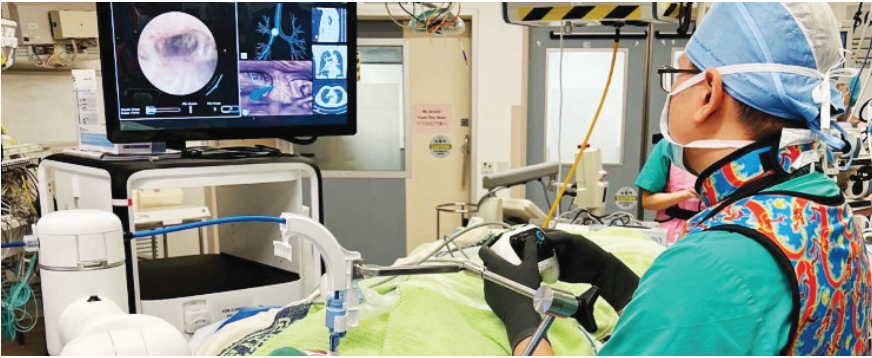
By: **Mohd Yousuf Ahmed**

Modern pulmonology is rapidly evolving with advances in interventional pulmonology, bronchoscopy, non-invasive respiratory support, pulmonary diagnostics and critical care. Alongside these developments, the role of the Respiratory Therapist (RT) is also expanding, making respiratory therapists an increasingly important part of multidisciplinary pulmonary and critical-care teams.

Traditionally, RTs have been associated with oxygen therapy, nebulisation, airway management and mechanical ventilation. Today, with appropriate education, competency, institutional protocols and clinical supervision, their expertise can also support advanced procedures such as bronchoscopy, EBUS, airway interventions, pulmonary function testing and post-procedure respiratory care.

The RT's knowledge of airway management, respiratory monitoring, ventilator technology and cardiopulmonary physiology provides a strong foundation for this expanded role. Their involvement can extend from bedside assessment and stabilisation to procedure preparation, bronchoscopy, recovery and post-procedure monitoring, providing continuity throughout the patient's respiratory-care journey.

Bronchoscopy requires close coordination among pulmonologists, anaesthesiologists, nurses and respiratory therapists. Depending on institutional policies and professional scope of prac-



tice, RTs may assist with respiratory assessment, oxygen and airway-device preparation, equipment readiness, respiratory monitoring, suctioning, secretion management and post-procedure observation.

Advanced procedures such as EBUS-TBNA, radial EBUS, transbronchial biopsy, bronchoalveolar lavage, cryobiopsy, therapeutic bronchoscopy, rigid bronchoscopy, airway dilatation, tumour debulking and airway stenting can present complex respiratory challenges. In high-risk patients with airway obstruction, hypoxaemia, hypercapnia or significant cardiopulmonary disease, an experienced RT can provide valuable support to the procedural team.

Airway management remains one of the RT's core strengths. During procedures, patients may develop hypoxaemia, hypercapnia, bronchospasm, airway obstruction or apnoea. Expertise in HFNC, NIV, invasive mechanical ventilation, airway devices, suction systems and ventilator troubleshooting can help the clinical team recognise and respond to respiratory deterioration quickly.

The role of RTs also extends beyond bronchoscopy. They contribute

to pulmonary function testing, including spirometry, lung-volume and diffusion-capacity testing, bronchodilator testing and six-minute walk tests. They also play an important role in HFNC, CPAP, BiPAP, NIV and home mechanical ventilation, while assisting clinicians in monitoring oxygenation, respiratory rate, work of breathing and gas exchange.

Patient safety remains central to advanced pulmonary care. RTs can help ensure that oxygen and ventilation equipment, airway devices, monitoring systems and suction equipment are ready and functional, while supporting emergency respiratory management and post-procedure observation. Infection control and proper equipment handling are also important responsibilities.

As pulmonology becomes increasingly technology-driven, continuous professional education is essential. Training in advanced airway management, mechanical ventilation, bronchoscopy assistance, EBUS, pulmonary diagnostics, emergency response, infection control and simulation-based clinical practice can help RTs develop the skills required for com-

plex situations. The future of pulmonology depends on strong collaboration among pulmonologists, respiratory therapists, nurses, anaesthesiologists, intensivists and other healthcare professionals. An expanded RT role is not intended to replace other professionals, but to strengthen teamwork, improve workflow, enhance patient safety and provide continuity of respiratory care.

