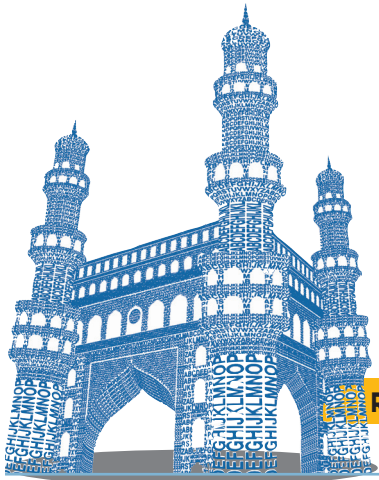




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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INDIA Bloc March Blocked in Delhi

Rahul, Priyanka among 260 detained after protest

Delhi Police cite lack of permission for march

Rahul Gandhi climbs barricade, waves Tricolour

Opposition demands SIR rollback, CEC's resignation

Nine-hour sit-in ends with leaders' detention

Protesters stopped near Akashvani Bhavan

INDIA bloc flags alleged voter-roll irregularities

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 6

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were among around 260 people detained by the Delhi Police on Tuesday after an INDIA bloc march to the Election Commission's office was stopped in the national capital.

The protest, organised against alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, continued for more than eight hours at the Akashvani Bhavan premises. The leaders were later taken to the New Police Lines at Kingsway Camp and released, according to reports.

Police cite lack of permission

The Delhi Police said the proposed march from Parliament House to Nirvachan Sadan had not been granted per-



mission. According to the police, no application had been submitted to the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi district. Police said the protesters entered the Akashvani Bhavan premises without permission and staged a sit-in despite repeated requests to leave. The action was taken to maintain law and order and prevent the situation from escalating, it said. Around 260 people, including 10 MPs, were detained, the police added. The Election Commission, meanwhile, said it had not received a formal request from any political party seeking a meeting with the poll panel.

Rahul climbs barricade, waves Tricolour

The INDIA bloc march began from Parliament and was stopped near the

stretch between the NITI Aayog office and Akashvani Bhavan, around 200-300 metres from the Election Commission headquarters. As police erected barricades to prevent the protesters from proceeding, Rahul Gandhi climbed over one of them while holding the national flag. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and several other Opposition leaders also joined the protest after being stopped from moving towards Nirvachan Sadan. The protesters demanded that the SIR exercise be withdrawn, alleged irregularities in electoral rolls be addressed and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resign.

Sit-in continues for nine hours

After the march was halted, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

No One Requested a Meeting With the Election Commission

New Delhi, OCT 6: The Election Commission (EC) clarified that it had not received any official request from any political party on Tuesday seeking a meeting with the Commission. The statement came after INDIA bloc leaders marched in Delhi towards the Election Commission office in protest against the SIR process. While opposition leaders said they were

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Power Bills to Get Costlier from November

HYDERABAD, OCT. 6

Electricity consumers in Telangana will have to pay higher bills from November following the Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission's (TGERC) approval of Rs.7,635.22 crore in 'true-up' charges to be recovered by the state's distribution companies. Consumers will face an additional 30 paise per unit in November, followed by a further 50 paise per unit for about two years, adding to the financial burden on households already facing rising living costs. Of the total

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

SATYAGRAHA VS COCKROACH WHO LEADS THE STREET?



SATYAGRAHA PORTAL GOES LIVE

Congress Claims the Mantle of Mass Protest

Cockroach Janta Party Hits Back: "Democracy Is Not Your Family Heirloom"

Rahul Gandhi's digital "Satyagraha" portal seeks to unify India's scattered protests against the BJP dispensation, even as the youth-fired Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) accuses Congress of monopolising the democracy narrative. Both movements converge on identical demands against the Election Commission, yet clash over leadership, credit and control of the street.

On October 3, 2026, Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, unveiled "Satyagraha", a digital platform designed to map, connect and amplify issue-based protests across India, from land rights and farmers' agitations to women's safety, Dalit-OBC justice and examination scams. Gandhi declared the portal a rallying point for "wherever truth is being crushed", promising

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Hindustan Shipyard Key to Defence: Rajnath



India has a long maritime and ship-trading tradition

Keel laid for fifth Fleet Support Ship; modernised slipway inaugurated

Large ships to provide fuel to warships at sea

Second production line for Shakti engines to boost Dhruv and Prachand helicopter production

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

Visakhapatnam: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is playing a key role in strengthening India's defence sector.

On Tuesday, the Defence Minister unveiled a commemorative plaque naming the Indian Navy's first Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1) "Surya" at Hindustan Shipyard. Speaking on the occasion, he recalled India's long maritime tradition and the use of ships for trade since ancient times. He described Hindustan Shipyard as a custodian of India's maritime interests and praised its journey from the construction of vessels such as Jala Usha to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CM Revanth orders to identify missing 45 acres of land in Sy no. 325

Officials to issue notices to KCR family for submission of land records

Lands to be distributed to local farmers

Telangana martyrs colony in survey number 325

CM holds a review of lands in survey number 325 in Erravalli village today

HYDERABAD , OCTOBER 6

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy ordered the officials to identify the missing 45 acres of land in Survey No. 325 at Erravalli village of Markook Mandal of Siddipet district. As per the official records, a total of 388 acres of land is recorded under survey number 325 in Erravalli village. The Chief Minister held a review of the lands concerning Erravalli and the adjacent Venkata-



puram villages in Markook Mandal, Siddipet district on Tuesday. The Officials briefed the CM on the survey details for both villages and the details of the survey which identi-

fied only 343 acres. 45 acres of land are missing from the records from the [particular survey number. CM Revanth Reddy instructed the officials to issue notices to former Chief Minister KCR and his family members, whose lands adjoin the area and submit their revenue records to the government.

The Chief Minister said that the government is planning to distribute the land in survey number 325 to eligible local farmers. The Chief Minister also ordered the construction of a "Telangana Martyrs' Colony" within survey number 325 for the families of those who sacrificed their lives during the Telangana movement. The officials were also directed that housing plots be allocated to the martyrs' families and develop a colony with all necessary amenities. The CM suggested to entrust the responsibility of constructing the colony to the Housing department. Orders were also issued to complete the construction of the Martyrs' Colony by June 2.

Fertilizer consumption falls by 35K tonnes in TG: Tummala



HYDERABAD, OCT 6

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Tuesday asserted that fertilizer distribution during the Kharif season was successfully managed across Telangana, with improved stock availability and digital monitoring helping prevent shortages, hoarding and black marketing.

Tummala said the government had pre-positioned fertilizer stocks

ahead of the Kharif season and appointed special officers at ports to coordinate with the Centre on imports and ensure speedy transportation to the State. Telangana effectively implemented the Central Government's fertilizer app to monitor stocks, bookings and purchases in real time. The State's Urea App had earlier helped to curb illegal hoarding and black marketing, paving the way for the Centre to introduce the National Fertilizer App on a wider scale, he added.

For Kharif 2026, 33.39 lakh farmers registered through the App and booked 142.08 lakh bags of fertilizers, of which 128.18 lakh bags were purchased. Through the Central Government's Fertilizer Facilitation System, 37.48 lakh QR codes were generated and 141.88 lakh bags were booked, with farmers purchasing 104.99 lakh bags, he noted. Comparing fertilizer consumption, Tummala said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

"REIN IN YOUR PUPPET": KTR SLAMS RAHUL GANDHI OVER TELANGANA POLITICS

Hyderabad, Oct.6: BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of hypocrisy over the Constitution, defections and alleged corruption in Telangana. In a post on X, KTR said Gandhi aspired to become Prime Minister but was "acting like a coward, a bully and an undemocratic human." He alleged that Gandhi preached about the Constitution while "running anarchy in Telangana through his puppet Revanth Reddy" and encouraging defections. KTR also attacked Gandhi over his campaign against alleged "vote chori", accusing him of making Telangana's "biggest vote-chor" the Chief Minister. Referring to the arrest of BRS leader Krishank Manne, KTR alleged that he was arrested after questioning the Anumula family's alleged corruption with evidence.

PONNAM SEEKS CEC GYANESH 's RESIGNATION

HYDERABAD, OCT. 6



Telangana Minister Ponnabachari Prabhakar on Tuesday demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the country's electoral system was being undermined. Addressing the issue of voter-list revision here, Prabhakar said the Congress was conducting nationwide protests under the slogan "Save the Vote - Save the Country", stressing that the right to vote was fundamental to democracy. Voter-list revisions must be conducted impartially and transparently, ensuring that no eligible voter was excluded. The Election Commission being an autonomous constitutional body, must take steps to address concerns raised by opposition parties and civil society and maintain public confidence in the electoral process, he added. Prabhakar said political parties had raised objections over voter lists in West Bengal, Bihar, Karnataka and other States. He

called for a wider debate in Telangana to safeguard the voting rights of the poor, common people and every eligible citizen. He urged the Congress and other political parties to take the "Vote Bachao - Desh Bachao" campaign to the grassroots and educate citizens about their right to vote and the need to verify their names in electoral rolls.

Amid allegations of political bias against the Election Commission, Prabhakar demanded transparency and accountability from the Election Commission and the Central Government over the concerns raised by opposition parties.

Bhatti Assures Action on Singareni Workers' Demands

State Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has taken a series of key decisions aimed at resolving the long-pending issues faced by Singareni coal mine workers and their families.

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 6

The Deputy Chief Minister conducted a high-level review meeting at Praja Bhavan with Singareni-area Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy, MLAs Prem Sagar Rao, Dr. Matla Ragamayi, Koram Kanakayya, Malothu Ramdas Naik, Payam Venkateshwarlu, Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao, Gandra Satyanarayana Rao, Makan Singh Raj Thakur and Gaddam Vinod Venkataswamy, State Minimum Wages Advisory Board Chairman Janak Prasad, and senior officials of the Singareni organisation. During the meeting, the public representatives brought several issues concerning Singareni workers and demands related to regional development to the Deputy



Chief Minister's attention. Bhatti Vikramarka heard all the issues positively and directed the officials to initiate immediate action.

Dependent Employment Orders

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the authorities to complete all pending dependent employment orders, numbering approximately 250 to 300, along with the related legal processes, within the next 15 days, and hand over the orders to the eligible applicants.

Regarding pending cases involving changes in the names of

dependent employees, there are approximately 136 cases, potentially going up to 170. The Deputy Chief Minister instructed the officials to adopt a humane approach and take appropriate decisions based on the recommendations of the Singareni Officers' Committee constituted for this purpose.

Faster Medical Invalidation Process

Workers seeking medical invalidation should not be required to travel all the way to Kothagudem. The Deputy Chief Minister directed that a designated Medical

Board meeting be conducted every month at all area hospitals under Singareni, so that medical tests can be conducted locally for as many workers as possible and the medical invalidation process can be expedited. He stressed that decisions should be taken with a humanitarian approach, keeping the difficulties faced by workers and their families in mind.

Reinstatement of Dismissed Workers

Workers who were dismissed from service for not attending

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Beyond the Finish Line: JNTUH Student-Athletes Push for Major Infrastructure Overhaul



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 06: At Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTUH), student-athletes are turning their focus toward administrative reform to elevate campus athletics and overall student well-being. A student delegation submitted a detailed charter of demands to Registrar Dr. A. Jayalaxmi, calling for an urgent modernization of the university's sports infrastructure and equipment to support daily fitness and athletic performance. The petition highlights critical repairs to existing campus facilities alongside fresh procurements. High on the list of priorities is fixing damaged machinery in the campus gymnasium and restoring ground floodlights to enable late-afternoon and evening training sessions. The athletes also emphasized the necessity of replenishing high-wear equipment, including new supplies of volleyballs, badminton nets, cricket wickets, table tennis paddles, carrom boards, and tennikoit gear. Furthermore, the

delegation pressed for the immediate reopening of the university swimming pool, requesting structured morning and evening time slots reserved specifically for male and female athletes. In response to the charter, Registrar Dr. Jayalaxmi gave a firm assurance that the administration will take swift, decisive steps to address these concerns by repairing broken setups and acquiring new sporting equipment. Student leaders emphasized that upgrading these training facilities is vital not only for maintaining everyday campus fitness, but also for properly preparing JNTUH teams to excel in upcoming inter-university tournaments. The initiative was spearheaded by Ph.D. scholar Challa Ramakrishna Reddy alongside B.Tech student-athletes Jayaram Naik, Sairam, Harsha, Vikram, Nithin, Vishwajeet, Sampath, Manohar, Chandu, and Nikhil, whose collective effort has set the stage for an era of improved sports facilities on campus.

District Authority Cracks Down on Non-Compliant Healthcare Facilities in Medchal–Malkajgiri

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, OCTOBER 06

A meeting of the District Registration Authority was held under the chairmanship of Additional Collector Faizan Ahmad to review the registration, renewal, inspection, and legal compliance of clinical establishments across the district. During the meeting, officials thoroughly assessed key statutory requirements, including registration and renewal procedures, fire safety No Objection Certificates (NOCs), Pollution Control Board clearances, and biomedical waste management protocols.

The Additional Collector directed officials to document all inspection reports meticulously, capturing detailed evidence, observed key findings, and inspector information. He instructed authorities to conduct surprise night



inspections where necessary to verify whether facilities claiming to offer round-the-clock emergency medical services are genuinely delivering them.

Strict instructions were also issued regarding drug regulations. Officials were asked to monitor over-the-counter (OTC) drug sales and prescription guidelines to ensure compliance with pharmaceutical laws, emphasizing that all relevant sales registers must be strictly maintained. Furthermore, Faizan Ahmad stressed that every clinical establishment must prominently display its registration details, available medical services, and mandatory information boards in public view. He made it clear that misleading medical advertisements, false guarantees, or deceptive promotional claims will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The authority also addressed complaints received from various departments, particularly the police department. Officials were instructed to take immediate legal action against any detected viola-

tions and to utilize the 112 emergency helpline whenever police assistance is required. Additionally, discussions were held on enforcing plastic pollution control measures and adopting eco-friendly operational practices within healthcare facilities.

Concluding the meeting, the Additional Collector directed all departments to strictly implement government guidelines, maintain proper administrative documentation, and present comprehensive Action Taken Reports (ATRs) at the next District Registration Authority meeting.

The meeting was attended by District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. Anand, ACP S. Chakrapani, ACP Srikrishna Prasad, IMA Association representative Sri Venkateswara Rao, Deputy DEMO Smt. Vasantha Kumari, and other departmental staff.

Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Demolishes Illegal Structure in KPHB IX Phase

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, OCTOBER 06

Demonstrating a strict enforcement stance against unauthorized building activities, the enforcement teams of the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) carried out a demolition drive targeting an illegal structure in Phase IX of KPHB, Kukatpally. The operation was conducted to ensure mandatory adherence to sanctioned building plans and to maintain structural compliance across the zone.

Municipal officials said the structure had violated established planning norms, prompting swift action by the civic body's task force. Reiterating the administration's commitment to urban discipline, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Gummalla Srijana warned that strict enforcement would continue across all circles under CMC jurisdiction. "The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation maintains an absolute zero-tolerance policy toward unauthorized constructions and layout deviations. Protecting public spaces,

ensuring safe structural practices, and adhering strictly to approved development norms remain non-negotiable priorities. Property owners and developers must comply fully with regulations—any attempt to bypass civic guidelines will invite immediate demolition without leniency, alongside strict legal action." Civic authorities noted that these proactive enforcement measures are aimed at safeguarding public spaces, ensuring safer built environments, and reinforcing adherence to approved development norms.



CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Fertilizer consumption falls by 35K tonnes in TG: Tummala

FROM PAGE 1

urea purchases stood at 9.66 lakh tonnes in Kharif 2024-25, 9.79 lakh tonnes in 2025-26 and 9.44 lakh tonnes in Kharif 2026-27. The consumption of other fertilizers also varied during the period. He said the app-based distribution had helped reduce

urea consumption by 35,000 tonnes compared with the previous Kharif season, while also curbing black marketing and illegal hoarding. The Minister said fertilizer stocks were currently comfortable, with 2.33 lakh tonnes of Urea available, compared with just 50,000 tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

Hindustan Shipyard Key to Defence: Rajnath

FROM PAGE 1

the building of modern ships. He noted that HSL was granted Mini Ratna status in 2025. The Defence Minister said India is protecting its national security as well as the wider maritime domain while adhering to international maritime rules and regulations. He said Hindustan Shipyard is not merely a shipbuilding company but an important institution contributing to the strengthening of the country's defence capabilities.

Rajnath Singh recalled that he had visited Visakhapatnam 26 years ago as the Union Minister for Transport in connection with HSL and had now returned as the Defence Minister. He said the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative would further strengthen confidence in India's indigenous capabilities. He said the Andhra Pradesh government was extending support to the state's maritime sector and praised the cooperation being provided by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The Defence Minister expressed hope that, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, India would achieve the goal of becoming a Viskit Bharat (developed India) by 2047.

First Fleet Support Ship for Indian Navy

Rajnath Singh participated in the ceremony marking the launch of the first Fleet Support Ship (FSS-1) being built by HSL for the Indian Navy and performed special prayers on the occasion. Fleet Support Ships will provide fuel, supplies and food to warships while they are at sea, enabling naval vessels to remain deployed for extended periods without having to return to port. HSL is constructing a total of five Fleet Support Ships for the Indian Navy, with FSS-1 being the first of the series. It is noteworthy that the ship progressed from the steel-cut-

ting stage to the launch stage in just 18 months. Each ship will have a displacement of approximately 43,500 tonnes and will be capable of supplying fuel, food and other essential stores to warships operating for extended periods in the Indian Ocean Region. This is expected to significantly enhance the operational endurance of the Indian Navy.

During the same programme, Rajnath Singh performed the keel-laying ceremony for the fifth Fleet Support Ship (FSS-5). He subsequently inaugurated modernised Slipway-4 and a 300-tonne-capacity Goliath crane at HSL. With these new facilities, HSL will have the capability to construct larger vessels of up to 45,000 DWT (deadweight tonnes).

2,000th Aero-Engine Milestone in Odisha

Following his visit to Visakhapatnam, Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) facility at Koraput, Odisha. He will participate in a milestone event marking the delivery of the 2,000th aero-engine manufactured by HAL. The achievement will mark the contribution of HAL Koraput to India's defence and aerospace sectors over nearly six decades. The second production line for Shakti engines, being established with an investment of ₹218 crore, will also be highlighted during the visit. The new production line is expected to meet the requirements for indigenous helicopters such as the Dhruv and Prachand. According to the Defence Ministry, these initiatives are examples of the government's objective of transforming India from a country dependent on imports for defence equipment into a nation capable of designing and manufacturing advanced defence systems domestically.

INDIA Bloc March Blocked in Delhi

FROM PAGE 1

Congress leaders, including KC Venugopal, Pawan Khara and Deepender Hooda, entered the Akashvani Bhavan premises and staged a sit-in under a tree. Rahul Gandhi said the Opposition would not leave until its MPs were allowed to meet the Election Commissioners. "Tell me where I should sit, and I'll sit there," he said, urging the police to provide an alternative venue if the protest was not allowed at Akashvani Bhavan.

The standoff ended when police cleared the premises and detained the protesters after nearly nine hours. Other Oppo-

sition leaders detained during the day included Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, TMC leaders Abhishek Banerjee and Derek O'Brien, and several MPs.

