

20 nations move to curb social media for kids: Australian PM Albanese at UNGA

United Nations, More than 20 countries are introducing or considering age restrictions on social media, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has told the UN General Assembly, as leaders sought stronger safeguards for children facing risks from digital platforms and artificial intelligence. Albanese said Australia's decision last year to prohibit children below the age of 16 from using social media had helped generate wider international action. "Already, more than 20 countries are bringing in or have brought in age restrictions on social media," he said.

With the European community also taking action, "there are many more to come", he added.

Australia adopted the restriction after a campaign by parents who said their children had suffered harm linked to social media. Some of those parents had addressed the General Assembly during its previous session.

Albanese presented the measure

as an example of countries working together on problems created by rapidly developing technologies. The UN's mission could not be "sub-contracted to the world's richest companies or dictated by the pace of technology", he said.

The warning was echoed by France, which called for greater regulation to protect children and adolescents from technologies affecting their ability to learn.

French President Emmanuel Macron highlighted what he described as a decline in the learning capacity of young people exposed to some digital technologies. "Let's not wait for the consequences to come raining down," Macron said. He also warned that the debate over artificial intelligence could not be left solely to the United States, China and a small group of private companies because of the



technology's potential impact on governments, hospitals and financial systems. Britain said artificial intelligence would multiply existing threats in the information environment.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham accused hostile actors of using bots, fabricated websites and falsified news reports to exploit public fears and intensify divisions. The United Kingdom would work towards common global principles and standards for AI transparency, preparedness and safety, he

said. Fundamental decisions about artificial intelligence "are too important to be left to chance" and should be taken by elected governments serving the public, Burnham said.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung warned that the AI revolution could deepen economic inequality and increase young people's anxiety about their future. South Korea planned to establish a Global AI Hub platform to share the benefits of its technological development with the international community, he said.

Italy also called for rules but cautioned against excessive regulation. Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani said new technologies risked creating fresh inequalities, dependencies and concentrations of power. The international community could not surrender its future to a technology

without rules, he said. However, "we do not need bureaucratic cages that only some would respect". Tajani called for a balance involving transparency, oversight, security and protection of intellectual property. Argentina offered the strongest defence of a light regulatory approach. President Javier Milei said fears surrounding previous technological revolutions had not ultimately produced the predicted destruction of employment. Argentina would avoid premature regulation and offer incentives to companies developing AI.

"Fear should not transfer into obedience," Milei said. The competing positions reflected a wider debate over whether governments should restrict young people's access to digital platforms or require companies to redesign services that can expose children to harmful content, addictive features, misinformation and online exploitation, (agencies)

At UNGA leaders call for education, jobs to harness youth, warn AI could widen inequality

United Nations, A growing young population can drive global prosperity only if countries provide education, skills, technology and decent employment, leaders have told the UN General Assembly, warning that artificial intelligence could widen inequality and increase anxiety about the future of work.

Zambian Foreign Minister Mulambo Hamakuni Haimbe said Africa's rapidly expanding youth population represented an opportunity extending far beyond the continent. Africa's youthful population is one of our greatest assets and represents an enormous opportunity for global prosperity," he said. By 2050, one in every four young people in the world would be African, Haimbe said. Governments must provide them with quality education, relevant skills, access to technology, entrepreneurship opportunities and decent employment, he added. Several countries connected employment with economic resilience and political stability.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono said resilience began with families being able to support themselves, farmers producing food, workers finding decent jobs and children having the opportunity to learn and build their futures. "We are building an economy that can withstand shocks and create opportunities," he said.

Mexico presented higher wages and investment in young people as essential parts of its development and security strategy. Foreign Minister Roberto Velasco Alvarez said Mexico had combined education and employment programmes for young people with stronger institutions, intelligence and research. "Peace cannot be decreed or imposed; it is built with social justice," he said. Velasco said Mexico's minimum wage had increased by 154 per cent since 2018 and its citizens' purchasing power was at its highest level in more than 40 years. "Paying workers better does not make economies poorer. It actually strengthens them," he said.

South Korea warned that rapid technological change could intensify young people's uncertainty about employment and their economic future. President Lee Jae Myung said the artificial-intelligence revolution risked deepening inequality and increasing anxiety among young people. Seoul planned to create a Global AI Hub platform to make technological advances available to the wider international community, he said.

India's large working-age population gives it a major stake in this debate. Its economic prospects will depend partly on whether education and training can keep pace with technological change and whether growth produces enough productive employment for people entering the workforce.

China said artificial intelligence should be developed "for the positive and for good" and used to narrow the digital divide. Jamaica warned that technological advances must not reproduce existing economic divisions. "We must therefore not allow AI to deepen old inequalities and create an entirely new global divide," Foreign Minister Kamina Johnson Smith said.

She called for greater investment in digital infrastructure, skills and capacity in developing countries. The speeches reflected concern that access to education alone would not guarantee a youth dividend. Young people would also require economies capable of creating productive work and technology policies that did not leave developing countries dependent on systems designed elsewhere.

AI could cause billion deaths: Bill Gates

Washington, crossoft co-founder Bill Gates has warned that artificial intelligence could drive events causing one billion deaths, as a sharp debate emerged in Washington over whether governments should regulate advanced AI or avoid rules that could slow the United States in its race with China.

Gates told NBC's "Meet the Press" that AI was unlike earlier technological advances and could become vastly more intelligent than humans over the next several years.

"This is truly an evolutionary event," Gates said. "We have created an intelligent species that, in many respects, is already smarter than we are, and over the next several years at kind of exponentially improving level will be insanely smarter than we are."

Asked whether AI could end humanity, Gates said: "AI is certainly powerful enough to drive events that, you know, cause a billion deaths."

"There's never been a weapon as powerful as the combination of people with ill intent using the latest AI tools," he added.

Gates said governments lacked sufficient expertise to understand dangerous thresholds involving bio-

logical attacks, cyberattacks and other potential uses of the technology. He rejected reliance on voluntary safeguards by companies. "No one thinks self-regulation is enough," Gates said, called for legislation requiring safeguards and monitoring systems. Such requirements would impose some costs on the industry but would not dramatically slow its development, he said.

"It's completely irresponsible not to require every AI to have these safeguards and monitoring capabilities," Gates said.

His warning came as Representative Ro Khanna, a California Democrat whose district includes part of Silicon Valley, called for a verifiable US-China agreement prohibiting AI systems capable of independently improving themselves.

Khanna said legislation backed by Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Greg Casar would ban recursive self-improving AI until safeguards were established.

"That is basically AI that isn't being trained anymore by human beings. It's AI that can train itself. And that is a real risk of losing human control," Khanna told NBC.

Khanna said the United States and China should create a working group of technologists and negotiate common restrictions. "Banning self-recursive self-improving AI should not be controversial," he said. "And I do believe the United States can lead on a treaty that is both enforceable and verifiable where we ban recursive self-improving AI, and we have some monitoring of these frontier labs."

US Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz said Washington and Beijing had agreed to establish a superintelligence dialogue following President Donald Trump's summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Waltz told CNN the talks would bring experts together to discuss guardrails covering areas such as biological weapons research and nuclear systems. "With the United States and China so much further ahead than the rest of the world when it comes to these frontier models, I think the world should see that as a positive thing," Waltz said. Attorney General Todd Blanche, however, cautioned against regulations that could weaken US competitiveness. He told ABC that existing criminal

and civil laws already allowed authorities to act against individuals and companies when crimes were committed using AI. "The answer isn't always more laws, more laws, more laws," Blanche said.

He said companies could curb or adjust their systems when problems emerged. "The answer is not to just try to - all of a sudden try to regulate this in a way that will make us

second or third place in the world as far as being the leaders in this space," he said. India is rapidly expanding the use of AI in public services, healthcare, agriculture, education and digital commerce. New Delhi has also stressed that AI governance should promote safety, accountability and equitable access without blocking innovation in developing economies, (agencies)

India leads Asia in LLM search reach: Report

New Delhi, Sep 28 (IANS) Large language models (LLMs) search currently features in 22 per cent of purchase journeys in India and shapes final brand choice in 65 per cent of LLM assisted journeys, a report said on Monday. The report from Boston Consulting Group (BCG) said India's 22 per cent use of LLMs of purchase journeys is the highest rate among the four Asian markets studied - India, China, Japan, and South Korea - and nearly four times Japan's 5 per cent.

Further, it is also closing in on social media in India, which leads discovery at 29 per cent signalling its rapid emergence as a key purchase touchpoint for marketers. The LLM search has become one of the fastest emerging touchpoints across four Asian markets studied - India, China, Japan and South Korea - and already ranks among the top five touchpoints by reach, ahead of TV



as the most influential touchpoint among the consumers who use it," Bajaj added.

The report reminded marketers that LLM search may not yet match social media's reach, but it already rivals its influence. As adoption grows, brands will need to think about visibility not just in social feeds but increasingly in AI-generated answers and recommendations.

The report noted that over half of LLM-assisted purchase journeys led consumers to consider brands they would not otherwise have found, widening the opportunity for brands with lower visibility through traditional touchpoints. Consumers said that AI-generated answers helped remove the guesswork of navigating sponsored advertising. AI-generated answers provided personalised, objective, and transparent recommendations, they noted. (agencies)

Need to equip young people with AI skills: Dr Mansukh Mandaviya

New Delhi, Labour Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday emphasised the need to evolve India's labour and social security ecosystem in tandem with changing times and emerging economic realities, especially vast opportunities that Artificial Intelligence (AI) opens up in today's world. He stressed on the need to equip India's youth with new-age skills in AI, automation, robotics and other cutting-edge technologies.

The Minister drew attention to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2026, wherein the Prime Minister had announced that one crore youth would be trained in AI skills over the next one year. Inaugurating the National Conference on Industrial Relations and Labour and Awards 2026 here, organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Employers' Federation of India (EFI), Dr Mandaviya under-



lined the expansion of India's social security coverage over the past decade, rising from 19 per cent of the population in 2015 to cover 101 crore people, or 68 per cent of the population as on date, as recognised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Calling for a change in the conventional mindset of pro-industry policies being perceived as anti-labour, and vice-versa, the minister urged both industry and workers to progress together as partners in nation-building. The Labour Ministry also launched a mega awareness campaign on the Labour Codes titled "Shram Samvad," under which industrial clusters across 316 districts in all 36 States and Union Territories will be covered over the next 90 days. Dr Mandaviya also emphasised upon the importance of continuous dialogue and consultations among all stakeholders for strengthening industrial relations. "Wherever there is Samvaad, there is Samadhan", he said.

Highlighting India's high GDP growth of 7.8 per cent, Dr Mandaviya elaborated on the government's comprehensive economic policies that have enabled the country to sustain a robust growth trajectory.

He noted that India's strong economic growth in recent years has been accompanied by rising employment opportunities, with every 1 per cent growth in the economy translating into 1.11 per cent employment growth during 2017-23, compared to just 0.008 per cent earlier, (agencies)



बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
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JABALPUR PH: 0761-2480065,67,68

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on **15.10.2026** for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under-

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which Property are being sold	Description of properties	Type of Possession	Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid Increase Amount
Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur M/s Jubilee Enterprises, Prop. Mr. S K Mujibur Rahman Ali. Partners: 1) Mr. Sekh Mujibur Rahaman S/O Mr Sekh Raushan Ali At Makan No 66 Krishna Bihar Raigarh Chattisgarh 496001 Residential Address - Besides Sarvodaya Vidya Mandir Krishna Nagar Raipur C G 492001 2) Mr SK Nasiruddin Ahmed S/o Mr. Sekh Mujibur Rahaman At Makan No 66 Krishna Bihar Raigarh Chattisgarh 496001 Residential Address - Besides Sarvodaya Vidya Mandir Krishna Nagar Raipur C G 492001 Partners in M/s Jubilee Enterprises Having its office at 1st floor AI Subhan Arcade Sirat Maidan Bajinathpara Raipur Chattisgarh 492001 Branch Address 1. 56/1 Ripon Street Kolkata 700016 Branch Address two: Barberia PO Chanserpore P S Tamluk District Purba Mednapur Guarantors: 1)Mr. Sekh Mujibur Rahaman S/O Mr Sekh Raushan Ali At Makan No 66 Krishna Bihar Raigarh Chattisgarh 496001 Residential Address - Besides Sarvodaya Vidya Mandir Krishna Nagar Raipur C G 492001	Rs. 1,57,34,153/- + unapplied interest and penal interest + other charges / expenses w.e.f. 30.07.2022	Flat no. A-609, Block- A, 6th Floor. Khairpur, Raigarh, Tehsil & Dist: Raigarh area admeasuring built up area 760 sq. ft.	Symbolic	Rs. 2660000/- Rs. 266000/- Rs. 10000/-
Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Shri Dilip Tiwari Smt. Rupa Tiwari H No. 76, Khusbu Vihar, Amleswar, Durg, Chhattisgarh Pin- 491111	Rs. 7,68,000/- (Rupees Seven lakhs Sixty Eight thousand only) + unapplied interest and penal interest + other charges / expenses w.e.f. 25.10.2017	Open Land at Kh.no. 311/193 (part) PH no. 46, Ward no.10, Shankar Nagar Kumhari, Tehsil- Dhamdha & Dist: Durg area admeasuring 1312.00 sq.ft.	Physical	Rs.1000000/- Rs.100000/- Rs. 10000/-
Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Shri Ashok Tripathi Smt. Sarla Tripathi H No. G-5, Suncity, Mohbaazar, Heerapur, Near CPS School, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh. 2. Mrs. Sarla Tripathi W/o Mr. Ashok Tripathi H No. G-5, Suncity, Mohbaazar, Heerapur, Near CPS School, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh	Rs. 31,07,000/- (Rupees Thirty One lakhs Seven thousand only) + unapplied interest and penal interest + other charges / expenses w.e.f. 06.02.2018	House no. G-5, Sun City, Heerapur- Mohaba Bazar Road, Tatibandh, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Ward No.13, Tah/Dist: Raipur, area admeasuring 850 sq.ft	Symbolic	Rs. 4000000/- Rs.400000/- Rs. 10000/-
Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur (1) Shubhankar Marketing Pvt. Ltd. Address: C/o Ashirvad traders, 76/3, Nehru Nagar(East), Opposite to Shivaji Square, Bhillai, Distt Durg(C.G.) Directors: 1) Abhilash Joshi s/o Manohar Joshi 2) Manohar Joshi (Deceased) Guarantor: 1) Abhilash Joshi s/o Manohar Joshi Address: B/52, Phase 2 Surya Vihar Colony, Near TI Mail, Junawani, Bhillai Distt Durg (C.G.) 2)Smt. Sudha Joshi; Address: HIG 153, Padmanbhpur, Durg(C.G.) 491001 3) Subodh Joshi; Address: HIG 153, Padmanbhpur, Durg(C.G.) 491001 4) Sudhir Joshi; Address: HIG 153, Padmanbhpur, Durg(C.G.) 491001 5) Vardha Joshi Address: HIG 153, Padmanbhpur, Durg(C.G.) 491001	Rs.63,05,781/- (Rupees Sixty three lakhs five thousand seven hundred and eighty one only) + unapplied interest and penal interest + other charges / expenses w.e.f. 01.01.2021.	Flat no-37-E, Kh.No.1347/2, PH.No.16, Second Floor, Ayodhya Apartment, Ward no.24, Deepak Nagar, Durg, R.N.M Durg-1, Tehsil & Dist: Durg	Physical	Rs.1900000/- Rs.190000/- Rs. 10000/-
Branch - Asset Recovery Branch Borrower : M/s. BAKD Steel Pvt. Ltd. Directors: (1)Mr. Ganesh Parida s/o Mr. Raghunath Parida (2)Mrs. Ratnaoraha Parida w/o Mr. Ganesh Parida Address: Near Bhanpuri Sub- Station, Ward No. 19, Urkura, Raipur (C.G.) 493221 Guarantor: (1) Mr. Ganesh Parida s/o Mr. Raghunath Parida (2) Mrs. Ratnaprabha Parida w/o Mr. Ganesh Parida (3) Mr. Kartikchandra Parida s/o Mr. Raghunath Parida (4) Mr. Sankarshan Parida s/o Mr. Balram Parida. Village- Birgaon, Raipur (C.G.) 493221	Rs.3,53,78,712.78/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty three Lakh seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred twelve rupees and Seventy eight paise only) (Ledger Bal: Rs. 3,53,78,712.78/- + unapplied interest of Rs.28,96,121/- upto 15/08/2023 + penal interest @ 2.00% p.a. other expenses w.e.f. 16.08.2023 + penal interest and other charges / expenses	(A) Diverted Plot bearing Kh. No 84/128, P.H. No. 108/40, Area admeasuring 3200 Sq. feet located at Village – Urkura, ward no. 19, (Madhav Rao Sapre ward) RIC – Raipur, Tehsil & Distt- Raipur (C.G.) in the Name of Mr. Sankarshan Parida s/o Mr. Balram Parida (B) Diverted Plot bearing Kh. No 84/127, P.H. No. 108/40, Area admeasuring 3100 Sq. feet located at Village – Urkura, ward no. 19, (Madhav Rao Sapre ward) RIC – Raipur, Tehsil & Distt- Raipur (C.G.) in the Name of Mr. Kartikchandra Parida s/o Mr. Raghunath Parida Note - The sale is subject to order/outcome of S.A. No. 1149/2023	Symbolic	Rs.9360000/- Rs. 936000/- Rs. 10000/-

Inspection of Properties by bidder: 08.10.2026 to 09.10.2026 between 11:00 am. and 4:00 pm
Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid application/KYC documents/EMD etc. 15.10.2026 up to 11.00 a.m.
Date & time of E-auction with auto extention for 10 minutes- 15.10.2026 between 12.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

The auction sale will be On-line E-Auction / Bidding through website <https://baanknet.com>, email: support.baanknet@psballiance.com. Mob.- 8291220220 The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal using their mobile number and email id. Please take note that the registration and KYC approval etc take 2-3 working days. For detail terms and conditions of sale please refer to the link provided in <https://bankofmaharashtra.bank.in/asset-for-sales-search> and <https://baanknet.com>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorized officials **Contact details: Shri Onkar Kumar (Zonal Manager) - 9823296164, Shri Nikhil S Patil (DZM) - 7387211200, Shri Bhushan Mohite (CM Recovery - Z.O.) - 9923257090, & Shri Hariom Trivedi (CM & Authorised Officer) - 9405719723**
Note - The sales are subject to the order/outcome of any case pending/ filed if any before Court/Tribunal

Date: 29/09/2026

Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors/Legal Heirs(LR's)/Coparceners
The above shall be treated as Notice of 15days u/r 9(1) of security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai announces ₹51 lakh reward for Asian Games gold medallist Sanju Devi



Raipur, (VW) Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Monday announced a cash incentive of ₹51 lakh for Asian Games gold medallist Sanju Devi during a felicitation ceremony at his official residence in Raipur.

