HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 | VOL NO. 17 | ISSUE NO.: 159 | RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) | PAGES: 12 | RS. 1/-

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026 | WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM

Why animal welfare matters to India's development

OPINION 06



Rashi's Traditional Slay

BOX OFFICE 12



OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

Ready to Go to the Polls with Ballot Papers in Those Four States?

Congress CMs, resign and come
The INDIA bloc has no public support
Amit Shah's tour was postponed due to unavoidable circumstances
Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar Makes Strong Remarks



Hyderabad, October 3: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar challenged the Congress party, which has repeatedly made allegations against the Election Commission of India and Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). "Congress won in Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh because of EVMs, didn't it? Then are the Chief Ministers of those four states ready to resign, dissolve the Congress governments and go back to the polls using ballot papers? Congress leaders who repeatedly talk about EVMs and SIR should accept my challenge if they have the courage," he said.

He also criticized Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, for not responding to the courage displayed by Captain Smith Machchhar, saying that people across the world have praised his bravery.

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CM orders a comprehensive Child Online Safety Framework

CM orders framework to curb cybercrimes against children; child and women safety top priority

Government to strengthen cyber safety for children in consultation with HC, TGSLSA

Hyderabad, 3 October: Chief Minister of Telangana Shri A. Revanth Reddy ordered state government officials to prepare a comprehensive Child Online Safety Framework with an aim to safeguard children from cybercrimes and ensure they get justice. The framework will be prepared in consultation with the High Court and the Telangana State Legal Services Authority (TGSLSA), the Chief Minister announced at a national conference on Saturday. The Chief Minister delivered an address at the inaugural session of the National Legal Services Authority's South Zone Regional Conference.

Union Minister of State Arjun Ram Meghwal, Telangana High Court Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh, Supreme Court Judges Alok Aradhe, R. Mahadevan, P.S. Narasimha, Vikram Nath, and Telangana High Court Judge Sam Koshy attended the conference. The conference was organised with the theme 'Justice for Children in Cyberspace'. On the occasion, the Chief Minister launched the TGSLSA Freedom from Bonded Labour – Legal Aid, Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration Scheme, 2026. The scheme provides a simple mechanism for reporting of incidents of bonded labour and to spread awareness on the rights of the labour. The CM reiterated the government's commitment to giving full support to the Legal Services Authorities (LSAs) so the good work can be taken to every district, and every village.

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Delhi Talks on Telangana Congress In-Charge Change

Key Deliberations in Delhi Over Possible Change of Telangana Congress In-Charge?

Avinash Pande the day before yesterday... Mukul Wasnik yesterday... Now Dr. Ajay Kumar's name?



HYDERABAD–NEW DELHI, OCT 3

Political circles are once again abuzz with discussion over a possible change in the in-charge of the Telangana Congress. Amid reports that deliberations are underway at the AICC level regarding a change in the person handling Telangana Congress affairs, the name of former IPS officer and former MP Dr. Ajay Kumar is reportedly doing the rounds in political circles. However, no official announcement has so far been made appointing him as the AICC in-charge of Telangana. According to the AICC/public information currently available, Meenakshi Natarajan continues to be responsible for Telangana affairs.

A Leader Already Familiar with Telangana?

Dr. Ajay Kumar has prior experience with Telangana's political affairs. During the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections, he handled key responsibilities related to the Congress's electoral operations. At the time, there was discussion within party circles about his role in coordinating areas such as media, communications, social media, and the war room during the elections. Whether that experience could now be useful in handling Telangana's organizational responsibilities has become a topic of interest in political circles.

Experience Handling AICC Responsibilities in Several States

Dr. Ajay Kumar has experience handling organizational and political responsibilities at various levels within the Congress. After serving as an IPS officer, he entered politics and was elected to the Lok Sabha from Jamshedpur in 2011. He subsequently held various organizational positions within the Congress. However, his current status as a CWC member/AICC spokesperson, as well as the complete list of states for which he has previously been responsible, needs to be verified once again through official AICC sources.

Will Telangana Get a New In-Charge?

In recent times, the Congress party has changed its AICC in-charges in several states. In 2026, organizational changes took place in states including Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. Against this backdrop, speculation has intensified over whether similar changes could also be made in Telangana at the AICC level.

Extremely meaningful dialogue': PM meets Haryana MLAs

New Delhi, Oct. 3: PM Modi on Saturday met Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and BJP MLAs from the state at his residence in New Delhi. Modi said the meeting involved "extremely meaningful dialogue" on public service and welfare. He urged the MLAs to work for greater public participation in government initiatives and engage in social activities. The leaders also discussed issues including farmers' incomes, education and public welfare. BJP leaders said Modi interacted with the MLAs about the state's development.

Another Key Step Toward Resolving 22-A Land Issues

Good news for registration of patta lands converted to residential use without NALA permission

Path cleared for registration of eligible lands upon payment of NALA charges — orders issued

Chief Minister's assurances being implemented at a rapid pace

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy



Hyderabad, OCT 3: The state government under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has taken another key step with the objective of providing a permanent solution to complex land-related problems that people have been facing for several decades, said State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. The minister said that a memo was issued on Saturday to resolve the issue of patta lands that were originally agricultural lands and were subsequently converted for residential use, but whose registrations had been stalled because the NALA (Non-Agricultural Land Assessment) process had not been completed.

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VICAT
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Four Killed, Several Injured as Bus Overturns Near Ananthagiri Hills



Vikarabad, October 3: Four persons were reportedly killed and several others injured after a private bus overturned near a sharp curve on the Ananthagiri Hills Down Road on the outskirts of Kerelli village in Dharur mandal of Vikarabad district on Saturday. The accident occurred at around 10:50 a.m., when an Om Namah Shivaya Travels bus bearing registration number AP 03 8295 was proceeding towards Chintakunta village. Preliminary information indicated that 51 persons from Isnapur and Kyasaram villages of Patancheru mandal in Sangareddy district were travelling in the bus to attend the funeral of Kothagadi Narayana Reddy, 50, a native of Chintakunta, who had died the previous day.

According to preliminary reports, the bus reportedly overturned towards the right side while negotiating a sharp curve. Excessive speed is suspected to have contributed to the accident, though the exact cause is yet to be ascertained.

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'Jantar Mantar 2.0 has begun': Ghosh, Dipke



New Delhi, Oct. 3: Former JNU Students' Union president Aishe Ghosh and Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Saturday criticised the Delhi Police action against protesters at Jantar Mantar, where demonstrations were held demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. Ghosh, in a post on X, alleged police brutality against students, youth and civil society members and said, "Jantar Mantar 2.0 has just begun," adding that the agitation would continue until Kumar was removed. Dipke also criticised the police action, alleging that peaceful dissent was being suppressed. He said the Delhi Police should uphold citizens' right to peaceful protest and referred to the Mumbai Police response as an example.

The remarks came a day after hundreds of protesters were detained during demonstrations over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the demand for Kumar's resignation. Media reports put Friday's detention figure at around 1,000. Protests continued on Saturday, with several participants, including activists Neha Bora and Yogendra Yadav, being detained again. Dipke has announced another protest at Jantar Mantar on October 10 if Kumar does not resign.

The Election Commission has maintained that differences within the three-member poll panel are part of institutional deliberations and that its SIR orders have legal sanction and follow statutory procedures.

Cyberabad CP Dr. M. Ramesh Introduced to The Uncharted Artery – Heartfulness Compass





HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 3

Dr. M. Ramesh, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad, was presented with a copy of The Uncharted Artery – Heartfulness Compass, authored by senior interventional cardiologist and Heartfulness trainer Dr. A. Sharath Reddy, at an event held on Saturday at the Blue Planet Auditorium, Medicover Hospitals, Financial District, Hyderabad. Dr. Anil Krishna, Chairman and Managing Director, Medicover Hospitals India, and Mr. Harikrishna, Executive Director, Medicover Hospitals, attended the programme and congratulated Dr. Sharath Reddy. Dr. Sampath Kumar, Senior Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, Medicover Hospitals, was also present as a special invitee. The book was formally launched on September 28 at Kanha Shanti Vanam, Telangana, by Padma Bhushan Kamlesh D. Patel (Daaji), Global Guide, Heartfulness. The Hyderabad programme provided an opportunity to introduce the book and its central message to a wider audience. Based on Dr. Sharath Reddy's articles and experiences, the book comprises 25 essays that bring together medical knowledge and meditation practice. It explores stress, work pressure, uncertainty and the fast pace of modern life, while highlighting the importance of mental calm, emotional balance and clarity of thought along with physical heart health. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. A. Sharath Reddy said, "Every moment is important in cardiac care. Our hands perform the procedure, but it is a calm and clear mind that guides critical decisions. Heartfulness meditation has helped me develop clarity of thought and remain steady under pressure. The essays in this book emerged from these experiences. We often speak about taking care of the physical heart, but we also need to take care of the inner space that influences the way we think, decide and live." He added, "Stress has become part of modern life. Spending a few minutes in meditation every day can help calm the mind and approach situations with greater clarity. When an individual is peaceful, that calmness can extend to the family, workplace and society. This is the message I wanted to share through the book."

Dr.M.Ramesh,IPS,said,"Policepersonnel face stressful situations and have to take important decisions every day. Maintaining a calm mind and clarity of thought is essential in such circumstances. It is appreciable that Dr. Sharath Reddy has brought together his experience as a cardiologist and his practice of meditation in this book. The subject is relevant to people from all walks of life."

Dr. Anil Krishna said, "Heart health is influenced by several factors, including lifestyle and stress. Along with providing advanced medical care, creating awareness about healthy living is also important. Dr. Sharath Reddy has brought together his medical experience and meditation practice in this book, highlighting the importance of maintaining both physical and mental well-being." Dr. Sampath Kumar said, "Stress management is an important part of maintaining cardiovascular health. Dr. Sharath Reddy has presented his medical experience and understanding of meditation through a collection of essays that are simple and relevant to everyday life. The book offers readers an opportunity to look at heart health from a broader perspective."

Mr. Harikrishna said, "Modern lifestyles have made stress and emotional pressures a part of everyday life. Maintaining mental well-being is important along with physical health. By connecting medical knowledge with Heartfulness meditation, Dr. Sharath Reddy has addressed an important aspect of healthy living through this book."

Dr. A. Sharath Reddy is a Senior Interventional Cardiologist with more than 19 years of experience, with expertise in complex coronary interventions, including Chronic Total Occlusion (CTO) procedures. He is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (FACC), American Heart Association (FAHA), Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (FSCAI) and European Society of Cardiology (FESC). He is also a certified Heartfulness meditation trainer. Dr. Sharath Reddy expressed his gratitude to the Medicover Hospitals team and Daaji, Global Guide of Heartfulness, for their support in bringing the book to readers.

*The Uncharted Artery – Heartfulness Compass will soon be available at leading bookstores and on online platforms, including Amazon.

Expedite the construction of TIMS hospitals, Warangal Super Speciality and Osmania Hospital

CM Revanth Reddy holds a meeting with CMO officials on Education, healthcare and Global Summit arrangements

Hyderabad, oct 3: Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy ordered officials to expedite the construction of TIMS hospitals at LB Nagar, Alwal, Warangal super specialty hospital and the new Osmania hospital in Hyderabad city. The Chief Minister held a meeting with CMO officials and issued several important directives to the authorities regarding the ground level situation of education and healthcare in the state on Saturday. The CM inquired about the progress of the construction of the major hospital projects across the state. Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju was instructed to identify staffing requirements including doctors and support staff and initiate the recruitment process to ensure there is no staff shortage by the time construction is completed. The status of the procurement of state-of-the-art medical equipment and the availability of comprehensive medical services upon the completion of the hospitals was also reviewed in the meeting.

To strengthen the education sector further, CM Revanth Reddy directed officials to ensure that district Collectors conduct field visits. The Chief Minister emphasized that the Collectors and other officials must visit government schools, social welfare hostels, and hospitals regularly. The CM stressed that the officials should conduct weekly reviews on facilities in the schools at the district level, remain vigilant on seasonal diseases and undertake necessary repairs in schools.

The CMO officials briefed the CM Revanth Reddy on the arrangements being made for the 'Telangana Global Summit-2026,' scheduled to be held at 'Bharat Future City' in December. Stating he would personally inspect the arrangements soon, the Chief Minister directed officials to formulate meticulous plans regarding summit arrangements, guests, and investments. MP Vem Narendar Reddy, Government Advisor Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, DGP CV Anand, and senior CMO officials participated in the meeting.

Cyberabad Police Announce Major Jurisdictional Reorganization Across Key Localities

Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 03: Cyberabad Police have revised the jurisdiction of police stations in Balanagar Division from October 2, following G.O. Ms. No. 135 issued by the Home Department. The Moosapet and Prashanth Nagar divisions, earlier under Sanath Nagar PS, have been shifted to Kukatpally PS. The areas include Shakhinagar, MIG, LIG, Maheshwari Nagar, JP Nagar, SP Nagar, HP Road and surrounding colonies. The Mothinagar division has been transferred from Sanath Nagar PS to Allapur PS, covering Mothinagar, Ganesh Nagar, Avanthi Nagar, Snehapuri Colony, Harinagar, Kabeer Nagar, Babbuguda and adjoining areas. Police officials said the reorganisation is aimed at improving patrolling, speeding up emergency response and making policing services more accessible to residents. People in the affected localities have been advised to approach the newly designated police stations for complaints, FIRs, police verification and other law-and-order issues. Kukatpally PS helpline: 8712663149; Allapur PS helpline: 8712663699.



‘This is only the beginning’: Rahul on Satyagraha platform

New Delhi, Oct. 3: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has launched a digital platform named ‘Satyagraha’ to collect and highlight citizens’ accounts of struggles and grievances related to injustice across the country. Gandhi said the platform received more than 10,000 submissions within nine hours of its launch. The submissions, he said, covered issues including education, corruption, social justice, farmers, labour, healthcare, women’s safety, land and the environment. “Our team will go through each one, work out how we can help, and reach out where more details are needed,” Gandhi said in a post on X.



He added that the initiative would continue for years and support peaceful movements across the country.

The platform allows people to submit details of their causes, identify similar movements through an interactive map and seek support. Gandhi said the initiative was intended to bring together people and groups raising concerns in different parts of the country.

Calling for a “new Satyagraha”, Gandhi urged citizens involved in peaceful protests to share their stories. “This is only the beginning,” he said.

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Ready to Go to the Polls...

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He alleged that Congress leaders were remaining silent because they feared losing votes from the community to which the person who attacked Machchhar belonged. Bandi Sanjay said that, in his view, those who knew about Machchhar’s courage and bravery but failed to respond were “anti-nationals” and “ideological Naxalites.” Bandi Sanjay Kumar spoke to the media at the BJP state office in Hyderabad on Friday evening, along with BJP leaders Dr. Manohar Reddy, Sangappa, Srivardhan Reddy and others.

Key Points

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was scheduled to visit Telangana on Friday night, postponed his visit due to unavoidable circumstances.

The attack at the Santoshi Mata temple in Dilsukhnagar was highly condemnable, Bandi Sanjay said. He alleged that the government was not paying adequate attention to attacks on Hindu temples and said such incidents could have been prevented if action had been taken against those responsible. He alleged that the government was reluctant to act because it feared upsetting members of the community to which the accused belonged. He further alleged that whenever people questioned the government, it had a practice of portraying the attacker as mentally ill. “A mentally ill person does not distinguish between a temple and a mosque. But why are attacks taking place specifically on temples?” he asked. He said the situation had arisen because Hindus had not responded strongly enough. He urged the government to change its approach and take stringent action against those responsible. He warned that if young people took to the streets in protest, it could become difficult to control the situation. He demanded a comprehensive investigation into attacks on temples and strict action to prevent such incidents from recurring.

“What is the Connection Between CEC Gyanesh Kumar and the BJP?”

“What is the connection between CEC Gyanesh Kumar and the BJP? He is not an NDA minister. The Election Commission is an independent constitutional institution,” Bandi Sanjay said.

He also claimed that the INDIA bloc has no public support, pointing to the limited turnout at its protest programmes in Mumbai and Delhi as evidence.

Referring to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, he said Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala had stated that the Congress came to power in Kerala after bogus votes allegedly associated with the CPI(M) were removed. He asked Congress leaders to explain their position on the matter.

Challenge Over EVMs

“I am challenging Congress leaders who are making allegations against EVMs. Make the Congress-ruled Chief Ministers resign and contest elections again. Let us go to the polls using ballot papers and see who wins,” Bandi Sanjay said.

Congress and BRS Are “Two Sides of the Same Coin”

Bandi Sanjay alleged that the Congress and BRS were effectively two sides of the same coin. He questioned why the Congress government had not taken action over alleged corruption during the BRS regime and why the BRS was not mounting a campaign against the Congress government’s implementation of the six guarantees.

“If the Congress is honest, why is it not taking action against BRS leaders over alleged corruption? Why are BRS leaders not launching protests over the Congress government’s six guarantees? If corruption worth ₹1 lakh crore took place in the Kaleshwaram project, why has the Congress government not written to the CBI?” he asked.

He also dismissed as a “big joke” claims that the KCR family had owned hundreds of acres in Chintamadaka even before coming to power. He questioned how the family acquired numerous hotels and properties after coming to power.

BJP Has Support Among Teachers, Graduates and Unemployed Youth, Says Bandi

Bandi Sanjay claimed that teachers, graduates and unemployed youth were supporting the BJP. He cited the BJP’s earlier victory in two MLC seats as evidence. “We have started the ground work. There is positive sentiment towards the BJP among the people. The BJP’s victory in the Khairatabad by-election is certain,” he said.

Remarks on Captain Smith Machchhar

Bandi Sanjay said Captain Smith Machchhar’s courage and bravery were being praised around the world. He noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spoken to Machchhar directly over a video call and congratulated him. He questioned why Rahul Gandhi had not even posted a tweet about Machchhar’s actions. Bandi Sanjay alleged that Congress leaders were hesitant to speak because they feared losing votes from the community to which the co-pilot accused of attacking Machchhar belonged. The reports available today confirm that Machchhar, an Indian Flydubai captain, was seriously injured during an incident on a Dubai–Tel Aviv flight and was credited with helping avert a disaster; he has received public praise from several Indian and international figures.

Four Killed, Several Injured as Bus Overturns..

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The deceased have been identified as Rajendra Pramella of Shankarpally, Atelli Yadamma, Mala Padamma and Atelli Padamma, all from Kyasaram village, according to preliminary information.



A total of 43 injured persons were reportedly shifted to Government General Hospital, Vikarabad, for treatment. Of them, 25 were referred to other hospitals for further treatment, while 10 remained under observation and eight were discharged at the request of their relatives. However, there was a discrepancy in the gender-wise figures provided by the hospital authorities, with 33 females and 11 males reported, which totals 44 persons. The figures are being verified.

Two local youths, Riyaz, 21, and Saddam, 22, both from Dharur, were among those who assisted in the aftermath of the accident. Police and other departments coordinated rescue and relief operations and arranged medical assistance for the injured. Further details are expected as the investigation and verification of the casualty figures continue.

Another Key Step Toward Resolving 22-A Land Issues

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He stated that clear guidelines had been issued to district collectors through Memo No. 48062/ULC/A1/2026. Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the government had recognized the difficulties being faced by people in the case of residential patta lands included in 22-A, which continue to be recorded as agricultural land in revenue records because the NALA process had not been completed.

He said collectors had been clearly instructed to comprehensively examine the relevant applications, including revenue records, land ownership rights and ground-level conditions, and, in accordance with the rules, collect the applicable NALA charges and other government fees and take the necessary steps to complete the registration process. The minister said collectors had also been instructed to ensure that eligible applications were processed quickly and transparently within a stipulated time frame, so that people would not have to make repeated visits to government offices for registration of their lands. They were also directed to submit implementation progress reports to the government.

