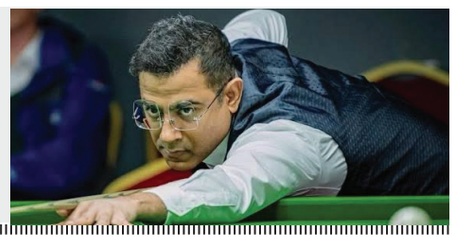
HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 | VOL NO. 17 | ISSUE NO.: 158 | RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) | PAGES: 12 | RS. 1/-

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 | WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM

One Shot... A History

OPINION 06

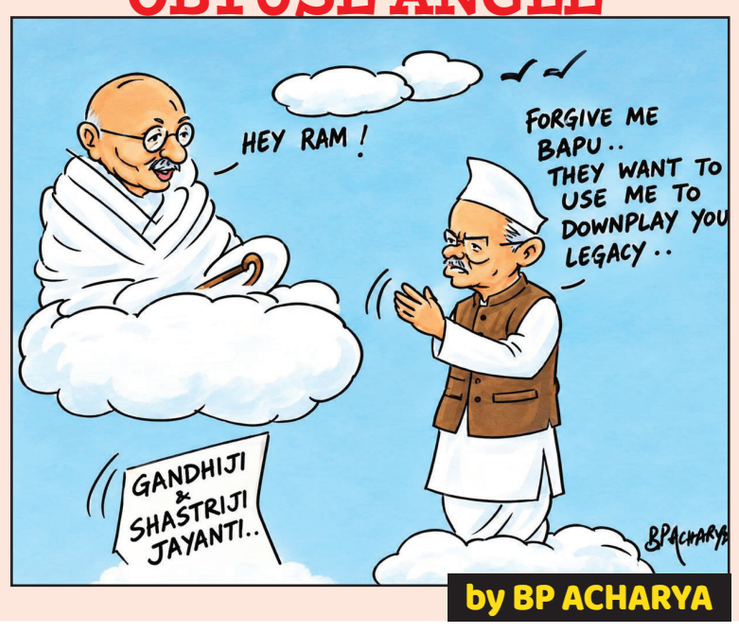


Parvathy Says No To Films Over Language

BOX OFFICE 12



OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

₹52,000 Crore Worth of Development Works Underway in Hyderabad



Infrastructure being expanded in line with future needs under Praja Palana

No additional drinking water brought to Hyderabad in the last ten years: Bhatti Vikramarka

ORR, airport, metro and other key projects were taken up during Congress governments

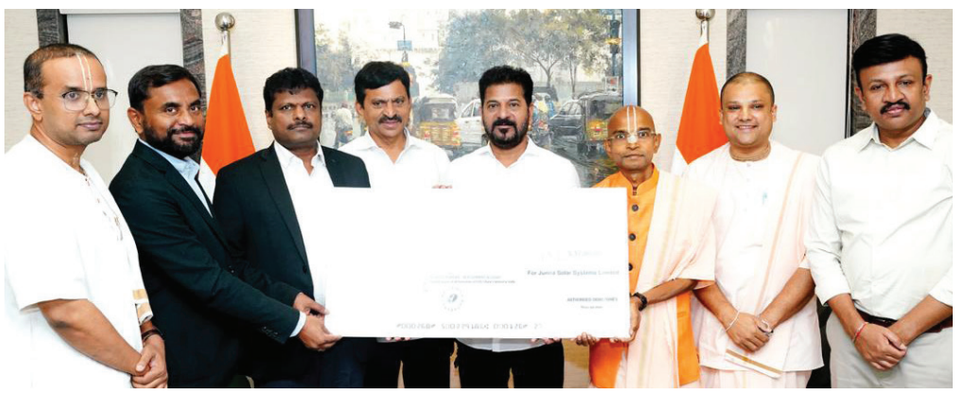
Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti launches TSRTC–Metro Common Pass at Praja Bhavan

HYDERABAD, OCT 02

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that infrastructure development works worth ₹52,000 crore are progressing rapidly in Hyderabad under Praja Palana. He said major works are being taken up in roads, flyovers, bridges, underpasses, drinking water and other sectors. The government is moving forward with a comprehensive plan to develop Hyderabad further, keeping future requirements in mind.

Speaking as the chief guest at the launch of the TSRTC–Metro Rail Common Pass at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said that as the city is expanding

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤



All Central Kitchens will be LAUNCHED ON DECEMBER 9

HYDERABAD, OCT 2

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy has announced that all the Central Kitchens will be inaugurated at one go across the Telangana State on December 9. Instructing the officials to complete the works at all central kitchens by November 30, the Chief Minister said that measures should be taken to facilitate student visits to the central kitchens. All the kitchens will be linked to the command control centre for regular monitoring.

On Friday, representatives of the Hare Krishna Foundation met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at his Jubilee Hills residence. During the meeting, Junna Solar Systems Private Limited and Chain Labs India Private Limited signed an agreement with the Hare Krishna Foundation, in the presence of the CM, to support the breakfast scheme for government school students.

Central Kitchens to serve nutritious breakfast to students of all government schools

Link the Central Kitchens to Command Control Centre

CM Revanth Reddy instructs officials to develop an App to calculate calorie content of food serving to students

Maintain a track record of students physical growth and academic progress.. Breakfast menu to suit the regional dietary habits



Speaking on the occasion, CM Revanth Reddy emphasized that quality food should be served to the students. The main objective of serving breakfast is to provide nutritious food and encourage students to pursue their studies regularly in the schools. The Chief Minister suggested to maintain a track record of students studying in government schools.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

CM's initiative to develop Rayalaseema as global Horticulture Hub

Nirmala Sitharaman, Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan and Anant Ambani lay foundation for Global Horticulture Hub and Indian School of Agriculture at Madanapalle



MADANAPALLY , OCT 02

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Reliance Industries Executive Director Anant Ambani jointly laid foundation for Global Horticulture Hub and Indian School of Agriculture here today.

The Global Horticulture Hub to be developed at an estimated investment of Rs 1 lakh crore and under the Global Horticulture Hub, 5,860 villages will be developed into 201 clusters, while horticulture cultivation will be expanded across an additional six lakh acres. The project aims to provide comprehensive support to farmers at every stage, from production and marketing to processing and exports.

Later addressing the people the Chief Minister said the government would focus on stabilising both crop production and prices. A wide range of horticultural crops, including apples, strawberries, bananas, avocados, kiwis and dates, would be promoted based on regional suitability. He added that food processing, agri-tech, logistics and agricultural infrastructure would be developed to establish an integrated ecosystem that benefits farmers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Shastri's life a symbol of simplicity, integrity and service: Governor

Hyderabad, Oct.2: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary at his statue near Lal Bahadur Play Ground in Rahimpur.

Recalling Shastri's contribution to public life, the Governor said his life remained a symbol of simplicity, integrity, discipline, patriotism and selfless service. Despite holding the highest public office, Shastri remained committed to a simple way of life and dedicated himself to public service, he said. The Governor said Shastri attached great importance to integrity, ethical values and public responsibility. His commitment to placing national interest above personal considerations had earned him a distinctive place in the country's public life, he added. The Governor recalled the leadership provided by Shastri as Prime Minister during a challenging period for the country. His call of "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" highlighted the contribution of the armed forces to national security and the role of farmers in ensuring food security, he said.

The Governor said Shastri's values of national unity, integrity, peace, patriotism, discipline, duty and service remained relevant. He called upon people, particularly the youth, to draw inspiration from Shastri's life and contribute to nation-building.

Komatireddy slams opposition over drought politics

NALGONDA, OCT.2

Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Friday mounted a sharp attack on the Opposition BRS and BJP, accusing their leaders of taking "sadistic pleasure" in the public distress caused by widespread drought-like conditions. Addressing reporters at Indira Bhavan in Nalgonda, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy blamed the global impact of El Niño and an increased reliance on agricultural borewells for triggering a sharp spike in Telangana's power demand, which has now touched nearly 20,000 MW. He dismissed the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) administration's claims of delivering uninterrupted free electricity as



"false propaganda."

"We are not making false promises like the previous government did regarding a 'Dalit Chief Minister' or '24-hour power.' We are placing the true facts before the people," Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said, adding that the Revanth Reddy-led

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

VICAT
TRUST. LEGACY. FOREVER.

Don't give it a chance.

- Don't let them ruin your structures
- Don't let them waste your money
- Don't let them risk your dignity

If you give a chance to poor-quality cement, the quality of your life is what you risk. Many may take a chance. But once you give it, you may never get another.

Trust is never built by chance. It becomes a part of life over time.
So don't risk your dreams on uncertainty.

For more than a decade, we have shared a relationship built on trust. A trust not created in a day, nor by chance.

Powered by advanced German technology, robotic quality control, and all-day strength - we continue to lead the field with confidence.



Bharathi CEMENT
SUPERIOR QUALITY. GUARANTEED.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
LEADER IN ALL DAYS STRENGTH
3 TIMES BETTER

KTR HAILS KCR's WELFARE VISION



HYDERABAD, OCT.2

BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Friday recalled the launch of the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, marking its 12th anniversary, and said the initiative was conceived to support daughters from economicaly weaker families during their marriages. In a post on X, KTR said the scheme was born out of an incident witnessed by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao during the separate Telangana movement. He recalled how KCR had seen a tribal family struggling to arrange their daughter's marriage after the money saved for the occasion by Banothu Keema Naik was lost during the movement. KTR said the experience moved KCR to extend assistance to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Shah's Telangana Visit on Oct 4

Amul Dairy Plant to Be Launched

Union Minister Kishan Reddy targets Congress over 'silence' on pilot's bravery

HYDERABAD, OCT. 2

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will visit Telangana on October 4 to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Sabar Dairy Project and inaugurate Amul's first modern dairy plant in the state, Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said on Friday. The programme will be held at Urji Industrial Park in Toopran, Medak district. Reddy said the dairy project would strengthen Telangana's dairy ecosystem, promote value addition and create greater opportunities for farmers. The plant will initially have a milk-processing capacity of five lakh litres per day and will produce curd, buttermilk, lassi, paneer and ice cream. The facility can also be expanded to increase its milk-processing capacity.

Reddy said the project was part of the Centre's White Revolution 2.0, launched by the Ministry of Cooperation in September 2024.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤



Remembering Mahatma Gandhi on his 157th Jayanti, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy pays tribute to the Mahatma's enduring ideals of truth, self-reliance and service to the underprivileged.

All Central Kitchens will be LAUNCHED ON DECEMBER 9



➢FROM PAGE 1

The record will help to ascertain the main aspects of the students' physical growth and academic progress regularly. An App should also be developed to calculate the calorie content of the food items served.to students.

The CM enquired the authorities about the breakfast menu and recommended to prepare the breakfast according to regional dietary habits. The breakfast scheme in the schools is a long term programme and hence utmost care must be exercised.

The two companies collaborated to establish modern centralized community kitchens in Nagarkurnool and Vikarabad.

Shekhar Reddy (CMD) and Anil Babu (CEO) of Junna Solar Systems Private Limited handed over a cheque for ₹5.17 crore to the Hare Krishna Foundation, for the centralized community kitchen in Nagarkurnool. Samantha Day (Representative) and B Santosh Kumar (Vice President) of Chain Labs India Private Limited handed over a cheque for ₹4 crore to the Hare Krishna Foundation for the construction of a modern centralized community kitchen in Vikarabad. CM Revanth Reddy commended the representatives of the companies for providing funds to the breakfast scheme. Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Rajya Sabha member Vem Narendar Reddy, CM's Principal Secretary Sridhar, and Hare Krishna representative Satya Gaura Chandra Das Swamiji participated in the programme.

Society must fight TB, not patient



Hyderabad, Oct.2: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla called for greater public participation in the fight against tuberculosis (TB) and urged society to fight the disease, not the patient. He emphasised the need to eliminate misconceptions and social stigma associated with TB.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the Governor inaugurated the 77th TB seal sale campaign, organised by the Telangana TB Association, at Lok Bhavan on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said the TB seal sale campaign reflects society's humanity and collective responsibility towards TB patients. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the fight against TB has been transformed into a people's movement, with Nikshay Mitras providing nutritional and other support to TB patients.

The Governor noted that nearly 90% of TB patients in Telangana successfully completed treatment in 2025, and stressed the need to work towards achieving a 100% treatment success rate. He said that during his district visits, he had reviewed TB eradication efforts with Collectors and medical officials.

Shiv Pratap Shukla stated that Lok Bhavan would continue to serve as a catalyst and coordination centre for public welfare initiatives.

The Governor appreciated the services of the Telangana TB Association in conducting digital X-rays and active case-finding programmes through mobile vehicles, particularly in remote and tribal areas. He emphasised that, alongside medicines, nutritional support and social dignity are also essential in TB treatment and recovery.

auto fares: Base rates set at Rs. 30 for first 1.6 Km

HYDERABAD, OCT.2

The Telangana Transport department on Friday issued orders revising auto-rickshaw fares across the State, fixing the minimum fare at ₹30 for the first 1.6 kilometres and ₹14 for every subsequent kilometre. Under the revised structure, waiting charges have been set at 75 paise per minute, while luggage charges are fixed at 50 paise, capped at a maximum permissible weight of 100 kg. A night-time surcharge of 1.5 times the standard fare will apply between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

Officials stated that the revision aims to strike a balance between rising operating costs for auto-rickshaw operators, drivers' livelihoods, and passenger affordability. As part of the regulatory updates, the Transport department directed all auto-rickshaw drivers to install digital meters within three months. Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar highlighted auto drivers as a critical component of the State's public transit network, reassuring operators that their welfare and operational concerns remain a priority.

He announced that the process to establish a dedicated welfare board for auto-rickshaw workers will begin shortly, adding that the government accords equal importance to the welfare of auto workers and RTC employees.

Gig workers vital to urban economy: Vivek

Hyderabad, Oct.2: Telangana Power and Mines Minister Vivek Venkataswamy affirmed that the state government is according the highest priority to the safety, legal protection, and social security of gig and platform workers. Inaugurating 'Upzy House', a dedicated facility for cab drivers, delivery personnel, and platform workers at Kondapur on Friday, the Minister highlighted the vital role gig workers play in sustaining the urban economy.

"Food and essential supplies are delivered to doorsteps within 10 to 15 minutes because of the tireless effort of gig workers. They have become an indispensable part of urban life," Vivek Venkataswamy said. Citing trade union estimates, the Minister noted that nearly four lakh gig workers operate in Hyderabad alone, reflecting their significant contribution to the city's commerce.

Addressing long-standing operational challenges, the Minister commended Upzy for establishing the Kondapur hub. He noted that gig workers previously relied on roadside spots for breaks, meals, and rest. The new facility offers essential amenities, including rest zones, dining facilities, mobile charging stations, and training spaces. Emphasising long-term career growth, Minister Venkataswamy urged gig workers to take advantage of skill development programmes at the State government's Advanced Technology Centres to enhance their future prospects.

Vakiti-led delegation witnesses Asian Games

Hyderabad, Oct.2: A Telangana government delegation led by Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari witnessed the Asian Games competitions at Aichi-Nagoya in Japan on Friday as part of its visit to study international sporting facilities and management practices. The delegation visited various sporting venues on the second day of its tour and observed the conduct of competitions and the performance of athletes at the international sporting event. The delegation comprised Minister Vakiti Srihari, government representative A.P. Jitender Reddy, former Sports Authority chairman Shiva Sena Reddy, and VC and MD Soni Baladevi.

Following India's bronze medal win in Sepak Takraw at the Asian Games, Vakiti Srihari congratulated the Indian team and lauded the players for their hard work and determination. The Telangana delegation expressed happiness over India winning a medal on the international sporting stage and said the achievement would inspire the youth. Vakiti Srihari said the Telangana government was taking steps to further develop the sports sector in the State, strengthen training facilities for young athletes and encourage talented sportspersons to excel at the international level. The Minister said the visit to the Asian Games provided the delegation an opportunity to directly observe international-level competitions, athletes' performances and various aspects of sports manage.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

₹52,000 Crore Worth of Development Works Underway in Hyderabad

➢FROM PAGE 1

rapidly, it is the government's responsibility to strengthen civic infrastructure and facilities well in advance to meet the needs of the growing population.

He said the present government was working with the objective of executing projects and demonstrating their results to the people rather than limiting itself to publicity. He stated that infrastructure works worth ₹35,000 crore had been taken up within the HMDA limits, including roads, flyovers and bridges. Including works being undertaken by GHMC, Hyderabad Water Works, underpasses, flyovers and other development projects, works worth a total of ₹52,000 crore are currently underway in the city, he said.

Congress governments brought Krishna, Godavari and Manjeera waters

Referring to the role played by earlier Congress governments in Hyderabad's development, Bhatti said that Krishna, Godavari and Manjeera waters were brought to the city to meet its drinking water requirements during Congress governments. He alleged that during the ten years of the government that was in power after the formation of Telangana, not even a single drop of additional drinking water was brought to Hyderabad.

He said water from Gandipet was brought to Hyderabad during the Nizam's rule and that subsequent Congress governments made Krishna, Manjeera and Godavari waters available to meet the city's drinking water needs.

Key projects taken up during Congress rule

Bhatti said that the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the international airport, which have become major landmarks of Hyderabad, were developed during Congress governments. He also said institutions such as University of Hyderabad, IIIT, and public-sector organisations including BHEL, ECIL, DRDO, BDL, MIDHANI and IDPL were established during earlier Congress governments, providing employment opportunities to thousands of people.

He said the Metro Rail network in Hyderabad would be expanded by 122 kilometres to improve public transportation. The government proposes to take up Phase-II of the Metro project at an estimated cost of around ₹38,000 crore, providing connectivity to the Old City, airport, Patancheru and Hayathnagar areas.

He said the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project was being taken up with the objective of extending Hyderabad's development beyond the city limits across the state. The 362-kilometre project, connecting all districts, is estimated to cost ₹30,627 crore, he said.

The government is also developing 21 radial roads connecting the ORR and RRR. Alignment approvals have already been given for 10 roads and works have commenced on two of them, he said.

Bhatti said the government had initiated measures for the revival of the Musi River, which is crucial to Hyderabad. The government aims to rejuvenate and clean the Musi, which flows for approximately 55–56 kilometres, and provide the city with a better environmental ecosystem. Phase-I works have already commenced, he said.

Electric buses to control pollution

Bhatti said electric buses were being introduced in Hyderabad in place of diesel RTC buses to reduce air pollution. 550 electric buses have already been introduced, while another 2,200 buses would be brought into service in the future, he said. He also said that ₹200 crore had been sanctioned for retrofitting to enable auto-rickshaw drivers to convert their diesel autos into electric vehicles.

Bhatti said the government was developing the Bharat Future City across 30,000 acres with the objective of transforming Hyderabad into an international-standard city. These projects would make Hyderabad more liveable while increasing investments, industries and employment opportunities, he said.

TSRTC–Metro Common Pass launched

Bhatti said the launch of the TSRTC–Metro Common Pass was a welcome initiative aimed at reducing the difficulties faced by commuters in the city. He congratulated Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar for introducing the facility, which allows commuters to use the same pass across both transport systems, ranging from a One-Day Pass to a One-Month Pass.

He said that he and all the state ministers had purchased One-Day Passes by paying ₹500 each. The ministers would travel by Metro from Begumpet Metro Station at 11 a.m. on Saturday, followed by a journey on an RTC bus, to personally experience and review the Common Pass facility, he said. Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Vivek Venkataswamy and Azharuddin, Government Whip and Legislative Council member Addanki Dayakar, Mahender Reddy, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Transport Department Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, and others participated in the programme.

CM's initiative to develop Rayalaseema..



➢FROM PAGE 1

Through a comprehensive Seed-to-Shipment approach, the government aims to ensure sustainable and stable incomes for farmers.

The Chief Minister said the people of Rayalaseema could produce immense agricultural wealth if assured irrigation facilities were provided, while effective marketing systems would help generate greater prosperity. He said the government was taking steps to complete major irrigation projects, including Handri-Neeva and Galeru-Nagari. The Handri-Neeva canal had been completed with an expenditure of Rs 3,500 crore, taking water up to Kuppam. He said the government plans to complete 36 priority irrigation projects at a cost of Rs 35,000 crore over the next three years and dedicate them to the nation.