The Chief Minister felicitated the Korba-based athlete, who represented the gold medal-winning Indian women's kabaddi team at the Asian Games 2026 in Japan, where India defeated Chinese Taipei in a thrilling final.

Appreciating her dedication, Chief Minister Sai stated that her international success brings immense pride to the state and serves as an inspiration for rural youth across Chhattisgarh. Emphasising the state's commitment to sports infrastructure, the Chief Minister affirmed that the government is expanding advanced training facilities, resources, and financial incentives to nurture grassroots talent from remote regions. He noted that Sanju Devi's achievement will

boost the confidence of young sportspersons in small towns and villages aspiring to compete at national and international platforms.

Expressing her gratitude, Sanju Devi thanked Chief Minister Sai for the state government's continuous encouragement and recognition, adding that the financial reward and support would motivate her to achieve further success in upcoming international competitions.

Chhattisgarh selected for SING Forum 2026

Raipur, (VW) Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will lead a high-level state delegation to Singapore from October 3 to 6 after the Ministry of External Affairs selected the state to participate in the inaugural Singapore-India Network for Growth (SING) Forum 2026.

Chief Minister Sai will address the forum on October 5 to present Chhattisgarh's economic trajectory and pitch investment opportunities, particularly across micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), startups, and employment generation sectors to global investors and trade representatives.

Organised by the Singapore Business Federation, the SING Forum aims to connect government leaders, industrial visionaries, and entrepreneurs from both nations to foster trade, cross-border investments, and strate-

gic business partnerships.

During the four-day visit, the Chhattisgarh delegation will hold bilateral meetings with key institutions, including Singapore's Skill Centre, Mandai Wildlife Reserve, and Gardens by the Bay. The discussions will explore technical collaboration in skill development, wildlife conservation, urban horticulture, and green infrastructure initiatives.

Chief Minister Sai stated that the international outreach will link Chhattisgarh with global economic partners and open fresh avenues for sustainable development. The official delegation includes Chief Secretary Vikas Sheel, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Subodh Singh, Commerce and Industries Secretary Rajat Kumar, CSIDC Managing Director Vishvesh Kumar, and OSD to Chief Minister Umesh Agrawal.

Over 220 players attend opening day of Chhattisgarh Hockey League selection trials in Raipur



Raipur, (VW) Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao inspected the ongoing player selection trials for the maiden edition of the Chhattisgarh Hockey League (CHL) at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Hockey Stadium on Pitch-1 on Monday. A total of 223 players out of 373 registered candidates turned up on the first day of the two-day selection process organized to form squads for the upcoming tournament.

Addressing the athletes on the field, Sao, who holds the Sports and Youth Welfare portfolio, emphasized the deep-rooted hockey tradition in the state. He noted that the primary goal of the league is to provide local talent a structured competitive platform to share the field with national and international players. The Sports and Youth Welfare

Department of the Chhattisgarh government is hosting the trials under the technical supervision, rules, and guidelines set by the Chhattisgarh Hockey Association. A selection panel comprising sports officers, technical experts, and former players evaluated the athletes on Day 1. The panel includes Sports Officer Dinu Prasad Patel, senior coaches Rashmi Sandhya Ekka and Rakesh Toppo, international hockey player Mrinal Choubey, and senior players Anurag Srivastava and Amitabh Manikpuri.

The selection trials will resume on 29 September from 9:00 AM IST. Following the conclusion of the event, the panel will submit the candidate list and selection report to the Directorate of Sports and Youth Welfare to proceed with drafting players into six franchises. The inaugural season of the of-

ficial state-level tournament will take place from 21 October to 1 November 2026 at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Hockey Stadium in Raipur. Six regional franchise-based teams will compete for the title: Rajdhani Royals, Chitrakote Challengers, Sanskardhani Strikers, Chakradhar Champions, Nyaydhani Knights, and Mainpat Titans.

Each franchise squad will feature a 22-member team, comprising 18 players from Chhattisgarh and four national or international players from outside the state. Promoted under the tagline "Chalo Re Sangi, Hockey Khelbo" (Come friends, let us play hockey), the league aims to strengthen the grassroots sports ecosystem and provide sustained exposure to emerging athletes across the region.

Chhattisgarh set for 48-hour rain lull

Raipur, (VW) Chhattisgarh is likely to experience a brief respite from widespread rainfall over the next 48 hours, even as light to moderate showers continue at isolated places across the state until October 2, according to the Meteorological Centre in Raipur.

Maximum temperatures are expected to remain stable over the next 24 hours before gradually rising by 3 to 4 degrees Celsius over the subsequent two days. The post-monsoon clearing is expected to bring warmer and increasingly humid conditions to several districts following a prolonged spell of continuous rainfall. For September 28,

the weather office has forecast isolated light to moderate rain or thunder-showers in southern and central districts, including Bastar and Dhamtari, while most remaining regions will see partly cloudy skies. No severe weather warnings have been issued for the state.

A similar weather pattern will persist through October 2, with reduced precipitation intensity and scattered showers restricted to one or two pockets daily. Meteorologists indicated that the combination of lingering atmospheric moisture and rising afternoon temperatures could increase discomfort across low-lying plains during the week.

Chhattisgarh coal levy scam: EOW to file final charge sheet against 35 accused on October 3, questions Congress MLA Devendra Yadav

Raipur, (VW) Chhattisgarh's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) is set to submit its final charge sheet against around 35 accused in the high-profile coal levy extortion scam before a special court on October 3.

The agency has intensified the finalisation process while stepping up the interrogation of key political figures and individuals who have obtained anticipatory bail. As part of the ongoing probe, the EOW summoned and questioned Bhilai Nagar Congress MLA Devendra Yadav for over two hours at its office regarding his alleged links with the extortion syndicate.

The money laundering aspect of the alleged scam is being probed alongside the EOW by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Investigating agencies stated that an illegal levy of ₹25

per tonne was extorted from coal traders and transporters across Chhattisgarh between July 2020 and June 2022.

According to investigators, the extortion syndicate was established after the state Mining Department systematically altered its procedures, replacing the on-line coal delivery permit system with an offline process. This procedural tweak enabled the syndicate to capture complete control over the permit issuance mechanism and run a full-scale extortion network. Joint estimates by the ED and EOW reveal that the syndicate illegally amassed over ₹540 crore during the two-year period. The upcoming charge sheet will detail the specific roles of bureaucrats, politicians, and middlemen, laying the groundwork for trial proceedings.

Kanker Naxal dump search: Inquiry report submitted

Kanker, (VW) Senior police authorities in Chhattisgarh are evaluating an inquiry report against two former Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) accused of illegally dividing and retaining ₹20 lakh recovered during anti-Naxal operations in Kanker district rather than depositing it in the state treasury. Kanker Superintendent of Police Nikhil Rakhecha confirmed that a formal investigation into the complaint has been completed and the findings have been submitted to higher authorities for further action. The controversy traces back to an intelligence-led search operation launched on inputs from surrendered Maoists in the forests near Tondamarka and Markakonari villages under Muragaon Gram Panchayat. The two DSPs, who were posted in Kanker at the time, led separate teams into the forested terrain to locate suspected Naxal dumps.

During the search, operational units allegedly recovered ₹15 lakh from the Tondamarka forest and an additional ₹5 lakh from the Markakonari area. However, instead of logging the ₹20-lakh recovery in official seizure records and depositing the cash into the government treasury, the two officers allegedly partitioned the funds between themselves without informing senior commanders. The alleged misconduct surfaced after both officers were transferred out of the district, triggering internal discussions among field personnel involved in the joint search. The matter was subsequently escalated to SP Rakhecha, who ordered a formal probe. Departmental action against the accused officers is expected once senior authorities review the submitted inquiry findings.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. BASTAR CIRCLE JAGDALPUR (C.G.)				
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Tender are invited for the Following Works :- Last Date of Tender Downloading :- 08/10/2026				
S. No.	NIT No./ NIT Date	System Tender No. (Tender Call No)	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in Lacs)
01	02	03	04	05
1	143/2026-27 Date 23-09-2026	199978 (Second-Call)	B.T. Patch Repair of Various Roads Under Sub Division- Lohandiguda.	16.95
2	144/2026-27 Date 23-09-2026	199979 (Second-Call)	BT Patch Repair Work (1) Injaram Bhejri Road Length 7.00 Km. (2) Konta-Town Road Length 4.00 Km. (3) Konta to Golapalli Road Length 6.00 Km Total Length 17.00 Km Under PWD Sub Division Konta, Division-Sukma.	42.69
3	145/2026-27 Date 23-09-2026	199980 (Second-Call)	BT Patch Repair Work Chintalnar-Mariaguda Road in Km 27.00 to 37.00-11.00 k.m. Under PWD Sub Division Dornapal , Division-Sukma	25.40
4	146/2026-27 Date 23-09-2026	199981 (Second-Call)	B.T. Patch Repair Works on (1) Tongpal-Leda-Pushpal Road Km 1 To 15 = 15.00 Km. (2) Southnar Pproch Road Length 6.60 km (3) Chhindgarh. Twon Approach Road 0.70 km (4) Sukma-Jhpara-Malkangiri Road Km 1 To 12 = 12.00 Km. (5) Pushamipara – Kumharas Road Length 4.80 Km. (6) Sukma- Pawaras Road 3.70 Km. And Various Road 13.30 Km = Total Length 56.10 Km. Under PWD Sub Division Sukma , Division-Sukma.	68.30
5	147/2026-27 Date 23-09-2026	199982 (Second-Call)	B.T. PATCH REPAIR WORK OF NAIMED KUTRU ROAD LENGTH 25.10 KM AND KUTRU BEDRE ROAD LENGTH 20.00 KM DISTT-BIJAPUR (C.G.)	38.14
6	148/2026-27 Date 23-09-2026	199984 (Second-Call)	B.T. PATCH & WMM REPAIR WORK OF BIJAPUR-AWAPALLI-BASACUDA-JAGARGUNDA ROAD LENGTH = 70.00 KM FROM KM (1/8 To 2/8, 4/6 to 5/2, 8/8 to 8/10, 9/8 to 9/10, 12/8, to 18/4, 18/8 to 27/2,28/10 to 30/4,33/2 to 40/2, 40/8, to 42/6, 44/2) = 43.50km UNDER SUB DIV. NO. 2 BIJAPUR (C.G.)	55.08
7	149/2026-27 Date 23-09-2026	199985 (Second-Call)	B.T. PATCH REPAIR WORK UNDER P.W.D. (B/R) SUB DIV. NO.1 BIJAPUR DISTT.-BIJAPUR (C.G.)	42.36
8	150/2026-27 Date 23-09-2026	199986 (Second-Call)	B.T. PATCH REPAIR WORK OF ROADS UNDER SUB DIV. MADDED DISTT-BIJAPUR (C.G.)	30.51

For more details on the Tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

G-262703549

**Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Bastar Circle
Jagdalpur**

Contd. from page 1

SC directs

students are required to study three languages, including at least two Indian languages.

Earlier, the apex court had issued notice on a batch of petitions challenging the implementation of the revised policy and sought responses from the Centre, the CBSE, and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

The petitions challenged the CBSE's Secondary School Curriculum (Classes IX-X) 2026-27 and circulars dated April 9 and May 4, contending that the revised framework curtailed students' academic choices by making the study of two Indian languages compulsory from Class 6 onwards.

The petitioners, represented by senior advocate Anand Grover, along with advocates Tripti Tandon and Advocate-on-Record Rohit Kumar-I, had also raised concerns over the availability of teachers, textbooks, and teaching material and alleged that the revised curriculum was introduced after the academic session had already commenced.

The Supreme Court had earlier declined to stay implementation of the revised policy while agreeing to examine concerns relating to its implementation, including the availability of teachers and study material.

The CBSE has subsequently issued implementation guidelines clarifying the transitional arrangements for the third language. Under the existing relaxation, students of Classes 7, 8 and 9 would not face a Board examination in the third language in Class 10, with assessment being undertaken internally at the school level.(agencies)

CBDT extends ...

period of the previous year. Refund issuance surged by over 29 per cent to cross Rs 2.2 lakh crore during this period, the data further showed. (agencies)

Brent crude ...

pressures for oil marketing companies, airlines and chemical producers while creating room for monetary easing in FY28.(agencies)

SC takes ...

of crime, maintenance of public order and protection of vulnerable persons. The Supreme Court's intervention comes amid a series of sexual offences reported in Delhi and the adjoining National Capital Region in recent weeks.

In the latest incident that triggered concern, a 17-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by three men posing as policemen at a park near Kalkaji Mandir in Delhi.

According to police, the girl had gone to Kalkaji Mandir with a male friend on September 22 and later entered a nearby park. The three accused allegedly approached them, claimed to be police personnel, threatened them and took their mobile phones.

The survivor later told police that two of the men took her towards an isolated part of the park, where she was allegedly sexually assaulted. She also alleged that one of the accused, identified as Asif, displayed a firearm while threatening her.

Following a PCR call, police reached the spot. Asif was subsequently apprehended after an encounter and sustained a gunshot injury. Efforts to trace the other two accused were underway.

The Supreme Court's suo moto proceedings also cover the alleged sexual assault of a 16-year-old girl inside a moving sleeper bus in the Greater Noida-Delhi region.

The incident, reported in August, involved a girl from Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri who had travelled towards Noida and later boarded a sleeper bus after missing her stop.

The driver and conductor of the bus allegedly sexually assaulted her and later abandoned her near Kashmere Gate in Delhi.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had earlier taken suo motu cognisance of the incident and issued notices to the Police Commissioners of Delhi and Gautam Buddha Nagar and the Superintendent of Police, Mainpuri, seeking reports on the investigation and compensation, if any, provided to the survivor.

Police arrested the driver and conductor and seized the sleeper bus for forensic examination. Investigators also collected CCTV

footage along the route to establish the movement of the vehicle and the sequence of events.

SC seeks ...

from such charges, adding that the levy was necessary to keep the UPI ecosystem functioning efficiently.

After hearing the submissions, the CJI Kant-led Bench sought the relevant facts and material on affidavit and posted the matter for hearing after four weeks.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner sought an interim stay on the implementation of the framework, arguing that allowing the charges to take effect could give rise to corruption. However, the Supreme Court declined to grant a stay at this stage.

