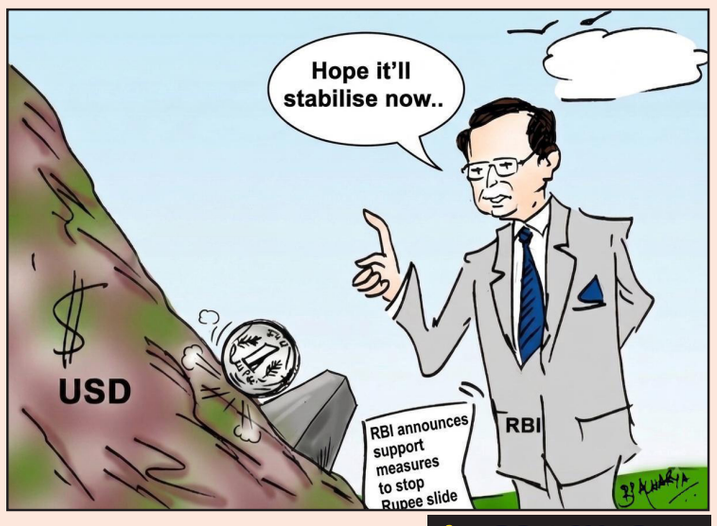
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OBTUSE ANGLE



CM Revanth Targets Modi, Shah Over Alleged 'Vote Theft'

"This is another freedom struggle"; 'Gyanesh Go Back' Movement Inspired by 'Simon Go Back'

Alleged attempts to remove votes belonging to Dalits, Adivasis, minorities and the poor

CM briefs ministers, MPs, MLAs and MLCs on the fight to protect democracy under Rahul Gandhi's leadership



NEW DELHI, OCT 12

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the struggle to protect the voting rights of the people of India was another freedom movement. He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar were conspiring to remove eligible voters from electoral rolls under the pretext of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). He alleged that attempts were being made to undermine the voting rights of minorities, Dalits, Adivasis, backward communities, the poor, and young people. He called upon everyone to participate in the movement led by senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to protect voting rights.

At a meeting held at Telangana Bhavan in Delhi on Monday, Revanth Reddy briefed state ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and senior party leaders. He said there was a need to intensify the movement to protect democracy under the leadership of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and leaders of the INDIA bloc. He urged party leaders to mobilize people across the country under the slogan "Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao" (Save the Vote, Save the Nation).

'Gyanesh Go Back' Inspired by 'Simon Go Back'

Revanth Reddy recalled the sacrifices made by Congress leaders in securing freedom and self-governance from British rule.

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'Vote Theft' Battle Reaches Supreme Court

Permission Granted to File Petition Against Gyanesh Kumar

Rahul Gandhi Leads INDIA Bloc's 'Chalo Delhi' March;

Opposition Intensifies Campaign Against Election Commission

02

Thousands March to SC Over Vote Theft Claims

Rahul Gandhi Leads Chalo Dilli Push Demanding CEC Gyanesh Kumar Resignation While Police Barricades Halt The March And CJI Turns Down Meeting



Thousands of Indians, Opposition leaders and youth fill the streets of the capital from Barakhamba Road in a March for Democracy seeking the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged vote chori and a halt to the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Heavy police deployment stops the procession short of the Supreme Court, a formal petition reaches the court, and Chief Justice Surya Kant declines a personal meeting citing matters already before the Bench.

The heart of free India beat with the tread of thousands on Monday as the INDIA BLOC's Chalo Dilli March for Democracy rolled from the Barakhamba Road junction towards the Supreme Court. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, AISA president Neha Bora, Yogendra Yadav and a battery of Opposition leaders walked at the head of a swelling crowd. Buses had ferried them from the Constitution Club. Once they stepped down, the march became a living river of citizens, party workers, students and civil society groups demanding that the ballot remain sacred.

The capital city of Delhi was sealed like a fortress. Six metro stations from Barakhamba Road to Patel Chowk shut their gates. Over thirty thousand police and paramilitary personnel stood in layered barricades. Yet the people still came. Rahul Gandhi had fired the call the day before in words that rang across the Republic. "Yesterday, the nation's young came out in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Shashidhar Reddy calls for permanent solutions to tackle El Niño impact

Hyderabad, Oct.12: Senior BJP leader and former NDMA Vice-Chairman Marri Shashidhar Reddy has urged the state government to adopt permanent water conservation measures to tackle droughts intensified by climate change and the El Nino effect. Addressing a press conference at the Basheerbagh Press Club here on Monday, he advocated implementing the 'Four Waters Concept' (Chaturvidha Jala Prakriya), developed by late irrigation expert T. Hanumantha Rao, across the country's rain-fed agricultural areas. Rainfall deficits and dwindling water reserves were affecting agriculture in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, while successive droughts had depleted groundwater levels and hit rural livelihoods, he added. Citing the implementation of the concept in Telangana and Rayalaseema in 2001, Shashidhar Reddy said it had yielded positive results. He cited Gottigaripalli village in Sangareddy district as an example, stating that it had withstood successive droughts and maintained water supplies for three crops. He also noted that the approach had been implemented in Rajasthan. The method focuses on rainwater conservation, groundwater recharge, prevention of soil erosion and ensuring water availability during droughts. The estimated implementation cost is around Rs.15,000 per acre, he said.

SHORT TAKES

Appointment of Governors for Six States

New Delhi: Rashtrapati Bhavan has issued an official announcement appointing new governors for six states in the country. Om Prakash Mathur, who is currently serving as the Governor of Sikkim, has been appointed as the Governor of Kerala. Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has been transferred to Tamil Nadu as its Governor.

Braj Mohan Ram has been appointed as the Governor of Odisha, while Dr. Sudha Yadav has been appointed as the Governor of Karnataka.

Dr. Dal Singh Bisen has been entrusted with the responsibilities of the Governor of Uttarakhand. President Droupadi Murmu has also decided to appoint Dushyant Gautam as the Governor of Sikkim.

NH-65 expansion works to begin by Jan 2027

Hyderabad, Oct.12: National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav has assured Telangana Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy that the expansion of National Highway-65 connecting Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Machilipatnam will commence by January 2027. The assurance came during a meeting between the Minister and the NHAI Chairman, along with Member (projects) Vipnesh Sharma, in New Delhi on Monday to discuss expediting the crucial highway project. The last date for submission of bids has been fixed as November 11, 2026.

Expressing concern over the increasing vehicular traffic and frequent road accidents on the highway, which serves as a key transport corridor for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Komatireddy urged NHAI officials to speed up the tendering process and ensure that construction begins without delay, prioritising commuter safety. The Minister stressed that NH-65 caters to thousands of commuters and motorists every day and that its expansion should be accorded priority to minimise accidents and ensure safer and more convenient travel. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy assured that his department would maintain close coordination with the Central agencies to ensure the project progresses as scheduled.

Harish slams govt over power, irrigation crisis

Hyderabad, Oct.12: Senior BRS leader and Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Monday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government, accusing it of total failure in managing Telangana's escalating agricultural crisis, persistent power shortages, and drought-like conditions.



Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao targeted the administration for its lack of preparedness despite nine months of explicit warnings regarding El Niño conditions.

He condemned the government's failure to roll out concrete measures to safeguard farmers and agricultural workers.Criticising the government's operational chaos, Harish Rao highlighted how officials repeatedly rescheduled a high-level briefing with farmers. "Farmers were summoned to Rythu Vedikas for an 11:00 AM meeting with the Chief Minister, while MLAs were invited to a noon videoconference. After multiple delays, they were casually informed that the Deputy Chief Minister would attend instead. Is the government playing games with our farmers?" he asked.

Harish Rao questioned the executive priorities, pointing out that the Chief Minister was visiting Goa and Cabinet Ministers were in Delhi while the farming community desperately waited for answers.

CM Revanth Reddy using Hindu gods' names for opportunistic politics: NRR

Hyderabad, Oct 12 : BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today alleged that chief minister Revanth Reddy is utilizing names of Hindu Gods for his opportunistic politics.

Addressing a press conference at state party headquarters here , Rao strongly criticized CM Revanth Reddy for comparing the BJP to "Ravana" and the Congress to " Rama" during a Congress rally in Goa. He accused him of uttering and changing the names of Gods for vote bank politics who had recently said that " Rama" is a rich man god and Congress worship "shiva" who is poor man god.



He questioned how Revanth Reddy who declared during the Jubilee Hills elections that "Muslim is Congress - Congress is Muslim"—has the moral right to invoke Lord Rama's name. He reminded that it was the Congress party that previously submitted affidavits in courts claiming Rama was a fictional character and hired top Supreme Court advocates to block the construction of the Ram Mandir. He asked why Rahul Gandhi and Congress leaders boycotted the Ayodhya Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha. He accused Congress of having demonic traits, citing imposition of Emergency, forced sterilizations, and the dismissal of 9 democratically elected state governments.

Rao warned that people of Telangana would teach a lesson to Congress party and CM Revanth Reddy for hurting Hindu sentiments which became silent spectator and branding culprits attacking

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VICAT
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LEADER IN ALL DAYS STRENGTH
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'Vote Theft' Battle Reaches Supreme Court

New Delhi, October 12: The Congress-led INDIA bloc's protest over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and allegations of "vote theft" took a significant turn on Monday. Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi led the "Chalo Delhi – March for Democracy," demanding action against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. During the protest, a delegation of 10 to 15 Congress leaders was permitted to proceed to the petition filing counter within the Supreme Court premises. However, they were not allowed to enter the highly secured area.

CJI Declines Meeting; Calls for Legal Recourse

Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge sought a meeting with Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Surya Kant to raise their objections regarding the functioning of the Election Commission and the revision of electoral rolls. According to reports, the CJI indicated that directions could not be issued on the matter at the administrative level and advised them to file a petition to seek a judicial remedy. Following this, opposition leaders moved towards pursuing legal action.

The CJI reportedly emphasized that every Indian citizen has the right to approach the Supreme Court and that the doors of the judiciary remain open to everyone. Although a personal meeting was not agreed to, the opposition leaders were told that they could present their arguments through the appropriate legal process.

Opposition's Allegations Against the Election Commission

Opposition parties have alleged that eligible voters are being removed from electoral rolls under the pretext of revising them. They are demanding that the SIR process be halted, that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resign, and that changes be introduced in the electoral system. Their demands also include the reintroduction of the ballot paper system.

The Election Commission, however, has maintained that the electoral roll revision process aims to identify deceased voters, people who have changed residences, individuals who cannot be traced, and other ineligible registrations.

The differences between the ruling party and the opposition over changes to electoral rolls remain sharp.

March Towards Supreme Court; Police Block Protesters

Following the Congress's call, INDIA bloc leaders and party workers marched from the Connaught Place area of Delhi towards the Supreme Court. The protesters raised slogans such as "March for Democracy" and "March for Justice" as they continued their demonstration. However, Delhi Police erected barricades on Bhagwan Das Road near the Supreme Court and stopped the march, leading to tensions between the protesters and the police.

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders focused on pursuing legal remedies and sought to bring their objections concerning the Election Commission before the judiciary. Rahul Gandhi declared that their struggle to protect democracy would continue.

Security Tightened Across Delhi

In view of the march, police personnel were deployed in large numbers at key locations across Delhi. Traffic management measures were introduced, and temporary restrictions were imposed on entry and exit at certain metro stations. Officials stated that security arrangements had been made to minimize inconvenience to the public due to the protests.

From Political Protest to Legal Battle

The controversy surrounding electoral roll revision has now triggered a nationwide debate over the independence of the Election Commission, the protection of voting rights, and the accountability of democratic institutions.

The ruling BJP has opposed the opposition's demand for the CEC's resignation. The ruling party's position is that the Election Commission is performing its duties in accordance with the law. With the Congress delegation receiving permission to file a petition, the legal dimension of the protest has gained further significance. Political circles are closely watching what steps the Supreme Court may take in the matter and whether it will admit the opposition's objections to the SIR process for judicial consideration.

TGSPDCL Unveils Next-Gen SPM Facility to Fast-Track Electrical Control Repairs



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 12: In a major initiative aimed at strengthening electrical distribution infrastructure, accelerating routine repairs, and significantly improving power distribution reliability across the region, Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) officially inaugurated its newly established Special Purpose Maintenance (SPM Shed) facility at RP Nilayam, Lothukunta, under the Secunderabad Circle on Monday. The high-capacity maintenance hub was formally commissioned by Sri Jitesh V. Patil, IAS, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of TGSPDCL, in the presence of senior company directors, zone chief engineers, and field staff. This strategic infrastructure upgrade is designed to enhance technical capabilities, streamline the overhaul of critical electrical control equipment, and provide robust operational support to ensure an uninterrupted power supply for local consumers.

During the inauguration ceremony, CMD Sri Jitesh V. Patil emphasized the vital role of modern diagnostic technology and modern technical methodologies in driving operational efficiency across power distribution networks. He explicitly instructed engineering teams and field personnel to upgrade their technical expertise, enforce rigorous maintenance protocols, and implement proactive system checks to deliver superior customer service. Highlighting the company's long-term commitment to grid modernization, the CMD reaffirmed that TGSPDCL is dedicated to expanding technical infrastructure, minimizing equipment downtime, and continually refining maintenance services to guarantee quality and reliable electricity for all consumers.

The newly commissioned facility resolves a long-standing operational bottleneck for field staff operating within the Secunderabad Circle. Previously, maintenance personnel had to transport malfunctioning electrical control equipment to the central SPM repair workshop in Erragadda. Due to the significant geographical distance, long transit times across busy urban corridors caused substantial operational inconvenience and delayed equipment turnaround. To overcome these logistical hurdles, the new SPM Shed was strategically located at RP Nilayam near the Alwal area, providing direct and convenient accessibility to multiple administrative and technical sections across the Secunderabad Circle.

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CM Revanth Targets Modi, Shah Over Alleged 'Vote Theft'

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He said the freedom movement had gained momentum under the slogan "Simon Go Back" and argued that the country was now facing a situation in which people needed to mobilize under the slogans "Gyanesh Go Back" and "SIR Go Back" to protect the voting rights guaranteed by the Constitution. He said the country had achieved independence because of the struggles and sacrifices of leaders such as Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh, Mahatma Gandhi, and Jawaharlal Nehru.

After independence, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution guaranteed every citizen the right to vote, laying a strong foundation for democracy, he said. The right to vote, he added, was a powerful instrument that ended monarchical and dynastic systems of governance and placed power in the hands of the people. Praising Ambedkar's contribution, the Chief Minister said extending equal voting rights to all sections of society, including the poor, Dalits, and Adivasis, had paved the way for social equality. He stressed that protecting this constitutional right was the responsibility of every citizen.

Was SIR Previously Used to Add Voters but Now to Remove Them?

The Chief Minister recalled that special intensive electoral roll revision exercises had been conducted in the past as well.

He said that in 1950, when Jawaharlal Nehru was Prime Minister, developments following the Partition of India created the need to identify people's residential details and ensure that eligible citizens received voting rights. He also referred to SIR exercises during the governments of Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Revanth Reddy alleged that earlier revision exercises primarily focused on adding eligible citizens whose names were missing from electoral rolls, whereas the current process appeared to be aimed at removing the names of people who already possessed voting rights.

He accused the authorities of using electoral roll revision for political purposes.

The Chief Minister further alleged that the BJP-led Central Government had previously used agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Income Tax Department, and narcotics agencies against political opponents. He claimed that, having found it difficult to achieve the desired results through those means, the government had now turned to SIR. Using a constitutional body such as the Election Commission for political purposes, he warned, could endanger democracy.

Questions Raised Over the Independence of the Election Commission

Revanth Reddy said the Election Commission was a constitutional body that must function independently and impartially. He warned that if public confidence in the Commission eroded, trust in the democratic system itself would suffer. Referring to earlier measures intended to improve transparency in the Election Commission, he discussed the three-member commission structure.

He criticized the changes made to the appointment process in 2023, alleging that the Chief Justice of India had been excluded from the selection process and the Union Home Minister had been included in his place. He said safeguards were needed to ensure impartiality in appointments to the Election Commission.

The Chief Minister stated that Rahul Gandhi had raised objections when Gyanesh Kumar was appointed Chief Election Commissioner. He alleged that the SIR process being conducted under Kumar's leadership was creating opportunities for eligible voters' names to be removed from electoral rolls.

Are Dalits, Adivasis and Poor People Being Targeted?

Revanth Reddy alleged that attempts were being made to remove the names of Dalits, Adivasis, backward communities, minorities, poor people, and young voters from electoral rolls. He also expressed concern that people who voiced opinions critical of the BJP and the Central Government on social media could potentially be targeted. He said Rahul Gandhi had been the first to recognize the seriousness of the issue and bring it to the attention of the public. While opposition parties had initially not paid sufficient attention to the matter, he said, they were now recognizing its significance. He also claimed that some leaders from the ruling side had begun raising questions about the issue. The Chief Minister warned against dividing citizens into rich and poor categories and weakening the voting rights of disadvantaged people.

He said that creating two classes of citizens—those who possessed voting rights and those who did not—would run contrary to the principle of equality. He demanded that the voting rights of every eligible citizen be protected, regardless of which political party they supported.

Why Are Modi and Amit Shah Silent? CM Asks

Revanth Reddy questioned why the Central Government was not responding to criticism of Gyanesh Kumar if it believed there had been no irregularity in his appointment. He demanded that the government explain why it was standing by the Chief Election Commissioner amid the allegations. He also questioned why protests against the Election Commission were being restricted and why large numbers of police personnel were being deployed in Delhi. The Chief Minister called for complete transparency in electoral roll revision and demanded safeguards to ensure that not even one eligible voter was unfairly removed. He said doubts had been raised about election results and changes in electoral rolls in certain states where the BJP had considerable political strength. He called on the Election Commission to clarify these issues.

CM Expresses Concern Over Alleged Removal of 130 Million Votes

Citing figures relating to the country's electorate, Revanth Reddy made further allegations. He stated that India had approximately 810 million voters in 2014, around 910 million in 2019, and nearly 970 million by the 2024 general elections.

However, he alleged that 130 million voter entries had already been deleted in 2026 and expressed concern that efforts were underway to increase the number of deletions to 200 million.

Questioning why the number of voters would decline while the country's population continued to grow, he demanded that the Election Commission disclose complete details of the changes made to electoral rolls. He also appealed to the President of India and the Chief Justice of India to respond to the issue.

These figures and allegations reflect the Chief Minister's statements as reported in the supplied Telugu text and have not been independently verified here.

We Will Continue the Fight Under Rahul Gandhi's Leadership

Revanth Reddy said the movement led by Rahul Gandhi would help protect democracy and constitutional rights. He referred to the Gandhi family's role in India's freedom struggle and said Rahul Gandhi was now fighting to safeguard voting rights. The Chief Minister called on party leaders to raise awareness among the public through the slogans "Gyanesh Go Back" and "SIR Go Back."

He demanded an end to attempts to remove eligible voters' names and called for measures to restore public confidence in the electoral process. He made it clear that the Congress and the INDIA bloc would intensify their campaign. Urging everyone to join Rahul Gandhi in the fight to protect democracy, Revanth Reddy said the movement was not merely a political struggle but one that concerned the future of the country.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, state ministers, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president Mahesh Kumar Goud, AICC observer Sachin Sawant, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and other senior leaders attended the meeting.

Thousands March to SC Over Vote Theft Claims

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Delhi to peacefully protest. They came with love in their hearts, not hatred or anger. They were beaten, both by cops and BJP goons. This is not the India we want."

He declared that on this Monday "we will march to the Supreme Court as Indians, united beyond party, gender, caste, community and state." Youth, Opposition parties, civil society groups and all who stand by the Constitution would walk together. "We will submit a memorandum to the Chief Justice on behalf of the nation, demanding an end to vote chori, halting of SIR and the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar. He added the ringing line "Daro mat. Tomorrow, all of India will march to the Supreme Court."

At a press conference before the march Rahul Gandhi sharpened the charge against the Chief Election Commissioner. "Resign, turn approver: you have made a mistake but you are not the mind behind the mistake." He claimed messages had come from Gyanesh Kumar and said the Opposition's fight was against larger powers. He asserted that two hundred officers of the government, including those in the ED, CBI and Foreign Ministry, were in touch with the Opposition and passing information. He further claimed that half the police personnel had told them the agitation was right and should continue. "We know Gyanesh Kumar is unable to sleep at night; 1 am telling him directly you will not survive as CEC."