With appropriate training, credentialing and clearly defined competencies, experienced respiratory therapists can develop specialised expertise in interventional pulmonology, bronchoscopy, critical care, sleep medicine, pulmonary rehabilitation, home ventilation, ECMO and advanced respiratory support.

The modern Respiratory Therapist is therefore moving beyond the traditional bedside role. From mechanical ventilation and respiratory assessment to supporting advanced airway procedures, RTs are becoming an essential link between bedside respiratory care and modern procedural pulmonology. From bedside to bronchoscopy, respiratory therapy is evolving—and the modern Respiratory Therapist is evolving with it.

NBFC Gold Loans Surge 68.5% in July



Loans against gold jewellery extended by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) grew 68.5 per cent year-on-year in July 2026, continuing the strong growth momentum witnessed in the segment over the past several months, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday.

Gold loan growth stood at 69.3 per cent in June, while the segment had recorded a 43.9 per cent year-on-year increase in July 2025. The sustained expansion comes amid a sharp rise in gold prices over the past few quarters, which has increased the value of collateral available against such loans.

The strong growth in gold-backed lending also reflects the comfort of lenders with the segment, as the loans are secured against high-value assets. Gold jewellery, in particular, has traditionally remained a readily acceptable form of collateral because of its liquidity and established resale value.

However, the rapid expansion of lending against gold has also raised concerns about the increasing use of credit for consumption rather than for productive purposes or asset creation. The trend has prompted closer attention to the nature of borrowing

and the purposes for which households are raising funds.

Loans for consumer durable purchases also registered robust growth during the month. Credit in this category expanded 51.5 per cent year-on-year in July, accelerating from 46.8 per cent in June and significantly higher than the 18.8 per cent growth recorded in July last year.

Housing credit extended by NBFCs, including housing finance companies, grew 11.9 per cent year-on-year in July. This was slightly higher than the 11.4 per cent growth recorded in June and substantially above the 4 per cent expansion seen in July 2025.

Vehicle loans, meanwhile, remained broadly stable, growing 15.1 per cent in July compared with 15.2 per cent in June and 15.3 per cent in the year-ago month.

Overall retail credit extended by NBFCs and housing finance companies grew 21.4 per cent year-on-year in July, reflecting continued strength in household borrowing despite variations across different loan categories. On the sectoral lending front, credit growth to the services sector moderated to 15.2 per cent in July from 17.6 per cent in June and 24.5 per cent in July 2025, according to the RBI data.



DY Patil Stadium Misses Women’s Champions Trophy Due to Ongoing Renovation

New Delhi, Sep 7:

Navi Mumbai’s DY Patil Stadium will not host any matches of the inaugural Women’s Champions Trophy, with ongoing renovation work making the venue unavailable for the tournament scheduled to be held in India from February 14 to 28, 2027.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently announced Mumbai’s Brabourne Stadium and the Vadodara International Cricket Stadium as the venues for the six-team T20 tournament. The event was shifted to India after being moved from Sri Lanka following concerns over government interference in the administration of its cricket board.

The absence of DY Patil Stadium came as a surprise as the venue has become closely associated with

women’s cricket in India. It hosted the 2025 Women’s ODI World Cup final, where India defeated South Africa to win their first senior women’s ICC title, and regularly hosts Women’s Premier League matches.

According to officials familiar with the matter, extensive repair work is currently being carried out in the spectator stands and is expected to take around six to eight months. The renovation includes adding washroom facilities on the upper levels of the stands, which currently have facilities only on the ground floor.

Officials said hosting high-profile matches alongside the ongoing construction would create safety and logistical challenges. The venue owners therefore requested that the Champions Trophy matches be moved to other stadiums.

An official involved in the venue selection process confirmed that DY Patil Stadium was undergoing renovation and was consequently not considered among the venues for the tournament. Other major metropolitan centres were also reportedly unavailable due to preparations for another major tournament during the same period.

The Women’s Champions Trophy will be played amid a busy Indian cricket calendar, with India scheduled to host Australia in a five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy series from January 21 to March 3, along with several domestic and age-group competitions.

