

SIMULTANEOUSLY PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD, VIJAYAWADA, TIRUPATI

HYDERABAD

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

PRINT & DIGITAL | VOL. 28 | No. 113 | PAGES : 12 | Rs. 5-00



“We Will Not Be Intimidated by Frivolous Cases – Kakani”

Former Minister and YSR Congress Party President for the undivided Nellore district, Dr. Kakani Govardhan Reddy, accompanied by former MLA Kiliveti Sanjeevaiah, called...

02



Asian Games: Harjinder finishes 9th in 69kg as India's weightlifting campaign ends with one medal

Harjinder Kaur finished a disappointing ninth in the women's 69kg as India's weightlifting campaign at the Asian Games 2026 came...

08



India can achieve over 10 pc growth with embracing tech and innovation across sectors: FM Sitharaman

Riding on technology and innovation across sectors, India can even achieve over 10 per cent economic growth towards...

07

Country ready to welcome Rahul Gandhi as PM: Uttam

Hyderabad, Sept 27 : Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday said the country was ready to welcome Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as Prime Minister. Addressing a public gathering at Neredcherla in Suryapet dis-

trict, Uttam Kumar Reddy said growing concerns over the weakening of democratic institutions had strengthened the demand for leadership committed to defending the Constitution and restoring public confidence in democratic institutions. The Minister said Rahul Gandhi

had spent more than a decade raising concerns over what he described as the BJP's "authoritarian and fascistic" methods of governance. Despite sustained political attacks, he said, Rahul Gandhi had continued to raise issues concerning citizens and speak for the independence of democratic insti-

tutions. "Rahul Gandhi has stood firm through years of political attacks and attempts to silence him. He has continued to raise the issues that matter to the people and defend the values on which our Republic was built. The country is now looking to him to lead India as Prime Minister," Uttam

Kumar Reddy said. He said democracy could not be measured by elections alone, and stressed the importance of independent institutions, the right of elected representatives to question the government, freedom of expression and dissent, and ensuring that every vote was counted fairly.



BRS alleges Cong, BJP nexus; questions two-year silence after ED raids on Telangana minister

Hyderabad, Sep 27 : BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao on Sunday alleged that the unholy nexus between Congress and BJP became official two years ago. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader took to 'X' to slam the two parties. "Exactly two years since the Congress-BJP unholy nexus became official in Telangana. The Enforcement Directorate conducted raids at 16 locations linked to Congress minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy in connection with a money-laundering case on 27th Sept, 2024.

Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavams from Oct 12-20



Tirumala, Sept 27 : Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is organising the grand Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavam fete from October 12-20 in view of Adhikamasam, which occurs once in three years as per Chandrayana during Ashwini (Dasara) month. But the uniqueness about this Adhikamasam Brahmotsavams is that during Navaratri festivities.

We steal hearts but not votes : Union Minister Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, Sept 27 : Union Minister Kishan Reddy on Sunday said that they would not steal votes but they would win the hearts of the people. He alleged that It was the Congress party's nature to cast aspersions on EVMs and constitutional institutions when defeated in elections. Addressing a media conference at the BJP state office in the city, he

told Congress leader Rahul Gandhi that the the Bharatiya Janata Party never steals votes. He said that Claiming credit when winning elections but blaming EVMs and the Election Commission when losing was a testament to the Congress party's low-level politics and double standards. He strongly criticized the Congress party for failing to change its attitude despite facing public rejection. Kishan Reddy vehemently condemned the baseless allegations made by Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party against the Election Commission and constitutional institutions. He noted that the Election Commission functioned excellently in states like Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Telangana where the Congress party came to power. He pointed out that when bogus votes were removed via the SIR process in Kerala as suggested by a senior Congress leader the party praised the Election Commission (EC) as a good institution. However, he



noted that whenever the BJP wins in other states, the same party blames the EVMs and the Election Commission, which demonstrates their political immaturity.

Good news for AP Ward Secretariat employees: Government gives the green signal for promotions

Amaravati, Sept 26 : The Andhra Pradesh government has announced good news for ward secretariat employees. The Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department has issued orders (G.O.Ms.No. 244) granting promotions to these employees. The government took a key decision to pave the way for a promotion channel for ward secretariat staff. The AP government has approved the creation of 815 new Junior Assistant posts within the Municipal Administration Department through the adjustment of surplus posts. The coalition government has granted promotions to eligible Ward Administrative Secretaries to newly created Junior Assistant posts. Following the promotions of Ward Administrative Secretaries, Ward Data Processing Secretaries were promoted to the position of Ward Adminis-



trative Secretary. Additionally, the government upgraded 815 Ward Sanitation and Environment Secretary (Grade-II) posts to Grade-I. Orders have been issued upgrading 815 Ward Planning and Regulation Secretary (Grade-II) posts to Grade-I status. This restructuring process was completed without imposing any additional financial burden on the Andhra Pradesh government.

YSRCP leaders have descended to the level of engaging in corpse politics : Minister Nimmala



West Godavari District, September 27 : AP Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu expressed strong anger towards YCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He criticized YCP leaders for stooping to the level of engaging in "corpse politics" whenever a death occurs. Today (Sunday), he laid foundation stones and inaugurated various development works worth ₹1.98 lakh in the Palakollu constituency of West Godavari district. Minister Nimmala spoke on this occasion. He questioned why no attention was paid to farmers and the agricultural sector during the five years of Jagan's tenure. Minister Nimmala stated that under the YCP administration, farmers did not have the freedom to sell their grain to the rice mill of their choice.

Another big shock for YCP: Key leaders resign

Vizianagaram District, Sept 27 : YSRCP has suffered another major setback in Vizianagaram district. Despite efforts by former minister Botsa Satyanarayana to contain the situation, the wave of resignations within the party shows no signs of abating. YSRCP leaders and activists from 13 villages in the Merakamudidam area of the Cheepurupalli constituency have collectively decided to resign. Several individuals, including former ZPTC member and YCP leader Kotla Visweswara Rao (Venkatrao), have resigned from Jagan Mohan Reddy's party. YCP cadres announced that they would align themselves with Telugu Desam Party leader Majji Srinivasa Rao.



Godavari River level rises at Bhadrachalam in Telangana after heavy rain

Hyderabad, Sep 27 : The water level in the Godavari River in Telangana was rising following recent rainfall and increased inflows from upstream, officials said on Sunday.

The water level in the river crossed 40 feet on Sunday morning at temple town of Bhadrachalam in Telangana's Bhadrachalam district. Officials said the water level, which was only 17 feet two days ago, rose to 25 feet on Saturday evening with huge inflows from upstream. The level further rose to 40 feet on Sunday morning. Several stair rows of the bathing ghats at Bhadrachalam were submerged.



Irrigation Department officials said that with the inflows continuing, the water level is likely to increase further. If the water level rises to 43 feet, authorities will issue the first-floor flood warning.

“We Will Not Be Intimidated by Frivolous Cases – Kakani”

(Capital Information)

Tirupati, Sep 27: Former Minister and YSR Congress Party President for the undivided Nellore district, Dr. Kakani Govardhan Reddy, accompanied by former MLA Kiliveti Sanjeevaiah, called upon the family of Mr. Kamireddy Satyanarayana Reddy—the former Chairman of the Nellore District Central Cooperative Bank—who was recently arrested and imprisoned in a case described as baseless. - Kakani offered words of reassurance to Satyanarayana Reddy’s family and pledged the party’s full support. - The coalition government is engaging in political vendetta against Satyanarayana Reddy. - He had previously been imprisoned for 97 days due to fabricated cases and PT warrants. - The harassment stems from an inability to tolerate the immense public popularity garnered by the ‘Good Morning Pellakuru’ program. - Police are obstructing tours due to pressure from local ruling party leaders. - Kakani condemned the sei-

zure of Satyanarayana Reddy’s vehicle and the attacks on and arrests of party activists. - Courts are rejecting remand requests regarding the illegal cases being filed by the police.

- Illegal cases are being filed solely to intimidate YSRCP leaders and activists.

- TDP leaders obstructed and attacked individuals while they were working on their own agricultural land.

- When a person died of a heart attack in the presence of officials, the incident was twisted into a murder case.

- The Alliance government is conspiring to send a message that those who question authority will be jailed.

- We will legally contest these illegal cases.

Former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy stated...

Acts of vendetta against Satyanarayana Reddy...

Kakani lashed out, stating that illegal cases were filed against Kamireddy Satyanarayana Reddy—the former Chairman of the Nellore District Cooperative Bank—out of political vendetta, leading to his imprisonment.

He alleged that a vendetta was

pursued against Satyanarayana Reddy, resulting in his imprisonment for nearly 97 days through illegal cases and PT warrants.