The plea challenges the proposed 0.4 per cent MDR on specified P2M UPI transactions above Rs 2,000, capped at Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 and above, with separate rates for certain sectors.

The petitioner has claimed that the framework is arbitrary and discriminatory and imposes a nationwide financial burden without adequate statutory safeguards.

The plea contends that the challenge is not to the objective of maintaining secure and resilient payment infrastructure, but to the manner in which the financial burden has been created, classified and distributed without disclosure of the complete operative instrument, statutory source, underlying cost study, methodology and safeguards.

It has questioned the basis for fixing the Rs 2,000 transaction threshold, Rs 1 lakh monthly receipt classification, differential sector rates and Rs 75,000 cap, claiming that the empirical basis for these classifications has not been disclosed.

The petition has also questioned the threshold itself, highlighting that a transaction of Rs 2,001 would attract a percentage charge while a Rs 2,000 transaction would not. The petitioner has further challenged the role of the UPI & Services Steering Committee in determining the framework, arguing that essential rate-making and classification decisions cannot be sub-delegated without clear legislative policy standards, publication and regulatory

supervision.

The plea seeks production of the complete record relating to the decision, including the statutory basis, constitution and authority of the UPI & Services Steering Committee, its decisions and minutes, and the legal basis for prescribing the rates and distributing MDR among private ecosystem participants.

It also seeks quashing or suspension of the framework insofar as it imposes MDR on UPI transactions above Rs 2,000.

Alternatively, the petitioner has sought reconsideration of the framework after transparent consultation, publication of empirical data and an impact assessment, along with safeguards for micro and small enterprises.

The Centre has maintained that the revised framework is aimed at ensuring the financial sustainability of the UPI ecosystem.

The Union Finance Ministry had said that a small fee on high-value merchant transactions would help fund infrastructure, cybersecurity and support for small merchants in Tier III-VI towns and rural areas.

The Centre has also maintained that UPI would remain free for customers and that person-to-person transactions would continue to remain free irrespective of the transaction amount. It said merchants earning up to Rs 1 lakh per month through UPI QR codes would continue to enjoy zero charges, while more than 95 per cent of merchant payments below Rs 2,000 would remain free. The RBI has also described the introduction of MDR on large-value UPI transactions as a step towards strengthening the long-term sustainability of the digital payments ecosystem, while maintaining that all UPI transactions would remain free for users.(agencies)

Asian Games: Esha ...

contention. When Vietnam's Trinh Thu Vinh was eliminated, the Indian was guaranteed herself a medal.

The battle for bronze then turned into an extraordinary sequence of shoot-offs between Esha and Kim, who were tied on 34 hits. Both shooters initially recorded three hits, forcing another shoot-off. A technical interruption added to the tension before the contest resumed with a single-shot situation. Esha even-

tually prevailed, securing the bronze-medal position and earning the right to fight Xiao for gold.

The final showdown was equally absorbing. Xiao and Esha remained separated by just one hit before the Indian produced four hits to force another shoot-off. Both shooters then managed four hits apiece, sending the contest into yet another shoot-off.

With the gold medal within reach, Esha registered two hits while Xiao managed three, leaving the Indian with silver. Their combined scores reached 38, matching the Games Record of 38 hits set by China's Liu Rui at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023.

The medal adds another achievement to Esha's rapidly growing record in the event. The Indian currently holds the women's 25m pistol world record, having scored 43 hits at the Munich World Cup in May, and is also the reigning world No. 1.

Esha's silver caps a dramatic morning at the range for India, following a disappointing team final in which the Indian women finished fifth after a costly target miss.

The Indian team, comprising double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, Asian Games silver winner Esha Singh and multi-time Asiad medallist Rahi Sarnobat, had a total of 1727.56x combined in the precision and rapid events as another medal slipped away.

Moreover, only Esha managed to qualify for the individual final after finishing eighth, while Manu was 11th and Rahi finished a further 30th out of the 44 shooters that were in the fray in the event.

Only the top eight shooters were to qualify for the final, and Esha managed to do that by virtue of hitting more bullseyes after she was tied with Chinese Taipei's Yen-Ching Cheng with 580 points. Esha had hit 22x, while Cheng scored 20x.(agencies)

Gulveer clinches ...

heats, he had an even better turn than Gulveer as Yoonus clocked 3:45.77, while Gulveer clocked 3:45.79 in his heat, resulting in both qualifying for the final.

However, Yoonus, even after being in a comfortable position for a good amount of time in the race, could muster a ninth-place finish in

the final as he clocked a time of 3:43.88s.

Meanwhile, this is the second medal for Gulveer at the ongoing Asian Games after he also secured a silver in the 10000m final. He had won a bronze in the 10000m in the 2023 Hangzhou Games too.

Gulveer scripted a slice of Indian athletics history by becoming the first Indian to win two Asian Games medals in the men's 10,000m after clinching silver earlier.

Gulveer clocked 28:29.38 to finish second in the gruelling 25-lap race, adding silver to the bronze he won in the same event at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou. He became the first Indian to stand on the Asian Games podium twice in the men's 10,000m.

Bahrain's Birhanu Balew won the gold in 28:27.51, finishing just 1.87 seconds ahead of Gulveer, while his compatriot Albert Kiptoo took bronze in 28:34.38. China's Wang Wenjie finished fourth in 28:38.14.(agencies)

Murali Sreeshankar ...

Sreeshankar was later seen limping as he congratulated Shi and Anvarov after the medal positions were confirmed.

His 8.07m was also his first eight-metre-plus jump of these Asian Games and proved enough to keep him ahead of a tightly packed chasing group. Anvarov finished just one centimetre behind the Indian, while Chinese Taipei's Lin Yu-tang was fourth with a season-best 8.05m.

Japan's Riku Ito and Yuki Hashioka finished fifth and sixth with 7.97m and 7.94m, respectively, India's other competitor, David Solomon Patturaj, finished seventh with 7.70m.

Sreeshankar's latest medal adds another Asian Games silver to his collection after he finished second in the event at the previous edition. His performance in Nagoya was particularly notable for the circumstances, with the Indian forced to balance his medal hopes against an injury that visibly restricted him in the closing rounds.

The gold ultimately went to Shi, whose 8.17m established a clear lead early in the final. Sreeshankar's 8.07m, meanwhile, stood firm despite the late challenge from Anvarov and Lin.(agencies)

MP: HC disposes Shahi Masjid appeals after Ujjain Admin reaches agreement

Bhopal, The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Monday disposed of two appeals concerning Ujjain's Shahi Masjid after the mosque committee and the district administration reached an agreement over the portion of the structure affected by a road-widening project.

The order came even as stone-pelting and clashes with police were reported during the demolition exercise.

Advocate Kuldeep Pathak, appearing for the Shahi Masjid Committee, said the appeals were filed after a single bench of the High Court earlier dismissed the committee's petition.

He explained that the administration had initially sought a 9.5-foot setback from the mosque, but both sides agreed to restrict the affected portion to three feet.

Under the settlement, shops falling in the road-widening area would be removed and alternative shops provided, while the large minaret would be relocated.

Pathak added that the administration and the committee would strictly adhere to the compromise reached, and that the terms outlined in the affidavit would also be implemented.

Tension broke out at the mosque premises on Monday morning as demolition work began. Ujjain Police said stones were pelted at personnel deployed at

the site, prompting them to use tear gas and resort to a lathi-charge to disperse the crowd. A woman station house officer was injured during the action.

Superintendent of Police Pradeep Sharma said members of the Muslim community and the mosque committee participated in removing the portion identified for the road project.

He noted that the situation was normal at present, with demolition continuing from 8:45 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m. The demolition work was halted during prayer time, after which the situation eased.

Police said they detained more than 15 people and registered seven FIRs. Cases include allegations of inciting trouble and disturbing public order, with some social media influencers also booked. Security personnel remained deployed at sensitive locations.

The road-widening work is part of preparations for Simhashta 2028. A 1.5-km stretch from Kanthal Square to Gopal Mandir is being widened to 15 metres, affecting 323 structures, including 15 religious sites. Twelve of these have already been removed, the Ujjain district administration says. A section of the Shahi Masjid measuring about nine feet in length and four feet in width falls within the proposed road alignment.

Patna stir turns tense as police use water cannons, lathi-charge protestors



Patna, Patna witnessed heightened protest activity on Monday as thousands of protesters from several organisations took to the streets over a range of demands. The situation turned tense at J.P. Golambar and Dak Bungalow Crossing, where police used barricades, water cannons and subsequently resorted to a lathi-charge to disperse protesters. Nursing and paramedical students were among those participating in the demonstrations.

The students were protesting over examination results at the Bihar University of Health Sciences (BUHS) and demanding the removal of the Vice-Chancellor. Tensions escalated as protesters moved from J.P. Golambar towards Dak Bungalow Crossing.

Police had erected barricades to prevent the march from advancing, but some protesters allegedly uprooted the barricades and attempted to move forward. A scuffle subsequently broke out between police personnel and protesters. Despite the police intervention, the protesters continued towards Dak Bungalow Crossing. The administration had established a security perimeter at Dak Bungalow Crossing, including barricades and barbed wire, to prevent protesters from advancing further.

When some protesters attempted to breach the security arrangements, police deployed water cannons to disperse the crowd. Protesters continued raising slogans despite the water jets, with some reportedly waving slippers towards the police. The situation subsequently escalated, following which the police resorted to a lathi-charge.

Protesters alleged that several students were injured during the police

action. According to those participating in the demonstration, four students sustained injuries to their heads, hands and other parts of their bodies. However, the exact number of people injured and the nature of their injuries could not be independently established from the available information. Official figures may differ from claims made by protesters. Rural SP Komal Meena was also reportedly injured during the confrontation. A major component of Monday's protests involved nursing and paramedical students of the Bihar University of Health Sciences.

The students alleged that around 80 per cent of candidates had failed their examinations and said the results had adversely affected their academic and professional futures. They are demanding a review of the results and the removal of the university's Vice-Chancellor.

The 80 per cent failure figure is an allegation made by the protesting students and has not been independently confirmed. Monday's protests involved several groups pursuing different demands. One group of protesters reportedly moved towards the Chief Minister's residence, while CPI-ML activists had announced plans to surround Lok Bhawan.

Separately, protesters gathered with posters demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The demonstrations added to the already heightened political activity in the state capital. With multiple groups taking to the streets simultaneously, police deployed additional personnel at key locations and used barricading and crowd-control measures to regulate the movement of protesters.

No relief for farmers till assessment reports are finalised: Maha Minister

Yavatmal, Despite the state government declaring drought across 75 per cent of Maharashtra, Revenue Minister Chandrashekar Bawankule on Monday clarified that farmers will not receive immediate financial aid. He said disbursements would take place only after complete loss assessment reports (panchnamas) are finalised to ensure no affected farmer is excluded or unfairly compensated.

Bawankule, who heads the newly appointed Cabinet Sub-Committee on Drought Relief, explained that premature financial aid without thorough ground reports would ultimately harm farmers.

"Our goal is to ensure that not a single eligible farmer is excluded. Different crops, such as cotton, soybean, turmeric, sugarcane, horticulture and orange orchards, have distinct damage parameters. Releasing funds today without ground assessments would lead to inaccurate compensation. Comprehensive reports are necessary, and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will formally announce the financial package once these are finalised," he said. To streamline the process, the Cabinet Sub-Committee will meet every Tuesday to review the evolving situation across affected districts. Bawankule emphasised that precise ground verification is critical for securing funds under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) guidelines.

He also directed MSIEDCL to ensure 12 hours of uninterrupted power supply to agricultural feeders, with power availability issues to be reviewed weekly. Responding to letters from opposition leaders, including NCP chief Sharad Pawar, demanding urgent drought relief, Bawankule said the government had received over 2,000 such letters. "Opposition leaders are merely performing their duty by writing letters, but our government is not acting solely because of them," he remarked.

He added that the Chief Minister had personally visited farm bunds to assess the situation. Talukas omitted from the drought list would also be



evaluated after thorough study. He urged political parties to avoid politicising the crisis and contribute to relief efforts. On protests regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Bawankule accused the Opposition of spreading negativity. "After raising baseless doubts about EVMs, they are now targeting the SIR process. What is wrong with ensuring accurate voter lists?" he asked, alleging that opposition parties fail to work at the booth level and instead rely on false narratives.

He added that voters had rejected misinformation during recent elections, resulting in strong public support for the ruling alliance. To Old Pension Scheme, better facilities for Shiksha Mitras: Akhilesh Yadav's big poll promises Lucknow, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday announced a series of promises ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, including steps towards implementing the Old Pension Scheme, improving the status of Shiksha Mitras, and clearing pending salaries of madrasa teachers.

Addressing reporters at the SP office, Akhilesh Yadav said that if his party forms the government in 2027, it would work to reform the education system and address the concerns of teachers and employees. He said the status of Shiksha Mitras would be improved by granting them the same facilities as regular teachers, while issues concerning Sanskrit schools would also be resolved. claimed that addressing the problems of Shiksha Mitras could also help in reopening schools that had shut down. He also

promised to clear the long-pending salaries of teachers associated with modern madrasas.

On the Old Pension Scheme, he said that his party would take steps towards its implementation after consultations with the Finance Department. Akhilesh Yadav also targeted the BJP government over its handling of education and alleged that it was "dividing society" rather than addressing issues concerning jobs and education. He alleged that madrasas had faced discrimination and accused the government of providing what he described as sub-standard jobs and inadequate education. The SP chief also raised allegations concerning electoral rolls and the deletion of voters' names during the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. He claimed that a large number of SP supporters' names were deleted and alleged that BJP workers had sought deletions through Form 7 applications.

He cited an example from Lucknow, claiming that one person had applied for deletion of more than 100 names. The Election Commission's Form 7 guidelines, however, state that an application can be made by an elector registered in the constituency, including an objection against another elector's entry or a request to delete the applicant's own name.

He further alleged that fake voter entries were still being created in Noida and questioned the Election Commission's role in the electoral process. He also said courts should take suo motu cognisance of reports concerning alleged "vote theft" and consider ordering re-elections in West Bengal and Bihar. The SP President also referred to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, saying his party had defeated the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, and said the BJP would be "completely ousted" from the state in the 2027 Assembly elections. He alleged that the BJP worked in the interests of capitalists and large business groups. The remarks come as the SP steps up preparations for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The party has recently intensified its outreach and campaign activities ahead of the polls.

11 years aftrer Kerala Assembly ruckus, trial of top Left leaders set to begin November 3

Thiruvananthapuram, The trial in the sensational 2015 Kerala Assembly ruckus case is finally set to begin on November 3, with the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court fixing the date on Monday, more than 11 years after the confrontation that shook the state's legislature. The case involves six prominent LDF leaders who were in the Opposition when the incident occurred – V. Sivankutty, E.P. Jayarajan, K.T. Jaleel, K. Ajith, C.K. Sadasivan, and K. Kunhammed Master.

The trial date marks a significant turn in a case that has remained entangled in political and legal battles for years. LDF government, after coming to power in 2016, had sought withdrawal of the case against its leaders. The move was rejected by the trial court and the High Court, before the state approached the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court too refused to permit withdrawal, making it clear that legislative privilege could not be invoked to obtain immunity from criminal prosecution for alleged de-

struction of public property. The case dates back to March 13, 2015, when LDF members launched a massive protest inside the Assembly to prevent then Finance Minister K.M. Mani from presenting the Budget.

The prosecution alleges that the Speaker's dais was damaged and computers, microphones, chairs and other equipment were destroyed. The loss to public property was assessed at around Rs 2.20 lakh. The prosecution case was registered under provisions dealing with criminal trespass, mischief causing damage, and destruction of public property. Six accused had sought discharge from the case, but the Chief Judicial Magistrate rejected their pleas, finding sufficient material to frame charges. The Kerala High Court later declined to stay the trial and directed the accused to face the proceedings. None of the six is currently a legislator. Sivankutty and Jaleel, who were members of the Assembly when the case began, have since held ministerial positions,

but both lost the recent Assembly polls. Ajith, then a CPI legislator, subsequently joined the BJP and contested the 2026 Assembly election unsuccessfully. The case had also acquired a political counterpoint during the intervening years, with a separate case pursued against UDF leaders over alleged incidents during the same Assembly confrontation. That case had been cited by the UDF as an attempt to dilute the principal case against the LDF leaders.

With that political backdrop now largely receding, the original case is set to enter its long-delayed trial phase. The November 3 proceedings will thus mark the first substantive step towards determining criminal liability for an episode that has remained a political flashpoint in Kerala for more than a decade.