Highlighting the challenges posed by climate change and El Niño conditions, the Chief Minister said nearly 1,600 TMC of Godavari water had flowed into the sea this year. Through the Pattiseema project, approximately 500 TMC of water had been diverted to the Krishna Delta over the past decade.

He said the interlinking of rivers had enabled the government to conserve water in the Krishna Delta and divert it to Rayalaseema. The Polavaram project would be completed next year and dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Stressing the need for a comprehensive water management network, the Chief Minister said the country needs an integrated water grid. He said he had brought the proposal for linking the Godavari and Cauvery rivers to the attention of the Union Finance Minister. The Godavari-Cauvery river-linking project, he said, could address drought conditions in Rayalaseema and provide a long-term solution to water-sharing challenges among four southern states.

The Chief Minister said the Indian School of Agriculture, being established in Madanapalle with the support of Reliance Industries, would focus on developing expertise in agriculture, horticulture, modern technology, research and artificial intelligence.

The institution would focus on research, innovation, modern farming technologies and AI applications, while also developing practical solutions to address farmers' needs. The Chief Minister specially acknowledged the support extended by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to Andhra Pradesh and major national infrastructure projects. The Chief Minister also appreciated Reliance Industries Executive Director Anant Ambani for coming forward to establish the Indian School of Agriculture in Madanapalle. Recalling Anant Ambani's contribution of electric buses to Tirumala, the Chief Minister appreciated his commitment to social and environmental causes. Speaking on the occasion Reliance Industries Executive Director Anant Ambani highlighting his close association with Andhra Pradesh requested the Chief Minister to consider him a son of Andhra Pradesh and sought his guidance on how he could contribute further to the development of the State.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu warmly embraced Anant Ambani and in his subsequent speech, responded to his sentiments by declaring that Anant Ambani was a beloved son of Andhra Pradesh. He expressed the hope that Reliance Industries would become an even greater partner in the State's development.

Speaking on the occasion Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recalled Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Swadeshi and Swaraj and Lal Bahadur Shastri's "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan slogan, highlighting their commitment to the welfare of farmers. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had also laid a strong foundation for agricultural development, she said.

Following the same vision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been implementing several initiatives for farmers, including the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi and measures to ensure an uninterrupted supply of fertilizers. Despite global challenges and war-related disruptions, the government has ensured that farmers do not face fertilizer shortages, she said.

Shah's Telangana Visit on Oct 4

➢FROM PAGE 1

The initiative seeks to expand dairy cooperatives, improve market access for farmers, generate employment and increase women's participation in the dairy sector.

The Centre has set a target of establishing 75,000 new dairy cooperative societies across the country by 2029, including 1,525 in Telangana. It also aims to increase milk procurement through dairy cooperatives by 50% by 2028-29. Reddy said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had established the Ministry of Cooperation in July 2021 to strengthen the cooperative sector, with Amit Shah heading the ministry.

Meanwhile, Reddy also criticised Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi over what he described as their "silence" on the reported bravery of Captain Smit Machchhar, who he said had averted a major aviation disaster. In a statement, Reddy said global leaders had acknowledged the Indian pilot's courage and questioned why Congress leaders, particularly Rahul Gandhi, had not publicly recognised the reported act. He said the achievements and courage of Indians bringing recognition to the country should be acknowledged.

The remarks came ahead of Amit Shah's Telangana visit, during which the dairy-sector projects are scheduled to be inaugurated and launched.

KTR HAILS KCR's WELFARE VISION

➢FROM PAGE 1

family and subsequently inspired the government to launch Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes to support families across Telangana. Describing the initiative as an example of KCR's compassionate governance, KTR said the schemes provided a helping hand to lakhs of families and conveyed his greetings to the beneficiaries on the occasion.

Komatireddy slams opposition..

➢FROM PAGE 1

Congress government remains committed to ensuring round-the-clock quality power despite climate challenges and rising demand. Highlighting energy infrastructure achievements, the Minister stated that the Congress administration successfully commissioned the Yadadri Thermal Power Station after works had stalled under BRS rule. He added that the state is leveraging all available resources, including support from Coal India, to sustain grid stability. On local infrastructure and housing, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced that he has urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to sanction an additional 5,000 Indiramma housing units for the Nalgonda Assembly constituency.

Exuding confidence ahead of upcoming political contests, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy asserted that Congress would secure victories in the two Graduate MLC constituencies and the Khairatabad Assembly bypoll, forecasting that the party would retain power in the state.

MLC polls: TGS for Social Justice!

Hyderabad, Oct.2 (NSS): Telangana Gangaputra Sangham has regretted that social justice is not being ensured in selection of candidates for the Graduates MLC elections.

TGS state secretary T Rajesh Khanna stated in a statement here that there is need to give due political representation to the BC, Gangaputra and other weaker sections in the State. He said political parties have a duty to provide representation to B Cs. Time has come for the political parties to think in terms of ending upper caste domination, provide due representation to BCs and ensure social justice.

Pledge to Uphold Constitutional Values and Protect the Environment on Gandhi Jayanti

LOTUS LAP PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SUPPORT THE PURCHASE OF THE CONSTITUTION BOOK BROUGHT FROM SABARMATI

HYDERABAD





A special awareness programme on peace, cleanliness, constitutional values, environmental protection and sustainable development was organised at LB Stadium in Hyderabad to mark Gandhi Jayanti. Thousands of people from various parts of Telangana participated in the programme.

The Constitution of India brought from Sabarmati in Gujarat was specially displayed during the event. Recalling Sabarmati's association with Mahatma Gandhi, the programme sought to promote his ideals of peace, service, cleanliness and social responsibility among the public.

Students and teachers of Lotus Lapp Public Schools extended financial support towards the purchase of the Constitution book. Eminent educationist and environmentalist Dr Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy mentioned this during the programme. He said the contribution was made with the objective of introducing the Constitution to students not merely as a book, but as a valuable educational resource.

"Children should read the Constitution from an early age and understand its values. Along with their rights, they must also learn about their duties and responsibilities. That is why the Constitution book was acquired with the support of students and teachers," he said.

On the occasion, students, teachers and members of the public took a pledge to promote peace and cleanliness, conserve water, save electricity, protect trees, increase greenery, control pollution and follow a sustainable lifestyle. The programme conveyed the message: "Save water, conserve electricity, grow trees, keep our surroundings clean and protect nature."

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Addresses the Gathering

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Shri Bhatti Vikramarka addressed the programme. He explained the importance of the values of peace, cleanliness, service and responsibility taught by Mahatma Gandhi and stressed the need to practise these values in daily life.

Speeches by Mahesh Kumar Goud and Gunna Rajender Reddy

Telangana Congress president Shri Mahesh Kumar Goud said that young people and students, in particular, must carry forward Gandhiji's ideals and constitutional values.

Shri Gunna Rajender Reddy, founder and chairman of Global Peace, highlighted the need to create greater public awareness about peace, cleanliness and environmental protection. He called upon people to put Gandhiji's values into practice.

Environmental Awareness from an Early Age

Eminent educationist and environmentalist Dr Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy said that students at Lotus Lapp Public Schools are taught about environmental protection from an early age.

"On Gandhi Jayanti, we must not only remember Gandhiji's ideals but also put them into practice. Children should be taught about cleanliness, service, responsibility and the protection of nature from an early age. They must be shaped into responsible citizens who respect the Constitution and protect the environment," he said.

"An educated child is a great asset to the world. If good habits are developed among children from an early age, society will become more responsible in the future," Dr Gopal Reddy said.

He added that students are regularly educated about water conservation, saving electricity, cleanliness, greenery, tree protection and sustainable living.

Global Green Mentor Award in New York

Dr Gopal Reddy said that the environmental initiatives of Lotus Lapp Public Schools received the Global Green Mentor Award at the Green School Conference held in New York in 2025.

He said the recognition had encouraged the schools to expand their environmental protection initiatives. He added that their objective was to involve every student in environmental conservation and foster a sense of responsibility towards nature.

Students Participate in Gandhi Costumes

Students and others dressed as Mahatma Gandhi were a special attraction at the programme. Participants were urged to contribute individually to peace, cleanliness, greenery and environmental protection.

Dr Gopal Reddy expressed his gratitude to Global Peace founder and chairman Shri Gunna Rajender Reddy, general secretary Shri Yanala Prabhakar Reddy, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Shri Bhatti Vikramarka, Telangana Congress president Shri Mahesh Kumar Goud, MP Shri Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Shri Mohammed Azharuddin, Shri Ponnam Prabhakar, Minister Shri Vivek, Shri Gona Rajender Reddy and Shri S.N. Reddy, among other dignitaries, for supporting the programme. He also thanked TRSMA representatives, correspondents, principals, teachers, students and parents for participating in and supporting the event.

Learning Responsibility Alongside the Constitution

The school management said that the Constitution of India brought from Sabarmati would be made available to students. It would be used to create awareness about the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and democratic values.

The organisers said the objective of the Gandhi Jayanti programme was to create greater awareness among the public, particularly students, about peace, cleanliness, constitutional values, greenery and environmental protection.

The programme concluded with the message: "Everyone must work for peace, maintain cleanliness, conserve water and electricity, protect trees and preserve the environment for future generations."



"We Bled for Telangana—Don't Let Us Die as Forgotten Heroes": Statehood Veterans Launch Hunger Strike

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

Years after the heroic statehood movement that reshaped the map of India, the men and women who risked their lives on the frontline for a separate Telangana are once again standing together—not in celebration, but in silent, aching anticipation. On 157th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, under the shadow of the Mahatma's statue, the quiet determination of those who sacrificed their youth for the motherland was on full display as the Telangana Sneha Vedika staged a hunger strike demanding the immediate fulfillment of long-pending government promises. The gathering was a poignant reminder of the passage of time: the very fighters whose thunderous slogans once shook the corridors of power now stood with grey hair and folded hands, pleading simply for the dignity they were promised.

A Fast Borne Out of Agony and Hope

The hunger strike began on a deeply solemn note as leaders and frontline activists were honored with garlands. Telangana Sneha Vedika President Kakkerla Madhu Goud, along with key agitation leaders including Heimavathi, Ramprasad, Ganesh, Rajayya, Padma, Chhibabu, Dakoori Srinivas, Chandrashekhar, Gundu Shekhar, Vasu, and Raviteja, formally commenced the fast.

As old comrades embraced and recalled the teargas, lathi charges, and endless nights in custody during the statehood agitations, an unmistakable wave of emotion swept through the protest venue.

"Fulfill Promises Before We Depart This World"

Presiding over the gathering, Kakkerla Madhu Goud delivered an impassioned address that moved many in the crowd to tears.

"We fought without fear when Telangana needed our blood and sweat. Today, we appreciate that the present government has recognized our plight by setting up a dedicated committee, promising 250 square yards of house sites, monthly pensions, and a respected place in society. But time is not on our side," Madhu Goud urged.

"Many of our fellow fighters have passed away in poverty, waiting for the state they created to look back at them. We beg the government—fulfill these promises while we are still alive. Let us spend our twilight years knowing our sacrifices were truly valued."

Echoing his sentiment, Kukatpally JAC Chairman Vidya Venkat commended the state administration for taking the initiative to set up a cabinet subcommittee to identify genuine freedom fighters. However, he stressed that bureaucratic delays must not eclipse human lives, urging the government to expedite the process and issue sanction orders at the earliest.

Government Will Strive for Full Justice: Bandi Ramesh

Attending the protest camp, TPCC Vice-president, Kamma Corporation Chairman, Kukatpally Congress Party Incharge Bandi Ramesh offered his unequivocal solidarity to the striking agitationists. Addressing the gathering, Ramesh assured the statehood fighters that the Congress-led state government stands firmly by their side.

"The sacrifices made by the Telangana agitationists are etched into the foundation of our state. The government has already constituted a special committee specifically to identify every genuine activist who took part in the movement," Bandi Ramesh stated.

"Several high-level meetings have already taken place to streamline the identification process. I assure you that the Congress government will honor its commitment without fail. Very soon, every recognized agitationist will be allotted their promised 250 square yards of housing land along with government support."

Honest Leadership Inspires: Gandhi & Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti Celebrations



Ravindra Bharathi hosts poets, speakers, and citizens to recall truth, non-violence, discipline, and national unity

HYDERABAD

The birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri were held with great enthusiasm at Ravindra Bharathi. The event was jointly organized by Telugu Bhasha Chaitanya Samiti, Jatiya Telugu Saraswata Parishat, Kusuma Dharmana Kala Peetham, and Paladugu Nagaiah Kala Peetham.

Special guest Keshiraju Ramprasad addressed the gathering and said that today the country is looking for honest and dedicated leaders. He also noted that such leaders are becoming rare. He described Lal Bahadur Shastri as a living example of truth, honesty, and commitment, and highlighted that the former Prime Minister worked without even a trace of corruption. He recalled Shastri's struggle from a young age and his determination, including his resignation after taking responsibility for a major rail accident. He also mentioned the role of Shastri's leadership in 1965 during the war, when the country united under the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan."

Another special guest, the well-known film producer Tummalapalli Rama Satyanarayana, said that if people in society follow the moral values and principles practiced by Gandhi and Shastri, the nation will progress. He emphasized that the Gandhian path can solve many of the country's problems.

The event chair, famous poet and critic Sri Ramakrishna Chandramouli, said that many young people do not know much about Gandhi. He urged students to learn from Gandhi's ideas, discipline, and ethical values, and reminded everyone that Gandhi encouraged khadi and Swadeshi during the freedom struggle.

Chief guest Dr. Riaz, Chairman of a library organization, spoke about how the whole world today wants peace and that non-violence is the real path to peace. He praised Gandhi for helping India achieve independence through movements like Quit India and "fight or die" spirit. He also highlighted Gandhi's lifelong commitment to truth, non-violence, unity, and fighting against discrimination. More than 50 poets and writers took part in a poetry and literary discussion centered on Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mahatma Gandhi. The program was conducted by Bade Saheb, with participation from poets including Ganta Manohar Reddy, Paladugu Sarojini Devi, and Dr. Radha Kusuma, among others.

GITAM Hyderabad Marks 157 th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

HYDERABAD



GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, observed the 157 th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi with a solemn tribute to his enduring ideals of truth, non-violence, simplicity and Swadeshi.

The occasion commemorated Gandhi's remarkable contribution to India's freedom struggle and his universal message of peace and non-violence. His timeless principles continue to inspire individuals and societies to uphold truth, compassion, social responsibility and peaceful coexistence.

The tribute was attended by senior members of GITAM Hyderabad, including DVVSR Varma, Resident Director; Dr. Bandan Kumar Mishra, Director, School of Architecture; Dr. M. Reza, Director, School of Science; Dr. Shamuel Tharu, Director In-Charge, School of Humanities and Social Sciences; and Prof. G. A. Rama Rao, Former Scientific Officer, BARC. They paid their respects to Mahatma Gandhi and reflected on the continuing relevance of his ideals in today's world.

GITAM Hyderabad remains committed to nurturing these values among its students and fostering a culture of truth, non-violence, social responsibility and service. As the world continues to face challenges and conflicts, Gandhi's message of peace and harmony remains deeply relevant and inspiring.



SHORT TAKES

Everest summiteer Shekhar Babu to head ATOAI Southern Chapter



HYDERABAD: *Renowned mountaineer and Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award recipient Shekhar Babu Bachinepally has been nominated as Chairman of the Southern Chapter of the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI). An Everest summiteer who reached the peak in 2007, Shekhar Babu brings over two decades of experience in mountaineering and adventure tourism. Founder of Transcend Adventures, he mentored and led the expedition of Poorna Malavath, who became the youngest girl in the world at the time to summit Mount Everest in 2014. In his new role, he will focus on strengthening safety standards, professional training, emergency-response systems and sustainable adventure tourism across Southern India, while expanding opportunities for youth from underprivileged and marginalised backgrounds. Responding to his nomination, Shekhar Babu said, "Safety in adventure tourism will be given the highest priority. Adventure activities involve inherent risks, but these risks must be identified, assessed and professionally managed. Qualified instructors.*

Cong and BRS involved in quid pro quo: BJP

HYDEARBAD



Criticizing functioning of Congress government in Telangana state, BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today alleged that the ruling Congress and BRS party are invovled in 'quid pro quo' arrangement to cover up their mutual corruption scandals.

Speaking at a press conference held at the State BJP Headquarters here, he stated that during the recent Sircilla meeting, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy made remarks regarding the properties of ministers and family members from the previous BRS government, to which BRS leaders responded with allegations against Congress corruption. But this act will not benefit to public anyway, he said. Rao remarked that both parties have limited themselves to mutual accusations along the lines of "how much did you eat, how much did I eat, if you ate everything, what is left for us?"

BJP state chief asserted that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi is providing corruption-free good governance to the country where as a competition is taking place in Telangana over who can engage in more corruption. He reminded that Congress had announced before election that he will open the corruption files of BRS and make arrests within 100 days of coming to power, but to date, not a single person has been arrested in any case. He slammed them for being limited to press statements and wasting time through secret understandings.

Rao expressed anger that the Congress government has completely failed to address public issues in the state and is cracking down on those who question them through illegal arrests. He criticized that while teachers had strongly opposed the controversial GO 317 brought by the previous government, the current government is not properly implementing GO 190, which was introduced as an alternative. Out of nearly 4,000 people who were eligible for transfers/deputations under GO 190, the government merely washed its hands of the matter after covering only 100 to 200 people. He clarified that the BJP strongly condemns the illegal arrest of teachers who were protesting peacefully in front of Gandhi Bhavan using police force. He questioned what message the government intends to send by arresting highly respected teachers, as well as farmers, students, and political leaders in society. He demanded the immediate fulfillment of the teachers' legitimate demands.

He said condition of farmers in the state is miserable alleging that that while fields are drying up due to lack of water and power supply, the government remains a passive spectator. He noted that in Nalgonda district, crops are drying up due to depleted borewells, leaving farmers in deep distress, and that when people headed toward Jurala, both farmers and BJP leaders were arrested.

The farmers have already suffered heavy losses in the Kharif season, and to support them as they prepare for the upcoming Rabi crop, the government must immediately release one installment of 'Rythu Bharosa' funds and deposit them directly into their bank accounts, Rao demanded.

He criticized the state government's negligence in failing to pay the premium for the Central Government's flagship 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana', which led to severe losses for farmers. He lashed out, stating that after promising a better insurance scheme than the Centre's in their Warangal Farmer Declaration, the government has failed to implement any insurance scheme to date, abandoning the farmers. He stated that the government must wake up at least now and provide Rythu Bharosa before the Rabi season. BJP state chief said exhausted by the behavior of both Congress and BRS, now people were viewing the BJP as the alternative in the state and have decided to give the BJP a chance in the upcoming days. He called upon intellectuals and politically aware youth to join the Bharatiya Janata Party in large numbers.

Meanwhile, during the press conference, several prominent figures from the film and television sectors joined the BJP. Under the leadership of BJP State Cinema Cell Co-Convenor and actor Vaibhav Surya, TV artist and lawyer Swarnalatha, prominent TV actor Laxman, and senior cinematographers Suresh and Mahesh joined the party. BJP State President Ramchander Rao warmly welcomed them into the party by offering them party scarves.

BJP Kisan Morcha State President Baswapuram Laxmi Narsaiah, Party State Secretary Bharat Prasad, BJP State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N V Subhash, State Spokesperson Indrasena Reddy, State Media Panellist Subhashini, and others participated in the event.

Earlier , BJP State Chief Rao attended Swachh Bharat and 23rd senior citizens day programme.

Before participating in Swachh Bharat programme organised in Chilakalguda, Secunderabad. He offered floral tributes to portraits of Mahatma Gandhi and former prime minister Lal Bhadur Shastri on the occasion of their birth anniversary.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, Rao recalled that 'Swachh Bharat' is one of the largest initiatives launched nationwide after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power. He praised PM Modi for successfully taking the Swachh Bharat movement forward across the country, fulfilling Gandhiji's lifelong vision of a clean society.

Rao emphasized that cleanliness is not just the responsibility of governments, but every citizen must actively participate in it. He called upon everyone to pledge to keep not only their homes clean, but also their streets and towns. He stated that through these small collective efforts, our country will become cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful.