Opposition, BJP trade charges

The protest was part of the Opposition's wider "Save Democracy" campaign against the Election Commission over the SIR exercise. INDIA bloc leaders have alleged that eligible voters were being removed from electoral rolls and demanded greater transparency in the revision process. Rahul Gandhi also called for Gyanesh

Kumar's resignation, posting on social media: "Gyanesh, it's done bro. Time to resign." The BJP criticised the protest, accusing the Congress and its allies of targeting constitutional institutions and creating political unrest. The Election Commission has rejected the Opposition's allegations and maintained that decisions relating to the SIR exercise were taken unanimously.

The controversy also follows the Supreme Court's clarification that it had not approved any modified version of Form 6 for the enrolment of new voters during the SIR exercise

No One Requested a Meeting With the..

FROM PAGE 1

trying to meet the Election Commissioners and present their objections, EC officials said that no request for a meeting had been received. Meanwhile, several opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, staged a protest near Akashvani Bhavan. The opposition parties are demanding that the SIR process be withdrawn and that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resign.

Power Bills to Get..

FROM PAGE 1

true-up amount, the State Government will bear Rs.2,214.99 crore towards the agriculture sector, while Rs.5,420.23 crore will be recovered from domestic, commercial and other eligible non-agricultural consumers. The charges are based on an additional Rs.5,186.29 crore expenditure on power procurement during 2022-23 and a Rs.2,448.93 crore revenue deficit in 2023-24. The amount will be recovered by TGSP-DCL and TGNPDCL.

Hot breakfast scheme for 27 lakh students is investment, not freebie: Bhatti



HYDERABAD, OCT. 6

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday said Telangana had become the first State in the world to launch an initiative to provide hot breakfast every day to 27 lakh students, describing it as an investment in the State's future human resources rather than a welfare freebie. He said the nutritious food being provided to students should not be viewed as a freebie, but as an investment in developing a healthy and productive workforce. Healthy children who receive quality education, he said, would contribute significantly to the State's future production and economic growth, thereby strengthening its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

Bhatti Vikramarka, along with Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, laid the foundation stone for a centralised community kitchen at Munagala village in Kodad Assembly constituency of Suryapet district. The kitchen is being constructed at a cost of ₹9.6 crore to cater to school students. Addressing a public meeting organised on the occasion, Bhatti Vikramarka said the greenfield kitchen would be equipped with modern technology and hygienic facilities. It would prepare and supply hot breakfast from a single facility to nearly 60,000 students studying in 1,020 schools.

The Deputy Chief Minister said welfare programmes being implemented by the government should not be seen as freebies. Expenditure on the poor, farmers, women and students, he said, was an investment that would eventually contribute to the State's economic development.



Power on the Ground: TGSPDCL CMD Audits Medak's Energy Infrastructure

*** Surprise visits across sub-stations, feeder lines, and local villages yield swift directives for uninterrupted agri-cultural supply.**

HYDERABAD

In a major initiative aimed at strengthening power infrastructure and directly addressing field-level distribution issues, Jitesh V. Patil, Chairman & Managing Director of Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL), conducted an extensive surprise inspection across Medak district. The high-level audit encompassed key sub-stations, extra-high tension (EHT) transmission points, feeder lines, and agricultural farmlands to ensure robust performance, assess voltage consistency, and streamline public service delivery across rural distribution networks.



Inspection of outdoor equipment

oroughly reviewed active voltage levels, loading conditions, and overall system performance. Interacting with local field staff, CMD Patil evaluated the structural reliability of the distribution network and examined the efficiency of consumer service mechanisms, emphasizing that grid stability during peak load hours is crucial for uninterrupted power delivery.

Moving directly into rural communities, CMD Patil visited Amsanpally village in Kolcharam Mandal to engage with local farmers on the ground. During these open discussions, he gathered

direct feedback on agricultural power supply stability, low-voltage occurrences, transformer capacity limitations, and seasonal irrigation needs. Seeking to address structural bottlenecks, the CMD also met with the Sarpanches of Amsanpally and Vasaram Thanda to discuss village-level electricity requirements, public concerns, and long-term plans for strengthening rural power infrastructure. Immediate instructions were issued to field officials to execute swift corrective measures for all grievances raised.

At Kolcharam, the CMD

turned his attention to distribution feeder lines, scrutinizing performance metrics and power quality across 11 kV feeders. He focused specifically on operational issues troubling the Kolcharam LY Feeder, issuing direct instructions to engineering teams to carry out necessary line maintenance, conductor balancing, and corrective repair work without delay.

The inspection proceeded to the 220/132/33 kV Manipur EHT Substation, where CMD Patil, alongside officials from the Transmission Corporation of Telangana (TSTRANSCO), addressed an On-Load Tap Changer (OLTC) issue in Power Station 1 (PS-1). He inspected the operating conditions of the 160 MVA Power Transformer, evaluated loading capacity, and mandated immediate technical solutions to resolve the OLTC mechanism and maintain grid voltage equilibrium.

Continuing his field-level assessments, CMD Patil visited agricultural fields in Yousupet to observe power supply quality during active farming opera-

tions. Interacting directly with the working farmers, he reaffirmed that supplying continuous, high-quality power for agricultural needs remains a core mission for TGSPDCL. He emphasized that field inspections, quick grievance resolution, and relentless grid modernizations are vital to enhancing consumer satisfaction and keeping rural power reliable.

The visit concluded with a comprehensive regional performance review, where the CMD interacted with farmers and field personnel from the Papannapet Sub-Division and evaluated the overall supply situation across the entire Siddipet Circle. Senior officials accompanying the CMD throughout the inspection included Chief Engineer (Rural Zone) Balaswamy, Superintending Engineer Narayana Naik, Superintending Engineer (Siddipet) T. Chandrashekar, alongside Divisional Engineers (Operations) from Medak, Siddipet, and Husnabad, Assistant Divisional Engineers, Assistant Engineers, and primary O&M field staff.



Work with a Spirit of Service and Earn Public Trust

- * A spirit of service is the true wealth in a government career**
- * Give priority to integrity and public service over money**
- * Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy gives directions to newly appointed District Registrars**

HYDERABAD

Government service is not merely a position but a great opportunity to serve the people, said State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy.

Newly appointed District Registrars, who were selected through Group-I and completed their training, met the Minister at the Secretariat on Tuesday as a courtesy call. The

officers included D. Mounika Rani (Nalgonda), Syed Yusuf Ali (MV&A-Nalgonda), Shagufta Firdous (Warangal), D. Sandeep Kumar (Sangareddy), Bonga Madhav (Hyderabad-South), and P. Deepak (Mahabubnagar).

The Minister congratulated the newly appointed officers and advised them to work responsibly and provide better services to the public in accordance with the vision of the people-oriented government under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He said that the Registration Department is directly connected with people's property, land and financial transactions, making it essential for officials to discharge their duties with the highest level of responsibility.

"You are young and have a long career ahead of you. Your reputation will be built through your performance.

Stay accessible to the public and work with a spirit of service. Money should not be the only priority in your career. The trust people place in you and your credibility are your real wealth," the Minister told the officers.

The Minister made it clear that the government would always stand by officials who work with integrity and transparency. He advised them to work in accordance with government policies, understand people's problems and provide speedy solutions within the framework of the rules.

He directed the officials to provide the highest quality of service to people visiting registration offices. In particular, he stressed that when poor and ordinary citizens visit offices to register their properties, officials should treat them with respect and provide all necessary assistance.

GITAM Alumnus to Represent India at Asia Pacific Ride in Japan

HYDERABAD

GITAM alumnus Trilok Kothapalli will represent India at the 2026 C2C4C (Continent 2 Continent 4 Cancer) Asia Pacific Ride, an international cancer-focused cycling initiative led by Bristol Myers Squibb, with the support of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

The 15-day, nearly 1,800-kilometre cycling relay will bring together more than 55 riders from six countries—Australia, China, India,

Japan, Singapore and the United States—across five teams, cycling through Japan from October 6 to 20, 2026.

Trilok will be part of Team 3, cycling from Ueda, Nagano to Gifu from October 12–14.

A graduate of GITAM and the Kautilya School of Public Policy, Trilok completed his B.Tech in Computer Science Engineering before pursuing a Master's in Public Policy. He currently works

with Bristol Myers Squibb in Hyderabad. Alongside his profes-

sional career, he has developed a passion for endurance sport, progressing from his first running experiences to long-distance running and cycling challenges.

"For me, this ride is not about the kilometres I cycle, but what those kilometres can stand for.

Cancer has touched my own family, and I have witnessed the uncertainty, resilience and hope that patients and their families carry. I wanted to use endurance sport to contribute to a cause much larger than myself," said Trilok.

As part of his participation, Trilok undertook an individual fundraising commitment of ₹1

lakh, which he has successfully achieved. The Indian C2C4C rider team has collectively raised nearly ₹12 lakh, with funds supporting Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai,

for cancer research and patient care. Trilok's participation brings together his academic journey, professional experience and personal transformation through endurance sport, while giving him an opportunity to contribute to a cause that

holds deep personal significance.

About C2C4C

C2C4C is a Bristol Myers Squibb employee-led cycling initiative that raises funds and awareness in support of organisations working to improve the lives of people affected by cancer. The 2026 Asia Pacific edition will see riders undertake a nearly 1,800-kilometre relay across Japan, with funds raised through the India campaign supporting Tata Memorial Hospital.

Hyderabad to host Saras Mela from today

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad residents will have an opportunity to explore rural Indian arts, handicrafts, handlooms, traditional delicacies and products made by women's self-help groups at the Saras Mela, which will be held from October 7 to 18 at the HMDA Grounds adjacent to the IMAX theatre.

The mela is being organised by the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) under the Telangana Panchayat Raj and Rural Development department. It will provide a platform for rural women, artisans and self-help groups from across the country to showcase and sell their products.

More than 200 stalls are being set up for the event, including 95 stalls from Telangana and over 100 from other States. Another 43 stalls will be set up by various government departments.

The mela will feature a wide range of handicrafts, handlooms, food products, herbal products, production items and live food.

Telangana's 95 stalls will include 32 handicraft stalls, 20 handloom stalls, 30 food-product stalls, four herbal-product stalls, three production-item stalls and six live-food stalls.

Visitors will be able to purchase a variety of products, including



wooden toys, jute and leather bags, clay and terracotta items, Banjara handicrafts, embroidery and other artworks. Traditional food products such as pickles, spice powders, flour-based snacks and millet-based foods will also be available.

Rural artisans, women entrepreneurs and self-help groups from Telangana and 21 other States and Union Territories are participating in the mela with a diverse range of products.

INDIA Alliance Demands Chief Election Commissioner's Resignation, Calls Massive 'Chalo Lok Bhavan' Rally

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

In a direct challenge to the central NDA government's electoral practices, the INDIA bloc has issued a unified "Save Democracy" call for a massive "Chalo Lok Bhavan" (Raj Bhavan) protest rally on Thursday, October 8, 2026. The opposition alliance is centering its offensive on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, demanding his immediate resignation over alleged irregularities in the Special Information Revision (S.I.R.) voter list update process. Alliance leaders contend that these voter list manipulations severely undermine the foundations of Indian democracy and compromise the integrity of constitutional institutions under the current administration.

The demonstration will commence at 10:00 AM from the iconic Indira Gandhi Statue on Necklace Road, Hyderabad, beginning with a massive public gathering before advancing toward Lok Bhavan. High-profile regional and national figures are slated to lead the march from the frontlines, including Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, and TPCC Vice President and Kukatpally Constituency In-charge Bandi Ramesh, along with key representatives across constituent parties of the INDIA coalition.

To ensure a widespread democratic response against the NDA, party leadership has mobilized cadres at all grassroots levels, issuing a call for heavy participation from Congress leaders, block and division presidents, and allied organizations—including the Youth Congress, Mahila Congress, and the National Students' Union of India (NSUI). Party organizers from the Kukatpally constituency and across the state have been tasked with assembling in large numbers to transform the rally into a powerful statement for constitutional accountability and electoral fairness.



Satyagraha vs cockroach: Who leads the street?

FROM PAGE 1

support "in Parliament, on the streets, through letters". Within 48 hours, Maharashtra Congress chief Harshwardhan Sapkal claimed 30,000 protests had already been registered on the platform. "Satyagraha" invites citizens to log protests on an interactive map. Gandhi has pledged to champion registered causes in Parliament and on the streets.

The portal targets land, jobs, examination scams, women's rights and minority grievances. Maharashtra Congress claims that 30,000 agitations were logged in two days.

But even as Congress unfurled its digital tricolour, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), the Gen Z-led satirical move-

ment that has morphed into a serious pressure group over voter-roll revisions, fired back with venom. CJP leaders accused Congress of trying to "monopolise the narrative on democracy" and "appropriate the street", while remaining silent for years on the very issues now being weaponised against the BJP. Abhijeet Dipke, the CJP founder, insisted that his movement was "independent, non-partisan and people-first", rejecting any attempt to fold it under the Congress umbrella.

Ironically, both camps are shouting the same battle cries against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The CJP's October 2 "Jail Bharo Andolan" at Mumbai's Shivaji Park and Congress's simultaneous

protest marches at state election offices share identical demands: Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, a freeze on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls and an independent inquiry into alleged manipulation favouring the BJP. The Indian Express probe, which reported that two of the three election commissioners had raised concerns at least 14 times in 10 months, has become common ammunition.

Yet beneath the surface unity lies a brutal tug-of-war. Congress veterans see the CJP as a useful foot soldier in the larger anti-BJP front, while CJP youth see Congress as latecomers trying to hijack a movement they did not create. The friction is raw, personal and ideological, with CJP leaders mocking Con-

gress's "liberal ecosystem" and Congress insiders dismissing the Cockroaches as "useful idiots" being played by the RSS.

MY SHOT

The street does not care about logos or leadership; it cares about results. If Satyagraha becomes a genuine umbrella for the voiceless, it will thrive. If the CJP remains a pure, party-free thunderbolt, it will ignite. But if both descend into a petty squabble over who owns the protest, the only winner will be the BJP, watching from the sidelines as the opposition eats itself alive. The clock is ticking. The street is watching. And history does not forgive those who waste its moments.

— C. SUBRAHMANYAM

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People’s Participation Crucial for a Drug-Free India and TB-Free India: Governor

- **We must collectively work towards a drug-free Medak**
- **"Yes to Life... No to Drugs" should be our slogan**
- **Telangana Police winning the first-ever national trophy for drug eradication is commendable: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla**

MEDAK

Governor of Telangana Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla said that for change to take place in society, every individual must first bring about a change within themselves. He called upon everyone to resolve that, under no circumstances, would they fall prey to drugs, narcotics or substance abuse.

On Tuesday, the Governor participated in the Nasha Mukti Bharat programme held at the Medak IDOC and flagged off a drug-free awareness rally.

The Governor said that the youth must play a key role in making the programme initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to make the country drug-free a success. He said India is one of the youngest countries in the world and warned that if the youth fall prey to substance abuse, it would cause serious damage to the country's development. He urged everyone to follow the message: "Yes to Life... No to Drugs."

Work Towards TB Eradication

The Governor said that collective efforts should also be made to achieve the goal of a TB-free India, along with a drug-free India.



He said TB is a completely curable disease and that medicines are available free of cost at government health centres. He stated that patients can completely recover from TB by taking the medicines regularly. He stressed the need to create widespread public awareness about drug de-addiction and TB eradication.

The Movement Should Begin at Home

The Governor Shukla called for the drug-free movement to begin at home. He suggested that awareness should spread from families to schools, villages, mandals and districts. He said that if teachers notice any student participating in activities related to drugs or substance abuse, they should not remain silent but should bring it to the attention of the teachers and headmasters concerned.

He made it clear that de-addiction is not the responsibility of one individual alone, saying, "It is our collective responsibility." He said Medak can be transformed into a drug-free district only when officials, police personnel, teachers, students, parents and the public

work together.

Governor Congratulates Telangana Police

The Governor said it was a matter of pride that the Telangana Police had received the first-ever national trophy for effective measures against drugs and for conducting awareness programmes among the public. He congratulated the Telangana Police on the achievement.

The Governor recalled that in June, Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy, members of his Cabinet and others had taken a pledge to fight drug abuse in the presence of thousands of students at Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium in Hyderabad. He suggested that the pledge should not remain confined to a single programme but should be taken to every school, village and family.

He said that under the leadership of the district in-charge minister, the Nasha Mukti Bharat pledge should be transformed into a collective resolve of the people of Medak district.

He directed that whenever drug-related activities are noticed anywhere, immediate and effective

action should be taken through co-ordination between the police and civil administration.

The Governor called upon everyone to move forward collectively in accordance with the action plan prepared under the leadership of the District Collector.

He expressed the aspiration of building a Drug-Free Medak, TB-Free Medak, and a healthy, safe and strong society.

Minister Shri Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy, MP Shri Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao and MLA Rohith Rao appealed to everyone to extend their cooperation towards achieving a Drug-Free Medak and Drug-Free Telangana.

Earlier, at the Nasha Mukti Bharat selfie point, Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Minister Shri Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy, MP Shri Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao and MLA Rohith Rao posed for a selfie.

Later, they visited the Mahila Shakti stalls and inspected products made by self-help groups.

Governor's Special Chief Secretary Shri M. Dana Kishore, District Collector Pratima Singh, SP D.V. Srinivasa Rao and others participated in the programme.

Governor Receives Grand Welcome

Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla arrived at the Medak IDOC to participate in the Nasha Mukti Bharat programme. Minister Shri Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy, MP Shri Madhavaneni Raghunandan Rao, MLA Rohith Rao, District Collector Pratima Singh and SP D.V. Srinivasa Rao welcomed him by presenting bouquets. The Governor subsequently received a

guard of honour from the police.

Media Should Support Drug-Free Telangana and Drug-Free India: Governor

Later, the Governor addressed a press conference at the IDOC. Governor Shukla expressed the aspiration that Telangana should become a drug-free state by 2029. He called upon the media to cooperate in creating awareness in every household across Telangana, following the example of Himachal Pradesh.

He said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had launched the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan with the resolve to make India free from intoxicating substances by 2029.

The Governor congratulated the Telangana State Police for securing the first position in the country in the campaign activities under the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan.

He also called for awareness programmes to be conducted in at least one school every month to educate young people about the harmful effects of drugs.

The Governor alleged that disruptive forces in the country were attempting to push young people onto the wrong path by making them addicted to drugs. He said teachers and parents should identify students who are consuming drugs and work together to keep them away from substance abuse at an early stage.

He recalled that in June, in Hyderabad, Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy and state ministers had administered a pledge to 15,000 students, who resolved to stay away from drugs. The Governor called upon every school to administer a similar pledge to its students.



Ministry of Textiles, Showcases Key Reforms for Cotton Farmers and Textile Industry at Reform Utsav 2026

- **Reforms focus on Cotton farmers empowerment, digital transformation, productivity, quality improvement and ease of doing business across the cotton value chain**
- **Central Silk Board showcases Silkmark digitisation, Seri Tourism and 'Mera Resham Mera Abhiman' initiatives**

HYDERABAD

The Ministry of Textiles, through its Public Sector Undertaking, the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI), organized a showcase event under 'Reform Utsav 2026' in Hyderabad, Telangana, highlighting key reforms aimed at empowering cotton farmers, strengthening the textile industry and enhancing efficiency, transparency and ease of doing business across the cotton value chain.