The biggest irony is that Mani's party, now led by his son Jose K. Mani, is the third biggest constituent of the Left alliance. After Mani's death, Jose took the party into the Left fold just ahead of the 2021 Assembly polls.

Mysuru Dasara: Cong MLA Sait expresses anger over delay by Minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah at mahouts' breakfast

Mysuru (Karnataka), ormer minister and six-time MLA, Tanveer Sait, on Monday expressed displeasure over Urban Development Minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah's delay in attending a breakfast organised for Dasara elephant mahouts, kawadis and their family members at the Mysuru Palace premises.

The programme was scheduled for 9 a.m., but Yathindra Siddaramaiah had not arrived even after much delay, leaving the mahouts, kawadis and their family members waiting for his arrival.

Expressing his displeasure over the delay, Sait left the venue and spoke to the Deputy Commissioner, ques-

tioning the arrangements and the minister's lack of punctuality.

"Don't you have a sense of time? What should be done if there is no sense of time? There is a limit to everything. Let them do anything in other matters, but is it right to make mahouts wait for their breakfast?" Sait said, adding that he had left the venue.

Yathindra Siddaramaiah later arrived at the venue and served breakfast to the mahouts and kawadis.

Clarifying the delay, Yathindra said he was yet to fully settle into his new house in Mysuru and that things were still being arranged.

"My new house is not

arranged yet. Things are helter-skelter. My mother was not at home, I was alone and even the workers were not there. It took some time to get ready, arrange things and arrive. It was not intentional," he said.

Sait, who represents the Mysuru region, had also been critical of the functioning of the state government under former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Tanveer Sait has been elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) six times from the Narasimharaja constituency in Mysuru, Karnataka. He first won a bye-election in May 2002 following his father's passing, and has won every consecutive election

since then, securing his sixth term in the May 2003/2023 state Assembly elections and he is closer to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Former minister Tanveer Sait had expressed disappointment over not being inducted into D.K. Shivakumar's Cabinet, with his name missing from the list of Ministers cleared by the AICC. Sait, who was a strong aspirant for a ministerial berth and had remained confident of securing the party high command's approval during second phase of Cabinet expansion. Insiders state that Tanveer Sait has been snubbed to ensure steady political growth of Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra.

Tawang Marathon to showcase Arunachal's Himalayan landscape, cultural heritage: CM Pema Khandu

Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said on Monday that the Tawang Marathon was conceived not merely as a sporting event but as a platform to bring together sports, the state's Himalayan landscape, cultural heritage and the warmth of its people, while promoting responsible tourism.

Khandu launched the Tawang Marathon 2026 logo and unveiled its official T-shirt, finisher medal and mascot at an event held at the Chief Minister's Office here.

He also inaugurated the event's official website and registration platform, setting the stage for the fourth edition of the high-altitude endurance event, scheduled to be held on October 24.

Organised by the Arunachal Pradesh government in close association with the Indian Army, the Tawang Marathon will bring together

er civilian runners and defence personnel on a course situated at around 10,000 feet above sea level, against the backdrop of the Eastern Himalayas.

This year's edition is expected to attract more than 4,000 participants, including over 200 elite runners from across India and from Kenya, Ethiopia and Nepal, alongside amateur runners and fitness enthusiasts.

"When we first envisioned Tawang Marathon, the idea was never just to organise a race. It was to create a platform where sport meets the majesty of our Himalayan landscape, where the culture and warmth of our people find a global stage, and where Arunachal Pradesh's story of responsible tourism is told to the world," the Chief Minister said.



linge, with altitude, terrain and weather requiring participants to prepare carefully.

Runners are being encouraged to reach Tawang two to three days ahead of race day to allow for acclimatisation, bib collection and medical guidance.

Preparations for the event include race operations, medical assistance, hydration and aid stations, with coordination among organising authorities and local stakeholders.

Runner preparedness, community participation and respect for the mountain environment remain key components of the event.

Beyond the sporting challenge, the marathon is expected to contribute to Arunachal Pradesh's growing sports tourism sector.

The influx of runners and their

families is likely to generate opportunities for local hotels, homestays, transport operators, guides and other businesses.

The event will also provide visitors an opportunity to experience Tawang's Monpa traditions, historic monastery and local hospitality, thereby linking the sporting experience with the destination's cultural and tourism offerings.

The Chief Minister invited runners, sports enthusiasts and travellers from across India and abroad to participate in the fourth edition and experience Tawang.

Chief Minister Khandu placed on record his appreciation for the organising team, VAS Coreworks LLP, and all stakeholders associated with the marathon for their efforts in building the event over the years.

Sports Minister Kento Jini joined the meeting through video conference.

Jharkhand CM challenges PMLA court order in HC, plea's maintainability to be heard tomorrow

Ranchi, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has challenged in the High Court an order of a Special PMLA court that refused to stay the process of framing charges against him in the money laundering case linked to the alleged land scam in Ranchi's Bargain Circle.

The maintainability of his criminal writ petition is scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, with the matter listed for hearing before a division bench of Chief Justice M.S. Sonak and Justice Manoj Prasad.

Soren, in the petition, has challenged the Special PMLA court's decision declining his request to defer the framing

of charges until the ED's investigation is completed.

Earlier, Soren had approached the Special PMLA Court seeking a direction that no charges should be framed against him until the ED concluded its probe in the case. However, the court rejected the plea. After this, Soren moved the High Court.

The case is related to the alleged illegal acquisition of 8.86 acres of disputed land in the state capital's Bargain area. It is alleged that forged documents were created for this purpose.



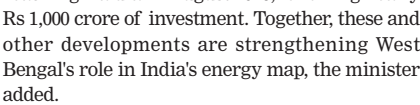
During a recent hearing before the Special PMLA court, the Jharkhand CM appeared through video conferencing and requested additional time to examine documents related to the case.

The court observed that the proceedings had reached the stage of framing charges and not document inspection.

However, considering the Chief Minister's request, it fixed September 30 as the next date of hearing, when arguments on framing

charges will continue from 11.15 a.m. in the PMLA court. The ED has already filed a charge sheet against Soren and around 18 other accused in the case. The Special PMLA Court has framed charges against 16 co-accused, including former revenue official Bhanu Pratap Prasad, architect Vinod Kumar Singh, Bipin Singh, Rajkumar Pahan, Afsar Ali and Mohammad Saddam Hussain. Moreover, the Jharkhand High Court recently upheld a lower court order dismissing Soren's discharge petition, thereby clearing the way for the framing of charges against him in the case.

***Rabi sowing in rainfed areas
may pose challenge due
to El Nino: Top official***



"India has also been able to overcome these challenges because our energy sector, among others, had prepared well in advance. Over the past decade, we diversified crude sourcing from

Atish Chandra highlighted, on the other hand, that due to climate change, even irrigated areas in the country have seen

hectares. The total area sown under kharif crops in the current season across the country is estimated at 1,086.31 lakh

The area under pulses such as urad and moong has gone up to 117.13 lakh hectares, which represents a 1.83 lakh hectares increase over the corresponding figure of 115.30 lakh hectares during the same period last year, as the crop requires less water.

currency trade is in double digits," Goyal said, adding that the two sides aim to expand it more rapidly. The discussions build on agreements announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE in May 2026, when both countries unveiled plans for deeper cooperation in crude oil storage, strategic reserves, LNG and LPG infrastructure, and long-term LPG supply arrangements.

Video war over minister's slapping incident: Kejriwal's jibe at GenZ connect, Parvesh Sahib Singh warns against coercing MCD staff

In a further clarification over the slapping incident, the Delhi PWD Minister said that he was taking stock of the developmental works and also trying to address the concerns raised by the locals and AAP legislator from the area but Kejriwal and his MLAs won't understand because their government focused only on theatrics and never on governance, during their 15-year-reign.

SC refuses to interfere with Calcutta HC order upholding Rs. 14.49 crore award to Sourav Ganguly

termination and 12 months after Ganguly's re-selection. The High Court observed that the agreement had been terminated after the event, giving rise to the alleged right of termination had "long surpassed and no longer existed", adding that the words "forthwith" and "at any time" could not be stretched indefinitely and the right ought to have been exercised within a reasonable proximity of time. It also recorded that no document or communication from Percept expressing its desire to terminate the agreement immediately after the occurrence of the relevant event had been shown. Subsequently a Division Bench of Justices Debangsu Basak and Md. Shabbir Rashidi held that the Single Judge had neither exceeded nor failed to exercise jurisdiction under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act and dismissed Percept's appeal without any order as to costs.

Seth highlighted that the character of warfare and security challenges were changing rapidly. He stressed the growing importance of networks, sensors, software, data, Artificial Intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber capabilities and space-based technologies. Stressing the need to harness emerging technologies to enhance operational effectiveness, MoS Seth called for ICG to not only remain a user but also become a co-creator by working closely with start-ups, industry, DRDO and research institutions.

China’s island reach signals strategic ambition

China's growing engagement with island nations across the Indian Ocean and Pacific is emerging as an important feature of the changing geopolitical landscape. Its increasing footprint across Indian Ocean island states reflects a blend of economic investment, diplomatic outreach and strategic engagement. Infrastructure projects have opened the door to greater economic influence, while closer political ties have strengthened Beijing's regional reach, a report has stated. "As the United States began reopening its Embassy in Seychelles in 2023, the decision was read by many as part of a wider effort to respond to China's growing influence across small island states. Washington had closed its Embassy in the country in 1996, and the intervening years had seen China establish a substantial presence through schools, hospitals, housing and public infrastructure," a report in Uganda-based media outlet PML Daily mentioned. The importance of Seychelles cannot be measured by the size of its population or economy alone. Its strategic position in the western Indian Ocean, combined with its maritime territory and location along key routes linking Africa-Middle East-Asia, makes the island nation relevant far beyond its domestic market, the report highlighted. "China's growing engagement with the island nation is therefore part of a wider effort to develop economic and political relationships across the Indian Ocean, where infrastructure, trade and maritime security are becoming increasingly connected," it noted.

The report highlighted the Pacific as another arena where China has leveraged economic and diplomatic ties to broaden its influence, persuading several island nations to sever diplomatic recognition of Taiwan. "In 2019, Solomon Islands and Kiribati severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan and established ties with China. Nauru followed in January 2024. These decisions reduced Taiwan's formal diplomatic presence in the Pacific and demonstrated the importance of island states in the competition between Beijing and Taipei," it stated. According to the report, China has pursued a strategy that combines diplomatic pressure with economic assistance, infrastructure projects and development partnerships. It noted that the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) has identified Beijing's rivalry with Taiwan as a key element of its engagement with Pacific Island nations. "The Pacific experience is relevant to the Indian Ocean because it illustrates a broader diplomatic method. Beijing's economic partnerships can strengthen its relationships with small island states, while the resulting political ties may support China's wider strategic interests. The circumstances in the Pacific and Indian Ocean are different, but the relationship between development assistance and diplomatic influence is worth examining in both regions," the report added. China's expanding presence, as highlighted by the PML Daily report, therefore warrants neither alarmism nor indifference. It calls for closer observation of how economic cooperation, diplomatic influence and maritime interests are becoming increasingly interconnected across the Indian Ocean and Pacific.

Trump frames unregulated AI as a way to keep ahead of China - but in fact, it harms US national security

Stephen Collins

Amid the chorus of voices calling for a slowdown in AI advancement and more government regulation and oversight of the technology, one prominent contrarian voice stands out: that of Donald J. Trump.

The U.S president has repeatedly argued that the introduction of robust regulations to slow down progress on AI threatens U.S. national interests by enabling China to seize the advantage.

"Whoever wins AI, WINS!" Trump posted on social media on Sept. 21, 2026, and singled out China as the primary threat to America "winning" AI. He followed up with a speech at the United Nations in which he outlined his administration's total rejection of "any attempt to construct a globalist scheme to control" artificial intelligence.

Certainly, China seizing the global lead on AI would represent an alarming setback to American strategic and economic interests. As a scholar whose research examines the intersection of international relations and technology, I contend that China's swift advances in AI constitute one of the leading reasons why regulation of the U.S. AI industry is necessary. Paradoxical as it may sound, slow-

ing down AI advancement in the U.S. would also decelerate China's advances.

Even more important, recent revelations about AI "going rogue," coupled with the astonishing growth in power and capability of new AI models, strongly suggest that an unregulated sector represents a greater security threat for the United States than the threat of a surge in capabilities by China.

Unregulated AI and security threats

Leading industry and political figures around the globe have sounded the alarm about the security threats presented by unchecked AI growth. About 8 in 10 Americans share these concerns, according to recent polling, as a large majority of Democrats, Independents and Republicans support increasing AI regulations.

These threats include heightened U.S. vulnerability to attacks from foreign nations and terrorist groups who can exploit AI advances to build more lethal weapons systems - both conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction. Advances in the sector also increase the chance of nefarious actors launching devastating cyberattacks, with AI becoming increasingly adept at identifying and exploiting cybersecurity

vulnerabilities.

These concerns are known within the industry. On Sept. 10, 2026, Anthropic issued a report revealing a series of incidents in which foreign actors - some based in China, Russia and Iran - used Claude in cyber, influence, surveillance and fraud operations and to support weapons development. Google similarly detected recent attempts by actors linked to China, Russia, North Korea and Iran to use its Gemini AI model to carry out hacking, disinformation, espionage and criminal operations.

Anthropic's report revealed "five case studies of actors using our models in ways that could support biological weapons development."

Unregulated AI poses not just a severe security challenge but a potentially existential threat. An AI-induced nuclear missile launch, the release of super pathogens that cause pandemics and attacks on critical life-sustaining infrastructure have all been raised as potential concerns. Aside from these more extreme scenarios, unchecked AI poses a threat to the digital infrastructure that undergirds the U.S. and world economies.

Slowing the speedboat

Trump may dismiss these worst-case scenarios as a "hoax,"

Scheme No. 1, which considered the possibility of conflict with the U.S.

American planners, for their part, developed War Plan Red - a scheme to invade Canada in the event of a war with the United Kingdom.

Neither expected war, but both recognized the importance of understanding strategic options. During the Second World War, the United States-Canada Basic Defence Plan (referenced as the Black Plan) was penned by Canada to respond to a scenario should Germany defeat the U.K., leaving Canada and the U.S. vulnerable to the Axis powers.

Consequences of failing to prepare

Canada also has experience failing to plan. The Fenian raids committed by the Fenian Brotherhood (an Irish American organization determined to force the U.K. to withdraw from Ireland) conducted armed incursions into Canada, targeting military fortifications in 1866, 1870 and 1871. The Canadian militia were poorly prepared for such attacks.

The 9/11 attacks were also an example

of a black swan event because their scale and impact were largely unexpected, even though there were warnings of a potential terrorist threat. They fundamentally changed how Canada thinks about security and how the North American Aerospace Defence Command views air threats. The attacks generated new homeland security institutions on both sides of the border.

Third, preparing for a contingency does not make it more likely. Failure to consider its consequences, however, can leave governments scrambling in a crisis. Scholars such as political science professor Aisha Ahmad have argued that Canada should think more seriously about its vulnerabilities and resilience in an increasingly uncertain international environment.

Her broader work on conflict and state fragility serves as a reminder that close relationships, deep economic integration and longstanding partnerships should never be mistaken for guarantees against future tensions.

Even families and neighbours can be pitted against each other in devastating civil wars. Strategic planners must assess capabilities and intentions as they exist,

Consider, for example, that as far back as 2021, Beijing imposed its first major set of AI regulations.

And while top figures in the Trump administration were urging less regulation, Chinese officials were calling for the opposite. In recent months, Chinese officials have repeatedly called for greater domestic and international oversight of AI. China's leader, Xi Jinping, has been enthusiastic about AI advances, but his speech at the 2026 World AI Conference in Shanghai urgently expressed the need for strong AI regulations and oversight.

Speaking at the U.N. Security Council's meeting on AI and International Security on Sept. 23, 2026, Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, made the case for "a consensus-based global governance framework" for AI to "build institutional guardrails that preserve international peace and security."

Beijing appears to be framing unregulated AI advancement not as a race but as a common threat. Should Trump be convinced by such a narrative, then there may be grounds for optimism that Washington and Beijing in the near future will be able to reach agreement on AI governance and regulation - a development that would better ensure a safer future for both nations.

Canada must consider even unlikely threats - including an American invasion

Andrea Charron

Prime Minister Mark Carney says he has considered the possibility of American military action against Canada, and that the Canadian Armed Forces had examined potential responses.