Participating in the 23rd Senior Citizens Day programme organised by the Lions Club at A.V. College, Domalguda, Rao said that senior citizens are a great strength and asset to society because of the knowledge, wisdom and experience they have accumulated over the years.

"Retirement should never mean withdrawing from society. Whatever field a person may have worked in, decades of experience cannot simply retire. That experience must be shared with the younger generation and given back to society. Senior citizens can continue to guide families, communities and the nation," he said.

Special Focus on arrangements for Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavams

TIRUPATI

With the Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavams scheduled from October 12 to 20, TTD JEO Dr. A. Sharath directed officials to complete all arrangements in a coordinated manner to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for devotees in Tirupati.

The JEO, along with TTD JEO (Health and Education) Prabhala Gopinath, conducted a virtual review meeting with officials of various departments on Friday morning.

The JEO directed officials to provide attractive illumination and LED screens at key locations in Tirupati. Drinking water, toilets and information flex boards should be arranged at parking areas and holding points. Proper signages and public announcements should also be provided for the convenience of devotees.

He instructed officials to set up a special Coordination Centre in Tirupati for inter-departmental coordination and to monitor the arrangements on a daily basis.

He also directed officials to set up attractive welcome arches at the four major entry points to Tirupati to create a spiritual atmosphere for devotees. Special attention should be given to cleanliness along major roads and areas frequented by devotees.

CE Manoharam, SE Venkateswarlu, VGO Giridhar, Deputy .EO Selvam, TTD Transport GM Ramu, CMO Kusuma Kumari, DEs Ravishankar Reddy and Saraswathi, EE Mallikarjuna Prasad, Additional Health Officer Dr. Sunil Kumar and others participated in the virtual review meeting.

Ram Reddy Sarvotham Reddy Clarifies False Reports Over MLC Candidature

SURYAPET



AICC member Ram Reddy Sarvotham Reddy on Friday clarified that he is contesting the MLC elections as the Congress party candidate from the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Graduates' Constituency, following the official announcement of his candidature by the party high command. Speaking to the media, Sarvotham Reddy said he respected the party's decision and would enter the electoral fray as the Congress candidate. He alleged that some people were deliberately spreading false information regarding his candidature.

He stated that reports claiming that he had not sought the ticket, was unwilling to contest the MLC elections, had withdrawn from the race, or had taken a U-turn were completely untrue. He made it clear that he had never said that he would withdraw from the MLC elections and that contesting the election as the Congress party's MLC candidate was his clear decision.

"I am accepting the responsibility entrusted to me by the party with complete commitment," he said. His primary objective, he stated, would be to raise the issues faced by graduates, youth, employees, unemployed persons and students before the Assembly, the government and other relevant forums, and bring them to the government's attention.

Sarvotham Reddy said it was inappropriate to link and distort his earlier statements regarding his long-term political objectives with the ongoing MLC elections. "At present, I have only one responsibility before me — to contest the MLC election as the Congress party candidate and provide strong representation for the issues of graduates," he said.

He also dismissed reports claiming that there was anger among BC communities because "two seats were given to Reddys" and that the Congress party was therefore planning to change its candidate.

He said there was no basis for such reports and termed the deliberate circulation of speculation aimed at creating differences among social groups as irresponsible. Sarvotham Reddy expressed confidence that he was ready to uphold the trust placed in him by the Congress party and said he would remain in the electoral contest and seek victory with the blessings and support of the graduates.

The Khairatabad Battle Postponed: Relief for the Parties

KOLANU VENKATESWARA REDDY



The Khairatabad by-election has received a temporary pause. But this is not the end of the political battle; it is merely time gained for the legal process. With an election petition still pending, reports indicate that the Election Commission has informed the High Court that the by-election will not be held for the time being. This has opened up a new discussion in state politics.

Danam Nagender, who won the Khairatabad Assembly seat on behalf of the BRS in the 2023 Assembly elections, joined the Congress in 2024 and contested the Secunderabad Lok Sabha election as a Congress candidate. In petitions filed against him alleging defection, the Telangana High Court, on September 18, set aside the Speaker's decision and disqualified him. The Supreme Court, on September 24, did not interfere with that decision. As a result, the Khairatabad seat fell vacant.

However, an election petition filed earlier challenging the election in the same constituency is still pending. In such a situation, if a by-election were held immediately, there could be two parallel proceedings: on one hand, a judicial examination of the validity of the previous election, and on the other, a fresh election for the same seat. In the past too, courts have intervened in the conduct of by-elections when election petitions were pending. Therefore, it would be premature to view this pause as a victory for one party or a defeat for another. For the Congress, the electoral test it faces as the ruling party has been postponed for some time. For the BRS, the opportunity to seek a public verdict on defections has been delayed. The BJP, too, has not yet had the opportunity to test its strength in Khairatabad. Political circles are already discussing the possibility of a three-way contest taking shape in the constituency.

However, the real question is not when the election will be held, but under what legal circumstances it will be held. For the voters' verdict to be clear, the legal ambiguity must first be resolved. The Election Commission's decision should be viewed as a temporary pause that gives priority to the legal process rather than as a calculation of political gains and losses. The Khairatabad contest is inevitable. But rather than holding it in haste, conducting it with legal clarity is more important for democracy. It may bring relief to the political parties, but for the electoral system, it is yet another test.



Suryapet Photographer Maduri Brahmachari Receives National Best Photographer Award

SURYAPET

Renowned newspaper photographer from Suryapet district headquarters, Maduri Brahmachari, has received the National Best Photographer Award.

The award was presented on Friday at a meeting held at the Vikas Campus of Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur district as part of the 157th Gandhi Jayanti celebrations.

As part of the celebrations marking the 80th Independence Day, two photographs captured by Brahmachari from morning to evening were selected and exhibited in a national-level photography competition jointly organized by the Andhra Pradesh State Creativity of Culture Commission, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, and the Photography Academy of India.

Brahmachari said that he received the National Best Photographer Award at the hands of former minister and MLC Dokka Manikya Vara Prasad, Registrar Simhachalam, Mallikarjuna Rao, Shiva Prasad, Principal Suresh Kumar, and Thamma Srinivas Reddy. He was also felicitated with a certificate, cash prize, and shawl on the occasion.

Several leaders, relatives, and friends congratulated Maduri Brahmachari for bringing recognition to Suryapet in Telangana at the national level.

Rs.52,000 crore worth infrastructure works underway in Hyderabad: Bhatti



HYDERABAD

Infrastructure development works worth ₹52,000 crore are currently underway in Hyderabad under the Praja Palana government, with major projects being taken up to meet the city's growing needs, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said.

Speaking as the chief guest at the launch of the TSRTC–Metro Rail Common Pass at Praja Bhavan on Friday, Bhatti Vikramarka said the government was implementing a comprehensive plan to strengthen Hyderabad's civic infrastructure, keeping in view the city's rapid expansion and future requirements.

He said major works were being undertaken in roads, flyovers, bridges, underpasses, drinking water and other sectors.

"As Hyderabad is expanding rapidly, it is the government's responsibility to strengthen civic infrastructure and facilities well in advance to meet the requirements of the growing population," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister said infrastructure projects worth ₹35,000 crore had been taken up within the HMDA limits, including roads, flyovers and bridges. With the works being undertaken by the GHMC, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board and other agencies, including underpasses, flyovers and other development projects, the total value of ongoing infrastructure works in Hyderabad had reached ₹52,000 crore, he said.

Bhatti said the government was focused on executing projects and demonstrating their outcomes to people rather than limiting itself to publicity. Referring to the contribution of earlier Congress governments to Hyderabad's development, he said Krishna, Godavari and Manjeera water had been brought to the city to meet its drinking water requirements. He alleged that during the 10-year tenure of the government that ruled Telangana after the formation of the State, not even a single drop of additional drinking water was brought to Hyderabad.

Harish Rao seeks Rahul Gandhi's intervention over proposed power sector privatisation

HYDERABAD



BRS senior leader and former minister T Harish Rao has urged Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to intervene immediately to stop the proposed privatisation and equity dilution of key Telangana public-sector institutions, including TG-Transco, TG-Genco, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and the Discoms.

In a letter addressed to Rahul Gandhi, the BRS leader alleged that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was moving towards dilution of ownership in strategic public assets. He questioned whether such a policy was consistent with the Congress party's own economic commitments.

Harish Rao cited the Congress manifesto, 2019, which, he said, restricted disinvestment to non-core and non-strategic public-sector enterprises, as well as the 2023 Raipur Economic resolution, which emphasised that disinvestment should not lead to private monopolies or duopolies.

"A CWC resolution cannot be binding in Delhi and optional in Hyderabad", Harish Rao said, questioning the Congress national leadership's silence on the reported proposals.

Harish Rao argued that TG-Transco could not be treated as an ordinary commercial enterprise, describing it as a critical public utility forming the backbone of Telangana's electricity transmission network. He pointed to its extensive transmission infrastructure, including 400-kv, 220-kv and 132-kv substations, more than 31,420 circuit kilometres of EHT lines and 1,184 power transformers, and questioned the reported proposal to initially dilute 26 percent equity.

According to Harish Rao, the proposed transaction raises a broader question over whether strategic public infrastructure is gradually being opened to private ownership and influence. He expressed apprehension that any move involving TG-Transco could eventually be followed by similar proposals concerning TG-Genco, SCCL and the Discoms.

QUESTIONS CONGRESS LEADERSHIP's STAND

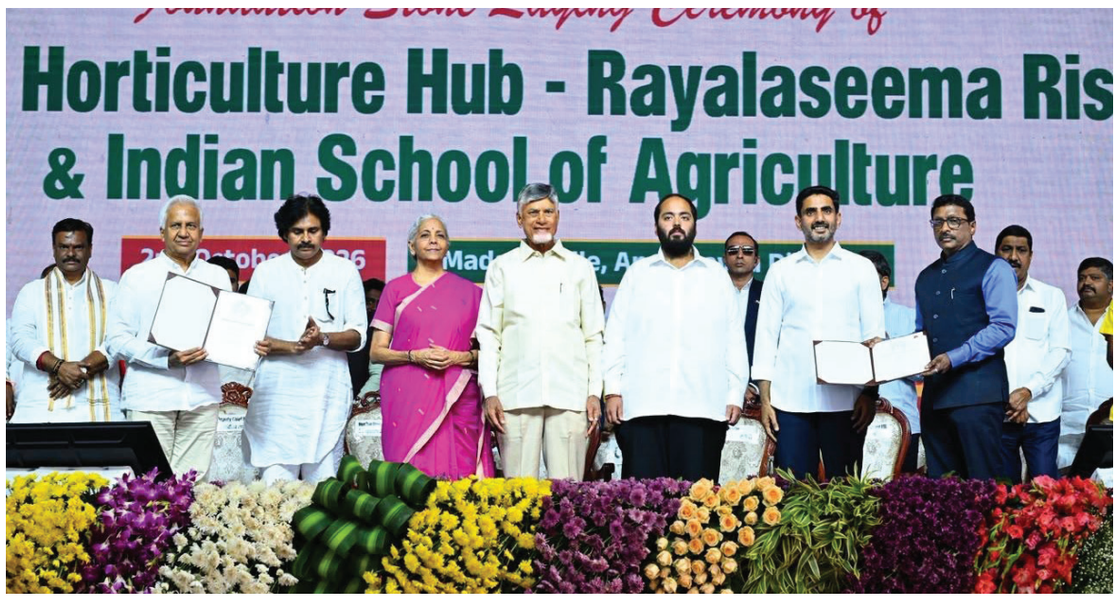
Harish Rao said Congress leaders had repeatedly criticised the Union Government over monetisation and privatisation of public assets and had raised concerns about dilution of strategic public-sector institutions.

He asked Rahul Gandhi to clarify whether the proposed Telangana measures were consistent with the Congress's national economic policy. "If the proposals are consistent with the party's policy, the Congress national leadership should explain how. If they are not, the national leadership has a responsibility to intervene", he added.

Harish Rao, in his letter, urged Rahul Gandhi to: a) stop the proposed privatisation and 26 percent equity dilution of TG-Transco; b) prevent any move towards IPOs, equity dilution or privatisation of TG-Genco, SCCL, Discoms and other strategic core-sector public institutions; c) direct the Telangana government to clarify the proposals consistency with the Congress manifesto, 2019 and Raipur Economic resolution, 2023 and d) ensure that no irreversible decision affecting ownership or control of strategic public assets is taken.

Harish Rao said the issue was no longer merely a Telangana policy matter and urged the Congress national leadership to make its position clear. He concluded by seeking Rahul Gandhi's "clear and categorical intervention" to halt the proposed TG-Transco privatisation and prevent further dilution of Telangana's strategic public-sector institutions.

Young people leaving farming DUE TO UNCERTAIN INCOMES says Anant Ambani at Madanapalle event



Madanapalle (Andhra Pradesh), Oct 2 : Reliance Industries Ltd executive director Anant Ambani on Friday said here that many young people were moving away from farming due to uncertain incomes and limited opportunities. Addressing a public meeting at Madanapalle during the foundation stone-laying ceremony for a Rs 1 lakh-crore Global Horticulture Hub and the Indian School of Agriculture (ISA), Ambani called for equipping young people with skills, technology and entrepreneurial opportunities to build successful futures in their own villages.

"Too many young people leave farming because incomes are uncertain and opportunities seem limited. Let us give them the skills, technology and enterprise to build successful futures in their own villages," he said.

According to Ambani, the ISA, which RIL will establish and manage, "can help make agriculture a profession that young Indians choose with pride". He said Reliance Jio would collaborate with the ISA to take training modules to millions of farmers in Indian languages through interactive virtual classrooms in villages, bringing the school closer to farmers.

Educated rural youth could become digitally enabled extension workers, helping farmers apply the knowledge they acquire, he said.

Ambani said Reliance Jio had created a new platform, Jio Krishi, which had developed several innovative products to benefit farmers.

"In Jamnagar, we have established India's most modern R&D Centre for bio-energy development," he said.

Emphasising that he was a "pashu sevak" (one who serves animals), Ambani said he believed in hi-tech animal husbandry. At Vantara in Jamnagar, he said, the foundation had been laid for what he described as the world's "first global university for wildlife and veterinary sciences".

Elaborating on the ISA, Ambani said artificial intelligence would complement the traditional knowledge of India's farmers.

"Imagine the young minds of this school developing intelligent tools that can warn farmers of a pest attack before it spreads. Drones that can map crop health and guide the precise use of water and nutrients. Robotics that can make hard work easier and reduce losses," he said.

Cloud computing could put timely advice in farmers' hands and help achieve the 'Per Drop More Crop' goal, while price intelligence could tell farmers in Madanapalle when and where to sell their produce, he said.

Greenhouse technology could power an evergreen revolution, allowing farming to thrive throughout the year, he added. "That is why Reliance Industries is grateful to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the opportunity to invest Rs 1 lakh crore in the state to set up compressed biogas (CBG) plants. These will create over three lakh jobs and bring nearly Rs 60,000 crore in revenue to the state over the next decades," Ambani said.

He said his mission was to improve farmers' prosperity, promote cleaner energy and strengthen animal welfare.





Keep rivers clean: CM express concern over discharge of waste water into Krishna and Godavari rivers

Maintaining clean surroundings is collective responsibility: CM
CMpresents Swarnandhra–Swachhandhra Awards–2026

SWACHHANDHRA CORPORATION SIGNS MOU WITH IIT KANPUR ON NET ZERO IN THE PRESENCE OF CM

VIJAYAWADA, OCT 2



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu called for keeping rivers clean. He said cleanliness was not the responsibility of the government alone and all five crore people should actively participated in the initiative as a mass movement. The Chief Minister participated in the Swarnandhra–Swachhandhra Awards–2026 ceremony held in Vijayawada today and presented awards to Swachhata Warriors, clean villages and towns, schools, hospitals, institutions, campuses and NGOs for their outstanding contributions to cleanliness.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the discharge of waste and untreated sewage into the Krishna and Godavari rivers. He pointed out that people living downstream depend on river water for drinking purposes and warned that river pollution could affect not only the areas where pollution originates but also several other regions. The Chief Minister stressed that cleanliness should extend beyond personal hygiene and the surroundings to include health and purity of thought. He said maintaining personal hygiene and clean surroundings would help prevent diseases.

The Chief Minister said the government had established the Swachhandhra Corporation to expand and implement cleanliness initiatives across the State. He recalled that during the previous regime, inadequate attention to sanitation had resulted in tonnes of garbage accumulating on roads.

The Chief Minister said the government was promoting the Net Zero concept in all schools, colleges and hostels across the State. To strengthen these initiatives and study innovative approaches, the Swachhandhra Corporation had signed an MoU with IIT Kanpur on Net Zero in the presence of the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister said the government had decided to undertake large-scale development works in rural areas through the Palle Panduga programme, alongside urban development initiatives.

In the hotel category, Novotel Visakhapatnam received the cleanliness award. Several Rythu Bazaars were also recognised for maintaining high standards of hygiene. The Vijayawada–Payakapuram, Kurnool–C-Camp and Srikakulam–Willis Rythu Bazaars received the awards.

In the municipal category, Tenali, Chilakaluripet, Mangalagiri, Ponnur, Bobbili, Rajam, Yelamanchili, Palamaneru and Giddalur municipalities received Swachhandhra Awards.

In the Clean Gram Panchayat category, K. Moolapeta, Ravulapalem, Pattikonda, Duppada, Namburu and R.L. Puram Gram Panchayats were honoured.

In the hostel category, the Government Boys' Hostel in Chittoor, BC Boys' Hostel in Kadapa and Tribal Welfare Hostel in Anakapalli received awards. The Ambedkar Gurukulam in Palnadu, Girls' Residential School in Eluru and Girls' Residential School in Bapatla were also honoured for their cleanliness initiatives.

The Dwaraka Nagar Bus Station in Visakhapatnam, Chittoor Superintendent of Police Office and Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Office received awards in recognition of their cleanliness standards.

Palaniswami Questions Vijay's Credibility Over Defections

DHARAPURAM (TAMIL NADU): (Oct 2) AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami on Friday launched a fierce attack on Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay questioning his moral authority and commitment to transparency after allegedly encouraging political defections.

Stepping up his tirade during his campaign for the October 6 Assembly by-election in Dharapuram in Tiruppur district, Palaniswami strongly condemned the ruling TVK's practice of inducing elected representatives to switch allegiance, characterising the engineering of defections as "stealing" MLAs. "How can Chief Minister Vijay talk about transparency and clean governance when his party actively encourages candidates elected on AIADMK tickets to resign and defect to the ruling fold just to protect its own survival?" Palaniswami asked, questioning the ethics of such political manoeuvres while addressing a large gathering of party supporters here.

SC likely to get 3 new judges 'by coming week '

NEW DELHI: (Oct 2) Three new judges are likely to be appointed to the Supreme Court next week, sources said on Friday.

The Supreme Court collegium had on September 29 recommended the elevation of three high court chief justices to the top court. Sources aware of the appointment procedure said the elevation of Justice Sunita Agarwal, Chief Justice, Gujarat High Court, Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Chief Justice, Delhi High Court, and Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh, Chief Justice, Telangana High Court to the apex court is likely to take place "by coming week".

Woman dies during treatment at hospital in Bihar's Samastipur, family vandalises premises

PATNA, OCT 2



A 30-year-old woman died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Hasanpur Bazar of Bihar's Samastipur, prompting her family members to protest and allegedly vandalise the hospital premises. The family has accused the hospital's doctors and staff of negligence in her treatment. Police reached the hospital after receiving information about the incident and brought the situation under control. An investigation into the matter is underway. The deceased has been identified as Rajkumari Devi, wife of Kailash Sah and a resident of Dhobauliya village under the Bithan police station area. According to an official, Rajkumari delivered a baby at the Hasanpur Community Health Centre on Wednesday.

