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NATIONAL NEWS

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CINEMA NEWS

AADARSHA KUTUMBAM TEASER IS OUT NOW!

SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

11-09-2026
Total pages: 72,408
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INBRIEF

BODY OF JEM TERRORIST RECOVERED IN J-K'S DODA; US-MADE M4 CARBINE SEIZED

JAMMU: (Sep 12) A highly decomposed body of a suspected Pakistani terrorist affiliated with the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit was recovered from the higher reaches of Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. The condition of the body has led investigators to believe that the terrorist may have sustained injuries during an encounter with security forces last year and subsequently succumbed to those injuries while hiding in the forested terrain, they added. A US-made M4 carbine along with some ammunition was recovered alongside the unidentified body, indicating that the deceased was likely a top commander of the Pakistan-based outfit, the officials said.

■ On Day 1, BRICS unanimously adopts New Delhi Declaration

That it was adopted on the first day of the Summit is being seen as an accomplishment of the host, India, for managing to bring all BRICS members to an agreement.

New Delhi: Against the backdrop of conflicts in different parts of the world, the 18th BRICS Summit on Saturday, September 12, saw member countries unanimously adopt the New Delhi Declaration. The consensus on a range of global issues underscored the need for greater cooperation among BRICS members.

That it was adopted on the first day of the Summit is being seen as an accomplishment of the host, India, for managing to bring all BRICS members to an agreement. "No member has raised any objection. The New Delhi Declaration 2026 is adopted unanimously," PM Modi said.

The following are the key takeaways of the New Delhi Declaration: While expressing alarm over terrorism in Sudan



and Syria, the Declaration calls for zero tolerance for terrorism and rejects double standards in counter-terroring terrorism. It specifically condemns the 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu-Kashmir, where 26 people were shot dead in indiscriminate firing. "We emphasise the primary responsibility of States in combating terrorism and that global efforts to pre-

vent and counter terrorist threats must fully comply with their obligations under international law," it says.

Without naming any nation in particular, it says, "We reaffirm our commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists, terrorism financing and safe havens."

CM Revanth reviews Ganesh festival arrangements

■ **Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU:**

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday reviewed arrangements for the Ganesh festival across Hyderabad and directed municipal and police authorities to maintain round-the-clock coordination to ensure peaceful celebrations and smooth immersion of idols.

The review meeting was held at the Legislative Council Conference Hall on the Assembly premises. Ministers Ponnampalapati Prabhakar and Mohammed Azharuddin, MP Vem Narendar Reddy, MLAs Danam Nagender and Sri Ganesh, commissioners of GHMC, CMC, MMC and HYDRAA, senior police officials and representatives of Ganesh Utsav committees attended.

The Chief Minister said his government had revived the practice of



directly interacting with festival organisers to understand their problems and make necessary arrangements.

He said Ganesh pandals were being provided free electricity and asked organisers to apply to the authorities concerned to avail themselves of the facility. Organisers should also provide advance information about the location of pandals to enable police to plan traffic regulation and security arrange-

ments effectively. Revanth Reddy asked organisers to inform the local police commissionerate whenever prominent guests were invited to pandals so that adequate security arrangements could be made and unforeseen problems avoided.

The Chief Minister directed officials to incorporate facilities for Ganesh idol immersion while developing lakes, similar to arrangements being made for

Bathukamma celebrations. Adequate space and infrastructure should be provided around lakes for the deployment of cranes during immersion, he said. He instructed municipal and police departments to maintain continuous supervision until the conclusion of the festivities. A dedicated control room should be established at the Command Control Centre and special officers appointed for effective monitoring and coordination.

"Investments will come only when Hyderabad remains peaceful," Revanth Reddy said, stressing that law and order should not be disturbed during the festivities. He sought the cooperation of Ganesh Utsav organisers and assured them that the government was ready to address any problems they faced.



PM and BRICS leaders participate in a joint tree plantation at the outside lawns of Bharat Mandapam on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit, in New Delhi

NIA raids 10 locations in J-K in LeT-linked cross border terror case

■ **SRINAGAR (TSIT):**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted searches at 10 locations in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a cross-border terror conspiracy involving Pakistan-based handlers of the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and their alleged network of local Over

Ground Workers (OGWs). The searches were conducted at locations in Kupwara, Kulgam, Bandipora, Baramulla and Sopore to unearth further evidence relating to the conspiracy and to ascertain the roles of individuals providing logistical and other support to infiltrated terrorists, a statement issued by the NIA said.



Balaghat child deaths: CJP convener Dipke visits tribal villages, demands accountability

■ **BALAGHAT (TSIT):** Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) convener Abhijit Dipke on Saturday visited



tribal villages in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district to meet families who recently lost their children to infectious diseases and demanded accountability from the administration. Accompanied by local youth, Dipke travelled to Adori, Korka, and Bondari villages to gather details on

local healthcare facilities and the circumstances surrounding the child deaths. Dipke's visit comes days after the Madhya Pradesh High Court issued notices to the state government over the deaths of more than 30 children, allegedly due to

infectious diseases, after a PIL alleged overcrowded hospitals, contaminated drinking water, and lack of nutrition in the district.

