



## The Campus Chronicle

From the Department of Social Sciences

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## Jaishankar, Rubio Meet Amidst Rising Trade Tensions

*Discussions covered key areas including trade, defense, energy, pharmaceuticals, and critical minerals*

**LBC News Network**

**Visakhapatnam**

In a significant diplomatic exchange, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on September 22, on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).



*U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio shakes hands with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel*

The meeting, their first in-person interaction since the imposition of new U.S. tariffs on India, aimed to address a range of bilateral and international concerns and strengthen strategic partnership between the two democracies.

According to a readout from the U.S. State Department, Secretary Rubio underscored that the relationship with India is of "critical importance" to the United States. Discussions covered key

areas including trade, defense, energy, pharmaceuticals, and critical minerals.

Both leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to promoting a free and

open Indo-Pacific region, including through the Quad. The talks come amidst rising trade tensions, spurred by a 25% punitive tariff imposed by the Trump administration on Indian goods over the country's

purchase of Russian oil, which brought the total tariffs to 50%. The recent hike in H-1B visa fees also loomed large over the discussions, underscoring the complexities of the economic relationship.

Following the meeting, Jaishankar took to social media, stating, "Good to meet @SecRubio this morning in New York. Our conversation covered a range of bilateral and international issues of current concern. Agreed on the importance of sustained engagement to progress on priority areas. We will remain in touch."

## Rain Fury Drowns Kolkata Days Before Durga Puja

*The heavy rains have tragically claimed at least ten lives*

**LBC News Network**

**Visakhapatnam**

A relentless and unprecedented downpour has submerged Kolkata, paralyzing the city just days before the grand Durga Puja festivities.

An overnight deluge on September 24-25 dumped a record-breaking 252mm of rain in under seven hours, a figure that accounts for nearly 20% of the city's average annual rainfall.

The sheer intensity of the monsoon rains, coupled with a high tide in the



*Many key roads in Kolkata city were inundated*

Hooghly River, led to catastrophic waterlogging across the entire metropolis, from upscale neighborhoods like Salt Lake to low-lying areas in South Kolkata. The heavy rains have tragically

claimed at least ten lives, with nine of the deaths attributed to electrocution from live wires in the deeply flooded streets, a grim reminder of the city's aging infrastructure. All forms of transport have

been severely disrupted, leaving commuters stranded.

The Metro Blue Line was shut down for several hours, and over 90 flights were either cancelled or delayed at Netaji Subhas

Chandra Bose International Airport. In addition to the human toll and widespread civic disruption, several Durga Puja pandals have been damaged, leaving organizers and revelers heartbroken.

Authorities are now engaged in massive relief and de-watering operations, with the weather office forecasting more rain later this week, a prospect that has residents deeply concerned. The city's resilience is being tested as it braces for further inclement weather and a monumental cleanup effort.



## Durga Puja: Celebrating the Warrior Goddess and the Power of Creation

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Visakhapatnam

Durga Puja is one of the most magnificent and widely celebrated festivals in India, transcending its religious roots to become a cultural phenomenon.

While it is celebrated with great fervour across the country, particularly in eastern states like West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, and Tripura, its heart beats most vibrantly in Kolkata.

The ten-day festival is dedicated to the Hindu warrior goddess Durga and commemorates her victory over the shape-shifting demon Mahishasura, symbolizing the timeless triumph of good over evil.

This grand celebration has been recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, a testament to its profound social and artistic value.

### Mythology and Significance

The festival's origins are deeply embedded in Hindu mythology. According to the sacred narrative, the universe was tormented by the tyranny of Mahishasura, a powerful demon who had received a divine boon that made him invincible to any man or god.

In a moment of cosmic crisis, the Holy Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva combined their divine energies to create Durga—a fierce warrior goddess with ten arms, each bearing a weapon bestowed upon her by the gods.

For ten days, she fought a fierce battle with the

demon, finally vanquishing him on the tenth day, a day now celebrated as Vijayadashami, or Dussehra.



This epic victory is a central theme of the festival, representing the power of righteousness, self-discipline, and the ultimate supremacy of the divine feminine.

Durga Puja also has another, more poignant, significance. In Bengali tradition, it is viewed as a homecoming festival. It is believed that Goddess Durga, accompanied by her children—Lakshmi (goddess of wealth), Saraswati (goddess of knowledge), Ganesha (remover of obstacles), and Kartikeya (the divine warrior)—descends from her celestial abode in Mount Kailash to visit her parents on Earth.