Her condition reportedly deteriorated the following day. The family said she was subsequently taken to Savera Hospital at Imli Chowk in Hasanpur Bazar on the advice of a local rural medical practitioner, Sujit Kumar, where treatment was started. Rajkumari's husband, Kailash Sah, alleged that she was administered an injection during treatment at the private hospital. According to him, Rajkumari's condition deteriorated sharply within about five minutes of receiving the injection, following which she died. After learning of her death, family members and others at the hospital became agitated. They accused the hospital management and medical staff of negligence and allegedly vandalised parts of the hospital premises. The family has demanded an explanation from the hospital regarding the circumstances surrounding Rajkumari's death.

Police personnel reached the hospital after being informed about the disturbance and gathered information from the family and other people present at the site.

The exact cause of Rajkumari Devi's death has not yet been officially established.

Police are examining the circumstances surrounding her treatment and death.

There was no immediate official response from the hospital management to the allegations of medical negligence.

The findings of the investigation and any post-mortem or medical assessment will be important in determining the circumstances of the death.



CM Satheesan calls for new Kerala development model

KOCHI, OCT 2

Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan on Friday called for a comprehensive transformation of the state to meet the changing needs of society.

Delivering the 18th K.P. Hormis Memorial Lecture, Satheesan said Kerala must move beyond its traditionally recognised development achievements and create a new model of development. Speaking on the theme 'Reimagining Kerala', he contended that the state needed transformation in sectors such as education, healthcare, tourism, sports, public welfare, elderly care, and women's safety."Kerala already has infrastructure and social amenities comparable to several Western countries," he said. The challenge was to make better use of these resources and create greater opportunities for growth, he said. Satheesan said Kerala's geographical and demographic challenges should be turned into opportunities.

The state must create more opportunities for its youth while ensuring better care and support for senior citizens, he said. As part of the vision, Satheesan announced plans to organise "Festival Kerala" in different parts of the country and later at international locations. The festival will showcase Kerala's heritage, art, culture, and traditions.It will also promote Kerala as a destination for tourism, investment, and entrepreneurship. The festival will provide a platform to showcase Kerala's entrepreneurs, business opportunities and talent before a wider audience, he said. Satheesan said the initiative should go beyond being a cultural event.

It should help project Kerala's capabilities and create new opportunities for investment and tourism. More than 1,500 people attended the lecture, including business leaders, academics, students and senior bank officials. The lecture was followed by an interaction with the Chief Minister. Federal Bank Chairman Elias George welcomed the gathering, and Managing Director and CEO K.V.S. Manian proposed the vote of thanks. The K.P. Hormis Memorial Lecture is organised in memory of K.P. Hormis, founder of Federal Bank. The Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation was established in 1996.

ECI order on SIR a victory for voters across country, says Karnataka CM Shivakumar

BENGALURU, OCT 2



Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday welcomed the Election Commission of India's direction to state election authorities to conduct a special drive to identify and enrol eligible voters left out after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), terming it a "victory" for voters across the country.

The ECI has directed poll officials in states and Union Territories where SIR has been completed to undertake a special drive for left-out and first-time eligible voters. It has also directed electoral authorities to facilitate enrolment through the regular electoral roll updation process.

Talking to reporters near Vidhana Soudha, Shivakumar said the directive came after the Congress-led protest before the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer's office on Thursday. "We welcome the order issued by the Election Commission. This is not just a victory for the Congress and the government. It is a victory for Karnataka and the voters of the entire country, and a victory against attempts to deprive eligible voters of their rights," he said. Shivakumar said the Election Commission had also taken note of complaints regarding bulk deletion applications and directed election authorities to examine such complaints.

He said the authorities had been instructed to organise special camps for the enrolment of first-time voters and ensure that Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Chief Electoral Officers and District Election Officers followed the prescribed procedures for Forms 6 and 7.He also said booth-level camps should be organised to facilitate applications, including for people living in night shelters, labourers, homeless persons, and other vulnerable groups. The ECI has separately announced special enrolment measures for voters left out during SIR and for young and first-time eligible electors.

Shivakumar alleged that BJP representatives had submitted applications seeking deletion of votes belonging to weaker sections of society.

"It is shameful. Their intention is to create a divide among communities, castes and religions. Their objective is to get Dalit and minority votes deleted," he alleged.

On the BJP's protest over the issue, Shivakumar said BJP leaders had themselves acknowledged submitting around 25,000 applications and accused them of admitting to what he described as a "criminal conspiracy".

He demanded that appropriate action be taken against those responsible, while saying that any complaint against him should also be investigated if there was evidence of wrongdoing. Shivakumar said the BJP should have sought to win elections by winning the confidence of the people instead of attempting to influence electoral rolls. "BJP leaders could have won the hearts of the people and faced elections. Instead, they have resorted to the criminal act of trying to delete votes," he said.

He said protecting the voting rights of citizens was his responsibility as Chief Minister. "Voting rights are linked to the right of people to live with dignity. Therefore, this is not a victory of D.K. Shivakumar; it is a victory of voters across the country," he said.

Shivakumar also credited Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's campaign against alleged irregularities in electoral rolls for the developments.

He said Congress had been raising the issue from the beginning and that citizen groups and activists had travelled across the state, collected data and submitted reports on alleged irregularities. He added that he had independently examined some of the information. "It is my duty as Chief Minister to protect the vote of every citizen of Karnataka and safeguard constitutional institutions," he said.

49 Fall Ill After Suspected Contaminated Ragi Flour

BALLIA (UP): (Oct 2) At least 49 persons including 10 children have fallen ill after consuming suspected contaminated finger millet (ragi) flour ahead of the Jitiya fast in Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district on Friday, an official said. The incident took place in Chhata village under the Bansdih Road police station area, where the women consumed the flour as part of preparations for the festival. District Magistrate (DM) Gyanendra Singh told PTI that 49 people, who include 12 males and 37 females with 10 among them children under the age of 18, are reported to have fallen ill after consuming the flour.

EDITORIAL

The Price of an Unplanned Digital Life

The digital revolution has made life remarkably convenient. A smartphone can now serve as a bank, shopping counter, ticket office, classroom, workplace and communication centre. Payments take seconds, services are available around the clock and information is always within reach. For millions, digital technology is no longer an additional facility; it is part of everyday life.

Yet convenience has a price that is often invisible.

Every digital activity leaves behind information. A purchase reveals preferences. A location search indicates movement. An online interaction reflects interests. An app may request access to contacts, photographs, location or other information. Individually, these details may appear insignificant. Collectively, they can create a surprisingly detailed picture of a person's digital life.

This does not mean that technology should be viewed with suspicion. Nor can modern life realistically retreat from digital platforms. The more important question is whether users are sufficiently aware of what they are sharing and whether they exercise reasonable control over their digital footprint.

Digital literacy must therefore evolve beyond knowing how to operate an app or make an online payment. It should include basic awareness of passwords, privacy settings, app permissions, software updates and online fraud. A moment spent checking the authenticity of a message or payment request can sometimes prevent a much larger problem.

The responsibility, however, does not rest with users alone. Businesses and digital platforms also have a duty to treat personal information responsibly. Clear privacy practices, appropriate security measures and transparent communication can strengthen public confidence. Trust is an important foundation of any digital economy, and it cannot be built merely through technological innovation.

There is also a generational responsibility. Children are growing up in an environment where photographs, opinions and personal details can be shared instantly and widely. Teaching them to think before posting, protect personal information and recognise unsafe online behaviour is becoming as important as teaching traditional forms of safety.

India's digital transformation has opened opportunities that were difficult to imagine a generation ago. Digital payments, online services, e-commerce and remote access have brought convenience and connectivity to people across social and geographical boundaries. The objective should be to deepen these benefits, not diminish them.

But digital progress should not be measured only by the number of people connected or the number of transactions completed. It should also be measured by how safely and responsibly people can participate in the digital world.

Technology should remain a tool that serves people, not a system that people use without understanding its consequences. The answer is not to fear the digital future, but to enter it with greater awareness.

The greatest benefit of technology is convenience. The greatest protection is knowing what that convenience costs.

One Shot... A History

The movement of a billiards ball may appear quiet and simple, but behind that movement lies concentration, experience, calculation and patience. Every shot demands a clear mind and careful judgement. Geet Sethi became a symbol of such quiet sporting excellence. His achievement showed that Indian talent can make its presence felt on the international stage even in a sport that does not always receive the same public attention as cricket or other popular games.

In 1992, the World Professional Billiards Championship held in Mumbai became an important chapter in Indian cue sports. Geet Sethi emerged as the champion and his remarkable break of 1,276 points became a major landmark in professional billiards. Yet, the significance of that achievement cannot be understood merely through a number. Behind those points were years of practice, discipline, patience and an ability to remain focused when every small movement mattered.

Geet Sethi was born in Delhi and grew up in Ahmedabad. His early interest in billiards gradually developed into serious practice and competitive ability. What may have started as an attraction towards the game became a disciplined journey. This transformation is important for every young person. Interest alone cannot create achievement. When interest is supported by regular practice, guidance and determination, it can slowly become a specialised talent.

Billiards is a game in which strength alone does not decide success. The player has to understand angles, control the speed of the cue ball, judge distance and think several shots ahead. A player must know not only where to send one ball, but also where the cue ball should remain for the next opportunity. This requires a combination of calculation and patience. Life also demands something similar. A decision taken today often influences the possibilities available tomorrow.

The story of success can also be understood through the handloom tradition of Sircilla. A handloom fabric does not appear suddenly. Thread after thread is arranged carefully, and the final design emerges only after continuous effort. Sporting excellence develops in much the same manner. One practice session may not produce a champion. One successful shot may not create a record. But thousands of carefully repeated efforts can eventually produce an achievement that attracts the attention of the world.

Billiards has traditionally enjoyed a more limited following in India when compared with cricket, hockey, badminton or other widely followed sports. That, however, does not reduce its importance. Every sport requires its own kind of skill and discipline. Some demand physical speed, while others require extraordinary control and concentration. Billiards demonstrates that the human mind and body can work together with remarkable precision.

India has produced talented sportspersons in many disciplines. Athletes, shooters, badminton players, wrestlers, boxers, chess players and cue-sports champions have taken Indian talent to international competitions. Their journeys remind us that sporting ability is not restricted to a particular region or background. What matters is the opportunity to recognise talent and provide the right environment for it to grow.

Different countries have developed different approaches to sporting excellence. Japan is often associated with discipline and systematic training. Several European countries have developed strong club-based sporting structures. Australia has given importance to scientific preparation, fitness and professional coaching. These examples show that sporting success does not depend only on individual talent. Training systems, facilities, nutrition, psychological preparation and long-term support also play an important role.

In India too, schools and colleges can play a greater role in identifying young talent. A student who is not particularly interested in one sport may possess extraordinary ability in another. Some children may have natural coordination, some may have exceptional concentration, while others may show unusual stamina or strategic thinking. Such abilities need to be observed rather than ignored.

> ***The generation that followed Geet Sethi also produced remarkable names in cue sports. Pankaj Advani became one of India's prominent champions in billiards and snooker, carrying forward the country's presence in cue sports.***

Family support is another important part of a sportsperson's journey. Competitive sport brings victories as well as disappointments. There are days when practice produces excellent results and there are also days when the expected performance does not come. Young players need encouragement during both situations. A defeat should not become a reason to abandon a talent that has taken years to develop.

Geet Sethi's journey also demonstrates that achieving success once is not the end of the story. Remaining at the highest level requires continued effort. He went on to win further major titles during his career, showing that sustaining excellence can be more demanding than achieving one remarkable performance. A record may attract attention for a day, but maintaining the discipline behind that performance requires a much longer commitment.

The famous 1,276-point break is remembered as a number. But numbers alone cannot describe the human effort behind them. Each point represented control, judgement and concentration. Each successful sequence depended on the ability to remain patient and avoid unnecessary mistakes. For a young person looking at such a record, the most valuable lesson is not simply the number itself but the discipline that made the number possible.

Modern sport has also changed considerably. Today, professional athletes use fitness programmes, nutritional planning, video analysis, psychological preparation, recovery techniques and specialised coaching. Even sports that appear to involve limited physical movement require physical and mental readiness. The modern sportsperson has to understand the body, the mind and the technical side of performance.

Students can learn a similar lesson from this. Success in education also cannot be built entirely through last-minute preparation. A few hours of intense study before an examination may help, but regular learning creates deeper understanding. Every day of sincere preparation becomes an investment in future confidence. Just as a billiards player prepares one shot with the next shot in mind, a student can prepare today with tomorrow's goal in view.

There is also a connection between sport and literature. A writer has to select the right word just as a billiards player has to select the right angle. A poet cannot create an effective line without sensitivity and thought. Similarly, a player cannot produce a successful sequence without concentration and judgement. In both fields, excellence often comes from details that may not be visible to an ordinary observer.

Talent can emerge from a large city, a small town or a village. Facilities may not always be equally available everywhere, but talent does not recognise geographical boundaries. Small towns often contain young people with extraordinary ability. If they receive proper coaching, equipment and encouragement, they can compete at higher levels. Recognising such potential should become a collective responsibility.

Opportunities for women in sports also need continuous expansion. The achievements of Indian women in athletics, boxing, badminton, wrestling, shooting, swimming and many other disciplines have already demonstrated the depth of talent available in the country. When girls receive equal encouragement and facilities, they can create achievements that change social perceptions as well as sporting records.

The generation that followed Geet Sethi also produced remarkable names in cue sports. Pankaj Advani became one of India's prominent champions in billiards and snooker, carrying forward the country's presence in cue sports. Such continuity is important. One generation's achievement can become the inspiration for another generation to enter the same field and aim even higher.

The digital age has made young people accustomed to immediate results. A message is delivered instantly, a photograph can be shared within seconds and information can be accessed immediately. But excellence does not work at that speed. Skill requires time. Practice requires repetition. Patience cannot be downloaded. A record-breaking performance may last for a few minutes, but the preparation behind it may represent years of quiet effort.

Failure also has a place in this journey. A player who never loses may simply be someone who never competes at a sufficiently challenging level. Defeat can reveal weaknesses and provide an opportunity to correct them. The ability to learn from a poor performance is often as important as the ability to celebrate a good one.

The story of Geet Sethi is therefore not only a story about billiards. It is a story about the power of concentration. It tells young people that success does not always arrive with noise and publicity. Sometimes it grows silently in a practice room, through repeated efforts that nobody notices. When the right moment comes, those years of preparation can speak for themselves.

Records may eventually be broken. New champions may emerge. Sporting techniques may change with time. Yet, the historical value of an achievement remains. A record belongs to its particular moment, but the inspiration it creates can travel across generations.

October 3 can therefore become an occasion to look beyond the headline of a sporting achievement and understand the effort behind it. It can remind parents, teachers and institutions to observe the hidden abilities of young people. Not every child has to follow the same path. Some may excel in academics, some in literature, some in science, and others in sport. The responsibility of society is to create space for these different talents to grow.

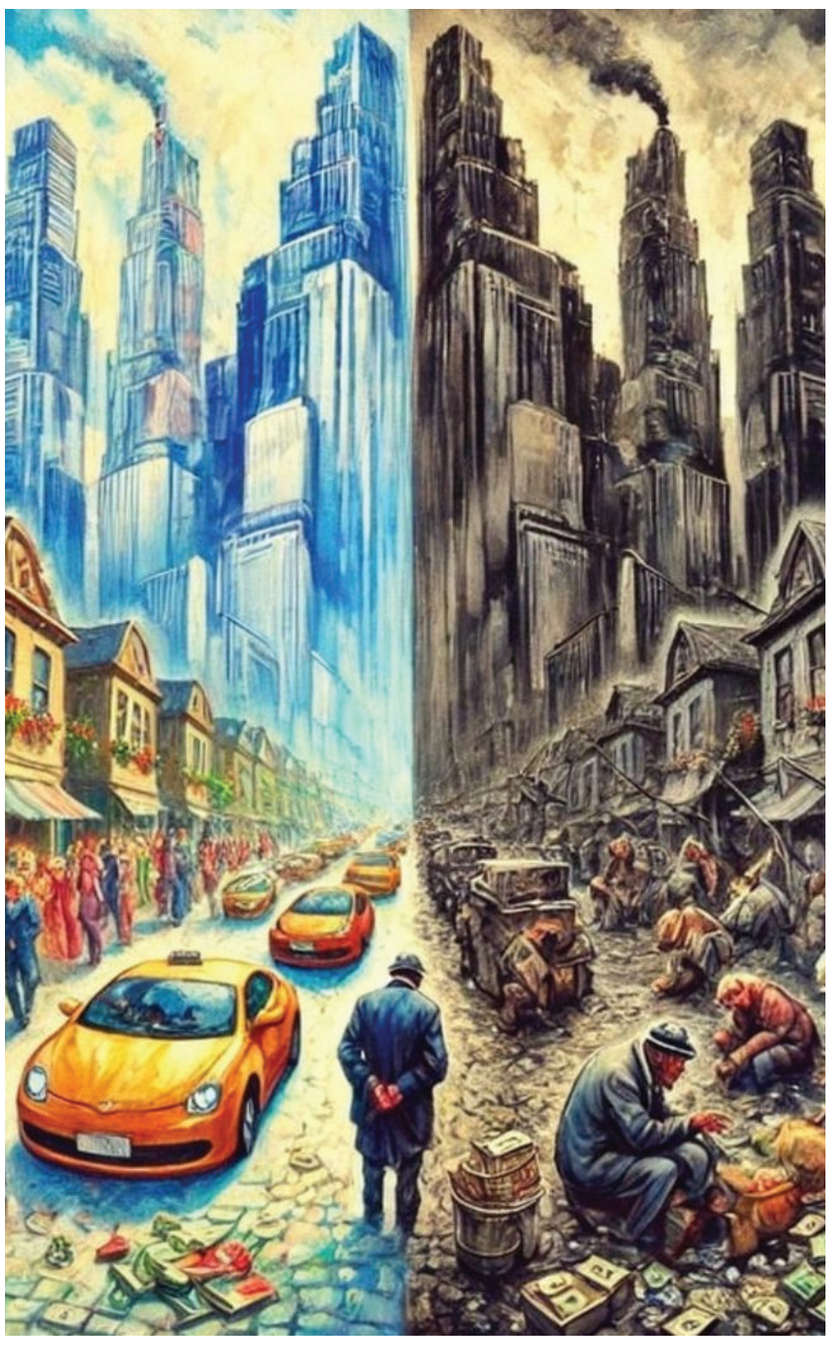
The story of a single billiards shot may appear small when compared with the larger stories of the world. But behind that shot can lie years of discipline, thousands of hours of practice and an unwavering belief in one's ability. That is why Geet Sethi's achievement continues to carry a message beyond the billiards table.

A talented person does not always need a loud introduction. Genuine ability eventually finds its own moment. What matters is the willingness to practise when there is no applause, to continue when results are slow and to remain focused when distractions are many. A single shot can become a record, a record can become history, and history can become inspiration for another generation.



CHITIKENA KIRAN KUMAR
Eminent Poet,
Writer & Editorial Columnist
Member: International Benevolent Research Forum

Urbanisation and Poverty: Does the City Move People Up the Economic Ladder?



India has made substantial progress in reducing poverty, even as urbanisation accelerates. This raises a more important question: does moving from a village to a city actually move a household up the economic ladder, or does it merely relocate poverty to a more expensive setting? Urbanisation becomes a force for poverty reduction only when cities translate population concentration into higher productivity, better jobs and rising real incomes.

The latest World Bank estimates show the scale of India's progress. At the lower-middle-income poverty line of $4.20 a day in 2021 purchasing-power-parity terms, poverty fell from 57.7% in 2011-12 to 16.1% in 2023-24. Urban poverty declined from 39.7% to 8.6%, while rural poverty fell from 64.9% to 19.3%. Extreme poverty in urban India fell to 1.4%. These figures show a substantial decline in measured urban poverty, but they do not establish that urbanisation alone caused it.

The economic mechanism is more important than the migration itself. A worker moving from a low-productivity rural activity into a city gains access to a larger labour market, firms, services and consumers. If that transition leads to a more productive job, earnings rise. If higher earnings translate into savings, skills and better education for the next generation, urbanisation creates lasting economic mobility.

But higher wages do not automatically mean higher living standards. Rent, commuting, food, healthcare and education can absorb much of the additional income. When affordable housing is far from employment centres, workers pay through both money and time. Weak public transport narrows access to better jobs, while poor basic services force households to spend more privately. The critical measure, therefore, is not simply the wage earned in a city, but the real income left after the cost of living.

