HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 | VOL NO. 17 | ISSUE NO.: 169 | RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) | PAGES: 12 | RS. 1/-

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026 | WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM

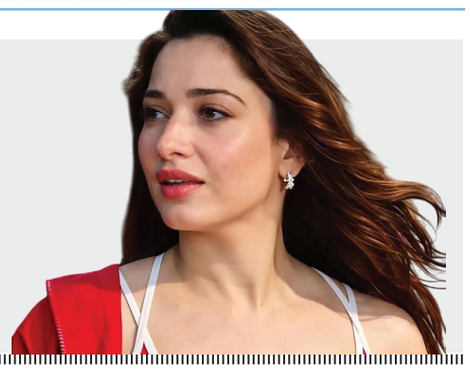


Beyond Interest Rates: Rethinking Economic Stability

OPINION 06

TAMANNAH IN FOR DIRTY PICTURE-2

BOX OFFICE 12



Amit Shah predicts crushing defeat for Rahul Gandhi in 2029

Home Minister accuses Congress of shielding infiltrators; says NDA will secure massive majority

New Delhi, October 13: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday predicted a massive victory for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, warning Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and INDIA bloc leaders to prepare for another crushing defeat. Taking a sharp dig at the Congress, Shah claimed that the party was heading towards its fourth consecutive defeat in the general elections. He also accused the Opposition of attempting to protect infiltrators by opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"I want to tell Rahul Gandhi that the people of this country have fully understood your strategy of shielding infiltrators under the guise of the SIR, and they will no longer fall for your ruses," Shah said, expressing confidence that the NDA would secure a massive majority in 2029.

The Home Minister's remarks came after INDIA bloc leaders, Opposition MPs, student organisations and civil society representatives held a high-tea meeting at Rahul Gandhi's residence in New Delhi on Tuesday



afternoon. The meeting was part of the Opposition's efforts to coordinate its political response to issues surrounding electoral rolls and the SIR exercise. Shah also questioned the Opposition's strategy of organising protests and media events, alleging that such activities would not help the Congress win public confidence.

"You cannot win the trust of the nation's people through

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Social Progress Is Possible Only Through Education

Telangana's Education Sector to Compete with the World

Revanth Reddy-led government gives top priority to education

Teachers are the architects of future generations

Teachers must contribute to the goal of building a $3 trillion economy by 2047: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka



Hyderabad, October 13: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said that education is the key to overcoming social and economic inequalities and achieving progress across all sectors of society. He stated that the state government is giving the highest priority to education by allocating substantial funds and introducing revolutionary reforms. He added that the government is working towards preparing Telangana's students to compete with the rest of the world.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤



ONE Teacup Front Fight!

Rahul's Sunehri Bagh Tea Turns Into The Opposition's War Room!

"All Protests Are One!" The India Bloc Locks Arms, Names Its Targets, And Leaves The Nation Guessing With Three Words: "That Is A Surprise!"

On Tuesday, 13 October 2026, at 4:00 PM, Rahul Gandhi hosted INDIA bloc leaders, Opposition MPs, student bodies and civil society at 5, Sunehri Bagh Road, a day after the March for Democracy and a joint Supreme Court petition on the Special Intensive Revision of voter rolls. The leaders then faced the press as one, with Gandhi declaring a single protest with a single mission, naming those he holds responsible, and refusing to reveal the next move.

02

Govt to attach assets of rice millers defaulting on CMR

Hyderabad, Oct.13: Striking directly at defaulting rice millers, the Telangana Civil Supplies department has invoked the stringent Revenue Recovery (RR) Act to attach assets and auction machinery of millers withholding Custom Milled Rice (CMR) or paddy. Addressing field officers during an intensive legal and tactical training session on Tuesday, M. Stephen Raveendra, Commissioner of Civil Supplies & Ex-Officio Principal Secretary, issued firm directives to Deputy Tahsildars (DTs). He assured officers across three batches of complete systemic protection to perform their enforcement duties strictly and without fear.

To enforce compliance, the department has integrated technology into its operations with the newly launched Physical Verification (PV) mobile app. Field teams will conduct surprise stock checks every Wednesday to catch defaulters off-guard and assemble airtight legal cases supported by digital evidence while adhering to the principles of natural justice. Following the training, practical mock tests were conducted to prepare officers for field execution. The department's training program will next extend to District Civil Supplies Officers (DCSOs) and District Managers (DMs) to ensure unified statewide enforcement. Reaffirming its commitment to safeguarding the public treasury, the department reiterated that every paisa owed will be recovered—whether through cash, paddy, or rice—and any attempt to defraud the system will face swift action under the RR Act.

Centre clears LB Nagar elevated corridor

Hyderabad, Oct.13: The Telangana government has secured the Centre's in-principle support for several key road infrastructure projects aimed at easing traffic congestion, reducing travel time and improving connectivity between rural areas and urban centres across the State.

Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, along with Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, MP Mallu Ravi, Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah, officials of the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and State officials, met

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤



Rs. 596 crore profit share for Singareni workers

Hyderabad, Oct.13: The Telangana government has announced a festive bonanza for Singareni coal mine workers on the occasion of Dasara. Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka announced that each permanent employee of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) would receive an average profit-sharing amount of ₹1,53,912.

Addressing a media conference at Praja Bhavan on Tuesday, along with IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, the Deputy Chief Minister said that 38,737 permanent employees would benefit from the decision. In addition, 29,717 contract workers would receive a bonus of ₹5,500 each. Bhatti Vikramarka said the government had decided to distribute 34 per cent of Singareni's profits among workers, continuing the practice followed in previous years.

Public Fed Up With Opposition Drama

New Delhi, Oct.13: Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Tuesday claimed that the public was disgusted by the theatrics staged by the Congress party and its allies in Delhi over the past week under the guise of protests. He alleged that the Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi, the Congress party, the Communists and other opposition parties were misusing the democratic rights guaranteed by the Constitution to create anarchy in the country. Addressing a press conference , he said that they were attempting to tarnish the nation's reputation and added that they were the opposition leaders were behaving in a truly deplorable manner in the name of democracy and added that Rahul Gandhi had forgotten his stature and stooped to a very low level while noting that the people of the country are observing this.

"In the past, they staged high drama in Parliament demanding the Lok Sabha Speaker's resignation only to become a laughingstock. Later, they demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Now, they are speaking irresponsibly,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Jagan Holds Key Talks on Local Polls

- ***Discussions on candidate selection and election preparedness***
- ***Detailed consultations with party regional coordinators, district presidents, and parliamentary observers***

TADEPALLY, OCTOBER 13

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy once again held extensive discussions with senior party leaders in preparation for the upcoming local body elections. He held discussions with party leaders from 11:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. The talks focused on candidate selection and strategies to effectively contest the elections, involving the party's regional coordinators, district presidents, and parliamentary party observers. The meetings were conducted district-wise, with Y.S. Jagan holding direct discussions with the respective regional coordinators, district presidents, and parliamentary observers.

He offered several suggestions on selecting candidates and preparing to face the elections. With reservations finalized for various corporations and municipalities across the state, these issues formed a major part of the discussions.

Against the backdrop of what the party describes as "Red Book rule" and widespread lawlessness in the state, Jagan instructed party leaders to carefully assess the prevailing conditions and the alleged misgovernance over the past two and a half years before selecting strong candidates. He emphasized the need to exercise caution in the selection process.

He alleged that officials were being pressured to engage in irregularities concerning caste certificates and no-dues certificates for proposed candidates. As an example, he cited the case of Sashikala, a former corporator from Visakhapatnam who, according to him, belongs to a Scheduled Caste (SC), but was allegedly issued a certificate identifying her as an OC Kapu. He said this illustrated the alleged irregularities.

Jagan criticized Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for following what he described as wrongful practices, arguing that by the time affected candidates fought such decisions and obtained relief, the election period could already be over. He also urged party leaders to remain vigilant in agency areas and asked

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

VICAT
TRUST. LEGACY. FOREVER.

Don't give it a chance.

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

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

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

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

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



Bharathi CEMENT
SUPERIOR QUALITY. GUARANTEED.

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

Planned Power Shutdown in Gachibowli Sub-Division Tomorrow

6-Hour Supply Interruption Announced for Huda Colony, Shantinagar, and Nearby Areas Due to 33kV Line Works

Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 13: The Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) has issued an official notice informing residents of a scheduled power supply interruption in parts of the Gachibowli sub-division tomorrow, Wednesday, October 14, 2026. The temporary shutdown is necessitated by essential stringing work being carried out on the 33kV transmission lines to strengthen the local power infrastructure and ensure long-term grid reliability.

The planned power outage will affect two major 11kV feeders simultaneously, with the disruption scheduled to last for a duration of six hours from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.



The first affected network is the 11kV Huda Colony feeder, which will remain shut down during the specified six-hour window, directly impacting consumers residing in Huda Colony, Chandanagar, and along Church Road. The second impacted network is the 11kV Shantinagar feeder, which will also undergo maintenance from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, affecting residents and establishments located in the Shantinagar Timber Depot and the Gangaram area.

Local authorities and the office of the Assistant Divisional Engineer (ADE/Operation/Gachibowli) advise all residents, commercial establishments, and businesses situated within these designated zones to plan their daily activities ahead of time and complete crucial electricity-dependent tasks before 10:00 AM. Citizens requiring further information, clarification, or emergency assistance during the outage window can reach out directly to the ADE Operations office at 8712469628 or contact the 24x7 TGSPDCL central customer service helpline by dialing 1912.

Centre Directs States to Ensure Hospitals Display Treatment Charges

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 13

The Union Government has directed all states and Union Territories to ensure that hospitals and other clinical establishments prominently display the charges for their medical services and facilities. The move is aimed at improving transparency in healthcare billing and helping patients and their families understand the likely cost of treatment before services are provided. Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava has written to the Chief Secretaries of all states and Union Territories, asking them to review compliance with the applicable rules and issue necessary directions to hospitals. The Centre has emphasised that the responsibility for implementing and enforcing these requirements rests with the respective state and Union Territory authorities.



Under the existing healthcare regulations, hospitals must display the rates charged for every type of service and the facilities they provide at a clearly visible and easily accessible location. The information must be made available in both English and the relevant local language so that patients and their attendants can understand the charges without difficulty.

The directive is expected to help patients make informed healthcare decisions, plan their medical expenses and avoid unexpected costs. Transparent rate cards may also reduce confusion during hospital billing and minimise disputes, complaints and disagreements between healthcare providers and patients. The Centre has further asked hospitals, wherever applicable, to display treatment package rates for foreign patients visiting India on Medical or Ayush Visas. In states and Union Territories where the central Clinical Establishments Act does not apply, authorities have been asked to use their existing regulatory frameworks to ensure that hospitals disclose their charges. The latest instruction reinforces existing disclosure requirements rather than introducing a new system of price regulation. Its success will depend on regular monitoring, inspections and strict action by state and Union Territory authorities against hospitals that fail to display the prescribed information.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

ONE Teacup Front Fight!

Rahul's Sunehri Bagh Tea Turns Into The Opposition's War Room!

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The tea was a table, and the table was a strategy. When parties that usually compete for the same chair sit around the same cup, Delhi's corridors take notice. Consider the guest list. Sonia Gandhi arrived. Mallikarjun Kharge was present. Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD, D Raja of the CPI, MA Baby of the CPI(M) and Mahua Moitra of the TMC filled the rooms. Student leaders from AISA and civil society voices took their places beside them. Yes, this was not a drawing room reception and should be considered as a muster roll.

And what brought them together? The Opposition's charge, which it has carried to the Election Commission, to the President and now to the Supreme Court: that the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls has led to large-scale deletions and irregularities that strike at the root of the ballot. The Election Commission will have its say in the proper forum, and that is how a democracy settles such matters. But the Opposition's case is on the record, and it is loud.

On Monday, thousands marched through the barricaded roads of central Delhi in the March for Democracy. Flags and posters filled Connaught Place. Eleven Opposition leaders filed a joint petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Election Commission's decisions on the SIR and alleged poll irregularities. Gandhi and Kharge also sought a meeting with the Chief Justice of India and were declined. Tuesday's tea was the strategy session that followed the street and the courtroom.

The agenda, as sources described it, was simple and unsparing. Coordinate joint protests. Intensify the demand for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. Keep up the heat over the alleged voter deletions. A bloc that once argued over seats and symbols now argues for a single agenda. Then the leaders walked out to face the cameras together, and Gandhi spoke without gloves.

"We are all standing here together as one," he said. "As I said yesterday, there are no parallel protests. There is one singular protest, and the protest has one mission: restoration of democracy in India." He charged that democracy had been destroyed, the election system had been destroyed, and the Constitution had been "torn up and thrown away."

These are the Leader of the Opposition's words and the Opposition's allegations, and the government and the Election Commission are free to answer each one. India's democracy is strong enough to hear both sides.

Jantar Mantar was once the people's megaphone in the heart of the capital. Gandhi now says the right to use it has been taken away, and he has promised to challenge that in public. He turned to Jantar Mantar. "One method of expression of democracy was Jantar Mantar," he said, "and now the government has decided that Jantar Mantar can no longer be used to express democratic feelings. We are going to challenge that idea." Every Delhi veteran knows what that old protest ground has meant to the aggrieved citizen. A democracy keeps its pavements open for dissent.

Then came the knife edge. Gandhi named Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the "main architect", Home Minister Amit Shah as the "implementer", and Gyanesh Kumar among others, and warned them that the "net is closing around them." He added that it would "not be so simple" to destroy the Constitution and get away with it. Strong words, delivered in a democracy where the courts and the voters sit above all of us. The Opposition will have to prove what it alleges, and the accused have every right to contest it. The Fourth Estate stands between them with its notebook open and cameras flashing.

His tone softened only when he spoke of the crowds. He thanked the people of Delhi and of India who stood with the marchers, and insisted that Monday's show of strength was "not merely of political parties but of the average citizen." And he said: "This is not about us, this is about the people of India, this is about the future of the people of India." He promised that "all of us together" would fight "to the end" to restore the democratic process.

Then a reporter asked the question every newsroom wanted answered. What comes next? Gandhi smiled and gave three words: "THAT IS A SURPRISE."

In politics, a surprise is either a masterstroke or a damp squib. The Opposition has just announced it has one up its sleeve, and Delhi is now watching every sleeve.

So the Opposition has the street, the petition, the press and a promise. The cup has been drained at Sunehri Bagh Road. The movement has not. What remains to be seen is whether unity holds when the cameras go home, whether the Supreme Court gives the petitioners what they seek, and whether the surprise is a thunderclap or a whimper. But one fact is plain as a Deccan monsoon. A bloc that once scattered at the first sign of difficulty walked out of a drawing room on Tuesday in lockstep, and a government that wants to be taken seriously must answer with facts, not silence.

Centre clears LB Nagar elevated corridor

➢FROM PAGE 1

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi on Tuesday to discuss proposals for highways, bridges, elevated corridors and ropeways. Nitin Gadkari responded positively to several proposals, approved some projects and directed officials to take the necessary steps for their implementation. In a significant development for Hyderabad's eastern corridor, Gadkari approved the proposed elevated corridor between LB Nagar and Hayathnagar to address growing traffic congestion in the rapidly developing area.

He also assured the delegation that the tendering process for the expansion of National Highway-65 would be completed in November, with construction scheduled to commence in January 2027. Nitin Gadkari agreed to the proposal to lay the foundation stone for an iconic cable-stayed bridge across the Krishna River on NH-167K, aimed at strengthening road connectivity between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The proposed bridge between Somasila and Sangameswar is expected to shorten the distance to Tirupati by around 80 km and reduce travel time by nearly three hours, Komatireddy explained.

