HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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5G reaches every district: PM Modi



New Delhi, October 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the 10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026 at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi, highlighting India's progress in telecommunications, digital connectivity and technological innovation. The four-day event, which began on Wednesday, is being held under the theme 'Scale Without Boundaries', showcasing the country's expanding digital capabilities, next-generation connectivity and technology-driven growth. Addressing the inaugural session, Modi said the India Mobile Congress had

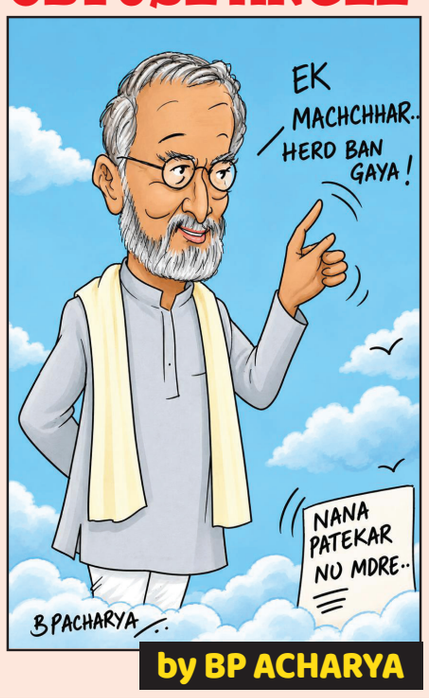
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Nana Patekar laid to rest with full State honours

02

OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA





INDIA Bloc Protests at Raj Ghat

Congress Vows to Continue Fight to Protect Voting Rights

New Delhi, October 8: As part of the protests being organised by the INDIA bloc against the Election Commission and the Narendra Modi-led Central government, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other alliance MPs reached Raj Ghat in Delhi on Thursday. They offered floral tributes at the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi. The Congress said they subsequently prayed for wisdom to prevail upon the Election Commission and the Central government. The Congress made strong allegations that people's right to vote was being taken away across the country. It criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that they were jointly attempting to deprive people of the fundamental right to vote guaranteed by the Constitution. The Congress made it clear that the INDIA bloc would continue its fight against "vote theft." Alliance leaders said they would create awareness among the people about electoral-roll revisions and voting rights, while increasing pressure on the Election Commission. They also stated that their protests would be intensified to ensure transparency in the electoral process and safeguard democracy.

CM Revanth demands PM Modi to step down or remove CEC Gyanesh Kumar

NEW DELHI, OCT 8

CM warns people will oust Modi from PM post

13 crore votes deleted from 140 crore population in the country.. Big conspiracy to delete Dalits, minorities, and Adivasis votes.

ED, IT, and CBI raids cannot save the BJP government.

CM Revanth Reddy participated in the 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' dharna in Delhi today

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy demanded Prime Minister Narendra Modi to step down from the post for not removing CEC Gyanesh Kumar and owing moral responsibility to the deletion of more than 13 crore votes from 140 crore population in the country. The Chief Minister warned that people will revolt if the BJP makes attempts to retain power through the back door by using the Election Commission as a shield. Raids by the ED, Income Tax Department, and CBI would no longer save the BJP government at the centre , the CM said, demanding the PM to immediately dismiss CEC Gyanesh Kumar. If Modi failed to do so, CM Revanth Reddy said that the prime minister should resign from the post or people will dethrone Modi from the prime minister seat.

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Delhi Tightens Security Ahead of CJP's Protest

NEW DELHI, OCT 8

Delhi is gearing up for heightened security ahead of the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) proposed protest on October 10 against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, with around 23,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel and nearly 20,000 Delhi Police personnel being deployed across the national capital. The Union Home Ministry has made available 221 CAPF companies to the Delhi Police for deployment from October 8 to 12. The deployment includes 85 CRPF companies, 10 SSB companies, seven ITBP companies, seven Rapid Action Force companies and one CISF company. The CAPF deployment is in addition to the Delhi Police personnel being mobilised for the security arrangements.

Security has also been intensified along Delhi's borders, with multi-layered barricading and strict surveillance planned. CCTV monitoring will be carried out from control rooms, while face-recognition cameras are also expected to be used. Railway stations, bus terminals and other key locations will remain under surveillance. Authorities may impose further restrictions on movement, including possible closure of New Delhi-area Metro stations and markets, if the situation requires.

The security arrangements come amid the CJP's call for a protest at Jantar Mantar demanding the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the electoral process and seeking electoral reforms. The allegations have been denied by the Election Commission and the BJP. However, Delhi Police said on

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States' Interests Must Be Protected in GST Reforms: Bhatti

New Delhi, October 8: While welcoming the GST reforms, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu urged the Centre to protect the revenue interests of the states. Speaking at the 57th GST Council meeting, he suggested simplifying policies for honest taxpayers while continuing a zero-tolerance approach toward tax evasion and fraud. Bhatti said that GST accounts for around 35 percent of Telangana's own tax revenue. He stated that, according to the Centre's estimates, the GST reforms



could have an annual revenue impact of approximately ₹800 crore on Telangana in the motor vehicle sector. According to the state's estimates, however, the loss could be even higher. He called for strict action against fake GST registrations, fraudulent invoices, and input tax credit fraud. He also urged the Centre to crack down on gangs misusing the Aadhaar and PAN details of elderly people, homemakers, and labourers. He proposed setting up a Group of Ministers to study the scrap sector and cases of identity theft.

Bhatti also requested that regional offices of the GSTN and the GST Council Secretariat be established in Hyderabad. He appealed for Telangana to be given adequate representation on GST Council committees and committees of officials.

BJP ATTACKS CONG OVER ELECTION COMMISSION ALLEGATIONS

HYDERABAD, OCT.8

The Telangana BJP on Thursday accused the Congress of staging "road dramas" and making baseless allegations against the Election Commission of India out of fear of defeat in the upcoming Assembly elections in five states.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office here, party leader Subhash alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was avoiding parliamentary debate and instead resorting to protests and allegations against constitutional institutions to gain media attention.

He rejected Congress claims that 13.39 crore voters had been removed from electoral rolls, saying the deletions were part of the Election Commission's legally mandated process to remove absent, shifted, dead and duplicate voters. He said the exercise involved removal of deceased, duplicate and permanently shifted voters. Subhash questioned how the BJP or the Central government could be held responsible when field-level verification is conducted by Booth Level Officers and other officials. He explained that the list cleanup

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Congress, INDIA bloc leaders detained during

'Chalo Lok Bhavan' rally

HYDERABAD, OCT.8

Mild tension prevailed near Necklace Road on Thursday after police intercepted Telangana Congress and INDIA bloc leaders during their 'Chalo Lok Bhavan' rally, detaining several state ministers and senior party leaders. The protest, organised under the banner of 'Save Democracy', was taken out from the Indira Gandhi statue towards Lok Bhavan, with the protesters demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the recent revision of electoral rolls. Police stopped the procession near Lok Bhavan by putting up heavy barricades. Tension mounted as protesters attempted to push through the security cordon to reach the Governor's official residence.

Among those detained and shifted to various police stations were Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, Rajya Sabha MP Vem Narender Reddy and state Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Adluri Laxman

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Linking Godavari and Cauvery Can Bring Remarkable Benefits to Southern India

Centre's initiative and coordination among states can address water woes

Provide special funds for conducting Godavari Pushkarams

Chief Minister Chandrababu's proposals during meeting with Prime Minister Modi

CM briefs PM on develo pment programmes and financial situation in the state

CM congratulates PM Modi on completing 25 years in public service

New Delhi, October 8: Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 25 years in public service. On the occasion, he praised Modi's services to the nation and described his achievement as a rare milestone in public life. Chandrababu said Modi had demonstrated inspiring leadership as both Chief Minister and Prime Minister and had served the country with discipline and commitment. He praised the Prime Minister's vision, clear objectives, firm decisions and effective governance, saying these had contributed to strengthening India's position as a global power.

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Near NTR Statue, Hyderabad Road, Nalgonda

Nana Patekar laid to rest with full State honours

Veteran actor dies at 75 following cardiac arrest; President, PM and film fraternity pay tributes

NEW DELHI, OCT 8



Veteran actor Nana Patekar passed away at the age of 75 following a sudden cardiac arrest at his residence in Goa in the early hours of Thursday. His last rites were performed with full State honours, marking the end of an illustrious career that left an enduring impact on Indian cinema.

Patekar, a three-time National Film Award winner, was widely admired for his intense performances, distinctive dialogue delivery and ability to portray complex human emotions. His memorable roles in films such as Parinda (1989), Krantiveer (1994) and Natsamrat (2016) established him as one of Indian cinema's most versatile performers.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other prominent leaders expressed grief over his demise, describing his death as a major loss to Indian cinema. Modi remembered Patekar for using his films to highlight social evils, while Murmu praised his powerful performances and commitment to social service.

Several actors, including Shah Rukh Khan, Akshay Kumar, R. Madhavan, Rajpal Yadav and Raza Murad, paid tributes to the veteran performer. Shah Rukh Khan recalled his first meeting with Patekar and remembered him as someone who offered honest advice rather than flattery.

Beyond cinema, Patekar was known for his social work, particularly his efforts to support families of farmers who died by suicide in Maharashtra's drought-prone Marathwada region. Through the NAAM Foundation, which he co-founded with actor Makarand Anaspure in 2016, he supported rural communities and helped provide medical assistance to farmers' widows.

Over his career, Patekar received three National Film Awards, several Filmfare honours, the Maharashtra State Film Award and the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honours. His passing marks the end of a distinctive chapter in Indian cinema, leaving behind a legacy of powerful performances and social commitment.

Beyond Politics: A Ray of Light in a Family's Darkest Hour



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 08: In a deeply moving act of compassion, former Kukatpally constituency Congress Party President Sheri Satish Reddy has stepped forward to support a local family enduring an extraordinary crisis. For the past 30 years, Rajakumar and his family have made their home in Raju Colony, Balanagar, building a quiet and modest life together. However, their world was turned upside down when Rajakumar was diagnosed with cancer, plunging the family into severe financial distress. As the expensive and grueling medical treatments quickly drained their life savings, the family found themselves struggling to meet daily living expenses, afford basic necessities, and pay for the schooling of their two young children, all while facing the frightening threat of losing a permanent roof over their heads.

Recognizing the family's mounting desperation and heart-wrenching plight, Pastor Raju from Sharon Ministries, along with members of the local church community, decided to step in and seek help. On Thursday, October 8th, they met with Sheri Satish Reddy to explain the family's painful situation in detail. They shared the critical realities of Rajakumar's ongoing cancer treatment, stressed the urgent need for financial support to secure the children's education, and highlighted the vital importance of securing a permanent home for the struggling family. Deeply moved by the family's severe hardship, Sheri Satish Reddy listened with sincere empathy and immediately pledged his complete support without hesitation. Demonstrating remarkable generosity, he announced that he will personally fund the entire educational expenses of both children out of his own pocket so their schooling remains uninterrupted.

Furthermore, to provide long-term stability and relief, he assured the family that he would actively coordinate with relevant government authorities to help them secure a double-bedroom government house. Overwhelmed by his timely intervention, warm kindness, and swift action, Pastor Raju and the members of Sharon Ministries expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Sheri Satish Reddy, honoring him as a true pillar of support who brought renewed hope to a family in their darkest hour.

CMC Reviews Civic Works, Grievances in Balaji Nagar

Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 8: Under the directions of CMC Commissioner Gummalla Srijana, IAS, Kukatpally Circle-52 Deputy Commissioner and departmental officials inspected Balaji Nagar to review pending civic grievances and ongoing development works. Officials reviewed previous complaints and directed field staff to resolve pending issues within strict deadlines. Representatives of Resident Welfare Associations raised concerns over drainage, sanitation, infrastructure and street lighting. Officials assessed the issues and initiated necessary departmental action, stressing accountability and regular monitoring to ensure timely resolution of public grievances.

Dream View Colony Gets New Drainage Pipeline



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 8: TPCC Vice President and Kukatpally Constituency In-Charge Bandi Ramesh on Thursday launched construction of an underground drainage pipeline in Dream View Colony under Vasanth Nagar Division. The project aims to address years of drainage overflow, waterlogging and sanitation problems in the area. Ramesh said municipal authorities were directed to expedite approvals and execution of the work. GHMC and HMWSSB officials, colony representatives and local residents attended the launch. Colony members thanked the authorities for addressing their long-pending grievance.

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5G reaches every district: PM Modi

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witnessed the transformation of India's telecom sector over the years and had emerged as a platform showcasing the country's technological achievements and aspirations. The Prime Minister said 5G connectivity had reached every district in the country, with more than 5.5 lakh base stations now operational nationwide. He also highlighted the government's efforts to expand digital education, stating that initiatives were underway to connect around 25 crore students through digital and online learning platforms.

Emphasising the role of digital connectivity in improving access to essential services, Modi said technology had transformed education, healthcare and governance. Children in remote villages and those from economically weaker sections were increasingly gaining access to quality educational resources through digital platforms, he added. Modi said mobile phones had evolved over the past 10 to 12 years from being merely communication devices into important instruments of good governance and public service delivery.

Highlighting the contribution of digital learning initiatives, the Prime Minister referred to the DIKSHA platform, which played a significant role in supporting education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The platform had recorded more than 500 crore learning sessions and approximately 6,000 crore learning minutes by July 2022, he said.

Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia highlighted the substantial reduction in mobile data costs in India. He said the price of one gigabyte of data had fallen from Rs 268 in 2014 to around Rs 8 currently, making internet access significantly more affordable and placing India among the countries with the lowest data costs globally. The India Mobile Congress brings together stakeholders from telecommunications, technology and digital innovation to showcase emerging technologies and discuss the future of connectivity. The 2026 edition focuses on expanding digital access, scaling technological innovation and strengthening India's position in the global digital ecosystem.

Congress, INDIA bloc leaders detained during...

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Kumar, Vakiti Srihari and Jupally Krishna Rao. Senior leaders and representatives of the CPI, CPI(M) and Telangana Jana Samiti were also detained. Addressing the protesters before his detention, Mahesh Kumar Goud accused the Election Commission of failing to address concerns over the electoral-roll revision and called upon the Chief Election Commissioner to step down voluntarily.

"The Election Commission has failed to resolve widespread public concerns regarding the electoral roll revision. It is the fundamental duty of the Commission to safeguard voting rights and maintain absolute transparency to uphold democratic confidence," Mahesh Kumar Goud said.

State Congress and INDIA bloc leaders also condemned the detention of Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and other national opposition leaders during parallel protests in New Delhi. They said the agitation would be intensified across Telangana until, in their view, democratic norms were restored.

Delhi Tightens Security Ahead of CJP's Protest

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October 8 that no permission had been granted for the proposed protest at Jantar Mantar and appealed to people to avoid participating in any unauthorised gathering. Prohibitory orders are already in force in the area. The CJP had formally notified the Delhi Police about its proposed October 10 demonstration. The party has maintained that the protest will be peaceful. CJP spokesperson and co-convener Saurav Das has said the agitation will continue until the group's demands on electoral reforms are addressed.

Neighbouring states, including Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, have also been asked to remain alert in view of the planned mobilisation.

BJP ATTACKS CONG OVER ELECTION COMMISSION ALLEGATIONS

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was part of the legally mandated ASDD (Absent, Shifted, Dead & Duplicate) process carried out by the ECI. As part of this process, only 2.8 crore deceased individuals, 1.2 crore duplicate votes, 6.33 crore permanent migrants, and 3.01 crore voters not residing at local addresses were removed, he added.

He also attacked Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accusing him of diverting attention from state issues by joining protests in Delhi. He alleged that the Congress government had failed to address farmers' concerns, power tariff hikes, irrigation shortages and unemployment.

Referring to the 2015 "Vote for Note" case, Subhash said Revanth Reddy had no moral right to speak about vote theft. He also alleged that the Congress and BRS were politically opposing each other in public while maintaining an understanding behind the scenes. Subhash further accused the Congress government of targeting BJP leaders in Telangana and claimed that the BJP cadres remained united under the leadership of State BJP president N. Ramchander Rao.

He mocked Rahul Gandhi over Congress's electoral record, saying the party had repeatedly blamed EVMs and the Election Commission whenever it lost elections, while praising them when it won.

BJP spokespersons Dr Rahul Saridena, Abhishek, Mahesh and Dr Palnati Venkat Reddy were also present at the press conference.

CM Revanth demands PM Modi to step down or remove CEC Gyanesh Kumar

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The Chief Minister participated in the Vote Bachao... Desh Bachao' movement led by opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. Senior Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi, KC Venugopal and leaders of the INDIA alliance were also present. All the leaders marched to Rajghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi.

Speaking to the media after paying tributes to Gandhi, CM Revanth Reddy said that the "Vote Bachao... Desh Bachao" movement is not merely a struggle for the Congress party or the INDIA alliance, but a movement to safeguard the rights of the common people of the country. There were 81 crore voters in the country during the 2014 elections and the number rose to 91 crore by 2019. The voter count stood at 97 crore in 2024. Pointing out that the country's population has reached 140 crore, the Chief Minister demanded that Modi explain to the nation how 13 crore votes went missing instead of the voter count increasing further.

The CM recalled that leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, and Bhagat Singh fought valiantly—risking their lives—to secure freedom for the country. Dr. BR Ambedkar ensured the right to vote for everyone, regardless of whether they were rich or poor, the CM added that, until now, the votes of the poor had never been under threat, regardless of how many elections were held. The Chief Minister alleged that Narendra Modi and CEC Gyanesh Kumar were attempting to snatch away the constitutional right to vote from marginalized sections. The CM alleged that the BJP conspired to let the police attacks on opposition leaders who question the Election Commission and the Commission's refusal to meet leaders who approach them to lodge complaints

CM Revanth Reddy also accused the BJP of coming to power by dividing the country's people along lines of caste, religion, region, and language. Today, people are being split into two categories- those with votes and those without.

The Chief Minister castigated Modi and Gyanesh Kumar manipulated the situation to create a divide, placing BJP supporters on one side and the poor who opposed the party on the other. The CM further alleged that the votes of Dalits, Girijans, Adivasis, and minorities are being specifically targeted and deleted in the SIR.

Linking Godavari and Cauvery Can Bring Remarkable Benefits to Southern India

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The Chief Minister said that Modi had steered the country's development through welfare, growth and good governance. In particular, he said the Prime Minister was taking the country towards Viksit Bharat by treating the states as partners in the spirit of cooperative federalism. Chandrababu also said Modi had helped enhance India's respect and credibility in international affairs. On behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister conveyed his greetings to the Prime Minister.

Proposals on Interlinking of Rivers

During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu raised several important issues. He brought to the Prime Minister's attention various key projects related to the state's development, its financial situation, agriculture and irrigation.

With regard to irrigation, Chandrababu briefed Modi on the latest status of the Polavaram project and explained the benefits of linking the Godavari and Cauvery rivers. The Chief Minister said that if the Godavari-Cauvery river-linking project is implemented, it would ensure adequate water availability for Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

He pointed out that nationwide road networks and the power grid had been developed during NDA governments and said that taking forward the river-linking project would pave the way for establishing a water grid. Chandrababu informed the Prime Minister that extensive arrangements were being made in Andhra Pradesh for the Godavari Pushkarams in 2027. He requested financial assistance from the Centre for development projects being undertaken for the Pushkarams.

He said devotees from not only the two Telugu states but also from across the country and abroad were expected to attend the Godavari Pushkarams.

Impact of El Niño on the State

The Chief Minister informed Prime Minister Modi that the state had recorded a 53 per cent rainfall deficit due to the impact of El Niño, which had severely affected the agricultural sector. He explained the measures being taken by the state government to minimise drought-related losses.

Chandrababu also briefed the Prime Minister about the objectives of the Global Horticulture Hub, recently launched at Madanapalle with the support of the Centre. He further revealed that the foundation stone had been laid for establishing an Indian School of Agriculture on the lines of the Indian School of Business. Request for Support for Infrastructure Projects. The Chief Minister sought the Centre's support for various infrastructure projects in the state. Chandrababu discussed with Prime Minister Modi issues including the Outer Ring Road being taken up in the capital city of Amaravati. He also requested approval for the Visakhapatnam Metro and explained the proposed Beach Road project.