This makes the quality of urban employment crucial. The World Bank estimates that 70% of new jobs in India could come from cities by 2030. But the economic gain will depend on whether these are productive and reasonably secure jobs rather than merely more forms of low-value employment. Skills must evolve with the demand from manufacturing, construction, logistics, healthcare and digital services. Otherwise, cities may expand faster than the productivity of their workforce.

Women's participation is part of the same equation. Safe transport, childcare and flexible work arrangements determine whether urban employment opportunities translate into additional household incomes. Greater female participation can strengthen savings and investment in children's education and health, making urbanisation a source of broader household mobility rather than merely an increase in individual employment.

The strongest test comes with the next generation. If higher urban incomes are converted into better education, healthcare and skills, today's employment gains become tomorrow's productivity gains. If high living costs, insecure work and weak public services consume those gains, the economic chain breaks. Urbanisation then produces movement without enough mobility.

The scale of this challenge is enormous. By 2036, India's towns and cities are expected to be home to around 600 million people. Cities already contribute about 63% of India's GDP, and their share could rise to 75% by 2036. How efficiently these cities function will therefore increasingly determine the productivity of the Indian economy itself.

This is why infrastructure and municipal governance cannot be treated as separate urban concerns. Transport, housing, water, sanitation, drainage and reliable public services directly influence the cost of working and doing business. Congestion reduces productive time; inadequate housing raises living costs; weak drainage turns extreme weather into economic losses. If municipal finances and planning capacity fail to keep pace with population growth, the economic benefits of urbanisation will be diluted by rising urban costs.

India must therefore judge urbanisation by more than the number of people moving into cities or crossing a poverty threshold. The deeper question is whether households are moving from low productivity to higher productivity, whether higher wages survive the cost of urban living, and whether the resulting surplus becomes savings and human capital.

Urbanisation does not reduce poverty simply by moving people to cities. It reduces poverty when cities convert population into productivity, productivity into better jobs, better jobs into real disposable income, and that income into greater economic security for the next generation. The real test of India's urbanisation is not how many people enter its cities, but whether the city enables them to move up the economic ladder.

> ***"Urbanisation does not reduce poverty simply by moving people to cities. It reduces poverty when cities convert population into productivity, productivity into better jobs, better jobs into real disposable income, and that income into greater economic security for the next generation. The real test of India's urbanisation is not how many people enter its cities, but whether the city enables them to move up the economic ladder."***



D. JAIRAM
Subject Expert – Current Affairs
Founder & Mentor
Sri Jairam Competitive Academy

Maha Congress demands resignations of CEC Gyanesh Kumar and MPSC Chairman

MUMBAI, OCT 2

In a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) President Harshwardhan Sapkal on Friday accused the Union government of capturing the country's electoral machinery and undermining democratic institutions. Demanding the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, Sapkal asserted that the ongoing agitation against institutional corruption would continue until the key perpetrators within the ruling setup step down.

Speaking to reporters following a visit to the historic Mani Bhavan on Gandhi Jayanti, Sapkal, accompanied by State Congress Incharge Sirivella Prasad, accused CEC Gyanesh Kumar of functioning as "an agent of the BJP". "The Election Commission was forced to withdraw its arbitrary changes to Form 6 following the valid questions raised by Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. It must be made transparent to the public as to who authorised handing over electoral decision-making powers to a private entity," Sapkal demanded. He also extended full backing to the ongoing protests by students targeting the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC). Slagging the MPSC's operational standards as "extremely poor", Sapkal demanded the immediate resignation of the MPSC Chairman Vivek Bhimanwar and reaffirmed the Congress' commitment to standing firmly behind the agitated youth. Reflecting on the historical significance of Mani Bhavan -- where Mahatma Gandhi spent considerable time during the freedom struggle -- Sapkal stressed that honouring the Father of the Nation requires actively defending constitutional values. "The ideology of Gandhi reflects the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Shahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, B.R. Ambedkar, and the saint traditions of Maharashtra," the MPCC President said. "On the opposing side is the ideology of the RSS, which breeds discrimination. Having completed its centenary, the RSS had to bow before Gandhi. We strongly advise that the RSS be disbanded and the Constitution of India be installed in all its offices," he remarked. Turning his focus to the economy, the MPCC Chief contrasted the current Maharashtra government's handling of inflation with that of the former UPA government. "Under former PM late Manmohan Singh, even when global fuel prices surged, petrol was maintained at Rs 70 per litre and LPG cylinders at Rs 450 to insulate the public," Sapkal noted. "Today, the Modi government works exclusively to enrich a handful of industrialists while leaving ordinary citizens to bear the brunt of unbridled inflation."

Clean and Safe Drinking Water – A Priority for North Eastern Railway

GORAKHPUR, OCTOBER 2, 2026:



With the objective of providing clean and safe drinking water to railway passengers and employees, North Eastern Railway is conducting regular and intensive checks of drinking water quality. Priority is being given to continuous monitoring and maintenance of water tanks, water coolers, taps, filters, distribution points and pipelines at railway stations, offices and residential colonies.

Health Inspectors are regularly conducting residual chlorine tests, bacteriological culture tests and chemical analyses to ensure the safety of drinking water. Providing pure and safe drinking water to railway passengers and employees is one of the top priorities of the Railway Administration, and this work will continue as an ongoing campaign. In Izzatnagar Division, regular residual chlorine tests are being conducted at 10 stations and residential colonies, including Kathgodam, Izzatnagar, Farrukhabad, Kasganj, Bareilly City, Lalkuan, Kashipur, Pilibhit, Mathura Cantt. and Fatehgarh. Water samples are also being collected for bacteriological culture testing. Similarly, chlorine testing and bacteriological culture tests of drinking water were carried out at various stations, divisional hospitals and residential colonies under Lucknow Division. In Varanasi Division, water tanks, water coolers, water filters, pipelines and pumping systems were inspected at stations, residential colonies, coaching depots, hospitals and health centres, running rooms, crew lobbies and offices.

The inspection campaign will continue across all stations, residential colonies and offices of North Eastern Railway to ensure the quality of drinking water facilities. Regular testing and monitoring are being carried out by Health Inspectors so that passengers and employees receive clean drinking water conforming to prescribed standards.

Providing clean and safe drinking water to railway passengers and employees remains a priority of the Railway Administration, and continuous monitoring of water quality will be maintained to ensure the same.



BSF shoots dead 2 suspected Pakistani intruders along Punjab border

BSF personnel shot dead two suspected Pakistani intruders along the International Border in Punjab on Friday. Officials said their identities were yet to be confirmed and further details were awaited.

Two Pakistani nationals were shot dead by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel near a BSF post along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Friday while allegedly attempting to cross into Indian territory, officials said.

The incident took place near the BSF's Rajoke post in the Khalra sector, close to the International Border.

According to sources, the intruders were warned by the BSF to stop but continued advancing, following which security personnel opened fire, killing both of them.The identities of the suspected intruders have not yet been ascertained. Further details about the circumstances of the incident and the recovery of the bodies were awaited.

FIR Against NC MLA, Spokesperson

Srinagar, Oct 2: Police in J&K on Friday registered an FIR against a ruling National Conference (NC) MLA and the party's additional spokesperson for allegedly assaulting and causing injuries to a Personal Security Officer (PSO) deputed for the MLA's security. According to police, the complaint was lodged by a policeman belonging to the security wing of J&K Police. The policeman alleged in writing that MLA Altaf Ahmad Kaloo, representing the Pahalgam constituency, and



NC additional spokesperson Umesh Bhat assaulted him following an argument and caused injuries while he was on duty. Police have registered an FIR on the basis of the complaint and initiated an investigation into the incident. Assaulting or using criminal force against a police officer on duty is a serious offence punishable under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Under provisions relating to assault or criminal force used to deter a public servant from the discharge of official duties, the punishment may include imprisonment, a fine, or both. Where physical injury or hurt is allegedly caused to a public servant while performing official duties, the relevant provisions carry enhanced punishment. Stricter provisions may apply if grievous injuries are caused or if dangerous weapons are used.

The FIR registered against the NC MLA and the additional party spokesperson is being investigated by the police. The allegations and the role of those named in the complaint will be examined during the course of the investigation. If sufficient evidence is found and a chargesheet is subsequently filed before a court of law, further legal proceedings will follow in accordance with the law.

Jharkhand: Businessman, son arrested in Rs 734 crore GST scam

Ranchi, Oct 2 : A Special PMLA Court sent a Jamshedpur businessman and his son to judicial custody after they were arrested by the ED in a case related to a GST fraud involving approximately Rs 734 crore, said an official on Friday. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Gyanchand Jaiswal, alias Bablu Jaiswal, and his son, Raj Jaiswal, in connection with the GST fraud on September 30, an official said. The ED interrogated the two arrested accused to gather information about the alleged fraudulent GST transactions and the associated money flow before producing them before the Special Court for custody proceedings on Thursday, an official said in a statement. They were arrested after the ED raided several locations in Jamshedpur, Adityapur, Gamharia, and Kolkata. After conducting medical examinations, the ED team brought them to Ranchi. The ED said that this case involves the alleged use of fake invoices to obtain input tax credit (ITC) without any actual purchase or sale of goods.



The agency is also investigating transactions made through shell companies and the associated money flow. During Wednesday's operation, the ED searched premises linked to Gyanchand Jaiswal, as well as the premises of his auditor, Sanjay Parekh, and other individuals, officials said.

They further mentioned that the investigating team examined business documents, GST-related records, banking and financial transaction documents, and electronic devices. This ED action was taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), officials said. The investigating agency suspects that large-scale misuse of ITC was allegedly carried out through shell companies and paper transactions. The initial investigation into the case was conducted by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Jamshedpur. The investigation revealed the misuse of ITC through shell companies and fake invoices. According to a 2024 order of the Jharkhand High Court, Gyanchand Jaiswal was arrested in June 2024 in a case registered under the GST Act and was subsequently remanded to judicial custody. The ED investigation has reportedly uncovered several companies and fraudulent transactions linked to this network. The agency also took action against several other businessmen from Jamshedpur and Kolkata in connection with this case in 2025.

NFR Begins Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations

MALIGAON, 02 OCTOBER, 2026:



Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) today marked the commencement of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations and Swachh Bharat Diwas activities as part of the ongoing Swachhata Hi Sewa 2026campaign, being observed under the theme "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat". The occasion was marked by a ceremonial lamp lighting and floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by General Manager of NFR, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, along with senior railway officials and staff at the General Manager's Office premises at Maligaon. The programme highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's enduring message of cleanliness and the importance of collective participation in building a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable environment. As part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations, several important initiatives aimed at strengthening railway infrastructure and improving facilities for railway employees are undertaken by General Manager, NFR, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava. These include the inauguration of an Electronic Interlocking Training Facility at the Specialized Training Centre, Pandu, the inauguration of the Goshala Model Staff Colony along with a plantation programme. These initiatives reflect NFR's continued focus on enhancing training infrastructure, improving employee amenities and promoting sustainable development. The NFR Construction Organisation also participated in the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations with a ceremonial lamp lighting and floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by General Manager of NFR Construction, Shri Ashish Bansal, in the presence of senior officials. Similar activities are being organised at various offices and project locations under the Construction Organisation. The observance also included tree plantation drives and the distribution of award certificates to Safai Mitras in recognition of their valuable contribution towards maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in railway premises. NFR is organising a wide range of activities, including intensive cleanliness drives at railway stations, tracks, railway colonies and office premises, awareness campaigns for passengers and local communities, interactive sessions and workshops for railway staff, cleanliness pledges and special initiatives for the identification, segregation and proper disposal of unserviceable materials. These activities are designed to promote responsible waste management, strengthen cleanliness practices and encourage sustained public participation.

Nagaon bypoll: Assam CM targets AIUDF chief again, questions his political relevance

GUWAHATI, OCT 2



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday launched another attack on All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) chief Badruddin Ajmal, questioning the veteran politician's ability to effectively represent Assam in Parliament and attributing the change to advancing age.

Sarma said Ajmal, whom he described as once being a formidable political force, had lost some of his political strength over the years.

"Badruddin Ajmal has aged. He is no longer a tiger," the Chief Minister said.

He added that Ajmal was once a powerful political figure, but age had gradually weakened him.

The Chief Minister also questioned whether Ajmal possessed the political strength required to represent Assam in Parliament, saying he was no longer in a position to effectively raise the state's issues at the national level.

The remarks come amid an ongoing political exchange between Sarma and Ajmal ahead of the October 6 Nagaon Lok Sabha bypoll, in which Ajmal is among the candidates in the fray. Sarma had earlier suggested that Ajmal should consider stepping away from active electoral politics and allow the next generation of AIUDF leaders, including his sons, to take the organisation forward. Ajmal, a prominent minority community leader in Assam, is a former three-term Lok Sabha member who represented the Dhubri constituency. He currently serves as an MLA from Binnakandi after winning the 2026 Assam Assembly election.

The Nagaon Lok Sabha bypoll has emerged as an important political contest in the state, with candidates from several major parties contesting the seat. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fielded Debashish Sharma, while Congress has nominated Sibamoni Bora. Ajmal is also contesting the bypoll, making the election a closely watched political battle in Assam.

Polling for the Nagaon Lok Sabha by-election is scheduled for October 6, while counting of votes will take place on October 9.

The latest exchange between Sarma and Ajmal comes as political parties intensify campaigning and sharpen attacks on rivals ahead of polling.

Ajmal's political influence and his party's support base among sections of Assam's electorate have made him a prominent figure in the state's politics.

SC gives Bihar 8-week ultimatum to clear Ganga floodplain encroachments in Patna

The Supreme Court has given Bihar eight final weeks to clear unauthorised structures from Patna's Ganga floodplains. It warned that top officials could be summoned and contempt action may follow any further delay.

The Supreme Court has given the Bihar government eight more weeks to remove all unauthorised structures and encroachments on the Ganga floodplains between Nauzar Ghat and Nurpur Ghat in Patna. The court said this would be the last extension and warned of further action if its directions were not followed. A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan said it had earlier, on July 21, given the state six weeks to clear every unauthorised structure and encroachment from the stretch. On September 28, the Bihar government told the court that the directions had only been partly complied with.

Appearing for the state, Bihar Advocate General SD Sanjay said a recent natural calamity in Nepal had caused the Ganga's water level to rise, submerging the entire area and making it difficult for the authorities to continue the removal work. "We grant for one last time, eight weeks' time period to comply with our directions, failing which we shall have to summon the chief secretary of the State of Bihar and other authorities before us and we may also proceed further with contempt," the court said

"After eight weeks, we want a full compliance report as



regards the removal of the encroachments as directed by us. No further time shall be granted." The court was hearing a petition challenging a June 2020 order of the National Green Tribunal, which had dismissed a plea against illegal constructions and permanent encroachments on the eco-fragile flood plains. In its September 28 order, the bench noted that some intervention applications had been filed by people claiming that the constructions were on their own land and did not fall within the flood plains.

On these applications, the bench said, "In this regard, it may be open for these intervenors to prefer an appropriate representation addressed to the competent authority."

It added that if any such representation was filed, the intervenors would have to attach all title documents for the land, including any authorised sanction and building approval granted for the construction.

"In the absence of these documents, no representation shall be looked into," the court said, while disposing of the intervention applications.

While hearing the matter in July, the top court had observed that illegal constructions along the Ganga were a matter of concern and had directed the Bihar government to remove all unauthorised structures and encroachments between Nauzar Ghat and Nurpur Ghat within six weeks.

The order had come after the petitioner referred to encroachments on and along the river between the two ghats.

AMWJU, EGM Hail Pension Hike, Mourn Pame

Imphal, October 2, 2026: The All Manipur Working Journalists' Union (AMWJU) and the Editors' Guild Manipur (EGM) have expressed their sincere gratitude to the State Government following the Cabinet decision to enhance the monthly pension for retired journalists from Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000 and the family pension for families of deceased journalists from Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 under the Manipur Working Journalists' Pension Rules, 1996.

AMWJU and EGM jointly convey their profound appreciation to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh for his concern for the welfare and social security of the journalist fraternity and for the State Government's decision to approve the enhancement. The two organisations also place on record their special appreciation to Shri Oinam Sunil, Media Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, for his personal initiative and sustained efforts in taking forward the matter and facilitating its consideration at the appropriate level. AMWJU and EGM further express their gratitude to Dr. Th. Charanjeet Singh, Director, Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Manipur, and his team for their dedicated efforts in processing and pursuing the proposal that ultimately resulted in the Cabinet approval. The two organisations also acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of all office-bearers, staff and members of AMWJU and EGM, including retired and senior journalists, who consistently supported and pursued the demand. The achievement is the outcome of a collective effort and reflects the fraternity's shared commitment towards ensuring greater welfare and dignity for journalists after retirement.



AMWJU and EGM hope that the necessary amendment to the Manipur Working Journalists' Pension Rules, 1996 and other formalities will be completed at the earliest so that the enhanced pension and family pension can be implemented without delay.

AMWJU & EGM mourn demise of Dr. Engam Pame

In the same joint statement, AMWJU and EGM express profound shock and grief over the untimely demise of Dr. Engam Pame, IIS, Additional Director General, Press Information Bureau (PIB), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Regional Office, Imphal. Dr. Pame's association with the media fraternity and his service in the field of government information and public communication will be remembered with respect.

Diplomats recall Gandhi's message at UN, highlight its global relevance

UNITED NATIONS



Diplomats from across the world invoked the message of Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary to address contemporary global challenges, recalling how his ideals had resonated in their respective regions.

Morocco's Permanent Representative Omar Hilale said at a commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence here: "The international community, by celebrating the International Day of Non-Violence on his birthday, has chosen to make his legacy a common inheritance for all peoples." "Non-violence, in his understanding, is an active force. It demands discipline, courage and an unshakable faith in the humanity of the other," he said.

Hilale added that in Morocco, where "faiths and cultures meet and live together", King Mohammed VI has followed a path of "moderation, tolerance and peaceful dialogue".

India's Permanent Representative P. Harish cited a contemporary example of the practical application of Gandhian principles, referring to wounded pilot Smit Machchhar saving the lives of passengers on a Flydubai Airlines flight through ahimsa.

He recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the pilot "represented a true embodiment of the principle of ahimsa or non-violence".

Harish said PM Modi had noted that although the pilot was under attack, he "not only endured but showed bravery and courage in ensuring that the flight reached a safe destination, and all the passengers under his charge were safe and sound".

Despite suffering stab wounds, Machchhar opened the cockpit door to allow passengers to overpower the co-pilot who had attacked him in an apparent terror hijacking attempt.

The General Assembly declared Gandhi Jayanti on Oct 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence through a resolution sponsored by 141 countries in 2007.

Before the commemoration event, Harish placed flowers at the statue of Gandhi in the UN complex.

Uruguay's Permanent Representative Laura Dupuy Lasserre reflected on how Gandhi's message had been applied in South America.

She said it remained relevant "in Argentina and Uruguay at times of dictatorship, with the humanitarian plight of grandmothers looking for their forcibly disappeared children and grandchildren".

In countries in Latin America scarred by brutal dictatorships, mothers and grandmothers have peacefully demonstrated to learn the fate of their loved ones who were taken away by military regimes and never heard from again, while also advocating for human rights.

"Gandhi demonstrated that non-violence is not a sign of weakness or passivity, but an expression of courage," said Lasserre, who is also the chair of the G77, the group of developing countries, at the UN.

South Africa's Permanent Representative Mxolisi Sizo Nkosi said that for his country, "the principles of non-violence and peaceful coexistence resonate deeply with our own historical journey from apartheid to constitutional democracy".

He said Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of Satyagraha, insistence on truth, and non-violent resistance, forged during his 21 years in South Africa, laid the foundation for mass defiance and later shaped the broader South African liberation struggle against apartheid.

The African National Congress (ANC), he said, absorbed Gandhian non-violent principles early in its history. "Early leaders looked to Gandhi's successful mobilisation of the Indian community through strikes, mass marches and voluntary jail attendance as a blueprint for fighting racial legislation," he added.