No proposal for BRICS currency 'as of now': MEA

■ **New Delhi (TSIT)** There is no proposal for a BRICS currency "as of now", while discussions on trade in local currencies have been underway for some time, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Saturday. In a press briefing, MEA's Secretary, Economic Relations, Sudhakar Dalela, said: "There is no proposal in the BRICS for a BRICS currency as of now."

"Discussions on trade in local currencies have been underway for some time," he said. "We believe local



currency settlement is a practical mechanism to reduce transaction costs in bilateral trade. This has been encouraged as com-

plementary to the global payment and settlement system, improving overall global trade across nations," he said.

The mechanism can help reduce transaction costs in bilateral trade and is being encouraged as a complement to the global payment system. Dalela further stated that the 'BRICS MSME' cooperation portal, cooperation on global value chains, and logistics frameworks were among the key highlights during the BRICS Summit.

He said that BRICS coop-

eration on DPI, a science and research repository, and collaboration on start-ups were also the key highlights. Dalela said it had been a year of robust participation and engagement, with more than 350 meetings held under India's BRICS chair. He described it as a "whole-of-nation effort", with BRICS engagement taking place in more than 30 cities across the country.

He further informed that there were 150 practical outcomes across four pillars from the BRICS Summit.

India now 4th-largest forex holder after hitting record USD 44.9 billion inflow in 1 week

■ **New Delhi (TSIT)** : Strong dollar inflows under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) concessional swap window, particularly the foreign currency non-resident (bank) – or FCNR (B) – deposits scheme, helped India's foreign exchange reserves post their largest-ever weekly increase, rising by USD 44.9 billion to a record USD 785.7 billion in the week ending September 4.

According to estimates, this surge propelled India above Russia to become the world's fourth-largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, behind China, Japan, and Switzerland. In the week ending August 28, total reserves had reached a previous high of roughly USD 740 billion.

However, the rupee is still under pressure; on Friday, it dropped for the

fourth session in a row to end at 95.56 to the dollar from 94.45 due to pressure from rising crude oil prices and US Treasury yields.

Dealers reported that it reduced losses following RBI intervention. Since the start of the conflict in West Asia, the rupee has lost 4.79 per cent of its value, and this month it has lost 0.4 per cent. According to the latest RBI data pro-



vided on Friday, foreign currency assets, which make up the majority of the FX reserves, increased by USD 47.5 billion to USD 648.17 billion during the week ending September 4.

The impact of fluctuations in the value of non-US currencies held in the reserves, such as the euro, pound, and yen, is also reflected in the figure, which is expressed in dollars. In contrast, gold

prices dropped 0.56 per cent to USD 4,429 an ounce during the week, causing gold reserves to drop by USD 2.59 billion to USD 113.81 billion. As more foreign currency inflows are expected to continue until the second week of September, market participants anticipate that foreign currency assets will increase even more, possibly surpassing USD 655 billion. By August 31, foreign cur-

rency inflows totaling USD 136.4 billion had been mobilized by the RBI's exceptional swap operations. While external commercial borrowings and foreign currency bonds are still eligible under the facility until December 31, the window for FCNR (B) deposits ended on August 31. Up until September 11, banks may use the swap facility for deposits that have already been committed.

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EDITORIAL

BRICS: INDIA'S
NEW ROAR

Today, BRICS is not just an economic grouping of emerging economies, but has also become an important platform for amplifying the voice of the global South in the changing world order. Originally composed of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, BRICS was renamed BRICS after South Africa joined in 2011. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates became full members in 2024, and Indonesia also joined as a full member in January 2025. With this expansion, BRICS now comprises 11 major emerging economies. The year 2026 holds special significance for India, as it assumes the BRICS Chairmanship from January 1, 2026, and New Delhi is scheduled to host the 18th BRICS Summit. The central vision of India's Chairmanship is focused on resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainable development. This Chairmanship not only gives India the role of a convener, but also provides an opportunity to influence the group's priorities and future direction. The greatest significance of BRICS lies in strengthening India's strategic autonomy. India has long advocated a foreign policy that builds relationships with diverse countries and forums in accordance with its national interests, rather than relying solely on a single power bloc. While India's partnerships with countries like China and Russia are part of BRICS, India also cooperates with the United States, Europe, Japan, and other powers in parallel. BRICS thus provides a practical basis for India's multi-alignment foreign policy. Another important aspect of BRICS is strengthening the voice of the Global South. Even today, many decisions in international institutions are made within structures where the representation of developing countries is not commensurate with their economic and demographic roles. India has consistently raised the need for reform of institutions such as the United Nations Security Council, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. Through BRICS, developing countries can collectively strengthen their demand for a more representative and equitable global governance system. BRICS is also important for India from an economic perspective. Expanded membership means new opportunities for cooperation in larger markets, investment, energy, trade, technology, and supply chains. This opportunity is particularly significant for India as the global economy is facing increasing trends of protectionism, trade tensions, and supply chain restructuring. Cooperation within BRICS to reduce trade barriers and facilitate payment systems can benefit India's economic interests. The possibilities of cooperation on trade in local currencies and cross-border payment systems are also important in this direction. The New Development Bank is a significant achievement of BRICS in the field of development finance. Its objective is to provide financing for infrastructure and sustainable development projects. Such institutions are important for developing countries because they can serve as both an alternative and a complement to traditional global financial institutions. For India, this offers vast potential for cooperation in projects related to transport, energy, urban development, climate, and green infrastructure. But BRICS faces challenges. The most significant challenge is the diverse and sometimes conflicting strategic interests of its member states.