Responding positively to Komatireddy's proposal for an elevated corridor along the Hyderabad–Srisailam stretch of NH-765, the Union Minister directed officials to prepare a fresh Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project.

Nitin Gadkari approved the proposal to establish five ropeways in Telangana under the Parvatmala scheme to promote tourism and improve access to major tourist destinations. The projects are expected to make travel more convenient for tourists while creating local employment opportunities and stimulating economic activity in surrounding areas. He also responded positively to the proposal for a Hyderabad–Amaravati greenfield highway, which is expected to strengthen road connectivity between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Under the Setu Bandhan scheme, Nitin Gadkari approved the construction of three railway overbridges (ROBs) in Telangana. The projects are expected to reduce waiting time for motorists at railway level crossings and improve road safety. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy further requested Central assistance under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) for 34 road projects across Telangana. On the occasion, Nitin Gadkari directed the concerned officials to take the necessary steps on the proposals.

The Minister also sought the upgradation of State highways connecting Pullur, Alampur, Jatrapole, Pentlavelli, Kollapur, Lingala, Achampet, Dindi, Devarakonda, Mallepalli and Nalgonda into national highways. Gadkari responded positively to the proposal. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy invited Nitin Gadkari to attend the Indian Road Congress (IRC), scheduled to be held in Hyderabad from November 19 to 22. The Union Minister responded positively and agreed to attend the event.

Amit Shah predicts

➢FROM PAGE 1

fabricated media events and 'Jhooth Ki Goonj'," he said, criticising the Opposition for mobilising workers from multiple parties for demonstrations in the national capital. Arguing that public sentiment extended far beyond urban centres and protest venues, Shah urged the Congress leadership to reconnect with voters at the grassroots level. He said the concerns and aspirations of people in agricultural fields, villages, remote hills, forests and riverbank regions could not be overlooked.

The Home Minister cited Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu as states where, according to him, the Congress had struggled to regain a significant political foothold for decades. He maintained that the party's current political approach would not yield electoral gains unless it understood public concerns and strengthened its connection with voters.

Shah further asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP and the NDA continued to enjoy public support despite what he described as malicious propaganda against them. On behalf of the BJP, he thanked voters in Tripura, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal and Assam for backing the party and the NDA. He said their support for the BJP's 'Lotus' symbol had strengthened nationalist forces. The remarks signal an early sharpening of the BJP's political attack on Rahul Gandhi and the INDIA bloc ahead of the 2029 general elections. While the Congress and its allies have raised concerns over the electoral-roll revision exercise, the BJP has sought to portray the Opposition's resistance as politically motivated. Shah's comments also underline the growing political contest over electoral-roll verification, voter rights and the Opposition's campaign strategy, with both sides seeking to shape the national narrative well ahead of the next Lok Sabha polls.

Social Progress Is Possible Only Through Education

➢FROM PAGE 1

Bhatti Vikramarka made these remarks while participating in the 'Guru Vandana – Education Conclave and Teachers Awards 2026', organized by Zee Telugu News at the Hyderabad Police Command and Control Centre. He emphasized that teachers play a crucial role in the development of society and called on them to take a more active role in shaping students into highly skilled and capable human resources.

He noted that scientific studies have demonstrated that the more education advances in a society, the greater its progress across various sectors. The state government's survey of social, economic, political, and educational conditions had also highlighted the importance of education.

According to him, the survey findings indicate that education is a vital pathway for disadvantaged communities and economically weaker families to achieve progress. In this context, the government is paying special attention to the education sector to elevate Telangana society to a level where it can compete globally. He said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has retained the Education portfolio and is directly monitoring initiatives aimed at developing the sector.

Priority to Teacher Recruitment and Student Welfare

Bhatti Vikramarka said the government had undertaken large-scale teacher recruitment through the District Selection Committee (DSC) and completed the recruitment of junior lecturers in junior colleges. He stated that several measures were being implemented to improve the quality of teaching in government educational institutions and promote student welfare. He revealed that diet charges for students in the state's Gurukul and residential schools had been increased by 40%, while cosmetic allowances had been raised by 200% to ensure better nutrition and care. The government is also implementing a breakfast programme for approximately 2.7 million students studying in government schools. In addition, the programme providing milk or ragi java (a nutritious finger millet drink) three days a week is being expanded.

105 Young India Residential Schools

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government had sanctioned approximately 105 Young India Integrated Residential Schools across Telangana, with construction work being expedited to provide English-medium education in accordance with international standards. He explained that each school was being designed to accommodate between 2,000 and 2,500 students. In addition to quality education, the schools will provide facilities for sports, playgrounds, and other extracurricular activities. Residential facilities will also be provided for teachers within school campuses, he added.

The government is strengthening existing government schools and has sanctioned one Telangana Public School for every Assembly constituency. Bhatti Vikramarka said the government was focusing not only on primary education but also on the development of higher education. Recruitment to fill vacancies in universities was underway, he noted. To promote women's education, the government has named the women's university after freedom fighter Chakali Ilamma and is allocating special funds for its development.

He further stated that reforms were being introduced in technical education to equip young people with employment opportunities suited to changing technologies.

The government is modernizing Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and promoting polytechnic education. To provide young people with practical skills in modern machinery and computerized technologies, Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) are being established in every Assembly constituency. These centres aim to improve students' technical capabilities and prepare them for employment.

Achieving Goals Through Teachers' Participation

Bhatti Vikramarka expressed confidence that the reforms being implemented in the education sector would become game changers in the future. He said education would strengthen Telangana socially, economically, and politically, enabling the state to compete with the rest of the world. He called upon the teachers who received awards at the Guru Vandana programme, along with all teachers working to shape the future of students across the state, to actively contribute to achieving the government's objectives. Emphasizing that the future of children is the future of the state, he urged teachers to play a crucial role in achieving Telangana's goal of developing a $3 trillion economy by 2047. State Government Adviser K. Keshava Rao, Member of Parliament Etela Rajender, MLA Tanniru Harish Rao, Zee News CEO and Editor Bharat, and others attended the programme.

CJP Leaders Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka Jump Jantar Mantar Gate, Detained

NEW DELHI, OCT 13

A day after the Centre denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site, Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) volunteers led by leaders Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das staged a flash protest at the venue on Tuesday morning. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke posted a video showing party volunteers climbing an iron gate and a police barricade to enter the area with flags in their hands. The protesters raised slogans, including "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Inquilab Zindabad", as police personnel stationed at the site attempted to stop them. The protesters were subsequently detained and taken away, Dipke said. "You cannot denotify the resistance," Dipke posted, challenging the Centre's decision to withdraw Jantar Mantar's designation as a protest site. Reacting to the order, Dipke alleged that the move was intended to discourage demonstrations and said similar protest sites would emerge across the country. "PM's fear is evident from the fact that he has removed Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site.

Jagan Holds Key Talks on Local Polls

➢FROM PAGE 1

regional coordinators to respond promptly to developments on all relevant issues. Assembly and parliamentary observers were instructed to remain accessible in their respective areas. Jagan directed party leaders to consistently challenge alleged illegal activities and acts of lawlessness by Chandrababu Naidu's government, which he claimed were being carried out by misusing official power. He asked them to bring such incidents to the public's attention, keep the party's legal team prepared, and seek prompt justice through the courts. He further instructed leaders to immediately report any problems to the Election Commission and the relevant senior officials, wherever they occur, and to ensure that the entire process is documented. Jagan stated that incidents of police harassment targeting YSRCP leaders and workers in the name of preventive binding-over proceedings were being reported across the state. He said the party would not tolerate such incidents under any circumstances. He called on party leaders to send a clear message that legal action would be pursued against anyone acting in violation of established rules or in defiance of the law.

Finally, Y.S. Jagan directed party leaders to give preference in candidate selection to individuals who have demonstrated a high degree of loyalty and commitment to the party.

Public Fed Up..

➢FROM PAGE 1

declaring Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, Ajit Doval and the RSS Chief as their targets. They claim their goal is to topple the Modi government. There is nothing wrong with an opposition party harboring such an ambition. However, it is atrocious to abandon ethical values and act in a way that undermines the country's constitutional institutions to achieve that end. Now, because verdicts have not gone in their favor, they are even demanding that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court step down. This situation reveals the mindset of a party that ruled for 60 years. Should the Election Commission and the Supreme Court be held responsible if the Congress loses? Are the Election Commissioner and the Chief Justice of India (CJI) supposed to ensure a Congress victory in the elections," he asked . Reddy told the Congress party leaders that they were losing elections because they lack public support and wondered as to how can the Chief Election Commissioner be held accountable for that? He said that the 1.4 billion people of this country have the right and authority to decide whom to vote for and noted that It is inappropriate to blame the Election Commission if the public does not vote for the Congress party.

Massive Rally in Telangana on 'Vote Theft'; Rahul Gandhi to Attend

- **Congress to hold public meeting after Dussehra; ready to accept BJP's challenge, says Mahesh Kumar Goud**
- **"We have records of how many votes were deleted in the name of SIR."**

NEW DELHI

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud has announced that Congress will organize a massive public meeting in Telangana after Dussehra to address the issue of alleged vote theft. He revealed that senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, will attend the meeting.

As part of the Congress campaign against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the deletion of voters' names across the country, the party plans to expand its public movement in Telangana as well.

Mahesh Kumar Goud made it clear that Congress is ready to accept the challenge posed by Telangana BJP president N. Ramachandra Rao. He indicated that the party is prepared for an open debate with the BJP on the issue of alleged vote theft.



He stated that Congress has detailed information and records regarding the number of votes deleted in Telangana in the name of SIR. He added that the party would take the issue to the public and explain what it claims are the facts.

Protecting Voters' Rights Is the Goal

Mahesh Kumar Goud said Congress considers the right to vote one of the most important pillars of democracy. He expressed concern that deleting eligible voters' names from electoral rolls would violate their democratic rights. He demanded that the electoral roll revision process be conducted transparently and that every eligible citizen be able to exercise their right to vote. Congress has previously alleged that attempts were being made to remove the names of voters belonging to Dalit, tribal, minority, and other disadvantaged communities in Telangana. Mahesh Kumar Goud had earlier claimed that there was a conspiracy to delete approximately 9 million to 9.2 million votes in the state. However, these figures are allegations made by Congress and should not be treated as officially verified statistics of deleted votes.

Statewide Campaign Against the BJP

Congress intends to take the issue of electoral roll revision to the public, starting at the village level. The party has been continuing its protests to raise questions about the functioning of the Central Government and the Election Commission while demanding protection of voters' rights.

Congress leaders in Telangana have already organized a "Chalo Lok Bhavan" protest and demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Leaders of the INDIA alliance across the country have also raised objections to the SIR process. Alleging irregularities in electoral rolls, opposition parties have initiated legal action.

Against this backdrop, Congress plans to use the proposed massive public meeting in Telangana to expand its campaign further.

Political Significance

The meeting, which Rahul Gandhi is expected to attend, is set to be an important political event for the Telangana Congress unit. The party leadership intends to focus on allegations of vote theft and increase pressure on the BJP over the issue.

The party is yet to officially announce the date and venue of the meeting, as well as details of other national leaders who may attend.

Meanwhile, officials maintain that the electoral roll revision process is being conducted in accordance with Election Commission rules. Official statistics and clarification from the Election Commission will be important in assessing Congress's allegations regarding the deletion of voters' names.

Nanabiyyam Bathukamma Celebrations HELD ON DAY FOUR

HYDERABAD

The Department of Tourism, Government of Telangana, continued the State-wide Bathukamma celebrations on the fourth day with "Nanabiyyam Bathukamma" at Lalitha Kala Thoranam, Public Gardens, Hyderabad. The celebrations showcased Telangana's rich floral and cultural heritage, with women participating in traditional Bathukamma songs and dances, reflecting the spirit of devotion, nature and community bonding.

Participants from the National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (NITHM) and NIRMAAN Organisation also took part in the celebrations, adding to the festive spirit. The Department of Tourism is organising the celebrations from October 10 to 18, 2026, to preserve and promote Telangana's unique cultural traditions and showcase them as an integral part of the State's tourism experience.

ELECTRICAL WORK

E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/G&CHG/LMG/26 of 2026-27; dated: 08-10-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN.1**; **Tender No:** EL-LM-26-27-31; **Name of work:** Comprehensive Maintenance and Four-Monthly Preventive Schedule Maintenance of 25 kVA Inverters of M/s Hitachi HI-Rel Power Electronics Make Fitted on RMPU SG AC Coaches over N.F. Railway for a Period of Three (03) Years. Tender Value: ₹1,17,30,708.00; Earnest Money: ₹2,08,700.00. **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 30-10-2026 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 30-10-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 11:00 hrs. on 30-10-2026 on website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. DEE/G&Chg/Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

Rs.204.40 Crore Assurance for Post-Matric Students Scholarship Funds Released to 32,976 Students

- **Another Rs.14.68 Crore Released Towards Pending Fee Dues of Hyderabad Public School**

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has taken steps to ensure that financial difficulties do not hinder the education of Scheduled Caste (SC) students in the state.

As part of these efforts, a total of ₹204.40 crore has been released under the post-matric scholarship scheme for the 2026–27 academic year, benefiting 32,976 students. Of the total amount, the state government has contributed ₹101.44 crore as its 40 per cent share, while the Central government has released ₹102.96 crore as its 60 per cent share, Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar said. The minister stated that the government's primary objective is to provide financial support to students pursuing higher education.



He said the government was regularly reviewing post-matric scholarship applications received from colleges and sanctioning scholarships in phases to eligible students. He directed the officials concerned to coordinate effectively to ensure timely disbursement of scholarships and prevent students from facing financial difficulties.

Government Gives Top Priority to Education

The minister said the government was effectively implementing welfare schemes with the objective of ensuring that no SC student is deprived of higher education due to financial constraints.

Keeping students' futures in mind, he instructed officials to focus on reducing delays in the scholarship process and strengthening the system to ensure that every eligible student receives government assistance.

Rs. 14.68 Crore Released to Hyderabad Public School

Meanwhile, the state government has released ₹14.68 crore towards the payment of pending fee dues to Hyderabad Public School. The minister said the government was taking special initiatives to resolve outstanding fee payments related to students' education.

Adluri Laxman Kumar reiterated that the Telangana government would continue to provide the necessary funds for students' education and welfare and take steps to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach every eligible student.

Dattatreya pays tributes to Konda Lakshma Reddy on first death anniversary

HYDERABAD

Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Tuesday paid tributes to former MLA and News and Services Syndicate (NSS) founder-editor Konda Lakshma Reddy on his first death anniversary, recalling his contributions to public life and journalism. Speaking on the occasion, Dattatreya recalled his association with Lakshma Reddy and lauded the services he rendered to society as a public representative and a responsible figure in journalism.

He said Lakshma Reddy's commitment to serving the people and resolving public issues was exemplary and would continue to inspire future generations. His ideals and spirit of service, he added, would remain a guiding light for those who sought to serve society.

Dattatreya observed that although Lakshma Reddy was no longer physically present, he would continue to live in the hearts of the people through his contributions to society.