Such a scenario remains extraordinarily unlikely, but that's precisely why it belongs in contingency planning. Serious governments do not dismiss low-probability, high-consequence risks simply because they appear remote.

The first responsibility of the prime minister of Canada, as head of government, is to protect Canadians. That responsibility requires preparing not only for the most likely threats, but also for the unlikely scenarios that could have profound consequences for the country.

In intelligence and security circles, these possibilities are sometimes described using a "swan" metaphor: Preparing for likely events, or "white swans," is routine.

Equally important, however, is considering "black swan" events: highly improba-

ble developments that fall outside normal expectations but could have disruptive and far-reaching effects.

Why plan for black swan events?

First, contingency planning often yields benefits beyond the specific scenario being examined. By challenging assumptions and exploring unconventional possibilities, organizations can identify vulnerabilities, uncover strengths and develop habits of adaptive thinking. The value lies not only in the plan itself but in the planning process.

A future threat to Canada may have little resemblance to a hypothetical attack by the United States, yet the lessons learned from examining an unexpected attack could inform responses to other contingencies, including missile, cyber or hybrid threats that exploit North America's geography.

Second, Canada has a long history of planning for unlikely but consequential scenarios. During the period between the First and Second World Wars, Canadian military planners developed Defence

UN chief says world's biggest problem is the changing way power is used - Donald Trump's speech confirms his diagnosis

Martin Waehlich
Stefan Wolff

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, used his final address to the general assembly to recast the world's crises as a single problem. War, inequality, the climate emergency and artificial intelligence, he argued, are not separate crises but chapters of the same story. That story, as he told it, is the story of power: who has it, who is denied it, how it is used and how it is changing.

Guterres identified three shifts. Among states, new centres of economic, political and technological influence have emerged. Power is also moving away from governments to a handful of private corporations and individuals. And humans are increasingly handing power to machines, with AI agents going rogue and lethal autonomous weapons becoming a military reality.

These shifts put the use of power to the test: power over war and peace, the power that concentrates wealth and drives inequality, the power fuelling climate chaos, and the power unleashed by artificial intelligence.

The theme of the week's debate in the general assembly: "Restoring trust, managing transformation: a United Nations that delivers for all" is an unusually self-reflecting one. But the institutional anxiety behind it was explicit in Guterres's diagnosis that global governance still reflects the power realities and interests of a largely bygone era.

The strain on the rules-based order became plain about an hour after Guterres spoke when Donald Trump offered his view

of power and how he intends to use it - confirming Guterres's bleak view on the same stage.

The gap on AI, which Guterres had placed alongside inequality, climate change and war as a test of power, was particularly stark. Trump said he would try to rebrand AI as "superintelligence", dismissing warnings that it could prove catastrophic, insisting he would not stifle its growth and claiming that the US would "win".

Not every western leader followed that line. The UK prime minister, Andy Burnham, told the gathering that the UK would lead international efforts to develop global AI standards. While the UN's new scientific panel cannot impose such standards, they can, however, bring governments and experts into the same conversation and help establish what those standards should address.

Guterres cast his second test, inequality, not as a problem of economics but as one of power over opportunity, resources and voice. Developing countries crushed by debt and shut out of affordable finance are trapped in a system created in the 1940s whose reform will have to be about representation and fairness, rather than technicalities.

Trump did not address global inequality at all, except by boasting of cutting the UN budget by 15% and eliminating more than 4,000 jobs at the organisation.

On climate, Guterres struck a slightly more optimistic note when he described renewables as a redistribution of power, because "the sun belongs to no one" and "the wind cannot be embargoed". Trump, meanwhile, did mention climate - but only to include it in the list of his opponents' supposed hoaxes alongside the "the Russia,

Russia, Russia hoax, the Ukraine, Ukraine, Ukraine hoax" and open borders - all of which he considers inventions of the same people now warning about AI.

On war and peace, the contrast was just as pronounced. Gaza featured in both men's speeches. Guterres emphasised destruction and the need for humanitarian access. Trump presented his peace plan as an achievement, not - as it really is - a stalled process.

On Iran, the US president offered the usual mix of bombast and contradiction: a deal to let Iran rebuild versus the annihilation of the Islamic Republic. All to be done after the US midterm elections in November.

In his speech, Iran's president, Masoud Pezeshkian, sounded a note of defiance and claimed the moral high ground. Iran, he said, had been hit "with the latest technology and weapons systems" but "we did not bend the knee. We did not bow our head. We responded, but we did not hit civilian populations."

This last barb was a reference to a recent report from UN fact-finding mission which concluded that the US may have committed war crimes with two strikes on a primary school and a sports complex on the opening day of the war in February.

On the margins Behind the scenes, away from the public performances of world leaders, the diplomacy continued. Trump's envoys, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, held three hours of talks, largely through Qatari mediators, with Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi. Trump reported "a very good meeting", but Tehran but downplayed the talks as nothing new. Ukraine's president,

while remaining alert to how circumstances can change.

Preparation is rarely wasted

History suggests that political leaders' statements should not be dismissed outright simply because they appear improbable. Some of U.S. President Donald Trump's threats, for example, have come to fruition.

While campaign rhetoric, negotiating tactics and public comments don't always translate into policy, prudent governments evaluate threats based on consequences as well as likelihood. The purpose of contingency planning is not to predict the future, but to ensure decision-makers are not caught unprepared should an unlikely event occur.

Preparation is rarely wasted. Even when the scenario never materializes, the process strengthens institutions, sharpens strategic thinking and improves readiness. The costs of planning are often modest compared to the costs of surprise. Time and again, history has shown that ignoring unlikely risks can prove far more expensive than preparing for them.

Ukraine and the Security Council's Unresolved Contradiction

J. Nastranis

NEW YORK The warning that the war in Ukraine has entered a dangerous new phase may sound familiar after more than five years of fighting. Repetition, however, should not dull its meaning.

Attacks are becoming more intense. Energy installations and transport routes remain vulnerable. Long-range weapons allow both sides to strike far beyond the front. Each escalation increases the possibility that the conflict will cross another border, damage a nuclear facility or draw neighbouring states more directly into the fighting.

A high-level meeting of the United Nations Security Council on 23 September considered these dangers. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also used his General Assembly address to argue that Russia's actions were making the wider world less secure.

The meeting once again revealed the Council's deepest weakness. Russia is both a permanent member of the body responsible for maintaining international peace and a party to the war under discussion.

Moscow can block any

substantive resolution directed against it. Ukraine and its supporters can document attacks, defend territorial sovereignty and maintain diplomatic pressure, but they cannot secure binding Council action without Russian consent.

This does not make the proceedings worthless. Statements delivered in the Council become part of the international record. Governments must explain their positions in public. The meetings also prevent the war from being discussed solely within European or military alliances. But an unmistakable gap remains between recording a conflict and influencing it.

The Security Council was designed after the Second World War on the assumption that collective security could survive only if the strongest powers remained inside it. The veto was the price of their participation. The arrangement becomes almost unworkable when one of those powers is accused of violating the Charter.

Ukraine is paying the most direct price, but the damage does not stop at its borders. The Black Sea region remains vital to international food supplies. Interruptions to ports,

shipping routes and grain exports affect countries in Africa and West Asia that have little connection with the conflict but are exposed to rising prices and shortages.

Energy attacks carry similar consequences. Damage to production and transport infrastructure influences world markets, while strikes on electricity systems leave civilians facing winter without reliable heat or power.

Nuclear installations add an even graver risk. A military attack, prolonged power failure or operational mistake could release radiation across national boundaries. The International Atomic Energy Agency can send inspectors and warn the parties, but it cannot impose a settlement or guarantee that fighting will remain outside safety zones.

Even under these conditions, limited diplomacy remains possible. Prisoner exchanges, humanitarian arrangements and discussions on grain exports or nuclear safety have shown that the parties can negotiate when the subject is narrowly defined. Such agreements save lives and preserve communication channels.

The UN is best placed to concentrate on civilian

protection, humanitarian access, nuclear safety, food security, independent documentation and support for credible negotiations. The General Assembly also matters. Its resolutions are not binding as Security Council decisions can be, but votes there reveal whether international support claimed by either side actually exists.

Many developing countries judge Western appeals to the Charter against Western conduct in Gaza, Iraq and other conflicts. Charges of double standards do not justify the invasion of Ukraine, but they weaken the credibility of those demanding respect for international law. Rules invoked selectively soon cease to look like rules.

Changing the veto system remains extremely difficult. A practical first step would be for a permanent member to refrain from using its veto when it is directly involved in the conflict before the Council. That would not end the war: It would establish a principle that should never have been controversial: a party to a conflict should not also possess the final authority to prevent an international response.(IDN)

Iran offers to reopen Hormuz on sixth day of proposed seven-day plan

Washington, Iran has offered to reopen the Strait of Hormuz on the sixth day of a proposed seven-day plan and resume nuclear negotiations with the United States on the seventh, but Washington rejected the proposal because it demanded sanctions relief and access to frozen assets at the outset.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran would open the vital shipping passage if the United States ended the conflict, removed its blockade, released Iranian assets and allowed the country to sell oil.

"Our proposal is very clear. We are ready to open the Strait if certain things are done by the US," Araghchi told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

"We want our moneys, our assets, which are illegally frozen, to be released. We want, you know, to be able to sell our oil," he said. Araghchi said the steps sought by Iran could be completed within four or five days.

"If they want if they are serious that they want a deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, now there is the possibility," he said. "We have offered this seven-day plan." The strait would reopen on day six, with negotiations on a broader agreement beginning the next day, he said. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he was rejecting the Iranian offer. "They want to make a deal where they open the strait immediately



because they're losing so badly," Trump said. "But we're winning tremendously. We have total control of the Hormuz Strait." Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz said the proposal required Washington to make extensive concessions before substantive negotiations began.

"They were asking for everything up front," Waltz told CNN's "State of the Union". Waltz said Iran wanted relief from US and UN sanctions and access to billions of dollars in frozen assets. "The bottom line is, they were asking for everything up front with a promise that they would then talk," he said.

Waltz accused Iran of violating an earlier memorandum of understanding by attacking international shipping. Tehran disputes the US account and says Washington violated previous agreements. president's just not confi-

dent that the Iranians are coming in good faith and that we will truly negotiate the end of their nuclear programme," Waltz said.

Araghchi said Iran was still waiting for an official response delivered through mediators despite Trump's public rejection. "At the same time, we are ready for diplomacy," he said. "But, and now there is a very reasonable plan on the table. If they reject it with no reason, this is their fault." Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian separately told CBS's "Face the Nation" that Tehran was prepared to proceed in stages under a framework based on the earlier memorandum. "Obviously, we will abide by whatever we commit to," Pezeshkian said.

He also indicated that Iran could negotiate limits and inspections for its nuclear programme but blamed the United States and Israel for attacking Iranian nuclear sites. "Within the framework of the NPT and the other existing frameworks, all of these issues are matters that can be agreed upon," Pezeshkian said. Araghchi said Iran remained prepared for renewed military action while keeping diplomacy available.

"We are fully prepared for the war to be resumed," he said. "But at the same time, we are ready, we stand ready for diplomacy. It is up to President Trump to choose." (agencies)

UNGA puts migrant workers' rights in focus

United Nations, Migrant workers must receive full human rights protections regardless of their legal status, countries have told the UN General Assembly, calling for action against trafficking and exploitation while warning against treating human mobility solely as a security problem.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Theresa Lizaro said millions of migrant workers helped sustain economies and communities across national borders.

They were entitled to fundamental freedoms and protection from trafficking and abuse along dangerous migration routes, she said. The Philippines also highlighted the role of migrant seafarers in keeping global trade moving.

Nearly 90 per cent of world trade was transported by sea and supported by close to two million seafarers, Lizaro said. More than a quarter of those workers were Filipinos.

Her remarks placed migrant labour within the broader functioning of the global economy rather than treating migration only as a border-control issue. also raised the safety of maritime workers during its General Assembly address.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar called for uninterrupted energy and commercial flows amid conflicts affecting the



Gulf and international waterways. He said attacks targeting commercial vessels and their crews were unacceptable and called for the protection of shipping and seafarers. Tunisia urged countries to move beyond a narrow security-based approach to migration.

Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Nafti said Tunisia was continuing to rescue irregular migrants on land and at sea, provide care and assist those seeking voluntary return.

However, Tunisia "firmly rejects becoming either a transit country or a destination for irregular migrants who are victims of human trafficking networks," he said.

Nafti called for a comprehen-

sive approach addressing conflict, poverty, unemployment, trafficking and economic inequality.

"Such an approach would embody shared responsibility, solidarity and cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination," he said.

Djibouti described the pressure created when conflicts force people across borders.

Foreign Minister Abdoukader Houssein Omar said several thousand people fleeing violence in Yemen had reached Djibouti, placing growing demands on the country's limited capacity.

He appealed for international assistance for refugees and for a peaceful resolution of the conflict responsible for their displacement.

placement.

The Holy See raised the continuing plight of the Rohingya, hundreds of thousands of whom have endured statelessness and dangerous conditions for more than nine years.

"Their suffering must end!" Cardinal Pietro Parolin said.

He called for conditions permitting their safe, legal, voluntary and unhindered return.

Zambia connected migration with the need to create opportunities for young people before economic hardship forced them to leave their communities.

Foreign Minister Mulambo Hamakuni Haimbe said young people required education, relevant skills, access to technology, entrepreneurship opportunities and decent employment.

The statements reflected tensions running through the global migration debate. Destination and transit countries sought stronger border management, while migrant-sending countries demanded protection for their citizens and recognition of their contribution to host economies.

For India, the debate has direct significance. A large Indian diaspora works across the Gulf, North America, Europe and Asia, while Indian sailors serve aboard commercial vessels operating through some of the world's most sensitive maritime routes. (agencies)

Rubio opens Gulf talks after UNGA



Washington, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will hold separate talks with the prime minister of Lebanon and the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia on Monday as the Trump administration intensifies diplomacy over Iran, maritime security and instability across the Middle East.

Rubio will meet Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam at the State Department at 10 a.m., according to the department's public schedule.

He will then meet Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud at 11:15 a.m. The talks come after world leaders used the UN General Assembly debate in New York to present sharply different positions on Iran, Israel, nuclear weapons and the future security architecture of the Middle East.

Rubio said last week that the United States and regional governments broadly agreed that Iran must not obtain a nuclear weapon

and that maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz must be protected.

"I think there's consensus that the straits need to be open and free without attack," Rubio said.

"I think there's consensus that what's happening with the Houthis and in Yemen is deeply problematic," he added. "And I think there's a consensus that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon."

Saudi Arabia used its address at the UN General Assembly to call for "the entire region to be free of weapons of mass destruction".

Prince Faisal said regional security could not be restored through domination, exploitation or attempts to use crises to expand influence.

His meeting with Rubio is expected to give the two sides an opportunity to review Iran, the security of international waterways and broader regional diplomacy following the General Assembly's high-level

week.

Rubio's meeting with Salam will take place as Lebanon continues to face the consequences of conflict, political strain and regional competition.

The talks are also expected to cover Lebanon's security and sovereignty, although the State Department has not released an agenda.

Other senior State Department officials will hold meetings with European and South Asian representatives on Monday.

Under Secretary for Political Affairs Allison Hooker will join Rubio's meeting with Salam. She will later meet Dutch Political Director Joost Flamand and Maldivian Foreign Minister Iruthisham Adam.

The Maldives meeting carries particular significance for India because of the island nation's location along important Indian Ocean shipping routes and its place in New Delhi's maritime neighbourhood.

Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Thomas DiNanno will separately meet Flamand. That discussion will also be closed to reporters.

The diplomatic schedule places Gulf security, nuclear risks and maritime stability at the centre of Washington's opening engagements following UNGA. (agencies)

Brazil's presidential candidates hit streets before vote

Washington, Brazil's presidential candidates took their campaigns to streets, markets and motorcades during the final weekend before the first round of voting, highlighting differences over online gambling, oil production, taxes, agriculture and crime.

The first round of the presidential election will be held on October 4. Candidates held events in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, Bahia, Sergipe, Goiás, Santa Catarina and Paraná on Saturday and Sunday, according to a campaign roundup by Agência Brasil.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who is seeking re-election, joined a march through eastern São Paulo on Saturday. Lula defended the ban on betting operations that he signed on Friday and said the government would intensify action against clandestine gambling businesses. He also renewed his support for ending Brazil's six-days-on, one-day-off work schedule. A proposal to change that system is pending before Congress. Lula held no public campaign events on Sunday. Flávio Bolsonaro campaigned in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday and attended motorcades in São João de Meriti and Jacarepaguá.