The Chief Minister also briefed the Prime Minister about the Swarna Andhra–2047 Vision, which is being implemented with the objective of ensuring that the benefits of development reach all sections of the people across the state in an equitable manner by 2047.

No More Overflows: HMWSSB Takes Tough Stand Against Commercial Polluters in Kukatpally

Hyderabad Chef, Satibabu Biryani, and Two Other Eateries Penalized After Defying Silt Chamber Directives

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI



In a swift and decisive enforcement drive against commercial polluters, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) launched a zero-tolerance action in Balaji Nagar Ward under Kukatpally Circle. Officials physically disconnected the sewer lines and seized the Inspection Chambers (ICs) of four prominent commercial establishments: Hyderabad Chef, Chaitanya Food Court, Sattibabu Biryani, and Abhiruchi Food. The drive targeted these popular eateries after routine monitoring confirmed they were illegally discharging untreated grease, waste oils, and solid food debris directly into public sewer manholes, causing severe civic hazards.

The joint operation was personally spearheaded by HMWSSB Kukatpally Circle DGM Degala Venkata Trinadha Rao and Balaji Nagar Ward Manager Sunitha Yerrolla. The execution team on the ground included Work Inspector Raghu, Sewerage Inspector Madhu, alongside dedicated sewerage field staff who carried out the physical disconnections and chamber seizures on the spot. Their direct participation ensured immediate enforcement and complete containment of the offending outlets' drainage points. This drastic administrative measure was taken only after all four establishments repeatedly ignored multiple official notices issued by the water board. HMWSSB had previously instructed the owners to construct standard silt chambers and grease traps within their premises to filter out solid waste before discharging wastewater. However, the management of these commercial food outlets failed to comply, showing complete disregard for public infrastructure and civil regulations despite clear warnings.

Expressing stern disapproval during the crackdown, DGM Degala Venkata Trinadha Rao declared a zero-tolerance policy against civic offenders, emphasizing that commercial entities will no longer be allowed to treat community sewerage lines as their private dumping sites. Reinforcing this stance, Manager Sunitha Yerrolla termed the blatant dumping of food waste and heavy oils an unforgivable act, pointing out that such negligent practices damage public infrastructure and directly inflict frequent, foul sewage overflows onto neighboring residents.

Following the seizure, HMWSSB clarified that all sewer connections for the four establishments will remain strictly severed until full compliance is achieved. To regain access, the owners must construct the mandated silt chambers, clear all pending penalties, and pass a thorough re-inspection by sewerage officials. The department warned that similar high-impact inspection drives will continue across the entire Kukatpally Circle to curb environmental violations and protect the city's sanitation infrastructure.

TRS to hold state-level executive meet today

HYDERABAD



The Telangana Rakshana Sena will hold an extended state-level executive committee meeting at its party office in Banjara Hills on Friday to chalk out the party's programmes for the year and discuss strategies to strengthen the organisation.

The meeting, scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and continue till evening, will be attended by state-level leaders, district presidents and general secretaries, Parliament and Assembly constituency in-charges, and presidents and secretaries of affiliated wings.

Party chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha will address the meeting and provide directions to the party leaders on the organisational activities to be taken up throughout the year. She is also expected to issue key instructions on responding swiftly to public issues, taking them up with the government machinery and working towards their resolution, besides outlining measures to strengthen the party at various levels.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SALEM DIVISION
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer,
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders is invited for the following work :

Tender No.	**SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_15, Dated : 05.10.2026**
Description of work	**Works contract for Reconditioning of Smoothing Reactor (SL-30) of electric locomotives available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.**

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

DEE/RS/ED
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Rolling Stock, Erode.

"CySpark" Industrial Development Programme Launched at Osmania University

HYDERABAD

A two-day industrial development programme titled "CySpark", organised by the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centre (E&IC) of Osmania University in collaboration with Cyient, was inaugurated on Thursday at the university campus. The programme has been designed to foster innovative thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills among students.

Professor Kumar Moluguram, Head of the Department at Osmania University, attended the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest. Students from the university campus and its affiliated colleges participated in the programme and had the opportunity to interact with experienced professionals, industry leaders and mentors.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Kumar Moluguram highlighted the importance of developing an entrepreneurial mindset among students. He said that, along with their academic studies, young students should cultivate a new business-oriented approach. He observed that India urgently needs innovative thinkers who can identify problems facing



the country, develop solutions to them, create employment opportunities and contribute to national development.

He said educational institutions have a responsibility to nurture such capabilities among students. In this direction, Osmania University is working to enhance students' skills, encourage innovative ideas and create an environment that enables them to transform their ideas into viable businesses.

He further said that the department is working with the objective of inspiring students to develop new ideas through creativity, research and industry partnerships, and to shape them into future innovators and job creators.

Krishna Mohan Deevi, representative of Cyient; Suresh Babu Lakshmanan, representative of an information technology company; Prof. P. Chandrasekhar, Principal of the College of Engineering; Prof. D. Ramakrishna, Department Administrator; and others participated in the inaugural programme.

On the first day, awareness sessions were conducted on topics including "Self-Reliance as a Career Choice," "From Problems to Opportunities," and "Validating Ideas through Understanding People's Needs and the Market."

The successful launch of the programme marks another milestone in the development and innovation initiatives of Osmania University.

EASTERN RAILWAY

The following E-tender is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/(GSU), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, Remote Control Building, Kolkata-700014 for the following works: **Tender No. : ELEG-GSU-OT-24-2026-27 dtd. 06.10.2026**. **Particulars of the Work :** Escalator works - Provision of Escalator against development work of Amrit Station Scheme (5 no. stations) Phase-II viz. DDJ, SPR, MMG, CG & NH (excluding CG station). **Tender Value:** Rs. 8,50,51,456/-. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 17,01,000/-. **Completion period :** 15 months. **Bidding start date:** 16.10.2026. **Tender closing date & time:** 30.10.2026, 14.00 hrs. Details of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in**

(SDAH-255/2026-27)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: S/66/013/26-27, Dtd: 03-10-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

Sl.No.:1; Tender No. : KT265801A;
Closing/Opening Date: 22-10-2026.

Brief Description: Onsite Supply & Installation of Airport style Seating Stainless Steel 3 Seater Chair with Seat, Backrest and armrest. **Qty**: 3051 Nos.

Consignee:- Sr. DCM/Katihar, N.F. Railway.

Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (**www.ireps.gov.in**) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with **IREPS**. In case they are not registered with **IREPS**, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

Dy. Chief Material Manager, New Jalpaiguri
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

GITAM Hosts Guest Lecture on 'Technology and Mental Health'

HYDERABAD





The Women Empowerment Cell of GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, organised a guest lecture on 'Technology and Mental Health' for students and faculty members on October 8, 2026. Dr. Indrani Pramod Kelkar, Head – Quality and Analytics, TCSiON, Tata Consultancy Services, Hyderabad, delivered the lecture.

Dr. Kelkar highlighted the importance of mental health and explained how technology can be both a valuable resource and a potential stressor. She discussed the positive impact of technology through access to mental health information, online counselling, peer support, learning resources and wellness applications, while also cautioning against excessive screen time, social media use, digital overload, cyberbullying, social comparison and sleep disruption.

She emphasised that engineering and IT students are particularly vulnerable to stress and burnout due to demanding academic schedules, prolonged screen exposure and inadequate sleep. She encouraged students to develop healthy digital habits, practise mindful technology use and maintain balance across the eight dimensions of wellness—intellectual, environmental, social, emotional, financial, spiritual, occupational and physical.

Dr. Kelkar urged students, as future technology professionals, to take responsibility for their digital well-being and use technology purposefully to enhance learning, productivity, creativity and resilience. The session concluded with an introspective discussion on digital habits, digital detox and ways technology can better support mental health.

Dr. Pritee Parwekar, Chairperson, Women Empowerment Cell, GITAM, convened the programme with the support of the members of the Cell.

NCC Rank Ceremony Held at GITAM

GITAM NCC Hyderabad 33 (T) BN NCC, Sangareddy, organised an NCC Rank Ceremony at GITAM to honour cadets promoted to various ranks in recognition of their leadership, discipline, dedication, and commitment.

The ceremony witnessed the promotion of cadets to the ranks of Lance Corporal, Corporal, Sergeant, Company Sergeant Major, Company Quartermaster Sergeant, Junior Under Officer, and Senior Under Officer.

The newly promoted cadets were congratulated and encouraged to shoulder their responsibilities with pride, integrity, and discipline.

The organisers emphasised that NCC ranks represent trust, responsibility, leadership, and service, urging the cadets to lead by example and inspire their fellow cadets. The ceremony concluded with a warm round of applause from the NCC cadets, as the newly promoted personnel were wished success in their new roles and responsibilities.

The GITAM NCC unit expressed confidence that the promoted cadets would uphold the values of the National Cadet Corps and continue to bring pride to GITAM through their exemplary conduct and commitment.

TGO Women's Wing Unveils Bathukamma Poster

HYDERABAD



Representatives of the Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association (TGO) said that the Women's Wing is organising special programmes to celebrate Bathukamma, the festival that symbolises the culture and traditions of Telangana, on a grand scale. As part of the celebrations, Telangana State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju unveiled the Bathukamma poster designed by the TGO Women's Wing at the Secretariat.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said that the Bathukamma festival has brought special recognition to Telangana's culture and traditions. He described Bathukamma as a significant symbol of the cultural unity of the women of Telangana and a way of life closely connected with nature.

He expressed his wish that Bathukamma should be celebrated across Telangana with joy and enthusiasm while adhering to traditional customs. He also called upon women employees and women in general to participate in large numbers and contribute to the preservation of Telangana's culture and traditions.

Representatives of the TGO Women's Wing said arrangements were being made to organise Bathukamma celebrations with women employees, gazetted officers and their family members. They said the programmes were being conducted with the objective of promoting cultural awareness, unity and a spirit of sisterhood among women employees, while also passing Telangana's traditions on to future generations.

Leaders of the TGO Women's Wing said that Bathukamma is an integral part of the lives of the women of Telangana. The festival, in which Bathukamma is arranged with flowers, nature is worshipped and women collectively sing traditional songs, has earned Telangana culture special recognition across the world, they said. "Bathukamma is a symbol of the self-respect of Telangana women. It is everyone's responsibility to preserve Telangana's culture and traditions," they said. The TGO Women's Wing appealed to all women employees to participate in large numbers and make the Bathukamma celebrations a success. Those present at the poster unveiling programme included TGO Association President Eluri Srinivas Rao, General Secretary B. Shyam, Women's Wing Chairperson Dr. G. Deepa Reddy, Convener J. Sujatha, Shanthi, Kiranmayi, Poonam, Anitha, Mamatha and Chandrajyothi, Vanaja, along with women gazetted officers and employees from various departments.



SHORT TAKES

BJP names fact-finding panel over Sai Prasad-Padmini dispute

HYDERABAD: *Telangana BJP has appointed a three-member fact-finding committee to inquire into the dispute between Yuva Morcha leader P.M. Sai Prasad and SC Morcha leader Padmini reported on October 6. The committee was constituted on the instructions of BJP Telangana State president and former MLC N. Ramchander Rao. The panel comprises BJP State Vice-President Mooga Jayasree, former BJP Mahila Morcha State president K. Geetha Murthy and BJP State Executive Member Bandaru Shailaja.*

Digitise employee records by Oct 15, CS tells officials

HYDERABAD: *Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju directed officials to fully digitise information pertaining to government employees through the e-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS) to ensure more transparent administration in the State. He directed officials to complete the process by October 15. The Chief Secretary on Thursday held a review meeting with senior officials of all departments on the implementation of e-HRMS and digital processes in government departments. He directed officials to make information relating to government employees' recruitment, service records, salaries and allowances, promotions, ACRs and other employee-related services available on a single digital platform. Officials informed the Chief Secretary that data pertaining to approximately 3.48 lakh government employees across the state is being entered into e-HRMS.*

Better Unit-level performance key to improving national ranking: DGP

- **DGP C. V. Anand reviews implementation of new criminal laws in lagging police units**
- **Scope to improve national ranking**
- **Units asked to improve performance**
- **implementation of Zero FIR, e-Sakshya, e-Summons and Nyaya Shruti etc**



HYDERABAD

Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand on Thursday reviewed at CID office to implementation of the new criminal laws and crime investigation performance of police units that were lagging behind in the State's crime ranking, and directed senior officers to step up implementation and improve the quality of investigation and crime control.

Mr. Anand held a special review meeting with Commissioners of Police, Superintendents of Police and other senior officers of the identified units at the CID office here. He stressed the need to improve the disposal of cases under investigation, conviction rates and the overall quality of investigation, while ensuring effective implementation of the new criminal laws.

He said improvement in the performance of individual units was essential for Telangana to improve its ranking at the national level. Referring to the performance of the Eagle Force and the Cyber Security Bureau, the DGP said periodic reviews and corrective measures had helped the two wings achieve significant results at the national level. The Eagle Force had emerged as the top-performing unit in the country, while Telangana's performance in combating cybercrime had also earned national recognition, he said.

The DGP said similar periodic reviews and corrective interventions should be undertaken in other areas as well so that deficiencies could be identified and rectified at the field level.

Focus on six key areas

The meeting reviewed six major areas, including disposal of cases under investigation, the tracking system for sexual offences, disposal of pending trial cases, registration of FIRs at the scene of offence and the effective use of e-Sakshya. Mr. Anand sought details from officers on the difficulties being encountered in each area and explained the corrective measures required.

Officers from Suryapet, Wanaparthy, Nirmal, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, Mahabubnagar and GRP Secunderabad, besides those from Hyderabad, Nizamabad, Malkajgiri, Cyberabad and Karimnagar Commissionerates, participated in the review.

Four parameters for assessment

The implementation of the new criminal laws is being assessed at the national level on the basis of four broad parameters — administrative reforms, operational efficiency, ICT application and integration. They carry weightages of 20%, 45%, 25% and 10%, respectively.

The DGP directed officers to make effective use of systems and provisions such as Zero FIR, time-bound investigation, online charge sheets, e-Sakshya, e-Summons, Nyaya Shruti and the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS).

Greater use of CCTNS data

Mr. Anand also stressed the need to make effective use of data generated through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). Officers were asked to analyse the available data and use it to formulate measures for preventing crime. He directed the units to focus particularly on cybercrime, NDPS cases and criminal top lists, and take preventive measures to curb repeat offences. Officers also brought technical difficulties being faced at the unit level in implementing the new criminal laws to his notice. The DGP said specialised training would be organised, wherever necessary, to improve the staff's understanding of the new laws and related technological systems.

Units asked to improve performance

Mulugu district was ranked first in the State in the implementation of the new criminal laws, followed by Jayashankar Bhupalpally and Ramagundam Commissionerate, particularly in areas such as e-Sakshya, completion of investigations within the prescribed 60- and 90-day periods and registration of Zero FIRs.

The DGP asked the Malkajgiri, Hyderabad, Nizamabad and Karimnagar Commissionerates to improve their performance. Among the districts and units reviewed, Mahabubnagar, GRP Secunderabad and Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri were identified as lagging in implementation, and the reasons for the shortfall were also examined. Mr. Anand directed the underperforming units to implement the instructions issued by the DGP's office at the field level and take corrective measures to improve their performance.

Scope to improve national ranking

Telangana currently has a score of 60.15 in the national-level assessment of implementation of the new criminal laws. The DGP said there was considerable scope to improve the State's ranking by strengthening the implementation of Zero FIR, online charge sheets, e-Sakshya, e-Summons and Nyaya Shruti.

He called for coordinated efforts by officers to improve crime control, investigation standards and conviction rates. A fresh video conference would be held shortly to review the performance of the units and assess the progress made in implementing the new criminal laws, he said.

Along with DGP CV Anand, CID Director Charu Sinha, Hyderabad CP sajjanar, Cyberabad CP Ramesh, IG, Multi Zone I Chandrashekar Reddy, CID DIG, Parimala Hana Nutan along with senior officers from the concerned police units, attended the meeting.



Indian Air Force is Touching the Sky with Pride

- **Lion Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, Retired NCC Company Commander**

KARIMNAGAR

The Indian Air Force is known as the youngest force among the three Indian defence services, and celebrating the 94th Indian Air Force Day today which is touching the sky with pride and was started on 08 October 1932, is a matter of pride for every Indian citizen, said renowned social activist and retired NCC Company Commander Lion Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy. Speaking at the Indian Air Force Day program organized by the Satavahana Lions Club in the city today, he praised the Indian Air Force, which plays a key role in ensuring the safety and security of Mother India and establishing peace, for providing extraordinary services during internal disasters as well as defending the country. He said that 1.7 lakh Air Force soldiers are engaged in the defense of the country at the risk of their lives, and he urged parents to work hard to ensure that today's youth join the three services, remembering their services. In this meeting, the members of the Satavahana Lions Club felicitated the retired personnel, Junior Waramat Officers M Narayana, V Murali, Sergeants A. Eshwara Prasad, A. Chandrasekhar, for their invaluable services in the Indian Air Force. Speaking, the honoree M Narayana thanked the members of the Satavahana Lions Club for recognizing their services and said that they have emerged victorious by effectively facing the challenges faced in the performance of their duties. The program organized under the chairmanship of Lion M Mahender was attended by Lion Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, Secretary Lion N Venugopal, Lion D Tirupati Reddy, Lion M Aravind, Lion K Satyam, Lion P Surender, Lion Ravinder Reddy and others.

Rs.39,951 Crore Power Grid Overhaul Sets New Benchmark for Telangana's Energy Infrastructure

- **Energy Department expands 33/11 kV transformation capacity, bolsters distribution line networks, and sustains uninterrupted supply through peak load surges.**



HYDERABAD

The Energy Department of Telangana, guided by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister & Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, has completed a comprehensive power distribution overhaul, committing ₹39,951 crore over a 22-month period to optimize grid resilience, maintain system frequency, and streamline tariff subsidy dispatches.

To counter transmission congestion and severe peak-load stress caused by extreme ambient temperatures, El Niño climate factors, and rapid load growth across industrial and agricultural feeders, the state deployed ₹7,257 crore into capital expenditure (CapEx) for distribution infrastructure alongside ₹32,694 crore allocated for direct welfare tariff offsets. Through proactive load-flow planning and sub-transmission expansion, the utility successfully managed peak demand surges across all consumer categories while maintaining grid stability and uninterrupted continuous supply.

The distribution network underwent major structural reinforcement, marked by the commissioning of 174 new 33/11 kV primary substations, the installation or capacity augmentation of 713 Power Transformers (PTRs), and the deployment of 109,897 Distribution Transformers (DTRs) to enhance load balancing and minimize failure rates. Furthermore, over 40,282 circuit kilometers (ckm) of primary and secondary lines were erected, effectively reducing I^2R distribution line losses, suppressing tail-end low-voltage conditions, and preventing high-voltage circuit breaker tripping. Agricultural load management was fortified through dedicated feeder strengthening and the energization of

254,247 new agricultural pump-set connections, supported by ₹26,935.83 crore in tariff subsidies benefiting 29.73 lakh agricultural consumers. On the domestic front, the Gruha Jyothi program provided ₹5,067.36 crore in subsidy offsets to 54.34 lakh low- and middle-income households, while targeted subsidy mechanisms protected SC/ST domestic loads up to 101 units per month, public educational facilities, and dedicated commercial categories.

SCR Partners with IIM Bangalore to Boost Freight Business

- **"Rail Business Conclave" Organized by IIM Bangalore today as part of its study with SCR**
- **Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, GM/SCR was the Chief Guest on the occasion**



HYDERABAD

South Central Railway had engaged the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore in February, 2026 to undertake a comprehensive study of the freight market to enhance the rail coefficient and boost the freight business in mobilizing the commodities such as cement, coal, steel, agriculture, automobiles, ports and containers. As part of the study, IIM Bangalore organized a stakeholder meeting today i.e., on 08th October, 2026 with freight customers and industry partners to discuss opportunities and strategies for increasing Rail freight business. Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Shri Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager, SCR; Ms. Ity Pandey, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, SCR; Shri Vineet Kumar, Principal Chief Operations Manager, SCoR, Shri K. Sambasiva Rao, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, SCoR, other Principal heads of SCR, Divisional Railway Manager, Secunderabad & Hyderabad Divisions also participated in the meeting. Shri Raghuram, Ex Director, IIM, Shri Rajeev Tripathi, CEO, Dr. Aditya Gupta, COO from IIM Bangalore participated in the meeting. Delegates from Major Cement industries, Singareni Collieries, Thermal Power stations, Ports, Chamber of Commerce, Warehousing, Cargo & Container services etc. took part in the meeting.