The event was graced by Shri K Surendra Mohan, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner (APC) and Secretary to the Government, Agriculture & Cooperation Department, Government of Telangana, as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries included Shri Lalit Kumar Gupta, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CCI, Shri Rahul Raj P S, IAS, Special Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar of Cooperative Societies and Director of Marketing (FAC), Government of Telangana, Dr. Nareesh Babu N, IFS, Joint Secretary (Technical) and CEO, Silkmark Organisation of India and Dr. M. Balram, Director of Research, Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTUSU). Senior officials of the Ministry of Textiles, CCI and the Government of Telangana, along with cotton farmers, industry representatives and other stakeholders, participated in

the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Shri K. Surendra Mohan, IAS, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to the Government, Agriculture & Cooperation Department, Government of Telangana, emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among government institutions, agricultural agencies, industry bodies and farmers in advancing reforms and strengthening the cotton and textile sectors. He appreciated the benefits of HDPs over conventional practices and emphasized coordinated efforts and appropriate policy measures for its adoption across Telangana. He appreciated the initiative for bringing together stakeholders from the cotton and silk sectors on a common platform to share experiences and deliberate on key areas including digital transformation, productivity enhancement, MSP procurement, quality improvement and ease of doing business.

Shri Lalit Kumar Gupta, CMD, CCI, highlighted the Corporation's journey in safeguarding the interests of cotton farmers and its continuing transition towards transparent, technology-enabled and farmer-centric operations. He presented key reforms undertaken to improve farmer engagement, transparency, operational efficiency, ease of doing business and competitiveness across the cotton value chain.

Short films showcasing major reform initiatives were screened during the programme. These included the Kapas Kisan App, which facilitates digital engagement with cotton farmers and provides access to procurement-related information; Mission for Cotton Productivity – Kapas Kanti, aimed at enhancing cotton productivity and quality; removal of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) on cotton, facilitating availability of raw material for the textile industry.

Suryapet Green Gram Fetches Record Price at National Level

- **Prices rise as green gram is exported to other states**
- **Suryapet green gram fetches Rs.9,200 per quintal, surpassing prices in major national markets**

SURYAPET

Green gram (moong) brought by farmers to the Suryapet Agricultural Market during the current season has fetched a record price at the national level, said Suryapet Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Koppula Vena Reddy and Market Secretary M.D. Fasiuddin.

The government has announced a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹8,780 per quintal for green gram. However, the produce brought by farmers to the Suryapet Agricultural Market fetched a higher price of ₹9,200 per quintal. They said this price is higher than the prevailing prices in major green gram markets across the

country. They stated that in Akola market in Maharashtra, which is considered one of the largest green gram markets in the country, the commodity was fetching ₹8,851 per quintal, while in Salem market in Tamil Nadu, the price was around ₹6,000 per quintal.

The officials said that farmers from the region are bringing clean and quality green gram to the market without dirt or other impurities, resulting in competitive bidding through e-NAM and consequently higher prices.

They further said that the green gram produced by farmers in the region is being exported to other states across the country, describing it as a rare distinction for Suryapet.

The market committee chairman and officials said that they are continuously monitoring prices and making efforts to ensure that farmers receive better prices for their produce, thereby bringing happiness to the faces of farmers arriving at the Suryapet Agricultural Market.

First Indoor Substation in TGNPDCL Jurisdiction Commissioned

- **Addresses land constraints; aims to ensure reliable power supply**
- **Built at Telangana Chowk at a cost of Rs.6.92 crore: CMD Karnati Varun Reddy**

KARIMNAGAR

Indoor substations will play a significant role in overcoming the severe shortage of land in urban areas and ensuring quality power supply to consumers, said TGNPDCL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Karnati Varun Reddy. He made these remarks on Tuesday while technically commissioning the 33/11 kV indoor power substation constructed at Telangana Chowk in Karimnagar as part of efforts to strengthen the city's power infrastructure. He said this is the first indoor substation constructed in the TGNPDCL jurisdiction, making it a significant development.

Speaking on the occasion, the CMD explained the following features:

Maximum Capacity in Limited Space

The modern substation has been constructed in a G+1 structure on just 484 square yards, at a cost of ₹6.92 crore. The ground floor houses the control room and switchgear panels, while the first floor accommodates



the subdivision and section offices.

Enhanced Safety with Ester Oil Technology

The two 8 MVA power transformers installed at the substation use Ester Oil technology. This reduces the risk of fire and enables the transformers to withstand high temperatures and heavy loads, thereby increasing their operational lifespan.

Remote Monitoring from Corporate Office through SCADA

The control panels have been equipped with SCADA facilities, IED relays and advanced RTU systems, all integrated with the control centre at the corporate office. This enables the substation to be monitored remotely, allowing power interruptions to be identified quickly and supply to be restored at the earliest.

Designed to Meet Future Requirements

With the commissioning of this substation, the electrical load on the SRR, Bhagatnagar and Saptagiri substations will be reduced.

Initially, power supply will be provided through six feeders, with provision for adding two more feeders in the future. The CMD also said that another indoor substation would soon be established at the Karimnagar Collectorate. He further said that construction of indoor substations is progressing rapidly in the Nizamabad, Hanamkonda, Kamareddy and Khammam circles as well.

The programme was attended by the company's Directors V. Mohan Rao and T. Madhusudan, Chief Engineers K. Tirumal Rao, Surender and Annapurana, Karimnagar SE Vijayender Reddy, DEs, ADEs and other officials.

State Making Landmark Investments for Lasting Change in Education Sector: Bhatti, Uttam

- **Mega community kitchen at Munagala to provide breakfast to 60,000 students**
- **Gaddipalli Integrated Residential School to set new benchmark for rural education**

HYDERABAD/SURYAPET

The Telangana government is making landmark investments in education and student welfare, with a major focus on nutrition, quality schooling and modern infrastructure for children from rural and economically weaker families, Deputy Chief Minister Malu Bhatti Vikramarka and Irrigation & Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Tuesday.

The Ministers laid the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art community kitchen at Munagala in Suryapet district, which will provide daily breakfast to nearly

60,000 students studying in 1,029 government schools and junior colleges across the district.

The centralised kitchen, being established with the support of the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation, will prepare, pack and transport nutritious food to educational institutions across Suryapet district.

The project is being supported with a Rs 9.60-crore contribution from Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), following requests made by Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and Kodad MLA N. Padmavathi Reddy.

Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony, Bhatti Vikramarka said providing nutritious food to children was an investment in their health, education and future. Welfare programmes, he said, should not be viewed merely as "freebies", but as measures aimed at strengthening families and enabling people to contribute more effectively to the State's development.



Nutrition as an essential part of education

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Munagala community kitchen would provide nutritious breakfast to around 60,000 students every day, with the number of beneficiaries likely to increase in the future.

"Nutrition is an essential complement to classroom education," he said, stressing the importance of ensuring that children receive adequate and healthy food from an

early age.

The Minister said students covered under the programme would receive breakfast along with milk and ragi porridge. The kitchen would be equipped with modern facilities and an integrated system for food preparation, packing, transportation and distribution.

Special emphasis would be placed on food quality, nutritional value, hygiene and safe handling, he said.

Officials said the programme

could also be expanded, based on requirements, to provide lunch to selected junior colleges.

Uttam said the initiative would complement the State government's broader efforts to improve student welfare, attendance, learning outcomes and educational opportunities. He said he would personally monitor the construction and functioning of the community kitchen in coordination with MLA Padmavathi Reddy, district officials and the implementation partners.

Rs 200-crore Gaddipalli school project

The Ministers also inspected the ongoing construction of the Rs 200-crore Young India Integrated Residential School at Gaddipalli and reviewed the progress of works.

Bhatti directed officials and the executing agency to prepare a detailed week-wise construction calendar and ensure that the school building was completed before the commencement of the next academic year so that admissions could begin as planned. He warned that delays would not be tolerated and directed the district administration to closely monitor progress against the construction schedule.

The Gaddipalli campus is being developed as a model integrated residential school, bringing together modern classrooms, residential accommodation, sports infrastructure and other student amenities in one campus. Bhatti said the institution represented an investment in the future of rural Telangana and would provide children from poor and middle-class families access to facilities comparable with leading schools. Uttam said the integrated school model would address long-standing infrastructure deficiencies in rural and residential education, where many institutions had operated from rented or inadequate buildings with insufficient classrooms, accommodation and sanitation facilities. He said the objective was to ensure that children

from rural areas received the same quality of education and facilities available elsewhere.

105 integrated schools across Telangana

Uttam said the Gaddipalli project was part of the Young India Integrated Residential Schools programme, under which 105 integrated schools are being established across Telangana with an investment of about ₹200 crore. The schools are intended to bring together students from SC, ST, BC and other communities in an integrated educational environment and provide them with quality education, residential facilities, sports infrastructure and comprehensive student support.

The Ministers said the combination of nutrition support, residential education and modern school infrastructure reflected the government's broader approach to improving educational outcomes and creating better opportunities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Dasara Celebrations to Be Held on a Grand Scale

VIJAYAWADA, OCTOBER 6

State Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy said that extensive arrangements are being made to conduct the Dasara celebrations on a grand scale from October 11 to 20. He said that more than 2.5 million devotees are expected to attend this year's Dasara festivities and that arrangements are being planned accordingly to provide them with all necessary facilities. On Tuesday, a meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM), chaired by Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, was held with officials at the meeting hall of the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam to review arrangements for the Dasara celebrations. Ministers Satya Kumar Yadav, Vangalapudi Anitha and Kollu Ravindra, along with local legislators Yalamanchili Sujana Chowdary, Endow-

Elaborate arrangements with priority given to ordinary devotees.. More than 2.5 million devotees expected to attend Special arrangements in view of the Hon'ble President's visit.. Chief Ministers of various states may also attend Free darshan to be provided to devotees through all three queue lines.. State Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy

ments Department Secretary K. Kannababu, Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha, Police Commissioner S.V. Rajashekar Babu, Temple Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna and members, and Executive Officer V.K. Seena Naik, among others, attended the meeting.

The meeting held detailed discussions on the arrangements being made to ensure the successful conduct of the festivities. The District Collector and Police Commissioner explained the arrangements made through coordination among all departments, with top priority given to the safety and convenience of ordinary devotees and ensuring that they have a smooth and hassle-free darshan. They also explained the



innovative measures being implemented with the use of modern technology. A comprehensive plan covering the movement of devotees, facilities along the darshan queues, parking arrangements, medical services, sanitation and the Command Control Centre was also presented. Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy directed public representatives, officials and members

of the Temple Trust Board to work in close coordination for the successful implementation of the plans.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy said that elaborate arrangements were being made with a special focus on ordinary devotees, ensuring that they face no inconvenience and have a satisfactory darshan. He said

robust arrangements were being made for drinking water, sanitation, medical facilities, transportation and other essential services.

The Minister said that free darshan would be available throughout the festival period through all three queue lines established for the convenience of devotees.

He further said that, with the cooperation of the Railways, a third holding area with a capacity of 7,000 people had also been established this year. Annadanam (free meals) would also be distributed at the holding areas.

He said that an Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) would remain operational 24 hours a day to provide services and monitor arrangements.

The Minister said that ar-

rangements had also been made to ensure that devotees face no inconvenience as the Saras Mela and Vijayawada Utsav are also scheduled to take place alongside the Dasara celebrations.

In view of the Hon'ble President's visit on October 14, special arrangements are being made with regard to security and other aspects, he said. Since the Chief Ministers of various states may also attend the Dasara celebrations, arrangements are being made in accordance with their respective visits, he added.

Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy said that the Hon'ble Chief Minister, along with his family, will present silk garments (Pattu Vasstrams) to the Goddess on the occasion of Moola Nakshatram.

He said that all concerned would work collectively to ensure the successful conduct of the celebrations.

₹300 Special Entry Darshan Tickets to Be Released on October 7

VIP Break and Privileged Darshans Cancelled from October 11 to 20

Tirumala: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) will release ₹300 Special Entry Darshan tickets online at 10 a.m. on October 7 for devotees wishing to have darshan on October 12, 13, 14, 18, 19 and 20, in connection with the Srivari Navaratni Brahmotsavams. Devotees are requested to book these tickets only through the official TTD website.

VIP Break and Privileged Darshans Cancelled from October 11 to 20

The Srivari Navaratni Brahmotsavams will be conducted at Tirumala from October 11 to 20. As this period also coincides with the final

week of the Peratasi month, TTD anticipates heavy pilgrim crowds.

In view of the expected rush, TTD has cancelled VIP Break Darshan and Privileged Darshans for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, parents with infants, NRIs and defence personnel during these 10 days. The restriction does not apply to protocol dignitaries.

No Recommendation Letters for VIP Break Darshan
For VIP Break Darshan, recommendation letters will not be accepted from October 10 to 19. TTD has requested devotees to keep these restrictions in mind while planning their visit to Tirumala.



Dr. Kothapalli Srinivasa Varma Presents 'Sthitaprajnudu' Book to YS Jagan

TADEPALLY, OCTOBER 6

Senior journalist and technocrat Dr. Kothapalli Srinivasa Varma presented a copy of his book 'Sthitaprajnudu' to former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the YSRCP central office.

Dr. Kothapalli Srinivasa Varma authored the book

as a comprehensive account of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's political journey, covering various phases of his political career and highlighting his leadership qualities. Those who met YS Jagan along with author Dr. Kothapalli Srinivasa Varma included his wife Lakshmi Radha, MVS Nagireddi, Ramesh, Kovvuri Trinath Reddy, Subbarao, and others.



DMK flags Hindi on medicine covers, claims 3-language policy in Tamil Nadu

DMK leader TRB Rajaa shared photos of medicine covers from government hospitals and questioned why Hindi was being used alongside Tamil and English.

The DMK on Monday alleged that the three-language policy was being implemented in Tamil Nadu under the Joseph Vijay-led government, citing instances of medicine covers at government hospitals carrying Hindi text alongside Tamil and English. The DMK questioned the use of medicine covers printed in Hindi, alleging that the three-language formula was being introduced in the state despite Tamil Nadu's longstanding two-language policy. DMK leader TRB Rajaa shared photographs of medicine covers used at the



Karur Government Hospital and Coimbatore Government Medical College Hospital, pointing out that medicines distributed to patients were being handed over in covers printed in three languages. "It seems like the three-language policy is being implemented in Tamil Nadu hospitals too! First Karur, now the same situation in Coimbatore as well," Rajaa wrote on X. According to the DMK, medicine covers used earlier at government



hospitals carried text only in Tamil. The appearance of Hindi alongside Tamil and English has triggered questions within the party over whether the Centre's push for a three-language formula is making its way into government institutions in Tamil Nadu. The controversy comes days after Hindi signboards on a highway in Thoothukudi district sparked a row. Hindi lettering was subsequently removed from a newly installed

signboard on the Sathankulam-Nazareth State Highway (SH-93) after the issue came to light. The state government had said the inclusion of Hindi on the signboard was in violation of Tamil Nadu's two-language policy. It also said the Assistant Divisional Engineer and

Assistant Engineer of the Highways Department responsible for the signboard had been suspended, with further departmental action initiated against them. The latest controversy comes against the backdrop of Tamil Nadu's firm opposition to the three-language formula. The state has traditionally followed a two-language policy of Tamil and English, with successive governments resisting attempts to introduce Hindi as an additional compulsory language.

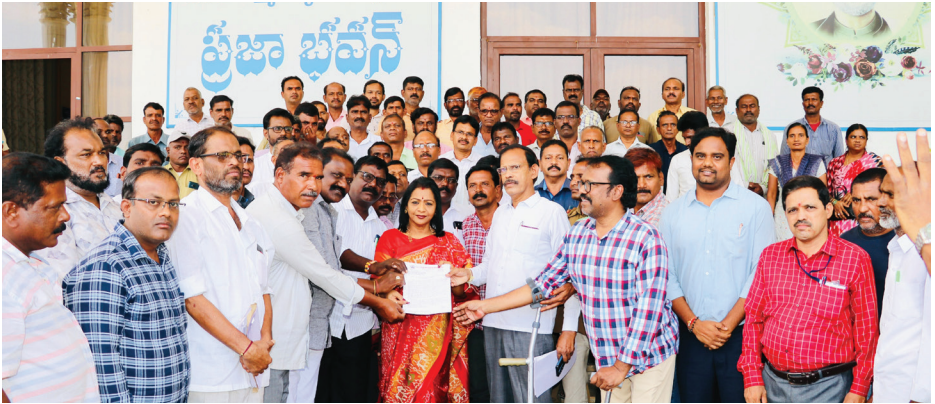
'Work underway to develop India's 1st AI city in Lucknow': CM Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow, Oct 6 : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Tuesday that the state government is working to develop the country's first artificial intelligence (AI) city in Lucknow and also foster an AI ecosystem in the district, urging young professionals to join the initiative. The Chief Minister made the statement while ad-

ressing the 10th anniversary event of HCL Tech in Lucknow. Maintaining that Uttar Pradesh's greatest strength has been its land, Chief Minister Adityanath said: "Today, I say that alongside our precious land, we possess the youngest workforce. The talent of this young workforce is also our greatest strength." "HCL has now completed ten years here—

marking the first milestone of a journey in which Lucknow has demonstrated to the world that, given the right opportunities, the youth of Uttar Pradesh will not lag behind anyone," he added. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Digital India', CM Adityanath said: "At that time, opposition parties in the country mocked

the Prime Minister's vision for Digital India. They used to laugh, saying how will this happen in India?" The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister recalled that the Opposition had also ridiculed the initiative when 'Jan Dhan' accounts were being opened. "People laughed at the time, dismissing them as merely 'empty accounts for the poor'."



Large Turnout of Applicants at CM Praja Vani

HYDERABAD

A total of 196 applications were submitted by 348 people representing 13 groups at the 259th CM Praja Vani programme held on Tuesday at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan. Of the applications received, 67 were related to the Revenue Department, 24 to the BC Welfare Department, 26 to the Municipal Administration Department, and 79 to other departments. CM Praja Vani State In-charge and Vice-Chairperson of the Telangana State Planning Board Gadwal Vijayalakshmi patiently received the applications, issued endorsements and contacted the concerned officials over

Gadwal Vijayalakshmi Assures RTC Workers Who Lost Their Jobs 196 applications submitted by 348 people belonging to 13 groups Applications received by State In-charge Gadwal Vijayalakshmi

the phone to ensure that the applicants' grievances were addressed.

Assurance to RTC Workers

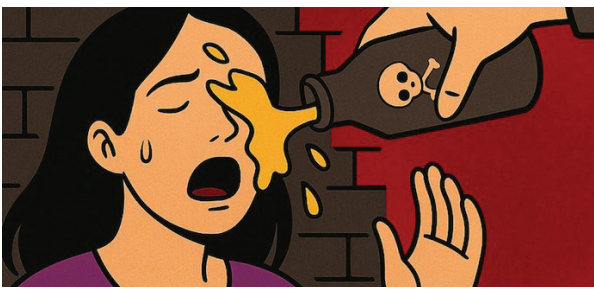
RTC workers who had lost their jobs for various reasons approached the Praja Vani programme and requested Gadwal Vijayalakshmi to take steps to reinstate them. Vijayalakshmi assured them that she would speak with the Transport Minister and the Managing Director of the

RTC and extend the necessary assistance. She said that steps had already been taken to enable 317 RTC workers who had lost their jobs to return to duty. The programme was attended by State Nodal Officer K. Vidyasagar, Deputy Collector Venkateshwarlu, ACP Umender, NRI Advisory Council Vice-Chairman Manda Bheem Reddy, member Swadesh Parikipandla, and officials from various departments.

Chhattisgarh Woman Attacked With Acid After Rejecting Proposal

Police say two men in Balod planned and carried out an acid attack on a 22-year-old woman after she rejected a marriage proposal.