Several others, including KVP Ramachandra Rao and MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, also paid tributes to Lakshma Reddy and recalled his services on the occasion.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-7R2,17R, 18R, 19R and 20 **Dt.12.10.2026**

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager / Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai - 3. invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works for further details, please refer to www.ireps.gov.in

Sl No	Tender No. / Name of the work	Value (₹)	Closing Date / Time
1	**Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-7R2** Conversion of tramway OHE into conventional OHE on main line and loop lines where coaching trains are running in Chennai Division.	5,13,47,332.00	02/11/2026 (15:00hrs)
2	**Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-17R** Replacement of Bent / Leaned Masts in yards along with protection of masts by providing sacrificial masts in sidings in Chennai division.	1,86,62,901.00	02/11/2026 (15:00hrs)
3	**Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-18R** Replacement of standard bracket cantilever assembly and overaged codal life completed cantilever assembly in MAS-AJJ, MSB-VM & yards in Chennai Division.	2,73,80,404.00	02/11/2026 (15:00hrs)
4	**Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-19R** Replacement of leaned masts and critical implantation masts to ensure safety in MSB-VM and CGL-AJJ sections of Chennai Division.	4,03,33,568.00	02/11/2026 (15:00hrs)
5	**Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-20** Chennai division - Replacement of existing rusted and under rated Isolators with 1250A single pole and double pole isolators in yards to improve OHE rellability.	1,48,39,375.00	04/11/2026 (15:00hrs)

(Sr.DEE/TRD/MAS)
Divisional Railway Manager,
Traction Distribution Branch,
Chennai Division, Chennai-3

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on X@SCRailwayindia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
PUBT19

No: C/E-Auctions Catalogue/SC/2026-27. Date:12.10.2026

For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway invites e-Auction for Commercial earning and NFR contracts. Accordingly, SC division has processed an e-Auction for the following Categories, which are notified in the. **https://www.ireps.gov.in** website.

SL NO 1 **Category** MISC-STATIC **Catalogue No.** MSS-MIX-26-10-3 **Auction Start Date & Time** 16-Oct-26 13:00 **Corresponding station(s)/Train(s)** SC, VNUP, GLE, YDLP, HTCY, UDGR, LPI, BMT **Auction Details** 1.Contract for setting up and operation of Digital cloak room near Gate-2 entrance towards platform-1 at Secunderabad railway station. Area 10*3 ft. 2. Contract for BOXN Wagon Cleaning, removal of residual coal and other materials from empty wagons on nominated rake lines and platforms at Vishnupuram Railway Station. 3.Contract for BOXN Wagon Cleaning, removal of residual coal and other materials from empty wagons on nominated rake lines and platforms at Gajulagudem Railway Station. 4.Contract for BOXN Wagon Cleaning, removal of residual coal and other materials from empty wagons on nominated rake lines and platforms at Yadlapur Railway Station 5. Contract is for setting up of Fun Zone on the area available outside at Hitech Railway station. 6. Contract for setting up and operation of food truck at Udgir railway station. 7. Contract for setting up and operation of food trucks/Juice bar with chat stall/Drive-ins at Lingampalli railway station 8.Contract for setting up and operation of a premium store at Begumpet Railway Station, beside the main building concourse area 9.Contract for setting up and operation of premium store at Begumpet Railway station on Platform-1 10.Contract for setting up and operation of premium store at Begumpet Railway station on platform-2

SL NO 2 **Category** ADVERTISING **Catalogue No.** ADVT-MIX-26-10- **Auction Start Date & Time** 16-Oct-26 15:00 **Corresponding station(s)/Train(s)** 12721/22, 12727/28, RDM, BPA, SKZR, JMKT, CHZ **Auction Details** 1. Advertisment in the Train Interior for train no. 12721/22 HYB-NZM-HYB DAKSHIN S/F EXPRESS. 2. Contract for exterior vinyl wrapping of train No.12727/28 Godavari express 3. The Contract is for Commercial Advertisements through Static Hoardings in Circulating Area of Ramagundam, Bellampalli, Sirpur kazhaznagar and Jammikunta Railway stations. 4.The contract is for commercial advertisements through static/digital media, including TV screens, unipoles, and hoardings. 5.The Contract is for Commercial Advertisements through Digital Boards inside Charlapalli Railway Station 6.Contract for the display of Commercial Advertisements through Static Boards inside Charlapalli Railway Terminal

SL NO 3 **Category** PnU **Catalogue No.** PnU-ACWH-CLK-26 **Auction Start Date & Time** 19-Oct-26 15:00 **Corresponding station(s)/Train(s)** KZJ **Auction Details** Operation and Maintenance of Premium Pre paid AC Waiting Hall at Kazipet Railway station on Platform-1.

SL NO 4 **Category** ADVERTISING **Catalogue No.** ADVT-SC-OOH-26- **Auction Start Date & Time** 21-Oct-26 14:00 **Corresponding station(s)/Train(s)** 12723/24, SC, BIDR, ZB, BHLK **Auction Details** 1. Contract for Advertisement through stickers inside the Passenger area of 12723/24 Telangana Express. 2. Contract for vinyl wrapping of train exterior(full face) for train No.12723/24 Telangana Express. 3. Display of commercial advertisements through Static/Digital Media at the CIRCULATING area of Secunderabad Railway station PF-10. 4. Road Under Bridge No. 90/2-3 near Bidar Railway station 5. Contract for display of Commercial Advertisements through Static Media at Cluster-IX (Zahirabad (ZB), Bidar (BIDR) and Bhalki (BHLK) Railway stations

SL NO 5 **Category** MISC-STATIC **Catalogue No.** MSS-MIX-26-10-4 **Auction Start Date & Time** 21-Oct-26 15:00 **Corresponding station(s)/Train(s)** PRPI **Auction Details** Contract for cleaning and removal of residual coal and other material in wagons, nominated tracks and platforms at Pandharpavani goods yard(PRPI)

SL NO 6 **Category** PARCELS **Catalogue No.** SC-Parcels-2326 **Auction Start Date & Time** 21-Oct-26 12:00 **Corresponding station(s)/Train(s)** 20915, 17256, 12728, 22731, 17041, 20629, 17067 **Auction Details** Parcel space in SLR Coach(Single Compartment) in 20915, 17256, 12728, 22731, 17041, 20629, 17067

SL NO 7 **Category** PARCELS **Catalogue No.** SC-Parcels-2426 **Auction Start Date & Time** 23-Oct-26 12:00 **Corresponding station(s)/Train(s)** 22075, 12714, 16572, 12706 **Auction Details** Parcel space in SLR Coach(Single Compartment) in 22075, 12714, 16572, 12706

SL NO 8 **Category** MISC-STATIC **Catalogue No.** MSS-EV-2026-10 **Auction Start Date & Time** 23-Oct-26 14:00 **Corresponding station(s)/Train(s)** HFZ, NLRD **Auction Details** 1. Contract for installation, maintenance and operation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging stations at Hafizpeta (HFZ) Railway station 2. Contract for installation, maintenance and operation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging stations at Necklace Road (NLRD) Railway station

Interested parties and contractors are to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for detailed information about the E-Auction notice. For inquiries/clarifications, please contact the office of the undersigned.

A835 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Secunderabad**

TGSPDCL CMD Jitesh V. Patil Inspects Kavadiguda Power Line Maintenance Under Praja Baata Programme



- **Focuses on electrical safety, immediate rectification of loose wires, and prompt consumer grievance redressal during field inspection.**

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI

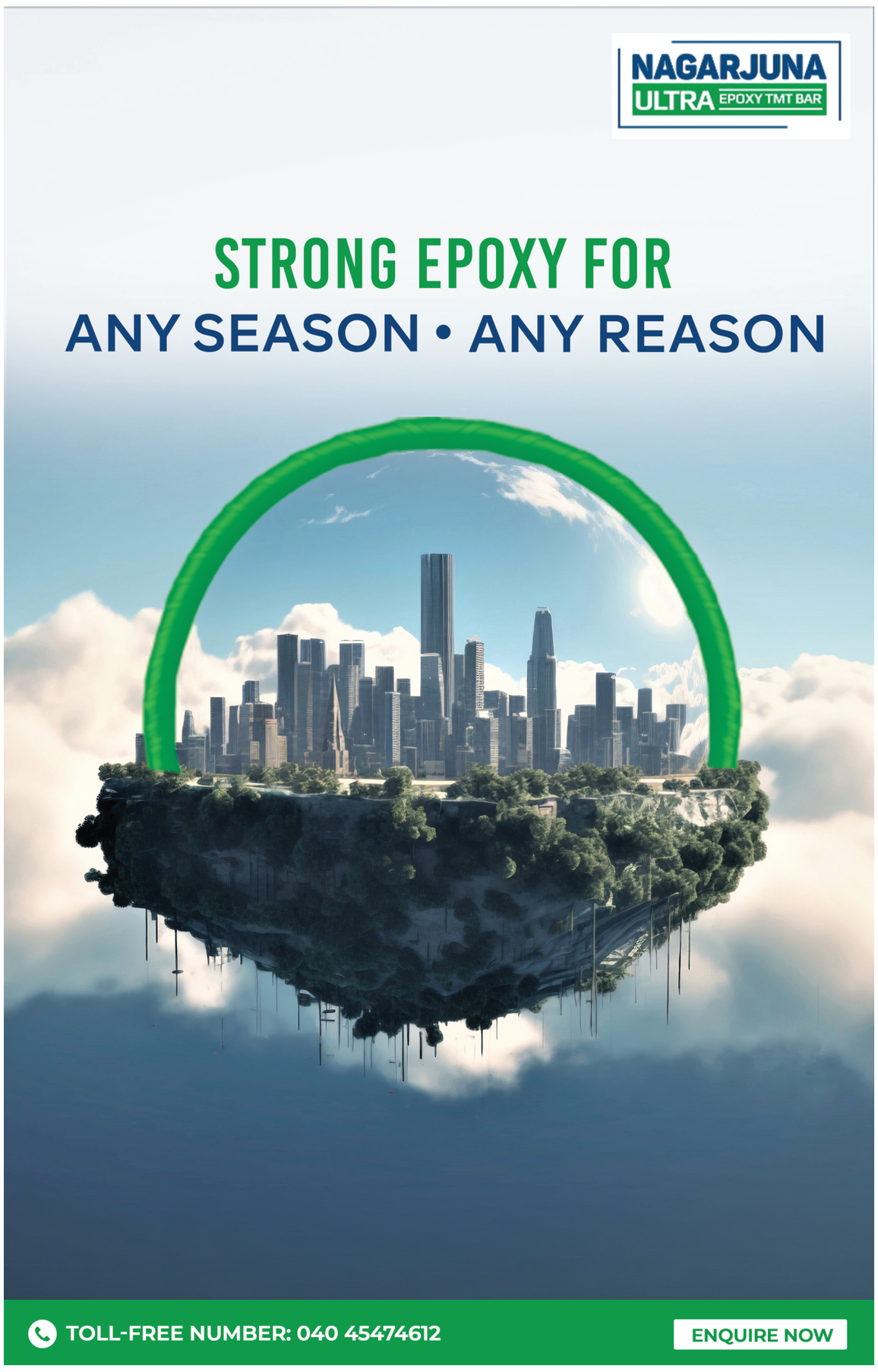
As part of the ongoing Praja Baata Programme, Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) Chairman and Managing Director, Sri Jitesh V. Patil, IAS, conducted an extensive inspection of power line maintenance activities in the Kavadiguda Section of Saifabad Division under the Hyderabad Central Circle on Tuesday. The primary goal of the field visit was to enforce strict electrical safety standards, monitor infrastructure maintenance firsthand, and ensure uninterrupted power supply for local residents.

During the drive, power department personnel deployed specialized bucket ladder vehicles to carry out necessary preventive procedures. Tree pruning operations were extensively conducted to trim heavy branches obstructing overhead power lines. Additionally, line workers installed Low Tension (LT) spacers to properly regulate and support loose LT cables, a critical measure designed to prevent phase-to-phase short circuits caused by wire friction and significantly minimize frequent power outages.

Addressing field officials on-site, the CMD emphasized a zero-tolerance policy toward negligence in power distribution and safety maintenance. He instructed teams to carry out regular, continuous field-level inspections to remove tree obstructions and swiftly correct any sagging or loose electrical conductors. Sri Patil highlighted that proactive preventive steps are vital to averting potential electrical hazards and ensuring that consumers receive a safe, continuous, and high-quality power supply.

Furthermore, CMD Jitesh V. Patil directed staff to actively track consumer complaints regarding electrical issues and resolve grievances on a priority basis without delay. Stressing that optimal service delivery relies on seamless coordination, he urged engineers, administrative officers, and ground technicians to work closely together.

The high-level inspection was carried out in the presence of several senior utility officials, including TGSPDCL Director of Operations Dr. N. Narsimhulu, Metro Zone Chief Engineer Sri Karunakar Babu, and Central Circle Operations Superintending Engineer Sri Ramesh, alongside divisional engineers and field staff from the Saifabad Division.



SHORT TAKES

GITAM to Organize MDP on Design Thinking for Organizational Innovation

HYDERABAD: *The Centre for Business Engagement (CBE), GITAM School of Business (GSB), will organize a three-day Management Development Programme (MDP) titled "Design Thinking for Organizational Innovation: Human-Centred Problem Solving for Future-Ready Organizations" from 26 to 28 November 2026. The programme aims to equip participants with a human-centred approach to solving organizational challenges through the five stages of design thinking: Empathize, Define, Ideate, Prototype and Test. It will cover key areas such as empathy mapping, customer journey mapping, problem identification and reframing, creative ideation, rapid prototyping, user testing, innovation culture and intrapreneurship. The programme will also feature a capstone team challenge and practical workplace applications. By the end of the programme, participants will be able to apply design thinking to address organizational challenges, understand customer and stakeholder needs, generate innovative and practical solutions, develop and test prototypes, strengthen cross-functional collaboration, foster organizational innovation and change.*

Meeseva Certificates to Become More Durable with New Advanced Security Paper

- **New paper incorporates 15 advanced security features to prevent forgery and unauthorised duplication**
- **Tear-resistant and water-resistant paper designed to preserve certificates for years**
- **Lamination may no longer be necessary for Meeseva certificates**
- **IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu launches new security paper at Praja Bhavan**



HYDERABAD

In a significant step towards enhancing the security, durability and reliability of government documents, the Telangana Government has introduced a new generation of security paper for Meeseva certificates. Specially designed to resist tearing and withstand exposure to water, the new paper was launched by Hon'ble Minister for IT and Industries, D. Sridhar Babu, at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

MLAs Raj Thakur and Vijay Ramana Rao, Electronic Service Delivery (ESD) Commissioner T. Ravi Kiran, officials, printing agencies and representatives of service organisations attended the launch.

15 Advanced Security Features to Prevent Forgery

The new Meeseva certificate paper incorporates 15 advanced security features designed to prevent the production of counterfeit certificates and unauthorised duplication. Details of these features have been withheld for security reasons.

Manufactured using specialised technology, the new paper is designed to be highly resistant to tearing and damage caused by water. It also offers greater resilience against wear and tear arising from routine handling, folding and long-term storage.

The enhanced durability will enable citizens to preserve important certificates in good condition for years. Under normal conditions, the improved paper is also expected to reduce the need for lamination, offering greater convenience to citizens while helping protect their documents over the long term.

Greater Protection for Documents That Matter for a Lifetime

Speaking on the occasion, Minister D. Sridhar Babu said that certificates issued by the government, including birth and death certificates and documents required for educational, employment and other official purposes, play a crucial role in people's lives.

"Many government certificates are documents that citizens need to preserve for decades, and sometimes throughout their lifetime. It is the government's responsibility to ensure that these documents remain durable, secure and reliable," the Minister said. He emphasised that the Telangana Government was leveraging modern technology to improve the quality, security and convenience of public services.