Nkosi said Chief Albert Luthuli, the first ANC president to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, "was a deeply committed adherent of Satyagraha". For Russia's Deputy Permanent Representative Maria Zabolotskaya, Gandhi's role as an anti-colonial leader carried special significance.

"He was a leader of anti-colonialism, and this is important because our country always supported the anti-colonial struggle," she said, adding that such struggles were conducted through various means and approaches. She also recalled Gandhi's connection with Leo Tolstoy, the Russian writer and philosopher who advocated non-violence. Gandhi corresponded with Tolstoy, she noted.

When Indian revolutionary leader Taraknath Das wrote to Tolstoy seeking advice, the Russian philosopher replied: "Do not resist evil, but also do not yourselves participate in evil," she recalled. Zabolotskaya said Gandhi later sought permission to reprint the letter in his publication in South Africa and regarded Tolstoy as a teacher and an inspiration on his path.

A Life-and-Death Struggle in the Sky: The Courageous Story of an Indian Pilot



HYDERABAD

What happened on September 30 aboard flydubai flight FZ1073, traveling from Dubai to Tel Aviv, was not a scene from a movie, but a deadly struggle that put the lives of 174 people at risk. The Omani co-pilot allegedly attacked the captain with a knife inside the cockpit and attempted to crash the aircraft. The Boeing 737 MAX 8 plunged almost vertically from 14,000 to 17,000 feet within two minutes.

At that critical moment, an Indian pilot, Captain Smith Machar, saved everyone's lives. Despite being seriously injured and bleeding, Smith did not give in. While fighting off the attacker, he released the cockpit door, allowing crew members and passengers to rush in and restrain the assailant. Two off-duty flydubai pilots who were traveling on the same flight then entered the cockpit, stabilized the aircraft, and safely landed it at Tabuk Airport in Saudi Arabia.

Captain Smith is currently receiving treatment in Abu Dhabi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised him as a "brave man who saved hundreds of lives." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump also praised him as a "hero who prevented a tragedy similar to 9/11." The UAE Attorney General has launched an investigation, suspecting a terrorist plot. flydubai has temporarily suspended its flights to Israel.

This incident has highlighted a new concern in aviation: the "insider threat." Annual medical checkups may no longer be considered sufficient; AI-based behavioral monitoring and continuous psychological assessments could become mandatory. Even though regulations require two people to be present in the cockpit, what happens if one of those two becomes a threat? This has led to proposals for keeping three crew members—or security-trained cabin crew—in the cockpit.

Other possible measures include a partition between pilots, banning sharp objects from the cockpit, biometric controls capable of locking out a pilot if suspicious inputs are detected, and accelerating the development of remote technology that would allow ground personnel to take control of an aircraft and land it safely if the plane becomes uncontrollable.

The courage demonstrated by an Indian pilot has showcased Indian values to the world. At the same time, the incident serves as a warning that systems must be developed to protect aircraft from a threat originating from within the cockpit itself.

- Kolanu Venkateswara Reddy

Pakistani military's push to redraw provinces risks disintegration of country

JERUSALEM

Pakistan's military establishment has long sought to divide provinces in the name of restructuring, with critics alleging that the move is driven by a lust for centralised power to subjugate distinct nationalities and sub-nationalities inhabiting resource-rich lands, a report has detailed.

"The Pakistani military establishment and the political leadership of Sindh, spearheaded by President Asif Ali Zardari and his party, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), remain deeply divided over the contentious issue of provincial restructuring and the proposed administrative separation of Karachi. This widening rift carries the dangerous potential to trigger the disintegration of Pakistan, threatening a repetition of the 1971 birth of Bangladesh," Hasan Mujtaba, an award-winning journalist and human rights defender, wrote in 'The Times of Israel'. "A catastrophic, unprecedented genocidal pogrom is feared if the stubborn military establishment remains bent on hacking the country's historic provinces into over a dozen pieces. To mask this dismemberment, the establishment labels these fractured territories 'Administrative Units'. In reality, they would function as the new provinces of a severely diminished Pakistan—assuming the state could even survive such a drastic, forced 'surgery'," he added. According to Mujtaba, Pakistan's 18th constitutional Amendment has emerged as the main flashpoint between Sindh and the military establishment under Army Chief General Asim Munir, with the military pushing to annul these protections through the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment, which could significantly erode the provinces' financial and administrative autonomy.

'Summon values of Mahatma Gandhi in highly-charged times': UN chief

UNITED NATIONS



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on Friday to summon the values of Mahatma Gandhi in a time of global conflict and divisions.

"In these highly charged times, let's summon the courage, empathy, dignity and shared humanity that Gandhi exemplified throughout his life", he said in a message for the UN's International Day of Non-Violence, which commemorates Gandhi Jayanti.

Guterres took a sweeping overview of the challenges that the UN and the world are facing in calling for Gandhi's prescriptions of dialogue and non-violence.

"People are suffering," he said. "Poverty and inequality are driving a wedge between the haves and have-nots. And the very foundations of peace and development — the UN Charter, human rights, international law and diplomacy and dialogue — are being ignored and flouted with impunity".

"In this time of rising division, tension and conflict, Gandhi's lessons speak to us with renewed urgency", he said.

Deploying the weapons of peace that Gandhi developed, Guterres said, will be the effective way to counter the challenges to humanity.

"He showed that the best way to counter injustice is not to mirror the cruelty and violence of systemic discrimination and oppression — but to employ instead the tools of dialogue and non-violence to build bridges of understanding, deliver dignity and create lasting change", Guterres said. "Let's work to heal divisions through genuine dialogue and diplomacy, end suffering, and build a peaceful world through non-violence", he said.

"Mahatma Gandhi set an inspiring example of how to create deep, lasting change while holding fast to the principles of peace. Amid rising tension and conflict, his lessons speak to us with renewed urgency. Let's heal divisions through genuine dialogue and diplomacy, end suffering and build a peaceful world through non-violence," the UN Chief stated on X.

In 2007, the General Assembly declared October 2 the International Day of Non-Violence through a resolution sponsored by 141 countries.

Pakistan's Punjab province records over 1.95 lakh cases of violence against women and girls in 5yrs

- **Punjab accounted for nearly 82% of all reported gender-based violence cases in Pakistan during the five-year period.**
- **90,965 kidnapping and abduction cases were reported in Punjab — the highest among the categories.**
- **20,560 sexual violence cases were recorded, including 16,827 rape and 2,183 gang-rape cases.**

ISLAMABAD



As violence against women continues unabated across Pakistan, the Punjab province alone recorded 195,787 cases involving women and girls between 2021 and 2025, local media reported citing a human rights organisation.

The figure represented nearly 82 per cent of all gender-based violence cases reported across the country during the five-year period, according to the National Gender-Based Violence Crime Report 2021-25 by Peace and Justice Network Pakistan.

As per the findings, Punjab recorded 14,824 cases of domestic violence, including 3,746 cases in which women were killed. The province also reported 830 honour killings and 442 cases of burning, comprising 143 acid attacks and 299 stove-burning incidents, Pakistan Observer reported.

Sexual violence emerged as another major category, with 20,560 cases reported during the period. These comprised 16,827 rape cases, 2,183 gang-rape cases, 189 instances of custodial sexual violence and 1,361 incest cases.

According to the report, Punjab recorded 90,965 cases of kidnapping and abduction from 2021 to 2025, the highest among the reported categories. It also documented 68,165 cases involving other forms of gender-based violence that were not individually classified.

The province recorded 23,032 cases in 2021, followed by 28,080 in 2022 and 35,238 in 2023. The figure rose significantly to 52,824 in 2024 and further to 56,613 in 2025.

The report also warned that the police data represents only formally reported incidents, leaving the broader extent of violence against women and girls potentially underreported. Last month, a report stated that an effective multi-sectoral approach is needed to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Pakistan, as the issue is deep-rooted and multi-faceted in society, stemming from individual attitudes, family dynamics and community norms.

Prevention measures and conviction rates in cases related to gender-based violence in Pakistan remain low despite the passage of anti-rape legislation, domestic violence laws and several amendments addressing crimes against women, according to a report in The Friday Times.

Lack of political will, stereotypes, societal taboos, and judicial processes mired in caveats and complexities together prevent effective action against gender-based violence in Pakistan. Authorities might be making some efforts to curb gender-based violence in Pakistan; however, it is clearly not enough or is not being conducted in a way that produces any discernible results, the report detailed.

"If we are serious about nipping GBV in the bud, the whole 'ecosystem' nurturing violence against women must be disabled, and we need to decide where to start. GBV is a deep-rooted, multi-faceted challenge in our society, stemming from individual attitudes, family dynamics, community norms, and so much more, and hence requires a commitment to multi-sectoral approaches before we can even cause a dent in this scourge," it mentioned.

Bangladesh measles outbreak claims four more lives, death toll climbs to 1,114

DHAKA



At least four children died from the measles outbreak in Bangladesh on Friday, raising the total number of confirmed and suspected deaths to 1,114 this year, amid an escalating health crisis in the country, local media reported.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the deaths were reported in the 24 hours leading up to Friday morning.

Among the four fatalities from the disease, one was confirmed as measles death and another three were identified as suspected, Bangladeshi media outlet UNB reported.

Reports suggest that while the number of confirmed deaths remained at 102, the total number of suspected deaths climbed to 1,012. The DGHS recorded a total of 1,221 new suspected measles cases during the 24-hour period, bringing the overall tally of suspected cases to 194,084.

Additionally, 21 new confirmed cases were reported, increasing the total to 21,623 during the same period. Last week, public health experts linked the resurgence to gaps in previous vaccination coverage and shortcomings in hospital and patient management, including delays in detecting infected children and isolating them at home. Speaking to Bangladesh's leading newspaper 'The Daily Star', public health expert Mushtuq Husain said children generally need three to four weeks after vaccination to develop sufficient immunity. "Therefore, the current wave of infections, hospitalisations and deaths may continue for at least another month," he added. Recently, a leading international advocacy group described the 2026 measles outbreak as one of Bangladesh's worst public health crisis in recent history, highlighting the concern that the disease is preventable through vaccination.

In its report titled 'Preventable Tragedy: Bangladesh's 2026 Measles Outbreak', Canada-based Global Centre for Democratic Governance (GCDG) said that although the measles outbreak appeared sudden to the public.

Netanyahu says Flydubai attacker underwent Islamist radicalisation, intended to crash plane

JERUSALEM



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday said that the attacker in the Flydubai incident underwent Islamist radicalisation and intended to crash the plane with all its passengers on board.

"As time passes, the picture is becoming clearer. Yaniv and his heroic companions prevented a disaster on the scale of 9/11. The attacker underwent Islamist radicalisation. He intended to crash the plane with all its passengers on board," the Office of the Prime Minister of Israel stated on X, quoting Netanyahu.

"We are now investigating whether he was sent, and whoever sent him will pay a very heavy price," Netanyahu highlighted in the video message shared by his office.

Earlier, Advisor to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Mohammed bin Zayed praised Indian Flydubai pilot Smit Machchhar for his courage and professionalism during what he described as Wednesday's "dangerous terrorist act". "The Indian pilot at 'Flydubai,' Smit Machchhar, deserves every bit of appreciation, for he embodied the meaning of courage and responsibility in the face of a dangerous terrorist act and a potential disaster. His professionalism and moral sense in the darkest of circumstances make him a true hero," Gargash wrote on X.

"Far from the easy reduction of what happened or the adoption and promotion of conspiracy theories, vigilance and caution remain essential in confronting the risks of extremism and terrorism," he added. UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on Thursday that a specialised team of public prosecutors have been tasked with investigating the incident and determining its circumstances and causes.



NMDC paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 157th Jayanti

Hyderabad, 2 October 2026: NMDC, India's largest iron ore producer, paid respect to the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on his 157th Jayanti today at its Head Office and all the Projects across the country. The Gandhi Jayanti celebrations at Head Office began with the lighting of the lamp and garlanding of Mahatma Gandhi's photo by Shri Vinay Kumar, Director (Technical), Shri Krishna Kumar Thakur, Director (Personnel), Shri Vivek Nishant Nath,Director (Commercial) and Shri C NeelakantaReddy, Chief Vigilance Officer in the presence of senior officials and employees and their family members.

All employees took the Swachhata Pledge, reaffirming their commitment towards cleanliness, hygiene and maintaining a clean and healthy workplace and surrounding environment. On the occasion, Shri Vinay Kumar, Director (Technical) called upon all employees to dedicate a few hours towards cleanliness and urged them to encourage and motivate others to contribute their time and efforts by bringing the change in themselves first towards maintaining cleanliness. He concluded by urging employees to aim for a Shiksit, Vikhsit and Samriddh Bharat by imbibing Gandhiji's thoughts on honesty, truth and trust.

GP Petroleums board approves plan to raise Rs 130 cr via NCD, OCDs

MUMBAI: (Oct 2) Lubes maker GP Petroleums Ltd on Friday said its board has approved the company's plan to raise up to Rs 130 crore via NCDs and OCDs to accelerate growth. The company plans to utilise the proceeds to fund its ongoing business expansion and fulfil its working capital requirements, GP Petroleums, the maker of IPOL brand of lubes, said.

The company said it will issue up to 300 non-convertible debentures (NCD) aggregating up to Rs 30 crore for 36 months and up to 1,000 optionally convertible debentures (OCDs) aggregating up to Rs 100 crore for 18 months, each with a face value of Rs 10 lakh.

Value of housing projects under construction rises to USD 430 bn last yr: CREDAI-Anarock report

KOLKATA: (Oct 2) Total value of housing projects under construction stood at USD 430 billion last year, nearly a two-fold jump from 2019, according to CREDAI and Anarock report. Real estate apex industry body CREDAI and property consultant Anarock on Friday released a report 'Indian Real Estate - Growth Trajectory, Sectoral Outlook and Geopolitical Crosscurrents' at a conference organised here. The joint report highlighted that the construction activities in the housing market have risen sharply in the last few years on account of surge in demand post-Covid pandemic.

HDFC, Kotak get new CEOs named Anup. Here are 5 more things they have in common

HDFC Bank has appointed Anup Bagchi as its Managing Director and CEO for a three-year term starting October 27, 2026. Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Anup Kumar Saha as its MD and CEO for three years from January 1, 2027.



HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank have named new CEOs, and the two appointments have thrown up an unusual coincidence: both incoming chiefs are named Anup, are 55 years old, have studied at an IIT and an IIM, and spent a significant part of their careers at ICICI Bank.

HDFC Bank has appointed Anup Bagchi as its Managing Director and CEO for a three-year term starting October 27, 2026. Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Anup Kumar Saha as its MD and CEO for three years from January 1, 2027. The similarities do not end with their first names. Both Bagchi and Saha are former ICICI Bank executives who went on to hold senior leadership positions elsewhere before being picked to lead two of India's largest private-sector banks. The coincidence was also highlighted by the Times of India, which reported that both are 55 years old and hail from West Bengal. (The Times of India)

BOTH HAVE ICICI BANK IN THEIR CAREER HISTORY

Bagchi has spent more than three decades with the ICICI Group. He joined the group in 1992 and served as an Executive Director at ICICI Bank from 2017 to 2023. At ICICI Bank, he oversaw Retail, Business and Rural Banking before moving to Wholesale Banking. He also served as CEO and MD of ICICI Securities and is currently MD and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance. Saha, meanwhile, spent 14 years at ICICI Bank between May 2003 and June 2017. During his stint, he held senior roles across retail secured assets, business intelligence, retail and rural collections, credit cards and retail structured finance. After leaving ICICI Bank, Saha joined Bajaj Finance in 2017 and rose through the ranks to become its Managing Director and CEO. He joined Kotak Mahindra Bank in January 2026 as a whole-time director and was overseeing the retail bank, government business, data analytics and marketing before being named CEO. So while both men are now heading rival private-sector banks, a sizeable part of their banking careers was built at the same institution.

BOTH ARE IIT AND IIM ALUMNI

There is another striking similarity in their educational backgrounds. Bagchi holds an engineering degree from IIT Kanpur and a management degree from IIM Bangalore.

Saha is an engineering graduate from IIT Kharagpur and holds an MBA from IIM Lucknow. In other words, both new bank chiefs followed a broadly similar academic route, engineering at an IIT followed by management education at an IIM, although they attended different institutions.

BOTH ARE 55

Age is another common link. HDFC Bank's profile of Bagchi and an ICICI Prudential Life filing list him as 55. Kotak Mahindra Bank's postal ballot documents list Saha's age as 55 years. The Times of India also highlighted the fact that both incoming CEOs are 55. The career paths of the two Anups have since taken different directions. Bagchi moved through several parts of financial services, including investment banking, retail and wholesale banking, capital markets and insurance. His most recent role has been at ICICI Prudential Life before moving to HDFC Bank.

Saha moved from ICICI Bank to Bajaj Finance, where he spent more than eight years in senior roles before joining Kotak. At Bajaj Finance, he eventually became MD and CEO. Their next chapters will now unfold at two major private-sector lenders. Bagchi will succeed Sashidhar Jagdishan at HDFC Bank, while Saha will take over from Ashok Vaswani at Kotak Mahindra Bank. Both appointments have received RBI approval, with shareholder approval forming part of the formal process. (India Today) And that leaves an unusually neat coincidence in India's banking sector: two major private banks, two new CEOs, both named Anup, both 55, both IIT-IIM graduates and both with ICICI Bank in their professional history.

Burger Singh Accelerates South India Expansion

Expands Hyderabad Footprint and Marks Andhra Pradesh Debut in Tirupati
The homegrown QSR chain announces 10 upcoming outlets in Hyderabad and outlines plans for 60+ stores across Andhra Pradesh as part of its strategic push into the Telugu states





HYDERABAD, October 2, 2026: Burger Singh, India's leading homegrown burger QSR chain, today announced a major South India expansion strategy across the Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Marking this crucial growth phase, the brand has opened two outlets in Hyderabad at Kondapur and Kokapet with plans for 10 more over the next six months, while simultaneously making its official entry into Andhra Pradesh with its first outlet in Tirupati.

The strategic move highlights Burger Singh's commitment to scaling its presence in high-opportunity markets across Southern India, driven by rising demand for organized QSR formats, accessible dining experiences, and Indianized flavor profiles.

Consolidating Presence in Telangana

With two stores already operational in Hyderabad, Burger Singh plans to add 10 new locations across key commercial and residential hubs over the next six months. The city's dense population of Gen Z consumers, students, and young working professionals makes it a key growth driver for the brand's convenient, value-driven offerings.

Entry & Long-Term Vision for Andhra Pradesh

The opening of the Tirupati outlet marks Burger Singh's debut in Andhra Pradesh. Capitalizing on Tirupati's high footfall and dynamic consumer base, the brand views this launch as the anchor for a massive state-wide rollout. Over the coming years, Burger Singh targets establishing a network of 60+ outlets across Andhra Pradesh, expanding into major urban centers and emerging markets including Vizag, Vijayawada, Anantapur, and East Godavari.

"Hyderabad has responded to Burger Singh with tremendous enthusiasm, and entering Andhra Pradesh via Tirupati marks an exciting milestone in our national journey," said Nitin Rana, Co-founder of Burger Singh. "Scaling from 2 to 10 stores in Hyderabad within six months, alongside our ambitious goal of building a 60+ store network across Andhra Pradesh, reflects our absolute confidence in the region's appetite for a homegrown, high-quality burger brand."

Hybrid Expansion & Entrepreneurship Model

Expansion across both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh will feature a mix of company-operated and franchisee-owned stores. With an initial setup investment starting at approximately ₹30 Lakh per outlet, the brand's franchise model aims to foster regional entrepreneurship while rapidly building out its presence across Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 markets.

About Burger Singh

Burger Singh is India's first and largest homegrown burger chain, renowned for infusing traditional Indian flavors into western QSR formats. With a robust footprint across North India, the brand is actively building a strong national presence by expanding its flavor-forward, high-quality menu into high-growth markets across Southern India.