IIM, Bangalore has conducted extensive offline research for more than 6 months covering the major freight handling areas such as cement, coal, steel, agriculture, automobiles, ports and containers served by erstwhile South Central Railway zone containing six divisions. The study also covered the emerging opportunities, including new ports along the Andhra coast, the Jalna dry port, multimodal logistics parks, new steel plants and the EV cluster at Bidkin near Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar as well as the potential for new freight terminals, GatiShakti Cargo Terminals, improved connectivity and customer friendly freight schemes.

Based on the interim report generated by IIM, Bangalore, meeting was conducted with participation of Railway officials and all the stakeholders to have discussion on the real time basis. As part of the same, Panel discussions were held separately for each sector such as Cement, Coal & Fly Ash, Chamber of Commerce, Ports, Cargo & Container services to share their experiences , suggestions, problems, strategies and views which will help to enhance the Freight transportation.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR welcomed the initiative of making extensive study by IIM Bangalore to enhance the freight business.

He also thanked stakeholders and industry partners for sharing their valuable views and experiences. General Manager stated that Indian Railway aims to load 3,000 Million Tonnes by the year 2030, in order to achieve the same, both SCR & SCoR Zones target to load 264 Million Tonnes. We are aware that, the set target is very tough to achieve however, we are confident that with the support of the stakeholders, industry and committed workforce, we can reach the target. He also assured the stakeholders that South Central Railway shall definitely look into the issues raised by them such as operational constraints, reliability, reduction in transit time, expansion plans, logistics requirements etc., and are ready to address the various concerns. The General Manager also requested representatives of IIM Bangalore to convert the candid feedback by the industry into actionable recommendations so that we can take corrective action.

Earlier, Ms. Ity Pandey, PCCM, SCR, Shri Vineet Kumar, PCOM, SCoR, Shri Sambashiva Rao, PCCM, SCOR detailed the freight business across the Railways and their expectations from the stakeholders. Professor Raghuram concluded the session by narrating the interim report duly disclosing the areas to be covered to capture the freight business to enhance the freight basket of Railways.

Large-Scale Defence Expo to Be Held as Part of Telangana Global Summit

- **Air Show to be organised on December 9**
- **Expo to boost the development of the defence and aerospace sectors**
- **State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju**

HYDERABAD

A large-scale Defence Expo will be organised in Hyderabad from December 7 to 9 as part of the Telangana Global Summit–2026, State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said. He also announced that an air show would be conducted on December 9.

The Chief Secretary held a review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Thursday to discuss arrangements for the Defence Expo. During the meeting, he reviewed various aspects including preparations for the expo, participating organisations, publicity campaigns and security arrangements. Sanjay Jaju said that nearly 30 per cent of the industries associated with the defence and aviation sectors are based in Hyderabad. The Defence Expo would serve as a key platform for promoting the development of the defence and aerospace sectors in Telangana and attracting investments, he said.

Invitations to National and International Organisations

The Chief Secretary said that leading national and



international defence and arms manufacturing companies, as well as defence and aerospace firms, were being invited to participate in the Defence Expo being organised as part of the Telangana Global Summit–2026.

He said roadshows would be organised in Hyderabad on October 24 and in New Delhi on October 29 to create wider publicity for the expo.

The government was according special priority to expanding the aerospace and defence sectors in Telangana, the Chief Secretary said. He also recalled that an airfield strip was being established in Adilabad district.

Special Platform for Defence and Aerospace Sectors

The Chief Secretary suggested involving FICCI, ASSOCHAM, SIDM and MSMEs, along with public and private organisations from the defence and aerospace sectors, in the expo.

He said prominent organisations such as HAL, BEL and BDL, among others, would showcase their products. The expo would also feature marketing activities, buyer-seller meetings, business interactions, MoUs, opportunities for startups and seminars, he added. In view of the ongoing modernisation of police and paramilitary forces across the country, the Chief Secretary suggested inviting DGPs from all states to participate in the Defence Expo.

Directions for Extensive Publicity

Sanjay Jaju instructed officials to install display stands at prominent locations across Hyderabad and screen short films to promote the Defence Expo. He also directed officials to undertake extensive publicity through brochures, social media and other communication platforms.

Principal Secretary, Home Department, Shikha Goel; Panchayat Raj and SERP Commissioner Divya; Invest Telangana CEO Ajit Reddy, and other officials attended the meeting.

Raksha Expo to provide major platform for defence, aerospace growth: CS

HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said a grand Raksha Expo would be organised in Hyderabad from December 7 to 9 as part of the Telangana Global Summit–2026, with an Air Show scheduled for December 9.

Sanjay Jaju reviewed the arrangements for the Raksha Expo at a meeting held at the Secretariat on Thursday. He discussed the participation of defence and aerospace companies, infrastructure, security arrangements, publicity and other related issues.

The Chief Secretary said nearly 30 per cent of India's defence and aerospace industries are based in Hyderabad, making the city a major hub for the two sectors. The Raksha Expo would provide a significant platform to promote their growth and attract investments to Telangana, he said.

He directed officials to invite leading national and international defence, aerospace and arms manufacturing companies to participate in the Expo. As part of the promotional campaign, roadshows would be held in Hyderabad on October 24 and in New Delhi on October 29.

Sanjay Jaju said the State government was according priority to the development of the defence and aerospace sectors and noted that an airfield strip was being developed in Adilabad district.

He directed officials to ensure the participation of industry bodies, including FICCI, ASSOCHAM, SIDM and MSMEs, besides public and private sector organisations in the defence and aerospace sectors.

'Build AP' Is the Mantra of Our Government

Action plan to convert MoUs into actual investments.. Industrial incentives escrow account to be launched soon

We cannot forget the support being extended by the Centre to AP.. Chief Minister Chandrababu at CII Partnership Summit-2026 Curtain Raiser

Andhra Pradesh Has a Key Role in India's Development Journey: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8





Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu said that the state government was moving forward with the slogan "Build AP" with the objective of transforming Andhra Pradesh into the country's most attractive destination for investments, industries and employment generation. The Chief Minister participated in the CII Partnership Summit-2026 Curtain Raiser programme along with Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. On the occasion, he explained to industrialists the investment opportunities in the state, the support being extended by the Centre, projects being undertaken in various sectors and the government's future action plan.

Chandrababu said that MoUs worth ₹13.50 lakh crore were signed at the Partnership Summit held last year. He said the state had been able to attract investments worth ₹22 lakh crore over the past 28 months. The Chief Minister made it clear that the government was focusing not merely on signing MoUs but on converting them into actual investments. He said leading companies such as Google, with its 1-GW data centre, and ArcelorMittal were coming to Andhra Pradesh. As announced earlier, the escrow account for industrial incentives would be launched on November 12 and 13 this year, he said. The government had also abolished the NALA Act, which had been a hurdle to investments, Chandrababu said.

He stated that Andhra Pradesh was ready to immediately implement any policy that would contribute to the state's development. The state was implementing the "Speed of Doing Business" initiative to capitalise on the vast opportunities available in agriculture, industry and services, he said.

Special Focus on Water Resources and Green Energy

Chandrababu said that linking the Godavari, Krishna, Pennar, Tungabhadra and Cauvery rivers would help address water shortages not only in Andhra Pradesh but also in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. He said the government had set a target of transforming Rayalaseema into a global horticulture hub. The objective was also to develop Andhra Pradesh as a gateway to Southeast Asia, he said. Of the state's target of 500 GW of green energy, agreements had already been signed for the generation of 110 GW, Chandrababu said. The government was also considering the establishment of a Green Energy Transmission Corridor. He revealed that Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited had come forward to establish a shipbuilding centre at Dugarajapatnam, while Goa Shipyard had agreed to establish a shipbuilding centre at Machilipatnam. Drone and electronics clusters had been established at Tirupati, Lepakshi and Kopparthi, he said. The Defence Ministry had initiated a fifth-generation fighter jet project in Rayalaseema, the Chief Minister added. Chandrababu said the state was using AI-based technology through systems such as Data Lakes to enable faster decision-making. The implementation of AI-based technology in GST tax collection had significantly increased state revenues, he said. The Chief Minister said the curriculum was being redesigned from the school level itself to enable students to excel in AI, entrepreneurship, industry and commerce. He said products made by DWCRA self-help groups would be promoted in international markets under a dedicated brand. Andhra Pradesh has an important role in the blue economy, he said, adding that quantum computing activities in Amaravati would commence from February next year. He said efforts were also being made through the Global Leadership Centre in Amaravati to enhance leadership capabilities across various sectors. Chandrababu said the Bhogapuram International Airport had become operational and highlighted the state's attractive coastal destinations, including Suryalanka in Bapatla. He requested the Central Government to establish an international-standard convention centre for hosting CII Partnership Summit events. Prime Minister Developing the Country in All Sectors Chandrababu said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had played a key role in strengthening the country across all sectors. He congratulated Modi on completing 25 years of continuous public service. He said the Prime Minister had played an important role in developing India's digital infrastructure. India ranks second in the world in terms of its extensive road network and also occupies a significant position in railway infrastructure, he said. The Prime Minister was developing strong infrastructure across the country through ports, airports, railways and roads, Chandrababu said. He also highlighted Modi's role in strengthening India's defence capabilities. Indians were at the forefront of adopting technology, and many Indians were leading prominent companies across the world, the Chief Minister said. He said the Centre and Prime Minister Modi were extending strong support to Andhra Pradesh. The Centre was providing financial assistance for projects including Polavaram and the construction of the Amaravati capital, he said.

The Centre had also approved the establishment of semiconductor units in various parts of the state, including Visakhapatnam, Chandrababu said. Andhra People Have a Special Place in History and the Present: Piyush Goyal Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that Andhra Pradesh had a crucial role to play in India's development journey. Speaking at the CII Partnership Summit Curtain Raiser programme, Goyal recalled that the coins used by the Satavahanas, who ruled from Amaravati, carried the symbol of a ship. This, he said, demonstrated that the Andhra region had maintained trade relations with the world through maritime commerce even in ancient times. He said the ship symbol represented the trade, confidence and ideas of Indians. Even today, Andhra Pradesh continues to be an important destination for businesspeople and industrialists, Goyal said. He praised visionary leader Chandrababu Naidu for embracing technology as early as 1998 and creating extensive opportunities in the state. He said Prime Minister Modi and the Central Government were extending full support for the development of Andhra Pradesh as a Sunrise State. Goyal said a Google data centre was being established in Visakhapatnam, while a Quantum Computing Valley was being developed in Amaravati. The Centre and the states were working together as Team India for the development of the country, he said. Andhra Pradesh was attracting major investments by making effective use of the opportunities being created by the Centre, Goyal added.

The NDA government was moving forward with the principles of Atmanirbharta, Atmavishwas and Atmaraksha, he said.

Goyal recalled that at the previous Partnership Summit he had suggested focusing on five key areas—Technology, Trust, Trade, Talent and Tradition. Andhra Pradesh, he said, was giving special attention to these areas, winning the confidence of industrialists and attracting investments. He called upon industrialists to attend the upcoming investment summit in Visakhapatnam and explore the investment opportunities available in the state. He also called for the Centre, states and industries to work together to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat.

CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee and CII President Mukund participated in the meeting. Several MPs and other leaders also accompanied Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

Court orders Devaswom Board to submit roadmap for Sabarimala pilgrimage preparations

The Kerala High Court bench asked the Board to explain how the directions issued by Chief Minister VD Satheesan at a high-level meeting on September 11 would be implemented, and what steps had been taken to ensure compliance.



The directions came while the court was hearing a petition initiated by it over various activities undertaken at the Lord Ayyappa temple during the monthly poojas. With the Sabarimala pilgrimage season approaching, the Kerala High Court has asked the Travancore Devaswom Board to spell out when the various preparatory works will be completed and how their quality will be ensured. A bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V and KV Jayakumar directed the Board to submit a detailed statement listing each work, its expected completion date and the measures in place to ensure it meets the required standards. The court also sought details of the mechanism to ensure the works are completed within the stipulated timelines. The bench further asked the Board to explain how the directions issued by Chief Minister VD Satheesan at a high-level meeting on September 11 would be implemented, and what steps had been taken to ensure compliance.

"The statement shall also specify the time frame within which each work is expected to be completed and the mechanism put in place to ensure that the works are completed within the stipulated time and in accordance with the required standards," the court said.

The directions came while the court was hearing a petition initiated by it over various activities undertaken at the Lord Ayyappa temple during the monthly poojas.

During the proceedings, the state government lawyer said several high-level meetings had been held by Devaswom Minister K Muraleedharan and the Chief Minister to review preparations by various government departments and the Board for the 2026-27 Sabarimala pilgrimage and issue necessary directions.

The court was also informed that the Chief Minister had firmly directed all departments to complete pilgrimage-related preparatory works on or before October 31.

TVK says Tamil Nadu GST revenue rose 16.1%, hits out at DMK over 'propaganda'

TVK said Tamil Nadu's post-settlement GST revenue rose 16.1 per cent, rejecting the DMK's claim of a decline and arguing over which figures best reflect the state's finances.



The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam on Thursday said Tamil Nadu's post-settlement GST revenue had risen by 16.1 per cent, and accused the opposition DMK of running a "half-baked propaganda" campaign over the state's revenue figures. The party said the DMK was using incomplete numbers to mislead the public.

In a statement posted on X, the TVK IT Wing said a recent clarification from the state government had exposed what it called the DMK's false claim of a 5 per cent fall in GST revenue. It said those trying to project an economic slowdown and administrative failure were highlighting only the gross GST figures and ignoring the full financial picture. "The official data has delivered a sharp blow to those who tried to deceive the public by showing only the Gross GST figures," the TVK IT Wing said. "The Finance Secretary of Tamil Nadu himself has now clarified that the actual post-settlement GST revenue accruing to Tamil Nadu has risen by 16.1 per cent," it added. Explaining its stand, the party said that in manufacturing and distribution hubs such as Tamil Nadu, factors like Integrated GST settlements have a major effect on gross GST numbers. It said post-settlement GST data was the correct measure to assess the state's actual fiscal position.

The TVK also accused the DMK of carrying out a misinformation campaign on Tamil Nadu's GST collection figures for political reasons. "The true motive of those making noise out of political animosity has been thoroughly exposed. False propaganda can never defeat the truth," the post said.

In sum, the TVK maintained that Tamil Nadu's post-settlement GST revenue had gone up by 16.1 per cent and said the controversy arose because the opposition focused only on gross GST figures instead of the complete revenue picture.

Agartala to be made clean, modern and citizen-friendly city: CM Manik Saha

AGARTALA, OCT 8

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said on Thursday that the Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC) area would be made clean, modern and citizen-friendly, with a target to complete various development works within the stipulated time.

Chief Minister Saha said this while laying the foundation stones for a 6.81 million-litre-capacity surface water treatment plant and a 680-kilolitre-capacity overhead water tank at Collegetila under Ward No. 24 of the Agartala Municipal Corporation.

On the occasion, he also launched a WhatsApp-based complaint reporting and calling system and flagged off 10 vehicles equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for the Chief Minister's Rapid Response Team. Speaking at the programme, CM Saha said that Rs 18.17 crore would be spent on the two projects at College tila here. "In addition, Rs 2.78 crore would be spent on Rapid Response Team vehicles and truck-mounted water tankers," he added.

Chief Minister Saha said that providing pure drinking water to the people was the first condition for creating a citizen-friendly environment. "Because without water, plants and animals cannot exist. It is necessary to create a system of water conservation for the well-being of not only the present but also future generations. Keeping this in mind, the current government of the state has taken the initiative to provide pure drinking water in every ward area of Agartala Municipal Corporation," he added.

Andhra CM seeks timely release of funds from Centre for Jal Jeevan Mission, Polavaram

AMARAVATI, OCT 8



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil in New Delhi on Thursday and urged him to ensure a timely release of funds for the Jal Jeevan Mission-Amarajeevi Jaladhara works and Polavaram project. The Chief Minister explained the progress of the Polavaram project and the details of the Jal Jeevan Mission-Amarajeevi Jaladhara works recently taken up at a cost of Rs 30,000 crore. As part of his two-day visit to Delhi, the Chief Minister met C.R. Patil and informed him that Polavaram works were progressing at a fast pace with the objective of completing the project and dedicating it to the nation by the time of the Godavari Pushkarams next year. According to an official release here, the Chief Minister also urged the Union Minister to resolve several long-pending issues concerning Odisha and Chhattisgarh. He requested the permanent withdrawal of the Stop Work Order issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in connection with the pending public hearings for the protective embankments to be constructed in Odisha and Chhattisgarh as part of the Polavaram project. Though the order is currently in abeyance, the Chief Minister sought its permanent withdrawal. He urged the Union Ministry to coordinate with the Governments of Odisha and Chhattisgarh and persuade them to expedite the public hearing process. The Chief Minister also suggested convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh under the chairmanship of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. He said the issue could be resolved amicably in the larger interests of all three states through cooperation, coordination and a spirit of give-and-take. The Chief Minister informed the Union Minister that rehabilitation and resettlement works required for impounding water up to the 41.15-metre contour at Polavaram were being expedited. He said the state government was giving equal priority to resolving the problems of displaced families and completing R&R works, alongside the construction of the project. He urged the Union Minister to ensure that there was no shortage of funds for Polavaram. They also discussed the measures and works required for impounding water up to the 45.72-metre contour at the project. Chief Minister Naidu explained that thousands of TMCs of floodwater from the Godavari were flowing wastefully into the sea and highlighted efforts to divert and utilise the water through the Pattiseema project. He said steps were also being taken to develop Polavaram as a major tourism and spiritual destination. Referring to the recently launched Jal Jeevan Mission-Amarajeevi Jaladhara works at Proddatur, the Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh has around 95 lakh rural households, of which 62 lakh already have tap water connections. He said foundation stones had recently been laid for works to provide drinking water connections to another 27 lakh rural households. The Chief Minister stressed that the state government was giving the highest priority to these works and requested the Union Minister to ensure the prompt release of funds in accordance with the progress of the work. During the meeting, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu also explained to the Union Minister the benefits of interlinking rivers in the southern states.

SIR protest: K'taka Cong observes 'black day' over Delhi Police action against Rahul, Priyanka

BENGALURU, OCT 8



The Karnataka Congress on Thursday observed a 'black day', staging a protest against the detention of Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra by the Delhi Police during a demonstration against the Election Commission, demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Hundreds of Congress workers gathered in front of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) office in Bengaluru, holding black flags and raising slogans against the Central government. The protesters alleged police high-handedness against Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi and condemned the action against the Congress leaders.

KPCC President and MLC B.K. Hariprasad and other prominent Congress leaders participated in the protest. The workers raised slogans such as "Rahul Gandhi Zindabad" and "Vote Bachavo, Desh Bachavo (Save Vote, Save Country)".

The protest was organised as part of the Congress campaign against the functioning of the Election Commission and its demand for greater transparency in the electoral process. The party has also been demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Hariprasad described the alleged police action on Wednesday against Rahul Gandhi and other elected representatives as a "dark day for democracy".

"The attack on the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha is a dark day for democracy. I participated in the 'Dark Day for Democracy' protest organised today in front of the KPCC office in Bengaluru to condemn the police repression against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and elected representatives," Hariprasad said.

He said Congress will continue its fight against attempts to suppress democratic voices.

"Our struggle against attempts to suppress the voice of democracy will continue. The Congress party's fight will not stop until Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar is removed and transparency and credibility are restored in the electoral system," he said.

Hariprasad alleged that the action against elected representatives was an attempt to suppress democratic voices and said Congress will continue its agitation until its demands concerning the electoral system are addressed.