The tournament will feature the top six women’s T20I teams based on the July 6, 2026 cut-off: Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

‘No Added Pressure’: Satwik-Chirag Focus on Fine-Tuning Ahead of Asian Games

New Delhi, Sep 7:

Fresh from winning the China Masters, India’s Satwiksairaj Rankiredy and Chirag Shetty are focused on using the next 10 days to prepare for the Asian Games in Nagoya. The defending champions said they feel no added pressure despite the importance of the event.

The World No. 5 pair staged a superb comeback in the China Masters final, defeating China’s He and Ren 11-21, 21-13, 21-17 in 70 minutes.

The victory made them the first Indian men’s doubles pair to win the China Masters since its inception in 2005. It also gave them a major confidence boost after their quarterfinal exit at the World Championships last month.

Duleep Trophy: Ishan Kishan’s epic 270, Kumar Kushagra’s 101 propels East Zone to 708



Captain Ishan Kishan’s sensational 270 powered East Zone to a mammoth 708 in the Duleep Trophy final. His record-breaking knock, supported by Kumar Kushagra’s 101, put East Zone firmly in control against South Zone.

New Delhi, Sep 7:

Captain Ishan Kishan produced a breathtaking 270 while Kumar Kushagra struck a fluent century as East Zone piled up a mammoth 708 in their second innings against South Zone in the Duleep Trophy final at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday.

Kishan’s magnificent 334-ball knock included 30 fours and seven sixes, making it the eighth-high-

est individual score in Duleep Trophy history. Kushagra provided strong support with 101 off 132 balls, including eight fours and five sixes, as East Zone became only the third side to cross 700 in a first-class innings at Chepauk.

Resuming at 385/4, East Zone continued to dominate from the opening session. South Zone took the new ball in an attempt to make early inroads, but Mohammad Siraj and MD

Nidheesh struggled to create opportunities. Kishan immediately took the attack to the bowlers, striking successive boundaries before Kushagra joined him in maintaining the scoring rate.

Kushagra reached his sixth first-class century with a series of boundaries before he was dismissed for 101, caught at fine leg off Tripurana Vijay shortly before lunch. Kishan, however, continued his commanding innings and

repeatedly found gaps in the field despite South Zone introducing spinners and part-time bowlers.

The left-hander brought up his double century from 270 balls and then accelerated further, powering East Zone beyond 600. Despite the huge total, Kishan showed no urgency to declare and continued batting aggressively. He briefly retired due to fatigue, but returned after Mohammed Shami’s quick 28 pushed the total towards 700.

Kishan came back hoping to complete a rare triple century, but wickets at the other end eventually forced East Zone to close the innings. He was caught near long-on for 270, falling 30 runs short of the landmark.

East Zone were eventually bowled out for 708 in 163 overs, with Tripurana Vijay taking 4/180 and Chama Milind claiming 2/88. The enormous total left East Zone firmly in control of the final against a tiring South Zone.

Rubina Dilaik Reacts to Kriti Sanon’s Raksha Bandhan Ad Controversy

Mumbai, Sep 7:

Actress Rubina Dilaik has reacted to the controversy surrounding actress Kriti Sanon’s Raksha Bandhan advertisement, saying brands should not use public sentiment associated with festivals merely to generate publicity.

Speaking on The4POV podcast, which featured Rubina and her husband Abhinav Shukla, along with actress Hina Khan and her husband Rocky Jaiswal, the actors shared their views on the debate surrounding the advertisement.

Rocky Jaiswal said that clothing should not have become such a major issue, but maintained that there are certain boundaries when it comes to religious places and sentiments. “Freedom of expression is not absolute. My body, my rule does not enter in a religious space,” he said.

Rubina questioned the approach of brands that build campaigns around festivals and then take creative liberties that may hurt public sentiment. “You can’t play on public sentiment and want to create a buzz,” she said.

The discussion also

touched upon the freedom of actors to reject campaigns they are uncomfortable with. Hina Khan said that actors “always have an option of opting out” if they disagree with the creative direction of an advertisement.

The controversy began after a jewellery advertisement featuring Kriti Sanon for Raksha Bandhan sparked criticism online over her outfit and the portrayal of the festival. Kriti was seen wearing a bralette-style blouse with a cape and draped skirt while celebrating Raksha Bandhan, including tying a rakhi to her pet. Following the backlash, the jewellery brand withdrew the advertisement.