He criticized the police for harassing him in various ways—under pressure from local leaders—to prevent him from engaging with the public after his release from jail.

He noted that when Satyanarayana Reddy initiated rural tours under the ‘Good Morning Pellakuru’ program, the police obstructed his visits, unable to tolerate the positive response he was receiving from the people.

He added that, beyond imposing restrictions on his tours, the police seized his vehicle and moved it to the police station. He lashed out at the authorities for attacking and behaving indecently towards the party workers accompanying him, as well as for making illegal arrests. Kakani severely criticized the police for acting entirely in favor of the ruling party, noting that they were filing cases so flimsy that even the courts were refusing to remand the accused.

Illegal cases aimed at intimidating YSRCP leaders...

Kakani alleged that the current alliance government is fabricating



illegal cases with the sole aim of terrorizing YSR Congress Party leaders and workers. He stated that while a path was being laid on private farmland, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders—who had no connection to the officials present—intervened, obstructed the work, and resorted to attacks and high-handed behavior. He expressed outrage that, although officials present at the scene confirmed that a person who had arrived and spoken there died of a heart attack, the government deliberately registered a murder case and sent the accused to jail. He criticized the alliance government for engaging in such actions to send a message: “If anyone opposes us or questions our plunder, we will file illegal cases and send them to jail.” He mentioned that Satyanarayana Reddy, who was

illegally detained, remains very courageous; despite the distress caused to the party workers and family members who rely on him, he is prepared to face these illegal charges. He recalled visiting the family to offer support when Satyanarayana Reddy was previously imprisoned and expressed distress at having to do so again now. He mentioned discussing the matter with YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, who advised arranging for the necessary legal experts and lawyers to fight the case and secure bail. Kakani lashed out at the government, alleging that whenever there is a prospect of bail, the government orchestrates new tactics—such as filing custody petitions under the guise of investigation—to engage in acts of political vendetta. No fear of trumped-up cases; a heavy price

will have to be paid in the future.

Kakani asserted that the alliance government is deliberately filing false cases against YSR Congress Party leaders and activists, and that the YSRCP will not be intimidated by such tactics. He expressed strong indignation regarding the conduct of the alliance government and the police machinery.

Warning to officials...

Kakani issued a warning to officials who, driven by the arrogance of power, are abetting the filing of false cases. “Power is not permanent; when the government changes in the future, the officials who filed these illegal cases—and those who encouraged them—will have to pay a heavy price,” he stated.

YSRCP’s history of resilient struggle...

He recalled that the YSRCP has overcome numerous challenges and that Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy fought for his convictions—even defying the then-Congress high command and risking imprisonment.

He mentioned that they recently visited Satyanarayana Reddy in jail and found him to be mentally strong.

He dismissed the alliance government’s notion that imprisonment would break their resolve as a mere delusion.

A 35-Year Bond of Friendship... An Act of Humanity Worth 55,000!

Shared Benches, Shared Hearts – That’s the Special Spirit of the Gopalpet ZPHS 90-91 Batch!

(Capital Information)

(Vaggam Prem Kumar)

Wanaparthi, Sept 27 : The alumni of the Gopalpet ZPHS 1990-91 10th-grade batch have proven that true friendship exists not just in movies, but in real life too. These former classmates stepped up as “god-fathers” to support two friends in distress. Upon learning that their classmate, Buddaram

Shivaiah, was undergoing treatment for a severe illness, the batch members discussed the matter in their WhatsApp group and responded immediately with a humanitarian gesture, raising and handing over ₹ 40,000 for medical expenses.

They also demonstrated the true spirit of friendship by providing ₹ 15,000 in financial aid to the family of another friend, Rahim,



whose wife was hospitalized due to illness. In total, they contributed ₹ 55,000 in assistance. Villagers and others are praising this inspiring bond; despite 35 years having passed since they finished school, they have remained in constant touch through a WhatsApp group

formed three years ago and continue to stand by one another during difficult times. The way this batch has demonstrated that while their education has ended, their friendship has not, serves as an inspiration to today’s youth.

If Dreams Come True Novel Launched by Nalubolu Balaramaiah Naidu



(Capital Information)

Nellore, Sept 27 : At 8 am on Sunday, at the Police Colony Park under the auspices of our Police Colony Walker Association, the novel “If Dreams Come True” written by Potluri Subramaniam (RTD mro), Honorary President of our Walkers Association, was launched by Walkers International 203 District Governor Nalubolu Balaramaiah Naidu. The program was attended by the elders, Honorary Presidents Kandukuri Venkataramanaiah (Retd. DSP), Nelapati Ankaiah, Reddikala Sivaramaiah and Committee Presidents Boligarla Ramachandraiah, Secretary Kale Madhav, Treasurer Meda Balimi Srinivasulu, Joint Secretary Potthuri Prabhakar and Honorary President of the Penna Writers’ Association Govindaraju Subhadra Devi. The program was successfully concluded by the Honorary President of ZP Walkers Mettu Sudhakar Reddy and EC members Ulla Raghu, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sompally Malyadri, Mallela Anil Kumar, Chopparapu Vijay Kumar, Pattipati Ramachandraiah, Giddanti Ramgopal and other Walkers members.

Cyberabad Traffic Police Intensify Weekend Drunk-Driving Checks

(Capital Information)

Cyberabad, Sept 27 : Cyberabad Traffic Police conducted a special weekend drunk-driving enforcement drive, apprehending 97 motorists for driving under the influence of alcohol.

According to the Cyberabad Traffic Police, the offenders included 76 two-wheeler riders, five three-wheeler drivers, 15 four-wheeler drivers and one heavy-vehicle driver.

Based on Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels, 79 offenders recorded BAC levels between 36 mg/100 ml and 200 mg/100 ml, while 12 recorded levels between 201 mg/100 ml and 300 mg/100 ml. Six offenders were found with BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml. All the offenders will be produced before the court.

ADCP Traffic Admin G. Narender reiterated that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence and warned motorists against drunk driving.



He said that if an inebriated driver causes a fatal accident, the person concerned would be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, relating to culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The provision carries a maximum punishment of 10 years’ imprisonment along with a fine.

Meanwhile, during the week from September 21 to 26, as many as 89 drunk-driving cases were disposed of by the courts. Of these, three persons were sentenced to fine and imprisonment, one person was awarded fine along with social service, while 85 persons were imposed fines.



Minister Anam holds a meeting with TDP, Janasena, and BJP leaders in Atmakur

(Capital Information)

Nellore, Sept 27 : State Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy has called upon the NDA alliance cadres to gear up for the success of the ‘Palle Panduga 3.0’ program. The event is scheduled to take place on the 29th of this month at Ramapuram in Varikuntapadu Mandal, Udayagiri constituency, Nellore district, and will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

On Sunday, Minister Anam, accompanied by coordinator

Kommalapati Sridhar, held separate meetings with key leaders from TDP, Janasena, and BJP, as well as officials, at the R&B Guest House in Atmakur town. He provided guidance on various aspects, including meeting arrangements, public mobilization, measures to ensure the public faces no inconvenience, and coordination among the alliance cadres. Minister Anam emphasized that the ‘Palle Panduga 3.0’ program in Ramapuram should be organized in a manner that makes it stand out at the state level. He directed that a comprehensive action plan be formulated to ensure a massive turnout of the public, alliance leaders, party workers, and supporters from every mandal and village in the Atmakur constituency.

Tributes Paid to Konda Laxman Bapuji at TGPA

(Capital Information)

Hyderabad, Sept 27 : The birth anniversary of veteran Telangana leader Konda Laxman Bapuji was commemorated at the RBVRR Telangana Police Academy (TGPA) here on Saturday.

Outdoor Assistant Director Yarlagadda Rambabu, who was the chief guest, paid floral tributes to Konda Laxman Bapuji by garlanding his portrait.

Speaking on the occasion, Rambabu said Konda Laxman Bapuji’s contribution to the Telangana movement and his efforts to protect the state’s culture, language and rights of its people would re-



main memorable. He urged everyone to draw inspiration from Bapuji’s ideals and commitment to public service and serve the people with dedication.

DSPs Thota Srinivasulu and Tirupati, Reserve Inspectors Suresh, Phani, Mahesh and Abdul Nahar, outdoor faculty and other TGPA staff participated in the programme and paid their respects to the veteran leader.