The minister stated that this decision would provide relief to ordinary and middle-class families who have been unable to sell their own plots or obtain loans against them for many years. During a review meeting with revenue officials held on Saturday, the minister instructed officials to continuously monitor the implementation of the orders recently issued for resolving 22-A issues, ensuring that they are implemented effectively at the field level.

He said that officials have a minimum responsibility to implement every decision taken by the government from the perspective of public welfare. If officials discharge this responsibility properly, the problems can be resolved more quickly, he said. He directed officials to implement, with sincerity and responsibility, the decisions taken by the public government in accordance with the aspirations and expectations of the people and the directions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Series of Measures to Resolve 22-A Issues

The minister explained that, in accordance with the assurances given by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on the 16th of last month regarding the resolution of 22-A issues, discussions had been held with fellow ministers and steps were being taken to resolve 10 to 12 issues associated with 22-A through a fast-track process. He said that a high-level committee was constituted within 24 hours of the Chief Minister’s assurance in the Legislative Assembly to address 22-A issues.

Subsequently, clear memos were issued in accordance with G.O. 118 and G.O. 76. Orders had already been issued permitting the registration of houses, plots and flats that are included in the 22-A list but have approvals from the GHMC, HMDA, DTCP or municipalities, he said.

He further stated that clear orders had been issued for resolving Urban Land Ceiling (ULC) applications that had remained pending for decades. As part of these continuing measures, the government has now issued a memo providing a solution to the issue of patta lands for which the NALA process has not yet been completed, the minister said.

CM orders a comprehensive Child Online...

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He called for involving parents in the effort to prepare the Child Online Safety Framework. "Every child and parent should know two numbers: 1930 for cybercrime and 1098 for child help."

He suggested parents to speak to their children and be curious on what they are doing on internet. "Be curious, not judgemental."

He added that protecting children and women remains the highest priority of the state government. Besides Police, Telangana has many good institutions - Bharosa, Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committees, Special Courts and LSAs - all of them working together as one system to protect the child.

Our Bharosa centres give police support, medical help, legal aid and counselling to women and children under one roof. Hyderabad has India’s first Child Friendly Court. Women Safety Wing of our police department runs SHE-Bharosa Cyber Labs to protect children. Through CybHER app, we are preparing students and teachers to stay safe online. Students are becoming cyber ambassadors for classmates.



The TGSLSA has signed an MoU with the School Education department. Teachers are educating children about their legal rights. Over 3,000 Child Protection Officers have been trained so far, he explained. “Justice is not only about conviction. It is about restoration. It is about dignity. It is about giving back children their childhood.”

He drew a parallel between Mahatma andhi's fight for the weak and poor using the law and the work of LSAs. Acknowledging that the internet and AI brought positive changes in our lives, the Chief Minister warned that innocent children could be vulnerable to misinformation.

“Children can make mistakes and its consequences can be bad for themselves, for their families, and for the society. Internet did not create these crimes, but it has made it easier to organise them on a global scale.” The CM said the challenge was to work towards stopping cyber-crimes against children, keeping them safe and ensuring children get justice.

He expressed delight at hosting the event in Hyderabad. He expressed confidence that the recommendations from the conference will guide not only Telangana, but the entire country.

SCR Women Welfare Organisation, Hyderabad Division honours the Safai Mitras

- **Nutrition Kits and also Medical Department conducted Health Camp as a part of SwachhataHi Seva – 2026**
- **Recognising the Contribution of Sanitation Workers - Mrs. Asha Verma, President/SCRWWO/ Hyderabad Division**

HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway Womens Welfare Organisation, Hyderabad Division honours the Safai Mitras with Nutrition Kits successfully hosted a "Safai Mitra Suraksha Seva & Samman" and also Medical Department conducted Health check-up Camp at the Railway Institute in Moula Ali, Hyderabad Division, as a key moment in the "Swachhata Hi Seva – 2026" Campaign.

The South Central Railway Womens Welfare Organisation (SCRWWO) / Hyderabad Division added a vital element to the event by sponsoring Nutrition Health Kits, which included Rice, Atta, Toordal, Red Chena, Sunflower Oil, MotaChudwa. These kits were distributed to 100 SafaiMitras, further demonstrating a holistic approach to their welfare and well-being.

The Health Camp specifically focused on providing health screenings to all Contract Safai Karmacharis operating within the Twin cities areas of the Hyderabad Division. It sought to



offer a direct and meaningful tribute to these essential workers for their crucial contributions to maintaining cleanliness and hygiene throughout the Railway premises. The distinguished presence of Shri Santosh Kumar Verma, Divisional Railway Manager and Smt. Asha Verma, President of SCRWWO / Hyderabad Division, as Chief Guests, underscored the event's importance. Sri D S Rama Rao, Additional Divisional Railway Manager and Smt. D.Y.Sunitha, Vice President of SCRWWO/Hyderabad Division attended as the Guest of Honor, emphasizing leadership's commitment to the initiative. The event was co-ordinated and led by Dr. A.V.S.K.Prasad, Chief Medical Superintendent, Hyderabad Division and Dr. V.Saradha, Additional Chief Medical Superintendent/ Health Unit/Moula Ali. Its successful execution serves as a testament to South Central Railway's dedication to the health and dignity of its frontline workers, reinforcing the "Swachhata Hi Seva" message. Executive Members of SCRWWO along with Shri J.S.Chauhan, Sr.DPO/HYB; Shri Vikash Ranjan, Sr.DME/HYB; Shri Suneel Kumar, Sr.DME/DSL/MLY; Shri U.HariKrishna, Assistant Health Officer/Hyderabad Division participated in the programme.

Auto drivers demand Bengaluru-level fares; calls for bandh on Nov 2

HYDERABAD

The Mahatma Gandhi Telangana Auto Drivers JAC has called for a citywide auto bandh on November 2, rejecting the revised fares of Rs.30 minimum and Rs.14 per km announced by the government. JAC Convenor Mohd. Amanullah Khan demanded Bengaluru-level fares of Rs.36 minimum and Rs.18 per km, alleging that Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar fixed the rates unilaterally without consulting auto unions.

The JAC also demanded Rs.10 lakh ex-gratia for the family of auto driver Mohd. Mukarram, who was allegedly lynched at Vattepally on September 20 over a dispute involving Rs.20 in change, in the presence of his wife and children.

Seven more arrested in Bollaram Army weapons theft case

HYDERABAD



The Malkajgiri police have arrested seven more accused in the sensational Bollarum Army weapons theft case, taking the total number of accused arrested in the case to eight.

Malkajgiri Commissioner of Police B. Sumathi said the arrests followed the interrogation of the prime accused, retired Army Havildar Upputholla Mallesh alias Raju. The newly arrested accused have been identified as Konduri Sheshulu, Vinod Kumar, Kucharakanti Praveen, Avi Dey alias Obi, Birbal Shaw, Upputholla Mallikarjun and Chemmakar Niranjan.

According to the police, Sheshulu, Vinod Kumar and Praveen are serving Army personnel and allegedly assisted Mallesh in stealing the weapons and ammunition from the Army Kote and Magazine at Bollarum.

The investigation found that Mallesh, along with his associates, allegedly planned to use the stolen firearms to commit robberies at banks, jewellery shops and against wealthy individuals. Police said the weapons were allegedly intended to be sold to Avi Dey and Birbal Shaw of West Bengal, who had agreed to pay Rs.3 lakh per pistol and Rs.5 lakh per long weapon, besides payment for ammunition.

Police said that no terrorist or extremist links have been established in the case so far.

The theft, reported on August 31 this year, involved four AK-203 rifles, one INSAS rifle, six 9mm pistols, one civil pistol, three binoculars and more than 1,900 rounds of ammunition. The stolen arms and ammunition were subsequently recovered.

Police also said Mallesh had earlier purchased a country-made firearm from Avi Dey through Birbal Shaw in 2022, when his battalion was posted at Barrackpore in West Bengal.

The seven newly arrested accused are being produced before the court for judicial remand on Saturday.

GITAM Faculty Awarded Ph.D. for Research on AI-Based Diabetes Prediction

HYDERABAD



GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, congratulates Dr. Santosh Kumar Bejugam on being awarded a Ph.D. in Electronics and Communication Engineering for his pioneering research on artificial intelligence-based diabetes prediction.

Dr. Santosh Kumar conducted his doctoral research under the guidance of Dr. V. Jyothi, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering (EECE), GITAM. His research, titled "Diabetic Prediction using Hybrid Deep Ensemble Network for Patient Support," focuses on developing an intelligent and reliable framework for early diabetes risk prediction.

The study proposes a Hybrid Deep Ensemble Framework that combines advanced data preprocessing, feature optimization, and multiple deep learning techniques, including 1D-CNN, LSTM, and Extreme Learning Machine (ELM). The framework addresses challenges such as missing values, outliers, feature redundancy, and model overfitting to improve prediction reliability.

A key outcome of the research is an optimized Serial Cascaded Convolutional Ensemble Network (SCCEN), which integrates complementary learning approaches to capture complex patterns in patient data. The proposed framework achieved an experimental prediction accuracy of approximately 98.98%, highlighting its potential for early risk identification and AI-enabled patient support.

The research offers a promising foundation for future applications in clinical decision support, wearable healthcare technologies, and smart healthcare systems, contributing to more personalized and accessible healthcare.

Prof. D. S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor; D.V.V.S.R. Varma, Resident Director; and Prof. Prasantha R. Mudimela, Head, Department of EECE, congratulated Dr. Santosh Kumar on his academic achievement and wished him continued success in his research and future endeavours.

Amit Shah cancels Telangana visit due to high-level Delhi meetings

HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has abruptly cancelled his scheduled visit to Telangana due to urgent, high-level meetings convened in New Delhi.

Shah was slated to arrive on Sunday to attend a series of official and private engagements, including an event in Karimnagar and a programme in Brahmanapally village, Toopran mandal (Medak district). He was also expected to meet with key state BJP leaders in Hyderabad during the trip.

The last-minute postponement leaves local authorities empty-handed after extensive security arrangements and administrative preparations were already finalised across the venue locations.

Govt invokes RR Act against defaulting rice millers; orders asset seizure



HYDERABAD

The Telangana Civil Supplies department has launched an aggressive enforcement drive under the Revenue Recovery (RR) Act to reclaim government dues from defaulting rice millers, issuing a strict ultimatum: deliver custom milled rice (CMR) or face asset seizure.

Led by M. Stephen Raveendra, Commissioner of Civil Supplies & Ex-Officio Principal Secretary, the department is initiating an intensive legal and tactical training program starting October 5 at the Dr. MCRHRD Institute. The initiative aims to equip frontline officers across the state with the tools needed to execute swift, legally sound asset seizures.

Under updated protocols targeting millers who fail to deliver CMR or misappropriate paddy procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP), joint physical verifications will trigger immediate Show Cause Notices with a strict seven-day response window.

Unresolved defaults will prompt District Collectors to issue distraint orders to attach movable assets, including mill machinery, vehicles, and bank accounts. If these sales do not cover losses, authorities will proceed to attach and auction immovable properties and lands.

The specialised workshops will train Deputy Tahsildars (DTs) and Assistant Civil Supplies Officers (ACSOs) in conducting airtight verifications, drafting precise Panchanamas, and securing video evidence. Assistant Managers (AMs) and District Managers (DMs) will focus on accurate financial claims, while District Civil Supplies Officers (DCSOs) coordinate directly with revenue officials to trace and seize assets without delay.

VH accuses BJP, RSS of anti-reservation stance, voter roll manipulation

HYDERABAD



Senior Congress leader and Telangana Government Adviser V. Hanumantha Rao launched a scathing attack on the BJP and RSS on Saturday, alleging that the ruling party at the Centre has no intention of protecting or extending reservations for backward communities.

Speaking to reporters at Gandhi Bhavan, Hanumantha Rao alleged that the NDA government is undermining democratic norms by manipulating voter lists through the Election Commission to secure a fourth consecutive term at the Centre. "The Union government is using Chief Election Commissioner Gyaneshwar Kumar as a shield to delete legitimate votes," Hanumantha Rao claimed.

He accused the Centre of weakening the Constitution authored by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in an attempt to introduce a new constitutional framework.

The Congress leader further criticised the Union government for ignoring Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the ongoing Census exercise, demanding a dedicated OBC column to accurately reflect the community's population.

Announcing a statewide agitation, Hanumantha Rao stated that a major public meeting will take place in Shamshabad on Sunday under the leadership of Telangana OBC Commission Chairman Veerlapalli Shankar. The meeting will see participation from district party presidents and MLAs, marking the launch of an extensive campaign across Telangana and a planned demonstration of OBC strength in New Delhi.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MADURAI DIVISION

TENDER NOTICE No. U-E-OT-2026-16, Dated: 30.09.2026

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / General Service / Madurai, for and on behalf of the President of Union of India, invites E-TENDER for the following work.

The prospective tenderers / bidders will be able to submit their offers online & upto **14:00 hrs. on 22.10.2026** which is the closing time of the tender. Submission of offers manually is not permissible and manual offers if any, received even within the closing time of the tender, will be summarily rejected.

S. No.	Tender No & Name of the Work	Approx. Tender Value (₹)	Bid Security (₹)	Period of Completion
1	**U-E-OT-2026-16-01:** Madurai Division: Electrical power supply and lighting arrangements for Extension of platform & Provision of additional platform shelter, Rewiring of staff quarters in various locations and Repair attention of lights in pit line at Madurai, Tirunelveli and Rameswaram coaching depots.	8,29,79,463/-	16,59,600/-	6 Months

Time & Date of closing: 14:00 hrs & 22.10.2026
For further details, log on to website at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / General Service / Madurai - 16

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

E-TENDER NOTICE No. E148-CN-TPJ-TF-058, Dated: 29.09.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, General, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600008 invites e-tender for the work **Provision of Power Quality Restorer for AC Traction System at Traction Substation** at Tiruturaipundi / TSS and Pattukottai / TSS - Works Contract with the above tender notice. Railway cash value is ₹ **65142000**. Date & Time of closing of tender is **23-10-2026 at 11:00 Hrs.** All the other details of this tender are available in **www.ireps.gov.in** website.

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / Construction / Chennai Egmore

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

TENDER NOTICE No. TBM-SG-CN-2026-27-05-OT Dated: 30.09.2026

(SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram invites e-tender for the following works:

Item No.	Name of the Work
1	Supply, Installation, configuration, testing and commissioning of Telecommunication and Networking arrangements for New Railway hospital at Madurai.

Item No.	Cash value in ₹	Bid Security (EMD) ₹	Last Date and time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site	Cost of Tender Document ₹	Period of Completion in month(s)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	1886574773	377300.00	21.10.2026	0	Four (04) Months

Tenderers can view full details of tender and submit their offer at the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** of Indian Railways.

The supply / work is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Construction / Tambaram / Chennai - 600 045

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION / ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS)

E-Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-RSP-ROB-07-2026, DATED: 27.09.2026

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Road Safety Projects, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Cash Value (₹)	Closing Date @ 15.00 Hrs
1	Salem Division: Rebuilding of 3 Nos (Br. No.SGE-13, SGE-42 and SGE-48) of RCC Slab Aqueduct / ROB in ED-SGE Section.	172822483/-	19/10/2026
2	i) Salem Division: Rebuilding of 3 Nos (Br. No.SGE-40,SGE-43 and SGE-47 of RCC Slab Aqueduct / ROB in ED-SGE Section. ii) Salem Division - Erode - Karur Section - Proposed Construction of Road Over Bridge in Lieu of Existing LC No.: 5 at km 5/400-500 1x36.0m Effective Span Composite Girder Between Erode and Pasur Stations Along with Pedestrian Subway.	300530596/-	19/10/2026
3	Palakkad Division - Shoranur - Palakkad section - Proposed construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 156 at km 523/600-700 in between Kanjikode & Palakkad Stations (Moruglass Gate)	81346997/-	19/10/2026

For further details, please refer to website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, Road Safety Projects, Southern Railway, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Road Safety Projects, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.



SHORT TAKES

"Viksit Bharat" possible only through women's empowerment: NRR

HYDERABAD: CBJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao on Saturday said the women's empowerment was essential to achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Viksit Bharat". Speaking at the 'Angan Milan' service programme organised here at Mallapur under the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan', Rao highlighted the Centre's initiatives for women's welfare, including the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao"' scheme. He said the government was implementing various programmes to improve nutrition and healthcare for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children, stressing that a healthy nation depended on the well-being of mothers and children

Bhatti travels by Metro, RTC bus to review common pass facility

HYDERABAD: To assess the implementation of the newly introduced RTC–Metro Common Pass, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, alongside Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, travelled via Metro Rail and a TGSRTC bus on Saturday. The Common Pass allows passengers to travel seamlessly across both public transit networks without purchasing separate tickets. Accompanied by Ministers Vivek Venkataswamy and Azharuddin, MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, MLAs Ganesh and Naveen Yadav, and senior officials, the Deputy Chief Minister boarded a Metro train using the integrated pass from Begumpet to Jubilee Hills Check Post.

EHS a Boon for Govt Employees





Employees Express Satisfaction During Visits to Hospitals

KARIMNAGAR

The Employees Health Scheme (EHS) is proving to be a boon in providing quality medical services to government employees and their family members, several employees said while expressing satisfaction over the services being provided under the scheme.

A team of the Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers' Association (TNGOs) and the Karimnagar District Employees JAC, led by District Employees JAC Chairman Dharam Srinivas Reddy and under the supervision of JAC Chairman Maram Jagadeeshwar, visited several hospitals in Karimnagar on Friday.

Review of Medical Services

During the visits, the team discussed the implementation of EHS, medical services being provided to employees and the problems being faced by them during treatment with the hospital managements.

Maram Jagadeeshwar participated in a 'Meet and Greet' programme organised at Sunrise Hospital. The hospital management assured that it would extend its cooperation to provide better medical services to employees under EHS and would take special care to ensure quality treatment.

The issue of bringing Sunrise Hospital under the EHS network was also discussed. The hospital management responded positively and expressed its willingness to provide the required medical services to employees.

Visits to Several Hospitals

The JAC representatives also visited Apollo Reach, Medicover and Star Hospitals. They interacted with employees and patients undergoing treatment and enquired about the medical services being provided under EHS.

Several employees expressed satisfaction over the quality of treatment, particularly cardiac care and knee replacement surgeries. The hospital managements clarified that treatment was being provided to eligible employees as per EHS norms without collecting any additional amount from them.

Do Not Believe in Misinformation

Maram Jagadeeshwar said the JAC would continue to monitor the implementation of EHS to ensure that employees did not face any difficulties. He said employees could directly bring any EHS-related issue to the notice of the JAC, which would coordinate with the concerned hospital management to help resolve the problem.

He appealed to employees not to believe unverified information being circulated on WhatsApp and social media regarding EHS, medical services and the Employees JAC. Employees with any doubts or complaints were advised to approach the JAC directly instead of relying on social media posts. He also suggested that employees could personally visit the concerned hospitals to understand the medical services actually being provided under EHS.

Doctors Are Like Gods

Employees JAC Chairman Dharam Srinivas Reddy and Convener Madipelli Kali Charan Goud recalled the saying "Vaidyo Narayano Hari", while appreciating the services rendered by doctors. They said that while parents give birth to a person, doctors often save lives during critical situations and give patients a new lease of life.

They described the medical profession as a highly noble one and thanked hospital managements and doctors for providing medical services to employees and their family members without causing inconvenience.