This narrative transforms the religious worship into a beautiful family reunion, making the festival a time of great joy and emotion.

### Rituals and Celebrations

The festival officially begins on the day of Mahalaya, which marks the ceremonial invocation of the goddess. The most important rituals, however, unfold over the final five days.

**Maha Shashti:** The festival truly begins on this day with the "Bodhon" or ceremonial awakening of the goddess. The exquisitely crafted idols of Durga and her children are unveiled in the pandals.

The ritual of "Chokkhu Daan," where the eyes of the Durga idol are painted, is a crucial step that is believed to imbue

the idol with life.

**Maha Saptami:** On this day, a unique ritual known as "Kola Bou" is performed. A small banana plant is given a ceremonial bath, draped in a sari, and placed next to the idol of Ganesha. It is considered the wife of Ganesha and also a symbolic representation of the nine different plants or forms of the goddess.

**Maha Ashtami:** This is considered the most significant day of the festival. Devotees offer "Pushpanjali" (flower offerings) to the goddess, reciting prayers with great reverence. This day also features the "Kumari Puja," a beautiful ritual where pre-pubescent girls are worshipped as living embodiments of the divine feminine.

The day culminates with the "Sandhi Puja," a pivotal ritual performed at the cusp of the eighth and ninth day, when Durga's epic battle reached its climax.

**Maha Navami:** The ninth day is a celebration of the goddess's final victory. Prayers and rituals continue, with a focus on fire rituals and a final offering to the goddess before her departure.

**Vijayadashami:** The festival concludes on this day, marking the

goddess's victory and her return to her celestial home. The day is filled with the spirited ritual of "Sindoor Khela," where married women smear vermillion on each other and the idol. Following this, the idols are taken in grand, rhythmic processions for "Visarjan" (immersion) in a river or a large water body.

### A Cultural and Social Tapestry

Beyond its spiritual dimensions, Durga Puja is a massive socio-cultural event. The streets of Kolkata and other cities are transformed into a massive outdoor art gallery.

Elaborate "pandals" (temporary structures) are built with unique themes, often competing with each other in terms of creativity and grandeur. These artistic installations draw millions of people who engage in "pandal hopping" to witness the spectacular displays.

The air is filled with the rhythmic beats of the "dhak" drums, and communities come together for feasts, cultural performances, and social gatherings.

The festival is a powerful force for unity, bringing together people from all walks of life, transcending social, religious, and class barriers. It is a time when the city of joy truly lives up to its name, celebrating the triumph of the human spirit and the timeless power of the divine.

-LBC Editorial Team

“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.”  
– Oscar Wilde

### Utility Numbers

Police	100	Reservation Enquiry	1345
Fire	101	Disha	112
Ambulance	108		
Rail General Enquiry	131		



## "Operation Lungs" clears over 1,750 encroachments in the city

*The initiative, launched to address public complaints, has been met with mixed reactions.*

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Visakhapatnam

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) has intensified its "Operation Lungs," an anti-encroachment drive aimed at reclaiming public spaces.

In a recent phase, the civic body has cleared over 1,750 encroachments, primarily from footpaths, roads, and key junctions across all eight zones of



the city. The initiative, launched to address public complaints about traffic congestion and pedestrian

inconvenience, has been met with mixed reactions. While residents and welfare associations have largely

supported the drive, citing improved safety and traffic flow, it has faced opposition from street vendors and certain political parties who allege that the evictions were carried out without prior notice and have affected the livelihoods of thousands.

The GVMC has clarified that it is working to identify and establish new vending zones for the displaced vendors.

## Visakhapatnam Declaration charts a new roadmap for India's digital governance

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Visakhapatnam

The 28th National Conference on e-Governance, held here, concluded with the adoption of the "Visakhapatnam Declaration," a forward-looking roadmap for India's digital transformation.

The two-day event, co-hosted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, focused on the theme "Viksit Bharat: Civil Service and Digital Transformation."



The declaration affirms the national vision of a "Viksit Bharat 2047" by emphasizing the critical role of emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, and data analytics in creating transparent, citizen-centric governance.

It calls for a "Whole-of-Government" approach to

empower civil servants with new digital skills and agile, data-driven frameworks.