Double whammy: Eight of family travelling for last rites to Beas die in horrific road accident in Punjab

Chandigarh, Sept 27 : At least eight people, comprising women and children, were killed and 11 suffered grievous injuries on Sunday in a head-on collision between an overcrowded pick-up (a commercial vehicle usually used for transporting people) and a heavy-duty truck in Punjab's Ferozepur district, police said. Nearly 25 people, all belonging to a close-knit family from Jalabad village, were travelling to a religious place Beas in Amritsar district to perform the last rites of a family member. The accident occurred on the Ferozepur-Fazilka road at around at 5.40 A.M. The collision between the pick-up vehicle and the truck was so massive that the former was dragged and damaged massively. The police, passersby and local residents had to tear down mangled remains to take out several occupants who were trapped inside the vehicle. Four occupants of the pick-up vehicle were killed on the spot, while four succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital. Ferozepur Senior Superintendent of Police Rajinder Singh told the media that the victims were travelling to Beas to immerse the ashes of a deceased relative in the Beas River.



'Fortunate to have joined him in Ram Janmabhoomi movement': PM Modi on Ashok Singhal's 100th birth anniversary

New Delhi, Sep 27 : During the 138th episode of his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid tribute to former Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) National Working President late Ashok Singhal on his 100th birth anniversary, while calling himself for-

fortunate to have joined the latter in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. "Today is the 100th birth anniversary of a great man who dedicated his life to culture, society and the nation," the Prime Minister said. PM Modi said that Singhal, who was born on this day in 1926 in

Agra, lived an "ascetic life". The Prime Minister emphasised that the direction and energy that the former VHP leader imparted to the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, "are the very reason for the magnificent temple in Ayodhya".

India, UNDP discuss evolving dynamics in UN system and need for reforms

New Delhi, Sept 27 : India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Sunday held discussions on enhancing collaboration between both sides to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and digital transformation. Secretary (West) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Sibi George met UNDP Acting Administrator Haoliang Xu, discussing evolving dynamics in the United Nations system and the need for reforms. "Secretary (West) Sibi George received UNDP Acting Administrator Haoliang Xu and discussed India-UNDP collaboration to achieve SDG goals, digital transformation besides India's project assistance to foster South-South cooperation to achieve SDGs.



Very heavy rain alert issued in 13 districts of Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal, Sep 27 : A very heavy rainfall alert has been issued on Sunday in thirteen districts of Madhya Pradesh. According to the Bhopal Weather Centre of the India Meteorological Department, a depression over northeast Madhya Pradesh and adjoining north Chhattisgarh continued to bring widespread rainfall across large parts of the state, with very heavy downpours recorded at several locations in the past 24 hours. According to observations recorded on Saturday morning, very heavy rainfall with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds (40-50 km/h) is likely at isolated places in Datia, Bhind, Sidhi, Rewa, Satna, Umaria, Katni, Jabalpur, Panna, Damoh, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh and Niwari. Heavy rainfall is expected at isolated places in Shivpuri, Gwalior, Morena, Singrauli, Maunjanj, Anuppur, Shahdol, Narsinghpur, Mandla, Sagar and Maihar. Also, rainfall occurred at most places in Rewa, Jabalpur, Shahdol and Sagar divisions, at many places in Gwalior and Chambal divisions, at a few places in Bhopal, Indore and Narmadapuram divisions, and at isolated places in Ujjain division. Maximum temperatures remained markedly below normal by 4.5-5.1 degrees Celsius in Gwalior and Sagar divisions and by 2.0-3.8 degrees C in Bhopal, Chambal and Jabalpur divisions. Minimum temperatures were also below normal by 5.9-8.0 degrees C in Gwalior, Rewa, Jabalpur, Shahdol and



Sagar divisions. The highest rainfall amounts included Bichhia (191.8 mm), Ajaigarh (180.2 mm), Amarkantak (148.0 mm), Panna (143.2 mm) and Bajag (143.0 mm). Heavy rainfall was reported from Rajnagar (112.6 mm), Niwas (110.8 mm) and several other stations. Gusty winds reached 59 km/h at Anuppur and 52 km/h at Sagar. Thunderstorms with lightning occurred across Shahdol, Jabalpur, Narmadapuram, Sagar, Rewa, Chambal and Gwalior divisions as well as in Vidisha, Raisen, Ratlam, Jhabua, Dhar, Barwani and Khargone districts. The depression, centred near 70 km south-southwest of Sidhi district, is very likely to move north-northwestwards towards southeast Uttar Pradesh by Saturday evening and then weaken into a well-marked low-pressure area.

DRI seizes 522 kg cannabis worth Rs 2.61 crore in Nagpur; two arrested

Nagpur, Sept 27 : The Nagpur Regional Unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Mumbai Zonal Unit on Saturday has busted an interstate drug smuggling syndicate and seized more than 522 kg of ganja (cannabis) valued at approximately Rs 2.61 crore. Acting on specific Intelligence inputs, DRI officials inter-

cepted a long-platform truck travelling from the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border towards Maharashtra via National Highway 53. The vehicle was stopped at the Mathni toll plaza near Mouda in Nagpur district. During a thorough search of the truck, officials discovered over 522 kg of cannabis concealed inside a specially designed hidden

compartment. The contraband was allegedly being transported as part of an interstate drug trafficking network operating along the Odisha-Central India corridor and supplying narcotics to Maharashtra. Based on the investigation, two individuals linked to the smuggling network were apprehended. During questioning, the accused



allegedly admitted their involvement in the illegal transportation of the contraband. They have been

arrested under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and further investigations are underway to identify other members of the syndicate. The latest seizure adds to a series of major anti-drug operations conducted by the DRI in recent months. Earlier, on May 31, the DRI seized 104.9 kg of ganja in Bihar and arrested two accused in connection with the case. In another significant operation on April 13, the DRI's Nagpur

Regional Unit dismantled an interstate drug trafficking racket and seized 853 grams of cocaine valued at an estimated ₹4.26 crore. According to officials, the operation was carried out based on specific Intelligence inputs. DRI officers intercepted a female Indian national travelling on Train No. 22692 Hazrat Nizamuddin-KSR Bengaluru Rajdhani Express when it passed through Nagpur Railway Station on April 12.



Karnataka Congress protests at Freedom Park, demands CEC's resignation

Bengaluru, Sep 27 : Karnataka Congress leaders and workers staged a protest at Freedom Park here on Sunday, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the Election Commission of India (ECI) was misusing its constitutional authority and excluding eligible voters from electoral rolls. The protest was led by Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President

B.K. Hariprasad and attended by former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, former Chief Minister and Union Minister Veerappa Moily, AICC Secretary Gopinath Palaniyappan and several party leaders. Addressing the gathering, Hariprasad said the agitation had been organised to safeguard the Constitution and democratic values. Referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's campaign against alleged electoral irregularities, he said the party would continue its nationwide struggle against what

it termed the misuse of powers by election authorities. Hariprasad alleged that eligible voters had been removed from electoral rolls in several states after the BJP came to power in 2024. He claimed that large numbers of voters were excluded in Bihar and West Bengal and alleged that similar exercises had affected voters in Haryana.



India-US trade deal will devastate Indian agriculture, says Punjab AAP

Chandigarh, Sept 27 : The Punjab Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), on Sunday, condemned the so-called India-US trade deal, calling it a "dangerous, anti-farmer and anti-national agreement that will devastate Indian agriculture and push millions of farmers towards economic ruin". Punjab AAP Spokesperson Kuldeep Dhaliwal said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sunil Jakhar "is celebrating the deal without understanding, or deliberately hiding, its catastrophic consequences for India's poor and marginal farmers".

Punjab to illuminate villages with over 3 lakh LED streetlights

Chandigarh, Sept 27 : Punjab's New and Renewable Energy Minister Aman Arora said on Sunday that the state government has launched a unique initiative, 'Mukhya Mantri Roshan Punjab Yojna', to illuminate all villages with solar-powered LED streetlights at an outlay of Rs 550 crore. The Minister described the project as one of the biggest rural lighting initiatives, under which more than 3 lakh solar LED lights will be installed across Punjab. Minister Arora said the State Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant

Mann, approved the programme on Saturday to ensure reliable and cost-effective lighting in villages. He noted that solar streetlights are preferred due to their zero electricity cost, reliability and suitability for rural areas. The project will be implemented by the Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA), with installation to be carried out in a phased manner between June and October 2026. The scheme will follow a revised funding pattern, with 70 per cent contribution from the state government and 30 per cent from gram panchayats.