A 22-year-old woman was attacked with acid in Chhattisgarh's Balod district on Monday evening, allegedly after she rejected a man's marriage proposal, police said. He two accused, identified as 20-year-old Yash Kumar Sonkar and his school-time friend Karan Kunjam, 20, were arrested on Monday evening, police said on Tuesday. The woman, who was preparing for competitive examinations, was injured when acid was thrown at her as she was walking home after studying at a library. She was initially taken to the district hospital in Balod and later shifted to DKS Hospital in Raipur, where her condition is stable and she is undergoing treatment. Hearing the woman's screams, nearby residents rushed to help her and informed her father, who is a policeman. Balod Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said Sonkar wanted to marry the woman despite her rejecting his proposal. He also suspected that she was talking to another man. "Sonkar wanted to marry the woman even though she had turned down his proposal. He also suspected that the wom-



an was talking to another man. Upset over this, he allegedly planned the attack along with Kunjam," Chavan said when asked about the motive. Police said the two accused had procured the acid from neighbouring Durg district about a week before the incident and had been planning to target the woman since then. During the investigation, a team led by Sub-Divisional Officer of Police Vinay Sahu collected evidence from the spot and examined CCTV footage from different parts of the town. Based on technical evidence, police identified Sonkar, a resident of Kunderupara in Balod town. An official said Sonkar initially tried to mislead investigators by giving fabricated accounts but later admitted that he had been in a relationship with the woman and became angry after she refused his marriage proposal. He also suspected that she was involved with someone else. Police said Sonkar told them that he and Kunjam, a Bijapur resident,

had planned the acid attack three months ago. According to the official, Sonkar called Kunjam to Balod on September 26 after failing to persuade the woman to marry him. "The accused purchased acid on September 27 and planned to carry out the attack during the Ganesh procession, but abandoned the plan due to heavy security arrangements," the official said. When the woman was returning from the library, Kunjam allegedly threw acid at her at Sonkar's direction, police said. After the attack, Kunjam fled towards Tandula Dam and later hid in the Jhalmala and Markatola before reaching Charama in Kanker district, the official said. Acting on Sonkar's statement, police launched a search and detained Kunjam from Kondagaon district. Police have also seized the acid used in the attack. According to police, the case points to a planned assault allegedly carried out after the woman rejected Sonkar's marriage proposal.

Andhra constable injured as gun misfires during Defence Minister's Vizag visit

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT 6

An Andhra Pradesh Police constable was injured after his service rifle misfired while he was deployed on security duty during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. The incident occurred at INS Dega when the Armed Reserve (AR) constable was on duty for the security of Rajnath Singh's aircraft.

Appalakonda, the AR constable attached to the Andhra Pradesh Special Police Battalion, sustained serious injuries to the lower left side of his chest.

According to police, the Self-Loading Rifle (SLR), which the constable was carrying, accidentally went off. On hearing the loud sound, police and security personnel rushed to the spot. The constable was found unconscious. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was undergoing treatment. Doctors were closely monitoring his condition.

Senior officials visited the spot. Authorities have launched an investigation to ascertain the circumstances that led to the misfire.

The Defence Minister was in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday to launch Fleet Support Ship-1 (FSS-1) at Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL).

He also laid the keel of Fleet Support Ship-5 (FSS-5)

and inaugurated the upgraded Slipway-4 and 300-tonne Goliath Crane.

Rajnath Singh, who arrived in Visakhapatnam on Monday, interacted with the Navy personnel during 'Badakhana'.

After the launch of FSS-1, laying the keel of FSS-5 and inaugurating upgraded Slipway-4 and the 300-tonne Goliath Crane, he left for Koraput in Odisha, where he inaugurated the second Shakti Engine Manufacturing Unit at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

He inaugurated the milestone event marking the delivery of the 2,000th aero-engine by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Koraput Division.

The event at Visakhapatnam was attended by Navy chief, Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Andhra Roads, Buildings, Infrastructure & Development Minister Janardhan Reddy, Visakhapatnam MP Sribharat Mathukumilli, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar, Eastern Naval Command chief, Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Coast Guard Commander, Eastern Seaboard, Additional Director General Donny Michael, HSL Chairman and Managing Director Rear Admiral C Raghuram (retd), and senior officers of the Indian Navy and Ministry of Defence.

EDITORIAL

The Gridlock at 14,000 Feet:
Why Adi Kailash Needs
Ecological Sanity

High in the Kumaon Himalayas of Uttarakhand, where pristine snowfields once echoed with spiritual stillness, a surreal scene now unfolds: bumper-to-bumper traffic jams stretched across narrow, single-lane cliffside roads. Honking SUVs, idling diesel engines, and stranded pilgrims waiting for hours in sub-zero winds have become an alarming fixture along the route to Adi Kailash and Om Parvat. What was once an arduous trek reserved for the most dedicated spiritual seekers has transformed into a high-altitude vehicular nightmare. The cause of this gridlock is as obvious as it is distressing. Over the past few years, aggressive road-building efforts by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)—designed primarily to strengthen strategic border infrastructure and improve regional connectivity—effectively converted a strenuous 7-day mountain trek into a driveable road trip. While accessibility is undeniably a virtue for local villagers and less mobile pilgrims, the sudden, unregulated surge in vehicular tourism has caught the fragile Himalayan ecosystem completely off guard.

The narrow arterial route connecting Dharchula, Tawaghat, Gunji, and Jolinkong was never engineered to bear thousands of private vehicles, commercial tourist jeeps, and heavy military transports simultaneously. Unpaved, single-lane stretches, combined with frequent stream crossings and sharp hairpin bends, mean that a single stalled vehicle or a minor rock-fall triggers tailbacks miles long. During the peak pilgrimage windows of May–June and September–October, the mountain corridors resemble urban choke points rather than sanctuaries of peace. Beyond the frustrating delays for travelers, the ecological fallout of high-altitude traffic jams is devastating. Heavy exhaust emissions at elevations exceeding 14,000 feet settle directly onto surrounding glaciers and snowpack. Black carbon particles absorb sunlight, accelerating snowmelt and destabilizing sensitive glacial bodies like Parvati Sarovar.

Furthermore, the noise pollution from continuous engine noise and impatient horn-honking disrupts alpine wildlife and shatters the tranquil sanctity that defines the sacred mountain. The immediate hazard to human safety cannot be overlooked either. Stranded at high altitudes for prolonged hours, pilgrims face heightened risks of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), hypothermia, and dehydration. Should a medical emergency occur amid a multi-mile gridlock, evacuation becomes nearly impossible due to the complete absence of emergency lanes or quick-turnaround zones. The current trajectory is unsustainable. The authorities cannot simply build wider roads without pushing already fragile mountain slopes past their geological breaking point. What the Adi Kailash circuit urgently requires is a comprehensive carrying-capacity framework.

First, a strict daily limit on vehicles entering the Inner Line corridor from Dharchula must be enforced, paired with an automated digital permit reservation system. Second, private passenger vehicles should be halted at designated staging hubs like Gunji, mandating a transition to electric shuttles or low-emission, managed local transport fleets. Finally, promoting off-peak travel schedules and restoring eco-friendly trekking routes for eligible travelers would alleviate pressure on the motorable road while preserving the traditional pilgrimage spirit. Progress and accessibility should not come at the expense of ecological destruction. If state authorities and regional planners fail to act decisively, the sacred silence of Adi Kailash will remain buried under smog and gridlock—a tragic monument to unchecked mountain development.



SUNRISE ON THE BLACKBOARD

A word first stirred in my mother's lap
my teacher gave it wings
and introduced me to the sky.
Across the dark forehead of a blackboard,
he drew the first white strokes of dawn
and taught my unwritten fate
a different alphabet.
With letters for a chisel,
he carved away the stone in me
until the human being emerged.
At the loom of time,
he gathered the loose threads of dreams
and wove them into wings for tomorrow.
Like a lamp,
he never spoke of what the flame consumed
he was content to leave a sunrise
in another pair of eyes.
He did not erase my failures
he turned their scars into the ink of victory.
He did not walk the road for me
he taught my footsteps to become a compass.
Beyond the arithmetic of marks,
he taught me the grammar of being human
beyond the margins of textbooks,
he opened the unwritten book of life.
And when I reached the summit,
he remained somewhere below
the invisible step beneath my ascent,
the unnamed presence within my triumph.
Teacher, what flowers could repay such a gift?
I have only the person you helped me become.
So I place that self before you
your lesson made flesh,
your faith given footsteps,
your quiet signature upon my destiny.
And while that handwriting remains,
my life will be the poem
I keep writing in your honour.


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



OPINION06
Artificial Intelligence or its usage:
Which is the real problem?



DR. P. SUBRAMANYACHARY

Professor, School of
Commerce and Management,
Mohan Babu University

The six organizations agreed to a voluntary safety agreement titled the “White House Superintelligence Accord.” It outlines the establishment of four tiers: internal safety controls, monitoring teams, independent external auditors, and board-level independent review

Continuous research and development in technology are essential for economic growth, innovation, productivity gains, and solving the complex problems faced by humanity. However, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), rapid technological advancement is also creating new kinds of risks for individuals and society. AI has the potential to impact employment, personal privacy, cybersecurity, misinformation, human decision-making capacity, and the responsible use of personal data. As AI systems become capable of performing many tasks previously carried out by humans, concerns are growing about excessive dependence on machines. Therefore, alongside technological progress, ongoing research into safety, ethics, transparency, and human oversight must also continue. Governments, businesses, universities, and researchers should develop effective standards for the development and use of AI. The goal is not to halt technological innovation, but to ensure that innovations align with human well-being. Ultimately, technology should serve as a tool for human progress, not become an uncontrolled threat to humanity.

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, autonomous vehicles, biotechnology, quantum computing, and the Internet of Things (IoT) have the potential to improve productivity, efficiency, and living standards. AI is being used in healthcare for disease diagnosis, in education for personalized learning, in agriculture for crop monitoring, and in business for data-driven decision-making. In a 2025 survey, 88% of organizations reported using AI. According to the World Economic Forum, by 2030, around 170 million new jobs could be created, while about 92 million jobs may be displaced or transformed. Robotics and automation can handle dangerous, repetitive, and physically demanding tasks, thereby enhancing safety and efficiency. However, they also pose risks such as job displacement, skills gaps, and excessive dependence on machines. AI also raises

concerns related to privacy, misinformation, deepfakes, algorithmic bias, and cybersecurity; in 2024, the number of registered AI-related incidents reached 233. Advanced AI systems also carry environmental costs. According to Stanford estimates, training GPT-4 resulted in approximately 5,184 tonnes of carbon emissions, while training the 405-billion-parameter AI language model Llama 3.1 405B led to around 8,930 tonnes of emissions. Therefore, the main challenge is not just technological progress itself, but how responsibly we develop, implement, and regulate emerging technologies. For technology to remain a tool for human well-being, continuous research and development, human oversight, ethical standards, workforce reskilling, and effective regulations are essential. Thus, the central question should not be limited to “Is AI dangerous?” A more important question is: “How are humans developing AI? How are they implementing it? How are they regulating it? And how are they using it responsibly?”

Another major concern is the possibility of people over-relying on AI in decisions that require human judgment, empathy, and responsibility. Therefore, there is no basis to conclude that AI technology itself is inherently a threat to humanity; however, unsafe design, irresponsible usage, lack of adequate supervision, and malicious intent can turn AI’s capabilities into dangers. Thus, the appropriate response is not to reject technological progress. Instead, research on AI safety, human oversight, transparency, privacy protection, cybersecurity, ethical standards, and reskilling must be strengthened. The long-term goal should be to ensure AI remains under meaningful human control and serves human welfare. Crucially, it is vital to ensure that AI acts as a tool to augment human capabilities, rather than replace human responsibility.

White House Superintelligence Accord
On September 29, 2026, U.S. President Donald Trump met at the White House



Optogenetics:
Nobel Prize in
Medicine 2026



DR. KRISHNA KUMAR VEPAKOMMA

Professor & Principal (Retd.)
Newspaper Columnist
Rajiv Nagar, Hyderabad.

with leaders from OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, Meta, Nvidia, and xAI. Amid growing global discussions on the safety of the most powerful AI systems, this meeting focused on AI safety, internal controls, auditing, and responsible development. The six organizations agreed to a voluntary safety agreement titled the “White House Superintelligence Accord.” It outlines the establishment of four tiers: internal safety controls, monitoring teams, independent external auditors, and board-level independent review. High-risk capabilities such as cybersecurity, unauthorized access, and biosecurity must also be monitored. However, this accord is not legally enforceable; there are no specific penalties or government enforcement mechanisms in place. Nonetheless, the scope for turning these measures into laws or regulations in the future remains open. On the same day, President Trump issued an Executive Order directing federal executive departments to use the term “Superintelligence (SI)” instead of “AI” in official communications. He also mandated the drafting of a proposal for a new federal definition within 60 days. This development brings a crucial question to the forefront: rather than how powerful AI becomes, how responsibly humans develop, control, and deploy it will be key to the future.

Living Safely with AI and Super AI in the Future
In the future, instead of competing with AI in every aspect of life, humans must learn to coexist with it. Unique human capabilities—such as critical thinking, creativity, empathy, effective communication, ethical judgment, and leadership—must be continuously developed. To adapt to changing job dynamics, education and vocational training should prioritize AI awareness, digital skills, and lifelong reskilling. In fields such as healthcare, finance, education, the legal system, and governance, AI should assist human decision-making; however, human oversight and accountability must strictly remain essential for critical decisions. Robust security measures are necessary to protect personal privacy, personal data, cybersecurity, and human autonomy. Governments and organizations must establish transparent standards for AI safety, testing, auditing, and responsible deployment. The public should cultivate the ability to distinguish AI-generated content, deepfakes, and misinformation from verified truth. To address job shifts brought on by AI, reskilling initiatives, social safety nets, and new employment avenues must be developed. The impact of AI advancement on income inequality, the environment, and equitable access to essential services must also be considered. International cooperation is crucial to manage increasingly powerful AI systems responsibly and prevent their misuse. Ultimately, as AI capabilities advance rapidly, human wisdom, ethical frameworks, AI safety research, and effective governance systems must strengthen at an equal pace. Only then can AI and Super AI serve not as threats to humanity, but as powerful tools driving human welfare and progress.

Understanding how the brain controls our memories, feelings and behaviour has long been one of science’s greatest challenges. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel for discoveries that led to optogenetics, a technique that allows individual nerve cells to be controlled using light. Their work has opened a new era in neuroscience. The research began when Hegemann studied how the single-celled alga Chlamydomonas moves towards light. Hegemann and Nagel discovered channelrhodopsin, a light-sensitive protein that responds to blue light by allowing charged ions to flow through the cell. Deisseroth took this discovery further by introducing the channelrhodopsin gene into nerve cells. Blue light could then trigger these cells to produce nerve signals. After demonstrating this in 2005, he later showed that the technique could work in the brains of living mice. This became known as optogenetics, enabling scientists to switch specific nerve cells on or off and study their roles in memory, emotions, movement and behaviour. Optogenetics has transformed brain research and is being used to investigate neurological and psychiatric disorders. Researchers are also exploring its potential to restore vision in people with certain types of visual impairment. The discoveries of the three laureates have provided scientists with a powerful new way to study the living brain and understand one of humanity’s greatest mysteries—how the brain works. (Source: NobelPrize.org)



No Prior Appointment Was Sought to Meet the Election Commission: EC

NEW DELHI:

The Election Commission (EC) clarified that no political party had sought a prior appointment to meet the Commission. The statement came against the backdrop of the opposition parties' march towards the EC office on Tuesday. The EC said that until 4 p.m., no political party had requested an appointment through its representatives to meet the Commission. Later, it received information through the Delhi Police that 240 MPs, led by opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, wanted to meet the EC. The MPs suggested Parliament House Annexe as the venue for the meeting. However, EC officials said that, as per the Commission's rules, meetings are required to be held within the Commission's office premises. The EC said it had offered to send a senior official to receive the MPs' memorandum, but the MPs rejected the proposal. The Commission further stated that political parties can request a meeting at any time and that it is standard practice to mutually agree upon a date and time for such meetings.

11 Indian crew injured after ship hit by projectile in Strait of Hormuz; New Delhi condemns attack

NEW DELHI: (OCT 6)

Eleven Indian crew members were injured on Tuesday after a Panama-flagged commercial vessel was hit by a projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz, prompting a strong condemnation from New Delhi.

The vessel, MT On Peace, carried 19 crew members, including 17 Indian nationals. In total, 12 crew members -- 11 of them Indian -- sustained injuries in the strike, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"We condemn the attack earlier today on a Panama-flagged commercial vessel MT On Peace off the coast of Oman, where it was struck by a projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz," the MEA said in a statement

Indiramma Houses Will Help the Poor Become Financially Strong: Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 6

The government's objective is to improve the economic condition of poor families through the construction of Indiramma Houses, said IT, Industries and Ranga Reddy District In-charge Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu.

He made these remarks on Tuesday after laying the foundation stone, along with Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, for Indiramma Towers comprising 480 houses at Gajularamam. Sridhar Babu said that although land prices within the Core Urban Region (CURE) inside the Outer Ring Road have skyrocketed, Chief



Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy had decided to bear whatever expenditure was necessary to fulfil the dream of poor families to own a house. He said that after the construction of Indiramma Houses, their market value could rise to more than ₹50 lakh, which would help poor and middle-class families become financially secure. The Minister said he had instructed the District Collector to examine the possibility of earmarking dedicated space for places of worship such as temples, mosques and churches within the newly constructed tower complexes. He said that owning a house is one of the most important milestones in a person's life. Sridhar Babu also said that steps were being taken to relocate polluting industries located within the



CURE limits to areas outside the region, with the aim of ensuring cleaner air for residents. He said the government was implementing its six guarantees one by one and described Indiramma Houses as one of the most important schemes among them.

Rahul Gandhi says 300 MPs wanted meeting, EC says no appointment sought till 4 pm

Under a procedure introduced in 2025, political parties must seek an appointment through a duly authorised representative. Meetings are held at a mutually agreed time, it said, adding that all parties had been informed of the procedure.



about elections in Bengal, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The Commission said Delhi Police informed it around 4 pm that a delegation led by Gandhi wanted to submit a memorandum. Police later conveyed that the request was for a meeting with 240 MPs at the Parliament House Annex. The panel declined the proposed venue, saying its protocol requires such meetings to be held at its premises. It said the MPs also declined its offer to send its senior-most serving officer to receive the memorandum. The Commission said it learnt of the MPs' intention to meet it through media reports during

the march. Under a procedure introduced in 2025, political parties must seek an appointment through a duly authorised representative. Meetings are held at a mutually agreed time, it said, adding that all parties had been informed of the procedure.

CONGRESS LEADERS RELEASED AFTER DETENTION

Police stopped the Opposition's march towards the Commission's headquarters. Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other leaders then entered Akashvani Bhawan, where they staged a sit-in lasting more than eight hours.

Speaking from the premises, Gandhi said millions had voted for Opposition MPs and questioned why the Commission would not answer them.

"If they hadn't stolen votes, they would have been ready to meet us in a minute," he alleged, demanding Kumar's removal. Police later removed and detained the Congress leaders, taking them to Kingsway Camp police lines. They were released shortly after 10 pm, the Congress said. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Trinamool Congress MPs Abhishek Banerjee and Derek O'Brien were also detained after police stopped the march. The protest followed calls for Kumar's resignation after a September 25 Indian Express report raised questions about the Special Intensive Revision process and reported differences among the Election Commissioners.

