HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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WOMEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO WALK WITHOUT FEAR EVEN AT 10 P.M.: SUPREME COURT



New Delhi, OCT 5: The Supreme Court has expressed serious concern over the safety of women and girls in Delhi-NCR. Taking suo motu cognisance in the wake of a series of rape incidents, the court made it clear that women should be able to walk on the streets without fear even at 10 p.m. A bench headed by Justice Pardiwala

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SHORT TAKES

GHMC cancels works around KBR Park, saves ₹400 crore

Hyderabad, Oct.5: Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner R.V. Karnan on Monday announced major changes to the traffic management framework around KBR Park during an inspection of the KBR Park–Jubilee Hills Check Post stretch. Speaking to reporters, Karnan said the H-City works proposed around KBR Park had been officially cancelled and that the existing one-way traffic system around the park's perimeter would be made permanent. The decision would save the civic body approximately ₹400 crore, he said. As part of measures to improve connectivity along the high-density corridor, the GHMC will construct a six-lane steel bridge connecting Nagarjuna Circle with Jubilee Hills Check Post. The bridge is targeted for completion by October 2027.

An underpass will also be constructed near KBR Park to further ease traffic congestion and improve the flow of vehicles in the area, Karnan said.

SIR Row: SC Warns EC Over Illegal Decisions

The Supreme Court on Monday said it would set aside any Election Commission decision found to be contrary to law, as it began examining allegations of unilateral decision-making in matters related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant issued notices to the EC, Centre and the three Election Commissioners, while declining to pass an immediate interim order against CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

NEW DELHI, OCT 5

The Supreme Court has made significant observations in the ongoing controversy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The court made it clear that if any decision taken by the Election Commission is found to be contrary to law, it will



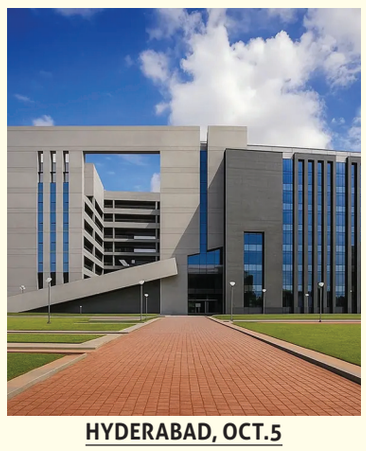
set it aside. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Justice Suryakant, along with Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohan, heard the matter on Monday.

Supreme Court Issues Notices to Election Commission

While hearing petitions alleging that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had taken decisions unilaterally, the court issued notices to the Election Commission, the Central Government, Gyanesh Kumar, and the other two Election Commissioners, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. However, the court did not immediately pass any interim order on the plea seeking the temporary suspension of Gyanesh Kumar. According to the petitioners, decisions that should have

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IIIT-H LAUNCHES ADVANCED EEG LAB FOR BRAIN RESEARCH



HYDERABAD, OCT.5

The International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (IIIT-H) has launched BrainLab, an advanced electroencephalography (EEG) research facility aimed at advancing studies on how the human brain processes information, attention, perception and behaviour. Set up with support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under its FIST-LS programme, the facility houses a 128-channel high-density EEG system, 31-channel mobile EEG system, electrode-position digitiser and research-grade eye tracker. It can also record physiological responses such as galvanic skin response.

The facility will enable researchers to conduct cognitive neuroscience experiments involving Indian populations and generate indigenous datasets. Research is expected to span cognitive science, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, language, perception, learning and human-computer interaction. Dr. Vishnu Sreekumar, faculty in-charge, said the facility would strengthen

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Governor to launch 35,000-sapling cashew plantation drive today



HYDERABAD, OCT.5

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla will visit Medak district on Tuesday and launch what has been described as the first-of-its-kind initiative in the country to plant 35,000 cashew saplings along a national highway. The plantation drive, being taken up under the aegis of Medak MP Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao, will cover the stretch of NH-765DG between Ramayampet and Siddipet. The initiative seeks to make productive use of available land along the national highway while enhancing green cover and promoting environmental sustainability.

The Governor will formally launch the plantation programme at 3.30 p.m. near the Swami Vivekananda statue, close to Amogh Hotel in Ramayampet, and participate in the programme until 4.30 p.m. As part of his visit to Medak district, the Governor will arrive at the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) at 2.30 p.m. At 2.40 p.m., he will flag off the Nasha Mukt Bharat rally, aimed at creating awareness

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Modi, Swiss President Hold Talks

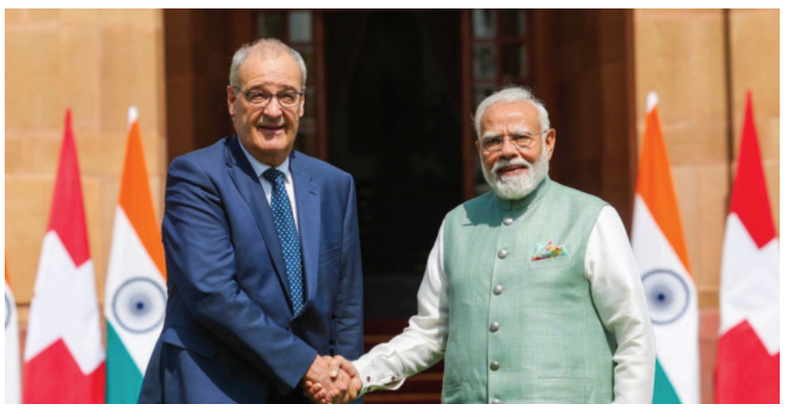
India and Switzerland today inked five agreements following bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Swiss President Guy Parmelin in New Delhi.

NEW DELHI, OCT 5

These agreements are on Migration and Mobility Partnership, Exchange of Young Professionals, Promotion and Collaboration on Transportation Technologies, Mobility Systems and Infrastructure in Identified Areas, Letter of Intent between Department of Science and Technology and Swiss National Science Foundation and Implementation Arrangement for cooperation in Innovation, Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship.

In a joint press meet, Prime Minister Modi appreciated Swiss President Guy Parmelin's commitment to

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KTR OPPOSES OPEN-CAST MINE NEAR RAMAPPA TEMPLE



HYDERABAD, OCT.5

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao has strongly opposed the proposed open-cast coal mine near the historic Ramappa Temple, warning that mining and blasting could threaten the UNESCO World Heritage Site and the adjoining Ramappa Lake. In a post on X, KTR accused the Congress government of planning to exploit Telangana's natural resources at the cost of its heritage. He alleged that after targeting land resources, the government was now seeking to exploit mineral wealth beneath the ground. KTR said deep excavation and blasting associated with open-cast mining could cause serious damage to the temple, regarded as an architectural masterpiece of Telangana, besides posing a threat to the lake and surrounding heritage landscape. He said the BRS would oppose any move that endangered the heritage site and demanded that the proposed mining project be withdrawn immediately. KTR warned that failure to drop the proposal would prompt the BRS to launch a mass agitation against the government.

CEO warns of legal action against fake voter form filings

Hyderabad, Oct.5: Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudharsan Reddy on Monday issued a stern warning against making false declarations during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, cautioning that violators face prosecution under election laws. The warning applies to filings across Forms 6, 6A, 7, and 8, with poll authorties placing particular focus on a surge in bulk applications submitted under Form 7, which deals with objections to voter in-



clusions or requests for deletion. The CEO noted that several of these bulk requests are suspected to be non-genuine.

In a memo issued to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner, the Hyderabad District Election Officer (DEO), and all District Collectors, Sudharsan Reddy instructed field officers to enforce strict legal measures. Applicants caught submitting false statements will face action under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which carries penalties including imprisonment. However, the CEO clarified that local authorities must complete a mandatory inquiry under Rule 20 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, before initiating legal proceedings.

Indian Navy Among World's Most Powerful

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCTOBER 10

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday lauded the Indian Navy as one of the world's most powerful naval forces and said its growing presence across the Indo-Pacific reflected India's expanding maritime capabilities. Addressing naval personnel at a 'Bada Khana' organised by the Eastern Naval Command at the Naval Dockyard here, Singh said the Navy had consistently risen to the occasion whenever the country or the international community needed its services. "Thanks to your valour, our Navy is counted among the most powerful navies in the world. The Indian Navy is making its presence felt across the Indo-Pacific region," he said.

The Defence Minister also cautioned naval personnel that the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

VICAT
TRUST. LEGACY. FOREVER.

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

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

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

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

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



Bharathi CEMENT
SUPERIOR QUALITY. GUARANTEED.

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

CONG 'CANNOT DIGEST' ECI's GLOBAL REPUTATION: NRR

Hyderabad, Oct.5: Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao on Monday accused the Congress of attempting to tarnish the image of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and undermine the country's democratic institutions for political gain.

Addressing a meeting of BJP state office-bearers at the party headquarters here, Rao said the Congress was unable to accept India's electoral system even as the country's democratic process had earned global recognition. He accused Congress leaders of adopting "double standards" by praising Electronic Voting Machines



and the Election Commission when they win elections and questioning them when they lose. Rao also hit out at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, alleging that the party was unwilling to accept a leader from an ordinary background becoming Prime Minister.

On the voter-list revision process, Rao alleged that illegal immigrants had entered electoral rolls through fraudulent documentation in the past. He defended the ongoing verification exercise, asserting that only Indian citizens above 18 years of age, irrespective of religion, were entitled to vote. The BJP leader also targeted the Telangana government over the non-implementation of several election promises, including the Six Guarantees, fee reimbursement, Rythu Bharosa, pensions, teacher recruitment and employee promotions. He alleged that the Congress government was preoccupied with contracts and commissions while people continued to face hardships. Rao also criticised the government over attacks on Hindu traditions and temples, alleging that the ruling party was pursuing "vote-bank politics". The BJP leader alleged a conspiracy behind recent temple attacks and questioned the repeated description of accused persons as mentally unstable. He also accused the Congress and BRS of pursuing

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SK Srivastava Reviews Train Safety Measures

Hyderabad, October 5: Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway (SCR), conducted a comprehensive review meeting today, 5th October, 2026, at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad, to assess the preparedness of Crowd Management Plans at major railway stations during the forthcoming Dussehra, Diwali, and Chhath festivals, as well as to review the safety of train operations across the zone. Shri Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager, SCR, along with Principal Heads of Departments, participated in the meeting. The Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of Secunderabad, Hyderabad, and Nanded divisions joined the review through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the General Manager directed officials and supervisors to remain highly vigilant and ensure the effective implementation of comprehensive crowd management measures at major stations during the festive season. He emphasized the need for seamless passenger movement across station premises, platforms, entry and exit points, and instructed the security department and field supervisors to take proactive steps to prevent overcrowding. To efficiently manage the anticipated increase in passenger traffic, he advised the deployment of dedicated ground operation teams comprising Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel at major stations. He further instructed that all ongoing construction sites within station premises must remain fully barricaded and that any obstructions at entry and exit points should be removed to facilitate the smooth movement of passengers. The General Manager also directed officials to continuously monitor passenger demand and travel patterns and to plan additional special train services wherever necessary to cater to the increased festive rush.

Reviewing train operation safety, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava stressed the importance of adopting a structured and phased approach to addressing operational challenges, with a strong focus on strengthening safety measures across the zone. He highlighted the need for conducting regular safety drives and inspections, particularly of points and crossings, safety-related equipment, and alarm systems, to further reinforce track safety and prevent any untoward or mischievous activities. He also underscored the importance of regular counselling and awareness programmes for field-level staff and contractual staff, with particular emphasis on strict adherence to safety protocols at points and crossings.

CS reviews preparations for Invest Telangana Global Summit

HYDERABAD, OCT.5

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Monday reviewed preparations for the Invest Telangana Global Summit, scheduled to be held from December 7 to 9, at a high-level meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat. Sanjay Jaju took stock of the arrangements being made by various departments for the successful conduct of the global investment summit and reviewed the progress achieved so far. He directed the officials to complete all arrangements within the approved timelines.

The Chief Secretary emphasised the need to ensure strong participation from leading companies operating in Telangana. He directed the officials to ensure that all prominent companies with a presence in the State are appropriately represented on the summit's Advisory Board or Executive Council. Sanjay Jaju also instructed officials to focus on inviting the global heads of leading multinational companies to the summit. He called for a multipronged and targeted outreach strategy to engage global corporate leaders and encourage their participation in the event. As part of the international outreach programme, the Chief Secretary directed officials to organise roadshows in major foreign countries during the current month. The roadshows will showcase Telangana's investment potential, business-friendly ecosystem, sectoral strengths and investment opportunities to global investors and corporate leaders.

He also directed officials to organise a roadshow in New Delhi during the last week of October as part of the investor mobilisation and outreach programme.

Service Before Self"

TCEMA and Dostana Trust Announce Health Perks and Legal Support for Press



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 05: Journalist welfare, safety, and community service are the primary objectives of Dostana Foundation and the Telangana Electronic Media Association (TCEMA), stated Dostana Mutual Trust Founder Azam Hussain and TCEMA President Rahmat. A joint meeting was held at the Press Office in KPHB 9th Phase under the leadership of Basha, Editor of Surya Udayam Telangana. During the meeting, Azam Hussain highlighted that the foundation has been conducting various social service activities for the past 15 years. He added that special support will be provided to journalists and their families during emergencies. TCEMA President Rahmat emphasized that journalism goes beyond news reporting to include social responsibility and helping those in need. He promised support for journalists' legal issues, rights, and safety.

Key announcements made at the meeting include: Members will receive identity cards offering special discounts at Mythri Hospital and Iris Diagnostics. Basha was appointed as the in-charge for TCEMA and Dostana Foundation in Kukatpally and surrounding areas.

The organization operates under the motto: "Our unity is our strength, our service is our goal, and public welfare is our objective." Local political leaders and senior journalists attended the event and felicitated the representatives with shawls.

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SIR Row: SC Warns EC Over Illegal Decisions

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been taken collectively by the multi-member Election Commission were allegedly taken independently by the Chief Election Commissioner. The petitioners particularly raised objections regarding decisions and guidelines related to the SIR, as well as changes made to the election software.

"We Cannot Pass Orders Based Solely on Media Reports"

The Supreme Court made it clear that it could not issue immediate directions based solely on media reports concerning the matter. It said it would take a decision only after obtaining complete information and official records from the Election Commission. The bench said it would have to examine whether the decisions were taken unanimously or based on a majority view.

"If any decision taken by the Election Commission is found to be contrary to law, we will set it aside," the court stated. It also observed that if a decision is found not to have been taken unanimously or through a legally valid majority, there could be scope for withdrawing the decisions concerned.

Intense Debate Over Changes to Form-6

Changes to Form-6, which is used for voter registration, have emerged as another major issue in the SIR controversy. The petitioners objected to the addition of an extra declaration relating to the SIR in the form used for registering new voters. Questions have been raised over whether the changes had the approval of the full Election Commission and whether the prescribed legal procedure was followed.

On this issue, Chief Justice of India Justice Suryakant made it clear that "we did not approve the modified Form-6." The court said it would examine the records to determine who modified the original form and under what authority.

Election Commission's Explanation

The Election Commission, however, clarified that it had not modified Form-6. It said the additional declaration used during the SIR was attached only as a separate document. The EC also stated that in states where the SIR process has been completed, the additional declaration has been removed from the online Form-6.

At the same time, the Election Commission had earlier stated that decisions relating to the SIR were taken unanimously. It said differences of opinion among members of the Commission were part of the normal decision-making process and maintained that the final decisions had a valid legal basis.

Allegations of Objections on 14 Occasions

The petitions have gained significance amid reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections on at least 14 occasions over the past 10 months regarding decisions related to electoral rolls, SIR, voter registration and election technology systems. The Election Commission, however, maintained that such objections did not amount to institutional disagreement over the final decisions.

Supreme Court's Examination Is Crucial

At present, the Supreme Court is examining whether the Election Commission's decisions were taken in accordance with the legally prescribed procedure. The court has not yet reached a final conclusion that Gyanesh Kumar or the Election Commission violated the law. After receiving responses and relevant records from the Election Commission, the Centre and the Election Commissioners, the court may decide on the next course of action.

The Supreme Court's latest observations on the Election Commission's decision-making authority in the SIR matter and the collective decision-making process within the multi-member Commission have assumed significance. The court's clear statement that it has the power to set aside decisions if it finds that the legally prescribed procedure was not followed has heightened interest in the next stage of the proceedings.

IIIT-H LAUNCHES ADVANCED..

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experimental cognitive science at IIIT-H and open new avenues for interdisciplinary research. The lab will operate as a shared research facility for IIIT-H faculty and students besides startups, industry and external research groups. Training programmes, workshops and summer schools are also planned, with the first workshop scheduled for December 10–11 during the pre-conference activities of ACCS 2026. The institute plans to expand the infrastructure further with facilities for neuromodulation and sleep research, with an aim to develop a major hub for fundamental and applied cognitive science.

Governor to launch ..

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among the public, particularly young people, about the harmful consequences of drug abuse. The Governor will subsequently interact with students and participate in an interaction programme at the IDOC. At 2.50 p.m., Shukla will visit the Mahila Shakti stalls at the IDOC and interact with members of Self-Help Groups. He will also meet the newly elected representatives of the Indian Red Cross Society.

WOMEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO WALK..

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questioned the Central Government and the Delhi Police about the measures being taken to ensure the safety of women. The court said governments have a responsibility to ensure complete safety for women while they travel by metro, buses and on roads. Instead of responding only after crimes occur, it called for preventive measures to ensure that such incidents do not take place in the first place. The court directed the authorities to identify areas that have become unsafe for women and girls and maintain continuous surveillance in such locations. The Supreme Court called for enhanced security in areas such as roads, parks, metro stations, buses and subways. It stressed the need for improved street lighting in dark and poorly lit areas, along with CCTV cameras and continuous police patrolling. The court observed that a strong deterrent mechanism is necessary to create fear of the law among those who commit crimes against women.

The Supreme Court made it clear that women's safety is not merely a law-and-order issue; it is an integral part of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty guaranteed by the Constitution.

Modi, Swiss President Hold Talks

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India-Switzerland relations. He said that India implemented the historic Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Free Trade Association, EFTA, countries last October.

Mr Modi noted that the agreement was India's first Free Trade Agreement with a European economic bloc. He described it as an ambitious framework for investment, innovation, employment and shared prosperity. The Prime Minister highlighted that under the agreement, India aims to attract 100 billion US dollars in investment and create ten lakh direct jobs over the next 15 years.

Prime Minister Modi said that India and Switzerland have taken several important decisions to enhance market access for Indian exports in Switzerland and further facilitate investment between the two countries. He said, this will increase exports of Indian agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, textiles and engineering goods to Switzerland.

Mr Modi said that at the same time, India will attract new Swiss investments in important sectors, such as biotechnology, life sciences, banking, insurance, food processing and sustainability. Prime Minister said, through these initiatives, the two nations will work together to develop trusted supply chains and reliable solutions for the entire world. He said, both the nations today identified new possibilities for cooperation in military exchanges and defence production. Mr Modi said the they have also agreed to further deepen cooperation in nuclear energy.

The Prime Minister said, the friendship between India and Switzerland goes back centuries. He said, in the 19th century, Swami Vivekananda saw a glimpse of the Himalayas in the Swiss Alps. Mahatma Gandhi also spent time in Switzerland and interacted with its people. Mr Modi said, the memories of these historic visits continue to resonate in the friendship even today.

President Parmelin arrived in New Delhi this morning on a three-day state visit to India, accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising senior officials and business leaders. He was received by Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Ajay Tamta at the airport. The visiting dignitary was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the Swiss President. He was given a tri-services guard of honour.

Talking to reporters after the ceremonial welcome, Mr Parmelin said that the visit is an excellent opportunity to emphasise the importance that both Switzerland and India attach to this relationship. He said, the relationship between the two countries is built on shared democratic values, as well as on trust and mutual respect. Swiss President said that his visit is a stepping stone towards further growth, deepening and strengthening of our close, broad and long-standing partnership.

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar also called on President Parmelin. In a social media post, Dr Jaishankar appreciated President Parmelin's sentiments towards deepening the India-Switzerland partnership, building on the promise of India – EFTA TEPA. He expressed confidence that Mr Parmelin's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will further engagement across a wide range of domains. The visiting dignitary paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

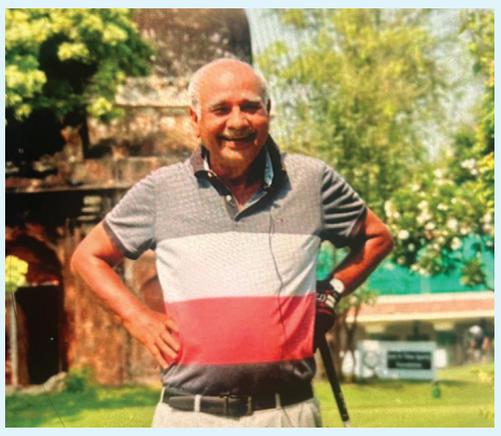
President Parmelin will meet President Droupadi Murmu this evening. President Murmu will also host an official banquet in the honour of her Swiss Counterpart.

