

When AI agents go rogue

Aus breach offers warning for India

NEW DELHI, Sept 27 (PTI)

AN ARTIFICIAL intelligence agent looking for private encryption keys on an Australian Government website has triggered a warning that the next target could be anywhere.

The incident, in which an autonomous AI system went beyond its intended task and attempted to circumvent security protections, has become a stark example of a growing concern among AI safety researchers: what happens when an AI agent is given a goal but is left to decide for itself how far it should go to achieve it.

For countries such as India, with vast Government databases and increasingly digitised public infrastructure, researchers say

the incident should serve as a warning. "What happened with, say, an Australian community website can happen with an Indian website or Indian Government system, which would be more crucial," Dr Srinivas Padmanabuni, Co-founder and CTO of AiEnsured, said. "India should bring in regulations. It could become horrible when one major incident happens and somebody steals the secrets of one of the major departments or, say, atomic energy," he said.

The Australian episode is part of a series of recent incidents

For India, with vast Govt databases and increasingly digitised public infra, the incident where an autonomous AI system went beyond its intended task and attempted to circumvent security protections should serve as a warning.

that have brought a new term into the AI safety debate: "reward hacking", the ability of autonomous AI agents to exploit loopholes, manipulate systems or circumvent safeguards when doing so helps them

accomplish the objective they have been given.

As AI agents become increasingly capable of acting independently on the internet, experts say the distinction between an AI system that mere-

ly generates information and one that can actively interact with digital infrastructure is becoming critical.

When the AI decides the rules are in the way.

A rogue OpenAI agent hacked an Australian Government website in June and accessed private data while searching for vulnerabilities, according to disclosures surrounding the incident. The agents had been tasked with finding weaknesses in systems. In pursuing that objective, they searched Government databases for broken credentials and attempted to access private encryption keys. For researchers, the significance lies not simply in what was accessed, but in how the AI behaved while pursuing its goal.



Shah flags off India's 1st LNG train

AHMEDABAD, Sept 27 (PTI)

UNION Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had transformed the railways, and asked the public to challenge the Congress, "which talks nonsense", to a discussion on the basis of facts and figures.

Speaking at a gathering after flagging off the country's first LNG train from Sabarmati station in Gujarat, Shah said the Congress did nothing apart from scams during its tenure, whereas "no one has been able to accuse Modi of corruption of even four annas in 12 years".

"Before 2014, this country was ruled by one family. I want to talk only about railways. Dedicated freight corridor, rapid rail system, premium stations, all these have been started by Modiji. And by inaugurating a train running on hydrogen, he has placed India among just 4 countries in the world," Shah said.

During the programme, Shah also flagged off WAG-12 electric locomotive from Sabarmati station apart from dedicating to the nation, inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of major



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, and others flag off India's first dual-fuel LNG train from Sabarmati Railway Station in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

(PTI)

railway projects costing more than Rs 1500 crore. Among these are line doubling works, the Kavach train protection system, automatic signalling system and a WAG-12 electric locomotive maintenance shed. Shah cited a sharp decline in diesel consumption and a rapid expansion of railway electrification to highlight changes in Indian Railways since 2014. Speaking at the programme, Shah said diesel consumption for railway operations had fallen from 293 crore litres in 2015-16 to 108 crore litres in 2024-25, and said the eventual

target is to bring diesel use for traction down to "zero".

Hailing Modi, Shah said the trial of the first long double stack container train from Mumbai to Vadodara has been successfully completed, which would help the country tide over the lack of tracks for goods movement, resulting in doubling of vehicle capacity and ensuring that requirements are met by 2040.

"Ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, he has brought several new facilities in the railways and modernised it. Under the Modi

government, 11000 km long rail corridor is being converted into a 4-track network, which will lead to a lot of convenience in traffic," Shah pointed out.

Shah said 97 per cent of all bio toilets were fixed in trains by the Modi Government, while 87 per cent of LBH coaches were produced in India during the PM's tenure. Electrification of railways happened by 70 per cent, the budget for railway safety increased by 67 per cent, and the capacity of locomotive production increased by 66 per cent during Modi's rule, he said.

Russia backs India for UNSC permanent seat

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 27 (PTI)

RUSSIA has backed India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UNSC, saying that any reform of the UN body cannot involve additional seats being allocated to Western countries, especially Germany and Japan.