They appealed to hospital managements and doctors to provide treatment to employees with greater compassion and a humanitarian approach. They also expressed the hope that hospital managements, doctors and employees' associations would work in coordination to further improve medical services under EHS.

TNGOs Association District Secretary Sangem Laxman Rao, Gazetted Officers Association District President Madipelli Kali Charan Goud, DMHO Raj Gopal Rao, EHS District Coordinator Dr. Raju, Manager Vijay, Sunrise Hospital management, Dr. Suresh, Dr. Krishna Chaitanya, Dr. Praveen, Dr. Chandini, Dr. Venkata Reddy, Apollo Reach Hospital representative Satish, Medicover Hospital representative Kiran, and TNGOs Association leaders Nagender Reddy, Amarender Reddy, Sardar Harmender Singh, Ragi Srinivas, Akula Satish, Marupaka Rajesh Bharadwaj, Ramesh Goud, Velichala Sumanth Rao, Asgar Ali, Shankar and others participated in the programme.



Grand Celebration of 84th Birth Anniversary of Telangana Literary Luminary Dr. Boya Jangayya

*** Collection of Dr. Boya Jangayya's Novel Works Released at Ravindra Bharathi**

HYDERABAD

A special literary programme was held in a grand manner at Ravindra Bharathi on Saturday under the aegis of the Telangana Sahitya Akademi to mark the 84th birth anniversary of Dr. Boya Jangayya, a prominent writer and literary figure from Telangana.

On the occasion, Dr. A. Vani Prasad, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to the Government, formally released a collection of Dr. Boya Jangayya's novel works. Speakers said that Jangayya's writings reflected Telangana's social life, the lived experiences of marginalised communities, and human relationships in his distinctive literary style.

Several eminent writers and literary personalities who attended the programme analysed Dr. Boya Jangayya's literary journey and his significant contribution to novels, short stories and poetry from various perspectives.

Professor Kasim, Koyi Koteswara Rao, Gaddam Mallesham, Kasula Pratapa Reddy, Dunna Yadagiri, Gogu Shyamala, B.S. Ramulu and others spoke about the continuing relevance of Boya Jangayya's literature and the impact of his writings on society.

Members of Boya Jangayya's family also attended the programme and shared their personal association with him as well as their experiences of his literary journey.

Speakers observed that Boya Jangayya's writings were not merely works of literary creativity, but also served as social documents reflecting the lived realities of the people of Telangana. They noted that the social consciousness, humanistic values and commitment to marginalised communities evident in his writings continue to inspire the present generation.

The programme featured engaging literary discussions and speeches and continued with considerable interest throughout. Speakers expressed the need to introduce Dr. Boya Jangayya's literature more widely to future generations.

The programme was conducted under the leadership of Dr. N. Balachari, Secretary of the Telangana Sahitya Akademi, and was attended by several literary figures, writers, poets, literature enthusiasts and members of Boya Jangayya's family.



Bathukamma Celebrations to Be Held Grandly from October 10 to 18

*** Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju Reviews Arrangements for Bathukamma Celebrations**

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said that elaborate arrangements are being made to celebrate Bathukamma, the state's distinctive floral festival and an important symbol of Telangana's culture, in a grand manner from October 10 to 18.

A high-level review meeting on the arrangements for the Bathukamma celebrations, to be held from October 10 to 18, was conducted on Saturday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat. Secretaries of various departments and senior police officials attended the meeting.

On the occasion of Saddula Bathukamma on October 18, the Chief Secretary said that a grand Bathukamma celebration would be organized on Tank Bund with the participation of thousands of women.

He explained that at 4:00 PM on October 18, thousands of women carrying Bathukammas would proceed in a procession from the Amaraveerula Smarak Kendra (Martyrs' Memorial) opposite the Secretariat and reach Tank Bund. Hundreds of artists would also participate in the procession, showcasing various traditional art forms.

Public representatives would attend the Bathukamma celebrations at the specially erected stage on Tank Bund, he said.

In view of the Bathukamma celebrations, the Chief Secretary directed officials to install Bathukamma arrangements at major junctions across the city to create a festive atmosphere and to decorate several junctions with electric lights. He also instructed the concerned departments to illuminate all major government offices in the city. As large numbers of women are expected to arrive from nearby localities, colonies and slums to participate in Bathukamma celebrations on Tank Bund, the Chief Secretary directed officials to take all necessary measures to ensure that they face no inconvenience.

He also instructed HMDA and GHMC officials to make special arrangements for Bathukamma immersion at the Bathukamma Ghat located in the Tank Bund Children's Park as well as along Necklace Road.

Since Bathukamma celebrations will be held on Tank Bund between 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM, officials were directed to make arrangements for traffic diversions, barricading and basic amenities. He also instructed officials to provide special barricading and lighting facilities from the Amaraveerula Smarak Kendra to Tank Bund.

As Bathukamma celebrations will be organized at Ravindra Bharathi throughout the ten-day festival, the Chief Secretary directed officials to make special arrangements there as well.

He further directed that Bathukamma celebrations be organized at all major tourist destinations and prominent locations across the state.

The Chief Secretary revealed that a special logo reflecting the spirit of the Bathukamma celebrations is being designed this year. He said the logo would also incorporate the Telangana Global Summit, scheduled to be held in December.

The meeting was attended by Vani Prasad, Special Secretary, Tourism and Culture Department; V.C. Sajjanar, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad; Divya, Commissioner, Panchayat Raj;

R.V. Karnan, Commissioner, GHMC; Nagireddy, Managing Director, RTC; B. Sumathi, Commissioner of Police, Malkajgiri; Joel Davis, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Hyderabad; Mukund Reddy, Special Commissioner, Information and Public Relations Department; Sheikh Yasmeen Basha, Commissioner, Horticulture; Ashok Reddy, Jal Mandali; Ranjith Naik, Director, Tourism; A. Narasimha Reddy, Director, Shilparamam and Culture Department; Kishan Rao, Special Officer; and others.

Our Family Has Been Loyal to the Congress Party for Four Generations

Congress Party Graduate MLC candidate Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy

SURYAPET





Nalgonda–Warangal–Khammam Graduates' MLC candidate and AICC member Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy said that the Ramreddy family has remained loyal to the Congress Party for four generations. He clarified that his candidature was finalized with the consensus of ministers, MLAs, MLCs, district party presidents and senior leaders from the erstwhile Nalgonda, Khammam and Warangal districts. He appealed to Congress party workers not to believe the rumours circulating on social media over the past two days, stating that they were completely fabricated.

On Saturday, after performing special prayers at the family deity Sri Yogananda Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Arvapally mandal headquarters, the priests offered blessings and distributed Teertha Prasadam to him. Later, addressing a press conference organized on the temple premises, he said that his family had a four-generation association with the Congress Party and had long-standing connections across the erstwhile Nalgonda, Khammam and Warangal districts. He made it clear that there was no confusion or dissatisfaction regarding his candidature and that his family had never opposed any decision taken by the Congress Party high command. He said the entire Congress Party had united in finalizing his candidature and reiterated that he was loyal to the Congress Party. He stated that there was no room for false propaganda.

Sarvotham Reddy said that, along with the blessings of God, he had the blessings of his father, the late former minister 'Tiger Damanna' Ramreddy Damodar Reddy, behind his candidature. He said Damodar Reddy had earned a permanent place in the hearts of the people through his service. He said that he pursued higher education in the United States and had experience working in a senior position at one of the largest banking institutions in Asia, with operations in Canada and the United States. He said he entered politics at the request of his father and had been actively working in the Congress Party since 2012. He recalled that he had sought an opportunity from the party high command to contest as the Congress candidate from the Bhongir Parliamentary constituency in the 2014 and 2019 elections.

After returning from the United States, he said he was currently engaged in agriculture as a farmer, along with dairy farming and fish farming. He stated that he had been continuously working for the party since entering politics and that there was no question of retreating from the political battlefield. He said the Congress Party had announced his candidature for the Graduate MLC election ahead of all other political parties.

He appealed to all eligible graduates to register as MLC voters without fail. He announced that a Graduate MLC Helpline would be launched village-wise to create awareness among graduates about the voter registration process. He said he was happy to begin his MLC election campaign after visiting Sri Yogananda Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, the family deity, and receiving the blessings of the deity. He recalled that his family had donated 850 acres of land for the development of the temple. He expressed his gratitude to the Congress Party high command for giving him the opportunity to contest as the MLC candidate and thanked the ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs and MLCs who supported his candidature.

Earlier, he launched the MLC voter registration process. DCC President Gudipati Narsayya, Municipal Chairperson Morishetti Niveditha Lakshadi, Congress Party state leaders Pothu Bhaskar and Daroori Yoganandachary, municipal councillors, sarpanches, mandal party presidents, leaders of affiliated Congress organizations and others participated in the meeting.

Prakash Raj seeks CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over SIR

HYDERABAD



Actor Prakash Raj has demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, strongly opposing the Election Commission's handling of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Addressing a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club on Saturday, Prakash Raj alleged that the SIR exercise had resulted in the deletion of names of more than 13 crore eligible voters, citing various reports. He said the revision should have been carried out meticulously, even if it required additional time, and alleged that requests for greater scrutiny had been ignored. He said there had also been a proposal to verify the SIR process through an investigation covering 100 polling booths, but claimed that this too was not accepted. Referring to alleged errors in Karnataka, he said he had brought the issue to the notice of the Chief Minister and was informed that an investigation was underway. Questioning the Election Commission's decisions, Prakash Raj referred to the suspension of an Electoral Registration Officer in Goa over the alleged loss of 72 votes and asked whether differences between the Election Commissioners reflected a genuine difference of opinion or whether CEC Gyanesh Kumar's position alone was being upheld.

He also questioned the need to change the Election Commission's app and alleged that evidence relating to the electoral-roll revision was being tampered with. Political parties appeared more concerned about protecting their own votes than safeguarding the voting rights of citizens, he remarked.

Recalling his own experience with voter registrations, Prakash Raj said that in 2019 he had been summoned by the Election Commission over registrations at four locations. He explained that he had initially registered in Tamil Nadu while working there, later transferred his vote to his hometown and subsequently used Form 7 to shift his registration to Bengaluru.

Prakash Raj demanded restoration of the names of the voters removed during the SIR exercise, restoration of the earlier electoral rolls and an end to the existing method of selecting Election Commission officials.

Prioritise academic standards, infrastructure in SC/ST institutions

HYDERABAD

The State government is prioritising the enhancement of academic standards and essential infrastructure across SC and ST Gurukuls, Social Welfare hostels, and Ashram schools, Welfare Minister Adluri Lakshman Kumar announced on Saturday. Reviewing the implementation of programmes through the Project Management Unit (PMU) at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, the Minister directed officials to streamline the distribution of uniforms, footwear, textbooks, and essential supplies to students within a strict timeline. Adluri Lakshman Kumar instructed field authorities to immediately distribute stock that has already arrived at district hubs.

Our Goal Is to Transform AP into a Developed State

Chandrababu now has a young, dynamic "hardware team" supporting him
Policies must withstand the test of time and political changes
We consider entrepreneurs and industrialists to be nation-builders
Minister Nara Lokesh at the Pan IIT Summit 2026

AMARAVATI:

"We are striving to bring about the kind of change, development and good governance that India has never witnessed before. Our team is working with a common goal of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a developed state," said Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh.

Speaking at the Pan IIT Summit 2026, Minister Lokesh said:

"We want Andhra Pradesh to emerge as a developed state and contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat.' Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is now moving forward with even greater energy, operating on what I would call a 4.0 operating system. He now has a young hardware team supporting him. "Fifty percent of our legislators are first-time MLAs, while 17 of our 25 ministers are serving as ministers for the first time. The combination of experienced software and young, dynamic hardware is what makes present-day Andhra Pradesh unique and different.

"Our team has a clear vision. Andhra Pradesh should be number one in every sector.

"To me, Pan IIT represents people who have built companies, technologies, research institutions and entire industries. Pan IIT brings together alumni from all 23 IITs and connects more than 500,000 IIT graduates across India and major technology hubs around the world. It is a pleasure to see this entire community coming together in Andhra Pradesh."

A Decade Is Enough for India's Development

"It took the United States and European countries nearly 100 years to become developed economies. Dubai achieved that transformation in around 30 years, while Singapore took approximately 25 years. "India is now at a critical juncture, and I believe a decade is enough for us to achieve development. That 'Golden Decade' should belong to us. "The foundation for this should be the three 'S' mantra: Speed, Service and Stability. "The meaning of speed can be understood from the pace of Andhra Pradesh's development. Our team is now eager and impatient to deliver. The people have given us five years, and we must demonstrate results within that period. "We are not here merely to sign MoUs and forget about them. We are determined to turn projects into reality and create employment through them.

"The second is service. We believe the government has a crucial role to play in industrial development. We consider entrepreneurs and industries to be nation-builders. We must work with you and formulate every policy in consultation with you. We must provide world-class governance. That is our approach to service. "In fact, I personally monitor the state's top projects. Every Saturday evening or Sunday morning, I send promoters a personal update on their projects. That is when they have time to read about their Andhra Pradesh projects. This is the kind of service we are currently providing to various investors in the state. "The third is stability. Policy stability and a strong policy framework are extremely important. Policies must withstand the test of time and political changes."

Using AI to Guide Officials

"We are now also using AI to assist IAS officers. The policies and government orders they formulate should be based on past experience and should be capable of withstanding legal and political changes. "A good example is teacher recruitment. We recruited 16,000 teachers. I instructed our commissioner to ensure that the process could withstand legal scrutiny. "He analyzed all previous cases using an AI engine and understood why earlier government orders had been challenged or stalled. Based on that analysis, we developed one of the best recruitment policies and a government order designed to withstand legal scrutiny. "If all of us think and work together, we can provide stability. "For us, agriculture and horticulture are just as important as quantum technology. Our government can act as a catalyst in your journey."



Focus on Implementation, Not MoUs

"The examples I am going to cite are not merely MoUs or promises on paper. I am talking about projects that are actually being implemented.

"Our Chief Minister has a vision of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a global horticulture hub. He persuaded Mukesh Ambani to establish the Indian School of Agriculture (ISA) in Madanapalle in Rayalaseema. We laid its foundation stone yesterday.

"This initiative is expected to bring nearly ₹1 lakh crore in investments into the horticulture ecosystem. The objective is to build the entire system—from research to processing, mechanization to delivering quality products to consumers, and ultimately doubling farmers' incomes.

"The second area is steel. Previously, we had only two steel plants. Recently, we laid the foundation stone for ArcelorMittal's 17-million-metric-tonne greenfield steel plant. This was a project that had remained stalled for nearly a decade in another state.

"From my first Zoom call with Aditya Mittal to reaching the foundation-stone stage, including obtaining environmental clearances, it took only 17 months. This is an example of our speed."

Google Has Put Andhra Pradesh on the Global Map

"The third is the data-centre ecosystem. In Visakhapatnam, the 'G' increasingly reminds people of Google, putting the city on the global map. "When we first spoke with Google, they required clarity on certain issues such as regulatory certainty, permanent establishment and taxation. We spoke with the Central Government, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and obtained the necessary clarity. "As a result, the foundation for Google's project in Andhra Pradesh was laid in just 13 months. "Many of you think 'NaMo' means Narendra Modi. But in Andhra Pradesh, NaMo means the Naidu–Modi combination, because we have a double-engine bullet-train government here. That is why work is progressing so quickly."

An Ecosystem Capable of Guiding the World

"Today we are talking about Skyroot, but a year ago many people did not know about the project. We approached them a year ago. Through the Cabinet, we allocated 300 acres of land to them. "We offered the land at a price that no one in the country would have expected. It took me just 30 minutes to convince my Cabinet colleagues about the need to invest in this startup. We are prepared to take such bold decisions.

"We are making similar efforts in the quantum sector. Under the leadership of Kamakoti, we are making remarkable progress. We intend to build an ecosystem in the quantum sector that can provide direction not only to India but to the world." Sagar Defence Is an Example of Our Commitment There are also enormous opportunities in sectors such as textiles, shipbuilding and defence. Organizations such as Mazagon Dock and Goa Shipyard are starting shipbuilding operations here.

"There is an interesting company called Sagar Defence, which manufactures maritime drones. They needed access to water, so we allocated them a 150-metre stretch at a fishing harbour.

"When they approached us, the company was valued at around ₹3,000 crore. Today, its valuation has reached ₹23,000 crore. All of this happened within just 18 months. "This is the kind of change the government can bring to your journey. This is the commitment of the Andhra Pradesh government. We are ready to act as a facilitator in your journey."

Andhra Pradesh Is Ready for the Development Journey

"Andhra Pradesh is ready to become a partner in your development journey. We are currently developing 23 clusters, ranging from horticulture to quantum technology.

"We are developing clusters in agriculture, medical-device manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, cement, solar, ingot and wafer manufacturing, renewable energy and other sectors.

"In just one year, we have been able to increase renewable-energy capacity by 4.8 GW. From 2019 to 2024, only 6 MW was added over five years. We have gone from 6 MW over five years to 4.8 GW in a single year.

"However, I am not satisfied with that. We are currently in third place. Andhra Pradesh must become number one. To achieve that, we need to add around 20 GW of capacity every year.

"This is the cluster ecosystem we are building. There are 23 clusters in total. We are also building clusters in areas such as space, drones and the glass ecosystem."

Focus on Vertical and Horizontal Integration

"We are giving priority to both vertical and horizontal integration.

"Vertical integration means bringing all the companies within a cluster into a single ecosystem. For example, in the mobile-phone industry, the entire supply chain—from companies manufacturing cameras to glass, casings, batteries and accessories—should be located within the same cluster. "Horizontal integration is where my ministry will play a key role. My portfolio is not limited to IT; I also oversee HRD. Through the HRD department, we are working with industries on curriculum changes, testing ecosystems and research.

"I want us to explore the possibility of establishing a rapid-prototyping centre through IIT Tirupati in collaboration with the University of New South Wales. The University of New South Wales has played a key role in around 90 percent of patents in the solar-energy sector.

"We are developing an entire research ecosystem at IIT Tirupati. We are bringing the private sector and IIT Tirupati together and focusing on research.

"We will implement this kind of approach across all 23 clusters. That is why you should choose Andhra Pradesh.

"We also face major challenges in terms of power consumption. Even before all the companies begin commercial production, our electricity-consumption growth rate is already above 30 percent annually. This makes managing the grid extremely challenging.

"As all these companies are about to enter commercial production, we will have to work even harder.

"Andhra Pradesh is moving forward on its own journey, and we are delighted to receive guidance from the IITs on this journey."

Guide Us in Developing the Clusters

"I have two special requests. I have already shared these with the leadership present on this stage.

"First are your graduates who have conquered the world. They have achieved remarkable success in numerous fields, from education to agriculture, horticulture to quantum technology.

"For these 23 clusters, I would like to obtain deep and meaningful knowledge and guidance by working with them. Please make wider use of your networks. Share with us the contact details of important people.

"I will personally reach out to them and work to ensure that they provide direction to the 23 clusters.

"My second request concerns visible governance and invisible government. In the age of AI, we can accomplish a great deal.

"Looking at Andhra Pradesh's journey over the past two years, we initially adopted speed as our mantra. Then we moved toward a 'jugaad' model. But now I believe we need to institutionalize every aspect.

"Every system should withstand the test of time and political changes. We want to work with you on this. "Let us continue our journey from jugaad to an institution of speed.

"We are ready to make India proud. Every good thing we do here can become a model for other states in the country as well.

"If we can build an island of excellence in Andhra Pradesh, I believe the rest of India will adopt it. That is also the goal of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi."