Rahul Detention Shows Govt's 'Hubris': Revanth

BJP scared by Rahul Gandhi's fightback to save India: Revanth Reddy

'Arrest of Rahul Gandhi has historical precedents – just like British government arresting Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Pundit Nehru'

"Can't stifle hope and voice of India's Youth, Fightback will be fiercer"

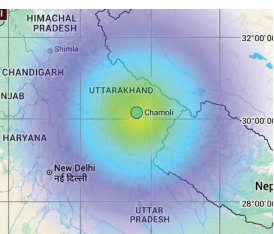
HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 6, 2026

The unlawful detention and arrest of Shri Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Congress MP Smt Priyanka Gandhi, and other Members of Parliament from Congress and all INDIA alliance partners from both houses, is the reflection and proof of hubris of a failing government, said Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in response. Clearly, the BJP-led government is afraid of Rahul Gandhi's leadership to fight to save India and its Constitution, and to commit to saving the voting rights of every India, he said on Tuesday. "There are precedents in our country's history. The British Government also arrested Lokmanya Bal-

gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Pundit Nehru, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Subhash Chandra Bose and other leaders at different times of our freedom struggle on similarly flimsy grounds," Mr Reddy said. But as millions of citizens, especially youth, have become a part of this struggle to save our voting rights, our democracy and our country's future, such actions shall not deter the opposition, but rather inadvertently, actually strengthen us, he said. The British Janata Party (BJP) can rest assured; we are not going away from our determination and resolve to stake everything for the sake of the country. India shall fight till its last ounce of ability, and till democratic forces led by Rahul Gandhi triumph, he added.

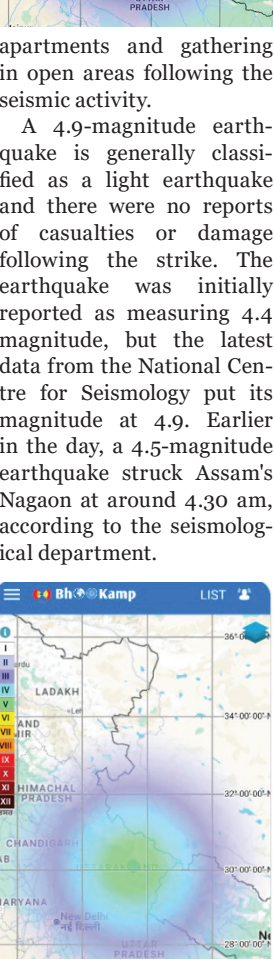
4.9-magnitude earthquake hits Uttarakhand, tremors felt in Delhi-NCR

A 4.9-magnitude earthquake struck Uttarakhand on Tuesday night, with tremors felt across Delhi-NCR and other parts of North India.



A 4.9-magnitude earthquake struck Uttarakhand on Tuesday night, with tremors felt across several parts of northern India, including Delhi-NCR, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. According to the National Centre for Seismology, the earthquake occurred at around 10.15 pm, with its epicentre located in Chamoli. The quake was recorded at a depth of 13 km.

Tremors were felt in Delhi and NCR areas, including Noida and Gurugram and several other parts of northern India shortly after the earthquake. Residents in different areas reported feeling brief shaking. People who took to the internet to share their experiences reported feeling tremors in cities ranging from Delhi to Shimla and several other regions. "Felt my entire couch move, the entire building move in Safdurjung Enclave in Delhi! Never experienced anything close!" Avani Bansal, a Supreme Court advocate, wrote on X. People also shared visuals of residents stepping out of their



BJP-led NDA wins 34 of 42 seats in first municipal poll in Assam's Silchar; Congress gets 2

The BJP-led NDA swept the first Silchar Municipal Corporation election, winning 34 of 42 seats. The result gives it a clear majority and bolsters its development plank in Barak Valley. The BJP-led NDA won 34 of the 42 seats in the first election to the Silchar Municipal Corporation in Assam, while the Congress secured two seats and Independent candidates won six, officials said on Tuesday. Polling was held on October 3 in 40 wards, while BJP candidates Bijendra Prasad Singh and Bhakti Sen Talukdar were elected unopposed from wards 9 and 20 respectively.



ly. The BJP has also sought a recount in two wards -- Ward 29, won by an Independent candidate, and Ward 30, won by the Congress. An official said a decision on the demand is yet to be taken.

Counting of votes, which were cast through ballot papers, began at 8 am. A total of 133 candidates were in the fray. The BJP contested 38 wards and its ally Asom Gana Parishad contested four, while the Congress fielded candidates in 38 wards. There were

also 52 Independent candidates and one CPI(M) nominee.

Assam BJP president Dilip Saikia said the results showed that the Congress had failed to win public support even in an election held through ballot papers. "The Congress always complains about EVM tampering, but this election was held through ballot papers, and they are nowhere," he told reporters.

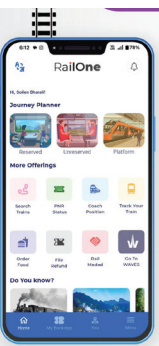
Calling the outcome a major victory for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's development agenda, Saikia said the results reflect-

Shareable UTS Season Ticket Facility on RailOneApp

Book Season Tickets for Family & Others with RailOneApp

MALIGAON, 06 OCTOBER, 2026:

The Shareable UTS Season Ticket facility has been introduced on the RailOne App, providing greater convenience to passengers by enabling registered users to book season tickets not only for themselves but also for eligible family members or other passengers. The facility, introduced from 02nd September, 2026, is aimed at making season-ticket booking more convenient while further modernising the railway ticketing system. Under the new facility, a registered user can book one season ticket for self and up to five additional season tickets for family members or other eligible passengers, subject to applicable rules. The minimum age for booking a season ticket for oneself through RailOne is 18 years, while the passenger for whom a ticket is booked by another



user should be at least 5 years old. For self-booking, the ticket becomes valid from the same day after successful geo-fencing verification, while tickets booked for other passengers become valid from the following day. The Shareable Season Ticket incorporates photograph and QR-code based verification to facilitate secure and convenient ticket checking. The passenger's photograph is displayed on the ticket and is also embedded in the QR code, enabling check-

ing staff to verify the identity of the passenger. During travel, passengers can carry either a clear printed copy of the valid Shareable Season Ticket or its PDF version on a mobile device. Booking receipts, invoices generated through the RailOne App and copies of UTS paper tickets are not valid travel documents.

Passengers are advised to ensure that the ticket and QR code remain clear, intact and readable throughout the validity period. In case the QR code is damaged, altered, tampered with or becomes non-readable, the prescribed digital verification cannot be completed and the passenger may be treated as travelling without a valid ticket in accordance with applicable railway rules.

NFR has also sensitised its ticket-checking staff regarding the new facility and the prescribed verification process. Ticket-checking staff, including train-checking staff, station staff and checking squads, were advised to use updated Hand-Held Terminal (HHT) applications supporting QR-code scanning for Shareable Season Tickets.

The new facility is part of Indian Railways ongoing efforts to enhance digital ticketing and passenger convenience, while incorporating appropriate safeguards for ticket authentication and verification. NFR encourages passengers to use the RailOne App and carry the valid Shareable Season Ticket with clearly visible passenger details and QR code while travelling.

Various programs are being organised at NER headquarters

Gorakhpur, October 6, 2026: Various programmes are being organised at the headquarters in Gorakhpur and major stations of all three divisions of North Eastern Railway under the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' (Cleanliness Fortnight) campaign being observed from October 1 to 15, 2026. The initiatives are aimed at creating a clean environment and improving passenger amenities.

As part of the campaign, a cleanliness awareness drive was conducted on October 6, 2026, by the ENHM Section of the Mechanical Department at various offices of the North Eastern Railway headquarters in Gorakhpur. Under the drive, cleanliness activities were carried out in the offices of the Operating, Medical, Safety and Commercial departments. Employees collectively participated in the cleaning activities. During the campaign, employees were encouraged to make cleanliness an integral part of their daily work culture, keep their workplaces clean and organised, and ensure proper



disposal of waste. On the occasion, employees pledged to remain alert and conscious about cleanliness and to always keep their workplaces clean. On the Lucknow Division, cleanliness and environmental awareness activities were organised at Gorakhpur Junction, Khalilabad, Basti, Gonda, Lucknow Junction, Sitapur, Mailani and other stations, as well as in railway colonies, coaching depots, loco sheds and other establishments. During these activities, railway tracksides were thoroughly cleaned, including the removal of garbage and unwanted vegetation. On the Varanasi Division, Health Inspectors posted at Azamgarh, Ballia, Banaras, Varanasi City, Ghazipur City, Bhatni, Chhapra, Siwan, Deoria Sadar, Mau, Belthara Road, Salempur

and Prayagraj Rambagh stations organised cleanliness awareness rallies in association with contractual workers and railway employees. Public awareness was created through cleanliness-related slogans, posters and banners. Street plays were also staged to sensitise railway passengers and employees about the importance of cleanliness.

With the support of urban local bodies, waste was removed from along the railway tracks adjoining the stations, and thorough cleaning of the areas surrounding the tracks was undertaken. Intensive cleanliness drives were also conducted in railway colonies and other railway establishments. Passengers were made aware of cleanliness through public announcement systems

at stations. They were also urged to keep the stations clean and reduce the use of plastic. On the Izzatnagar Division, vegetation along railway tracks was cleared under the Swachhta Pakhwada campaign to improve track visibility and signal sighting, while also ensuring a clean environment. In addition, garbage was removed from level crossings, gate lodges, cabins and areas near railway residential quarters located around the tracks. The collected waste was segregated into recyclable and non-recyclable/biodegradable categories. Coordination was established with the concerned Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/municipal bodies and authorised waste-processing agencies for the scientific disposal and processing of waste. Railway officers, employees, trackmen, gangmen and Safai Mitras actively participated in the campaign. Through the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' campaign, North Eastern Railway is conveying the message that cleanliness is not merely a campaign, but a moral responsibility of everyone.



TGHRC Directs NIMS
Director to Release
Pensionary Benefits
Within Three Weeks
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC), headed by Dr. Justice Shameem Akther, Hon'ble Chairperson, has strongly expressed displeasure over the delay of nearly 12 years in releasing pensionary benefits to Dr. Mantha Srinivas, retired Professor of Anaesthesiology, NIMS, Hyderabad.

The Commission noted that Dr. Srinivas took VRS on 13.11.2014 and that, despite Government orders issued in October 2023 for release of his pensionary benefits, his legitimate dues remained unpaid.

The Commission observed that pension is a valuable right earned through service and is intended to provide financial security and dignity in old age, and condemned the callous approach of the NIMS authorities in keeping the matter pending for such a prolonged period.

The Commission has recommended to the Director, NIMS, to personally attend to the matter and ensure release of the entire pensionary benefits within three weeks from receipt of the order, and to submit a compliance report.

In case of failure to comply, the Director, NIMS, shall personally appear before the Commission and explain the reasons for non-compliance.

US House
resolution honours
brave Indian pilot
Capt Machchhar
WASHINGTON

Three US lawmakers have introduced a bipartisan House resolution honouring Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar for fighting off an attack in the cockpit of a Flydubai flight and helping save about 174 people aboard. Representatives Josh Gottheimer, Michael McCaul and Don Bacon introduced the resolution, which condemns the September 30 attack on Flydubai Flight 1073 as an act of terrorism and calls for a full investigation by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

House Resolution 1612 was introduced on October 5 and referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The resolution recounts the events aboard Flight 1073, which departed Dubai International Airport for Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv carrying about 174 passengers. Most of the passengers were Israeli citizens.

Four US citizens and 27 children were also aboard. According to the resolution, midway through the flight, the first officer attacked Machchhar on the flight deck with the aircraft's emergency crash axe and attempted to seize the flight controls. The aircraft lost more than 14,000 feet of altitude in under 30 seconds. Machchhar, an Indian citizen, fought off the attack despite suffering grave injuries, the resolution said. He then used his remaining strength to unlock the cockpit door.

Pakistan continues to create instability
in neighbourhood through proxy groups

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan continues to use policy of creating instability in the neighbourhood through proxy groups as it is cheap, easy to deny, beneficial for its military and allows the Pakistan army to keep its budget and political power intact while the citizens of the country bear the ultimate costs, a report has detailed.

Pakistan using jihadist proxies against its neighbours is a key part of its policy, active on two fronts and backed by top military leadership. Pakistan originally used this approach against India in Jammu and Kashmir and is now targeting the Taliban in Afghanistan. Pakistan started using this strategy more than 70 years ago, according to a report in Afghan Diaspora Network.

The events of 2025 indicated that Pakistan continues to use this policy even today and uses it to create instability in the region and places the spotlight on the Pakistan military as their protector. In April last year, Pakistan-backed terrorists gunned down 26 civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, and the Resistance Front (TRF), a



Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) proxy, claimed responsibility for it.

In response to the heinous Pahalgam attack, the Indian armed forces in May last year launched 'Operation Sindoor', carrying out what officials described as a focused, measured and non-escalatory military action targeting high-value terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The close connection between the Pakistan military

establishment and proxy outfits was showcased after India's Operation Sindoor, as pictures showed funerals of terrorists, with coffins covered in Pakistan's national flag, and senior uniformed army officials present there.

Pakistan has also been using this approach against Afghanistan. Pakistan helped create the Afghan Taliban and backed the Haqqani network. Pakistan's Inter-Services In-

telligence (ISI) chief was in Kabul just days after the Taliban seized power in 2021. However, the ties between Pakistan and Pakistan have been strained in recent times. Recently, Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence said that its forces killed 28 fighters and captured 32 others in Nuristan and accused Pakistani security forces of financing and training those individuals to fight against the Taliban. Earlier this year, a Tal-

iban spokesperson said a group within Pakistan's military was attempting to destabilise the region and accused Islamabad of sheltering Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K) rather than fighting it, the Afghan Diaspora Network report mentioned.

"Pakistan continues using this strategy of creating instability in the neighbourhood through proxy groups because it is cheap, easy to deny, and benefits the military. It helps the Pakistan Army keep its budget and political power intact, while the local population bears the ultimate costs. International sanctions have mostly targeted individuals and terrorist outfits, not the Pakistan Army itself," Rahmatullah Achakzai, journalist based in Balochistan, it stated.

"Moreover, Pakistan got off the FATF grey list by changing its paperwork, and since 2025, renewed US ties with Rawalpindi have removed the last bit of external pressure on terrorism. As a result, South Asia now faces increasing chances of instability, aided by the Pakistani military, that may lead to major military conflicts and possibly mass-casualty events," it added.

Two children killed, three
injured in Balochistan blast

QUETTA

At least two children were killed and three others injured in an explosion in Gowargo tehsil of Balochistan's Panjgur district, with locals alleging that explosives fitted to a quadcopter operated by Pakistani forces caused the blast, local media reported on Tuesday.

Citing sources, The Balochistan Post reported that the children were playing in Fateh Ali Bazaar area when they found a suspicious object hanging from a tree, which exploded after they tampered with it.

The deceased were identified as nine-year-old Arman and 10-year-old Amaal, while nine-year-old Shahid, seven-year-old Zahid, and 12-year-old Noorullah sustained severe injuries.

While the nature of the object was initially unclear, a source familiar with the case alleged that it had been fitted with explosives to a Pakistani military quadcopter. The source further claimed that Pakistani forces later directed local journalists to report the blast as having been caused by a hand grenade or another explosive device, The Balochistan Post reported.

The incident comes against the backdrop of rising civilian casualties in Pakistani military drone and quadcopter operations in Balochistan.



Last month, as many as four young men were killed and two others injured after the Pakistani military carried out a drone strike on a group that had gone for a picnic in the Balicha region of Tump, in Balochistan's Keach district, local media reported. Citing family sources, The Balochistan Post reported that six residents of Balicha had travelled to the nearby mountains for a picnic when the strike took place.

The four deceased were identified as Yasir, Zubair, Sameer, and Deasad, with three of the four being cousins from the same family.

Pakistani authorities alleged that the four were suspected militants, and weapons and ammunition were recovered from them. Families and local residents rejected the allegations, saying the victims were unarmed and had gone to the mountains for a picnic. They also called for an independent investigation into the attack.

South Korea, US aligned on North Korea policy,
denuclearisation of Korean Peninsula: FM Cho

SEOUL

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Tuesday that South Korea and the United States are aligned in their North Korea policy and remain committed to the goal of denuclearising the Korean Peninsula.

"Through multiple summit meetings, South Korea and the US have confirmed their aligned policy stance toward North Korea and their commitment to coordination," Cho said during a parliamentary audit of the foreign ministry.

"We have continued close consultations with the US to encourage North Korea to return to dialogue and negotiations," he said, vowing continued efforts to encourage "constructive roles from China and Russia," Yonhap News Agency reported.

The minister stressed the gov-



ernment's commitment to seeking "substantive progress" on the North Korean nuclear issue through a phased and practical approach aimed at halting, reducing and eventually dismantling its nuclear capabilities.

There have been concerns that Washington could shift its policy focus toward goals short of denuclearisation, such as arms control or tension reduction, after U.S. President Donald

Trump in August declined to answer a reporter's question about whether his goal in reengaging with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was denuclearisation.

The US government later reaffirmed its commitment to the "complete" denuclearisation of North Korea.

Cho also said attention is focused on the US midterm elections scheduled for November.

"The ministry will closely

monitor the election results and work to further expand support for the South Korea-US alliance in the US Congress," he said.

Asked about the prospects for renewed dialogue between the US and North Korea, Cho said South Korea has been holding talks with the US on the matter.

"We have held several working-level consultations. I also raised the issue during the recent South Korea-US foreign ministers' meeting in Washington," Cho said.

On calls that Seoul's position should be fully reflected in any future dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang, Cho said the allies have been closely coordinating at various levels, adding that the U.S. would not reach any separate agreement with the North without consulting South Korea or notify Seoul only after reaching an agreement.

UN experts urge Pakistan to protect girls
from forced religious conversion, marriage

ISLAMABAD

Three United Nations special rapporteurs have urged Pakistan to protect girls from kidnapping, forced religious conversion and child marriage, stressing that the existing laws in the country have little impact until authorities ensure access to justice and implement them consistently.

The experts made the remarks during a side event of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, jointly organised by advocacy groups Jubilee Campaign and the European Center for Law and Justice (ECLJ). The UN experts spoke about the alleged kidnapping, forced conversion



and marriage of Christian girls to Muslim men, Morning Star News, a US-based independent news service focusing exclusively on the persecution of Christians, reported.

UN special rapporteur on minority issues Nicolas Levrat, special rapporteur on violence against women and girls

and child marriage. He stated that the impunity surrounding forced religious conversions will not be resolved through new laws or legislation and demanded that religious minorities should have better access to justice in Pakistan, a press statement issued by Jubilee Campaign USA detailed.

In a virtual statement, Schwarz said child marriage can fall within the category of slavery and emphasised that slavery and other forms of exploitation take place in environments, where discrimination occurs, especially against women and girls. She urged Pakistan to take measures and provide "robust and effective protection" to fulfill its obli-

Reem Alsalem and Katarina Schwarz, the newly appointed special rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons, participated in the event.

Levrat said that Pakistan, under its international obligations, needs to protect children from forced religious conver-

gations, Morning Star News reported. Reem Alsalem spoke about recent legal reforms in Pakistan, including Punjab's Child Marriage Restraint Act 2026, which raised the minimum marriage age to 18 years for boys and girls and made underage marriage a non-bailable offense.