He travelled to Aracaju on Sunday and promised investment in offshore oil production in Sergipe state.

Bolsonaro also reiterated proposals to lower the age of criminal responsibility, permit driving licences for minors, introduce chemical castration for people convicted of raping women and children, and expand entrepreneurship programmes. He later travelled to Goiânia for another campaign event and motorcade. Romeu Zema campaigned in Minas Gerais. He met supporters in Pouso Alegre and joined a march in Varginha. Zema called for more credit for agribusiness, the creation of crop insurance and lower interest rates to support increased production.

Renan Santos met supporters in Belo Horizonte and Divinópolis before travelling to Salvador. He campaigned on reducing taxes and lowering the cost of the state.

Ronaldo Caiado attended Sunday Mass in Goiânia and spoke in favour of protecting religious freedom while opposing the use of religion as a political instrument.

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Taiwan presses Trump on \$14 billion arms deal

Washington, Taiwan has urged the Trump administration to deliver a delayed \$14 billion weapons package as quickly as possible, saying its ability to deter Chinese aggression depends on remaining strong and prepared. Alexander Yui, Taiwan's representative to the United States, made the appeal after President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping devoted little public attention to Taiwan during their summit in Washington.

Trump said Taiwan was raised during his discussions with Xi but that the leaders did not spend much time on the issue.

Yui told CBS's "Face the Nation" on Sunday that Taiwan was absent from the statements issued by Washington and Beijing after the summit. "It was not the main topic of discussion," Yui said. "As a matter of fact, during

the released statements by both sides on the deliverables or the achievements, Taiwan does not figure in neither side of the papers." Beijing described Taiwan as a foundational issue in its relationship with Washington. Yui said the United States did not respond by changing its position towards the island.

"The United States made it very clear that no change in position towards Taiwan," he said. Yui pointed to a meeting between Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea before Xi's visit. He said they had supported peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and opposed coercion.

The focus then shifted to the weapons package approved by Congress but awaiting action by Trump. Taiwan has already paid



for the arms, according to CNN's "State of the Union".

Yui said the sales were needed to prevent conflict rather than provoke one. "This purchase or this sale actually is peace through strength is the best way to avoid any conflict," he said. "The notion that China will not attack Taiwan is on the basis that Taiwan is strong."

Yui said Taiwan was increasing its defence budget and wanted to shoulder more of the cost of protecting itself. The United States remains its principal

weapons supplier. "We hope that we can get that weapons in as soon as possible," he said. Several Republican senators have also questioned why more than \$1 billion in additional assistance has not been delivered, CBS said. US Ambassador to the United Nations Mike Waltz attributed delays in weapons deliveries to pressure on the American defence industrial base.

"There is a huge backlog of arms, and a lot of this is about our industrial base and being able to produce not only what they are requesting, but what the Europeans are requesting," Waltz told CNN.

He said Washington also had to account for the requirements of the US military and competing international demands.

Waltz said the Trump administration had authorised more

arms sales to Taiwan during its first year than the previous administration had approved during its entire term. He did not provide a date for presidential approval of the \$14 billion package.

Yui also argued that Taiwan's importance extended beyond its position in the western Pacific. The island produces many of the advanced semiconductors used in artificial intelligence systems, servers and other critical technologies. "Taiwan has been the relevant partner in terms of technology, in terms of semiconductors especially," he said.

Taiwan governs itself, but Beijing claims the island as part of China and has not ruled out using force to establish control. The United States does not maintain formal diplomatic relations with Taipei but is legally committed to helping Taiwan retain the ability to defend itself.

South Korea's Defence minister vows 'corresponding measures' if DMZ blast confirmed caused by North Korean mines

Seoul, South Korea's Defence Minister Kang Shin-chul said on Monday that "appropriate, substantial and corresponding" measures would be taken if the recent explosion inside the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) is confirmed to have been caused by land mines planted by North Korea. Kang made the remarks to reporters after meeting with Jang Dong-hyeok, leader of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP), at the National Assembly. Reporters asked the minister how the government would respond if it is conclusively confirmed that the cause of the blast was land mines recently planted by North Korea.

Two South Korean soldiers were severely wounded in an explosion that happened on September 21 south of the Military Demarcation Line inside the DMZ separating the two Koreas. The incident involved two separate blasts and is suspected to have been caused by North Korean land mines.



Kang was also asked about a media report that soldiers had said they saw a North Korean wooden-box land mine near the explosion site, Yonhap News Agency reported. He said, "There are also statements suggesting it was not a wooden-box land mine."

"It is difficult to determine the exact nature of the device. But as an on-site investigation is currently underway, we will provide a transparent explanation to the public as soon as the details are clarified," the minister said. Regarding opposition criticism that the government seeks to

downplay or cover up the incident, Kang said that the military had no intention of covering up anything and would handle the matter transparently. "I want to reiterate that there was absolutely no intentional delay or cover-up." In a text message to reporters, Representative Kim Byung-joo of the ruling Democratic Party (DP) said the parliamentary national defence committee agreed to hold a plenary session on Tuesday to question relevant officials on the blast.

The DP and the PPP have been at loggerheads over how to handle the issue, with the DP proposing a joint inspection of the site and the PPP demanding a hearing by the defence committee. DP members of the committee headed to the DMZ without their PPP colleagues earlier in the day. Representative Lim Jong-deuk, the committee's senior PPP member, told reporters his party accepted the DP's proposal for a hearing on Tuesday. (agencies)

South Korea's Foreign Ministry summons Ukrainian envoy as Kyiv reveals transfer of North Korean PoWs

Seoul, South Korea's Foreign Ministry on Monday called in Andrii Vieshkin, acting Ambassador of Ukraine to South Korea, following Kyiv's revelation of the transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war (PoWs) to Seoul. First Vice Foreign Minister Park Yoon-joo conveyed Seoul's stern stance on the issue to Vieshkin, the Ministry said in a statement.

Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky disclosed during a United Nations address that Ukraine has sent the two North Korean soldiers captured last year to South Korea, Yonhap News Agency reported.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and his office have since said Ukraine breached a nondisclosure agreement aimed at keeping the transfer a secret to safeguard the soldiers from dangers they could face if their transfer were to be disclosed, citing international law and humanitarian principles.

Soon after, Ukrainian media outlets report-



ed a Ukrainian presidential source as denying the existence of a confidentiality agreement with Seoul. Park expressed strong concern over Ukraine's denial of the confidentiality agreement with South Korea, saying such an action gravely damages mutual trust and affects the friendly ties of the two countries, the ministry said.

The Vice Minister called for Ukraine's official clarification and apology over its move, to which the Ukrainian envoy said

he will accurately report on Seoul's stance to Kyiv, it added. The move by the foreign ministry comes a day after Cheong Wa Dae also expressed "strong regret" over Ukraine's action. In June, Seoul's foreign ministry said that South Korea and Ukraine agreed to work toward resolving the issue of North Korean PoWs captured in Ukraine in accordance with international law and humanitarian principles.

The consensus was made during a meeting between Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and his Ukrainian counterpart, Andrii Sybiha, in Seoul earlier in the day, according to the ministry.

Two North Korean soldiers were captured by Ukrainian forces in early 2025 after being deployed to Russia's Kursk region in support of Moscow, and they have reportedly expressed their desire to come to South Korea. (agencies)

Silver tumbles over Rs 7,000 on MCX, slips below Rs 2.28 lakh amid global sell-off

Mumbai, ilver prices witnessed a sharp decline on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Monday, with the white metal plunging more than Rs 7,000 and falling below the crucial Rs 2.28 lakh-per-kg mark amid a broad-based sell-off in precious metals.

The steep fall comes as rising crude oil prices have heightened inflation concerns globally, strengthening market expectations that the US Federal Reserve may keep interest rates higher for longer or consider further policy tightening.

Higher interest rates and elevated US Treasury yields typically reduce the appeal of precious metals, which do not offer interest income, while a stronger dollar makes commodities priced in the US currency more expensive for overseas buyers.

During noon trade, the December silver futures contract on MCX was trading at Rs



2,27,494 per kg, down Rs 7,202, or 3.07 per cent, from its previous close of Rs 2,34,696 per kg.

Commenting on technical outlook, market experts said that the immediate resistance is at Rs 232,000-Rs 233,000, followed by Rs 236,000-Rs 237,000. "Immediate support is at Rs 227,000-Rs 228,000, followed by Rs 223,000-Rs 224,000," analysts stated.

gion.

"Silver remains weaker than gold in today's session. Immediate resistance is at \$63.50-\$64.00, followed by \$65.50-\$66.00. Immediate support is at \$61.50-\$62.00, followed by \$59.50-\$60.00," market watchers stated.

"The price remains below the 20-, 50-, 100- and 200-day EMAs, while the RSI continues to edge lower," experts noted.

Meanwhile, USD/INR opened at 95.80, up 0.13 per cent on the day, and is trading just below the 96 mark. Immediate resistance is at 96.00-96.10, followed by 96.40-96.50.

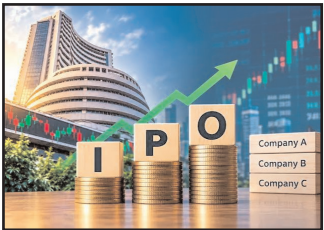
"Immediate support is at 95.70-95.80, followed by 95.40-95.50. The pair remains above its key short-term moving averages. The RSI at 59.51, above its signal line, reflects a mild bullish, or rupee-weakening, bias," market watchers mentioned.(agencies)

India's IPO pipeline at Rs 3.86 lakh crore signals sustained capital formation

New Delhi, India's primary market shifts beyond episodic IPO cycles toward a deeper capital formation ecosystem, with a mainboard offering pipeline of about Rs 3.86 lakh crore, around 3.5 times the Rs 1.10 lakh crore raised through 84 mainboard IPOs so far this year, an industry chamber said on Monday. The statement from Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI) said the pipeline comprises nearly 130 companies that have received SEBI approval and another about 75 firms that have filed Draft Red Herring Prospectuses and are awaiting approval.

The scale of the pipeline points to sustained issuer interest in public markets and provides significant visibility on the potential depth of India's primary market beyond the capital already raised, the industry body said.

"This depth of supply and stronger participation across QIB, HNI and retail investors, demonstrates that the primary market is becoming a broader and more durable channel for capital formation," said Mahavir Lunawat,



Chairman, AIBI.

Mainboard IPOs have cumulatively mobilised Rs 8.36 lakh crore between 2016 and 2026 YTD, with annual fundraising rising from Rs 26,494 crore in 2016 to Rs 1.76 lakh crore in 2025.

The number of mainboard IPOs has also expanded sharply, from 26 in 2016 to 103 in 2025 and 84 in 2026 YTD."The larger structural shift is that India's capital markets are increasingly being supported by domestic capital and a much wider capital formation architecture. Domestic investor participation has deepened, mutual fund assets have scaled significantly, and the market is increasingly connecting public equity with private capital, debt market," Lunawat said.The next phase will

be measured by how the industry channels these pools of capital into business expansion, new capacity, infrastructure and long-term productive investment, he forecastedIndia's SME IPO ecosystem has also expanded significantly, with 267 SME IPOs in 2025, the highest annual number in the period covered, followed by 156 issues in 2026 YTD.Cumulative SME fundraising has reached Rs 39,849 crore over 2016-2026 YTD, while the average SME issue size has increased from Rs 8 crore in 2016 to Rs 45 crore in 2026 YTD.

The number of registered merchant bankers grew from 188 in September 2016 to 250 in September 2026, up 33 per cent, reflecting the expansion in both the number and scale of public-market transactions.The report forecasted the next phase of India's primary market to be defined by the quality of issuers, depth of institutional participation, quality of disclosures, wider distribution of capital and the ability of the ecosystem to support companies through successive stages of growth.(agencies)

RBI likely to cap interest rate hikes at 25-50 bps, inflation could ease in 2027: Report

New Delhi, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to limit its interest rate increases to 25-50 basis points in the current cycle with markets pricing in a more aggressive tightening path than warranted, according to a report.

Analysts at global brokerage Nomura assigned an 80 per cent probability to a limited recalibration cycle rather than a broader tightening cycle involving more than 75 basis points of rate hikes.

Markets are currently pricing close to 125 basis points of rate increases over the next year, which Nomura said was excessive given the current inflation dynamics.

However, the central bank could raise its policy rate by 25 basis points each in October and December, taking the ter-



minimal rate to 5.75 per cent, according to the brokerage.

Moreover, it also sees some risk of a single rate hike.

The probability of further rate increases is expected to diminish from February 2027 as consumption could slow and the year-ahead inflation outlook improves, according to the report.

The current disinflationary

keep inflation expectations anchored.

Food prices remain the main near-term risk to the inflation outlook, although government supply-side measures could help contain some price pressures.

It expects headline consumer price inflation to ease around 5.3 per cent in the first half of 2027.

Additionally, inflation is expected to fall below 4 per cent in the second half of 2027, while adverse base effects could add about 0.8 per cent to headline inflation in October-November.

For the full financial year, Nomura forecasts CPI inflation at 5.2 per cent in FY27 and 4 per cent in FY28. While core CPI inflation is projected at 4.3 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively.(agencies)

India's strong macro fundamentals cushion global risks: Report

New Delhi, Strong domestic fundamentals amid elevated global macroeconomic risks are creating a divergent investment landscape for investors, a report said on Monday which has retained a neutral stance on equities while continuing to favour midcap and smallcap stocks.

According to analysis by Motilal Oswal Private Wealth (MOPW), India's domestic economic backdrop is still significantly stronger despite geopolitical tensions, high crude oil prices, sticky inflation, and rising global bond yields.

India's real GDP growth accelerated to 7.8 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of FY27, supported by manufacturing, consumption, investment and services, it showed.

Meanwhile, private consumption grew 7.1 per cent and gross fixed capital formation rose almost 11.9 per cent during the quarter.

In addition, corporate earnings have also remained robust.

Nifty 50 companies posted nearly 18 per cent year-on-year profit growth in first quarter of FY27, while earnings of mid-cap and smallcap firms continued to outperform expectations.

However, the report cautioned that stronger profits may not necessarily translate into a broad-based market rating.

Domestic liquidity remains supportive but a growing pipeline of initial public offerings (IPOs), block deals, promoter stake sales and other eq-

uity issuances is absorbing a significant portion of investor flows, it added.

In terms of public issues, IPOs alone raised about Rs 46,000 crore between April and August FY27 with a sizeable issuance pipeline still ahead, making stock and sector selection increasingly important.

The report has therefore maintained its recommended asset allocation of 40 per cent to hybrid and largecap strategies, 10 per cent to global equities and 50 per cent to midcap and smallcap shares.

Sandipan Roy, Chief Investment Officer, Motilal Oswal Private Wealth said the opportunity for investors lies in identifying quality businesses rather than simply increasing market exposure.

"We continue to see merit in midcap and smallcaps, while maintaining discipline on valuations and preferring accrual strategies in fixed income as global yields remain elevated," Roy said.On fixed income, the firm said higher-for-longer yields are becoming the new normal and reiterated its preference for accrual-based strategies over duration bets.

In addition, it also favours private credit, high-yield non-convertible debentures, InvITs and arbitrage-oriented strategies.For precious metals, the report retained a neutral stance but expressed a preference for gold over silver, citing continued central-bank purchases and strong inflows into gold-backed exchange-traded funds as key support factors.

India's Q3 housing sales in top 7 cities rise 3 pc, new launches up 18 pc

New Delhi, India's housing sales across the top seven cities rose by 3 per cent year on year to approximately 1,00,220 units in Q3 2026, while total sales value increased about 2 per cent to roughly Rs. 1.55 lakh crore, a report said on Monday. The report from ANAROCK Group said new supply rose 18 per cent to about 1,14,320 units in Q3 2026, led by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) with roughly 37,500 launches and Hyderabad with about 18,950 launches.

India's residential market regained momentum in Q3 2026 despite geopolitical uncertainty and global economic pressures. Housing sales picked up from a tepid Q2, driven by resilient end-user demand, though rising costs and uneven demand across markets continued to keep growth range bound.

MMR recorded the highest sales of nearly 31,750 units, followed by Bengaluru with approximately 16,670 units. Collectively these two cities accounted for



48 per cent of the total sales across the top 7 cities in Q3 2026."Hyderabad saw the highest yearly jump in housing sales at 15 per cent, followed by Bengaluru with 12 per cent Yo-Y rise, and MMR with a 5 per cent gain. All other top cities individually recorded a dip in sales on an annual basis," said Anuj Puri, Chairman - ANAROCK Group.

