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BANDI SANJAY: CONG HAS 'PATENT RIGHTS' FOR VOTE THEFT

Karimnagar, Oct.7: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday accused the Congress of having 'patent rights' over vote and seat theft, alleging that the party had a history of manipulating political outcomes. Speaking at a BJP programme in Karimnagar to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of public service, Sanjay said Congress had denied Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel the Prime Minister's post in 1946 despite PCCs backing him, and instead made Jawaharlal Nehru the Prime Minister. Sanjay defended the Election Commission, saying it was a constitutional body and "not a pocket organisation of the BJP". He warned that attempts to discredit constitutional institutions posed a threat to democracy.

LIFELONG SHIELD FOR THE POLL UMPIRES:

WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN OF YOUR VOTE.



Supreme Court Bench Says Election Commission's Immunity May Exceed Even That Of Judges, And Section 16 Stands Unstayed!

On October 5, 2026, the Supreme Court bench openly questioned Section 16 of the 2023 Election Commissioners Act, which bars courts from entertaining civil or criminal proceedings against any serving or former CEC or Election Commissioner for official acts. The provision has no savings clause like the one in the Judges (Protection) Act, 1985, and a PIL challenging it has been pending since January.

The Supreme Court has just asked a question that every democrat in this country must ask. On the bench were Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana, hearing petitions on the Special Intensive Revision. Senior Advocate Vikas Singh argued that the 2023 Act has substantially enhanced the authority and immunity of the CEC and Election Commissioners. Justice Bagchi then observed that the protection is perhaps only for the President and does not apply even to judges. Mark those words. Section 16 shields not just the sitting Commissioner but anyone who "was" one. The shield, in short, does not retire when the officer does.

What does the section say? No court shall entertain or continue any civil or criminal proceedings against any person who is or was a CEC or Election Commissioner for any act, thing or word done in the course of acting or purporting to act in official duty. Note the phrase "purporting to act". The protection covers what is done, what is said and what merely claims to be official. The court has now questioned this sweeping immunity even after Commissioners leave office.

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Modi Marks 25 Years, Says 'WE WILL DO IT'

Says collective confidence of 140 crore Indians can help achieve the goal of a developed India by 2047

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday marked 25 years in public office, recalling his journey from becoming the Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001 to serving as Prime Minister of India, and called upon citizens to adopt a "we will do it" attitude to achieve the country's development goals by 2047.

Addressing the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha' organised to mark the completion of 25 years in public office, Mr. Modi said there was no reason for India to stop pursuing its development ambitions. He expressed confidence that the collective strength of more than 140 crore Indians would enable the country to become a developed nation by 2047.

> "There is no reason for India to stop. A hundred years ago, there were less than 40 crore of us. Today, we are more than 140 crore. The 140 crore citizens together will build a developed India by 2047, and we certainly will. We will do it', he said.

Mr. Modi said the development goals before the country included becoming one of the world's top three economies, emerging as a self-reliant global manufacturing hub, becoming a contender to host the Olympic Games and making further advances in space exploration. "This energy, this enthusiasm, this confidence is extraordinary," the Prime Minister said, while expressing his gratitude to the people of the country for placing their trust in him. He said the people remained the source of his strength and that the dedicated

workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party had played an important role in his political journey.

"For me, people are God. Hard-working BJP workers are my strength," he said.

Mr. Modi also reflected on the role played by both his supporters and critics during his 25 years in public life. While his well-wishers had encouraged him, he said, his critics had compelled him to look within and assess his own work. Recalling the beginning of his political journey in electoral office, Mr. Modi said that 25 years ago, at the age of 50, he had been working among tribal communities in forests and living in mountainous regions before choosing the path of organisational work within the BJP.

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GOVERNOR SHUKLA GREETS PM MODI ON 25 YRS IN PUBLIC SERVICE



Hyderabad, Oct.7: Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla on Wednesday extended greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the completion of 25 years in public service. In a message posted on his official social media handles, the Governor recalled that Modi assumed office as Gujarat Chief Minister on October 7, 2001, before serving as the state's Chief Minister and later becoming Prime Minister of India. Shukla appreciated Modi's commitment and determination towards public service and his efforts towards nation development and public welfare.

Opposition Protests Against CEC Intensify Across Delhi

Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka detained as INDIA bloc march to Jantar Mantar stopped; AAP, Congress and Left parties step up campaign over SIR and 'vote chori' allegations





New Delhi, October 7: The Congress intensified its protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar on Wednesday, with Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and several INDIA bloc leaders detained after police stopped their march towards Jantar Mantar. The Congress has demanded the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar and an end to the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The party has accused the poll panel of risking the exclusion of genuine voters through the revision process and has repeatedly raised allegations of "vote chori". Rahul Gandhi said the Opposition would continue its campaign until the CEC resigned. He maintained that the agitation was aimed at protecting the Constitution, democracy and citizens' right to vote.

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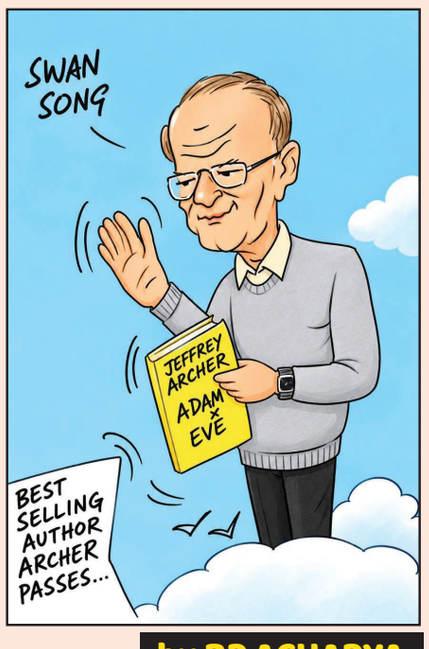
Telangana Govt Releases Two DA Instalments

Hyderabad, October 7: The Telangana Government has announced the release of two instalments of Dearness Allowance (DA) for State government employees, with the revised DA to be paid along with the October salary, payable on November 1. The two instalments, at 3.64% and 2.73%, are applicable retrospectively from January 1, 2024. The decision will put an additional annual burden of around ₹3,057 crore on the State exchequer. Of this, ₹1,747 crore will be towards the 3.64% instalment and ₹1,310 crore towards the 2.73% instalment.

The latest release is part of the pending DA instalments totalling 15.43% that had accumulated during the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government. According to Finance Department Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, the revised DA will be reflected in the October salary. The arrears will be credited to the General Provident Fund (GPF) accounts of eligible employees.

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OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

Revanth: People's Rights, Not Congress' Fight

Rahul Gandhi taken into custody and shifted to police station

Police stop CM Revanth Reddy from meeting Rahul

'SIR Go Back' movement on the lines of 'Simon Go Back': Revanth

MP Raghuram Reddy injured during protests... Tensions in Delhi

NEW DELHI, OCT 7

High tension prevailed in the national capital, Delhi, following protests by the opposition parties. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, who was taken into custody during the protests, was shifted to the Barakhamba Police Station by the police. Upon learning about this, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reached the Barakhamba Police Station to meet Rahul Gandhi. However, high drama ensued as the police blocked Chief Minister Revanth



Reddy right at the police station entrance. On the other hand, Khammam MP Raghuram Reddy was severely injured in a baton charge (lathi charge) used by the police on MPs protesting near the British Council, throwing the entire area into severe tension.

'SIR Go Back' movement on the lines of 'Simon Go Back': Revanth Reddy

Speaking on the occasion, CM Revanth Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Central Government. "Our struggle under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi against vote fraud and irregularities in the registration process will continue relentlessly. Primarily, the SIR (Systematic Inclusion and Removal / Special Intensive Revision) system must be revoked, and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar must immediately resign from his post," he demanded. He noted that just as the 'Simon Go Back' movement was waged in the country a century ago, an 'SIR Go Back' movement is now being carried out at the same scale against the policies brought by the Centre.

Misuse of EC like ED and CBI: Strong condemnation over Rahul's arrest

Revanth Reddy criticized that the arrest of Rahul Gandhi clearly exposed the extreme frustration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He alleged that the BJP-led Central Government, which had so far used agencies like the ED and CBI to harass the opposition, is now blatantly misusing an independent institution like the Election Commission of India (ECI) for political gain. Revanth Reddy asserted that names of millions of eligible voters across the nation have been deleted from the voters' list, and declared that they will not halt their struggle in the footsteps of Rahul Gandhi to protect democracy.

Govt has no plans to privatise power utilities: Bhatti

Hyderabad, Oct.7: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday rejected reports that the State government was planning to privatise DISCOMs, TRANSCO and GENCO or convert the power utilities into listed companies. Bhatti Vikramarka said the Congress government had complete faith in public sector undertakings and was committed to strengthening them. He said the government followed the Nehruvian economic approach of a mixed economy with a strong public sector.

"There is absolutely no thought or discussion of selling the power sector. We strongly believe in strengthening public sector undertakings. It is not appropriate for people to imagine things on their own and criticise the government based on those assumptions," he said. Speaking to the media at Praja Bhavan, the

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Congress Draws Up Kukatpally Battle Plan to Capture Urban Graduate Vote

With Sama Rammohan Reddy as its candidate for the Mahabubnagar–Rangareddy–Hyderabad Graduates' Constituency, the Telangana Congress is uniting its senior leaders and grassroots wings under Bandi Ramesh to launch a disciplined, door-to-door campaign aimed at consolidating Kukatpally's educated, youth and working-class electorate ahead of the 2027 MLC elections.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 07: The ruling Congress party has launched an extensive grassroots mobilisation drive in Kukatpally as part of its strategy to consolidate urban constituencies ahead of the upcoming Graduate MLC elections. The campaign assumes significance with the party fielding Sama Rammohan Reddy from the Mahabubnagar–Rangareddy–Hyderabad Graduates' Constituency. A high-level coordination convention was held under the leadership of TPCC Vice-President and Kukatpally constituency in-charge Bandi Ramesh, along with Congress MLC candidate Sama Rammohan Reddy. Senior division leaders, block presidents and representatives of the Youth Congress, Mahila Congress and NSUI attended the meeting, reflecting the party's effort to bring its organisational wings together at the early stage of the election campaign.

Addressing the gathering, Bandi Ramesh called on party leaders and workers to work as a unified team and avoid operational divisions. He instructed local units to implement a coordinated door-to-door campaign covering every section of the electorate. He also directed division leaders to conduct structured voter outreach programmes, organise local corner meetings and highlight the Congress government's welfare and development initiatives among voters.

Ramesh stressed that electoral success would depend on strict adherence to the directions of the party high command and effective execution at the grassroots level. He urged block presidents, division leaders and activists to maintain constant contact with voters and ensure that the party's message reaches every eligible graduate in the constituency.

Sama Rammohan Reddy thanked the Kukatpally leadership and representatives of the affiliated wings for their support and solidarity. He said the campaign would adopt an inclusive approach by incorporating the suggestions and feedback of local leaders and field workers. He also underlined the importance of early mobilisation, organisational discipline and direct engagement with voters.

The Congress candidate's focus on local consultation is significant in an election involving a diverse urban electorate. Kukatpally has a large population of educated voters, professionals, employees, students and young people, making the constituency strategically important for the party's campaign. The Congress intends to use the Youth Congress, NSUI and Mahila Congress networks to reach different sections of the electorate and strengthen voter participation.

The party's campaign is expected to focus on welfare schemes, development initiatives, employment, education and issues affecting graduates. However, converting public support into votes will depend on accurate voter outreach, registration awareness and continuous engagement with eligible graduates. Fresh registration is required for the upcoming Graduate MLC elections, which cover the Mahabubnagar–Rangareddy–Hyderabad and Warangal–Khammam–Nalgonda constituencies.

Political observers view the Kukatpally convention as an early attempt by the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee to build a disciplined and integrated campaign structure in a crucial urban pocket. By bringing senior leaders, block-level representatives and frontline organisational wings onto one platform, the party has signalled its intention to contest the MLC election through a coordinated and aggressive grassroots campaign.

The meeting also reflects the Congress strategy of combining central leadership direction with constituency-level execution. With Sama Ram Mohan Reddy's candidature already announced and voter enrolment under way, the party is seeking to establish an early advantage through local mobilisation, door-to-door campaigning and focused outreach to graduate voters.

The success of the strategy will depend on whether the Congress can maintain organisational unity and translate its campaign activity into verified voter contact and strong polling-day turnout. For now, the Kukatpally convention marks the beginning of a politically significant urban campaign aimed at strengthening the Congress position ahead of the scheduled for early 2027 Graduate MLC elections.

CMC Conducts Key Field Inspections to Accelerate Civic Works Across Kukatpally Wards



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 07: In line with explicit directives issued by the Commissioner of Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC), the Deputy Commissioner of Kukatpally Circle-52 today led a comprehensive revisit programme in Kaithlapur and Vasanth Nagar Wards. The high-level administrative drive was conducted to evaluate ground-level progress on works, address unresolved issues, and review civic grievances documented during the previous ward-level engagement. The official review saw active, multi-departmental participation from key municipal leaders and field staff. Joining the Deputy Commissioner were concerned Heads of Departments (HODs), field-level officers, the Deputy Executive Engineer (DEE), the Assistant Executive Engineer for Solid Waste Management (AEE-SWM), and other essential civic personnel. Together, the team undertook a thorough operational audit to monitor ongoing municipal projects and ensure all departments operate in full alignment.

Community collaboration was a central highlight of the drive, with representatives from local Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) participating energetically throughout the session. RWA leaders brought key neighborhood concerns, infrastructure needs, and public grievances directly to the attention of the attending municipal leadership.

During the interactive review, the Deputy Commissioner detailed the latest developments and presented action-taken reports corresponding to the Minutes of Meeting (MoM) generated during the earlier ward-level drive. Addressing pending matters directly, the Deputy Commissioner issued firm instructions to all field teams and engineering officers to execute necessary interventions without delay and enforce strict timelines for resolving all open grievances.

Closing the initiative, the Deputy Commissioner formally commended the strong participation and coordination demonstrated by both the RWAs and field staff. This collaborative approach was recognized as essential for maintaining continuous follow-up, ensuring robust monitoring of ward-level civic issues, and delivering transparent, responsive public service across the municipality.

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LIFELONG SHIELD FOR THE POLL UMPIRES: WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN OF YOUR VOTE.

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Now the sharp SCOOPX question. The wording of Section 16 closely tracks Section 3(1) of the Judges (Protection) Act, 1985. That statute expressly preserves the power of the Union, the States, the Supreme Court, the High Courts and other authorities to initiate civil, criminal or departmental action. The 2023 Act carries no such savings clause. A judge is protected, but a door remains open. The Commissioner's door, it seems, was bolted from inside.

The Judges Act leaves a lawful route for action. The Election Commissioners Act, on this reading, leaves none.

The Constitution Bench in Anoop Baranwal, in March 2023, ruled that appointments be made on the advice of a panel comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice of India until Parliament made a law. Parliament did make a law that December, and it replaced the Chief Justice with a Union minister on the selection panel. Then came Section 16, which petitioners say was not in the original Bill and was brought in at the last minute. The Lok Prahari petition adds that a Union minister told Parliament that the law dealt only with service conditions. Can criminal immunity be a service condition? The court must say.

The petitioners say the clause arrived late in the day and travelled under the label of service conditions. The Supreme Court has yet to rule on either contention. And what of the court's own pace? Notice was issued on January 12, 2026, on the Lok Prahari PIL, but the bench said no immediate stay on the provision was required. Nine months on, Section 16 remains the law of the land.

In fairness, the other side must be heard, and SCOOPX hears it. Decisions of the Commission remain open to judicial review. The CEC cannot be removed except in like manner and on like grounds as a Supreme Court judge, which means a parliamentary process, no light matter. Supporters of the clause argue that an institution conducting elections for a billion and more people must be shielded from vexatious litigation after the votes are counted. That is a serious argument, and it deserves a serious answer. Critics reply that the clause has no good-faith test and no prior-sanction filter, and that this is what sets it apart from the older protections in the Representation of the People Act. The petitions on the Special Intensive Revision allege unilateral decision-making. Those are allegations before the court and nothing more; no finding has been made.

Removal needs Parliament, and judicial review of Commission decisions survives. What critics ask is whether personal accountability for official acts should survive too.

Here is the heart of the matter. Democracy runs on one principle: no office is so high that it is placed beyond the reach of law. Judges answer to an inquiry mechanism. Ministers answer to Parliament and to the people. Even the President, whom the Constitution protects, is protected only for a term and under defined conditions. A referee who may never be questioned, even after the final whistle, is a referee the players will eventually stop trusting. The Supreme Court holds the pen now. Let it say, in a clear and reasoned voice, whether Section 16 stands, is read down or falls. The nation awaits its verdict, and so does every voter who has ever stood in a queue under a hot sun to press a button.

MY SHOT:

The vote is not a gift from any government. It is the citizen's own property and a right. A law that places the custodians of that property or right beyond the reach of courts, even after they have left the building, must be tested in the open, not whispered about in corridors. India has survived every attempt to treat the ballot as a private arrangement. It will survive this one too, provided the question Justice Bagchi raised is answered in full daylight and not buried under another notice.

— C. SUBRAHMANYAM

Telangana Govt Releases Two DA Instalments

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For employees retiring on or before January 31, 2027, the DA arrears will be drawn and paid in 33 equal monthly instalments. These employees were exempted from GPF subscriptions during the final four months of their service. For employees covered under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), 10% of the DA arrears for the period from January 2024 to September 2026 will be credited to their Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) accounts along with the government contribution. The remaining 90% will be paid in 33 equal monthly instalments from November 1. The government has also announced the release of Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners, applicable from the October pension payable on November 1. The arrears arising from the revised DR will be paid to pensioners in 33 equal monthly instalments. The decision follows an assurance given by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to employee unions during his recent meeting with their representatives.

Govt has no plans to privatise power ..

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Deputy Chief Minister said Telangana had recorded its highest-ever power demand, with consumption touching 19,892 MW. He said the State was meeting even a demand of around 20,000 MW without imposing power cuts and accused some political leaders of spreading misinformation and creating confusion among the people. "Even with power demand touching 20,000 MW, we are supplying electricity without any interruptions. We are ensuring power supply according to the requirements without causing any inconvenience to consumers," Bhatti said.

Bhatti also criticised BRS leader T. Harish Rao, saying it was inappropriate for a person who had served as a minister for 10 years to make such allegations. Bhatti Vikramarka said political leaders should refrain from making statements that could undermine the morale of electricity employees. "Speaking without understanding the facts will ultimately harm the State," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister attributed the sharp rise in power demand partly to the impact of El Niño conditions and questioned the planning behind the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant. "Before setting up a power plant, the availability of the required coal should be ensured. It was stated that Grade-9 coal would be supplied to the Yadadri plant from Singareni. An agreement was made for coal supply, but the coal was not supplied. The Yadadri power plant was constructed from the beginning without a proper coal allocation," Bhatti said.

Modi Marks 25 Years, Says 'WE WILL DO IT'

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"25 years ago, at the age of 50, I spent my time serving tribal communities in the forests and living amidst the mountains, eventually choosing the path of organisational work within the Bharatiya Janata Party. My political report card reflected only the work of an organisational worker. I had been involved in elections, yet I had never contested one myself," he said.

The Prime Minister said he had never personally sought electoral prominence or planned his political future. Had he wanted to establish himself in electoral politics, he could have entered the field much earlier, he said, but that was not his temperament.

"Had I desired to shine in electoral politics, I could have entered the arena long ago, but that was not my temperament. I never even stopped to consider what I would become in life or what my future held," Mr. Modi said.

He attributed his approach to the values and upbringing he received during childhood, saying they had taught him to dedicate his life to a larger mission rather than personal ambition.

"My life's path has been shaped by the singular principle that the upbringing and values instilled in me since childhood taught me to live my life for a mission, not for personal ambition," he said.