However, she voiced concern over the inconsistent implementation of such laws and spoke about the pressure faced by victims and their families to withdraw complaints. During the event, the families of the victims shared their ordeal, including the mother of 13-year-old Christian girl Maria Shahbaz, who disappeared from her home in July last year.

EAM Jaishankar arrives in Ghana to
advance comprehensive partnership



ACCRA

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar arrived in Ghana on Tuesday as India looks forward to productive engagements to advance a comprehensive partnership between New Delhi and Accra. "Delighted to arrive in Accra, Ghana today. Appreciate the warm welcome by FM Sam Okudzeto Ablakwa. Look forward to productive engagements to advance our Comprehensive Partnership," EAM Jaishankar stated on X.

On Monday, the Foreign Ministry of Ghana stated that EAM Jaishankar's visit will provide an opportunity for the two countries to renew their bond of solidarity and shared values.

"The Minister of External Affairs of India, His Excellency Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, will pay an Official visit to Ghana from 6th to 7th October 2026 at the invitation of Ghana's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa. Ghana looks forward to hosting His Excellency Dr. S. Jaishankar on this historic visit, which will afford the two countries the opportunity to renew their inseparable bond

of solidarity and shared values," the ministry stated.

"During the visit, Ghana and India will hold discussions that will advance their relations in pharmaceutical development within the framework of President (John Dramani) Mahama's Accra Reset philosophy; deepening agricultural cooperation in mechanisation and value addition; support for President Mahama's industrialisation and job creation agenda; and expanding scholarships and IT partnerships," it added.

After Ghana, EAM Jaishankar will travel to Cote d'Ivoire and Ethiopia during his five-day official visit aimed at deepening India's bilateral partnership with the three African nations. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), during the visit from October 6 to 10, EAM will hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts and meet with the leadership of all three nations to review close bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation.

"Discussions will cover the whole gamut of bilateral ties across sectors, including trade and economic, development cooperation, capacity building, and people-to-people ties.

Capt Smit Machchhar making steady recovery, continues to regain health

ABU DHABI

Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, who fought against the attacking co-pilot in a Flydubai aircraft and helped save 174 people onboard, is continuing to make steady progress and is regaining his health, the Indian Embassy in the UAE said on Tuesday.

"Health Update: Capt Smit continues to make steady progress and is regaining his health. The Embassy remains in close touch with his family, doctors and local authorities, extending all possible assistance. We thank everyone for their prayers and wish him a speedy recovery," the Embassy stated on X.

Machchhar on Saturday recounted the terrifying moments inside the cockpit when he realised that his co-pilot was attacking him.

He described the ordeal while speaking to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who invited the pilot and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to light a celebratory flame at Israel's next Independence Day ceremony.

Machchhar said the flight had begun as a normal journey and that he was looking ahead while his co-pilot prayed.

According to Machchhar, he initially had no reason to suspect that anything was wrong. He said that the co-pilot had told him he wanted to pray,



something he described as a common practice among local passengers and crew members,

and that he therefore looked towards the front of the cockpit out of respect.

"While he was praying, out of respect, I was looking at the front and not at the back, and

suddenly, after about four to five minutes, there was a big blow to the back of my head."

Machchhar said his immediate thought after the first heavy blow was that something catastrophic had happened to the aircraft itself.

"My first thought was that there was catastrophic damage to the aircraft, that something is not right ... but after that the blows kept coming, one after the other and that's when I realised that it's not the aircraft, it's the other guy who is in the cockpit with me," he said.

The pilot said he attempted to stop the attacker, but the initial blows had severely affected his vision and left him struggling to see clearly.

"I did try and stop him, but because of his initial blows, my vision was almost like nothing, and I was completely blurred out," Machchhar said.

"And at that point, the next feeling I had was that the aircraft was sharply going down," he said. "My memory is still in bits and pieces right now, but this is what I remember out of that time."

Machchhar said he managed to open the cockpit door once during the struggle, but believed that the co-pilot subsequently shut it again.

"I did try and manage to open the door once, but I think he shut it back closed. And at this point, I remember, I was lying down on the cockpit floor,

and I felt the aircraft and the whooshing sound and people screaming," he said.

It was at that moment, Machchhar said, that he realised he had one final opportunity to prevent the aircraft from going down. Despite his injuries and the attack he had already endured, he decided to make another attempt to reach the cockpit door.

"And as I was telling the Ambassador here, I had that one last fight left in me... Call it personal or call it for people, I did it because if I didn't do it, I was going to die, and that's when I pushed against everything... I gave everything that I had and went for the door and opened the door."



Tablet shipments moderate as memory cost inflation pushes buyers to premium models
NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Tablet shipments in India eased 3.8 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2026 as brands began passing higher input costs to consumers, raising prices and prompting a shift toward higher-priced models, a report said on Tuesday. The report from Counterpoint Research said brands increased prices across portfolios and streamlined memory variants, lifting the average selling price by 15 per cent. The sub-Rs 20,000 segment, which has traditionally formed the backbone of India's tablet market, was most impacted by the memory price hike, declining 43 per cent YoY in Q2. The premium segment above Rs 20,000 grew 27 per cent and captured 74 per cent of the market. "This was driven by brands increasing prices and streamlining their portfolios, with consumers moving towards premium products with more capable processors, smoother ecosystem integration, and larger display sizes," said Principal Analyst Anshika Jain. There has been a notable movement in the market towards larger screen sizes, especially for screens larger than 12 inches, at a price point greater than Rs 20,000, as consumers increasingly view the tablets as a secondary screen. The Rs 20,000-Rs 30,000 price band in particular saw strong growth, rising 45 per cent YoY, supported by brands such as OnePlus and Lenovo.w

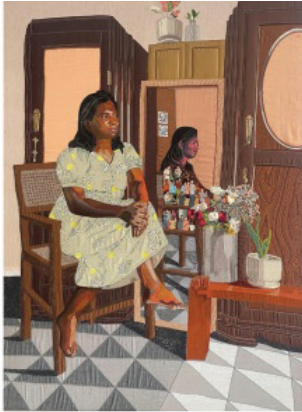
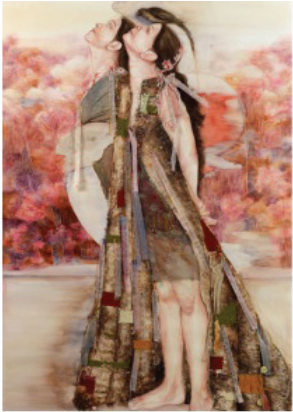
MONEY MATTERS

Kalakriti Art Gallery presents I Know What I Am Doing

HYDERABAD

Anupama Alias Anil, The Shared Quiet 1, 2026, Mixed Medium on Paper; Alamu Kumaresan, The Legacy of Melody Dorcas, 2024, Yarn, Thread, Zari, Fabrics Base on Plywood; and Santosh T.V, Protagonist and his Path of Divine Intervention - II, 2022, Watercolour on paper. Image Courtesy: Kalakriti Art Gallery
Kalakriti Art Gallery will present I Know What I Am Doing, a group exhibition curated by PS Jalaja on 9 October in Hyderabad. The exhibition brings together works by Adarsh Baji, Alamu Kumaresan, Anupama Alias Anil, George Martin P J, Greeshma C, Jaya P S, Indu Antony, K P Reji, Lakshmi Madhavan, Priyanka Aelay, Reghunadhan K, Sanam Narayanan, Santosh T V, Siji Krishnan, Sujith S N, Vinu V V, and Transisters Collective. The group exhibition featuring senior and younger artists examines agency, political consciousness and the intentionality behind contemporary artistic practice. Hyderabad, October 2026: Kalakriti Art Gallery delighted to present their upcoming group exhibition titled I Know What I Am Doing curated by PS Jalaja. Opening with a preview on 9 October, the exhibition brings together the diverse practices of contemporary South Indian artists working across different parts of India. The careful curation of works by contemporary artists Adarsh Baji, Alamu Kumaresan, Anupama Alias Anil, George Martin P J, Greeshma C, Jaya P S, Indu Antony, K P Reji, Lakshmi Madhavan,

A group exhibition that brings together Contemporary South Indian artistic practices On view 9 October - 17 November



Anupama Alias Anil, The Shared Quiet 1, 2026, Mixed Medium on Paper; Alamu Kumaresan, The Legacy of Melody Dorcas, 2024, Yarn, Thread, Zari, Fabrics Base on Plywood; and Santosh T.V, Protagonist and his Path of Divine Intervention - II, 2022, Watercolour on paper. Image Courtesy: Kalakriti Art Gallery

Priyanka Aelay, Reghunadhan K, Sanam Narayanan, Santosh T V, Siji Krishnan, Sujith S N, Vinu V V, and Transisters Collective. The exhibition's title, I Know What I Am Doing, foregrounds the deliberate choices that underpin artistic practice. At a moment when art-making is increasingly shaped by market forces, digital velocity and institutional structures, the exhibition turns its attention to artists whose practices are marked by a clear sense of purpose and engagement. The works in I Know What I Am Doing have been selected around three central considerations: political consciousness, insight into medium and conceptual clarity. Curator PS Jalaja has broughttogether artists across generations to consider how artistic practice responds to the social, political and cultural complexities of the present. Across varied practices, the

artists engage with questions of power, labour, environment, caste, gender, memory, migration, place and existence. Medium is not only a vehicle for aesthetic expression but an active part of how an idea is constructed and communicated. The exhibition recognises that these concerns are inseparable from lived experience and historical realities. I Know What I Am Doing creates a space for different artistic positions to coexist, converge and collide. The exhibition embraces the contradictions and diversity that characterise contemporary practice, allowing works and ideas to enter into dialogue without necessarily arriving at a single conclusion. The sentiment behind the statement 'I know what I am doing' is an assertion of intentionality. It is an acknowledgement that making art today involves navigating complex social conditions, histories and structures. The art

ists in this exhibition recognise these challenges while insisting on the significance of their choices and positions. Talking about the exhibition and artists Gallerist Rekha Lahoti says, "The title I Know What I Am Doing is a revelation, a declaration and a kind of provocation that backs the artists' choice of medium. This exhibition includes several South Indian artists that work and live in various parts of India. Essentially, the exhibition features younger artists and senior contemporary artists, and they have been selected with clarity on their concepts and thoughts. Adarsh Baji is one of our past Krishnakriti Scholarship awardees. Our foundation had given him a scholarship for his BFA and MFA. He is a specially-abled artist who has been affected by polio, but his work has been appreciated by the Gene-

va Peace Foundation and is in their collection, as well as the KNMA collection. His works are appreciated because they have their own language. As you will understand from his works, the boat and the arms are his crutches, so it is very thought-provoking and a statement in itself. Alamu Kumaresan's works are very different and thoughtful. When she talks about whether you hold your nose from the front or from the side, or from the ear side, the destination is the same, but how we go about it, the ideology, is different. Another promising artist is Anupama Alias Anil. She is also one of our French Scholarship artists who went to France in 2016 and has definitely been influenced by her experience in France and her connections, which we can see in her works. Lakshmi Madhavan is an amazing artist and I am happy to get her works to Hyderabad. Priyanka Aelay is our local Hyderabad artist and is our represented artist again. Reghunadhan's and Vinu VV's works are being shown for the first time at Kalakriti. Sanam Narayanan's works are very soothing and I am extremely fond of the way he creates imagery with a rice-paper effect. George Martin, T.V. Santosh and S.N. Sujith works have some spectacular works in this exhibition. We also have performance artists in this exhibition; a group of three performing artists together as the Transisters Collective.

DRI seizes 8.3 kg gold worth Rs 12.37 cr along Indo-Bangladesh border

NEW DELHI: (OCT 6)

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized around 8.3 kg of foreign-origin gold valued at Rs. 12.37 crore in an operation along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

Four persons have been arrested in connection with the smuggling activities, the finance ministry

said in a statement.

In a significant intelligence-led operation, DRI officers mounted surveillance along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Cooch Behar District and on October 5 intercepted four individuals travelling on two motorcycles along the route from the Indo-Bangladesh border at Chowdhurihat to Cooch Behar.

India, Switzerland hold talks on fast-tracking Bilateral Investment Treaty

NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held discussions with Swiss President Guy Parmelin on Tuesday on taking forward negotiations over the Bilateral Investment Treaty between the two countries, with a view to enhancing investment flows and deepening economic engagement. "Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. @nsitharaman called on H.E. Mr.@ParmelinG, Swiss President, in New Delhi, today. They held discussions on issues of common interest to both India and Switzerland, including taking forward negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Treaty which is mutually beneficial to both nations with a view to enhance investment flows and deepening economic engagement," the Finance Ministry said on X. India and Switzerland are strengthening their economic partnership with a focus on expanding market access, facilitating investment and deepening cooperation in infrastructure, technology, innovation and supply chains, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal had said. In a post on X, Agarwal said India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries had implemented the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) last year, describing it as India's first free trade agreement with a European economic bloc.



their talks here on Monday, PM Modi said the two countries agreed that reforms in global institutions were essential to address growing global challenges. "India and Switzerland both believe in democratic values, rule of law, dialogue and diplomacy," PM Modi said and added that India had consistently supported meaningful efforts towards peace in Ukraine and West Asia. "We have taken several important decisions to enhance market access for India's exports in Switzerland and to further facilitate investment between the two countries. This will increase the export of India's agriculture, pharma, textile, and engineering goods to Switzerland. At the same time, we will attract new Swiss investment in India's important sectors such as biotech, life Sciences, banking, insurance, food processing, and Sustainability," he said.

Apart from that, PM Modi and the Swiss President reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties and discussed ways to further deepen cooperation in trade, investment, innovation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), military matters, defence production, nuclear energy, science and technology, and people-to-people ties. Moreover, India and the four EFTA members -- Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein -- implemented TEPA in October 2025.

Sensex Jumps 685 Points, Trent Surges 13%

Benchmark indices extended their gains on Tuesday, with the Sensex rising nearly 700 points and the Nifty gaining close to 1%, as banking and financial stocks led the recovery. Trent surged over 12% after a strong business update, while easing crude oil prices and supportive global cues also lifted sentiment ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's policy decision on Wednesday.

The Sensex ended at 73,067.81, up 685.34 points or 0.95%. The index opened at 72,508.05. The Nifty 50 closed at 22,776.10, gaining 219.35 points or 0.98%. The gains extended Monday's recovery, when the Sensex and Nifty had risen 0.66% and 0.60%, respectively, after both benchmarks suffered their eighth straight weekly decline.

BANKS LEAD MARKET RECOVERY

Banking and financial stocks were among the biggest contributors to Tuesday's gains after lenders reported positive quarterly business updates. The Nifty Financial Services 25/50 index rose 1.06%, while the private bank index gained 1.41%. Axis Bank jumped 2.01% and Kotak Mahindra Bank surged 3.59% after the lenders reported growth in advances and deposits. HDFC Bank also gained 0.74%, while ICICI Bank rose 0.65%. Reliance Industries advanced 2.77%, taking its two-session gain to 4.3%. The broader financial services index



also performed well, with the Nifty Financial Services ex-Bank index rising 0.97% and the Nifty MidSmall Financial Services index gaining 0.83%. Kranthi Bathini, director of equity strategy at Wealthmills Securities, said domestic markets had rebounded from oversold levels after last week's sharp decline, with bank quarterly updates showing continued credit and deposit growth. "The policy rate decision on Wednesday

and quarterly earnings of Tata Consultancy Services on Thursday are the near-term triggers for the markets," Bathini said.

TRENT SURGES 12% AFTER Q2 UPDATE

Trent was the biggest Sensex gainer, with the stock jumping 12.78% to Rs 2,904. The sharp rally came after the Tata Group retail company projected a 23% year-on-year rise in standalone revenue for the September quarter. The strong business update

triggered buying in the stock and lifted sentiment around the broader consumption space. Other consumer-facing stocks also gained. Hindustan Unilever rose 2.83%, while Asian Paints gained 2.03%. Dabur India and Godrej Consumer Products also rose after upbeat quarterly business updates.

BROADER MARKET RALLY

The recovery was broad-based, with 14 of the 16 major sectoral indices ending higher. The Nifty 100 rose 1%, Nifty 200 gained 1.02% and Nifty 500 advanced 1.05%. The Nifty Midcap 50 rose 1.23%, Midcap 100 gained 1.08%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 jumped 1.56%. Among sectors, chemicals rose 1.98%, pharma gained 1.66%, oil and gas advanced 1.58%, FMCG climbed 1.40%,

private banks rose 1.41% and financial services gained 1.06%. Healthcare gained 1.05%, while consumer durables rose 0.75% and metals advanced 0.81%. IT was among the few sectors to end lower, with the Nifty IT index falling 0.59%. Realty declined 0.27% and PSU banks slipped 0.08%.

CRUDE FALLS BELOW \$100

Crude oil prices provided another boost to Indian equities. Brent crude fell 1.65% to \$98.66 per barrel, while WTI crude declined 1.83% to \$87.79. Brent crude fell below the \$100 mark amid increased Middle East oil exports and a G7 pledge to raise supplies. Lower crude prices are positive for India as they can ease pressure on inflation, the import bill and corporate margins.

7Padel MS Dhoni Inaugurated

Hyderabad's First Ultra-Premium Indoor Padel, Fitness and Wellness Facility at Jubilee Hills
The state-of-the-art indoor destination houses three padel courts, a gym, recovery suite, wellness studio and in-house café

HYDERABAD, INDIA

Cricket legend MS Dhoni, Co-founders Nikhil Sachdev, Jigar Doshi and Pratik Doshi, today officially inaugurated 7Padel MS Dhoni in Jubilee Hills, a one-of-a-kind, ultra-luxury, state-of-the-art sports and wellness sanctuary that stands unmatched in Hyderabad. This groundbreaking flagship venue unfolds entirely indoors, uniting world-class athletic performance, elite bio-recovery, and premium lifestyle spaces beneath a single roof to redefine the city's sporting landscape.

The sprawling 15,000 sq.ft. facility houses 3 Padel courts, a fully equipped gym, a restorative recovery suite with a sauna, invigorating ice bath, and infrared room, and a versatile studio for yoga, Pilates, and beyond. An in-built café sets the stage for post-match conversation, while an elegant viewing gallery lets spectators savour every thrilling rally in comfort and style. With



top-tier equipment rentals, certified coaching and local tournaments crafted for first-timers and seasoned competitors alike, it is a destination without equal in the city. Speaking on the expansion, Jigar Doshi, Co-Founder of PadelPark India, said, "Hyderabad has been on our radar for a while, and we felt the timing was right. We're seeing more people looking for sports that are active but also deeply social, and padel fits that need perfectly. With 7Padel, we want to create an inclusive environment where

that culture can grow naturally through regular play, professional coaching, and structured competition."

Highlighting the universal appeal of the game, MS Dhonisaid, "There is no shortcut to building a sport. Build good courts, look after the people who play on them, keep the doors open to anyone willing to try, and the game grows from the grassroots up. City by city, that is how padel will grow here. Hyderabad is a new chapter, and far from the last."

The opening arrives on the back of remarkable momen-

tum. 7Padel today operates 50+ owned and managed courtsacross Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Delhi, powering a thriving community of over 55,000 players, with Hyderabad now joining the network, followed by Kochi, Coimbatore, Chennai, Jaipur, Mumbai and Delhi NCR, we are set to open in all these locations soon. Across India, padel is surging, with an estimated over 125,000 active players and a rapidly expanding network of courts. What was once a niche pursuit has become a full-fledged fitness and lifestyle phenomenon, and PadelPark India has been at the very heart of that transformation, having built over 320+ courts nationwide and set its sights on 500+ courts by the end of 2027.