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant had already declined the requested meeting. In a reasoned response he explained that the issues of SIR, alleged electoral irregularities and the conduct of the Chief Election Commissioner were already sub-judice before the Supreme Court. The Court could not take up such grievances on the administrative side. Separation of powers and judicial propriety required a formal petition on the judicial side. The doors of the Court remained open to every citizen whose fundamental rights were said to be violated.

When lawyers, students and Opposition leaders march together to the highest court, the Republic is being asked a hard question. Does the vote still belong to the people who cast it?

Police stopped the march at barricades on Bhagwan Dass Road. Some leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, climbed atop a vehicle. The procession did not reach the Supreme Court gates on foot. Yet a designated delegation was allowed to the filing counter. A petition against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, listing among the petitioners Mallikarjun Kharge, Akhilesh Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav and others, was filed. The legal process the Chief Justice had pointed to had begun. Earlier, the Opposition had met the President and raised the same issues of SIR and the functioning of the Election Commission. Reports had spoken of objections recorded by other Election Commissioners to certain directions. The Keralam Assembly passed a resolution seeking the removal of Gyanesh Kumar.

Previous attempts by the Cockroach Janta Party and youth groups to gather at Jantar Mantar had met with detentions and the denotification of that traditional protest site. Alternative venues were designated. The March for Democracy was the Opposition's answer.

BJP voices called the mobilisation anarchy and instability. The Opposition replied that the Constitution itself was under challenge and that the right to peaceful assembly and petition remained intact. Delhi Police enforced Section 163 restrictions in key zones and kept the capital under tight control. Traffic advisories warned of disruptions. Commuters suffered.

Opposition parties allege large scale deletions and irregularities that amount to vote chori. The Election Commission has maintained that the exercise is lawful and necessary for clean rolls. The Supreme Court has pending matters on related questions. The Chief Justice has made clear that those questions will be answered in court, not in an administrative meeting.

MY SHOT

The streets of Delhi have spoken with the feet of citizens who believe the vote is the first article of the Republic's faith. Barricades can stop a march. They cannot stop a petition once it reaches the filing counter. The Chief Justice has correctly drawn the line between administrative courtesy and judicial process. Now the Court must hear the case on its merits. Every Indian who values free and fair elections has a stake in the answer. The Constitution does not belong to any party. It belongs to the people who walk, who petition, and who insist that their ballot counts exactly as cast. The Republic is watching.

-C. SUBRAHMANYAM

CM Revanth Reddy using Hindu gods' names for opportunistic politics: NRR

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temples frequently are " mental disorder men".

On the issue of acute El Nino-induced drought in the stat, Rao stated that BJP leaders personally toured the Jurala and Nagarjuna Sagar projects and villages in view drought situation. He personally consoled a farmer family in Adilabad driven to suicide by drought. Despite the Chief Secretary issuing a 'Most Immediate' note on October 9 to review drought conditions, CM Revanth Reddy and 60 ministers/MLAs took special flights to Delhi, abandoning governance. While people in Hyderabad and villages suffer from water shortages and power cuts, they are wasting public money on protests in Delhi for Rahul Gandhi's political gimmicks. He said that staging street marches to pressure the Supreme Court Chief Justice is an attempt to blackmail the judiciary, rather than legally presenting evidence.

Accusing Congress of failing to present evidence before the Election Commission or the President, BJPstate chief alleged they are conspiring with urban naxals like Prashant Kishor to incite violence and chaos, aiming to provoke police action and public panic. He likened current tactics to the Shaheen Bagh protests during the CAA, alleging support from radical groups like Bangladesh's Jamaat-e-Islami. "India is not Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, or Nepal, your games won't work here. Fearing defeat in upcoming elections in UP, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab, and Gujarat, Congress and the INDI Alliance are playing these chaotic dramas," he alleged.

Rahul Gandhi will not be allowed to set foot on Telangana soil until student fee reimbursements are fully paid and the six guarantees promised in election declarations are delivered to farmers, BCs, and Dalits, Rao roared. BJP state chief advised CM Revanth Reddy to take concrete measurs to curb drug menace in the state instead of giving speeches in Goa. He alleged that ganja, charas, cocaine, and MDMA are widely available, turning Telangana into a drug marketing hub highlighting a recent seizure of 2 kg of MDMA worth crores. He called it shameful for a CM whose youth and students face ruined futures to preach morals in neighboring states.

He noted that Congress has been out of power for 59 years in Tamil Nadu, 49 years in West Bengal, 37 years in UP, and 30 years in Gujarat, pushing the country toward a 'Congress-mukt Bharat'. He predicted defeat for Congress in the upcoming 5 state elections, mocking that just like movie heroes being repeatedly relaunched, Sonia Gandhi keeps re-launching Rahul Gandhi, but he never manages to land successfully.

State party general secretaries N. Gautam Rao, Virender Goud, MLC Malka Komuraiah, Chief Spokesperson & Media In-charge N V Subhash, and party spokespersons Abhishek Jigini, Suresh, and Venkat Reddy were also present at the press conference.

5-YR-OLD GIRL MURDERED; ACCUSED ARRESTED

Hyderabad, Oct.12: Malkajgiri police have arrested Vikram Kumar, a former security guard, for allegedly murdering a five-year-old girl and demanding Rs.20 lakh ransom from her parents in Kowkoor. The accused was apprehended within 24 hours of the complaint, police claimed. The girl, Aurelia, also known as Monu, went missing on October 10 while playing near the clubhouse of her gated residential community, Villa Orchids. Her father, Milton Fernandes Moses, later received a phone call from an unidentified person claiming custody of the child and demanding Rs.20 lakh.

Bollarum police registered a kidnapping case and launched an intensive search with 10 special teams, supported by technical investigation and CCTV footage analysis. During the search, the girl's body was found inside a water sump in the clubhouse cellar. Police subsequently focused on Vikram Kumar, who had worked as a security guard at the residential complex from September 22 to October 6.

RED CROSS PLANS DIST-WIDE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN IN TELANGANA

Hyderabad, Oct.12: Telangana Indian Red Cross Society branches have been directed to prepare district-level action plans for implementing the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, with a focus on preventing drug abuse among youth.

Governor's Special Chief Secretary and State Red Cross chairman M. Dana Kishore issued the directions during a video conference with district branch representatives at Lok Bhavan here on Monday. He said the Governor of Telangana would formally launch the campaign in the State. The proposed activities, to be organised after Dasara, include awareness rallies, educational seminars, poster exhibitions and pledge-taking programmes. Junior and Youth Red Cross volunteers, NSS, NCC and Scouts and Guides will be involved in the outreach initiatives.

Dana Kishore stressed the need to make the campaign a sustained public movement promoting healthy lifestyles and educating young people about the health and social consequences of drug abuse. Reviewing the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, he also directed district branches to coordinate with health officials to identify tuberculosis patients requiring nutritional support. Donors, charitable organisations and industrial establishments will be mobilised to provide nutritional kits and food assistance to eligible patients.

GITAM Observes World Mental Health Day with "Mental Health Event 2.0"





HYDERABAD

The Department of Applied Psychology, GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHS), Hyderabad, in collaboration with GITAM Student Life, observed World Mental Health Day on 12 October 2026 by organizing Mental Health Event 2.0 under the theme "Be Mindful, Be Kind, Be You." The event embraced the vision of "Better Minds, Healthier Lives, and a Kinder Tomorrow," encouraging students to prioritize mental well-being, express their thoughts and emotions, connect with support systems, explore wellness resources, and foster a culture of empathy and mutual support.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Rathin Roy, Dean, GSHS, in the presence of Dr. Shamuel Tharu, Director In-Charge, GSHS, and Dr. M. Reza, Director, School of Science. They appreciated the Psychology students for their initiative, creativity, and professional organization of the event. During their visit to the stalls, they interacted with students, learned about the activities and their significance, and offered valuable suggestions for further improvement. The inaugural programme was followed by cultural performances presented by faculty members of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts (FEPA) and various student clubs.



The event featured a diverse range of engaging, interactive, and creative activities designed to promote mental health awareness, emotional expression, self-reflection, and social connection. These included the Mental Health Puzzle Piece Activity, Mental Health Casino, Unlock Your Mind Mini Escape Room, Art Therapy and Craft with Hidden Notes, Photo-booth and Sketch Stall, Take One, Leave One, Commitment Wall, Affirmation Sentences, One Wish Willow, Letters to My Future Self, Mental Health Check-in Board, Colour Analysis, Badge-Making Activity, Psychological Assessments, Mental Health Crossword, Trash Stall, and the Anger Release Balloon Pop and Laughing Challenge. Collectively, these activities provided students with opportunities to explore their emotions, develop coping strategies, strengthen interpersonal connections, and embrace positive mental health practices.

The one-day event was coordinated by Dr. Prema Naittee George, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Psychology, with the support of fellow faculty members. Through this initiative, GITAM Hyderabad reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing a supportive and inclusive campus environment where mental health is valued, conversations are encouraged, and every individual is empowered to explore, heal, connect, and thrive.

GSB Hosts Panel Discussion on the Future of HR and Labour Codes

GITAM School of Business (GSB), GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, in association with the ISTD Hyderabad Chapter, organised a panel discussion titled "Navigating the Future of HR: Labour Codes and the Changing Legal Landscape" on October 12, 2026. The programme aimed to familiarise students with evolving labour laws, legal compliance, risk management, and emerging HR practices.

The distinguished panellists—Dr. E. Haritha, Senior Director and Country Head–HR, Gainsight India; Dr. Sailaja, Director–HR, Learning and Growth, Kaarya IT Solutions; and B. Anil Kumar, former Senior Director and Head of HR, Infor—shared valuable industry insights on the implications of the new Labour Codes and the evolving role of HR. They emphasised that HR professionals must become strategic business partners, align people practices with organisational goals, promote continuous learning and upskilling in the age of AI, and embrace a future-ready approach to workforce transformation. They also encouraged students to think independently and use AI responsibly.

Dr. K. N. Rekha, Area Chair and Assistant Professor of Organisational Development and Human Resource Management, introduced the discussion, while Dr. Kunman Mishra, Convenor of the event, moderated the session. The panellists also interacted with MBA and BBA students, addressing their queries and offering practical perspectives on emerging HR challenges. The session provided valuable industry exposure and reinforced the importance of responsible leadership, strategic thinking, and informed HR practices in the changing world of work.

Bathukamma Celebrations Enthrall Visitors at Telangana Assembly Premises

- **Women sing devotional songs and clap while dancing around Bathukammas**
- **Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy participate in the celebrations**



HYDERABAD

Bathukamma is not merely a festival but a symbol of the self-respect of Telangana's women and the state's rich cultural tradition of worshipping nature, Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar said. Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy praised Telangana's culture and traditions, describing them as an example for the world.

Bathukamma celebrations held on Monday evening at the Telangana Assembly premises were marked by great enthusiasm and festive spirit. Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy, and Legislative Council Deputy Chairman Banda Prakash participated in the festivities and joined women in playing Bathukamma.

Beautifully arranged Bathukammas, decorated with marigold, chrysanthemum, Gunugu and Tangedi flowers, were placed at the centre as women employees and staff gathered around them, singing traditional songs such as "Bathukamma Bathukamma Uyyalo" while dancing together.

The women moved in circles around the floral arrangements, clapping their hands and singing devotional songs with deep faith and enthusiasm. The celebrations reflected the warmth, joy and vibrant spirit of Telangana's women, creating a lively festive atmosphere.

The Telangana Assembly premises came alive on Monday evening with colourful flowers, cheerful gatherings and the joyful participation of women, adding to the grandeur of the Bathukamma festivities.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CARRIAGE & WAGON WORKS

Tender Notice : BRAKEVANUPGRADATION102026

For and on behalf of President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon Works, Southern Railway, Perambur, Chennai -600 023 invites e-tender for the following work as per the tender notice given in e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Name of work	**Upgradatin of Brake Van (BVZI/BVCM) during POH at the premises of Carriage and Wagon Workshop, Perambur.**
Approximate cash value	**Rs. 12,00,85,080.00/-**
Earnest Money Deposit	**Rs. 24,01,700.00/-**
Bidding Start Date	**19/10/2026**
Tender closing date and time	**02.11.2026 at 15.00 Hrs**
Cost of tender form	**Nil**
Period of Completion	**24 Months**
Website Address	**www.ireps.gov.in**
Office Address	**Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage & Wagon, Works, Southern Railway, Ayanavaram, Chennai – 600 023**

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No. : SDSTE-CCTV-HAZAT-RPH-PKR, dated 09.10.2026. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, New Divisional Railway Manager Office, Near Railway Museum, Howrah-711101 invite e-Tenders against for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work:** SCH-A-Proposal for Upgradation of Storage Capacity of RPF Post Hazat CCTV, HWH Division SCH-B1-B4-Howrah - Proposal for installation of additional CCTV at HWH Station.SCH-C1-C2-Provision of Rolling-in/out facilities with CCTV cameras at Pakur freight yard SCH-D1-D2-Installation of CCTV Cameras at various location in RPH Yard of Howrah Division. **Bidding System:** Single packet. **Advertised Value:** ₹ 44737326.75. **Earnest Money/ Bid Security:** ₹ 894800.00. **Tender Doucment Cost:** ₹ 0.00. **Period of Completion:** 9 months. **Validity of Offer:** 60 Days. **Date and Time of uploading Tender:** 09.10.2026 at 17.57 hrs. **Bidding Start Date:** 19.10.2026. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 02.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs. The details are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in HWH-391/2026-27**

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

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

"Trained Engineers at the ESCI Must Contribute towards Viksit Bharat"





- **Col. Harpal Singh Grewal**

HYDERABAD

Around 25 crore electricity meters across India are expected to be transitioned to smart meters in the coming three to five years, marking a significant step towards the digital transformation of the country's power sector. Highlighting this development, Colonel Harpal Singh Grewal, Director, Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Hyderabad, called upon engineering professionals to acquire advanced technical knowledge and contribute to the national mission of Viksit Bharat.

Col. HS Grewal inaugurated a five day combined training programme organized by the Power & Energy and Water Resources Development Divisions of ESCI on 12 October 2026. A total of 122 participants from across the country will attend the training programmes.

Emphasizing ESCI's role in advancing technical education, the Director said that ESCI has established the 1st Smart Meter Laboratory in the country supporting specialized training in smart metering technologies. He urged the participants sponsored from the Power Finance Corporation to make effective use of the training and understand the benefits of smart meters, including improved energy accounting, enhanced transparency, efficient power distribution and better consumer services.

In addition, the candidates sponsored from theMadhya Pradesh Public Works Department will get trained on compact substations, underground high-tension cable systems and lighting.

Apart from the above PFC and MPPWD sponsored candidates, the candidates those who were sponsored from Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) will be provided the training on preparation of estimates and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for engineering projects and public works like DPRs for irrigation projects, including dams and canals, highways, water supply systems, sewerage and drainage networks.

He encouraged the engineers and professionals to become innovators and creators in their respective fields, apply their learning to real-world challenges and contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

Heads of Departments and faculty members of ESCI attended the inaugural function.



Telangana to train 45 lakh youth for global job opportunities, says Vivek

HYDERABAD



The Telangana government is undertaking various initiatives to transform the State into a $3 trillion economy, with a focus on equipping youth with industry-relevant skills and improving their global employment prospects, Minister for Labour, Employment, Training and Factories Dr. Vivek Venkatswamy said.

The government aims to provide skill training to nearly 45 lakh youth over the next five years, enabling them to access employment opportunities in industries across the world, he said.

Addressing a meeting with representatives of the Hiroshima Prefectural Government of Japan at the Secretariat on Monday, the Minister stressed the need to strengthen cooperation between Telangana and Hiroshima.

Referring to the issues discussed during his recent visit to Hiroshima, Vivek Venkatswamy said there was considerable scope to deepen collaboration between the two sides, particularly in skill development and employment.

He said the State government was giving special attention to preparing Telangana youth to meet the workforce requirements of Japanese industries. As part of these efforts, Japanese language training programmes were being conducted to equip young people with the language proficiency and skills needed to work in Japan.

The Minister also emphasised the importance of familiarising Telangana youth with the work culture and professional values of Japanese industries, including precision, discipline and dedication. By acquiring technical skills and understanding Japan's work culture, youth from Telangana would be better positioned to take advantage of employment opportunities in the country, he added.

SHORT TAKES

Sircilla weaver's handloom masterpiece honoured at Dubai Bathukamma event

HYDERABAD: *Telangana's rich handloom heritage received grand international recognition as a special handloom shawl, crafted by renowned weaver Veldi Hariprasad from Rajanna Sircilla district, was unveiled on October 11 during the 16th ETCA Bathukamma Celebrations in Dubai. Intricately woven with portraits of members of the Dubai Ruling Family, the shawl symbolises the deep cultural bond and enduring friendship between India and the UAE. Presented on behalf of lakhs of Telangana expatriate workers, the initiative highlights the extraordinary skill of Sircilla's weaving community and serves as a token of gratitude toward the UAE's leadership. Hariprasad, globally recognised for his innovative textile craft, achieved remarkable detail by weaving realistic portraits on a traditional loom—a process requiring immense precision and mastery. His work elevates the international standing of Sircilla's handloom industry while reflecting the deep affection of the Gulf diaspora.The official unveiling took place at the mega Bathukamma event organised by the Emirates Telangana Cultural Association (ETCA) at the Al Ahli Sports Club. Dignitaries present included former minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Korutla MLA Dr. Kalvakuntla Sanjay.*

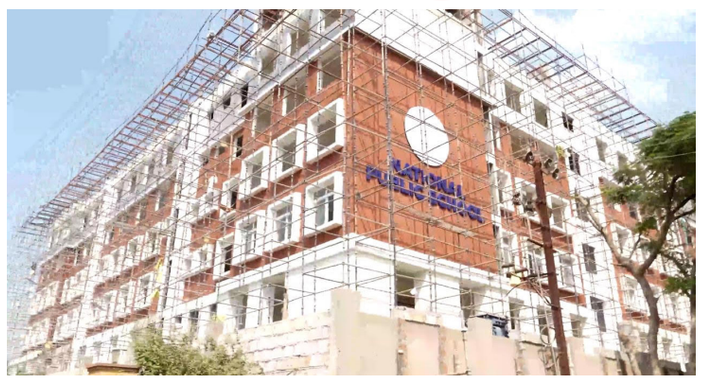
BRS Leader Krishank Holds Press Meet Outside CM's Daughter's School

HYDERABAD

BRS spokesperson Manne Krishank visited the construction site of a corporate school allegedly associated with the family of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and raised several questions about the project.

Krishank demanded clarification over suspicions that funds received from the sale of Medicover Hospital had been invested by Revanth Reddy's daughter, Naimisha Reddy, in the Mind Vault Corporate School venture. He questioned whether the investment was part of what he described as ₹50,000 crore worth of alleged corruption and illicit wealth.

He alleged that the school, located in Kompally, was being planned for expansion to Kollur in Hyderabad and other states. He questioned whether the venture intended to burden students by charging fees of ₹2.5 lakh. Referring to the sale deed, Krishank stated that the land for the school had been purchased on July 4, 2025. He demanded details about the sources of funds used to acquire the land and construct such a large school within two years of the Congress government coming to power.



Questions Over Mind Vault Ventures and Its Directors

Krishank alleged that the construction was being carried out through Mind Vault Ventures. Citing documents, he said the company's registered address in Rangareddy district listed the names of Naimisha Reddy, Dumpa Sirisha, Dumpa Brahmananda Reddy, Bethi Vijayashree, and Sirisha Parankusham.

He claimed that, apart from Naimisha Reddy, the other individuals were directors of Medicover Hospital. He demanded that Congress leaders clarify the alleged connections between these individuals and the school project.

Krishank called for transparency regarding the sources of investment in the school, the land purchase, and the financial transactions of the companies involved. He urged those concerned to disclose the facts to the public.

Allegations of Abuse of Power and Commercialization of Education

Krishank accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of hypocrisy, pointing out that he had previously spoken against turning education into a business but was now allegedly allowing his daughter to enter the corporate education sector.

He alleged that Revanth Reddy, while responsible for the state's education sector, had neglected government-run residential schools while promoting a corporate school venture associated with his family.

He described the alleged conduct as an abuse of power by a sitting Chief Minister.

Further Allegations Against the Chief Minister's Family

Krishank levelled several additional allegations against Revanth Reddy and his family:

Land allocation: He alleged that land worth ₹200 crore had been handed over to the Chief Minister's younger brother, Kondal Reddy.

Business agreement: He alleged that another brother, Jagadishwar Reddy, had entered into a ₹1,000 crore agreement through what he described as a fictitious company.