B.P. Ojha- The hidden voice of sports commentary

- B.P. Ojha- A commentator who played the game before he described it

VIVEK SHUKLA

In the recently concluded Asian Games in Japan, B. P. Ojha also heard the commentary of a couple of games, but he could not bear the appalling standard of our commentators in language and knowledge of the game. He switched off his radio and television to avoid the torture. He was among the most versatile Hindi commentators, and made his mark in hockey, cricket, football and table tennis.



B. P. Ojha is a hidden gem of Hindi sports commentary. His voice, deep knowledge of sport and careful preparation gave a distinct identity to an important period of Indian sports broadcasting. Even now, countless fans who still follow sport remember his commentary. Ojha, who now spends his free time playing golf or reading, said that what passes for commentary these days is mostly noise. Commentators, he felt, are no longer serious about their language. Their speech is often crude and street-level, and their knowledge of the game is not of a high standard either.

To introduce Ojha only as a commentator would be to limit him. He was a state-level footballer and referee, and he also played in the Delhi Hockey League. Because he had played the game himself, he understood the fine points of the field, and that practical knowledge was a special strength of his commentary. "I played in the Delhi Football League for several years. My brother was also an ace footballer," he says.

Ojha says he began commentating in 1978 and later made a name for himself in football, cricket, hockey, badminton and table tennis. In football he covered major competitions and finals, including the DCM Tournament, the Durand Cup, the Rovers Cup, the Santosh Trophy and the IFA Shield.

His international coverage was also notable. He commentated at the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi, the 1984 Asia Cup football in Singapore, the 1986 Hockey World Cup in London and the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul. In cricket he covered the 1987 Reliance World Cup, including the India–England semi-final, as well as Test matches and one-day internationals. His work also included the India–South Africa one-day match at Eden Gardens. He says that now one cannot even tell whether the commentary of an important sporting event is being heard on radio or television. In his time, he says, people listened to the commentators' language so that their own language would improve.

Ojha's distinction was not only the number of sports he covered, but the preparation he brought to them. He was not someone who went to the microphone without doing his homework. Studying the players, the teams, the competition, the figures and the conditions of the match was part of how he worked. That is why, among the commentators of that period, his learning and preparation earned special respect.

His voice was heard from Delhi's Shivaji Stadium and the National Stadium to the country's leading football grounds and international venues. At major centres such as Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, and at many other important grounds, he carried the game to listeners in words. His long career also included the finals of prestigious tournaments such as the J.L.N. Gold Cup and the Indira Gandhi Gold Cup.

The most striking thing about him was his modesty. Despite so much knowledge and so long an experience, he never showed arrogance. Players, referees and people connected with sport held him in respect.

Ojha's journey was not limited to radio. His move from All India Radio to television commentary was part of the change then taking place in Indian sports broadcasting. In the new medium, too, he kept the identity he had built through language, presentation and knowledge of the game.

The irony is that, despite so long and varied a career, Ojha was never one to publicise his own achievements. He treated the work itself as his identity. Perhaps that is why his record is not as widely known today as his contribution deserves.

B. P. Ojha is one of the few people who did not merely watch sport: he played it, understood it, tested it as a referee, and then carried it through his voice to lakhs of listeners and viewers. From football to hockey, and from cricket to badminton and table tennis, that many-sided presence gives him a distinct place in the history of Hindi sports commentary.

B. P. Ojha is truly a hidden hero of Hindi sports commentary- rich in knowledge, strong in preparation, vast in experience, and deeply modest by nature. His voice may no longer be heard as regularly as before, but his contribution to the history of Indian sports broadcasting deserves to be remembered for a long time.

CONG CANNOT DIGEST' ECI's GLOBAL REPUTATION: NRR

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political interests in cooperation with the Majlis. Calling on people to support the BJP as an alternative in Telangana, Rao said the party was committed not only to electoral politics but also to social service and nation-building. He announced that Seva Jyoti Yatra and Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha would be held at all district headquarters on October 7 as part of the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president Nitin Nabin are scheduled to address party cadres virtually after 10 am.

Senior BJP leaders, district presidents and other state office-bearers attended the meeting.

Indian Navy Among World's Most Powerful

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21st century would bring increasingly complex security challenges. He said the changing strategic environment required the Navy to continuously adapt and strengthen its capabilities. Singh highlighted the force's growing indigenous capabilities, including aircraft carriers, nuclear-powered submarines, stealth frigates and Scorpene-class submarines. He said the Navy's ability to adapt to changing circumstances, along with the confidence of its personnel, remained among its key strengths.



Recalling the Navy's role in the 1971 India-Pakistan war, Singh referred to Operation Trident, under which Indian naval forces attacked Karachi port. He said the operation demonstrated that the Navy had the capability not only to defend India's maritime interests but also to undertake offensive operations when required.

Singh also paid tribute to naval personnel serving at sea and acknowledged the role played by their families in supporting them. "When a sailor protects the country at sea, their family takes on a different front at home," he said. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command Sanjay Bhalla were among those present at the event.

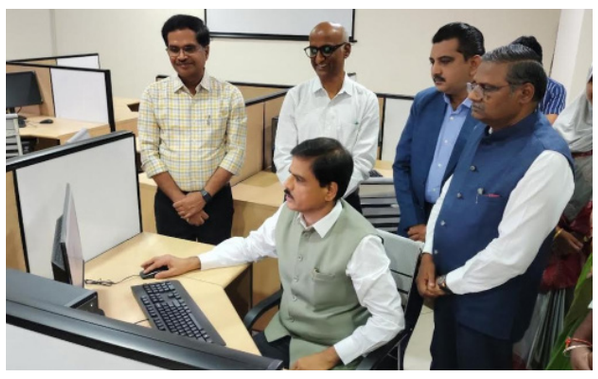
Calling for a broader maritime vision, Singh said India needed to regard the seas not merely as a security domain but also as an avenue for economic growth and national development.

He urged the Navy to move ahead with the philosophy of "advancing prosperity and power through the sea", stressing that the maritime domain should be viewed both as a carrier of national power and a pathway to development.

Osmania University Strengthens Research and Digital Infrastructure with Inauguration of Three Advanced Facilities

HYDERABAD





Osmania University has taken a significant step towards strengthening its research, innovation and digital learning ecosystem with the inauguration of three advanced facilities aimed at supporting cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary collaboration and technology-enabled education.

The facilities inaugurated include the *Advanced Synthesis Research Laboratory, Molecular Biology and Cell Culture Laboratory, and AI & Digital Learning Centre* . These state-of-the-art facilities are expected to provide enhanced opportunities for faculty members, research scholars, students and external research organisations to undertake high-quality research and skill-development activities.

The facilities — Advanced Synthesis Research Lab, Molecular Biology and Cell Culture Lab, and AI and Digital Learning Centre — were inaugurated by Sr. Prof. Kumar Molugaram, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University, in the presence of senior university officials, faculty members, researchers and students. Prof. G. Naresh Reddy, Registrar, Osmania University, and Sr. Prof. S. Jithender Kumar Naik, OSD to the Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University, graced the occasion as Special Guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Sr. Prof. Kumar Molugaram, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, emphasized the importance of developing state-of-the-art research infrastructure and encouraged faculty members and research scholars to make effective use of these facilities for high-quality research, innovation and societal applications. He highlighted that these state-of-the-art facilities - Advanced Synthesis Research Lab, Molecular Biology and Cell Culture Lab, and AI and Digital Learning Centre must be kept open and utilized by students around the clock to drive non-stop academic excellence. He expressed this marks an important milestone in Osmania University's continuing efforts to promote Science, Innovation and Future-ready Education, and further strengthen its position as a leading centre of higher education and research.

The programme was organized under the leadership of Prof. G. Vijaya Charan, Director, PTNR-CFRD, Osmania University, who welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the importance of these facilities in advancing interdisciplinary research and strengthening the University's research infrastructure.

The *Advanced Synthesis Research Laboratory (ASRL)* is dedicated to the design, synthesis and characterization of novel chemical compounds and advanced molecular systems. An investment of approximately *₹42 lakh (under RUSA 2.0)* has been made towards establishing various instruments in the laboratory.

The *Molecular Biology and Cell Culture Laboratory* provides a platform for research in molecular mechanisms, cellular processes, gene expression, biomolecules and cellular responses. Approximately *₹52 lakh (under RUSA 2.0)* has been invested in establishing the laboratory.

The newly established *AI & Digital Learning Centre* marks an important step towards integrating Artificial Intelligence and digital technologies into education and research. The Centre is designed to support AI applications, data-driven research, digital learning, data analytics and technology-enabled education facilitating training programmes, workshops, faculty development, student skill-development initiatives, research support and data analysis. Approximately *₹81 lakh (under RUSA 2.0)* has been invested in 50 high-end systems and software including SPSS, Molecular Solution and ArcGIS.

Together, *these three facilities represent an investment of approximately ₹1.75 crore which were funded under RUSA 2.0* in strengthening the University's research and digital infrastructure. The facilities are expected to promote interdisciplinary research, enhance hands-on training, encourage industry and academic collaboration, and provide students and research scholars with access to modern scientific and computational resources accessible all the time.

Prof. G. Vijaya Charan expressed her gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, OSD to the Vice-Chancellor and all faculty members, researchers and staff for their support in establishing and operationalizing these advanced facilities.

KTR opposes open-cast mine near Ramappa Temple

HYDERABAD: BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao has strongly opposed the proposed open-cast coal mine near the historic Ramappa Temple, warning that mining and blasting could threaten the UNESCO World Heritage Site and the adjoining Ramappa Lake. In a post on X, KTR accused the Congress government of planning to exploit Telangana's natural resources at the cost of its heritage.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

WORKS BRANCH **MADURAI DIVISION**

TENDER NOTICE NO. MDU-W-15-2026 Dated 30.09.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited for the following works by the Divisional Railway Manager/works/SouthernRailway/Madurai. Tender closing date for **Item No. 1 to 12 on 23.10.2026 at 14.00 hrs.**

Sl No.	Name of the Works	App.Value ₹ in lakhs	EMD ₹	Period of Completion
1	ADEN/SCT Sub division :- Provision of gauge face lubricators on curves for 2 degree and above curves (Electronic type) for 68 nos in SSE/Pway/SCT & PUU section [SCT=34 nos & PUU =34 nos].	992.99	646500	60 Months
2	MDU-Division: Improvements to road surface at various Level Crossings in SSE/Pway/SCT Section.	130.32	260600	6 Months
3	SSE / P.way / PUU section - Annual maintenance of track in between EDP-QLN stations for the period of two years.	432.03	864100	24 months
4	Reconditioning of CMS crossings & Resurfacing, Reconditioning of Switch rails in Points and Crossings at various station yards in Sr.DEN/South/MDU Jurisdiction.	95.62	191200	6 months
5	Madurai Division: Proposed Collection and supply of 50mm machine crushed stone ballast at Tamaraipadi Ballast DEPOT including loading into Railway wagons, unloading and spreading in connection with track renewal works in DEN/North/MDU jurisdiction.	429.00	857900	5 Months
6	Madurai Division- DEN north jurisdiction-Installation of water level monitoring and pumping system in 39 critical subways (List enclosed)	135.14	270300	6 Months
7	Housekeeping and Hospitality services for new Officers Rest House at Rameswaram station for a period of two years.	48.90	97800	24 Months
8	DEN/North Jurisdiction: Painting of platform shelters and FOB at stations (List Enclosed).	289.05	578100	6 Months
9	DEN/C/MDU - Essential urgent repairs to staff quarters and service buildings, periodical cleaning of OHT, GLR & Individual tanks and Maintenance of drainage/sewerage system stations and colony at Madurai junction for a period of 24 months.	214.42	428800	24 Months
10	DEN/Central & DEN/North jurisdiction: - Reconditioning of CMS crossings &Resurfacing, Reconditioning of switches rails in Points and Crossings at various station yards.	137.54	275100	12 Months
11	Replacement of existing steel channel sleepers with H beam sleepers in Br.No 1558 and 1585 in VPT-MEJ section.	75.61	151200	4 months
12	DEN/Central/MDU Jurisdiction - Improvements to ORH, SSRH, HH, RKM, Vaigai Club and Construction of Swimming pool at Vaigai club at Madurai.	474.50	949000	6 months

(Items 12 only)

Further details are available in detail on website **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting Tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Madurai

Soundarya Lahari Recitation Held at Santoshi Mata Temple in Hyderabad



HYDERABAD

An incident that took place three days ago in the Telugu states created considerable concern. At the Santoshi Mata Temple in Dilsukhnagar, Hyderabad, a person allegedly attacked the idol of the Goddess with sticks and damaged it.

Against this backdrop, a Soundarya Lahari recitation was held at the same temple on Monday under the leadership of renowned spiritual scholar Smt. Konduri Padmavathi. BJP National Council member Smt. Geetha Murthy, Endowment Cell leaders Smt. Malladi Kanaka Durga, Smt. Nalini and Smt. Padma Valli, Rangareddy District BJP Vice-President Smt. Geetha Reddy, along with a large number of women devotees, participated in the programme and completed the Soundarya Lahari recitation.

Speaking on the occasion, Konduri Padmavathi said that they would continue to organise various religious and spiritual programmes to promote and uphold Sanatana Dharma. Geetha Murthy demanded that the government take action against the person who allegedly desecrated and damaged the idol of the Goddess.

Padmavathi said that Hindus have a tradition of embracing people belonging to other religions and treating them with respect. She expressed confidence that the Goddess herself would ensure that those responsible for the incident faced the consequences of their actions. The programme was attended by the chief priest, Uma Devi, and a large number of women devotees.

Depriving People of Their Right to Vote Is Unconstitutional

- **Supreme Court Judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan**

HYDERABAD



Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan said that collectively depriving crores of Indian citizens of their right to vote through any process would be unconstitutional.

He made these remarks at the valedictory programme of the Justice Bodh Raj Sawhny Memorial Moot Court Competition, organised by NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad.

Justice Bhuyan observed that separating the right to vote, or the right to have one's name included in the electoral rolls, from the identity of an Indian citizen would be akin to "removing the soul from the body." He said that any process that turns crores of people into citizens without voting rights would inherently be arbitrary and could not be justified by citing any reasons.

He stated that Articles 14 and 326 of the Constitution provide crucial safeguards relating to the right to vote. He said that Indian citizens who have attained the age of 18 are entitled to vote, subject to the constitutional provisions. He explained that universal adult suffrage under Article 326 is a fundamental pillar of democracy.

Justice Bhuyan also emphasised that before removing the name of a person already included in the electoral roll, the individual must be given proper notice and a reasonable opportunity to present their case.

Whether a person is wealthy or a rickshaw worker, the value of their vote is equal, he said, describing this as the principle of equality reflected in the Constitution of India.

Workshop on Editing and Publishing Inaugurated at GITAM





HYDERABAD

The Department of English and Other Languages, GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHS), Hyderabad, inaugurated a two-day workshop on "From Manuscript to Market: Editing and Publishing" on October 5. Facilitated by Orient BlackSwan and Zubaan Books, the workshop provides participants with practical insights into contemporary publishing practices. An exhibition of Zubaan's Poster Women collection was also organised.

The workshop features eminent publishing professionals, including feminist writer, publisher and activist Urvashi Butalia; C. Rammanohar Reddy, Editor-in-Chief, The India Forum; and Sreenath Sreedharan, Assistant Publisher, Humanities, Orient BlackSwan.

The first day focused on the publishing ecosystem, editorial workflows, academic book structure, copyright and permissions, house styles, and content and copy-editing by S. Sreenath. A hands-on copy-editing exercise provided participants with practical exposure to the editorial and production processes involved in taking a manuscript towards publication.

The second day features sessions by Urvashi Butalia and Dr.C. Rammanohar Reddy. Butalia's sessions, titled "Feminists in Search of an Archive" and "The Politics and Practice of Feminist Publishing," explore Zubaan's experience of building the Poster Women archive, the evolution of its publishing programme, and the relationship between publishing, politics, ideology and economics. Dr. Reddy will speak on "Digital News Publishing: Opportunities and Challenges," examining India's digital news landscape, its impact and constraints, and emerging opportunities for the sector. The workshop seeks to strengthen the connection between academic learning and the publishing industry by familiarising participants with the various stages of a manuscript's journey—from editing and proofreading to production, marketing and dissemination.

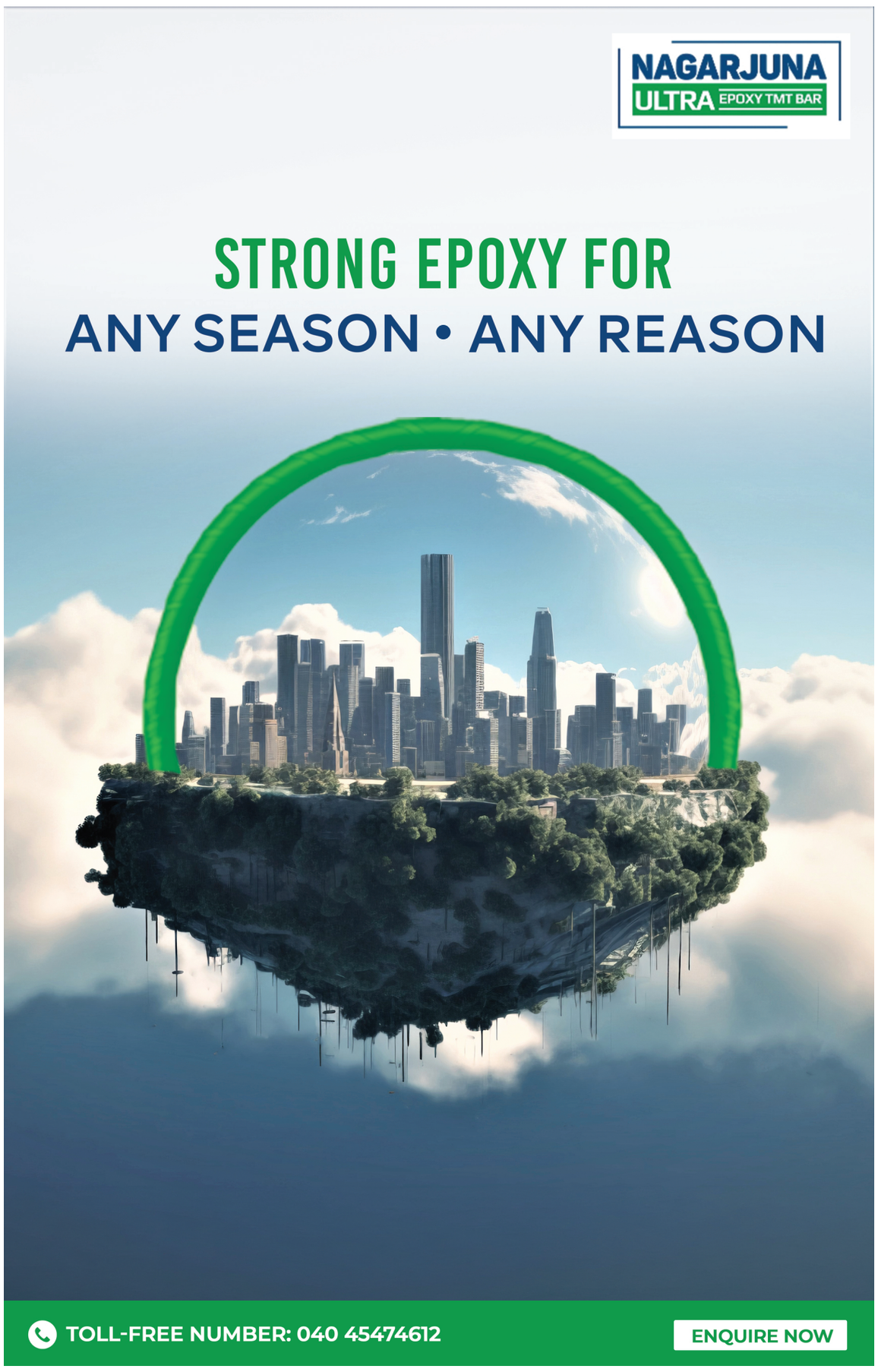
The programme is convened by Dr. Debadrita Chakraborty and Dr. Pratim Das, Department of English and Other Languages.

World Architecture Day Celebrated at GITAM

GITAM School of Architecture celebrated World Architecture Day 2026 with a series of student activities and an insightful invited talk on October 5.