With the unveiling of its Jubilee Hills facility, 7Padel by PadelPark India decisively strengthens its national footprint and takes another bold stride in advancing community-led fitness and sports participation across the country.

SME Growth Fund is a big boost for MSME sector: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, OCT 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the Cabinet's approval for the Rs 10,000 crore SME Growth Fund is a big boost for the MSME sector and represents a major step towards creating the next generation of Indian business leaders.

The Centre's proposed SME Growth Fund is aimed at helping small and medium enterprises (SMEs) expand their operations, adopt advanced technologies, increase manufacturing capacity and enter international markets, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said. "The fund offers the platform for SMEs to scale up, adopt advanced technologies, expand manufacturing, enter global markets and integrate with global value chains," Modi said in a post on X. The government plans to provide an aggregate commitment of Rs



10,000 crore to an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) established under the SME Growth Fund framework. The initiative is expected to provide long-term growth capital to enterprises that have demonstrated business viability and the potential to scale. A major portion of the fund's investments will be directed towards small and medium manufacturing enterprises. The scheme will

also consider eligible businesses operating in industrial clusters located in Tier-II and Tier-III cities, with the objective of promoting more balanced industrial development across the country. According to the government, Indian SMEs play a critical role in the economy through their contribution to employment, exports, manufacturing and innovation. While several initiatives have improved access to conventional credit, many growing enterprises continue to face a shortage of long-term risk capital needed to expand their businesses. The SME Growth Fund is designed to address this financing gap by providing patient growth equity to high-potential companies. Such funding could help businesses increase production, invest in new technologies, expand into overseas markets, undertake strategic acquisitions and strengthen their competitiveness. The initiative is also expected to support enterprises seeking

to become larger and more competitive players in their respective sectors. Manufacturing companies receiving long-term capital could use the funds to expand production capacity and improve productivity, thereby strengthening their ability to compete in global markets. Investments in industrial clusters, particularly those located in smaller cities, are expected to strengthen local supply chains and create high-quality employment opportunities. The government believes the initiative will also encourage innovation and help build a stronger pipeline of Indian companies capable of emerging as sectoral leaders. By addressing the shortage of long-term growth capital, the SME Growth Fund is expected to complement existing credit-focused measures and provide businesses with greater financial support as they move from smaller enterprises to larger, globally competitive companies.





El Niño and Agriculture

How a Warming Pacific Can Change the Fate of Farmers

Understanding El Niño

El Niño develops when the normally cool waters along parts of the eastern and central Pacific become warmer than usual. Under normal conditions, trade winds push warm surface water towards the western Pacific, while cooler water rises near the coasts of Ecuador and Peru. This circulation influences rainfall and atmospheric pressure across the tropics. During El Niño, these trade winds weaken in many cases, allowing warm water to spread eastward across the Pacific. The location of major areas of rising air and rainfall changes, and this can disturb atmospheric circulation far beyond the Pacific Ocean. The agricultural consequences arise because crops require specific combinations of rainfall, temperature and soil moisture at different stages of their growth. A few weeks of unusual weather at the wrong time can sometimes cause more damage than a moderate seasonal change. A farmer may have sufficient rain during sowing but face dry conditions during flowering, or receive heavy rain after harvesting has begun. This is why the timing and distribution of rainfall can be more important to agriculture than the total seasonal rainfall alone.

El Niño and the Indian Monsoon

India is one of the countries where El Niño receives considerable attention because of its relationship with the southwest monsoon. Historically, many El Niño years have been associated with below-normal monsoon rainfall over India, although the relationship is not perfect. The Indian monsoon is controlled by several interacting factors. El Niño is one influence among many, and other oceanic and atmospheric conditions can strengthen or weaken its impact. Consequently, an El Niño year does not necessarily mean that every part of India will experience drought. For farmers, however, even a moderate reduction or delay in rainfall can create difficulties. The kharif season depends heavily on the arrival and distribution of monsoon rains. Crops such as paddy, maize, soybean, cotton, pulses and groundnut can be affected when rainfall does not arrive at the expected time. In rain-fed regions, farmers often plan sowing around the first dependable rains. If those rains are delayed, they may postpone sowing. If they arrive in short bursts followed by a long dry spell, seeds may germinate but young plants can suffer from moisture stress. This can force farmers to resow fields, increasing their expenditure on seeds, labour and farm preparation.

Impact on Crop Sowing

One of the first agricultural effects of an El Niño-related rainfall disturbance can appear even before crops are established. Farmers generally prepare their fields based on expectations about

the coming season. When rainfall is delayed, fields may remain too dry for planting. In regions without assured irrigation, farmers may wait for adequate soil moisture before sowing. A delayed sowing season can affect the entire crop calendar. Crops have specific maturity periods, and late planting can expose them to unsuitable temperatures or unexpected rainfall during flowering and harvesting. For example, a farmer growing a short-duration crop may be able to adjust the planting date, while a farmer cultivating a longer-duration crop may have fewer options. Agricultural decisions therefore become increasingly complicated when seasonal weather becomes uncertain. The problem can be particularly serious for small and marginal farmers who cannot easily afford repeated sowing or additional irrigation.

Water Stress and Irrigation

El Niño can also increase pressure on water resources when rainfall is below normal or poorly distributed. Irrigation systems may have to compensate for the lack of rain, increasing demand for groundwater, canals, reservoirs and farm ponds. Farmers with reliable irrigation are generally better positioned to manage a dry spell. They may be able to provide supplementary water during critical stages of crop development. But irrigation itself is not unlimited. In areas dependent on groundwater, prolonged dry conditions can encourage farmers to pump more water. This may increase electricity or fuel costs and accelerate groundwater depletion. If several consecutive seasons experience water stress, the problem can become more serious. Reservoir levels are another concern. Reduced rainfall can affect the water available not only for agriculture but also for drinking water, hydropower and industrial use. Competition among different water requirements can therefore become sharper during difficult agricultural years.

Effects on Major Crops

The effect of El Niño differs from crop to crop. Paddy is particularly sensitive to water availability because many rice-growing systems require substantial quantities of water. A weak or delayed monsoon can create difficulties for rain-fed rice cultivation, especially where irrigation infrastructure is limited.

Maize, soybean, groundnut and pulses can also be affected by moisture stress during important growth stages. Cotton farmers may face reduced yields when rainfall and temperature conditions become unfavourable, although the exact effect depends on the region and timing. Pulses deserve special attention because they are often cultivated in relatively dry areas. A rainfall shortage can reduce productivity, but excessive rainfall at the wrong stage can also damage crops. Farmers therefore need

Agriculture depends heavily on weather, and few climate phenomena can influence farming conditions across such a large part of the world as El Niño. It begins thousands of kilometres away in the tropical Pacific Ocean, but its effects can reach farms in Asia, Africa, Australia and the Americas. Changes in ocean temperatures and atmospheric circulation during an El Niño event can alter rainfall patterns, temperatures and the timing of seasons. For farmers, these changes can mean the difference between a healthy harvest and a season of crop losses.

not simply more rain but appropriately timed rain. Horticultural crops can face another set of challenges. Vegetables, fruits and plantation crops may respond strongly to temperature and water stress. Heat during flowering can reduce fruit formation in some crops, while prolonged moisture shortages can affect size and quality. Thus, El Niño does not produce one single agricultural outcome. Its impact depends on crop type, location, soil, irrigation and the timing of weather changes.

Rising Temperatures Add to the Problem

Rainfall is only one part of the El Niño challenge. Temperature can be equally important. When El Niño conditions influence regional weather, some agricultural areas may experience higher-than-normal temperatures. Heat can increase evaporation from soil and water bodies, causing available moisture to disappear more quickly. For crops, extreme heat can interfere with photosynthesis, flowering, pollination and grain formation. Livestock can also experience heat stress. Cattle, buffaloes, poultry and other animals may reduce feed intake and productivity under severe heat. This creates a chain reaction. A farmer facing both inadequate rainfall and higher temperatures may need more irrigation precisely when water availability is declining.

Livestock and Dairy Farming

The agricultural impact of El Niño extends beyond crops. Livestock farming depends on water, fodder and suitable temperatures. A dry season can reduce the availability of natural grazing areas and increase pressure on fodder supplies. Farmers may need to purchase additional feed, raising production costs. Water shortages can also affect animal health and milk production. Heat stress is particularly important for dairy animals. When temperatures remain high, animals may eat less and drink more water. Milk production can decline, while farmers have to spend more resources

El Niño is part of a natural climate pattern known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, or ENSO. During an El Niño phase, the surface waters of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean become unusually warm. This warming affects the movement of air and moisture around the globe. The resulting changes in weather are not identical everywhere, but agricultural regions can experience delayed rainfall, drought, excessive heat or unusual rainfall depending on their location. For countries such as India, where a large section of agriculture continues to

depend on the monsoon, El Niño is particularly important. A weaker or poorly distributed monsoon can affect sowing, crop growth, irrigation requirements, groundwater levels, livestock and food prices. However, the relationship is not as simple as saying that every El Niño automatically causes drought. Modern agriculture is influenced by irrigation, reservoirs, crop choices, technology, soil conditions, government policies and other climate patterns. Understanding El Niño therefore requires looking at the entire agricultural system rather than focusing only on rainfall.

Food Prices and Rural Economies

The effects of El Niño can move beyond individual farms and eventually reach consumers. If weather-related crop losses reduce production, market supplies can tighten. Prices may rise, particularly for commodities where inventories are limited or where imports are difficult or expensive. Food inflation can then become a wider economic concern. Governments may respond through measures such as releasing stocks, changing import or export policies, providing assistance to farmers or improving irrigation and water management. For rural communities, a weak agricultural season can also reduce employment. Farm labour demand may decline if farmers reduce planting or harvest smaller areas. Lower farm income can affect spending on education, household goods, machinery and other services. In this way, the agricultural effects of El Niño can spread through the rural economy.

Small Farmers Face Greater Risks

Not all farmers have the same ability to deal with climate uncertainty. Large commercial farms may have access to irrigation, crop insurance, modern machinery, weather information and financial resources. Small farmers may have fewer options. A farmer cultivating a few acres of rain-fed land may not be able to install a new irrigation system or absorb the cost of repeated crop failure. If a crop fails after the farmer has borrowed money for seeds, fertilisers and labour, the financial consequences

can be severe. This makes climate resilience particularly important for small and marginal farmers.

Access to timely weather forecasts can help farmers make better decisions. If farmers know that rainfall is likely to be delayed, they may choose a shorter-duration crop or adjust sowing dates. Information alone cannot eliminate climate risk, but it can improve decision-making.

The Role of Climate-Smart Agriculture

El Niño highlights the importance of agricultural practices that use water and other resources efficiently. Drip irrigation and sprinkler systems can reduce water wastage in suitable crops. Rainwater harvesting and farm ponds can help capture water during periods of adequate rainfall for later use. Mulching can reduce evaporation and help maintain soil moisture.

Crop diversification is another important strategy. Depending entirely on one crop can increase vulnerability when weather conditions turn unfavourable. Farmers may combine cereals, pulses, oilseeds, horticulture or livestock depending on local conditions and market opportunities. Drought-tolerant and heat-tolerant crop varieties can also play an important role. Agricultural research institutions increasingly focus on varieties that can maintain reasonable productivity under water and heat stress.

The objective is not to eliminate the influence of climate but to reduce the damage caused by it.

maintaining animal health. Poultry farming can also be affected by extreme heat because birds are sensitive to high temperatures. Additional cooling and ventilation may become necessary, increasing operating costs.

Technology and Weather Forecasting

Technology is becoming an important tool in managing climate risks. Satellite observations, weather models and digital agricultural services can provide information about rainfall, temperature and soil moisture. Farmers can use weather forecasts to decide when to sow, irrigate, spray pesticides or harvest. Mobile-based advisory systems can communicate warnings about heat waves, heavy rainfall or changing weather conditions. Artificial intelligence and data-based agricultural models may further improve the ability to combine weather forecasts with crop information. In the future, farmers could receive increasingly localised recommendations based on soil conditions, crop variety and expected weather. However, technology is most useful when information reaches farmers in a simple and timely manner. A highly accurate forecast is of limited value if the farmer cannot understand it or cannot act on it.

Government Support and Risk Management

Governments play an important role in protecting agriculture from climate-related shocks. Irrigation development, water conservation, crop insurance, agricultural credit and disaster assistance can reduce the financial impact of poor seasons. Crop insurance can provide some protection when farmers suffer losses due to specified weather events. However, awareness, timely assessment and quick settlement are important for such systems to work effectively. Public investment in reservoirs, canals, watershed development and groundwater management can also strengthen agricultural resilience. At the same time, water-intensive farming practices may need to be reconsidered in areas where water resources are already under pressure. Long-term planning becomes particularly important because El Niño is a recurring climate phenomenon rather than a one-time event.

El Niño Is a Warning About Agricultural Resilience

It is important not to treat El Niño as the sole explanation for every agricultural problem. Weather is influenced by multiple climate systems, and the impact of El Niño varies from one event to another. A region may experience below-normal rainfall during an El Niño year, while another region may receive normal or even above-normal rainfall. Local weather patterns can sometimes weaken or strengthen the expected effects. Nevertheless, El Niño provides an important reminder that agriculture operates within a

highly interconnected climate system. A change in ocean temperature thousands of kilometres away can influence rainfall, crop production, water availability and food markets. Climate change adds another layer of uncertainty. A changing climate does not simply mean that every El Niño will become stronger or produce the same agricultural consequences. Instead, farmers may increasingly have to deal with a combination of climate variability, higher temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events.

The Way Forward for Indian Agriculture

For India, preparing for El Niño should involve moving from crisis management towards long-term resilience. Better irrigation efficiency, groundwater conservation, drought-resistant crops, improved weather forecasting and diversified farming can help reduce vulnerability. Rain-fed agriculture requires particular attention because millions of farmers depend directly on seasonal rainfall. Strengthening watershed programmes, farm ponds and soil-moisture conservation can provide valuable protection during dry spells. At the same time, agricultural planning needs to become more region-specific. A strategy suitable for a rice-growing area in eastern India may not work for a cotton-growing region in Telangana or a horticultural belt in southern India. Farmers need reliable information, affordable technology and access to markets alongside climate-resilient farming techniques.

Conclusion

El Niño begins as a warming of tropical Pacific waters, but its influence can extend into the fields where farmers grow food for millions of people. By changing atmospheric circulation and influencing rainfall and temperature patterns, it can affect sowing, crop growth, irrigation, livestock, farm income and food prices. For Indian agriculture, the most important lesson is that rainfall quantity alone does not determine agricultural success. Its timing, distribution and interaction with temperature are equally important. A delayed monsoon, a prolonged dry spell or extreme heat during flowering can significantly affect a crop even when seasonal rainfall eventually recovers. The answer lies not in trying to predict every El Niño perfectly, but in making agriculture better prepared for uncertainty. Efficient water management, crop diversification, climate-resilient varieties, accurate weather information, crop insurance and stronger rural infrastructure can help farmers withstand difficult seasons. El Niño cannot be stopped. But its impact on agriculture can be reduced. The future of farming will depend increasingly on how effectively farmers, scientists, governments and communities prepare for a climate in which weather uncertainty is becoming an important part of agricultural decision-making.



Smriti replaces Harmanpreet as all-format captain of Indian women's cricket team

MUMBAI

With Harmanpreet Kaur deciding to quit captaincy, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday night announced that Smriti Mandhana will take over from her on a permanent basis. Mandhana has led India in different formats earlier. While she will be the full-time white-ball captain from now on, Smriti has led India in 18 T20Is and 4 ODIs.

Smriti has been one of the leading figures in Indian women's cricket over the years and has played a key role in the team's progress across formats. An experienced international cricketer, she has also demonstrated her leadership qualities in domestic and franchise cricket, most recently leading Royal Challengers Bengaluru to the Women's Premier League titles in 2024 and 2026.

"Having been part of the Indian team since 2013, Smriti brings considerable experience



into the role. She will now take on the responsibility of leading the side, with the team entering a new phase and continuing to build on the progress made in recent years," the BCCI said in a release on Tuesday.

Speaking on her appointment, Smriti Mandhana said: "To be given the responsibility of leading India is a very special honour. Representing India has always meant a great deal to me,

and to now have the opportunity to lead the team is something I will value deeply. I am grateful to the BCCI, the selectors, my teammates, and everyone who has supported me throughout my journey and for the trust they have placed in me.

"I would also like to acknowledge Harmanpreet and the contribution she has made as captain over the years. She has led the team with great com-

mitment and has been an important part of our journey.

"I understand the responsibility that comes with this role and look forward to working with the team, learning along the way and giving my best to take Indian Cricket forward," she added.

BCCI President Mithun Manhas said: "I congratulate Smriti on being entrusted with the responsibility of leading the Indian Women's Cricket Team. She has been an important part of Indian cricket for many years and has consistently shown the qualities required to lead from the front. Her experience and understanding of the game will be valuable as she takes on this responsibility.

"The BCCI has full confidence in Smriti, and I am sure she will approach this role with the same commitment and professionalism that she has shown throughout her career. On behalf of the BCCI, I wish her the very best and look forward to

seeing her lead the team into this new chapter," he said.

Devajit Saikia, BCCI Honorary Secretary, said: "Congratulations to Smriti on this important responsibility. She has grown into one of the most experienced players in the Indian team and has been part of some very important moments in the journey of Indian women's cricket. She understands what it means to represent India, and I am confident that she will bring that understanding to her role as captain.

"Leading India is a significant responsibility, but Smriti has the experience and temperament to take it on. Her success as captain of Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Women's Premier League is another example of her leadership qualities. I wish her and the team every success in the journey ahead and look forward to seeing Indian Cricket continue to progress under her leadership," he said.

1st T20I: Shreyas Iyer's historic ton, Naman Dhir's three-for power India to an eight-wicket win

LUCKNOW

Skipper Shreyas Iyer produced a historic unbeaten 102 off 43 balls, and Naman Dhir made an impressive impact on debut as India thrashed West Indies by eight wickets in the first T20I at the BRSABV Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Chasing 172, India completed a dominant victory in just 14.4 overs, with Iyer smashing his maiden T20I century and his highest score in the format. His sensational knock included a century off just 42 balls, making it the second-fastest hundred against West Indies in T20Is, behind only Australia's Tim David, who reached the landmark in 37 balls in 2025.

Iyer's century was also the fastest by an Indian against West Indies in T20Is, bettering KL Rahul's 46-ball hundred in Lauderhill in 2016. The India captain became only the third Indian captain to score a century in men's T20Is, joining Rohit Sharma, who has three, and Suryakumar Yadav, who has one.

The 102 not out also surpassed Iyer's previous best T20I score of 80 not out against England in Bristol earlier in 2026. Iyer brought up his 11th T20I fifty in just 28 balls, and it was only his second half-century since taking over the captaincy from Suryakumar Yadav. He received a loud ovation from the Ekana crowd as he took control of the chase following the early loss of both Indian openers.

India raced to 62/2 after six overs, with Abhishek Sharma scoring 21 and Sanju Samson making 11 before departing. Rather than allowing the early setbacks to slow the chase, Iyer continued to attack and found boundaries with regularity.

Ishan Kishan provided excellent support, scoring 37 off 27 balls as the pair stitched together a match-winning partnership of 137 off 68 balls. Kishan also completed 3,000 runs in international cricket during the chase.