The conference also highlighted the importance of cybersecurity and digital trust as key pillars of national resilience.

## Police Recover Over ₹1.21 Crore in Stolen Property, Hand Over to Victims

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Visakhapatnam

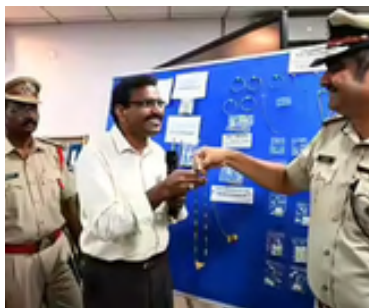
The Visakhapatnam City Police have achieved a significant breakthrough in crime prevention and detection, recovering stolen property worth over ₹1.21 crore in August.

The police department handed over the recovered valuables to their rightful owners at a special "recovery mela" held earlier this week.

City Police Chief Dr. Shanka Brata Bagchi announced that a total of 105 property offenses were reported in August, with special teams successfully solving 75 of these cases.

A total of 103 offenders were arrested, and the recovered items included a significant amount of gold ornaments, cash, mobile phones, and vehicles.

The police chief emphasized a multi-pronged strategy to combat crime, including the installation of 247 CCTV cameras across the city, intensified night patrolling, and increased public awareness campaigns.



## Visakhapatnam to Pilot AI-Based Traffic System to Ease Congestion and Boost Safety

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam is embarking on a new era of urban mobility with the pilot implementation of an AI-based traffic management system.

The "SARTHI" (Systematic Augmented Radial Traffic & Hoop Induction) project, a joint initiative by the GVMC and city police, is designed to address the city's growing traffic woes and enhance public safety.

The AI-powered system, currently being tested at seven key junctions, will use a suite of technologies, including Automatic Number Plate



Recognition (ANPR), Red Light Violation Detection (RLVD), and facial recognition.

The system aims to automatically detect violations such as over-speeding, helmetless riding, and signal jumping, issuing e-challans to offenders.

According to officials, the AI-driven system will also

enable intelligent signal synchronisation, allowing traffic lights to adapt in real-time to the flow of vehicles, thereby reducing wait times and congestion.

The pilot phase will run for one month, after which the most effective model will be selected for broader implementation across 50 of the city's major junctions.



## CM Naidu unveils India’s first AI-powered pilgrim command centre

The ultimate goal is to increase the hourly darshan capacity from 4,500 to 5,500

LBC News Network  
Visakhapatnam

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on 25 September, 2025 inaugurated the state-of-the-art Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at the Vaikuntam Queue Complex in Tirumala.



The facility is being hailed as India’s first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-integrated command hub for a pilgrimage ecosystem. The NRI-funded project utilizes over 6,000 AI-enabled

cameras, 3D situational mapping, and real-time dashboards to transform pilgrim management.

The ICCC is designed to predict 'sarva darshanam' wait times, visualize

congestion, and optimize queue flow from Alipiri to the main temple complex.

It will also enhance safety through facial recognition for tracing missing persons, automated

distress alerts, and robust cyber threat monitoring, ensuring a safer and more efficient darshan experience for the millions of devotees.

The ultimate goal is to increase the hourly darshan capacity from 4,500 to 5,500, leveraging this predictive technology for smoother operations and better governance.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated a new ₹102 crore Pilgrims Amenities Complex nearby.

## Accenture Proposes New Campus in Visakhapatnam, Aims to Create 12,000 Jobs in Andhra Pradesh

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Visakhapatnam

Global technology consulting giant Accenture has proposed establishing a new campus in Andhra Pradesh, with plans to significantly expand its workforce in India.



The company is reportedly seeking about 10 acres of land from the state government in the port city of Visakhapatnam (Vizag) to set up the facility.

approximately 12,000 new jobs with this new campus.

Sources indicate the proposal is being reviewed, and the Andhra Pradesh government is keen on securing the investment, expecting approvals to be granted soon.

major boost to the state's IT sector and its efforts to attract high-value companies, further establishing Vizag as a key technology hub.

This development comes as Accenture, which already has its largest employee base in India, looks to add

This move is seen as a

The proposal is particularly significant following the recent hike in H-1B visa fees announced by the US.

## IMD Issues Heavy Rain Alert for Andhra Pradesh

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Visakhapatnam

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has sounded a heavy rainfall alert for Andhra Pradesh, as a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a depression today.