Highlighting what he described as significant achievements of his governments across various sectors, Mr. Modi said several developments that once appeared impossible had now become a reality. He cited the lifting of 25 crore people out of poverty as an example of the scale of change taking place in the country.

"That is why I believe in the strength and potential of 140 crore Indians. After 25 years of experience, I can say with confidence that we are witnessing India's transformation right before our eyes," he said.

The Prime Minister also referred to Captain Smit Machchhar, an Indian flydubai pilot who, according to Mr. Modi, foiled an attempt by his co-pilot to crash an Israel-bound flight despite being stabbed during the incident. Referring to the pilot's courage, Mr. Modi said the world was speaking about an Indian pilot today and expressed confidence that a day would come when India's manufacturing capabilities would receive similar global recognition. "The world is talking about India's pilot today, and a day will come when the world will talk about 'Made in India' aircraft," he said. Mr. Modi also sought to give a new slogan to what he described as a "can do" attitude, emphasising the need for confidence and collective action in achieving national development goals.

He said one of the biggest challenges facing the country was the division of society along the lines of electoral considerations. Problems faced by ordinary citizens, he argued, did not distinguish between caste, community or political affiliation and therefore required solutions that benefited everyone.

"When a farmer's field lacks water, does the problem affect only one caste? When there is no electricity, does darkness fall only on one community? The answer is 'no'. If the problem belongs to everyone, the solution must be for everyone," he said.

The Prime Minister said development could not be achieved by dividing society and stressed the importance of finding solutions that addressed the concerns of all sections of the population. Looking back at October 7, 2001, when he took oath as Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Modi said he had never imagined at the time that he would one day reach the milestone of completing 25 years in public office. He said the journey had been shaped by circumstances, public trust, organisational responsibilities and his commitment to working towards a larger national mission.

The Prime Minister's remarks came as he completed a quarter century in public office, marking a political journey that began with his appointment as Gujarat Chief Minister in October 2001 and later took him to the Prime Minister's Office, where he has continued in an unbroken sequence of public service. At the event, Mr. Modi reiterated his confidence that India could meet its long-term development objectives through collective determination, public participation and a strong belief in the country's potential. He called for the same confidence and determination to be carried forward as India works towards the goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Opposition Protests Against CEC Intensify..

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The detention followed a similar protest on Tuesday, when Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders marched from Parliament towards the Election Commission headquarters. After police stopped them, the leaders entered the nearby Akashvani Bhavan premises and staged a sit-in for several hours. Police subsequently detained around 250 protesters, including about 50 MPs. The Congress has described October 7 as a "Black Day" and announced nationwide protests on October 8 to press its demands. The party is seeking greater transparency in the SIR process and restoration of names it alleges were wrongly removed from electoral rolls. The Aam Aadmi Party also joined the campaign on Wednesday, staging a demonstration outside the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer's office and demanding the CEC's resignation. The Election Commission has rejected the Opposition's allegations, maintaining that SIR is part of its constitutional responsibility to ensure accurate electoral rolls. It has said the exercise is intended to identify duplicate, deceased and otherwise ineligible entries while ensuring that eligible voters are not excluded. The BJP has also rejected the Congress-led allegations, accusing the Opposition of politicising the electoral-roll revision. The protests are expected to continue, with Congress seeking to expand the campaign beyond Delhi.

Telangana Steps Up Air Quality Monitoring



Hyderabad, October 7: Hyderabad, October 7: Telangana is strengthening scientific air quality monitoring and pollution-control measures across Hyderabad, Nalgonda and Sangareddy under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The initiatives were reviewed at a Secretariat meeting chaired by Principal Secretary of Forest, Environment, Science and Technology and Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC) Chairman Ahmed Nadeem. TGPCB Member Secretary and AQMC Member Convenor Ravi and senior officials from several departments attended the meeting.

Nalgonda's Ward No. 16 secured second rank nationally in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan and received a cash award of Rs 20 lakh. Jubilee Hills Ward No. 215 and Gunfoundry Ward No. 154 in Hyderabad, along with Ward No. 31 in Sangareddy, were recognised at the State level. Officials said air quality trends showed improvement in some areas. Annual average PM10 levels in Hyderabad declined from 86 to 80 micrograms per cubic metre between 2019-20 and 2025-26, while Sangareddy recorded a decline from 87 to 78 micrograms. Nalgonda recorded 71 micrograms per cubic metre during the latest period. AQI levels in the regions largely remained in the 'Satisfactory' to 'Moderate' categories. To strengthen monitoring, 13 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) are being established in the CURE area under the supervision of a technical committee. An integrated Air Quality Dashboard is also being developed for data sharing and real-time SMS alerts to concerned departments.

Low Cost Sensors are being expanded at recycling zones, crushing units and construction and demolition sites. Eight pilot units are already operational in Bollaram and Jeedimetla. Road dust control remains a major priority, with measures including road paving, road improvements, mechanical sweeping and urban greening. Miyawaki mini-forests are also being developed along traffic corridors. Recommendations from a recent TGPCB workshop on mechanical sweeping, attended by about 100 urban local body officials, will be incorporated into future service procurements.

Vehicular pollution is being addressed through stricter monitoring at all 516 Pollution Under Control (PUC) centres in the State. More than 3.61 million emission tests have been conducted through the centrally connected network. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras are being integrated to enable automated detection and ticketing of vehicles violating emission norms.

The State is also promoting electric mobility. Government departments are being encouraged to prefer electric vehicles for procurement, while 310 TGSRTC electric buses are operating within GHMC limits. More electric buses are being inducted in phases under the PM E-Drive scheme. The draft Source Apportionment Study for Nalgonda and Sangareddy, prepared by IIT Bombay, is being finalised based on CPCB recommendations. The study will help identify major pollution sources and guide future policy. TGPCB is also partnering with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on a State-level Emission Inventory and has proposed extending district-level implementation committees across Telangana.

Industrial pollution control is being strengthened through sensor-based monitoring of major emission sources and the installation of Retrofit Emission Control Devices on diesel generator sets in coordination with Urban Local Bodies and the Energy Department. Authorities are also promoting alternatives to open stubble burning by encouraging briquette and pellet manufacturing units that convert agricultural waste into industrial fuel. The meeting reviewed utilisation of NCAP and 15th Finance Commission funds. Hyderabad has utilised 90.27 per cent, Nalgonda 82.5 per cent, Patancheru 100 per cent and Sangareddy 76.43 per cent. For 2026-27, an additional Rs 7.25 crore has been allocated, including Rs 4.83 crore for Nalgonda and Rs 2.42 crore for Sangareddy, for measures such as electric crematoriums, road improvements and greening.

Construction of Young India Schools Gains Momentum

- **Schools planned in 105 constituencies across the state**
- **School construction underway at various stages in 87 locations**
- **1,144.85 crore released for construction**

HYDERABAD





Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is giving immense importance to the education sector. Believing that change in all fields is possible only through education, the Chief Minister is personally monitoring the Education Department. With the objective of providing quality education to children across Telangana, CM Revanth Reddy has initiated the establishment of Young India Integrated Residential Schools (YIIRS). With the distinct vision of fostering unity and inclusiveness among students from an early age, the YIIRS have been designed to bring together students from BC, SC, ST, minority and other disadvantaged communities under one roof and provide them with education of international standards, irrespective of caste or religion.

Two YIIRS will be constructed in every Assembly constituency—one for girls and another for boys. In the first phase, the government has set a target of constructing one YIIRS in each of 105 constituencies. Construction of 87 schools is already underway at various stages, while the process of obtaining administrative approvals for the remaining 18 schools has reached its final stage. So far, the government has released ₹1,144.85 crore for their construction.

Modern Facilities

The YIIRS have been designed to provide students from rural areas with education and facilities of international standards. These schools are being constructed with modern classrooms, digital teaching and learning facilities, state-of-the-art laboratories, libraries, spacious dormitories, international-standard sports grounds, dining blocks, and residential quarters for teaching and non-teaching staff.

At Lower Construction Cost

Construction cost estimates for the YIIRS have been prepared transparently based on engineering designs and the prevailing Schedule of Rates. These educational institutions, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, are being constructed at a lower cost than the Integrated District Offices built in the past.

Each Young India Residential School, being constructed on 20 to 25 acres, will accommodate approximately 2,650 students. The total built-up area of each school is planned to be around 5.36 lakh square feet.

Construction Progressing at a Rapid Pace

The government has granted administrative approvals for 87 Young India Integrated Residential Schools in the first phase. The tender process for the construction of 79 schools has already been completed. Contractors have commenced construction work in 70 constituencies. Construction activities are progressing rapidly across the state. The tender process for YIIRS in Palakurthi, Asifabad, Gajwel, Mudhole and Warangal West constituencies has been completed. Contractors are making arrangements to commence the works.

The tender evaluation process is currently underway in Boath and Nirmal constituencies. Land required for the construction of schools has recently been allotted in Serilingampally, Sirpur, Kamareddy, Dubbaka, Sircilla and Chandrayangutta. The authorities are currently working on preparing the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for these schools.

Efforts are underway to identify suitable land in Mahbubnagar, Miryalaguda, Wardhannapet and Narsampet constituencies.

Approvals for 18 Schools Soon

While construction of schools in 87 of the total 105 constituencies is already at various stages, the process for the remaining 18 constituencies is also progressing rapidly.

Estimates have been completed for the Young India Residential Schools to be established in Korutla, Jangaon, Huzurabad, Karimnagar, Alampur, Siddipet, Narsapur, Sangareddy, Zaheerabad, LB Nagar, Maheshwaram, Suryapet, Uppal, Balkonda, Nizamabad, Kukatpally, Malkajgiri and Quthbullapur constituencies.

The government is expected to grant administrative approvals for these schools soon. Once the approvals are received, the tender process will also begin in these constituencies.

On Par with Corporate Schools

With the objective of providing students from socially and economically disadvantaged communities with an educational environment on par with private and corporate educational institutions, the government is giving top priority to the construction of Young India Integrated Residential Schools. As administrative approvals, tendering, release of funds and construction progress are moving forward simultaneously, these modern educational campuses are expected to become available across the state soon.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Construction Organization, Ernakulam Jn.

(1) Tender Notice No. 33-CE-CN-ERS-2026-OT Dated : 05.10.2026 Name of work : Shoranur-Mangalore Section - Proposed reconstruction of Br. No. 904 and Br. No. 1085 between Thalassery & Etakot stations including earthwork, blanketing etc.
Tender Value : Rs. 4448.91 Lakhs
Bid Security : Rs. 88,97,800.00/-
Completion Period : 15 Months
Date and time of tender closing : 28.10.2026, 15.00 hrs.

Complete details and tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Chief Engineer / Construction
Ernakulam Jn.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTURCTION ORGANISATION)
TENDER NOTICE No. OHE-CN-DYCEE-PSS-26-27-01
Dated : 01.10.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India. The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/OHE, Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore invites E-Tender for the following works.

Name of Work	Request of Proposal (RFP) for providing Project Supervision Services (PSS) for the works under Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / Construction, Egmore for Electrical Construction Office at Egmore in Southern Railway.
Tender Value	Rs. 6,91,03,429.44/-
Bid Security	Rs. 1,38,21,00.00/-
Email ID	dyceeohecnms@gmail.com
Tender closing Date and Time : 11.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs.	
For more details visit : www.ireps.gov.in	

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / OHE
Electrical Construction, Chennai - 8.
For and on behalf of President of India

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER
Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-MS-EPC-NL-02-2026
DATED 30-09-2026

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

NAME OF THE WORK

Request for Proposal for the "Construction of New Railway BG Line from Km 0.000 to Km 10.221 (10.221km) between Morappur Station and Rani Mookanur Station (Excl.) including Utility Shifting in Proposed New BG line between Morappur and Dharmapuri Project" (Civil & Track works)

Cash Value (Cr.,)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees)	Period of Completion (Days)	Closing Date @ 17.30 Hrs	Pre-Bid Conference Date @ 11.30 Hrs.
115.30	23061000.00	730	16-11-2026	15-10-2026

For further details, please refer to web site portal www.ireps.gov.in or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
Chief Engineer (Construction),
Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
for and On behalf of President of India



Urvashi Butalia Delivers Guest Lecture on 'Feminists in Search of an Archive' at GITAM

HYDERABAD

Renowned feminist writer, publisher and activist Urvashi Butalia, co-founder of Zubaan Books, delivered a guest lecture on 'Feminists in Search of an Archive' at GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad. The programme was organized by the Department of English and Other Languages, GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHS).

Butalia explored the significance of archives in recovering the voices and experiences of women and marginalized communities that are often absent from conventional historical records. Drawing from the journey of the Zubaan Archive, she highlighted the importance of questioning whose histories are preserved, whose voices are missing, and how alternative and community-based archives can make marginalized histories more visible and accessible.

She shared insights into Zubaan's efforts to document feminist movements across India, including the collection and digitization of nearly 1,500 posters and 120 oral history interviews. She also discussed the challenges of preservation, metadata creation, copyright, consent, and the role of digital archives in expanding public access to historical materials. Butalia demonstrated the digital archive and engaged with students and faculty during an interactive question-and-answer session.

Earlier, Dr. Samuel Tharu, Director-In-Charge, GSHS, welcomed the guest speaker. Dr. Sayantan Mondal, Head, Department of English and Other Languages, faculty members and students attended the programme.

SCRWWO Hyderabad Division inaugurates Advanced Digital Queue Management System at Central Hospital, Lallaguda

*** Enhancing Patient Comfort and Streamlining Railway Healthcare Infrastructure through Digital Innovation.**

HYDERABAD



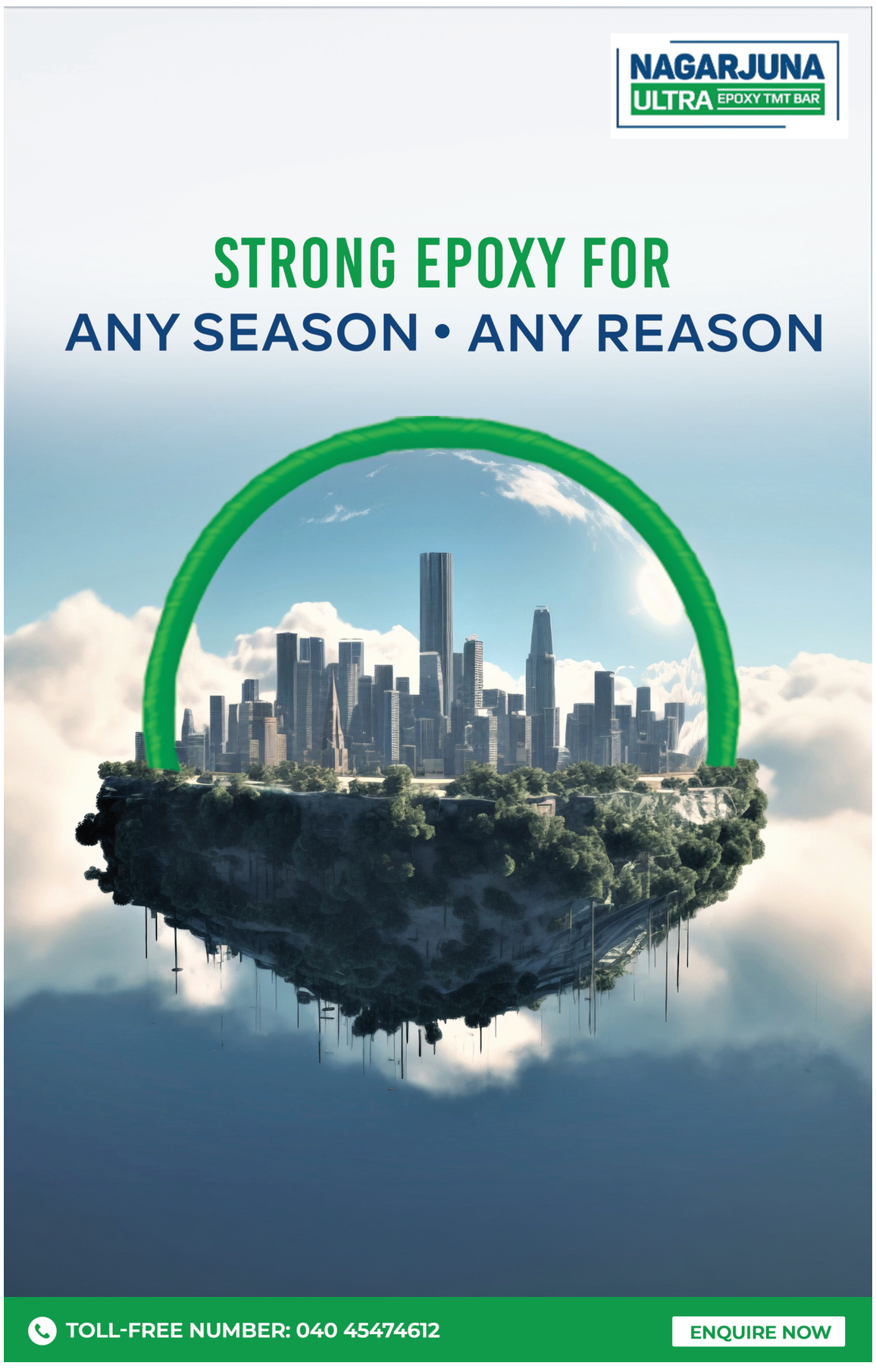
In a significant leap toward modernizing healthcare delivery for Railway beneficiaries, Smt. Asha Verma, President/ South Central Railway Womens Welfare Organization/Hyderabad Division, inaugurated the state-of-the-art ' Digital Queue System' at Central Hospital, Lallaguda.

The initiative aims to systematically manage the issuance of Medicines, avoids standing in the queues and optimize the issuance of Pharmacy across nominated Counters within the premier Central Railway Hospital.

The development was marked by the distinguished presence of Dr. Nirmala Rajaram, Principal Chief Medical Director/ South Central Railway and Dr. Ch.Padma, Medical Director/ Central Hospital/Lallaguda, who both commended the ongoing technical upgrades across the Railway Hospital. Executive Members of the Welfare organization including Smt. D.Y. Sunitha, Vice President/SCRWWO Hyderabad Division and other Members of SCRWWO Hyderabad Division also graced the inauguration and expressed their commitment to supporting welfare-driven technology initiatives for Railway personnel and their families.

SCRWWO/Hyderabad Division sponsored the Token dispenser Machine along with 3 Token display units including announcement system, which were placed at 2 places of Pharmacy issuing Counters and another one inside the Waiting Hall for the convenience of Railway beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Asha Verma emphasized that the newly deployed digital system will empower Railway beneficiaries with transparent token tracking, real-time status updates on digital displays and reduced turnaround times for pharmacy access. The Senior Leadership from South Central Railway and Central Hospital reaffirmed that this technology integration aligns with the broader vision of creating a service-centric, efficient and hassle-free experience.



Students are the architects of "Viksit Bharat": Governor Shukla

HYDERABAD



Telangana Governor and Chancellor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla has called upon students to go beyond acquiring degrees and develop skills, discipline and a spirit of service to contribute to the building of a "Viksit Bharat".

Addressing the 27th Convocation of BRAOU at Bhavanam Venkatram Auditorium here on Wednesday, the Governor said a degree marks not the end of education but the beginning of a new phase of responsible life.

Appreciating BRAOU's 45-year journey in providing higher education to more than 25 lakh learners, he said open universities have played a crucial role in taking education to rural, remote and disadvantaged sections.

Shukla stressed the need for continuous skilling, reskilling and upskilling in the rapidly changing technological environment. Educational institutions, he said, should produce innovators, problem-solvers and entrepreneurs rather than merely job seekers. He cited Hyderabad's emergence as a major hub for IT, life sciences, pharmaceuticals and start-ups.

The Governor also urged students and society to work collectively to keep youth away from drugs, warning that bad company and temporary attractions could ruin young lives. He called for efforts to combat drug abuse beginning at the family level.