Hyundai dealerships: He claimed that five Geetha Hyundai showrooms had been opened in the name of the Chief Minister's wife following a visit to South Korea.

Healthcare businesses: He accused the Chief Minister of neglecting government hospitals while allegedly supporting his son-in-law's Max BN Pharma and Medicover Hospital.

Krishank questioned why Congress leaders were not responding to these allegations. He also claimed that the Chief Minister's family's assets had increased to ₹50,000 crore within approximately two and a half years of Revanth Reddy becoming Chief Minister.

He demanded answers from the Chief Minister and called for transparency regarding the school project, its investments, and the financial dealings of the entities allegedly associated with the family.

Veterans call for national action plan to build "Viksit Bharat 2047"

HYDERABAD



Veterans and patriotic citizens from across the country have called for converting the experience, discipline and spirit of service of ex-servicemen into a measurable national action programme for achieving the goal of "Viksit Bharat 2047".

The call was made at the 19th National Convention of the Rashtriya Sainik Sanstha, held at Kalam Auditorium, MCEME, Secunderabad, on Monday. The convention was held on the theme "Viksit Bharat 2047: Role of Veterans and Patriotic Citizens". Governor of Telangana Shiv Pratap Shukla, who attended the inaugural session as chief guest, stressed the importance of service and nation-building. Around 100 delegates from various states, including veterans, Veer Naris, parents of fallen soldiers, serving officers, educators and patriotic citizens, participated.

Major General N Srinivas Rao (Retd), National Vice President, Dakshin Bharat, and State President, Telangana, hosted the convention and presented a memento to the Governor.

The convention discussed youth mentoring and skilling, national security, civil-defence awareness, cyber preparedness, Swadeshi and entrepreneurship, Nari Shakti, community health, fitness, disaster response, environmental protection and preservation of India's cultural and military heritage.

The delegates unanimously adopted the Hyderabad Declaration, committing themselves to time-bound and measurable action in areas including self-reliance, national security, youth mentoring, women's participation, social justice, disaster preparedness, fitness, environmental responsibility and heritage preservation.

The Declaration also appealed to the Centre to consider a National Veterans Policy 2047 in three stages - Veteran Welfare, Veteran Empowerment and Veteran Nation-Building. It proposed a National Veteran Digital Gateway, Talent Bank and Veteran National Service Programme.

The Sanstha said the implementation of the Declaration would be reviewed annually at national, zonal, State and district levels. Its guiding vision is "Every Veteran - A Continuing Contributor to Viksit Bharat 2047".

The Telangana unit highlighted its public service initiatives, including medical camps, eye check-ups, medicine distribution, motivational programmes and activities promoting patriotism among schoolchildren.

Other important dignitaries who attended included Acharya (Dr) Lokesh Muni, Founder, World Peace Center; Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney, AVSM, VSM, Commandant, MCEME; Air Marshal Rahul Bhasin, VM, Commandant, Air Force Academy, Hyderabad; Shri Narendra Ram Nambula, Founder, Lifespan Industries; Col Tejendra Pal Tyagi, VrC, National President, Rashtriya Sainik Sanstha; Prof (Dr) Neelam Pawar; Maj Gen M L Aswal, National Vice President, North India; Smt Anuradha Rao, President, Mahila Wing, Dakshin Bharat; Lt Gen K Ravi Prasad, PVSM, VSM (Retd); Lt Gen K Surendra Nath, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), former GOC-in-C; and Dr Nisheeta Dixit.

Review officials' Transfers in Municipal Department, says Taj Mohan Reddy

HYDERABAD

Telangana State Municipal Employees' Association founding President Taj Mohan Reddy has appealed for a review of the transfers and postings of certain officials within the Municipal Department. He has addressed a letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy regarding this matter. In his capacity as the Founding President of the Association, he stated that he wished to bring to the Chief Minister's attention certain issues concerning the interests of the municipal employees in Telangana. He noted that during the tenure of the previous BRS government, an official named Mamata served as a Zonal Commissioner in areas such as Serilingampally and Kukatpally and had previously worked in the Office of the Director of Municipal Administration. He said that It had come to the Association's notice that the municipal employees faced numerous difficulties during her tenure and added that After the current government assumed office, Mamata was transferred to Adilabad district. "However, while that transfer order was in effect, she traveled to the United States and returned to India after approximately six months. Subsequently, it has come to our attention that she rejoined duty as an Assistant Director in the Office of the Director of Municipal Administration. Furthermore, there are allegations that another officer Mahender engaged in various irregularities and corrupt practices during his previous tenure as OSD to KTR including the amassing of substantial assets through corruption. Although he was subsequently transferred to the Khammam region, the Telangana Municipal Employees' Association has expressed deep concern over his recent appointment to a key position related to 'Future City' development.

BJP state chief accepts challenge from Congress minister on voter deletion

HYDERABAD



Telangana State BJP President N Ramchander Rao today accepted challenge of state Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on alleged deletion of votes and wanted to produce them who lost their rights during SIR process.

The Congress minister challenged the state BJP chief to produce voters who claim to have lost their voting rights during revision of electoral rolls along with supporting documents.

Addressing a press conference at state party office here, BJP state president said he is accepting the challenge and asked the minister to decide time and date and bring at least 10 people instead of many people to prove his claims and he will be present at the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) office.

Taking a dig at the Congress minister, BJP state president said "as far as I know, your Majlis friends—Asaduddin Owaisi and Akbaruddin Owaisi—are your only support. You can bring them along too if you want. Let us check the details of those 10 voters on the computers right then and there to clarify whether their votes are missing or were actually deleted. Rao said "You don't need to bring thousands of people. Even if you bring your Majlis friends Asaduddin and Akbaruddin Owaisi to the State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), just bring at least 10 people whose votes are missing to the CEO's office. I will come too. Let's check the records on computers. No vote is deleted without notice or inquiry. If it is proven that an eligible person's vote was deleted, let's act as per rules to register it right there.

Rao said there is a difference between " missing and deletion". Vote of even not a single eligible person was deleted. There is no possibility of deleting a vote without prior notice and a field-level inquiry.

If you cannot prove it, you must apologize for your comments, Rao demanded and alleged that Congress leaders are ignoring suffering of farmers following drought situation in the state and rushing Delhi by special flight to spread lies.

"I Strongly Denounce the Complaint Filed Against Me"

- **The complaint filed by Sujana Reddy, wife of JNTU Vice-Chancellor, is false, says MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy.**
- **I questioned the Vice-Chancellor over his alleged abusive remarks against women professors.**
- **The truth will come out if phone call records are made public.**
- **Allegations of corruption and irregularities at JNTU must be investigated.**
- **Do not engage in actions that damage the university's reputation.**

— Jangaon MLA Dr. Palla Rajeshwar Reddy

HYDERABAD

Jangaon MLA Dr. Palla Rajeshwar Reddy stated in a press release on Monday that he strongly condemned the complaint filed against him by Sujana Reddy, the wife of JNTU Vice-Chancellor Kishan Kumar Reddy. He clarified that the allegations made by Sujana Reddy in a police complaint on the 8th of last month—that he had verbally abused and threatened her—were false. He stated that he did not know who Sujana Reddy was, had never seen her, and had never spoken to her.

He explained that when he called the JNTU Vice-Chancellor, someone answered the phone and said that the Vice-Chancellor was in the bathroom. When the person asked him to convey if there was anything important, he replied that he wanted to speak directly to the Vice-Chancellor and ended the call. He later spoke to the Vice-Chancellor and questioned him about the reasons for allegedly abusing senior professors, particularly women professors.

"I told the Vice-Chancellor that if he had any grievance against me, he could question me directly. But why should women professors be abused?" he said.

According to Rajeshwar Reddy, the Vice-Chancellor acknowledged that a mistake had been made and apologized. He also said that he would provide a written letter of apology after returning from Tirupati. "This is what actually happened," Rajeshwar Reddy stated.

Although the Vice-Chancellor had promised to provide a written apology, it had not arrived by the following evening. Consequently, the women professors submitted a written complaint at the police station. However, instead of properly providing the police with information relating to their complaint, the Vice-Chancellor allegedly arranged for his wife to file a complaint against Rajeshwar Reddy.

He demanded that the police conduct a thorough investigation to determine whether the Vice-Chancellor had abused the women professors. He also urged the police to examine the phone call records to establish what he had discussed with the Vice-Chancellor. Additionally, he requested that the relevant CCTV footage be examined to ascertain the facts regarding the allegations that the Vice-Chancellor had behaved inappropriately toward the women professors.

Allegations Regarding JNTU's Reputation and Administration

JNTU is a prestigious educational institution recognized not only across the country but also internationally. Every year, lakhs of students pursue their education at the university and go on to achieve prominent positions in their professional lives. Colleges associated with the institution are also affiliated with this prestigious university.

Rajeshwar Reddy stated that nearly 10,000 students study at colleges affiliated with his institutions, where hundreds of teaching and non-teaching staff members are employed. He said that an improvement in JNTU's reputation would also benefit its affiliated colleges and their students. Therefore, he emphasized that everyone has



a responsibility to protect the university's standing.

However, he alleged that the Vice-Chancellor's conduct was damaging the university's reputation. He accused the Vice-Chancellor of using his wife as an intermediary and misusing his official position to engage in activities that tarnish the university's image. He further alleged that certain individuals were supporting the Vice-Chancellor in exchange for financial benefits and positions.

Rajeshwar Reddy also made allegations about the Vice-Chancellor's previous professional history. He claimed that the Vice-Chancellor had been removed from his position during his tenure as Director of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) following corruption allegations. He further alleged that the Vice-Chancellor had been removed from the post of JNTU Rector after allegedly making derogatory remarks against Dalit students.

He also claimed that after retiring, the Vice-Chancellor had been appointed at four private universities but was removed from those positions shortly after joining. According to Rajeshwar Reddy, the Vice-Chancellor worked at their institution, VGIT, for only two days before leaving because a car had not been provided, a coffee machine had not been installed, and an ante-room had not been converted into a bedroom.

Rajeshwar Reddy alleged that after assuming charge as Vice-Chancellor, the individual's aggressive conduct and allegations of corruption and irregularities had increased.

He further accused the Vice-Chancellor of engaging in alleged collections of money through his wife. He claimed that the university quarters had been turned into a bar and that money was being collected over weekends at venues such as the Jubilee Hills Club and the Golf Club.

He demanded that the concerned authorities conduct a comprehensive investigation into these allegations and establish the facts.

Alleged Interference in University Appointments and Decisions

Rajeshwar Reddy alleged that the Vice-Chancellor's wife was exercising excessive influence over several university matters, including the allocation of contracts, appointments to key positions such as directors and deans, transfers, and policy-related decisions. He claimed that a small number of individuals were obtaining positions by paying money. He alleged that, instead of focusing on core responsibilities such as teaching and research, some individuals were preoccupied with appeasing influential people.

He emphasized that providing quality education to students and promoting research should be the university's primary priorities. He appealed to all concerned not to support actions driven by personal interests that could damage the reputation of the prestigious JNTU.

He added that protecting a university's reputation means encouraging innovation, securing projects, publishing research papers, and obtaining patents—not supporting individuals accused of turning the institution into a centre of corruption and irregularities.

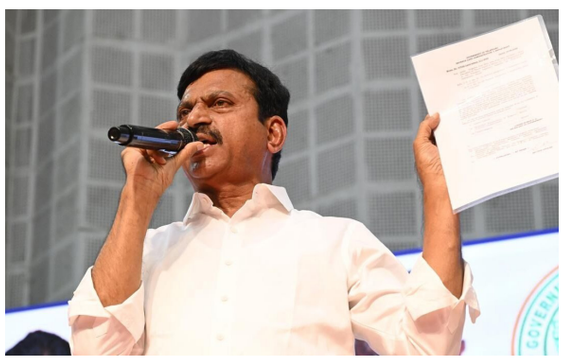
Demand for an Apology and Official Action

Rajeshwar Reddy demanded that the Vice-Chancellor immediately apologize for his alleged conduct toward the women professors.

He also urged the concerned authorities to take appropriate measures to ensure that the university functions independently and that the Vice-Chancellor's wife does not interfere in its day-to-day affairs.

"Modi Is Following in KCR's Footsteps": Minister Ponguleti

HYDERABAD



Telangana Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information and Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, stated that the Constitution grants every citizen and every political party the right to protest in a democracy.

He said that protests, dharnas, and demonstrations are natural democratic processes through which people bring their problems to the attention of governments.

The Minister recalled that, during the undivided Andhra Pradesh era, Dharna Chowk at Indira Park in Hyderabad served as a platform for people and political parties to bring their grievances to the government's attention.

However, he criticized the government led by KCR, which came to power in 2014, for abolishing the Dharna Chowk at Indira Park, alleging that it had curtailed the people's right to protest. He stated that the people had taught the KCR government a fitting lesson in the elections for denying them the opportunity to express their protests.

Modi Following in KCR's Footsteps

Minister Ponguleti criticized the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre, alleging that it was now following the same approach adopted by KCR in Telangana.

In a statement released on Monday, he said that imposing restrictions on protest venues such as Jantar Mantar in the national capital, New Delhi, which have historically been used by citizens and political parties to voice their concerns, was contrary to the spirit of democracy.

The Minister criticized both leaders, saying that while KCR had removed a protest venue in Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana, the Modi government was imposing restrictions on protests in Delhi, the national capital. He asserted that both leaders shared the same mindset.

He said that preventing people from expressing their grievances, silencing the Opposition, and denying them platforms to protest were not good for democracy.

Ponguleti asserted that the political consequences faced by KCR for attempting to suppress the people's voices could also confront Narendra Modi in the future.

"The fate that befell KCR after he abolished Dharna Chowk at Indira Park will also befall Modi for imposing restrictions at Jantar Mantar. Ultimately, the people's verdict will be the answer to every ruler who attempts to suppress the people's voices," Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy warned.

"Police Officers Have a Unique Opportunity to Wipe Away People's Tears": DGP C.V. Anand

Passing-out parade held for 112 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) at the Telangana Police Academy

Fitness and smartness are essential for police duties: DGP C.V. Anand



Hyderabad, October 12: Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand said that wearing the police uniform was a great privilege and that police personnel had a unique opportunity to serve the public and protect lives.

He explained that, out of Telangana's population of approximately four crore, only around 90,000 people have the opportunity to wear the police uniform, accounting for just 0.3 per cent of the population. He noted that police officers have the opportunity to wipe away the tears of at least 50 people every day. The DGP emphasized that officers must never compromise on honesty and ethical values and must perform their duties without prejudice based on caste, religion, or political affiliations.

He was addressing the passing-out parade of 112 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) who had completed their training at the Telangana Police Academy. He said the batch was particularly significant as it was the first DSP batch to complete full-fledged training and graduate from the academy after 2014.

He congratulated the officers on completing 44 weeks of training in laws, investigation procedures, outdoor exercises, and sports. He also commended the trainees who excelled during the training programme and congratulated the academy's officers, faculty, and staff. The DGP mentioned that the Chief Minister had conveyed his inability to attend the passing-out parade due to certain reasons.

Foundation for a 30–35-Year Career

The DGP advised the newly trained officers to treat the oath taken during the passing-out parade as a guiding principle throughout their 30–35-year careers. He urged them to always remember their pledge to uphold the Constitution, serve the public honestly, and discharge their duties without prejudice or favouritism. He explained that after completing their academy training, the officers would undergo an additional 46 weeks of field training. He advised them to maintain the same level of dedication, discipline, and integrity during this phase.

Drawing on his 35 years of experience in the police service, he said he had shared his professional lessons during an earlier interaction with the DSPs and reiterated the importance of leadership qualities.

Officers Must Develop Strong Leadership Qualities: DGP

Addressing the trainees, DGP C.V. Anand said they had been selected for leadership roles and must demonstrate their leadership abilities through their work. He urged every officer to cultivate the following ten qualities:

Courage
Vision
Ethical values
Impartiality
Team spirit
Communication skills
Hard work and dedication
Technological knowledge
Innovative thinking
Humility

He stressed that ethical values must never be compromised under any circumstances while performing official duties. Crime Patterns Have Changed; Policing Must Evolve

The DGP recalled that Naxalism had been a major challenge when he and his colleagues first joined the police service, and that the police had dealt with the problem effectively. He said the police now face new challenges, including cybercrime, organized crime, road safety issues, and other emerging threats.

In response to changing circumstances and in accordance with the Chief Minister's directions, the police department had undertaken organizational changes, he explained.

He said that, alongside the reorganization of units such as the Greyhounds, specialized units including the EAGLE Force, Cyber Security Bureau, TG FAST, and TG SPARK had been strengthened to address emerging challenges. He advised field-level officers to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills required to adapt to these changes.

Fitness and Professional Alertness Are Essential

The DGP emphasized that physical fitness, alertness, and professional competence were essential for police personnel. He expressed the hope that officers would maintain the enthusiasm, discipline, and fitness they displayed on their first day in uniform even after 30 years of service. Using the example of the belt worn as part of the police uniform, he advised the officers to maintain their fitness throughout their careers, suggesting that the belt hole used on their first day should remain unchanged until retirement. He called upon the DSPs to provide better public service and develop into effective leaders.

Special Significance of the Number 112: Academy Director

Telangana Police Academy Director Abhilash Bisht said the number 112 had special significance. The Telangana Police Department provides emergency assistance through the 112 service, and it was noteworthy that 112 DSPs were now beginning their journey in public service. Of the 112 officers, 74 are men and 38 are women. A total of 51 officers were selected from Multizone-I and 61 from Multizone-II. In terms of educational qualifications, 79 officers hold undergraduate degrees and 31 have postgraduate qualifications. Among the remaining two officers, one holds an MBBS degree and the other a BDS degree. The batch includes 45 individuals who previously worked in the state government, 12 who worked in the Central Government, and 55 who are beginning their professional careers. Four officers who previously served as Sub-Inspectors in the police department have now been selected as DSPs. The Director highlighted another achievement: while undergoing training, G. Srujana secured the 55th rank and D. Praveen Kumar secured the 795th rank in the 2026 UPSC examinations. He said the trainees had completed six weeks of foundation training at the Dr. Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Institute. Training at the academy was based on its motto of Knowledge, Skill, and Attitude, he explained. To provide practical field experience, the trainees were given opportunities to perform duties during the Medaram Jatara, Ganesh Chaturthi, and other major events.

They also received training with specialized units such as the Cyber Security Bureau and EAGLE. He emphasized that the fundamental duty of the police was to ensure justice for the public and that people would judge officers by their performance.

Neha Agarwal Wins Chief Minister's Revolver and Other Awards

Neha Agarwal, who demonstrated outstanding performance during police training, received the Chief Minister's Revolver along with three other awards.

Her awards included:

Chief Minister's Revolver for Best All-Round Performance
Raja Bahadur Venkata Rama Reddy Gold Medal
Kona Ramachandra Reddy Memorial Gold Medal
Home Minister's Baton for excellence in indoor subjects

She also received a cash prize of ₹5,000 along with the Raja Bahadur Venkata Rama Reddy Gold Medal.

Other trainees who excelled in various categories were also recognized:

L. Srikanth received the DGP Trophy for excellence in outdoor subjects.

T. Jacob Abhishek received the award for outstanding performance in firing.

D. Chandana won the NICFS medal in forensic science.

Chi. Adi Seshureddy won the NICFS medal in criminology.

R. Sai Kiran Reddy received the Director's Medal for excellence in investigation.

From Legal Studies to Cybercrime Investigation

The 44-week institutional training programme was divided into two semesters covering indoor and outdoor subjects.

Indoor training included police organization, criminology, crime prevention, human rights, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, forensic science, leadership, and management.

Specialized instruction was also provided in the investigation of violent crimes, property-related offences, cybercrimes, and financial fraud. Trainees were additionally familiarized with internal security and law-and-order management.

Weapons Training and Field-Level Skills

Outdoor training covered physical exercises, drill, parade, weapon handling, firing, fieldcraft, map reading, tactical procedures, VIP security, explosives, and the handling of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The programme also gave importance to swimming, first aid, ambulance drills, vehicle driving, disaster management, firefighting, and sports.

Senior police officers, retired police officials, academy staff, family members of the newly trained DSPs, and media representatives attended the passing-out parade.



Narayanpet Honoured for PM Dhan-Dhaanya Yojana

District Collector Priyanka Receives Award at an Event Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in New Delhi

New Delhi, OCT 12: District Collector Priyanka received an award on Monday in New Delhi at an event organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in recognition of Narayanpet district's outstanding performance in implementing the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana. This recognition highlights the efforts made by the district administration in promoting agricultural development, ensuring farmers' welfare, and effectively implementing government schemes. On this occasion, District Collector Priyanka stated that the dedication shown by officials in promoting agricultural development, ensuring that farmers receive the benefits of government schemes, and effectively implementing agriculture-related initiatives at the grassroots level was commendable.