Let Us Journey Together and Create History

Let us create history together. Let us redefine our performance.

"To be honest, as a young Indian, I am tired of talking about models from other countries. I want to show the world that India can do it. "There is a model right here—in Amaravati, in Andhra Pradesh.

"Yesterday, I said I would visit Amaravati with some prominent people. I encourage all of you to make time to visit and see the work taking place there. "You will see a modern city under construction. We are building a city that India has never seen before. "We have some of the best planners and architects. World-renowned architect Norman Foster is designing buildings such as our Assembly, Secretariat and High Court.

"While learning from them, we are also partnering with Indian companies. This will enable knowledge transfer to take place here itself and help us develop our own standards and our own industries.

"When you have time, please make sure to visit Amaravati. Every 100 days, you will be able to see the transformation taking place there. The pace at which this is happening is truly remarkable.

"Yesterday, our CRDA Commissioner sent me a message saying, 'Sir, we created a new record last month.' Let us surpass that record next month as well.

"This is the enthusiasm with which all of us are working. We want to establish standards that will make India proud."



Northern Army commander reviews security situation in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: (Oct 3) Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Saturday reviewed the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness in the Kashmir Valley.

In a post on X, the Army's Northern Command said Lt Gen Sharma reiterated the need for enhanced inter-agency synergy, real-time intelligence sharing and integrated coordination to strengthen operational readiness, facilitate rapid response and enhance the effectiveness of joint operations. "Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, chaired a comprehensive Security Review & Coordination Meeting at #Srinagar and reviewed inputs in the presence of key stakeholders on the prevailing security situation, operational preparedness and coordination mechanisms," it said.

Grand Real Estate Expo Organized by CREDAI in Rajamahendravaram

Government has introduced several reforms for the development of the building construction sector: Minister Narayana
Layout and building permissions to be issued within 24 hours for online applications..
Amaravati construction will be completed by the end of 2028
Will approach the Supreme Court for 34% reservation for BCs in municipal elections

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM, OCTOBER 3:

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana attended as the chief guest and visited a large-scale real estate expo organized by CREDAI on JN Road in Rajamahendravaram. The minister said it was commendable that CREDAI had organized such a large-scale expo in Rajamahendravaram. He stated that the government would take steps to organize similar expos in all districts of the state to further promote the real estate sector.

Minister Narayana said that the real estate and building construction sectors play a crucial role in the state's economy. He stated that the growth of the real estate sector would not only increase government revenue but also expand employment opportunities. He alleged that the real estate and building construction sectors had suffered severely under the previous government and that several systems in the state were adversely affected by decisions taken without adequate understanding.



The minister said that after the coalition government came to power, several reforms had been introduced to support the building construction sector. He stated that the approval process for construction projects had been made more transparent and faster. A system has been put in place under which layout and building permissions can be issued within 24 hours when applications are submitted online, he said. The minister revealed that, as a result of the reforms implemented by the state government, the state received ₹800 crore in funds from the Central Government. He assured CREDAI representatives that if they had any problems related to the real estate or building construction sectors, they could approach him directly and steps would be taken to resolve them. Amaravati Construction to Be Completed by End of 2028 Minister Narayana said that work had begun with the objective of developing Amaravati into one of the finest capital cities in the world. He stated that the previous government had undermined the development of Amaravati. He said that, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the construction of Amaravati would be completed by the end of 2028.



Development Works Worth More Than ₹1,000 Crore in Rajamahendravaram

The minister said that various development works worth approximately ₹2,000 crore were being undertaken with the Godavari Pushkarams in view. He revealed that more than ₹1,000 crore had been allocated specifically for the development of Rajamahendravaram city and that various works were being carried out. Government to Approach Supreme Court for 34% BC Reservation in Municipal Elections Minister Narayana said that the government was making efforts to implement 34% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in municipal elections. He stated that the High Court had struck down the government orders issued regarding the implementation of 34% reservation for BCs.

The minister said that the government would approach the Supreme Court seeking implementation of 34% reservation for BCs. He revealed that the government had decided not to conduct municipal elections until the court delivers its judgment.
The minister stated that BCs had suffered significant injustice during the previous government's tenure. He made it clear that the government would take all necessary steps to implement 34% reservation for BCs. Minister Narayana said that, following the court's judgment, elections would be conducted in the coming days for 123 municipalities across the state.

NER is Conducting and intensive testing of drinking water

GORAKHPUR, OCTOBER 3, 2026:



With the objective of providing clean and safe drinking water to railway passengers and employees, the North Eastern Railway is conducting regular and intensive testing 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 safe drinking water to railway passengers and employees is one of the highest priorities of the railway administration, and this work will continue on a sustained campaign basis. A total of 44 residual chlorine tests were conducted at 10 stations in the Izzatnagar Division—including Kathgodam, Izzatnagar, Farrukhabad, Kasganj, Bareilly City, Lalkuan, Kashipur, Pilibhit, Mathura Cantt and Fatehgarh—as well as at New Model Colony. All the tests were found to be within the prescribed standards. In addition, six water samples were collected for bacteriological culture testing.

Similarly, chlorine and bacteriological culture tests of drinking water were conducted at various stations and residential colonies in the Lucknow Division. In the Varanasi Division, inspections were carried out at water tanks, water coolers, water filters, pipelines and pumping systems at railway stations, residential colonies, coaching depots, hospitals and health centres, running rooms, crew lobbies and offices. The testing campaign will continue across all stations, residential colonies and offices of the North Eastern Railway to ensure the quality of drinking water facilities. Health inspectors are conducting regular tests to ensure that passengers and employees receive clean drinking water in accordance with prescribed standards. Providing clean drinking water to railway passengers and employees remains a priority of the railway administration, and continuous monitoring of water quality will continue to ensure this

EDITORIAL

Guarding the Skies: Aviation Safety and the Imperative of Internal Threat Mitigation

Aviation security has historically evolved through the crucible of crisis. The aftermath of September 11, 2001, fundamentally altered commercial flight, giving birth to hardened cockpit doors, rigorous passenger screening, and stringent baggage controls. For over two decades, the global aviation framework was meticulously designed around a single, central assumption: the primary threat to an aircraft originates outside the flight deck. However, the recent security incident involving flydubai Flight FZ1073 has shattered that premise, forcing the industry to confront an uncomfortable reality—what happens when the threat emerges from within? The incident on board the Dubai-to-Tel Aviv route, where an in-flight altercation in the cockpit led to a sudden, terrifying loss of altitude before the aircraft was safely diverted to Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, serves as a stark wake-up call. While post-9/11 protocols succeeded in turning the cockpit into an impenetrable fortress against passenger-led hijackings, they inadvertently created an unmonitored sanctuary for those inside it. When a trusted crew member becomes the source of vulnerability, existing physical security systems offer little defense. Consequently, the flydubai event marks a critical turning point for global civil aviation, shifting the safety dialogue from perimeter defense to internal risk management. To secure the future prospects of aviation, international regulatory bodies like the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), alongside national aviation authorities, must urgently implement standardized protocols for pilot vetting, mental health evaluation, and operational monitoring.

Currently, pilot screening practices vary significantly across jurisdictions. While background checks effectively flag prior criminal records, they often fail to capture evolving ideological radicalization, psychological distress, or geopolitical risk factors. Standardizing continuous background monitoring, rather than relying on static initial vetting, is an essential first step toward mitigating insider threats. Furthermore, cockpit access and operational protocols require immediate overhaul. The "two-person rule"—mandating that two authorized crew members remain on the flight deck at all times—must be universally codified and strictly enforced across all commercial operations globally. Beyond physical presence, the industry must explore technological safeguards, such as advanced behavioral monitoring tools and intelligent flight control systems capable of detecting anomalous inputs or cockpit distress codes, enabling remote intervention or automated stabilization during severe in-flight crises. Mental health support and psychological evaluation within airlines also demand a cultural and regulatory shift. Pilots operate under immense cognitive pressure, yet the stigma surrounding mental health—compounded by the fear of grounding or license revocation—often prevents individuals from seeking help. Establishing non-punitive, peer-assisted mental health reporting systems will allow airlines to identify distress early without penalizing transparency.

Ultimately, trust remains the bedrock of commercial aviation. Millions of passengers board flights every day placing absolute faith in the professionalism and integrity of the flight crew. Yet, absolute trust without rigorous oversight creates dangerous vulnerabilities. The flydubai incident must serve as a catalyst for systemic reform. By establishing robust, globally standardized protocols for pilot screening, flight deck security, and psychological well-being, the aviation industry can fortify its defenses, ensuring that the skies remain safe from threats both outside and inside the cockpit.

SIR: Protecting Electoral Integrity, Safeguarding

The greatest strength of Indian democracy is its voter, and the most fundamental democratic identity of a voter is the right to vote. Therefore, an electoral roll is not merely an administrative document; it is the foundation of the democratic system. If an eligible citizen's name is missing from the electoral roll, his or her democratic participation remains incomplete. Conversely, if the name of a person who is deceased, has shifted residence, or is registered at more than one place continues to remain on the roll, it raises questions about the credibility of the electoral process. From this perspective, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is an important administrative exercise. However, its success cannot be measured merely by the removal of incorrect or ineligible names. It must equally be judged by whether the names of all eligible citizens are protected and whether those who have been inadvertently left out are brought back into the electoral rolls.

In 2026, the Election Commission has extended the SIR exercise to several states and Union Territories. The Commission's programme includes house-to-house verification, publication of draft electoral rolls, inviting claims and objections, and publication of the final electoral rolls. It is also important to note that on May 27, 2026, the Supreme Court upheld the legal validity of the SIR conducted in Bihar and held that the Election Commission has the authority to undertake such an exercise under Article 324 of the Constitution and the relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act. The Court also recognised that the objective of ensuring the accuracy of electoral rolls and protecting free and fair elections constitutes a legitimate purpose.

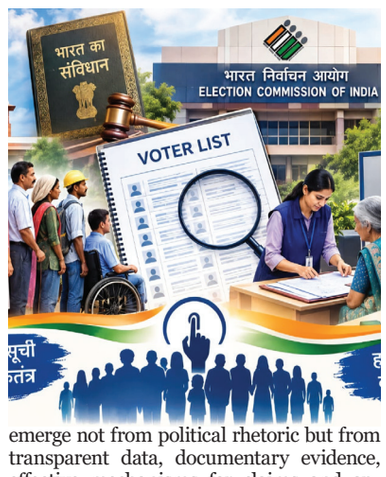
The large-scale deletion of names during the SIR has naturally generated political and social debate. However, it is unfortunate when unnecessary controversies are created around the Election Commission and the Chief Election Commissioner. According to the available data, the combined electoral rolls of nine states and three Union Territories declined by 10.2 percent after the SIR, with the names of 6,688,636 deceased voters being removed. In the same exercise, 63.16 lakh names were also deleted following objections and verification. These figures should not be viewed solely through a political lens. On the one hand, they indicate the administrative necessity of removing the names of deceased, shifted or duplicate voters. On the other, such a large-scale change in the electoral rolls also underlines the importance of keeping voter lists regularly updated.

This is where the most important test of the entire exercise emerges. If removing the name of an ineligible person is necessary for the purity of democracy, then the erroneous deletion of an eligible citizen's name is equally serious. The real success of SIR lies in maintaining a balance between cleansing the electoral rolls and safeguarding the voting rights of citizens. From this perspective, the Election Commission's recent special campaign is significant. On October 2, 2026, the Commission directed states and Union Territories where the SIR had been completed to undertake a special campaign to re-enrol eligible voters whose names may have been left out during the revision process. Special emphasis has also been placed on the registration of first-time voters and newly eligible young citizens.

Maintaining the integrity and accuracy of electoral rolls is an essential part of that responsibility. Through its digital portal, voters can search for their names, access the final SIR electoral rolls, submit Form 6 for new registration, track the status of applications and lodge complaints.

Under this campaign, Booth Level Officers have been asked to compare the electoral rolls existing before the SIR with the current rolls and identify people whose names were previously present but do not appear in the final list. Thereafter, house-to-house verification is to be undertaken, and Form 6 is to be accepted on the spot from those found eligible. Each Booth Level Officer has been given a target of verifying 20 to 25 voters every week, with the campaign expected to be completed in approximately one month. The direction to share the relevant lists with Booth Level Agents of political parties is also noteworthy from the standpoint of transparency.

This is precisely where the electoral-roll revision process needs to move beyond political allegations and counter-allegations. Opposition parties have made serious allegations regarding the SIR process, arguing that it could adversely affect the voting rights of eligible citizens. The Election Commission, on the other hand, maintains that its objective is to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the electoral rolls. Between these two positions, the final conclusion should



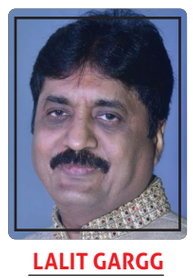
emerge not from political rhetoric but from transparent data, documentary evidence, effective mechanisms for claims and appeals, and independent scrutiny. It would be inappropriate either to automatically accept an allegation made by a political party as the truth or to dismiss every grievance merely as a political allegation.

The constitutional role of the Election Commission is of immense importance in Indian democracy. Maintaining the integrity and accuracy of electoral rolls is an essential part of that responsibility. Through its digital portal, voters can search for their names, access the final SIR electoral rolls, submit Form 6 for new registration, track the status of applications and lodge complaints. Such mechanisms give citizens an opportunity to verify and safeguard their voting rights themselves rather than depending entirely upon the administration.

However, technology alone is not enough. Given India's enormous social and geographical diversity, there are citizens who have limited access to digital facilities. The administration must proactively reach the poor, workers, migrants, homeless persons, elderly citizens, persons with disabilities and people living in remote areas. Under the special campaign, the Commission has also directed that special camps be organised at polling booths as well as at night shelters, workers' settlements and locations serving homeless and other vulnerable groups. This approach connects the electoral-roll exercise not merely with administrative accuracy but with genuine democratic inclusion.

It must also be understood that electoral-roll correction cannot be a one-time exercise. Rapid migration in cities, movement from villages to urban areas, change of residence after marriage, young people attaining the age of 18, deaths and relocation from one place to another are continuous processes. The Election Commission therefore treats voter registration as an ongoing process and provides eligible citizens with the facility to register through Form 6. The real challenge is that behind every name deleted during a revision exercise there may be a genuine citizen. Therefore, every deleted name must be examined carefully, and every grievance must be heard seriously. At the same time, it would not be appropriate to retain every old name merely because it appeared on an earlier electoral roll. The principle governing electoral rolls in a democracy should be clear: no eligible citizen should be left out, and no ineligible person should remain within the electoral system.

The strength of a democracy is not measured merely by a high voter turnout. It also means that every eligible citizen who wishes to vote must have a place on the electoral roll; that the name of every person who is legally ineligible must be removed through due process; that every complainant must be given an opportunity to be heard; and that final decisions must be taken through a transparent procedure. The Supreme Court's recognition of the legal validity of the Bihar SIR also underscores the constitutional importance of maintaining accurate electoral rolls, while simultaneously making adherence to the safeguards prescribed in the process essential. Therefore, the need of the hour is not merely to take a position for or against SIR. More important is to make the process so transparent, accessible and credible that no eligible citizen has to struggle to protect his or her right to vote. The strength of Indian democracy lies not merely in conducting elections, but in ensuring that every eligible citizen receives an equal opportunity to participate in them. Cleansing the electoral rolls is, in a sense, an essential exercise in keeping democracy clean. But the responsibility to ensure that no innocent and eligible citizen is inadvertently left outside that process is equally significant. SIR will fulfil its larger democratic purpose only when electoral accuracy and democratic inclusion move forward together.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,

Beyond compassion: Why animal welfare matters to India's development



World Animal Day is more than a reminder to be kind to animals—it is a reminder of how deeply human prosperity depends on the natural world. From pollinators sustaining crops to wildlife supporting tourism and ecosystems regulating water, soil and pests, animals underpin economic activity in ways markets rarely measure. For India, protecting them is therefore not just about compassion, but about safeguarding ecological stability, livelihoods and sustainable development.



K AMARAVATI
MEMBER

World Animal Day, observed on October 4, is often marked by appeals for kindness towards animals. But its significance extends far beyond compassion. The condition of animals is closely linked to the condition of our ecosystems, the productivity of agriculture, the livelihoods of communities and, ultimately, the sustainability of economic development. For a country as biologically diverse as India, protecting animals is therefore not merely an ethical obligation; it is an investment in ecological and economic security.

Animals perform functions that modern economies often fail to price. Bees and other pollinators support agricultural production; birds and bats help disperse seeds; predators regulate prey populations; and a healthy diversity of species contributes to the stability of forests, grasslands, wetlands and other ecosystems. Government assessments of India's biodiversity have recognised that biological resources and ecosystem services contribute to livelihoods, socio-economic development and sustainable development.

The economic value of these services becomes clearer when nature is disrupted. Pollination, for instance, is essential to a large share of the world's food crops. A loss of pollinators can affect crop yields, farm incomes and food security. Healthy ecosystems also contribute to watershed protection, soil conservation, pest control and the regulation of ecological processes. These services may not appear in national accounts as a direct line item, but replacing them through artificial interventions can impose substantial costs on farmers, governments and consumers.

Wild animals also contribute to economic activity through nature-based tourism. Tigers, elephants, lions, birds and other species attract visitors to protected areas, supporting local employment, hospitality, transport and small businesses. Conservation can therefore generate an economic chain extending from forests to surrounding communities. The question is not whether India can afford to protect its wildlife; it is whether India can afford the ecological and economic costs of losing it.

This makes illegal wildlife trafficking particularly serious. The illegal capture, transport and trade of wild animals and their body parts convert biodiversity into a commodity. India's biodiversity and the money involved in wildlife trafficking make it vulnerable to organised criminal networks, while digital platforms and easier financial transactions have created additional avenues for illicit trade. Such trafficking does not remove only individual animals from the wild; it can weaken populations, disturb food webs and damage entire ecosystems.

India has a substantial legal framework to address this threat. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 was enacted to protect wild animals, birds and plants and to secure the country's ecological and environmental security. The 2022 amendment strengthened the framework in several areas, including provisions connected with international wildlife trade and implementation of CITES, the global convention regulating international trade in endangered species. The amended law came into force in 2023, and the Government subsequently designated a CITES Management Authority and notified related rules.

The existence of laws, however, is only the beginning. Wildlife crime is difficult to control because it operates across forests, roads, markets, borders and increasingly digital spaces. Enforcement agencies must identify trafficking networks rather than merely intercept individual consignments. Better intelligence sharing among forest departments, police, customs and other enforcement agencies is essential. Technology can also be used to monitor suspicious online trade and trace trafficking routes and financial transactions.

There is another challenge: habitat loss and fragmentation. An animal cannot be protected in isolation if its habitat is being steadily degraded. Roads, infrastructure, mining, urban expansion and other forms of development can divide habitats and increase conflict between humans and wildlife. Development and conservation therefore cannot be treated as separate policy compartments. India's own biodiversity assessments have stressed the connection between ecosystem degradation, livelihoods and sustainable development.

Human-wildlife conflict presents an equally difficult test. When elephants enter farms, leopards move into settlements or wild animals damage crops, conservation can become a livelihood issue for affected communities. A durable response requires early-warning systems, rapid compensation, habitat management and community participation. Local people living alongside wildlife cannot be treated merely as observers of conservation; they have to become partners in it.

Animal welfare also extends beyond wildlife. Stray and domestic animals require responsible management, veterinary services and protection from deliberate cruelty and abandonment. Prevention of unnecessary suffering must be supported by functioning local institutions rather than left entirely to voluntary organisations. The broader objective should be to create a culture in which animals are not treated as disposable property or objects of entertainment.