Degrees, postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates were conferred on 36,145 students at the convocation. As many as 38 students received gold medals, while 23 research scholars were awarded Ph.Ds and one scholar received an M.Phil.

In an initiative aimed at making education accessible to all, 27 prisoners - 26 men and one woman - from Cherlapally, Rajamahendravaram and Kadapa Central Jails also received their degrees.

Renowned filmmaker, writer and actor B. Narsing Rao was conferred an Honorary Doctorate for his contribution to the film industry and society.

BRAOU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani, former NAAC Director and former BRAOU Vice-Chancellor Prof. V.S. Prasad, B. Narsing Rao, government officials, university vice-chancellors and academic representatives attended the programme.

SHORT TAKES

Harish hits back at Bhatti over power situation



HYDERABAD: *Former Minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, alleging that the state government failed to address core concerns regarding Telangana's current power situation and the burden on consumers. Reacting to the Deputy Chief Minister's press conference, Harish Rao claimed the government offered "unrelated documents and excuses" instead of answering specific queries raised by the BRS. He singled out the 5,420 crore true-up charges levied on electricity consumers, urging the state to immediately withdraw the additional financial burden during the festival season. Highlighting ongoing protests across the state, the BRS leader questioned the government's stance on power availability. "If power supply is uninterrupted, why are farmers protesting on the roads and demonstrating outside substations?" Harish Rao asked, stating that ground-level disruptions contradict official claims. On power generation capacity, Harish Rao alleged mismanagment at major thermal stations.*

Humanity is the True Address of a Person

Employees' JAC extends Rs.3.65 lakh financial assistance to driver Sadanandam's family

KARIMNAGAR



In a touching gesture of solidarity and humanity, employees of Karimnagar district extended financial assistance of ₹3.65 lakh to the family of Sadanandam, who is working as the driver of the District Collector.

Sadanandam's wife, Neerajakshi, was critically injured in an accident recently and succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment at Rene Hospital in Karimnagar. The financial assistance mobilised by the District Employees' JAC was handed over to the bereaved family at their residence in Thimmapur on Wednesday.

Employees rally behind colleague's family

District Employees' JAC Chairman Dharam Srinivas Reddy and Convener Madipelli Kali Charan Goud, along with representatives of various employees' associations, visited the family and expressed solidarity with them. The assistance cheque was handed over to the family members on the occasion of Neerajakshi's 10th-day ceremony.

Soon after learning about the accident, employees' association leaders appealed to employees through various association groups to extend financial support to the family, which was facing a heavy financial burden due to medical expenses. Responding to the appeal, employees ranging from junior staff to senior officers contributed their bit through PhonePe, Google Pay and other modes, collectively raising ₹3.65 lakh.

Standing by colleagues in times of distress

Speaking on the occasion, Dharam Srinivas Reddy and Madipelli Kali Charan Goud said an employee was not merely a member of an organisation but part of a larger family. True employee solidarity meant coming forward to support a colleague's family during difficult times instead of treating it as an individual problem, they said.

They expressed deep anguish over the death of Neerajakshi, stating that the family had faced severe financial difficulties and incurred debts while making every possible effort to meet the expenses of her treatment.

Employees' humanitarian gesture appreciated

The JAC leaders thanked employees and officers belonging to the TNGOs Association, TGOs Association, Drivers' Association, Fourth Class Employees Association, Revenue Services Association, Treasury Association, Panchayat Raj Secretaries Association, Hostel Wardens Association, Animal Husbandry Department and various other departments for responding generously to the appeal.

They said the support reflected the humanitarian spirit and unity prevailing among government employees.

"Behind every rupee contributed is the goodwill of an employee. Behind every gesture is concern for a fellow employee's family. The response reflects the feeling that we are all part of one employee family," they said.

The JAC leaders assured that the employees' community would continue to stand by Sadanandam and his family during the difficult period and extend support to any employee family facing distress in the future.

They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul of Neerajakshi and for strength and courage to the bereaved family to overcome the tragedy.

JAC leaders present

JAC Chairman Dharam Srinivas Reddy, Convener Madipelli Kali Charan Goud, TNGOs Association district secretary Sangem Laxman Rao, Gazetted Officers' Association district secretary Edla Aravind Reddy, Revenue Association district president Vijay Kumar, State leader Sardar Harmender Singh, town president Marupaka Rajesh Bharadwaj, Drivers' Association president Waris Sawab, and leaders Manjeet Singh, Ananth Reddy, Anwar and Satish were among those present.



Nirmal BJP ST Morcha President Joins Telangana Rakshana Sena

Several sarpanches from Khanapur constituency also join the party

HYDERABAD

Sunchu Yellaiah, BJP ST Morcha president of Nirmal district, has joined the Telangana Rakshana Sena. He joined the TRS party along with several sarpanches from the Khanapur Assembly constituency.

At the party office in Banjara Hills on Wednesday, TRS president Kalvakuntla Kavitha welcomed them into the party by draping party scarves around them.

Sarpanches Tekam Laxman, Gaddam Bheemudu, K. Rajender, Kasturi Arjun and Sripelli Shekhar; deputy sarpanches P. Raju, Chintu Kanthi and Gampala Bhoomanna; former MPTC members Ram Singh and Shinde Sadashiv; former sarpanches A. Shankar and Nayakapod; and prominent members and leaders of the Kolam community associations joined the TRS.

Kavitha advised the newly joined leaders to work in coordination to strengthen the TRS in Nirmal district as well as in the Khanapur Assembly constituency.

She also urged them to work towards making the Panchajanya Sankalpa Sabha, scheduled to be held at Indravelli later this month, a success.

Note: The Telugu text contains a possible inconsistency: the headline says "Telangana Rakshana Sena", while the body says they joined TRS. I have retained both exactly as stated rather than altering the source.

Detention of Rahul, Priyanka and INDIA Bloc MPs Undemocratic: Rajender Rao

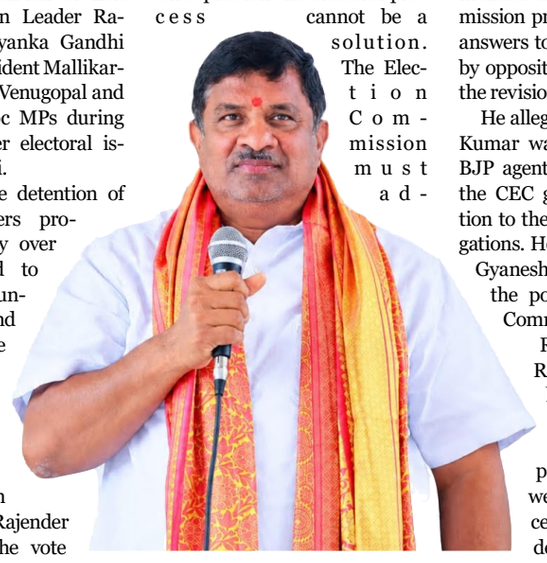
CEC Gyanesh Kumar should resign, demands Congress Karimnagar in-charge

KARIMNAGAR

Congress Karimnagar Assembly constituency in-charge Velichala Rajender Rao has strongly condemned the detention of Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, K.C. Venugopal and other INDIA bloc MPs during their protest over electoral issues in New Delhi.

He termed the detention of opposition leaders protesting peacefully over concerns related to voter lists as "undemocratic" and demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Rajender Rao said that the vote was not merely a symbol but a powerful instrument that determines the future of the country. If opposition parties raise questions regarding voters' rights and electoral rolls, it was the responsibility of the Election Commission to provide clear answers instead of detaining those who raise such questions. "The arrest or detention of leaders who question the electoral process cannot be a solution. The Election Commission must address the concerns being raised by political parties and ensure complete transparency in the electoral process," he said.



Rajender Rao said public confidence in the electoral system was essential for a healthy democracy and maintained that every decision of the Election Commission should be transparent and impartial. He demanded that the Election Commission provide comprehensive answers to the questions raised by opposition parties regarding the revision of electoral rolls.

He alleged that CEC Gyanesh Kumar was functioning like a BJP agent and demanded that the CEC give a clear explanation to the people over the allegations. He also demanded that Gyanesh Kumar resign from the post of Chief Election Commissioner.

Rajender Rao said Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and other INDIA bloc MPs were not fighting for personal interests, but were raising issues concerning voters and the democratic process.

"In a democracy, the Opposition has every right to question those in power. Arrests and detention cannot be used to suppress that right," he said.

He further said the voices of Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and INDIA bloc MPs could not be silenced through arrests or detentions and that the concerns of the people could not be suppressed either.

Rajender Rao stressed that the Election Commission had a responsibility to ensure neutrality at every stage, from the revision of electoral rolls to the declaration of election results.

"Democracy can remain strong only when the right to vote is protected. The right to vote can be protected only when electoral rolls are transparent and people have confidence in the election system. Any doubt on these three aspects can harm democracy. The Congress party will continue to fight on this issue," he said.

He reiterated that the Congress party would continue to stand with the people in protecting democracy, the Constitution and the right to vote.

First Governing Council Meeting of Invest Telangana



"Coordinated and effective measures should be taken to attract investments."
— Sanjay Jaju, Chief Secretary to the State Government

HYDERABAD

The first meeting of the Invest Telangana Governing Council, established with the objective of attracting greater investment to the state, accelerating industrial development, and positioning Telangana as the best investment destination in the country, was held on Wednesday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat.

The meeting was chaired by Sanjay Jaju, Chief Secretary to the State Government, and attended by senior officials from various departments.

The meeting reviewed several issues, including further strengthening the investment-friendly environment in the state, providing speedy approvals to entrepreneurs, developing infrastructure, and extending the necessary support from the government.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to extensively promote investment opportunities in Telangana at both the domestic and international levels and to maintain continuous coordination with companies that have already invested in the state.

He advised officials to expedite the examination of investment proposals and ensure that they are translated into action within stipulated timelines through effective coordination among various departments. The Chief Secretary stated that, in line with the objectives of Telangana Rising, Invest Telangana should serve as a key platform for positioning the state as a leader in investment, industrial development, and employment generation.

Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Krishna Aditya, Special Secretary; Shashank, MD, TGIIC; Anudeep, Joint Secretary, ITE&C; Ajit Reddy, CEO and MD, Invest Telangana; Nikhil Chakravarthy; and other senior officials participated in the meeting.



Veteran Telugu television editor, Brahmandabheri Goparaju, popularly known as Gopa Raju, has been elected Director and then Vice Chairman of the Telangana State Cooperative Housing Societies Federation, TS HOUSEFED, by his fellow Directors. After a newsroom career spanning several channels and a presidency of the Journalists' Cooperative Housing Society, he now carries the hopes of thousands of families waiting for a home. SCOOPX says the election is only the beginning. The delivery is what counts.

Hyderabad's news desks know the name. The housing societies of Telangana have just learnt its weight. Brahmandabheri Goparaju, Gopa Raju to every reporter who has shared a night shift with him, has been elected Director of TS HOUSEFED. By the further confidence of his fellow Directors, he now sits as Vice Chairman. Mark the word: ELECTED. No nomination was slipped across a table in a back room. The Directors who won the recent HOUSEFED poll met, weighed their choices and placed the second chair in the hands of a working journalist. Election Officer Chandramohan Reddy handed over the papers. Mudiganti Srinivas Reddy takes the chairmanship. Goparaju takes the vice chair. Managing Director G. Lakshmibhai offered the formal congratulations. The rest is now public business.

Gopa Raju's trail is the plain, unadvertised trail of the Telugu newsroom. He was Senior Special Correspondent at Zee 24 Hours, then Deputy Input Editor and Hyderabad Bureau Chief at 10TV. He went on to Input Editor at 6TV and later MOJO TV, then Input Editor at ABP, and finally Chief Editor at News 360. There his programme "Straight Talk with Goparaju" seated ministers and party men on the same stool as the viewer. He has worked the Delhi input rooms and the Hyderabad assignment desks. He knows how a story is built, and he knows how a file is buried.

That instinct has already faced its test in the cooperative lane. In December 2024 the Journalists' Cooperative Housing Society elected him President. The Society has stood since 1964, and colonies stand behind it. Yet more than a thousand members still wait for a plot, some of them for thirty long years. His first declared priority was blunt: land for those yet to be allotted. In 2025 he led a delegation to the minister, seeking clearance to buy land with society funds and member contributions. A man who spent his career demanding answers from others is now expected to produce them himself.

TS HOUSEFED is no ornament. It is the apex federation of the state's cooperative housing societies. It is the channel through which societies seek loans. It is the table at which their disputes are meant to be heard. It either turns the promise of a cooperative home into brick and mortar.

Chairman Srinivas Reddy has said the task is to strengthen the federation financially and administratively, push loans to societies and turn membership into a roof. Goparaju, in his own words after the election, has pledged to map the problems of housing societies across the state and to make loan facilities easier to reach. That is the brief. The reader should hold them to it. The cooperative idea is no foreign import. It is the old Indian conviction that ordinary citizens, pooling their small means, can build what no outside power will hand them. A federation that forgets this becomes a mere office. A federation that remembers it becomes a movement.

In the note he sent to friends, Goparaju did the rare thing. He declined sole ownership of the result. The election, he wrote, belongs to everyone who stood by him. The new office, he said, will be carried with dedication, sincerity and integrity. He asked for continued goodwill and dedicated the moment back to the people who gave it.

The charge is plain. Unblock the waiting lists. Make the loan window work. Treat a housing society as a members' institution and never as a private estate. Keep the Journalists' Society promise of plots for those still outside the gate, and carry the same impatience into HOUSEFED.

Telangana's cooperative housing movement does not need another speech about the dream of a home. It needs a Vice Chairman who has lived his life on deadline, and who now has one. Gopa Raju has the chair. The copy is his to file.

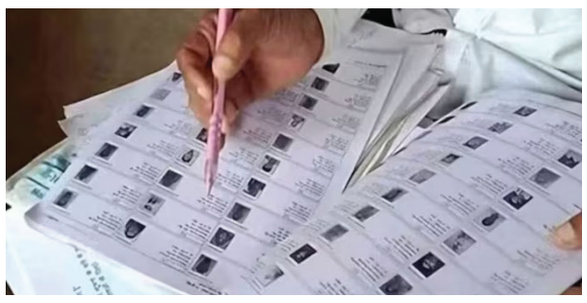
MY SHOT

Hold the pen steady, Gopa Raju. Every member waiting at that gate has been reading you for years, and now they will read you closest of all.

— C. SUBRAHMANYAM

EC to Re-Verify 46.6 Lakh Deleted Voters in Andhra Pradesh

The Election Commission will re-verify over 46.6 lakh deleted electors in Andhra Pradesh through a special door-to-door drive from October 8. The exercise is meant to restore any eligible voter left out before and after the final roll is published on October 16.



AMARAVATI, OCTOBER 8

The Election Commission will launch a special door-to-door verification drive in Andhra Pradesh from Thursday to re-check the status of more than 46.6 lakh electors whose names were deleted from the draft electoral roll during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The exercise is aimed at ensuring that no eligible voter is left out of the electoral rolls. Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) would visit households with lists of 46,62,583 deleted electors from their respective polling stations and verify their status once again. The move comes amid Opposition protests over the SIR exercise and allegations that the Election Commission, particularly Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, took arbitrary decisions during the revision process. Opposition parties have demanded that the SIR be scrapped. Yadav said more than 44.8 lakh electors were removed from the draft electoral roll after the SIR enumeration conducted between June 15 and July 24. These names were deleted for various reasons, including deaths, permanent shifting from the registered address, multiple enrolments and inability to trace the elector during the enumeration process. After publication of the draft electoral roll, another 1.73 lakh electors were found during the notice phase to be ineligible for inclusion as of October 6. The final electoral roll under SIR 2026 is scheduled to be published on October 16. Yadav said the special verification drive was being undertaken as part of the Election Commission's commitment to ensure that every eligible voter gets an opportunity to remain on the electoral roll. During the door-to-door exercise, BLOs will verify the status of electors whose names were deleted. If an elector is found to have been removed inadvertently and is otherwise eligible, the concerned person will be assisted in submitting Form-6. After due verification, the name can be added to the electoral roll through the continuous updation process. The CEO said the objective of the exercise was to maintain an electoral roll that includes every eligible voter while excluding names of those who are no longer eligible. The verification will also help address cases where electors may have been incorrectly categorised as deceased, permanently shifted, untraceable or duplicate entries. Yadav said that following the door-to-door enumeration and removal of names of deceased and permanently shifted electors and multiple entries, the draft electoral rolls were published on July 31. The draft roll contained more than 3.7 crore electors across Andhra Pradesh. The Election Commission has also highlighted the availability of multiple qualifying dates for voter enrolment. January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 are the four qualifying dates under the current system. The Annual Summary Revision, however, is conducted with January 1 of the succeeding year as the qualifying date. Yadav said people who are left out of the final electoral roll to be published on October 16 can still apply for inclusion through Form-6 during continuous updation. Similarly, individuals who become eligible to register on subsequent qualifying dates can also submit Form-6. The special drive, therefore, provides another opportunity for electors whose names were deleted during the SIR process to establish their eligibility and seek restoration. The Election Commission said the exercise is intended to balance the removal of ineligible entries with the protection of the voting rights of all eligible citizens.

Karnataka Faces Worst Drought in 75 Years, Says Parameshwara

Karnataka has reported crop damage across about 90 per cent of farmland amid a severe drought. The state has begun releasing relief and loan support as farmers face mounting losses.



Karnataka is facing one of its worst droughts in nearly 75 years, with around 90 per cent of crops damaged across the state, Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said on Wednesday. He said helping farmers through the crisis was the state government's top priority. Parameshwara, who also holds the revenue portfolio, said 217 of Karnataka's 240 taluks had already been declared drought-hit, while ground-truthing was under way in the remaining 23. He said 10 to 15 more taluks could be added to the drought-hit list. Speaking to reporters after visiting drought-hit areas at Halakundi village in Ballari, he said, "The government has to come to the assistance of farmers and people. We have already taken several measures to provide as much assistance as possible." He said farmers in several areas had first sown tur dal, which was damaged due to inadequate rainfall, and later shifted to alternative crops such as jowar after receiving some rain, but those crops too had failed. According to Parameshwara, around 90 per cent of crops had been damaged across Karnataka, including in irrigated areas. He added that the drought situation was especially severe in Ballari, Vijayanagara and nearby regions.

He said the state government had decided to release Rs 2,500 as the first instalment of compensation to farmers from its own resources without waiting for Central assistance. Under the Centre's guidelines, the compensation is Rs 8,500 per hectare, but no funds have been released so far, he said. "We will not sit here blaming the Centre, saying that not even a single paisa has come. We will provide whatever assistance is possible from our side. We will not abandon the farmer in distress," he said.

Parameshwara said an order had already been issued and Deputy Commissioners had been told to release the first instalment immediately, with further assistance to follow in the coming days. He said the state had sent two memoranda to the Centre, estimating losses of around Rs 46,000 crore in 177 taluks, and had sought between Rs 11,000 crore and Rs 11,500 crore under NDRF guidelines. "We have said that the loss is Rs 46,000 crore. But as per the Central guidelines, we can seek only what we are eligible for. That is why we have sought around Rs 11,000 crore in compensation," he said.

He also said three Central teams had visited Karnataka and inspected drought-hit areas. According to him, the teams were not required to visit every village as they carried out sample inspections and also had access to satellite-based data.

On relief measures, Parameshwara said the government had told banks to defer recovery of farmers' loans and begin steps for restructuring and refinancing. He said farmers need not worry about notices issued by banks, and added that similar directions were being issued to private financial institutions and nationalised banks. He also said the drought had led to drinking water shortages in several villages, and funds had been released for drinking water supply and other emergency relief works. On the financial burden of relief, he said the government would decide spending priorities based on available funds. "We will decide on a priority basis, depending on the availability of finances, what work should be taken up first and what can be taken up later. Now, the farmer is our priority. Road works and other works can happen later. Saving the farmer is the first task," he said. Overall, Parameshwara said the government's immediate focus was on supporting farmers, providing relief and managing the wider impact of the drought across Karnataka.