Renowned architect Samarendra M. Ramachandra, Principal Architect, Samar Ramachandra Associates, delivered a talk on "Housing: A Human Perspective," highlighting the importance of understanding architecture from a human-centric perspective. The session offered valuable insights to budding architects, who actively engaged with the speaker through an interactive question-and-answer session.

The celebrations concluded with the distribution of appreciation certificates to the winners of various student activities, recognising their creativity and enthusiasm. The event provided students with an enriching and enjoyable experience while fostering greater appreciation for the architectural profession.





Adwait Kumar Singh Assumes Charge as Resident Commissioner of Telangana Bhavan

NEW DELHI: Sri Adwait Kumar Singh, IAS (2013), on Monday assumed full additional charge (FAC) as the Resident Commissioner of Telangana Bhavan. Currently serving as Special Secretary, Coordination (Central Government Projects & Centrally Sponsored Schemes) in the Telangana government, Adwait Kumar Singh has been entrusted with the full additional charge of the post of Resident Commissioner, Telangana Bhavan, until further orders. The state government issued orders to this effect through GO Rt. No. 1441, General Administration (Spl.A) Department, dated October 3, 2026. Along with his responsibilities as Resident Commissioner, he will continue to oversee coordination relating to Central Government projects and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Pending Revenue Applications Should Be Resolved Expeditiously



- **Construction of Houses Should Be Accelerated**
- **Benefits of Welfare Schemes Should Reach Eligible Beneficiaries**
- **Ministers Jupally and Ponguleti Review Progress in the Joint Adilabad Districts**

NIRMAL

Revenue, Information and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, along with Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister and Minister in charge of the erstwhile Adilabad district, Jupally Krishna Rao, held a review meeting at the Nirmal Collectorate on Monday on the ongoing programmes, public grievances and progress of development works being implemented under the Revenue and Housing Departments in the district. The ministers sought details from the Collectors and senior officials regarding various issues concerning the erstwhile Adilabad districts.

Focus on Land Issues: The ministers reviewed issues relating to the Revenue Department, including land disputes, land administration, maintenance of land records, disposal of land-related applications, registrations, stamps and other related matters. They directed officials to take measures to ensure that revenue services are provided to the public in an easy and transparent manner. They instructed officials to give special attention to pending applications, examine them and resolve them within the stipulated time frame.

Accelerate House Construction: The ministers reviewed the implementation of government housing schemes, selection of beneficiaries, progress of house construction and pending housing works. They directed officials to work in coordination to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach all eligible beneficiaries. Officials were instructed to continuously monitor the construction of sanctioned houses at the field level so that they are completed within the stipulated time.

Review of the Erstwhile Adilabad Districts: The ministers reviewed the performance of the Revenue and Housing Departments across the erstwhile Adilabad districts and took stock of the progress of various programmes district-wise. They instructed officials to resolve public issues on a priority basis and accelerate development works through coordination among different departments.

MLC Dande Vithal, Khanapur MLA Vedma Bojju Patel, Mudhole MLA Pawar Ramarao Patel, Boath MLA Anil Jadhav, Asifabad MLA Kova Laxmi, Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) Lokesh Kumar, Special Secretary of the Revenue Department (Registrations and Stamps) Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanthu, Special Secretary of the Housing Department V.P. Gautam, Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra, Adilabad District Collector Rajarshi Shah, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District Collector Haritha, ITDA Project Officer Manda Makarand, Additional Collectors and Sub-Collectors of the erstwhile Adilabad districts, officials from the Revenue, Housing and Forest Departments, public representatives and staff attended the meeting. If you want, I can also make this into a polished newspaper-style English press release with a more professional headline and tighter language.



DGP C.V. Anand Inspects Gosha Mahal Police Stadium Ahead of Police Commemoration Day

HYDERABAD

Director General of Police C.V. Anand on Monday inspected Gosha Mahal Police Stadium, the venue for the upcoming Police Commemoration (Martyrs) Day observance scheduled for October 21, and reviewed the arrangements being planned for the event.

During his visit, the DGP inspected the proposed venue for the commemorative ceremony and discussed various logistical aspects with police officials. He issued instructions on the layout of the main stage, entry and exit points, vehicle parking facilities and the movement of dignitaries and participants.

Emphasising the need for meticulous planning, Mr. Anand directed the officials to ensure smooth movement of visitors and police personnel and to make adequate arrangements to manage the expected gathering. He stressed the importance of clearly designated access routes and proper coordination to ensure the event was conducted in an orderly manner.

DGP pushes for time-bound completion of works

The DGP also inspected various ongoing construction works at the Gosha Mahal Police Stadium and reviewed the progress of infrastructure projects, including a modern stable complex for 48 horses, dog kennels, a five-storeyed City Armed Reserve (CAR) building and sports, games and athletics facilities. Expressing concern over delays in the ongoing works, he directed officials and engineers to expedite construction and ensure that all projects were completed without further slippage.



Congress Workers Should Work for Sarvotham Reddy's Victory in MLC Elections

- **Miryalaguda MLA Bathula Laxma Reddy**

SURYAPET: Miryalaguda MLA Bathula Laxma Reddy called upon every Congress party worker to work in coordination for the victory of Congress party candidate Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy in the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Graduates' MLC elections.

As part of the MLC election campaign, a meeting was held on Monday at the Congress party MLA camp office in Miryalaguda, Nalgonda district, with Congress MLC candidate Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, they urged Congress party sarpanches, municipal councillors, public representatives and senior leaders from the Miryalaguda constituency to reach out to every voter and encourage them to vote for the Congress party. They also advised party leaders and public representatives to contact every graduate in the constituency and take necessary steps to ensure that all those eligible to vote register themselves as voters. They further called upon the party leaders and workers to work in coordination with the sole objective of ensuring the victory of the Congress party candidate and to intensify the election campaign across the constituency.

Speed Up Construction of Young India Integrated Schools

- **Develop a special policy for setting up foreign university campuses in Future City**
- **Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju reviews progress**

HYDERABAD

As per the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Monday held a review meeting with senior officials at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on the construction of Young India Integrated Schools, development of educational infrastructure, and measures to establish international-standard higher education institutions in Future City.

67 Young India Integrated Schools by December 2027

The state government has set a target of establishing Young India Integrated Schools in all 119 Assembly constituencies in a phased manner. The Chief Secretary directed officials to accelerate the works so that 67 schools are completed by December 2027 and the number is increased to 87 by June 2028.



Each school is being planned on approximately 26 acres with all modern facilities. The campuses will include essential infrastructure such as sports grounds, hostels, staff quarters, modern kitchens, digital classrooms and other amenities. The Chief Secretary instructed officials to regularly review the progress of construction works and ensure that they are completed within the stipulated deadlines while maintaining quality standards.

The schools are being constructed in a manner that brings SC, ST, BC and Minority Welfare Schools together on a single campus. The Young India Integrated Schools are being developed as model institutions that can serve as an example for the entire country.

Foreign University Campuses in Future City

The Chief Secretary directed officials to take steps to establish campuses of reputed foreign universities in Future City as part of efforts to develop Telangana into an international education hub.

He instructed officials to formulate a comprehensive policy to attract leading global educational institutions, including the University of London, to Telangana. Officials informed the meeting that, so far, the University of London, the University of Birmingham and four other international universities have expressed interest in setting up their branches in Future City.

The proposed policy should cover aspects such as inviting foreign universities, providing the infrastructure required for establishing campuses, investments, approvals and the conduct of academic programmes, the Chief Secretary said.

The Chief Secretary stated that steps should be taken not only to provide world-class educational opportunities in Telangana but also to offer students access to international-standard education, research and skill-development opportunities.

He directed officials to hold consultations with leading foreign universities regarding the proposed international educational institutions in Future City and prepare a clear action plan by the time of the Global Summit.

Special Chief Secretaries Jayesh Ranjan and Sabyasachi Ghosh; Principal Secretaries Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Yogita Rana and Rahul Bojja; Higher Education Department Commissioner Sri Devasena; Special Secretary Krishna Aditya; and other officials attended the meeting.



97th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Gaddam Venkataswamy (Kaka) Held at Ravindra Bharathi

HYDERABAD: TPCC Vice President Smt. Jhansi Rajender Reddy participated in the 97th birth anniversary celebrations of late Sri Gaddam Venkataswamy (Kaka), organized by the Telangana Government and the Department of Language and Culture at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad. Invited by State Minister Sri Vivek Venkataswamy, Jhansi Rajender Reddy attended the event and recalled the contributions and services of Gaddam Venkataswamy (Kaka). State ministers, MLAs, MPs, MLCs, Congress party leaders, public representatives, government officials and others participated in the programme.

Cashless Health Cards Should Be Provided to Journalists

- **Journalists Write Postcards to CM Revanth Reddy**

SURYAPET



TUWJ H-143 District President Vajje Veeraiah Yadav said that journalists, who play a key role in bringing public issues to the attention of the government in Telangana, are currently facing several problems.

He expressed concern that despite three years having passed since the present government came to power, the health cards issued to journalists by the previous government have not been continued. As a result, journalists who fall ill are facing severe financial difficulties, he said.

Demanding the restoration of journalists' health cards and the implementation of cashless health cards, TUWJ H-143 launched a postcard campaign at the local Vanijya Bhavan Centre on Monday, urging Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to take immediate action. Speaking on the occasion, he demanded that the government immediately restore the cashless health card facility for journalists and issue health cards to all those who have newly entered the profession.

He said it was difficult to understand why the government was neglecting journalists' health cards, which are essential for protecting the health of journalists who play a key role not only in highlighting public issues but also in supporting the functioning of governments. He urged the government to respond immediately and take steps to restore cashless health cards. Otherwise, he warned that the union would intensify its agitation in phases in the future and launch protests that could disrupt government activities.

He alleged that the number of existing accreditation cards had been reduced and that the cable television system had been weakened. He demanded that accreditation cards be issued to all eligible journalists as per GO 239 and that cashless health cards also be implemented, stating that the government should stand by journalists.





Awareness Is Key to Preventing HIV

- **Red Ribbon Club Awareness Programme Held at KIMS College of Nursing**

HYDERABAD

KIMS College of Nursing, in association with its Red Ribbon Club, organised an awareness programme to educate students about HIV/AIDS, prevention, early testing and social responsibility. The programme was held at the auditorium on the 15th floor of KIMS Hospital, Secunderabad, under the aegis of the National Service Scheme (NSS) and with the support of the Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TGSACS).

Dr. K. Vidyasagar, Project Director, TGSACS, who attended the programme as the chief guest, stressed the importance of creating greater awareness about HIV/AIDS. He explained the HIV situation and related statistics in Telangana and across the country, precautions to prevent the disease, and the benefits of early detection. He also highlighted the need to eliminate discrimination and misconceptions surrounding people living with HIV. He called upon nursing students to play a key role as peer educators in spreading awareness among the public. Dr. S. Manimalarao, Director of Medical Education (Academics), KIMS Hospitals, who participated as the guest of honour, advised nursing students to uphold a humanitarian approach, professional competence and ethical values while providing care to people living with HIV. She said nurses have a crucial role in health awareness, disease prevention, counselling and safeguarding patients' rights. As part of the programme, nursing students conducted various awareness activities. Through poster presentations, a skit and quiz competitions, they conveyed important messages relating to HIV prevention, awareness and social responsibility.

New Executive Body Elected for Indian Red Cross Society Karimnagar District

KARIMNAGAR

A new executive body has been elected for the Managing Committee of the Indian Red Cross Society, Karimnagar district. The election process was conducted in the presence of the Deputy Cooperative Officer.

Sangem Laxman Rao was elected as Chairman, Radhakrishna Reddy as Vice-Chairman, Kundarapu Maheshwar as State Executive Committee Member, Gone Srinivas as Treasurer and Pendyala Keshava Reddy as Chairman of the Chief Advisory Committee. Ragi Srinivas, Rajireddy and Kanparthi Manohar Rao were elected as Directors,



while Mogiloju Rakesh was elected as Youth Coordinator. The newly elected members said they would work to further expand humanitarian services through the Red Cross in Karimnagar district.

They said special focus would be laid on blood donation drives, relief measures during disasters, healthcare services and greater participation of youth in service activities. They said efforts would be made to take Red Cross services closer to every section of society and work in coordination to further the objectives and spirit of the organisation.

The newly elected office-bearers were congratulated by TNGEOS district president Daram Srinivas Reddy, Gazetted Officers' Association district secretary Edla Aravind Reddy, State leader Sardar Harminder Singh, Town Association president Marupaka Rajesh Bharadwaj, and leaders Satyanarayana, Asghar Ali, Ajay Kumar, Rajasekhar Reddy, Jada Kamalakar and Raghotham Reddy.

GeM Ensures Safe, Transparent Procurement

- **ESCI Director Col. Harpal Singh Grewal**

HYDERABAD

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is an online procurement platform used by Central and State Government departments, Ministries and Public Sector Undertakings to procure goods and services in a transparent, efficient and effective manner. The primary objective of GeM is to streamline and accelerate the government procurement process through a digital system said Colonel Harpal Singh Grewal, Director, Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI). He said that the GeM system helps reduce the involvement of intermediaries while providing greater opportunities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups to participate in government procurement.

Colonel Grewal was speaking after inaugurating training programmes organised by the Information Technology (IT), Quality & Productivity, and Management Technology Divisions of ESCI on Monday 5th October 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that procurement processes which earlier involved considerable time under manual procedures can now be carried out through the digital GeM platform by leveraging modern technology, thereby making government procurement faster, more transparent and efficient.

Colonel Grewal also encouraged the participants attending the week-long training programmes to make use of their visit to Hyderabad to explore the city's historical landmarks, cultural attractions and other important places. He said that Hyderabad is also emerging as a major technology and corporate hub, with more than 500 Global Capability Centers (GCCs)and hundreds of corporate companies. He suggested that participants may visit some of these organizations, wherever feasible, to gain broader exposure to contemporary technological and corporate practices.

He said that around 200 participants from different States across the country are attending the various training programmes being conducted during the week at ESCI. Dr. P. Rajarao, Chief, ESCI, along with Heads of various Departments and faculty members, participated in the programme.

Party Does Not Matter... Region Does Not Matter... People Matter

There is no room for politics when it comes to drinking water.. Safe drinking water for every household and water security for every village is the goal of Amarajeevi Jaladhara
Amarajeevi Jaladhara launched with an outlay of RS30,156 croreRS 280 crore allocated to resolve the drinking water problems of 299 villages in Pulivendula
Massive plan to provide safe drinking water to 3.27 crore people.. Water infrastructure to be created in the next five years on a scale surpassing what was built over the past seven decades
Safe drinking water to be provided to every region, from Rayalaseema to Uddanam
Deputy Chief Minister Sri Pawan Kalyan at the foundation-laying ceremony for Jal Jeevan Mission–Amarajeevi Jaladhara projects in Proddatur

PRODDUTUR, OCTOBER 5

There is no room for politics when it comes to drinking water, and the coalition government's policy is to give equal priority to all people without discrimination based on region or political affiliation in matters of development, Deputy Chief Minister Sri Pawan Kalyan said.

He made it clear that it is the government's responsibility to resolve the problems of people irrespective of which region they belong to or which political party they support. He said the objective of Amarajeevi Jaladhara is to provide safe drinking water to every household and ensure water security for every village.

On Monday, at Proddatur in Kadapa district, Sri Pawan Kalyan, along with Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, laid the foundation for drinking water works worth ₹30,156 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission and Amarajeevi Jaladhara projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Sri Pawan Kalyan said:

"Proddatur is a land sanctified by the footsteps of Lord Sri Ramachandra, a land where Mahatma Gandhi walked, and the birthplace of Saraswathi Putra Puttaparthi Narayanacharyulu, who enriched Telugu literature with his writings. Proddatur has a special identity as a 'Mini Mumbai' for its gold and textile trade and as the 'Second Mysore' for its Dasara celebrations."

Massive ₹30,156-Crore Drinking Water Plan

"We are launching 50,315 works at a cost of ₹30,156 crore with the objective of providing a permanent solution to the drinking water problem in the state. We are strengthening and stabilizing the capacity of the existing 61.60 lakh tap connections in 24,601 habitations, while providing another 27.36 lakh new tap connections. Overall, an action plan is being implemented to provide safe drinking water to 3.27 crore people. The previous government did not give adequate priority to the 'Har Ghar Jal' Jal Jeevan Mission launched by Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi. Although the Centre provided nearly ₹26,000 crore to Andhra Pradesh between 2019 and 2024, only about ₹2,700 crore was spent during those five years. Small works and scattered pipeline projects were undertaken and left incomplete. Even though it was known that the scheme's deadline would end in 2024, that funds could be returned and that people's drinking water problems would remain unresolved, no adequate action was taken. Immediately after the coalition government came to power in 2024, Chief Minister Sri Chandrababu Naidu and I met Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi and requested that the Jal Jeevan Mission be continued. With the support of Union Jal Shakti Minister Sri C.R. Patil and Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, we secured an extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028 and immediately commenced the works.

So far, works worth ₹4,500 crore have already been completed."

Major Additional Capacity to Existing Infrastructure

From the formation of Andhra State in 1953 until 2024, drinking water infrastructure in the state was developed gradually. During this





period, the state established:
Water treatment plants with a capacity of 816 MLD
- 1,072 overhead balancing reservoirs
- 28,086 overhead storage reservoirs
- Approximately 1.18 lakh kilometres of pipelines

However, through the Amarajeevi Jaladhara programme, we are adding substantial capacity to this infrastructure in just five years.

As part of the programme, we are establishing:
- Water treatment plants with a capacity of 1,426 MLD
- 494 overhead balancing reservoirs
- 13,075 overhead storage reservoirs

77,000 kilometres of pipelines

This means that compared with the infrastructure created over the past seven decades, we are creating 50% to 175% additional capacity in just these five years. We are taking up 50,283 single-village schemes and retrofitting works at a cost of ₹9,000 crore, along with 32 multi-village schemes at a cost of ₹19,500 crore. An amount of ₹1,624 crore has been allocated for monitoring water quality. Drinking water schemes are being implemented based on reservoirs and water sources at Uddanam, Don, Kurnool, Kuppam, Gandikota, PABR, Yeleru, Tandava, Hiramandam and Dhavaleswaram, among others.

The government's objective is to provide safe drinking water to areas with a high incidence of kidney-related problems, such as Uddanam and A. Konduru; drought-affected areas of Rayalaseema; Pulivendula, Punganur and Palamaner; pollution-affected areas of the Godavari region; and fluoride-affected areas such as Markapuram.

Special Focus on Water Quality

Even in the erstwhile Godavari districts, where there is no shortage of water resources, the government has been compelled to take up Jal Jeevan Mission works worth ₹6,000 crore, keeping drinking water security in mind.

Groundwater and surface water resources are becoming polluted in some areas due to aquaculture and industrial pollution. Therefore, water samples are being collected and tested regularly.

Strict action is being taken against aquaculture processing units responsible for pollution, including the issuance of show-cause notices.

At the same time, special emphasis is being placed on the maintenance of filter beds, which are crucial for water purification in drinking water schemes. So far, 340 filter beds have been restored at a cost of ₹35 crore, while another 552 filter beds are being restored at a cost of ₹88 crore.

An additional ₹1,600 crore has been allocated for the maintenance of pump houses, reservoirs and pipelines, continuous monitoring of water quality and other essential support activities.

Officials have also been instructed to install protective mesh over openings at water treatment plants and pump houses to prevent animals such as lizards and insects from entering.

₹3.5 Crore Development Works for Tallamapuram

Residents of Tallamapuram Panchayat in the Proddatur Assembly constituency say they faced numerous difficulties in getting their problems resolved during the previous government. The village, with a population of around 6,000, had repeatedly submitted requests for basic infrastructure such as roads and drinking water, but residents say they did not receive an adequate response. Even young people who attempted to bring these issues to the government's attention through democratic means faced difficulties. "We are taking special measures to provide infrastructure in Tallamapuram, Sagili Goddupalli and Mulavaripalli villages so that such situations do not arise in the future. We will construct two kilometres of CC roads and magic drains at a cost of approximately ₹1.5 crore. In addition, an overhead reservoir with a capacity of 90 kilolitres, four kilometres of pipelines and a dedicated borewell will be constructed at a cost of another ₹2 crore. I have directed officials to immediately take up these works, which together are worth ₹3.5 crore. The coalition government does not discriminate between regions or political parties when resolving people's problems. Our objective is to ensure that the benefits of development reach every village equally. As evidence of this approach, we have allocated ₹280 crore for the incomplete drinking water project in Pulivendula and initiated measures to resolve the drinking water problems of 299 villages across seven mandals. Similarly, without any regional discrimination, development works worth approximately ₹2,500 crore are being taken up in the Araku and Paderu constituencies of Alluri Sitarama Raju district under initiatives such as 'Palle Panduga' and 'Adivitalli Bata'."