The Collector instructed officials to implement agricultural development programmes in the district in a planned manner and emphasized the need for all concerned departments to work in coordination. She also extended special congratulations to all district officials and their teams who contributed to achieving this award. She noted that the cooperation, hard work, and responsible performance of every individual had laid the foundation for this success. The Collector expressed her hope that the teams would continue to uphold the same spirit of teamwork, deliver better services to the public, and achieve further milestones in the district's development.

She further stated that this national-level recognition had increased the responsibility of the Narayanpet district administration and expressed confidence that the award would serve as an inspiration to implement government development and welfare programmes more effectively in the future.

Dasara Rush Continues on TGSRTC Buses

Additional Bus Services Being Operated to Meet Passenger Demand

TGSRTC MD Y. Nagireddy Directs Officials to Ensure Hassle-Free Travel for Passengers

14 Million Passengers Travelled in the First Three Days

Hyderabad,OCT 12: The special bus services operated by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) to facilitate passenger travel during the Dasara festival are receiving an overwhelming response from the public. TGSRTC Managing Director Y. Nagireddy held a review meeting with officials via Zoom on Monday to assess the management of the Dasara festive rush and the operation of additional buses. He directed officials to take all necessary measures to ensure that passengers face no inconvenience during the festival and to continuously monitor bus services.

Record Number of Special Bus Services

TGSRTC has operated a record number of bus services this Dasara to provide improved transportation facilities to passengers. During the first three days of Dasara last year (2025), the corporation operated 922 additional buses. This year, on October 9, 10, and 11, it deployed a total of 1,417 special buses—495 more than last year.

The Telangana government's flagship Mahalakshmi free bus travel scheme is providing substantial financial benefits to women during the Dasara festival. During Dasara last year, women saved an average of ₹13.02 crore per day through the scheme. This year, during the festive rush, their daily savings increased to approximately ₹13.73 crore.

Additional Buses Planned for October 15–17

Considering the anticipated rush of passengers travelling to their hometowns, MD Y. Nagireddy instructed officials to operate additional buses on October 15, 16, and 17, based on passenger demand. He clarified that free bus travel for women under the Mahalakshmi scheme would continue as usual on regular and special services, including Palle Velugu, Express, City Ordinary, and Metro Express buses.

Telangana Tourism Department to Celebrate "Muddapappu Bathukamma"

Hyderabad, October 12 : The Department of Tourism, Government of Telangana, has organised "Muddapappu Bathukamma" on October 12, 2026, at Lalitha Kala Thoranam, Public Gardens, Hyderabad, as part of the ongoing Bathukamma celebrations from October 10 to 18, 2026. Bathukamma, the iconic floral festival of Telangana, represents the State's rich cultural heritage, devotion to nature, and the spirit of unity and togetherness. The celebration of Muddapappu Bathukamma will showcase the unique traditions and festive fervour of Telangana, bringing together people from different walks of life to celebrate the State's vibrant cultural identity.

Government employees from various departments have participated in the celebrations, adding to the festive spirit and reflecting the collective enthusiasm and cultural pride associated with Bathukamma. Their participation will further strengthen the spirit of unity, camaraderie and community involvement in celebrating Telangana's cherished traditions.

The programme will feature traditional cultural activities, folk performances and festive celebrations reflecting the customs, traditions, and artistic heritage of Telangana. The venue will be adorned with colourful floral arrangements and Bathukamma displays, creating a festive atmosphere for visitors and participants.

Elaborate Arrangements for President Droupadi Murmu's Visit

Amaravati, October 12: Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad said comprehensive arrangements were being made for the visit of President of India Droupadi Murmu to Vijayawada on October 14 and 15. On Monday, the Chief Secretary held a virtual meeting with officials from various departments to review preparations for the President's visit and issue necessary instructions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary directed officials concerned to make foolproof arrangements in accordance with protocol guidelines, ensuring that there was no scope for errors during the visit. He emphasized that all instructions issued by the President's Secretariat must be followed without deviation. He also instructed officials to ensure that the President's minute-to-minute itinerary was followed strictly and that all scheduled programmes were conducted on time without delays. The departments concerned were directed to make all necessary arrangements within their respective jurisdictions.



Earlier, J. Shyamala Rao, Principal Secretary of the State General Administration Department, who participated in the virtual meeting, briefed officials on the arrangements required from various departments for the President's visit.

President's Proposed Itinerary

According to the draft itinerary, President Droupadi Murmu will depart from Delhi by air at 3:55 p.m. on October 14 and arrive at Gannavaram Airport at 6:25 p.m. From the airport, she will travel by road to Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada and offer prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga between 7:20 p.m. and 7:40 p.m. She will stay overnight in Vijayawada.

On the morning of October 15, the President will arrive at Punnami Ghat at 11:30 a.m. She will participate as the chief guest in the SARAS Mela (Sale of Articles of Rural Artisans Society), jointly organized by the Union Ministry of Rural Development and the Andhra Pradesh government, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Subsequently, from 1:10 p.m. to 2:10 p.m., she will attend a luncheon with members of self-help groups and Lakhpati Didis. The President is scheduled to reach Gannavaram Airport at 2:45 p.m. before departing for Delhi.

The meeting was attended by Additional Director General of Police Madhusudan Reddy; Principal Secretary for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Kantilal Dande; SERP CEO Karuna; NTR District Collector Lakshmi Sha; I&PR Director K.S. Viswanathan; Kanaka Durga Temple Executive Officer Seenu Nayak; Protocol Department official S. Ramasubbayya; and other officials.

New Principal Chief Safety Officer for Southern Railway

Chennai, October 12: Shri Tej Partap Singh has assumed charge as Principal Chief Safety Officer (PCSO), Southern Railway with effect from 06th October 2026. He is an Officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) of 1998 Batch. Prior to his posting as PCSO, Shri Tej Partap Singh had held the post of Chief Freight Transportation Manager of Southern Railway. Shri Tej Partap Singh has a vast experience in various facets of Railway Traffic/ Transportation, including Coaching, Freight, Safety and General Administration. He had held various posts like Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Senior Divisional Safety Officer, Deputy Chief Safety Officer, Deputy General Manager and Additional Divisional Railway Manager. He had successful stints in the Centre of Railway Information System (CRIS) as the Regional General Manager and was associated with Real Time Train Information System of Automatic Train Tracking using ISRO's GSAT Satellite with GAGAN, along with 4G/3G mobile network, Control Office Application Project and PRS Modernisation Project.

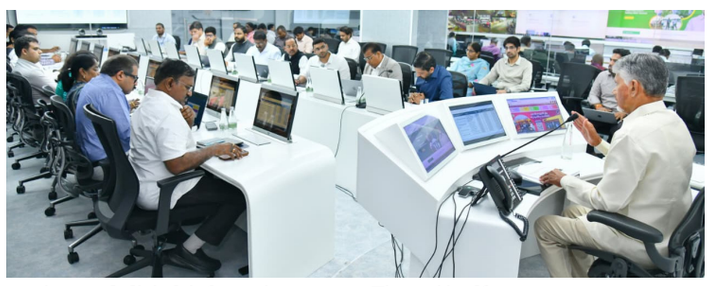


Shri.Tej Partap Singh holds a CA degree and has also undergone several Overseas Specialised Management Programmes at Insead, Singapore, ICLIF, Malaysia and a training in High Speed Rail Technology training at China. Further, he is an active participant in several Marathon runs.

Tirupati to be developed as world class spiritual centre: CM NAIDU

Amaravati : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu virtually inaugurated and laid foundation for development works worth Rs 3,222 crore under Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) from the Secretariat today to transform Tirupati as world class spiritual destination.

The Chief Minister laid foundation for an integrated pilgrim township at an estimated cost of Rs 2,750 crore to provide comprehensive facilities to devotees visiting Tirumala. The township is being developed near the SV Zoological Park road at Alipiri in Tirupati to ensure a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience for pilgrims arriving from across India and abroad. The project will bring accommodation, Annadanam (free meals), rest facilities, transportation, parking, medical services and digital information centres under one roof.Accommodation facilities worth ₹1,332 crore will be developed across four blocks, each comprising ten floors, with a total of 2,700 rooms. These facilities will be able to accommodate approximately 15,000 devotees per day.The project aims to ease the pressure on accommodation facilities atop Tirumala while providing improved amenities to pilgrims in Tirupati itself.



Emphasising that Annadanam is one of the most sacred forms of service, the Chief Minister said that providing food to hungry devotees and accommodation to tired pilgrims was equivalent to serving the Almighty.An Annaprasadam centre will be constructed at a cost of ₹160 crore, with facilities to serve 6,000 devotees at a time. To address parking difficulties, a multi-level parking complex with a capacity of 4,500 vehicles will be developed at a cost of ₹311 crore. An integrated transport terminal featuring 30 bus bays will also be established at a cost of ₹90 crore. Keeping in view Tirupati's growing population, increasing vehicular traffic and future infrastructure requirements, nine master plan roads will be developed at an estimated cost of ₹242 crore.The project covers approximately 20 km of roads, with TUDA developing 16.50 km at a cost of ₹127 crore and TTD developing 3.60 km at a cost of ₹115 crore. The roads will strengthen connectivity between National Highways 140 and 71 and improve transportation facilities for devotees visiting the Padmavathi Ammavari Temple at Tiruchanur.

The Chief Minister said the government was giving priority to the welfare of TTD employees and their families, who remain dedicated to serving Lord Venkateswara and the devotees.With the objective of enabling employees to live with dignity in their own homes, residential layouts are being developed across 418 acres. Infrastructure facilities for the residential plots of 5,192 employees under the first and second phases will be provided at a cost of ₹230 crore.Of this amount, TTD will contribute ₹150 crore and employees ₹80 crore.The infrastructure will include internal roads, drainage systems, overhead water tanks, water supply pipelines, a sewage treatment plant and an electricity distribution network.The Chief Minister directed officials to develop the township as an environmentally friendly, net-zero development. He also appreciated TTD employees for their commitment to service during festivals and other special occasions.

EDITORIAL

Degrees Are Growing; Employability Must Follow

India has made considerable progress in expanding access to higher education, with universities, colleges and professional institutions reaching an increasing number of students. Yet, a crucial question remains: are educational qualifications translating into meaningful employment? The widening gap between degrees and employability highlights the need to rethink how the country prepares its young people for the world of work. A degree remains an important foundation for intellectual development and professional advancement. However, employers increasingly seek more than academic qualifications. Communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, digital literacy and the ability to adapt to changing technologies have become essential across industries. When graduates enter the job market without these competencies, both individuals and employers face the consequences. One of the persistent challenges is the disconnect between classroom learning and workplace requirements. In many institutions, curricula continue to emphasise theoretical knowledge, while opportunities for practical training, internships, industry exposure and project-based learning remain limited. Students may perform well in examinations but struggle to apply their knowledge to real-world situations. This gap cannot be bridged merely by introducing more courses or expanding enrolment. It requires a fundamental shift in the teaching and learning process.

The rapid transformation of the economy makes this task more urgent. Artificial intelligence, automation and digital technologies are reshaping established professions while creating demand for new skills. Jobs that once depended on routine tasks increasingly require technological familiarity, analytical ability and continuous learning. Educational institutions must therefore update their curricula regularly and equip students to adapt rather than prepare them only for the requirements of their first job. Industry, too, has a responsibility. Employers should work more closely with universities and colleges to identify emerging skill requirements, support internships, offer apprenticeships and participate in curriculum development. Such partnerships can help students understand workplace expectations before graduation. Small businesses and start-ups, which often cannot afford extensive training programmes, could benefit from shared skill-development initiatives supported by industry associations and government agencies. Equally important is the need to strengthen vocational education and recognise alternative pathways to successful careers. Not every student must pursue a conventional university degree. Technical training, apprenticeships and specialised certifications can provide valuable employment opportunities when aligned with industry demand. Career guidance should help students make informed choices based on their interests, abilities and opportunities rather than social pressure to obtain a degree at any cost.

The government and educational regulators must also assess institutions by more meaningful indicators. Enrolment figures and examination results alone cannot capture educational quality. Graduate employment, the relevance of acquired skills, access to practical training and employer feedback should receive greater attention. At the same time, employability cannot be treated as the sole purpose of education; universities must continue to nurture independent thought, creativity, civic responsibility and an understanding of society.

India's demographic advantage will deliver lasting benefits only if its young population is equipped to participate productively in the economy. Degrees can open doors, but skills, adaptability and practical experience help graduates walk through them. The objective must not simply be to produce more graduates, but to develop capable, confident and adaptable individuals. Education must prepare young people not merely to pass examinations, but to solve problems, create opportunities and build meaningful careers.

THE OUTSIDER

Alas!
I cannot speak that
Language any more,
Words that I was born with,
And grew up with,
Have deserted me,
One by one,
As I stand forlorn.
Sounds that were,
So dear to my heart,
Have sneaked away,
From my memory,
Never to return again
The images,
That coloured my,
Childhood dreams,
Lie lifeless,
In fading,
sepia-toned
Photographs stuck to,
A moth-eaten album
Something inside me
Feels hollow,
As I return 'home',
Where I do not,
Belong any more....

..: BP Acharya :..
Poet , Civil Servant and Cartoonist

A Movement Without Direction, Credibility and Trust Is Bound to Lose Its Purpose

Dissent is not a weakness of democracy; it is a testament to its vitality. Questioning the government, opposing its policies and raising one's voice in defence of citizens' rights are indispensable elements of democratic freedom. However, the true test of a democracy lies not merely in the extent of freedom available to its citizens to protest, but also in the purpose for which that freedom is exercised, the language in which dissent is expressed and the methods through which it is pursued. No matter how important the cause behind a movement may be, its moral foundation begins to weaken when its leadership loses direction, its language becomes inflammatory, and its methods drift towards violence or anarchy. The question before the nation today, therefore, is not simply about protests and movements, but also about their character, credibility and sense of responsibility towards the nation.

The recent protests in Delhi and the Supreme Court's intervention following the administration's stringent response have once again sparked a debate about the limits and possibilities of democracy. On the one hand, peaceful protest is a fundamental democratic right; on the other, ensuring public order, protecting citizens' safety and enforcing the law are essential responsibilities of the government. The ability to strike a balance between these two imperatives defines a constitutional democracy. The government cannot be permitted to unnecessarily suppress civil liberties in the name of law and order, just as protesters cannot claim unlimited freedom to disrupt public life under the cover of democratic rights. The Constitution grants rights, but it also demands responsibility in their exercise.

The most pressing question today is: who determines the direction of popular movements? Are these movements genuinely striving to resolve people's problems, or is public discontent being turned into an instrument of political competition? This question is not confined to any one political party or organisation. Whether in power or in opposition, whether representing social organisations or mobilising public groups, everyone must measure their conduct against the principles of the Constitution, morality and public interest. The role of the opposition is extremely important in a democracy. It questions government policies, exposes shortcomings and brings issues of public concern into the political discourse. Yet, the opposition's responsibility is not limited to opposing the government; it must also present constructive alternatives and a credible vision for change. If every disagreement is transformed into an all-out confrontation with those in power, every administrative decision is portrayed as a political conspiracy, and every public grievance is projected as evidence of systemic collapse, genuine issues risk being buried beneath political noise. Equally, if the government begins to regard criticism as hostility, the avenues for democratic dialogue inevitably narrow.

The credibility of a movement rests on the integrity of its cause and the trust it inspires. The clarity of its objectives, the factual authenticity of its claims and the direction of its proposed solutions determine its public standing. When the original issue recedes into the background and political rivalries, personal ambitions or ideological conflicts take centre stage, the movement begins to lose its focus and dissipate its energy. Mobilising public support and earning public trust are two entirely different things. A crowd may gather



in response to a momentary outburst of anger, but public trust is earned through sustained ethical conduct, consistency and constructive action. India's democratic history offers several important lessons in this regard. The student movement of 1974 and the leadership of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan demonstrate how popular discontent can be channelled into a force for constructive transformation. Students in Bihar had raised their voices against corruption, inflation and problems of governance. Jayaprakash Narayan sought to give this discontent a broader direction by linking it with social and political reform.

Movements today must learn from this historical experience. The success of a movement should not be measured merely by the number of roads blocked, the size of the gathering or the duration of the protest. Its real measure of success should be the extent to which it contributes to resolving the problem at hand, brings positive change to people's lives and strengthens constitutional awareness in society. In the present era, social media has fundamentally transformed the process of public opinion formation. An incident can now become the subject of nationwide debate within minutes. This presents an important opportunity for democracy, as ordinary citizens have gained a platform to express their views, question authority and demand accountability from the administration. However, the same medium can also accelerate the spread of misinformation, incomplete facts, emotionally charged campaigns and unverified allegations.

Hashtags, viral videos and online support are not, in themselves, proof of a movement's moral legitimacy. The seriousness of an allegation must be determined by the evidence supporting it, not by its popularity. When protesters make accusations without verifying the facts, they risk undermining the very cause they seek to advance. Similarly, the administration must not treat critical voices as suspect merely because they challenge the government. Transparency, fact-based dialogue and impartial investigation are the most effective means of addressing mistrust and restoring public confidence. Young people today have unprecedented opportunities in digital technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and social participation. Their energy must not remain confined to protest; it must also be channelled into developing solutions. A movement against corruption should offer practical measures to strengthen transparency. A demand for electoral reforms should be accompanied by evidence-based recommendations. Where administrative injustice is alleged, legal remedies and institutional mechanisms should be strengthened. Protest acquires greater significance when it becomes the foundation for imagining and building a better system.

The role of foreign powers in popular movements has also remained a subject of public debate. It is natural for a vast democracy like India to remain vigilant about national interests, external influences and the flow of information. However, this issue, too, must be approached through evidence rather than emotion, speculation or unfounded suspicion. A movement cannot be labelled a foreign conspiracy merely because it criticises the government. Conversely, if credible evidence emerges of foreign funding, deliberate disinformation or improper external interference, it must be investigated impartially and in accordance with the law. Protecting national unity and integrity does not depend solely on stringent administrative action. It is strengthened by citizens' trust, impartial institutions, accessible justice and transparent governance. It is essential to understand the distinction between criticising the country and displaying hostility towards it. Opposing a government policy is not an act of anti-nationalism, just as concern for national interests cannot justify restricting a citizen's democratic freedoms.

Ultimately, the strength of democracy lies neither exclusively in those who wield power nor merely in the crowds that take to the streets. Its true strength resides in the wisdom of citizens, the credibility of constitutional institutions and society's capacity for dialogue. Every movement should ask itself three fundamental questions: Is our cause grounded in facts and directed towards public welfare? Are our methods democratic and non-violent? Will our efforts help resolve the problem, or will they deepen social divisions and mistrust? Having the right cause is not enough. The right cause must be pursued through responsible leadership, appropriate language, democratic methods and clearly defined objectives. The purpose of a movement should not be merely to challenge an existing system, but to contribute to the creation of a better one. A movement that guides society towards reason, discipline, justice and constructive action is the one that earns a lasting place in history.

India's future rests on precisely this kind of democratic thinking—a vision in which dissent is respected, those in power remain accountable, the opposition acts constructively, and national interest is understood not in opposition to civil liberties, but through their harmonious coexistence with constitutional values and democratic restraint. A movement becomes truly powerful not when it merely challenges authority, but when it commands public trust, upholds democratic values and paves the way for meaningful change.

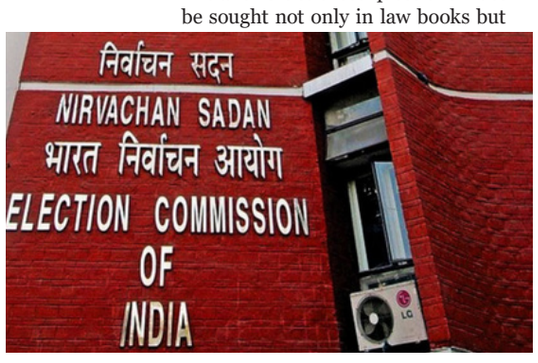


LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist, Columnist

After Retirement, Political Rehabilitation for Election Umpires?

Even If the Law Permits It, the Ethics Remain Questionable

The role of the Election Commission in a democracy is extremely important. It is a constitutional body responsible for enforcing the rules equally for everyone, whether they belong to the ruling party or the opposition. What is wrong if those who have headed such an institution enter politics or take up government positions after retirement? Can they be faulted when the law does not prohibit it? The answers to these questions must be sought not only in law books but also in the ethical principles of democracy.