Meanwhile, the Bengaluru Police made elaborate security arrangements around the state BJP headquarters, Jagannath Bhavan, in Malleshwaram, following inputs about a possible attempt by Congress workers to enter or seize the BJP office.

Police personnel were deployed around the BJP headquarters as a precautionary measure to prevent any untoward incident during the Congress protest. Security was also tightened in the surrounding areas in view of the gathering of Congress workers in the city.

No guts to name BJP: DMK attacks Vijay's TVK over remarks on Rahul Gandhi's arrest

The DMK accused the ruling TVK of dodging the BJP's name while condemning Rahul Gandhi's arrest in Delhi. It used the row to question Vijay's handling of power, farming, prices and law and order in Tamil Nadu.

The DMK on Thursday criticised Chief Minister Joseph Vijay-led TVK) for not explicitly naming the BJP-led Union government while condemning the arrest of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders following a protest in New Delhi seeking the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. DMK spokesperson TKS Elangovan said the TVK's statement condemning the arrests was incomplete as it did not identify who was responsible for the action against the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. "Who arrested Rahul Gandhi? They should condemn and explicitly mention the name of the BJP government," Elangovan told news agency PTI Videos. Rahul Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders were arrested on October 6 after the protest. In a social media post, the TVK condemned the arrest of the LoP and other MPs, saying the manner of the arrest was highly objectionable and that such "heavy-handed approaches" must be given up. Questioning the statement, Elangovan said Rahul Gandhi was protesting against what he described as the Election Commission's failure to act as a neutral body and the CEC's failure to perform his duty as a neutral authority.

EDITORIAL

Uttar Pradesh's New Political Grammar: The Calculus of Caste vs Rule Of Law

As we head close to the assembly elections early next year, the political discourse in Uttar Pradesh is caught between two competing models of mobilisation. On one side is chief minister Yogi Adityanath's emergent governance calculus, where the state's role is defined by the delivery of security and welfare, decoupled from identity. On the other is a regression to caste arithmetic driven by Opposition leader Akhilesh Yadav, framed as 'PDA' (Backwards, Dalits, Minorities), driven by selective outrage and historical amnesia.

The opposition's strategy relies heavily on highlighting law-and-order incidents through a caste-based prism. By selectively amplifying cases where victims belong to specific communities-such as the cases of Pawan Kumar Yadav in Prayagraj, Shishpal Yadav in Raebareli, or Saurabh Yadav in Varanasi-the attempt is to engineer inter-caste resentment. The objective is clear: consolidate a coalition of grievances. However, this rhetoric obfuscates the opposition's own track record of institutional capture, where caste was not just an electoral tool, but an administrative apparatus.

Data from the previous Samajwadi Party (SP) regime reveals a systemic conflation of caste and governance. In June 2014, state home department data indicated that in key districts, nearly 60 per cent of police station in-charges belonged to a single caste. In Badayun, 72.7 per cent of station heads were Yadavs; in Kannauj, 55.5 per cent. This structural bias in policing birthed an era of selective protection. The manifestations of this breakdown ranged from the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots and the Jawahar Bagh massacre to the unchecked reign of syndicates led by figures like Atiq Ahmed and Mukhtar Ansari. The suspension of IAS officer Durga Shakti Nagpal for acting against the sand mafia, the brutal burning of journalist Jagendra Singh for exposing corruption, and the shielding of cabinet minister Gayatri Prajapati despite serious allegations of sexual assault, underscored a model where political utility trumped the rule of law. Governance was tethered to vote banks, leaving marginalized communities outside the favoured caste radius to fend for themselves. In stark contrast, the current Yogi government has sought to depoliticise the state machinery. The defining principle has shifted from identity-based postings to rule-based postings, and from selective protection to a uniform application of the law. The administration's data reveals a strict zero-tolerance policy toward crime, irrespective of the perpetrator's political affiliation or caste.

The state's law enforcement trajectory includes decisive action against its own. An analysis of the state's action register reveals a pattern: Kuldeep Sengar (Thakur, Unnao), Chinmayanand (Thakur, Shahjahanpur), Ashish Mishra (Brahmin, Lakhimpur Kheri), and local leaders like Shrikant Tyagi and Ashok Chandel. Across the board, the determinant for action is the nature of the crime, not the caste or the political proximity of the accused. When a ruling dispensation allows its police to act against its own MLAs, MPs, and affiliated leaders across caste lines, it signals a structural shift from partisan policing to institutional autonomy.

This ethos extends beyond law and order into the realm of welfare delivery and administrative reform. The opposition's PDA narrative posits that caste-based segmentation of state resources is the sole metric of social justice. The current administration counters this with community-wise beneficiary data that demonstrates universal delivery. Housing, ration, and healthcare schemes are implemented based on socio-economic vulnerability rather than caste quotas. By bypassing local middlemen and digitising the welfare pipeline, the state has structurally disabled the patronage networks that previously filtered benefits through a caste lens. However, the data suggests a maturing of the electorate's expectations. The structural reforms in UP's policing and the universalisation of welfare delivery have disrupted the traditional arithmetic of caste mobilisation. This shift is not merely rhetorical; it is embedded in the state's administrative DNA. To dismantle historical nepotism in public sector recruitments, the Yogi administration introduced operational guardrails like anonymized, blind-coded grading processes, completely hiding candidate names and castes from interviewers. Interviews for Group C and D positions were eliminated altogether to root out human bias. Under the Mission Rozgar initiative, over 9.5 lakh government appointments were processed through digitized, transparent workflows. Official data reveals that over 60% of state recruitments since 2017 have been secured by OBC, SC, and ST candidates-a testament to merit over patronage.

Furthermore, the state has actively scrubbed caste indicators from governance and public spaces. It formally banned the mention of caste in police FIRs and arrest memos to eliminate investigative bias. Overt assertions of caste dominance were curbed by enforcing strict penalties against caste-based stickers on vehicles, and caste-driven political rallies were prohibited to transition discourse toward development. To ensure that benefits reach the truly marginalized rather than being monopolized by politically dominant sub-castes, the government initiated a comprehensive data-mapping exercise assessing the representation of 79 distinct OBC sub-castes across government jobs over a decade.

The battle in Uttar Pradesh is no longer just about who represents which caste, but which model of the state prevails: one that uses institutions to deepen social fissures for electoral gains, or one that uses them to deliver uniform, unfiltered governance. The current data indicates a decisive shift toward the latter, rendering the politics of selective outrage increasingly ineffective.

VERDICT

How many fables, spun with flair,
In robes of saffron — deceit laid bare.
Whom to trust in this sacred guise?
Swamiji's charm veils hollow lies.

Black serpents dance in a saintly mask,
Feeding on faith — a devil's task.
Mornings glow with chants and light,
Ash and grace cloak silent blight.

With cupped hands and lowered eyes,
Seekers walk where illusion lies.
But night unveils the darker creed,
Desire disguised as holy need.

Devotion fades like buds unborn,
Jasmine dreams, betrayed and torn.
A Swamy crowned with borrowed rays—
Fame forced upon deceptive plays.

"Nityanandamukai," a daily hymn,
But truth dissolves in shadows grim.
The Abbot trapped in lust's deceit,
A racket vile, a fall complete.

No more secrets draped in gold,
Karma watches, just and bold.
Sin will swell, then burst and die—
The law shall speak, and none defy.

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

Ultra-Processed Foods: Regulate the Market, Not the Plate

" The first weakness is information. Nutrition panels technically disclose what a product contains, but they often require consumers to interpret serving sizes, percentages and multiple nutrients before making a quick purchase. "

India's debate over ultra-processed foods should move beyond the familiar question of whether consumers or governments are responsible for unhealthy diets. The more important issue is whether the food market gives consumers enough information and gives producers the right incentives.

The market has expanded sharply. The Economic Survey 2025-26 says retail sales of ultra-processed foods increased by 150% between 2009 and 2023. It also records an increase in retail sales from about $0.9 billion in 2006 to $37.9 billion in 2019. Over comparable NFHS rounds, overweight or obesity rose from 9% to 22.9% among men and from 13% to 24% among women. These figures do not establish that ultra-processed foods alone caused the increase; urbanisation, physical inactivity, income and broader dietary changes also matter. But they show why food consumption has become an economic as well as a public-health concern.

The first weakness is information. Nutrition panels technically disclose what a product contains, but they often require consumers to interpret serving sizes, percentages and multiple nutrients before making a quick purchase. A clear front-of-package warning can reduce that information gap without preventing anyone from buying the product.

The quality of the warning, however, matters more than its presence. If too many products carry warnings, they lose their significance. If thresholds are poorly justified, manufacturers will challenge them and consumers will distrust them. India should therefore base warnings primarily on measurable levels of added sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, with transparent scientific thresholds and periodic review. The broader category of "ultra-processed" can inform public-health research without automatically becoming the basis for every regulatory decision.

This is particularly relevant as FSSAI develops its regulatory framework. Its 2026 draft for food in schools proposes thresholds for added sugar, salt and added fat. These are proposed school-food standards, not final nationwide front-of-package rules. The distinction is important: India needs a system that is scientifically defensible, legally durable and practical to enforce.

But information cannot counter every commercial influence. Food companies compete not only through taste and price but through branding, convenience and advertising. Children are especially vulnerable to this influence because their ability to assess long-term health consequences is limited. Marketing through celebrities, influencers, games, cartoons and digital platforms can shape demand before a nutrition label enters the decision.

This is where restrictions should be targeted. Products exceeding defined nutritional-risk thresholds should face tighter rules when marketing is directed at children, including through digital channels and promotional schemes. The aim should not be to suppress food advertising generally, but to prevent nutritional vulnerability from becoming a commercial opportunity.

Price presents the next difficulty. If regulation raises the cost of unhealthy products without improving access to healthier alternatives, it risks becoming regressive. A blanket tax on processed food would be particularly blunt because processing itself is not the health problem. A nutrient-based levy on products exceeding specified thresholds would be more rational, especially if manufacturers can reduce their tax exposure through reformulation.

That would also change the industry's incentives. Reducing sugar or sodium currently involves formulation costs and possible changes in taste. If healthier products receive procurement advantages, avoid warning thresholds or face lower health-related taxation, reformulation becomes a competitive strategy rather than merely a compliance exercise.

Government procurement can reinforce this shift. Schools, hospitals and public institutions purchase food at significant scale. Nutritional standards for these contracts could create a reliable market for better-formulated products and encourage manufacturers to invest in alternatives.

The transition must nevertheless account for India's diverse food industry. Large manufacturers can absorb sophisticated testing and reporting requirements more easily than small enterprises. A uniform nutritional standard should therefore be accompanied by proportionate compliance support—technical assistance and transition periods for smaller firms, stronger disclosure and testing requirements for companies with greater market reach.

Enforcement will determine whether the framework works. Mandatory information should appear not only on physical packaging but also on e-commerce listings. Regulatory resources should follow risk and market reach rather than attempting identical surveillance of every product. Misleading health claims and inconsistent disclosures should attract meaningful penalties.

The larger economic case is clear. Diet-related disease creates costs that extend beyond the individual: medical expenditure rises, working days are lost and productivity suffers. At the same time, India's food-processing industry remains important for manufacturing, agriculture, logistics and employment. Policy must therefore achieve two objectives simultaneously—reduce avoidable health costs without weakening a productive consumer industry.

That requires a shift in emphasis. India should not attempt to eliminate ultra-processed food from the market. It should make nutritional quality part of competition within the market.

Front-of-package warnings can improve information. Targeted marketing restrictions can protect children. Nutrient-based taxation can alter incentives. Procurement standards can create demand for reformulated products. Better enforcement can ensure that the rules apply equally online and offline.

The measure of success should not be how many warning labels India puts on packets. It should be whether manufacturers gradually find that healthier formulation, transparent information and responsible marketing are commercially more valuable than simply maximising consumption. India does not need to regulate the plate. It needs to regulate the incentives around the plate.



K AMARAVATI
MEMBER
PLUS NGO

Nana Patekar: An Extraordinary Actor Tempered in the Fire of His Art

In Indian cinema, there are a few artists whom it would be an injustice to describe merely as actors. Nana Patekar was one such rare personality. He was an actor, theatre artist, director, writer, a sensitive citizen deeply connected with social causes, and an individual whose respect and commitment toward the Indian armed forces were remarkable. His voice carried a distinctive roughness, his dialogues had an edge, his eyes reflected anger and intensity, and his face seemed to bear the truth of life's struggles. He never treated acting as a decorative art; instead, he connected it with the realities of human life, pain, struggle, sensitivity and social consciousness. With his passing at the age of 75 on October 8, 2026, Indian cinema has lost an artist whose place can never truly be filled. For generations of film lovers, Nana Patekar was not merely an actor but an inseparable and beloved presence.

Nana's cinematic talent repeatedly surprised, thrilled and provoked audiences because the greatest strength of his films was their authentic portrayal of ordinary people, their struggles and the complexities of Indian society. India is a land of countless colours, unforgettable streams of art and culture, and a vast, extraordinary history filled with innumerable stories. Nana's cinematic era represented a significant chapter in the effort to view the world through the window of India and to present India to the world. Through many of his characters, he also strengthened the spirit of nationalism and civic responsibility. His journey is an inspiring chapter for anyone who has ever felt completely defeated by circumstances—a testimony to courage, perseverance and hope.

Nana Patekar's real name was Vishwanath Patekar. He was born on January 1, 1951, in Murud-Janjira, Maharashtra. His childhood was ordinary, but the family faced severe financial difficulties during his adolescence. After his father's business collapsed, Nana had to work at the age of just 13 to support his family. After school, he painted film posters in Mumbai and earned around Rs. 35 a month. He walked several kilometres to work and sometimes received only one meal in return. Poverty and deprivation did not break him; instead, they forged his character. He later acknowledged that hunger and humiliation taught him to understand life and its realities. Art had been a part of Nana's life from an early age. He studied at the Sir J. J. Institute of Applied Art and worked as a commercial artist. But his real school was theatre. Under the guidance of renowned Marathi theatre director Vijaya Mehta, he learnt the finer nuances of acting. Plays such as Hamidebai Chi Kothi established him as a serious theatre artist. Theatre taught him not merely how to deliver dialogue, but how to live the emotion hidden behind the words.



Nana began his film journey with Gaman, but it was Parinda that brought him widespread recognition. His portrayal of a menacing character earned him the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor as well as the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor. Thereafter, he delivered memorable performances in films such as Krantiveer, Khamoshi: The Musical, Yashwant, Ab Tak Chhappan, Apaharan, Welcome and Raajneeti. Despite disappointments during the early years of his career, he never abandoned his path. Films such as Ankush and Salaam Bombay! brought greater recognition to his remarkable talent. Nana subsequently created a distinctive language of acting in Hindi cinema through characters that were intense, complex and unforgettable. In Angaar, he portrayed a negative character with remarkable force. In Tirangaa, he played the patriotic Shivaji Rao Wagle; in Krantiveer, the fiery and rebellious Pratap Narayan Tilak; in Agni Sakshi, a psychologically complex character; and in Khamoshi: The Musical, a deeply sensitive father. Each role revealed a different dimension of his personality as an actor. For Krantiveer, he received the National Film Award for Best Actor, and he was again honoured with the National Award for Agni Sakshi. Thus, he became one of the distinguished actors to receive three National Film Awards.

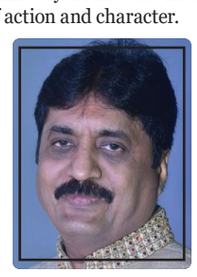


The greatest strength of Nana's acting was intensity rooted in naturalness. He did not merely speak dialogue; he lived it. His voice could become a quiet whisper one moment and erupt like an explosion the next. His eyes, facial expressions, gestures, pauses and sudden changes in rhythm created a unique dramatic grammar. His dialogue delivery was so distinctive that even an ordinary sentence could become memorable when spoken by him. Yet he never allowed dialogue to overpower acting; rather, he gave dialogue its meaning through his performance. Welcome opened another fascinating chapter in Nana's popular appeal. Known primarily for serious, intense and aggressive roles, he surprised audiences with his comic performance as Uday Shetty. His famous "Control, Uday, control!" became part of popular culture. It demonstrated his extraordinary versatility that the same actor who could deeply disturb audiences in Parinda and Krantiveer could also make them laugh wholeheartedly in Welcome. In the 2000s, films such as Ab Tak Chhappan, Apaharan, Shakti: The Power and Raajneeti further revealed the maturity and depth of his craft. In Marathi cinema too, he remained connected with his roots. His performance as Ganpatrao Belwalkar in Natsamrat (2016) is regarded as one of the most moving performances of his career.

Nana was never satisfied with being merely an actor. With Prahaar: The Final Attack, which he directed, he demonstrated his abilities as a filmmaker and writer. During the preparation for the film, he underwent rigorous military training. His association with the Indian Army subsequently became a meaningful part of his real life. He joined the Territorial Army and attained the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During the Kargil War in 1999, he also spent time with soldiers. The artist who portrayed patriotism on screen expressed his respect for the nation in real life as well. His nationalism was never merely a slogan; it was rooted in duty, discipline and sensitivity. Films such as Tirangaa, Prahaar and Krantiveer reflected questions of national identity, social responsibility and civic duty. For Nana, patriotism was not restricted to soldiers fighting at the borders. Performing one's work honestly, standing with the vulnerable and accepting responsibility toward society were also forms of national service.

Another defining quality of Nana's personality was his simplicity and social commitment. He was deeply concerned about the problems of farmers and the rural crisis in Maharashtra. In 2015, he founded the Naam Foundation with actor Makarand Anaspure to support farmers and drought-affected rural families. He also contributed financially to relief and social initiatives. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while mourning his passing, described the veteran actor as a true "Krantiveer" who fought against social evils. His silence could be as powerful as his commanding voice, and he consistently advocated firmness against forces working against the nation. Perhaps Nana Patekar's greatest achievement was that he never tried to become merely a star; he remained an artist. Living in the glamorous world of cinema, he never became disconnected from his roots. Poverty made him sensitive, theatre gave him discipline, cinema gave him a wider platform, the Army strengthened his sense of national duty, and social service kept the human being within him alive. His legacy does not lie merely in the awards he received, but in the characters, he immortalised—Anna of Parinda, Pratap of Krantiveer, Shivaji Rao of Tirangaa, the police officer of Ab Tak Chhappan, Ganpat Belwalkar of Natsamrat and Uday Shetty of Welcome. They are different faces of Nana Patekar, but behind them was one extraordinary artist who never merely displayed acting; he lived it with profound sensitivity.

Nana Patekar's life conveys a powerful message: talent does not depend upon opportunity. The teenager who once painted film posters for Rs. 35 a month went on to receive three National Film Awards and the Padma Shri. India has lost a remarkable actor, but his art, voice, unforgettable dialogues, struggles and image as a sensitive and responsible citizen will remain alive for generations. Perhaps Nana Patekar's greatest film was his own life—a story that began with struggle, was enriched by sensitivity and ultimately found its meaning in the truth of action and character.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist



Bijoy Kakchingtabam Nominated to Press Council of India

IMPHAL, 8TH OCTOBER 2026

In a proud moment for the state, senior journalist Shri Bijoy Kakchingtabam has been nominated as a member of the Press Council of India (PCI) by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. As per the official Notification No. S.O. 5494(E) issued by the Ministry on 7th October 2026 in New Delhi, Bijoy Kakchingtabam, resident of Keishampat Thiyam Leirak Machin, Imphal West, has been nominated under the category of "Working Journalists Other than Editors" [nominated under clause (a) of sub-section (3) of section 5 of the Press Council Act, 1978].The notification makes amendments to the principal notification S.O. 5509(E) dated 19th December 2024. First Working Journalist from Manipur. With this nomination, Bijoy Kakchingtabam becomes the first working journalist from Manipur State to be nominated to the apex press body of the country. In the history of Manipur's representation in the Press Council, Shri Dr. Khaidem Athouba Meitei was the first Manipuri to become a member of the PCI. Bijoy Kakchingtabam is now the second Manipuri overall, but the first from the Manipur State working journalists' category. It may be mentioned that this was his second attempt. Out of 13 applicants for the category of Working Journalist - Other than Editor, 7 were selected, while 6 were selected under the Working Journalist - Editor category. A Strong Voice for a Conflict State. The nomination holds special significance for Manipur, which has been going through a prolonged conflict and a challenging media environment. For a conflict-ridden state like Manipur, where press freedom, safety of journalists, and access to information have been major concerns, the presence of a representative from the state in the Press Council of India is crucial. The local media fraternity has welcomed the decision, stating that Manipur needs a strong representative who can put the issues of the state's journalists and the ground reality before the national body.Bijoy Kakchingtabam is a well-known face in Manipur's journalism fraternity and has been associated with the profession for many years.