The issue intensified after actress and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut criticised the campaign, questioning the choice of outfit and the manner in which Raksha Bandhan was portrayed.

Kriti later responded through social media without directly naming Kangana. She argued that the essence of festivals lies in emotions and traditions rather than clothing, writing that culture and traditions are “in her heart, not in her neckline.”

CAG Stun SAI with 5-4 Comeback, CRPF Thrash Defence Accounts 10-0



Hyderabad, Sep 7:

Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) produced a stunning comeback to defeat Sports Authority of India (SAI) 5-4 in the 6th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship 2026 at the Gachibowli Hockey Stadium on Monday.

CAG took an early lead through captain Parmod, but SAI responded strongly as Sunil scored twice and Sunil Jojo added another to give them a 3-1 lead at half-time. Sunit Lakra then converted a penalty stroke to make it 4-1. CAG, however, launched a remarkable fightback. Parmod scored again before Manjeet and Thrishul Ganapathi H found the net, with Manjeet scoring the decisive winner in the 56th minute.

In other matches, CRPF thrashed Defence Accounts

Sports Control Board 10-0, while Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) defeated Central Secretariat 8-1. ITBP Central Hockey Team beat Sashastra Seema Bal 4-2, and Services Sports Control Board edged All India Police Sports Control Board 3-2. Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) defeated Food Corporation of India 5-1, while Canara Bank came from two goals down to beat Tamil Nadu Police 3-2. Steel Plant Sports Board and Union Bank of India played out a 1-1 draw.

The championship witnessed several closely fought encounters alongside dominant victories, with CAG’s dramatic comeback against SAI emerging as one of the highlights of the day. With teams continuing to battle for supremacy, the tournament is set for more exciting contests in the coming matches.

Labuschagne Gets Another Chance as Australia Name Strong Squad for South Africa Tests

Rising T20 star Cooper Connolly earns Test call-up, while Matthew Renshaw is set to open alongside Travis Head

New Delhi, Sep 7:

Australia have announced a strong squad for their three-match Test series against South Africa as part of the World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle, with under-pressure batter Marnus Labuschagne retaining his place despite a prolonged run of poor form.

Labuschagne has faced growing criticism after scoring just 1, 13 and 4 in three innings against Bangladesh at home. The batter has also gone without a century in his last 41 Test innings over the past three years. His selection for the South Africa series could therefore be a crucial

opportunity to revive his Test career.

Matthew Renshaw has been included as an opener and is expected to partner Travis Head at the top of the order. Meanwhile, promising T20 batter Cooper Connolly has earned a place in the Test squad as Australia look to develop him for the longer format.

There are few major changes to the bowling unit, with captain Pat Cummins leading a pace attack featuring Mitchell Starc, Scott Boland, Michael Nesar and Josh Hazlewood. Nathan Lyon will be supported by Matthew Kuhnemann as the second specialist spin-

ner. Australia will tour South Africa in October for the three-Test series, beginning at Kingsmead Stadium in Durban on October 9. The second Test will be played from October 18, followed by the third Test from October 27.

Australia Test Squad: Matthew Renshaw, Travis Head, Matthew Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Josh Inglis, Cooper Connolly, Cameron Green, Beau Webster, Alex Carey (wicketkeeper), Pat Cummins (captain), Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Scott Boland, Michael Nesar and Nathan Lyon.

Fatima Sana Fined for Gesture Towards Shafali Verma

Pakistan captain penalised 10 per cent of match fee and handed a demerit point for breaching ICC Code of Conduct

New Delhi, Sep 7:

Pakistan women’s cricket team captain Fatima Sana has been fined 10 per cent of her match fee and handed one demerit point for breaching the ICC Code of Conduct during the Women’s Asia Cup match against India on September 5.

The incident occurred after Sana dismissed India opener Shafali Verma with a return catch. Shafali had smashed the very first ball of the Indian innings for a six, but was dismissed soon after. Following the wicket, Sana reacted aggressively and made a hand gesture towards Shafali, appearing to indicate that she should head towards the pavilion.