The solutions therefore have to operate at several levels. Wildlife habitats must be protected and restored; corridors connecting fragmented habitats need greater attention; enforcement agencies require specialised capacity to investigate wildlife crime; border and online surveillance must improve; and local communities should receive a meaningful economic stake in conservation. At the same time, animal-welfare infrastructure, veterinary services and rescue facilities need predictable public funding and professional standards.

Most importantly, conservation has to be recognised as development policy. A forest that protects water, a pollinator that supports agriculture, a predator that maintains ecological balance and a wildlife landscape that sustains tourism are all contributing to economic activity, even when their contribution is not immediately visible in the market.

World Animal Day should therefore prompt a larger question: what does India lose when animals disappear? The answer is not limited to the loss of individual species. It can mean weaker ecosystems, greater agricultural risks, lost livelihoods, reduced tourism potential and higher costs of repairing environmental damage.

Protecting animals is consequently not a sentimental detour from the development agenda. It is part of securing the natural systems on which that agenda depends. India's development will be sustainable only when economic growth and the protection of the living systems that support it are treated as two sides of the same policy choice.



Nearly 200 detained as AISA, other protesters return to Jantar Mantar

NEW DELHI: (OCT 3)

Nearly 200 protesters were detained in connection with Saturday's demonstrations at Jantar Mantar demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, with Delhi Police registering cases under provisions dealing with disobedience of orders and obstruction and assault of public servants for Friday's protest, officials said. The protesters, including members of student organisations and civil society groups, attempted to gather at Jantar Mantar despite prohibitory orders imposed in the New Delhi district.

Among those detained were AISA national president Neha Bora, civil society activist Yogendra Yadav and senior advocate Prashant Bhushan.

India summons Pak diplomats, says two killed at Punjab border were infiltrators

India has summoned Pakistan's Charg d'Affaires and lodged a strong protest over what New Delhi described as continued cross-border infiltration from Pakistan, a day after two men were killed by the Border Security Force along the Punjab border. Pakistan, however, maintains that the two were unarmed civilians who had inadvertently crossed the International Border.



The Ministry of External Affairs said on Saturday that the Pakistani diplomat was summoned over the October 2 incident in the Ferozepur sector of Punjab. India also rejected what it called "baseless and motivated allegations" made by Pakistan over the incident. The diplomatic exchange came after Pakistan summoned India's Charg d'Affaires earlier today and lodged what it called a "strong protest" over the deaths. Islamabad said the two men were civilians and rejected India's description of them as infiltrators.

INDIA SAYS THREE CROSSED INTO ITS TERRITORY

According to the Indian account, three people crossed into Indian territory and continued moving towards the border fence despite repeated warnings from the BSF to return to Pakistan. The MEA said the BSF was "compelled to engage them" after they posed an imminent security threat. India said the incident was part of a pattern involving cross-border movement by armed narcotics syndicates operating from Pakistan. The government urged Pakistan to investigate cross-border infiltration and drug smuggling activities, as well as what India described as the complicity of Pakistani border forces.

India also called on Pakistan to respect the sanctity of the International Border, observe relevant bilateral arrangements and ensure that its forces prevent unauthorised movement from its side.

TWO KILLED AFTER ALLEGEDLY IGNORING WARNINGS

Indian officials had earlier said BSF troops shot dead two suspected Pakistani intruders along the International Border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Friday. The incident took place around noon. Tarn Taran Deputy Superintendent of Police Atul Soni said three intruders were moving towards the Indian side, but one later returned to Pakistan. The other two continued towards India despite warnings from BSF personnel to turn back, Soni said.According to a BSF sentry, the two men were also provoking the troops and saying they wanted to enter Indian territory. The BSF then opened fire, killing the two men, Soni said.Senior BSF officers visited the spot, while the identities of the two deceased were being ascertained, he said.

PAKISTAN CALLS THEM CIVILIANS

Pakistan has rejected India's account of the incident.

In its statement, the Pakistan Foreign Office said the Indian Charg d'Affaires was summoned to "lodge Pakistan's strong protest over the killing" of two Pakistani civilians by BSF personnel in the Bedian sector along the International Border on October 2. Pakistan said the two men were unarmed and had inadvertently crossed the International Border. "The BSF personnel resorted to unprovoked lethal force against unarmed civilians. Such use of force was wholly unjustified and grossly disproportionate, resulting in the tragic loss of two precious lives," the Pakistan Foreign Office said. Islamabad also rejected any attempt to describe the deceased as "infiltrators". Pakistan called for an "immediate, transparent and credible investigation" and sought appropriate disciplinary and legal action against those found responsible. It also asked India to communicate the findings of any investigation to the Pakistani government.

INDIA URGES PAKISTAN TO STOP CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT

India, meanwhile, urged Pakistan to take measures to prevent similar incidents and to exercise effective control over movement from its side of the border. The MEA said the incident demonstrated a pattern of cross-border movement involving armed narcotics syndicates and asked Pakistan to investigate such activities and the alleged involvement of its border forces. The two sides have therefore presented sharply different versions of the October 2 incident, with India describing the dead as suspected infiltrators who ignored warnings to turn back, while Pakistan says they were civilians who inadvertently crossed the border. Punjab shares a 553-km border with Pakistan, making incidents involving unauthorised crossings and border movement a recurring security concern. The latest incident has now triggered a diplomatic exchange, with both countries summoning each other's diplomats and demanding action based on their respective accounts of what happened.



CM Vijay's TVK joins INDIA bloc in Tamil Nadu, Congress calls it 'historic'

Tamil Nadu Congress Committee president B Manickam Tagore on Saturday said the entry of Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) into the INDIA bloc in Tamil Nadu would significantly strengthen the anti-BJP front in the state.

Calling it a "historic day" for opposition consolidation, he said TVK's inclusion would bolster the collective opposition in Tamil Nadu. Tagore also said bloc constituents had decided to hold district-level demonstrations across the state on October 13 and 14, demanding the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral roll.

He said this would be followed by a major protest on October 15 with top leaders from all seven constituent parties of the INDIA bloc from the region, while alliance MPs would march to the Election Commission of India headquarters in New Delhi on October 6. Speaking to reporters after a multi-party coordination meeting at the TNCC headquarters, Sathyamurthy Bhavan, in Chennai, Tagore said, "The INDIA bloc, particularly in Tamil Nadu, is strengthened by the entry of TVK." He added, "This shows that the fight against the RSS-BJP, particularly the misrule of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is going to be an interesting fight in Tamil Nadu as well." Asked about the DMK's absence from the meeting, Tagore rejected suggestions of any internal rift and said the alliance remained an open platform for all political forces opposing the ruling dispensation at the Centre. "The INDIA bloc is a collective struggle against the policies of the RSS, BJP, Amit Shah, and Modi, which are detrimental to Indian democracy," he said, adding that the DMK leadership continued to be actively engaged with the national platform. When pressed further, Tagore said, "If a party decides not to attend a specific local meeting, questions should be directed to their leadership. Our primary objective remains the unified political fight against the central administration."

The coordination meeting was attended by representatives of the Congress, TVK, CPI(M), CPI, VCK, MDMK and IUML. MDMK chief Vaiko said the opposition leaders had come together to address pressing national issues, including concerns over the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of voter rolls. With TVK joining the INDIA bloc in Tamil Nadu, opposition parties said they were preparing for a wider political fight in the state while also stepping up protests over the electoral roll revision and the role of the Election Commission.

NFR Accelerates Railway Infrastructure Development in Guwahati and Adjoining Areas

MALIGAON, 03 OCTOBER, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is undertaking a series of major infrastructure and capacity enhancement projects in Guwahati and its adjoining areas to meet the growing demand for rail services, improve operational efficiency and strengthen connectivity across the Northeast. As the gateway to the region and the headquarters of NFR, Guwahati Railway Station handles more than 50,000 passengers daily, increasing to around 65,000 during peak seasons, with over 200 trains operating every day. A key project in this direction is the Kamakhya–Guwahati 3rd Line Project, covering 5.74 km at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 467 crores. The additional line will enhance line capacity, ease congestion and facilitate smoother train operations, benefiting passengers and residents of the Kamrup Metro district and is targeted to be completed by 2028 Another major initiative is the Agthori–Kamakhya Double Line Project along with the 2nd Saraighat Rail-cum-Road Bridge, sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1474 crores. Covering 7.20 km, the project includes a 1.3-km-long second Saraighat Rail-cum-Road Bridge with a double-line railway track and a three-lane road. The new infrastructure will augment rail and road capacity across the Brahmaputra, ease pressure on the existing Saraighat Bridge and strengthen connectivity between Guwahati, North Guwahati and other parts of the Northeast. It will also facilitate the operation of additional commuter train services. To further strengthen train terminal and maintenance infrastructure, construction of a Mega Coaching Complex at New Guwahati is progressing at a cost of Rs. 227 crores. The complex will comprise three pit lines, four stabling lines and two automatic coach-washing plants, thereby enhancing coaching capacity, improving maintenance facilities and supporting safer and more efficient



train operations. Redevelopment of Guwahati and Kamakhya Railway Stations is also progressing with a focus on modern passenger amenities and improved accessibility. Guwahati Railway Station is being transformed into a modern facility with an IT park and is being developed on the green-building concept, incorporating measures such as solar power generation, waste management and water management. Construction of a second entry to Guwahati Railway Station is also underway, which will provide passengers with an additional access point and help reduce traffic congestion around the station. The newly inaugurated Panbazar Road Over Bridge is further supporting smoother traffic movement and station remodelling activities. Redevelopment works at Kamakhya Railway Station are progressing steadily, with a focus on upgraded facilities and enhanced passenger amenities. The Kamakhya–Azara Elevated Corridor is another significant project aimed at strengthening rail connectivity while addressing environmental and wildlife considerations. An elevated viaduct is being constructed along the stretch, including the section passing through Deepor Beel, to facilitate safe and uninterrupted movement of wildlife, including elephants, while ensuring efficient railway connectivity. The remaining 13.25-km Azara–Kamakhya double-line stretch is targeted for completion by July 2028. NFR is also strengthening freight and logistics infrastructure in the Guwahati region through Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals (GCTs). The GCT at Baihata, near Guwahati, has been completed, enhancing freight handling and logistics capabilities in the region. In addition, rail connectivity between Jogighopa station yard and the Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) GCT siding has been completed. This connectivity will further strengthen Jogighopa's potential as a major logistics hub and facilitate seamless multimodal movement of goods across the Northeast. Collectively, these infrastructure projects are set to significantly enhance the capacity, efficiency and resilience of the railway network in and around Guwahati. Additional railway lines and the second SaraighatBridge will decongest existing infrastructure and facilitate smoother train movement, while the Mega Coaching Complex will enhance maintenance and terminal capacity. Station redevelopment and improved access will enhance passenger convenience, while elevated rail infrastructure will support connectivity and wildlife movement. Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals will further strengthen freight and multimodal logistics, supporting efficient, sustainable and passenger-centric rail connectivity across Guwahati and the Northeast.

CRPF DG visits Jammu sector, reviews operational preparedness

JAMMU: (OCT 3)

CRPF Director General G P Singh visited the Jammu sector and reviewed the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness of troops deployed on the ground, officials said on Saturday.

The CRPF chief visited Group Centre Bantalab in Jammu and the headquarters of the 187th Battalion in Udhampur district and was briefed by senior officers on the security scenario, deployments, and ongoing operations, they said. They said the top officer emphasised continued vigilance, operational readiness, and close coordination with other security agencies to effectively address emerging security challenges.

51-Kundiya Maha Yagya, Shri Ram Katha at Ram Raja Dham

From 24th to 30th October, Pt. Dhirendra Krishna Shastri of Bageshwar Dham will adorn the Vyas Peeth, grand Kalash Yatra to be taken out on 23rd

DR, BHUPENDRA VIKAL



Shivpuri : A grand religious and spiritual event is going to be held in October in the pious premises of Shri Shri 1008 Baba Bhangir's penance land and Bagicha Sarkar Hanuman Ji Maharaj's sacred Dham and Prabhu Shri Ram Raja Temple. Here, 51-Kundiya Shri Ram Maha Yagya and Shri Ram Katha will be organized from 24th to 30th October. On the Vyas Peeth of the Katha, Peethadhishwar of Bageshwar Dham and famous storyteller Pt. Dhirendra Krishna Shastri Ji will narrate the Shri Ram Katha to the devotees. Information about the preparations and outline of the program was given in a press conference organized on Friday.

Chief host Pt. Rajesh Dubey Bhola Maharaj told that the event will begin on 23rd October with Shri Ganesh Pujan and a grand Kalash Yatra. At 11 am, the Kalash Yatra will start from Shishu Mandir located at Mandi premises and will reach Bagicha Sarkar temple complex. From the next day, 24th October, Shri Ram Katha will be held daily from 2 pm to 5 pm. He told that from 24th to 30th October, daily from 9 am to 12 noon, 51-Kundiya Shri Ram Maha Yagya will be organized. On 30th October, after the Purnahuti of the Yagya, a grand Maha Bhandara will be held at 3 pm. During the event period, Ann Kshetra and Prasadi Bhandara will be arranged daily for the devotees.

A major attraction of the event will also be the Divya Darbar of Bageshwar Dham Sarkar. This Darbar will be held for two days, the date of which will be announced from the stage one day in advance. The program is being organized with the cooperation of Prabhu Shri Ram Hanuman Manav Seva Samiti, all Karaera town residents and area residents and Brahmin Samaj Seva Samiti. In the press conference, Rajesh Dubey Bhola Maharaj, Mahesh Sharma, Bharat Ram Sharma Advocate, Naveen Dubey, Rakesh Dubey and Dr. BK Sharma, Santosh Sharma, Nilesh Duve, Akhilesh Duve, Dr. Bhupendra Vikal, Ummed Singh Jha along with members of the organizing committee were present.

PPA CEO inspects Polavaram works, stresses caution during rains

Polavaram, October 3: Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) Chief Executive Officer Sanjeev Vohra has directed officials to exercise utmost caution during the ongoing construction of the Earth-cum-Rock Fill (ECRF) dam at the Polavaram project, particularly in view of the recent rains.

Mr. Vohra inspected the ECRF dam construction area on Friday night following rainfall in the project area. He examined the strength of the work completed so far by having a road roller operated at the construction site and expressed satisfaction with the progress.

He inspected Gaps 1 and 2 and G-Hill on foot and reviewed the ongoing filling works at the dam site. As the gaps are being progressively filled with rock, soil and sand, he instructed officials to ensure regular compaction with road rollers to maintain the required strength and stability of the



structure.

Mr. Vohra also viewed the ECRF construction from G-Hill along with officials.

Earlier, he held a review meeting with Water Resources Department officials at the project office. The meeting was attended by PPA Deputy Director Ravi, Water Resources Department Engineer-in-Chief K. Narasimha Murthy, Superintending Engineer P. Ramachandra Rao, Quality Control Chief Engineer Seshubabu and Executive Engineer D. Srinivas, among others.

Officials of the Water Resources Department, along with representatives of Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL), the agency executing the project, briefed the PPA CEO on the progress of various works. MEIL General Manager A. Gangadhar, Deputy General Manager Murali Pammi and G. Shankaraiah were among those present. Mr. Vohra said the project should be completed within the stipulated schedule and assured the officials and the construction agency that the Union government would extend all necessary support. He said both the Union and State governments were committed to completing the project.

He asked officials and the construction agency to bring any difficulties encountered during construction to his notice immediately so that necessary steps could be taken to resolve them. Mr. Vohra said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu were closely monitoring the progress of the project. He said he would continue to visit the project site regularly to review the progress of construction.

He also directed officials to make necessary arrangements in view of a visit by a team of foreign experts to the project later this month.

Global press freedom group warns of China's growing propaganda network on Greek social media

PARIS



A leading international press freedom organisation warned that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is quietly cultivating a network of influencers to amplify its narrative on Greek social media.

Warning of Beijing's growing dissemination of propaganda in Greece, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) called on Greek authorities to investigate the financial flows linking these influencers to Chinese propaganda networks to determine whether they are part of a broader foreign interference campaign.

According to Thanos Sitistas, founder of Greece Fact Check, some of these political messages appeared shortly after the Chinese Embassy in Athens released a statement on November 19, 2025, criticising US Ambassador to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle for her remark that Beijing's influence over Greece's largest port, Piraeus, was unfortunate. "Much of the material we examined did not rely on outright falsehoods. Instead, these social media accounts do not disclose their affiliations and advertising arrangements with CCP institutions. Subjects that are politically sensitive for Beijing are generally handled through omission and selective presentation rather than direct arguments," Sitistas told RSF.

"For example, posts by all three influencers on East Turkestan — a territory known as Xinjiang Autonomous Region that is the epicentre of human rights violations against the Uyghur minority — highlighted cultural imagery and portrayed Uyghur residents as happy and prosperous, while well-documented allegations of their mass detention and coercive assimilation were omitted," he added.

Sitistas said that the apparent objective of these accounts is to build a favourable image of China as modern, peaceful, safe and technologically advanced.

"In my assessment, this can make audiences less receptive to criticism of Beijing and more supportive of Chinese interests around Piraeus, the Belt and Road Initiative and relations with the EU," he noted. The RSF noted that China sought to deepen its engagement with Greek media as its economic presence in the country expanded.

Highlighting Beijing's growing influence in Greek media, the press group noted that Chinese state news agency Xinhua signed a cooperation agreement with Greece's state news agency, the Athens-Macedonian News Agency (AMNA), in 2016. A second agreement with the China Economic Information Service (CEIS), a Xinhua affiliate, followed in 2017.

That same year, Kathimerini, one of Greece's leading newspapers, signed a cooperation agreement with Xinhua. Although the terms of the agreement were not disclosed, a study found that Kathimerini republished at least one Xinhua report per week in 2020, for a total of 66 articles.

According to the RSF, some major Greek media outlets engaging in such agreements have ownership or business ties to sectors with significant links to China. "That's why there is almost no reporting on what these Chinese investments actually mean for our country's independence," an Athens-based independent journalist told RSF on condition of anonymity.

Seven idols vandalised ahead of Durga Festival at Hindu temple

DHAKA

Unidentified miscreants vandalised seven idols being sculpted for the upcoming Durga Puja festival at a temple in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail district, amid rising concerns over attacks on Hindu places of worship in Bangladesh, local media reported. According to temple authorities and police, the vandalism took place between Wednesday night and early Thursday in Jamurki Paschimpara area of Mirzapur.

Residents said Durga Puja has been observed at the temple for nearly 85 years under the aegis of the Jamurki Arya Samiti, Bangladesh's leading newspaper The Daily Star reported.

The temple was gearing up for this year's festivities, with seven idols, including the main goddess Durga idol, nearly complete and only painting work remaining.



Dengue surge, measles outbreak puts strain on B'desh's healthcare system

DHAKA

Bangladesh enters October under mounting healthcare pressure as dengue infections surge after September emerged as the deadliest month of 2026, with hospitals now facing the added strain of a widespread measles outbreak, a report has stated.

The surge poses an immediate healthcare challenge and a broader policy dilemma over how to expand treatment while addressing environmental and service-delivery gaps that are fuelling the spread of infections, according to a report in the leading media platform 'Devdiscourse'.

Citing Health Ministry figures, the report said dengue has claimed at least 245 lives and led to 79,620 hospital admissions since January. September alone accounted for 148 deaths, compared with 43 in August and 36 in July, meaning nearly 60 per cent of the year's reported dengue fatalities occurred in a single month.