Let us examine the examples of six former Chief Election Commissioners (CECs) who took up important responsibilities after retirement.

1. Dr. M. S. Gill

Dr. M. S. Gill served as Chief Election Commissioner from 1996 to 2001. In 2004, he joined the Congress party and became a member of the Rajya Sabha. In the UPA government, he served as Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports and later as Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Although it is legally permissible for someone who held a key responsibility in conducting elections to join a political party and rise to the position of a minister, it raises ethical questions.

2. T. N. Seshan

T. N. Seshan served as CEC from 1990 to 1996 and became a symbol of electoral reforms. He contested the 1997 presidential election but lost. In the 1999 Lok Sabha elections, he contested as a Congress candidate from Gandhinagar and lost to L. K. Advani. It is natural to debate the public perception that arises when someone who once served as an election umpire later enters the political arena.

3. R. K. Trivedi

R. K. Trivedi served as CEC from 1982 to 1985. Subsequently, he served as Governor of Gujarat from 1986 to 1990. His name is cited as an example of someone who moved from the Election Commission to another important constitutional position.

4. N. Gopalaswami

N. Gopalaswami served as CEC from 2006 to 2009. After retirement, he served as Chancellor of Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha in Tirupati and as Chairman of the Vivekananda Educational Foundation. He also headed a committee established by the Central Government on electoral reforms.

5. Dr. S. Y. Quraishi

Dr. S. Y. Quraishi served as CEC from 2010 to 2012. Subsequently, he took up several responsibilities, including serving as an honorary professor at Jamia Millia Islamia, a distinguished fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, a member of international organisations, and an independent director at corporate entities.

6. K. V. K. Sundaram and Sunil Arora

K. V. K. Sundaram served as CEC from 1958 to 1967. After retirement, he served as Chairman of the Law Commission of India from 1968 to 1971. Sunil Arora served as CEC from 2018 to 2021. Subsequently, he took up responsibilities as Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Quality Council of India, as well as positions on other advisory councils and in private organisations.

What Does the Law Say?

Under Article 148 of the Indian Constitution, restrictions apply to post-retirement government employment for the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). Similarly, Article 319 imposes specific restrictions on post-retirement government appointments for the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and certain other officials.

However, there is no similarly broad and explicit post-retirement prohibition applicable to the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. The 2023 law also does not contain any such general prohibition. One point must be kept in mind here: the mere fact that someone enters politics after retirement does not establish that all their previous decisions were biased. At the same time, ethical questions cannot be dismissed simply because the law permits such actions.

What matters most is not whether an Election Commissioner's decisions favour or oppose the government in power, but whether those decisions are impartial. Nevertheless, if there is a possibility of obtaining political positions or government appointments after retirement, safeguards are necessary to prevent doubts from arising about the impartiality of decisions.

What Is the Solution for Democracy?

Clear rules should be formulated governing whether former Election Commissioners can join political parties or take up government positions. A proposal to impose a cooling-off period of two or three years before they can accept political positions or government appointments should be considered. This would help protect the credibility of the electoral system without completely foregoing the services of capable former officials.

The independence of the Election Commission should not exist merely in the words of the Constitution; it must also endure in the minds of the people. The system must ensure that the public has no reason to doubt an Election Commissioner's impartiality, not only while that person serves as an election umpire but also after retirement. That is the true safeguard of democracy.

— KOLANU VENKATESWARA REDDY

Reddy Colony Student Bhavana Reddy Shines in NEET PG-2026



tice Led to Success: Dr. Bhavana Reddy

Hyderabad (Kushaiguda) , October 12 : Dr. Katkuri Bhavana Reddy, a resident of Chakripuram Reddy Colony in Cherlapally Division, has brought laurels to her family and locality by securing an impressive rank in the NEET PG-2026 entrance examination. She achieved All India Rank 1,542 and Telangana State Rank 52, scoring 560 marks and demonstrating her academic excellence. Bhavana Reddy is the daughter of Katkuri Vijay Kumar Reddy, owner of Sriram Bakers and Sweets in Chakripuram, Kushaiguda, and his wife Sudha. With a strong passion for academics and medicine, she prepared diligently for the highly competitive postgraduate medical entrance examination, aspiring to secure a seat in Dermatology, her preferred specialisation.

Her preparation involved systematically studying previous years' question papers, taking mock tests and maintaining a disciplined study schedule. Her consistent efforts paid off with an outstanding performance in the examination.

Bhavana's achievement has brought immense joy to her parents, family members, relatives, friends and well-wishers, who congratulated her on her success. They expressed confidence that she would reach greater heights in the medical profession and make further contributions to the field of healthcare. Hard Work and Consistent Practice Led to Success: Dr. Bhavana Reddy

Sharing her experience, Dr. Bhavana Reddy said that securing a postgraduate seat in Dermatology had been her primary goal. She explained that she prepared for the examination by thoroughly analysing previous question papers and regularly taking mock tests. She credited her disciplined preparation and consistent hard work for helping her score 560 marks and secure All India Rank 1,542. Her achievement stands as an inspiration to aspiring medical students, highlighting the importance of determination, dedication and focused preparation in achieving academic goals.

Railways to Hold Pan-India 'Rail Jan Samvaad' at All Stations on October 22

Special Campaign 6 targets cleanliness at one lakh sites, freeing up seven lakh sq. ft. of space and generating ₹600 crore through scrap disposal

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12



Indian Railways will organise a pan-India citizen interaction programme, 'Rail Jan Samvaad', at all railway stations on October 22, 2026, as part of its efforts to strengthen public participation and improve railway facilities. The initiative is part of the ongoing Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters 6 (SCDPM-6), which focuses on measurable outcomes, cleanliness, effective waste management and the timely resolution of pending matters across the railway network.

A high-level review meeting was held through video conferencing at the Railway Board on October 8 under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Railway Board, to assess the progress of the campaign across zonal railways and railway units.

The meeting was attended by Additional General Managers (AGMs) of zonal railways, Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) and Additional Divisional Railway Managers (ADRMs), Chief Public Relations Officers (CPROs) of zonal railways, General Managers of production units, Chairpersons and Managing Directors of railway public sector undertakings, Directors General of training institutes, officials of the Railway Board and nodal officers overseeing the campaign in field units.

The review focused on progress against the targets set under SCDPM-6, with particular emphasis on achieving measurable results and ensuring the timely disposal of pending matters. Indian Railways has set a target of undertaking cleanliness drives at 1,00,000 sites, freeing up 7,00,000 square feet of space and generating ₹600 crore through the disposal of scrap by the end of the month.

As part of this year's campaign, special attention is being given to the effective collection, segregation and disposal of electronic waste (e-waste) in accordance with the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022. The campaign also emphasises the systematic disposal of scrap in accordance with the General Financial Rules (GFR), aimed at improving resource utilisation and ensuring proper disposal practices across railway establishments.

The identification and adoption of successful practices, including 'Waste to Wonder' initiatives, also form an important component of the campaign. These initiatives seek to encourage innovative ways of reusing waste materials and converting discarded items into useful or creative installations. Good practices identified across railway zones and units are being considered for wider adoption to improve the overall effectiveness of the campaign.

Citizen participation remains another key focus area of Special Campaign 6. The Rail Jan Samvaad programme is intended to provide a platform for interaction between the Railways and citizens, enabling public participation in discussions concerning railway services and facilities. A dedicated initiative, 'Rail Jan Yuva Samvaad', has also been introduced to provide a platform for young people to participate in the engagement process.

The pan-India Rail Jan Samvaad scheduled for October 22 will be conducted at all railway stations, bringing the citizen-centric initiative to railway users across the country. The programme is expected to strengthen public engagement and provide an opportunity to gather feedback and suggestions from passengers and other stakeholders.

Special Campaign 6 continues to focus on improving cleanliness, optimising the use of available space, clearing pending matters and ensuring the effective disposal of scrap and e-waste. Railway units are undertaking various activities to meet the campaign's targets, with progress being monitored at the Railway Board level.

Among the initiatives highlighted under the campaign is a cleanliness drive at Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station in Delhi, reflecting the emphasis being placed on cleanliness and better management of railway premises as part of the nationwide exercise.

Street Play Organized in Railway Colony



Prayagraj, OCT 12 : As part of the various programs being conducted under 'Swachhata Pakhwada' (Cleanliness Fortnight) by the Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), Prayagraj, astreet play was performed on October 12, 2026, at Triveni ViharRailway Colony, Rambagh, Prayagraj. Presented by the Bharat Scouts and Guides team of North Central Railway, Prayagraj, the play aimed to raise awareness about cleanliness among railway employees and their families. Through the performance, a message was conveyed regarding the importance of cleanliness, maintaining a clean environment, and adopting hygienic habits in daily life. Railway employees and their families from the colony participated in the event with great enthusiasm. The street play served as a meaningful effort to promote awareness regarding health and hygiene. Such events play a significant role in building a clean, healthy, and conscious society.



Interesting Quiz Competition Organised at BLW Under Vigilance Awareness Campaign-2026

Teams from Nine Departments Participate; Stores Department Secures First Position, Medical Department Second and Accounts Department Third

Employee with Disability Shri Nand Kumar Raju and Women Employees Inaugurate the Event by Lighting the Ceremonial Lamp, Conveying an Inspiring Message of Inclusivity and Equal Opportunities

Varanasi, OCT 12: In accordance with the directives of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), an interesting and informative quiz competition was organised at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) on 12 October 2026 at the auditorium of the Technical Training Centre (TTC), as part of the three-month-long Vigilance Awareness Campaign-2026. The objective of the competition was to enhance awareness among employees about vigilance, transparency, integrity and ethical values.

Inauguration with a Message of Inclusivity

The programme was inaugurated with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp jointly by Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Ankur Chandra, Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Neeraj Singh, Shri Nand Kumar Raju, an employee with disability working in the Law Section and Chief Office Superintendent, Chief Nursing Superintendent Smt. Pratibha Kumari, and Office Superintendent Smt. Yasmin Fatima. This initiative conveyed an inspiring message of inclusivity, equal opportunities and active participation in the workplace.

Teams from Nine Departments Participate

Teams from nine departments of BLW enthusiastically participated in the competition, with four employees in each team. A total of 60 employees, including those in the audience, participated in the programme. Organised in six engaging rounds, the competition provided participants with an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, quick decision-making abilities and understanding of various subjects by answering a range of questions.

Stores, Medical and Accounts Departments Emerge as Winners

At the conclusion of the six rounds, the Stores Department secured first position, the Medical Department stood second, and the Accounts Department secured third position.

Shri Babu Raj Patel, Technician at the Technical Training Centre, and Shri Shivendra Naval, Senior Pharmacist, also attracted everyone's attention by providing excellent answers to questions posed to the audience. The audience members participated enthusiastically in the quiz.

Emphasis on Integrity and Transparency

On the occasion, Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Ankur Chandra expressed his appreciation to all employees who participated in the competition and invited their suggestions to make such programmes more engaging and effective. He also emphasised the importance of promoting a corruption-free work culture by creating awareness about adherence to rules in day-to-day work, impartial decision-making and the responsible use of public resources.

Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Neeraj Singh stated that the objective of such activities is to strengthen the spirit of vigilance, transparency, integrity and accountability among employees.

The quiz competition organised under Vigilance Awareness Campaign-2026 proved to be a meaningful initiative towards promoting ethical conduct, good governance and corruption-free working practices among employees through informative and engaging activities.

The quiz competition was conducted in a well-organised, engaging and effective manner, with the significant contribution of Chief Vigilance Inspector Shri Sudhir Kumar Jain, whose efforts played an important role in the smooth conduct and successful completion of the event.

A Major Step Towards Marine Research and Development in Andhra Pradesh



Kakinada, October 12: Andhra Pradesh is set to strengthen its marine research and development ecosystem with the proposed establishment of a regional centre of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in Kakinada, involving an investment of approximately ₹100 crore. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between INCOIS and the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB), Government of Andhra Pradesh, in Kakinada on October 12, 2026, to advance the initiative. The proposed regional centre is expected to strengthen marine and maritime research, promote the development and application of advanced technologies, and support the growth of services related to the maritime sector in the state. The project is expected to create around 20 direct employment opportunities and 50 indirect jobs, contributing to regional economic development and expanding opportunities for skilled professionals in marine science and related fields.

The establishment of the INCOIS regional centre in Kakinada is expected to provide fresh impetus to research activities and related services, while contributing to the state's broader economic development objectives.

Meghen calls for deeper understanding of historical ties among communities



IMPHAL, 12 October: Former United National Liberation Front (UNLF) chairman R.K. Sanayaima Singh, popularly known as Meghen, has called for a deeper understanding of the historical relationships among the Meiteis, Meitei Pangals and communities inhabiting Manipur's surrounding hills.

He was speaking as Chief Guest at the book release function of "Zomi: Reclaiming Identity and Brotherhood" authored by journalist Naorem Mohen and Anthony Naulak, held today at Manipur Press Club, Imphal.

The programme was presided over by Dr. Kiran Yendrembam.

Speaking on the occasion, Meghen stressed the need to recognise distinct identities while acknowledging their historical, social and cultural connections. He highlighted the importance of mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence amid the continuing consequences of the ethnic violence that began in May 2023.

Reviewing the book, historian Dr. Takhellambam Bhabhananda cautioned against using historical accounts to establish exclusive ethnic or territorial claims, stressing that cultural identity and territorial sovereignty were separate questions requiring independent evidence.

Book seeks feedback

The authors said the book is an attempt to start a scholarly debate and not a final word. They invited historians, researchers and readers from all communities to give feedback, criticism and suggestions for future editions, so that the gaps in understanding the Zomi identity can be addressed collectively.

They stated that examining one community's history should not diminish the historical position or rights of another and that the book wants feedback from all sections to make it more inclusive and evidence-based.

The book contains 206 pages and is priced at Rs. 1,200/-.The authors announced that a portion of the proceeds from the sale will be used to assist internally displaced persons (IDPs) of both Imphal and Churachandpur.

Tata Motors, Stellantis Expand Partnership for Global Vehicle Development

Mumbai/Pune, October 12: Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV), its subsidiary Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM), and Stellantis India have signed a definitive agreement to expand their strategic partnership into advanced automotive technology and product development. Under the agreement, Tata Motors will provide access to its vehicle architecture and advanced technology, while Stellantis will leverage its global product development expertise to develop vehicles for more than 50 international markets. The vehicles will be manufactured in India at Fiat India Automobiles Private Limited (FIAPL), a 50:50 joint venture between Tata Motors and Stellantis. The collaboration aims to strengthen India's role in global automotive manufacturing, engineering and exports, building on the companies' long-standing partnership and an MoU signed in Feb2026.

North Eastern Railway Conducts Solid Waste Management Awareness Activities Under 'Swachhta Pakhwada'

Gorakhpur, October 12 : As part of the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' campaign being observed across Indian Railways from October 1 to 15, 2026, various programmes are being organized at the North Eastern Railway headquarters in Gorakhpur and major stations across its three divisions to ensure a clean environment and improve passenger amenities.

As part of these initiatives, on October 12, 2026, under the theme of 'Solid Waste Management,' sanitation workers and railway employees were educated about scientific waste segregation practices, their responsibilities, and the relevant rules and regulations.

Lucknow Division

At major stations under the Lucknow Division, including Gorakhpur, Gonda, Lucknow, Aishbagh, Basti, Khalilabad, Sitapur, and Mailani, as well as other railway units, colonies, coaching depots, and locomotive sheds, sanitation workers and railway employees were informed about the proper collection, segregation, and safe disposal of waste under the Solid Waste Management initiative. Separate dustbins for wet and dry waste were also provided. Passengers were urged through the public announcement system to maintain cleanliness at railway stations. Awareness was further promoted through 'Swachh Rail' messages and signboards displayed at appropriate locations, along with extensive publicity through social media.



Varanasi Division

At various stations under the Varanasi Division, pantry and catering staff, vendors, and contractual employees were informed about waste segregation requirements, their responsibilities, and the importance of complying with the prescribed rules. They also pledged to follow the new regulations governing waste segregation and disposal.

Passengers and the general public were encouraged to adopt cleanliness practices through slogans such as "Clean Railways, Clean India" and "Come, Let Us Take One More Step Towards Making Indian Railways Clean." In addition, passengers were urged through public announcements to help maintain cleanliness at railway stations.

Izzatnagar Division

t major stations and railway premises under the Izzatnagar Division, sanitation workers and railway employees were educated on the scientific collection, segregation, and safe disposal of waste as part of the Solid Waste Management initiative. Additional dustbins were also provided at designated locations for wet and dry waste. Passengers were requested through the public announcement system to maintain cleanliness at railway stations. Awareness was further promoted through 'Swachh Rail' messages and signboards displayed at appropriate locations.

The activities undertaken across the three divisions reflect Indian Railways' continued efforts to promote scientific waste management, improve station cleanliness, and encourage passengers and railway personnel to contribute to a cleaner railway environment.

EU Imposes 1,600 New Sanctions on Russia

BRUSSELS

European Union (EU) foreign ministers on Monday adopted nearly 1,600 new sanctions listings targeting Russia's military-industrial complex, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said.

In a post on social media platform X, Kallas said more than half of the new listings were linked to the production chain for ballistic missiles, adding that it was the largest single expansion of the bloc's sanctions list since the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The measures are aimed at making it significantly harder, slower and more expensive for Russia to produce weapons used against Ukraine, she said.

Speaking ahead of the Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Luxembourg, Kallas said the new listings would also address what she described as "sham elections in Russia regarding the occupied territories of Ukraine."

India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise kicks off

CAPE TOWN

The ninth edition of the India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime (IBSAMAR) Exercise got underway at Simon's Town in South Africa with the arrival of Indian Naval Ship Tarkash, the Consulate General of India in Cape Town said on Monday.

"9th Edition IBSAMAR gets underway at Simon's Town, South Africa with arrival of INS Tarkash on 11 Oct 26. The exercise will be conducted on the West Coast with South Africa as hosts and India as lead nation from 12-22 Oct, with joint training and interoperability as objectives," the Indian Consulate General posted on X. The trilateral exercise brings together the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies with the aim of enhancing interoperability, strengthening maritime cooperation and promoting mutual understanding.

Embassy officials visit hospital, provide support to injured Indians

RIYADH



The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia said on Monday that it has been providing assistance to the family of the deceased Indian national, Mohammed Yousuf Ali, who died in the recent attack on Riyadh airport.

The Embassy said its officials visited the hospitals where injured people have been receiving treatment. As many as five people are in the ICU and two remain in the normal ward while the rest have been discharged from the hospital.

Sharing an update regarding the Riyadh airport attack on X, the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia stated, "The family of late Mr. Mohammed Yousuf Ali, who passed away in the attack on Riyadh airport, has decided to conduct the funeral in Riyadh itself. Mission is providing all assistance to the bereaved family, including completion of all formalities for the funeral."

"Mission officials have visited the hospitals where injured nationals are undergoing treatment. Three persons continue to be in ICU, and two more have been admitted in the ICU, two remain in the normal ward, and rest have been discharged. The Embassy remains in constant touch with their family members and providing all possible support," it added.

On Sunday, the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia confirmed the death of an Indian national injured in the Riyadh airport attack and offered condolences to the family of the deceased.

"It is learnt that one Indian national injured in the Riyadh attack has unfortunately lost his life today. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased. We are in touch with the family and will provide all support for ensuring the early repatriation of mortal remains," the Embassy posted on X.

The deceased, Mohammed Yusuf Ali, hailed from Hyderabad. His two sons and an aunt were also injured in the attack.

On October 11, India condemned the attack on Saudi Arabia's King Khalid International Airport, saying that attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure were "unacceptable" and calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "We strongly condemn the repeated attacks on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport over the past few days, including the dastardly attack on October 10, which have led to loss of lives, injuries and damage to property. We express our condolences to the families of the deceased and wish speedy recovery to the injured persons."

"The repeated attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure are completely unacceptable and must cease immediately," the statement read.

"We stand in solidarity with the people and the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in defence of their sovereignty, and hope that peace and normalcy returns to the region at the earliest," it added.

On October 10, Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation said that the attack targeting King Khalid International Airport on Saturday afternoon killed 12 people and injured 309 others.

Iran reiterates readiness to help facilitate dialogue between Saudi Arabia, Yemen

TEHRAN



Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei on Monday reiterated the country's readiness to help facilitate dialogue between Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

At a weekly press conference in Tehran, Baghaei expressed grave concern over what is taking place on the Arabian Peninsula, adding that Iran does not approve of the continuation of the conflict and war between two countries.