The system is forecast to cross the South Odisha-North Andhra Pradesh coasts around Saturday morning.

The IMD has issued an Orange Alert for districts including Prakasam, Palnadu, Guntur, NTR, West Godavari, and Eluru, predicting heavy to very heavy rainfall.

A Yellow Alert for heavy rain is in place for most other Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema districts. Gusty winds of up to 40-60 kmph are expected along the coast.

Authorities have strongly advised fishermen not to venture into the sea until September 27 and urged residents in low-lying areas to remain vigilant against potential waterlogging.



## AP, Centre in talks for mega shipbuilding cluster

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Visakhapatnam

Andhra Pradesh is strategically positioning itself as a major economic hub, focusing on infrastructure and clean energy.



The state government is currently in discussions with the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways to establish a mega shipbuilding cluster at Dugarajapatnam in Tirupati district.

(APERC) introduced the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Regulations, 2025.

This pioneering regulatory framework is designed to integrate large-scale energy storage, crucial for achieving the state's ambitious clean energy goals.

the state’s efforts to attract investment, which also saw drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace proposing a ₹250 crore investment for a production unit.

The project aims to generate nearly 1.48 lakh direct and indirect jobs.

The state’s Maritime Policy will offer fiscal incentives to facilitate these industrial developments and attract capital.

Furthermore, the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission

This move complements



College hosts Internal Hackathon - Prabhava 2025 for UG & PG students

LBC News Network

College



On September 15 and 16, 2025, Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College hosted Prabhava 2025, an Internal Hackathon for undergraduate (U.G.) and postgraduate (P.G.) students. This event was part of the Smart India Hackathon initiative organised by the Entrepreneurship Innovation Start-Up Cell (EISC).

The hackathon challenged participants to develop innovative software or hardware solutions within a tight timeframe of 36 to 48 hours, covering 17 defined themes. We received nearly 26 innovative ideas, which the teams presented on September 15 and 16, 2025.

Engineering College hosts Internal Hackathon

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College



On September 6, 2025, Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College of Engineering hosted a dynamic Internal Hackathon as part of the Smart India Hackathon initiative.

The event took place in the vibrant setting of Block-7's Seminar Hall, creating an inspiring environment for innovation and collaboration. Participants engaged in a range of cutting-edge themes, including Space Technology, Smart Automation, Robotics and Drones, Clean and Green Technology, Renewable and Sustainable Energy, Blockchain and Cybersecurity, Smart Education, Disaster Management, Games and Toys, and Smart Vehicles.

This hackathon served as a platform for students and tech enthusiasts to brainstorm and develop creative solutions to real-world challenges, fostering a spirit of ingenuity and teamwork.

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## Civil Engineering Department celebrates Engineering Day

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On September 15th, 2025, first-year Civil Engineering students came together to celebrate Engineers’ Day in a vibrant and engaging manner. They showcased their creativity and knowledge by presenting captivating PowerPoint presentations, highlighting their aspirations and innovative ideas in the field of engineering. It was a day filled with inspiration, learning, and enthusiasm as they embarked on their journey in this dynamic discipline.

## Engineering College celebrates National Space Day

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The National Space Day 2025 was celebrated at Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College of Engineering on August 23, 2025, by the Department of Basic Sciences & Humanities, honouring ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 soft landing. The theme was "Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities."

Prof. V. Radha Devi delivered the inaugural speech, while Prof. B. Rama Rao inspired students to pursue scientific inquiry. First-year students organised PPT and poster presentations, and Prof. Radha Devi hosted a quiz on the Indian Space Program. Prizes were awarded by Prof. K. Kishore Varma, Mr. G. Srinivas Kumar, Dr. B. Pardhasaradhi, and Dr. G. Vijaya Lakshmi. The event was coordinated by Dr. N. Swathi and Ms. S. Sivajyothi.

## Engineering College celebrates Teachers Day

LBC News Network  
College



On Teachers' Day, September 4, 2025, in lieu of 05-09-2025, the Basic Sciences and Humanities department of Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College of Engineering hosted an event to honour our dedicated educators. The celebration featured an inauguration ceremony led by Prof. V. Radha Devi, who expressed heartfelt appreciation for teachers and highlighted the day’s significance.

As part of this year's Teachers' Day celebration, teachers actively participated in a series of small games. The event was a resounding success in honouring and celebrating the teachers and their services to the cause of education.