The introduction of the new security paper would not only enhance the durability of certificates but also strengthen safeguards against forgery and counterfeiting, he said. The initiative would further reinforce public confidence in the authenticity and reliability of government-issued documents.

New Security Paper Replaces the Existing System in Use Since 2011

Meeseva centres have been providing a wide range of government services to citizens across Telangana. Special security paper has been used for printing Meeseva certificates since 2011.

The newly introduced paper replaces the existing version with an improved solution offering enhanced quality, security and durability. It is expected to be particularly beneficial for birth and death certificates and other important government documents that citizens need to preserve for extended periods.

The initiative reflects the Telangana Government's continued commitment to modernising public service delivery through technology, while ensuring that essential government documents are more secure, durable and convenient for citizens to maintain.



Relief from Breast Cancer with Basic Health Awareness - Leading Oncologist Dr. Vamsi Chetana

KARIMNAGAR

Every individual, both women and men, must have a minimum health awareness about the deadly disease of breast cancer and take proper personal precautions to be free from breast cancer, said Dr. Vamsi Chetana, a renowned oncologist of Sagar Cancer Hospital. Today, Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, Program Chairman, led the World Breast Cancer Awareness Day meeting organized by Satavahana Lions Club.

Chief guest Dr Vamsee Chetana said that the severity of breast cancer in women is increasing day by day and hence women should examine their breasts once a month with proper precautions. In addition to that after crossing 40 years, they should undergo special breast cancer related tests every year. She said that if detected at an early stage, breast cancer can be completely cured.

She urged people who have been free from breast cancer to come forward to share their live experiences with others. She said that there should be no misconceptions about cancer, it is not a contagious disease. Speaking at the event, Program Chairman Lion Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy said that out of more than 20,000 diseases identified by medical science, cancer is the most prevalent dangerous disease that needed special oncology doctors are needed to treat this disease. He said that out 100 cancer diseases, breast cancer is the most common in women.

He said that a proper lifestyle, nutrition, physical exercise, and mental health can prevent many types of diseases. The event was held under the chairmanship of Lion M Mahender, President of Satavahana Lions Club, and was attended by Secretary Lion N Venugopal, PRC Lion M Satyanarayana Rao, Past President Lion D Tirupati Reddy, Lion K Satyam, patients, patient attendants, hospital staff, and others. Later, Dr. Vamsi Chetana was felicitated by the members of Satavahana Lions Club.

Telangana becomes first state in India to establish a dedicated MSE facilitation council for Startups: K. Madhukar Babu

HYDERABAD

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), in association with the MSME Development Office (MSME-DFO), Hyderabad, organised an awareness programme on the MSME Development (Amendments) Bill, 2026, at FTCCI Surana Auditorium, Hyderabad, on Tuesday.

The programme focused on key amendments relating to delayed payments, compliance requirements, dispute resolution and their implications for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

K. Madhukar Babu, Joint Director (MSME), Department of Industries, Government of Telangana, attended as the Special Guest. He said the amendments introduce mechanisms to address delayed payments, provide defined timelines for mediation and arbitration, facilitate recovery of dues and enable access to finance through TReDS platforms. He further stated that Telangana has seven Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Councils (MSEFCs), including one exclusively dedicated to startups. He noted that Telangana is the first state in India to establish a Facilitation Council exclusively for startups. Dr. Gaddam Sudarshan, Founder & CEO, Shasrith Infotech Pvt. Ltd. and State Head at German University of Digital Science, AP & TG addressed participants on the key provisions and significance of the proposed amendments. He gave insights in to the same. K. K. Maheshwari, President, FTCCI, said delayed payments affect MSMEs' working capital, salary payments and business growth. He urged entrepreneurs to understand the amended provisions and make effective use of the Facilitation Councils to resolve delayed payment issues.

P. Krishna, Chairman, Industrial Development Committee, FTCCI, said the amendments could improve payment discipline and make dispute resolution more time-bound. He emphasised the need to bridge the gap between legislation and its practical implementation through awareness among MSME entrepreneurs.

The programme covered the major amendments, compliance requirements, the impact on MSMEs and buyers, and mechanisms for resolving payment disputes. An interactive question-and-answer session enabled participants to seek clarifications from the MSME-DFO official. The initiative aimed to help MSME entrepreneurs and industry stakeholders understand the proposed changes and their implications for business operations. FTCCI office-bearers present included Srinivas Garimella, Senior Vice President.

MP Vamsi Krishna Meets Congress Leaders in Delhi to Protect Voting Rights

- **MP Vamsi Krishna Joins Anti-SIR Protest Along with Minister Vivek Venkataswamy and MLA Vinod**
- **Meets Mallikarjun Kharge, Jairam Ramesh and Ramesh Chennithala; Reaffirms Commitment to Safeguarding Democracy**

NEW DELHI

Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna participated in the anti-SIR protest organised by the Congress party to protect the voting rights of every eligible citizen and uphold democratic values. Along with Minister Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy and MLA Gaddam Vinod, he took part in the protest held in Delhi, reaffirming their commitment to safeguarding voting rights.

Meets Senior Congress Leaders

On the occasion, MP Vamsi Krishna met Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge, senior party leader Jairam Ramesh and senior Congress leader from Kerala, Ramesh Chennithala.

During the meetings, they discussed the importance of safeguarding democracy, upholding constitutional values and ensuring transparency in the electoral process.



Every Eligible Citizen's Voting Right Must Be Protected

The protest was organised in response to the call given by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. The leaders emphasised that every eligible citizen must have the right to vote and that no eligible voter should face injustice during the revision of electoral rolls.

They stressed that the right to vote is one of the most important constitutional rights in a democracy and that protecting every eligible citizen's vote is essential for strengthening the democratic system.

Safeguarding Constitutional Values Is the Goal

The leaders stated that the electoral process must be transparent and impartial to strengthen public confidence in the democratic system.

They reaffirmed that the Congress party would continue its struggle to protect the voting rights of every eligible citizen and uphold the spirit of the Constitution.

High Court lawyers condemn Rahul Gandhi's attitude towards judiciary

HYDERABAD

Telangana state advocates today organized a massive protest demonstration condemning yesterday's theatrics by LoP Rahul Gandhi and Congress leaders at the Supreme Court, which is a blatant attempt to insult, intimidate and undermine the judiciary.

BJP State President N Ramchander Rao participated in the protest at the state High Court Bar Council gate organized against Rahul Gandhi's attitude towards judiciary. Protesting advocates raised slogans like " Rahul Gandhi down down", "Save Democracy" and " Bharat Mata Ki Jai". Speaking on the occasion, BJP state chief Rao said the entire nation is condemning the rally led by Rahul Gandhi at Delhi towards Supreme Court and judiciary can not be intimidated by such acts by the Congress party. He asserted that entire legal community is behind Chief Justice of India to protect the Indian judiciary.

Rao said Rahul Gandhi and Congress party leaders are undermining and questioning the credibility of constitutional institutions. How can LoP Rahul Gandhi can submit a political memorandum to CJI, BJP state chief questioned and asked if he has any grievances, he can file petitions in the court. Congress must understand that the Gandhi Parivar is not above the Constitution.



Former Speaker and Senior BRS Leader Madhusudhana Chari Plants Saplings on His Birthday

HYDERABAD

Former Speaker and senior BRS leader Madhusudhana Chari planted saplings within his residential premises on the occasion of his birthday.

Speaking on the occasion, Madhusudana Chari said he was delighted to plant a sapling, as he does every year, to mark his birthday. He expressed particular happiness at planting a Jammi tree (Shami tree) during the auspicious Dasara Navaratri celebrations.

He said that planting Jammi trees under the initiative titled "Jammi Trees at Every Temple" would help preserve and promote Sanatana Dharma.

Madhusudana Chari sincerely wished that this noble initiative would continue uninterrupted and expressed his gratitude to former Rajya Sabha MP Santosh Kumar for launching and promoting such a commendable programme.

Green India Challenge State Coordinator Garrepalli Satish, along with other leaders and party workers, participated in the programme.

Singareni Collieries Workers' Union (AITUC) holds protest at Vidyut Soudha

HYDERABAD



The Singareni Collieries Workers' Union (AITUC) has sounded the bugle of protest under the banner "Chalo Hyderabad" due to the government's indifference regarding the accumulation of the Singareni's outstanding dues, which have reached Rs. 59,000 crores. The union warned that if the dues are not released immediately, it would halt coal supplies to Genco and Transco. It made it clear that, if necessary, the workers would stage protests at the coal mines themselves and bring production to a standstill.

A massive protest was held on Tuesday in front of Vidyut Soudha in Hyderabad under the aegis of the Singareni Collieries Workers' Union (AITUC), demanding the immediate payment of the Rs. 59,000 crores owed to the company. The Workers from all the 12 Singareni operational areas arrived in large numbers to participate in the demonstration.

Speaking on the occasion, Union President Vasireddy Sitaramaiah expressed deep concern, stating that the accumulation of thousands of crores in dues had forced the company to incur debt just to pay the workers' wages and had led to a shortage of the funds for purchasing even basic safety equipment.

He pointed out that the upcoming Dasara and Diwali festivals were being affected by the non-payment of the bonuses due to the workers. He demanded that the state government respond immediately and clear the outstanding dues. He noted that while the Genco and Transco owed the Singareni ₹26,000 crores during the BRS party's regime, that figure had now risen to ₹59,000 crores under the current Congress government.

He criticized the fact that the deputy CM of the state Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka had previously held press conferences fiercely attacking the former state government over this issue but was now failing to release the funds despite holding the portfolio himself. He explained that because the Singareni officials are the government employees, they were unable to press the state government for the dues and added that the company's development was severely hampered prompting the workers to stage protests to safeguard the organization. He warned that this dharna (protest) was merely the beginning and added that the consequences would be severe if the funds were not released.

Govt is not offering any sense of security to people: Sabitha Indra Reddy

HYDERABAD

Former Minister and BRS party MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy on Tuesday claimed that the state was currently under an administration that offers no sense of security to anyone. She said that it was shameful for the Congress government to declare its inability to provide irrigation water for crops or drinking water for the people. She stated that former CM KCR had supported farmers in every possible way during his tenure.

She addressed a media conference at Telangana Bhavan in the city , noting that the state's administration has become chaotic. She alleged that state ministers were acting in a completely unrealistic manner, detached from the ground reality.

She pointed out that immediately after coming to power, the Congress government cancelled the Metro rail expansion project and added that they speak of introducing a bullet train. She criticized the state government for forcibly acquiring the farmers' lands by classifying them as the government land. She said that Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had clarified that the alignment for the bullet train project had not yet been finalized.

Sabitha demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy explain as to why the lands of the farmers in Bahadur Guda were seized under police protection when the project's route remains undecided? She questioned as to whose interests were being served by these actions, asserting that the Chief Minister prioritizes his personal interests over the bullet train project.

She expressed deep concern over the forced land acquisition taking place across Ranga Reddy district. Claiming that the Farmers are being subjected to hardship through land acquisition without being informed of the purpose, She cited an incident that took place on Monday , where a farmer attempted suicide in protest against the forced land acquisition in Lagacharla. She expressed outrage that the Chief Minister was seizing thousands of acres and leaving the farmers destitute.

Gujarat saw 14.5 pc voter names removed in SIR: CM Patel

GANDHINAGAR, OCT 13



Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Tuesday defended the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, saying around 14.5 per cent of names had been removed from the state's voter list, a higher proportion than in any state governed by an opposition party, and rejected allegations that the exercise was being used to selectively delete voters. In a post on social media platform X, Patel said claims by the opposition that the revision was aimed at unilaterally removing voters' names were "completely divorced from reality".

He argued that the figures showed the process was impartial and that the removals primarily involved deceased voters, people who had migrated and duplicate entries. "The vast majority of the removed names belong to individuals who have passed away, migrated, or had duplicate entries," Patel said, adding that accurate electoral rolls were essential for free and fair elections. Citing figures for other states, the Chief Minister said around 2.05 crore names had been removed from the electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh, which is governed by the BJP. He also referred to West Bengal, claiming that approximately 63 per cent of the names removed there belonged to Hindus. "If the objective were political, would the numbers look like this?" Patel asked, rejecting allegations that the exercise targeted particular voters or communities. He said electoral rolls needed to be updated periodically to remove the names of deceased and duplicate voters and include newly eligible voters.

Patel described SIR as a "statutory process" conducted by the Election Commission and said it was transparent. "Understand the facts and do not be misled by baseless claims. A clean and accurate voter list is the true guarantee of free and fair elections," he said. The Chief Minister's remarks came on the day when BJP showed strong performance in state's local body elections, including in the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation, where the party won 38 of the 44 seats. The Congress secured five seats, while an Independent candidate won one. The Aam Aadmi Party, which had won one seat in 2021, failed to win any this time. Patel also linked the election results to public support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the BJP's development agenda. Referring to comments made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah after the results, he said the mandate showed that voters had rejected what he described as the opposition's negative narrative and politics-based on falsehoods. "The historic victory secured by the BJP in Gujarat's local bodies, including Gandhinagar, and the results of by-elections across the country show that the people continue to stand firmly with PM Modi," Patel said in a separate post.





Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay meets Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu

Chandrababu Naidu explains on importance of Godavari–Cauvery river linking project

Tamil Nadu CM request for additional drinking water for Chennai

Amaravati : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, who visited Vijayawada to participate in Vijayawada Utsav, paid a courtesy visit to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu today. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh warmly welcomed CM Vijay at the Chief Minister's camp office.

The two Chief Ministers, along with officials, discussed several issues and Chandrababu Naidu explained the importance of linking the Godavari and Cauvery rivers, describing river interlinking as a permanent solution to drought. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu CM Vijay requested for release of additional drinking water to Chennai through the Telugu Ganga project.CM Chandrababu Naidu said that despite reduced Krishna water inflows due to the impact of El Niño this year and the resulting severe water scarcity, the Andhra Pradesh government remained committed to addressing Chennai's drinking water needs.He stated that Andhra Pradesh had already released 4.08 TMC of water to Chennai. He added that the government would consider releasing additional water based on availability and requirements.

Srisailam project's global recognition a matter of pride for Telugu States: Gottipati Ravi Kumar

AMARAVATI:



The reported inclusion of the Srisailam project in the World Book of Records is a matter of pride for both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, State Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has said, underscoring the project's enduring contribution to power generation, irrigation and drinking water supply. In a statement, the Minister said the multipurpose reservoir had been meeting the water requirements of lakhs of people and supporting agricultural activity across the region for decades. The recognition, he said, reflected the structural resilience of the Srisailam dam, which has withstood heavy floods, as well as its engineering capabilities and multifaceted utility. Mr. Ravi Kumar also highlighted the role of the Pattiseema project in improving the utilisation of Krishna river water, particularly in addressing the requirements of Rayalaseema. Crediting Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's foresight for the implementation of the Pattiseema project, the Minister said the scheme had facilitated the supply of water to the Krishna Delta, thereby providing greater flexibility in utilising Srisailam waters to meet the needs of Rayalaseema. The arrangement, he said, had helped sustain irrigation in the Krishna Delta while strengthening the availability of water for agricultural and drinking purposes in the drought-prone Rayalaseema region. Mr. Ravi Kumar stressed that the efficient management of water resources and the prioritisation of public needs were essential to ensuring balanced regional development. The coordinated utilisation of available water resources, he said, demonstrated the importance of long-term planning in addressing the competing demands of agriculture and drinking water supply. The reported recognition by the World Book of Records, the Minister added, underscored the engineering robustness, power generation capacity and multipurpose significance of the Srisailam project, which continues to serve as a vital water and energy resource for the Telugu-speaking States.