"We have repeatedly expressed readiness to use our good offices to facilitate dialogue between the (warring) parties," Baghaei said, stressing that the situation should be resolved through dialogue and engagement.

His remarks came a day after Iran's foreign minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, in a phone conversation with his Saudi counterpart on Sunday, voiced his country's readiness to provide any kind of assistance to help initiate dialogue between Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Iran's offer to facilitate dialogue came amid a sharp escalation between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthis, with intensified Saudi air operations against Houthi-held areas accompanying repeated Houthi missile and drone attacks on targets inside Saudi Arabia, including airports and energy facilities.

An attack targeting King Khalid International Airport in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Saturday afternoon has killed 12 people and injured 309 others, the Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation said, as Yemen's Houthi group and Saudi Arabia continued exchanging strikes on major airports.

The Saudi aviation authority said in a statement early Sunday that the fatalities included four Saudi citizens and eight foreign residents -- two Bangladeshis and one each from the United States, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Sudan, Xinhua news agency reported.

The injured are receiving treatment at several hospitals, with some in serious condition, the authority said.

The authority said in an earlier statement that operations at the airport had been temporarily suspended pending damage assessments and safety checks.

Following the Saturday attack, the Houthi group said in a statement that it was ready for reciprocal measures with Saudi Arabia to keep airports, seaports and other facilities with humanitarian functions outside the escalating military confrontation.

Nepal's only billionaire elected VP of Nepali Congress

KATHMANDU

Nepal's only billionaire, Binod Chaudhary, continues to make strides in politics after getting elected as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Nepali Congress at its 15th general convention.

Chaudhary, the only Nepali on Forbes magazine's list of billionaires, had a net worth of $2.1 billion in 2026. He was elected to the post under the inclusive quota, securing 1,745 votes, according to the Nepali Congress Central Election Committee. His closest rival, Jeevan Pariyar, received 1,658 votes.

Chaudhary has controlling interests in businesses, including a popular noodles brand company, as well as hospitality assets worldwide. His business interests also include a bank in Nepal and several luxury hotels associated with India's Taj hotel chain, according to Forbes.

His net worth stood at $1.3 billion in 2017 which rose to $2.1 billion in 2026 before declining in 2020 and 2021 amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Although he was defeated in the March 5 parliamentary election by a candidate from the now-ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), Chaudhary, like several other opposition leaders, has strengthened his position within the Nepali Congress. After being elected vice-president, Chaudhary thanked the general convention delegates who voted for him. Earlier, he had said he was contesting for the post to establish the Nepali Congress as a party capable of leading the country's economic transformation. The party is widely credited with playing a key role in Nepal's democratic transformation.

Although Chaudhary is now active in politics through the Nepali Congress, his political career began in 2008, when he became a member of the Constituent Assembly representing the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), or CPN-UML. Following the first Constituent Assembly election, he became a Constituent

Assembly member through the party's proportional-representation list. His entry into parliament, therefore, came through proportional representation rather than a direct election. In 2017, he formally joined the Nepali Congress as an elected lawmaker under the proportional quota.

RESILIENCE STARTS AT HOME

(On the occasion of the "International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction" on 13 October)

Natural disasters keep happening. We hear that at least once in a century, pandemics like Corona may continue to spread. In many cases, it is not possible to predict natural disasters in advance. We often see loss of life and property due to human errors. When natural/human-made disasters occur, it is our duty to put required efforts to control to reduce the loss of life and property, to know the mitigation measures, to rescue the injured and provide medical facilities, and to respond quickly with well-trained forces in disaster risk management.

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction-2026 Theme:

In 2011, 302 disasters occurred worldwide, resulting in 80,000 deaths and 206 million people affected. The damage caused by these disasters is estimated at 2 trillion dollars. The "International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction" is observed every year on 13 October under the leadership of the United Nations with the aim of providing basic knowledge about the measures to be taken immediately in the event of natural and man-made disasters, loss prevention methods, and disaster management. As per the call of the United Nations in 1989, it was suggested that the International Day for Disaster Reduction be taken as a platform to explore ways to control disaster risk by keeping in mind the aspects of reducing the severity of disasters (mitigation), preventing (prevention), responding (response), reassurance, restoring (recovery), and being prepared to face (preparation). The campaign is being conducted with the theme "Resilience Starts at Home" as the slogan for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction-2026.

Disasters are destructive

Natural disasters include earthquakes, floods, cyclones, tsunamis, micro-epidemics, zoonotic diseases, heat waves, snowstorms, sandstorms, volcanic eruptions, abnormal sea waves, landslides, droughts, fires, radioactive gas releases, avalanches, and landslides. Man-made disasters include the Bhopal gas disaster, petroleum leakage in the ocean, the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and melting of icebergs due to global warming. When the severity of disasters is high, the loss of life is in the thousands, the number of injured is in the millions, and the property damage is in the crores.

Disaster Management

HyderabadSaving people's lives is the main objective in disaster management. Measures such as providing prompt medical facilities to the injured, setting up temporary camps for the homeless, protecting animals, minimizing damage while protecting assets, and establishing emergency goods transportation systems should be taken. If disasters can be predicted in advance with scientific and technological knowledge, there is a great chance of reducing losses. It is imperative to provide minimum training to employees and graduates in disaster risk management. For this, governments should establish disaster management training institutions across the country. International, national, state, district, and local mechanisms, political will, voluntary organizations, civil society, and scientific and technological organizations should always be ready in disaster risk management. In the event of global pandemics, microbial outbreaks, adverse weather conditions, natural disasters, and man-made disasters, immense loss of life and property can be reduced with a quick civil response. When disasters such as fires, hurricanes, tsunamis, and earthquakes occur, human and animal loss of life, property destruction, and natural destruction occur on a large scale in a short period of time.

National Disaster Management Plan

Disaster risk reduction measures include disaster risk reduction awareness, early warnings, disaster preparedness plans, recovery and livelihood support. India should have a unique 'National Disaster Management Plan ', which was formulated by the current central government in 2016. As part of this, the help of a unique ' National Disaster Response Force' is being taken. The Indian Disaster Management Plan has been developed on four principles: disaster risk awareness, disaster risk management, monitoring mechanism, investments to reduce disaster losses, and disaster preparedness and early warning.

Let us all be prepared to voluntarily participate in a disaster management mechanism that can prevent natural disasters from happening and, if they do happen, immediately reduce the immense damage that will occur with early warnings. While being cautious about natural disasters, let us observe and avoid disasters that will occur due to human errors.

- **Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy**
9949700037

France: Two people injured after shooting at school in Aubagne

PARIS



A principal and a teacher were injured in a shooting incident at the Lakanal middle school in France's Aubagne on Monday, French Minister of National Education, Edouard Geffray, said.

Geffray said that a student of the school was suspected of being behind the attack. Terming the shooting incident an "unacceptable act", he affirmed that the National Education system will remain united and strong in the face of this attack.

"Two staff members from the National Education system, a principal and a teacher, were victims this morning of gunshot wounds at Lakanal middle school in Aubagne. A student is said to be the perpetrator. I am heading to the scene immediately with Nunez Laurent and Sabrina Roubache," Geffray posted on X.

"In the face of this new attack, the National Education system will, as always, remain united and strong, around an educational community sorely tried. But this unacceptable act bears witness once again to the spread of unbridled violence in our society, against which we must all mobilise. In words as in deeds," he added.

In a statement, Marseille prosecutor Nicolas Bessone said, "Shortly after 9 am, the school student fired once or twice in the common areas of the 1st floor, wounding the principal and a teacher, who were present in the corridor," BFMTV reported.

He further mentioned that the student then went to the second floor and first fired in front of a teacher towards the ground and, a second time, inside an occupied classroom, with the shot hitting the blackboard. The Marseille prosecutor's office said that an investigation has been launched for "attempted murder." The main suspect, a 14-year-old student of Joseph-Lakanal middle school, has been arrested and taken into custody.

Aubagne Mayor mentioned that the Chief Education Officer intercepted and disarmed the suspect. According to the mayor, the CPE removed him from the spot and handed him over to the police, BFM TV reported. In a statement, the Marseille prosecutor's office stated, "The perpetrator was subdued as he went back down the stairs by a member of the establishment's staff."

Canada's Foreign Minister to visit India for key talks with EAM Jaishankar

OTTAWA



Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand will travel to India this week for talks with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on trade, energy, security and defence cooperation, as Ottawa seeks to strengthen its growing diplomatic and economic partnership with New Delhi.

Anand will visit India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from October 13 to 16, Global Affairs Canada announced on Monday.

The visit comes amid renewed high-level engagement between the two countries, whose bilateral trade reached $30.4 billion in 2025, including $11 billion in goods.

During her visit to India, Anand will meet EAM Jaishankar to advance cooperation on priorities identified in the bilateral roadmap, including trade, energy, people-to-people ties and security and defence.

The meeting will be the 11th between the two foreign ministers since September 2025, reflecting the frequency of diplomatic contacts between Ottawa and New Delhi.

The Canadian government described the continuing engagement as part of a growing bilateral relationship.

The planned discussions cover areas that both countries have identified as priorities for expanding their economic and strategic partnership.

In New Delhi, Anand will also participate in the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, joining a panel discussion on middle powers and the changing global order.

According to Global Affairs Canada, she will emphasise the importance of multilateral and plurilateral cooperation at a time of geopolitical uncertainty. The minister will also highlight Canada's role as a reliable partner for India and the broader Indo-Pacific region.

The visit comes as Canada seeks to deepen engagement with major international partners amid changing global economic and security conditions.

The Canadian announcement places trade, energy and defence cooperation alongside diplomatic engagement, indicating the range of issues expected to feature in Anand's discussions with Jaishankar.

The two countries have maintained nearly 80 years of diplomatic relations and share extensive people-to-people connections.

Their economic relationship includes trade in goods and services, with bilateral exchanges reaching $30.4 billion last year, according to figures released by the Canadian government.

The latest diplomatic engagement follows a period of renewed contact between the two governments.

Following her engagements in India, Anand will travel to the United Arab Emirates for talks with Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The discussions will focus on strengthening bilateral relations and advancing economic cooperation, security and shared prosperity.

Anand will also meet senior government officials and business leaders to explore opportunities for expanding commercial partnerships.

The Canadian government identified defence and security, artificial intelligence, innovation and people-to-people ties as key areas for cooperation with the UAE.

The visit will build on commitments made during Carney's November 2025 visit to the UAE, the first by a Canadian prime minister in more than four decades. That visit established a roadmap for closer cooperation in trade, investment, regional security and exchanges between the two countries.

Canada has described its relationship with the UAE as one of its fastest-growing partnerships in the Middle East, built on more than 50 years of diplomatic ties.

GOLD GLITTERS, THE HOUSEHOLD PAYS: RS 1.98 LAKH CRORE SPENT IN THREE MONTHS, YET MAKING CHARGES AND WASTAGE VANISH ON RESALE!



Demands A Central Law: The Bill Must Carry Only Net Gold Weight, The Day's Rate And Taxes Fixed By Law!

The World Gold Council reports that Indians spent a record Rs 1,98,100 crore on gold between April and June 2026 while buying fewer tonnes. On jewellery bills, making charges and wastage are paid on purchase but fetch nothing on resale. Blitz calls for a central law fixing one transparent price for the finished ornament. Rs 1,98,100 crore. Hold that figure in your mind, for it is what Bharat spent on gold in a single quarter, a record, and fully 50 percent more in value than a year ago. Yet the tonnage fell 6 percent to 131.4 tonnes, and jewellery demand slid 15 percent to 75.1 tonnes. The World Gold Council itself records that Indian buyers are turning to lighter pieces, lower carat gold and exchange led purchases to cope. The household is not buying more gold. It is paying more for less, and bending its budget to do so.

VALUE UP 50 PERCENT, VOLUME DOWN 6 PERCENT, JEWELLERY DOWN 15 PERCENT. THE INDIAN FAMILY IS STRETCHING ITS SAVINGS TO HOLD ON TO ITS GOLD.

Now step into the showroom, where the real drama unfolds. The price of gold itself is set by the world market in dollars, and the Indian buyer can do little about that. But the bill carries more than the metal. Making charges, commonly quoted between 5 and 25 percent of gold value, are added. Wastage, quoted between 2 and 10 percent of weight, is added. GST follows, 3 percent on the gold and 5 percent on the making charges. All of this is legal under the law as it stands today, and ScoopX says so plainly.

Making charges commonly run from 5 to 25 percent of gold value. Wastage adds a further 2 to 10 percent on many bills.

Then comes the sting. Carry the same ornament back across the counter after a year, and the valuation is weight, multiplied by purity, multiplied by the day's rate. Nothing for the labour or making charges. Nothing for the wastage. Consumer guides now say in black and white that the seller recovers none of the making charges. A man pays for craftsmanship going in, and the craftsmanship is written off the moment he turns to leave.

India spends record sums on gold jewellery even as volumes fall under high prices. Yet the customer is still forced to pay extra for wastage and making charges that vanish the moment he tries to sell. This is not fair trade practice.

Let no one mistake this for an attack on our artisans. The karigar of Zaveri Bazaar, of Jaipur, of Thrissur, of Kolkata is a national treasure, and honest jewellers who price with transparency deserve every respect. The question is the bill, not the craft. Charges vary from shop to shop and counter to counter, and the buyer has no yardstick but his own nerve in bargaining. Machines have improved recovery of filings and dust, so the household has every right to ask what is truly lost and what is truly reclaimed.

The finished ornament is what the customer receives. In a market measured in tens of thousands of crores, the finished ornament is all he should pay for. Wastage and making charges have no place in a fair Indian bill.

Half measures will not meet the case. An itemised bill that still collects every charge only displays the sum in neater columns. A ceiling still leaves the household paying amounts that never come back. ScoopX demands the clean cut: let Parliament, after consulting the trade, the craftsmen and consumers, frame a central law under which the retail bill shows net gold weight.

the rate for that purity and the taxes fixed by law, with labour and design costs built openly into the price of the gold. Lakhs of jewellers already work within the hallmarking system of the Bureau of Indian Standards, and the Consumer Protection Act already guards the buyer against unfair trade practice. The rails are laid. Only the will is missing.

The hallmarking network already reaches lakhs of jewellers across Bharat. One national pricing rule can ride on the same rails. The festive and wedding season is at the door, and the World Gold Council expects it to support demand in the months ahead. Every family walking in with its savings deserves a bill it can read, verify and recover on the day it sells. That is no favour to the buyer. It is the plain justice due to Indian thrift.

MY SHOT

Gold in an Indian home is not speculation. It is a daughter's wedding, a father's old age and a family's memory, held in one metal. A republic that protects the farmer's price and the worker's wage must protect that gold from a bill nobody can explain. One rate, one weight, one honest bill: that is the demand.

(All 2026 demand figures and quoted charge ranges come from the sources I checked.)

C. SUBRAHMANYAM

HCLTech Q2 net profit rises 21.2% to Rs 5,132 crore

New Delhi, October 12: HCL Technologies Ltd (HCLTech) on Monday reported a 21.2 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 5,132 crore for the September quarter of FY2026-27, while revenue grew 11.5 per cent to Rs 35,620 crore. On a sequential basis, revenue increased 3 per cent from Rs 34,579 crore in the June quarter, while net profit rose 11 per cent from Rs 4,624 crore. In constant currency terms, consolidated revenue grew 2.6 per cent year-on-year and 2.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter.

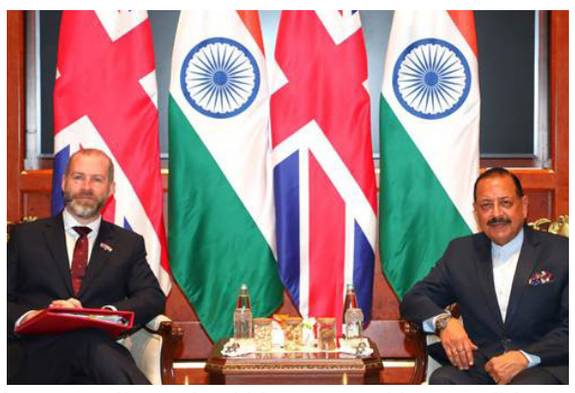
Revenue from services increased 4 per cent year-on-year in constant currency terms, supported by growth across key business segments. IT and Business Services revenue rose 4.4 per cent, while Engineering and Research and Development (R&D) Services revenue grew 2.1 per cent. However, HCLSoftware revenue declined 11.2 per cent. The company's operating profitability also improved during the quarter. Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) margin expanded 71 basis points year-on-year and 131 basis points sequentially to 18.2 per cent. HCLTech said the margin included an 84-basis-point impact from restructuring costs. The IT and Business Services segment reported an EBIT margin of 18.6 per cent, up 229 basis points year-on-year. In contrast, the Engineering and R&D Services margin fell 231 basis points to 15.2 per cent. HCLSoftware's EBIT margin declined to 20.1 per cent from 26.5 per cent a year earlier.

The company's Advanced AI business continued to register strong growth, with revenue reaching $219 million, up 78 per cent year-on-year and 28.4 per cent quarter-on-quarter in constant currency terms. Chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra said the accelerating growth in Advanced AI revenue validated the company's business strategy. Investments across the AI stack and strategic partnerships had positioned HCLTech to serve enterprises and governments globally, she added.

Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director C Vijayakumar said the company secured new deal bookings worth $3.3 billion during the quarter, marking a 27 per cent year-on-year increase. First-half deal bookings also reached a record high, he said, adding that the company's AI offerings were gaining traction among clients.

India, UK explore cooperation in emerging technologies

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12



India and the United Kingdom on Monday explored avenues to strengthen bilateral cooperation in space, civil nuclear energy, scientific research and emerging technologies during talks between Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh and UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade Jonathan Reynolds.

According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the discussions focused on expanding research partnerships, promoting industry participation and creating new opportunities for collaboration between the two countries. Singh said India's space-sector reforms had opened up new opportunities for private companies and startups, allowing research institutions to concentrate on advanced scientific research. Building on this progress, India and the UK could deepen cooperation through joint research initiatives and greater participation by industry, he said.

The two sides discussed collaboration in space science, satellite development and stronger engagement between scientific institutions and technology enterprises. Highlighting India's growing space ecosystem, Singh noted that the country had around 800 space-technology startups and proposed stronger linkages between Indian and British startups to encourage innovation and expand commercial opportunities.

Civil nuclear energy was another key area of discussion. Singh referred to India's nuclear-sector reforms, including the SHANTI Act, 2025, and said the country was creating opportunities for wider participation in the sector, drawing on its experience of opening up the space industry.

The two delegations explored potential cooperation in small modular reactors (SMRs), advanced nuclear technologies and related industrial capabilities, particularly against the backdrop of rising energy requirements and growing demand from data centres.

Singh also highlighted the wider applications of India's nuclear programme beyond electricity generation, particularly in nuclear medicine and healthcare, identifying opportunities to collaborate with British expertise in life sciences. Emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, cyber-physical systems and cybersecurity, also featured in the discussions.

The Indian delegation was led by Singh and included Prof. Umesh Waghmare, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, and Dr Praveenkumar Somasundaram, Adviser and Head of International Bilateral Cooperation at the department. The UK delegation comprised Reynolds, British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron and Amanda Brooks, Interim Permanent Secretary of the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade. Reynolds welcomed closer engagement between the two countries and stressed the scope for regular institutional interactions and expanded commercial cooperation.

Retail inflation rises to 5.54%

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 12



India's retail inflation rose to 5.54 per cent in September from 4.83 per cent in August, moving closer to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent as food prices accelerated, prompting economists to warn of further inflationary pressures and the possibility of another interest rate hike.

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday, Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation increased by 0.71 percentage points during the month, while food inflation climbed by 1.77 percentage points to 7.74 per cent. Although retail inflation remains within the RBI's tolerance band of 2-6 per cent, the sharp rise in food prices has heightened concerns over the inflation outlook and the central bank's monetary policy decisions.

Food inflation remained a key driver of the increase. Rural food inflation rose to 8.06 per cent in September from 6.17 per cent in August, while urban food inflation increased to 7.18 per cent from 5.64 per cent. Overall rural inflation climbed to 6.08 per cent from 5.24 per cent, while urban inflation rose to 4.88 per cent from 4.31 per cent.