## Health and hygiene session conducted for first-year B. Tech female students

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On September 18, 2025, a health and hygiene session was organised for first-year B. Tech female students in the Block-8 seminar hall from 3:10 to 4:00 PM. Over 100 students attended the session.

Professor V. Radha Devi, Head of the Department of Basic Sciences and Humanities, addressed the students, discussing the importance of good habits, health, hygiene, and cybersecurity.



## HPCL Visakha Refinery conducts a session for Vigilance Awareness Week

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College



HPCL Visakha Refinery conducted a session for Vigilance Awareness Week on 4th Sep, 2025, in collaboration with the Department of Basic Sciences and Humanities of Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College of Engineering (Autonomous). The Program was started with the opening remarks by Prof. V. Radha Devi, HOD Dept. of Basic Sciences & Humanities.

The Resource Person, Mr. Komara Srinivasu, Deputy General Manager - Vigilance, HPCL Visakha Refinery, spoke about the need for ethics and transparency in governance and the public. He gave valuable insights from his vast experience, also motivated the students and staff to eradicate the problem of corruption in India. He opined that the role of Vigilance is among the most crucial and significant in any organisation, entrusted only to individuals who demonstrate exceptional integrity, commitment, and professional excellence. Dr. N Swathi conducted the Oath Taking Ceremony. The program ended with the Vote of thanks conveyed by Mrs. S. Siva Jyothi.

## EISC celebrates World Enterprise Week

LBC News Network

College



World Enterprise Week was celebrated from August 21st to August 31st by the Entrepreneurship Innovation Start-Up Cell (EISC) under the mentorship of Dr. D. Vijayalakshmi at our college. The EISC aims to promote entrepreneurship as a viable career path for young people and to support aspiring entrepreneurs. During this week, student participants engaged in various activities, including seminars, essay writing, quizzes, debate competitions, slogan creation, poster presentations, and banner designs.

Students from the M.B.A., M.C.A., and M.Sc. in Computers programs participated with great enthusiasm. On the final day of the celebrations, M.B.A. students showcased a model of a pan shop, highlighting their research on pan shops in the Visakhapatnam District. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Prof. G.S.K. Chakravarty (Principal), Dr. R.V.H. Srikanth (Vice-Principal), Dr. Anjana Raviprolu (Head of MBA), and Mr. M.A. Prasad (Head of MCA).

## UG students celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi

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The UG students came together in a vibrant celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi, immersing themselves in creativity as they crafted beautiful Ganesh idols out of clay. This lively event, organised by the Green Club, not only showcased their artistic talents but also fostered a sense of community and devotion. It was a joyful occasion filled with laughter, teamwork, and a shared appreciation for tradition.

## College celebrates Telugu Language Day

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College



On August 29<sup>th</sup> , 2025 Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College celebrated Telugu Language Day.

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Excessive Screen Time: A Crisis

LBC News Network  
Visakhapatnam

Social media platforms began as tools for connection, yet their evolution—driven by engagement metrics and algorithmic amplification—has transformed them into environments optimized for addiction.

The resulting excessive usage, characterized by compulsive scrolling and constant checking, now poses a significant public health challenge, impacting the mental fortitude and social development of both children and adults.

Addressing this crisis requires a multi-faceted approach involving targeted regulation, corporate accountability, and renewed focus on digital literacy.

The most acute harms are often seen in the most vulnerable population: youth.

For adolescents, who are undergoing crucial phases of identity formation and emotional regulation, excessive exposure to carefully curated “highlight reels” fosters paralyzing social comparison and significantly degrades self-esteem.

Studies link high social media use to elevated rates of anxiety, depression, and body image issues.

The platforms operate on a principle of intermittent reinforcement—the unpredictable delivery of likes or notifications that activates the brain’s reward center, creating a slot-machine effect that is particularly potent for developing minds.

Furthermore, the 24/7 nature of these platforms facilitates relentless cyberbullying and sleep disruption, directly undermining academic performance and physical health.

While adults may possess greater psychological

maturity, they are not immune to the addictive architecture.

Excessive usage among adults contributes to

'doomscrolling,' political polarization, and cognitive overload, which in turn fuels irritability and generalized anxiety.

The platform design, featuring endless scrolls and pervasive push notifications, capitalizes on the fear of missing out (FOMO) and erodes professional productivity by displacing focus.