R.S. Brothers Opens 20th Showroom

at Santhosh Nagar Circle, Saidabad on 2nd October

HYDERABAD, OCT. 2





R.S. Brothers, one of the most loved family shopping brands, has reached a significant milestone by the *Grand Opening of its 20th Showroom on 2nd October 2026* . Located at *Santhosh Nagar Circle, Saidabad* , this massive new mega shopping mall is set to become the ultimate go-to shopping spot for families living in and around the Saidabad and Santhosh Nagar areas.The grand opening featured famous *Cine Star Nidhhi Agerwal* , who inaugurated the store alongside the Company's leadership. A large crowd of excited fans and shoppers gathered at the venue to catch a glimpse of the star and check out the brand-new showroom. Speaking ahead of the launch, *Cine Star Nidhhi Agerwal* said: _"R.S. Brothers have always stood for trust, tradition, and good fashion. With this landmark 20th store at Santhosh Nagar Circle, Saidabad, they have made shopping even better for local families by bringing an unbelievable range of styles right to their neighborhood."_

R.S. Brothers was founded by *Sri P. Venkateswarlu, Sri S. Rajamouli, Sri T. Prasada Rao, and late Sri P. Satyanarayana* . Over the years, the brand has continued its journey of bringing together traditional designs and modern fashion, giving customers an extraordinary shopping experience with limitless variety, reasonable prices, and complete trust.

The company directors shared their thoughts on this new milestone launch:

- *Sri P. Venkateswarlu (Founder & Chairperson):* _"We are thrilled to launch our 20th store here at Santhosh Nagar Circle, Saidabad. This rapid expansion is possible because of the constant love and trust our customers have shown us over the decades. Our goal is to make this store a complete one-stop fashion spot where families can find the finest traditional and modern styles at affordable prices."_
- *Sri S. Rajamouli (Founder & Managing Director):* _"With this new Saidabad showroom, we are bringing unmatched variety and value to our shoppers. We have specially timed this grand launch so we can present our exclusive Dussehra Latest Collection directly to our customers, giving them first access to thousands of fresh designs."_
- *Sri T. Prasada Rao (Founder & Whole-Time Director):* _"We are excited to expand into Saidabad and get closer to our customers in this vibrant area. We warmly invite all families to visit us and enjoy shopping for the upcoming festive and wedding seasons."_

Exclusive Dussehra Collection for the Entire Family

The new Saidabad store opens with the grand unveiling of the Dussehra Latest Collection. Designed as a complete family shopping mall, it houses countless options tailored for every age group and choice:

- Women's Wear:* Beautiful premium Kanchi Pattu sarees, Fancy Sarees crafted by Master Weavers across India, stunning Bridal Wear, and contemporary Ethnic Outfits.
- *Men's Wear:* A massive collection of Designer Kurtas, traditional Ethnic Outfits, Formal Suits, and modern Casual Styles.
- *Kids' Wear:* A wide array of cute, colorful, and trendy festive clothes for children.

The team at R.S. Brothers warmly invites everyone to visit the new mega shopping mall at *Santhosh Nagar Circle, Saidabad on 2nd October* . With affordable prices, high-quality collections, and special opening offers, it is the perfect place to shop for your next family celebration.



Dharavi Experience Centre will build trust among area residents: CM Fadnavis

MUMBAI, OCT 2

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said that the 'Dharavi Experience Centre' will not merely showcase blueprints of the redevelopment project but allow the area's residents to directly experience their future homes, neighbourhoods, and workplaces. In an interaction with the media, he stated that this initiative will help curb rumours, misconceptions, and incomplete information, creating an atmosphere of trust around the redevelopment.

CM Fadnavis inaugurated the state-of-the-art 'Dharavi Experience Centre', which offers physical and digital previews of the Dharavi Redevelopment Project plan, rehabilitated homes, industrial spaces, and upcoming social infrastructure, built near the BKC in the PMGP Colony's H Block.

The event was attended by Adani Group Managing Director Pranav Adani, BMC Commissioner Ashwini Bhide, Mumbai Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) CEO Dr Mahendra Kalyankar, Dharavi Redevelopment Project CEO and SRA Secretary Vipin Paliwal, Adani Navbharat Developers Private Ltd (the Special Purpose Vehicle executing the redevelopment project) CEO Anil Sardana, among others. After inspecting the centre, Fadnavis said: "Dharavi is not just a slum; it is a major economic engine. A significant economy thrives here through Kumbharwada's pottery industry, leather business, food processing, plastic recycling, and various micro, small, and medium enterprises. The redevelopment plan respects these industries and focuses on providing them with better, well-planned workspaces. This is an effort toward comprehensive urban transformation while preserving Dharavi's existing social, cultural, and economic identity." He added that this serves as an ideal example of the urban transformation taking place across the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Chief Minister noted that the 'Dharavi Experience Centre' will provide real-time information to everyone on how the Dharavi redevelopment project will look, what Dharavi is today, and how its structure will evolve in the future. This centre will play a crucial role in addressing the questions and confusion among Dharavi residents regarding their future post-redevelopment. He expressed confidence that by offering information on homes, roads, open grounds, social amenities, and employment opportunities all under one roof, the centre will be valuable for citizens, stakeholders, and urban planning researchers across the country.

The Dharavi Experience Centre highlights the journey from Dharavi's present to its future transformation through modern audio-visual and digital technology. During his visit, CM Fadnavis also launched a special song titled "Dharavi Ka Kal", sung by renowned singer Shankar Mahadevan, portraying the changing face of Dharavi, and released the book "Mere Sapno Ki Dharavi".

Katra-Banihal Section gets 100 kmph speed limit, Vande Bharat sets new record: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI, OCT 2



Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday announced that the maximum permissible speed on the 111-km Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Banihal section has been increased from 75 kmph to 100 kmph, marking a significant milestone for railway operations on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. Sharing the development on social media platform X, the minister described the day as "historic" and said the enhanced speed was successfully tested.

"Today is a historic day. The maximum permissible speed on the 111 km long Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Banihal section has been increased from 75 km/h to 100 km/h," he said.

During the trial, Vande Bharat Express (Train No. 26401/26404) crossed the Chenab Bridge, recognised as the world's highest railway arch bridge, and India's first cable-stayed rail bridge at Anji, at a speed of 100 kmph. The increase in permissible speed is expected to improve operational efficiency on the strategically important USBRL corridor, which connects the Kashmir Valley with the national railway network. Railway officials said the move would help reduce travel time while offering passengers faster, safer and more comfortable journeys.

"The increased speed was successfully tested today. Vande Bharat Express (Train No. 26401/26404) created a new record by crossing the world's highest Chenab Bridge and India's first cable-stayed Anji Bridge at 100 km/h," Vaishnaw stated.

"This enhancement will make train operations on the USBRL project smoother, reduce travel time and provide faster, safer and more comfortable journey to the passengers," the minister mentioned.

The Chenab Bridge and Anji Bridge are among the key engineering landmarks of the USBRL project, which has been developed to provide all-weather rail connectivity to Jammu and Kashmir. The latest speed enhancement is expected to further strengthen rail services on the route and improve connectivity across the region.

"This enhancement will make train operations on the USBRL project smoother, reduce travel time and provide faster, safer and more comfortable journey to the passengers," he added.



Real Estate Rising, Affordability Falling

Housing demand remains strong, but premiumisation, rising costs and infrastructure-led expansion are reshaping who can afford a home and where they can live

India's real estate market is entering a more mature and complicated phase. The sector is no longer being driven simply by the post-pandemic rush to buy homes. Buyers are becoming more selective, developers are increasingly concentrating on premium housing, infrastructure is creating new property corridors and the gap between what households can afford and what the market is offering is becoming more visible.

he headline numbers still look healthy. In the first quarter of 2026, housing sales across India's top seven cities stood at around 1.02 lakh units, up 9% from the same period a year earlier, according to ANAROCK. At the same time, new launches rose sharply by 26% year-on-year to about 1.26 lakh units. Average residential prices across these cities increased about 7% annually.

But behind these numbers is a significant transformation. More than half of the new homes launched in these markets during the quarter were priced above ₹1.5 crore. Homes below ₹40 lakh accounted for only about 10% of new launches.

That tells a larger story: Indian real estate is growing, but the nature of that growth is changing.

A Market That Is Still Moving

The biggest question surrounding Indian property markets today is whether the current momentum can continue when prices have already moved significantly higher.

So far, the market has shown considerable resilience. Housing sales have remained substantial despite higher property values, while developers continue to launch projects in major metropolitan areas. The annual increase in sales recorded in Q1 2026 indicates that underlying demand has not disappeared. The demand is being supported by several structural factors. India continues to urbanise, employment is increasingly concentrated around large cities and economic corridors, and home ownership remains a major aspiration for households. Knight Frank's survey of more than 1,600 respondents across eight Indian cities found that 80% preferred owning a home rather than renting. The survey also found strong buying intentions among millennials and higher-income households. But the character of the buyer is changing. The market is increasingly being supported by households with greater purchasing power, while first-time buyers in lower income groups face a more difficult entry point. This is perhaps the most important feature of the current market.

The Rise of the Premium Home

The Indian housing market is witnessing what industry analysts call "premiumisation". In simple terms, developers are increasingly building and selling more expensive homes. The trend is particularly visible in the latest supply numbers. During Q1 2026, properties priced above ₹1.5 crore accounted for 53% of new launches across the top seven cities. Homes between ₹80 lakh and ₹1.5 crore accounted for another 25%, while properties between ₹40 lakh and ₹80 lakh accounted for 12%. Homes below ₹40 lakh represented only 10% of new supply. The shift has been developing for several years. ANAROCK's 2025 annual assessment found that properties priced above ₹1.5 crore had become a much larger part of new supply compared with 2020, while the share of lower-priced homes had contracted.

There are several reasons behind this transformation. Land in established urban locations has become expensive. Construction costs have risen. Compliance and financing costs add to project expenses. At the same time, developers see stronger margins in larger and premium homes. For buyers with higher incomes, the preference is also changing. A home is increasingly being viewed not merely as a shelter but as a lifestyle product, with larger floor areas, amenities, security, parking, recreation facilities and better community infrastructure. The result is a market where developers can achieve strong sales even when the number of affordable homes is declining.



The Affordable Housing Challenge

This is where the Indian real estate story becomes more complicated. India has millions of households aspiring to own homes, but the supply available at prices accessible to ordinary families is becoming more limited in many urban markets. The problem is not simply that property prices are rising. It is that several costs are increasing simultaneously. Land close to employment centres is expensive. Construction materials and labour add to project costs. Government charges, financing costs, parking, maintenance and interior expenses increase the final amount a buyer has to spend. A home advertised at ₹50 lakh can therefore require a considerably larger financial commitment once all associated expenses are taken into account. The affordable housing segment is also affected by geography. Developers may be able to construct relatively inexpensive housing on the outskirts of a city, but a distant home can impose additional costs on the buyer through transportation, time and access to schools and workplaces. This creates an important paradox. The cheapest house is not always the cheapest place to live. A lower-priced apartment located 30 kilometres from the workplace may ultimately cost a family more in commuting expenses and lost time than a slightly more expensive home located near public transport.

The Middle-Class Buyer Under Pressure

For the Indian middle class, the home remains one of the biggest financial decisions of a lifetime. The challenge is that property prices have moved faster in many locations than household incomes. A family buying a house today has to think not only about the down payment but also about the long-term EMI burden. The actual cost of home ownership can include the property price, stamp duty, registration, loan interest, parking, maintenance deposits, interiors, insurance and recurring maintenance. This changes the way affordability should be understood. A house may technically be within a bank's lending limit but still be financially uncomfortable for the household. The difference is important. Banks assess repayment capacity according to lending criteria. Families must assess whether the EMI allows them to continue saving for retirement, education and emergencies. That is why the next phase of India's housing market may be defined as much by financial discipline as by property appreciation.

Prices Are Still Rising, But the Pace Matters

Another important feature of the current market is that prices have continued to rise. Across the top seven cities, average residential prices increased approximately 7% year-on-year in Q1 2026, according to ANAROCK. NCR recorded the strongest annual increase at around 15%, while Bengaluru recorded about 8%. However, a market can remain healthy even when price growth begins to moderate.

The important issue is whether income growth, employment and housing demand can support prevailing prices. If prices rise substantially faster than household purchasing power for an extended period, affordability eventually becomes a constraint. That does not automatically mean a property crash. It can instead lead to slower sales, smaller homes, longer purchase decisions or greater demand for peripheral locations. In other words, affordability can cool a market without necessarily causing a collapse in prices.

Inventory Needs Careful Watching

The supply situation also deserves attention. New launches in the top seven cities exceeded sales during Q1 2026, causing available inventory to rise to about 6.01 lakh units, up 7% from a year earlier. This is a number worth watching because rising inventory means developers have more unsold stock.But inventory by itself does not provide enough information to predict the direction of prices.The quality of that inventory matters. So does its location, price category and absorption rate. Luxury apartments in a high-demand corridor are very different from affordable homes in a poorly connected peripheral location. Therefore, the market should not be judged simply by asking whether unsold housing is increasing. The more meaningful question is whether inventory is accumulating faster than the market can absorb it.

Rental Housing Gets a New Role

As property prices rise, renting is becoming a more important part of the urban housing equation. For younger workers, renting can provide flexibility. It allows them to change jobs and cities without being tied to a large mortgage. The traditional Indian idea that renting is merely a temporary stage before buying is also being questioned by younger households. For some families, renting a better-located house may make more financial sense than buying a cheaper house far from employment. This is particularly relevant for India's younger workforce, which is increasingly mobile. Knight Frank's home-buying survey found that younger and lower-income respondents showed comparatively lower ownership intent, reflecting affordability and mobility considerations. The future housing market may therefore contain a stronger rental component alongside ownership.

Commercial Real Estate Is Driving Residential Demand

Housing cannot be separated from employment. People need homes close to where they work. The growth of offices, technology centres, manufacturing facilities, logistics parks, retail destinations and other commercial activities therefore has a direct effect on surrounding residential markets. This is one reason why infrastructure and commercial development are so important. A residential project surrounded by functioning employment centres has a different demand profile from one promoted primarily on the promise of future development. India's commercial real estate market is also becoming more sophisticated, with technology, flexible workplaces, logistics and other specialised property segments expanding alongside traditional offices. Technology itself is changing the way buildings are managed, with digital access systems, energy monitoring and building-management tools increasingly becoming part of modern property operations.

RERA and the Rise of a More Formal Market

The implementation of RERA has also contributed to the formalisation of India's real estate sector. Buyers today have greater access to project information and regulatory disclosures than in the past. But regulation does not eliminate the need for due diligence. A buyer still needs to examine project approvals, land title, construction progress, developer history, delivery commitments and the complete financial terms of the transaction. The increasing role of organised developers and institutional capital is also changing the character of the sector. Real estate is gradually moving from a fragmented, relationship-driven industry towards a more formal and data-driven market.

The Expansion of India's Property Map

India's major cities are spreading outward. As central locations become increasingly expensive, developers are looking towards peripheral areas and emerging corridors. This is visible around new airports, ring roads, expressways and expanding metro networks. New business districts and industrial clusters are also generating demand for housing. The process can create a powerful economic chain. Infrastructure creates connectivity. Connectivity attracts businesses. Businesses create jobs. Jobs create housing demand. Housing demand attracts retail and services. But this cycle works only when development is balanced. If thousands of apartments are constructed before employment, roads, public transport, water supply and social infrastructure arrive, buyers may face long periods of inconvenience. The real estate sector therefore cannot be viewed separately from urban planning. Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai and NCR Tell Different Stories India does not have one uniform property market. Mumbai remains constrained by land availability and high property prices, while redevelopment has become increasingly important. Bengaluru's housing market continues to be closely linked to its technology and business ecosystem. Hyderabad has expanded rapidly along its western and northern corridors, supported by employment and infrastructure development. Delhi-NCR has several distinct markets influenced by expressways, business districts and airport-related development. ANAROCK's Q1 2026 figures illustrate this geographical diversity. MMR recorded around 32,800 housing sales, Bengaluru around 16,450, Pune about 15,300, NCR around 15,200 and Hyderabad approximately 12,400. Hyderabad, meanwhile, recorded one of the sharpest quarterly increases in new launches, with supply rising 46% from the previous quarter.

Location Is Becoming More Important Than Ever

The days when an entire city could be treated as one real estate market are disappearing. Within the same city, one neighbourhood may experience strong demand while another struggles with excess supply. The difference is often infrastructure. Metro stations, airports, expressways, technology parks, industrial corridors, business districts and logistics hubs can fundamentally change the attractiveness of a location. When infrastructure improves, travel times can fall. Businesses may move closer. New offices and retail establishments can emerge. Residential demand can follow. This is why India's expanding infrastructure network is becoming a major force shaping real estate. Knight Frank's current research is also examining emerging real estate markets beyond the traditional major metropolitan centres, reflecting the widening geographical footprint of India's property economy. But there is an important distinction between announced infrastructure and operational infrastructure.

A proposed airport or metro line may generate excitement, but the long-term property impact depends on whether the project is actually completed and whether economic activity develops around it.

For buyers, infrastructure should therefore be evaluated based on execution rather than advertisements.

SHORT NEWS

Third ODI against WI

'Bowlers leaked runs, could have had better plans,' says Dhir



NEW CHANDIGARH: India's bowlers have leaked runs due to poor execution of plans, and young batting all-rounder Naman Dhir said the side is working on better plans ahead of the third and final ODI against the West Indies, to be played at the New PCA Stadium on Saturday. While India's top-order batters have flourished, their new-ball bowling attack has floundered, with the side taking only one scalp in the opening 10 overs of the first two matches in Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati while conceding 177 runs in the mandatory power-play phase. In Guwahati, on a placid pitch, India gave away 405 runs, thus raising concerns over the performances of back-up pacers in the run-up to the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

ASIAN GAMES

Ankush wins gold in India's triple-delight as boxing campaign



NISHIO: Ankush Panghal clinched a gold medal in the men's 80kg final after a superb 4-0 win over Minseong Kim of South Korea at the Nishio Gymnasium at the ongoing Asian Games as India's boxing campaign came to a fruitful end. Ankush dominated the bout from the word go and got the ruling of four of the five judges in his favour by 30-26, while one judge tied the two at 28-28. The Korean pugilist was docked a point for warning in the first round. Ankush won the first round 4-1 as he landed his punches fiercely. He was even superior in the second round as he bagged it 5-0 with some 1-2s and pounced with counter punches. Kim also landed some punches, but the Indian looked far better. The Indian produced another display of counter punches in the third round as he blended defence with attack to take the third round 4-1 and won the contest 4-0.

Asian Games: Boxers, women hockey team, archers contribute to historic haul as India move to fifth spot

NAGOYA





Lovlina Borgohain, Parveen Hooda and Ankush Panghal claimed gold medals while the women's hockey team and the women's recurve team bagged historic gold medals as India bagged 12 medals, including six gold, to surge to the fifth position with 76 medals in the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 on Friday.

The women's hockey team made history by beating China 1-0 to win gold in the Asian Games after a gap of 44 years. In archery, the Women's recurve team ended a Korean hegemony to win India's first-ever Asian Games gold in the event, while the Mixed Team & Men's Team added silver medals.

Sujeet Kalkal ended India's wait for a wrestling gold at the Asian Games 2026 with a stunning comeback victory in the men's freestyle 65kg category, overcoming Tajikistan's Abdulmazhid Kudiyev 10-9 in a dramatic final at the Nagoya City Inae Sports Centre on Friday.

India picked a silver and two bronze medals in sailing, with Nethra Kumanan finishing third in women's dinghy sailing while another bronze came in Sepaktakraw, the Men's Quadrant team making some history of its own by bagging India's first-ever Asian Games medal.

Friday's haul of 12 medals -- six gold, three silver and three bronze -- took India's total to 73 medals -- 16 gold, 25 silver and 35 bronze medals. India has now moved to fifth position in the standings behind China (316 medals - 162 gold), Japan (240 medals -- 72 gold), South Korea (134 - 33 gold) and Uzbekistan (65 medals -- 20 gold).

But the spotlight was on the boxing contingent, and it did not disappoint, producing a golden hat-trick. Lovlina Borgohain delivered the perfect birthday gift for herself and the nation at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026, winning Gold in the women's 75kg boxing final at the Nishio Gymnasium.