SC orders re-election in 50 Punjab wards, BJP demands Bhagwant Mann's exit

The Supreme Court has ordered fresh municipal elections in 50 Punjab wards after a commission found nomination obstruction. The ruling brings court-monitored safeguards to test whether the re-polls can be held freely and fairly.



The Supreme Court has ordered fresh elections in 50 municipal wards in Punjab after a fact-finding commission found "widespread obstruction during the nomination process" in the local body polls. The court set aside elections in 28 wards in Patiala district and 22 wards in Moga, directing that fresh polls in all 50 wards be completed within six weeks. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana accepted the findings of a one-member commission headed by former High Court judge Nirmaljit Kaur. The commission, appointed in March 2025, submitted its report in November 2025. In its September 28 order, uploaded on Wednesday night, the bench said the commission had found "widespread obstruction during the nomination process", including instances where nomination papers were "snatched, torn or destroyed" and candidates were "assaulted, detained or threatened'. "We accept the recommendations and direct that fresh elections be conducted in the relevant 50 wards. The entire process of re-election shall be completed within six weeks," the court said. The bench noted the submission of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Punjab government, that the state had no objection to the commission's recommendations. The court directed the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court to nominate at least two or three senior members of the High Court Bar to act as observers during the re-election process. The filing, scrutiny and submission of nomination forms, allocation of symbols and polling will be videographed in the presence of the observers. The recordings will be preserved and handed over to the Monitoring Committee. The Punjab government has also been directed to provide the Monitoring Committee, before the nomination process begins, a ward-wise list of officers and officials deployed on election duty. A list of police officers of the rank of DSP and above deployed for election duty must also be furnished. The court said complaints regarding any interference with or obstruction of the re-election process by any person, including officials, could be made to the Monitoring Committee. It further directed that the honorarium for the Monitoring Committee and observers would be fixed by the Chief Justice of the High Court. The Punjab government would bear the honorarium and incidental expenses and provide secretarial, transport, logistical and security support. After the re-election process, a report must be submitted to the Chief Justice of the High Court. The court said the process would be deemed complete only after the Chief Justice was satisfied, based on the report, that the elections had been conducted in a free and fair manner.

BJP ATTACKS BHAGWANT MANN

Following the Supreme Court order, the opposition BJP accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab of turning the state into "jungle raj" and demanded Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's resignation. Party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia welcomed the court's order and alleged that the Punjab government had "murdered democracy". He also attacked AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal, saying, "The party which came into politics in the name of Swaraj has become the party of 'goondaraj'."

The Supreme Court ordered a re-poll in 50 wards after its fact-finding commission found "widespread obstruction during the nomination process, whereby nomination papers were snatched, torn or destroyed, and candidates were assaulted, detained or threatened." Bhatia said it was the responsibility of the Punjab government to ensure free and fair civic polls, but candidates were prevented from filing nomination papers and were threatened and assaulted. "Democracy has completely collapsed in Punjab," he charged. He said, "People of Punjab are demanding Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's resignation. If he does not resign, people are going to remove him from his 'kursi'." Bhatia also sought a response from Kejriwal, who, he said, is protesting in Delhi by making "baseless" allegations of murder of democracy under the BJP-NDA rule.

"Kejriwal must break his silence and tell the people of Punjab and the country how democracy is being murdered in Punjab under his party's rule with misuse of police," he added. The BJP's attack came after the Supreme Court ordered fresh polls in the 50 municipal wards in Punjab.

The local body elections were held in December 2024. The case arose after several candidates who were allegedly prevented from filing their nomination papers, as well as those aggrieved by the election of the mayor and deputy mayor in the Patiala municipal body, approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

In January 2025, the High Court allowed the elections in the Patiala municipal corporation, observing that the deferment in some wards would not be an impediment. The aggrieved candidates subsequently approached the Supreme Court, which has now ordered fresh elections in 50 wards

Madras HC defers verdict on CM Vijay's plea to dismiss election case to Oct 14

CHENNAI, OCT 8

The Madras High Court has deferred to October 14 its judgment on a petition filed by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay seeking dismissal of an election case challenging his victory from the Perambur Assembly constituency.During the hearing, counsel representing the Chief Minister said that CM Vijay had disclosed all the required particulars in his nomination papers and had not suppressed any information. CM Vijay's side sought dismissal of the challenge to his election. Opposing the plea, Dinesh's counsel alleged that CM Vijay had failed to disclose agricultural land worth Rs 30 crore purchased in Panruti. The petitioner said that withholding such information could interfere with voters' ability to make an informed and independent electoral choice. The petitioner's side cited a Madras High Court judgment concerning the influence that suppression of information in nomination papers could have on voters. It added that the allegations warranted examination through an election petition.

India marching towards making product, design, technology, IP indigenously: PM Modi

New Delhi, Oct 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India is marching towards a future where products and their designs will be developed in the country, while the underlying technology and intellectual property will also belong to the country.

Addressing the 10th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) here, PM Modi said the country has moved beyond being merely a consumer of technology and is now rapidly emerging as a creator and innovator. The Prime Minister said the transformation underway in the telecom sector is being driven by a combination of reforms, domestic manufacturing, technological development and intellectual property creation. He said the government is modernising decades-old laws, introducing incentives and implementing regulatory reforms to strengthen India's position across the telecom value chain.

"India is marching towards the goal, where the product and design will be made in India, and its technology and IP will also belong to India," PM Modi said.

He pointed to the Telecommunications Act and the GatiShakti portal as examples of reforms aimed at creating an enabling environment for the sector. According to the Prime Minister, the "reform express" in telecom is moving rapidly as India seeks greater technological self-reliance. PM Modi also highlighted the country's progress in semiconductor manufacturing, saying commercial production is already underway at five locations. He said the next phase of the India Semiconductor Mission will focus on localising the entire semiconductor supply chain, marking another step towards strengthening India's domestic technology ecosystem.

SIR row: 42 former judges write open letter, warn against bid to undermine ECI

NEW DELHI, OCT 8

In a strongly worded open letter, 42 former judges, including those from the Supreme Court and High Courts, on Thursday expressed grave concern over a sustained campaign to undermine the Election Commission, judiciary, and other constitutional institutions. The signatories have questioned allegations of "vote theft" without supporting evidence, warning that repeatedly branding constitutional authorities as "thieves" and "compromised" risks eroding public trust in democracy.

"Criticism of institutions is a democratic right. Denigration is not," the letter, signed by former Supreme Court Judges Hemant Gupta and Pankaj Mittal, among others, said. Defending the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the signatories emphasised that it is a legally established exercise aimed at ensuring clean and accurate voter lists. "Trust is the currency of democracy," the letter warned, cautioning that attempts to delegitimise elections could fuel unrest and embolden anarchic elements. signatories include three former High Court Chief Justices. These are former Chief Justice of J&K and Delhi High Court B.C. Patel; Former Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, Kamal Mukherjee; and Former Chief Justice of the Sikkim Permod Kohli. The other signatories include former judges from High Courts and members of statutory bodies and regulators. letter came on a day when BJP national president Nitin Nabin slammed Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, over protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, saying that if the Opposition has any courage, it should resign from the seats it won through elections conducted by the Election Commission of India.

Northeast Frontier Railway Committed to Providing Pure, Clean and Safe Drinking Water

GORAKHPUR, OCTOBER 8, 2026





A total of 10,518 overhead water tanks have been installed across North Eastern Railway to provide clean and safe drinking water to rail passengers, railway employees and their family members. These tanks are subjected to thorough and regular inspections to ensure that everyone has access to pure and safe drinking water. Continuous residual chlorine and bacteriological testing of drinking water is being carried out across North Eastern Railway. Samples are being collected from water sources and distribution points in accordance with the sampling protocol prescribed by health inspectors. In addition, regular cleaning, disinfection and preventive maintenance of water tanks, water coolers, UV/RO systems, filters, water taps and pipelines are being undertaken. Teams from the Medical and Engineering departments are inspecting and maintaining water sources according to a prescribed schedule. Auto-chlorination systems are operational on all overhead water tanks, automatically adding chlorine to purify the water. With the objective of ensuring the health and safety of passengers, employees and their families, the Railway administration is continuously conducting a comprehensive campaign to test drinking-water samples collected from railway stations, colonies, offices and other locations. In the Lucknow Division, a total of 133 residual chlorine tests were conducted at 12 major stations and four colonies, while three samples were collected for bacteriological culture testing. All the samples tested were found to be within the prescribed standards. In the Varanasi Division, inspections were carried out at water tanks, water coolers, water filters, pipelines and pumping systems at stations, colonies, coaching depots, hospitals and health centres, running rooms, crew lobbies and offices. Similarly, residual chlorine tests were conducted at Kathgodam, Izzatnagar, Farrukhabad, Kasganj, Bareilly City, Kashipur, Pilibhit, Mathura Cantt and Fatehgarh stations, as well as at New Model Colony under the Izzatnagar Division. All the tests were found to conform to the prescribed standards. Water samples were also collected for bacteriological culture testing. The Railway administration has further strengthened its monitoring system to ensure the availability of safe and clean drinking water to rail passengers and employees.

INDIA Bloc Marches to Rajghat, Accuses Centre of Undermining Democracy

NEW DELHI, OCT 8



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the party and other INDIA bloc MPs are marching to Rajghat to stage a peaceful sit-in protest, while accusing the BJP-led government of undermining democratic rights and institutions. The development comes as Congress and other INDIA bloc MPs were marching to Rajghat after lunch at a restaurant in Connaught Place. The Opposition parties have been seeking permission to hold protests over several issues, including alleged irregularities in the electoral process.

Speaking to reporters, Kharge said the INDIA bloc members would gather at the Gandhi Memorial for a peaceful demonstration and prayer, urging the BJP government to reconsider what he described as policies that were against the interests of the people. "We, the members of the INDIA bloc, are heading to the Gandhi Memorial to stage a peaceful sit-in protest. We will sit there and pray that the BJP government, specifically Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, are granted the wisdom to realise that their actions are not in the nation's interest," he said. He alleged that issues such as "vote theft", rising inflation and problems faced by the youth reflected a broader failure of governance Kharge further said the Opposition wanted to draw attention to what it considers attempts to weaken the freedoms secured during the country's freedom struggle."We want to highlight that they are snatching away the freedom we secured, the freedom won for us by great leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, and Vallabhbhai Patel, and are making every effort to destroy it," he said. He also alleged that citizens' voting rights were being undermined and said the protest at Rajghat would seek to remind the government of the importance of protecting constitutional freedoms.

Rahul Gandhi said nearly 300 MPs from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha wanted to participate in the peaceful demonstration but had been prevented from protesting over the past two days. "We have been prevented from protesting for two days now. On the first day, we were stopped outside the Election Commission. Subsequently, we expressed our desire to protest at Jantar Mantar, yet yesterday, as you witnessed, we were stopped there as well. Our people were assaulted," Gandhi said. Gandhi alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat had "hijacked India through a criminal conspiracy", damaged the Constitution, and stolen votes.

The Congress leader said the Opposition would continue its fight and assured supporters that those responsible would eventually face legal consequences.

"We, the Opposition, assure you that action will be taken. They will be brought to justice. This is our guarantee," Gandhi said.

Workers, Contractors Allege Non-Payment of Dues at Resort in Kharsali, Lock Premises in Protest

SUNIL THAPLIYAL





Barkot, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand: Workers, contractors and construction material suppliers associated with a resort near Yamunotri Dham in Kharsali have alleged that they have not been paid their outstanding dues amounting to lakhs of rupees. Protesting against the alleged non-payment of wages and other payments, the aggrieved workers and contractors reportedly locked the resort premises.

According to information, the resort located near the Kharsali helipad and owned by D.K. Yadav has been witnessing construction and other related activities for some time. Workers and personnel associated with the project allege that they have not received their agreed wages and remuneration in full. Contractors engaged in construction work and suppliers of construction materials have also alleged that their pending bills have not been cleared. Mohammad, son of Haviv, from Noida; Naresh Ramola, son of Shrichand Ramola, Naugaon; Bharat Singh of Palar, Barkot; and Sunil Jain and Naveen Jain, residents of Vikasnagar, among others, claimed that they had repeatedly sought payment of their outstanding dues. However, they alleged that despite several requests, the issue remained unresolved, prompting them to resort to protest. The protesting workers, personnel and contractors locked the resort premises and demanded immediate settlement of their pending payments. It has also been reported that contractors, construction material suppliers and people associated with the resort have submitted a written complaint to the police, seeking action in the matter. The complainants have reportedly sought an inquiry into the alleged outstanding payments and appropriate action. Meanwhile, resort owner and retired Colonel Devendra Kumar Yadav, while speaking over the phone, termed the allegations baseless. He said that no wages were pending from his side and added that he would hold separate discussions regarding construction materials and construction-related payments. The lockout has also reportedly caused inconvenience to guests staying at the resort and visitors travelling to Yamunotri Dham from different parts of the country and abroad. The exact facts of the matter are expected to become clear after police examine the written complaint and record statements from both sides.

Trump honours Nadella, Musk, five other tech giants

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has honoured six of America's leading technology pioneers, including Indian-origin Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, with the country's highest awards for scientific achievement and technological innovation, describing their contributions as central to America's global leadership. At the New Golden Age Summit on Thursday, Trump presented the National Medal of Technology and Innovation to Nadella and Dell Technologies founder Michael Dell. Elon Musk, Google co-founder Sergey Brin, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and AMD CEO Lisa Su received the National Medal of Science.



The ceremony brought together some of the most influential figures in artificial intelligence, semiconductor technology, cloud computing and space exploration. Trump singled out Nadella for transforming Microsoft into a global technology powerhouse and positioning the company at the forefront of artificial intelligence. "For more than three decades, Satya Nadella has been a key figure in the transformation of Microsoft," the US President said. Trump credited Nadella with developing Microsoft's cloud computing capabilities and expanding its reach among businesses, students and consumers worldwide. "Then he (Satya Nadella) had the vision to make Microsoft an early leader in super intelligence," the US President said. "Satya, we are honoured to give you the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. It is so well deserved. Congratulations, Satya, Trump added.

The award citation recognised Nadella's leadership in revitalising Microsoft for the cloud computing era and building infrastructure capable of supporting the development and global deployment of advanced artificial intelligence.

Trump also praised Musk's achievements in space exploration, electric vehicles and satellite communications.

"Elon is our modern day Thomas Edison," Trump said, describing the Space X founder as a national treasure. He highlighted SpaceX's reusable rockets, Starlink satellite network and efforts to advance space exploration. Google co-founder Sergey Brin was recognised for developing algorithms that transformed how people access information. Trump said Brin had returned to Google to personally drive progress in superintelligence. Nvidia's Jensen Huang received recognition for advancing graphics processing technology that now powers much of the world's artificial intelligence infrastructure.

"The entire world is now running on Nvidia," Trump added.

AMD's Lisa Su was honoured for her contributions to semiconductor engineering and high-performance computing.

Michael Dell received the technology and innovation medal for helping make personal computers widely accessible and building a global technology company.

The US President also outlined his administration's scientific priorities, including quantum computing, nuclear energy, artificial intelligence and space exploration. He said the United States was working towards developing a quantum computer for scientific discovery by 2028. Trump also referred to the Genesis mission and a White House accord on superintelligence aimed at maintaining American technological leadership. The National Medal of Science recognises outstanding contributions to scientific knowledge, while the National Medal of Technology and Innovation honours achievements that strengthen technological progress and innovation in the United States.

Indian Postal Services : Symbols of Trust and Confidence

(On the occasion of "National Postal Week" on 09 - 15 October)



We know that once upon a time, informationo was sent through pigeons and horse-riding men. Later, with many changes in time, the delivery of letters began with the establishment of post offices by governments. In 1837, the East India Company, at the initiative of the Governor General of British India, "Lord Dalhousie", established the postal system in the country for the first time in major cities and later expanded it throughout the country. "Lord Dalhousie", who founded the modern postal services of India, is described as the father of Indian postal services. In 1854, the Indian postal service was modernized and became closer to the people. After independence in 1947, the "Indian Postal Department" was started. Over time, postal services expanded to even remote areas by adopting technology. With the advent of technology in the 20th century, such as the telephone, telex machines, and computerization, the Indian Postal Service is breaking new ground.

National Postal Week

As per the decision taken by the Indian Postal Department in 1982, it has become a tradition to observe "National Postal Day" or "National Post Day" on 10th October every year and also National Postal Week from 09 Oct to 15 Oct 2026 with the theme of "One Postal Network, Infinite Opportunities". The Indian Postal Service plays a major role in connecting the people of the country and the world, supporting major issues such as communication, trade and social development in the digital world. Postal services provide tireless services as a bridge connecting villages and towns. On this day, demonstrations, parades, postal workers' honors and awareness programs are organized.

Erasing borders and crossing seas..!

Every year on 09 October, "World Post Day" is also being celebrated. With postal services, world borders have been erased. Cities and villages are being connected. Postal covers sent from our villages are reaching foreign destinations in a few days. Economic activities are also continuing in postal services. With postal services, the world has become a village. International trade has become easy. Reliable and secure information distribution is taking place. From written letters to digital logistics, everything has become a part of postal services. Postal services continue to erase distances and connect cultures. Today, postal departments provide online services, services to remote people, secure postal services, and reliable services in times of emergency.

Government Postal Services - Private Courier Services:

In today's digital era, government postal departments are facing fierce competition from international courier companies. Today, with the decline in the delivery of letters, it has become imperative for government postal departments to reorganize their functions. Today, the Indian Postal Department is moving forward by providing services such as mails, parcels, banking, etc. It is engaged in delivering letters quickly and providing banking services through 1,64,999 post offices across the country. As a reliable institution, government postal services continue to be unchallenged in terms of security. Private courier companies are doing business with the aim of profit. Government postal services are responsibly providing their services even in remote areas and are gaining the respect of the people. The Indian Postal Department is a belief, a great faith. Indian postal services are uniting the humanity of the country and the world. Let us know that post is not just about letters, but also about the heirs who bring good news with hope. When a letter changes hands, two hearts meet. Let us hope that postal services continue uninterrupted as a bridge connecting the digital and physical worlds, and continue uninterrupted in the future as well.

Capt Dr Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
9949700037

US Congress to honour Indian pilot for bravery

WASHINGTON

Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, whose bravery helped save 172 passengers and crew members aboard a Flydubai flight after a fellow pilot allegedly attacked him with an axe, will be honoured in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives.



Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi announced on Thursday that he would enter a statement into the Congressional Record on Friday, recognising Machchhar's extraordinary courage during the September 30 incident aboard Flydubai Flight 1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv.

The Illinois Democrat said the Indian captain's actions helped avert a catastrophe after the aircraft's first officer attacked him and attempted to seize control of the plane.

According to Krishnamoorthi's statement, the aircraft plunged around 16,000 feet in just 30 seconds during the incident. Despite suffering serious injuries, Captain Machchhar managed to reach the cockpit door and open it, allowing passengers and crew members to enter and overpower the attacker. Two reserve Flydubai pilots travelling aboard the aircraft subsequently took control and landed the plane safely in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

The flight was carrying 172 passengers, including four American citizens and 27 children, according to the Congressman's statement. Captain Smit Machchhar, an Indian national, has 17 years of flying experience, including 11 years as a captain. In his statement prepared for the Congressional Record, Krishnamoorthi praised the pilot's determination to protect those aboard despite facing a life-threatening attack. "Even as Captain Machchhar fought for his own life, he understood that the lives of everyone aboard depended on what he did next," the Congressman said.