A Jammi Tree in Every Village, a Jammi Tree at Every Temple

Vemulawada BRS In-charge Chelmeda Lakshmi Narasimha Rao Plants a Jammi Sapling at the Ramalayam Temple in Jogapur Village

VEMULAWADA

Chelmeda Lakshmi Narasimha Rao, BRS incharge for the Vemulawada Assembly constituency, planted a Jammi (Shami) sapling in the premises of the Ramalayam temple in Jogapur village of Chandurthi mandal, Vemulawada constituency. Before planting the sapling, he offered prayers to Goddess Sri Durgamata at the temple in the village. He later planted the sapling at the local Ramalayam temple along with BRS mandal president Myakala Yellanna and other local party leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Chelmeda Lakshmi Narasimha Rao appreciated the Green India Challenge initiative launched by former Rajya Sabha MP Joginipally Santosh Kumar under the slogan, "A Jammi Tree in Every Village, a Jammi Tree at Every Temple." He said the initiative was commendable as it aims to make future generations aware of the significance and cultural importance of the Jammi tree. He emphasised the need to promote tree planting while preserving traditions for the benefit of coming generations. He also extended his advance greetings to everyone on the occasion of the Bathukamma festival. Village Sarpanch Mohammed Sameer, BRS party leaders, Green India Challenge member Kamal Goud and others participated in the programme.



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta launches Rs 170 crore infra projects in industrial areas

NEW DELHI, OCT 13

The Delhi government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, on Tuesday launched development projects worth Rs 170 crore across nine industrial areas to upgrade roads, strengthen drainage infrastructure and address long-pending civic issues. The projects include the construction and improvement of around 15 km of roads and the development of approximately 34 km of stormwater drainage systems, said an official statement. Chief Minister Gupta inaugurated the projects at Rajasthani Udyog Nagar Industrial Area, reaffirming the government's commitment to modernising industrial infrastructure and improving facilities for businesses. CM Gupta said industrial development is a key government priority and assured that there would be no shortage of funds for upgrading industrial areas.

She said the projects would improve connectivity, reduce waterlogging and create a cleaner, more efficient environment for industrial operations. No industrial area in Delhi would be left out of the development process, she added.

The projects will also include underground utility ducts to reduce repeated road excavation for electricity, water, telecommunications and other services.

Improved drainage and durable roads are expected to ease traffic movement, minimise waterlogging and help reduce dust and vehicle-related pollution. Industries Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said industrial areas had faced infrastructure deficiencies for years, with inadequate development over the past 25 years leaving several roads in poor condition. Under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's leadership, the government has prioritised these long-pending requirements, he said. Sirsa emphasised that the initiative would extend beyond road construction, with regular maintenance and upkeep receiving particular attention to ensure lasting results. He said improved roads, drainage and utility management would enhance the movement of goods, improve business efficiency and support industrial growth. The projects cover Rajasthani Udyog Nagar, GTK Udyog Nagar, Naraina Industrial Area, Lawrence Road, Najafgarh (Rama Road), DLF Moti Nagar, Nangloi Jat and S-Block, Okhla Phase II, among other Industrial area locations. Sirsa said the infrastructure upgrade would strengthen Delhi's industrial ecosystem, improve conditions for businesses, support investment and create a stronger foundation for employment generation.

Odisha Cabinet clears Rs 450-cr skill development scheme 'Dakshyata Vikas Yojana'

BHUBANESWAR, OCT 13

The Odisha Cabinet on Tuesday approved 16 major proposals concerning 11 departments, including Revenue and Disaster Management (R&DM), Industries, Finance, Skill Development and Technical Education (SD&TE), and Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, etc.

The proposals were approved at the 48th state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in Bhubaneswar. Among the major proposals approved by the Cabinet was the introduction of the Dakshyata Vikas Yojana by the Skill Development and Technical Education (SD&TE) Department. The flagship skill development scheme, with an outlay of ₹450 crore for 2026-27 to 2028-29, aims to enhance the employability of Odisha's youth and equip them with skills to tap emerging job opportunities in India and abroad. Briefing the media persons about the new scheme, Chief Secretary Anu Garg said, "This scheme has been designed for the youth. Around 4.2 lakh youth of the state will benefit from it. It is a scheme with an outlay of Rs 450 crore. Its primary highlight is linking skill training with higher education."As per an official statement, under the scheme, Skill Hubs will be established in Higher Education Institutions across the state to offer placement-linked, NSQF-aligned courses to students alongside their academic programmes, enabling them to acquire industry-relevant skills and improve employability while pursuing higher education.

The state government expects the scheme to significantly expand overseas employment opportunities for Odisha's youth, given the growing demand for skilled workers in international labour markets. The eligible students will be provided foreign language training in languages such as German and Japanese, along with cultural orientation, certification support, visa assistance, travel support and post-placement services.

Meitei Alliance Slams Indifference to Manipur Killings

IMPHAL, OCTOBER 13, 2026

The Meitei Alliance has condemned in the strongest terms the continuing attacks and killings of civilians in the hill districts of Manipur, including Liangmai and Tangkhul Naga areas. In a press statement issued today, the Alliance alleged brutal killings of innocent civilians and destruction of homes and livelihoods in Kamjong, Kangpokpi and Ukhrul districts, including reported cross-border attacks by Myanmar-based Kuki National Army – Burma (KNA-B). The Alliance specifically referred to the reported killing of Naga civilian Ajinbou Ringkangmai in which his severed head remains unaccounted for, terming it an act of barbarity. It demanded immediate recovery of his remains and identification, arrest and prosecution of all perpetrators involved. The statement noted that nearly three and a half years after violence erupted in Manipur on May 3, 2023, innocent people were still being killed, villages attacked and families terrorised despite the presence of Central and State security forces. Raising concern over internally displaced persons (IDPs), the Alliance said tens of thousands continue to languish in overcrowded relief camps in undignified conditions, deprived of homes and livelihoods. The Alliance also criticised ruling and opposition political parties, alleging they are preoccupied with forthcoming Assembly elections and narrow electoral interests while people continue to die and displaced families struggle to survive. It called upon the Government of India, Government of Manipur and security agencies to end failure of civilian protection, prevent further attacks, ensure protection of vulnerable communities and prioritise safe and dignified return of all displaced persons to their original homes.

Soybean stocks set ablaze in Maharashtra's Latur; four farmers suffer losses

LATUR: (OCT 13)

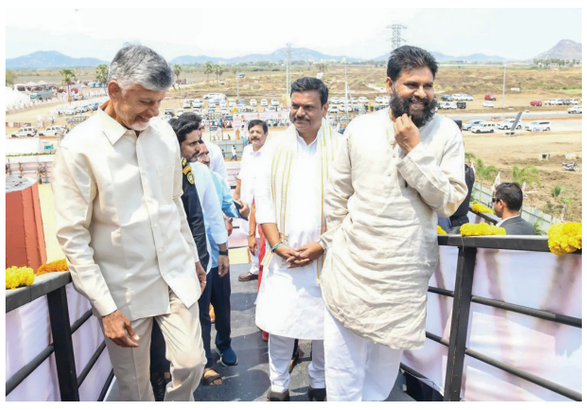
Four farmers suffered losses after soybean stocks kept in heaps in their fields were allegedly set on fire by an unidentified person at a village in Maharashtra's Latur district, police said.

The incident occurred late on Monday night, triggering panic among farmers in the village, particularly as the region is already grappling with drought conditions.

The affected farmers had cultivated soybean crops with considerable effort, using the limited water available for irrigation despite the prevailing water scarcity. After harvesting, they had stored the produce in heaps in their fields, the police said.

Hectic parleys on among NDA partners in Andhra for seat sharing in local body polls

AMARAVATI, OCT 13



Hectic parleys were on among NDA partners in Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday to finalise seat sharing for the upcoming local body elections. Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President, N. Chandrababu Naidu, intensified efforts to reach an agreement with his allies Jana Sena and BJP. State BJP President, P.V.N. Madhav met Chandrababu Naidu and discussed the seat sharing among partners in the ruling NDA. This is the second round of talks between the two leaders in as many days. Chandrababu Naidu wants to decide the number of seats to be allotted to Jana Sena before holding further talks with the BJP on the number of seats to be left for the saffron party. Chandrababu Naidu, who is the national president of the TDP, also held talks with TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao and minister Nimmala Ramanaidu. Later, Srinivasa Rao and Ramanaidu went to Jana Sena office and held talks with Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan. Minister Nadendla Manohar, Vamsi Krishna Yadav and other Jana Sena leaders were also present. Jana Sena and TDP leaders will be meeting Chief Minister Naidu at his residence on Tuesday night to finalise seat sharing. The meeting is also likely to discuss the candidates for key local body elections. The talks will be crucial as all the three parties will be keen to secure seats in proportion to their strength. The deal is likely to be finalised based on their electoral prospects. Jana Sena and BJP have reportedly submitted to Chandrababu Naidu lists of seats they seek based on their respective strengths.

The ruling coalition is keen to finalise seat sharing before the announcement of the poll schedule, which is likely on October 14.

Last week, Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan discussed seat-sharing among the alliance partners, the constituencies and local bodies to be contested by each party, and the selection of mayoral candidates for key municipal corporations. The two leaders also reportedly discussed the election strategies to be adopted and the need for coordination among the alliance partners. The meeting also focussed on evolving a coordinated strategy to project unity among the alliance partners and secure strong results at all levels in the local body elections. Pawan Kalyan on October 11 called for adequate representation for his Jana Sena Party in the local body elections in recognition of what he called sacrifices of the party cadres for the formation and success of the ruling coalition. He said that the Jana Sena Party and Janasainiks (party cadres) have made many sacrifices for the formation and success of the alliance, and in recognition of their sacrifices, they should be given adequate representation in the local bodies in accordance with alliance dharma.

He stated that they had fought for the future of the state in the 2024 general elections and expressed the hope that the upcoming local body elections would ensure a secure future for the 'Janasainiks'. Pawan Kalyan also mentioned about the sacrifices of Janasainiks in 2014.

"When we stood in support of the alliance in 2014, not a single Janasainik aspired for a political post. They worked selflessly, prioritising the state's interests above all else. They made numerous sacrifices for the party and the alliance, setting aside their personal interests," he said.

Memorial on First War of Independence ready, PM to inaugurate soon: Haryana minister

CHANDIGARH: (Oct 13) Haryana minister Anil Vij on Tuesday said the war memorial in Ambala Cantonment dedicated to the First War of Independence is ready and will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "It is dedicated to the sacrifices of the brave men and women who participated in the uprising of 1857 but whose contributions did not receive the recognition they deserved in history," Vij said. Constructed at a cost of about Rs 800 crore in Ambala Cantonment, Vij termed it "Azadi ki Pehli Ladai ka Shaheed Smarak" and described it as the largest of its kind in Asia.

EDITORIAL

The Parched Peninsula: Rethinking Water Governance in South India

South India faces a structural ecological crisis. Across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala, empty reservoirs, cracked farmland, and urban water rationing are becoming recurring features of the landscape. While shifting meteorological patterns play a direct role, the worsening water scarcity in peninsular India is fundamentally a crisis of resource governance, policy myopia, and climate unreadiness.

The immediate drivers of southern drought are well known: erratic Southwest Monsoon winds and an increasingly unreliable Northeast Monsoon, which provides crucial winter rainfall to coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, and Tamil Nadu. Soaring global surface temperatures, coupled with recurring El Niño conditions and negative Indian Ocean Dipole phases, have disrupted moisture transport over the Bay of Bengal, leading to prolonged dry spells. However, pointing solely to climate phenomena obscures long-standing policy failures. South India's vulnerability is severely exacerbated by decades of unsustainable groundwater extraction and unviable cropping choices. Water-intensive crops such as sugarcane and paddy continue to receive state subsidies and preferential procurement pricing, encouraging their cultivation in semi-arid zones ill-suited for them. Consequently, borewells have been drilled deeper each year, depleting deep aquifers that take decades to naturally recharge.

The impact is equally severe across rapid urbanizing hubs like Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad. Unchecked urban sprawl has paved over natural catchment networks, lakes, and floodplains. Cities generate massive surface runoff during brief, intense rain spells, yet allow the water to drain unused into polluted rivers and the sea. When dry seasons arrive, metropolitan authorities rely heavily on private water tankers and distant river basins, effectively transferring urban distress onto surrounding rural peripheries. Simultaneously, inter-state water disputes—most notably over the Cauvery and Krishna rivers—continue to trigger intense political standoffs during distress years. Hydro-politics frequently prioritizes regional political narratives over cooperative basin-wide management, delaying emergency relief and hindering joint ecological conservation strategies.

Addressing South India's water crisis requires a fundamental shift from crisis-driven emergency management to long-term structural adaptation. State governments must incentivize farmers in arid districts to shift away from water-guzzling crops toward millets, pulses, and oilseeds through direct price support and targeted market access. Investments must prioritize localized aquifer recharge and traditional water-harvesting systems—such as historic eiris, village tanks, and check dams—over capital-intensive mega-projects, as local structures raise water tables far more sustainably. In urban spaces, municipalities must strictly enforce rainwater harvesting mandates, restore polluted lakes, and scale up tertiary sewage treatment for industrial and non-potable reuse. Finally, neighboring states sharing river basins need clear, data-backed frameworks for distress-sharing during low-rainfall years to remove political friction from resource management. Drought in Peninsular India is no longer an occasional weather event; it is a structural reality under warming global conditions that demands courageous policy reform and responsible environmental stewardship.

Beyond Interest Rates: Rethinking Economic Stability

" Inflation illustrates why this distinction matters. When food prices rise sharply, households have less money available for other goods and services. Businesses dependent on discretionary spending may then face weaker demand, affecting production and employment."

The 2026 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences awarded to Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford highlights a fundamental challenge in economic policymaking: how can governments and central banks moderate economic fluctuations without undermining long-term growth? Their work on the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation has strengthened the theoretical basis for understanding how individual decisions shape the wider economy. For India, the central lesson is that economic stability requires more than adjusting interest rates or pursuing headline growth. It demands policies grounded in how households and businesses respond to changing conditions and expectations. Macroeconomic indicators such as gross domestic product, inflation and unemployment describe an economy's performance, but they do not fully explain its movements. Household spending depends on current income, expected future earnings, savings and access to credit. Businesses make investment and pricing decisions based on anticipated demand, financing costs and uncertainty. These decisions interact, sometimes reinforcing an economic expansion and sometimes deepening a slowdown. By strengthening the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic models, Hall and Woodford helped policymakers better understand these interactions and the conditions under which policy can moderate economic fluctuations.

Hall's research brought greater attention to the forward-looking behaviour of households. If people base consumption decisions partly on their expectations of future income, changes in spending cannot always be predicted simply from current income movements. New information about employment, earnings or economic prospects can alter their decisions. This insight helps explain why consumption may remain resilient during a temporary setback or weaken when households become uncertain about the future. However, the response is not uniform: families with limited savings or restricted access to credit may have little choice but to adjust spending immediately when income changes.