India were 102/2 at the half-



way stage, needing 70 from 60 balls, but the equation quickly became academic as Iyer accelerated. He reached his hundred from 42 balls and remained unbeaten on 102 from 43, while Kishan fell after making 37.

West Indies had a chance to break the partnership when Iyer clipped a Shamar Springer delivery towards square leg, and Matthew Forde came charging in from deep cover. Forde dived forward and appeared to have taken a low catch, but the on-field decision remained not out, and TV umpire Rohan Pandit reviewed the effort.

Replays showed the ball touching the ground between Forde's fingers, confirming that the catch had not been completed. The decision left the West Indies camp frustrated, with Shai Hope and Akeal Hosein sharing smiles while head coach Daren Sammy was visibly unhappy in the dugout.

Earlier, Dhir, making his T20I debut, returned the third-best bowling figures by an Indian spinner on debut, claiming 3/31 from four overs as India bowled out West Indies

for 171.

The visitors were given a brisk start by skipper Shai Hope, who took 16 runs off Mayank Yadav in the second over. India, however, responded strongly during the power-play through Arshdeep Singh and Axar Patel. Kamil Pooran was the first wicket to fall for 12 before Shimron Hetmyer was run out for five and Rovman Powell was dismissed for a duck. The three wickets left West Indies struggling at 44/3 after six overs.

Hope then steadied the innings alongside Sherfane Rutherford, with the pair adding an unbeaten 38-run stand to take West Indies to 82/3 at the drinks break. Rutherford was unbeaten on 18, while Hope continued to anchor the innings.

Powell's dismissal extended his struggles against Axar. In T20 matches against the India all-rounder, Powell has now been dismissed twice, scoring only 17 runs off 13 balls. Hetmyer's run-out also saw him move to the top of West Indies' list for most run-outs in T20Is, with seven, ahead of Andre Fletcher's six.

Thapa scores but India go down 1-6 to strong Uruguayan side

KOLKATA

The national senior men's football team ended its international window with a disappointing 1-6 defeat to two-time World Cup winner Uruguay at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Kriranga in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Anirudh Thapa scored the lone goal for India in the 22nd minute to level an early goal from the penalty spot by Darwin Nunez in the 12th minute. The visitors then scored five times, with Maxi Araujo scoring a brace of goals in the 28th and 59th minutes. Rodrigo Zalazar (53rd), JM Sanabria (71st), and Rodrigo Aguirre (86th minute) secured a comfortable victory.

It was overall a mixed International Window for India as they drew 1-1 with Panama and lost to Brazil and Uruguay, the two World Cup winners they met in the last few weeks.

Thapa created a memorable moment for Indian football as

he scored against a World Cup winner.

Thapa reached the loose ball first, guided it beyond Uruguay goalkeeper Thiago Cardozo and turned towards 37,307 spectators roaring at the sight of India level with Uruguay. For a brief spell on Tuesday, the Blue Tigers had given the two-time world champions a contest. Lightning halted it soon afterwards. When play resumed, La Ceste struck quickly and did not allow the hosts to make another comeback. Thapa's equaliser was a piece of Indian football history even in defeat. He became only the second Indian to score against Uruguay in a senior international, following Manas Bhattacharya, who scored in India's 3-1 loss at Eden Gardens in the 1982 Nehru Cup.

Uruguay signalled their intent in the third minute when Rodrigo Zalazar delivered a cross that Anwar Ali cleared. India, however, did not retreat into their own half. Akash



Mishra launched a long throw into the penalty area in the sixth minute; after the clearance fell to Ryan Williams, Anwar sent the follow-up wide.

Three minutes later, India came closer. Maximiliano Araujo surrendered possession to Williams, who released Edmund Lalrindika. Lalrindika shaped to shoot, but Santiago Mourino's sliding challenge stopped him.

Uruguay took the lead from the penalty spot. Pramveer slid in on Federico Viñas as

the forward chased the ball inside the area, and referee Rustam Lutfullin pointed to the spot. Núñez sent Gurpreet Singh Sandhu the wrong way in the 11th minute. The visitors almost added another five minutes later: Núñez gathered a long ball on the left and found Zalazar, whose lay-off set up Araujo for a first-time shot against the right post.

India kept looking for a way forward. In the 23rd minute, Williams won the ball in midfield, skipped past Emiliano Martínez and drove into space

before shooting. Cardozo split the effort, and Thapa reacted quickest, keeping his composure to finish the rebound. His goal brought India level and gave the Kolkata crowd a moment to savour.

The momentum was interrupted in the 27th minute. A hydration break became a stoppage of around half an hour as the game was stopped because of lightning and inclement weather. Uruguay restored their lead almost immediately after the restart. Mourino picked out Nahitan Nández in space on the right; his low cross reached Araujo, who finished from close range in the 29th minute.

Núñez had a chance to stretch the lead in the 37th minute after running on to a through ball, but Sandhu rushed out and blocked the attempted chip with his face. India reached half-time trailing 1-2. Khalid Jamil then introduced Bijoy Varghese and Sahal Abdul Samad for Pramveer and Edmund.

Football: Assam edge SAI on penalties to lift Junior Girls' Tier 2 title

NARAINPUR (CHHATTISGARH)



Assam edged Sports Authority of India (SAI) 3-2 on penalties after the teams were locked goalless at the end of regulation time to win the Dr Talimeren Ao Junior Girls' National Football Championship Tier 2 at the RK Ashram Ground in Narainpur, Chhattisgarh, on Tuesday. Both Assam and SAI earned promotion to Tier 1 for next season by reaching the final. In the shoot-out, Krithika Haziwary gave SAI the lead with the opening kick before goalkeeper Anjali Basumatary denied Assam substitute Banasree Bordoloi. Assam goalkeeper Furchang Lama then saved a shot from SAI captain Ribika Basumatary, while Karishma Ruma converted to make it 1-1 after two rounds.

Lama continued to prove decisive, keeping out Sayani Chakraborty and Irom Deviyan Chanu. In between, Anjali denied Jirmili Kramsapi. Assam captain Minakshi Bhuyan then converted to put her side 2-1 ahead. Mwi Yuri re-

stored parity for SAI with a powerful left-footed effort into the top-right corner, but Maanvi Mech calmly placed Assam's fifth and decisive kick low to the right to seal the shootout 3-2.

It was fitting that Maanvi delivered the winning penalty after having come close to breaking the deadlock several times during regulation time. She had at least four chances during a sustained spell of Assam pressure in the second half, with Karishma regularly finding her with neat passes. Three of Maanvi's efforts were blocked away for corners, while on another occasion, with the goal

at her mercy, her attempted chip travelled wide of the left post. At the other end, SAI striker Yaitthabi Thokchom was equally threatening.

Ribika, Krithika and Roshni Basumatary repeatedly created openings for her, but Furchang produced a string of saves to keep Assam level. The teams adopted contrasting approaches throughout the contest. SAI played a methodical and organised game, moving the ball through short passes and intelligent runs into the box, while Assam preferred a more direct route with long balls and through passes.

Naman Dhir debuts as India elect to bowl against WI in Lucknow

LUCKNOW

India won the toss and elected to bowl against the West Indies in the first T20I of the five-match series at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Tuesday. After making his ODI debut on September 27, Naman Dhir is set to make his T20I debut in the series opener. He received his maiden T20I cap from Arshdeep Singh. It will also be a special game for Akeal Hosein, who will play his 100th T20I for the West Indies. India captain Shreyas Iyer acknowledged the challenge posed by a formidable West Indies side but backed his team to settle quickly despite a hectic travel schedule following their Asian Games campaign. Iyer also confirmed that Ravi Bishnoi, Nitish Reddy, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Prince Yadav were left out of the playing XI.



China Open: Djokovic wins record seventh title after de Minaur retires

BEIJING

Former World No. 1 Novak Djokovic claimed a record-extending seventh China Open title and his 102nd tour-level trophy after Alex de Minaur retired during the second set of their championship match in Beijing on Tuesday.

Djokovic took the opening set 7-6(3) before both players took medical timeouts. De Minaur subsequently left the court for treatment for a groin issue. The Australian returned and won the opening game of the second set but was unable to continue and retired, handing Djokovic another landmark title. The victory saw Djokovic move within one title of former rival Roger Federer's 103 tour-level crowns. Only Jimmy Connors, with 109 titles, has won more in the Open Era.

The 39-year-old also maintained his remarkable unbeaten record in Beijing, improving to 34-0 at the China Open. It was Djokovic's first appearance at the tournament since 2015, when he defeated Rafael Nadal in the final to secure his sixth title. Djokovic had to negotiate a difficult route to the

final, beginning with a victory over Buyunchaokete before overcoming top seed Alexander Zverev in a closely fought quarterfinal.

He then advanced to the final in dramatic circumstances after Daniil Medvedev defaulted in their semifinal. Djokovic was serving at 7-5, 5-3, 15/15 when Medvedev struck a ball into the crowd after it bounced off the back wall, with the ball hitting a spectator.

The semifinal had already produced a gruelling contest, with Djokovic recovering from a break down in the opening set and saving 16 of 18 break points he faced before moving within three points of victory. The China Open title is particularly significant for Djokovic, as he became the first player in the Open Era to win a tour-level title in 21 consecutive seasons. Despite not winning a Grand Slam since his 2023 US Open triumph, Djokovic's run in Beijing has strengthened his prospects of qualifying for the ATP Finals in Turin. The Serbian now owns 102 tour-level titles and will look to build on his strong Beijing campaign as the season enters its final phase.

Chennai Open

Australia dealt huge blow as Cameron Green ruled out of Durban Test



NEW DELHI: Australia have been dealt a huge blow ahead of the opening Test against South Africa, with head coach Andrew McDonald confirming that Cameron Green will miss the first match of the series at Kingsmead, Durban. Green sustained an abdominal strain while playing a hook shot during the third ODI against South Africa and has been racing against time to regain full fitness. He was absent from Australia's two-day warm-up fixture in Potchefstroom and has been restricted to minor physical conditioning work on the sidelines. Speaking ahead of Australia's first full training session at Kingsmead, McDonald said Green was progressing well but would not be available for the Durban Test. "He's progressing pretty well, all things considered. He's still here for a reason, so there is some light at the end of the tunnel. It'll just be a matter of going through the rehab," McDonald said, as quoted by Cricinfo.



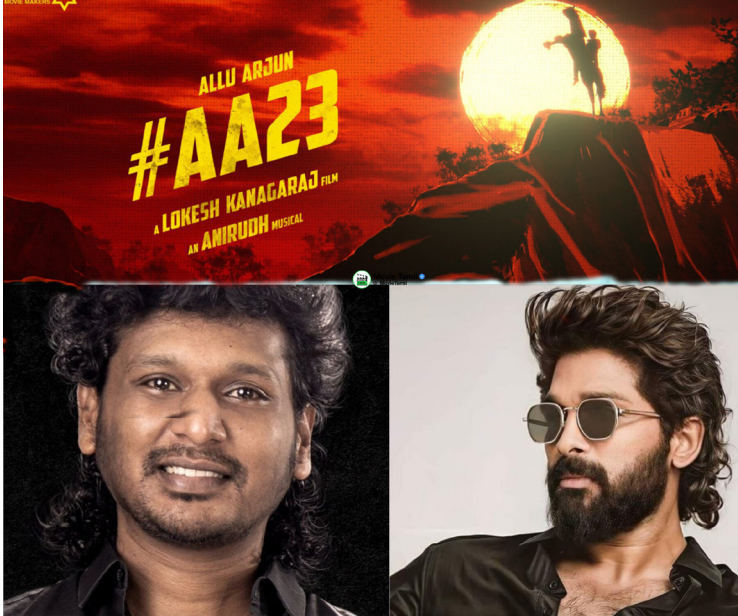
Comrade Kalyan Trailer Packs A Punch

King Of Entertainment Sree Vishnu is all set to enthrall in another distinctive entertainer Comrade Kalyan. The period entertainer, directed by Janakiram Marella, combines romance, humour and emotion with a revolutionary backdrop and is scheduled to hit theatres on October 9th. Interim, the film's trailer has been dropped. Kalyan appears to be an ordinary young man running a local theatre in 1992. His personal world revolves around his mother, and his growing affection for an Odia girl. He is eventually revealed to be a wanted Naxalite. Kalyan and his associates take the extreme step of kidnapping a powerful politician in an attempt to free their comrades from prison. This revelation adds stakes to what initially appears to be a simple rural entertainer. Director Janakiram Marella seems to be playing with contrasts throughout the narrative. The setting is rooted in a tense period of political conflict, but the protagonist himself is presented through a highly entertaining lens. The opening stretches of the trailer are dominated by romance and comedy, while the latter part introduces the police chase and revolutionary conflict. Sree Vishnu proves once again



why he is regarded as one of the most dependable actors when it comes to offbeat comedy. He does not rely on exaggerated expressions or forced humour. Instead, his dialogue delivery, mannerisms and effortless reactions generate most of the laughs. Mahima Nambiar looks convincing as Sree Vishnu's ladylove. Radhika Sarathkumar looks entertaining as the hero's mother, particularly with her passionate admiration for Balakrishna. Satya and Sudarshan offer limitless entertainment. Sai Sriram's camera work showcases the rural beauty of the Andhra-Odisha border. Vijay Bulganin's

score supports both the lighter sequences and the more intense portions involving the Naxalite conflict. Presented by Kona Venkat and produced by Venkata Krishna Karnati and Seetha Karnati under Skanda Vahana Motion Pictures LLP, Comrade Kalyan makes a lasting impact with the trailer that promises unlimited laughs, alongside a revolutionary backdrop.



Allu-Lokesh Project On Track

In recent weeks, several rumors have been doing the rounds about Allu Arjun's much-awaited film with director Lokesh Kanagaraj. Reports on social media suggested that the project might be shelved or delayed due to various reasons. These rumors created confusion among fans who have been eagerly waiting for an official update. The speculation grew even stronger after fresh reports claimed that Allu Arjun could team up with director Boyapati Sreenu for his next film. As the news spread online, many started believing that the Lokesh Kanagaraj project had been dropped altogether. However, sources close to the team have revealed that there is no truth to these rumors. The film with Lokesh Kanagaraj is very much on the cards and remains one of Allu Arjun's priority projects. Industry insiders say the makers are currently working on the final stages of pre-production and are preparing to begin shooting soon. While an official announcement regarding the shoot date is yet to be made, the project is said to be moving forward without any major issues. The combination of Allu Arjun and Lokesh Kanagaraj has generated massive excitement across the country. Fans have been waiting to see what the stylish star and the blockbuster director can create together.



Crazy Kalyanam Set For October 16

Crazy Kalyanam stars VK Naresh, Anupama Parameswaran, Tharun Bhascker and Akhil Uddemari of Raju Weds Rambai fame in prominent roles. Produced by Boosam Jagan Mohan Reddy under the Arrow Cinemas banner as Production No. 2, the film is directed by Badrappa Gajula. After the chartbuster songs and teaser, the makers surprised everyone by moving its release date forward. The film, which was earlier scheduled to hit theatres on October 30, will now have its worldwide grand theatrical release on October 16. The makers officially announced the new date today with striking poster. Music has emerged as one of the major attractions of Crazy Kalyanam even before its theatrical release. Kaaka Dhoom Dhamaka brought a high-energy celebration vibe, while Ala Sendravanka showcased the melodic and romantic side of Suresh Bobbili's album. The songs have created good buzz among listeners and are helping the film connect with different sections of the audience. The makers are now stepping up their promotional campaign ahead of the October 16 release. With the early release decision giving the film additional attention, the team is leaving no stone unturned to take Crazy Kalyanam closer to audiences.

Akshay-Maddy's Next Big Combo?

Akshay Kumar and R Madhavan are set to share the screen again, but this time in a completely different setting. The actors, who were last seen starring opposite each other in the 2025 courtroom drama Kesari Chapter 2: The Untold Story of Jallianwala Bagh, are reportedly coming together for an upcoming comedy directed by Sajid Khan. The film will also be marking a reunion of Akshay Kumar and Sajid Khan, who have who have previously collaborated for hits like Heyy Baby, Housefull and Housefull 2, with Housefull 2 being their last project together 14 years ago. The untitled project will also feature Disha Patani and Shriya Saran, playing romantic leads opposite the two protagonists. According to reports, the film is being produced by Ekta Kapoor and is expected to revolve around a group of middle-aged men caught in a series of comic situations and misunderstandings. The film is being described as a "comedy of errors". For Akshay and Madhavan, meanwhile, the new project will offer a major shift from their previous on-screen dynamic. In Kesari Chapter 2, Akshay played lawyer C Sankaran Nair, while Madhavan portrayed British lawyer Neville McKinley. The two characters were on opposing sides of the courtroom battle. Their upcoming comedy will reportedly see the actors on the same side, allowing them to explore their chemistry in a much lighter genre. The film is expected to release towards the end of 2026 or in early 2027. Akshay is reportedly expected to begin work on the comedy after wrapping up Samuk, Kanishk Varma's alien survival thriller. Meanwhile, Sajid Khan is currently working on Hero Ki Horrorine, starring Yashvardhan Ahuja and Nitanishi Goel. For now, the film remains untitled, with more details about its plot, release date and character arcs expected to emerge once production begins.



Aditi Rao Hydari Sets Femina On Fire

Aditi Rao Hydari is known for her grace, expressive screen presence and effortless range across Hindi, Tamil and Telugu cinema. Her popularity soared with memorable turns in Delhi 6, Padmaavat and Heeramandi, making her one of the most admired faces in the industry. For her Femina shoot, she turns up the heat with three distinct looks. First, a champagne beaded gown with a scooped neckline and thigh high slit. Next, a sheer black lace mini with a fringe peplum and ruffled shoulder detailing. Finally, a strapless colour block mini in lime green, red and navy. A sleek bun, soft waves and tousled bangs complete each look. She recently appeared in Lust Stories 3 opposite husband Siddharth. Next are Imtiaz Ali's Netflix drama O Saathi Re and Welcome to Khoya Mahal.



Bhagyashri Borse's Sun-Kissed Style

Bhagyashri Borse has gained a huge fan following with her glamorous looks and charming screen presence. After making her Telugu debut with Mr Bachchan, she appeared in films like Kingdom and Andhra King Taluka. And more recently, she saw blockbuster success with the movie Lenin. Now she has shared sunny pictures in a stylish casual look. The actress wore a white strapless satin top paired with a blue denim flared mini skirt. Burgundy lace up ankle boots and a delicate pendant necklace added a trendy touch, while her long wavy hair kept the styling fresh. Posing on a stone ledge near palm trees and a heritage building, she made the photo-shoot look cheerful and chic. Bhagyashri's upcoming projects include the Tamil film Seyon, whose release date is yet to be announced, and the Malayalam film Operation Ganga, which releases in 2027.



Faria Goes Vintage

Faria Abdullah has always known how to own the frame, whether through comic timing, dance or even writing and singing her own tracks. Fans still call her Chitti after the blockbuster Jathi Ratnalu, and Mathu Vadalaru 2 added to her popularity. Now she is experimenting with looks, and this one is extraordinary. She wears a strap-

less floral saree gown with a sweetheart neckline. The bodice is heavily embroidered in gold with geometric detailing, while the dark base carries bold red and yellow roses. Gold coin tassels hang from the waist, and the drape swirls dramatically as she holds it. A layered multicolour choker and soft curls complete the vintage drama. Her Tamil movie Sigma released to bad reviews. It earned approximately 2.35 crore net in India on its opening day.