Kabirul Bashar, a medical entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, warned that October could see a further deterioration in the dengue situation.

According to his forecasting model, rainfall recorded in September may continue to influence transmission through delayed effects, as weather conditions remain conducive to mosquito activity, the report mentioned.

"The forecast strengthens the case for preparing staff, diagnostic services, essential supplies and referral arrangements before admissions rise further. It should nevertheless be understood as an expert projection rather than a confirmed outcome. The increase in deaths also requires investigation. The available figures cannot establish whether fatalities reflect more infections, delayed presentation, difficulties accessing care or other factors. For health authorities, identifying these differences is essential because each requires a different response," it added.

The report noted that as dengue cases surge in Bangladesh, the country's hospitals are also grappling with a major measles outbreak.

According to government data cited in the report, 21,520 measles cases have been confirmed since March 15, with over 190,000 people seeking treatment for suspected measles or similar symptoms. More than 1,100 children have reportedly died from measles this year.

"Although dengue and measles require different prevention strategies, they draw on overlapping healthcare resources. Both can increase demand for clinical staff, diagnostics, hospital space and reliable supplies. Expanding dengue care while allowing routine vaccination or other essential services to weaken could prolong the broader health emergency," the report detailed.

"Policymakers therefore need a coordinated response that protects childhood immunisation while strengthening dengue treatment. District-level information on admissions, bed availability and referral delays would help direct resources towards the greatest needs," it noted.

The rhetoric vs reality of Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif's UN speech

NEW YORK

It has become predictable for the leaders of Pakistan to sell a concocted narrative that hardly has any buyers. The saying that best describes this commonplace practice of the country's ruling elite from different parties is – the more things change, the more they stay the same. As domestic politics remains gravely polarised and the economy is in shambles, the ruling alliance has been trying its best to utilise international platforms for its unsubstantiated polemics, which are unlikely to have any impact. No foreign visits to peddle a specific narrative can obscure the ruling alliance's domestic political instability, economic collapse, and skyrocketing inflation. The grim situation at home makes it exceedingly difficult for this "hybrid" regime — as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government.

Visegrad-4 reset could refresh India's relationship with Europe's Central Eastern flank

NEW DELHI

The meeting between Indian External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and the foreign ministers of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on September 21 has been described as a "historic occasion".

In some way, it is: the Visegrad-4, the group of these four countries, has agreed to hold annual foreign minister-level meetings. It has also agreed to establish an annual business forum to deepen cooperation in technology, defence, space, and connectivity.

Slovakia's Foreign Minister Juraj Blanar said that all four V4 countries agree that India should have a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. It is a general consensus amongst policy planners, scholars and journalists that while most of the UNGA side meetings are part of routine diplomacy and function as a stocktaking of the relationship, some of them become historic, so a closer reading always provides a fresh perspective and that too at a time when the V4 is trying to work as a regional grouping after a great rupture and India is working out a different kind of relationship with Europe's Central Eastern flank.

Talking about the history, India's ties with this part of Europe are older than the Visegrad grouping and even before India's independence. During the Second World War, the Maharaja of Nawanagar



sheltered hundreds of Polish children at Balachadi near Jamnagar, and a larger Polish settlement emerged at Valivade near Kolhapur, a story that Warsaw still remembers with gratitude. Rabindranath Tagore travelled to Hungary in 1926, and Amrita Sher-Gil was born to a Hungarian mother. Her Hungarian husband lived and died on the outskirts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. In the Cold War years, when all four were in the Soviet bloc, the relationship took a more practical shape, as Czechoslovak industry and Polish shipyards and aircraft factories supplied the Indian armed forces with everything from armoured vehicles to Iskra jet trainers and landing ships. When EAM Jaishankar mentioned in New York that India has a very strong defence history with every V4 country, he was alluding to these historical facts. This strong trade and defence relations with India to these countries, which changed after the fall of the Iron Curtain, as these states looked more Westward for their economic expansion, and V4 was the result of the same, formed at Visegrad, Hungary in 1991 with a simple purpose, to help these post-communist states return to Europe. This purpose was fulfilled when all four joined, first NATO and then the European Union in 2004. The grouping served as a regional pragmatic minilateral among the EU, NATO, and the UN but took a different avatar after the 2015 migration crisis. The populist zeitgeist already taken shape in this part of the world, the V4 became known in Brussels as the bloc that said no to refugee quotas, to what it saw as interference on the rule of law.

The Fragrance of National Integrative Literature Across Diverse Languages

While rendering remarkable services to the society being a medical practitioner Dr.T.Radhakrishnamacharyulu, on the other hand, being passionate towards mother tongue and literature with love and aptitude is excelling greatly as an ambidexter. Being in medical profession of no leisure time, Dr.T.Radhakrishnamacharyulu(Dr.T.R.K.Charyulu) is sparing to pass on his valuable body of works to the readers as a poet, a writer and a translator is an example to his sheer dedication.In the recent past he rendered an essay on different aspects of creating poetry in several modes and methods which attracted my psyche very well. Various creative elements in Literature that are to be followed In the expression of poetry was on par with the observance of a University Professor's scale, so appeared.

Later on his one poem attracted me further deep.In it the technical terminology he used is further enhances the Telugu vocabulary vastly.To be frank, the professionals like Doctors, Engineers and people from various fields do literary creativity, new vocabulary would certainly add in and Telugu literature would expand further. He is one among such people who do work for such cause.As apart of such literary mission, and with his great deal of study, he recently moved forward to brougt out a valuable volume of 'Bharatheeya Sahithi Kiranalu' which is a wonderful treasure of literature.With a grand resolve to introduce the diversity and uniqueness, of the annals of 'History of Indian literature,' to Telugu readers Dr.Chayulu had designed this volume as any encyclopedia. Eminent 105 writers of diverse languages across the country with their literary journey are being figured.And it's a gigantic task with strenuous spirit. There is no doubt for me that the poets, novel and story writers ofi the national level are indexed in this book and the various literary fragrances are being transmitted to the Telugu literary world. This volume remains as a valuable gift to all the fans of literature indeed.

In this book, Dr. T.R.K. Charyulu introduces not only literary giants who have received the highest national and international awards but also other significant poets and writers. The author has also provided detailed accounts of the lives of individuals such as Sitakant Mahapatra, M.T. Vasudevan Nair, Kanhaiyalal Sethia (Rajasthani), Dalip Kaur Tiwana (Punjabi), Anil Boro (Bodo), Geeta Upadhyay (Nepali), and Ismat Chughtai (Urdu), all of whom have received prestigious civilian honours from the Government of India namely the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan.

This book brings together the stories of numerous eminent figures ranging from creative writers who received the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award (such as Acharya N. Gopi, Champa Sharma, Pundalik Naik, Easterine Kire, Usha Kiran Khan, Amritlal Vegad, and Elangbam Nilakanta Singh) to those honored with distinguished awards like the Saraswati Samman, Soviet Land Nehru Award, Moortidevi Award, and the Tagore Peace Award.By selecting eminent award-winning authors from various Indian languages rather than limiting itself to just one or two... and introducing their lives to readers, this book can be described as a magnificent work that illustrates the distinctiveness of Indian literature.

This book offers inspiring references to eminent figures whose writings fostered national integrity, patriotism, and religious harmony. Notable examples include the Tamil novelist Akilan who participated in the freedom struggle guided by Gandhian principles and used his pen to combat social discrimination, and the Assamese writer Nalini Prava Deka, whose works paved the way for religious harmony and social regeneration. This book highlights the contributions of figures such as the Rajasthani poet Kanhaiyalal Sethia, who played a pivotal role in the freedom struggle and inspired patriotism through his nationalist poetry, and the Tamil progressive writer D. Jayakanthan, who sought to bring together the diverse schools of thought within Indian society.

The biographical sketches in this book featuring creative figures such as Nepali writer Geeta Upadhyay, who fostered cultural understanding across diverse regions, and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who propagated nationalist sentiments while weaving human values into his poetry that stand as living testaments to national integrity and emotional unity. "Unity in diversity" is the lifeblood not only of Indian culture but also of our literature. The shared Indian ethos tat are spanning from the mountain valleys of Kashmir to the shores of Kanyakumari, and from the deserts of Gujarat to the lush forests of the Northeastern states is evident at every step in this book.To learn about the lives and creative journeys of renowned literary figures representing the 24 Indian languages recognized by our Constitution, and one must read this book. The author has comprehensively showcased the diversity and literary richness of numerous languages including Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay is a celebrated luminary of Bengali literature, brilliantly reflected the suffering of the downtrodden in his works. Writing under the pen name 'Anila Devi', he created novels such as Devdas, Parineeta, Srikanta, and Charitrahin, which captivated readers immensely. His writings deeply stirred the hearts of Telugu readers, influencing them to such an extent that they felt a sense of kinship with him, as if he were one of their own. A remarkable aspect of his work is that it inspires readers to seek out and read the original texts.The poe Atal Bihari Vajpayee is much revognised and renowned as a former Prime Minister of India and a great orator is deeply rooted in nationalist sentiments and human values. Declaring that "poetry is a declaration of war, not a prelude to defeat," he expressed the emotions of the common people with great poetic artistry through works such as Twenty-One Poems and Meri Ikyavan Kavitayein. His writing evokes a desire to learn more about him. Professor N. Gopi is a man of perpetual poetic thirst and ever-vibrant spirit, became a trendsetter by creating 'Nanilu,' a new genre in Telugu poetry, transcending the realm of mere translations.His literary journey, which began with Tangedu Poolu, has 31 poetry collections to his credit. His work Kaalaanni Nidraponivvanu which vividly captures the essence of rural life and the scent of the soil—won the prestigious Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award. The presentation beautifully highlighted Gopi garu's genuine love for rural idioms and the sentiments of ordinary people, as well as the unique aspects of his travel writing.It is a matter of great pride for Telugu readers to see our Telugu poet stand tall alongside writers of national and international stature, and to witness our Telugu identity rightfully represented on the map of Indian literature. The introduction to him is excellent.

Jagadguru Rambhadracharya is a polymath;who despite losing his eyesight at the age of two, speaks twenty-two languages fluently and has gifted us numerous works in Sanskrit, is a Hindu spiritual leader who established a dedicated university for the differently-abled and authored over a hundred books, eventually receiving the prestigious Jnanpith Award in 2023. The piece by Dr. T.R.K. Charyulu, that introduces us this remarkable figure, fosters a deep sense of respect for him that transcends religious boundaries. The stalwarts of Telugu literature who won the Jnanpith Award have fittingly upheld the glory of our mother tongue at the national level. 'Kavisamrat' Viswanatha Satyanarayana became the first to receive this award for Telugu literature, having given literary form to the philosophy of Indian life and the diversity of Sanatana traditions through his magnificent epic, 'Srimadramayana Kalpavruksham'. Subsequently, Dr. C. Narayana Reddy (Cinare) received this award for his epic Viswambhara, a work that proclaims modern humanism and a universal outlook, thereby further enhancing the glory of Telugu across the nation.In this lineage, Dr. Ravuri Bharadwaja earned the Jnanpith Award for his novel Pakudurallu, which authentically portrays the realities of the lives of those at the very bottom of the film industry, behind-the-scenes experiences, and the complexities of human relationships.Spanning everything from ancient poetic works to modern free verse and social novels, these highlights of Telugu literature stand as living testimony to the vitality and creativity of our language; the author, Dr. T.R.K. Charyulu, demonstrates his keen insight not merely through introductions but also through his critical observations on the respective writers.

In this manner, Dr. T.R.K. Charyulu introduced each author in a captivating style. He also effectively highlighted which linguistic communities produced the highest number of recipients or multiple-time winners of prestigious awards mentioned in the book, such as the Jnanpith Award and theKendra Sahitya Akademi Award. Another significant aspect of this book is that, based on the list of prominent authors, Tamil litterateurs are mentioned twice in the context of these national-level awards (Jnanpith and Sahityau Akademi Awards).

Among the Tamil authors mentioned in this book, Akilan received the Sahitya Akademi Award for the novel Vengayin Maindhan and the prestigious Jnanpeet Award is a source of national pride for the novel Chithirappavai. Similarly, another prominent progressive Tamil novelist, D. Jayakanthan, won the prestigious Central Sahitya Akademi Award for the novel Sila Nerangalil Sila Manithargal and also secured the Jnanpith Award in recognition of his literary works and services.

Although India is a confluence of diverse languages and cultures, the literature of a particular region often remains confined to its own language. Against this backdrop, the publication of the book "Bharatheeya Sahithi Kiranalu", authored by Dr. T.R.K.Charyulu in Telugu appears to be highly essential.By showcasing the Indian spirit of "Unity in Diversity" and introducing Telugu readers to literary giants across the country, spanning from Kashmir to Kanyakumari the book serves as an excellent bridge to foster a sense of national unity and respect for other languages.The writing style adopted in this book is highly engaging and easily accessible. The author demonstrates his talent by clearly and concisely presenting details about each writer's personal life, the challenges they faced, their literary journeys, and the awards they received, all without unnecessary complexity. It is to note that this is not a translatory fabric but an original work of the author in Telugu.

However, observing the way the lives and inner worlds of writers from diverse linguistic backgrounds across the country are unveiled, the work doesn't look like as presented by a medical professional but found to be an exquisite masterpiece flowing from the pen of a renowned author who has lived a lifetime in the company of literature. A notable virtue of this writing style is the ability to articulate deeply understood concepts through concise, simple sentences. The clarity of expression, the fluidity of style, and the command over the language all reflect the caliber of a skilled creative artist.



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Farmers' body SKM says hike in MSP for rabi crops an 'insult'; calls for agitation across villages

NEW DELHI: (OCT 3)

Farmers' body Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Saturday said it will not accept the minimum support prices for rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing season announced by the government, and termed the Rs 25-per-quintal hike in wheat MSP an "insult" to foodgrain producers.

SKM also asked farmers and rural youth to burn copies of the government order in every village as a mark of protest.

The latest increase in wheat MSP amounted to just 25 paise per kg, SKM said and questioned the government's claim that the new MSPs provide a 106 per cent return over the cost of production.

Adani Airports to redevelop Mumbai T1 North Section from Jan; 9 pc traffic to be shifted

MUMBAI: (OCT 3)

Adani Airports will begin a phased redevelopment of the ageing Terminal 1 at Mumbai airport from January 2027, starting with the North Section of Terminal 1B, citing safety concerns around the nearly 60-year-old facility. About 5 million passengers a year, or roughly 9 per cent of Mumbai airport's total traffic of around 55 million passengers, will be temporarily affected by the first phase, while the remaining 91 per cent of passenger traffic will continue to operate normally, Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) said on Saturday. Airlines operating from the affected section will have the option of temporarily shifting their services to the newly operational Navi Mumbai International Airport, with AAHL saying it will support the transition.



Sebi receives 20,000 comments on consultation paper regarding Closing Auction Session

NEW DELHI: (OCT 3)

Markets regulator Sebi has received 20,000 comments on its consultation paper seeking views on proposed changes to the Closing Auction Session (CAS), market timings and settlement methodology for derivative contracts. "The number of comments received till 7:00 PM today, i.e. October 3, 2026, stands at 20,000," Sebi said in a post on X on Saturday. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had sought public comments till October 3 on its proposal to review certain aspects of the CAS mechanism, market timings and the settlement methodology for derivative contracts.

Medicover Campaign Focuses on Breast Cancer Awareness

Promotes Early Detection, Screening and Timely Treatment Through Pink October Initiative

HYDERABAD, 03, OCTOBER, 2026





To raise awareness about breast cancer, highlight the importance of early detection, and encourage women to prioritise their health, Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad, organised a special awareness programme as part of Pink October – Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in India, with more than 200,000 new cases reported every year. Recognising the growing need for awareness and early intervention, Medicover Hospitals launched this initiative to educate the public on the importance of timely diagnosis and treatment, which can significantly improve patient outcomes.

During the programme, women were educated about the signs and symptoms of breast cancer, risk factors, the importance of regular screening, and the need for personalised screening plans based on family history and individual health conditions. Medical experts also interacted with participants and addressed their questions and concerns.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nived Rao Balmuri, Senior Consultant Surgical Oncologist and Robotic Surgeon, Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad, said, "Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers affecting women. However, when detected at an early stage, treatment outcomes are significantly better.

Women above the age of 40, as well as those with a family history of breast cancer, should undergo appropriate screening tests as advised by their doctors. It is equally important to seek medical attention immediately if any new changes or unusual symptoms are noticed in the breasts. Early detection can save lives."

As part of the Pink October campaign, registered women can avail the following special benefits until October 31, 2026:

- Free Oncologist Consultation
- Breast Cancer Risk Assessment and Counselling
- Free Breast Ultrasound (USG), based on the doctor's recommendation
- In addition, Medicover Hospitals Secunderabad has introduced specially priced cancer screening packages to promote preventive healthcare and increase awareness about the importance of regular cancer screening.
- Special Cancer Screening Packages
- Men's Cancer Screening Package – ₹1,000 (Regular Price: ₹6,500) Includes:
- Complete Blood Picture (CBP)
- Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR)
- CA 19.9 (Tumour Marker)
- Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA)
- Medical Oncology Consultation
- Women's Cancer Screening Package – ₹2,000
- (Regular Price: ₹11,000) Includes:
- Complete Blood Picture (CBP)
- Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR)
- Ultrasound Abdomen & Pelvis (USG)
- Sono Mammography (Breast Screening)
- CA 125 (Tumour Marker)
- Pap Smear (Cervical Screening)
- Gynaecology Consultation

Emphasising the importance of awareness and preventive care, Dr. Nived Rao Balmuri added, "Our message this Pink October is simple—early detection saves lives. Through awareness, regular screening, and timely medical intervention, breast cancer can be detected early and treated effectively."

The awareness programme, aimed at promoting breast cancer awareness and encouraging women to take proactive steps towards their health, was attended by Dr. Madhavi Dokku, Senior Consultant Gynaec Oncologist; Dr. Noorzia Sultana Syed, Consultant Medical & Hemato Oncologist; Dr. K. Abhinav Kumar, Consultant Plastic Surgeon; Adari Bhargav, Surgical Oncologist; Ms. Krishnaveni, Centre Head; and Dr. Prashanth Reddy, Medical Superintendent.

CBI chargesheets RCom, ex-LIC investment chief in Rs 3,750-crore cheating case

The document alleges that LIC suffered wrongful loss after investing Rs 1,500 crore in RCom non-convertible debentures (NCDs) in 2012. The chargesheet was filed before a Special CBI court in Mumbai.



According to the CBI, LIC subscribed to the NCDs issued by RCom on the basis of serious misrepresentations.

The agency's investigation found that funds received through the NCD subscription were subsequently diverted to ADA Group companies, allegedly causing wrongful loss to LIC and corresponding wrongful gain to the accused persons and entities. The CBI has charged RCom, Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, Group MD of the Reliance ADA Group, Vishwas Joshi, Senior Vice President of Reliance Capital Ltd, and Venugopal with criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal breach of trust under the IPC, along with offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The CBI said the case was registered on April 1, 2026, based on a complaint received from LIC. The agency said the total alleged loss caused to LIC amounts to Rs 3,750 crore. Further investigation is continuing to ascertain the role of other accused persons and examine other allegations. The case is part of a broader CBI probe into nine FIRs involving RCom, Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL), Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd, Reliance Telecom Ltd and other Reliance ADA Group entities, based on complaints from public sector banks, LIC and EPFO.

The latest chargesheet is the eighth filed by the CBI in the Reliance ADA Group cases, according to the agency. The CBI has so far arrested seven accused persons.