Woodford developed a framework that connected such behavioural foundations with monetary policy, price-setting decisions and expectations about future interest rates. A central bank influences the economy not merely through its current policy rate



but also through how its decisions shape expectations. Credible communication about the likely direction of policy can influence borrowing, spending and pricing decisions today. The effectiveness of monetary policy therefore depends partly on whether households and businesses understand and trust the policy framework. This is particularly important when inflation expectations risk becoming entrenched or when economic activity weakens sharply. These insights are relevant to India, where sustaining growth while protecting purchasing power remains a central policy challenge. Real GDP grew by 7.8% in the first quarter of 2026–27, according to official estimates. Yet aggregate growth alone does not establish whether income security, employment opportunities and consumption are improving equally across households. The breadth of demand matters alongside its overall strength. Policymakers must assess whether growth is translating into productive investment, secure livelihoods and sustainable purchasing power rather than relying on headline output figures alone.

Inflation illustrates why this distinction matters. When food prices rise sharply, households have less money available for other goods and services. Businesses dependent on discretionary spending may then face weaker demand, affecting production and employment. Lower-income families are particularly exposed because essential items absorb a larger share of their budgets. A price shock that begins with a supply constraint can consequently spread through the wider economy. Protecting purchasing power is therefore not merely a social objective; it is also relevant to the sustainability of domestic demand.

For the Reserve Bank of India, this requires distinguishing between demand-driven inflation and price pressures caused primarily by supply disruptions. Higher interest rates can restrain borrowing and spending, helping to contain persistent demand pressures and prevent inflation expectations from becoming entrenched. But monetary tightening cannot directly increase food production, remove transport bottlenecks or reverse a surge in global energy prices. When supply constraints dominate, improvements in production, storage, logistics and market efficiency must complement monetary policy. When demand pressures are widespread, interest-rate adjustments may be more effective. The policy response must reflect the source and persistence of inflation rather than treating every price increase alike.

Fiscal policy must be calibrated with similar care. Productive public investment can support current demand while expanding infrastructure and long-term economic capacity. Targeted assistance can protect vulnerable households against severe price shocks, while poorly designed subsidies and persistent fiscal imbalances can create inefficiencies and constrain future policy choices. The objective should be to protect those most exposed to economic disruption without weakening incentives for investment, productivity and employment. Coordination between monetary and fiscal authorities becomes especially important when weak demand, inflationary pressures and external uncertainty coexist. Economic models, however, cannot eliminate the need for judgement. Households differ in income security, savings and access to credit; businesses face different financing conditions and degrees of uncertainty. A change in interest rates may affect a small enterprise dependent on working capital differently from a large company with substantial financial resources. Models that overlook such differences risk understating the uneven consequences of economic shocks and policy interventions. Reliable data, careful diagnosis and continuous assessment of policy outcomes must therefore accompany theoretical analysis.

India's challenge is to sustain productive investment and employment while containing inflation and protecting purchasing power. That requires credible policy communication, a clear understanding of the forces driving economic fluctuations and a judicious combination of monetary, fiscal and supply-side measures. Hall and Woodford's work offers a stronger analytical foundation for understanding how household and business decisions interact with public policy. It does not prescribe a universal solution to every crisis, but it helps explain why the timing, design and credibility of policy matter.

Economic stability is not achieved by maximising growth or suppressing inflation in isolation. It requires limiting disruptive fluctuations without sacrificing the investment, consumption and productive capacity needed for long-term expansion. For India, the enduring lesson is that effective economic management must connect macroeconomic objectives with the financial realities and expectations of the people and enterprises that drive the economy.



D. JAIRAM
Subject Expert – Current Affairs
Founder & Mentor
Sri Jairam Competitive Academy

America's Double Standards: A Crisis of Global Credibility

Being a global superpower does not entitle a nation to impose its will on the world or allow its might to become an instrument of coercion. The true worth of power lies in responsibility, fairness and credibility, not in the number of countries a nation can threaten or pressure. Unfortunately, the policies of US President Donald Trump have raised a fundamental question before the international community: will the world order be governed by rules and principles, or by the convenience and self-interest of powerful nations? Trump's recent decision to purchase Russian diesel has brought this contradiction into sharp focus. On October 9, 2026, following a conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump announced that Russia would immediately supply more than 300,000 tonnes of diesel to the American and global markets. Further supplies of 500,000 tonnes in November and one million tonnes subsequently were also announced. The US administration granted temporary relief from restrictions on Russian diesel imports, according to international media reports.

The irony is unmistakable. Until recently, the United States had been reprimanding countries for purchasing Russian oil. India, in particular, faced an additional 25 per cent tariff over its Russian oil imports, while tougher measures against countries engaged in Russia's energy trade were also proposed. The Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, passed by the US Congress, provided a legislative basis for the possibility of additional tariffs on countries purchasing Russian energy. Yet the same America is now opening its doors to Russian diesel under pressure from domestic energy requirements and rising fuel prices. The question is not whether the United States has the right to secure fuel for its people. Every sovereign nation has that right. The real question is why a decision portrayed as morally indefensible when taken by India, allegedly financing Russia's war machinery, becomes a matter of national necessity when America makes it. Does morality change at national borders? Are international rules meant only for weaker nations?

The central contradiction in Washington's approach lies in its selective interpretation of energy sanctions. The United States has repeatedly linked Russian energy purchases to the financing of the war in Ukraine. Yet when rising diesel prices began burdening American farmers, truckers and consumers, the administration turned to the very source it had urged others to avoid. According to Reuters, diesel prices in the United States had reached approximately $6.28 per gallon on October 8. With the midterm elections scheduled for November 3, rising fuel costs have become a political challenge for the Trump administration. This reveals the difference between rhetoric and reality. When India purchases Russian oil to protect its economy, energy security and millions of consumers, it is lectured on international morality. But when American voters face expensive fuel, those same principles recede into the background, giving way to national interest. What kind of policy demands adherence to principles from others while creating exceptions for oneself? Preaching is easy; practising the same standards is far more difficult.



The Hindi proverb "Par Updesh Kushal Bahutere"—many are adept at preaching to others—aptly captures this American inconsistency. A country that expects the world to respect international rules must demonstrate consistency, transparency and accountability in its own conduct. Double standards do more than weaken the moral standing of a powerful nation; they also erode the confidence of its allies and strategic partners. For India, the issue is particularly significant. The country depends heavily on imported petroleum to meet its energy needs. Oil procurement is therefore not merely a commercial transaction; it directly affects the national economy, inflation, transportation, agriculture, industry and the everyday lives of ordinary citizens. Rising global oil prices increase the cost of fuel, freight and essential commodities. India's energy security consequently depends on reliable supplies, affordable prices and the freedom to make decisions in accordance with its national interests. Ignoring these considerations under pressure from a superpower would be neither practical nor prudent. Purchasing Russian oil does not automatically amount to endorsing the war in Ukraine, just as questioning the fairness or effectiveness of energy sanctions does not mean defending military aggression. These are distinct issues that must be assessed independently.

Efforts to end the war, safeguard Ukraine's sovereignty and protect civilian lives remain essential. At the same time, the effectiveness and fairness of economic sanctions deserve impartial scrutiny. If energy purchases are considered a means of financing war, the same standard must apply to every country. Targeting weaker nations or geopolitical rivals while permitting exceptions when domestic circumstances demand them undermines the very moral justification offered for such restrictions. Trump's decision has also provoked concern in Ukraine. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has criticised the move as beneficial to Russia, arguing that it could provide Moscow with additional resources to sustain the war. The decision has drawn criticism from American lawmakers as well. Trump's subsequent suggestion that Zelenskyy should be replaced as Ukraine's leader has further complicated the situation.

The question of who leads a sovereign nation belongs to its people and its constitutional framework. If the United States presents itself as a champion of democracy and freedom, it must also respect the political sovereignty of other countries. Peace initiatives deserve support, but placing disproportionate pressure on a nation already suffering from war cannot be considered just or constructive. This episode offers the world an important lesson: being a superpower and being a trusted power are two different things. The former derives from economic, military and political resources; the latter is earned through fairness, consistency, integrity and responsible conduct.

The United States remains one of the world's most influential economic and political powers. However, repeated inconsistencies in its policies risk damaging its international standing and undermining confidence in its leadership. The familiar maxim, "As you sow, so shall you reap," applies not only to individuals but also to nations. A country that disregards the consequences of its own double standards may eventually find its credibility diminished and its influence weakened. If Washington considers purchasing Russian diesel a legitimate response to its domestic economic needs, it must acknowledge that India and other nations have an equally legitimate right to protect their energy security. The principles applied to one country cannot be dismissed when another invokes them. Fairness in international relations requires common standards, not selective exemptions.

India, too, must draw the appropriate lessons from this development by strengthening its energy security, economic resilience and strategic autonomy. Neither blind opposition to another country nor unquestioning support for a powerful ally serves the national interest. What matters is the independent assessment of every decision in the light of national priorities, international peace and universally applicable principles. Ultimately, power can compel the world to yield for a time, but only just and consistent conduct can win lasting trust. America's greatest challenge today is not merely to demonstrate its strength, but to preserve its credibility. History judges nations not simply by the magnitude of their power, but by the integrity, wisdom and responsibility with which they exercise it.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

IJU Expresses Serious Concern Over Detention of Journalists Covering Youth Protests in Delhi

NEW DELHI

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) expresses serious concern over the detention of journalists and media personnel while they were covering the recent youth-led protests in New Delhi against alleged large-scale deletions of voters' names during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Reports that journalists from several media organisations were detained, pushed into police vehicles and taken to different locations despite displaying valid press identity cards are deeply disturbing. Such actions constitute an unwarranted interference with the professional duties of journalists and undermine the fundamental principles of press freedom and the public's right to information. The IJU recognises the responsibility of the Delhi Police and the administration to maintain law and order during public demonstrations. However, the enforcement of law must not become a pretext for obstructing legitimate journalistic work. Journalists covering protests are not participants merely because they are present at the scene. Their responsibility is to report events independently, accurately and impartially in the public interest.

The IJU urges the Delhi Police and the administration to respect press freedom and ensure that journalists are allowed to discharge their professional duties without fear, intimidation or unnecessary restrictions. Once a journalist's identity has been verified through a valid press identity card or other appropriate credentials, there should be no justification for detaining or removing them merely for covering a demonstration. The Union also calls upon the authorities to issue clear instructions to police personnel deployed at protest sites to distinguish between journalists performing their professional duties and individuals participating in demonstrations. Any restriction imposed on media personnel must be strictly necessary, lawful and proportionate, and must not be used to prevent the reporting of events of public importance. The IJU is particularly concerned by reports of journalists being taken away from protest sites and transported to distant locations before being released. Such practices not only cause unnecessary harassment but also obstruct the timely coverage of important public events. Any allegations of assault, intimidation or deliberate obstruction of journalists must be impartially investigated, and accountability must be fixed wherever violations are established. The Union further urges the authorities to uphold the constitutional freedoms of speech and expression and the public's right to know. A vibrant democracy requires that peaceful dissent be heard and that journalists remain free to report on the actions of the government, the police and protestors without jinterference. The IJU calls upon the Delhi Police Commissioner and the concerned authorities to ensure that such incidents are not repeated and that all journalists detained while performing their professional duties are treated with dignity and their rights are respected. Press freedom is not a privilege granted by the authorities; it is an essential pillar of democracy. Protecting journalists while they report on public protests is indispensable to ensuring transparency, accountability and the right of citizens to be informed.

Madhya Pradesh: CM Yadav to transfer 41st instalment of Ladli Behna Yojana tomorrow

BHOPAL, OCT 13

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will transfer the 41st instalment of the Ladli Behna Yojana on Wednesday, providing monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,500 each to around 1.25 crore eligible women across the state. The amount will be transferred directly to the beneficiaries' bank accounts through a single-click process at a Ladli Behna Yojana conference in Guruvahi village under Manpur Janpad Panchayat in Umaria district, coinciding with the Navratri festival.

The Chief Minister will also transfer subsidies for LPG refills at Rs 450 to eligible beneficiaries registered under the scheme, covering both Pradhan



Mantri Ujjwala Yojana consumers and women in the non-Ujjwala category.

The Ladli Behna Yojana was launched in June 2023 to promote women's economic self-reliance, improve their health and nutritional status, and strengthen their participation in family decision-making.

Since its launch, the Madhya Pradesh government has regularly transferred monthly assistance to around 1.25 crore women. By September 2026, a total of 40 instalments had been disbursed, with the latest payment marking the 41st instalment. In addition to the regular assistance, beneficiaries received special financial assistance of Rs 250 on four occasions in August 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026, according to the state government. While eligible general beneficiaries receive Rs 1,500 per month, women covered under the scheme who also receive benefits under the Social Security Pension Scheme are provided Rs 900 monthly, as per the scheme's provisions. Payments are made directly to Aadhaar-linked bank accounts enabled for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The state government has allocated Rs 23,882.81 crore for the scheme in the 2026-27 financial year. During the Umaria conference, Yadav will also inaugurate 68 development projects worth Rs 87.31 crore and perform the ground-breaking ceremony for 68 other projects worth Rs 56.84 crore. The 136 projects together are valued at around Rs 144.16 crore. The projects cover the Bandhavgarh and Manpur Assembly constituencies. In Bandhavgarh, 18 projects worth Rs 59.07 crore will be inaugurated, while the foundation stones for 46 projects worth Rs 32.25 crore will be laid. In Manpur, 50 projects worth Rs 28.25 crore will be inaugurated, and the ground-breaking ceremony will be held for 22 projects worth Rs 24.59 crore.

'Earning up to Rs 40,000 a day, practising for decades': 16 fake doctors caught in Gujarat

SURAT, OCT 13

Gujarat's Surat City Special Operations Group (SOG), in coordination with the district health department, has apprehended 16 alleged fake doctors operating clinics in the Pandesara area and seized medicines, injections, syrups and medical equipment worth Rs 1,82,444, police said on Tuesday. The action followed instructions from Police Commissioner Wabang Jamir to identify and conduct raids on clinics allegedly run by people without recognised medical qualifications or on the basis of forged degrees. According to the police, concerns had been raised about patients' lives being put at risk by unqualified practitioners, with some people reportedly having died following treatment by such individuals.

Acting under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajdeepsinh Nakum, the SOG began checking clinics across the city. "A team led by Inspector A.S. Sonara received information about several clinics operating in the Pandesara area and sent dummy patients to verify the allegations. The information was subsequently confirmed," the police said. The SOG then coordinated with Chief District Health Officer Dr Anil Patel of the Surat District Panchayat to conduct simultaneous raids. Separate teams comprising health officials and SOG personnel carried out the operation.

The 16 individuals were allegedly operating clinics under names including Bharat Clinic, Sai Dham Clinic, Neer Clinic, Narayan Clinic, Surendra Clinic, Bhakta Radha Clinic, Sai Clinic, Probir Clinic, Navdeep Clinic, Pratima Clinic, Free Sevasadan, Shri Krishna Clinic and Gurukrupa Clinic. According to details released by the SOG, the alleged practitioners ranged in age from 23 to 58 and had been operating clinics for periods ranging from several months to more than three decades. Their educational backgrounds varied from Class 10 and Class 12 qualifications to bachelor's degrees, including BSc and BA qualifications. Some claimed to have worked as compounders or helpers at hospitals and nursing homes before starting their practices. Officials stated that several of the individuals examined between five and 35 patients daily. Their reported daily earnings ranged from Rs 700 to Rs 40,000.

The highest figure was attributed to Kapilkumar Verma, 58, who was allegedly operating Free Sevasadan and had been running clinics at different locations for 33 years. He was reported to have studied up to Class 10 and learnt medical practice from books. The SOG also cited previous cases involving two of the accused. A case against Shiyaram Morya, 54, was registered at Pandesara police station in 2002, while another case involving Vinodbhai Biswas Chansi, 58, was registered in 2008. It also stated that a case had previously been registered against Saddam Bankhan, 31, by the SOG at Pandesara police station. The seized material included different types of medicines, injections, syrups and medical equipment. "Cases have been registered against the 16 accused at Pandesara police station, and legal proceedings have been initiated," the police said. Separately, the district health department will initiate action against the alleged practitioners under the Clinical Establishments Act.