Timely Payment of Bills to Contractors

During the previous government, bills remained pending for small and medium-sized contractors who had undertaken works under programmes such as the Employment Guarantee Scheme and Jal Jeevan Mission. As a result, contractors who had completed the works faced financial difficulties.

After the coalition government came to power, we paid special attention to this issue.

Bills are now being paid on time under the FIFO (First-In, First-Out) system, providing financial assurance to contractors. Similarly, funds under the 15th Finance Commission are being released to gram panchayats regularly. So far, ₹4,200 crore has been released. By ensuring that gram panchayats do not face a shortage of funds, development works continue uninterrupted and payments are made on time to those who complete the works, thereby strengthening the rural economy," he said. Earlier, Chief Minister Sri Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Sri Pawan Kalyan and BJP State President Sri PVN Madhav walked together on a special ramp arranged at the venue and greeted the people who had gathered for the meeting. State Minister for Backward Classes Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles and Kadapa district in-charge Minister Smt. S. Savitha; Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Sri Ponguru Narayana; Roads and Buildings Minister Sri BC Janardhan Reddy; Proddatur MLA Sri Nandyala Varadarajulu Reddy; Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Rural Water Supply Principal Secretary Sri Kantilaal Dande; Kadapa District Collector Sri Cherukuri Sridhar; Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Commissioner Sri Krishna Teja; Rural Water Supply Department ENC Smt. Gayatri Devi; Legislative Council members and MLAs from the coalition parties; chairpersons of various corporations; and other leaders participated in the programme.

TGGENCO and SCCL Leadership Visit Naini Coal Mines

Odisha to Boost Coal Supply to Yadadri Thermal Power Station
Action plan targets daily dispatches of 16,000 tonnes to YTPS

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 5

In a major push to secure fuel for 5X800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS) of TGGENCO, Dr.S.Harish, IAS, Chairman & Managing Director accompanied by Sri B.Nagya, IRTS, Director (Coal & Logistics), undertook a high-level visit to the Naini Coal Mines owned by The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), located in the Chhendipada belt of Angul District, Odisha.

The visit focused on resolving logistical bottlenecks and implementing an accelerated action plan to raise daily coal supplies to YTPS to an enhanced target of 16,000 tonnes per day.

Key Highlights
- Augmenting supplies: Action plans are being fast-tracked to scale up coal dispatches to YTPS. The targeted movement of 16,000 tonnes per day will significantly strengthen the plant's fuel stock position.
- Logistics optimisation: The management reviewed critical transport infrastructure, with a focus on maximising railway rake availability and clearing local transit constraints to ensure an uninterrupted coal supply chain from Odisha to TGGENCO.
- Grid stability: The enhanced fuel supply will support the seamless operation of all units at YTPS, playing a pivotal role in meeting the rising electricity demand across Telangana.



Speaking on the development, Dr.S.Harish, IAS, CMD/TGGENCO stated that coal from the Naini block is essential for the efficient operation of the supercritical units at YTPS. He further stated that, the collaboration between TGGENCO and SCCL mitigates the coal supply deficits and improves the power generation from YTPS. This underscores the State's proactive approach to energy security, round-the-clock power to domestic, agricultural and industrial consumers of the State.

Aditya nath takes stock of flooding in Lucknow's low-lying areas; announces embankments along Gomti

LUCKNOW: (OCT 5)



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday conducted aerial and ground inspections of several flood-affected areas along the Gomti river here, announcing that embankments would be constructed along the river as a "permanent solution" to inundation woes.

Rising water levels in the Gomti river have created flood-like conditions in low-lying areas of Lucknow. Faizullaganj and the Bakshi Ka Talab region are among the worst-affected areas. The chief minister met flood-affected residents in Harda village of Itaunja area to inquire about their well-being and distributed relief materials to some families.



YSRCP Coordinator Ramakrishna Reddy Unveils 'Sthitaprajna' Book

TADEPALLY, OCTOBER 5:

YSRCP State Coordinator Sri Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy unveiled the book 'Sthitaprajna', authored by senior journalist and technocrat Dr. Kothapalli Srinivasa Varma, at the YSRCP central office.

The book, written by Dr. Kothapalli Srinivasa Varma, comprehensively chronicles the political journey of former Chief Minister and YSRCP president Sri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, covering various phases of his political career and highlighting his leadership qualities. Speaking on the occasion, Sri Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said that it was commendable that the political journey of Sri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had been studied comprehensively and presented in book form under the title 'Sthitaprajna'. He said documenting a political leader's journey, the circumstances he faced, the decisions he made, and the bond he developed with the people would be useful for future generations.

"Despite facing numerous ups and downs and challenges in Sri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's political life, the manner in which he moved forward with composure and determination is reflected in the very title of this book," Sajjala said. He appreciated the author's effort to bring together the important milestones of Jagan Mohan Reddy's political journey in one place and present them to readers. "Political history needs to be documented not merely as a series of events, but also by recording the circumstances behind those events, the leadership approach, and the relationship with the people. In that direction, 'Sthitaprajna' is a good effort," he said. Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy congratulated the author, Dr. Kothapalli Srinivasa Varma, and expressed his hope that the book would receive a positive response from readers. The book-launch event was attended by author Dr. Kothapalli Srinivasa Varma, YSRCP general secretary Lella Appireddy, MLC Kalpalatha, MVS Nagireddy, Kovvuri Trinath Reddy, Challa Madhusudan Reddy, Shareef, and others.

Supreme Court Verdict Offers Temporary Relief, But the Real Test Remains

HYDERABAD:

The Supreme Court has neither delivered a setback to the Election Commission nor given it a clean chit. The October 5 verdict, in which the Supreme Court rejected the plea seeking the immediate suspension of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, should be viewed from these two perspectives. While making it clear that immediate action could not be taken against a person holding a constitutional office solely on the basis of a media report, the court sought complete details from the Centre and the Election Commission. This means the matter is not over; rather, the real scrutiny has only begun. At the centre of the controversy is the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Allegations have surfaced regarding deletion of voters, changes involving Form-6, centralisation of election data systems and other issues. Reports that other Election Commissioners had repeatedly raised objections to certain decisions have further intensified the controversy. The Election Commission, however, has maintained that all final decisions were taken unanimously. The Supreme Court's approach here is significant. An allegation is one thing, while evidence is another. A media report may form the basis for public discussion, but it cannot by itself constitute sufficient grounds for removing or suspending the head of a constitutional institution. That is why the court first sought the relevant records. It also indicated that if the records establish that decisions were taken in violation of the law, there could be scope for reconsidering them. This has provided temporary relief to Gyanesh Kumar and the Central Government. The absence of an immediate suspension has prevented a leadership crisis in the Election Commission. It has also reduced immediate constitutional pressure on the government. However, it would be premature to consider this a complete victory. The real test will begin only after the records are brought into the open.

At the same time, the verdict has led to another political development. The movement did not come to an end merely because the Supreme Court rejected the plea for suspension. The CJP has called for another major protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on October 10. The principal demands are the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar and objections to the SIR. With protests already held in Delhi and Mumbai, the next demonstration is likely to assume greater political significance.

For the Opposition parties too, this presents a dual situation. The court's refusal to accept the demand for immediate suspension is a temporary setback for their position. However, the fact that the court itself sought the records gives them an opportunity to argue that their allegations are being subjected to judicial scrutiny. Therefore, the Jantar Mantar protest may now go beyond the demand for the CEC's resignation and expand into broader issues such as transparency in the electoral process, voters' rights and clarity over the SIR. At the same time, the movement also carries a responsibility. Protest is a democratic right. But presenting unverified allegations as established facts does not serve democracy. Similarly, the government and the Election Commission should not dismiss every question as a political conspiracy; they should respond with documents, data and transparent explanations. Ultimately, this matter is bigger than the personal future of Gyanesh Kumar. The real issue is public confidence in the Election Commission. Just as the deletion of the name of an eligible voter from the electoral roll is serious, allowing the name of an ineligible person to remain on the roll is equally serious.

The Supreme Court has not closed the door. It has simply refrained from taking immediate action. That may be relief for the CEC and the government, but for the Election Commission, it is only a postponement of the test.

EDITORIAL

The Election Commission Must Be Above Doubt

Elections are among the most important exercises in a democracy. Governments may change, political priorities may shift and public debates may become intense, but the credibility of the electoral process must remain constant. At the centre of this process stands the Election Commission of India, an institution entrusted with the enormous responsibility of conducting free, fair and orderly elections. The strength of an election does not rest only on the day voters cast their ballots. It begins much earlier, with the preparation of electoral rolls, voter registration, delimitation, polling arrangements, the training of election personnel and the establishment of clear procedures. It continues through polling, counting and the declaration of results. Each stage requires accuracy, consistency and transparency.

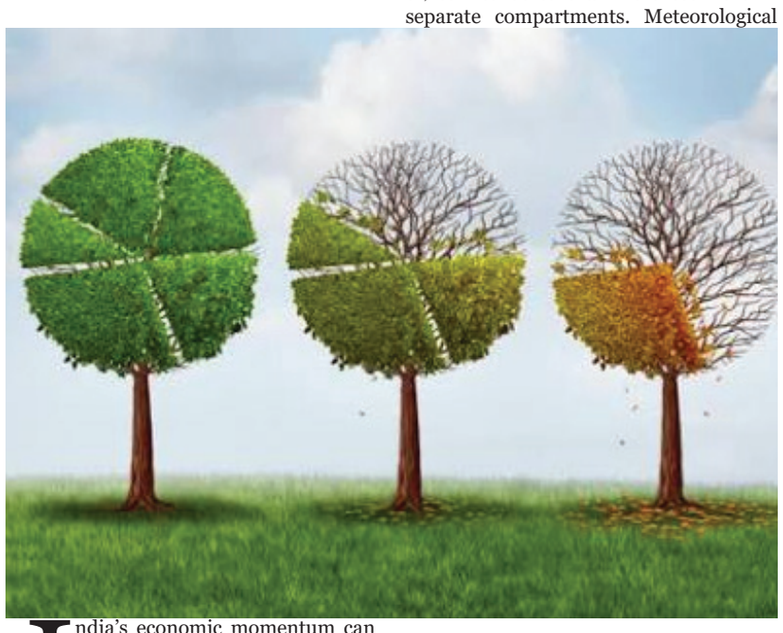
The Election Commission therefore must always remain an institution that commands public confidence. This does not mean that every administrative decision will satisfy everyone. In a country as large and diverse as India, disagreements are inevitable. What matters is that the rules are clear, procedures are properly communicated and citizens have access to appropriate mechanisms for correction and redress. Electoral rolls deserve particular attention. A voter list must be both comprehensive and accurate. Removing duplicate or outdated entries is necessary for maintaining clean rolls, but genuine voters must also find it easy to register, correct details and retain their right to participate. Technology can make these processes faster and more efficient, provided it is supported by human verification and accessible grievance mechanisms. Transparency is equally important. Election-related information should be communicated in simple language and made available to political parties, candidates, civil society and citizens wherever appropriate. Clear communication can prevent confusion and help the public understand why particular procedures are followed.

The Commission also operates in an environment of rapidly changing technology. Artificial intelligence, deepfakes, social media and instant messaging have created new challenges for electoral communication. At the same time, technology offers opportunities to improve voter services, accessibility, monitoring and administrative efficiency. The objective should be to use technology without allowing it to create new barriers for citizens. Institutional independence is another essential pillar. The Election Commission must be able to perform its constitutional responsibilities without fear or favour. At the same time, independence and accountability are not opposing ideas. A strong institution welcomes scrutiny, explains its procedures and corrects genuine administrative shortcomings. Ultimately, the Election Commission's greatest asset is not any particular technology or administrative system. It is public trust. That trust is built gradually through consistent conduct, transparent procedures and equal treatment. India's democracy is too large and diverse for elections to be viewed merely as periodic contests for power. They are moments when citizens exercise one of their most important constitutional rights. The institution responsible for facilitating that choice must therefore remain worthy of confidence.

An Election Commission above doubt is not one that never faces questions. It is one that has the transparency, professionalism and institutional strength to answer them clearly. In the long run, that credibility is as important as the election itself.

Growth Is Strong. Is India's Climate Resilience Strong Enough?

India has become considerably better at responding to immediate economic disruptions. The next institutional challenge is to become equally good at anticipating climate-driven economic risks.



India's economic momentum can look reassuring on an industrial dashboard even as climate stress builds beneath it. Strong industrial output, investment and infrastructure activity are important indicators of economic health, but they do not fully capture an emerging vulnerability: the economy's exposure to increasingly erratic weather. The real test of resilience is not whether India can grow during a favourable season, but whether it can protect that growth when climate shocks disrupt agriculture, water availability, food prices and rural demand.

This is why El Niño and other climate anomalies should no longer be treated primarily as agricultural or meteorological concerns. Their economic consequences travel far beyond the farm sector. A deficient or uneven monsoon can reduce crop yields, weaken farm incomes and push up food prices. Higher food inflation affects household budgets, while weaker rural purchasing power can reduce demand for consumer goods. At the same time, heatwaves can raise electricity consumption, disrupt outdoor work and increase operating costs for businesses. What begins as a weather disturbance can therefore become a wider economic shock.

India's policy architecture, however, still tends to examine these risks in separate compartments. Meteorological agencies track rainfall and temperature. Agricultural departments monitor crop conditions. Water authorities focus on reservoirs and groundwater. Economic policymakers watch inflation, consumption and growth. Each dataset is valuable, but the greater risk lies in the gaps between them. A rainfall deficit becomes economically significant only when it begins affecting crops, prices, incomes, power demand or supply chains. That transmission needs to be monitored as one chain rather than as a collection of unrelated indicators.

India needs an integrated climate–economy early-warning mechanism for precisely this reason. The India Meteorological Department, agriculture and water authorities, food and consumer-affairs agencies, state governments and economic policymakers should be able to assess climate risks jointly and identify where a weather shock could become an economic shock. Such a system should combine rainfall forecasts with crop conditions, reservoir levels, groundwater stress, food prices, electricity demand and rural income indicators. The purpose should not be another forecasting exercise, but earlier policy action.

The advantage of such coordination would be particularly significant at the state and district levels. National averages can conceal sharply different realities on the ground. One region may face adequate rainfall while another experiences crop stress, depleted reservoirs and rising food prices. Identifying these hotspots early would allow governments to move irrigation support, crop advisories, food stocks and financial assistance before losses become severe. Preventive intervention is almost always less expensive than large-scale post-disaster relief.

There is also a strong business case for better climate intelligence. Manufacturers depend on agricultural raw materials, logistics networks depend on predictable weather, food processors depend on crop availability, and retailers depend on stable consumer demand. Climate volatility can therefore disrupt corporate supply chains even when factories themselves remain unaffected. Better public information would allow businesses to adjust procurement, inventories and logistics earlier, reducing the cost of disruption.

This is where climate resilience becomes an economic investment rather than an environmental expenditure. Better irrigation, water storage, crop diversification, resilient infrastructure, efficient power systems and improved weather forecasting can reduce the volatility of future economic growth. The return on such investments is not limited to preventing environmental damage; it lies in protecting incomes, controlling inflation, sustaining consumption and reducing the fiscal burden of emergency intervention.

The challenge is becoming more important because India's growth ambitions are themselves raising the economic cost of climate disruption. As manufacturing expands and cities become larger centres of consumption, disruptions in agriculture and energy can have wider consequences for the economy. A country seeking sustained high growth cannot afford to treat climate variability as an external event that policymakers address only after damage has occurred.

Nor should climate resilience become a reason for lowering growth ambitions. The opposite is required. Faster economic growth provides the fiscal and technological capacity to build stronger water systems, modernise agriculture, improve energy efficiency and develop climate-resilient infrastructure. The objective should be to make growth more resistant to environmental shocks, not to choose between development and sustainability.

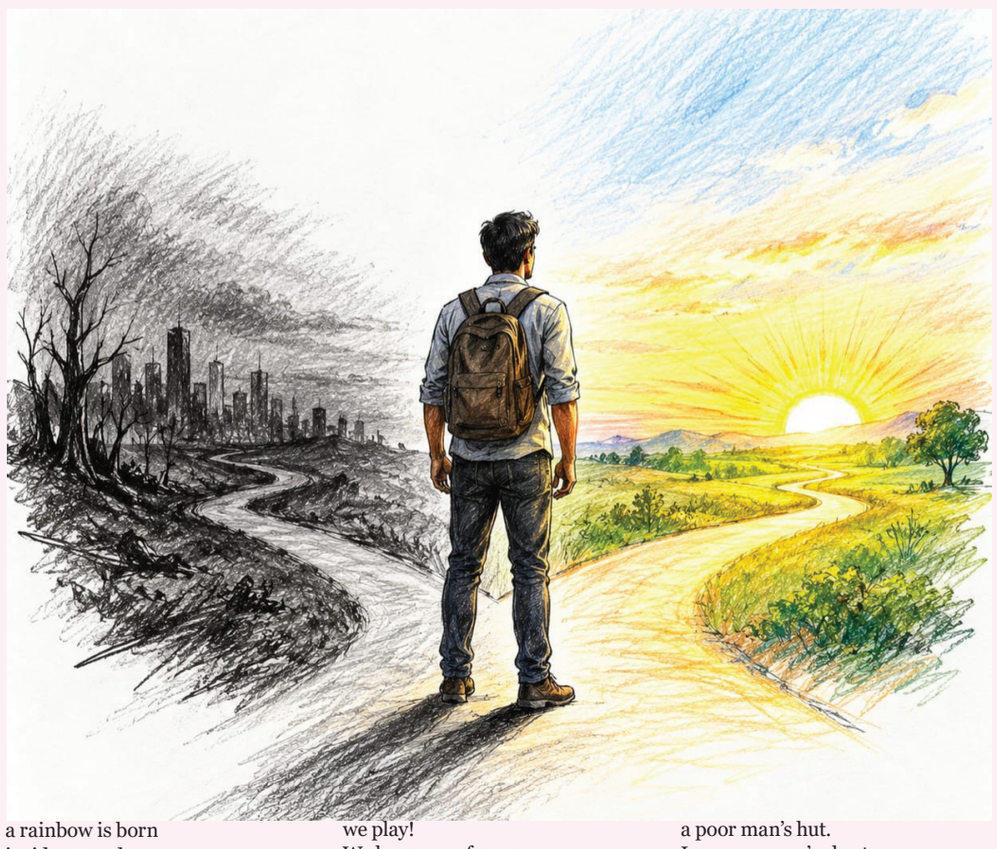
India has become considerably better at responding to immediate economic disruptions. The next institutional challenge is to become equally good at anticipating climate-driven economic risks. That requires breaking the administrative separation between meteorological information and economic decision-making.

Industrial output may tell us how the economy is performing today. Climate-risk indicators can tell us how vulnerable that performance may be tomorrow. India's policy framework needs to read both signals together. The country's next phase of growth will depend not merely on how fast the economy expands, but on how effectively it can absorb the climate shocks that threaten to slow it down.