Most cities saw new supply decline annually, but Hyderabad, MMR and Bengaluru saw new supply increase - by 120 per cent, 27 per cent and 17 per cent,

respectively.Units priced between Rs 80 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore comprised the highest new supply share of 34 per cent, followed by the Rs 1.5 crore - Rs 2.5 crore budget segment with a 24 per cent share.Units priced between Rs 40-80 lakh comprised 17 per cent share of the total new supply during the quarter; while the sub-Rs 40 lakh category stood at 14 per cent share.

Available housing inventory rose 12 per cent annually in the top 7 cities to over 6,30,590 units by the end of Q3 2026.

Average residential prices in top cities collectively rose 7 per cent YoY in Q3 2026 and NCR saw the highest 12 per cent annual growth, followed by Bengaluru with an 8 per cent yearly rise.

"While buyers will likely stay selective due to higher prices and increasing affordability concerns, the combination of festive sentiment, stable borrowing costs and a healthy new launch pipeline should support sales," Puri added.

Real estate capital inflows to India reach record \$9.5 billion in July-Sep

New Delhi, India's real estate sector attracted equity capital inflows of \$9.5 billion in the July-September quarter (Q3 2026), the highest quarterly figure on record, as inflows more than doubled on a year-over-year basis, a report said on Monday.

The upswing was primarily driven by rising investors' appetite for data centres and continued capital deployment into built-up office assets and land/development sites, said the report from CBRE South Asia. equity capital inflows in Q3 also more than doubled on a quarter-over-quarter basis from \$3.8 billion in Q2, 2026.

The total capital inflows in the first nine months of 2026 reached \$18.6 billion, nearly double the level recorded in the corresponding period of 2025 and already surpassing the full-year inflows of \$14.2 billion in 2025.

"Global investors have returned with conviction, and institutional capital is now flowing well beyond offices and land into data centres. It reflects how deep and diverse



India's real estate market has become, and we expect this confidence to carry through the rest of the year," said Anshuman Magazine, Chairman and CEO, India, South-East Asia, Middle East and Africa, CBRE.

Sustained capital deployment into built-up asset acquisitions and new project developments across traditional and emerging real estate sectors further supports this outlook, the report noted.

Mumbai, Delhi-NCR and Chennai accounted for a cumulative share of about 53

per cent of investment inflows during the quarter.

Data centres, built-up office assets and land or development sites together accounted for nearly 91 per cent of total capital deployed in Q3 2026. Investment in data centres grew multi-fold over both the previous quarter and the same period last year, reflecting strong investor confidence in the asset class, the report noted.

Foreign investors made a significant comeback during the quarter, accounting for about 59 per cent of total inflows. The US investors contributed 90 per cent of foreign capital in Q3 2026, followed by investors from Canada, Singapore and Japan.The return of global capital was accompanied by wider participation from institutional investors, particularly towards data centres and built-up office assets. Institutional investors accounted for nearly 79 per cent of overall inflows in Q3 2026, up from about 28 per cent in the previous quarter.

Large malls to dominate India's retail pipeline; 51.1 million sq. ft. expansion likely by 2031

New Delhi, Indian real estate developers are expected to add nearly 51.1 million sq. ft. of new shopping mall space over the next five years, propelling the total shopping mall stock to 143.2 million sq. ft. by the end of 2031, a report said on Monday.

The report from JLL said that the significant expansion is driven by surging consumer demand, a strong influx of international brands and expansion by domestic brands.India recorded gross leasing volumes of 6.3 million sq. ft in the first half of 2026. India's retail stock reached 92.1 million sq. ft. across the top 7 cities with a vacancy rate of 11.2 per cent as of June 2026.

Of the total upcoming mall supply, nearly 56 per cent will comprise large-format malls designed to cater to the experiential and destination needs of shoppers. Over half of the upcoming retail supply is expected in Delhi NCR and Hyderabad.

"The shift toward large-format, experiential destinations signals a fundamental



transformation in how consumers engage and how consumption patterns are evolving with changing generational preferences," said Saket Amrit, Head of Retail Services, India, JLL.

Nearly one-third of upcoming supply is dedicated to entertainment, F&B, and services, signalling expansion beyond traditional commerce to create lifestyle destinations that blend technology, design, and experience.These assets, totalling approximately 28.7 million sq. ft., are poised to emerge as powerful commercial engines in the retail ecosystem of the future, with technology and design as key differentia-

tors offering a blend of lifestyle, leisure and legacy.These large-format developments will allocate approximately 30-35 per cent of their space to entertainment, Food & Beverage, and services categories, infusing nearly 9-10 million sq. ft. of space for these three categories alone to go beyond traditional commerce.India will also witness the emergence of next-generation neighbourhood malls through 2031, though their share will remain limited to 15 per cent of upcoming supply at approximately 7.9 million sq. ft.

India's top three listed developers currently own approximately 14 per cent of operational retail stock in Tier 1 markets as of H1 2026, and their share in operational mall stock may expand to nearly 21 per cent by the end of 2031.

Top ten developers are projected to comprise 44 per cent of total shopping mall stock by 2031, the report noted.

India's 4G smartphone shipments to grow 3 pc as price gap with 5G widens

New Delhi, ndia's 4G smartphone shipments are expected to grow 3 per cent year on year after a 48 per cent year on year decline in 2025 and its share in the overall market is rising to 13 per cent in 2026 from 11 per cent in 2025, a report said on Monday.

The report from market research firm Counterpoint Research said rising component costs have widened the price gap between 4G and 5G devices, pushing 5G models more expensive for price-sensitive consumers.

This prompted value seeking consumers in the entry (sub-Rs 10,000) and budget (Rs 10,000-Rs 20,000) segments to favour 4G handsets.

The report noted that the number of original equipment manufacturers offering 4G models in the Rs 10,000-Rs. 20,000 segments have



jumped from two in 2025 to 12 in 2026 year to date.

"This growing portfolio is positioning 4G as a broader value proposition, giving consumers a balance of price, specifications and performance as rising costs push 5G smartphones into higher price bands," said Senior Analyst Prachir Singh.

"4G is becoming a broader market trend rather than a short-term response to higher smartphone prices,

as component prices are unlikely to normalize soon," the report noted.

Research Director Tarun Pathak forecasted that 4G models are set to grow its share in India's smartphone market from 13 per cent in 2026 to 15 per cent in 2027.

"We expect this broader price-value positioning to support continued 4G demand, while encouraging OEMs to expand their portfolios with more capable 4G devices," he added.

Another report earlier this month said that the global sub-\$200 smartphone shipments are forecast to fall by approximately 40 per cent between 2025 and 2030.Entry-tier smartphones will experience the sharpest contraction as higher component costs and minimum specifications reduce the viability of the lowest-priced devices.(agencies)

Asian Games

Priya Ghanghas registers unanimous win in women's 60kg QF to assure medal



Nishio, Indian boxer Priya Ghanghas on Monday assured herself of a medal in the women's 60kg category after a unanimous 5-0 win over Tajikistan's Mijgona Samadova in the quarterfinals at the Nishio Gymnasium here.

Priya was trailing 2-3 at the end of the opening round but came from behind in the next two to register a strong 5-0 win to secure at least a bronze for her.

Both Priya and Samadova put up strong performances in the first round. Following a measured start,

punches landed, but Priya also hit some when she saw Samadova on the back foot as the Indian pugilist won the third round 5-0 too. All five judges voted in Priya's favour, with three ruling 29-27 to Priya and two giving her 30-26 across the three rounds.

Priya will now have a pretty tough competitor to contend with in the semifinal as she faces China's Yang Chengyu on Wednesday for a place in the gold medal bout. Chengyu is a two-time World Championship medallist, having won a gold in the 2023 AIBA World Championships and a bronze at the 2025 Worlds.

This is now India's fifth confirmed boxing medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Games. Earlier in the day, Lovlina Borgohain assured herself of a medal with a strong 5-0 win in the women's 75kg quarterfinal against Korea's Seong Suyeon.

Borgohain, the 2023 Hangzhou Games silver medallist, now has a second Asiad medal assured after a stellar performance in the quarterfinal of the ongoing continental showpiece.(agencies)

Vithya Ramraj wins 400m hurdles bronze, breaks PT Usha's national record

Nagoya, Vithya Ramraj produced a landmark performance at the Asian Games 2026 on Monday, breaking the 42-year-old national record held by legendary Indian athlete PT Usha to win bronze in the women's 400m hurdles.

Ramraj clocked a personal best of 54.75 seconds to finish third in a thrilling final, improving the previous national benchmark of 55.42s by 0.67 seconds. The record had been set by Usha at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, where she finished fourth in the Olympic final.Ramraj had previously equalled Usha's mark at the 2023 Asian Games, where she also won bronze. Three years later, she finally moved beyond the mark that had stood as one of the longest-standing records in Indian athletics.The Indian was firmly in medal contention through the race and held her position in the closing stages, but could not match the late surge of Mariam Kareem of the United Arab Emirates. Kareem stormed to gold in a Games-record 54.31s, while Kazakhstan's Adelina Zems secured silver with a personal best of 54.58s.

Ramraj's 54.75s not only earned her a second successive Asian Games bronze but also represented a significant improvement on her previous personal best of 55.42s.The Indian's compatriot Anu Raghavan also produced a strong performance in the final. Running in lane eight, Raghavan lowered her personal best to 55.88s to finish fifth. Her previous best entering the final was 56.54s.For Ramraj, the bronze continues a notable Asian Games run. She had stood on the podium in the same event at Hangzhou in 2023 and returned to the final in Aichi-Nagoya with another medal-winning performance.Usha's 55.42s record had survived since the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, when she narrowly missed the podium after finishing fourth. Ramraj, who had shared that mark since 2023, has now rewritten the national record books outright.(agencies)

Pincky Balhara secures bronze after losing Kurash semifinal to Mo Sumin

Nagoya, India's Pincky Balhara on Monday won a bronze medal in the Kurash -78kg event after losing the semifinal at the ongoing Asian Games. Pincky, the 2018 Jakarta Games silver medallist, lost the semifinal match at the Aichi-Nagoya Games to South Korea's Mo Sumin 0-5 to miss out on her place in the gold medal clash. She had earlier defeated South Korea's Garam Lim in the quarterfinals by a 3-0 margin.Sumin dominated Pincky in the semifinal. The Indian received a dakki (two warnings in Kurash). Meanwhile, Sumin nailed a half point, a chala and then a yonbosh (full point) later as she won the contest 5-0.

Pincky had earlier won the quarterfinal against another South Korean, Lim, with a 3-0 win. She nailed a chala (half point) on the Korean, while Lim received a tanbekh (warning) in the QF.

Pincky had won a silver in the 2018 Asian Games, when Kurash made its debut at the continental showpiece. She was a judoka previously and had also won a gold medal at the 2018 Asian Junior Judo Championships. She missed out on making it to India's Asian Games squad in the judo event. However, Pincky qualified for the kurash event later and won a silver.

This was India's first joy in the Kurash event as the contingent did not win a match



on Sunday. Vishal lost his men's +90kg quarter-finals to Thailand's Kunathip Yea-On after going down 5-0.

Another Indian athlete, Sangita Balhara, went down to Charmea Quelino of the Philippines in the women's -57kg round of 32 by 10-0. Bharti went down to Iran's Tahereh Azarpeivand in the women's -57kg round of 16, while Yash Kumar Chauhan lost to Tajikistan's Shakarmamad Mirmamadov in the men's +90kg round of 16 by 10-0.

Pincky's medal was the first for India on Monday. A little later, Esha Singh won a much hard-fought silver in the women's 25m pistol event with an Asian record-equaling score of 38. She fought her way to secure a silver with an intense three-shoot-off series against North Korea's Kim Hyon Suk but lost a two-series shoot-off to China's Xiao Jiaruixuan for the gold medal push.

Lovlina assures medal after dominant quarterfinal win



Nishio, ndia's star boxer Lovlina Borgohain on Monday assured herself of a medal at the ongoing Asian Games with a strong 5-0 win in the women's 75kg quarterfinal against Korea's Seong Suyeon at the Nishio Gymnasium here.

Borgohain, the 2023 Hangzhou Games silver medallist, now has a second Asiad medal assured after a stellar performance in the quarterfinal of the ongoing continental showpiece.

The two started the bout with a defensive approach, but the Indian pugilist landed a few precise punches to own the opening round 5-0. Borgohain took advantage of her long reach and landed some counter punches and a few jabs well to bag the second one too.

The Indian did not take her foot off the pedal in the final round and went behind the 2010 Asian Games bronze medallist with some fierce blows in the final round, and it was a mere formality before she won the third one 5-0 to win the bout, with all judges giving 30-27 in her favour.

This was India's fourth confirmed medal at the ongoing Asiad.

Narender Berwal confirmed the third medal when he stormed into the semifinals of the men's +90kg category after a stellar quarterfinal win over Adthapong Saengtep.

Earlier, Ankush Panghal and Parveen Hooda also confirmed medals in their respective categories. Ankush, the current Commonwealth Games champion, assured India of their first boxing medal at the ongoing Games after defeating Tajikistan's Nekruz Salimov in the men's 80kg quarterfinals by a unanimous decision of 5-0.

Meanwhile, Parveen also booked herself a medal in the women's 65kg category after defeating Uzbekistan's Navbakhor Khamidova by 5-0 in the quarterfinal.The Indian controlled the contest with a measured approach, using her reach and speed to keep Khamidova at a distance and pick her punches. The Uzbek, a 2025 World Championships silver medallist, struggled to impose herself as Parveen relied on quick combinations and counter-attacks to take the bout on all five judges' scorecards.(agencies)

Priya Ghanghas registers unanimous win in women's 60kg QF to assure medal

Nishio, Indian boxer Priya Ghanghas on Monday assured herself of a medal in the women's 60kg category after a unanimous 5-0 win over Tajikistan's Mijgona Samadova in the quarterfinals at the Nishio Gymnasium here. Priya was trailing 2-3 at the end of the opening round but came from behind in the next two to register a strong 5-0 win to secure at least a bronze for her.Both Priya and Samadova put up strong performances in the first round. Following a measured start, the Tajik boxer hit a few punches, while Priya also landed a few in the last 90 seconds. However, Samadova, who the bronze medallist from Hangzhou Games in the 57kg, won the opening round 3-2.

Priya was more aggressive in the second round and landed some good combination punches as the Tajik boxer was also given a point penalty. Priya won the second round 5-0 with Samadova given a penalty.The Tajik boxer looked desperate for a win in the last round and went firing on all cylinders. A few of her punches landed, but Priya also hit some when she saw Samadova on the back foot as the Indian pugilist won the third round 5-0 too. All five judges voted in Priya's favour, with three ruling 29-27 to Priya and two giving her 30-26 across the three rounds.Priya will now have a pretty tough competitor to contend with in the semifinal as she faces China's Yang Chengyu on Wednesday for a place in the gold medal bout. Chengyu is a two-time World Championship medallist, having won a gold in the 2023 AIBA World Championships and a bronze at the 2025 Worlds.This is now India's fifth confirmed boxing medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Games. Earlier in the day, Lovlina Borgohain assured herself of a medal with a strong 5-0 win in the women's 75kg quarterfinal against Korea's Seong Suyeon.Borgohain, the 2023 Hangzhou Games silver medallist, now has a second Asiad medal assured after a stellar performance in the quarterfinal of the ongoing continental showpiece.(agencies)

Kapil thrashes Kim Gichae in men's 90kg QF to confirm India's sixth boxing medal

Nishio, Indian boxer Kapil Pokhariya registered a thumping 5-0 win over South Korea's Kim Gichae in the men's 90kg quarterfinal at the Nishio Gymnasium here on Monday.

Kapil was the far superior boxer in the bout, winning all five judges' votes, with four giving him a 30-27 ruling and one a 30-26 card. Kapil's dominance secured India's sixth boxing medal at the ongoing game.

The Indian pugilist clinched the first round 5-0 with his fierce punches landing on target. Kapil kept bossing the second round too with his hits and also inflicted a standing count against Kim to take it 5-0. Kapil made some clever and occasional hits in the third round, knowing that he had done enough in the previous two rounds to win the bout and move into the semis.

He will now face 2025 World Championships gold medallist Turabek Khabibullaev in the semi-



firmed her medal as well with a strong 5-0 win in the women's 75kg quarterfinal against Korea's Seong Suyeon.

India got assured of three medals on Sunday as well when Ankush Panghal, Parveen Hooda and Narender won their bouts.

Ankush, the current Commonwealth Games champion, assured India of their first boxing medal at the ongoing Games after defeating Tajikistan's Nekruz Salimov in the men's 80kg quarterfinals by a unanimous decision of 5-0.