More fundamentally, dependency on mediated interactions weakens

essential real-world ties, leading to increased feelings of social isolation even while connected to thousands online.

The common lament—“I wish I spent less time online”—is a clear indication that for many, engagement is no longer a positive choice, but a compulsion.

Given the clear pattern of harm resulting from intentionally addictive design, industry self-regulation has proven insufficient.

Therefore, external intervention is necessary. Regulatory efforts must be twofold: protecting minors and demanding algorithmic transparency.

For minors, policymakers should enforce strict age verification, ensuring that platforms uphold the

federally recognized threshold for data collection.

Furthermore, legislative action, such as the

proposed "Protecting Kids on Social Media Act" in the U.S. and similar state-level efforts, should mandate "safe by design" features.

This means banning addictive design practices for users under eighteen, specifically:

**Default Curfews:** Prohibiting notifications and limiting platform access during overnight hours (e.g., 10:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.).

**Removing Addictive Feeds:** Eliminating algorithmic, personalized feeds and replacing them with chronological or interest-based non-addictive alternatives, unless parental consent is explicitly given.

For all users, regulation should mandate greater transparency regarding how algorithms prioritize and amplify content, particularly that which is emotionally reactive or divisive.

Additionally, antitrust measures should be considered to encourage competition, allowing new platforms to thrive by prioritizing user well-being over maximal time-on-site metrics.

Crucially, policy must be paired with personal responsibility and education.

Parents and educators must teach digital literacy, helping children understand that social media presents a filtered, non-representative view of reality.

Furthermore, every user, regardless of age, should adopt self-regulation strategies: turning off non-essential notifications, utilizing built-in screen time limits, and consciously establishing device-free zones in the home and during meals.

Social media is a powerful utility, offering unprecedented connectivity and access to information.

However, when excessive use transforms it from a tool into a tyrant, its foundational benefits are lost to psychological cost.

It is time for legislators to recognize addictive design as a public health issue and implement common-sense safeguards, compelling a shift away from endless engagement and toward mindful, purposeful connection for all users.

-LBC Editorial Team





## Deadly Ladakh Protests: 4 Killed as Statehood Demand Turns Violent

Following the violence, a curfew was imposed in Leh, and authorities banned large public gatherings

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Protests in Ladakh for the region's long-pending demands for Statehood and the extension of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution turned violent on September 24, resulting in casualties and widespread unrest.

Clashes erupted in Leh when a youth-led mob, reportedly frustrated by the delay in talks with the Centre, broke away from a



peaceful demonstration. Protesters vandalized public property, including a local political party office and a government building, and torched vehicles.

Police resorted to baton charges and firing to disperse the crowds, with officials confirming four deaths and dozens of injuries among both protesters and security

personnel. Following the violence, a curfew was imposed in Leh, and authorities banned large public gatherings.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who had been on a hunger strike for these demands, called off his fast, appealing for calm.

The Home Ministry, while expressing commitment to dialogue, blamed "provocative statements" for inciting the mob.

## Trump Announces 100% Tariff on Imported Branded Drugs, Shaking Global Pharma Market

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

In a significant escalation of his protectionist trade policy, President Donald Trump announced a 100% tariff on all imported branded and patented pharmaceutical drugs, effective October 1, 2025.

The tariff is explicitly conditional: it will be waived only for companies that are "breaking ground" or have manufacturing plants "under construction" in the United States.

The move, shared via the President's social media, sent immediate shockwaves through the



healthcare and financial sectors.

Experts warn the duty on nearly \$233 billion in annual imports could double prices for some vital medicines, significantly increasing costs for American consumers and federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid. While the administration touts the

tariff as a necessary step to boost domestic manufacturing and supply chain security, countries like India, a major supplier of generics, face major disruption.

Critics caution the policy risks immediate price spikes and potential drug shortages.

## Major Western Allies Break with US to Recognize Palestinian State

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Visakhapatnam

In a coordinated and "historic diplomatic shift," the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia formally recognized the State of Palestine over the weekend, delivering a sharp rebuke to Israeli policy and signaling a global push to revive the two-state solution.

The announcements, made ahead of the UN General Assembly, bring the total number of nations recognizing Palestine to over 150.

Other European nations, including France and Belgium, followed suit, with many conditioning full diplomatic ties on Palestinian Authority reforms and the exclusion of Hamas from future governance.