"Despite his injuries, his years of experience told him that the aircraft was going down, and he found the strength to reach that door." Krishnamoorthi said the captain's quick thinking and determination had given others aboard the aircraft an opportunity to intervene.

"His presence of mind, determination, and courage gave the passengers and crew the chance they needed to stop the attack and avert a catastrophe," he added. The Congressman also drew attention to the families whose loved ones survived the incident.

"Behind every person aboard Flight 1073 is a family that was spared an unimaginable loss," he said. "Because Captain Machchhar refused to give up, the passengers and crew aboard that aircraft had the chance to return to the people who love them." Krishnamoorthi urged fellow lawmakers to join him in recognising the Indian pilot's actions.

Pakistan losing control in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan: Report

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan using artillery and air power against people of its own country in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces - who are holding protests against the present dispensation - indicates that residents in these areas are considered "enemies" and the state is losing control in these areas, a report has detailed. Thousands of Baloch people have been killed by Pakistan in extrajudicial operations, according to the numbers given by Pakistan's Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DGISPR) on "terrorists" believed to be killed. The authorities have arrested peaceful protesters who demand a response to random killings. Pakistan has faced criticism over its actions at international forums, including the United Nations headquarters in Geneva and New York, according to a report in 'The North Lines'. "Pakistan army chief Asim Munir put up a brave face and mouthed blusters against Baluch dissenters and did not even stop short of using artillery and air power against those citizens of his own country in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who are protesting against the present dispensation. These acts are pointers to twin facts. One, those living in these areas are considered enemies and two, the state is losing control in these regions.

25 years after toppling the Taliban, Washington dealing with regime it never recognised

NEW DELHI

The Taliban, driven from power by a US-led invasion that began October 7, 2001, is once again the ruler of Afghanistan, and Washington finds itself engaging with the same movement over issues ranging from prisoners' release to the fate of billions of dollars' worth of military equipment left behind during its military withdrawal in 2021.

When the US troops withdrew from Afghanistan, they left behind armaments and vehicles that today remain in contention between Kabul and Washington.

It has been 25 years since the invasion by a United States-led coalition in response to the September 11 attacks (9/11) carried out by Al Qaeda. The war began with NATO forces launching Operation Enduring Freedom against Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. The immediate objective was to dismantle Al Qaeda, whose leader, Osama bin Laden, had orchestrated 9/11 reportedly from Afghan territory under the-then Taliban's protection.

What began as an air campaign was followed by America's longest war of over two decades, with successive US administrations pouring vast military, political, and economic resources into rebuilding Afghanistan and maintaining security. International donors funded roads, schools, hospitals, telecommunication networks, and government institutions.

Afghan children, including girls barred from education under Taliban rule, entered schools. New universities emerged, private media flourished, and Kabul was transformed from a battered capital into a rapidly expanding city with office buildings, shopping centres, fast food outlets, and modern infrastructure.

Vance says US wants only elite foreign talent

WASHINGTON

US Vice-President J.D. Vance said on Thursday that the Trump administration wants to attract exceptional foreign talent, including people like Elon Musk, but will not allow immigration programmes to be used to replace American workers with lower-paid employees from overseas.



Vance said the United States would continue welcoming foreigners with extraordinary skills and abilities, but added that the H-1B visa programme had moved away from its original purpose. "We want a lot of other people to come into the United States of America if they have truly elite specialised skills," he told reporters during a press conference on visa fraud.

His remarks came in response to a question about Musk, who had studied in the United States and was accepted at Stanford University before building his business empire.

A reporter asked how the administration could identify the next Musk while restricting opportunities for foreign workers and researchers.

Vance said immigration authorities should apply two tests when considering foreign professionals. The first, he said, was whether the applicant would fill a position that could not be filled by an American worker.

The second was whether the individual possessed exceptional abilities. "Are they truly bringing in a special set of skills and abilities and work ethic and competence?" he asked.

Vance said the administration was not opposed to foreign professionals contributing to American innovation and economic growth. He cited Musk and AMD chief executive Lisa Su as examples of people whose contributions demonstrated the value of exceptional international talent.

However, he added that many employers were using immigration programmes to recruit foreign workers for jobs that Americans could perform.

"Unfortunately, what we see with most H-1Bs is that you're taking somebody, I'm sure in most cases, a decent human being, and they're using them to replace an American middle-class worker," Vance said.

Indian nationals in Saudi Arabia advised to remain alert and vigilant

RIYADH

The Embassy of India in Riyadh on Thursday issued an advisory to all Indian nationals in Saudi Arabia to remain alert and vigilant amid ongoing attacks on civilian infrastructure. "In view of the current situation, all Indian nationals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are advised to remain alert and vigilant, stay indoors as necessary, and follow the instructions issued by local authorities through official channels," the Embassy stated in the advisory.

"Indian nationals are strongly advised to refrain from circulating or reposting any videos or news related to the ongoing events," it added.

Earlier, India condemned attacks on Abha and King Khalid international airports in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh, terming the targeting of civilian infrastructure "completely unacceptable".

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) offered condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the attack and wished for a speedy recovery of those injured.

"India condemns the attacks over the past few days targeting Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, which have resulted in civilian deaths and injuries. The targeting of civilian infrastructure is completely unacceptable," the MEA said in a statement. "We express our deepest condolences to the families of those who have lost their loved ones. We wish speedy recovery for those injured. We express solidarity and stand with the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," the statement further read.

The MEA's remarks come after Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) on Wednesday said that three civilians were killed and 36 others were injured in the attacks on the two international airports.

New Ebola vaccine trials begin in Uganda amid deadly DR Congo outbreak

KINSHASA

A candidate vaccine against the Bundibugyo Ebola virus has entered a new phase of clinical trials in Uganda, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said Thursday, as efforts accelerate to develop vaccines against the virus driving the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).



Wessam Mankoula, an Africa CDC official, said during an online press briefing that Phase Ib trials of the ChAdOx1 BDBV vaccine, developed by the University of Oxford, began in Uganda on Oct. 6, following the launch of Phase Ia trials in Britain in July.

Another candidate vaccine developed by Moderna received ethical approval for Phase Ib trials in Uganda on October 7, after its Phase Ia trials began in Canada in early August, he said.

The ongoing outbreak is caused by the Bundibugyo Ebola virus, for which no specifically approved vaccine or treatment is currently available, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Meanwhile, the Africa CDC said the DRC had received 70,000 doses of the Ervebo vaccine, which is approved for use against the Zaire Ebola virus but has not been proven effective against the Bundibugyo virus.

Under a protocol-governed compassionate-use program, 7,775 healthcare and other frontline workers had been vaccinated as of October 7. Another 848 frontline workers had received the vaccine under a separate research protocol known as BRAVO, although vaccination under that program has been suspended due to supply shortages. According to the latest figures released by the DRC health authorities, the outbreak had recorded 8,728 confirmed cases and 4,205 deaths as of October 6, with a case fatality rate of 48.2 per cent. A total of 2,269 patients had recovered.

Kenya, on Tuesday, confirmed its first imported case of Bundibugyo Ebola virus disease, one day after a man died in a Nairobi hospital, the country's health authorities said.

The patient was a Kenyan citizen who had lived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for the past seven years, Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale said in a statement.

He fell ill about a month ago and was treated at several hospitals while still in the DRC. He travelled by road from the DRC to Kampala, Uganda, then boarded Jambojet flight 8523 and arrived in Nairobi on October 3.

Indian Envoy emphasises shared responsibility of confronting terrorism at conference in Israel

JERUSALEM

Ambassador of India to Israel, JP Singh, on Thursday emphasised the shared responsibility of confronting terrorism together at a conference organised by Israel's Defence and Security Forum, the Embassy said on Thursday.



"Ambassador JP Singh delivered the keynote address at a conference organised by Israel's Defence and Security Forum on October 07. Paying tribute to the victims of the October 07 terror attack, he emphasised the shared responsibility of confronting terrorism together," the Embassy stated on X. "Highlighting both ongoing and emerging areas of cooperation under the India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership, the Ambassador invited Israel to join India's growth journey," it added.

He also participated in a panel discussion titled "A New Regional Order: A Discussion with Diplomats," organised by the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at Reichman University.

"On October 07, Ambassador JP Singh participated in a panel discussion titled "A New Regional Order: A Discussion with Diplomats," held as part of the World Summit on Counter-Terrorism organised by the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at Reichman University," the Embassy stated on X.

"Speaking on the current geopolitical situation, he stressed that India believes, 'it is not an era of war,' and emphasised the need for peace and security in the region. He also underscored India's firm resolve to fight terrorism," it added.

Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lit a memorial candle at his office in Jerusalem to pay homage to the victims of the October 7 terror attacks led by Hamas.

The Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, killed about 1,200 people and triggered a massive Israeli military campaign across Gaza. It subsequently expanded into fighting across the region. In a statement, the Israeli Prime Minister's office quoted Netanyahu as saying, "Today, I lit a memorial candle at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, commemorating every victim murdered on the 7th of October by the monsters of Hamas."

"The nation unites on this day in the longing for our dear ones. We will complete the mission: we have settled the score and will continue settling the score with all the murderers," he added.

Elon Musk asks 'why no licence' yet for Starlink services in India

NEW DELHI, OCT 8

SpaceX and Tesla CEO Elon Musk has questioned why Starlink is yet to receive the final approvals to begin commercial operations in India, claiming that the satellite internet company has spent five years complying with the country's laws and regulations. Musk first accused unnamed "oligarchs" of blocking Starlink's entry into India, alleging that powerful business interests were trying to protect their position in the country's telecom market. He did not name any company or individual.

The government them slammed the US business tycoon over his allegations that Starlink's satcom services are being blocked, making it clear that demonstrating compliance with security norms is an absolute must for every satcom licensee in the country. Within hours of the government's rebuttal, Musk in an X post asked whether "Ambani is the real boss of India".

The comments came in response to a post arguing that Starlink could help expand internet access in parts of India where traditional telecom infrastructure is difficult or expensive to build. Starlink has secured a licence to provide satellite communication services in India, but the company still requires security-related clearances and other approvals before it can commercially launch its service. The government has rejected suggestions that Starlink is facing a discriminatory regulatory regime, describing such claims as "baseless and misconceived". Earlier in the day, Minister of State for Communications, Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, said the issue was with the Ministry of Home Affairs and was not specific to any one company. "The Department of Telecom has issued licences to all satcom companies as well as provisional spectrum. Now the issue is pending with MHA for security clearance. As soon as it is cleared, they will get it. It has nothing to do with one company," Pemmasani told reporters on the sidelines of the 'India Mobile Congress'. Bharti Airtel Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, whose group backs OneWeb, said his own satellite venture was also waiting for regulatory approvals.

Financial expert Ajay Rotti hails process-focused GST reforms

NEW DELHI, OCT 8

Leading financial expert Ajay Rotti on Thursday hailed tax simplification and process-related reforms in the proposals announced by the 57th GST Council. On the decision to remove tax officials' powers of arrest and raise the prosecution threshold from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore, he told IANS that the tax laws have their own provisions for prosecution. "If there's a criminality involved in anything that you do with taxes like misuse or fraud, the IPC or the BNS takes its own course. Earlier, the tax officers also had the powers to arrest, and the police also got the powers to arrest. The tax officers' powers have now been curtailed, rightly so, because if there's criminality anywhere, the criminal law can take its own course," the expert noted.

On the practical benefits for MSMEs with the withdrawal of notices related to tax demands of up to Rs 10,000, Rotti said it is a great move.

Sensex fell 1,000 points: 5 reasons why stock market crashed today

Benchmark indices came under heavy selling pressure on Thursday, with the Sensex falling more than 1,000 points and the Nifty dropping over 1.5%.



The sell-off comes a day after the Reserve Bank of India raised the repo rate and shifted its policy stance towards calibrated tightening, while rising crude oil prices, continued FII selling and a weaker rupee added to the pressure. The Sensex was at 71,605.71 at 1:31 pm, down 1,032.99 points or 1.42%. The index opened at 72,668.00 and touched an intraday low of 71,550.76. The Nifty 50 was at 22,260.85, down 342.20 points or 1.51%. It opened at 22,599.05 and fell to an intraday low of 22,228. The fall was broad-based, with the Nifty 100 down 1.69%, Nifty 200 falling 1.76% and Nifty 500 declining 1.81%. Midcap and smallcap stocks also faced heavy selling, with the Nifty Midcap 50 down 2.21%, Midcap 100 down 2.01% and Smallcap 100 down 2.17%. Here are five key reasons why the stock market is falling today:

RBI'S RATE HIKE AND TIGHTER POLICY STANCE

The biggest trigger for the market remains the RBI's policy decision on Wednesday.

The central bank raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% and shifted its stance from "neutral" to "calibrated tightening". The move came as the RBI flagged risks to inflation from higher oil prices and tighter global monetary conditions.The rate hike itself was widely expected, but the change in stance has raised concerns that the current tightening cycle may not end with Wednesday's increase. The market is now pricing in the possibility of further rate hikes, which could keep pressure on equity valuations and make fixed-income investments more attractive. At the same time, the World Bank has raised its growth outlook for India, underlining the resilience of the domestic economy. But the positive growth outlook is being overshadowed in the market by concerns around inflation, crude oil and monetary tightening.

CRUDE OIL JUMPS NEAR $104

Persistently high crude oil prices have emerged as another major headwind. Brent crude was at $104.15 a barrel, up 3.94%, while WTI crude rose 3.89% to $91.71. The sharp rise in oil prices is particularly negative for India because the country is a major crude importer. Higher oil prices can push up inflation, increase the import bill, put pressure on the rupee and raise costs for companies. The renewed rise in crude has therefore added to concerns that the RBI may have to maintain a tighter policy for longer.

FII SELLING CONTINUES

Foreign institutional investors have continued to pull money out of Indian equities, putting sustained pressure on large-cap stocks.

According to the data provided, FIIs sold Rs 6,121.37 crore in the cash market on Wednesday, after selling Rs 2,961.30 crore on Tuesday and Rs 4,699.14 crore on Monday. They had also sold Rs 9,484.22 crore on October 1, Rs 10,148.41 crore on September 30 and Rs 9,980.22 crore on September 29. That means FIIs have sold around Rs 43,395 crore in the cash market over these six trading sessions. Domestic institutional investors have continued to provide support, buying Rs 4,596.57 crore on Wednesday and Rs 5,088.92 crore on Tuesday. However, DII buying has not been enough to fully absorb the pressure from foreign selling. The persistent FII outflows are particularly hurting large-cap stocks, which have a high weight in the Sensex and Nifty.

RUPEE WEAKNESS ADDS TO INVESTOR CONCERNS

The rupee has also come under pressure as high crude prices, foreign fund outflows and elevated US yields weigh on the currency.The rupee was around 96.76 against the US dollar, remaining close to its recent record-low levels. A weaker rupee can further add to imported inflation when crude oil prices are rising. It can also increase costs for companies that depend on imported inputs. The combination of a weak rupee, expensive oil and tighter monetary policy is therefore making investors more cautious.

SELLING IS BROAD-BASED ACROSS SECTORS

The market decline is not limited to a few stocks or sectors. Almost every major sector is under pressure. The Nifty Metal index has plunged 3.40%, while Oil & Gas is down 2.60%, Realty 2.68%, Auto 2.01%, Pharma 2.26% and Healthcare 2.31%. Consumer durables have fallen 1.33%, FMCG is down 2.02% and Financial Services 25/50 has declined 1.21%. The broader financial services indices have also fallen, with Financial Services Ex-Bank down 1.62% and MidSmall Financial Services down 1.55%.

Among Sensex stocks, ITC has fallen 4.09%, Adani Ports 3.88%, Titan 3.67%, PowerGrid 2.84%, BEL 2.68%, Indigo 2.62% and Reliance 2.56%.

Only a handful of stocks are holding up. TCS was up 1.06%, Tech Mahindra 0.87%, Infosys 0.77% and HCLTech 0.65%.

GST COUNCIL MEETING ALSO IN FOCUS

Investors are also watching developments from the GST Council meeting, particularly for their potential impact on consumption, businesses and government revenues. With the market already dealing with higher rates, elevated crude prices and weak foreign flows, any measures affecting consumption or corporate costs could become another factor for investors to assess. For now, however, the immediate pressure is coming from the RBI's tighter policy stance, rising oil prices and continued FII selling. The sharp fall comes just a day after the market reacted negatively to the RBI's rate hike and policy shift. The Sensex and Nifty had already been under pressure for several weeks, and Thursday's sell-off shows that investors remain cautious despite the improving domestic growth outlook. The key factors to watch from here will be crude oil prices, FII flows, the rupee, global bond yields and whether the RBI needs to raise rates further.For the Nifty, the 22,200-22,000 zone will now be important after the index slipped towards its recent lows.



Jio Eyes Connectivity Beyond Earth with 1,600 Satellites and 23 Ground Stations

Vision to reach over 600,000 villages, connect maritime and border regions
IMC theme 'Scale Without Boundaries'; Jio looks beyond terrestrial networks into space

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 8, 2026

After mobile networks and fibre on the ground, Jio is now looking towards space. The company is working on a proposed constellation of around 1,600 satellites and plans to establish *23 ground stations across India. The objective is to extend connectivity to areas where terrestrial networks are difficult to deploy. Jio has showcased this satellite vision at the ongoingIndia Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026 in Delhi. Jio has termed the initiative 'Sovereign Satellite Connectivity'. The proposed constellation comprises around 1,600 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites. The company's vision is to maintain control within India across the entire value chain, from design, engineering, integration and testing to launch, deployment and operations.

The *23 proposed ground stations* will play a critical role in the plan. These stations will connect the satellite network to India's terrestrial infrastructure. Jio also plans to integrate the satellite network with its existing terrestrial network.

Jio's display showcases a vision of 100% coverage across landmass and maritime areas, with connectivity reaching more than 600,000 villages. Remote villages, island territories and border outposts are among the key focus areas. The potential applications also include **enterprise connectivity, remote sites, aviation, maritime services, government, defence and disaster response. The display also refers to Direct-to-Device (D2D) calling for rural areas.

This year's India Mobile Congress is themed *'Scale Without Boundaries'*. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10th edition of IMC on Thursday. The theme reflects the vision of taking technology and connectivity beyond traditional boundaries. Jio's satellite initiative is a technological example of this approach, extending network connectivity beyond the limitations of towers and fibre through space-based infrastructure.

For now, both the 1,600 satellites and 23 ground stations remain part of a proposed plan. However, the direction is clear. Jio is preparing to integrate terrestrial and space-based networks and take connectivity to its next frontier beyond the ground.

NMDC Limited organised a two-day Capacity Building Programme

HYDERABAD, 8 OCTOBER 2026





The Vigilance Department of NMDC Limited organised a two-day Capacity Building Programme on 7 and 8 October 2026, focusing on key areas identified by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) under Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) 2026. The programme featured four thematic sessions on Ethos in Public Procurement, GeM – New Features & Functionalities, Contract Design for Effective Procurement, and Cyber Security & Cyber Hygiene, aimed at strengthening professional competence, promoting ethical decision-making and enhancing transparency and efficiency in organisational processes.

The inaugural session was graced by Shri Krishna Kumar Thakur, Director (Personnel), NMDC, and Shri C. NeelakantaReddy, Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), NMDC. The programme concluded in the gracious presence of Shri Vivek Nishant Nath, Director (Commercial), NMDC, and Shri C. Neelakanta Reddy, CVO, who underscored the importance of continuous capacity building, ethical conduct, transparent systems and effective implementation of preventive vigilance measures. The first day featured sessions by Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, IRSS, PCMM, RCF–Kapurthala, on "Ethos in Public Procurement", emphasising integrity, fairness, ethical decision-making and compliance with established procurement principles. Shri Anuj Kumar, Director (GeM), conducted a session on "GeM – New Features & Functionalities", highlighting recent developments, digital procurement mechanisms and best practices for effective utilisation of the Government e-Marketplace. On the second day, Shri Ankur Shrivastava, Controller, NRSC, delivered a session on "Contract Design for Effective Procurement", sharing practical insights and relevant case studies on developing effective procurement contracts. Smt. K. Indraveni, Scientist-F and Associate Director, C-DAC, led a session on "Cyber Security & Cyber Hygiene", highlighting cyber threats, responsible digital practices and the importance of maintaining security-conscious behaviour in the workplace. The sessions combined expert perspectives with practical insights to strengthen participants' understanding of ethical procurement, contract management, digital purchasing platforms and cyber security. Interactive discussions facilitated the exchange of professional experiences and highlighted the role of robust systems, informed decision-making and procedural compliance in minimising vulnerabilities and preventing irregularities.