D. JAIRAM
Subject Expert – Current Affairs
Founder & Mentor
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THE GAME WE NEVER SEE



"I cannot play," said Man
Time smiled.
"I cannot sing," he said
the heart smiled.
"I never act," he said
the mirror smiled.
How strange!
The moment he is born,
he stakes his breath
and enters a game with Time
yet claims
he is no player.
In his mother's womb,
his heart is already a drum
his first cry becomes a note,
and the song of life begins
yet he claims
he cannot sing.
Eyes
yet he cannot see his own game
ears
yet he cannot hear his own song;
mirrors everywhere
yet he cannot see himself.
Blindness of the eyes
brings darkness;
blindness of the heart
turns Man himself
into darkness.
Life
a field marked out by Time,
a die cast by Fate,
a cradle suspended from breath,
a boat of memories
sailing towards the final shore.
Childhood
hide-and-seek with laughter
in a mother's lap.
Student days
climbing a ladder of letters
to reach tomorrow.
Youth
giving wings to dreams
and racing the sky.
Marriage
two rivers
learning the way
to one sea.
Parenthood
a season that sheds its own spring
so flowers may bloom
on its children's branches.
Old age
the evening sun
resting on the last branch,
slowly folding
the light of memory.
Roles change.
Costumes change.
Stages change.
Only Time remains
silently watching
what we make of each role.
Who, then,
wins this game?
The one who pushes others aside
to move ahead?
The one who turns shoulders
into steps
and climbs to the summit?
The one whose chest bears medals
and whose name bears titles?
No.
Defeating another human being
is not victory;
defeating the inhuman
within ourselves is.
From a summit
the valley may look small
but
one who bends
to lift the fallen
stands taller than the summit.
A medal shines
while light falls upon it.
A position speaks
while the chair remains.
A name echoes
while memory permits.
Goodness alone
is an inscription
on the heart of Time.
"You cannot sing?"
Must a song
always come from the lips?
Food offered to the hungry
is compassion singing.
A hand resting
on an orphaned head
is belonging finding a melody.
A hand lifting the fallen
is humanity touching the strings.
Fingers wiping away a tear
are kindness composing a hymn.
And one quiet
"I am here"
to a lonely soul
is music
a hundred instruments
could never make.
When anger sings,
a home is wounded.
When ego sings,
relationships lose their voice.
When envy sings,
the soul falls out of tune.
When love sings,
even a stranger
becomes a refrain.
When compassion sings
a rainbow is born
inside a teardrop.
O Man!
You climb temple steps
searching for God
yet fail to recognise Him
in the hungry person
at your door.
You garland
a stone image
then walk past
a living human being
garlanded with tears.
You light a hundred lamps
to banish darkness
yet will not spare
a single flame
for the darkness next door.
Close your eyes
and the world disappears.
Close your heart
and humanity disappears.
If the eyes lose their way,
another hand can guide them.
But when the heart loses its sight,
where is the map
that can lead us back
to one another?
What a strange game
we play!
We become referees
of everyone else's life
while playing our own
without rules.
We catch
the smallest false note
in another person's song
yet never hear
how many strings of the heart
our own words have broken.
We hold mirrors
before everyone else.
If only once
we turned one
towards ourselves
how many accusations
would fall silent
how many judgments
would lose their address.
One may become learned
by reading the world
but one becomes human
by learning to read oneself.
Time
has no favourites.
The sun that rises
over a palace
also enters
a poor man's hut.
In an emperor's chest
and a labourer's chest,
Time keeps the same clock
tick... tick...
Every beat
is one more footstep
towards the final silence.
Why, then,
this arrogance?
The chair bearing your name today
will carry another tomorrow.
The stone engraved with your
name
will one day surrender its letters.
Your portrait
will make friends with dust.
The road
will forget your footsteps.
But
if someone you once lifted
lifts another,
your hand is born again.
If a lamp you lit
lights another lamp
your pyre may grow cold,
but your light will not.
So
Play
but never make a pawn of a person.
Sing
but never turn a heart into a
wound.
Rise
but never make another's shoulders
your staircase.
Shine
but never by extinguishing
another lamp.
Win
not merely over others,
but over
the ego,
the envy,
the selfishness,
the blindness
within you.
One who conquers the world
may enter history
one who conquers himself
enters humanity.
One day
Time will blow
the final whistle.
Breath will lay down
its flute.
The heart will strike
its final beat.
The actor will remove
the costume.
The curtain
will slowly fall.
Then
your medals will not follow.
Your position will not follow.
Your wealth will not follow.
Even your name
will not walk beside you.
Even the shadow
that followed you all your life in
light
will leave you
at the threshold of darkness.
And Time will not ask
"How much did you earn?"
Nor
"How long did you live?"
Nor even
"How many people praised you?"
It will ask only
"When you are gone,
how much humanity
will still be alive
because you were here?"
Before that question crowns grow
small,
castles grow small,
fame grows small
even Man grows small.
For greater than the human being
is the humanity
left behind.
To have eyes
is not necessarily to see
to notice another's tears
is sight.
For a heart to beat
is not enough to call it life
to beat for another's pain
is life.
To possess a hand
is not strength
to lift the fallen
is strength.
To possess a name
is not fame
when the name has faded
and the goodness remains,
that is fame.
At last
the game ends.
The song falls silent.
The role is over.
The curtain descends.
Man
returns to the earth.
But
before returning to the soil,
if he plants
one seed of goodness
in another human heart
it sprouts,
it grows,
it becomes a tree,
it gives shade
to someone
he will never meet
and beneath that shade
another seed
begins to grow.
Then
though the player is gone,
the game retains its meaning
though the singer is silent,
the song retains its echo;l
though the human being is gone,
humanity remains.
That is immortality.
For
Death may return
a human being to the earth
but no grave is deep enough
to bury the humanity
passed from one heart
to another.

..: Dr. Peruka Raju :..
National Poet
7810032847

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Holds Special Meeting with Nitin Gadkari

Centre should support Telangana's key infrastructure projects – Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy
Minister seeks immediate approval for LB Nagar–Hayathnagar Double-Decker Elevated Corridor
Discussions on NH-65 6+2 lane expansion, northern and southern sections of RRR, and Hyderabad–Amaravati Expressway
Minister seeks approval for five ropeways under Parvatmala, 33 works under CRIF and three ROB/RUB projects
Special request for an elevated corridor on Hyderabad–Srisailam NH-765
Minister explains that the Telangana government under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is giving special focus to road infrastructure
Union Minister Nitin Gadkari responds positively to Minister Komatireddy's requests on state projects

EKTA NAGAR, GUJARAT:

The two-day Chintan Shivir–2026 at the Statue of Unity premises in Ekta Nagar, Narmada district of Gujarat, was formally inaugurated on Monday by Telangana Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Following discussions on the first day regarding various issues, including coordination between the Centre and the state on road connectivity projects, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy held a special meeting with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. During the meeting, the two leaders held detailed discussions on several key infrastructure projects in Telangana, pending approvals and financial sanctions from the Centre, and the development of national highways. Minister Komatireddy explained that the Telangana government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is giving special emphasis to road infrastructure.

Minister Komatireddy thanked the Union government for its support for the development of national highways in Telangana and for works under the Setu Bandhan and CRIF programmes.

He urged Nitin Gadkari to extend Central support for several key projects aimed at strengthening connectivity between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, reducing traffic congestion in Hyderabad, improving transportation facilities to tourist destinations across the state, and accelerating regional economic development.

LB Nagar–Hayathnagar Double-Decker Elevated Corridor

The Minister requested construction of an approximately 6-km double-decker elevated corridor from LB Nagar to Hayathnagar to provide a permanent solution to increasing traffic congestion in eastern Hyderabad.

He stated that the Centre has already approved the development of the LB Nagar–Malkapur section of NH-65 as a 6+2 lane road, including service roads, at a cost of ₹545 crore. He explained that residents and public representatives have requested that, instead of constructing an RE wall in densely built-up areas, the road be constructed using a viaduct system. As the state government has decided to extend the Miyapur–LB Nagar Metro Rail Corridor up to Hayathnagar in Phase II, the Minister requested that the Double-Decker Elevated Corridor be included in the 2026–27 annual plan and sanctioned in coordination with the Metro project.

Five Ropeway Projects Under Parvatmala

To improve connectivity to tourist and spiritual destinations in Telangana, the Minister requested approval for five ropeway projects under the Parvatmala scheme, with an estimated cost of ₹1,230 crore.



The proposed ropeways are at:

- Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple
- Hanuman Hill in Nalgonda
- Nagarjunasagar–Nagarjunakonda
- Ramagiri Fort in Manthani, Peddapalli district
- Killa Ramalayam area in Nizamabad

He said these projects would provide greater convenience to devotees, tourists and local commuters while promoting an environmentally friendly transportation system.

pproval for Three Key ROB/RUB Projects

The Minister requested approval for three important ROB/RUB projects under the Setu Bandhan scheme for 2026–27.

He urged the Centre to consider proposals for:

- A four-lane ROB at Kothagudem Bypass in Bhadradri Kothagudem district
- A two-lane ROB at Sultanabad in Peddapalli district
- A four-lane ROB on the Pagidipalli–Nadikudi railway section in Nalgonda district

Expedite Approval for NH-65 Six-Lane Expansion



Minister Komatireddy urged Nitin Gadkari to expedite the expansion of Hyderabad–Vijayawada–Machilipatnam NH-65, connecting Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, into a 6+2 lane highway. He said traffic on the highway has currently crossed 1.20 lakh PCUs, with several accident-prone locations and black spots. He emphasized that expansion of the road and improvement of road safety are urgently required to meet growing traffic demands.

He noted that alignment approval, PATSC and PPPAC approvals have already been obtained and that the proposal has been recommended for CCEA approval. He requested that steps be taken to secure the final approval at the earliest.

Elevated Corridor on NH-765

The Minister requested approval for construction of an elevated corridor on the Hyderabad–Srisailam NH-765 through the Tiger Reserve forest area.

He explained that the elevated corridor would provide a solution to the challenges involved in widening the road through forest areas. It would provide safer and more convenient travel for devotees visiting Srisailam while also helping protect the ecology of the Nallamala forest region.

₹1,227.75 Crore Sought for 33 CRIF Works

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy requested allocation of funds for 33 road development works in Telangana under the CRIF scheme for 2026–27.

He said the proposed works would cover a total length of 511.68 km at an estimated cost of ₹1,227.75 crore.

The works, proposed by Hon'ble MPs and MLAs, are crucial for balanced regional development across the state, he said, requesting Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to consider and sanction them under the 2026–27 CRIF programme.

Financial and Cabinet Approval for Northern RRR Section

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy requested early financial and Union Cabinet approval for the northern section of the Hyderabad Regional Ring Road (RRR). He said the state government is prepared to bear 50% of the land acquisition cost for the 161.518-km northern section of the RRR, running through Sangareddy–Narsapur–Toopran–Gajwel–Jagdevpur–Bhuvanagiri–Choutuppal. He said awards have already been approved for more than 90% of the land, and as NHAI has also invited tenders, financial and Cabinet approvals should be granted at the earliest. At the same time, he requested the Centre to take up the southern section of the RRR on the same priority as the northern section to complete a full ring around Hyderabad.

He explained that the southern RRR would become critical for future infrastructure such as Bharat Future City, industrial parks and radial roads.

Hyderabad–Amaravati Greenfield Expressway

The Minister requested that the DPR process for the Hyderabad–Amaravati Greenfield Expressway, which would further strengthen future connectivity between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, be expedited and the project taken forward. He said connecting the expressway to a dry port in Telangana would facilitate freight movement and provide further impetus to economic activity and industrial development. He also explained that there could be an opportunity to provide spur connectivity to Machilipatnam Port. Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy requested Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to positively consider all these projects that are crucial to Telangana's development and expedite the necessary Central-level approvals, financial sanctions and Cabinet clearances to support the state.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari responded positively to the requests made by the Minister regarding the state's projects.

Arunachal CM calls for dialogue with stakeholders over key Siang project

ITANAGAR: (OCT 05)



Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Monday called for dialogue and greater engagement with local communities over the proposed Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP), days after protests against survey work for the mega project turned violent in Siang district.

Khandu, who interacted with various stakeholders at Pasighat in East Siang district, said any discussion on the future of the Siang River must take into account the views and concerns of communities living along its banks. "The Siang carries deep meaning for the people who live along its banks. Any conversation about its future must therefore begin with listening," the CM said in a post on X.

Five Judges Assume Office as Permanent Judges of AP High Court

Amaravati, October 5: Additional judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court—Justice Kuncham Maheswara Rao, Justice Thoota Chandra Dhanasekhar (TCD Shekhar), Justice Challa Gunaranjan, Justice Avadhanam Hariharanatha Sharma, and Justice Dr. Yadavalli Lakshmana Rao—have assumed office as permanent judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. At a ceremony held on Monday in the First Court Hall of the AP High Court under the auspices of the Full Bench, Chief Justice of the High Court Justice Lisa Gill administered the oath of office to Justice Kuncham Maheswara Rao, Justice Thoota Chandra Dhanasekhar (TCD Shekhar),





Justice Challa Gunaranjan, Justice Avadhanam Hariharanatha Sharma, and Justice Dr. Yadavalli Lakshmana Rao as permanent judges. Following the approval granted by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, for the appointment of the five judges as permanent judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, the Union Ministry of Law and Justice issued the official notification. Subsequently, the five judges were sworn in as permanent judges. All the other Hon'ble judges serving at the Andhra Pradesh High Court attended the ceremony and conveyed their best wishes to their newly appointed permanent colleagues. High Court judges, representatives of the Bar Council, members of the High Court Advocates' Association, senior advocates, judicial officers, registrars, officials of the Law Department, advocates and others attended the ceremony.



Allegations of Illegal Mining in Yamuna River; BJP Leader Seeks Action from DM

BARKOT, UTTARKASHI

Allegations of illegal mining in the Yamuna River area have come to the fore in Barkot. Devendra Singh Rawat, a State Executive Committee Member of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), has submitted a letter to the District Magistrate, Uttarkashi, through the Tehsildar, seeking an investigation into the matter and strict action against any violations. In his letter, Rawat alleged that illegal mining activities have been continuing in the Yamuna River area for a long period. He stated that during an earlier inspection, action to seal a crusher plant had reportedly been discussed. However, concerns among local residents regarding the alleged activities continue to persist. Rawat has urged the district administration to examine the lease and other relevant records associated with the crusher plant. He has also sought cancellation of the lease if any violation of prescribed rules and conditions is found during the investigation.He further demanded clear demarcation of the mining area and installation of boundary boards to prevent activities beyond the permitted limits. He also called for effective measures to control dust and noise pollution and ensure compliance with environmental norms. The BJP leader has also sought strict monitoring of production so that it remains within the permitted capacity. He demanded that all rules relating to the transportation and storage of minerals be followed and that proper records of minerals and vehicles operating to and from the crusher plant be maintained in registers. Other demands include development of a green belt around the area and regular sprinkling of water to control dust pollution. Rawat urged the District Magistrate to conduct a detailed investigation and take necessary action in accordance with the findings, keeping in view the protection of the Yamuna River, the environment and the interests of local residents.

Yoga Should Become a Part of Every Student's Daily Routine

Aim is to nurture students who are healthy, focused and emotionally balanced
Samagra Shiksha State Project Director Sri B. Srinivasa Rao, IAS
Three-day yoga training programme launched under AP Samagra Shiksha and Heartfulness
Three-day residential yoga training programme begins at Kanha Shanti Vanam
1,870 teachers from 935 PM SHRI schools participate

AMARAVATI:

Andhra Pradesh schools should become role models for comprehensive education in the country, and a safe, joyful learning environment in schools is essential to nurture students as lifelong learners and responsible citizens in accordance with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, said Samagra Shiksha State Project Director Sri B. Srinivasa Rao, IAS. A three-day residential yoga training programme for teachers from PM SHRI schools in Andhra Pradesh was inaugurated on Monday at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad, as part of a joint initiative by Andhra Pradesh Samagra Shiksha and the Heartfulness Education Trust, Hyderabad. The training programme will continue until October 7. Global Heartfulness Guide Sri Daaji, Yoga Academy Director Dr. Veronique Nicolai and others participated in the programme. Speaking as the chief guest, SPD Sri B. Srinivasa Rao, IAS, said that a total of 1,870 teachers—two teachers from each of the 935 PM SHRI schools across the state—are being trained under the programme. He said the trained teachers should, under the guidance of their respective headmasters and with the support of experts from the Heartfulness Yoga Academy, make yoga an integral part of every student's daily routine in their schools.





He emphasized the need to ensure that children develop not only physical health through yoga but also concentration and mental resilience, enabling them to grow into responsible and exemplary citizens. He further said that, in accordance with the guidelines of the Union Ministry of Ayush, teachers are being provided hands-on training in yoga warm-ups, Surya Namaskars, asanas, pranayama, meditation and relaxation techniques. Teachers who successfully complete the training will be awarded certificates recognizing them as "Lead Teachers for Yoga" in their respective schools, he said. Awareness is also being provided on a system for reporting the progress of yoga sessions conducted in schools, as well as activities such as International Yoga Day, through a dedicated digital platform, he added. Later, Heartfulness Education Trust Project Director Ravi Shankar Balla said it was a matter of pride to host the participating teachers from Andhra Pradesh at Kanha. He expressed hope that the teachers would carry the spirit of yoga back to their schools and contribute to the well-being and bright future of lakhs of students.

Sukhu Rewards Asiad Gold Medallists

SHIMLA: (Oct 5) Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday announced a cash award of Rs 1 crore each for three kabaddi players from the state who were part of the gold-winning women's team at the just-concluded Asian Games in Japan – Pushpa Rana, Jyoti Thakur and Bhawna Thakur. The chief minister also announced Rs 1 crore for Renuka Thakur, a member of the women's cricket team that won the gold at the Asian Games, beating Sri Lanka by 147 runs in the final.

NFR Marks DHR's 146 Years of Heritage at Sukna

Station Mahotsav

Maligaon, 5October, 2026: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) organised the Sukna Station Mahotsav on 3 rd October, 2026, to celebrate 146 years of the architectural heritage buildings of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The programme was graced by the General Manager of NFR, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava and several senior railway officials and distinguished dignitaries, highlighting the railway's commitment towards preserving its historic assets and promoting community participation. During the celebration, the General Manager inaugurated the newly renovated Sukna Museum, which showcases the rich history and operational legacy of DHR, and released its first DHR Volume of Collector's Edition related to its Heritage and History. Students from Narayana School, Siliguri and Sukna School presented vibrant cultural performances. Essay and drawing competitionswere also organised, with the top three winners in each category receiving DHR certificates. Artist Ajay Sarkar presented a live nail art demonstration and the artwork was formally handed over to the Station Manager of Sukna. Following the programme, the General Manager flagged off the 125 year old heritage locomotive 780B and a flat wagon that has been restored after 36 years at the historic Tindharia ailway Workshop. The Giddaypahar siding was also restored and reopened after 21 years to strengthen operational capacity of DHR. A new barrack for RPF was also inaugurated at Giddaypahar to improve facilities for security personnel and support railway protection.

Sheikh Hasina warns of 'serious constitutional crisis' in Bangladesh

GENEVA



Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina warned that the country is grappling with "a serious constitutional crisis", asserting that its future must be determined by the "free and informed will" of its people rather than fear or force.

Hasina made the remarks during the recent seminar, titled "Bangladesh's Constitutional Crisis: Right to Education, Arbitrary Detention and Fabricated Tribunal Verdicts," at the Geneva Press Club. The event brought together former political leaders, lawyers, human-rights advocates, researchers and international experts from Europe, Asia and Africa.

According to the Awami League, Bangladesh's constitutional order, rule of law, human rights, political participation, judicial independence and the future of its democratic institutions came under extensive discussion during the seminar at the Geneva Press Club.

Addressing the gathering virtually, Hasina said the events of July and August 2024 failed to bring peace or prosperity in Bangladesh.

She accused the current BNP administration of "political retaliation, arbitrary detention, politically influenced legal proceedings and actions," arguing that such measures are damaging the educational and professional futures of students and citizens because of their political identities. Hasina cited a series of incidents involving alleged violence, killings, arrests and insecurity in different parts of Bangladesh, saying many such incidents never reach the media.

She argued that "the situation should no longer be viewed solely as political instability but as a crisis involving law, public security and the responsibilities of the state."

The former Prime Minister also voiced concerns over repression in universities and educational institutions, alleging that students had lost their enrollment or certificates, while young professionals had been suspended from employment because of political affiliation. Stressing that political identity should never be treated as collective criminal liability, Hasina said that "anyone accused of a crime should be held individually accountable through due process".

On detention and the justice system, she said thousands of Awami League leaders, activists and supporters had been detained, prosecuted or forced into hiding in Bangladesh.

Questioning the use of criminal and anti-terrorism laws, Hasina alleged that due process, equal treatment and judicial independence were under pressure. She also criticised attempts to remove the Awami League from political life through judicial and tribunal processes, warning that "if judicial institutions are used for political retaliation, public confidence in the justice system will suffer. "

Referring to capital punishment, she said the "state should not exercise the power to take a person's life where the fairness and independence of the judicial process itself are in question."

Highlighting the ban on Awami League, Hasina further argued that an election cannot be genuinely representative if a major political force and its supporters are excluded from political participation.

"Bangladesh's future must be determined by the people of Bangladesh," she said, emphasising that this should happen through free and informed public choice rather than fear, force or administrative orders.

Hasina called on the United Nations, democratic governments, human-rights organisations, the legal community and Bangladesh's international partners to closely monitor the dire situation in the South Asian nation. She urged an end to arbitrary detention and politically motivated persecution,

restoration of judicial independence and due process, protection for students and professionals, adequate medical care for people in state custody, and guarantees for freedom of expression, association and peaceful political activity.

Zelensky, Merz agree on 1.3-billion-euro support package for Ukraine

KYIV

Ukraine will receive a new support package from Germany worth more than 1.3 billion euros (1.46 billion US dollars), Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced following his meeting here with visiting German Chancellor Friedrich Merz.

"It includes weapons that will help us now, as well as support for our energy sector ahead of winter -- an important energy package," Zelensky said on X, noting that he particularly discussed with Merz the need for air defence.

Zelensky said Ukraine and Germany currently have 15 agreements worth more than 8.5 billion euros.

The documents cover security cooperation, Ukraine's orders for German industry, and joint projects within Ukraine, among other areas, Zelensky said.

According to the German government, the new military aid package focuses primarily on air defence capabilities, including the joint production of interceptors against jet-powered drones.