Opinion Information



Fight for India's future between two 'parivars': Revanth Reddy

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Friday that a fight is on for future of India between two 'parivars' (families) – Gandhi Parivar and Sangh Parivar (Referring to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh). Claiming that Gandhi Parivar stands for sacrifices for the country, Revanth Reddy alleged that Sangh Parivar is dividing India based on religion, caste, region and language. The Chief Minister was speaking after receiving the prestigious Aryadan Muhammed award at Nilambur in Kerala. Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal presented the award to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Revanth Reddy, who received the award of best public servant, said that Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed their lives for the country while Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi sacrificed post, power and position. Voicing concern over dangers posed by communal forces, the Chief Minister alleged that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is fighting against freedom, secularism and Constitution. He criticised the BJP over 'vote chori' in the name of Special Intensive Revision. "Vote ki chori, party ki chori, symbol ki chori, funds ki chori. They are stealing future of youth. They are stealing the foundation of democracy and India and the integrity of vote," the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) quoted him as saying.

He called for uniting behind Gandhi Parivar to protect India, democracy, secularism, and freedom. Claiming that winds of change are blowing, the Chief Minister said that every part of India is listening to 'goonj' of Rahul Gandhi's words of hope. "Let us stand behind Rahul Gandhi ji till we totally save India from communal forces," he added. The Chief Minister said that his only dream is to make Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister of India. He predicted a Congress-led government at the Centre with Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Minister of India. Revanth Reddy said that it is his privilege to receive an award named in memory of Aryadan Muhammed. "It is another great privilege to learn that I am the first person from outside Kerala to be chosen for this great award. I receive this award as a Congress party worker, as a soldier and fighter of a team led by Rahul Gandhi ji." He paid tributes to Aryadan Muhammed, calling him a master politician, who served as an MLA eight times and four times as a Minister under different Chief Ministers. "He was like a Chanakya in Keralam politics. Aryadan was a true Congress man. He served the party for more than five decades." Saying that Aryadan fought for freedom, democracy, secularism and Constitution throughout his life.

VDCs in J&K's Doda district given specialised training in automatic weapons, guerrilla warfare

Srinagar, Sept 27 : Village Defence Committee (VDC) members in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district have been given specialised training in handling automatic weapons and techniques of guerrilla warfare. VDC members of Doda district have expressed confidence in tackling any security challenge following specialized training in handling automatic weapons and guerrilla warfare techniques, officials said on Saturday. As part of efforts to strengthen security in far-flung border villages, the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Doda Police conducted a training programme for VDC members from villages adjoining Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district. A police spokesperson said the initiative was aimed at enhancing internal security and improving the preparedness of



local defence volunteers to effectively counter possible terrorist activities in vulnerable areas. The training, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (Operations), Amit Kumar, focussed on the handling of Self-Loading Rifles (SLRs) recently issued to VDC members and imparted skills related to guerrilla warfare. The programme was held at Lower Bheja village and attended by VDC members from Katyara.

A great personality, committed to nation-building



It means the tree does not consume its own fruit, nor does the river retain its waters. Both exist for the benefit of others. Our saints and seers have long taught us that a life devoted to the welfare of those around us acquires a meaning far greater than individual achievement. If there is one person in whom this spirit was constantly reflected, it was Shri Ashok Singhal Ji. Starting 27th September, we mark his birth centenary to celebrate an outstanding personality who brought together spiritual pursuit, cultural awakening and decades of dedicated organisational work. I consider it a privilege that I had innumerable opportunities to interact with Ashok Ji and receive his affection. One of the earliest instances dates back to 1981, when I was a young Karyakarta going about the organisational duties given to me. I received a handwritten letter from him. Naturally, it was a noteworthy moment for me. He talked about an important upcoming programme and gave a few tasks to be done. Over several decades, I saw him work day and night. He would undertake long and often difficult travels to the remotest of areas. He was particularly passionate about travelling across tribal areas of Gujarat. His mind was constantly running, thinking

about what more one can do for those on the margins of society. Whenever any part of the nation was affected by a natural disaster, Ashok Ji was either among the first to reach there himself or among those guiding Karyakartas to help those affected. My own experience with him in the aftermath of the 2001 Kutch earthquake was unforgettable. This spirit of compassion and care for others is something that came to Ashok Ji very early in his life. He hailed from a very illustrious and prosperous family. His father, Shri Mahavir Ji, was a distinguished administrator. One of his brothers, Shri BP Singhal Ji, went on to become a police officer and later a Member of Parliament. Another brother, Shri VP Singhal Ji, was the Chief Secretary of Tripura when the state was just formed. Other family members succeeded in the world of commerce and agriculture. But from a young age, Ashok Ji was attracted to something else altogether...the revival of Bharat and bringing glory to Maa Bharti's children. Growing up in Prayagraj, Ashok Ji would sit for hours on the banks of the Sangam. The river naturally interested him, but so did the people who came, such as saints, seers and devotees. It nurtured an understanding of India's cultural ethos and strengthened his intention to do something for society. This desire to live for others drew him to the RSS. He embraced every responsibility that came his way with enthusiasm, discipline and a sense of duty.

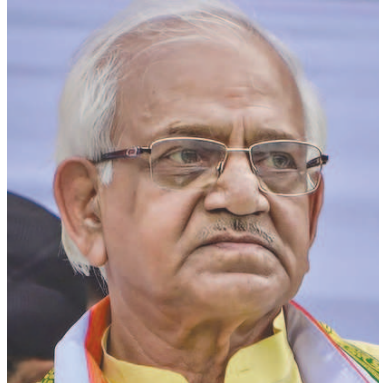
Shri Ashok Singhal Ji nurtured institutions and movements through persistence and hard work. He was blessed with a formidable voice and an oratory that could hold an entire gathering in its spell. Equally noteworthy was his care for fellow Karyakartas. Anyone who came into contact with him could not help but marvel at his remarkable simplicity. He shared a deep bond with the Sant Samaj and commanded immense respect among saints and seers across the country. They valued his counsel and listened to him with great regard. My mind goes back to two instances which brought out the legendary persona of Shri Ashok Singhal Ji. The first was in 1993, when the Vishwa Hindu Parishad organised a convention in the USA to mark 100 years since Swami Vivekananda's Chicago address. The vision to host such a conference overseas, the planning and the bringing together of diverse stakeholders revealed the organisational genius of Ashok Ji. The second instance is from the year 2000. The World Hindu Conference was organised in Port of Spain in Trinidad and Tobago. I could see how his presence ignited so much enthusiasm among other delegates. After my address, his words of appreciation were a very moving experience for me. I saw yet again how his encouragement filled every Karyakarta with so much energy. No mention of Shri Ashok Singhal Ji is complete without recalling his pivotal role in the Ram Janmabhoomi Movement. Who can forget his address at the Boat Club Rally in 1991? Or the defining image of an injured and bleeding Ashok Ji at the peak of the movement. Today, if there is a grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, it is because of stalwarts like him who selflessly immersed themselves in the effort to make it possible. He would have been the happiest person on seeing the Ram Mandir take shape in Ayodhya. Shri Ashok Singhal Ji was blessed with remarkable clarity of thought and one area where it was clearly seen was his belief that our soci-



ety needs to be harmonious, that the message of brotherhood has to be reaffirmed. He worked towards strengthening social unity and equality. He firmly believed that there could be no distinction of any kind in society and that every individual deserved equal dignity and respect. It was his thought that the first brick of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya would be laid by Shri Kameshwar Choupal Ji, a grassroots VHP Karyakarta from Bihar who hailed from the marginalised sections of society. At a Dharm Sansad in Kashi, he decided that the Dom Raja would be honoured and went on to work with him as part of various community efforts. Beyond nation-building, Shri Ashok Singhal Ji had two areas that were very close to his heart: education (especially Vedic education) and music. As the MP from Varanasi, I feel very proud that the city I represent, the eternal Kashi, has played its part in Shri Ashok Singhal Ji's life. He was educated at BHU and was also known to be a good student. He was closely associated with the Ekal Vidyalaya initiative, which worked to extend basic education to remote villages, especially among tribal communities. He was a voracious reader as well as a good listener and he always told younger Karyakartas to read as much as possible. Those who knew Ashok Ji closely knew how well he sang! I recall meetings in Nagpur, where he would sing the Ekal Geet, leaving everyone mesmerised and setting the tone for the meeting.