The investigations are being monitored by the Supreme Court, with the agency stating that it remains committed to an expeditious and comprehensive probe. The RCom chargesheet came two days after the CBI filed its second chargesheet in a separate loan fraud case linked to RHFL.

The agency alleged that Rs 7,429.16 crore borrowed by RHFL was diverted through intermediary and conduit entities to various Reliance ADA Group companies, in violation of the terms and conditions imposed by lenders.

The second RHFL chargesheet names 11 accused, including Amit Bapna, Director and CFO of RHFL; Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, Group MD and Vice Chairman of Reliance Capital Ltd; and Suresh Nagarajan, CFO of Reliance Power Ltd.

Seven companies and Vijay Napawaliya, a chartered accountant and statutory auditor of RHFL, have also been named. The CBI said the alleged diversion caused wrongful loss to lending banks and financial institutions and corresponding wrongful gain to the accused persons and related entities. The agency had registered the case following complaints from Union Bank of India, formerly Andhra Bank, and other public sector banks in the consortium.

With the latest filing, 15 accused, including senior officials and group companies, have been chargesheeted in the RHFL case.

The CBI said further investigation in both the RCom-LIC and RHFL cases will continue to determine the role of other accused persons and examine additional allegations. No immediate reaction was available from the Reliance ADA Group on the latest developments. The two chargesheets form part of the agency's continuing investigation into multiple alleged financial irregularities involving Reliance ADA Group entities, with further legal proceedings expected before the respective special courts.

TANLA Foundation Supports the Dream of Poor Families to Own a Home

Construction of 5,000 houses at a cost of ₹300 crore in Sathupalli and Aswaraopeta constituencies
Groundbreaking ceremony to be held on the occasion of Dussehra
Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, State Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations

SATHUPALLI:





State Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that while the people's government is working to fulfill the dream of poor families to own a house, it is commendable that charitable organizations are also joining hands with the government in this effort.

He stated that Uday Kumar Reddy, founder of the TANLA Foundation, has come forward to construct 5,000 houses free of cost for poor families in the Sathupalli and Aswaraopeta constituencies using his own funds, at an estimated cost of approximately ₹300 crore. The minister announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of these houses will be held on the occasion of Dussehra. Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, along with Collector Divakar T.S., Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt, Sathupalli MLA Matta Ragamayi Dayanand, and Aswaraopeta MLA Jare Adinarayana, visited the rural health centre and laboratories being operated by the TANLA Foundation in Bethupalli Gangaram village of Sathupalli mandal.

During the visit, the minister personally underwent a blood test. He subsequently interacted with the medical staff and patients and enquired about the medical services being provided at the facility. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that if the state government allocates house sites to poor families, Uday Kumar Reddy has come forward on behalf of the TANLA Foundation to construct 5,000 houses using his own funds. The minister said that the objective of the people's government is not merely to provide poor families with a house, but also to give them a permanent address where they can live with dignity and self-respect. He directed the officials to expedite the programme by identifying eligible poor families in coordination with the Collectors of Khammam and Bhadradri Kothagudem districts and MLAs Matta Ragamayi Dayanand and Jare Adinarayana, and to complete the process of allocating house sites. Healthcare for the Poor: International-Standard Cancer Hospital The minister said that an international-standard cancer hospital is being constructed in Narayanapuram village under the auspices of the Sri Shiridi Sai Janamangalam Trust to provide free, high-quality medical services to poor people.

Air India Express to launch Thiruvananthapuram-Riyadh, Bahrain flights from Oct 27

Air India Express will start direct flights from Thiruvananthapuram to Riyadh and Bahrain on October 27. The move widens Kerala's Gulf links and answers long-pending demand for Riyadh connectivity.



Thiruvananthapuram International Airport will get direct Air India Express services to Riyadh and Bahrain from October 27, 2026, expanding its links with the Gulf region. Bookings for both routes are now open, the airport said in a statement on Saturday.

The airport said the new flights will give passengers more travel options and further strengthen air connectivity between Kerala and Gulf destinations. It added that the Riyadh route meets a long-standing demand for direct connectivity between Thiruvananthapuram and the Saudi Arabian capital.

The Riyadh service will run three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. It will add to the existing daily Air India Express flights between Thiruvananthapuram and Dammam. The airport said the direct Riyadh flight is expected to benefit a large expatriate community from southern Kerala and neighbouring Tamil Nadu living and working in Saudi Arabia by offering a more convenient travel option. The Bahrain service will operate twice a week on Thursdays and Saturdays. Bahrain is already linked to Thiruvananthapuram through daily Gulf Air flights. The airport currently handles more than 250 weekly air traffic movements to the Gulf region, connecting passengers to destinations including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Doha, Muscat, Kuwait and Dammam. Thiruvananthapuram International Airport is managed by TRV Kerala International Airport Limited, a special purpose vehicle under Adani Airport Holdings Limited. Adani Airport Holdings Limited is a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises. With the launch of the new Air India Express flights to Riyadh and Bahrain, the airport is set to further widen its international network and improve links with the Gulf region.



Regulatory frameworks need to evolve with rapidly changing environment: NITI Aayog's Rajiv Gauba

NEW DELHI, OCT 3

The challenge before policymakers is not to choose between regulation and growth, but to develop regulations that manage risks while supporting innovation, competition and investment, Rajiv Gauba, Member, NITI Aayog, said on Saturday.

In his address at the plenary session on "Regulatory Oversight in an Age of Disruption" at the 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave here, he highlighted the need for regulatory frameworks to evolve alongside a rapidly changing geopolitical, technological and economic environment. Gauba observed that geopolitical uncertainty, disruptions to trade routes and global supply chains, and the increasing use of tariffs, export controls and investment restrictions as strategic instruments are reshaping the economic landscape.

At the same time, he noted that technological change is advancing faster than many institutions and regulatory frameworks can adapt, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital technologies.

He also highlighted the growing complexity of modern business models, which increasingly span multiple sectors and technologies.

As traditional boundaries between industries become less relevant, he stressed that regulatory frameworks must evolve to address interconnected risks without creating fragmented or conflicting obligations.

Gauba also underlined that while regulation is essential for safety, consumer protection, market integrity and systemic stability, excessive or poorly designed regulation can impede innovation, competition and investment. He stressed that national competitiveness depends not only on infrastructure, labour laws and incentives, but also on the clarity, consistency and predictability of the regulatory environment. For businesses considering new investments, he said, the ability to operate at scale and innovate with certainty is an increasingly important consideration. He further emphasised that regulatory independence must go hand in hand with accountability. While regulators need autonomy to take difficult decisions free from undue influence, public confidence requires transparent decision-making, clear procedures, effective review mechanisms and accountability for regulatory performance. He called for greater coordination among regulators to address overlapping mandates, avoid duplication and close regulatory gaps as businesses increasingly operate across traditional regulatory domains.

FSSAI cracks down on 'unsafe' Nestle product at 'The Lalit'; hotel chain responds

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Saturday said that it ordered immediate action against the sale of a Nestle dairy product after a laboratory analysis determined that a sample of Nestle Low Fat Dairy Whitener obtained from Bharat Hotels Ltd (The Lalit) was unsafe. The regulator subsequently issued a notice to Bharat Hotels Ltd and directed the hotel operator to prohibit the sale of the identified product pending further proceedings. Responding to the development, Vivek Shukla, CEO of The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, said the dairy whitener was a packaged product procured from Nestlé India and that the hotel had acted promptly after receiving communication from the regulator.



Low Vitamin D Linked to Heart Cell Stress

Vitamin D Deficiency May Trigger Cellular Stress in the Heart
ICMR-NIN study points to oxidative stress and weakened antioxidant defence, but human studies are still needed

Vitamin D is commonly associated with bone health, calcium absorption and maintaining strong muscles. But researchers are increasingly examining whether the nutrient also plays a role in protecting other organs and regulating important cellular processes. A new study by scientists at the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN), Hyderabad, has now drawn attention to a possible connection between vitamin D deficiency and stress-related changes in heart cells.

The study, published in the international journal *Steroids*, found that inadequate dietary vitamin D was associated with increased oxidative damage in the hearts of rats, along with changes in the body's natural antioxidant defence mechanisms. Researchers also observed alterations in cellular pathways linked to oxidative stress, endoplasmic reticulum stress, autophagy and apoptosis. The findings offer an insight into how inadequate vitamin D may influence heart cells at the cellular level. However, the researchers have also emphasised an important limitation: the findings come from animal and cell-based experiments and cannot yet be directly applied to humans.

Further research involving people will be necessary to establish whether similar effects occur in human heart tissue and whether correcting vitamin D deficiency can translate into measurable cardiovascular benefits.

Looking Beyond Bone Health

Vitamin D has traditionally been viewed primarily as a nutrient essential for maintaining healthy bones. It helps the body absorb calcium and supports normal skeletal development. Over the years, however, research has expanded to examine its potential involvement in immunity, muscle function, inflammation and several cellular signalling pathways.

The latest ICMR-NIN study adds another dimension to this research by examining the relationship between vitamin D and oxidative stress in the heart.

The heart is a highly active organ that works continuously throughout life. Its cells require a constant supply of energy, and the processes involved in producing that energy can generate reactive oxygen species. Under normal conditions, the body has antioxidant systems that help keep these reactive molecules under control.

When the production of reactive oxygen species exceeds the body's ability to neutralise them, a condition known as oxidative stress can develop. Prolonged oxidative stress can damage cellular components and interfere with normal cell function.

The researchers wanted to understand whether vitamin D deficiency could influence this balance in heart tissue.

Increased Oxidative Damage

In their experiments, researchers examined rats receiving different levels of dietary vitamin D. The animals exposed to low or deficient levels of vitamin D showed increased markers of oxidative damage in the heart. At the same time, the researchers observed a reduction in some of the body's natural antioxidant defences. This is significant because antioxidant systems are among the mechanisms cells use to protect themselves from oxidative injury.

The findings suggest that vitamin D deficiency may be associated with a situation in which heart cells are exposed to greater oxidative pressure while some of their protective mechanisms become less effective. However, the study does not establish that vitamin D deficiency directly causes cardiovascular disease in humans. Instead, it provides evidence of a possible biological mechanism that requires further investigation.

Glutathione and Antioxidant Defences

One of the important observations in the study involved glutathione, a major antioxidant present in cells. Glutathione helps protect cells from oxidative damage and plays a role in maintaining the balance between reactive molecules and antioxidant defences. The researchers found lower levels of glutathione in the hearts of vitamin D-deficient rats. They also observed reduced activity of certain important antioxidant enzymes. This combination could indicate a weakened cellular defence system. If oxidative stress continues for a prolonged period, the resulting imbalance may affect the normal functioning of cells. For heart cells, which have high energy demands and operate continuously, maintaining an effective antioxidant defence system is particularly important. The study therefore raises the possibility that vitamin D status could influence the ability of heart cells to respond to oxidative challenges.

The Nrf2 Connection

Another important part of the research involved the Nrf2 pathway, a cellular defence mechanism involved in the body's response to oxidative stress. Nrf2 helps regulate the expression of several genes involved in antioxidant protection. When cells experience oxidative stress, the Nrf2 system can activate protective responses that help neutralise harmful molecules and limit cellular damage. The ICMR-NIN researchers observed impairment of the Nrf2 pathway in the hearts of vitamin D-deficient rats.

This finding is significant because it provides a possible explanation for the reduction in antioxidant protection observed in the study. If the Nrf2 pathway is not responding adequately, cells may have greater difficulty dealing with oxidative stress. The researchers' observations suggest that vitamin D deficiency could influence the cellular mechanisms responsible for maintaining antioxidant protection. Whether the same mechanism operates in humans remains an important question for future research.

Signs of Cellular Stress

The study also examined several other processes associated with cellular stress. Researchers found increased markers related to endoplasmic reticulum, or ER, stress, as well as changes associated with autophagy and apoptosis in vitamin D-deficient hearts.

The endoplasmic reticulum is an important structure inside cells that is involved in the production, folding and processing of proteins. When cells are exposed to excessive stress, the normal functioning of the endoplasmic reticulum can be disrupted, resulting in what is known as ER stress. If such stress is prolonged, it can interfere with cellular functions and activate additional protective or damage-related pathways. Autophagy is another cellular process examined in the study. It helps cells remove damaged components and recycle cellular material. It is generally considered an important housekeeping mechanism that helps maintain cellular health. However, changes in autophagy can occur when cells experience prolonged or severe stress. The researchers also observed increased markers associated with apoptosis, the controlled process through which damaged cells undergo programmed cell death.

Taken together, these findings indicate that vitamin D deficiency was associated with a broader pattern of cellular stress in the rat heart rather than with a single isolated change.

What the Cell Experiments Showed

To further investigate the potential protective role of vitamin D, the researchers conducted experiments using rat cardiac cells exposed to oxidative stress. When the cells were subjected to oxidative stress, their survival declined and markers of cellular damage increased. The researchers also observed signs of ER stress and apoptosis. However, when the cells were pre-treated with the active form of vitamin D before being exposed to oxidative stress, some of these changes were reduced. The treatment improved antioxidant responses and reduced several indicators associated with cellular stress and cell death. According to scientist Dr Ayesha Ismail, who led the research group, prolonged oxidative stress resulting from inadequate vitamin D may trigger a series of cellular responses that could contribute to injury in heart cells. The cell experiments therefore provide additional evidence supporting a possible protective role for vitamin D under conditions of oxidative stress. At the same time, the researchers have been careful not to interpret these laboratory findings as proof of a cardiovascular benefit in humans.

Why Animal and Cell Studies Matter

Animal studies and laboratory cell experiments are important stages in medical research because they allow scientists to investigate biological mechanisms in controlled conditions. They can help researchers understand how a nutrient, drug or other factor affects specific cellular pathways before those questions are tested in human populations.

Human Evidence Is Still Needed

Kulkarni, Director of ICMR-NIN, stressed that the findings are based on animal and cell models and that further research in humans is required to determine whether similar effects occur in people. This distinction is particularly important when interpreting nutrition research. A laboratory study may show that a nutrient influences a particular cellular pathway. A human clinical study must then determine whether changing the nutrient level actually produces a meaningful improvement in health outcomes.

In the case of vitamin D, researchers would need to examine whether people with vitamin D deficiency show similar changes in markers of oxidative stress, antioxidant activity and cellular damage. They would also need to determine whether correcting the deficiency reverses those changes and whether such improvements translate into better cardiovascular outcomes.

Vitamin D and Cardiovascular Health

The relationship between vitamin D and cardiovascular health has been investigated in several areas of research. Scientists have explored possible links between vitamin D status and blood pressure, inflammation, metabolic health and cardiovascular risk.

However, an association between low vitamin D levels and a health condition does not necessarily mean that vitamin D deficiency is the direct cause of that condition. People with low vitamin D levels may also differ in other ways. Their diet, physical activity, exposure to sunlight, body composition, age, existing medical conditions and overall lifestyle can all influence vitamin D status and cardiovascular health. This makes it difficult to determine whether vitamin D itself is responsible for a particular health outcome without carefully controlled research. The ICMR-NIN study contributes to this broader scientific discussion by focusing on the cellular mechanisms through which vitamin D could potentially influence oxidative stress in heart tissue.



The Affordability and Accessibility Question

Vitamin D deficiency is a nutritional issue that can arise from several factors, including inadequate dietary intake and limited exposure to sunlight. Modern urban lifestyles may also influence vitamin D status, particularly among people who spend much of their time indoors. However, determining whether an individual is deficient requires appropriate assessment. Vitamin D supplementation should not automatically be considered necessary for everyone, and taking excessive amounts without medical advice can also be harmful. The findings of the ICMR-NIN study therefore should not be interpreted as a recommendation for people to start high-dose vitamin D supplements to prevent heart disease. Instead, the research reinforces the importance of understanding nutritional status as part of overall health and highlights the need for evidence-based approaches to identifying and correcting nutrient deficiencies.

What the Study Means for the Public

For the general public, the study provides an interesting insight into the wider biological role of vitamin D. It suggests that the nutrient may be involved in cellular defence mechanisms beyond its established role in bone health.

But the findings do not mean that every person with low vitamin D levels will develop heart damage. Nor do they establish that vitamin D supplementation can prevent heart attacks or other cardiovascular diseases. Heart health depends on a wide range of factors. Blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol, diet, physical activity, tobacco use, body weight, sleep and other lifestyle and medical factors all contribute to cardiovascular risk. Maintaining adequate nutrition is one component of a broader approach to health rather than a substitute for other preventive measures.

3rd ODI: Hope's unbeaten 162 headlines record WI chase, beat India by five wickets

NEW CHANDIGARH



Captain Shai Hope kept wickets for 50 overs in the heat of New PCA Stadium, before a finger injury and a hospital visit for Jewel Andrew meant he had to open the batting. Despite battling a niggle, Hope stayed through 48.2 overs and lived up to the meaning of his surname to finish on an unbeaten 162 as the West Indies chased down 352 and beat India by five wickets on Saturday.

In what was also the first men's ODI played at the venue, KL Rahul stepped up to hit a career-best 129 not out off 87 balls. Fifties from Rohit Sharma (92) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (57) also helped in taking India to 351/7. But Hope had other ideas -- his majestic 162 was laced with 17 boundaries and three hits over the fence at a strike rate of 113.29, as the West Indies achieved their highest successful ODI chase and their first ODI win over India since 2023.

The result gave them a consolation win in a series, as India ended with a 2-1 scoreline, though they will be worried about a lack of incisiveness in their back-up bowling options. Chasing 352, Hope and John Campbell were right on the money from the word go – as they hit eight boundaries between themselves in the first four overs. But Mohammed Siraj broke the stand with an inswinger that castled Campbell for 10, shortly after Gurnoor Brar had put him down at third man.

Amir Jangoo then settled in alongside Hope to hit boundaries off Siraj and debutant Anshul Kamboj. After Hope got his half-century off 46 balls, Jangoo reached his fifty off 47 balls with a pulled six off Nitish Kumar Reddy, as their stand crossed 100 in the 18th over. Both were lucky to be given lives - Jangoo got one when Virat Kohli failed to hold a catch at point, as he became only the fifth batter to make fifty-plus scores in each of his first three ODI innings in India. The partnership ended at 109 off 103 balls when Jangoo, on 67, was run out after Kohli's throw from mid-wicket hit the stumps at the bowler's end following a mix-up. Sherfane Rutherford fell for 24, given caught behind off debutant Naman Dhir, though he was unconvinced over edging behind.

Hope carried on to punch, heave and bring out his stunning back-foot shots to reach his 21st ODI hundred in the 34th over - his second successive century and fifth against India. He did not celebrate, and only adjusted his bat grip as Keemo Paul congratulated him. Even as the West Indies surged ahead, India's body language was flat. KL Rahul went off after the 22nd over, with Dhruv Jurel taking the gloves, and Brar limped off with a left ankle problem. Nine catches went down in the match - six by the West Indies and three by India, equalling the ODI record.

Paul counter-attacked with 44 off 35 balls, five of them coming off fours, and added 65 for the fourth wicket before being caught at deep square leg off Brar. Matthew Forde made seven before Kuldeep Yadav took him out. With 66 runs needed from seven overs, Hope pressed the accelerator by sweeping Kuldeep for four and hit him for an 83-metre six down the ground in the 45th over to take the visitors past 300. After Brar was sent for three boundaries, one of which came off Gudakesh Motie's willow, the 48th over proved to be costly for India. Kamboj overstepped with Hope on 146, and the batter heaved the no-ball over mid-on to reach 150. Hope then hit the free hit for four as well, even as Motie pulled him for two boundaries to get 22 runs off it.