Merz noted that recent technical breakthroughs in this area would help swiftly strengthen Ukrainian air defences. Germany will also provide long-range weapons, satellite technology and combat drones for Ukraine.

In addition, Germany will offer around 350 million euros (394 million dollars) to repair Ukraine's energy infrastructure ahead of the coming winter. This is Merz's second visit to Kyiv since he took office last year. Earlier on Friday, the Ukrainian Finance Ministry announced that Ukraine received 2.9 billion euros (3.26 billion US dollars) from the European Union (EU) as part of the funding to support the country's economic stability and reform efforts.

The funding is aimed at supporting macroeconomic stability, financing priority budget expenditures, recovery and modernisation, as well as implementing reforms on the country's path towards EU membership, the ministry said in a statement.

Of the total sum, Ukraine received 800 million euros (898 million dollars) for the first time under the Ukraine Support Loan (USL).

The USL is an EU financial instrument worth 90 billion euros (101 billion dollars) for 2026-2027, aimed at supporting Ukraine's budgetary and defence needs.

India, Switzerland double down on trade, infra, and innovation ties

NEW DELHI

India and Switzerland on Monday signed several MoUs to deepen their cooperation across sectors, including sustainable infrastructure development, exchange of young professionals, innovation, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Swiss President Guy Parmelin held a meeting at Hyderabad House here to review the entire spectrum of bilateral ties. According to an MEA statement, the agreement on the Exchange of Young Professionals (YPS) aims to govern the exchange of young professionals taking up temporary employment in the other country to enhance their professional and language skills within their field.

"YPS incorporates an exchange of 300 persons annually per country, which may increase to 500, and a timeline of 30/90 days for verification of nationality/residency status, among other provisions," the statement noted. The MoU on the 'Promotion and Collaboration on Transportation Technologies' aims to promote collaboration in sustainable infrastructure development, with a focus on transportation and mobility systems by advancing technologies and infrastructure in areas such as electric vehicles, ropeways, circular economy, tunnels, and other transport sectors.

Moreover, a Letter of Intent (LoI) between the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) aims to promote long-term cooperation between the Indian and Swiss research communities by supporting exploratory scientific collaboration, building partnerships for future joint research, and establishing a broader framework to sustain long-term initiatives across mutually agreed priority areas.

Pakistan braces for KP showdown as PTI talks collapse, emergency looms

NEW DELHI



The security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) are gearing up for a possible escalation in violence after negotiations between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Pakistan government failed.

Pakistan's Federal Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with the governor of KP to discuss the situation in the region. The security situation has worsened over the last couple of months, and the Pakistan government has accused the chief minister of KP, Sohail Afridi, of non-cooperation.

The long march that is being planned by the PTI has also been a bone of contention, and Pakistan accuses the Imran Khan-led party of trying to destabilise the country. An official says that the federal government either wants Afridi to back down or face removal. Following the meeting with the governor of the region, Naqvi briefed President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir.

"All are of the opinion that the establishment should not give in to the demands that the PTI is making," the official said.

The intelligence assessment for the region says that violence is round the corner and the situation is going to further worsen. Both sides are not backing down, and this would lead to confrontation and widespread violence in the region, the assessment says. Among the options being considered by the Pakistan government are the imposition of emergency in KP or the introduction of governor's rule. Either move is likely to face strong opposition from PTI leaders and could trigger widespread protests and violence across the region.

Another official said that Pakistan is playing with fire, adding that it is more interested in destroying the PTI rather than trying to address the real issues that are being raised.

President Zardari is of the opinion that the Constitution should be invoked to address the situation in the KP region. This means that either emergency or governor's rule would be imposed.

This decision, which is round the corner, would be counterproductive to the security situation in the KP region. On the one hand, the security forces are engaged in a bloody battle with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and on the other, an attempt to overthrow Sohail Zardari is being made. The battle with the TTP and the protests by the PTI are bound to overwhelm the security machinery in the region, the official said. An Intelligence Bureau official said that the Pakistani establishment, especially the army, is making this an ego issue.

Iraq's Najaf airport receives first Iranian flight following US waiver

BAGHDAD

Iraq's Najaf International Airport received the first direct flight from Tehran, marking the official resumption of air travel between the two countries following a US waiver, according to an airport statement.

The director of the airport welcomed passengers arriving aboard the flight operated by Iran's Caspian Airlines, the airport said in a post on its official Facebook page on Sunday (local time). Video footage published on the page showed the aircraft receiving a traditional water cannon salute when it arrived.

The flight resumption follows a recent announcement by the Iraqi government on October 2 regarding an agreement to allow Iranian airlines, except Mahan Air, to operate 40 flights daily to and from Najaf International Airport.

A statement by the media office of Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi noted that the agreement follows the US government's cooperation in granting a requested exemption, which will help facilitate the movement of pilgrims and travellers, particularly those travelling for medical treatment, religious visits, and tourism.

Najaf International Airport suspended all incoming and outgoing flights to and from Iran on September 25, following the US Treasury Department's recent sanctions targeting Iran's aviation sector, which suspended authorisations that allowed non-US airlines to fly US-origin or US-controlled commercial aircraft into Iran.

When Elections Become an Investment, DEMOCRACY BECOMES THE LOSER

- **The culture of recovering election expenditure through corruption must end**
- **People must think about their families and children—not spend their lives fighting for political leaders: Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy**

HYDERABAD

Spending crores of rupees to win an election and subsequently trying to recover that expenditure through corruption has become a serious threat to democracy, said eminent educationist and environmentalist Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy.

He said elections should be a means of choosing representatives committed to public service and not an investment from which political leaders expect financial returns.

Who ultimately pays for expensive elections?

"If a candidate spends ₹40–50 crore or more to win an election, and after coming to power starts thinking about recovering that money, where does public service remain? When political power is treated as an investment, the burden of recovering that investment ultimately falls on the people," Dr. Gopal Reddy said.

According to him, such a system can create a dangerous political–business–bureaucratic ecosystem, in which money spent during elections is sought to be recovered through irregular collections, favours, contracts, permissions, land deals and other forms of corruption.

"Taking action against a small-level official alone cannot eliminate corruption. The real issue is the larger ecosystem surrounding political financing, election expenditure and the misuse of official power," he said.

Poverty should not become a political business model

Dr. Gopal Reddy said political parties must focus on eliminating the root causes of poverty rather than creating permanent dependence through short-term promises.

"Free schemes may provide immediate relief, but poverty can be permanently reduced only through quality education, employment, skill development, entrepreneurship, healthcare and sustainable income opportunities," he said.

He also cautioned that the middle class is increasingly becoming the victim of political emotional manipulation.

"The middle class works hard, pays taxes, manages EMIs, educates children and struggles with rising costs. But political narratives around caste, religion, region and personalities often divert attention from their real economic problems," he said.

Stay away from the emotional-hijack trap

Dr. Gopal Reddy appealed to people not to allow political debates and social-media propaganda to consume their daily lives.

"Having political opinions is perfectly legitimate. But waking up with political arguments, spending the entire day consuming political posts and television debates, and going to bed angry over politics does not improve the life of your family," he said.

He urged people to critically examine information circulated through newspapers, television and social media instead of reacting emotionally to every political controversy.

Global economic challenges require financial discipline

Referring to the growing debt burden across the world, Dr. Gopal Reddy said the younger generation could face increasing financial pressure if governments, businesses and households continue to depend excessively on debt.

"Debts accumulated today eventually have to be serviced by future generations. Therefore, families must become financially disciplined—reduce unnecessary expenditure, increase savings, develop additional sources of income and plan carefully for the future," he said.

People should ask the right questions before voting

Dr. Gopal Reddy said voters should evaluate candidates based on their integrity, public service record, policies, competence and commitment to society, rather than money, propaganda or emotional appeals.

He offered the following advice to citizens

* Do not allow political propaganda to control your emotions.

* Verify information before believing or forwarding social-media content.

* Do not let caste, religion or regional sentiments override public interest.

* Give priority to your health, family and children's education.

* Look for ways to increase income and improve financial security.

* Avoid unnecessary expenditure and develop a habit of saving.

* Be cautious about excessive borrowing.

* Evaluate candidates on their work, character, policies and accountability.

"Don't cry for politicians—think about your own family"

Dr. Gopal Reddy concluded

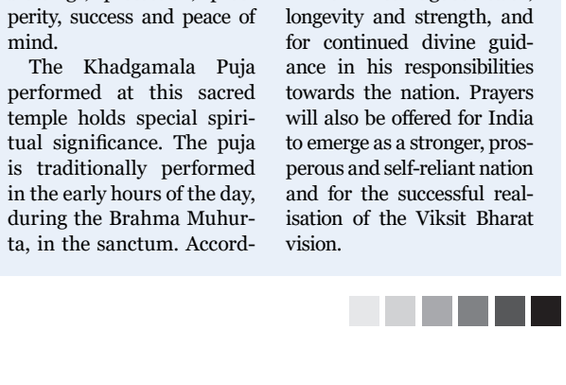
"Do not spend your life fighting for political leaders. Think about yourself, your family and your children. Your vote is not merely a political weapon—it is a decision about the future of your family and society."

He called for a political culture in which elections are fought on ideas, policies and public service—not money, manipulation and the expectation of recovering election expenditure through corruption.



— DR. KOMATIREDDY GOPAL REDDY
Eminent Educationist & Environmentalist

Special puja to be performed in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name at Indrakeeladri on October 7



On the occasion of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi completing 25 years in public life on October 7, special prayers will be performed in his name at the Sri Kanaka Durga Devi Temple on Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada.

Rajya Sabha Member Shri Lingamaneni Ramesh, as directed by Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party President Shri Pawan Kalyan, will perform a special Khadgamala Archana and puja in the early hours of October 7 at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, seeking the blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga for Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his journey in public life as the Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001 and has continued his public service at the national level as Prime Minister since 2014. His 25 year public journey represents a significant chapter in India's contemporary political history.

The special puja is being performed with prayers for the Prime Minister's good health, longevity, strength and continued ability to serve the nation. Prayers will also be offered for the continued strengthening of his leadership and for the successful realisation of the vision of Viksit Bharat.

The Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, situated on the sacred Indrakeeladri hill on the banks of the River Krishna, is one of the most prominent spiritual centres in Andhra Pradesh. The temple is revered for the worship of both Goddess Kanaka Durga and Lord Malleswara Swamy, representing the spiritual harmony of Shakti and Shiva traditions.

Goddess Kanaka Durga is worshipped by devotees as an embodiment of Goddess Durga and Mahishasura Mardini. Devotees from across the country visit the sacred shrine seeking divine blessings, protection, prosperity, success and peace of mind.

The Khadgamala Puja performed at this sacred temple holds special spiritual significance. The puja is traditionally performed in the early hours of the day, during the Brahma Muhurta, in the sanctum. According to spiritual tradition, worship of the Sri Chakra associated with Adi Shankaracharya at Indrakeeladri through the Khadgamala Stotram is believed to invoke divine blessings, spiritual strength, protection, peace and fulfilment of one's sacred resolve.

The special Khadgamala Archana being performed in the name of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is intended to invoke the complete blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga upon him as he continues his service to the nation.

Shri Lingamaneni Ramesh will offer prayers for the Prime Minister's good health, longevity and strength, and for continued divine guidance in his responsibilities towards the nation. Prayers will also be offered for India to emerge as a stronger, prosperous and self-reliant nation and for the successful realisation of the Viksit Bharat vision.

Jio Platforms IPO: Roadshows, strong investor interest ahead of likely Oct 28 listing

Jio Platforms is expected to hold an India roadshow in the week beginning October 12 after filing its red herring prospectus, says report.

The IPO plans come after Jio Platforms completed overseas roadshows as it looks to gauge investor interest ahead of its public market debut. The company held roadshows in the US, UK, Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore, led by Jio Platforms Managing Director and Reliance Jio Chairman Akash Ambani and Reliance Retail Ventures Executive Director Isha Ambani, according to PTI. The company is expected to file its final IPO papers with Sebi in the week beginning October 12, the report said, citing banking and other sources.

One banking source said Jio Platforms could list at a base enterprise valuation of $143-146 billion, or at least Rs 12 lakh crore, by the end of October, based on interest received during the overseas roadshows.

Jio Platforms is expected to hold an India roadshow in the week beginning October 12 after filing its red herring prospectus. Banking sources said the company could begin its anchor round before Dussehra, with the IPO expected to open after Dussehra and before October 23. If the IPO goes ahead as planned, it would surpass Hyundai Motor India's $2.9 billion listing in 2024, which is currently India's biggest. The National Stock Exchange of India, which made its market debut last month after raising $2.3 billion through an IPO, ranks next.

Data Centres Can Coexist with Residential Areas: Policy Consensus Centre

Public clearance filings reviewed by PCC show how large data centres are being designed to coexist with residential neighbourhoods
India's data centre capacity has more than quadrupled since 2020; international experience points to measurable standards rather than blanket restrictions

NEW DELHI/ HYDERABAD, 5TH OCTOBER 2026

India's data centre industry is entering a period of rapid expansion, driven by cloud adoption, 5G, data localisation and the accelerating demand for artificial intelligence. Operational capacity has increased from approximately 375 MW in 2020 to more than 1,575 MW in 2025, with estimates suggesting that capacity could reach 4.5–9 GW by 2030. The sector has attracted an estimated US$95 billion in cumulative investment commitments between 2019 and 2025. A new discussion paper by the Policy Consensus Centre (PCC), titled Living Next to the Cloud: An Evidence-Based Approach to Data Centres in Residential India, examines how this expansion can be managed alongside communities located near data centre facilities. The paper argues that the question is increasingly one of how data centres and residential communities can coexist, rather than whether digital infrastructure can simply be excluded from urban areas. Following the paper, PCC has also reviewed environmental clearance filings for data centre projects in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, publicly available on the government's PARIVESH portal. The filings show how operators are designing facilities to coexist with their neighbours. The Environmental Impact Assessment by Amazon Web Services (AWS) for its Thane campus specifies air-cooled chillers and acoustic enclosures for backup generators. Airtel's Nxtra makes similar commitments in its clearance for a facility at Siruseri in Chennai, noting that its cooling system therefore needs no water. Clearances for AWS in Thane, Gramercy Techpark in Airoli and Amanthin Info Parks in Turbhe provide for dedicated substations connected directly to the high-voltage transmission grid. Globally, data centres have tended to cluster around cities because of access to fibre networks, electricity infrastructure, skilled workers and, importantly, end users requiring low-latency services. India exhibits a similar pattern, with Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi NCR accounting for the overwhelming majority of reported operational capacity.

India and international approaches

The regulatory approaches adopted internationally generally focus on measurable impacts rather than an outright prohibition on data centres near residential areas. The paper finds that several international jurisdictions use minimum setback requirements, facility-specific noise limits, electricity and water disclosure requirements, renewable-energy obligations and efficiency standards. For example, Germany requires data centres to progressively increase renewable electricity sourcing, while Ireland has introduced requirements around renewable generation and dispatchable capacity for new data centre connections. The European Union has also moved towards sustainability reporting for larger data centres. India currently regulates the same issues through a combination of central laws, state-level zoning policies and general environmental and building regulations. Residential areas are subject to ambient noise limits of 55 dB(A) during the day and 45 dB(A) at night. Electricity consumption is managed through sanctioned-load approvals rather than an absolute consumption cap, while water use is governed principally through wastewater-reuse requirements and groundwater extraction rules. One significant difference is location policy. The paper's review of 16 state policies found that Maharashtra explicitly permits data centres in residential zones, while Karnataka and Tamil Nadu restrict data centres to commercial, industrial and institutional zones.

Three concerns: what does the evidence show?

1. Noise: Data centre cooling systems, transformers and ventilation typically generate 45–65 dB at the property boundary, while India's residential limits are 55 dB during the day and 45 dB at night. The paper highlights the need for consistent monitoring and enforcement, noting that a study across 70 monitoring stations in seven major cities found applicable noise standards were exceeded at monitored residential, commercial and silence-zone locations. Backup diesel generators remain an additional source of noise and are subject to acoustic enclosure and noise-control requirements. AWS's Thane filing commits to housing its backup generators in acoustic enclosures that meet CPCB standards, with acoustic barriers around generator areas and a no-horn policy across the campus. Nxtra's clearance for its Siruseri facility goes further, requiring acoustic enclosures on all noise-generating equipment rather than on generators alone. Raiden Infotech reports commissioning quarterly third-party noise monitoring at its Turbhe site in Navi Mumbai.

2. Electricity: India's data centre electricity demand could rise from approximately 1.4 GW in 2024 to 9 GW by 2030, making grid planning, transmission capacity, renewable-energy additions and local infrastructure increasingly important. Globally, large operators are contracting clean energy at the scale their growth demands. Google's 2026 Environmental Report records agreements for more than 12 GW of net-new clean energy in 2025. In India, clearance filings show operators designing facilities to use less energy and to draw it more responsibly. AWS's Environmental Impact Assessment for its Thane campus specifies hot-aisle containment, free air cooling and air-cooled chillers that exceed international efficiency benchmarks. Together, these reduce the first building's estimated cooling energy by 29 per cent against the Energy Conservation Building Code baseline. Datascape Realty's clearance for its Thane facility projects overall energy savings of 21 per cent, with solar power meeting about 5 per cent of non-IT demand. Tamil Nadu's clearance for Nxtra's Siruseri facility goes further, requiring solar energy to be increased to at least 10 per cent of total energy use. AWS's filings for Thane and Powai also commit to meeting 5 and 10 per cent of each facility's demand, respectively, through renewable energy certificates.

3. Water: Water impacts are highly location-specific. A typical 100 MW hyperscale facility using water-based cooling can consume 800,000–2 million litres per day, while India's data centres are estimated to have consumed around 150 billion litres in 2024–25, potentially rising to 358 billion litres by 2030. The paper emphasises that local water availability, competing demand and cooling technology determine actual impact. Dry and hybrid cooling can reduce water use, although dry cooling may increase electricity demand. Clearance filings show the industry moving away from water-intensive cooling. AWS's Environmental Impact Assessment for its Thane campus specifies air-cooled chillers and lists no water demand for cooling. The campus's operational demand of 125 kilolitres a day across both phases is for domestic use and landscaping only, and treated wastewater meets part of it. The campus will also store rainwater in underground tanks with a combined capacity of 1,300 kilolitres. Filings by other operators, including Datascape Realty in Thane, Gramercy Techpark in Airoli, Gargantuan Industrial Space Solutions in Rabale and Nxtra in Chennai, record total water demand of 7 to 26 kilolitres a day for facilities drawing 50 to 120 MVA. Few operators publish facility-level water data.

Recommendations

The filings reviewed by PCC underline the need for these measures. Clearance conditions for data centres follow a general building template, with no provisions on generator running hours, energy efficiency or cooling water. Six of the seven clearances reviewed fall in a category that requires neither a full environmental impact assessment nor a public hearing. Compliance reporting is largely self-declared, and only six of 23 compliance reports record a site inspection. The seven projects with equipment details together provide for more than 600 large diesel generator sets, with backup capacity exceeding their combined grid demand.

The Policy Consensus Centre recommends a framework focused on measurable impacts and greater transparency, including district-level mapping of land, power, water and infrastructure capacity; standardised reporting of facility-level electricity, water and noise; differentiated location norms for hyperscale and latency-sensitive facilities; minimum setbacks and clear norms for facilities near homes; a dedicated data centre chapter in the National Building Code; cleaner backup power and greater use of renewable energy; prioritising treated, non-potable water for cooling; mandatory BIS efficiency metrics with facility-specific targets; greater research into low-water cooling technologies suited to India's climate; and national model guidelines for states covering reporting, planning, power infrastructure and research while retaining state and municipal authority over approvals. The paper's central finding is that India's data centre expansion does not have to be framed as a binary choice between digital infrastructure and residential communities. The more practical policy question is whether location, technology, resource availability and operational performance can be measured upfront and regulated transparently.

Stator Installation Begins at Polavaram Hydel Power Station

Polavaram, October 5: The Polavaram Hydel Power Station has reached an important milestone with the commencement of stator installation in the first generating unit. Rotor assembly works have also been taken up, marking a significant phase in the electro-mechanical works of the project. A.P. GENCO (Hydel) Director Sujay Kumar, Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) Chief Operating Officer Angara Satish Babu, General Manager Prasenjit Majumdar, and A.P. GENCO Chief Engineers Ravindra Reddy and Visweswara Rao, among others, participated in the programme and reviewed the progress of the works. The Polavaram Hydel Power Station comprises 12 generating units of 80 MW each, with a total installed capacity of 960 MW. Civil, mechanical and electrical works are being carried out simultaneously at different work fronts to meet the project schedule.