Fresh tussle in Trinamool as Sovandeb Chattopadhyay shares resolution naming him LoP

Kolkata, Sept 27 : A fresh political slugfest erupted in West Bengal on Sunday after senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) legislator Sovandeb Chattopadhyay made public a resolution dated May 6, signed by 67 party MLAs, endorsing him as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the state Assembly. However, expelled Trinamool Congress legislator Ritabrata Banerjee, who is officially the leader of the Trinamool Congress's legislative party and also the official leader of the opposition, ridiculed Chattopadhyay's move, pointing out that the signatures of many of the legislators were put in block letters. Banerjee also questioned whether the alleged nomination letter had been formally submitted to the Speaker's office. He further flagged discrepancies in the document, noting that the colour of the third page did not match the first two and that it lacked any signatures. He further said that since a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probe in the matter was going on, it would not be wise on his part to make more



comments on this. "All I can say is that the truth will be known only if forensic experts examine this document thoroughly and track the tower location of the MLAs on that day. All I can say is that this letter will further fuel the investigation that has begun into the signature forgery case, he said. Last month, Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee had sent a letter to the office of the new Speaker of the West Bengal Assembly, Rathindra Bose, naming Sovandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of Opposition, Nayna Bandopadhyay and Asima Patra as the two deputy leaders of the opposition, and Firhad Hakim as the Chief Whip of Trinamool Congress's legislative party in the Assembly.

\$2.2 trillion in infra investment to help India become \$7 trillion economy by 2030

An estimated investment of \$2.2 trillion into infrastructure development is imperative to support India's GDP size to expand to \$7 trillion by 2030, according to a report. To achieve an economic size of \$7 trillion, India's economy is required to grow at a CAGR of 10.1 per cent between 2024-2030, according to the report by Knight Frank India. The investment opportunity for private participation in infrastructure development in India ranges between \$103.2 billion to \$324 billion. "India stands at the cusp of a transformative era in infrastructure development. By harnessing the power of private investment.



Rajasthan: BJP legislator accuses ex-CM Ashok Gehlot of corruption, Cong Dy LoP attacks BJP govt on SIR

Jaipur, Sept 27 : The Rajasthan Assembly witnessed intense political sparring as members of the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress traded sharp allegations during the debate on the Governor's address. Corruption, governance failures, and welfare schemes dominated the discussion, leading to repeated disruptions in the

House on Sunday. BJP MLA Atul Bhansali launched a strong attack on the Congress, alleging large-scale corruption during its tenure. He claimed that a Rs 25 crore scam occurred in the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project in Jodhpur, the former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's own Lok Sabha constituency of Sardarpura. Bhansali said the BJP government had delivered

on its promise of zero tolerance towards corruption, citing action taken in the paper leak case and pointing out that a Minister from the previous Congress-led Rajasthan government was jailed. Mahesh Joshi, a former Rajasthan Minister, was sent to jail on corruption charges in Jal Jeevan Mission case. "Scams committed during the previous Congress government are now being exposed. Cor-



ruption in one's own Lok Sabha constituency is the most shameful act," Bhansali added. Hitting back at BJP leader Atul Bhansali, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Ramkesh Meena accused the BJP of large-scale irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision scheme.



Violence in another university in Punjab; police to register case

Chandigarh, Sep 27 : Hundreds of students at a private university on the outskirts of Punjab's Jalandhar protested late on Sunday over rumours circulating on social media that a student had been sexually assaulted on campus by an outsider, damaging property, setting fires and blocking a national highway, officials and students said.

Police said they had initiated the registration of a first information report (FIR) on the statements of students, and heavy security was deployed to maintain law and order. The unrest at Lovely Professional University (LPU) resulted in protesters blocking the Jalandhar-Phagwara section of the National Highway for several hours, while property on the university campus was damaged and some items were set on fire, the police said. Deputy Inspector

General (Jalandhar Range) Naveen Singla, who reached the LPU campus to review the situation, told the media, "Their (students) primary demand is that three days ago a girl from the G3 hostel was raped, and no action had been taken regarding this until now. We have recorded their statement and initiated the registration of an FIR, and they will receive a copy shortly." He said the students have other demands too, and a meeting between the university management and students has been scheduled for noon. "We have spoken to student leaders, and the meeting will take place at noon. As for the FIR, it will be registered," he said. Singla clarified that the complaint stated that a girl residing there was raped, and accordingly, an FIR is being registered against an unknown person for now.

Must act now to implement women quota before 2029 polls, Rijiju tells Kharge

New Delhi, Sept 27 : Countering Congress' allegation that the government is "hurrying" the implementation of the Women's Reservation (Amendment) Bill, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Sunday that not acting now may make the quota's implementation by 2029 general elections difficult.

"If we don't act now, it is possible that women's reservation may not be implemented in time for the 2029 elections," Union Minister Rijiju said, offering to respond to some of the concerns raised by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in a letter addressed to

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Kharge's letter came in the backdrop of the Union government proposing a Special Session of Parliament next week to deliberate on and pass the Bill. He disagreed with Kharge's allegation that the special session of Parliament was convened without consulting the Opposition. Urging the Congress President to join efforts to move forward with necessary amendments, Union Minister Rijiju said, "Should we allow a possible delay in implementation or make our best efforts to meet the expectations of the people to implement it as soon as possible?" "In our humble view,



this is the most appropriate and logical moment to move forward with the necessary amendments," the Union Minister added. Union Minister Rijiju also dismissed the Rajya Sabha Opposition leader's allegations of the Central government not consulting the Opposition on the key legislation.

AAP questions Congress ex-CM Bhattal's assertion on bomb blasts in Punjab

Chandigarh, Sept 27 : The Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab on Sunday slammed the Congress leadership for maintaining a "criminal silence" over the shocking statements made by its former Chief Minister Rajinder Kaur Bhattal.



India remains world's fastest-growing economy despite global uncertainty: Defence Minister Singh

New Delhi, Sept 27 : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said that at a time when many countries are facing economic uncertainty, India continues to stand out as the world's fastest-growing major economy.

He further said that India's economy grew by 7.7 per cent

in FY 2025-26, with growth accelerating to 7.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, underscoring its resilience and the underlying strength built over the last 12 years through the mantra of 'Reform, Perform, Transform'.

Defence Minister Singh took to social media 'X' and said, "At a time when many countries are fac-

ing economic uncertainty, India continues to stand out as the world's fastest-growing major economy. India's economy grew by 7.7 per cent in FY 2025-26, with growth accelerating to 7.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, underscoring its resilience and underlying strength built over the last 12 years through the mantra

of 'Reform, Perform, Transform'. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has combined economic growth with stability, confidence, sustainability, and credibility. His unwavering commitment to nation-building, focus on innovation, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship.



Punjab launches 'Next Generation Road Renovation Programme'

Chandigarh, Sept 27 : In a significant step to upgrade urban road infrastructure, the Punjab government has launched the "Next Generation Road Renovation Programme".

The initiative focuses on the rapid upgradation of major roads and key junctions in the state's largest urban centre to improve connectivity and ease of movement for commuters.

The project will be executed on the NHAI pattern under the hybrid annuity model to ensure durable roads along with a 10-year maintenance framework.

Elaborating on the project, Housing and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian on Sunday said the government is making focused efforts to strengthen road infrastructure across the state to ensure better connectivity and smooth transportation facilities for the people.

Bengal CM hails police after illegal arms recovered from Sandeshkhali pond

Kolkata, Sept 27 : Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Sunday praised the West Bengal Police after a large cache of illegal firearms was recovered from a pond in Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district.

In a post on X, Adhikari said, "Kudos to the West Bengal Police for a Major Breakthrough. On precise intelligence inputs, the Special Task Force (STF) conducted extensive raids across multiple locations near Sarberia Bazaar in Kumrakhali, Basanti, and

Sandeshkhali areas. Forces have successfully seized a massive cache of illegal firearms and ammunition hidden away to disrupt peace."

The comments from the Chief Minister came after a huge cache of firearms and cartridges hidden

in a pond belonging to a Trinamool Congress leader was recovered on Saturday morning. Special Task Force (STF) of West Bengal Police searched the Manipur area in Sandeshkhali in the morning, based on a tip-off from a secret source. The officers



uncovered a cache of weapons in the pond.

Jamnagar's JCC heart institute suspended from PMJAY-MA scheme over cardiology irregularities

Ahmedabad, Sept 27 : Gujarat state health department has intensified its crackdown on hospitals flouting norms under the government's flagship Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana -- Mukhyamantri Amrutam (PMJAY-MA) scheme. As part of this ongoing action, Jamnagar's JCC Heart Institute has been suspended from the scheme for violations of guidelines and irregularities in cardiology and cardiovascular thoracic surgery procedures. The hospital has been fined over Rs 6

lakh for irregularities found in 105 cardiac procedures, while Dr Parshv Vohra (G-28538) has been suspended with immediate effect for medical lapses in cardiology and cardiovascular surgeries. Health Minister Praful Pansheriya stated that the state government is committed to ensuring transparent, accountable, and citizen-centric healthcare, adding that PMJAY-MA is a "blessing for the poor and needy," and any form of malpractice or negligence will not be tolerated. According to the investigation, the hospital manipulated laboratory and ECG reports in three cases to falsely



show the need for cardiac procedures. A further state-level review of 262 cases revealed discrepancies in 53 cases, where cardiac procedures were performed even when not medically required. In addition, during surprise inspections, the health department also found violations at two other private hospitals. Sadbhavna Hospital in Palanpur was fined for performing surgeries through unempanelled doctors, and Samanvay Hospital in Junagadh was penalized for overcharging and booking patients under higher-priced packages than permitted.