The match referee, Supriya Rani Das, took the gesture seriously and found Sana guilty of breaching Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which relates to conduct



that could provoke or demean a batter after their dismissal. Sana admitted the offence during a post-match hearing, following which the penalty was imposed.

The demerit point is also significant as this was Sana’s second ICC Code of Conduct violation in the last 24 months. She had received one demerit point in August for another breach during Pakistan’s match against Ireland. With the latest offence, another demerit point has

been added to her disciplinary record.

The penalty came after a disappointing outing for Pakistan, who were bowled out for just 55 runs against India. Sri Charani was the pick of the Indian bowlers with 3-7, while Prema Rawat claimed 3-9 as Pakistan collapsed cheaply.

India made light work of the modest target, chasing down 56 runs in just 8.4 overs to complete a convincing seven-wicket victory over their arch-rivals.

Vikasnagar Dhamaka Crush Selakui Strikers in Rain-Shortened Dehradun T20 Clash

Dehradun, Sep 7:

Vikasnagar Dhamaka produced a commanding performance to register an eight-wicket victory over Selakui Strikers in a rain-curtailed seven-over contest in the Dehradun T20 League 2026 at the Abhimanyu Cricket Academy Ground on Monday.

After winning the toss, Vikasnagar Dhamaka opted to bowl and their decision quickly paid off as their bowlers maintained pressure on the Selakui batting line-up. The disciplined bowling restricted the Strikers from building substantial partnerships and prevented them from scoring freely during the shortened innings.

Selakui Strikers eventually posted 68 for three in their allotted seven overs. Nitish Joshi provided the main impetus to the innings, smashing an aggressive 35 off just 13 deliveries. His entertaining knock included three fours and three sixes. Sanskar Rawat contributed 14 runs from 12 balls, including two boundaries.

For Vikasnagar, Vinay Aswal was the standout bowler, claiming two important wickets for 16 runs from his two overs. Goldie Malik also chipped in with one wicket, conceding 15 runs in his only over.

With 69 runs required for victory, Vikasnagar Dhamaka came out with an attacking approach. Captain Vishal Kashyap immediately took control of the chase, finding boundaries regularly and putting the Selakui bowlers under pressure. Kashyap remained unbeaten on a sensational 53 off only 20 balls. His innings was studded with two fours and six towering sixes, helping Vikasnagar maintain a strong scoring rate throughout the chase.

Kunal Chandela scored 13 off eight balls as Vikasnagar chased down 69 in just 5.3 overs, reaching 74 for two to seal an emphatic eight-wicket victory.

Bigg Boss 20: Mary Kom’s ‘Am I a Servant?’ Remark Sparks Kitchen Tension

Mumbai, Sep 7:

The first morning inside the Bigg Boss 20 house has already brought disagreements among the contestants, with kitchen duties and household responsibilities emerging as an early source of tension.

Boxer and Olympic medallist Mary Kom found herself at the centre of the discussion after being asked to prepare breakfast for everyone. While in the kitchen with Gullu, Mary was asked if she was making breakfast. When she clarified whether it was for the entire house and received an affirmative response,

she immediately reacted, asking, “Am I a servant?”

Mary went on to suggest that contestants should prepare their own breakfast rather than expect one person to cook for everyone. Her exchange with Kazi Touqueer also highlighted concerns over the use of the house’s food supplies. Kazi pointed out that Mary was using several eggs, while the available stock was meant to last the contestants through the week.

The kitchen became a talking point again when Mahi entered and asked who would prepare tea. She then remarked that the girls should know how

to make tea. Another contestant quickly questioned her, asking, “What are you then?” The exchange suggested that kitchen responsibilities could become a recurring source of arguments in the house.

Meanwhile, Arishfa Khan appeared particularly particular about cleanliness and organisation. Soon after entering the kitchen, she noticed the condition of the platform and discussed it with Kazi. She explained that she has always liked keeping things clean, organised and in their proper places and finds it difficult to ignore a messy or disorganised space.



The contestants also spent much of the first night getting to know one another and building bonds. However, around 4 to 4:30 a.m., Kazi Touqueer reportedly left the bedroom after being disturbed by the sound of snoring.

With disagreements surfacing from the very first morning, the kitchen appears likely to become one of the key areas of conflict as the Bigg Boss 20 journey unfolds.