Executives nominated from NMDC Head Office and various projects participated in the programme. The initiative reflects NMDC's continued efforts to strengthen institutional capabilities through knowledge sharing, professional development and preventive vigilance.

The programme reaffirmed NMDC's commitment to fostering a culture of probity, transparency, accountability and excellence, in line with the broader objectives of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 and the principles of good governance.

TCS Q2 results: Net profit rises 15%, declares Rs 12 interim dividend

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported a strong rise in profit for the second quarter of financial year 2026-27 (Q2 FY27), with consolidated net profit increasing 14.86% year-on-year to Rs 13,934 crore.

The company had reported a net profit of Rs 12,131 crore in the same quarter last year. Revenue from operations also grew 11.22% year-on-year to Rs 73,188 crore from Rs 65,799 crore a year earlier. TCS said its annualised AI revenue stood at $3.1 billion in the second quarter, crossing the 10% mark of the company's revenue. The IT services major reported a total contract value (TCV) of $9.6 billion during the quarter. Its operating margin stood at 24%. Net cash from operations came in at Rs 14,190 crore, which was equivalent to 102.2% of the company's net income. TCS had a total workforce of 5,98,056 employees at the end of the quarter. The company's trailing 12-month attrition in its IT services business stood at 13.3%.

TCS DECLARES RS 12 INTERIM DIVIDEND

The TCS board declared a second interim dividend of Rs 12 per equity share of face value Re 1 each for FY27. The record date for determining eligible shareholders has been fixed as October 14, 2026. The dividend will be paid on October 30, 2026. TCS CEO and Managing Director K Krithivasan said the company saw broad-based growth across its international markets and most industry segments. During the quarter, TCS announced two deals with Porsche and Best Buy. The company said these deals represent a new category of transformation partnerships focused on building repeatable value platforms and scaling the use of artificial intelligence.







South India Shopping Mall opens its 40th Store in Bachupally

Hyderabad: South India Shopping Mall opened its 40th Store on October 8, 2026 on Miyapur Road, Ameenpur, Bachupally . The new store brings together special Dussehra and Diwali collections, offering traditional sarees, festive wear, and modern clothing for the whole family under one roof.

Popular actress Ms. Vaishnavi Chaitanya inaugurated the showroom by lighting the traditional lamp and officially cutting the ribbon. A large crowd of shoppers turned up to celebrate the launch. Speaking at the event, Ms. Vaishnavi Chaitanya said: "I am so happy to open South India Shopping Mall's 40th store here in Bachupally. The Dussehra and Diwali collections look incredible, with bright colors and beautiful designs that fit the festive mood perfectly."

The store management thanked the people of Bachupally for giving them such a warm welcome and shared their joy in opening a new branch in this fast-growing part of Hyderabad.

Mr. Potti Venkateswarlu, Chairperson & Whole-Time Director , said: "Opening our 40th store in Bachupally is a big moment for all of us. This area has a strong family audience, making it the perfect location for our festive and wedding clothing lines."

Mr. Seerna Rajamouli, Managing Director , said: "Our goal has always been to give families an easy, pleasant, and affordable shopping experience, especially during major festivals like Dussehra and Diwali."

Mr. Tiruveedhula Prasada Rao, Whole-Time Director , added: "Whether you are looking for classic silk sarees, festive party wear, or casual clothes, we have put together options for every age group and style."

The new Bachupally showroom features a wide collection of silk sarees, heavy bridal drapes, ethnic wear, western clothes, and kids' outfits. To mark the grand opening, the store launched with special discount offers across all sections.

The company warmly invites families from Bachupally, Miyapur, Ameenpur, and nearby areas to visit the new store and shop for the upcoming holiday season.

States welcome GST reforms, focus on ease of doing business

NEW DELHI, OCT 8

States have welcomed the decisions taken at the 57th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Thursday, describing the latest reforms as an important step towards simplifying the tax regime, easing compliance and addressing the concerns faced by businesses and taxpayers. The meeting, which focused largely on procedural and structural reforms, drew positive reactions from finance ministers and chief ministers of several states, who said the changes would make the GST framework more efficient while improving ease of doing business. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said one of the key strengths of the GST Council is that it brings states together to discuss ways to make the tax framework simpler and provide greater convenience to citizens. She said the meeting also focused on improving the implementation of GST and making the system more effective for taxpayers. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant also welcomed the reforms, saying the measures would help reduce difficulties faced by people and make the overall GST system more convenient.



Indian Culture

A Living Heritage That Continues to Evolve

Indian culture is one of the world's oldest and most diverse living cultures. It is not defined by a single language, religion, food habit, dress style or tradition. Instead, it is a vast and constantly evolving heritage shaped by thousands of years of history, migration, trade, philosophy and interaction among different communities.

From the snow-covered Himalayas to the coastal villages of Kerala, from the deserts of Rajasthan to the green landscapes of the Northeast, India presents an extraordinary cultural variety. Every region has its own customs, festivals, music, food and artistic traditions, yet there are also common values that connect people across geographical and linguistic boundaries.

Indian culture has survived because it has never remained completely static. It has absorbed new influences while retaining older traditions. Ancient practices coexist with modern lifestyles, and traditional celebrations are increasingly finding new expressions through technology, cinema and social media. This ability to adapt has helped Indian culture remain relevant across generations.

The family at the heart of society

One of the most important features of Indian culture has traditionally been the importance given to family. For centuries, the family has been more than a group of people living together. It has been a source of emotional support, social identity, responsibility and cultural education. In many Indian households, children learn their first lessons about customs and values from parents and grandparents. Stories about historical figures, religious traditions, festivals and family experiences are often passed from one generation to another through conversations at home. Even when families become smaller because of urbanisation and migration, this cultural connection continues. The idea of respecting elders remains deeply rooted in Indian society. Touching the feet of elders, seeking their blessings during important occasions and involving them in family decisions are examples of customs that continue in many parts of the country. At the same time, younger generations are developing more independent lifestyles, particularly in cities. This change does not necessarily mean that traditional values are disappearing. Instead, Indian families are finding new ways to maintain relationships. Video calls, family messaging groups and frequent visits allow relatives separated by thousands of kilometres to remain connected.

Festivals that bring people together

Festivals are among the most visible expressions of Indian culture. Almost every month brings celebrations associated with religion, seasons, agriculture, history or local traditions. Diwali transforms homes and streets with lamps and decorations. Holi fills communities with colour and music. Eid brings families and neighbours together around shared meals and prayers. Christmas is celebrated with lights, cakes and gatherings across many cities and villages. Pongal, Onam, Baisakhi, Bihu, Navratri, Durga Puja, Ganesh Chaturthi and many regional festivals reflect the cultural richness of different parts of the country. Indian festivals are not only religious occasions. They also create opportunities for social interaction. Relatives travel long distances to meet each other, neighbours exchange food and communities organise cultural programmes. In rural India, many festivals remain closely connected to agriculture and the changing seasons. Harvest celebrations recognise the importance of farming and the relationship between communities and the land. In cities, the same festivals may take a more modern form, with large public events, cultural performances and digital celebrations. The ability of festivals to combine tradition with contemporary life is one reason they remain powerful cultural institutions.

The diversity of Indian languages

Language is another major pillar of Indian culture. India is home to hundreds of languages and numerous dialects, with several major languages possessing long literary histories. Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Bengali, Marathi, Kannada, Malayalam, Gujarati, Punjabi, Odia, Assamese and many other languages have developed distinctive literary and artistic traditions. Sanskrit, Tamil and other classical languages have contributed enormously to India's philosophical, literary and intellectual heritage. Language is deeply connected to identity. A person's mother tongue often carries memories of childhood, family traditions, songs and local stories. Regional literature has preserved the experiences of communities across centuries. At the same time, Indians have historically learned to communicate across linguistic boundaries. Hindi, English and regional languages frequently exist side by side, particularly in urban areas. Bollywood, television, digital platforms and social media have further increased interaction between different linguistic communities.India's linguistic diversity demonstrates that unity does not require cultural uniformity. Different languages can coexist while contributing to a broader national identity.

Food as a cultural expression

Indian food is perhaps one of the most recognisable aspects of the country's culture. However, describing Indian cuisine as a single tradition would be misleading. The country's food culture changes dramatically from one region to another. Rice is central to the diets of many southern and eastern communities, while wheat-based foods are common across large parts of northern and western India. Coastal regions have developed cuisines influenced by seafood, coconut and maritime trade. Rajasthan's traditional food reflects the challenges of living in a dry environment, while the Northeast has developed distinctive cuisines shaped by local crops, herbs and meat preparations. Spices are an important feature of many Indian cuisines, but they are used differently across regions. Turmeric, cumin, cardamom, cloves, mustard, pepper and coriander have been part of Indian culinary traditions for centuries. Food also has a strong social dimension. Weddings, festivals and family gatherings are often organised around elaborate meals. Sharing food with guests is widely considered an expression of hospitality. Traditional Indian food culture is now also being rediscovered by younger generations. Restaurants, food festivals, television programmes and social media have helped regional dishes reach audiences far beyond their original communities.

Clothing and changing traditions

Indian clothing reflects both climate and cultural history. Sarees, salwar kameez, dhotis, kurtas, lehengas, shawls and numerous regional garments have developed distinctive forms across the country. The saree alone demonstrates India's cultural diversity. Different states have their own weaving traditions, fabrics, designs and methods of draping. Handloom traditions in places such as Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Odisha represent generations of craftsmanship. Traditional clothing remains particularly important during weddings and festivals. However, everyday clothing in India has changed significantly with urbanisation and global influences. Jeans, shirts, trousers and Western-style dresses are common in cities, while traditional clothes continue to be worn for ceremonies and cultural occasions. Rather than replacing traditional clothing completely, modern fashion has often combined old and new styles. Designers increasingly use traditional fabrics and motifs in contemporary clothing. This fusion has helped Indian textile traditions reach new markets while keeping them connected to modern lifestyles.

The influence of spirituality and philosophy

Spirituality has played a significant role in the development of Indian culture. Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism originated in the Indian subcontinent, while Islam, Christianity, Judaism and other traditions have also developed deep historical roots in India. Indian philosophical traditions have explored questions about existence, morality, consciousness and the relationship between individuals and society. Concepts such as yoga and meditation, which originated in ancient Indian traditions, have now gained global popularity. However, spirituality in India is not limited to formal religious practices. It can also be found in everyday customs, pilgrimage, meditation, community service and respect for nature. India's religious diversity has created a long history of interaction among communities. Places of worship belonging to different faiths can often be found within the same cities and towns, reflecting the complex cultural landscape of the country.

Villages, cities and a changing India

For centuries, India's cultural identity was strongly associated with village life. Agriculture, local crafts, community celebrations and oral traditions shaped social life. Today, India is rapidly urbanising. Millions of people have moved from villages to towns and metropolitan areas in search of education, employment and better opportunities. Cities such as Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi and Chennai have become meeting points for people from different states. This migration has created new cultural combinations. A person from Kerala may work alongside someone from Punjab, share a home with someone from Telangana and celebrate festivals with colleagues from Bengal and Maharashtra. Indian cities are therefore becoming cultural laboratories where languages, food, music, clothing and traditions interact every day. Yet rural traditions remain important. Many urban families continue to return to their native villages during festivals and family occasions. Social media has also allowed village traditions to reach national audiences.

Tradition in the digital age

Technology is changing how Indian culture is preserved and shared. Earlier, cultural knowledge was primarily transmitted through families, communities and institutions. Today, a traditional recipe, folk song, dance performance or craft technique can reach millions of people online. Young creators are using social media to introduce regional languages, traditional clothing, local foods and folk traditions to new audiences. Digital platforms have also helped small artisans and independent artists find customers beyond their local markets. At the same time, technology raises questions about authenticity. Some traditions may be simplified or commercially repackaged when presented to mass audiences. Preserving cultural heritage therefore requires more than simply recording it. It requires understanding the history and meaning behind traditions. Education, museums, cultural institutions and local communities have an important role in ensuring that India's cultural heritage remains meaningful rather than becoming merely decorative.

A culture that continues to evolve

Indian culture has never been a frozen collection of ancient customs. It has always changed with society. Trade brought new foods and ideas. Migration introduced new languages and traditions. Historical kingdoms influenced architecture and art. Colonial rule introduced new institutions and cultural practices. Independence created a new sense of national identity. Globalisation and technology are now producing another phase of cultural transformation.

The challenge for India is not to choose between tradition and modernity. It is to find a balance between preserving valuable heritage and allowing society to evolve.

Young Indians today may listen to international music, wear modern clothes, work in global companies and communicate through digital platforms while still celebrating Diwali with their families, speaking their mother tongue at home and eating traditional food during festivals. These combinations are not contradictions. They are evidence of how culture adapts.

The enduring strength of Indian culture

The greatest strength of Indian culture lies in its diversity and its ability to absorb change. It has survived centuries of political, economic and social transformation because it has been carried not only through monuments and books but through everyday life. It lives in a grandmother teaching a traditional recipe, a child learning a classical dance, a farmer celebrating the harvest, an artisan weaving a handloom sari, a family gathering for a festival and a young musician combining an old folk melody with a modern sound. Indian culture is therefore not simply a legacy inherited from the past. It is something continuously created by every generation.

Music, dance and the language of emotion

Indian music has a remarkably long history. Classical traditions such as Hindustani and Carnatic music have developed complex systems of melody and rhythm. Alongside them exist hundreds of folk music traditions associated with different regions and communities. Music accompanies almost every important stage of life. Lullabies are sung to children, devotional songs are performed in places of worship, folk songs accompany agricultural activities and weddings feature traditional musical performances. Dance is equally diverse. Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Kathakali, Manipuri and Mohiniyattam are among India's recognised classical dance traditions. Each has its own movements, costumes and storytelling techniques. Folk dances such as Bhangra, Garba, Ghoomar and many tribal dance forms provide another dimension to Indian cultural expression. Modern Indian music has brought these traditions into new settings. Film music has borrowed from classical and folk traditions while combining them with Western instruments and contemporary sounds. Today, young musicians frequently experiment with fusion, creating music that connects different generations.

Architecture and artistic heritage

India's cultural history can also be seen in its architecture. Ancient temples, Buddhist monuments, mosques, churches, forts, palaces and colonial-era buildings represent different chapters of the country's history. The architecture of South Indian temples differs significantly from the Mughal structures of North India or the wooden architecture found in parts of the Himalayas and Northeast. Each style reflects local materials, religious beliefs, artistic traditions and historical influences. Indian painting traditions are equally varied. Madhubani, Kalamkari, Pattachitra, Warli and numerous other regional art forms have been preserved by generations of artists. Modern technology has provided new opportunities for these traditions. Artists can now reach national and international audiences through online platforms. Traditional crafts that were once limited to particular communities can be introduced to younger consumers around the world.



SHORT NEWS

2nd T20

'Now much more mature', says Kotak as he backs Kishan to deliver on home turf



RANCHI: Having worked closely with Ishan Kishan for a long period, India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak appreciated the local lad's growth as a much more mature and tactical match-winner ahead of India's second T20I against West Indies, set to happen at the JSCA Ground in Ranchi on Friday. Originally from Patna, Kishan plays domestic cricket for Jharkhand and is having a dream run in the shortest format – leading the run-making charts by amassing 1042 runs in 30 innings and becoming a T20 World Cup winner. "As a batting coach, whichever ground Ishan plays in, he considers it his home ground. Actually, when he came back after the World Cup.

India U17 women's team moves closer to Asian Cup qualification with victory over Syria

SELAYANG



The India U17 women's team took another significant step in their AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2027 Qualifiers campaign with a dominant 2-0 victory over Syria in their second Group E match at the MP Selayang Stadium on Thursday.

Anushka Kumari, who had scored five goals in India's record-breaking 14-0 victory over Iraq in their opening match, found the net on either side of half-time to take her qualifiers tally to seven goals.

The victory gave the Indian side six points from two matches ahead of their final Group E encounter against hosts Malaysia on October 11. Only the group winners will qualify for the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2027. Syria had lost 0-1 to Malaysia in their opening match. Malaysia and Iraq will face each other later today.

Head coach Joakim Alexandersson retained the same starting combination that had overwhelmed Iraq three days earlier, and India once again controlled proceedings with their compact midfield, quick distribution and persistent pressure on the Syrian defence.

The Indian team took only six minutes to forge ahead. Syria defender Bayab Jomaa Ato brought down Silky Devi Sorokhaibam just outside the penalty area on the right. Redima Devi Chingkhamayum chipped the resulting free kick into the middle, and although Bayab headed it away, the clearance fell to Anushka.

The striker moved to her left before unleashing a delightful left-footed lob that sailed into the far top corner, giving India the lead and bringing her sixth goal of the qualifiers.

With the Indian midfielders and defenders closing down spaces effectively, Syria found it difficult to advance, and goalkeeper Munni had little work to do during the first half.

Redima, Thandamoni Baskey and Alva Devi Senjam kept India's attack flowing and regularly stretched the Syrian defence, which survived several close calls before the interval.

India also threatened from set pieces. Ritu Badaik floated a corner from the right for captain Abhista Basnett, whose downward header was scrambled away by Syria goalkeeper Media Housain for another corner. Ritu delivered once again, and Julan Nongmaithem met the ball for the first time but struck it straight at the goalkeeper.

Anushka almost doubled the advantage shortly before half-time when Media failed to hold another effort. The loose ball fell kindly to the young tigresses' forward, whose attempted chip was headed off the line by Syria captain Arin Assad.

Nine minutes after the restart, Anushka finally made it 2-0. Syria failed to clear their lines after Alva was stopped inside the box, and the ball ran loose for Anushka to drill a right-footed effort into the near post for her seventh goal in two matches.

The game was halted in the 58th minute due to an approaching thunderstorm, as in India's opening match against Iraq. Play resumed after a delay of almost half an hour, with rain continuing through the latter stages under the Selayang floodlights.

India continued to dominate after the restart but were unable to add to their tally. Anushka had a golden opportunity to complete her hat-trick when Thandamoni released substitute Pritika Barman down the right. Pritika squared the ball into the area, but Anushka, with the goal at her mercy, fired over from close range.

Syria defended in numbers and managed to keep the scoreline down despite India maintaining the pressure until the end. At the other end, they rarely threatened the Indian goal, as the young tigresses registered their second successive victory and clean sheet of the qualifying campaign.

India will now meet hosts Malaysia on October 11 at 18:30 IST in their final Group E match, with a place in the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2027 at stake.



Badminton: Sindhu books QF showdown, Tanvi bows out of Arctic Open

VANTAA

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu will face a familiar but formidable opponent in the Arctic Open quarterfinals after the sixth-seeded Indian progressed with a straight-game victory over Japan's Riko Gunji in Vantaa, Finland, on Thursday. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, overcame Gunji 21-15, 21-15 in 49 minutes to set up a last-eight meeting with top seed and former world champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand.

The quarterfinal will revive one of the more established rivalries on the women's circuit, although the two players have not faced each other since 2022. Intanon holds a 9-4 advantage in their head-to-head record and has won their last five encounters.

Their most recent meeting came at the Indonesia Masters in 2022, where the Thai prevailed in straight games.

Sindhu will take confidence from a strong 2026 campaign that has already produced a Japan Open Super 750 title. She defeated reigning World Champion Akane Yamaguchi in the final in July to claim one of the biggest titles of her recent career.

Intanon has also enjoyed success this season, winning the Malaysia Masters Super 500 in May after defeating China's Chen Yufei in the final. The Thai secured her place in the quarter-finals by ending Tanvi Sharma's run with a 21-18, 21-7 victory.