Economists attributed the growing price pressures to food costs, crude oil prices above $100 per barrel, uneven monsoon conditions and rupee depreciation, warning that these factors could keep inflation elevated in the coming months.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA, said consumer inflation was expected to average around 6 per cent in the October-December quarter of FY2026-27, broadly in line with the RBI's projection. Inflation could ease slightly thereafter as the unfavourable base effect fades, she said, while cautioning that uneven and below-normal monsoon conditions and crude oil prices posed upside risks.

The latest inflation data comes days after the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) raised the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50 per cent at its October 7 meeting, marking the first rate increase in nearly four years. The central bank also shifted to a calibrated tightening stance amid rising inflation risks.

The RBI revised its retail inflation forecast for FY2026-27 to 5.2 per cent. It projected inflation at 4.9 per cent in the September quarter, 6 per cent in the December quarter and 5.7 per cent in the March quarter. Inflation for the first quarter of the next financial year was projected at 5.6 per cent.

Radhika Rao, Senior Economist and Executive Director at DBS Bank, said food inflation was rising across a wider range of categories, driven by below-normal rainfall, imported price pressures and fuel costs.

She warned that inflation could move closer to 6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2026, supported by a low base and higher food, fuel and services costs. With underlying price pressures also showing a gradual increase, Rao said the RBI could keep the option of another rate hike in December 2026 open. However, the central bank has not announced any such decision.

Sujan Hajra, Chief Economist and Executive Director at Anand Rathi Group, said inflation was likely to remain elevated in the near term, with food prices, high crude oil costs and rupee depreciation posing significant risks.

JioPC brings affordable cloud computing to students



MUMBAI, OCTOBER 12

Reliance Jio has introduced JioPC, a subscription-based cloud computing service aimed at students, schools, colleges and skilling centres, enabling access to advanced computing without investing in new hardware. The service allows users to turn existing computers, monitors or televisions connected to Jio set-top boxes into computing devices. It can also be accessed through a web browser using any internet connection, including those of non-Jio users.

JioPC supports activities such as online learning, coding, research, design and generative AI applications. It features an Ubuntu-based interface, LibreOffice, web browsers and tools such as Adobe Express, with files stored in cloud storage. Subscription plans start at ₹1,000 for two months for the 8GB RAM, 500GB storage variant, while the 16GB RAM, 1TB storage JioPC Ultra plan costs ₹1,200 for the same period. Longer-duration plans are also available. Eligible JioHome customers can redeem a ₹100 monthly voucher against their broadband bill. The service aims to help educational institutions upgrade computer labs affordably while extending the life of existing devices. Eligible JioHome customers can redeem a ₹100 monthly voucher against their broadband bill, reducing the effective subscription cost. Unlike conventional computers that rely on local storage, JioPC stores data in enterprise-grade cloud storage with disaster-recovery capabilities.

Medicover Gastroenterologist Achieves Two Advanced Endoscopic Milestones



Avoiding Major Surgery in Complex Cases

Hyderabad, October 12: The Department of Medical Gastroenterology at Medicover Hospitals, Hitech City, Hyderabad, has achieved two significant clinical milestones, successfully treating patients with complex gastrointestinal conditions through advanced endoscopic procedures performed by Dr. Arun Arora Pagadapelli, Consultant Medical Gastroenterologist. In the first case, a 40-year-old patient suffering from refractory gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) for several years, despite high-dose medications and lifestyle modifications, underwent POEM-F (Per-Oral Endoscopic Myotomy with Fundoplication). The incision-less procedure creates an anti-reflux barrier from within the stomach. Following treatment, the patient became symptom-free, discontinued acid-suppressing medication and returned to normal daily activities.

In the second case, a 39-year-old patient with a rare neuroendocrine tumour at the D2-D3 junction of the duodenum underwent Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) with Loop and Clip Closure. Given the tumour's challenging location near vital structures, conventional treatment could have required major surgery, including a Whipple procedure. The tumour was removed completely in one piece, and the defect was securely closed endoscopically. The patient experienced no reported complications and was discharged within 48 hours, preserving the duodenum and pancreas.

Dr. Arun Arora Pagadapelli said, "These cases demonstrate the growing role of advanced therapeutic endoscopy in managing complex gastrointestinal conditions. Carefully selected patients can benefit from minimally invasive, organ-preserving treatments that may help avoid major surgery, reduce recovery time and improve quality of life." These achievements highlight Medicover Hospitals' commitment to advanced gastroenterology and specialised endoscopic care, offering patients innovative treatment options following comprehensive clinical evaluation.

Sensex tumbles 548 points, Nifty falls 0.70%

Mumbai, October 12: Indian equity markets ended lower on Monday, with the Sensex shedding 547.65 points, or 0.76 per cent, to close at 71,924.68, while the Nifty 50 declined 157.10 points, or 0.70 per cent, to settle at 22,363.35 amid persistent foreign investor outflows, rising bond yields and escalating tensions in the Middle East. Investor sentiment remained subdued as market participants assessed global uncertainties, inflation concerns and elevated crude oil prices. Continued selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) further weighed on domestic equities. Vikram Kasat, Chief Business Officer – Advisory and Dealing at PL Capital, said Indian equities faced sharp selling pressure due to rising 10-year government bond yields, persistent FII outflows, geopolitical tensions and weak global cues. Profit-booking also contributed to increased market volatility, he added.

Kasat noted that media, automobile, realty and metal stocks showed relative resilience, while public sector banks, information technology, fast-moving consumer goods and private banking stocks remained under pressure. Although the rupee's recovery and softer crude prices offered some relief, elevated bond yields and inflation concerns continued to pose risks, he said, advising investors to focus on fundamentally strong companies and stagger fresh investments until earnings visibility and broader market participation improve. Sectoral indices on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) recorded mixed trends. The Nifty Media index surged more than 4 per cent, emerging as the strongest performer among the major sectors. The Nifty Realty index gained 0.63 per cent, while the Nifty Auto rose 0.60 per cent and the Nifty Pharma advanced 0.25 per cent.

Among the laggards, the Nifty PSU Bank index declined 1.31 per cent, followed by the Nifty IT index, which fell 1.14 per cent. The Nifty Metal index slipped 0.55 per cent, while the Nifty Private Bank index lost 0.52 per cent. Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Bajaj Auto, BSE, Bharat Electronics Limited, Cipla and TMPV were among the notable gainers in the Nifty 50. Apollo Hospitals, ITC, Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Max Healthcare and Hindalco featured among the major losers. Commodity markets also remained in focus amid concerns over energy prices and inflation. Brent crude rose 1.15 per cent to $106 per barrel at the time of reporting, raising concerns over the potential impact of higher energy costs on the domestic economy. Gold prices declined more than 1.12 per cent to Rs 1,49,800 per 10 grams for 24-carat gold, while silver fell 0.83 per cent to Rs 2,23,870 per kilogram. Asian equity markets largely ended in negative territory.

Six Indian Destinations

Where Culture, Faith and History Come Alive

From the sacred ghats of Varanasi to the magnificent temples of Madurai, these destinations offer travellers an opportunity to discover India's spiritual traditions, historic landmarks, vibrant festivals and diverse cultural heritage.

India's travel experiences extend far beyond popular tourist attractions, scenic landscapes and modern cities. Across the country, countless destinations preserve centuries of history, faith and cultural traditions, allowing visitors to understand the deeper connections between communities, their beliefs and their surroundings. Ancient temples, sacred rivers, historic monuments, traditional markets and colourful festivals continue to shape everyday life in these places, creating experiences that remain meaningful long after a journey ends. For travellers seeking something more enriching than conventional sightseeing, India's spiritual and cultural destinations offer opportunities to slow down, observe local customs and discover stories that have survived generations. Some places are known for their religious significance, while others stand out for their architecture, traditional crafts, music, cuisine and distinctive ways of life. Together, they reveal the remarkable diversity of India's cultural landscape.

Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Amritsar in Punjab, Rishikesh in Uttarakhand, Madurai in Tamil Nadu, Bodh Gaya in Bihar and Puri in Odisha are six destinations where history, faith and culture come together. Each offers a different perspective on India's heritage, making them rewarding choices for travellers interested in meaningful journeys.



Varanasi: A Timeless City on the Banks of the Ganges

Varanasi, situated on the banks of the River Ganges in Uttar Pradesh, is among India's most ancient and culturally significant cities. Often associated with Hindu spirituality, the city has served for centuries as a centre of religious learning, philosophy, music and traditional craftsmanship. Its distinctive atmosphere comes from the close relationship between the river, its historic neighbourhoods and the rituals that continue to shape daily life. The city's ghats, a series of stone steps leading down to the river, are among its most recognisable landmarks. From early morning prayers to evening ceremonies, the riverfront remains an important gathering place for pilgrims, priests, residents and visitors. Watching the city awaken at sunrise from a boat on the Ganges offers a memorable introduction to Varanasi. The changing light, the movement of boats and the sound of temple bells create an atmosphere that reflects the city's enduring connection with faith.

One of the most widely recognised experiences is the Ganga Aarti, an elaborate evening ritual performed along the river. Priests conduct ceremonies involving lamps, incense and prayers as crowds gather on the ghats and boats. The ritual is both a religious observance and a cultural spectacle, illustrating the significance of the Ganges in Hindu traditions.

Varanasi's heritage extends beyond its religious landmarks. The city has long been associated with classical music, Sanskrit scholarship and the production of Banarasi silk sarees. Local weavers continue traditions that have helped establish the city as an important centre of Indian textiles. Exploring its narrow lanes and traditional markets provides opportunities to discover handcrafted products, regional food and neighbourhoods shaped by generations of history.

Visitors can also explore the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, one of the most important Shiva temples in Hinduism, while nearby historic sites and cultural institutions provide further insight into the region's traditions.

A visit to Varanasi is most rewarding when travellers allow time to experience the city at different hours. The quiet of the early morning, the activity of its markets and the energy of its evening rituals reveal different dimensions of the same place. For anyone interested in India's spiritual heritage and living traditions, Varanasi offers an experience that goes well beyond conventional sightseeing.



Amritsar: Faith, Service and the Memory of History

Amritsar, in Punjab, is a city where spiritual devotion, community service and historical memory come together. Best known for the Golden Temple, officially called Sri Harmandir Sahib, the city holds a central place in Sikh religious life and welcomes visitors from different backgrounds throughout the year. The Golden Temple is admired for its distinctive architecture, with its gilded upper structure reflected in the surrounding sacred pool. The complex offers a peaceful environment in the middle of a busy city. Visitors can observe prayers, listen to devotional music and walk through the while learning about the principles that guide Sikh traditions. Respectful behaviour and appropriate clothing are important when entering the religious complex, where visitors are generally expected to cover their heads and remove their shoes. One of the most significant aspects of the Golden Temple is its langar, the community kitchen that serves free meals to people regardless of religion, caste, social background or economic status. Volunteers participate in preparing, serving and cleaning up after meals. This tradition expresses the Sikh principles of equality, humility and selfless service. For many visitors, witnessing the langar offers a powerful understanding of how religious beliefs can translate into everyday community action. Amritsar also occupies an important place in India's modern history. Jallianwala Bagh, the memorial site associated with the 1919 massacre, commemorates the people killed when British troops opened fire on a gathering. Visiting the memorial provides an opportunity to reflect on colonial rule, the freedom struggle and the human cost of India's journey towards independence. The city's cultural character is equally visible in its food, markets and everyday social life. Punjabi cuisine, including kulcha, chole, parathas and traditional sweets, forms an essential part of the local experience. Busy shopping streets offer textiles, handicrafts, traditional footwear and other products associated with the region. Travellers can also visit the Wagah-Attari border area, where the daily flag-lowering ceremony attracts large crowds. The event reflects the complicated history and continuing relationship between India and Pakistan. Amritsar's appeal lies in the way it connects spirituality with history and hospitality. The Golden Temple offers an experience of devotion and service, while Jallianwala Bagh encourages reflection on the past. Together, these places help visitors understand the many layers of Punjab's cultural identity.



Rishikesh: Spiritual Traditions Amid the Himalayan Foothills

Set along the River Ganges in Uttarakhand, Rishikesh is widely known as a centre for yoga, meditation and spiritual learning. Surrounded by the Himalayan foothills, the town combines a natural setting with a long tradition of religious practice. Its temples, ashrams and riverside gathering places attract pilgrims, yoga students and international travellers seeking a quieter pace of life. Rishikesh has developed a global reputation for yoga and meditation, with institutions offering programmes that explore physical practice, breathing techniques and philosophical traditions. Many visitors come for short retreats, while others spend several weeks studying at ashrams. The town's spiritual environment makes it an appealing destination for those interested in reflection, personal learning and India's philosophical heritage. The river remains central to life in Rishikesh. Evening Ganga Aarti ceremonies bring people together along the waterfront, where prayers and lamps mark the close of the day. Compared with the large crowds associated with some major pilgrimage centres, certain riverside locations in Rishikesh can offer a more intimate setting for observing religious rituals. The town's suspension bridges, including Ram Jhula and the well-known Lakshman Jhula area, have become familiar symbols of the region. Their surroundings feature temples, small shops, cafes and ashrams, creating a mix of traditional religious life and contemporary travel culture. Visitors can explore the riverbanks, walk through nearby neighbourhoods and sample local vegetarian food. Rishikesh also attracts adventure enthusiasts. The Ganges and the surrounding landscape support activities such as white-water rafting, trekking and camping in designated areas. This combination of spiritual experiences and outdoor recreation distinguishes the destination from places primarily associated with pilgrimage. Nearby natural attractions and forested landscapes provide opportunities to explore the wider Himalayan environment. However, river conditions, weather and local regulations should be considered when planning outdoor activities, particularly during the monsoon season. Although Rishikesh has become increasingly popular with international tourists, its cultural significance remains closely linked to Hindu traditions and the broader history of yoga. Travellers can gain a deeper appreciation of the town by looking beyond its cafes and adventure activities to understand the practices and philosophies that have drawn visitors for generations.



Madurai: A Living | Showcase of Tamil Heritage

Madurai, one of Tamil Nadu's oldest continuously inhabited cities, offers a vivid introduction to the history, architecture and traditions of southern India. Its cultural identity is closely associated with the Meenakshi Amman Temple, Tamil literature, traditional markets and festivals that continue to shape the city's public life. The Meenakshi Amman Temple stands at the heart of Madurai's historic centre. Dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi and Lord Sundareswarar, a form of Shiva, the temple is renowned for its monumental gateway towers, known as gopurams, decorated with thousands of colourful sculptures depicting deities, mythological figures and other elements of Hindu tradition. The temple complex demonstrates the distinctive characteristics of Dravidian architecture, with elaborate carvings, pillared halls and carefully designed spaces for worship and religious gatherings. It is not simply a historic monument but an active centre of devotion, drawing pilgrims and visitors throughout the year. Madurai's religious and cultural traditions are reflected in its festivals. The annual Meenakshi Tirukalyanam, associated with the celestial wedding of Meenakshi and Sundareswarar, forms a major part of the Chithirai Festival. The celebrations bring together religious ceremonies, processions and large public gatherings, offering visitors a glimpse into the way faith and community traditions remain intertwined. The city also has a significant place in Tamil literary history. Madurai is traditionally associated with the ancient Tamil Sangam literary tradition, which forms an important part of the region's cultural memory. Its historic identity continues to be expressed through Tamil language, classical arts, religious storytelling and local customs. Beyond the temple, Madurai's markets and streets provide a lively picture of everyday life. Flower sellers, textile shops, traditional artisans and food vendors contribute to the city's distinctive atmosphere. Jasmine flowers, often associated with Tamil Nadu, are especially prominent in local markets and religious offerings. Food is another essential part of the Madurai experience. The city is known for its idlis, dosas, parottas, traditional meals served on banana leaves and a range of regional snacks. Exploring its eateries offers visitors an opportunity to understand how local ingredients and culinary customs contribute to Tamil cultural identity. Madurai rewards travellers who take time to explore its surroundings as well as its principal landmarks. The temple provides a striking introduction to its architectural heritage, while the markets, food and festivals reveal a city where centuries-old traditions continue to evolve alongside modern urban life.



Bodh Gaya: The Place Associated Buddha's Enlightenment

Bodh Gaya, in Bihar, is one of the most important destinations in Buddhist religious history. It is traditionally identified as the place where Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment and became the Buddha, establishing the foundation for a spiritual tradition that would eventually spread across Asia and beyond. The Mahabodhi Temple complex is the centre of Bodh Gaya's religious significance. Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the complex attracts Buddhist pilgrims, monks, scholars and travellers from many countries. Its architecture, sacred spaces and association with the Buddha's enlightenment make it an important destination for those seeking to understand Buddhist history and philosophy. The Bodhi Tree within the complex holds particular importance in Buddhist tradition. The original tree under which the Buddha is believed to have meditated is no longer standing, but a descendant is revered at the site. Visitors can observe pilgrims meditating, chanting and offering prayers, often in an atmosphere of quiet concentration. Bodh Gaya's international character is one of its most distinctive features. Monasteries and temples established by Buddhist communities from countries such as Thailand, Japan, Bhutan, Tibet and Myanmar reflect different architectural styles and religious practices. Exploring these institutions offers insight into the ways Buddhist traditions have developed across different societies while retaining shared philosophical foundations. The destination also provides an opportunity to learn about the Buddha's teachings, including compassion, mindfulness and the search for freedom from suffering. Although visitors approach the site with different beliefs and interests, its emphasis on reflection and spiritual learning gives it a distinctive atmosphere. Bodh Gaya becomes particularly lively during important Buddhist observances, including celebrations associated with Buddha Purnima. Pilgrims gather for prayers, meditation and religious programmes, while cultural activities bring together communities from across the world. The wider region of Bihar also has a rich historical heritage connected with ancient learning, kingdoms and religious movements. Travellers interested in history can use Bodh Gaya as a starting point for exploring the broader story of Buddhism's development in India. A visit to Bodh Gaya need not be limited to religious sightseeing. The destination offers an opportunity to consider the historical influence of Buddhist thought, the movement of ideas across borders and the continuing relevance of teachings centred on compassion and self-awareness. For travellers seeking a peaceful and intellectually enriching journey, Bodh Gaya provides a meaningful experience.



Puri: Coastal Beauty and the Traditions of Jagannath

Puri, a coastal city in Odisha, combines religious devotion, artistic traditions and seaside landscapes. It is one of the major pilgrimage destinations in Hinduism and forms part of the Char Dham pilgrimage tradition. The city is best known for the Jagannath Temple, which has remained a major centre of worship and cultural life for centuries. Dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of Vishnu associated with a distinctive regional tradition, the temple is central to Puri's identity. Its architecture reflects the Kalinga style, which developed in Odisha and is known for its distinctive temple towers and intricate structural forms. The temple remains an active place of worship, and access for non-Hindu visitors is restricted within the main complex. Travellers can still appreciate the city's religious heritage through its surrounding streets, traditional markets and public celebrations. The annual Rath Yatra, or chariot festival, is Puri's most famous event. During the festival, the deities are taken in enormous decorated wooden chariots through the streets, drawing vast crowds of devotees. The celebration has religious significance and also represents a major expression of Odisha's cultural identity. Its music, rituals, craftsmanship and collective participation demonstrate the continuing influence of tradition in contemporary life. Puri's cultural heritage extends beyond the Jagannath Temple. The city is closely linked with the artistic traditions of Odisha, including Pattachitra painting, palm-leaf engraving and other forms of traditional craftsmanship found in the wider region. Nearby Raghurajpur is particularly well known for its artisan community and Pattachitra paintings, which often depict religious narratives and mythological themes. The city's coastal setting adds another dimension to the travel experience. Puri Beach attracts visitors who come to enjoy the shoreline, watch the sunrise and experience the lively atmosphere of the waterfront. Local seafood and Odia cuisine also contribute to the city's appeal, although visitors seeking food options should check menus and preparation practices according to their preferences. Travellers can extend their visit to nearby Konark, home to the celebrated Sun Temple, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its monumental stone architecture and sculptural details offer a deeper understanding of the artistic achievements of historic Odisha. Chilika Lake, further afield, provides opportunities to experience a different side of the region's natural heritage. Puri's combination of pilgrimage, art, festivals and coastal scenery makes it suitable for travellers with varied interests. It offers a chance to discover how religious traditions remain closely connected with regional identity while enjoying the natural beauty of India's eastern coastline.

Liverpool FC Foundation Representative Visits Gachibowli Sports Complex

Roundtable Meeting Held to Explore Partnership with LFC Foundation for Community Football Development

HYDERABAD



Colin Cattini, Head of Operations at the Liverpool Football Club Foundation (LFC Foundation), visited the Gachibowli Sports Complex in Hyderabad on Monday at the invitation of the Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG).