There is a larger story behind the three high-level meetings taking place around India's BRICS presidency in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, and Chinese President Xi Jinping are not simply three bilateral engagements. Taken together, they offer a window into how India sees a rapidly changing world and how it intends to navigate it. BRICS itself has come a long way from the informal economic dialogue among Brazil, Russia, India, and China that emerged in 2006. With its subsequent expansion, it has now become an 11-member grouping representing a substantial share of the world's population and roughly 37 per cent of global GDP on a purchasing-power-parity basis. Its economic weight now exceeds that of the G7 on this measure. The creation of the New Development Bank and growing experiments with local-currency settlement and alternative payment mechanisms have given the grouping an institutional and economic substance that it did not possess two decades ago. Yet BRICS has also acquired a curious characteristic: its members do not necessarily agree on the world they want to create. That is not necessarily a weakness. Countries increasingly see BRICS as a platform through which they can hedge against excessive dependence on any single geopolitical or financial centre, strengthen their bargaining power, and give the Global South a greater voice. It is less a bloc than an instrument of strategic flexibility. India's three meetings in New Delhi illustrate precisely this new reality. With



Russia, India is deepening The Modi-Putin meeting represents the most established of India's three relationships. Defence and energy remain important pillars, but the relationship is increasingly moving into manufacturing, technology, nuclear energy, space, critical minerals, and other areas of long-term economic cooperation. The significance lies in the breadth of the relationship. India may be diversifying its defence procurement and deepening economic ties with the United States and Europe, but diversification is not abandonment. Russia remains important to India's energy security, defence capabilities, and strategic supply chains. There is also a diplomatic dimension. India continues to favour dialogue and diplomacy in resolving

major conflicts, preserving its ability to communicate with Moscow without becoming identified with every Russian position. With Russia, therefore, India is deepening, but also diversifying, the relationship. With Iran, India is preserving strategic space. The conversation with President Pezeshkian has a different logic. Iran is important to India not simply because of bilateral trade or energy, but because of geography. Chabahar offers India access towards Afghanistan and Central Asia; the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz are critical to India's energy and maritime interests; and Iran is increasingly an important participant in the wider BRICS architecture. At a time of intense conflict in West Asia, India's emphasis

on dialogue, diplomacy, freedom of navigation and the safety of seafarers is therefore both principled and practical. India does not have to choose between Tehran and its relationships with Israel, the Gulf or the United States. Its interest lies in keeping channels open with all of them. With Iran, therefore, India is preserving strategic space. With China, the objective is stabilisation. The Xi Jinping visit presents the most complicated equation. India and China remain strategic competitors. The border issue remains unresolved, China-Pakistan ties continue to concern New Delhi, and the enormous bilateral trade deficit cannot be ignored. Yet the economic relationship has become too substantial for either side to treat it casually. The sensible

objective is neither decoupling nor dependence, but managed interdependence. India needs greater access to the Chinese market and reliable supplies of machinery, components, and industrial inputs. China, for its part, has an interest in a stable relationship with one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. The test, therefore, is whether the political thaw can translate into greater predictability - on the border, trade, investment, visas, and connectivity. With China, India is seeking stabilisation without pretending that strategic differences have disappeared. Strategic autonomy based on multi-alignment. Seen together, the three meetings reveal the practical meaning of India's strategic autonomy. With Russia, deepen. With Iran,

preserve. With China, stabilise. And none of these prevents India from simultaneously expanding its partnerships with the United States, Europe, Japan, Australia, and the Gulf. This is why the evolution of BRICS matters. Its growing economic weight gives it significance. Its institutional development gives it staying power. But its internal diversity prevents it from easily becoming a conventional alliance. Russia and China may favour a more explicitly alternative international order; India has little interest in replacing one bloc with another. Many other members likewise see BRICS less as an ideological project than as a means of expanding their options. India's challenge and opportunity is to shape that diversity into something constructive.

Can India 'Mediate' Between Iran And UAE At BRICS? Gulf Envoy Suggested It Once

As India hosts the BRICS summit this year, it's chairship comes at an extraordinary time not just for itself or the member states, but for the globe. Two major wars are underway, and in this part of the world, some major geopolitical re-alignments are shaping up with long-term consequences for the world. While India is not directly involved in either the Ukraine or Iran war, it has been majorly impacted by both. But, the Iran war has had far more negative consequences for it. Its energy supplies from the Gulf have been adversely impacted, leading to a surge in oil and gas prices, and, in a cascading effect, leading to price rise in food and consumer products, inflation and falling rupee, impacting overall growth. Furthermore, many Indians have lost lives in a war that they had nothing to do with. It is striking that India will be hosting the BRICS summit with the expanded bloc - eleven member states are participating in it, and ten more partner countries will join in. Importantly, three parties to the Iran war - Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) - are BRICS member states whose representatives are in Delhi to attend the summit. Can India broker some sort of a truce between Iran and the UAE, both geographically close neighbours with entwined destinies? Of course, not the sham kind that Pakistan "mediated" between Iran and the US, which collapsed within a month. This would indeed be a major achievement of the summit, if not the greatest. The divide between Iran and the UAE has also already impacted the BRICS, given how the foreign ministerial meeting of the member states ended without a joint statement because of a difference in opinion. India had to issue a statement as the chair. In this context, the recent bilateral meeting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Bishkek, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), of which Iran is also a member