Tanvi stayed with the top seed for much of the opening game, even drawing level at 17-17, but Intanon showed her experience in the closing exchanges to take the first game. The second was far more one-sided, with the Thai racing to a 9-2 lead after a seven-point burst before closing out the contest comfortably.

Sindhu, meanwhile, had to negotiate two competitive games against Gunji but produced her best badminton when the pressure increased.

The first game was locked at 15-15 before Sindhu reeled off six points in a row. Gunji again stayed within touching distance in the second, levelling at 13-13, but Sindhu responded by taking eight of the next 10 points to seal her place in the last eight.

India's men's singles campaign ended with Tharun Mannepalli's 21-14, 21-19 defeat to second seed Christo Popov of France.

Tharun, who had entered the main draw through qualifying and defeated Denmark's Magnus Johannesen in the opening round, fought for 50 minutes before bowing out.

His exit followed first-round defeats for Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy and Rounak Chouhan, leaving India without a men's singles representative in the Super 500 tournament.

India's men's doubles hopes, however, remained alive, with Krishna Prasad Garaga and Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy scheduled to take on England's Oliver Butler and Samuel Jones in the round of 16 later on Thursday.

CRICKET

'You can't beat experience' - Sitanshu Kotak decodes Bhuvi



RANCHI: Highlighting that one can't beat experience in international cricket, India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's sustained form in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and rich experience of playing in overseas conditions were potentially behind his being given a call-up for the upcoming T20I series in New Zealand. Bhuvneshwar earned his India T20I recall on the back of a sensational IPL 2026 campaign, where he spearheaded Royal Challengers Bengaluru's successful.

Shubhankar Sharma opens four-shot lead in Kapil Dev Invitational Tour

GREATER NOIDA



Shubhankar Sharma fired a seven-under 65 to establish a four-shot lead after the second round of the INR 2 crore Kapil Dev Invitational Tour Championship at the Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort in Greater Noida on Thursday.

The 30-year-old Chandigarh golfer (68-65), who began the day two strokes behind overnight leader Shaurya Bhattacharya, made an eagle, seven birdies and two bogeys to reach 11-under 133.

A two-time winner on the DP World Tour, Shubhankar returned to the winner's circle at the Boulders Classic on the PGTI in April, ending an eight-year wait for a professional title.

Chandigarh's Brashwarpal Singh (72-65) matched Shubhankar for the lowest score of the day. His seven-under 65 featured eight birdies and a solitary bogey as he surged from tied 11th overnight to second place at seven-under 137. Overnight leader Shaurya Bhattacharya (66-72) of Delhi slipped to third at six-under 138 after an even-par 72 containing three birdies and three bogeys.

Bengaluru's Khalin Joshi (72-67), a four-time winner on the DP World PGTI this season, climbed from tied 11th to fourth at five-under 139. His 67 featured an eagle on the par-five fourth, five birdies and two bogeys. Joshi entered the week second in the Race to DP World India Championship. Shubhankar was particularly encouraged by the control he displayed with his ball-striking after struggling to bring the different parts of his game together in recent weeks.

"I played really well and felt very solid throughout the round," he said. "My ball-striking had not been at its best over the past few weeks, even though there was not much wrong with my game. Today, everything came together. I hit the ball exactly where I wanted, shaped shots both ways and felt in complete control. I could have holed a few more putts, but I'm very pleased with the day," he said.

The highlight of Shubhankar's round came on the par-five fourth. After finding the left half of the fairway with his drive, he struck a six-iron from approximately 212 yards to 18 feet and converted the eagle putt. "The putt just caught the left edge," he said. "Most of my shots came off exactly as I had visualised them, and that was the most encouraging part."

Sureshkumar, Sinha set up semi-final clash; partner to reach doubles final

NEW DELHI

Defending champion and top seed Manish Sureshkumar battled past Parth Aggarwal in a three-set thriller, while third seed Nitin Sinha also advanced to the semi-finals at the 31st Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship here on Thursday.

Sureshkumar, who was stretched physically during the contest, recovered from a 3-0 deficit in the deciding set to beat Aggarwal 6-1, 5-7, and 7-5 after nearly three hours of action.

"I think I started feeling a little weak physically. There was no energy in my legs. I was somehow trying to push myself and try to do my best. I thought the second set would be very crucial to finish it off in straight sets. I was also down in the third set, but I'm glad that I was able to find a way and get through," Sureshkumar said.

81 st All India Inter Railway Football Championship 2026 Concludes at Pandu



CLW Clinches Championship Title; NR Finishes Runner up, NFR Secures Bronze

MALIGAON

1The knockout phase of the 81 st All India Inter Railway Football Championship 2026, organised by the Northeast Frontier Railway Sports Association (NFRSA) was inaugurated on 3 rd October 2026 at the NFRSA Football Stadium, Pandu. The championship concluded on 7 th October 2026 with an exciting final between Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) and Northern Railway (NR). CLW emerged victorious in the final to clinch the championship title, while NR secured the second position.

The championship featured the participation of eight railway teams that qualified for the knockout phase after successfully progressing through the league phase held at Chennai and Jabalpur. The eight qualified teams were Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), Northern Railway (NR), Rail Coach Factory (RCF), West Central Railway (WCR), Southern Railway (SR), Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), Central Railway (CR) and North Eastern Railway (NER). In the final standings, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) secured the championship title, Northern Railway (NR) finished as the runner-up, while Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) secured the third position and won the bronze medal under the guidance of Shri Ranjan Debbarma, Football Secretary and Coach, NFRSA.

The final and prize distribution ceremony was held in the presence of Shri Mohit Chandra, General Manager, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and Shri Ramesh Kumar, Additional General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway along with the Shri Navin Kumar Singh (PCMM/CON) & General Secretary of

NFRSA and other senior railway officials from N.F. Railway Headquarters. The dignitaries appreciate and thanked all the participating teams, players and officials for their enthusiastic participation, sporting

spirit, competitive performance and discipline, which contributed to the success of the championship.

The knockout phase was conducted from October 3 rd to October 7 th 2026, providing an important platform for railway football teams to showcase their talent and competitive excellence at the national level. The championship at Maligaon highlighted the active role of the Northeast Frontier Railway Sports Association in promoting sports and fostering sporting talent among railway employees.

Asian Para Games: PCI hosts grand send-off ceremony

NEW DELHI

The Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) on Thursday hosted a grand send-off ceremony for the Indian contingent ahead of the 5th Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, with Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya urging the athletes to build on their historic performance at the previous edition.

The ceremony, held at ITC Maurya in Chanakyapuri, was attended by athletes, coaches, support staff, dignitaries and partners, while the official Team India jersey for the Games was also unveiled. The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games will be held in Japan from October 18 to 24.



Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Mandaviya praised the para-athletes for overcoming challenges and earning their place on the international stage. "It is not a small thing to challenge circumstances and move forward. Earning your family's trust when society doubts whether you can succeed requires immense strength," Mandaviya said.

"You strengthen your belief, accept every challenge, move forward, set a goal, choose a sport, achieve success at the national level, and then participate in international competitions. You have already won the journey of life. Now, you also have to conquer the journey of medals. I welcome you all. I have complete faith in you," he added. India heads into the Games with a target of around 100 medals after producing its best-ever performance at the previous Asian Para Games in Hangzhou.The Indian contingent won 111 medals in Hangzhou, including 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze, marking a significant milestone for the country's para-sport movement.

PCI president Devendra Jhajharia expressed confidence that the Indian athletes would once again deliver a strong performance in Japan.

'Leadership is never just about wearing a captain's badge': Jhulan Goswami

NEW DELHI

Former Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami paid tribute to Harmanpreet Kaur after she stepped down as India women's captain across formats, lauding her courage and conviction while urging her to continue enjoying the game.

Harmanpreet, who led India to their maiden senior women's ODI World Cup title, announced her decision to relinquish captaincy earlier this week. Smriti Mandhana has since been appointed as India's new captain, while Harmanpreet remains part of the ODI and T20I squads for the upcoming series against Zimbabwe. "Leadership is never just about wearing the captain's badge — it's about carrying the hopes of a team, standing tall through the highs and lows, and leaving the game stronger than you found it," Goswami wrote in a social media post.

The former India pacer praised Harmanpreet for the courage and conviction with which she led the side through some of its most significant moments. "Harmanpreet, you have done that with immense courage, strength, and conviction, leading Indian women's cricket through some truly incredible moments and carrying the responsibility with pride," she added.



Goswami said Harmanpreet's decision to step away from captaincy marked the beginning of a new chapter and hoped she would now be able to play with greater freedom.

"As you step away from captaincy and into this new chapter, choosing to continue simply for the love of the game, I hope you enjoy every moment of it," she wrote. "Here's to playing with freedom, passion and the same spirit that has always made you a champion," Goswami added.

Goswami concluded her tribute by urging Harmanpreet to continue enjoying the game after handing over the leadership responsibilities. "Wishing you the very best, Captain. Keep inspiring, keep playing, and most importantly, keep enjoying the game," she wrote.

Harmanpreet had served as India's full-time T20I captain since 2018 and took over as ODI captain from Mithali Raj in 2022. During her tenure, she led India to their maiden senior women's ODI World Cup title, with the team defeating South Africa in the final on home soil.

She also guided India to four Asia Cup titles in 2012, 2016, 2022 and 2026, besides leading the side to consecutive Asian Games gold medals in Hangzhou in 2022 and Aichi-Nagoya in 2026. Harmanpreet's other notable achievements as captain include leading India to their first bilateral Women's ODI series win in England since 1999 in 2022, a historic Test victory against Australia in 2023 and a breakthrough T20I series victory against England in 2025. Under her leadership, India also defeated England by 270 runs in the first-ever women's Test at Lord's earlier this year.

Rajamouli's New Slang For Varanasi?



SS Rajamouli is once again pushing the boundaries of Indian cinema with his upcoming film Varanasi. After creating the fictional Kiliki language for the Kalakeya tribe in Baahubali, the ace filmmaker is now developing an entirely new language for Varanasi. It is a known fact that the Mahesh Babu starrer will feature time travel. So, for one of the sequences related to an ancient cave, Rajamouli has reportedly hired a linguistic expert to create a brand-new language and script from scratch. Unlike Kiliki, which was mainly spoken by the Kalakeya tribe in Baahubali, the new language in Varanasi is expected to have a much larger role in the story. Reports suggest it will include its own structure, making it a key part of the narrative. Rajamouli's attention to detail has always been one of his biggest strengths. This new language in Varanasi could offer audiences a completely new cinematic experience and immerse them in a new world altogether. Varanasi also stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Prithviraj Sukumaran in lead roles and is set for release on April 7, 2026. Mahesh Babu has already wrapped up his part of the shoot, and very soon, the other schedules will also be completed by the end of this year.

Thaman's Unexpected Move!

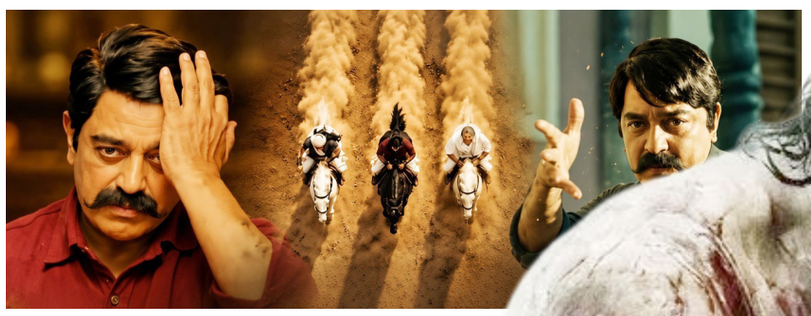


Music director SS Thaman is well-known for his chill attitude. He is jovial, friendly and even outspoken. Thaman attended Itlu Arjuna movie event at Vizag Gitam college and the young students thronged the event. Speaking to the youngsters, Thaman talked about the over enthusiasm of some netizens where they put many bold comments. Thaman said he read those comments, some are funny. Thaman said, "One would say he'll build a temple for me. Another one says remove your pants." Thaman went on to say he will take the audience's comments in his stride. But the point here is Thaman should avoid such kind of statements in public especially in front of students. Social media comments are bold and disgusting too. Some active social media users are trying their best to grab the attention of the celebs by posting such comments. Celebs should usually let them go by ignoring them completely. These days, some over enthusiastic people on social media use the term "remove your pants (pant vippu)" whenever music directors like Thaman and Anirudh drop sensational music. Everyone understands what it means, so celebrities should avoid repeating such comments in public. Especially one of the most popular musicians and most followed celeb like Thaman should refrain citing those on a public stage. This might be a slip of the tongue moment, but many opine that Thaman should not repeat such in the future. Meanwhile, Thaman made a laudable promise to the students of Gitam college. Thaman promised to make a live concert for the Gitam students for their next college fest and he said he will do it for free. He asked for a stage and good speakers. With this act, Thaman has won the hearts of students.

RAAKA GETS RASHMIKA'S PRIORITY

The much awaited trailer of Ranabaali is all set to be launched today with a special event. However, Rashmika Mandanna will unexpectedly miss the event as she is currently in Mumbai for the shoot of Raaka. Interestingly, this was expected to be the first public event featuring Rashmika and Vijay together after their marriage. However, Rashmika's absence means Vijay will attend the event alone. However, Rashmika will not be making it to the event due to her ongoing shoot commitments in Mumbai. Vijay Deverakonda, on the other hand, will be attending the trailer launch. The timing of the event has also made it more interesting. Both Rashmika and Vijay have recently faced attention over their interviews, with discussions around how they spoke about their personal matters. There has been some negativity around these interviews, particularly because fans and audiences have been closely following their statements. This has added another layer of curiosity around their public appearances. With Rashmika missing the event, the entire attention will now be on Vijay and how he creates the hype about film. His interaction with the media is expected to be closely watched. For now, Rashmika's absence is being attributed to her Raaka shoot in Mumbai. But given the interest surrounding both actors, her absence from this particular event has certainly become an interesting talking point.

Udhayanidhi's Role In Indian 3 Release



Indian, aka Bharateeyudu, is one of the biggest hits of Indian cinema. However, the film's second part, which was released decades after the first installment, failed at the box office. There was not even a single element that impressed the audiences with regard to the second film. Everyone was under the impression that the third part would have a direct OTT release, but the production house, Lyca, made a surprising announcement, marking the commencement of the promotions for Indian 3. Today, the production house confirmed the release of Indian 3 and released posters in all languages to confirm the same. Reportedly, the shoot for the film was completed during the time when they were shooting the second part. However, they decided to take the post-production slowly. Even then, the majority of the work was completed by the time Indian 2 hit the screens. There were speculations that the result was halted because of the issues between the hero Kamal haasan and production house. Noted distributor, legislator, and prominent film figure Udayanidhi Stalin has stepped in to solve the issues amicably and paved the way for a smooth release of the third part. The team will release the trailer soon and also confirm the film's release date. The logline of the film's third part is: After treating Pramod and revealing his freedom-fighter lineage, Senapathy launches a nationwide war on corruption, is captured and sentenced to death, triggering massive public protests for his release. Siddharth, Kajal Aggarwal, Rakul Preet Singh, Rishikanth, and others are part of the film's cast. Anirudh composed the music for the film.

Comrade Kalyan Gets U/A



Sree Vishnu's Comrade Kalyan is set for release tomorrow after securing a U/A certificate. Despite censor objections, the team replaced certain terms without compromising the film's content. Kona Venkat questioned the changes, while Sree Vishnu said the alterations blend smoothly into the film. Set against a 1994 Naxalite backdrop, the entertainer uses comedy to deliver a serious message.

Fauzi Eyes Summer Release

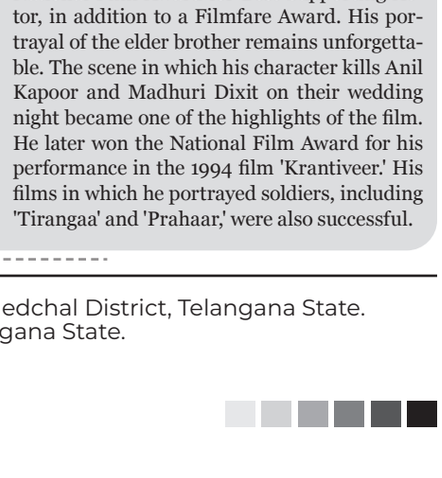
After the producers of Prabhas starrer Fauzi officially confirmed the film's postponement, the curiosity around the film's new release date has gone up. So far, the team has not dropped any hints about the new release date. Sources say the film unit plans to release the movie on 18 March. Directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, the team is still shooting the film. According to the latest information, the makers are currently filming the interval sequence, one of the movie's major highlights. The current shoot is reportedly set to wrap by the 12th of this month, after which the team will take a short break. However, the makers will embark on a lengthy schedule next month. The team still needs to shoot the climax portions, which require extensive planning and preparation.

The team is likely to begin a new schedule on the 15th of November and may go up upto the 15th of December to complete the crucial climax portion and other essential parts so post-production can begin in full. During the one-month schedule, the team plans to wrap up as much of the pending lot as possible. With Prabhas celebrating his birthday this month, the team wants to release a special teaser on October 23, and we may also get a release-date announcement, provided everything falls in place. If the plan stays on schedule, the team will have ample time to focus fully on post-production and promote the film with ease. However, we will reach a conclusion only later. Prabhas plays an Azad Hind Fauj soldier and is paired with Imanvi, who makes her acting debut. Sajjad Delafrooz, Mithun Chakraborty, and Anupam Kher also appear in the film. Ravi Shankar and Naveen Yerneni are producing the film jointly under Mythri Movie Makers and T-Series Films.

CONDOLENCE

Not Just in Front of the Camera...

Nana Patekar Was the Only Actor to Carry a Gun on the Kargil Front!



Nana Patekar, who has impressed audiences by playing soldiers in several films, also served as a soldier in real life during the Kargil War. Yes, the fact that the actor, who played several jawan roles on the silver screen, actually participated in the 1999 Kargil War is not known to many people. The Kargil War, which lasted for nearly two months, ended with India's victory over Pakistan. The war began on May 3 and concluded on July 26. India celebrates that day as Kargil Vijay Diwas. Nana Patekar has spoken about the days he spent during the war in several interviews. He reportedly joined the Army with the intention of doing his part for the nation.

Joining the Army Is Not Easy

There are several strict rules and regulations for joining the Army. Candidates must first clear various physical tests, including running, followed by written examinations and background verification before they are inducted into the Army.

During the Kargil War, Nana Patekar expressed his desire to join the Army to the then Defence Minister George Fernandes. Initially, Fernandes reportedly refused his request. Nana then explained that he had previously undergone a command course and had also received training in handling weapons. He also reportedly mentioned that he had won a bronze medal in rifle shooting at the national level.

60 Days with the Army

After hearing everything Nana Patekar had to say, Fernandes reportedly asked him, "When do you want to go?", indicating that he was ready to facilitate his request. Nana subsequently worked alongside the Army for nearly 60 days. He said that during this period he worked with troops in areas including Leh, Kupwara, Baramulla, Dras and Popori. A few days later, he was inducted as a member of a Quick Reaction Team. He also recalled that he had gone there weighing around 76 kg but returned weighing just 56 kg.

What Is His Real Name?

Nana Patekar's real name is Vishwanath Patekar. He was born on January 1, 1951, in Murud-Janjira, Maharashtra. He graduated from the Sir J.J. Institute of Applied Art in Mumbai. Nana Patekar began his career as a stage artist and made his silver-screen debut with the 1978 film 'Gaman.'

'Parinda' Brought Him Major Recognition

Although Nana Patekar acted in several films during the early stages of his career, he gained considerable recognition for his performance in the 1988 film 'Salaam Bombay!' His career took another major turn with the release of 'Parinda' in 1989.

For his performance in the film, he won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor, in addition to a Filmfare Award. His portrayal of the elder brother remains unforgettable. The scene in which his character kills Anil Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit on their wedding night became one of the highlights of the film. He later won the National Film Award for his performance in the 1994 film 'Krantiveer.' His films in which he portrayed soldiers, including 'Tirangaa' and 'Prahaar,' were also successful.

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Editor: Pisati Janga Reddy, Ph : 040 24123467, Email : hyderabadheadlines@gmail.com