Hope finished the chase by slogging Dhir for six over deep backward square leg to level the scores, and then pushed a single to long-off to complete a remarkable win for the West Indies with 10 balls to spare.

Before this, after electing to bat first, India's innings began badly. Shubman Gill, who had made a hundred and a double hundred in the first two games, was caught down the leg side by Hope off Jayden Seales for one. Virat Kohli was bowled off the first ball, beaten on the flick as the delivery held its line to castle him through the game, as India were reduced to 4/2 inside three overs.

Rohit and Gaikwad steadied things, though it was slow going. Rohit survived an LBW shout and a West Indies review that showed the ball missing the stumps, and India closed the Powerplay on 28/2, among their lowest totals in the ten-over phase in recent years. After the first ten overs, Rohit changed gears.



Asian Games: 'We achieved what we came for,' says Manpreet after India defend hockey gold

KAKAMIGAHARA



India midfielder Manpreet Singh said the team remained focused on its goal despite criticism surrounding its campaign as the defending champions retained their Asian Games hockey gold with a commanding 5-1 win over Malaysia in the final here on Saturday.

The victory at the Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium not only gave India their first-ever successful defence of the men's hockey gold at the Asian Games but also secured a direct qualification berth for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

"Actually, there are many things that happen outside the box. Criticism keeps going on, but our focus was not on that. We had come here to achieve something, and we achieved that today," Manpreet told IANS after the final.

The Indian team had faced scrutiny ahead of the Asian Games but produced a dominant campaign, winning all five of their group-stage matches before edging past Pakistan 4-3 in a dramatic semifinal.

Manpreet said the Asian Games gold and direct Olympic qualification would now allow India to focus on improving specific areas of their game instead of having to go through the qualification route for LA 2028.

"The Asian Games was a very important tournament for us because from here we have directly qualified for LA. We don't have to play the qualifier round now, so we can work on ourselves, identify the areas where we need to improve and see how we can go to LA better prepared," he said.

Reflecting on the final, Manpreet credited India's defence for keeping Malaysia under control while also making the most of their opportunities in attack. "From the start to the end, our defence was very good. Whenever we got chances, whether through penalty corners or field goals, we converted them," he said.

India captain Harmanpreet Singh opened the scoring in the 11th minute through a penalty corner, but Malaysia equalised through Shello Silverius before Jugraj Singh restored India's lead in the 23rd minute.

Hardik Singh then converted a penalty stroke in the third quarter to make it 3-1 before Shilanand Lakra extended India's advantage in the 54th minute. Harmanpreet completed his brace through another penalty-corner conversion as India sealed a 5-1 victory.

Manpreet also reflected on India's semifinal against Pakistan and said the team had to keep emotions under control against their traditional rivals. "Against Pakistan, it is always about playing them like we play any other team. If we bring too many emotions into it, we can make more mistakes. Our focus was on the game plan and the structure we were given and where we could punish them," he said.

Meanwhile, forward Dilpreet Singh said the gold medal was the result of the team's sustained hard work and long-term preparation, with direct qualification for LA also one of their primary objectives. "Our whole team is very happy because we have been training for this for a long time and have worked very hard. Our aim was to win gold and confirm our qualification for LA," Dilpreet told IANS.

He said the team had learnt from the narrow semifinal win over Pakistan and entered the final determined to produce a more convincing performance.

"There was no pressure, but after the semifinal, which we won very closely, everyone had the same mindset that we had to learn from the mistakes we made there and win the final by a good margin," he said.

Kapil Dev hails Pranavi Urs for showing 'nerves of steel' for historic Asian Games gold

NEW DELHI



Former India captain Kapil Dev hailed Pranavi Urs for showing 'nerves of steel and tremendous belief' after she created history by winning India's first gold medal in the women's individual golf event at the Asian Games, while also praising the Indian women's team for securing a silver medal.

Pranavi produced a composed performance on the final day at the Kasugai Country Club East Course to finish at 15-under 265 and clinch the individual gold. She also played a key role in India's silver-winning women's team, alongside Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar.

Pranavi entered the final round with a three-stroke advantage over Singapore's Shannon Tan but endured a difficult start after carding a triple bogey on the third hole. However, she responded strongly, making birdies on the sixth, 10th and 13th holes before holding her nerve to finish with an even-par 70 and seal the gold.

Kapil, who is also the president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), said Pranavi's achievement and the team medal were a matter of great pride for Indian golf.

"Pranavi Urs' historic gold medal in the women's individual event and the silver medal won by our women's team at the Asian Games are moments of immense pride for India and Indian golf," Kapil said.

"These medals are a reflection of the talent, determination and hard work of our players and of the growing strength of women's golf in our country. Pranavi showed nerves of steel and tremendous belief to win the Gold Medal for India," he added. Kapil also lauded the collective effort of Pranavi, Aditi and Diksha, who helped India claim its first medal in the women's team event at the Asian Games. "Aditi, Diksha and Pranavi combined well as a team to deliver the Silver Medal for India. On behalf of the DP World PGTI and the entire Indian golfing fraternity, I congratulate all of them," he said. The Indian women's team finished with a total of 14-under 546 across the four rounds to secure silver. Kapil said the golfers' performance at the continental showpiece highlighted the importance of self-belief and discipline. "They have done India proud and shown what is possible when you believe in yourself, stay disciplined, and compete fearlessly on the biggest stage," he said.

SHORT NEWS

Asian Games

President congratulates Aman, Deepak on wrestling medals



NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday congratulated Aman Sehrawat and Deepak Punia on their medal-winning performances in wrestling at the Asian Games 2026, praising their achievements for inspiring the next generation of Indian wrestlers. Congratulating Aman on his gold medal in the men's freestyle 57 kg category. The president said the Indian wrestler had "fought your way to the top" and claimed the highest honour in his category. "Heartiest congratulations to you, Aman Sehrawat, on winning the Gold Medal in the Men's Freestyle 57 kg category in Wrestling at the Asian Games 2026. You have fought your way to the top and claimed the highest honour in your category. Your golden performance will inspire many young wrestlers across the country to pursue excellence," President Murmu posted on X.

China Open: Charaeva stuns top star Rybakina as Zheng advances into third round

BEIJING



World No. 118 Alina Charaeva rallied from a set down to upset newly-crowned World No.1 in WTA Rankings, Elena Rybakina, in three sets in the women's section of the China Open in Beijing on Saturday night. Charaeva defeated Rybakina 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 in 2 hours and 11 minutes in the night match. Since the rankings were first published in 1975, Charaeva is just the ninth player outside the Top 100 to defeat the World No. 1 and the lowest-ranked player to claim a comeback win against the World No. 1.

"It's kind of a dream come true," Charaeva said in her post-match interview. "I was just trying to stay really hard mentally and keep believing that at some point I could turn it around again to my side. And I guess I just never stopped believing." Playing just her 17th tour-level main-draw match, the 24-year-old far surpassed the best win of her career. Her previous top-ranked victory came against No. 31 Wang Xinyu earlier this year. With the upset, Charaeva advanced to the third round of the China Open, where she will face Sonay Kartal for the first time.

It also sets the stage for a potential Top 100 debut, a mission that would be aided by a win in her next match. It would be the latest in a string of accomplishments this season for Charaeva, who won her first WTA 125 title in Midland in February and reached her first two tour-level quarterfinals in Hamburg and Sao Paulo.

Meanwhile, China's Zheng Qinwen advanced to the third round of the China Open after Russia's Anna Kalinskaya retired while trailing 3-0 in the deciding set. Playing in front of a packed Diamond Court, Zheng earned the first break in the eighth game of the opening set, but Kalinskaya immediately broke back. Neither player could gain another advantage before Kalinskaya took the tiebreak to win the set 7-6 (4).

With daylight fading and conditions becoming colder and windier, Olympic champion Zheng found her rhythm in the second set, using her powerful serve to take it 6-4 and force a decider, reports Xinhua. Zheng broke early in the third set and moved 1-0 ahead before the 27-year-old Kalinskaya called for a medical timeout. The Russian continued briefly before retiring with Zheng leading 3-0.

"Kalinskaya returns very fast and flat, and her backhand is quite strong. So, the first set was not easy for me as I missed some break points and got a little bit emotional," Zheng said.

IGPL announces ₹1 crore for Pranavi Urs after her Asian Games gold

NEW DELHI

The Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) will award Pranavi Urs a cheque of ₹1 crore for winning the women's individual golf gold at the Asian Games 2026 and becoming the first Indian woman to win an Asian Games gold in golf in Aichi-Nagoya on Saturday.

In addition, the league will award ₹25 lakh each to the Indian women's team of Pranavi, Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar for winning silver in the team event. The award recognises the trio's collective achievement in securing India's first medal in the event. Anurag Singh Thakur, a five-term Member of Parliament from Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel, and former Cabinet Minister, Government of India.



Zverev sweeps past Shang, sets QF clash with Djokovic in Beijing

BEIJING

This year's French and US Open champion Alexander Zverev delivered a performance that summed up his 2026 season on Saturday at the China Open, where he swept aside home hope Shang Juncheng 6-0, 6-3 to book a quarterfinal showdown with Novak Djokovic.

Although Shang — who missed four months of the season due to fitness issues — appeared to be struggling physically at times during their second-round clash, Zverev was typically ruthless.

The top seed fired nine aces and dropped just three of 28 first-serve points, according to ATP Stats, under a closed roof in Beijing to set up a meeting with six-time champion Djokovic.

Djokovic owns a perfect 31-0 record at the ATP 500 event, but that streak will be tested against the ATP Tour's match-win leader in 2026. World No. 2 Zverev is now 58-14 this season, having captured his first two major titles at Roland Garros and the US Open, while also moving to pole position in the ATP Live Race To Turin. The 29-year-old's bid to claim ATP Year-End No. 1 for the first time will now face one of its biggest tests against Djokovic, who has won nine of their 14 ATP head-to-head meetings. Their most recent encounter came at Roland Garros last year, when the Serbian prevailed in four sets.

"I've got a very difficult opponent tomorrow, but I'm looking forward to those challenges as well," Zverev said. "I'm excited about it. This is one of his favourite courts; he's never lost here. Of course, I am going to do everything I can to make it a challenge, compete, and hopefully be successful."

With his 55-minute victory over 21-year-old Shang, Zverev improved to a 48-1 record against left-handers across his past 49 matches.

The German is now 92-19 overall against lefties, giving him the third-best record against them in the Open Era. Zverev is into his sixth Beijing quarterfinal, making him the fourth man to reach that stage at least six times after Djokovic (7), Rafael Nadal (7) and John Isner (6). Djokovic needed three sets to overcome Buyunchaoekete in his previous match on Friday evening.

Brazil beat India 4-0 as Estevao, Lino shine in historic Kolkata clash

KOLKATA



Five-time world champions Brazil underlined their quality with a 4-0 victory over India in their first-ever senior international meeting at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Saturday. India made an encouraging start and managed to keep Brazil from settling into their rhythm during the opening phase, but the visitors gradually grew into the contest and scored twice before the interval.

Estevao opened the scoring in the 28th minute, producing a moment of individual brilliance to put Brazil ahead. The winger worked his way into the penalty area before sending a fierce effort towards the near post. India goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu got a touch to the shot but could not prevent it from finding the back of the net. Brazil continued to apply pressure and doubled their advantage three minutes before half-time. Estevao was again involved as he picked out Pedro's run behind the Indian defence. Pedro attempted to finish from a tight angle and, although Gurpreet appeared to have the effort covered, the ball slipped through his grasp and crossed the line. Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti made five substitutions at the break as Bruno Guimaraes, Gabriel Magalhaes, Vanderson, Samuel Lino and Douglas Luiz entered the field.

The changes did not affect Brazil's control of proceedings, and the visitors added a third in the 58th minute.

India lost possession in a dangerous position, allowing Brazil to immediately exploit the space on the left. Lino received the ball inside the area and produced a composed finish into the far corner, leaving Gurpreet with little chance. Lino then completed his brace deep into stoppage time to put the final gloss on Brazil's victory.

The result marked Brazil's first appearance by their senior men's national team in India, adding another chapter to the country's long football association with the South American giants. Brazil, ranked fifth in the FIFA Men's World Rankings, had entered the contest as the highest-ranked opposition India had faced since the ranking system was introduced. India are currently ranked 138th. The Blue Tigers came into the game after a 1-1 draw against 44th-ranked Panama, their first result without defeat against a top-50 opponent.

Rashi's Traditional Slay

Raashi Khanna has given fans a refreshing ethnic look in a monochrome blue and white ensemble. The actress picked a sheer sleeveless blouse with pearl detailing, paired with a lightweight saree featuring geometric prints and intricate peacock and lotus motifs along the pallu. The deep blue border added a striking contrast to the soft white base, giving the outfit an elegant touch. She completed the look with a pearl choker, matching earrings, and styled wavy hair with bangs, while her warm smile made the photoshoot even more charming. On the work front, Raashi appeared in Ustaad Bhagat Singh and Sardar 2 this year, but both films failed to click at the box office. However, she has a number of films lined up in Tamil and Hindi, along with OTT projects.

Sai Pallavi's Two Biggies

Sai Pallavi is set for a rare double treat in November after a long gap from the big screen. The actress, who was last seen in Thandel, has been away from regular releases as she spent a major part of her time working on the ambitious Ramayana project. Her Bollywood debut Ek Din did not make much impact at the box office, but Ramayana is expected to bring her back into the spotlight. The film has already created strong curiosity, especially because of its scale and star cast. Ramayana Part One is scheduled to release on November 6, with the overseas release plans already taking shape. The makers are still working on the exact India release strategy. Just two weeks later, Sai Pallavi is expected to return with Dhanush's Om on November 20. The film has gone through multiple delays and is finally heading towards release. Sai Pallavi plays a key role in the film, which also features Sreeleela and Malayalam superstar Mammootty. Interestingly, both Ramayana and Om are planned as two-part films. Sai Pallavi is also not playing routine heroine roles in either project. Both characters are expected to offer her scope for performance. After a relatively quiet phase, the actress could therefore have a very busy couple of months ahead. If both films connect with audiences, they could give Sai Pallavi a major boost across multiple industries. She will also be seen next year in Mani Ratnam's project with Vijay Sethupathi.



Drishyam 3 Makes A Strong Move

One of the biggest talking points around Drishyam 3 was the absence of Akshaye Khanna, who was expected to reprise his role from the previous instalments. The actor's popularity had increased significantly after his memorable perfor mance as the ruthless Rehman Dacoit in Durandhar. Many fans felt his cool yet menacing portrayal of the villain was one of the blockbuster's highlights of Dhurandhar, and his demand in Bollywood grew overnight. So naturally, Akshay Khanna was on a high, and he demanded big bucks to continue his role as a cop in the Hindi franchise Drishyam 3. However, talks failed, and Akshay rejected the film just five days ahead of the shoot. This left the team to look for an alternative, and they eventually cast Paatal Lok fame Jaideep Ahlawat in the role. Drishyam 3 has opened to a blockbuster talk, and the decision to replace Akshay has not hurt the film in any way. In fact, Jaideep Ahlawat has emerged as one of the film's biggest strengths. Playing a Crime Branch officer, Jaideep gets substantial screen space and several powerful scenes in the Ajay Devgn starrer. The Drishyam 3 team was reportedly concerned about how viewers would react to the casting change, but those fears seem to have disappeared. The film has opened to massive collections across North India as Drishyam 3 has become Ajay Devgn's biggest opening to date. Another major factor behind the film's success is the way the Hindi version has been adapted. Unlike the Malayalam original, Drishyam 3 features several key changes that have connected strongly with Hindi audiences. The combination of franchise value, strong performances, and smart casting has paid off in a big way.



All Eyes On Ranabaali Trailer

Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika's Ranabaali is carrying decent expectations, but the promotional campaign has not generated the kind of buzz the makers would have hoped for. The episode-wise documentary, which was designed to build curiosity around the film, has received only a dull response from audiences. Even the interviews given to Hindi and Tamil media have failed to create strong momentum across markets. With less than two weeks left for release, the focus has now shifted completely to the trailer, which is set to be unveiled on October 8. Industry circles believe the trailer will play a crucial role in determining the film's pre-release hype. The stakes are quite high, as Ranabaali is not a small release. The film carries solid expectations and needs a powerful promotional push in the final days. A well-cut trailer showcasing the film's scale, action, and emotional depth could significantly boost audience interest in this Rahul Sankrityan biggie. Adding to the pressure is the upcoming clash with Rajinikanth's Jailer 2, one of the most anticipated films in the South. To stand out, Ranabaali needs a trailer that instantly sparks conversations on social media. With the release date fast approaching, the October 8 trailer has become the film's biggest promotional asset. All eyes are now on the makers to deliver a trailer that can take the buzz to the next level.



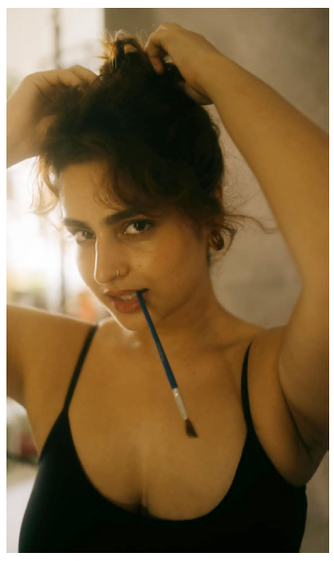


Where Is Trivikram's Magic?

Trivikram Srinivas is making his comeback after a gap of nearly two years. His last film Guntur Kaaram did not live up to expectations, especially after the blockbuster success of Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo. Now, he is coming up with Adarsha Kutumbam: AK 47 starring Venkatesh, which is just a week away from release. But so far, the Vintage Trivikram magic is clearly missing. The title Aadarsha Kutumbam AK 47 itself has the kind of interesting touch that one expects from Trivikram. But the promotional content that followed has not created the same level of excitement. The introduction promos, teaser and celebration song have received decent attention, but none of them have taken the film's buzz to the next level. With only a week left, many audiences are still waiting to see the Trivikram they know from his family entertainers. His writing, dialogues and treatment have always been major strengths. However, the content released so far has not shown enough of that trademark style. Films like Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo and Julayi were commercial entertainers, but they also carried Trivikram's stamp through their dialogues, character moments and scenes. Even when the stories were simple, his writing added something extra to the proceedings.That strong Trivikram touch seems to be missing from AK 47 promos and teaser so far. There are a few one liners and moments that carry his style, but they have not been enough to create the Vintage Trivikram feeling that many fans are expecting. At the same time, Pre release buzz alone may not decide AK 47's fate, as Trivikram has a strong connect with family audiences. If the film receives positive word of mouth after release, his brand value and family audience appeal could help it gain significant momentum at the box office. So, the big question now is whether Trivikram is deliberately keeping his best material for the theatres or whether AK 47 genuinely lacks the writing magic that audiences have been expecting from him. With just one week left, there is still time for AK 47 to create curiosity. But the real test will begin only after the first shows. Many are hoping that the Vintage Trivikram magic will finally appear on the big screen.

Ayesha Khan Gets Bold With Paintbrush Pose

Ayesha Khan is raising the temperature with her latest photoshoot, and fans cannot stop talking about it. The actress went for a sensuous look in a black scoop neck camisole, styled with a messy bun and a delicate nose ring. In one frame, she bites a paintbrush while playing with her hair, giving an intense stare against warm golden light. The other picture is a moody black and white shot where she sits barefoot on the floor in relaxed grey pants, flipping through a photo book. Natural makeup and a candid studio setting make the shoot feel artistic, bold and refreshingly raw. On the work front, Ayesha currently has no films lined up. She also does not have any special song like Dhurandhar to keep her in the spotlight now.



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.
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