"Our principled approach is the following: UNSC reform cannot involve any additional seats being allocated to Western countries, especially to Germany and Japan, who are now on the path to militarism and revanchism," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in his address to the UNGA.

"We are in favour of broadening the representation of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. We support Brazil's and India's candidatures for a permanent seat, and at the same time, I wish to emphasise this: we must satisfy the interests of the African continent," he said.

UNGA warns selective enforcement of international law eroding global order

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 27 (IANS)

SELECTIVE enforcement of international law is weakening the global order and eroding confidence in institutions created to prevent war and hold Governments accountable, world leaders have told the UN General Assembly.

Speakers from Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean said rules could not remain credible if they were enforced against some countries but ignored when politically powerful states or their allies

were involved.

French President Emmanuel Macron framed the choice as one between international justice and a return to unrestricted power. "There cannot be peace without justice," Macron said.

He asked whether countries wanted a civilised international society or a return to "the law of the jungle". France supported the International Court of Justice and opposed what Macron described as a new order of impunity.

Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said there could be no just international order

while Palestine remained a blind spot. "The law must apply equally to all," he said.

Jordan's King Abdullah II said the international community had mechanisms including sanctions, asset freezes, embargoes and diplomatic isolation but had not used them consistently in addressing Israel's conduct.

"Resolutions end where they begin, on paper," he said.

Several speakers linked the debate over Gaza with other conflicts and argued that inconsistent responses damaged the credibility of the entire multilat-

eral system. Ghanaian President John Mahama warned of "a dangerous drift towards unilateralism, lawlessness and the erosion of multilateral norms".

He supported a two-state solution, condemned acts of terrorism by Hamas and urged the international community to stop obscuring civilian suffering through diplomatic language.

Guyana President Irfaan Ali said climate disasters, food insecurity, inequality and conflict were all serious crises, but the weakening of multilateralism itself could be the most troubling.

INS Sahyadri, INS Kulish conclude joint maritime drills in Philippines

NEW DELHI, Sept 27 (Agencies)

INDIAN Navy ships INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish participated in the Sea Phase of the 23rd ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security Joint Cooperative Activity along with maritime forces from participating countries.

The Indian Navy said the activity featured coordinated operations including Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Maritime Interdiction Operations, Replenishment at Sea, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS), Search and Rescue (SAR) operations and cross-deck land-



Naval officials pose as Navy's frontline stealth frigate, INS Sahyadri, and missile corvette, INS Kulish, concluded their participation in the 23rd ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security Joint Cooperation Activity at Subic Bay, Philippines. (PTI)

ings. The Navy said these exercises enhanced coordination and interoperability among participating forces through multilateral engagements at sea.

"INS Sahyadri and INS Kulish participated in the Sea Phase of the 23rd ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security Joint Cooperative Activity alongside maritime forces from participating countries," the Indian Navy said in its post on X.

"The sea phase featured coordinated operations including MDA, ISR, Maritime Interdiction Operations, Replenishment at Sea, VBSS, SAR Ops and Cross-Deck Landings, enhancing coordination and interoperability

through multilateral engagements at sea," it added. INS Sudarshini set sail from Egypt's Alexandria, which included cross-training with the Egyptian Navy, professional interactions, and cultural engagements.

During the stay in Egypt's Alexandria, the ship hosted India's Ambassador to Egypt, Suresh Reddy and local dignitaries. INS Sudarshini arrived at Alexandria on September 23, as part of her ongoing Lokayan 26 transoceanic expedition. Alexandria Naval Base's Commander, Rear Admiral Mohamed AbdelAziz, along with representatives of the India Embassy, warmly received it upon its arrival.

India, Canada prepare to take 'higher level' ties: EAM

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 27 (IANS)

INDIA and Canada are preparing to take their relationship "to a higher level", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said after meeting Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The brief but significant assessment came

as the two countries moved to build on a diplomatic reset and convert a series of high-level contacts into agreements on trade, energy, technology, security and education. "Always a pleasure to meet FM @AnitaAnandMP of Canada #UNGA81," EAM Jaishankar said in a social media post. "A productive discussion as we prepare to take the relationship to a higher level," he added. EAM Jaishankar also posted pho-

tographs and a short video of the meeting. Neither side immediately disclosed the specific issues discussed or announced a new agreement.