NFR Records 46.5% Growth in Freight

Loading in September 2026

MALIGAON, 13 OCTOBER, 2026

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) registered a strong performance in freight transportation during September 2026, achieving a total freight loading of 1.134 million tonnes (MT), marking a significant growth of 46.5% over the 0.774 MT recorded during September 2025. The cumulative freight loading from April to September 2026 reached 6.226 MT, registering a growth of 12% over the 5.557 MT recorded during the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The growth in September was driven by a strong performance across several key commodity segments. Food grains loading surged by 610%, reaching 0.071 MT compared to September 2025. Miscellaneous commodities, including fruits, vegetables and timber, recorded growth of over 157%, while cement and fertilizer loading registered impressive increases of 295% and 200%, respectively. Dolomite loading grew by 52%, while container traffic recorded an increase of 17.6%. The positive momentum was also reflected in the cumulative performance during April–September 2026. Cement loading registered an impressive growth of 181%, while dolomite loading increased by 36.7%. Coal and container traffic also recorded growth of 8.2% and 9.6%, respectively, compared to the corresponding period of the previous financial year. This sustained growth underscores NFR's continued efforts to strengthen freight operations through improved operational efficiency, enhanced coordination with freight customers and streamlined transportation of essential commodities. The Railway remains focused on expanding its freight traffic base, meeting the evolving logistics requirements of the region and providing reliable, efficient and customer-oriented freight services. With its continued emphasis on service excellence and operational performance, Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to supporting regional economic activity and strengthening rail-based logistics across the Northeast and beyond

BJP Hits Back at Rahul Gandhi's Remarks, Backs Ajit Doval

Party Says Comments on National Security Adviser Touch Uttarakhand's Pride and Respect for the Nation's Bravehearts; Seeks Clarification from Congress

Dehradun,Uttarakhand: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly reacted to Rahul Gandhi's alleged remarks concerning National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, describing the issue as one linked to Uttarakhand's pride, military traditions and respect for those who have dedicated their lives to the nation.



The BJP said Ajit Doval, a distinguished son of Uttarakhand, has played a significant role in India's national security over several decades. The party maintained that political leaders should exercise restraint and responsibility while commenting on individuals associated with the country's security establishment. Referring to the late General Bipin Rawat, the BJP said Uttarakhand has a proud legacy of producing brave and dedicated personalities who have made significant contributions to the nation. The party alleged that Congress leaders have repeatedly raised questions over military operations and the functioning of the armed forces. The BJP cited debates surrounding the surgical strikes, the Balakot airstrike and the Galwan Valley incident, demanding that the Congress clarify its position on matters concerning national security and the armed forces. The party also questioned whether Rahul Gandhi's reported remarks reflected the Congress's official position. It called upon the state Congress leadership to clarify its stand and explain whether it endorsed the comments. The BJP asserted that political disagreement is an essential part of democracy, but it should not come at the cost of dignity and respect for individuals who have served the country. It said matters relating to national security require responsible public discourse rather than political confrontation. Emphasising the emotional significance of Uttarakhand's military heritage, the party said the contributions of the state's distinguished sons should be acknowledged with dignity. However, the complete context of Rahul Gandhi's remarks and the Congress's official response would be necessary to establish the full circumstances surrounding the controversy.

North Eastern Railway Committed to Providing Pure and Clean Drinking Water

GORAKHPUR, OCTOBER 13, 2026

North Eastern Railway (NER) has prioritised the continuous monitoring and maintenance of water tanks, water coolers, taps, filters, distribution points and pipelines at railway stations, offices and residential colonies to ensure the availability of clean and safe drinking water for passengers and railway employees. Chief Health Inspectors and Health Inspectors are regularly conducting residual chlorine tests, bacteriological culture tests and chemical analyses to ensure the safety of drinking water. Providing pure drinking water to passengers and railway employees is one of the top priorities of the railway administration, and these efforts will continue as an ongoing campaign.



Water Quality Tests Conducted Across Lucknow Division

Under the joint guidance of Dr. Ramesh Chand, Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Hospital, Badshahnagar, and Bhuwanesh Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infrastructure), Chief Health Inspectors and Health Inspectors conducted inspections across 13 major railway stations and four major residential colonies in Lucknow Division. A total of 264 residual chlorine tests and seven bacteriological culture tests were conducted. Following the examinations, all water samples were found to conform to the prescribed standards. Similarly, regular residual chlorine and bacteriological culture tests are being conducted at major railway stations in Izzatnagar Division.

Inspections Across Varanasi Division

In Varanasi Division, Chief Health Inspectors and Health Inspectors inspected water tanks, water coolers, water filters, pipelines and pumping systems at railway stations, residential colonies, coaching depots, hospitals, health centres, running rooms, crew lobbies and offices.

Continuous Monitoring to Ensure Safe Drinking Water

North Eastern Railway will continue this inspection campaign across all its railway stations, residential colonies and offices to ensure the availability of pure drinking water. Health inspectors are conducting regular tests to ensure that the water supplied to passengers and employees meets the prescribed quality standards. The railway administration reiterated that providing clean drinking water to passengers and railway employees remains a priority and that continuous monitoring of water quality will be maintained.

Global Manipur Federation expresses solidarity with MP Prof. Angomcha Bimol

BANGKOK / DUBAI / LONDON / MELBOURNE / SEOUL, 13 OCTOBER 2026

The Global Manipur Federation (GMF) has expressed its solidarity with Professor Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, Member of Parliament from Inner Manipur, over what it described as discouragement of his commendable work and disheartening of growing public inspiration in Manipur. In a statement issued today, GMF said its concern is to uphold rationality against the prevailing ecosystem of unhealthy political engagement that depreciates the new-found energy in Manipur and extinguishes the long-awaited spirit to save the motherland.

The federation said it does not want the recurring violence and humanitarian crisis facing Manipur to be overshadowed by unproductive political expressions against the MP. GMF urged the university administration and governing bodies to ensure complete adherence to statutory requirements, institutional statutes and due process in resolving the matter. The statement pointed out that serious procedural irregularities have reportedly surfaced, raising questions about the validity of the professor's dismissal. It cited Section 16 of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act), which mandates confidentiality regarding identities of complainant and respondent as well as proceedings and related information. Meanwhile, the Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) has strongly criticised the Vice-Chancellor's actions, alleging that prescribed legal and institutional procedures were bypassed. According to JNUTA, under Statute 30 of the JNU Act, the authority to dismiss faculty members rests with the Executive Council rather than the Vice-Chancellor acting unilaterally.

GMF said the campaign surrounding Professor Bimol may have broader effects, including diverting attention from Manipur's ongoing challenges, weakening emerging calls for political change and shifting public and media focus away from continuing violence, humanitarian concerns and growing protests across the nation. The statement was issued on behalf of Global Manipur Federation by Mimi Ningjaa (Thailand), Sunil Thokchom (Middle East), Laishram Tiken (Europe), Indira L (Australia) and Jinine (Korea), representing Asia, Africa, America, Australia, Europe, Middle East and New Zealand.

RTI Week 2026 concludes in Imphal

Imphal, October 13, 2026 : The Manipur Information Commission organised the closing function of the Right to Information (RTI) Week Celebration 2026 at the Auditorium Hall of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Imphal. The programme was organised under the sponsorship of the Department of Personnel & Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension, Government of India. The closing function was attended by Shri Th. Ibobi Singh, former State Chief Information Commissioner as the chief guest; Shri Oinam Sunil Singh, former State Chief Information Commissioner (In-charge) and Advisor (Media) to the Chief Minister, and Smt. Nungshitombi Athokpam, State Information Commissioner, as guests of honour. Shri Koijam Radhashyam Singh, State Chief Information Commissioner, presided over the function. Speaking as chief guest, Shri Th. Ibobi Singh highlighted the importance of the Right to Information Act, 2005, in promoting transparency and accountability in government functioning. He noted that the Manipur Information Commission (MIC), established on September 13, 2006, has played an important role in enabling citizens to access information held by public authorities.



He stressed the need for effective implementation of the RTI Act in Manipur, noting challenges in its functioning and concerns about the safety of RTI activists. He also urged public authorities to ensure timely access to information and proactively disclose departmental activities, funds, staffing and organisational details through official websites and other platforms. Citizens were encouraged to use the Act responsibly to address public grievances and promote welfare of society.

Shri Oinam Sunil Singh emphasised the need to popularise the RTI Act in Manipur to promote transparency, accountability and reduce corruption in government functioning. He clarified that RTI is not a grievance redressal mechanism but a tool for obtaining official information and documentary evidence to expose irregularities. Citizens can use such evidence to approach the media or appropriate legal authorities. He also stressed the importance of creating RTI awareness among students through schools, colleges and universities and encouraging greater public participation to strengthen the RTI movement.

The prize distribution ceremony for the RTI Quiz Competition was also held during the programme.

Pakistan expanding military commitments in Middle East despite struggling to control several fronts

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan has been increasing its military commitments in the Middle East at a time when it is struggling to control the fronts it already possesses. In September, Pakistan conducted fresh airstrikes in Afghanistan while its other disputes remain unresolved, a report has detailed.

On August 7, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement. Under the pact, an attack on any one country would be considered an attack on all three nations. The agreement reflected the shared commitment of the three nations "to further strengthen their collective security and to promote peace, security, and stability in the region and beyond, in pursuit of a secure and prosperous future", a statement released by Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs mentioned.

As Saudi Arabia's confrontation with the Houthis escalates, Pakistan has moved beyond diplomatic engagement towards providing military support. Pakistan has not yet decided to deploy its forces to fight in Yemen. Pakistan's involvement today can increase through defence commitments, military coordination, advisors and material support, without parliamentary accountability in which elected lawmakers decide where the red line of the country lies, according to the report in EU Reporter.

"The paradox is that Pakistan is expanding its military commitments in the Middle East at precisely the moment when it is struggling to control the fronts it already has. In late September, it carried out fresh air strikes inside Afghanistan, as confrontation with the Taliban government and the threat from the TTP have turned the western frontier into an active theatre of conflict. To the east, the fragile de-escalation with India following the serious military confrontation of 2025 remains under strain: while the dispute over the Indus Waters Treaty remains unresolved," Dimitra Staikou wrote in EU Reporter.

"Yet on October 5, Islamabad agreed with Turkey to the rapid deployment of military forces and capabilities to Saudi Arabia under the Mecca Pact, while Pakistani support for Riyadh's operations against the Houthis has already moved beyond diplomatic solidarity to military equipment, advisers and operational assistance. A country conducting strikes across the Afghan border while managing an exceptionally fragile relationship with India is simultaneously choosing to expand its military obligations in the Gulf. Saudi Arabia has obvious reasons to want Pakistani military power; it is far less obvious what vital Pakistani interest is served by gradual involvement in yet another war. Here, the comparison with 2015 becomes even more damning," the author added.

In 2015, Saudi Arabia had requested Pakistan to provide military support for its intervention in Yemen. At the time, Saudi Arabia's request was raised in Pakistan's parliament, where lawmakers chose neutrality, stressing that intervention in Yemen could damage Islamabad's ties with Tehran and spark tensions between Shia and Sunni communities in Pakistan.

"In 2026, by contrast, there is a danger that the ambitions of the military establishment — regional influence, strategic prestige and the army's emergence as an indispensable security partner for the Gulf monarchies — are being presented as the interests of the country itself. But the interests of Pakistan's generals are not, by definition, the interests of Pakistan. And when elected institutions no longer possess the same power to make that distinction, strategic overreach ceases to be merely bad foreign policy. It becomes a symptom of who really governs," Staikou wrote in EU Reporter.

US lawmakers demand answers on Iran strikes



WASHINGTON

A group of Democratic lawmakers has demanded that the Pentagon explain whether American forces were responsible for a deadly strike on a wedding gathering in Iran.

Representatives Jason Crow of Colorado, Yassamin Ansari of Arizona and Sara Jacobs of California sought detailed answers from Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth about the September 1 attack in Kuhestak, southern Iran, which reportedly killed five civilians, including two children, and injured dozens.

In a letter made public by Crow's office on Tuesday, the lawmakers questioned the military's targeting decisions, the status of investigations and the steps taken to protect civilians during American operations.

The Pentagon has not publicly acknowledged responsibility for the wedding strike.

The lawmakers cited reporting by The Washington Post indicating a high likelihood that American forces carried out the attack. According to the account cited in their letter, six weapons launched from US Navy aircraft targeted a communications complex near the wedding venue, and one missed its intended target.

"We demand urgent answers regarding the United States' role in this strike, why the strike proceeded given the clear risk of significant civilian harm, and what steps the Department is taking to prevent further civilian casualties in Iran," the lawmakers wrote.

They said the victims included a four-year-old boy and a 16-year-old boy.

The lawmakers asked the Pentagon to establish whether American forces conducted the strike, identify the intended target and explain what assessment was made of the potential danger to civilians.

They also sought details of any formal investigation, including whether the investigating officer was independent of the operational chain of command. The lawmakers gave the Pentagon until October 26 to respond.

Their letter also raised concerns about an earlier strike on the Shajareh Tayyebeh Elementary School in Minab on February 28, the opening day of the war.

The lawmakers cited reports that 175 civilians, including 120 children, were killed in that attack. They said the Pentagon had neither publicly acknowledged responsibility nor released the findings of its investigation.

They also referred to a strike on a youth sports hall in Lamerd, where 21 civilians, including seven children, were reportedly killed. The Pentagon has denied responsibility for that incident. The letter criticised reductions in Pentagon programmes designed to minimise civilian casualties.

According to the lawmakers, civilian harm mitigation personnel at US Central Command have reportedly fallen from more than 10 to one full-time staff member. They said staffing at the congressionally mandated Civilian Protection Centre of Excellence had declined from more than 30 to seven. The lawmakers argued that these reductions could weaken the military's ability to identify civilian infrastructure and assess risks before conducting operations.

US Central Command has said the American military does not target civilians. Vice President J D Vance previously expressed scepticism about reports of American responsibility for the wedding strike while acknowledging that the incident was under investigation.

The dispute comes amid continuing congressional scrutiny of the human cost of American military operations against Iran, which began on February 28.

'Where is the evidence?' Indian envoy asks Canada over Nijjar case

OTTAWA

India's High Commissioner to Canada Dinesh Patnaik has challenged Canada to produce evidence of Indian government involvement in the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, saying it should have come out by now. "It's been almost three years since Prime Minister Trudeau spoke in parliament. Where is the evidence?" Patnaik said in an interview with CPAC's Open Question, hosted by Marc-Andre Cossette. "If you have evidence which implicates anybody in India on this issue, we are willing to take action. We are ready to take action. Show us the evidence," he said.

The interview was posted on October 9

Then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told Parliament in September 2023 that Canadian agencies were pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between Indian government agents and the killing. India rejected the charge as absurd.

Patnaik declined to discuss the case of four people on trial in Surrey. "There are four individuals who are being tried and so it's now in the court. So I'm not going to comment on it," he said.

If the case brings out any evidence that there are people in India involved in it, we will take action against them," he said.

He cited Operation Hardball, a US-led investigation that he said made arrests in the US and Canada about two months earlier.