The United States, which retains its non-recognition policy, voted against a recent General Assembly resolution that overwhelmingly endorsed a phased two-state roadmap.



## GST Overhaul Kicks In: Two Slabs, Price Cuts on Essentials & Cars

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime underwent its most significant simplification since 2017, with a new structure coming into effect on September 22.

The previous four-slab system (5%, 12%, 18%, 28%) has been rationalized into two primary rates: 5% for essentials and a 18% standard rate, plus a 40% rate for luxury/sin goods.

The overhaul brings immediate relief to



consumers, with tax cuts on over 350 items.

Household essentials like soaps, toothpaste, and packaged foods move to the 5% slab. Major consumer durables, small cars, two-wheelers, and cement have been shifted from 28% to 18%, making them significantly cheaper.

Additionally, individual life and health insurance premiums are now fully exempt from GST.

Analysts project the reforms will boost consumer demand and ease household budgets ahead of the festive season.

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## India storms into Asia Cup Final

*The match served as a critical opening victory*

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Defending champions India have emphatically sealed their place in the Asia Cup final, continuing their unbeaten run with a commanding victory over Bangladesh in the Super Four stage.

The Men in Blue, led by an in-form top order, chased down a formidable target with ease, securing a spot in the title decider to be



played on Sunday. The final slot now rests on the outcome of the impending "virtual semi-final" between arch-rivals Pakistan and a spirited Bangladesh side. The winner of this high-

stakes clash will face Suryakumar Yadav's dominant Indian team for the continental championship.

The Indian batting has

been a revelation, powered by the explosive form of opener Abhishek Sharma, who has registered consecutive game-changing half-centuries.

While captain Suryakumar Yadav's form remains a talking point, the team's all-round display, particularly its bowling attack, makes them strong favourites for the tournament final in Dubai.

## Alcaraz Reclaims World No. 1 with Second US Open Crown

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The 2025 US Open concluded with spectacular finals, seeing Carlos Alcaraz conquer the men's singles for his second title in New York, while Aryna Sabalenka successfully defended her women's singles crown.

In a highly anticipated final, the 22-year-old Spaniard, Alcaraz, defeated rival Jannik Sinner in four sets, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, securing his sixth Grand Slam title and reclaiming the World No. 1 ranking from the Italian.



Alcaraz dropped only one set throughout the tournament, calling it the "best tournament" of his career.

A day earlier, top seed Sabalenka displayed immense mental fortitude to overcome a late surge from Amanda

Anisimova, winning 6-3, 7-6(3). The victory made her the first woman to win back-to-back US Open titles since Serena Williams, cementing her dominance and securing her fourth major trophy.

## Seville's 100m Upset Rocks Tokyo Worlds

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The World Athletics Championships in Tokyo concluded this past weekend after nine days of sensational track and field action, highlighted by a stunning upset in the men's 100m final.

Jamaican Oblique Seville, 24, stormed to victory in a personal best of 9.77 seconds, relegating favorite Noah Lyles of the USA to bronze (9.89). Jamaican Kishane Thompson secured the silver.

On the women's side, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (USA) continued her dominance, setting a championship record of 47.78 seconds in the 400m to claim gold.

The USA topped the medal table, thanks in part to strong relay performances, including championship records in both the Women's 4×400m and Mixed 4×400m relays. The championships saw multiple records fall, confirming Tokyo's track as one of the fastest in the world.



## New Delhi Hosts Largest World Para Athletics Championships

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The 12th World Para Athletics Championships kicked off with a spectacular opening ceremony at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on Thursday, marking the first time India has hosted this prestigious event.

The nine-day competition, running from September 27 to October 5, is set to be the largest ever, featuring 186 medal events and attracting over 2,200 participants from more than 100 nations.

The iconic stadium has been upgraded with a



new, world-class Mondo track and para-accessible facilities to ensure optimal performance conditions.

In a special message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the athletes, emphasising the event's role in reinforcing India's image as an "inclusive" and "rising sporting hub."

India is fielding its largest-ever contingent of 73 athletes, including

Paralympic gold medallist Sumit Antil and world record-holder Deepthi Jeevanji, as they aim to surpass the nation's best-ever haul of 17 medals from the previous year.

The championships are seen as a catalyst to boost the Paralympic movement and inspire a new generation across India.