PM Modi-led FTA strategy opens access to \$60 trillion markets: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, Sept 27 : India's recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with major economies are opening access to markets worth nearly \$60 trillion and supporting the country's push to become a global export hub, Union Commerce

and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for the trade expansion strategy. A video shared by the minister on social media platform X highlighted that the FTAs negotiated under PM Modi's leadership were aimed at expanding market opportunities for Indian exporters.



RBI slaps

Rs 41.80 lakh fine on Canara Bank

Mumbai, Sept 27 : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Sunday imposed a penalty of Rs 41.80 lakh on Canara Bank for not complying with certain provisions of directions issued by the central bank on 'Know Your Customer (KYC)' and 'Unclaimed Deposits and Inoperative Accounts in banks'. An inspection of Canara Bank carried out by the RBI revealed that the bank did not upload KYC records of certain customers onto the Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCR) within the prescribed timeline. Canara Bank also classified certain accounts as inoperative, despite the last customer-induced transaction being less than one year old in such accounts, according to a Reserve Bank statement. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred.

Over 1.20 crore senior citizens enrolled under ABVV scheme

New Delhi, Sept 27 : More than 1.20 crore senior citizens have been enrolled under the Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana scheme, which has delivered over 13.84 lakh treatments worth Rs 3,000 crore, the government said on Sunday.

The Mission Indradhanush drive vaccinated 5.46 crore children and 1.32 crore pregnant women who had not been immunised earlier, the statement noted. The share of zero-dose children -- those who have received no vaccines at all -- fell from 0.11 per cent of the population in 2023 to 0.06 per cent in 2024. The government runs the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP), which targets 2.67 crore newborns and 2.9 crore pregnant women annually, offering free vaccines against 12 diseases.



India can achieve over 10 pc growth with embracing tech and innovation across sectors: FM Sitharaman

Chennai, Sept 27 : Riding on technology and innovation across sectors, India can even achieve over 10 per cent economic growth towards becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

FM Sitharaman, while participating in a fireside chat organised by the IIT Madras Alumni Association here, said achieving such growth would require a lot more effort from all stakeholders.

"We have too many naysayers. We have too many people who have vicarious pleasure being derived if India fails. We really cannot afford that. We need to nudge these people to think positively," the finance minister noted.

Hailing the growth of startups, the Finance Minister further stated that technological interventions had made a key difference in connecting agriculture producers to markets and improving productivity. Drones and aerial geospatial instruments for precision mapping of land parcels have empowered the farming community, she mentioned.

FM Sitharaman also cited the use of point-of-sale (POS) machines in fertiliser distribution.

Under pilot testing, the POS system recorded details of the farmer, land and crop being cultivated and provided farmers with information on the quantity of fertiliser that may be sufficient based on soil, irrigation, and crop conditions. Finance Minister also un-



veiled a book, titled 'Cashless Nation: How UPI Changed Everything', by Dr. Santanu Paul and B. Sambamurthy at 'Sangam 2026', the annual conference of the IIT Madras Alumni Association and IIT Madras. The book tells the inside story of India's digital payments transformation and the conception, creation and extraordinary rise of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). FM Sitharaman last month said UPI is now operational across 11 countries, including France, Singapore, the UAE, Greece and Mauritius. "From powering seamless payments in India to enabling digital transactions across borders, UPI continues to take our digital public infrastructure to the world," FM Sitharaman said. She further stated that UPI-enabled payment points have grown around 260 times since 2018, taking digital payments deeper into every corner of the country and providing greater access and convenience. FM Sitharaman also highlighted the scale of UPI transactions, saying one out of every two real-time digital payment transactions globally are taking place in India.

Sensex ends lower ahead of US Fed rate decision, Nifty at 24,198

Mumbai, Sept 27 : The domestic benchmark indices closed in red on Sunday amid weak global cues as market sentiment remained cautious ahead of the key US Fed meeting.

US Fed Chair Jerome Powell was set to release the policy statement late on Friday (US time) during the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting.

According to experts, the Indian market is experiencing a breakdown in the early Santa

Claus rally, with the impact being more pronounced in India compared to developed markets due to the rapid appreciation of the dollar.

Market sentiment remains cautious which is further influenced by India's premium valuation, which is significantly above the current earnings growth trajectory that has slowed over the last two quarters.

On Wednesday, heavy selling was seen in the media, PSE, PSU Bank, financial service, metal, private bank and commodities sec-



tors of the Nifty at the end of trading. At closing Sensex settled at 80,182.20 down by 502.25 points, or 0.62 per cent and Nifty ended at 24,198.85 down by 137.15 points, or 0.56 per cent.

Nifty Bank ended at 52,139.55, down by 695.25 points or 1.32 per cent. The Nifty Midcap 100 index closed at 58,723.25 at the end of trading after dropping 378.65 points or 0.64 per cent.

Nifty Smallcap 100 index closed at 19,230.35 after dropping 168.10 points or 0.87 per cent.



LG Electronics India gets notice to pay up Rs 153.58 crore as customs duty

New Delhi, Sept 27 : LG Electronics India Ltd has received a show cause notice from the Customs authorities for the recovery of Rs 153.58 crore as customs duty for allegedly not including royalty payments in the assessable value of certain imported goods, the company has stated in a stock exchange filing.

The show cause notice has been issued following an investigation carried out by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), alleging non-inclusion of royalty payments in the assessable value of certain imported goods.

The notice, dated September 27, was issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Customs, Nhava Sheva Port in Navi Mumbai, and was received by

the company on September 24. Meanwhile, LG Electronics, along with arch rival and compatriot Samsung, are also facing an investigation for alleged wrong ?claims of concessional 5 per cent customs duty on imported OLED glass screens. The DRI authorities have expressed the view that the concessional rate is meant for the older LCD and LEDs used in products sold in the mass market. For OLED parts, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is of the opinion that both Samsung and LG should have paid a 15 per cent customs duty, according to a Reuters report.

Pine Labs reports 67 pc sequential fall in Q1 net profit

New Delhi, Sept 27 : Fintech company Pine Labs on Sunday reported a 67 per cent quarter-on-quarter decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 19.57 crore for the first quarter of FY27, even as revenue from operations registered sequential growth. The company had reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 59.36 crore in the January-March quarter of FY26. However, on a year-on-year basis, the company's net profit rose more than fourfold from Rs 4.79 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal, supported by strong growth in income. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 736.92 crore during the April-June quarter from Rs 700.51 crore in the preceding quarter. On a year-on-year basis, revenue increased from Rs 615.91 crore.



Make in India booster: Audi India commences local assembly of new compact luxury SUV

New Delhi, Sept 27 : German luxury carmaker Audi on Sunday said it has commenced local assembly of the all-new 'Audi Q3' at the SAVWIPL plant in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, Maharashtra. The compact luxury SUV is scheduled for launch on October 16, 2026. The model is powered by a 2.0-litre petrol engine and features Audi's quattro all-wheel drive, the statement from Audi In-



dia said. The company said the new generation of Q3 combines dynamic capability and everyday practicality of a compact luxury SUV.

RBI Deputy Governor Murmu lists 5 growth areas for NBFC sector amid new challenges

New Delhi, Sept 27 : As the role of NBFCs changes from alternative lenders to specialised financial partners, RBI Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Murmu has shared five areas that matter most for sustainable growth as the sector faces new challenges alongside new opportunities. NBFC credit today is about 16.7 per cent of nominal GDP, up from 15.9 per cent a year earlier. It is about 27 per cent of the credit extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks, up from 26 per cent. In the latest RBI Bulletin for September, Murmu set out

five areas for the NBFC and HFC sector. "Good governance is the foundation of every strong institution. Boards and senior management must build a culture of sustained compliance and ethics across the organisation. As the sector scales, that strength must scale with it," he suggested. The second area is liquidity management. Past liquidity events have shown how exposed NBFCs and HFCs can be to shifts in market sentiment and funding concentration. "Strong liquidity risk management is not optional. Recent episodes in some advanced economies are reminder of this. Entities must diversify their funding sources. A deep, liquid corporate bond mar-

ket will help, and we will keep working with market participants to build one," he wrote. Securitisation should also grow beyond a liquidity tool -- into a genuine way to transfer risk and free up capital, with proper skin-in-the-game and transparency rules, Murmu added. Third, as credit growth speeds up, so does the risk to asset quality. Lenders need rigorous stress testing, early-warning systems, and dynamic provisioning. AI and machine learning tools should be used more to detect early signs of borrower stress. "Let me be clear: growth must never come at the cost of underwriting standards," he mentioned. Fourth, customer trust is funda-



mental to sustainable business, and the pace of innovation must never outpace the protection, especially of vulnerable customers. "Conduct regulation, grievance redressal, and responsible lending remain top priorities for us. Our recent guidelines on conduct of recovery agent reflect this priority. In an age where feedback travels

instantly, there is no substitute for public trust," said Murmu. The last area is digital transformation and cyber resilience. Technology adoption must keep deepening -- from blockchain in supply chain finance to AI in fraud detection. "But digitalisation brings cyber risk.