state, is significant. The meeting itself was a strong message from India, coming as it did in the backdrop of the US' efforts to throttle Iran economically and its threats to sanction countries that do business with Iran. It signalled that New Delhi considered it important to continue engagement with Iran, while also conveying that India would act in its own interest. And Iran is, of course, important to India both geopolitically as well as economically. It has been an important crude oil supplier to India and was also a critical destination for Indian exports before sanctions kicked in. Iran has also often cooperated with India on counterterrorism and has been useful in India's efforts against Pakistan. Simultaneously, Iran is indispensable for India's Eurasian outreach and connectivity ambitions. The Chabahar Port project that India was developing with Iran offered a host of benefits, including access to Central Asia. The port's significance has multiplied now with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the uncertainty around the Bab-el-Mandeb - two major chokepoints not only for India's energy supplies but also for its imports and

exports. The UAE, similarly, has become an indispensable strategic partner for India, and is possibly its closest Gulf partner. Cooperation spans a range of sectors, trade, energy security, labour corridor, defence, space, culture, counterterrorism, et al. Bilateral trade has soared exponentially after the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the two. India is the UAE's second-largest trading partner. Almost four million Indians live and work in the Emirates. This year saw the UAE President, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, visit India; PM Modi also visited the UAE. That visit resulted in a slew of agreements that would ease the cost of the Iran conflict imposed on ordinary citizens, who have nothing to do with the war. Mediating some kind of understanding and peace between Iran and the UAE would go a long way in stabilising the region, as well as eventually hammering out a lasting resolution to the war. Both countries are neighbours and will remain so. Geography cannot be wished away. And both countries have engaged closely over the years.

When The Feed Braves The Flood

It has become fashionable among commentators to treat news as the cheap part of media. In the age of the feed, information arrives faster than ever, personalised and endlessly ordered to taste and the prevailing wisdom holds that the real prize lies elsewhere. It lies in the story, in the spectacle, in the sensation, in the insatiability...in whatever keeps a thumb moving. News, by this logic, is the filler that fills the hours, low in value and quick to fade. My sense is that we have spent a decade mistaking that abundance for understanding and the speed of arrival for the weight of what arrived. Against that current, NDTV has done something quietly counter-cultural. It has retired the "24x7." It's important to understand it. The four characters looked like a technicality. They were closer to a philosophy. "24x7" was the promise of the torrent being always on, always more, the quantity signal of an era that believed the answer to every question was additional information, sooner. To set it aside, after more than two decades, is to step away from the premise that a news channel's job is to deliver all of it, all the time. In its place sits a proposition of consequence over volume. When It Really Matters. Before the flood, though, the whole set deserves a word. The inaugural campaign has five images, and taken together they are the most disciplined piece of news brand work I have seen in a while. Each pairs a plain, alliterative antithesis with a single photograph. Grit over gloss. Groundwork over guesswork. Perspective over



polarisation. Reality over rhetoric. Sense over sensation. Every pairing names a temptation the channel refuses, and the harder thing it chooses. The theatres do a great deal of quiet work. A reporter chest-deep in a flooded river. A correspondent seated on a battle tank at the front. A woman in a fire-blackened lane, phone in one hand, mic in the other. A reporter before a smouldering building ringed with coils of wire. A young journalist standing composed inside a restless crowd. The range is the argument. In flood, conflict, aftermath, unrest, in every kind of story a country throws up, held by one idea and one posture. The device beneath them is the sharpest part. Each frame runs in black and white, with only three things left in colour namely the logo, the microphone and a red rectangle drawn around the reporter. Those three reds are the tools of the trade and the act of framing itself. The rectan-

gle rewards a second look. It is the editorial eye made visible, the channel drawing a box around what deserves attention and what it chooses to look at, every single time, is the person who went there rather than the wreckage behind them. There are no explosions in the foreground, no ticker clutter, no anchor theatrics. What remains is stillness in the middle of disorder, with a human being held at the centre of it. The creative that struck me carries the whole argument in a single frame and it rewards sitting with. A reporter stands chest-deep in brown floodwater, an NDTV microphone held out across the current. Around him, men move through the same water, holding above the surface whatever they managed to save. The image runs in black and white, save for the red of the logo, the red of the mic, and a red rectangle that pulls the eye to one exchange between the reporter and the man he is listening to. Above it, two

words - Reality Over Rhetoric. What the picture argues is presence. Someone waded in. Someone is standing where the story is happening, at eye level with the people it is happening to, close enough to hear the account first hand and wet in the hearing. That is a very old and valuable idea about journalism, which the creative treats as the freshest thing in the room because, in the age of the feed, it has quietly become that. Look again and you find two sets of people held in the same frame, which is the part I find most deliberate. There are the people who bring us the story - the reporter, the crew. There are the people the story is about, and to whom it matters most. They are the ones whose homes are under the water. The microphone between them is the entire proposition. It is the instrument through which one set of lives becomes legible to the rest of us. Walter Benjamin, writing in 1936.