Chandrababu Naidu to urge PM Modi to approve Vizag Metro, Beach Corridor projects

AMARAVATI, OCT 7

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek approval for the Visakhapatnam Metro Rail project and Beach Corridor projects. The Chief Minister, who left on a two-day visit to the national capital on Wednesday, will meet Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and other Union Ministers. According to an official statement here, the Chief Minister will also request the Prime Minister to initiate steps for taking up a river-linking project in the State. In view of the drought-like conditions prevailing in Andhra Pradesh due to the impact of El Nino, the Chief Minister will seek special financial assistance from the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to provide relief to the State. He will also request the Prime Minister and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for Central support for the conduct of the Godavari Pushkarams next year. Discussions will also be held with the Union Finance Minister on taking forward the Rayalaseema Global Horticulture Hub project. Chandrababu Naidu, along with Nirmala Sitharaman, last week laid the foundation stone for the Global Horticulture Hub and the Indian School of Agriculture at Madanapalle in Annamayya district. The Chief Minister stated that Rayalaseema will be transformed from a land of drought into a land of prosperity through the Global Horticulture Hub to be developed with an investment of Rs 1 lakh crore. During his meeting with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, the Chief Minister will discuss measures to utilise the large volumes of floodwater flowing from the Godavari River into the sea, as well as the proposed river-linking initiatives. On Thursday, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will participate along with Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in the CII Partnership Conference Curtain Raiser, organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Delhi and return to Amaravati on Thursday night.

Odisha Vigilance arrests engineer, associate in DA case

Bhubaneswar, Oct 7: Odisha Vigilance on Wednesday arrested an Executive Engineer and his close associate in a disproportionate assets (DA) case involving assets allegedly 309 per cent higher than the officer's known sources of income. The accused, Arabinda Mohanty, is an Executive Engineer at the R&B Sub-Division in Betanati, Mayurbhanj district. His associate, contractor Biswanath Pal, was also arrested and both were produced before the Special Judge, Vigilance, in Baripada. During searches at properties linked to Mohanty and his family, officials reportedly found a triple-storeyed building, a farmhouse, two fishponds, a poultry farm and 23 plots. They also seized Rs 10.57 lakh in cash, around 800 grams of gold, deposits worth Rs 69.69 lakh and vehicles. Vigilance said land documents for 20 plots were recovered from Pal's residence, including some allegedly buried underground.

Daro mat: DMK asks Rahul Gandhi to break silence on Tamil Nadu SIR voter deletions

The DMK has challenged Rahul Gandhi to speak on alleged large-scale voter deletions in Tamil Nadu. The attack sharpens its post-poll rupture with Congress and raises fresh questions over the SIR process.



The DMK on Wednesday renewed its demand that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi break his "silence" on alleged large-scale voter deletions in Tamil Nadu, citing a media report that it said showed the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise had significantly affected the outcome of the 2026 Assembly election. In a post on X, DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai drew a contrast with Gandhi's remarks on Bihar, where he had alleged that elections were "stolen". Annadurai's comments came a day after INDIA bloc leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, marched from Parliament to the Election Commission office in Delhi and demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the SIR process. Taking a direct swipe at Gandhi with the phrase "Daro Math!" Annadurai said the Congress leader had spoken forcefully about Bihar but remained silent on developments in Tamil Nadu. Referring to the media report, he claimed that the SIR exercise had altered election results in the state. "Most notably, among the 135 constituencies where more than 20,000 voters were deleted, TVK won 84. In the 10 constituencies with more than 80,000 deletions, TVK won all 10," Annadurai claimed. He challenged Gandhi to clarify whether he believed Tamil Nadu and the DMK had been affected by the SIR exercise and whether the Election Commission had acted fairly. In an earlier X post on October 6, Annadurai had called Gandhi "duplicitous" and accused him of taking inconsistent positions. He had also asked whether Gandhi was "afraid of @actorvijay" to speak out against the electoral roll revisions in Tamil Nadu. Annadurai had further sought an explanation for why Gandhi had not publicly backed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's purported statement demanding the dissolution of all state governments elected after the SIR process.

The latest attack comes against the backdrop of a bitter split between the DMK and Congress after the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly polls. The decades-old alliance collapsed after Congress broke ties with the DMK and backed actor Vijay's TVK in forming the government, deepening the standoff between the two parties over the SIR issue.

NFR Hosts Rajya Puraskar Rally to Honour Scouts, Guides

MALIGAON, 7 OCTOBER, 2026



Northeast Frontier Railway's (NFR) Bharat Scouts and Guides organised the Rajya Puraskar Award Rally at Rang Bhawan and the State Training Centre, Maligaon, from 3rd to 5th October, 2026. The Rajya Puraskar Award is considered as the highest award a Scouts, Guides, Rovers and Rangers can earn in the State level. The programme was graced by the presence of Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of NFR, Chief Patron of NFR Bharat Scouts and Guides and Smt. Shalini Shrivastava, President of Northeast Frontier Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (NFRWWO). The rally recognised Scouts, Guides, Rovers and Rangers who qualified for the Rajya Puraskar, also known as the Governor's Award,for the years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25. Five members qualified for 2022-23, 135 members for 2023-24 and 181members for 2024-25. The award-giving ceremony on 5th October brought together 293 participants, comprising awardees, cultural and band teams, and district officials from the district associations of NFR Bharat Scouts and Guides.

Rajya Puraskar, also known as the Governor's Award, is the highest state-level recognition for Scouts, Guides, Rovers and Rangers. In Railway associations, it is conferred by the Chief Patron and General Manager of the respective Zonal Railway. Candidates earn the award after obtaining the required proficiency badges and successfully completing a five day testing camp, where qualified examiners assess their knowledge and skills. This achievement also enables eligible members to prepare for the national level President's Award testing camp. Bharat Scouts and Guides of NFR has also earned distinction through several national awards and dedicated community service. This year, 24 Scouts, Guides, Rovers and Rangers received the prestigious Rashtrapati Awards, while 94 Cubs and Bulbuls received the Golden Arrow Award. During Ambubachi Mela 2026, 225 members rendered round-the-clock assistance to pilgrims at Kamakhya Dham. Volunteers also extended flood reliefs to affected families in Sivasagar and Jorhatdistricts with support from NFRWWO. Their contributions further included cleanliness drives, environmental awareness campaigns, skill-development programmes, road-safety street plays, drinking-water distribution and crowd management at railway stations. The Rajya Puraskar rally highlighted the commitment of NFR Bharat Scouts and Guides towards discipline, leadership, teamwork and community service. By recognising the achievements of its young members, NFR continues to encourage responsible citizenship and the spirit of voluntary service, inspiring them to contribute meaningfully to the Railways and society.

Maharashtra FDA seizes almost 1,400 kg chemically ripened bananas, 8 eateries face action

Maharashtra FDA cracked down on food safety violations, suspending eight eatery licences, seizing 1,394 kg of chemically ripened bananas and banned products and destroying 16,730 litres of detergent-adulterated milk.



The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration has intensified its action against food safety violations, suspending the licences of eight eateries, seizing almost 1,400 kilograms of chemically ripened bananas and confiscating banned gutkha and adulterated milk, an official said on Tuesday. In Mumbai, the agency acted against 11 establishments for lapses related to food safety, hygiene, storage and documentation. It suspended the licences of eight eateries and the registration certificates of three others, while separate operations led to seizures of prohibited food products and the registration of criminal cases. Officials said a case was registered at the APMC police station in Navi Mumbai after a worker at a fruit stall was caught dipping bananas into a solution of ethephon, a plant growth regulator that leaves hazardous chemical residues. The action led to the seizure of 1,394 kg of bananas valued at Rs 67,814. Among the 11 eateries that faced action in the Mumbai division, five were in the western suburbs and six in south Mumbai, the agency said in a statement. At Nom Nom Restaurant in Borivali, inspectors found stored and frozen food kept at improper temperatures, missing purchase bills and audit records, flies and insects, and inadequate health records of food handlers. At Satkar Caterers, which runs the staff canteen of RN Cooper Municipal General Hospital in Vile Parle, inspectors found flies and cockroaches as well as inadequate separation of raw and cooked food. At Suraj Lama Momos in Andheri, food and cleaning chemicals were found stored together, while cleaning facilities were inadequate and worker health and training records were missing. Action was also taken against Tardeo Lunch Home and Shagun Veg Restaurant in Mumbai Central after complaints about kitchen hygiene. Inspectors found improper refrigeration, uncovered food, flies, and inadequate cleaning and documentation. At Roshan Bakery in Mazgaon, the FDA team found rusted and unclean baking equipment, uncovered food, non-food-grade packaging and reused oil.

The agency also seized prohibited food products worth Rs 31.14 lakh from three establishments in Mumbai and registered three FIRs, which led to the arrest of three persons. In two operations in Palghar, the FDA seized banned pan masala, gutkha and scented tobacco.

In the Pune division, two cases were registered over detergent-adulterated milk in Malshiras in Solapur district, and 16,730 litres of milk worth around Rs 6.69 lakh was destroyed. Overall, the operations involved action against eateries for hygiene and safety lapses, seizure of chemically ripened fruit and banned products, and cases over adulterated milk.

Andhra govt says crime rate down by 3.8% this year, Opposition flags women's safety

A series of recent cases involving the deaths of women, sexual assault complaints and harassment in Andhra Pradesh has triggered renewed scrutiny of women's safety and the effectiveness of the police response. The developments have also sparked a political dispute, with the opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) accusing the TDP-led coalition government of failing to protect women. The government, however, has maintained that crimes against women have declined and pointed to new policing and technology-based measures aimed at improving women's safety. Several cases have been reported from different parts of the state in recent weeks. On October 4, a 22-year-old man died by suicide after the death of 19-year-old Mahalakshmi in Vijayawada's New Rajarajeshwaripet. Police said the man attacked the woman with a knife before jumping from a nearby building. Reports based on police information said the two had been facing relationship-related disputes. In Ongole, police registered a case after two minor girls from a BC Welfare Hostel were taken to the residence of a retired employee. Authorities are investigating the circumstances in which the girls were taken out of the hostel. The Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has sought a report from district officials. A person has been arrested under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, according to reports. Other cases include a complaint involving the sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl in Railway Kodur, an assault case involving a woman in Vijayawada's VAMBAY Colony and a harassment complaint by a woman sub-inspector during a family trip. Questions have also been raised over an delay in action on a complaint concerning the death of a girl in Anakapalli. Reports of sexual violence in Hindupur and attacks on women in the constituency of Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha have also added to the concerns. On September 20, a woman in Mylavaram accused a Jana Sena leader of obscene behaviour, abuse and threats. The complaint remains subject to investigation and legal proceedings.

YSR CONGRESS ATTACKS GOVERNMENT

YSRCP spokesperson Nagamalleswari accused the TDP-led coalition government of failing to provide adequate protection to women and children. She questioned whether the government had taken sufficient steps to ensure justice for victims and sought greater accountability from the police and administration.

EDITORIAL

SME Growth Fund: Can Rs. 10,000 Crore Create the Next Industrial Wave?

India's small and medium enterprises are at an important stage in the country's economic journey. They are among the key contributors to manufacturing, employment, exports and local economic activity. The proposed ₹10,000-crore SME Growth Fund offers an opportunity to strengthen this sector by providing long-term capital for expansion, technology adoption and greater participation in global markets.

The importance of such support goes beyond providing finance. Many small businesses have viable products and strong market potential but face difficulties in obtaining patient capital for expansion. Traditional lending can often focus on existing balance sheets and repayment capacity, while businesses seeking to invest in new machinery, modern technology or larger production facilities may require capital with a longer investment horizon. A dedicated growth fund can help address this requirement.

The focus on manufacturing-oriented SMEs is particularly significant. India is seeking to strengthen its domestic manufacturing capabilities and become a more important part of global supply chains. Large companies cannot achieve this transformation alone. They need a strong network of smaller suppliers capable of meeting quality, cost, technology and delivery requirements. Helping SMEs modernise can therefore strengthen the broader industrial ecosystem.

Technology adoption will be another important factor. Modern machinery, automation, digital systems, data-based production and improved quality-control processes can increase productivity and reduce wastage. For smaller enterprises, however, the initial investment required for such improvements can be substantial. Long-term capital can make these investments more achievable and help businesses move from traditional production methods to more efficient systems.

The fund's potential impact can also extend beyond major industrial centres. SMEs operating in Tier-II and Tier-III cities can play an important role in creating new manufacturing clusters. Greater access to capital in these locations could encourage local entrepreneurship, generate employment and create supporting businesses around emerging industrial centres. Such development can contribute to a more geographically distributed pattern of economic growth.

Export opportunities provide another area of potential. Indian SMEs already participate in several international markets, but many remain relatively small and lack the scale required to compete consistently with global suppliers. Investment in production capacity, certification, product development and technology can help such companies move towards higher-value markets. Integration with global value chains can also encourage Indian enterprises to improve standards and become more competitive.

However, finance should be viewed as one part of a larger growth ecosystem. SMEs also require skilled workers, reliable infrastructure, easier access to technology, efficient logistics and wider markets. Faster regulatory processes and better business support can further improve the effectiveness of investment.

The success of the ₹10,000-crore initiative should therefore be measured not merely by the amount of money deployed, but by the economic capacity created through it. More productive enterprises, stronger manufacturing networks, higher exports, better jobs and greater technological capability would provide meaningful indicators of its impact.

India's next industrial expansion will require both large corporations and smaller enterprises to grow together. If long-term capital is combined with technology, skills, infrastructure and market access, the SME sector can become an even stronger pillar of India's manufacturing ambitions. The opportunity is not simply to finance more businesses, but to help existing enterprises become larger, more productive and globally competitive

New Discoveries About the Mysteries of the Brain: A New Light for Humanity

The journey of human civilization is, in many ways, a journey from darkness towards light. At times, human beings have looked towards the skies to understand the mysteries of nature; at others, they have ventured into the depths of the earth to discover the secrets of life, and they have also turned inward to explore the extraordinary powers hidden within the human body. Every significant scientific discovery has opened a new horizon before humanity. Yet, among all these mysteries, the human brain remains one of the greatest enigmas. The very brain that enabled humanity to cross mighty mountains, explore the depths of oceans, reach outer space and develop artificial intelligence is still not fully understood. How thoughts originate, how memories are formed, how emotions influence our behaviour, and how mental suffering can transform a person's life—these questions have long challenged scientists. Against this backdrop, research into controlling nerve cells through light represents far more than a scientific achievement. It offers new hope for understanding the human mind and reducing human suffering. The research associated with Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel, as referred to in connection with the 2026 Nobel Prize in Medicine, exemplifies this remarkable scientific quest. The development of optogenetics has provided scientists with a powerful method to study brain activity by enabling them to activate or inhibit specific nerve cells using light.

What makes this achievement particularly remarkable is that it did not begin with experiments on the human brain in some sophisticated laboratory. Its origins can be traced to attempts to understand light-sensitive proteins found in a tiny alga. A secret hidden within a microscopic organism ultimately opened new possibilities for studying the human brain. It reminds us that nothing in nature is truly insignificant. Sometimes, solutions to humanity's greatest challenges are hidden in the smallest components of life. To understand the essence of this discovery, we must first understand how the brain works. Our brains contain an enormous network of nerve cells, or neurons, which communicate with one another through electrical and chemical signals. These interactions influence memory, sensation, fear, happiness, decision-making and behaviour. Earlier, scientists could observe which regions of the brain became active during a particular activity, but merely observing activity did not necessarily establish whether a particular group of neurons was actually responsible for that activity. The ability to selectively control neurons through light has helped bridge this gap. Scientists can now investigate with much greater precision what happens when a particular group of neurons is activated or when its activity is suppressed, and how such changes affect behaviour or physiological responses. Brain research has therefore moved beyond merely observing activity towards understanding



the relationship between cause and effect. At the same time, it is equally important to distinguish scientific promise from established medical achievement. The safe application of such techniques in the human brain still involves significant scientific, medical and ethical challenges. Similarly, this research may have important implications for understanding the relationship between the brain and artificial intelligence, but every potential application should not be presented as an established accomplishment. True scientific thinking keeps hope alive while remaining firmly committed to facts and evidence.

This discovery can also be viewed in the broader context of scientific breakthroughs that have transformed human life. Vaccines opened new avenues for preventing infectious diseases; antibiotics made it possible to treat numerous life-threatening infections; and modern surgery has saved countless lives. The significance of such discoveries lies not merely in their scientific novelty but in their far-reaching social impact. At the same time, some scientific breakthroughs took decades to move from laboratories into everyday medical practice. Research on the brain is part of this same long journey. Its true value will become evident when the knowledge it generates leads to safe treatments, accessible healthcare and tangible improvements in the lives of patients. The greatness of science lies not merely in unlocking a mystery, but in using that knowledge for the welfare of humanity. In this context, the significance of the Nobel Prize also deserves to be understood in a broader sense. It is not merely a celebration of an individual scientist's achievement; it is also a recognition of years of perseverance, curiosity, failures, experimentation and patience without which major discoveries would rarely be possible.

This discovery also raises profound ethical and philosophical questions. The human brain is not merely the centre of thoughts and responses; it is deeply connected with our identity, experiences and sense of self. If scientists can activate or inhibit specific groups of neurons and thereby influence behaviour, an important question arises: what should be the limits of our ability to control brain activity? The development of such technologies for treating disease and alleviating human suffering is undoubtedly welcome. But their use must necessarily protect human dignity, individual freedom, privacy and informed consent. The scientific ability to understand a person's thoughts and emotions cannot be allowed to become a justification for claiming the right to control the human mind. The greater the power science acquires, the greater the responsibility that must accompany it. For a country like India, the message of such research is particularly significant. Providing quality healthcare to a vast population, overcoming social hesitation surrounding mental health and connecting scientific research with the needs of ordinary people remain major challenges. Mental illnesses must not be treated as signs of weakness or sources of social stigma. They need to be approached with sensitivity, scientific understanding and appropriate medical care. New scientific discoveries will become truly meaningful only when their benefits are not restricted to affluent sections of society or developed countries. Treatments emerging from research must also be safe, accessible and affordable. The real democratization of knowledge will occur only when even the most vulnerable sections of society can benefit from scientific progress.

Ultimately, the quest to understand the mysteries of the brain gives us much more than new knowledge about the biological structure of the human mind. It also encourages us to reflect on the very purpose of civilization. The highest use of the intelligence with which humanity has sought to understand nature should be to understand and alleviate the suffering of others. The true meaning of light is not merely the removal of darkness; it is also the transformation of the way we see life. The journey from a scientific possibility hidden within a tiny alga to the complex functioning of the human brain teaches us humility, patience and curiosity. It reminds us that the mysteries of nature are limitless and that human knowledge remains incomplete. Therefore, every new scientific achievement should not be regarded as the final answer, but as an opportunity to ask better questions and seek more humane solutions. The ultimate success of any discovery will be measured not merely by what it achieves within the laboratory, but by whether it can bring relief to a suffering person, hope to someone living in despair and greater sensitivity to society. That is the true human test of science—and the new vision that the world needs today.



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The Perfect Storm: How El Niño Accelerates Crisis Across India's Crowded Canvas

India today sits at a historic and delicate crossroads. Having officially emerged as the world's most populous nation, it commands unprecedented geopolitical influence and boasts a vast, youthful workforce. Yet, beneath this demographic dynamic lies a fundamental vulnerability: an extraordinary pressure on natural resources, ecological systems, and urban infrastructure. When this internal demographic density intersects with global planetary phenomena—most notably the erratic recurring atmospheric-oceanic cycle known as El Niño—the consequences ripple through every layer of society. The phenomenon transforms from an environmental anomaly into an all-encompassing socio-economic catalyst, magnifying structural fragility, straining food and water security, and disrupting millions of lives.