US Senator Warren seeks Nvidia CEO testimony on China

Washington, Sept 27 : Senator Elizabeth Warren, the top Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, has invited Nvidia President and Chief Executive Officer Jensen Huang to testify at a public hearing on artificial intelligence next week, placing renewed focus on the company's business interests in China and US export controls.

In a letter dated Sept 27, Warren asked Huang to appear before members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs at a hearing scheduled in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The invitation comes as lawmakers continue to scrutinise

the rapid growth of artificial intelligence technologies and their implications for national security, economic competitiveness and US-China relations. "I write to invite you to participate as a witness before members of the United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs at a public hearing regarding artificial intelligence on June 11, 2026, in the Dirksen Senate Office Building," Warren wrote in the letter.

Warren said Huang's appearance would provide senators with an opportunity to hear directly from the head of one of the world's most influential AI chipmakers.



Asia underrepresented among UNSC permanent membership; should be rectified, says Guterres

United Nations, Sept 27 : Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that Asia is underrepresented on the Security Council's roster of permanent members, and this should be rectified. Speaking to reporters on Sunday (India time) about his priorities for the year, he pressed for reforming the Council because "the centrality of the peace and security system lies in the UN and within" it. While as the secretary-general he could not say what the reformed Council should be, his personal opinion, he said, is "that we should have permanent members from Africa in the Security Council, the same representation of Latin America".



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

United Nations, Sep 27 : UN High Commissioner for Refugees Barham Salih said that the most durable solution to forced displacement is peace.

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

"Success cannot be that we become better at keeping people alive through another year of war.

It cannot be that a refugee camp established in response to an emergency is still there 50 years later. And it cannot be that children inherit displacement from their parents," he said. "Success must ultimately mean creating the conditions in which people no longer need us." Seventy-five years ago, the Refugee Convention established a promise to protect people when peace fails, Salih said. "We must keep that promise. But our collective ambition must also be greater: to prevent displacement where we can, resolve it where it has occurred, and create the conditions in which people can rebuild their lives in safety and dig-

nity. Ultimately, the most durable solution to forced displacement is peace." Members of the Security Council carry a unique responsibility to help make peace possible, he said. "For the millions of people forced from their homes -- and the millions more who should never have to flee -- I urge this great council to use that responsibility." "Today, more than 117 million people have been forced to flee their homes by conflict, violence, persecution, and other threats to their safety," Salih said, adding that forced displacement reveals something fundamental about the state of the world.

India and Greece discuss ongoing initiatives of cooperation between both Air Forces

Athens, Sept 27 : India's Ambassador to Greece, Ravi Shankar, on Sunday met Lt. Gen.

Demosthenes Grigoriadis, Chief of Hellenic Air Force General Staff and discussed the ongoing initiatives of cooperation between the two Air Forces. According to the Indian Embassy in Greece, India's participation in INIOCHOS - a major annual multinational air combat training exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force - and Greece's participation in Tarang Shakti - the Indian Air Force's (IAF)

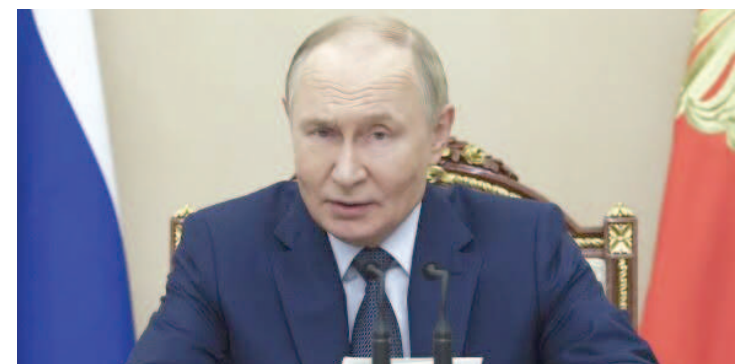
largest biennial multinational air combat exercise - has fostered mutual understanding and partnerships. "Ambassador Ravi Shankar met Lt Gen Mr. Demosthenes Grigoriadis, Chief of Hellenic Air Force General Staff. He discussed the ongoing initiatives of cooperation between our two Air Forces. India's participation in INIOCHOS and Greece's in Tarang Shakti has fostered mutual understanding and partnerships," the Embassy wrote on X.

The Indian Ambassador also met Giorgos Chioureas, Mayor of the West Mani region, and discussed



areas of potential collaboration with the West Mani region, with regard to the workforce from India. "Ambassador Mr. Ravi Shankar met Mr. Giorgos Chioureas, Mayor of the West Mani region. He discussed areas of potential collaboration with the West Mani region, viz workforce

from India in hospitality, construction and the farm sector. Tourism, both inbound and outbound, is another promising area," the Embassy stated. On July 16, Ambassador Ravi Shankar presented his Letter of Credence to the President of Greece.



Putin says Ukraine's 'provocative acts' will worsen situation

Moscow, Sep 27 : Russian President Vladimir Putin said that an escalation of tensions would not achieve the outcome sought by Kyiv and could only worsen the situation in Ukraine.

"They must understand that no provocative acts or escalation of tensions will deliver the outcome they seek. Such moves will only make the situation worse for them," Putin said at a press briefing on Sunday. He said Russia's military responses had prompted Kiev to seek ceasefire arrangements covering several areas, including attacks on energy facilities and airstrikes, Xinhua news agency reported. Russia has begun responding to what he described as actions taken by

Ukraine, including an alleged bid to impose a naval blockade and strikes on storage facilities and civilian infrastructure, he said, adding that, according to Russian assessments, Ukraine had damaged more than 100 vessels in the Black Sea. Earlier this month, Moscow said that sanctions on Russia's oil and gas exports will not revive relations with the United States or lead to peace with Ukraine. US President Donald Trump signed the Russia sanctions bill into law. The legislation targets Russia's energy and defence industries, as well as its "shadow fleet" of tankers. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that Russia has largely adapted to the sanctions and found ways to minimise their impact.

US Congresswoman reintroduces bill to curb federal use of facial recognition

Washington, Sep 27 : Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal and four Democratic lawmakers have reintroduced legislation that would prohibit federal agencies from using facial recognition and other biometric surveillance technologies. The Facial Recognition and Biometric Technology Moratorium Act would block federal agencies from using systems that identify people through their faces, voices, gait or other permanent physical characteristics. The prohibition could be lifted only through a subsequent act of Congress.

Senators Edward Markey and Jeff Merkley introduced the legislation in the Senate. Jayapal joined Representatives Rashida Tlaib and Ayanna Pressley in introducing the House version.

The lawmakers said the measure responds to increased government use of biometric technology, including a mobile facial-recognition application used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection.

They said such systems have been used to target immigrants, protesters and communities across the country. "We have to stop the constant, nonconsensual state of surveillance that we live in, and that starts with placing a moratorium on our government's use of facial recognition technology," Jayapal said. "Black and Brown people are more likely to be misidentified and wrongfully put in jail because of this unregulated technology, and our government has used it to unjustly target protesters and immigrants," she said. "Putting the brakes on this



technology is necessary to protect civil rights and ensure public safety." The lawmakers cited research indicating that the faces of nearly half of American adults are already stored in facial-recognition databases. They also said Black, Brown and Asian people could be up to 100 times more likely than white men to be incorrectly identified by facial-recognition algorithms.

"Facial recognition and other biometric technologies in the hands of government agencies have become tools of authoritarianism," Markey said.

"Agencies such as ICE and CBP are using this technology to track, target, intimidate and surveil communities across the country," he said.

EAM Jaishankar congratulates Tone Kajzer on becoming Slovenia's Foreign Minister

New Delhi, Sept 27 : External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Sunday congratulated Tone Kajzer on his appointment as Foreign Minister of Slovenia and expressed his desire to work together.