Ukraine faces 'toughest winter' since Russia's full-scale invasion

DEATH TOLL FROM PHILIPPINES FERRY FIRE CLIMBS TO 35, WITH DOZENS STILL MISSING

The Philippine Coast Guard says it has recovered 30 bodies from the wreckage of a ferry that caught fire this week, bringing the total death toll to 35. More than 130 people were on board the MV June Aster when the blaze erupted on Wednesday as it neared its destination at the tourist hotspot of Coron, after departing from Manila. Forty-three people were rescued, with many receiving treatment in hospital, and searches continue for more than 50 people who remain unaccounted for. The country's coast guard says more bodies remain on the boat, which they were unable to board until Friday due to toxic fumes and lingering heat. In a press conference, coast guard spokesperson Commodore Noemie Cayabyab said most bodies had been retrieved from



the sleeping area of the boat, which had been making a 22-hour journey. "Agencies are currently undertaking the proper recovery and identification of the remains in accordance with established procedures,"

Cayabyab said. "We recognise the grief of the families affected by this tragic incident." Earlier, the coast guard said preliminary interviews with the survivors suggest that the fire started in the cargo hold. Some

passengers were not wearing life vests, they noted. A survivor who was hauled to safety on a rescue boat told the BBC he had heard frantic cries onboard when the fire erupted, and was trampled by panicked people as he tried to escape. The Philippines' maritime authority is investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. The ferry, built in 2002, held valid safety certificates and passed an enforcement inspection in March, but investigators are looking into potential manifest discrepancies, cargo loading integrity, and crew emergency response protocols, the Palawan Daily reported. The vessel was carrying 117 passengers and 17 crew members. Atienza Interisland Ferries, the vessel's operator, has pledged full cooperation with the inquiry.

FOUR KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM REPUBLICAN MIDTERMS CONVENTION

The Republican Party's first midterms convention had all the trappings of the traditional presidential election-year gathering: supporters in sparkling costumes, a conveyor belt of candidate speeches, and vendors selling campaign merchandise. But unlike an ordinary convention, no official party business was conducted in Dallas, with the event instead serving as a rally for Republicans who are seeking to boost turnout and avoid losing control of Congress in November. President Donald Trump, whose grip over the party remains absolute, delivered a lengthy keynote speech on Wednesday during the opening night of the two-day event. He covered many of the subjects he has returned to time and again this year - with a few surprises thrown in. Here are the key takeaways from his address. 1. Preaching to the MAGA choir The vast arena was filled with diehard Trump

supporters sporting red MAGA gear from his past presidential campaigns. A decade after his first White House run, Trump is still beloved among his base and he has bent the party to his will in the years since. The old-style Republican establishment, or what's left of it in the Trump era, was nowhere to be seen. Senator Susan Collins of Maine and other Republicans running in competitive races chose to stay away. The absence of more moderate Republicans was glaring and offered a reminder of just how much the party has changed. It also raised questions about the effectiveness of holding an unprecedented midterm convention in the first place. The core audience, both in the arena and watching on television, appeared to be Trump loyalists, not the moderates and swing voters the Republican Party needs to turn out in large numbers in November.

HOUTHIS CLAIM MAJOR ADVANCE IN YEMEN AND TIGHTEN GRIP ON RED SEA SHIPPING LANE

Yemen's Houthis have claimed a major advance on the western Red Sea coast, consolidating their grip on the key international shipping route. The Iran-backed group seized Perim Island at the mouth of the waterway in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, a source from Yemen's internationally recognised government told the BBC. It comes a day after the Houthis captured the strategic port city of Mokha from Saudi-backed pro-government forces, according to military sources. A Yemeni military official told the AFP news agency the Houthis now control the entire coastline. The Houthis earlier said they posed no threat to international shipping but reiterated their threat to target vessels from Saudi Arabia. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the country's de facto ruler, has personally pressed US President Donald Trump to take military action against the Houthis during their rapid advance, two sources familiar with the matter told CBS News - the BBC's media partner in North America. Trump has



so far declined to involve the US military directly, offering instead to assist with intelligence and targeting support, the sources said. A senior Trump administration official later told the BBC: "We are in continuous dialogue with Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen government regarding regional stability." On Friday, Yemeni pro-government forces withdrew from Perim (also known as Mayyun). Witnesses and news agencies reported that Houthi forces moved on to the island. The Houthis later issued a statement, saying that their military operation to expel Saudi-backed forces had been a

"success" and that "maritime navigation is safe for all companies except for Saudi vessels". Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said the "large-scale" military operation was launched on 3 September due to Saudi Arabia's "blatant aggression" against "our dear people". Sarea also said the Houthis had expelled "Saudi enemy" forces from six districts in the Taiz and Hodeidah regions, claiming that hundreds of troops had been killed, wounded or captured. The Houthi statement, however, did not mention Perim Island. Saudi Arabia has not publicly commented on the latest developments. Perim

Island sits at the narrowest point of the Bab al-Mandab Strait, which has become increasingly important following the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz - another crucial waterway - in the conflict between the US and Iran. Saudi Arabia has been relying on the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait for shipping oil to customers in Asia. The escalation of the conflict between the Houthis, Yemen's government and Saudi Arabia has contributed to a surge in oil prices. Hundreds of people have reportedly been killed and thousands displaced in Yemen since the Houthis launched an offensive in the south-west a week ago. A Saudi-led coalition has also carried out air strikes on Houthi-controlled areas in western Yemen in support of the pro-government forces, and the Houthis have launched missiles and drones at cities and oil facilities in southern Saudi Arabia. The Saudi foreign affairs ministry said on Friday that drones from Iraq had targeted the country's East-West oil pipeline.