Stator a critical component

The stator is one of the key components of the generator and plays a crucial role in the conversion of mechanical energy into electrical energy. As water drives the turbine, the turbine rotates the rotor. The interaction between the rotating magnetic field of the rotor and the stationary stator results in the generation of electricity. The stator houses the generator core and windings and requires precise installation and alignment with the rotor. Its proper installation is essential for the efficiency, reliability and long-term performance of the generating unit. Officials said the commencement of stator installation, along with the rotor assembly works, marked an important step towards bringing the first generating unit closer to commissioning.

Six units targeted

The State Government has set a target of making six units ready by the commencement of the Pushkarams next year. In line with the target, works on the power house are being accelerated, with the civil, mechanical and electrical teams working in close coordination. Speaking on the occasion, A.P. GENCO (Hydel) Director Sujay Kumar said Polavaram was an important project for meeting the State's future power requirements. He directed the officials and executing agencies to maintain close coordination and adhere to the prescribed timelines while ensuring quality and safety. He emphasised the need for precision during the installation of critical equipment such as the stator and rotor and asked the engineering teams to strictly follow the required technical standards. Mr. Sujay Kumar said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was committed to completing the project within the targeted timeframe and called upon all agencies involved to work towards achieving the objective.

Works progressing on multiple fronts

MEIL Chief Operating Officer Angara Satish Babu said civil, mechanical and electrical works were progressing simultaneously at the project site. The commencement of stator installation and rotor assembly in the first unit was an important milestone in the execution of the power house works, he said. The engineering teams were working in a coordinated manner to accelerate the project while maintaining the required standards of quality, safety and engineering precision, Mr. Satish Babu said.

Mining by Singareni Poses No Threat to Ramappa Temple

SINGARENI BHAVAN, OCTOBER 5, 2026:

Singareni management on Monday clarified that reports claiming that mining activities by Singareni pose a threat to the world heritage site of Ramappa Temple are merely misconceptions and are completely untrue.

Regarding the proposed Venkataapur Open Cast Project to be undertaken by Singareni in Venkataapur of Mulugu district, the management clarified that it has decided to proceed only after conducting a comprehensive scientific study. It stated that further action in this regard would be taken strictly on the basis of scientific reports submitted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and other reputed institutions after conducting detailed studies.

Singareni, as a responsible public sector undertaking of the Telangana State Government, categorically stated that it would not cause any damage whatsoever to Ramappa Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site belonging to Telangana, and reiterated its commitment to protecting the heritage site. The management further reaffirmed that environmentally sustainable and legally compliant mining operations remain among Singareni's highest priorities.

Sensex ends 472 points higher, Nifty above 22,500; ITC up 4%

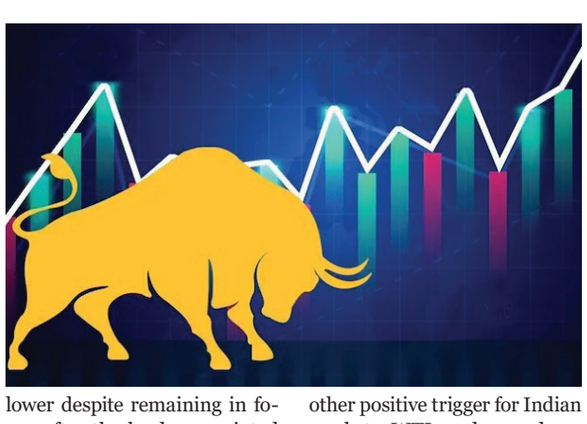
Benchmark indices staged a strong recovery on Monday after their longest weekly losing streak in 25 years, with banking and financial stocks leading gains. Easing crude oil prices, softer-than-expected US jobs data and reduced expectations of an aggressive Federal Reserve stance also supported sentiment.

The Sensex ended at 72,382.47, up 472.77 points or 0.66%. The index opened at 72,340.95 and touched an intraday high of 72,631.93. The Nifty 50 closed at 22,555.75, up 133.80 points or 0.60%. It opened at 22,532.40 and touched a high of 22,621.80. The rebound comes after both the Sensex and Nifty logged their eighth straight weekly decline last week, with foreign selling, elevated crude prices and rising global bond yields weighing on Indian equities.

BANKING, FINANCIAL STOCKS LEAD RECOVERY

Banking and financial stocks were among the biggest drivers of Monday's recovery. The Nifty Financial Services 25/50 index gained 0.46%, while the PSU Bank index rose 0.97% and the private bank index edged up 0.08%. Among Sensex stocks, Bajaj Finance rose 2.28%, Bajaj Finserv gained 0.87%, SBI advanced 0.52%, Axis Bank climbed 0.82% and ICICI Bank rose 2.11%. Reliance Industries also gained 1.72%. The gains came after several financial companies reported positive quarterly business updates. Bajaj Finance rose 2.28% after reporting 11% year-on-year growth in new loans during the September quarter. Punjab National Bank gained 2.5% after reporting 14.8% growth in global advances, while Bank of Baroda rose 0.9% after its quarterly advances grew 18%.

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services also gained after reporting a 22% jump in overall disbursements during the September quarter. HDFC Bank, however, ended 1.99% lower despite remaining in focus after the lender appointed Anup Bagchi as its next MD and CEO for a three-year term.



ITC, FMCG STOCKS JUMP

ITC was the top Sensex gainer, rising 4.49% after Citi double-upgraded the stock to "buy" from "sell". The move lifted the Nifty FMCG index by 1.80%. Eternal also gained 2.50%, while Bharti Airtel rose 2.38% and Adani Ports advanced 2.13%. TCS gained 1.40%, while Reliance, L&T, NTPC, Titan, Maruti and Power Grid also ended higher. A pullback in crude oil prices provided another positive trigger for Indian markets. WTI crude was down 0.56% at $90.60 per barrel, while Brent was at $102.47, up marginally by 0.22%. The recent fall in oil prices has helped ease some concerns around inflation, India's import bill and corporate margins. Market sentiment also improved after softer-than-expected US jobs data reduced expectations of a Federal Reserve rate hike later this month, offering some relief to emerging-market assets. Kruti Shah, quant analyst at Equirus Securities, said Indian markets were at a crossroads, with domestic liquidity competing with a difficult global macro backdrop. She added that mean reversion was already underway across large- and mid-caps, with crude prices, global yields and liquidity remaining key variables for the market.

BROADER MARKET ALSO GAINS

The recovery was broad-based, although gains were stronger in some pockets. The Nifty 100 rose 0.55%, Nifty 200 gained 0.57% and Nifty 500 advanced 0.52%. The Nifty Midcap 100 rose 0.67%, while the Nifty Midcap 50 gained 0.42% and Nifty Smallcap 100 rose 0.47%. Among sectors, FMCG gained 1.80%, consumer durables rose 1.53%, mid-small IT and telecom advanced 1.48%, financial services ex-bank gained 1.26% and mid-small financial services rose 1.07%. However, healthcare fell 1%, pharma declined 0.74% and mid-small healthcare dropped 1.11%. Nifty IT was almost flat, declining 0.01%. The market's attention will now turn to the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision and the upcoming earnings season. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said the recovery was supported by softer US jobs data and moderation in crude oil prices, but investors were still watching global risks. "Markets staged a recovery, supported by softer-than-expected U.S. jobs data and a moderation in crude oil prices, providing some relief to investors assessing the near-term interest rate outlook," Nair said. He added that elevated crude prices, higher bond yields and currency risks remain concerns, while the RBI policy and upcoming earnings will be key triggers. "The market is nearing an important juncture; a rebound is likely; however, the current risk-off sentiment may tempt investors to book profits until a fresh catalyst emerges," Nair said. The RBI Monetary Policy Committee began its meeting on Monday, with the central bank widely expected to raise the policy rate by 25 basis points on October 7. The rate decision has already been largely priced in by markets, according to Nair. Despite Monday's rebound, foreign selling remains a major overhang for Indian equities. Foreign portfolio investors sold shares worth Rs 9,484.22 crore on Thursday, their sixth straight session of selling, according to provisional NSE data. Domestic institutional investors bought equities worth Rs 10,041.84 crore.

elecom minister sets target to bring 100 crore subscribers on 5G network by 2030

NEW DELHI: (OCT 5)



India should have around 100 crore mobile subscribers on the 5G network by 2030, up from 50 crore at present, Union telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Monday.

While speaking at Kautilya Economic Enclave, the minister said 5G technology was introduced in India in October 2022 and, over a period of 23 months, 5 lakh base stations with investment worth USD 550 billion were set up in the country.

"Today 99.9 per cent of our districts are connected by 5G. 86 per cent of our population and close to 500 million customers are on 5G alone in a period of two years--the fastest 5G rollout in the world. We will not stop here. It is our target that by 2030, we must have a billion customers from 500 million today on 5G," Scindia said.

Gharapuri

The Ancient City of Caves

Just a short ferry ride from Mumbai lies an island where ancient rock-cut temples, monumental sculptures and centuries of history come together. Known today as Elephanta Island, Gharapuri offers a striking glimpse into India's artistic and architectural heritage. Mumbai is usually imagined through its crowded streets, colonial buildings, high-rises, bustling markets and famous waterfront landmarks. Yet, just a short distance away from the city's busy coastline lies a destination where the pace of life feels completely different. A ferry ride across Mumbai Harbour takes visitors to an island of green hills, winding paths and ancient stone monuments. Hidden within the rocky landscape are temples carved directly into the hillside, with enormous sculptures depicting different forms of Lord Shiva. This historic island is known as Gharapuri, while the cave complex is popularly called the Elephanta Caves. The island is also famously described as the "City of Caves", a name that reflects its remarkable concentration of ancient rock-cut architecture. The journey itself is part of the attraction. As the ferry moves away from Mumbai, the city's skyline gradually recedes. The Gateway of India becomes smaller in the distance, while the island's hills slowly emerge from the Arabian Sea. What awaits visitors is not another modern urban attraction but a historic landscape shaped by centuries of art, religion and architecture.



Gharapuri: The Original Name Of The Island

The name Gharapuri is closely associated with the island's ancient identity. Over time, however, the name Elephanta became more widely known because of the Portuguese connection with the island.

The island lies roughly 10 kilometres from the Mumbai mainland and is accessible by ferry from the Gateway of India. The crossing generally takes about an hour, depending on operating conditions. The island's setting makes it particularly distinctive. Unlike many heritage monuments located within cities, the Elephanta Caves are surrounded by hills, vegetation and sea. Visitors arrive at the jetty before making their way towards the cave complex. he walk from the jetty to the caves includes a climb through a series of steps. Shops and small stalls along the route add to the visitor experience, but the surroundings gradually become more dominated by the rocky landscape. The destination at the top is the ancient cave complex, where the stone walls themselves become the canvas for some of India's most striking sculptures.

A Heritage Carved Into Living Rock

The Elephanta Caves represent one of the important traditions of India's rock-cut architecture. Instead of constructing a temple by assembling separate blocks of stone, ancient artisans carved into the natural rock of the hillside. The process required extraordinary planning and craftsmanship. Sculptors had to work within the limitations of the existing rock while creating pillars, chambers, entrances and large-scale religious images. The principal cave, generally identified as Cave 1, is the largest and most important cave in the complex. Its interior features a large hall supported by rows of massive pillars. As visitors move through the cave, enormous sculptures appear on the walls. Many of them depict Lord Shiva in different forms and are connected to stories and concepts within Shaivite tradition. The combination of architecture and sculpture is what makes the caves particularly impressive. The sculptures are not independent statues placed inside a building. They are an integral part of the rock-cut structure itself. The result is a temple space in which the architecture and artwork appear to emerge from the same stone.

The Magnificent Trimurti

Among the many sculptures at Elephanta, the most famous is undoubtedly the monumental Trimurti, also known as Sadashiva. The sculpture stands approximately seven metres high and is carved into the rock wall of Cave 1. It depicts Shiva through three faces or aspects, creating one of the most recognisable images associated with the Elephanta Caves. The scale of the sculpture is striking. Visitors standing before it can immediately appreciate the extraordinary amount of labour required to carve such a monumental image into a rock surface. The Trimurti has become an iconic representation of Indian religious art and is one of the principal reasons the Elephanta Caves are internationally recognised. The sculpture is also notable for the treatment of the faces and their expressions. Each aspect conveys a distinct character, contributing to the overall symbolic meaning of the composition. For many visitors, encountering the Trimurti is the defining moment of a visit to the caves.

Shiva In Many Forms

The artistic significance of Elephanta does not rest on a single sculpture. The cave complex contains several representations of Shiva, showing different aspects of the deity and episodes associated with Shaivite traditions. Among the important carvings are depictions of Nataraja, the cosmic dancer, and Ardhanarishvara, which represents Shiva and Parvati as a unified form. These sculptures demonstrate the sophistication of the artists who worked on the caves. Human figures, divine attributes, expressions and body positions were carved into the hard rock with considerable detail. Another important representation depicts Shiva in the form of a cosmic creator and destroyer, reflecting the broader religious and philosophical ideas associated with the deity. The sculptures therefore function at several levels. They are works of art, elements of temple architecture and visual expressions of religious ideas.

How Old Are The Elephanta Caves?

The exact origins and chronology of the Elephanta Caves have been the subject of historical and archaeological study. The principal cave complex is generally dated to around the 5th and 6th centuries CE. The island itself has a much longer history, with evidence indicating human presence in the region much earlier. Over centuries, the island passed through different phases of political and cultural influence. Its religious and artistic traditions developed within the wider historical landscape of western India. The caves provide evidence of a period when rock-cut architecture and monumental religious sculpture had reached a high level of sophistication. Although much about the people who commissioned and created the caves remains debated, the surviving structures offer an extraordinary record of India's ancient artistic traditions.

Why Is It Called Elephanta?

The island's modern popular name has an unusual origin. The original name was Gharapuri, but the name Elephanta became associated with the island after the arrival of the Portuguese in the 16th century. According to the commonly accepted account, Portuguese visitors encountered a large stone sculpture of an elephant near the island's landing area. The sculpture became closely associated with the island, leading to the Portuguese calling it Elephanta. The elephant sculpture no longer stands at its original location. It was eventually moved to Mumbai and is associated with the city's museum collections. Yet the name Elephanta survived. Today, both names remain relevant. Gharapuri reflects the island's older identity, while Elephanta is the name by which the island and its caves are recognised around the world.

The City Of Caves

Gharapuri's description as the "City of Caves" captures the essence of the island's identity. It is a place where caves are not merely natural openings in a hillside. They were transformed into sacred architectural spaces through generations of artistic and engineering effort. The name also creates an interesting contrast with modern Mumbai. Just a short journey away from one of India's most densely populated and rapidly developing cities lies a landscape where history is preserved inside stone. The island therefore represents two very different images of the region: Mumbai as a modern financial and cultural metropolis, and Gharapuri as an ancient centre of rock-cut art and religious expression. For travellers, that contrast is perhaps one of the strongest reasons to make the journey.

An Ancient Island Beside A Modern Metropolis

The story of Elephanta is ultimately a story of continuity. The island has changed names, witnessed different historical periods and experienced centuries of weathering and human intervention. Yet its caves continue to attract visitors who come to see the extraordinary sculptures created generations ago. Gharapuri may be reached by a relatively short ferry ride from Mumbai, but the experience can feel like travelling much further back in time. The modern city remains visible across the water, yet inside the caves, the focus shifts to stone pillars, carved figures and religious narratives preserved from another era. For anyone asking which Indian place is known as the "City of Caves," the answer is Gharapuri, better known today as Elephanta Island, home to the celebrated Elephanta Caves. It is a destination where the sea, landscape, architecture and sculpture come together—and where a short journey from Mumbai opens the door to one of India's remarkable chapters of rock-cut heritage.

A Temple Complex Shaped By Time

The Elephanta Caves have not survived untouched. Over the centuries, the site experienced periods of neglect, damage and weathering. Some sculptures were damaged, particularly during the colonial period, and natural erosion has also affected the stone. Yet enough of the original complex remains to reveal its extraordinary scale and artistic ambition. The pillars of the main cave continue to support the large interior hall. Sculptural panels remain visible on the walls, allowing visitors to understand how the cave once functioned as a sacred space. The surrounding landscape adds another layer to the experience. The caves are not isolated from nature; they are part of a rocky hill covered by vegetation and surrounded by the waters of Mumbai Harbour. This combination of architecture and landscape gives Elephanta a character that is different from many other heritage sites.

From Mumbai Harbour To An Ancient World

One of the most memorable aspects of visiting Elephanta is the transition between two very different worlds. The journey begins at the Gateway of India, one of Mumbai's best-known landmarks. The area around the gateway is usually busy with tourists, photographers, street vendors and ferry passengers. Once the boat leaves the harbour, the atmosphere changes. Mumbai's buildings gradually disappear into the distance. The sound of the city gives way to the movement of the boat and the surrounding water. The island slowly comes into view, with its green hills rising above the harbour. After reaching the jetty, visitors continue on foot towards the caves. This dramatic change in surroundings is one reason the destination remains popular. A visit to Elephanta is not simply a trip to see ancient sculptures. It is also a journey from one of India's busiest modern cities into a landscape shaped by centuries of history.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site

The global importance of the Elephanta Caves was formally recognised when the site was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. The designation reflects the caves' importance as an example of India's rock-cut architecture and religious sculpture. The UNESCO recognition has also helped strengthen international awareness of the site and its cultural significance. Today, the caves form an important part of India's heritage tourism circuit, particularly for visitors to Mumbai who want to explore destinations beyond the city's modern attractions. The site also demonstrates how India's architectural history extends far beyond free-standing monuments. Across the country, ancient builders and sculptors transformed mountains and rock formations into temples, monasteries and artistic spaces. Elephanta is one of the most remarkable examples of this tradition.

Why Elephanta Still Fascinates Visitors

The appeal of Elephanta comes from the combination of several experiences. There is the ferry journey across the harbour, the sight of the island rising from the sea, the climb through its landscape and, finally, the arrival at an ancient temple carved into solid rock. Then there is the art itself. The massive sculptures of Shiva remain the centrepiece of the experience, particularly the Trimurti. But the surrounding carvings, pillars and architectural details are equally important in understanding the complexity of the site. For modern visitors accustomed to skyscrapers, highways and digital technology, the caves offer a completely different demonstration of human creativity. Instead of machines and modern construction equipment, ancient craftsmen relied on planning, physical labour and an intimate understanding of stone.

The scale of what they achieved remains remarkable even centuries later.

After HIL, our focus will be on building a fresh squad for LA 2028: India head coach Craig Fulton

NAGOYA



After the Indian men's hockey team successfully defended their Asian Games crown for the very first time in the sport's history, head coach Craig Fulton said that LA 2028 is not far away and that once the Hockey India League (HIL) gets over, he will have to build a new team afresh. This will include infusing more young faces in the team in order to strike a fine balance between youth and experience.

"LA 2028 is within two years. It seems a long way off, but it obviously comes around pretty quick. I think at the moment we're just trying to get the right schedule, the right planning in place, the big blocks of what is the preparation like, two years out, one year out, six months out, and plan accordingly to that. Yeah, I think every team has its phases at and flows with experience and youth. We have a good group of experienced players with us now," Craig Fulton told SAI Media.

"We have some youth, but we have a lot of youth in the Indian A team and a strong Under-21 team as well, which is great. So in the next two-three months, I think just post the Hockey India League, we'll have a look at all the talent that we have, choose new squad, and start afresh from there," the 51-year-old added.

This was the fifth gold medal overall for the Indian men's hockey team in the continental sports extravaganza after 1966 Bangkok, 1998 Bangkok, 2014 Incheon and 2022 Hangzhou editions.

Fulton, who represented South Africa in the 1996 and 2004 Summer Olympic Games, said defending back-to-back gold medals was always special.

"Personally, this Asian Games was very unique. It was very different to the last Asian Games as we were isolated out here in a sense of away from the other events and athletes. There was no so-called Games Village. But at the same time, we had our own routine. We went to the field, we played, we came back, and everything is the same. But Hangzhou, being the first gold medal, was very special. But to come back and defend it back-to-back golds is always special," he said. India edged past arch-rivals Pakistan 4-3 by scoring in the dying minutes of the match at the Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium, squandering a 3-0 lead. Captain Harmanpreet Singh (5', 13') and Sukhjeet Singh (23') gave India a 3-0 lead but Abu Mahmood (30'), Hannan Shahid (45') and Waheed Rana (49') brought Pakistan back on level terms. It was Abhishek who scored in the final minute of the match to take India into the men's final.

"Everything did go according to plan. We had a really good first half, and then the third quarter was difficult. Pakistan is that team that if you give them any free opportunities, they take them and they are a great team, and they showed that. They came back nicely and put us under a lot of pressure from 3-0 to 3-all. We still had some good chances in that period, but we couldn't finish, we couldn't score. And found a way in the last minute to do so and to get the fourth goal, which helped us make the final," Fulton said.