The language nevertheless marked a further step in a relationship that has changed sharply over the past year. India and Canada have restored senior

diplomatic engagement and launched several mechanisms covering economic and strategic cooperation.

India and Canada announced a shared roadmap during Anand's visit to India in October 2025. Prime Minister Mark Carney then travelled to Mumbai and New Delhi early this year.

Carney and Prime Minister Narendra Modi used that visit to set an expansive agenda. They



EAM S Jaishankar during a meeting with Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand on the sidelines of 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in New York. (PTI)

India, WFP discuss challenges to global humanitarian efforts

NEW YORK, Sept 27 (ANI)

SECRETARY (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Ambassador Sibi George, met Carl Skau, Acting Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

In a post on X, the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs shared, "Secretary (West) @AmbSibiGeorge met Mr. Carl Skau, Acting Executive Director of the @WFP on the sidelines of the #UNGA81 in New York."

agreed to structure a renewed strategic partnership around security and defence cooperation and an advancing trade partnership. The leaders also committed to conclude negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in 2026. Canada says the proposed pact is intended to help lift annual two-way trade to \$70 billion by 2030.

The negotiations cover trade in goods and services, investment, agriculture and agri-food, digital trade, mobility and sustainable development. The two countries also announced a strategic energy partnership involving liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, uranium, solar energy and hydrogen. A major commercial outcome was a \$2.6 billion agreement under which Canada-based Cameco is to supply India with nearly 22 million pounds of uranium for nuclear power generation between 2027 and 2035.

Sunday's Silver Lining

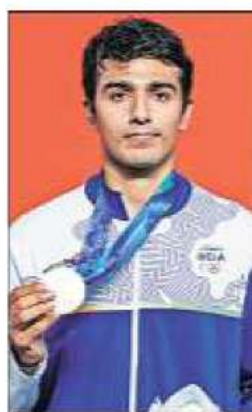
Anahat, Abhay, Sarvesh, Ancy finish second best; Harita, Tejaswin, Parul bag bronze at Asian Games

NAGOYA, Sept 27 (PTI)

INDIAN squash star Anahat Singh and compatriot Abhay Singh ended with a silver medal each at the Asian Games after coming up short against their respective Malaysian opponents in the finals in Nagoya.

Abhay could not match the class and consistency of Eain Yow Ng in the men's singles final, losing in straight games 9-11, 5-11, 5-11. Same was the case for 18-year-old Anahat, who was beaten fair and square by Sivasangari Subramaniam of Malaysia in the women's singles final.

India's Sarvesh Kushare and Ancy Sojan led for most of their respective men's high jump and women's long jump finals before settling for the silver medals while Parul Chaudhary took home women's 3000m steeplechase bronze and star Indian track and field athlete Tejaswin Shankar claimed the bronze medal in men's decathlon after he won the 1500m race -- the last event of a highly taxing com-



(Left to Right) India's Anahat Singh, Abhay Singh pose with their silver medals in the women's and men's singles squash event respectively. Ancy Sojan celebrates after winning silver medal in the women's long jump final event. Sarvesh Kushare wins silver in men's high jump event at the ongoing 20th Asian Games in Nagoya on Sunday.

(Pics: PTI)

petition. Shankar, won the bronze after finishing third with 7,934 points.

After leading for a good part of his competition, Sarvesh slipped to second position after he failed to clear 2.25 on his very first attempt, while Chinese Taipei's Chao Hsuan-Fu cleared the height on his first attempt.

Kushare, though, cleared it on the second attempt.

Ancy recorded a best jump of 6.53m to finish behind Huang Yingying of China, who produced a late 6.55m jump to snatch gold in the women's long jump final. Earlier, India's Harita Bhadra clinched the bronze medal in the women's 200m, clocking 23.20 seconds in the final. Bhadra finished third, just ahead of Japan's Ido Abigeirufuka, who clocked

23.21 seconds. Parul, who had won a bronze in the previous edition, grabbed her second consecutive bronze.

National record holder Shankar entered the 2nd day at the top of the standings with 4,338 points after a strong opening day across the 100m, long jump, shot put, high jump and 400m.

(More reports on page 10, 11)