'It's like a dog set loose on us' - fear over Kenya's crackdown on foreign traders

For Ndaikech Ali, who has been traversing the streets of the Kenyan capital eking out a living as a tuk-tuk driver for the past nine years, Nairobi's traffic - not xenophobia - has been his biggest concern. During his time in the East African nation, the Burundian says he has always found Kenyans to be friendly and welcoming - that is until last week, when the president ordered a crackdown on foreigners working as traders or operating small-scale businesses. "Now they have turned against us," he told the BBC at the Burundian embassy in Nairobi where many have been queuing this week for documents to allow them to travel back home. "The threats are many... even from children," he said, adding: "It's a like a dog has been set loose upon us. We have been bitten." President William Ruto made his remarks last week when addressing Kenyan traders gathered at state house - in reference to legislation before parliament that seeks to exclude foreign nationals



from petty trade and to mandate the local sourcing of certain materials. During his speech, he said that all foreign nationals operating small businesses had until 7 September to pack up shop, saying such low-level jobs should be reserved for Kenyans. Ali, like others, panicked, saying it seemed the president's announcement had been interpreted by some Kenyans as a signal that foreign nationals were no longer welcome in the country. "We face harassment and can't work," he says. "If our work is stopped, we lose the income that enables us to pay rent and buy food. When those jobs are taken away.



Saudi Arabia shuts key oil pipeline after drone attack launched from Iraq

PASSENGER TRAIN DERAILS IN FRANCE LEAVING AT LEAST 44 INJURED

At least 44 people have been injured, including one seriously, after a passenger train derailed in northern France, local officials have said. An 18-year-old woman was airlifted in critical condition by helicopter to hospital. The officials said 186 passengers were on board the train that was operating between Rouen and Caen in Normandy. Transport Minister Philippe Tabarot said 140 firefighters and other emergency teams were deployed to the scene of the crash on Friday evening near Cl  on, just south of Rouen. The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but reports in the French media suggest it could have been an act of sabotage. The authorities have not commented on the issue. Local authorities acti-



vated a mass-casualty response plan after the crash shortly before 20:00 (18:00 GMT). "Suddenly there were a few jolts, and then after about three seconds it got stronger and stronger," Louis, a passenger on the train, told ICI Normandie radio. "I couldn't stay in my seat any more. The windows partially shattered, the stones from the

track came into the carriage. It was really shocking. I'm still shaking," he added. Photographs later emerged showing passengers leaving the train, three of whose carriages had overturned, according to French media. According to Tabarot, 140 firefighters and other emergency service crews promptly arrived at the scene. Among the

Highlights
■ At least 44 people have been injured, including one seriously, after a passenger train derailed in northern France, local officials have said.

injured is an 18-year-old woman who sustained severe injuries; she was airlifted to a hospital in Rouen in critical condition. The state railway operator SNCF reported significant service disruptions on this section and deployed replacement buses. Local authorities urged the public to avoid the area of the accident.



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New Eras And Bragging Rights: Reasons Why You Can't Miss The Manchester Derby

Manchester United and Manchester City prepare to renew one of English football's fiercest rivalries this Sunday, September 13, the Manchester derby once again takes centre stage. Dating back to 1881, the rivalry has grown from a battle for local bragging rights into one of the most anticipated fixtures in world football, with two of the game's biggest clubs going head-to-head at Old Trafford. The latest chapter promises another high-octane spectacle, where local pride, bragging rights and three crucial points will all be at stake. Here are five reasons why you can not miss the Manchester derby this weekend: The Dawn of a New Managerial Era: Carrick vs.

Maresca
The tactical battle lines have been redrawn at Old Trafford. With Enzo Maresca taking charge at Manchester City and Manchester United legend Michael Carrick steering the Red Devils, this derby marks the beginning of an unpredictable new chapter. Maresca brings an established Premier League managerial pedigree, boasting a strong career record of 31 wins and 15 draws in 60 matches in the competition, while relying on a possession-dominant framework. Carrick, on the other hand, has proven his elite credentials with an impressive managerial record of 14 wins in 22 Premier League games. Maresca will be keen to maintain City's momentum, while Carrick faces his ultimate tactical test. Scheduled in a highly accessible Sunday evening slot, this high-stakes fixture serves as the perfect entry point for casual sports fans looking to experience European football for the first time. Unlike matches that demand grueling late-night commitments, the Manchester derby occupies a prime-

time weekend window at 9 PM, making it easier for first-time viewers to tune in to JioHotstar and Star Sports and experience the spectacle.
■ A BILLION EURO ROSTER OF GLOBAL SUPERSTARS
Fans are guaranteed to see the very best in world football sharing the same pitch. Manchester City's Erling Haaland arrives in lethal goal-scoring form alongside dynamic playmakers like Ravi Cherk. They go head-to-head against United's creative powerhouse Bruno Fernandes and emerging talents, offering an unmissable, star-studded spectacle of relentless attacking football.
■ THE SHIFTING BALANCE OF POWER
The narrative stakes could not be higher. City continues to operate as an elite, trophy-hunting powerhouse, aiming to prove their dominance remains untouched. Meanwhile, United is determined to lay down a marker and reignite their road to their old glory days.