The Mechanics of El Niño and the Indian Monsoonal Rhythm

To understand the magnitude of this challenge, one must examine the delicate thermodynamic engine driving the Indian subcontinent. The Indian economy and agrarian lifecycle remain deeply bound to the Southwest Monsoon, a seasonal air pattern that delivers the vast majority of the country's annual rainfall. El Niño disrupts this delicate rhythm by altering oceanic surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific, creating atmospheric shifts that suppress normal monsoonal circulation across South Asia.

When El Niño sets in, monsoon currents frequently weaken, delay, or scatter unpredictably. In a sparse, underpopulated region, an occasional dry spell or delayed rain can be absorbed by natural buffer systems. But in a densely inhabited sub-continent where every square kilometer of arable land is cultivated to sustain local communities and national supply chains, even a slight shortfall in seasonal precipitation triggers wide-ranging ramifications. The resulting rain deficits deplete surface reservoirs, reduce soil moisture, and dry up critical groundwater tables.

Agrarian Stress and the Threat to National Food Security

Agriculture remains the livelihood backbone for nearly half of the Indian population and the primary source of nutrition for over 1.4 billion people. The collision of population scale and monsoon failure creates an immediate threat to agrarian stability and national food security.



Crop Failures and Yield Losses: Rain-fed staple crops such as paddy rice, pulses, coarse cereals, and oilseeds suffer immediate stress during El Niño dry spells. Belated sowings, stunted crop growth, and heat-induced yields drop drastically.

Inflationary Pressures: A downturn in agricultural yield creates immediate supply deficits. In a high-demand market, shortages spark sharp inflationary spikes in essential commodities, hitting lower-income households hardest as food commands a major portion of their daily expenditure.

Rural Debt and Dislocation: Smallholder farmers facing back-to-back crop failures often slide deeper into debt cycles. When local farming fails to provide basic subsistence, rural communities experience forced distress migrations, abandoning ancestral lands to seek informal daily-wage labor.

Urban Sprawl, Distress Migration, and Infrastructure Overload

When agricultural livelihoods collapse in rural hinterlands, the immediate outcome is an accelerated surge of distress migration toward major metropolitan centers. India's mega-cities are already contending with dense populations, stretched civil amenities, and rapid urbanization. The arrival of millions of climate-impacted migrants places severe demands on urban planning and infrastructure.

CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT CASCADE

Monsoon Deficit in Rural Belts
Widespread Crop Failure &
Loss of Income
Accelerated Distress Migration to Cities
Severe Strain on Urban Amenities &
Slum Expansion

As informal settlements and slums expand to accommodate incoming populations, civic networks face immense pressure. Drainage corridors, public transport, housing, and garbage management systems operate beyond maximum capacity. Furthermore, urban heat island effects amplify the severity of heatwaves associated with El Niño years. Densely built urban centers experience dangerously high ambient temperatures, exposing construction workers, street vendors, and outdoor laborers to extreme heat stress.

Water Scarcity, Public Health, and the Energy Grid

The dual pressure of high population density and El Niño-induced dry spells severely impacts water security and public health across both rural and urban sectors:

Water Scarcity and Hydrological Drought: Declining reservoir levels reduce municipal water supply, forcing cities and villages to rely on over-extracting groundwater. Borewells are drilled deeper, accelerating the depletion of aquifers and increasing contamination risks.

Public Health Crises: Unpredictable weather shifts aggravate disease transmission. Prolonged heatwaves increase heat-stroke incidents and cardiovascular strain among vulnerable demographics. Water shortages force reliance on compromised sources, triggering waterborne disease outbreaks, while erratic post-monsoon stagnant pools create ideal breeding grounds for vector-borne illnesses.

Energy Strain: Decreased water levels in major rivers and reservoirs reduce hydroelectric power generation capacity. Simultaneously, intense heatwaves drive peak electricity demand for domestic cooling and agricultural pumping, causing grid stress, frequent load shedding, and disruptions to industrial productivity.

Sustainable Pathways and Strategic Resilience

Navigating this complex intersection requires moving beyond reactive crisis management toward proactive, long-term structural resilience. Mitigating the compounded risks of rapid demographic growth and environmental volatility demands integrated policy initiatives across multiple fronts:

Climate-Smart Agriculture: Promoting drought-resistant crop varieties, precision micro-irrigation systems like drip and sprinkler networks, and sustainable practices like direct-seeded rice can significantly lower water requirements while maintaining crop yields.

Integrated Water Conservation: Expanding rainwater harvesting infrastructure, restoring traditional lakes and stepwells, treating municipal wastewater for non-potable reuse, and implementing strict groundwater recharge guidelines are essential steps toward building hydrological resilience.

Urban Infrastructure Renewal: Developing climate-resilient urban master plans that prioritize blue-green spaces, natural drainage corridors, heat-reflective building designs, and decentralized basic amenities ensures cities can absorb population shifts without systemic failures.

Renewable Energy and Grid Modernization: Accelerating the adoption of solar, wind, and energy storage systems offsets the drop in hydroelectric power during dry years, ensuring stable power supply during peak summer demand.

By harmonizing environmental conservation with inclusive socioeconomic development, India can strengthen its climate preparedness, protect its vast population, and build an enduring foundation for future sustainability.



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Winds of change: Prashant Kishor predicts Jan Suraaj's Patna win in Bihar council polls

Prashant Kishor claimed his Jan Suraaj party would win the Patna Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies in the Bihar Legislative Council polls and urged voters to back his call for political change.

Jan Suraaj founder Prashant Kishor on Wednesday claimed that his party would win both the Patna Graduates' and Patna Teachers' constituencies in the upcoming Bihar Legislative Council elections. He said such a result would send a message across the state that voters would hold elected representatives accountable for their performance. Campaigning for party candidates Anuj Singh, who is contesting from the Patna Graduates' constituency, and Divya Jyoti, who is in the fray from the Patna Teachers' constituency, Kishor urged voters to back what he called a wave of change in Bihar. He also appealed to graduates and teachers to vote for better employment opportunities, better pay and dignity. Addressing voters, Kishor said, "The JSP will win both seats of Patna. I urge voters to strengthen the winds of change in the state. The council polls have the state's most educated voters, and I am sure that they would not sell their votes for Rs 10,000." He also said, "It is their responsibility to strengthen the change that began in Bankipur. Vote to remove Samrat Choudhary from Bihar," the Bankipur MLA said. The party is contesting all eight seats in the council polls. Polling will be held from 8 am to 4 pm on October 23, and counting is scheduled for October 27. Graduates who obtained a recognised university degree at least three years before the qualifying date and are ordinarily resident in the constituency can vote, subject to registration on the electoral roll. In the Teachers' constituencies, those with at least three years of experience in recognised educational institutions not below secondary schools are eligible to vote, subject to separate registration on the electoral roll. Overall, Kishor used the campaign to project Jan Suraaj's challenge in the council elections and to urge teachers and graduates to vote for change.

CM Dhami Attends 'Seva Sankalp Sabha' in Uttarkashi

BY-SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Announces Vishwanath-Shakti Mata Corridor





Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand October 7: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami participated in the Seva Jyoti Kalash Yatra and the Seva Sankalp Sabha organised at the historic Ramlila Maidan in Uttarkashi under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan. The programme marked 25 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public service journey and highlighted the government's development and welfare initiatives.

Before attending the public programme, Chief Minister Dhami offered prayers at the historic Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Shakti Temple. He prayed for the prosperity of Uttarakhand and the well-being of its people. Addressing the gathering, Dhami said the Seva Jyoti Yatra symbolises public service, national spirit and welfare. He said the Prime Minister's 25-year journey in public life reflects a commitment to service, good governance and the welfare of the poor. He called upon people to contribute towards the vision of building a developed India by 2047. The Chief Minister highlighted various welfare schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. He said the government is working to take welfare services directly to people instead of limiting governance to offices and files. Dhami claimed that Uttarakhand's economy has grown by more than one-and-a-half times, while per capita income has increased by over 41 per cent. He said more than 20,000 new industries have been established in the state, while the number of hotels has increased by 25 per cent and homestays by more than 50 per cent. He also highlighted the Lakhpati Didi initiative, stating that over three lakh women in Uttarakhand have become Lakhpati Didis.

The Chief Minister said more than 56 lakh pilgrims have visited the Char Dham shrines so far this year, describing it as a significant milestone for religious tourism. In Uttarkashi, he said, development projects worth over ₹200 crore have been taken up, with several projects already completed.

Dhami announced plans for a Vishwanath-Shakti Mata Corridor, saying it would improve facilities for devotees and boost religious tourism and employment. He also announced steps regarding healthcare facilities, a proposed Kendriya Vidyalaya in Bhatwari, and development and beautification of destinations including Dodi Tal and Avana Bugyal.

District officials, public representatives, BJP leaders and a large number of local residents attended the programme.



SIR an attempt to kill democracy: Prakash Raj

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 7: Actor-activist Prakash Raj on Wednesday demanded the immediate scrapping of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the exercise posed a serious threat to the voting rights of citizens and amounted to an attempt to kill democracy. Addressing the media in Thiruvananthapuram, Raj launched a sharp attack on the Election Commission of India and demanded that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resign immediately. He also sought legal accountability for all those involved in implementing the SIR process. Raj alleged that the revision could deprive more than 13 crore people across the country of their constitutional right to vote and warned that it could create two categories of citizens, those who have voting rights and those who do not. On the controversy over the SIR, actor Prakash Raj said, "Now we are realising the conspiracy and the agenda behind SIR. For that, we need to know a little about the history of the Election Commission of India and the electoral process in this country. When India attained freedom, it was a new country, and the Constitution was formed. If you remember, the Britishers had suggested that this was a new country with many poor and uneducated people and questioned whether everyone should be given the right to elect governments. They suggested that the right should be given to some higher-class or well-educated people.

Odisha govt forms commission to study SEBC representation in panchayats, ULBs

BHUBANESWAR, OCT 7

In a significant development, the Odisha government on Wednesday constituted a commission to study the political representation of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) in local self-government institutions across the state, including panchayats and urban local bodies (ULBs).

According to an official statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the commission has been constituted in accordance with the decision of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to undertake a study of the population of SEBCs in panchayats and urban local bodies, their political representation and the extent of their political backwardness in these institutions. The ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department issued a notification in this regard on Wednesday. Retired Orissa High Court judge Justice Pramath Patnaik has been appointed Chairman of the commission. Retired IAS officer Bijay Kumar Prusty will serve as a member, while Special Secretary of the department Sujata Mishra will function as Member-Secretary. The commission will study the proportion of SEBCs in local self-government institutions in both rural and urban areas in relation to the total population of the respective areas. It will also examine their political representation in these institutions and assess the nature and implications of their political backwardness. The exercise is aimed at helping the state government make appropriate provisions to ensure adequate representation of people belonging to the socially and educationally backward classes in local self-government institutions and safeguard their rights. The commission's study will cover local self-government institutions across the state and provide inputs for taking appropriate measures regarding the political representation of SEBCs. "Through this, appropriate provisions can be made regarding the adequate representation and rights of the socially and educationally backward classes of the state in local self-government institutions," the CMO said.

NLUJ and C-LAB join hands to conduct certificate courses and research in area of child protection

JODHPUR, OCTOBER 7





National Law University Jodhpur (NLUJ) and India Child Protection, through its Centre for Legal Action and Behaviour Change for Children (C-LAB), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to undertake research, facilitate certificate courses and capacity-building initiatives in the areas of child protection, including digital safety, child rights, and human rights. Recognising the increasing interdependence of law, technology, and society in the 21st century, and the need for a stronger knowledge base, robust interdisciplinary education and research, and enhanced capacity in the fields of child safety and human rights, NLUJ and C-LAB have agreed to establish a collaborative institutional framework to promote research, knowledge development, and capacity building in these areas. This agreement covers five areas of collaboration. The first is academic and professional certificate courses, training programmes. The second is research studies, publications, knowledge resources, and other academic or policy-oriented outputs. The third is capacity building and knowledge exchange for stakeholders such as law enforcement agencies, legal professionals, educators, and civil society organisations. The fourth focuses on student engagement and experiential learning opportunities, including internships, field-based learning, and outreach activities. The fifth covers seminars, workshops, conferences, lectures, and other academic or knowledge-sharing activities.

In addition, NLUJ and C-LAB will collaborate on joint research proposals and publications; thematic working groups and policy labs; national and international conferences, workshops, and seminars; and knowledge repositories and digital libraries on law, technology, child safety, and human rights. The agreement was signed by NLUJ Vice Chancellor Prof (Dr) Harpreet Kaur and ICP Trustee Rajat Kumar in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, NLUJ Vice Chancellor Prof (Dr) Harpreet Kaur said, "Under a government mandate, we adopted a village in Rajasthan and decided to look at the issue of women's rights. We look after vulnerable women and the elderly, but at the same time we will take care of the children. Child marriage is a major problem in Rajasthan and the literacy rate is also very low."

"We are dedicated to fulfilling the social responsibility of the institution, so we tried to look at vulnerable people who need support and where, as an educational institution, we can collaborate and provide assistance, training, or research materials." Centre for Legal Action and Behaviour Change for Children (C-LAB) Head Priyanka Ribhu said, "What NLUJ does fits so well with the MoU that was signed. The agreement covers academics, capacity training, and research, especially in terms of the philosophy of child protection, human rights and what it means for justice. A key point that we've agreed upon is child safety online and the evolving discourse on the digital safety of children."



Rajasthan: Sachin Pilot criticises handling of Opposition leaders' protests

JAIPUR, OCT 7

Senior Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Wednesday alleged that recent developments involving the Election Commission and the treatment of Opposition MPs during protests in Delhi had raised serious concerns about the state of democracy in the country. Addressing the media at the Congress War Room, Pilot criticised the handling of protests by Opposition leaders, including Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, during demonstrations demanding accountability from the Election Commission. He alleged that Opposition MPs seeking to meet the Election Commission were detained instead and questioned why elected representatives were not permitted to present their concerns before the constitutional body. Calling the developments "authoritarianism", Pilot said democratic institutions must remain open to dialogue and accountability. Referring to the electoral roll revision exercise, he alleged that millions of voters were at risk of exclusion and termed the issue a threat to voting rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

Lecture on Public Procurement Organized at BLW under Vigilance Awareness Campaign-2026

VARANASI

Emphasis on Strengthening Public Procurement through Transparency, Efficiency, Fairness and Inclusiveness

As part of Vigilance Awareness Campaign-2026, a special lecture on "Transforming Public Procurement in India – Transparency, Efficiency & Inclusiveness" was organized on Wednesday, 07 October 2026, at the Seminar Hall of the Technical Training Centre, Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW). Shri Arun Mehta, Controller of Stores, Konkan Railway, Navi Mumbai, attended the programme as the Guest Speaker and apprised the officers and employees of important and practical aspects related to the public procurement process. The programme commenced with the arrival of General Manager, BLW, Shri Ashutosh Pant, and Guest Speaker Shri Arun Mehta. On the occasion, the General Manager and the Guest Speaker planted saplings. Thereafter, during the programme held at the Seminar Hall, Chief Vigilance Officer, BLW, Shri Ankur Chandra welcomed and felicitated Guest Speaker Shri Arun Mehta by presenting him with a planter and an angavastram.

General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant welcomed Shri Arun Mehta on behalf of the BLW family and stated that public procurement is an important component of the functioning of any large organization. He emphasized that ensuring transparency, quality, fairness, efficiency and accountability in the procurement process is essential. He expressed confidence that the long experience and practical knowledge of Shri Arun Mehta would greatly benefit the officers and employees of BLW. He also emphasized the importance of learning from experienced officers and sharing professional experiences with the younger generation of officers.

Detailed Insight into Various Aspects of Public Procurement

Guest Speaker Shri Arun Mehta elaborated on various important aspects of the public procurement process during two sessions. He explained the significance of ensuring transparency, efficiency, fairness and inclusiveness



in procurement, along with the necessary precautions to be observed from a vigilance perspective. He explained the concept of Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS), its utility, and various aspects of maintaining a balance between quality and cost in public procurement through practical examples. He also discussed the Public Procurement & Vigilance Perspective, highlighting potential risks in the procurement process, important vigilance-related points, and measures to maintain transparency in decision-making. During the lecture, the four major pillars of public procurement, relevant parameters and various case studies were discussed to highlight challenges encountered in real-life situations and their possible solutions. This provided the participants an opportunity to understand not only the rules and procedures but also the practical aspects of the public procurement process. During his address, Shri Arun Mehta also shared his experiences from his professional journey associated with BLW. Recalling his association with BLW and the beginning of his railway career here, he stated that the experience gained while



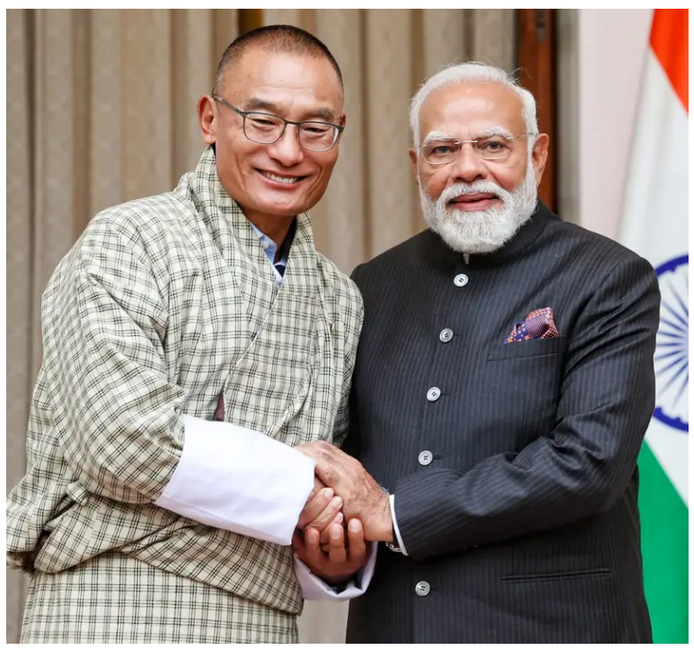
working in any organization is not merely a personal achievement; rather, sharing such experience with the next generation of officers and employees is also an important responsibility. He urged the officers to share their experiences with junior officers and provide the younger generation with opportunities to learn and perform better. He emphasized that senior officers should devote their time and experience to guiding new officers, thereby strengthening institutional knowledge and professional efficiency.

Second Session Focuses on Public Procurement from Vigilance Perspective

The second session of the programme focused on "Public Procurement & Vigilance Perspective." During the session, important aspects of public procurement from the vigilance perspective, transparency in decision-making, procedural integrity and necessary precautions at various levels were discussed in detail. Officers and employees raised various practical questions related to public procurement, which were answered comprehensively by the Guest Speaker. The question-and-answer session provided participants with an opportunity to understand real-life situations encountered in the procurement process and learn practical approaches for addressing them. Following the lecture, General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant felicitated Guest Speaker Shri Arun Mehta by presenting him with a memento. On the occasion, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Shri Manish Kumar, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Shri Vivek Sheel, Principal Chief Materials Manager Shri Alok Agrawal, Principal Financial Advisor Shri Muktesh Mittal, Principal Chief Engineer Shri Ram Janam, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Shri Lal Ji Chaudhary, Principal Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sunil Kumar, Inspector General-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner Shri Devraj Kumar Maurya, Deputy General Manager Shri Sagar, along with Heads of Departments and senior officers from various departments, were present. A large number of railway employees participated in the programme. At the conclusion of the programme, Chief Vigilance Officer, BLW, Shri Ankur Chandra presented the books Kashi Ka Itihas and Andher Nagari to Shri Mehta. Thereafter, Shri Ankur Chandra delivered the concluding remarks and proposed the vote of thanks. The programme was conducted gracefully by Shri Anoop Singh Vats.

I see PM Modi as avatar of Vishnu, says Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay

NEW DELHI



Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay on Wednesday said that he regarded Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an elder brother and also considered him to be an avatar of Lord Vishnu.