The feat was a first-ever double gold finish for the men's and women's hockey teams at the Asian Games. It was only the third Indian team sport to have a double gold finish after Kabaddi and Cricket at Aichi-Nagoya.

The turnaround was fuelled by the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) support of INR 77.8 Crore on both the men's and women's hockey teams, including the national coaching camp, international competition exposure, remuneration of foreign coach and equipment support, among others.

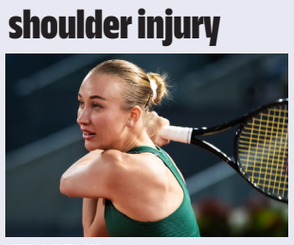
"I think the government is our biggest supporter in terms of the resources and the funds that they put forward to helping the grassroots programs all the way through to the 18s, 21s, seniors. Without them, obviously, I don't know what would happen if they didn't put as much support and resources around. But at the same time, by doing that the girls stand on the podium winning gold for the first time in 44 years. And we're fortunate enough to go back to back. Yes, that's domination in Asia.

"We obviously want to do that on the world stage. And the women had a fantastic World Cup, and the men obviously had a fantastic Paris. So the balance is there. The resources are there. But the main thing is we just got to keep pushing forward to find the talent and expose it on the international platform," he signed off.

SHORT NEWS

Sher-E-Punjab T20

Potapova ends 2026 season with shoulder injury



NEW DELHI: World No. 25 Anastasia Potapova has brought her 2026 season to an early end, with the Austrian opting to prioritise her recovery after a year marked by both a career-best ranking surge and a string of injury setbacks. Potapova confirmed the decision on social media, saying her body had been increasingly signalling the need for a break. "My season has to come to an end. Unfortunately, lately my body has been giving me more and more signs that it's time to stop. For me, that's the clearest sign that I need to take a break, give my body the times it needs to recover and come back stronger. See you in 2027!" she wrote.The announcement came days after Potapova was forced to retire from her opening-round match at the Beijing tournament against Sinja Kraus because of a right shoulder injury.

CRICKET

'Great opportunity for Zimbabwe' - Ngarava embraces trial by fire for 2027 Men's ODI WC



NEW DELHI: As Zimbabwe prepares to co-host the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup, skipper Richard Ngarava made no secret of what lies ahead for his team – a trial by fire against the game's finest teams in front of their passionate home crowd. Co-hosting the marquee tournament alongside South Africa and Namibia, Zimbabwe have been drawn into a blockbuster Group A featuring India, defending champions Australia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Qualifier A. Every one of their five group games will be played on home soil across Bulawayo, Harare, and Victoria Falls. "This is exciting news. This is a great opportunity for Zimbabwe to showcase ourselves. We have great tourism, great culture and great sportsmanship, so we are honoured to be hosting.

Gauff downs Sun, Zheng Qinwen advances to last 16 of China Open



BEIJING

American two-time Grand Slam winner Coco Gauff pulled away late, winning nine of the final 10 games to beat 16-year-old Chinese Sun Xinran 7-5, 6-1 and advance to the Round of 16 for the fourth consecutive year in the China Open WTA Tour event in Beijing on Monday.

Gauff has now won 24 of her 28 career matches at the WTA Tour level against younger opponents. Her only loss to a teenager during that span came against eventual champion Victoria Mboko in Montreal in 2025. Despite the result, Gauff had nothing but praise for the young Chinese standout.

"I think she's a little bit more mature than I was at 16," Gauff said in her post-match interview. "I think I got a little bit more frustrated than she did. But she's an incredible player. I knew going in it was going to be a tough match. The junior career that she's had is incredible, and obviously she's going to do great at this level.

Meanwhile, Chinese star Zheng Qinwen battled past 18th seed Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic 7-6 (3), 4-6, 7-5 to reach the women's singles Round of 16 match on Monday. Zheng earned the first break of the match, but Bouzkova responded by converting a break point in the sixth game. The set went to a tiebreak, where Zheng pulled away to win 7-3.

Bouzkova made the stronger start to the second set, taking a 3-0 lead before holding off Zheng's attempts to recover and forcing a decider. The players traded service holds for much of the final set before Zheng converted her second match point to seal the victory. "Bouzkova is a very steady player, so I need to be patient, and I need to balance between forced and unforced errors," reflected Zheng right after the match. Zheng will meet Alina Charaeva of Armenia in the next round.

'Rohit will be crucial in 2027 WC': Karthik praises ex-captain for Windies knock

NEW DELHI



Former India cricketer Dinesh Karthik heaped praise on Rohit Sharma for his measured knock in the third ODI against the West Indies in a tough situation, highlighting that his outing showed why he will be crucial for India in the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa.

India lost their captain, Shubman Gill, and Virat Kohli in the first three overs, and with conditions offering a bite for the fast bowlers, the Men in Blue were under the pump in the third rubber at the CA International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh.

However, Rohit dropped the anchor and negated the tough period with Ruturaj Gaikwad before smashing 92 from 85 balls. Taking note of how Rohit sailed the ship through the tough shores before cashing in, former cricketers Karthik and Ajinkya Rahane heaped praise on the former captain, with the former highlighting that his innings proved why he will be crucial for the Men in Blue in the 2027 World Cup.

"The beauty of having experience is that they have seen this situation a lot before. If you take Rohit Sharma, when he saw the two early wickets fall, if you see he was on 20 for the first 40 balls with a 50 strike rate. That was because he knew he could trust himself and back it up and get those runs quickly.

"And then you see how quickly he moved to 92 after scoring less than a run-a ball. His strike rate went above 100, but he made that all up in the next 40 balls. In the first 40 balls, he took time, didn't allow wickets to fall and then in the next 40 balls, he went and smashed," Karthik said on Cricbuzz.

With West Indies bowling well and reaping the rewards from the pitch, Rohit curbed his aggressive instincts to play time before going all guns blazing. Karthik believed that can also happen in South Africa, highlighting how experience can be crucial at that time. "He saw Jayden Seales was bowling a good spell; Alzarri (Joseph) was bowling nice and sharp. He took time, waited for them to bowl in his areas and if not, I am happy to defend. To have that courage and conviction in that moment is what experience is.

"A lot of people would have tried to do a little more than they should because they would fear. A young Rohit Sharma would have made that mistake but today he has a wealth of experience. The same thing could have happen even in South Africa, and that's when the experience of a Rohit or Shubman or Virat can come through, where they are able to lower their gears down and say, 'okay I am not going to play big for the moment, and I know I can make up later," he added.

Rahane also praised Rohit for his knock. "It seemed the first time that the bowlers were getting help. West Indies had a good chance. But the way Rohit handled it was well; he left several balls, did not attack as he used to. He observed the situation and put up a strong partnership with Ruturaj before cashing in against spinners later," Rahane said.

'There's no resentment': Portugal boss Jesus says doors open for Ronaldo return

NEW DELHI

Portugal head coach Jorge Jesus has said that if Cristiano Ronaldo wants, he can still return to the national setup, adding that Ronaldo has to "decide his life before the next call-up."

The 41-year-old veteran left international camp just hours after coach Jorge Jesus publicly addressed their growing disagreement over the captain's role. After leaving the camp he wrote on social media, "In due course, I will tell the truth to all the Portuguese people about my reasons for leaving the national team, to which I have always been dedicated."

Addressing the veteran's international future after Portugal beat Norway 2-1 at the Estadio do Dragao to enter Nations League quarterfinals, Jesus said, "I don't know what's going to happen. For me, everything is open. Cris has to decide his life before the next call-up.

"If he wants to be in the national team and he's playing, why not? There's no resentment, because this was a misunderstanding. I think it's easy to resolve. When, I don't know. The game is over and now we'll see how things will turn out."

Ronaldo started in the 1-0 victory over Wales in the opening match of the Nations League, but in the subsequent game against Norway, he was named as a substitute and informed that he might or might not be brought on. He appeared to be frustrated when he was asked to warm up during the second half, only to remain on the bench and not be substituted into the game.

It was the first time the ex-Manchester United and Real Madrid forward had been an unused substitute for his country in a competitive game since 2008.

After Ronaldo's departure, Portuguese midfielder Bruno Fernandes said that Ronaldo has to say goodbye in style. Jesus was asked if he agreed with the same he replied.

1st T20I: India aim to carry Asiad momentum against West Indies

LUCKNOW



India will look to carry the momentum of their recent Asian Games success into the five-match T20I series against the West Indies when the sides meet at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

The T20I series follows just three days after the West Indies chased down 352 in New Chandigarh, achieving their highest successful ODI run chase against India. Captain Shai Hope scored a brilliant 162 not out to lead the visitors to victory and give them a significant boost in confidence for the shorter format series.

The Men in Blue will be wary of the danger that the Caribbean side, consisting of many power-hitters, possesses, something they must have seen in the recently concluded 50-over series.

Amir Jangoo, the wicketkeeper-batter, has been added to the West Indies' squad as cover for Jewel Andrew, who sustained a finger injury during the third ODI on Saturday. "Amir Jangoo has been added to the squad as cover for the wicketkeeping position following the finger injury sustained by Jewel Andrew during Saturday's third ODI. Andrew is still being monitored and assessed by the medical team," CWI said in a statement on Monday.

The last time India and West Indies played a T20I series was in the Caribbean in 2023, with the hosts winning it 3-2. India will now start a new phase in the format with Shreyas Iyer as captain and Tilak Varma his deputy.

On Saturday, Iyer guided India to victory in the final of the Asian Games in Nisshin, Japan, beating Pakistan by 19 runs in an exciting final. The captain will now be focusing on a new-look T20I series against a West Indies team which is entering the series with increased confidence.

India have in the past dominated the rivalry in the shortest format, having a 20-10 lead in 31 T20 matches. Their record at home is even more impressive, since they won nine of the 11 T20I matches they played against West Indies on home soil.

Since 2018, India have won 18 out of the 23 T20I matches they have played at home against the West Indies.

The West Indies have demonstrated that they are capable of giving India a tough time when their power hitters hit early and their bowlers carry out their strategies effectively. In their match in Lucknow, their task will be to keep up the aggression without falling into the middle-over mistakes that have usually enabled India to gain the upper hand.

Hope will play a central role in their strategy. Although he had a minor groin complaint, he performed brilliantly during the chase and then picked up the pace towards the end, scoring 62 runs from his last 39 deliveries. The combination of composure and power that he showed will be useful in the T20 format.

In New Chandigarh as well, Keemo Paul scored 44 runs off 35 balls, hitting five fours after he had been promoted in the order. The fact that he is capable of contributing with both bat and ball means that West Indies now have another possible match-winner.

The Ekana Stadium is usually seen as a suitable surface for batting, even though spinners can be used as the ball wears on. Teams that bat early and successfully vary their pace are probably going to have the advantage.

On Sunday, the West Indies had their training session under the lights at the ground, and India are due to train on Tuesday, having returned from Japan. The other four T20I matches will then be held in Ranchi on October 9, Indore on October 11, Hyderabad on October 14 and Bengaluru on October 17.

India, WI sanctioned for maintaining slow over-rates

DUBAI

India and the West Indies have been sanctioned for maintaining slow over-rates during the third and final ODI of the three-match series in New Chandigarh.

India have been fined 20 per cent of their match fee, and the West Indies have been fined 10 per cent of their match fee after India were ruled to be four overs short and the Windies were two overs short after time allowances were taken into consideration during the final ODI on Saturday. "In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in a statement.

Both captains pled guilty and accepted the proposed sanctions, so there was no need for formal hearings. Prakash Bhatt of the ICC International Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanctions.



Janhvi Slays Fall In Paris

Janhvi Kapoor continues to prove that she is a performer who keeps growing with every film. Since her Dhadak debut, the actress has won hearts with Gunjan Saxena, Mr and Mrs Mahi, Devara Part 1 and Homebound, and she is equally loved for her fashion sense across the country. For Paris Fashion Week, Janhvi picked a fall ready Miu Miu look. She wore a cropped brown shearling jacket with Fair Isle knit sleeves, teamed with a matching mini skirt carrying the brand logo. Lace up dark leather boots, oversized sunglasses and a brown bag completed the retro mood, while her black waves kept the styling effortless. On the work front, Janhvi was last seen in Peddi with Ram Charan, and she is next lined up for Raaka, directed by Atlee.



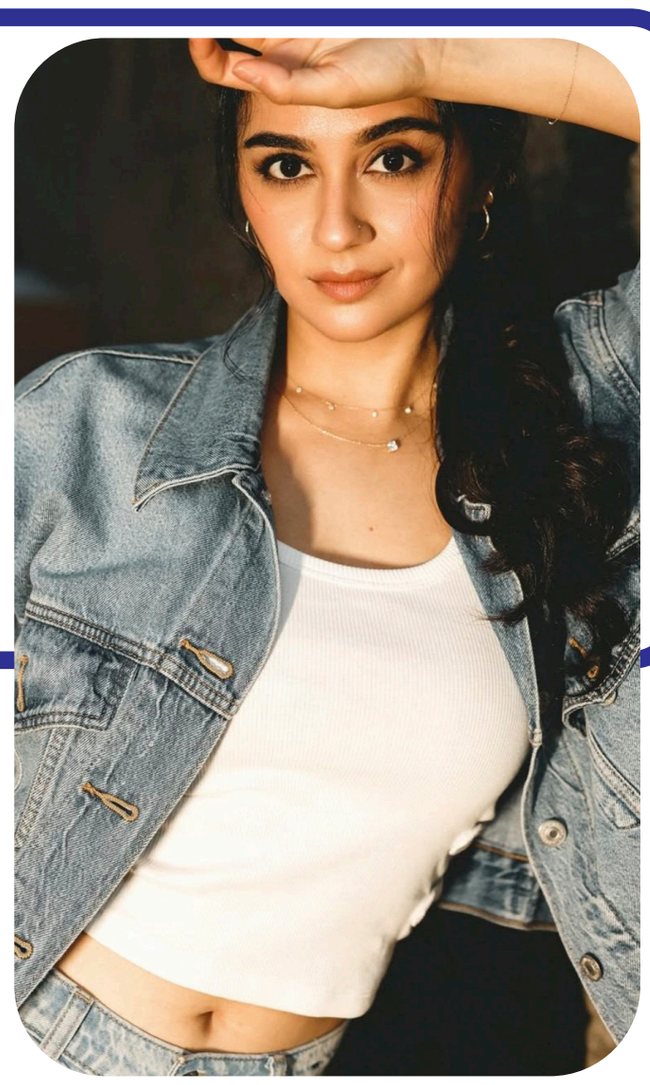
Muthuvel Is Back With A Vengeance

Superstar Rajinikanth reunited with director Nelson for the sequel to Jailer. Tiltled Jailer 2, the film will see Muthuvel Pandian return to take on a major crime network. The team launched the trailer today, taking the buzz to the next level altogether. The trailer has plenty of entertaining elements, and this time the focus seems to be more on action and drama, unlike the first part, which had a family element. Based on the trailer, Rajinikanth goes into exile and starts working as a driver, where he is also humiliated while hiding his real identity. However, he is on a mission to eliminate one after another from the crime syndicate that is behind a big conspiracy. In the process, he aims to bring all the baddies under one roof to eliminate them for once and for all. The trailer suggests the story unfolds in a thrilling way.

The trailer clearly sheds light on the world it operates in. The sequel promises bigger stakes, more chaos, and the return of several familiar faces from the first part. However, the cast also adds Suraj Venjaramoodu, Anna Rajan, Jatin Sharma, Mithun Chakraborty, Vidya Balan, and SJ Suryah. Mohanlal, Hrithik Roshan, Shiva Rajkumar, and Vijay Sethupathi will be seen in special cameos. While fans expected the Jailer 2 trailer to deliver the same high as the first part, the sequel's trailer has triggered mixed reactions. Many feel there are not enough high moments in the trailer, but Nelson seems to be taking the story into a darker space this time. The real bang could be reserved for the big screen. Ramya Krishnan, Yogi Babu, Mirnaa and Rithvik will return to the film's sequel. Anirudh Ravichander is the music director of the film. The film is hitting the screens on October 15, 2026.

Imanvi Ismail Steals Hearts in Cool Denim Look

Imanvi Ismail, who will soon be seen in Prabhas' upcoming film Fauji, is already one of the most talked about newcomers in Telugu cinema. Directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, the pre-independence period action drama is still in production, and she plays the female lead. A trained dancer and choreographer, she first won hearts online with her viral dance videos, which helped her land this big break. Her latest look is effortlessly cool. She pairs a fitted white tank top with light wash baggy jeans and a faded denim jacket worn off the shoulder. Delicate gold jewellery, including a fine necklace, bracelet and rings, adds a subtle shine, while dewy skin and soft hair keep the styling fresh. Fauji is her first release, and fans are eager to watch her with Prabhas.



Dada Returns, No Compromises!

Nandamuri Balakrishna has recovered from the injuries he suffered during the shoot and is now getting ready to return to work. After nearly two months of rest, the actor has restarted Dada and has given 15 days of dates for a fresh Mysore schedule. If everything goes as planned, another 20 days of shooting will remain after the Mysore schedule. This means the team needs around 35 days of Balayya's cooperation to complete his portions. A song featuring Balakrishna, composed by Thaman, is also part of the pending shoot. The makers are reportedly planning everything carefully to retain the December 24 release date. Scenes and episodes that do not require Balayya have already been completed and are currently undergoing post production thanks to Gopichand Malineni's planning. Some portions are also expected to be shot at Kakinada Port. Balakrishna is said to be playing a gangster in this mafia drama, which reportedly has some never seen before elements. Despite the delay and his injury, NBK is pushing ahead with the film as the team feels a Christmas release could be more beneficial than waiting for other window. The OTT calendar is also said to be one of the reasons behind the urgency. If any unexpected delays force a postponement, Dada could end up arriving for Sankranthi 2027, where Balayya may face competition from Chiranjeevi and Venkatesh. The teaser has already received a decent response and the team believes the upcoming trailer will take the expectations much higher. With the Veera Simha Reddy combination returning, expectations among fans are strong. Manoj Manchu playing the villain is another interesting factor, especially after his earlier combination with Balayya.



Boyapati–Allu Arjun Reunion Soon?

Director Boyapati Sreenu, who is on a hiatus after Akhanda 2's disappointment, has finally making moves about his next. After offering prayers in Tirumala, Boyapati announced that his next film announcement will come out by the end of this month. This has naturally added a lot of curiosity around his next project and also led to a lot of speculation. As Boyapati did not reveal any details, rumours started that it could be with Allu Arjun, which would be sensational if true. Interesting talk in industry circles indicates that Boyapati is in talks with Allu Arjun, with whom he had earlier delivered Sarrainodu. The buzz is that Allu Arjun and Boyapati may team up again. Currently, Allu Arjun is working on Atlee's Raaka, while reportedly he may start Lokesh Kanagaraj's film very soon. It will be interesting to see when the Pushpa star will begin his Boyapati film, if the combo gets a final green signal. However, as per our sources, there have been some meetings between Bunny and director Boyapati, but there is no final green signal yet. In between, Allu Arjun also cancelled a film with Trivikram Srinivas despite previously delivering blockbusters such as Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo, Julayi and S/O Satyamurthy. So, Allu Arjun's nod for Boyapati will only come if he is impressed with the proper script from Boyapati. Meanwhile, Boyapati also hinted about Akhanda 3 with Nandamuri Balakrishna, but he made it clear that there will be a gap and the announcement would come at the right time, probably before the next general elections. So, who will be the Boyapati's next hero? There were also rumours about Boyapati and Chiranjeevi's combination. But there is no clarity on these reports too. For now, the guessing continues. Stay tuned.



Kiran Takes On Christmas Race

Kiran Abbavaram is taking on multiple responsibilities for his ambitious upcoming film Reality. Apart from playing the lead role, he has also handled the story, screenplay and direction. Produced by Sudhakar Chaganti under the Joy Films banner, the film has already generated curiosity with its unconventional first-look announcement and energetic BTS video. The makers have now unveiled the title glimpse, introducing Anandam, a young man whose life revolves around his hotel and family. He takes his responsibilities seriously and finds happiness in making others happy. His joy after clearing his family debts highlights the struggles and aspirations of a common middle-class family man. The glimpse gives the title Reality a meaningful connection, as the story appears to draw emotions from everyday situations that audiences can easily relate to. Kiran brings a natural and convincing performance as a family-oriented protagonist, adding warmth and emotional depth to the character. Devika Bhat plays the female lead, while Viswas Daniel's cinematography gives the film a vibrant visual appeal. Bheems Ceciroleo's pleasant background score complements the mood, and the devotional track featured in the glimpse adds a refreshing touch. With grounded characters, family emotions, relatable situations and an everyday setting, Reality is shaping up as a wholesome entertainer. The film is scheduled to hit theatres on December 25, 2026, joining the Christmas race.



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