CSK FINALLY BREAKS SILENCE ON EXPLOSIVE MS DHONI 'ASKING FOR STAKE' REPORT

Recently, a report suggested that former Chennai Super Kings captain MS Dhoni asked for a 25 per cent stake in the team before reducing it to 20 per cent. He was then apparently offered a 5.5 per cent stake by the franchise. CSK have finally opened up on the issue. Dhoni is still part of CSK and led them to five IPL titles. "MS has never asked us about it. We never discussed the matter. We also don't have any information about him having discussed this with Mr N Srinivasan either," a senior CSK functionary told Cricbuzz. The report added that Dhoni has some shares in the franchise. As CSK shares are not traded in the open market, with the company being unlisted, "they can be acquired privately through off-market transactions," the report added. Dhoni has more than one lakh shares, stated the report. It's not huge, as "more than 30 crore outstanding shares are held by the public, accounting for close to 40



per cent of the franchise's total share capital," as per the report. Former BCCI chief N Srinivasan's family holds a controlling stake of more than 55 per cent. Dhoni's stake could be worth Rs 2.6-3 crore, based on the current market valuation of an IPL franchise (an IPL team was last sold for over Rs 16,600 crore). Dhoni's estimated net worth is around Rs 1,200 crore. Former India player Aakash Chopra, who also played for Kolkata Knight Riders, said the

claim of Dhoni asking for a stake was unrealistic and even called it a planted story. "There was talk of 1.7 to 1.8 billion when RCB were bought just now. Chennai Super Kings is the same kind of franchise. You can do the valuation however you want, but this is the franchise that has five trophies and has multiple franchises outside India as well," Chopra said while speaking on his YouTube channel. "They have got a legacy and a lot going for them.

UPDATED WTC POINTS TABLE AFTER ENGLAND COMPLETE 3-0 WHITEWASH OVER PAKISTAN

England on Saturday capped off the three-match Test series against Pakistan with an eight-wicket victory in the final game at Edgbaston, Birmingham. With the result, the Three Lions registered a 3-0 clean sweep over the visitors. After the third contest, the position of the Joe Root-led side, which was sixth, remained unchanged in the World Test Championship (WTC) points table. Their win percentage, however, improved to 38.54. Babar Azam and Co., who were already at the bottom of the nine-team table, saw their win percentage dip further to 14.81. England overcame a major wobble to beat Pakistan by eight wickets in the third Test at Edgbaston on Saturday, sealing a 3-0



series sweep. The home team, chasing just 130 to win, were in deep trouble when openers Ben Duckett and Emilio Gay were dismissed in the first over, bowled by Mohammad Abbas. Joe Root, England's record run-

scorer, edged his first ball, bowled by Razaullah, through the slips for four in a nervy start but settled and scored quickly to take the sting out of the situation. The skipper was given a huge reprieve when he chopped

onto the stumps off Mohammad Ali, only for the umpire to signal a no ball, leaving the bowler distraught. Root, with Jordan Cox at the other end, had another let-off when he edged an Abbas delivery between first and second slip, with neither fielder moving. But he reached his half-century off 57 balls with a cut for four and Cox matched him shortly afterwards. England reached their target in the 25th over, with Root unbeaten on 62 and Cox 59 not out. Root's men had appeared set for a quickfire win inside three days on Friday before debutant fast bowler Razaullah launched an audacious assault with the bat, clubbing nine sixes as he raced to 81 off 63 balls.

Wasim Akram Praises Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, And Blasts Pakistan Super League: "Has A Single Batter Been Produced?"

Pakistan great Wasim Akram referred to India's batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi while comparing the growth of the Indian Premier League (IPL) with that of the Pakistan Super League (PSL). Sooryavanshi, who is just 15 years old, has already taken the cricketing world by storm with his explosive batting performances. After two successive stellar IPL seasons, he earned his India debut against England, becoming the youngest international debutant. Akram, who has worked extensively in both leagues, criticized the PSL for its failure to produce emerging stars at the same rate as the IPL. Akram served as the bowling coach and mentor of the



Kolkata Knight Riders from 2010 to 2017, helping the franchise win two IPL titles. In the PSL, he has held coaching and mentoring roles with Islamabad United, Multan Sultans, and Karachi Kings. "It has been 10 years since the PSL started, but has a single batter been produced by the PSL? Yes we have produced a few bowlers but

et culture to unearth raw talent and strengthen the PSL's talent pipeline, which could ultimately contribute to the growth of Pakistan cricket. "Club cricket needs to be revived if we want improvement in red ball cricket. The PCB should spend 100 million rupees each in Karachi and Lahore, as talent comes from club cricket," he said. Talking about the Pakistan cricket team, Babar Azam and Co. are on the brink of a humiliating clean sweep against England in the three-match Test series. Having already lost the first two matches, the visitors are staring at yet another defeat in the third and final Test at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Junior Men's Asia Cup Hockey: Anmol Ekka Stars As India Beat Malaysia To Reach Fourth Consecutive Final