The Bhutanese PM lauded PM Modi's 25 years of continuous service as head of the government, saying that India's engagement with its neighbours has remained a key priority under his leadership. He also praised PM Modi's role in amplifying the voice of the Global South and bringing the African Union into the G20 as a permanent member.

"Viksit Bharat matters beyond India. PM Modi has consistently placed India's neighbours first in its international engagement. He has championed the interests of the Global South, convening the Voice of Global South Summits and leading the successful effort to bring the African Union into the G20 as a permanent member," the Bhutanese PM wrote in an opinion article titled 'Modi's leadership reflects wisdom, courage, empathy' published in Hindustan Times.

"And the stronger India becomes, the more it can do. A developed India will offer a larger market, have more capital and technology to share, and carry greater influence in shaping the global agenda to reflect the interests of the region and the Global South," he added.

Highlighting the personal influence Prime Minister Modi has had on him, Tobgay said he has long regarded the former as an elder brother and, over the years, has come to see him as a mentor whose example as a public servant has been a source of guidance.

"Today, as PM Modi completes 25 years as a head of government, I am reminded of that impulsive conversation in 2019 -- and our next meeting, on March 14, 2024. By then, I was prime minister again. I called on my elder brother in Delhi, five years after telling him that I saw him as an avatar of Vishnu," said the Bhutanese PM.

"I told him that I had thought long and hard about what I had said five years earlier, and wondered whether I had been wrong. I had concluded that I was right. Not only that. I now knew which avatar. Vishnu's final avatar -- the one associated with overcoming disorder, restoring dharma and ushering in renewal. Kalki," he mentioned.

Underscoring that Viksit Bharat means Viksit Bhutan, Tobgay recalled that in June 2014, within weeks of becoming prime minister, PM Modi chose Bhutan for his first foreign visit.

"I was prime minister at the time and had the privilege of receiving him. During that visit, he summed up our relationship in three characters. B4B: Bharat for Bhutan; Bhutan for Bharat. The phrase is simple yet profound. And over the years, he has lived by it," the Bhutanese PM stated.

"That's why India's assistance during our 11th Five-Year Plan helped my first government deliver an ambitious development programme. That's why PM Modi sustained that generous partnership through our 12th Plan. And that's why, when I returned to office in 2024, he doubled India's support for our 13th Plan to Rs 10,000 crore," he noted.

Tobgay said Bhutan-India cooperation under the B4B framework is now evident across sectors, from education and healthcare to infrastructure, hydropower, technology, agriculture and enterprise. He said the partnership has acquired particular significance through India's support for the Bhutanese King's vision of the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC).

"PM Modi has pledged India's full support, and that commitment is already taking shape in rail links, border infrastructure, and improved air and digital connectivity. More importantly,

Indian businesses have taken their cue from PM Modi's unequivocal support," Tobgay said, adding that leading Indian businesses are investing in Bhutan's economic transformation and have joined GMC as founding members.

India and Ghana looking at more cooperation in health and defence

ACCRA

India and Ghana signed agreements on biodiversity, agricultural research and training on Wednesday while looking at more cooperation in pharmaceuticals, health, defence, mining, railways and digital sectors.

Speaking alongside Ghana's Foreign Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa in Accra, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar also spoke about his meeting with Ghana President John Dramani Mahama and expressed gratitude to him for his contribution to bilateral ties.

"My main purpose of coming here, of course, was to follow up on Prime Minister Modi's historic visit last year. And I'm truly touched that we began this visit by getting the guidance of President Mahama. He was very kind, very gracious, very forthcoming on what should be the ambitions and goals for our relationship. I thank him very, very sincerely for that, and what we are trying to do is that, now that we have established a comprehensive partnership, we need to live up to that. We need to find new areas of cooperation. We need to deepen our long-standing partnership, and that's really what has been our discussion today."

Emphasising that India and Ghana have been "historic partners" and "champions of the Global South", EAM Jaishankar said, "When we look at Ghana from an Indian perspective, one of course for us, you have been historic partners. We have both been champions of the Global South before that term was even invented. And we have, I think, in the world, in difficult circumstances, stood up for the independence and the self-reliance and the dignity of countries who had earlier colonised, and I think that foundation, that legacy stands us in good stead. The bilateral dimension of our relationship was the focus today of our talks, and it was focused on how we take it to the next level."

UN chief may have raised Imran Khan issue with Pakistan army chief

UNITED NATIONS



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres may have discussed the imprisonment of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan with Pakistan's military chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, during his recent visit to the country, according to indications by his spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric.

Responding to a question on whether Guterres had raised the detention of Khan, whose supporters claim his health condition is deteriorating, with Field Marshal Asim Munir and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Dujarric said: "We're very well aware of the situation surrounding Imran Khan, and I can tell you that all of the relevant topics came up in the discussions between the Secretary-General and his Pakistani interlocutors."

While Guterres was meeting with Field Marshal Asim Munir, widely regarded as the country's most powerful figure, thousands of Khan's supporters were marching towards Islamabad, demanding his release and calling for the protection of democratic rights. It is unusual for a UN Secretary-General to hold a high-profile meeting with a country's military chief during an official visit.

In his briefing, Dujarric said Guterres and Field Marshal Asim Munir also discussed the threat of terrorism.

Guterres additionally met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari during the visit. The march across Pakistan began on Sunday in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with an estimated 5,000 participants who described themselves as "Imran's Army", with more supporters joining along the route. Khan, leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, was removed from office in 2022 through a parliamentary process.

He was arrested the following year, and his party was barred from contesting the 2024 general election that brought Sharif to power.

Khan's supporters maintain that his health condition has deteriorated during his incarceration.

INDIAN AIR FORCE : TOUCH THE SKY WITH GLORY



(On the occasion of "Indian Air Force Day" on 08 October)

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is the air arm of the Indian armed forces with the primary mission to secure Indian airspace and conduct aerial safety activities during armed conflicts. More than 1,70,000 personnel and over 1,400 aircrafts, are in service with the IAF. It's personnel and aircraft assets rank fourth amongst the air forces of the world. Also known as "Bharathiya Vayu Sena", the IAF was officially established on October 08, 1932, by British Empire to support British forces against Japan in World War-2. The President of India holds the rank of Supreme Commander of the IAF. The Chief of Air Staff, an air chief marshal is responsible for the operational command of Air Force.

IAF Operational and Functional Commands

The IAF comprises highly-trained crews and pilots and has access to modern military resources which provide India with the capacity to carry out rapid response evacuation, search-and-rescue operations, and delivery of relief supplies to affected areas through cargo aircraft. The IAF is divided into five operational and two functional commands. The purpose of an operational command is to conduct military operations using aircraft within its area of responsibility, and functional command's responsibility is to maintain combat readiness.

The Motto of IAF

IAF Day is celebrated on October 08 annually to mark the formation of the IAF IN 1932. It is an occasion to honour bravery, achievements, and sacrifices of Indian Air Force personnel. The key focus of this year's IAF day is "Indian Airforce - Infallible, Impervious and Precise". The motto of the IAF is "Touch the Sky with Glory" and it was taken from Bhagavath Geeta. After independence, the IAF took part in four wars with Pakistan, one with China and working with UN peacekeeping missions. They took part in relief operations during natural calamities such as cyclones, tsunamis, floods, and many more.

This year's 94th

IAF Day is not just a military celebration but also a day to honour sacrifices, celebrate achievements, inspire the youth, show India's strength, bring people together, and highlight new technologies. This day is celebrated with parades, air shows, and events showcasing Indian air power. Finally, IAF acts as a symbol of unity and patriotism across the country.

- Capt Dr Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
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Captain Smit Machchhar recovering well, his health showing improvement: MEA

NEW DELHI



The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Wednesday said Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, who fought against the attacking co-pilot in a Flydubai aircraft and helped save 174 people onboard last week, is recovering well and showing steady improvement in his health. Addressing a bi-weekly press briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the Indian Embassy in the UAE has been closely coordinating with the pilot, his family, local authorities and the hospital where he is undergoing treatment.

"Captain Machchhar is in a hospital in Abu Dhabi. We have kept you updated on his health condition. Our Embassy in UAE has been in regular touch with him, his family, local and hospital authorities. He is recuperating well, responding well and his health is improving," Jaiswal mentioned.

On Tuesday, while updating on Machchhar's health, the Indian Embassy in UAE took to X and posted, "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."

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."

India and Italy hold talks on enhancing cooperation in countering terrorism, organised crime

NEW DELHI



India and Italy on Wednesday concluded discussions on a wide gamut of areas of cooperation in counter terrorism and organised crime, including drug trafficking and the emerging regional and global terrorist threats.

The talks were held during the sixth meeting of the India-Italy Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime and the second meeting of the India-Italy Permanent Task Force on Countering Financing of Terrorism held in New Delhi on October 6-7, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated.

The meetings were co-chaired by Suhel Ajaz Khan, MEA's Additional Secretary on Counter Terrorism and Paolo Mari, Joint Secretary for G7-G20, Transnational Threats and Integrated Strategy, Directorate General for Political Affairs and International Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy. Counter terrorism agencies from both countries participated in the meetings.

"Condemning terrorism in all and its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, the two sides reiterated their condemnation of the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on 22 April 2025," read the MEA statement.

"Reaffirming the need for strengthening cooperation in effectively countering the misuse of new and emerging technologies including information, communication and financial technologies for terrorist purposes, the two sides discussed ways to strengthen capacity building and information exchange to counter the emerging and non-traditional threats," it added.

The meeting of the Permanent Task Force focused on strengthening cooperation in countering terrorism financing under the India-Italy Joint Initiative on Countering Financing of Terrorism, which was launched by the Prime Ministers of the two countries on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg in November 2025. According to the MEA, both sides also discussed enhancing multilateral cooperation in counter terrorism, including in the UN, GCTF and FATF.

Pakistan: Child killed, four injured as rains wreak havoc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD



A child was killed and four other people injured as rains continue to wreak havoc in Mardan district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, local media reported on Wednesday.

Rescue 1122 said that a seven-year-old boy was killed after the roof of one house collapsed due to heavy rain. The mother and the minor sister of the boy were also injured in the incident, leading Pakistani daily Dawn reported.

Two women injured in a similar incident in the Bala Ghari area of Mardan district were rushed to the hospital for treatment.

As many as seven people, including three women, who were stranded in heavy rain in Nowshera district were rescued. Standing crops and solar power systems were damaged due to hailstorm, strong winds, and rains in Pandiali tehsil and nearby areas of Mohmand tribal district. Several areas of Peshawar, including Assembly Chowk, University Road, Saddar Road, Nasi Bagh and parts of Hayatabad, were flooded due to heavy rains, causing traffic jams on roads.

The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) said that 83 of its feeders, including 19 in Peshawar, 13 in Khyber, nine in Swabi and 29 in Mardan, tripped due to heavy rains, Dawn reported. In August, nine people, including four people and three women, were killed and seven others injured as rains continued to wreak havoc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Over 103 houses were damaged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as heavy rains triggered landslides and flash floods, Pakistan's Samaa TV reported. Several rain-related incidents were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat, Khyber, Buner, Abbottabad, Upper Chitral and Lower Chitral areas during the monsoon spell in 2026.

Airtel hikes all postpaid plans by Rs 50, bundles one free annual international roaming

NEW DELHI: (OCT 7)

India's second-largest telecom operator Bharti Airtel has raised its postpaid tariffs - across-the-board by Rs 50 with a revamped set of plans that bundle one free international roaming trip every year.

The new plans come into effect on October 8, 2026, and existing postpaid subscribers will be moved to the nearest higher plan within a month, company sources told PTI on Wednesday.

In effect, the revamped plans translate into a Rs 50 hike over current tariffs for postpaid, and in percentage terms, the increase ranges between 3-11 per cent. For instance, a subscriber on Rs 449 plan would now be moved to Rs 499 postpaid plan (an 11 per cent increase) and Rs 1,749 plan shifts to Rs 1,799 plan (2.8 per cent increase) -- the tariff hike affects all six postpaid plans of the telco.

Jio Showcases India's AI Playbook at India Mobile Congress 2026

NEW DELHI, 7 OCTOBER 2026

Taking India's Technology to the World



Picture a village once beyond the reach of terrestrial networks, now connected through a satellite built in India. A school transformed into a smart learning environment using the devices it already has. A network that can detect, diagnose and resolve issues before users even notice them. At India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026, Jio is bringing these stories together—each born from a distinctly Indian challenge: how to make technology work at massive scale, across the complexity and diversity of India. Jio is showcasing how India is evolving from a consumer of technology into a creator, innovator and exporter of technology. The innovations on display are sovereign, AI-first and homegrown—proven at scale in India and designed to serve the world. Built in India. Scaled in India. Taking to the World. Technologies shaped by India's scale and diversity are among the most resilient, affordable and inclusive in the world. At IMC 2026, Jio is demonstrating how these innovations can power the digital infrastructure of governments, enterprises and telecom operators globally. Multiple Innovations. One Big Idea. Space connectivity with no corner left behind Jio's sovereign Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation is envisioned to extend India's digital infrastructure beyond the reach of terrestrial networks, delivering secure, low-latency, carrier-grade broadband across land, sea and air. Designed for global scale, it has the potential to position India as a trusted provider of resilient, sovereign and cost-effective space connectivity for operators, governments, enterprises and citizens worldwide.

From building networks to defining them

Jio is moving from adopting global standards to helping shape them, with active leadership in bodies such as 3GPP and TM Forum. Homegrown R&D is translating into high-value patents, Standard Essential Patents (SEPs), Open APIs, AI-native network frameworks and next-generation telecom technologies.

A telecom stack proven where it matters most

End-to-end technologies designed, built and battle-tested on Indian networks are now ready to go global. They offer operators and enterprises—particularly in emerging markets—a cost-effective alternative to established global vendors, while opening new export opportunities for India as a credible supplier of telecom equipment and software.

Networks that look after themselves

Jio's AI-native autonomous networks can predict, optimise and self-heal, making telecom operations simpler, more efficient and resilient. For global operators seeking to reduce OPEX through automation, Jio Platforms' AI-native network stack can be deployed as a turnkey solution, backed by operational playbooks refined on one of the world's largest networks.

Jio Education Stack: Every School, Digitised

Jio Education Stack brings students, teachers, parents and school administrators together on a unified, AI-powered ecosystem. It enables any school to become a smart school using existing devices, with personalised AI-powered learning, rich digital content, intelligent administration and real-time analytics—bringing world-class education within reach of every child and every school.

AI Wearables, Made for India

From scan-and-pay payments and smarter healthcare to safer workplaces and more connected communities, Jio's AI-powered wearables are designed to make everyday life simpler, safer and more connected—at population scale.

One Enterprise Stack to Power Them All

Jio's AI-Powered Enterprise Stack brings connectivity, cloud, AI and digital capabilities together on a single integrated platform. It enables horizontal solutions across businesses as well as industry-specific solutions for Retail, BFSI, Manufacturing, Energy, Healthcare and Government.

JioAIHome: A Home That Gets You

JioAIHome brings intelligence into the home in a way that feels natural and intuitive. It understands, adapts and responds to users, with AI working silently in the background to make everyday experiences more personal, seamless and connected.



Telangana's Strength is its Young, Skilled Talent

Hyderabad Emerging as a Global Destination for International Companies: Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 7



Telangana's biggest strength is its young, highly skilled and globally competitive talent pool, which is driving the growth of global technology and financial services companies in the State, said IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu. Addressing the 30th anniversary celebrations of D. E. Shaw India held in Jubilee Hills on Tuesday, the Minister said D. E. Shaw's three-decade journey in Hyderabad was a testimony to the company's long-term confidence in the city and in Telangana's exceptional talent. The Minister congratulated Mr. Eddie Fishman, Mr. Anoop Prasad and Mr. Neil Katz, Managing Directors of the D. E. Shaw Group, on the milestone. He also extended his greetings to Mr. Chaitanya Gorrepati and Mr. Lakshmi Prasad Koneti, Managing Directors and key leaders of D. E. Shaw India, and the entire D. E. Shaw team.

From 20 Employees to More Than 2,000

Mr. Sridhar Babu said D. E. Shaw was among the early global financial and technology companies to recognise Hyderabad's potential and establish its first India office in the city in 1996. "From a small beginning with around 20 people, D. E. Shaw India has grown to more than 2,000 employees across Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Gurugram. Its teams in India are today contributing globally across technology, financial research, financial operations and corporate functions," he said. The Minister said D. E. Shaw's three-decade growth was closely linked to Hyderabad's transformation into a global technology and financial services hub.

'Hyderabad is a Key Global Centre'

"Hyderabad has transformed significantly over the last three decades. Today, it is one of India's leading destinations for technology, innovation, financial services and Global Capability Centres. Our greatest strength is our young, highly skilled and globally competitive talent," Mr. Sridhar Babu said.

He said the Telangana Government was working to create an ecosystem where global companies could not only establish operations but also undertake high-value activities, drive innovation and develop technologies for the future. "Our objective is to ensure that global companies expand in Telangana, innovate here and create high-value employment opportunities. The Government is committed to creating an environment conducive to such growth," he said.

New Office at Neopolis

The Minister welcomed D. E. Shaw's new purpose-built office at Neopolis, describing it as another indication of the company's continued confidence in Hyderabad.

"The new D. E. Shaw office at Neopolis is not merely another workplace. It is a strong signal of the company's confidence in Hyderabad's future and Telangana's growth story," he said.

The new facility would provide further scope for D. E. Shaw to expand its operations in Hyderabad, he added. "We welcome this expansion and look forward to seeing D. E. Shaw grow further in Telangana," Mr. Sridhar Babu said.

Government Support to Industry

The Minister assured global companies that the Telangana Government would continue to provide all possible support for their growth and expansion. "I assure the D. E. Shaw leadership that the Telangana Government will extend every possible support for your growth and expansion. We will continue working with industry to strengthen infrastructure, talent development, ease of doing business and innovation," he said. He said the State Government's objective was to make Telangana an even more attractive destination for global technology and financial services companies.

'D. E. Shaw is Part of Hyderabad's Growth Story'

Mr. Sridhar Babu said companies such as D. E. Shaw had played an important role in Hyderabad's emergence as a global city. "D. E. Shaw's 30-year journey is not just a milestone for the company; it is also an important milestone in Hyderabad's growth story. Companies that came here three decades ago have been partners in building and strengthening the technology and financial services ecosystem that exists today," he said. The Minister expressed confidence that D. E. Shaw would continue to expand its presence in Hyderabad in the coming years.

"As D. E. Shaw begins its next chapter in Hyderabad, I wish the entire team continued success, innovation and growth. We look forward to strengthening this partnership for many more decades," Mr. Sridhar Babu said.

Sensex closes 429 points lower, Nifty tops 22,600; Titan down 4%

Indian benchmark indices snapped a two-session winning streak on Wednesday after the Reserve Bank of India raised the repo rate by 25 basis points and shifted its policy stance to "calibrated tightening", signalling a stronger focus on inflation risks amid elevated crude oil prices and tighter global financial conditions.



The Sensex ended at 72,638.70, down 429.11 points or 0.59%. The index opened at 72,965.38 and touched an intraday low of 72,468.72. The Nifty 50 closed at 22,603.05, down 173.05 points or 0.76%. It opened at 22,690.45 and fell to an intraday low of 22,546.30. Both indices had gained around 0.7-1% over the previous two sessions before the RBI policy announcement.

RBI RATE HIKE, POLICY STANCE WEIGH ON SENTIMENT

The RBI raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50%, its first rate increase since February 2023. The central bank also shifted its stance from "neutral" to "calibrated tightening", citing risks from inflation, higher oil prices and tighter global monetary conditions. The rate hike was widely expected, but investors were closely watching the RBI's stance and its assessment of the growth-inflation outlook. Rishabh Nahar, partner and fund manager at Qode Advisors, said the rate hike marked an important shift for equities. "For equities, RBI's rate hike marks a subtle but important shift, the easy valuation tailwind from lower rates is beginning to fade and earnings will increasingly have to justify valuations," Nahar said. The RBI's decision also came as the rupee weakened to a five-month low against the US dollar, while bond yields rose following the policy announcement.