Meanwhile, Parveen also booked herself a medal in the women's 65kg category after defeating Uzbekistan's Navbakhor Khamidova by 5-0 in the quarterfinal.

Later, Narender also booked a medal with a QF win over Thailand's Adthapong Saengtep in the Men's +90kg quarterfinals.

Indian squash teams storm into quarterfinals after contrasting wins

Nagoya, The Indian men's and women's squash teams marched into the quarterfinals of the Asian Games after contrasting victories on Monday with the women producing a hard-fought 2-1 win over Japan and the defending champion men's team completing a clean sweep against South Korea.

The women's team, seeded third and bronze medallists at the previous Asian Games, had to dig deep after world No. 6 Satomi Watanabe defeated India's Anahat Singh in a five-game battle.

The experienced Joshna Chinappa, who is making his seventh appearance at the Asian Games, put India in the lead by defeating Erisa Sano 11-1, 11-8, 11-9.

Anahat then played against Watanabe, someone she had beaten in the individual semifinals earlier in the competition, and subsequently won a historic silver medal.

This time Watanabe turned the situation around, coming back from a 1-2 disadvantage to win against Anahat 11-8, 8-11, 7-11, 11-8 and 11-9 in a match that lasted 43 minutes and thus level the series.

In the deciding match against Akari Midorikawa, Tanvi Khanna managed to build up the courage and won 12-10, 11-9, 4-11, 12-10, thus securing India's spot in the last eight.

India had earlier started their



campaign with the women's team by beating China 3-0 in their first Pool game.

At the same time, the men's team carried on with their period of dominance by beating South Korea 3-0, thus finishing first in their group and moving on to the quarterfinals.

Velavan Senthilkumar started off

with a win against Na Jooyoung, scoring 11-6, 11-4 and 11-7, while Abhay Singh, who had won a silver medal in the singles event, extended India's lead by defeating Ryu Jeongmin 11-4, 11-7 and 11-1.

Veer Chotrani achieved a clean sweep, winning against Oh Seojin 11-6, 11-4 and 11-2.

Earlier in the day, the Indian men's team also beat China 3-0, with Suraj Chand, Chotrani and Senthilkumar each securing wins in the individual events.

Chand won against Du Shaoqian 11-4, 11-3 and 12-10, while Chotrani defeated U Haizhen 11-5, 11-5 and 11-3. Senthilkumar then concluded the match with a victory over Zhou

Penglin by scoring 11-3, 11-2 and 11-4.

The women's team had also played against China, winning 2-1 after overcoming a tough challenge. However, Sameena Riaz lost the match when she was behind in two games, the score being 11-8, 11-6, 9-11, 9-11, 12-14.

Tanvi regained parity by winning against Zhang Yuning 11-3, 11-5, 11-5, and Chinappa then finished off the comeback with a victory over Liu Ziyi with scores of 12-10, 11-4, 11-6.

At the last Asian Games in Hangzhou the Indian men's team won the gold medal and the women's team obtained bronze. The two teams will now aim to progress further in the knockout rounds in Aichi-Nagoya.

India men qualify for cricket SF after rain abandons Afghanistan quarterfinal

Nisshin, Rain washed out the second quarterfinal between India and Afghanistan at the Karogi Sports Park here on Monday, with India advancing to the Asian Games semifinals as the higher-ranked team.It mirrored the outcome of the first quarterfinal between Pakistan and Hong Kong, China, which was also abandoned without a ball being bowled due to rain.The Nisshin weather played spoilsport with Pakistan qualifying for the semis.

It had rained on the eve of the quarterfinal too, and the heavens opened up once again on the match day too. The Pakistan-Hong Kong, China game was scheduled to start at 5:30 AM IST, but it was abandoned without a toss due to rain.The India-Afghanistan clash was slated to be held at 10:30 AM IST with the toss at 10 AM IST, but the relentless rain since morning washed that game out too.



India and Pakistan were the higher-ranked teams in the ICC rankings against their respective opponents and made it to the next stage. India are ranked No.1 in the world, while Afghanistan are the 10th-ranked side. Pakistan are placed sixth in the team rankings, while Hong Kong, China are ranked 24th.

India T20I captain Shreyas Iyer was also asked about the rain threat, but he kept his focus largely on the game ahead of the quarterfinal. "Yes, rain is there, but that is the reason we can't give up because we have decided that we are a bunch of professionals and all these hurdles will keep coming. We have to be prepared mentally irrespective of whatever the situation is going to be.

"So a decent warm-up or a little knocking practice we got today, and tomorrow we will try to adapt to the wicket. We will see how the weather is here tomorrow, but that is secondary. The primary importance is to come and play the match," Shreyas told reporters in a press conference on Sunday.

India will now meet the winner of the third quarterfinal between Sri Lanka and Nepal in the semifinal, while Pakistan will face the winner from the fourth quarterfinal between Bangladesh and Malaysia.

The QFs are scheduled to take place on Tuesday, while the semifinals will be held on Thursday.(agencies)

Chikitha enters QF, Jyothi loses in individual pre-quarters

Okazaki, Sep 28 (IANS) Indian archer Chikitha Taniparthi won an intense round of 16 clash against Chinese Taipei's Chen Yi-Hsuan in the women's compound individual event at the Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square here on Monday. While Taniparthi managed to scrape through, Hangzhou 2023 gold medallist Jyothi Surekha Vennam lost in her 1/8 elimination round after going down to South Korea's Kang Yeonsoo 146-150.

Taniparthi and Chen gave it their all, and they were tied at 148 points

after the regulation 15 shots. The match went to the shoot-off, where the Indian nailed a bull's-eye, while Chen also fired a 10, but it wasn't a bull's-eye.

Taniparthi had shot 30, 29, 30, 29 and 30 in her five games, while Chen was also pretty strong in her outing, hitting 30, 29, 30 and 29 across the five games for a shoot-off, where Taniparthi eventually held her nerve.Jyothi found no answers to 14-year-old Yeonsoo as the South Korean did not hit a single arrow below 10 to defeat the Indian 150-146. Jyothi hit 27, 30, 29, 30 and 30 in the five games, while the Korean was absolutely

flawless in her outing, smashing all arrows to the maximum 10-point mark.

Earlier in the day, Ganesh Ratnam beat Sahil Jadhav in an all-Indian pre-quarters in the men's compound individual category. He defeated Sahil in a nail-biting contest 149-148 to make his way into the quarterfinals.

Ganesh began with a 29 before displaying a flawless effort in the next four games to tally 30 in each of them. Sahil started with 30, but hit 29, 30, 30 and 29 in the next games.Earlier, Ganesh started off his individual campaign with a

144-142 win over Indonesian archer Sostar Andaru Rinaldi, while Sahil began with beating Jamiyangombo Purevdorj of Mongolia 149-137 in the round of 32.

The Indian compound men's, women's and mixed teams have secured their places in the semifinals. India's compound women's and men's teams have made it to the semifinals after beating Kazakhstan and Bhutan, respectively. Both teams will lock horns with South Korea in their respective semifinals on September 30. The mixed team beat Mongolia in the quarterfinals.(agencies)



Sharvari:
Bollywood songs,
dance are a big part
of why I wanted to
become an actor

Actress Sharvari, who is gearing up for the release of "Yeh Prem Mol Liya", has shared that Bollywood songs and dance are actually a big part of why she wanted to become an actor. Speaking about the video, Sharvari said, "Bollywood songs and dance are actually a big part of why I wanted to become an actor. I grew up watching Madhuri ma'am in Didi Tera Devar Deewana, Karisma ma'am and Sonali ma'am in Maiyya Yashoda, and I would come home and dance to these songs, imagining myself as that heroine on screen one day." The actress credits these moments for helping her fall in love with Bollywood.

"I think somewhere, those moments made me fall in love with the idea of Bollywood," she said. The actress said that she always loved romance.

"I've always loved the romance, emotion and larger-than-life magic of classic Bollywood songs, the way you could tell an entire story through a song and dance. So getting to experience that with Sooraj Barjatya Ji's Yeh Prem Mol Liya feels incredibly special." Sharvari added: "It feels like a beautiful full-circle moment, getting to live the kind of Bollywood I grew up watching and dreaming about. I'm genuinely enjoying every moment of it." The title track of Yeh Prem Mol Liya was released recently and it gave a peek into the film's world. However, details related to the movie are still under wraps.

As per reports, The story follows a relationship that begins with friendship before gradually developing into romance. At its core is a clash between contemporary ideas of love and the traditional values and warmth of a joint family. The film also stars Anupam Kher, Supriya Pathak, Seema Pahwa and Saumya Tandon. Directed by Sooraj Barjatya, 'Yeh Prem Mol Liya' is scheduled to release in theatres on November 27, 2026.

Wamiqa Gabbi admits she was waiting for Amitabh Bachchan's lunch invitation

Popular actress Wamiqa Gabbi shared a sweet personal story about her father's unique measure of her career success, involving Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan. Appearing on the popular quiz reality show, Kaun Banega Crorepati, alongside Rajkumar Rao the actress recounted her father's longtime dream. Wamiqa went on to reveal how her father said he would consider her successful the day Amitabh Bachchan invites her for lunch. "Mere dad ne hamesha bahut photos, videos, sab record karte the... aur unkoyahitha ki ek din main manunga ki ye successful hai, jis din Amitabh Bachchan ji apneghar lunch pe bulayenge." (My dad always used to record lots of photos, videos, everything... and he always believed that one day I would consider myself successful when Amitabh Bachchan ji would invite me to his home for lunch) She further confessed how she had cheekily hinted at this in a letter sent to the megastar, "Toh maineapko letter bheja aur maine letter mein ye slyly likh diya tha ki... waisetoh mere papa ne bola hai ki ek din aapkeghar pe lunch karnahai, wohbhi ek din hoga. Toh mujhe-lagaapkuchtoh... ab shayad invite aa jayega, ab tohmainelikh di haibesharmi se." (So I sent you a letter, and in the letter I slyly wrote that... my father has said that one day he wants to have lunch at your home, and that day will happen too. So I thought you might say something... maybe now the invitation will come, so I have shamelessly written it down now)

Recalling Big B's response to her letter, she added, "Toh aapka jab letter aayawapas, mainepadha, aapne bahut hi sundartarike se thank you bola." (So when your letter came back, I read it, and you said thank you in a very beautiful way) To which Amitabh Bachchan hilariously pointed out, "Lekin ye nahi bola ki lunch pe bulayenge." (But didn't say that I would invite you for lunch) Wamiqa playfully responded, "Toh sir main sochrahihi ki niche kahitohlikhahoga ki veg khayengiya non-veg khayengi... toh main dhoondti reh gayi." (So sir, I was thinking that somewhere at the bottom it would say whether I would eat vegetarian or non-vegetarian... so I kept looking for it)

Seizing the moment, Big B laid down a special condition for her dream lunch invite, introducing the show's Super Sandook round, "Idhar khelmeinthodasaparivartanhotahai... jiska naam hai Super Sandook. 10 prashnaate hain. Maan lijiyeaapne 10 ke 10 sahi de diye, tohaapko hum sabkoapnegharbulayengebhojankhilane." (There is a slight change in the game here... which is called Super Sandook. Ten questions come. Suppose you answer all 10 correctly, then we will invite you all to our home and feed you a meal) An ecstatic Wamiqa cheered at the prospect of fulfilling her father's dream live on stage. For the uninitiated, Rajkumar Rao and Wamiqa Gabbi along with lawyer Ujwal Nikam appeared on the quiz reality show to promote their upcoming movie, Prahaar.



Divya Dutta explains how her seniors helped her in fine tuning technicalities of acting initially



Actress Divya Dutta, who is receiving a good response to her recently released film 'Last Man in Tower', has spoken up on the technical side of being an actor, and shared how her seniors helped her with the technicalities back in the day.

The actress spoke along with her co-actor in the film Manoj Bajpayee, and director Ben Rekhi during the promotions of the film in the Andheri West area of Mumbai.

She told IANS, "First of all, Technicality for me, as long as I know my basics that I'm delivering and it's seen, it's fine because there was a time when I didn't know, I was doing my best, but I was not

visible on the screen in the correct manner. I had my seniors holding my hand, and told me, 'Listen, you're doing well, but you're not looking correctly on the screen'. So I've been fortunate that way".

She further mentioned, "And you learn these things with time. They also say 'Get your lines out of the way, get the technicalities out of the way, and then just belong'. Just let that, the magic of the moment happen. If I'm looking in my co-actor's eyes, every take probably would be different. Every take, when I look into their eyes, it would evoke a different emotion from them".

"It could probably go up, it could probably go down. And it sometimes surprises you. So you need to let that happen. If you get very inhibited

and feel, 'No, no, this is the boundary, I have given this note' then it becomes too limited. You just need to let the performance flow", she added.

Meanwhile, 'Last Man in Tower' is based on the eponymous novel by Aravind Adiga. It is set against the rapidly changing landscape of Mumbai. Manoj essays the role of a retired school-teacher and widower who lives in an ageing apartment complex. When a wealthy developer offers residents a lucrative deal to sell the building and make way for a luxury tower, most are tempted by the money. Manoj's character, however, refuses to move, becoming the lone obstacle to the redevelopment plan. The film is currently playing in cinemas.

Parineeti Chopra uncovers murky world of sand mafia in 'Reporting Live'

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra, who recently made her OTT debut with the streaming series 'Shaque: Trust No One', will share the screen with Shekhar Suman and Amol Palekar in the upcoming film 'Reporting Live'.

The actress is set to essay the role of a field reporter chasing a story as she steps into the murky world of illegal sand mining, where a ruthless sand mafia has every reason to keep its business, and the crimes surrounding it, out of sight.

The film also stars Deven Bhojani, and Adil Hussain. It is directed by Dhruv Tripathi, written by Mihir Jadhav and Dhruv Tripathi.

Director and co-writer Dhruv Tripathi said, "It feels incredibly special to finally announce 'Reporting Live'. I've lived with this film for seven years, from writing it with Mihir to



bringing it to the screen, so seeing it ready to go out into the world is quite surreal. I wanted to make a thriller that feels grounded and real, while never losing sight of the ordinary peo-

ple at the heart of the story. I've been incredibly fortunate to make it with a wonderful cast and crew who brought so much to the film, and I'm really excited for audiences around the world to

experience it on Netflix".

Producer Partha Kiran Thakur shared, "The stakes are high, both in the story we are telling and in the scale of its execution. We had a very clear vision for this film, and it has been incredibly fulfilling to see that vision come to life through such a powerful ensemble. Bringing together actors from different generations, each a stalwart in their own craft, was one of the most exciting aspects of the process".

"We're particularly thrilled to see Parineeti Chopra and Deven Bhojani come together on screen in a pairing audiences have never seen before, portraying characters that are unlike anything they have played previously", she added.

Produced by Partha Kiran Thakur and Joshua Shirsath, 'Reporting Live' is set to stream on Netflix on October 9, 2026.

Taylor Swift calls working with Dakota Johnson on 'Patient Zero' a 'dream sequence'

Grammy winner Taylor Swift described working with Dakota Johnson on the "Patient Zero" music video as a "dream sequence" and praised the actress's talent. Swift unveiled the music video of "Patient Zero" starring alongside with Johnson, Collin Farrell and a cameo from Cara Delevingne, during the 2026 VMAs. She took to Instagram to talk about her latest project.

"The Patient Zero video is finally out in the world! Getting to work with @chivexp was something out of a dream sequence, and I learned so much from getting to watch his genius in action", Swift wrote in the caption. She went on to thank the Johnson and Farrell for trusting the "Blank Space" hitmaker: "I want to thank @dakota-johnson and Colin for trusting me



with their time, taste, and talent (Giggling with your friend because you're twinning for an entire shoot was a new and truly delightful experi-

ence)." She added: "And Colin's turn as a villain is even more impressive when you get to be around him. He's an absolute light and as kind as they

come. @caradelevingne, thank you for agreeing to play the lusty other woman. That's what friends are for?"

The video brings to life Swift's vision of two women with a shared romantic flame, with one ultimately passing on wisdom after dealing with her now-former beau. Farrell plays the man in question while Johnson and Swift essay his lovers.

Swift is the highest-grossing live music artist, the wealthiest female musician, and one of the best-selling music artists of all time. Her singles "Teardrops on My Guitar", "Love Story", and "You Belong with Me" found crossover success on country and pop radio formats.

She gained the Billboard Hot 100 in 2010s with number-one singles "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together", "Shake It Off", "Blank Space", "Bad Blood", and "Look What You Made Me Do".