From piggy bank to plot: UP woman’s 9-year savings story goes viral

A woman from Uttar Pradesh has said she bought a plot of land with the money she saved for nine years in a piggy bank, prompting a wave of reactions on social media.

Diksha Jaiswal, popular as @djmadgirl on Instagram, recently shared a video saying she started saving in 2017.

“What did you achieve by saving money since 2017?” the video asks.

Jaiswal then shows the savings she had accumulated over the years. She is seen opening a piggy bank and taking out a collection of notes and coins that she had gradually set aside.

More than a piggy bank Her savings were not limited to a single piggy bank.

In the video, Jaiswal is also seen taking cash out of a bag and other containers before eventually displaying around seven to eight bundles of money. The collection includes



- **More than a piggy bank**
- **‘Maths is not mathing’**

both coins and currency notes saved over the years.

Jaiswal then shows the plot of land that she bought using the savings. She is later seen posing with family and friends at the property.

The video does not mention how much money Jaiswal saved over the nine years or the plot’s price. It also does not specify the property’s exact location or size.

‘Maths is not mathing’ The video has since

gone viral and has garnered more than 3.6 million views, with users commenting on her method and some appreciating her.

“So every year relative were giving her 2 lakhs at least to buy a plot after 9 yrs Maths is not Mathing somehow,” a user said.

“So happy to see a girl getting something by her own,” another user commented.

“Life is too short to hold such level of patience,” a third user added.

Python found hiding inside car bonnet in Mumbai, video goes viral



A python was found inside the bonnet of a car in Mumbai’s Dahisar West on Sunday, as a video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

The car was parked at a residential building in Kandarpada when the snake was discovered.

When the car’s bonnet was opened, residents were shocked to find a python inside. The sight of the snake caused panic among people in the building.

A snake rescue team was immediately called to the spot. The rescuers safely removed the python from the car and had it examined by a veterinarian. The python was found to be in good health after the examination. It was later safely released into the Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

The incident left residents startled, with the sight of a python hiding inside a parked car’s bonnet turning into an unusual scare for those present.

Bihar man lifts new SUV to rooftop to protect it from theft

A man in Bihar came up with an unusual way to protect his newly purchased Mahindra Scorpio Classic from theft as he used a crane to lift the SUV onto the second floor of his house in Gopalganj.

A video showing the vehicle being lifted into the air and carefully placed on the rooftop of the house has gone viral on social media.

In the short clip, the SUV can be seen suspended from a crane as it is slowly raised to the rooftop of the two-storey house. The vehicle is then

carefully lowered onto the roof.

The SUV belongs to Manoj Yadav who purchased it recently. Yadav works in Israel and had left the vehicle in the care of a driver while he was abroad. However, the driver later left, raising concerns about the safety of the car. The family then decided to move the car to the rooftop to protect it from possible theft.

No official information has been released about the load-bearing capacity of the rooftop or the safety of keeping a vehicle there.

Delhi woman spends Rs 15,000 to have Rs 20 Vada Pav; internet calls it ‘Ameero Ke Struggle’



How far can you go to get the taste of an authentic vada pav? For one woman, paying nearly Rs 15,000 and travelling from Delhi to Mumbai apparently worth it for the humble snack. In an Instagram video, the content creator shared that her journey to Mumbai began after she began craving “real” vada pav, which turned into an entire trip to the City of Dreams.

Sharing her experience in the clip, the woman, who goes by Witty Space on social media, explained that she was eating vada pav in Delhi when she felt it did not taste good. Convinced that the authentic version could only be found in Mumbai, she packed her bags and decided to fly to the city immediately.

She Spends Rs 15,000 For Rs 20 Vada Pav

While she was inside a cab heading towards Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport, she said that she booked a

flight to Mumbai worth Rs 5,000. Once she reached there and was waiting for her flight, she decided to have a cup of tea costing Rs 165. After she hopped onto her flight at 4 PM, she paid Rs 300 for cup noodles as she was hungry.

She landed in Mumbai around 7 PM. But her food adventure did not go according to the plan, because of the “slow pace” of the city. She said that it took her around 70 minutes to cover just 11 km of distance, which led her to book a hotel room for Rs 4,000 per night.

Determined to complete her mission, she headed out the following morning in search of street-style vada pav. Rather than ordering the snack online, she specifically wanted to experience it from a street-side stall.