Tone Kajzer, a former diplomat, was officially sworn in on Saturday evening, following a parliamentary confirmation hearing earlier that week. He assumed office under the newly endorsed right-wing coalition government led by Prime Minister Janez Jansna.



Renewed violence in DR Congo threatens civilians amid Ebola outbreak: UN

United Nations, Sept 27 : Increased deadly attacks in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) this week isolate communities and threaten the Ebola response, UN humanitarian have warned.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on Saturday (local time) said the intensifying violence is claiming civilian lives and severely restricting humanitarian access in North

Kivu and South Kivu provinces.

OCHA said that in North Kivu, local authorities reported an armed attack in Beni territory on Saturday night that killed at least 24 civilians and triggered fresh displacement.





Asian Games: Sindhu loses QF to Chen Yu Fei; India's badminton campaign ends

Ichinomiya City, Sep 27 : India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu lost her women's singles quarter-final match 21-11, 18-21, 10-21 to China's Chen Yu Fei on Sunday as India's badminton campaign at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 came to an end on Sunday. India's badminton campaign at the continental event saw only a bronze coming off the men's team event, as none of the singles, doubles, or mixed doubles players managed to secure a medal in their respective

individual events. Sindhu, who had a busy schedule a day earlier, having played two matches on Saturday, showed no signs of tiredness after the first game against her Chinese opponent, despite this being her third match in less than 24 hours. Sindhu came firing against the Tokyo Olympic gold medallist and won the opening game 21-11. The second game was a tightly contested affair, with the Indian heading to the break with a 11-10 advantage. The game was then lev-

elled at 16-all before Sindhu unleashed a big smash and let out a roar on the next point, holding a slender 17-16 lead, before the Chinese bounced back and forced a decider by taking the second game 21-18. Sindhu's dominance that she showed in Game 1 seemed to be fading off in the final game and the pressure of losing Game 2 looked to have had an effect on her as she gave away an 11-7 advantage to Chen at the break in the decider.

Asian Games: India draw blank in equestrian

Tokyo, Sep 27 : India concluded their equestrian campaign at the Asian Games 2026 without a medal as none of the seven riders managed to be on the podium as Hriday Chhed and Jai Sud missed out on dressage medals on Sunday. At Hangzhou 2023, India won a gold in team dressage while Anush Agarwalla struck bronze in individual dressage. So far, India have won 14 medals - four gold, three silver and seven bronze - in the sport on the continental stage. A fourth-place finish in team dressage was the closest Indian equestrian athletes came to a podium at Aichi-Nagoya. India finished fourth in the dressage team event with a total score of 201.971 points, narrowly missing out on a podium finish. The 55-year-old Shruti Vora (horse: Magnanimous) - the oldest Indian competing at the ongoing Asian Games - was India's top performer with 68.059.



Hriday Chhed (with Dono Di Maggio), who was part of the Indian quartet which won a dressage team gold at Hangzhou 2023, scored 67.353. Meanwhile, Jai Sud (horse: Goofy La Perle) scored 66.559. Gaurav Pundir (horse: Milli) scored 65.794 but it was the team's drop score as only the best three results counted. In the individual dressage event, Shruti and Gaurav were eliminated in the second round of the qualifiers for the individual final.



Asian Games: Indian recurve men's and women's teams progress to semis

Nagoya, Sep 27: Indian men's and women's archery teams advance to the semifinal after beating China and Taipei in their respective quarterfinals here at Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square on Sunday. The men's team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Neeraj Chauhan and Yashdeep Bhoge made their way into the semifinal after beating China 5-1 after defeating the Philippines 5-1 in the round of 16. Meanwhile, the women's team of Kumkum Anil Mohod, Kirti Sharma and Ankita Bhakat advanced to the semifinal after a 6-0 win over Chinese Taipei following their 6-0 win over Mongolia in the pre-quarterfinals. Both the teams will play their semifinals on October 2. The men's team will take on Iran, while the women's team will play against China. India's compound women's and men's teams have made it to the semifinals after beating Kazakhstan and Bhutan, respectively.

Asian Games: India conclude badminton campaign with one medal

Ichinomiya, Sep 27 : India's campaign in badminton came to a disappointing end as the contingent bagged only one bronze medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026. PV Sindhu and Unnati Hooda suffered close defeats in their respective women's singles quarterfinals to bow out of the competition. Sindhu lost to China's Chen Yufei 1-2 despite winning the first game, while Hooda went down to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi 1-2 after win-

ning the second game. India finished without a medal across the five individual badminton events at Aichi-Nagoya 2026. The men's team bronze was India's only medal in badminton at the ongoing edition of the Asian Games. Notably, for the first time since the 2014 edition in Incheon, Indian shuttlers have failed to win a medal in the individual events at the Asian Games.



Asian Games: Sreeshankar, David Patturaj qualify for long jump final

Nagoya, Sep 27 : India's Murali Sreeshankar and David Patturaj have qualified for the men's long jump final from their respective groups at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 here on Sunday. The two Indian athletes were among the 12 long jumpers to make their way into the final, which will take place on Monday at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium. Sreeshankar, the Hangzhou Games silver medallist, registered his best jump of 7.84m and was second in Group B, while Patturaj was third in Group A with his best leap of 7.62m. In the overall qualification, Sreeshankar was second while Patturaj was seventh. The automatic jump mark for the final qualification was 7.90m; however, only Uzbekistan's Anvar



Anvarov managed to breach that mark when he leapt to a distance of 8.00m. All the other 11 athletes qualified on the merit of being the next best in the qualifications. Sreeshankar would be eyeing a second medal after winning a silver last time around. He has made a successful comeback from a career-threatening patellar tendon rupture, which he suffered in April 2024 and missed the 2024 Olympics.

Asian Games: Ankush enters men's 80kg SF, assures India's first boxing medal in Aichi-Nagoya



Nishio, Sep 27 : Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Ankush Panghal assured India of their first boxing medal at the ongoing Asian Games after defeating Tajikistan's Nekruz Salimov in the men's 80kg quarterfinals by a unanimous decision of 5-0 at the Nishio Gymnasium here on Sunday. Ankush dominated Salimov for the major part of the three-round bout. He bagged the first two rounds unanimously before the Tajik boxer took the third round but could not change the result of the game. The CWG gold medallist won the bout with four judges ruling 29-28 in his favour and one giving him 30-27 across the three rounds. Ankush was pretty much dominant in the first two rounds as he showed his speed, punches and defence, while Salimov found it hard to contend with the Indian pugilist. Ankush won the first round with a 5-0 score as he connected a few right hooks and 1-2 punches. He displayed his fierce left hook in the second round and moved extremely well with his counter punches giving him another 5-0 ruling. Salimov bounced back in the final round as he grew in desperation for a knockdown. He landed some punches on Ankush, but the Indian pugilist kept his defence as the Tajik won the third round 4-1, but it wasn't enough as Ankush comfortably won the bout. Earlier, in the Kurash events, Indian athletes bowed out in early rounds. Vishal lost his men's +90kg quarter-finals to Thailand's Kunathip Yea-On after going down 5-0.

Dream is to play match-winning knock in 2027 WC finals while chasing: Kohli

New Delhi, Sep 27 : India veteran Virat Kohli has 'unfinished business' from the 2023 ODI World Cup as he eyes winning his 'last World Cup' in 2027 with a dream to play a match-winning knock in the finals. Playing a match-winning knock in the finals is a dream for the batting maestro; however, a World Cup win always takes precedence for the former skipper over his own outing. "I've always been someone who, in every game that we

play, wants to be the guy who wins us the game," Kohli said as quoted by JioStar. "I'm made that way; that's never going to go away from me. So, my goal is to win as many games as I can for the team, and my dream is to play a match-winning knock in the finals, while chasing a score. "If it happens, great. If it doesn't happen, we win the World Cup, I'll be as happy because eventually, you understand that, as much as that competitive nature is there, it's the last time you're getting to

play a World Cup. So, winning that trophy is the most important thing," he said. Kohli emphasised that being out there to win the trophy would be the most satisfying thing, but the bigger goal always stays greater. "If I have the opportunity to do it, as an individual staying there out in the middle, there's nothing more satisfying as a batsman. You visualise yourself pulling the team out of trouble. And that's what makes you compete at this level. So, I don't want to let go of that



competitiveness. But yeah, the bigger goal is always greater," he added. The former skipper also opened up on the 2023 heartbreak, admitting that the loss was "very tough to process for many days" as India lost to Australia in the final. "Yes, there is a little bit. Before we won the IPL in 2025.