In the final, Lovlina was at her clinical best against China's Bao Ziyi, the reigning 2026 Asian Championships gold medallist, sealing a 5-0 victory to upgrade her Silver from Hangzhou 2022. With this, 12 years after Mary Kom in 2014, she became only the second Indian woman ever to win an Asian Games boxing gold, and helped India record its best-ever boxing performance at the continental event in the last 16 years.

Parveen Hooda saved her best for the biggest stage at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026, striking Gold in the women's 65kg final at the Nishio Gymnasium. Up against former World Champion Chen Nien-chin of Chinese Taipei, Parveen held her nerve in a tight final, sealing a 3-2 split decision win to claim her first Asian Games title.

It was a moment of redemption for Parveen, whose Asian Games journey from Hangzhou 2022 to Aichi-Nagoya 2026 has seen triumph, heartbreak and now glory. In doing so, she became only the third Indian woman to win boxing Gold at the Asian Games after Mary Kom (2014) and Lovlina Borgohain (2026), confirming 2026 as India's best-ever women's boxing sh...

Ankush Panghal clinched the men's 80kg title with a 4-0 victory in Friday's final, securing India's third gold and sealing its most successful Asian Games boxing campaign. India finished with three gold and three bronze medals from 11 entries, recording its highest-ever gold medal haul in the sport and topping the boxing medal table ahead of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

India's three golds placed it above Uzbekistan, which finished second with two gold, one silver and four bronze medals, and Kazakhstan, which took third place with two gold and three bronze medals.

In hockey, the women's team returned to the top of the podium after four decades, beating China 1-0 in the final to win gold for the first time since 1982, when the discipline made its Asian Games debut.

Lalremsiami scored the decisive goal in the 10th minute with a powerful reverse-hit finish as India held their nerve under sustained Chinese pressure to reclaim the continental crown for the first time since 1982.

The goal came at the end of a well-crafted attacking move, with Salima Tete providing a precise pass into the circle before Sakshi delivered the ball to Lalremsiami, who unleashed a fierce reverse hit that flew into the roof of the net, leaving the Chinese goalkeeper with no chance.

There was more history for India as the women's recurve team of Ankita Bhakat, Kumkum Mohod and Kirti stunned 10-time champions South Korea to clinch the country's first-ever gold at the Asian Games.

Marking India's first-ever appearance in the Asian Games women's recurve team final, India registered a 5-3 win over the mighty Koreans in the challenging conditions to clinch the historic gold medal here at Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square.

In 2010 and 2022, India won a bronze medal after losing in the semi-final. Notably, the Korean team had not lost a final except for the inaugural Asian Games in 1982 until Friday.

India earlier defeated China 5-1 in the semi-final to enter their first-ever recurve team final.

Later, India duo Dhiraj Bommadevara and Kumkum Mohod bagged a silver medal in the mixed recurve team event after losing to China in the final here at Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square on Friday.

With a gold medal win, China also secured the LA 2028 Olympic quota, while India missed out on an Olympic quota after finishing second on the podium.

This is India's second medal in recurve archery, as the women's team clinched its first-ever gold at the Asian Games earlier this morning after beating 10-time champions South Korea in their first-ever final appearance.

Sujeet Kalkal ended India's wait for a wrestling gold at the Asian Games 2026 with a stunning comeback victory in the men's freestyle 65kg category, overcoming Tajikistan's Abdulmazhid Kudiyev 10-9 in a dramatic final at the Nagoya City Inae Sports Centre on Friday.

For most of the match, the 23-year-old Indian was behind 2-9, but then pulled off a remarkable late rally by scoring eight consecutive points in the final stages and won from Kudiyev to secure India's first wrestling gold at the Games.

The triumph of Kalkal was the climax of an impressive series of results in Aichi-Nagoya, having already beaten an Olympic champion and overcome tough opponents from Iran and Japan on his way to the final.

2027 Men's ODI World Cup could be 'swan song' for Rohit and Kohli

CAPE TOWN



Former South Africa captain Shaun Pollock believes the 2027 ICC Men's ODI World Cup could serve as the ultimate 'swan song' for India's batting stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, while backing co-hosts South Africa as prime contenders for winning the title.

The 2027 ICC Men's ODI World Cup will run from October 2 to November 21 next year in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. "I think it's also going to be a swan song for him (Rohit) and a couple of players.

"This Cricket World Cup could be their last swan song, players like Virat Kohli, Mitchell Starc, who have been unbelievable servants for One-Day International games. So that's the excitement, as this is a stage for those guys for the last time to show how good they are," Pollock was quoted as saying by the ICC on Friday.

Former West Indies captain Brian Lara backed the Proteas to make a strong run on home turf after 24 years, while praising the revamped 14-team format. "South Africa hosting after 24 years, I fancy them this time around. I think they are going to be my No.1 team. It's a great format. I believe getting as many teams as possible is good." Lara, however, warned against writing off two-time champions West Indies as they prepare to navigate the main event qualification pathway.

News of pay cuts before big series doesn't help team's morale: Sammy

NEW CHANDIGARH



West Indies head coach Daren Sammy expressed his dismay over the proposed 25 percent pay cuts in central contracts by Cricket West Indies (CWI), adding that such off-field developments on the eve of a major series do little to boost the squad's morale.

"I mean, look, as a professional, that's not what you want to hear before a series. Before the pay cuts, I said, there is no better time to play India. You win against the best team, you get some leverage, not only for the West Indies as a whole, but for you personally.

"Performing against India pays you back down the road. We try our best to put that there. I commend the guys for the way they put their heads down. Yes, the results have not gone (our way). But we keep improving in certain areas," said Sammy in the pre-match press conference, on the eve of the third ODI against India.

Evaluating the team's progress on the ODI leg of the tour, Sammy praised the aggressive approach of his top-order batters, even as the bowling unit has struggled. "Intent is something that we've spoken about in the dressing room. We have had four batters scoring 100s in two games. It is a positive for us.

"The rotation of strike, the intent, especially against spin- these are the KPIs that we take. But we still need to find ways, when the pitch is not really offering any assistance to the bowlers, to be disciplined in our lines and lengths and the plans that we put in," he noted.

Sammy also felt the visitors missed an opportunity to put up a much better total in the second ODI in Guwahati, as India chased down a massive 406. "The position we were in, especially in ODI cricket, they normally say when you find yourself in a good position on a good pitch, at 30 overs you should be able to double the score.

Double gold medallist Neeru Dhanda named India's flag-bearer for closing ceremony

NAGOYA

Indian shooting star Neeru Dhanda will carry the national flag at the closing ceremony of the 2026 Asian Games in Nagoya on Sunday, capping a memorable campaign in which she emerged as one of the country's standout performers.

The 27-year-old trap shooter has won three medals at the ongoing Games, including two gold medals and a silver, playing a key role in India's impressive campaign in shooting.

Neeru's medal-winning run began with a silver in the women's trap team event, where she teamed up with Aashima Ahlawat and Manisha Keer. The Indian trio finished with a combined score of 328 after three days of qualification, behind gold medallists China, while Kuwait claimed bronze.

Neeru then delivered a historic performance in the individual trap event, becoming the first Indian woman to win an Asian Games gold in the discipline. Having topped qualification with 118, she produced a score of 28 in the final to set an Asian record and secure the gold medal.

She followed that performance with another gold in the trap-mixed team event alongside Kynan Chenai. The Indian pair recovered brilliantly after making a difficult start and eventually finished with 34 hits, breaking the previous Asian record of 33 set by Qatar earlier in 2026. The mixed team triumph completed a memorable two-day run for Neeru, who returned to the range less than 24 hours after her individual gold and once again finished on top.

44-Year Wait Ends... Indian Women's Hockey Team Crowned Champions

*** India defeats China 1-0 in a thrilling final and creates history — Minister Vakiti Srihari congratulates the team**



Tokyo, Oct 2: The Indian women's hockey team created history at the 2026 Asian Games being held in Japan. State Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Indian women's team for winning the gold medal after defeating China 1–0 in a thrilling final. The Minister personally watched the match in Japan.

Minister Srihari said that India, which won its first gold medal in women's hockey at the Asian Games in 1982, had achieved a historic victory by winning the gold again after a long 44-year wait. He praised the Indian players for once again enhancing the country's reputation on the international stage through their determination, collective effort, and outstanding defensive performance.

In the final, Lalremsiami gave India the lead with a brilliant goal in the 10th minute. Despite coming under intense pressure from China afterward, the Indian defensive line put up an excellent resistance. The Minister said that a key turning point in the match came when goalkeeper Savita Punia brilliantly saved a penalty stroke awarded to China in the second quarter.

The Indian team successfully defended its one-goal lead until the final whistle and secured a 1–0 victory to claim the women's hockey gold at the Asian Games. He said it was a matter of great pride that this victory also earned India direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Minister Vakiti Srihari said that this victory by the Indian women's hockey team would serve as a great inspiration to young athletes across the country. He noted that women in Indian sports are achieving remarkable successes and bringing pride to the nation.

He also extended special congratulations to the team members, coaches, and support staff. After the match, Minister Vakiti Srihari encouraged the people present by chanting, "Bharat Mata Ki Jai!"

PM Modi congratulates Sujeet, Ankush, Parveen, sepaktakraw team and Nethra on winning medals

NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated Sujeet Kalkal, Ankush Panghal, Parveen Hooda, the Indian men's quadrant sepaktakraw team and sailor Nethra Kumanan on their medal-winning performances in the Asian Games 2026, hailing their determination and dedication across wrestling, boxing, sepaktakraw and sailing.

Sujeet Kalkal ended India's wait for a wrestling gold at the Asian Games 2026 with a stunning comeback victory in the men's freestyle 65kg category, overcoming Tajikistan's Abdulmazhid Kudiyev 10-9 in a dramatic final at the Nagoya City Inae Sports Centre on Friday.

"Congratulations to Sujeet on winning the Men's 65kg Freestyle Wrestling Gold at the Asian Games after a thrilling victory in the final. On his Asian Games debut, he has delivered India's first Wrestling Gold of this edition. It is indeed a memorable triumph! Wishing him the very best for the times to come," Modi posted on X.

For most of the match, the 23-year-old Indian was behind 2-9, but then pulled off a remarkable late rally by scoring eight consecutive points in the final stages and won from Kudiyev to secure India's first wrestling gold at the Games.

The Prime Minister also congratulated Ankush Panghal after the Indian boxer secured gold in the men's 80kg category with a dominant 4-0 victory over South Korea's Minseong Kim at the Nishio Gymnasium.

"Congrats to Ankush on winning the Men's 80kg Boxing Gold at the Asian Games with an emphatic victory in the final. His passion and dedication are noteworthy. His success ensures that India's boxing campaign at the Asian Games ends on a great note," Modi said.

Ankush dominated the bout from the word go and got the ruling of four of the five judges in his favour by 30-26, while one judge tied the two at 28-28. The Korean pugilist was docked a point for warning in the first round.

Modi also lauded Parveen Hooda after the 26-year-old won gold in the women's 65kg category following a hard-fought final against Chinese Taipei's Nien-chin Che.

"Congratulations to Parveen on winning the Women's 65kg Boxing Gold at the Asian Games after a hard-fought final. Hers is a remarkable achievement that adds another glorious chapter to Indian boxing. Her success is deeply motivating and highlights her dedication to sporting excellence. My best wishes for her endeavours in the times ahead," he said.

Neha Turns Heads In Gold



Neha Shetty, still adored as the viral Radhika, continues to win hearts with her traditional looks. Dressed in a shimmering gold tissue half saree with a soft lilac tint, she looks like a vision under the night sky. The pleated skirt catches the light beautifully, while the sheer pallu drapes gracefully over her arm. A matching lilac blouse with delicate embroidery completes the look. A maang tikka, stacked bangles and loose wavy hair add just the right festive touch. With her gaze lowered and a soft smile, she poses against a warm wall and blooming bougainvillea, and the gold truly steals the show. On the work front, Neha has not had a lead film in a couple of years. Fans are waiting to see how 2026 will end for her.

Keerthy's Next Locks November 20

Director Praveen S Vijay's courtroom drama 'Sathyavan Savithiri', featuring actors Keerthy Suresh and director Mysskin in the lead, will now hit screens worldwide on November 20, its makers announced on Friday. Taking to its social media timelines, Drumsticks Productions, the firm producing the film, wrote, "NO MORE SILENCE. SAVITHIRI'S FIGHT BEGINS! It may be recalled that the film was originally scheduled to release on July 24. However, the makers chose to postpone the film. Now, they have announced that it will hit the screens on November 24. The production house had released the first and second looks from the film in May this year. The first look poster had Keerthy Suresh turning around to look back, even as lawyers around her were seen looking ahead. The production house had then said, "Calm face. Unstoppable force. Now it's her game... Presenting the First Look of #SathyavanSavithiri." Sources close to the unit of the film have disclosed that the film revolves around two lawyers -- played by Keerthy Suresh and director Mysskin. Sources say that Mysskin plays Keerthy's senior advocate in the film. "When her boss chooses to take the side of wrong-doers in a particular case, Keerthy attempts to make him see reason. However, it is at this point, she sees his true colours. The case changes the course of Keerthy's life. How she handles the issue is what the film is all about," says a source in the know. The film, apart from Keerthy Suresh, will also feature Heartbeat Charukesh, Balasaravanan, Madhusudhanan, Shilpa Manjunath, R Sundararajan, Brigida, Mala Parvathi, A Venkatesh and others in pivotal roles. Produced jointly by Zee Studios and Drumsticks Productions, the film has cinematography by Arul Vincent and music by Sam C S. Editing for the film is by Prasanna G K.

Parvathy Says No To Films Over Language



Actress Parvathy Thiruvothu has opened up about the challenges actors face while speaking different South Indian languages and dialects, particularly the trolling they sometimes encounter over their accents. Parvathy said that struggling with an unfamiliar accent is natural when working in another language. According to her, learning a new language and speaking it naturally cannot happen overnight. She believes audiences expect performances to feel authentic, which is why she takes language preparation seriously whenever she accepts a role in another language. The actress revealed that she is always interested in learning new languages and does not hesitate to undergo training for a role. However, if she feels she cannot deliver the dialogues convincingly, she prefers to turn down the project. She also said she would be perfectly comfortable with another dubbing artist lending their voice if that would make the character more natural. Parvathy further revealed that she has turned down films in the past because of language-related concerns, putting authenticity ahead of simply accepting an opportunity. Known for choosing performance-oriented roles regardless of commercial success or failure, Parvathy continues to work across multiple projects. Her recent Malayalam thriller Pradhama Drishtya Kuttakkar also received a positive response and emerged as a success.

'Om' Sets November 20 Release



Director Rajkumar Periasamy's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Om', featuring Tamil star Dhanush and Malayalam superstar Mammootty in the lead, will now hit screens on November 20 this year, its makers announced on Friday. Wunderbar Films, the production house of actor Dhanush, which is producing the film took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. It wrote, "The Day for the Ultimate Strike is Here. #OM Hits theatres worldwide on November 20, 2026.A @Rajkumar_KP Film. @dhanushkraja It may be recalled that the makers had originally planned to release the film on October 16. However, actor Dhanush, in a statement, announced the film's postponement. He said that they had chosen to postpone the release of their film out of respect for Superstar Rajinikanth, whose film Jailer 2 is slated to hit screens on October 15. Dhanush had also made it clear that their film would not be releasing for Deepavali as Suriya's film had already been announced for the same date. The actor and producer had said that they would announce a new date of release for their film very soon. Now, they have announced November 20 as the date of release for their film. The film has triggered huge interest in fans and film buffs as this is the first time that Dhanush and Mammootty are collaborating on a project. Director Rajkumar Periasamy had disclosed earlier that Mammootty plays a character called Karthikeyan the film. Participating in the title teaser launch event of the film which was held in June this year, Rajkumar Periasamy had disclosed that Malayalam superstar Mammootty played a character called Karthikeyan in the film and that 60 to 65 per cent of filming had then been completed. For the unaware, the unit of the film had recently shot in Malaysia. Mammootty had also jointly celebrated his recent National Award win with three other National Award winners -- Dhanush, director Rajkumar Periasamy and editor Kalaivanan -- on the sets of the film. Bollywood star Naseeruddin Shah too is a part of this film. The film's title has a tagline called Chapter 1 indicating that there could be a sequel. A title teaser that the makers had released some time back had showed that the story revolves around those cutting red sanders for a living. Dhanush himself plays a woodcutter in the film. The teaser showed police personnel rounding up woodcutters chopping red sanders illegally. As they ho ld the workers hostage at gunpoint, Dhanush was seen coming to their rescue. Wunderbar Films Head Sreyas, while speaking at the title teaser launch event, had disclosed that this would be one of the biggest budget films in Dhanush's career. He had also said that this film would bring back the mass vintage Dhanush that fans had longed to see. The film, which features Sai Pallavi and Sreeleela as the heroines, has music by Sai Abhyankkar. Cinematography for the film is by Ezhil Arasu. Editing for the film is by Kalaivanan R and costumes are by Kavya Sriram.



Hanuman Ansh Moves On Without Trivikram

Hanuman Ansh is a blockbuster film. The devotional biographical film, made with a shoe-string budget of 1.75 to 2 crore, has emerged as a historic blockbuster. It reportedly grossed over 380 to 400 crore worldwide. This generated huge hype and buzz around its Telugu release. Director Trivikram Srinivas had officially announced that he acquired the Telugu rights and would present the film in Telugu. However, in a last-minute development, the release was cancelled, and Trivikram backed out of presenting the film. The Telugu rights eventually landed with Hombale Films, the prestigious production house behind films such as KGF, Salaar and Kantara. Now, the production house is bringing Hanuman Ansh to Telugu audiences as well. What has caught everyone's attention now is Hanuman Ansh's Telugu release date. The film is slated to hit theatres on October 9, directly clashing with Trivikram Srinivas and Venkatesh's Adarsha Kutumbam AK 47. The irony is difficult to miss. Until last week, Hanuman Ansh was expected to be presented by Trivikram himself. Now, the same film is entering theatres against his Adarsha Kutumbam. That's the unpredictable nature of the film business. While the two films belong to completely different genres and are likely to appeal to different sections of the audience, the direct clash is still intriguing. Adarsha Kutumbam is targeting family audiences and women audiences, along with the youth, making the arrival of a surprise blockbuster like Hanuman Ansh an unexpected development for Trivikram and his team.

G.O.A.T. Sets November 12 Release



Popular comedian-turned-hero Sudigali Sudheer is gearing up for the theatrical release of his upcoming film G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Times). Starring Divya Bharathi as the female lead, the film is directed by Vedavyas and jointly produced by Mahateja Creations and Jaishnav Productions, with Chandrasekhar Reddy Mogulla serving as the producer. Presented by Asian Cinemas, the film will hit theatres on November 12. The film has already generated positive buzz, with the content released so far receiving a good response from audiences. The makers are now preparing to unveil the much-awaited trailer soon. Speaking about the film, producer Chandrasekhar Reddy Mogulla said that the team is currently busy with the final production works. He stated that the film has been made on a lavish scale without compromising on the budget, with special attention given to its technical quality and visual richness. According to the producer, G.O.A.T. will be a milestone in Sudigali Sudheer's career, with every frame designed to offer a grand cinematic experience. While the film is packed with complete commercial elements, it also carries a meaningful message aimed at making today's youth think. With an entertaining story, strong technical values and a talented ensemble cast, the makers are confident that G.O.A.T. will appeal to audiences across all sections. The film stars Sudigali Sudheer, Divya Bharathi, Sarvadaman Banerjee, Nithin Prasanna, Brahmaji, Prithvi, Aadukalam Naren, Rajendran, Anand Ramaraj, Chammak Chandra, Pammi Sai, Naveen Neni and others.

Printed, Published, Edited and Owned by Pisati Janga Reddy, Printed at : Jayadurga Printers, Plot No.48, H.No.24114/ 3/1, Survey.No.551, Laxmi Narayana Nagar, Uppal, Medchal District, Telangana State.
Published at : Flat No.303A, Prajay Alakapuri Apartments, Road No.2, Green Hills Colony, Kothapet, Hyderabad 500035,Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State.
Editor: Pisati Janga Reddy, Ph : 040 24123467, Email : hyderabadheadlines@gmail.com