She eventually found one where the vada pav cost just Rs 20.

By then, however, she claimed she had spent around Rs 15,000 on the

entire trip. At the end of the clip, she said, “As soon as I took my first bite, I realised that Vada Pav is really available in the city of dreams. After spending so much time and money, I can say that this is the best Vada Pav of my life.”

Internet Calls It “Ameero Ke Struggle”

Her unusual food journey has since sparked reactions online, with some users relating to the idea of travelling long distances for a favour ite dish, while others questioned whether spending Rs 15,000 for a Rs 20 snack was really worth it.

An individual said, “Worth it.”

Meanwhile, a user wrote, “Itna crazy main bhi nahi hu vada pav ke liye... Delhi me vada pav ki bahut yaad aati hai.”

Another person joked, “Vada pav pasand nahin aaga to bhi tarif to karna padegi na, 15,000 khar-cha hua hai bhai”

“Ameero ke struggle,” someone else quipped.

Colombian woman, 67, earns money selling gossip, says it helped her buy 2 houses

In an interview shared by content creator Lady Daniella, Miryam explained how she turned her knack for collecting local secrets into a source of income that she claims helped her buy two houses.



A 67-year-old entrepreneur in Colombia has found an intriguing way to make money from something that many people enjoy discussing for free - gossip.

Miryam has built a reputation in her neighbourhood as a professional chismosa, a Spanish term for a woman who gossips.

In an interview shared by content creator Lady Daniella, and reported by Gulf Today, Miryam explained how she turned her knack for collecting local secrets into a source of income that she claims helped her buy two houses.

Miryam said she positions herself outside her home, where she can observe and listen to conversations taking place around the neighbourhood. She keeps a notebook with her to record details she hears, saying the practice helps her remember information and maintain what she considers proof for the stories she shares.

“I can be here talking with you, but my little ears are well positioned to listen to what people are saying,” she explained.

Her rates depend on the nature of the information. She charges between 5,000 and 10,000 Colombian pesos for less sensational pieces of gossip, while more sensitive secrets can fetch considerably more, Gulf Today reports.

Miryam recalled one particularly valuable piece of information involving a man whom she claimed was unfaithful to his wife whenever she travelled. She claimed she was paid 700,000 Colombian pesos to remain silent about it.

In fact, Miryam also claimed that some

people pay her to keep their secrets from their partners and families.

During the interview, Miryam gave Lady Daniella a look inside her home and showed her a board covered with photographs and other material. She claimed these items backed up some of the information she had collected, including alleged evidence of extramarital relationships.

Miryam said she takes pride in ensuring that her claims are supported by evidence. She also demonstrated how carefully she listens to conversations around her, saying that even while speaking to someone directly, she remains alert to what others nearby are saying.

Her reputation has earned her the nickname “Queen of Gossip,” although she said other neighbours have tried to replicate her unusual business model.

The entrepreneur also showed off a large piggy bank containing coins and notes, claiming that it represented the money she typically earns from selling gossip in a week.

Gossip is not limited to the streets around her home. Miryam said she also meets friends at her second house to play Parcheesi and other board games, using the gatherings as another opportunity to exchange the latest neighbourhood information. She believes her unconventional profession has become more than just a personal source of income and can also create opportunities for others in her community.

“Gossip is my life; it runs through my blood,” she said.

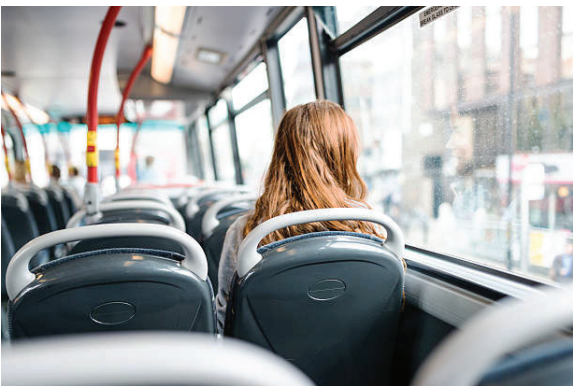
Woman Demands Window Seat From Male Co-Passenger On Bus, Calls It ‘Common Sense’

A disagreement over a window seat on a bus has turned into a social media debate after a woman filmed and publicly criticised her co-passenger for refusing to switch seats with her. While she argued that giving a woman the window seat was a matter of “common sense” and consideration, people on the internet asked whether the man was under any obligation to give up the seat he had chosen.