On the occasion, SATG organized a roundtable meeting to discuss expanding community football across Telangana, encouraging grassroots participation, and using sports as an effective tool for social development. Dr. A. Sonibala Devi, Vice-Chairperson and Managing Director of the Sports Authority, chaired the meeting.

The meeting was attended by owners and representatives of various football clubs, representatives of foundations, corporate representatives interested in supporting sports through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding, and senior SATG officials.

Former Indian international footballers Victor Amalraj and Shabbir Ali also participated in the meeting, sharing their valuable suggestions and experience on developing football in Telangana from the grassroots level.

LFC Foundation's Contribution to Social Development Through Football

During the meeting, Colin Cattini explained the activities of the LFC Foundation and its sports and social development programmes implemented internationally.

Established in 2002, the LFC Foundation aims to bring about positive social change through initiatives across seven key areas: social inclusion, sport and physical activity, health and well-being, education and life skills, employability and training, youth development, and community engagement.

He explained that the Foundation conducts approximately 200 programmes every week for young people and families and works with several schools across the Liverpool city region. Through its partnership with the Right To Play organization, the Foundation also supports disadvantaged children in countries including Thailand, Senegal, and Tanzania through various initiatives.

He emphasized that sports can help improve the physical fitness of children and young people while also developing their education, life skills, social responsibility, equal opportunities, and community participation.

Key Areas Discussed for Football Development in Telangana

The meeting held extensive discussions on adapting the LFC Foundation's experience to meet local needs and exploring opportunities to implement similar initiatives in Telangana.

The key areas discussed included:

Grassroots football development: Creating more opportunities for children and young people to participate in football, particularly by expanding community football programmes in underserved areas.

Participation of women and girls: Promoting inclusive initiatives to increase the participation of girls and women in football.

Social development through sports: Using football as a means of promoting health, education, life skills, social equality, and community development.

Coach training and skill development: Providing grassroots coaches with training and capacity-building opportunities through the sharing of international expertise and experience.

Utilization of CSR funds: Directing corporate social responsibility funding towards well-planned and sustainable sports development programmes.

Strengthening partnerships: Developing long-term initiatives through coordination among SATG, football clubs, foundations, corporate organizations, and former international players.

Colin Cattini Appreciates Telangana's Efforts to Develop Football

Colin Cattini appreciated the efforts of the Sports Authority of Telangana to develop football in the state and increase grassroots participation among aspiring players. He expressed interest in exploring opportunities to work with SATG in areas such as community football, social inclusion, and social development through sports.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. A. Sonibala Devi, Vice-Chairperson and Managing Director of the Sports Authority, said:

"Telangana has a rich tradition in football, and our state has no shortage of talented young players. The LFC Foundation's experience in bringing about positive social change through football will be extremely valuable to us.

"Bringing government departments, football clubs, CSR partners, and former players onto a common platform, today's roundtable meeting marks a first step towards expanding community football to every part of the state."

Participants expressed the view that efforts should be made to identify specific programmes that could be implemented in collaboration with the LFC Foundation and develop an action plan for a future partnership.

They noted that such a partnership could help strengthen grassroots football in Telangana, create more sporting opportunities for children and young people, increase the participation of girls and women, and explore new ways to promote social development through sports.

The meeting was attended by G. Palguna, Secretary of the Telangana Football Association; SATG Deputy Directors Ravinder, Dr. Ravi Teja, Srinivas, and Ashok; K. Madhu, Stadium Administrator of the GMC Balayogi Sports Complex; and Suresh Kaleru, Public Relations Officer.

SHORT NEWS

CRICKET

Injured Pant ruled out of India A's first two games against NZ



NEW DELHI: Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been ruled out of India A's first two matches on the upcoming tour of New Zealand due to a left-side strain, with young keeper-batter Kumar Kushagra named as his replacement in the updated squad, the BCCI announced on Monday. Pant, whose availability for the tour was subject to fitness after catching viral fever while leading the rest of India in the Irani Cup clash against Ranji Trophy winners Jammu & Kashmir at the Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said Pant, 29, remains under the medical team's supervision, with a final call on his participation in the third match starting on October 7 in Lincoln to be taken later. "He remains under the care of the BCCI Medical Team and is recovering well. "A decision on his availability for the third match will be taken at a later stage.

APL Season 2

Mighty Marathas defeat Chero Archers in thrilling shootoff



HYDERABAD: Despite playing catch-up for most of the match, Mighty Marathas came from behind and scripted a thrilling shootoff win against in-form Chero Archers in Season 2 of the Archery Premier League (APL) in Hyderabad on Monday. Aman Saini and Dhiraj Bommadevara nailed their arrows into the yellow ring in APL's signature hit-or-miss shootoff. For Chero, compound World No. 1 Mathias Fullerton scored a hit in the shootoff, but the other three archers registered misses as Marathas won 2-1 in the tiebreaker after a 4-4 draw in regulation time. Chero, who have now lost two matches in tiebreakers this season, actually started the match strongly to take the first set. But in what turned out to be a really high-quality display of archery, the second and third sets were split between the two sides

Crocombe wins bumper two-year deal, Robinson returns as ECB announce contract

NEW DELHI



The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Monday announced the central contracts as uncapped fast bowler Henry Crocombe won a bumper two-year deal, while Ollie Robinson also returned.

The contract list for the 2026-27 cycle has been expanded to 39 from the 30 it was in 2025-26 as Ben Stokes and Mark Wood's retirements freed up finances for more inclusion. 30 players have full deals, while nine are in development contracts offered by the English board, as eight players who did not had a deal for 2025/26 have been contracted.

Apart from Cox and Crocombe, Tom Banton, Sam Cook, Emilio Gay, Matt Fisher and Dan Lawrence have signed central contracts for the first time, while Ollie Robinson returns to the contracts after being awarded the deals in 2022 and 2023.

Crocombe, who was signed by Surrey from Sussex, and Jordan Cox have been handed two-year deals with the former uncapped as of now. Nine other players who were contracted last year have signed extensions, which will see their deals run till September 2028. Those players include: Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Sonny Baker, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Joe Root and Josh Tongue.

Jos Buttler, Brydon Carse, Ben Duckett, Adil Rashid and Jamie Smith move into the second year of their contracts.

Six of the nine development-contracted players have signed for the first time. These are James Coles, Mason Crane, Ben McKinney, Liam Patterson-White, Thomas Rew and Matthew Revis.

Meanwhile, Zak Crawley and Luke Wood have been dropped altogether from the contracts. Carse, who is currently under investigation by the Cricket Regulator for being briefly arrested outside a nightclub, moves to his second-year deal.

"I don't see, at the moment, anything to suggest that he won't continue on that contract," Key said on Carse, as quoted by Cricinfo, "but we'll find out more as it (the investigation) goes on."

England central contracts:

Two-year deal: Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Sonny Baker, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Jordan Cox, Henry Crocombe, Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Joe Root, Josh Tongue (to 30 September 2028)

One-year deal: Rehan Ahmed, Tom Banton, Shoaib Bashir, Jos Buttler, Brydon Carse, Sam Cook, Liam Dawson, Ben Duckett, Matthew Fisher, Emilio Gay, Dan Lawrence, Saqib Mahmood, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope.

Denmark Open: Sindhu faces daunting An Se-young test; Satwik-Chirag set to return

ODENSE (DENMARK)



PV Sindhu's quest for another BWF World Tour title will begin with one of the toughest assignments in women's badminton, while the return of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty adds further interest to India's campaign at the Denmark Open 2026, which gets underway on Tuesday.

The BWF Super 750 tournament will bring together a strong international field, with India banking on its established stars and emerging talents to make an impact across the singles and doubles draws.

Sindhu, who captured the Japan Open Super 750 crown earlier this year, faces world No. 1 and Olympic champion An Se-young of the Republic of Korea in the opening round. The Indian, a two-time Olympic medallist currently ranked 10th in the world, has yet to register a win against An in 10 previous meetings.

The opening-round encounter will offer an early measure of Sindhu's ambitions in Denmark, with the Indian needing to overcome a difficult head-to-head record against one of the most dominant players in the women's game.

India's women's singles challenge also features Tanvi Sharma, Ashmita Chaliha, Devika Sihag and Unnati Hooda. Tanvi and Ashmita arrive with titles to their names this season, having won the Taipei Open and Korea Masters, respectively, in August.

In the men's singles draw, Lakshya Sen will be eager to regain consistency after a season affected by injuries and fluctuating results. His runner-up finish at the All England Championships earlier this year remains a significant highlight, but the Indian faces another demanding start against world No. 3 Chou Tien-chen of Chinese Taipei.

Ayush Shetty and Kidambi Srikanth complete India's men's singles contingent. Srikanth, a former world No. 1, will return to a tournament he won in 2017, while Shetty will look to make his presence felt against a competitive field.

The men's doubles competition will see Satwiksairaj and Chirag back on court for the first time since their quarter-final defeat at the Asian Games 2026, where they were unable to defend their title. The Indian pair have, however, enjoyed a productive year on the BWF World Tour, winning the Singapore Badminton Open and China Masters. Denmark presents an opportunity to add another trophy to their season's collection.

In women's doubles, World Championships bronze medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will spearhead India's challenge. Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda are the other Indian pair in the draw.India will not have any representation in mixed doubles, leaving the country's hopes concentrated in the other four categories.

With Sindhu facing the world's top-ranked player immediately, Lakshya confronting a top-three opponent and the men's doubles pair returning after their Asian Games setback, the opening rounds could prove decisive in shaping India's campaign.

Where to watch: Badminton fans in India can watch the Denmark Open 2026 live on FanCode. The tournament will not be telecast live on any television channel in the country.

India squad:

Men's singles: Lakshya Sen, Ayush Shetty, Kidambi Srikanth

Men's doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty

Women's singles: PV Sindhu, Tanvi Sharma, Ashmita Chaliha, Devika Sihag, Unnati Hooda Women's doubles: Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand, Rutaparna Panda-Swetaparna Panda

Arrangements made for India- West Indies cricket match in city



HYDERABAD

The Arrangements for the fourth T20 match between Team India and the West Indies have been finalized. Malkajgiri Commissioner of Police (CP) Sumathi briefed the media on the security measures being implemented for the match scheduled for Wednesday at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Uppal.

"The India vs. West Indies T20 match is taking place on the 14th. We have deployed a security force of 2,200 police personnel for the event. Four 'watch teams' will be stationed around the stadium. We will monitor the situation by using 408 CCTV cameras and two drone cameras. Additionally, we are keeping a close watch on the issue of fake tickets circulating on social media and will raise awareness regarding fake ticket links," she said . She said that Approximately 40,000 spectators were expected to attend the match.

She Said that Parking arrangements had been made to accommodate 8,000 vehicles and added that the players would travel from Banjara Hills to the Uppal Stadium. "We are placing high priority on women's safety; eight 'SHE Teams' will be deployed in plainclothes. Spectators are encouraged to use RTC and Metro services. Entry into the stadium will be permitted starting two hours before the match begins," CP Sumathi stated.

India need cultural shift to tackle fielding form slump in shortest format, says R Sridhar

NEW DELHI



Former India senior men's fielding coach R. Sridhar believes the national team urgently requires a complete cultural shift to address a worrying form slump in the shortest format, while adding that the newbies in the team are arriving 'undercooked' in terms of their fielding abilities ahead of their upcoming all-format tour of New Zealand starting on October 22.

As per statistical data from Cricket-21 in T20Is in 2026, India's fielding standards have been in decline. India currently ranks second-to-last among the top 10 nations in catching efficiency at 73.4 per cent -- having put down a jaw-dropping 58 catches. While Indian fielders have saved 129 runs, dropped chances and ground-fielding errors have led to 226 runs being leaked, resulting in a net deficit of 97 runs.

Furthermore, India leads all teams in missed run-out opportunities with 19, despite effecting 14 of them. Add to it, two missed stumpings out of five chances were recorded by the Indian wicketkeepers. With matches in New Zealand to begin at 8 pm local time, it means fielders will take the field when it's biting cold.

"Let me tell you that. The form is not great. Like you said, the fielding form of the Indian team, not just over the last few matches, but the last few months, it's not been great. We ended up winning the T20 World Cup, but still we were nowhere near being a good fielding unit in that tournament as well. Axar Patel probably just saved us from falling by the wayside in that semifinal. So we need to pick up our act together.

"I think fielding has now definitely taken a backseat in terms of application and in terms of building a certain culture. As we can see, there is a clear culture with the batting, the way the Indian team is batting. Similarly, there's a clear culture in the way the Indian team is using fast bowlers, especially in the ODIs, where Shubman Gill likes to hit the deck.

"But whereas in fielding, that seems to be absent, and what is really worrying is the fact that the new kids who are coming into the squad are undercooked in their fielding ability. Some are fast bowlers, some are batters, but whoever is coming in, they don't seem to be the kind of fielder a Kohli is or even a Surya or Shreyas is, the generation of that block, I'm saying, because they seem to have been brought up on only one skill, that is batting," Sridhar told IANS in a select virtual interaction facilitated by Sony Sports Network on Monday.

Urging the broader domestic ecosystem to wake up to the issue, Sridhar stressed that the current coaching staff under head coach Gautam Gambhir and fielding coach Subhadeep Ghosh, who took over from T Dilip earlier this year, will need to instil strict standards and accountability in terms of catching and ground fielding.

"So that's a bit of a worrying factor, but that is not for the Indian team to worry about. That is for the entire ecosystem to wake up and smell the coffee. So there are a lot of things to be done, but the fielding coach will have a job on his hands to train these young guns straightaway into match practice. I think they're going to leave India on the 18th.

Zverev becomes first German to clinch ATP Year-End No.1 after shock Alcaraz

NEW DELHI

Alexander Zverev achieved another significant milestone in his stellar 2026 season as the 29-year-old has clinched the ATP Year-End No.1 spot for the first time on Monday.

The reigning French Open and US Open champion will become the first German to earn the Year-End No.1 spot and also the oldest to achieve the feat for the first time. He would be 29 years, 217 days old at the year-end ATP rankings date (November 23, 2026) and will be three days older than Andre Agassi was in 1999 (29 years, 214 days).

This was confirmed after Spain's Carlos Alcaraz suffered a shocking round of 32 defeat in the ongoing Shanghai Masters to Belgium's Zizou Bergs 5-7, 6-7 (4). Zverev was already the favourite to end the year as the No.1 and had two scenarios to clinch the spot. One was that if he reached the semifinals in Shanghai.

AA23: One Pic, All Questions Answered!

Director Lokesh Kanagaraj has sparked fresh excitement among fans by sharing a picture of himself with Allu Arjun, hinting that discussions about their upcoming film are moving forward. The director also wrote that interesting updates are coming soon, raising hopes that the much-awaited collaboration is very much on track.Over the last few days, reports suggested that the project had been stalled because Allu Arjun was reportedly unhappy with the script and had decided to step away. These reports created confusion among fans who were eagerly wa iting for the combination to take shape.However, Lokesh's latest social media post appears to have put those doubts to rest. A few days ago, Allu Arjun's team had also clarified that the project was very much on, dismissing speculation about its cancellation.



Dimple Hayathi Wows in Traditional Glam

Dimple Hayathi, who is coming up with the movie Aadarsha Kutumbam House No. 47, was clicked walking down the aisle at the film's event. At the Narayanamma song launch event in Hyderabad, Dimple wore a rose-gold satin saree with sequin-embellished gold borders. She paired it with an embroidered sleeveless blouse, silver embellished heels, a statement ring and drop earrings. Soft waves, pink lips and subtle glam completed the elegant look. Dimple Hayathi makes a special appearance in Narayanamma, the first single from Venkatesh and Trivikram's Aadarsha Kutumbam. She will next be seen as Mandaram, a bold and powerful character, in Sharwanand's period action drama Bhogi, directed by Sampath Nandi.



Suhas' Hide & Silk Promises Romance



Suhas, who scored a blockbuster with Mandaadi, is coming up with an interesting new project. Directed by debutant Rajendra Bala, the film marks the Telugu debut of Stone Bench Studio, the production house led by Karthikeyan Santhanam. The banner is entering Telugu cinema with a lineup of four films, and this project marks the beginning of that journey. The film is being produced in association with Vartika Jain of Misrilall Pictures, with Sanjana Krishnamoorthy of Lubber Pandhu and DC fame playing the female lead. Titled Hide & Silk, the makers have unveiled the title glimpse, introducing the film through a distinctive blend of artistry, emotions and destiny. Suhas is seen weaving a saree on a traditional loom, while the voice of Tanikella Bharani adds poetic touch. His narration revolves around the beautiful thought that every saree has a woman destined to wear it. The fabric is not merely created by a weaver; in a poetic twist, it appears to choose the woman who belongs to it. This unusual perspective gives the glimpse a soulful quality, making the relationship between a saree and its wearer the central attraction. Suhas looks apt in the role and Sanjana Krishnamoorthy's screen presence further enhance the visual appeal. The film boasts a promising technical team, with Amrit Ramnath composing the music and Karthik Palani handling cinematography. With an evocative title and an unconventional concept, Hide & Silk offers an appealing introduction to Rajendra Bala's directorial debut and marks an important step for Stone Bench Studio in Telugu cinema.

Balayya Gives Up NTR's Gifted House

Nandamuri Balakrishna might be an action star on the big screen who mercilessly kills tens and hundreds of goons in films. But in real-life, Balayya is known for his big heart. He helps many people through his charity works, through the Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital and also through his service and political works as MLA of Hindupur. Balayya is once again in the news for good reasons. This time it is about the much talked about the traffic easing around KBR Park. Going into details, it is already known that the Telangana government is planning to build a 4.3 km elevated corridor in substitute to the previous H-City project involving 7 flyovers and 7 underpasses with a cost of ₹1,090-crore. Buzz is that Nandamuri Balakrishna has offered to give his own land from his residence at Jubilee Check Post to the GHMC. Balayya is ready to give 862.77 square yards of land from his residence. This is expected to ease the traffic congestion from Jubilee Hills Road No. 45 towards Jubilee Hills Check Post. Despite this being a very sentimental house for Balayya, he has agreed to offer the land to GHMC as a responsible citizen. This is the same house where Balakrishna's father and legendary NT Ramarao used to meet his fans and hence this house has a lot of sentimental attachment to Balayya and his wife Vasundhara. As per reports, Balayya may shift his residence. GHMC officials are also praising Balayya's act. Similarly, film producer and real estate businessman Bhavya Anand Prasad of Bhavya Constructions has a key property at Film Nagar junction and he agreed to provide 341.33 square yards land at the prime area to the GHMC for the development and road widening. Also, Shabdalaya Studios owned by film producer Shyam Prasad Reddy has also offered 608 square yards of prime land near Prasad Labs and TDP office. As per reports, this land is estimated to be worth around ₹ 30.40 crore and Shyam Prasad Reddy agreed to offer the land to the GHMC with the TDR in exchange for the land. All the noted film personalities have proved their big heart by giving prime land to the Telangana government towards the easing of traffic around the KBR Park. With this, the development works around the KBR park are expected to complete at a lightning speed.



Rajini & Vijay: Dasara Box Office Battle



Dasara season has begun, and the Navarathri celebrations have taken to the streets. The festival season is also a time for families to come together and witness new releases in theatres. To honor the celebration, two big releases are set for the festival period. One is a straight Telugu film, and the other is a dubbed film. Both Vijay Deverakonda and Rajinikanth are arriving on screen with Ranabaali and Jailer 2, respectively. We have to see if the two films are enough to double the Dusshera celebrations. Vijay's Ranabaali is directed by Rahul Sankrityan, and the team is aggressively promoting it. With Rashmika as the leading lady, the project has enough material to generate curiosity. The film tells the story of a brave warrior's fight against severe colonial oppression to save his people during one of the most violent periods in Indian his tory. So far, the promotional material has given the film a positive vibe, and it's a must-win for Vijay, who is waiting to make a comeback after many flops. Similarly, Rahul has proven himself as a good director and is looking to climb the ladder. On the flip side, Jailer 2 is the sequel to the blockbuster Jailer, directed by Nelson. The film's first part is a big hit in Telugu too, raising expectations for the second part. The presence of star actors like Mohanlal, Shivraj Kumar and Hrithik Roshan brings attention to the film at the pan-India level. The film is loaded with action and Nelson mark comedy which should blend well with Rajini's style and swag. Already, both films have drawn a lot of discussions and hype on social media. Vijay Deverakonda directly addressed the targeted hatred toward his film, comparing it to Jailer 2. But, setting this unnecessary noise aside, both films have real scope to excel at the box office. With the right promotion and release, the two films can provide wholesome entertainment for audiences.

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