T20I cricket returns to Delhi with the India vs Afghanistan match on Sunday. Before the game, highlighting the conditions at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi, former BCCI selector Sarandeep Singh expected high-scoring encounters to be the norm in the three-match series, while adding that India should look to play V a r u n

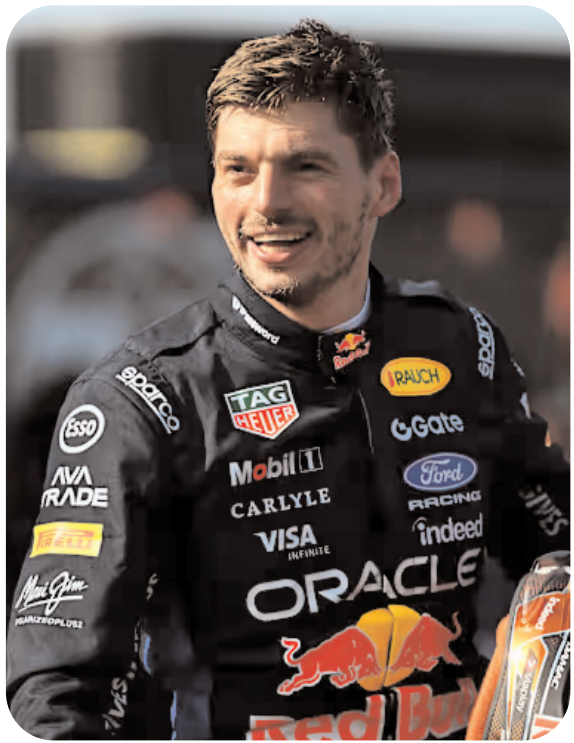
Chakaravarthy, Washington Sundar, and Axar Patel as their spin-bowling combination. "The way Delhi Premier League games were played some time ago and how Arun Jaitley Stadium wickets usually behave, they support batting a lot. We have seen big scores on these pitches in the T20 World Cup and domestic season. As far as spinners are concerned, India always likes to go with all-rounders. "Ravi Bishnoi was in the scheme of things but was not able to perform as well. Varun Chakaravarthy is a regular spinner; Washington Sundar and Axar Patel can bat and bowl as well. I

feel it will be a good combination for India, as there should be variation too. There should be a left-arm spinner and an off-spinner, and India will definitely go with them," he added. Turning to the fast-bowling unit, Sarandeep recalled how he met Jasprit Bumrah during his recovery from a left knee injury at the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru, and the big boost India gets from his return. "It is a big advantage for India to have Bumrah back because you get a confidence boost. I was conducting a high-performance camp at the Centre of Excellence and was

also there with the North Zone team as their coach during the Duleep Trophy. I saw Bumrah doing his fitness work there. "He was getting fully fit and was bowling his heart out. Whenever he comes back, he bowls his heart out. He never plays if he is not fit, as he returns only when he is fully fit. He did well in the Centre of Excellence practice games, performed strongly in the match simulations, and looked fully fit. I met him there every day. Bumrah being fully fit and his return to the Indian team is a big boost for us, as the other fast bowlers start looking better."

Max Verstappen Unimpressed With New Madrid Street Track

Max Verstappen did not mince his words on Friday after finishing sixth in second practice, four-tenths adrift of pace-setting championship leader Kimi Antonelli, at the Spanish Grand Prix. Asked how he liked his first day's running on the new high-risk hybrid Madring circuit on the outskirts of Madrid, he said: "I'm not a fan of street circuits. That will never change. And I will always prefer to drive on a track like Spa (in Belgium). "But what they have done in the way they have built everything up, Verstappen said he was not surprised at his performance or position after two hours on the track he had described as "challenging" and said he had finished as expected.



"Try To Stay On Top Of Rallies": Elena Rybakina Reveals Game-Plan To Stop Aryna Sabalenka In US Open Final



The World No. 2 Elena Rybakina knows exactly what she needs to do if she is to deny World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka a historic third consecutive US Open title. Rybakina, who will face top seed and two-time defending champion Sabalenka in the US Open 2026 women's singles final, says she will look to stay aggressive, take control of the rallies and prevent her opponent from dictating play. Speaking in an interview shared by JioStar ahead of the Women's Singles final, Rybakina said: "I guess the same spirit. I need to fight no matter how I'm going to feel on that day and give my best. We know each other pretty well and have played so many times against each other. Yeah, just try to stay aggressive in important moments, not wait for her to dictate the point, and try to stay on top of the rallies." The final at Arthur Ashe Stadium will take place on Sunday, September 13, at 1:30 AM, with action live on JioHotstar and Star Sports. It will be the 18th meeting

between the two players, with Sabalenka currently leading their head-to-head 10-7. It is also the first US Open women's singles final between the top two seeds in 13 years. Sabalenka will be chasing her fifth major and a third straight US Open crown. Rybakina booked her place in the final with a comeback victory over 2023 US Open champion Coco Gauff, recovering from a set down to win 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. The road to the final, however, has not been straightforward for Rybakina. The 27-year-old revealed that she was uncertain whether she would even be able to compete in New York because of concerns over her foot. "I wasn't 100 per cent sure if I was going to be able to even play this tournament. In the first few matches, I was thinking about my foot and how it was actually going to react. I was not that comfortable playing the first few matches. Then, slowly, my focus moved towards what I was doing wrong on the court and what I needed to improve.