In a video shared on Instagram by the woman named Maya, she shared that she was travelling on a bus to Darbhanga in Bihar. She said she had asked the male passenger seated beside her to exchange seats so she could sit by the window. However, he refused.

“That Irritates A Lot”

Explaining her frustration, the woman said the journey was uncomfortable because vendors and other passengers repeatedly walked through the



passage between seats and occasionally bumped into her. She argued that when a bus is occupied mostly by men, a woman should be offered the window seat.

“Dikkat ye hoti hai ki yahan se log chalte hai, aate hai, 10 vendors aate hai, ghoomte hai, aana jaana karte hai aur takrate huye nikal jate hai (The problem is that people come from here. 10 vendors come. They roam around. They come and go and bump into me while walking out),” she said. “That irritates a lot.”

Calling it a matter of

“common sense”, she said that giving a woman the window seat would have saved her from the constant disturbance. “Ye ek civic sense, common sense logo mein hona chahiye ki agar pura bus bhara hua hai men se toh (This is a civic sense, a common sense that people should have that if the whole bus is full of men) at least one woman deserves a window corner seat, right?” she said, adding, “Ye reservation, itna toh hona chahiye (There should be a reservation like this).”

Internet Asks Why

A disagreement “That Irritates A Lot” Internet Asks Why Should He Give Up His Window Seat For Her

Should He Give Up His Window Seat For Her

The video did not down well with many social media users. Several questioned why the passenger should be expected to surrender his seat simply because the person next to him was a woman. Others criticised the woman for recording him and putting him on social media over what they described as a minor disagreement.

“There is something this women missing: her brain. Yes you can request but that person has not done anything wrong by saying No. He loves the window seat paid to that seat why he will give you there nothing to criticize that person,” said a user.

Another wrote, “Madam, even the male passengers sleep gets disturbed when the other move around. So pls use the exceeding high ‘common sense’ that you have, book a window seat in ad-

vance or buy a train ticket or go by flight.”

“Some people really think that the world works the way they think. He paid for his seat that’s why there’s nothing wrong with him,” commented an individual.

“No you don’t deserve any special treatment,” mentioned someone else.

A different person remarked, “Shamelessly recording a man without consent and audacity to post this on social media. Playing Woman Card just to get a window seat.”

As criticism mounted, the woman posted another video defending herself. She clarified that she is herself a Bihari and had no intention of insulting the state or its culture. She said that her comments had been misunderstood and stood by her explanation of why she believed the window seat should have been offered to her.

Japanese Ambassador takes a dip in the Ganga, shares spiritual moment from Rishikesh

Japan’s Ambassador to India, Ono Keiichi, shared pictures and a video from his visit to Rishikesh, while standing in the Ganga river and taking three ritualistic dips. Dressed in a casual blue shirt, the ambassador was seen holding on to a chain as he immersed himself in the water.

Sharing a picture from the visit, Ambassador Ono wrote, “Finally, a full dip in the Ganges in Rishikesh—three times!” He said the experience came during the Janmashtami weekend, when he was surrounded by people following centuries-old faith and traditions.

He described the mo-

ment as deeply meaningful, saying he felt a “profound spiritual connection” along with “awe, humility, and gratitude”. He also called the experience “truly unforgettable”.

The post offered a glimpse of the ambassador participating in a ritual that is closely associated with



the spiritual traditions of the Ganga. Rishikesh, situated along the river, is one of India’s prominent pilgrimage and spiritual destinations and attracts visitors from across the world.

His post garnered several reactions from Indian X users, many of whom welcomed the ambassador’s ex-

perience and appreciated his participation in the tradition. Several users praised his openness to experiencing Indian culture and spirituality, while others welcomed him to Rishikesh and expressed happiness at seeing the Ganga through his eyes.

Ono Keiichi has been serving as Japan’s

Ambassador to India since October 2024, taking over from Hiroshi Suzuki. Before his current role, he held key positions in Japan’s foreign policy establishment, including serving as Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and as Japan’s G7 Sherpa during the 2023 Hiroshima Summit.