RATE-SENSITIVE SECTORS UNDER PRESSURE

The policy decision weighed on several rate-sensitive sectors. Fourteen of the 16 major sectoral indices ended lower.

The Nifty Auto index fell 1.58%, FMCG declined 0.89% and Realty dropped 1.77%. Consumer durables fell 1.14%, while financial services ex-bank declined 0.15%. Metals were among the biggest losers, with the Nifty Metal index falling 2.33%. A stronger dollar and weaker global metal prices added to the pressure.

The Nifty IT index also declined 1.34%, while chemicals fell 0.83% and oil and gas dropped 0.51%. Nifty Media was one of the few sectors to gain, rising 0.69%. The PSU Bank index also advanced 1%, while the private bank index gained 0.08%.

BANKS PARE LOSSES AFTER RBI DECISION

Banking stocks initially came under pressure but recovered some of their losses by the close. The Nifty Financial Services 25/50 index ended 0.23% lower, while the private bank index rose 0.08% and PSU banks gained 1%. Kotak Mahindra Bank was the biggest Sensex gainer, rising 2.21%. Bharti Airtel gained 1.33%, ICICI Bank rose 1.15% and Bajaj Finance advanced 0.24%. Thomas J Priju, portfolio manager at Karma Capital, said banks could benefit from the rate hike because loan rates may reset faster than deposit costs. "Banks could see support to margins, since loan rates reset faster than deposit costs, and short-end bond yields are likely to rise," Priju said. The absence of further liquidity tightening also helped ease concerns around funding costs and margins for financial companies. However, higher borrowing costs could eventually weigh on businesses, credit demand and consumption.

TITAN FALLS 3.7%

Titan was the biggest loser among the Sensex stocks, falling 3.67% after analysts flagged weaker-than-expected growth in its jewellery business during the September quarter. The stock had already come under pressure in morning trade after its quarterly business update, with analysts pointing to a shift in the festive calendar and a high base from the previous year. Asian Paints fell 2.07%, BEL declined 2.21%, L&T dropped 1.96%, Adani Ports fell 1.90% and HCLTech declined 1.52%. Other major losers included Tata Steel, Infosys, M&M, PowerGrid, NTPC, Reliance, Hindustan Unilever and Sun Pharma.

CRUDE OIL REMAINS ABOVE $100

Crude oil prices remained another concern for Indian equities. Brent crude rose 1.42% to $102.01 a barrel, while WTI crude gained 0.63% to $90. Higher oil prices are a concern for India because they can add to inflationary pressure, increase the import bill and put pressure on the rupee. The RBI's decision to tighten policy comes against this backdrop of elevated energy prices and global bond yields.

BROADER MARKET ALSO FALLS

The broader market also ended lower, although small-cap stocks managed to stay in positive territory. The Nifty 100 fell 0.77%, Nifty 200 declined 0.74% and Nifty 500 dropped 0.64%. The Nifty Midcap 50 fell 0.75%, while the Midcap 100 declined 0.63%. The Nifty Smallcap 100, however, gained 0.30%. India VIX rose 2.35%, reflecting increased volatility following the RBI policy decision.

NIFTY TECHNICAL OUTLOOK

Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst at LKP Securities, said the Nifty has shown an early sign of reversal after failing to sustain gains above a key technical level. "The Nifty has slipped lower after finding resistance at the 50-EMA on the hourly chart. The index has shown the first sign of reversal by forming a bearish candle following a strong bullish candle. The hourly RSI has also witnessed a bearish crossover," De said. He said the 22,600 level would be crucial for the index in the coming sessions. "A decisive fall below 22,600 might reignite bearishness in the market. On the lower end, a break below 22,600 could drag the index towards 22,200 levels. On the other hand, a sustained rise above 22,750 might bring some bullishness back into the market," he said.

WHAT NEXT FOR THE MARKET?

The RBI rate hike itself had largely been anticipated by investors. The bigger concern now is the central bank's shift towards calibrated tightening and what it signals about the possibility of further rate increases if inflation remains elevated. At the same time, crude oil above $100, continued foreign selling, a weaker rupee and global bond yields remain key risks for Indian equities. The market will now turn its attention towards the September-quarter earnings season, with TCS scheduled to announce its results on Thursday. Investors will also track crude prices, the rupee, foreign fund flows and global monetary policy for further direction.

University of Colorado Denver to Establish India Campus in Hyderabad

CU Denver becomes the first U.S. university to receive an LOI to establish a campus in Hyderabad, set to welcome its first cohort in August 2027

HYDERABAD, 7 OCT 2026

The University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver) has received the letter of intent from India's University Grants Commission (UGC) to establish a new campus in Hyderabad making it the first American public university authorized to establish a degree-granting location in India, and the first foreign university overall in Telangana. The initiative will expand access to high-quality, globally relevant education while contributing responsibly to India's evolving higher education ecosystem. It will draw on CU Denver's strengths as a public urban research university, with a focus on academic quality, student outcomes, applied learning, social mobility, and workforce relevance. CU Denver offers an academically rigorous, career-focused education designed to prepare ambitious students for success in a fast-changing global economy. By combining a strong academic foundation with hands-on, experiential learning, students gain not only deep subject knowledge, but also the practical skills, confidence, and adaptability they need to turn their education into meaningful opportunities. Drawing on the strengths of CU Denver, the Hyderabad location will offer pathways in high-demand fields including business, computing, engineering, and analytics, while encouraging interdisciplinary thinking and problem-solving. The result is an education that prepares students to be highly skilled and capable professionals, innovative thinkers, and globally minded leaders equipped to build rewarding careers and make an impact in India and around the world while remaining connected to the CU Denver home-campus experience.

Kenneth T. Christensen, PhD, chancellor of CU Denver said,* " _Expanding access to high-quality education has long been central to CU Denver's vision and goals. Our plans in Hyderabad build on that commitment, as well as our longstanding connection with students from India who have been part of the CU Denver community for decades. We now have an opportunity to extend that connection and bring our unique experience to students in India—combining rigorous academics, career-aligned learning, and real-world experience that prepare students for meaningful careers and contributions to their communities."

Global education company Emeritus is the university's strategic joint venture partner in India, working alongside the university to enable its successful establishment and growth through expertise across key non-academic functions. Ashwin Damera, Co-founder & CEO, Emeritus said,* _"The proposed University of Colorado Denver | Hyderabad marks an important step in bringing globally relevant education closer to students in India. CU Denver's focus on applied learning, interdisciplinary education, and career readiness is particularly relevant to the aspirations of today's students and the needs of a rapidly evolving workforce. The initiative will create opportunities for students and provide greater access to an education that is both academically rigorous and closely connected to the world of work." The launch of CU Denver | Hyderabad aligns with the priorities of India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with emphasis on multidisciplinary education, internationalisation, learner outcomes, and career readiness. Established in 1973 and governed by the University of Colorado Board of Regents, CU Denver serves approximately 14,000 students and has a global alumni network of more than 100,000 graduates across more than 100 countries. CU Denver is classified as an R1 research institution by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education, reflecting very high research activity. The university also has a strong focus on social and economic mobility and workforce relevance, connecting academic learning with the needs of students, communities, and industry. As Colorado's premier public urban research university, its focus is on impactful research, civic engagement, and career-focused academic offerings. The establishment of CU Denver | Hyderabad represents the university's commitment to expanding access to globally connected education while responding to the evolving needs of students and employers. As plans progress, CU Denver will continue to work through the regulatory processes and engage with academic, industry, and other stakeholders to develop the institution, in anticipation of welcoming the first cohort of students in August 2027. Additional programs will be proposed to the UGC for approval in year two and beyond.

University of Colorado Denver
HYDERABAD



About University of Colorado Denver

Millions of moments start at CU Denver, a place where innovation, research, and learning meet in the heart of a global city. We're the state's premier public urban research university with more than 135 in-demand, top-ranked bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs. We partner with diverse learners—at any stage of their life and career—for transformative educational experiences. Across seven schools and colleges, our leading faculty inspires and works alongside students to solve complex challenges and produce impactful creative work. As part of the state's largest university system, CU Denver is a major contributor to the Colorado economy, with 2,000 employees and an annual economic impact of $665 million. To learn more about how CU Denver helps learners meet their moment, visit cudenver.edu.



Nobel Physics 2026

Unlocking the Universe Through Neutrinos

An Unusual Telescope at the South Pole

At first glance, the South Pole may seem like one of the least practical locations for a telescope. The environment is among the harshest on Earth, with extreme cold, isolation and months of darkness during the Antarctic winter. Yet these very conditions provide an unusual scientific advantage. IceCube is embedded deep inside approximately one cubic kilometre of exceptionally clear Antarctic ice. Thousands of light-sensitive detectors are positioned beneath the surface, forming a three-dimensional network that can identify tiny flashes of light produced when neutrinos interact with matter. Unlike conventional telescopes, IceCube does not have a traditional lens or mirror. It does not collect visible light from stars and galaxies. Instead, it waits for extremely rare interactions between neutrinos and particles within the ice. When such an interaction occurs, it can produce secondary charged particles that move through the ice faster than light can travel through the ice itself. This produces a faint flash known as Cherenkov radiation. The sensors detect that flash and record the timing and intensity of the light. From these signals, scientists can reconstruct the path of the particle and estimate the direction from which the original neutrino arrived. It is an extraordinary concept: rather than building a telescope to look into space, researchers turned the Earth itself into part of the detector.

The Mysterious World of Neutrinos

To understand why IceCube matters, it is necessary to understand the unusual nature of neutrinos. Neutrinos are fundamental particles with no electric charge and an extremely small mass. They interact with other matter only very weakly. As a result, they can travel through enormous amounts of material without being stopped or significantly affected. Every second, vast numbers of neutrinos pass through Earth and through the human body. Most of them leave no detectable trace. This makes neutrinos extraordinarily difficult to study. At the same time, their ability to travel through matter and across astronomical distances gives them tremendous scientific value. Ordinary light can be absorbed, scattered or blocked as it travels through space. Charged particles can have their paths altered by magnetic fields. Neutrinos, however, are electrically neutral and interact so weakly that they can escape from environments that may be opaque to other forms of radiation. That makes them valuable cosmic messengers. If scientists can detect a high-energy neutrino and determine where it came from, they can potentially learn about the distant astronomical object or event that produced it.

Halzen's Vision Began Decades Ago

The story of IceCube did not begin with the construction of the detector. It began with an idea.

In 1988, Francis Halzen proposed using the enormous quantity of clear ice at the South Pole as a detector for neutrinos. The idea was ambitious because neutrino interactions are exceptionally rare. A detector capable of finding them would have to be enormous. Building such an instrument using conventional materials would be extremely expensive and technically challenging. The Antarctic ice offered a natural alternative. Instead of constructing a huge tank or chamber, scientists could use the ice already present beneath the South Pole. Light sensors could be lowered into carefully drilled holes, turning the surrounding ice into the detection medium. It took decades of research, engineering and international cooperation to transform the proposal into reality. IceCube was eventually completed in 2011. The finished observatory contained thousands of optical sensors positioned deep beneath the Antarctic surface.

The project demonstrated that a remote and seemingly inhospitable landscape could become one of the world's most advanced scientific laboratories.

Why the Ice Must Be So Deep

The depth of IceCube is central to its operation. The detector is buried far below the surface, where the enormous amount of ice above it helps shield the instrument from unwanted particles and other sources of background interference. The ice must also be exceptionally clear. When a neutrino interaction produces a flash of Cherenkov light, that light needs to travel far enough through the ice to reach multiple sensors. By comparing when individual sensors detect the light and how much light they receive, researchers can reconstruct the event. The deeper layers of Antarctic ice therefore serve two purposes. They provide a huge volume of material in which neutrinos can interact, while the surrounding ice also helps reduce the background that could interfere with measurements. This combination makes the South Pole an extraordinary natural laboratory for particle physics and astronomy.



Why the Nobel Recognition Matters

Francis Halzen's Nobel Prize recognises more than the construction of a detector. It acknowledges a change in how scientists can observe the universe. The key achievement was recognising that something as ordinary and abundant as Antarctic ice could become a sophisticated scientific instrument. Halzen's vision required particle physics, astronomy, engineering, computing and international collaboration to come together. The IceCube project also represents a broader lesson in scientific research: sometimes the solution to a difficult problem is not to build something completely new, but to recognise the unusual scientific potential of something that already exists. In this case, the answer was hidden beneath kilometres of ice. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences highlighted Halzen's decisive role in the development of IceCube and its contribution to the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin. The recognition also reflects the growing importance of multimessenger astronomy, in which scientists combine information carried by different cosmic signals to understand astronomical events more completely.

IceCube Is Still Evolving

The Nobel Prize does not mark the end of the IceCube story. The observatory continues to collect data and improve its ability to detect and analyse neutrinos. An upgrade installed during 2025 and 2026 is expected to improve the detector's sensitivity and help researchers determine neutrino directions with greater accuracy. These improvements are important because neutrino detection remains a statistical challenge. Even with an enormous detector, interactions are rare, and scientists need large amounts of data to identify patterns and confidently connect neutrinos with their cosmic sources. Researchers are also considering IceCube-Gen2, a proposed next-generation observatory that would be considerably larger than the existing detector.

From Particle Detection to Cosmic Discovery

Detecting a neutrino is only the first step. The greater scientific challenge is determining what produced it. Neutrinos can originate from many sources. The Sun produces enormous numbers of them, as do certain radioactive processes and cosmic events. But IceCube is particularly interested in extremely high-energy neutrinos that originate far beyond our Solar System. These particles can be produced in some of the most powerful environments in the universe. The universe contains objects capable of releasing astonishing amounts of energy. Among them are active galaxies, powerful jets and other extreme astrophysical systems. Understanding how these environments accelerate particles to extraordinary energies remains one of the major questions in modern astrophysics. High-energy neutrinos provide a new way to investigate these processes. Because neutrinos are not easily deflected by magnetic fields, their trajectories can point back toward their sources more directly than those of charged cosmic rays.This makes them particularly valuable for astronomy.

A New Kind of Astronomy

For centuries, astronomy has largely depended on electromagnetic radiation. Visible light allowed early astronomers to observe planets and stars. Later, radio, infrared, ultraviolet, X-ray and gamma-ray observations expanded our understanding of the universe. Neutrino astronomy adds another messenger to this picture. Instead of asking only what light is coming from a distant object, scientists can now ask what neutrinos are arriving from the same direction. This difference is important because different cosmic messengers reveal different aspects of the universe. A distant source may produce light that is absorbed or scattered before reaching Earth. A neutrino, because of its weak interactions, can escape from regions that are otherwise difficult to observe. IceCube has therefore provided scientists with a completely new observational tool. The observatory's detection of high-energy neutrinos from astrophysical sources marked an important step in establishing neutrino astronomy as a field. The discovery demonstrated that neutrinos are not simply theoretical or laboratory particles. They can be used to investigate powerful processes taking place billions of light-years away.

Looking Into the Milky Way

IceCube's scientific importance is not limited to distant galaxies. The observatory has also detected neutrinos associated with our own Milky Way. This provides researchers with another method of studying the structure and energetic processes within our galaxy.

The Milky Way contains a vast population of stars, gas clouds, cosmic rays and energetic astronomical objects. Much of its activity is difficult to understand using visible light alone. Neutrinos can add another layer of information. By mapping where neutrinos arrive from, scientists can begin to investigate regions of the galaxy that may be producing high-energy particles.

The approach is still developing, but its potential is enormous. Just as radio astronomy transformed our understanding of the Milky Way in the 20th century, neutrino astronomy could reveal features that have remained hidden from traditional observations.

The Future of Cosmic Exploration

The scientific questions surrounding neutrinos are much larger than the particles themselves. Scientists want to understand how the universe accelerates particles to extreme energies, how powerful cosmic sources operate and what happens in the most violent environments in space. They also want to understand the relationship between cosmic rays, neutrinos and electromagnetic radiation. Each messenger tells a different part of the story. Neutrinos may prove particularly valuable because they can escape from regions that are difficult for light to penetrate. Their journeys across the universe can therefore preserve information about environments that conventional telescopes cannot fully observe. As detectors become more sensitive and astronomical observations become increasingly coordinated, researchers may be able to combine neutrino signals with observations from optical, radio, X-ray and gamma-ray telescopes. That could create a much more complete picture of cosmic events.

Antarctica as a Scientific Frontier

Antarctica has traditionally been viewed as a place at the edge of human habitation. Its ice sheets contain important records of Earth's climate history, while its oceans and ecosystems are studied to understand the planet's future. IceCube adds another dimension to the continent's scientific importance. The same ice that records information about Earth's past is also being used to detect particles that have travelled across the universe. It is a remarkable intersection of Earth science and astrophysics. The observatory demonstrates how a natural environment can become an instrument for exploring questions that reach far beyond Earth. The South Pole may be thousands of kilometres from the world's major research centres, but the signals captured beneath its ice can originate billions of light-years away.

A Window Beyond Light

Francis Halzen's Nobel Prize ultimately celebrates an idea that sounds simple but has extraordinary consequences: the universe can be studied through more than light. For most of human history, people could only observe the sky through what their eyes could see. Modern astronomy expanded that vision by using different wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation. Neutrino astronomy now offers another route into the cosmos. IceCube has shown that an immense volume of Antarctic ice can serve as a telescope for invisible particles. The detector does not produce spectacular images of galaxies in the conventional sense. Its discoveries emerge from tiny flashes of light deep beneath the frozen surface, recorded by thousands of sensors and interpreted through sophisticated physics and computing. Yet those tiny flashes can carry information from some of the most energetic places in the universe. That is what makes IceCube so extraordinary. Beneath the quiet, frozen landscape of the South Pole lies an instrument that is effectively listening to the universe through particles that almost never interact with matter. Halzen's work has helped transform Antarctica from a remote frozen frontier into a gateway for cosmic discovery. The ice beneath the South Pole is no longer simply a vast frozen landscape. It has become a window into the universe — one through which scientists can study the invisible particles travelling across space and begin to understand some of the most powerful and mysterious events in existence.

Captaincy taught me responsibility: Harman

NEW DELHI



Former India women's captain Harmanpreet Kaur reflected on the lessons she learned while leading the national side for more than a decade, saying the responsibility taught her to face both criticism and success head-on while remaining committed to the team's progress.

Harmanpreet, who took over the captaincy in 2012 and recently stepped down after leading India at the Asian Games, said leadership had taught her to take responsibility through every phase of the team's journey.

"The criticism came with the expectations people had of us. Sometimes it does hurt when you don't meet your own expectations as a team, and of course, when the people watching and supporting you are also expecting you to do well.

"Captaincy taught me to stand on the frontline and take responsibility, not just for the criticism, but also for the victories. It taught me that leadership is about standing with your team through every phase, learning from every experience and continuing to move forward," Harmanpreet told IANS exclusively.

Harmanpreet's captaincy tenure encompassed some of the most significant moments in the growth of Indian women's cricket, including the team's World Cup triumph. Looking back, she said the position was never about personal stature but about using her experience and ideas to contribute to the development of the team and the sport.

"For over a decade, since the responsibility of captaincy first came to me in 2012, I have cherished the opportunity and made several plans towards the development of Indian women's cricket. It was never about an individual position. I simply wanted to use my instincts, experience and ideas to help the sport grow, encourage talent and fill the spaces that needed to be filled. Over the years, I have also realised that you may not achieve everything you set out to, and that is the nature of a team sport. Every day is different, and every player has a different journey," she added.

Her leadership, she said, also came with an understanding that personal objectives could sometimes take a back seat when the larger interests of the team demanded it.

"As a player, you have a certain freedom to make choices, but as a captain, there are times when you have to put aside your personal dilemmas and move forward because you have a team following you. I wouldn't say I had to compromise on my personal performances, but yes, sometimes my personal goals and targets had to take a back seat. I have always put my batting first, even during my captaincy, but now I want to approach my game with even more clarity — understanding my role, executing it well and, most importantly, enjoying every bit of cricket," she stated.

Harmanpreet also spoke about the importance of developing leadership qualities within the entire squad rather than allowing responsibility to rest solely with the captain.

"I feel responsibility, captaincy and leadership will always remain a part of me, and I believe that leadership should evolve in every player who represents the country and has goals to achieve.

"I have always wanted to plant that seed of leadership in every player because it teaches you to be responsible, accountable, empathetic, giving and kind, while also making you sharper and more decisive," the ODI World Cup-winning skipper said.

For Harmanpreet, the end of her captaincy is therefore not a rejection of leadership, but a change in the way she contributes to the side. With Smriti Mandhana now taking charge, she said she is looking forward to supporting a teammate with whom she has shared a long cricketing journey.

"Now, as a player, I am looking forward to seeing someone else lead from the front and create an environment for the team. And I am very happy that it is Smriti, who has been alongside me for more than a decade. We have shared the same table, made decisions together and seen Indian cricket evolve, so I know that understanding will continue to be valuable," she stated.

The decision to step away, Harmanpreet stressed, was not prompted by a particular setback or tournament. Instead, it was part of her own assessment of where she wanted her career to go next.

"Winning the World Cup was one big dream I wanted to live. And thankfully, it came in the early years of my journey as the ODI captain.

"Today, what stays with me is immense satisfaction and gratitude. There are no regrets.

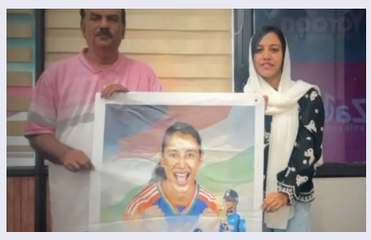
"It hasn't been as easy as we sometimes make it sound, but it also hasn't been as difficult as it may seem from the outside. I am simply grateful for the journey and for everything we have achieved together," Harman expressed.

As she moves into the next phase of her career, Harmanpreet believes the leadership experience accumulated over the years will continue to shape the player she is, even without the captain's title.

CRICKET

SHORT NEWS

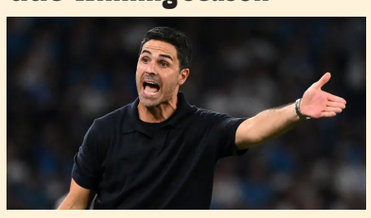
Cricket historian from Kerala pays musical tribute to Smriti



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The elevation of star opener Smriti Mandhana as captain of the Indian women's cricket team has inspired a musical tribute from Kerala, with a cricket historian penning a song celebrating her remarkable career. Professor Vasisht, a cricket historian from Kerala and an ardent admirer of Mandhana, has written the lyrics for the song, while his former student Silu Fathima has composed the music and lent her voice to it. The song has been released on social media and has been attracting attention among cricket followers. Mandhana, one of the most popular women sportspersons in the Indian subcontinent, has already assembled an impressive collection of honours.

FOOTBALL

Arteta extends Arsenal's stay until 2030 after historic title-winning season



LONDON: Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has signed a new long-term contract with the club that will keep him at the helm until June 2030, the Premier League side announced on Wednesday. Arteta, who was appointed Arsenal's head coach in December 2019 before taking on the manager's role, guided the club to their 14th league title last season, ending a 22-year wait for their fourth Premier League crown. The Spaniard has overseen 361 matches in all competitions and boasts a 62.05 per cent win rate, the best of any full-time manager in Arsenal's history. The club said the new agreement reflects its belief that the progress made under Arteta and last season's title triumph can mark the beginning of a special period in Arsenal's history.

TENNIS

Elise Mertens finally solves Gauff puzzle, reaches China Open quarters



BEIJING: Elise Mertens finally found a way past Coco Gauff on Wednesday, ending a five-match losing streak against the American with a convincing 6-3, 6-3 victory in the China Open fourth round to reach the quarterfinals in Beijing. The Belgian 13th seed had entered the contest without a win in five previous meetings with Gauff, despite having twice come agonisingly close to pulling off the upset. This time, however, Mertens made sure the match did not slip away, producing a controlled performance to dispatch the third seed in straight sets. The breakthrough was particularly significant given the history between the two players. Mertens had once led Gauff 6-0, 3-1 in their first meeting at Eastbourne in 2021 before losing a deciding-set thriller.

'We have a strong desire to get the better of them': South Africa's Bavuma ahead of Australia Test

NEW DELHI



South Africa captain Temba Bavuma expects another fiercely contested battle against Australia when the two sides begin their Test series in Durban on Friday, with the Proteas looking to build on their World Test Championship triumph. South Africa defeated Australia in the 2025 WTC Final at Lord's to claim the title and will now face the reigning world champions in a home series as they look to strengthen their position in the 2025-27 WTC cycle.

Bavuma believes the rivalry brings out the competitive edge in both teams and expects another intense contest.

"When you play against Australia, you don't just play against those individuals; you play against what it means to be Australian. It's always a clash we look forward to. It tends to at least bring out the competitive edge of both teams. We have a strong desire to get the better of them," Bavuma told Cricinfo. "We give them a lot of respect, but we also take confidence in that we've been able to get the better of them. The respect lies in the fact that they've been very dominant over the years," he added.

South Africa's memorable WTC final victory came after they overcame a 74-run first-innings deficit, with Aiden Markram and Kagiso Rabada playing key roles in securing the title.

Bavuma, who battled an injury during the final, said the team has developed the resilience required to remain competitive even when faced with difficult circumstances.

The Proteas have also strengthened their pace attack for the Australia series, with Anrich Nortje returning to Test cricket after more than three years and Gerald Coetzee making his comeback after a two-year absence. They will join Corbin Bosch and Marco Jansen in the squad. "Part of it is bringing back the aspect of fast bowlers. Countries or players must know when they come into South Africa, they're going to deal with fast bowling," Bavuma said.

The captain believes the upcoming season could prove particularly important for South Africa, with the team set to face Australia, England and other major challenges ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup on home soil.

"Every season always feels like a big season, and maybe this one feels a little bit more. I wouldn't want to put too much pressure on myself to say or define who I am as a cricketer. I've had over ten years of international cricket, and you'd hate to think that one moment will dictate everything about it," he said.

"But this year we've got the opportunity to play against the big three teams, and, from a competitive point of view, that's definitely going to get us going. We want to see ourselves on the right side of the result," Bavuma added.

The South Africa skipper also acknowledged that Australia remain a formidable opponent despite changes in their approach. "They're not as in-your-face. They still play their cricket hard. They've still got guys like Travis Head at the top, who look to put you under pressure. And then they still have that quartet of a bowling attack always putting you under pressure," he said.

"But they're probably not as brash and in your face as I think of 2016, when we toured Australia. They made you feel uncomfortable. From a cricketing point of view, they haven't lost a great deal. It's still as tough as Australia that we know," he added.

South Africa and Australia will face off in the first Test in Durban from October 9, with Bavuma setting his sights on a period of sustained success across formats. "To win everything. To find ourselves in the WTC final, to find ourselves in the 50-over final, then who knows? The way we've performed, it shows that anything is possible. We just need to believe, and we just need to work diligently towards it," he said.

Sports Competitions Organised for Young Children at CORE

PRAYAGRAJ



As part of the ongoing 'Swachhata Hi Seva-2026' campaign at the Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), Prayagraj, Carrom and Musical Chairs competitions were organised on 06/10/2026 and 07/10/2026 with the objective of fostering sportsmanship, discipline and a spirit of healthy competition among the children of employees. The children of employees participated enthusiastically in these competitions and showcased their talent and sporting skills.

CORE has always accorded priority to the welfare of its employees and their families, as well as to the overall development of children. In this series of activities, the competitions were divided into two age groups. The first group comprised children aged 6 to 11 years, while the second group consisted of children aged 11 to 14 years. Through various sporting activities, the children got an opportunity not only to showcase their talent but also to develop mutual cooperation, discipline and a spirit of healthy competition.

A total of 51 children participated enthusiastically in the competitions and put up commendable performances while displaying excellent sportsmanship. The children showed great enthusiasm and excitement throughout the competitions. First, second and third prizes were awarded in each age group. During the prize distribution ceremony, General Manager/CORE Shri Ashok Kumar Verma presented prizes to the winning children, encouraged them, and motivated all the participants to continue taking active part in various activities in the future.

On the occasion, the General Manager/CORE appreciated the talent and enthusiasm of the children and said that such events contribute to the development of children's personalities while strengthening their self-confidence, discipline and spirit of healthy competition. He stated that the 'Swachhata Hi Seva-2026' campaign is not limited to cleanliness alone, but also serves as a means of promoting a healthy, aware and positive lifestyle.

Former Barcelona winger Pedro retires from football at 39

NEW DELHI



Former Barcelona and Chelsea winger Pedro Rodriguez has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 39, bringing the curtain down on a glittering career that saw him win the FIFA World Cup, European Championship and UEFA Champions League.

Pedro had been without a club since leaving Italian side Lazio at the end of last season. The former Spain international confirmed his decision on social media, saying he felt it was the right time to begin a new chapter in his life.

"I feel that now is the moment," Pedro wrote alongside a video featuring some of the best moments of his career. "It's the moment to take a step forward and start a new chapter in my life. I leave the game proud of fulfilling my dreams and of all the people who were alongside me making them a reality. Thank you, football, for making me so happy."

Pedro joined Barcelona's youth system from Tenerife at the age of 17 and progressed through the club's academy before representing Barca B. He made his first-team debut during the 2007/08 season and signed his first contract as a senior player in 2009.

He quickly established himself as an important part of Barcelona's star-studded side. During the 2009/10 campaign, Pedro became the first player to score in all six official competitions contested by the club in a single season, finding the net in La Liga, Copa del Rey, Champions League, Spanish Super Cup, European Super Cup and Club World Cup.

One of his most memorable Barcelona moments came in the 2011 Champions League final against Manchester United at Wembley. Pedro opened the scoring as Barcelona went on to win 3-1 and lift their fourth European title.

J&K CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates Rs 30.35 crore sports infrastructure in Srinagar

SRINAGAR



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday inaugurated a Rs 30.35-crore package of sports infrastructure at the Sher-i-Kashmir Multi Sports Activity Centre (SKMSAC) at Gindun Rajbagh in Srinagar marking a significant expansion of facilities for swimming and gymnastics in the Union Territory.

The newly inaugurated facilities include a 50 metre × 25 metre, 10-lane Olympic-sized swimming pool, an all-weather heated training and toddler swimming pool, and a modern indoor gymnastics hall equipped with state-of-the-art equipment.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the new facilities would provide young people with opportunities to take up sports beyond traditional disciplines and enable them to train throughout the year.

"Through this facility, we are trying to provide students with new sports milieu. For example, there is an Olympic-sized swimming pool in Kashmir for the first time. Now, there is an arrangement for heating, which will be done through solar energy so that children can practice and train here for 12 months a year," he added.

The main swimming pool, constructed at a cost of Rs 19.96 crore, is equipped with 10 competition lanes, diving platforms at 1, 3 and 5 metres, modern filtration, circulation and disinfection systems, changing rooms, washrooms, storage lockers and spectator seating for 300 people.

BCCI pays tribute to Ajit Agarkar after tenure as chief selector ends

NEW DELHI



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday paid tribute to Ajit Agarkar, thanking the former chairman of the senior men's selection committee for his contribution to a successful period in Indian cricket.

Agarkar's tenure officially ended on Tuesday after the BCCI invited applications to fill the vacant position in the five-member selection panel.

"A tenure marked by some truly special moments for Indian cricket — three ICC trophies, two Asia Cup titles and back-to-back Asian Games gold medals, along with a run to the 2023 ODI World Cup final," the BCCI said in a post on X. "Thank you, Mr Ajit Agarkar, for your commitment, conviction and contribution as Chairman of the Men's Selection Committee. Wishing you the very best for the journey ahead," it added.

Agarkar took charge as chairman in July 2023 and oversaw a period in which India reached the 2023 ODI World Cup final before going on to win the 2024 T20 World Cup, 2025 Champions Trophy and 2026 T20 World Cup. His tenure also included India's two Asia Cup triumphs and back-to-back Asian Games gold medals, while the national side continued to remain a dominant force across formats. Agarkar's final assignment as chairman was the selection of India's white-ball squads for the ongoing series against the West Indies.

Former India spinner Pragyan Ojha has taken charge as the acting chairman of the selection committee and presided over the squad selection for the five-match T20I series against New Zealand and three India A games.

The current panel also comprises Shiv Sundar Das, Ajay Ratra and RP Singh. As per BCCI protocol, the selector with the most Test appearances assumes the chairmanship, with Ojha, who played 24 Tests for India, currently the senior-most member of the panel. The BCCI has invited applications for Agarkar's replacement from the West Zone. The new selector will be involved in long-term squad planning, talent identification, monitoring domestic cricket and strategy meetings.

Candidates must have played at least seven Tests, 30 first-class matches, 10 ODIs and 20 first-class games. They must also have retired from international cricket at least five years ago, with October 14 set as the deadline for applications.

Ranabaali Director's Smart Move





Ever since the Ranabaali teaser came out, there have been some apprehensions over the portrayal of violence. Addressing all those concerns, director Rahul Sankrityan has openly admitted that Ranabaali had some portions of brutal violence. However, he said such violence has been toned down without affecting the story and emotions. Rahul Sankrityan admitted that the violence and atrocity scenes in the film were a bit brutal and bold, and hence they have been toned down after considering feedback from the initial audience. Ranabaali is a period action drama. Vijay Deverakonda plays Singanamala Bobbili Ranabaali, a rebellious warrior who fights British oppression and saves his starving community during the Great Famine. In an exclusive interview with Gulte, director Rahul said, "I showed Ranabaali preview to different sections of the audience. The feedback was that the atrocities were too harsh and difficult to digest. So, I toned down the violence because it was disturbing and affecting the next scene for the audience." It is good that Rahul toned down the violence, as audiences are unable to bear extreme violence these days, with most films increasingly adopting this approach. It has been a long time since Vijay Deverakonda delivered a big blockbuster in cinemas. The film also happens to be the first film featuring Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika together after the couple tied the knot. Hence, Ranabaali is crucial for Vijay, Rashmika and Rahul who has previously directed Shyam Singha Roy and Taxiwaala. Ranabaali is carrying high expectations and is clashing with Superstar Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 in theatres which makes the clash interesting to watch out. Let's wait and see, what is in store for Ranabaali.

REALITY WORKS FOR KIRAN ABBAVARAM

Kiran Abbavaram with his debut directorial, Reality, proved yet again that he is multi-faceted and highly talented. As an actor, he consistently proved his skills in different roles and he is on a upswing with back to back successes. He did showcase his writing skills before and as a director also, he hit a big six out of the park. Reality teaser has been garnering high appreciation and praises for his writing and direction. The dialogue about how every middle-class person aims to be loan free and he is working for it melted hearts. The relatabiliy in just few minutes of the teaser has grown anticipation among audiences for the film. Kiran Abbavaram's performance, his dialogue delivery, his cute gestures and his smile have become talking points. With his writing and direction skills, he further made sure that each emotion is being noticed by audiences as a true filmmaker. Rather than choosing a big actioner but a very relatable drama, showcases his belief in his cooking abilities. Sudhakar Chaganti is producing the film and trade analysts are predicting the movie to be a big blockbuster for Christmas, despite other releases. The content has brought in great confidence to everyone as it exhibits a high quality writing, and relatable content that family audiences should surely lap up.





Manasa Choudhary Serves Hot Glam

Manasa Choudhary has carved a space for herself in Telugu cinema with her screen presence and charm. She earned attention with her debut film Bubblegum, and her growing social media following keeps her in the spotlight among young audiences. Her latest photoshoot has fans amazed. Manasa picks an oversized crisp white shirt, worn off the shoulder in one frame and paired with black shorts in another. Soft waves of dark hair, dewy skin, peachy blush and nude glossy lips complete the look, while the warm beige backdrop and golden lighting add a sensuous glow. On the work front, she recently appeared in Super Subbu, a Netflix web series project. The show could not grab attention from viewers. Fans hope her next projects will give her the big break she deserves.

Hebah Patel In Red Hot Glam

Hebah Patel is a known for her expressive screen presence and effortless charm. She rose to fame with Kumari 21F, which made her a household name, and later added to her popularity with Ekkadiki Pothavu Chinnavada, Angel and Odela Railway Station. Hebah turned up the heat in a vibrant red tulle gown. The off shoulder corset bodice with ruched detailing hugged her figure, while the sheer flowing skirt with a high slit added drama. A metal belt clasp defined the waist. Voluminous bouncy curls, glossy nude lips and delicate drop earrings completed the glamorous look. On the work front, Hebah was recently seen in Repu Udayam 10 Gantalaku and Harudu, and fans are eagerly waiting for her next announcement as she keeps balancing films with bold fashion moments.



Hanuman Ansh Eyes Big Telugu Recovery



Hanuman Ansh is one of the most successful films to hit the Indian box office in recent years. Vishal Chaturvedi wrote, directed, and Co-produced it under his banner, Swambhu Media Network. The film is now being dubbed into Telugu with the same title. In fact, the Telugu-dubbed version was supposed to release last month, but it was delayed and will now release on 9th October by Hombale Films. Interestingly, the popular production house that backed films like KGF, Kantara, and Mahavatar Narsimha got the rights and is distributing it in the Telugu states on a refundable advance basis. The film's business is 5 Cr rupees in Telangana and another 9 Cr rupees in Andhra Pradesh. Some big names in Telugu distribution are associated with the film right now. Across the nation, the film's Hindi version run is almost coming to an end. Made on a shoestring budget, the film quickly went on to gross big revenues at the box office from all regions. In most of the major A centers, the audiences had already watched the Hindi version. Especially in the Telugu states, most of the audiences caught up with the film even before the news about the Telugu version came. So, at this moment, the bet on the project looks risky but the Telugu audience can embrace the film no matter what. So it is interesting to see how the makers are going to handle the film now. The film is the first installment of a trilogy; it is based on his book Divine Detour: That Changed My Life, which is based on the life of Neem Karoli Baba. Since the first installment has become a big hit, we have to see how the franchise shapes up in the coming days.

Star Couple Announce Their Second Pregnancy!



Bollywood love couple Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra made a special announcement on Wednesday: they're expecting their second child. The star couple was already blessed with a baby girl, and this time, they are expecting their second baby. "Blessed once again with the greatest gift of all. Our hearts are so full of love and gratitude," read the post from Kiara today, where she shared a picture of their daughter holding a white sock while her hand is supported by Siddharth. It looks cute, and the couple has been flooded with congratulatory messages. Kiara and Sidharth tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in Rajasthan in February 2023. Despite knowing each other for quite some time, they acted together in Shershaah, where they fell for each other, and their relationship eventually led to a wedding. The couple welcomed their first child, daughter Saraayah, in 2025. On the work front, Kiara was last seen in 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups', co-starring Yash. Meanwhile, Sidharth recently released 'The Vvaan: Force of the Forrest.'

Mouli, Mythri's DNK Seals Release Date

Mythri Movie Makers is gearing up to bring a fresh dose of fun and family entertainment with Donga Naa Koduku.Starring Mouli Tanuj Prasanth of Little Hearts fame, the film is directed by debutant Sreenu Kambala. The makers have now confirmed that the movie will arrive in theatres on November 13. The announcement was made through a lively new poster. It sees Mouli sitting on a sofa, looking completely shocked and nervous, while Ali and Rajitha appear behind him as his parents. Rajitha's serious expression and gesture towards Mouli, along with Ali's quirky reaction, create an entertaining visual. The poster hints at a hilarious parent-son relationship and promises plenty of comedy in the family setting. Sushmitha Shetty plays the female lead in the film produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar. With the release date officially locked, Donga Naa Koduku is now heading into the next phase of its promotional campaign.

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