He said it identified the Bishnoi gang, but "they were very clear on both the American side the Canadian side there though no involvement of the Indian government in this".

"Any suggestion that a government is involved with criminal gangs is just preposterous," he said. Patnaik called the rupture "a blip" and said: "We do not have any geopolitical problems between us.

Bulgaria PM summons Russian ambassador after merchant ship attacks

SOFIA



Prime Minister Rumen Radev summoned Russian Ambassador to Bulgaria Eleonora Mitrofanova on Tuesday over a series of drone attacks on merchant ships in Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone in the Black Sea over the past week. Radev acknowledged that Bulgaria did not have conclusive evidence regarding the origin of the drones. However, he argued that since one of the vessels targeted was registered in Ukraine and Ukrainian-owned, "it makes no sense for Ukraine to destroy its own ships," according to the Bulgarian Government Information Service (GIS).

Mitrofanova said she understood Radev's reasoning but had received no information from the Russian government related to the recent attacks in the Black Sea, the GIS added. Meanwhile, Mitrofanova raised the possibility that these attacks on merchant ships near Bulgarian territorial waters could have been a provocation by a third country, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Radev emphasised that attacks on merchant ships were absolutely unacceptable, warning that they risked significantly escalating the conflict. He called for continued investigations with the EU and NATO allies to establish the truth.

Tensions in the Black Sea near Bulgaria have escalated since unidentified drones sank one merchant ship and set another on fire about 70 nautical miles east of Byala on Oct. 6. Two more merchant ships came under attack early Tuesday. The "Chelsea 3," flying the Maltese flag, registered in Ukraine, and Ukrainian-owned, was attacked 18 nautical miles east of the town of Byala.

Bulgarian authorities rescued all 15 crew members aboard the vessel. The other ship, the Guinea-Bissau-flagged "HS Dignity," sank near Krapets. According to the latest update from Bulgarian authorities, five crew members were rescued, while 11 remained missing. The crew members were safely transported to the port of Varna, where five of them received medical care. The incident marked the second drone attack on merchant ships near Bulgaria within a week. On October 6, unidentified drones sank one merchant ship and set another on fire about 70 nautical miles east of Byala, within Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone.

Guilfoyle denies 'false' allegations, signals exit as US envoy to Greece

WASHINGTON



Former Ambassador of the US to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle on Tuesday called the allegations against her "false" and signalled that her tenure was ending, after the White House said it had asked her to resign.

"I also want to address the recent allegations against me. These allegations are false, and I intend to vigorously defend my name, my reputation, and my integrity," Guilfoyle said in a statement said on social media platform X.

"I will not allow false accusations to define my decades of public service," she added.

"While my time as Ambassador may be coming to an end, my commitment to President Trump, the America First movement, and the country I love will never end," she said.

Guilfoyle thanked President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, saying serving as ambassador "has been the honour of a lifetime".

"I will forever be grateful to President Donald J. Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio for entrusting me with the extraordinary privilege of representing the greatest country in the history of the world," she said.

She listed what she described as the achievements of her tenure.

"During my tenure, we have helped secure historic agreements to expand American liquefied natural gas exports to Europe, advanced the Vertical Corridor to reduce Europe's dependence on Russian energy, strengthened our defence and security partnership with a critical NATO ally, and expanded opportunities for American businesses and investment throughout the region," she said.

"My gratitude and respect for President Trump and Secretary Rubio remain unwavering," Guilfoyle said, adding that she would "always be a loyal supporter of President Trump and his mission to Make America Great Again".

She also thanked "the people of Greece for their hospitality, partnership, and welcoming me with open arms".

Earlier on Tuesday, new White House Press Secretary Katie Zacharia told reporters at her first briefing that the administration had asked Guilfoyle to step down.

"We have asked Ambassador Guilfoyle to resign. She has been a wonderful asset to the team, and we wish her well," Zacharia said.

Speaking to reporters on the South Lawn before leaving for Alaska, Trump said he had not spoken to Guilfoyle.

"I didn't speak to her, no. But she will not be there. I didn't like what I read," the US President added.

"She went to Greece. She was doing a good job, but we didn't like what we were reading," he said. Asked about her past ties to his family, Trump said: "She, I guess, dated my son a long time ago."

The resignation request follows reports that Guilfoyle asked businessman Eric Deters for $100,000 to pay her American Express bill in July 2025. Deters described the request to CBS News as "pay to play".

Guilfoyle's representatives said on October 12 that Deters owed her about $150,000 for speeches and consulting work done long before her ambassadorship, the BBC reported.

Democrats on the Senate and House foreign affairs committees have called on the State Department to investigate her conduct in Greece.

Guilfoyle, 57, is a former Fox News host and was previously married to California Governor Gavin Newsom.

Trump named her ambassador to Greece in December 2024. Neither the White House nor the State Department has said who will lead the US Embassy in Athens in the interim.

Amit Shah meets Nepal, Bhutan Home Ministers; reaffirms commitment to deepen ties

NEW DELHI



Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday met his Nepalese and Bhutanese counterparts, Sudan Gurung and Lungten Dorji, on the sidelines of the first The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi, reaffirming India's commitment to deepen cooperation with both its South Asian neighbours.

"Delighted to meet Nepal's Home Minister Sudhan Gurung, on the sidelines of the First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi," Home Minister Shah said on social media platform X.

"We reaffirmed our commitment to deepen bilateral cooperation and further strengthen the close ties between India and Nepal for peace, progress and prosperity in our region," he added.

With Bhutan's Home Minister, Home Minister Shah reaffirmed the shared commitment to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. "Great pleasure meeting Bhutan's Home Minister Lungten Dorji, on the sidelines of the First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi. We reaffirmed our shared commitment to further strengthen the close bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Bhutan, advancing our common aspirations for peace, progress and prosperity," the Home Minister said in another post on X.

The meeting, chaired by Home Minister Shah, culminated in the adoption of the Delhi Declaration.

"Chaired the First BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi today, culminating in the adoption of the historic Delhi Declaration. Building on the vision of PM Narendra Modi Ji at the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, the Home Ministers' Meeting strengthens regional cooperation for lasting peace, security and prosperity across the Bay of Bengal. Together, we move towards a safer, stronger and better connected region," Home Minister Shah said.

The meeting deliberated upon a framework for regional cooperation across five key areas.

McConnell, Cornyn join 12 senators urging Trump to scrap Russian diesel deal

WASHINGTON



Twelve US senators, including former Republican leader Mitch McConnell and Senate India Caucus co-chair John Cornyn, on Tuesday urged President Donald Trump to rescind his Russian diesel deal and instead use new sanctions powers against Moscow's "chief enablers", naming China.

"This deal is a gift to our adversary and a betrayal of our Allies; it should be rescinded," the senators wrote in a letter to Trump.

The letter was signed by Democrats Dick Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Jeanne Shaheen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed and Chris Coons, and Republicans Thom Tillis, Susan Collins, Alan Armstrong, Lisa Murkowski, McConnell and Cornyn. It targets the Treasury Department's General License No. 135, which the senators said "lifts sanctions on Russia's diesel exports".

"Granting Moscow the ability to sell Russian diesel freely in global markets damages American security interests and is a betrayal of the people of Ukraine, who continue to defend themselves from Putin's murderous, illegal war," the letter said.

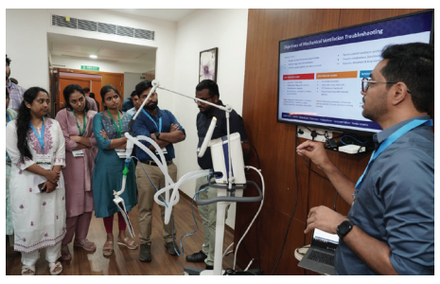
The senators urged Trump to use the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, which he signed in September. "These authorities require you to apply economic pressure on Russia and the chief enablers of its war, in particular China, and thereby enhance your negotiating position to bring a swift end to this ruinous conflict," they wrote.

The letter does not mention India

The senators acknowledged "the urgent need to lower energy costs for American families" amid the war with Iran, but said the deal "will have a negligible impact on fuel prices".

STAR Hospitals Holds Mechanical Ventilation Workshop

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER, 2026





STAR Hospitals, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad, hosted a full-day Mechanical Ventilation Workshop, bringing together critical care specialists and medical professionals for an intensive learning experience focused on contemporary ventilation strategies, clinical decision-making and hands-on skill development.

Organised as part of the 6th World Conference on Comprehensive Critical Care – W4C 2026, themed "Emerging Concepts in Critical Care – Innovation & Integration," the workshop aimed to strengthen practical knowledge and clinical proficiency in mechanical ventilation, a vital component of managing critically ill patients.

The programme featured expert-led sessions on basic and advanced modes of mechanical ventilation, ventilator graphics, troubleshooting, respiratory mechanics, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), asthma and COPD management, and non-invasive ventilation (NIV) and high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) therapy. Discussions also covered safe ventilation practices, driving pressure, mechanical power, weaning strategies and ventilation management in patients with respiratory failure. A key highlight of the workshop was a series of hands-on workstations that enabled participants to explore practical aspects of ventilator management under the guidance of experienced faculty. The sessions focused on interpreting ventilator graphics, troubleshooting clinical challenges and applying evidence-informed approaches to critical care practice. Speaking about the workshop, the Directors of the workshop shared their opinion.

Dr. Shweta Ram Chandankhede* , HOD & Senior Consultant – Critical Care Medicine, STAR Hospitals, Nanakramguda, said, "Mechanical ventilation is a critical component of intensive care, and its effective use requires more than familiarity with the equipment. Clinicians must understand the patient's respiratory physiology, recognise changes early and make timely, informed decisions. Through this workshop, we aimed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and bedside application, helping healthcare professionals strengthen their confidence in managing complex respiratory conditions."

Dr. I. Chandana Reddy* , Chief – Pulmonology & Critical Care Medicine, STAR Hospitals, Hyderabad, said, "Critical care is constantly evolving, making continuous learning and the exchange of clinical expertise essential. Mechanical ventilation involves individualised decision-making, where the right strategy can make a meaningful difference to patient management. By bringing experienced faculty and healthcare professionals together for focused discussions and hands-on training, this workshop provided a valuable platform to share knowledge and strengthen critical care practice."

IndiaSkills registration window reopens after strong demand from aspirants

NEW DELHI, OCT 13



The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship reopened the registration window for IndiaSkills Competition 2026–27 until October 19, 2026, following requests from institutions and aspiring participants, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The move follows renewed interest in skill competitions after the exemplary performance of Team India at WorldSkills Competition Shanghai where the contingent secured 10th position globally, the statement from Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said. The contingent also won six silver medals and 20 Medallions for Excellence, the ministry said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the competitors at his residence on October 9, 2026, celebrating their achievements and underscoring the role of vocational excellence in national development, the statement added. Following the interaction, the ministry received numerous requests from institutions and aspiring participants to reopen registrations for IndiaSkills 2026–27. The eligible aspirants who could not register earlier, can now avail the opportunity to complete their applications on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) by October 19, 2026. IndiaSkills 2026–27 has already received approximately 4 lakh registrations, the ministry said, adding that the competition, organised under MSDE with the National Skill Development Corporation as implementation partner, covers 63 industry-relevant skill categories across manufacturing, engineering, construction, digital technologies, creative industries and services.

The competition provides a structured pathway through district or zonal, state, regional and national levels, enabling talented young people to demonstrate their skills, receive expert guidance and progress towards opportunities to represent India at international skill competitions, the statement noted. The ministry has encouraged state governments, UT administrations, industrial training institutes, polytechnics, colleges, skill training institutions and industry partners to disseminate information about the reopened window and facilitate registrations.

At WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, India's largest-ever contingent of 70 competitors participated across 63 skills. Their performance has brought national attention to the opportunities that skills, specialized training and sustained preparation can create for young Indians.

SEBI extends IPO issue-size flexibility till March 2027

MUMBAI, OCT 13



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Tuesday extended a temporary relaxation that allows companies planning to launch initial public offerings (IPOs) to revise the size of their fresh issues without filing fresh draft documents, providing greater flexibility to issuers navigating volatile market conditions. According to a communication sent to the Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI), the relaxation, which was originally introduced in the backdrop of the West Asia conflict and expired on September 30, will now remain in force for IPOs opening on or before March 31, 2027.

Under the framework, IPO-bound companies can increase or decrease the size of their fresh issue by up to 50 per cent without submitting new draft offer documents to the market regulator.

The move is aimed at helping companies respond more effectively to changing market conditions and investor demand. In an email dated October 12, SEBI said lead managers may file updated offer documents reflecting the revised issue size, provided there is no change in the primary objective of the issue. Merchant bankers will also be required to provide a justification for any revision in the offer size.

The regulator further directed investment bankers to ensure that all relevant changes are disclosed to investors through an addendum and that the offer documents continue to comply with applicable regulations. Market participants said the extension follows representations made by industry stakeholders who had urged the regulator to continue the flexibility amid persistent geopolitical tensions and evolving market conditions. The decision comes at a time when activity in the primary market remains robust. September emerged as one of the busiest months for IPOs, with more than 34 companies collectively raising Rs 39,380 crore, accounting for around 42 per cent of the total funds mobilised during the 2026-27 financial year so far. Overall, 78 companies had raised approximately Rs 94,276 crore through IPOs as of September in FY27. The record fundraising was also supported by the listing of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), which became the largest IPO of the current financial year and the second-largest public issue in India's capital market history, contributing significantly to September's fundraising tally.

CtrlS to Invest Rs 10,000 crore in Bihar to Strengthen Digital Infrastructure

Inaugurates Greenfield Datacenter in Patna with Rs 400 Crore Investment to Cater to AI Workloads







PATNA, OCTOBER 13, 2026

CtrlS Datacenters Ltd, Asia's largest Rated-4 datacenter operator, has unveiled a major investment plan to boost Bihar's digital infrastructure. The company has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Government of Bihar to invest Rs 10,000 crore to set up a 150 MW hyperscale AI factory in Bodh Gaya, in addition to inaugurating its datacenter in Patna.

The company's Rs 400-crore AI and cloud-ready datacenter in Patna was formally inaugurated in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Samrat Choudhary. The datacenter currently offers an IT load of 12 MW with the potential to expand as per future demand.

Located in the Patliputra Industrial Area, Patna, the company's datacenter facility will support the growing digital infrastructure needs of enterprises, government institutions, hyperscalers and technology businesses in Bihar and Eastern India.

The greenfield natural disaster-proof, military-grade security, and energy-efficient datacenter expands CtrlS Datacenters' footprint in the region, further strengthening Bihar's digital infrastructure landscape and reinforcing its commitment to supporting the growth of Eastern India's evolving datacenter ecosystem.

Sridhar Pinnapureddy, Founder & CEO of CtrlS Datacenters, said, "We are committed to strengthening Bihar's digital infrastructure and building a robust IT ecosystem through our future-ready datacenters, designed to serve the evolving needs of hyperscalers, enterprises, and startups. We sincerely appreciate the Government of Bihar for creating a conducive policy environment, fostering an industry-friendly business climate, and providing attractive incentives that have supported our investment in the State."

Pinnapureddy added, "Together with our ecosystem partners, we are bringing significant investments into Bihar while creating new employment opportunities and contributing to the region's economic growth. The strong market potential and growing demand for digital infrastructure have reinforced our confidence in Bihar. In response to this opportunity, CtrlS Datacenters has established this greenfield datacenter in Patna, further strengthening the State's digital infrastructure ecosystem."

Looking ahead, CtrlS Datacenters is focused on building a hyper-connected network of datacenters across India and beyond, extending reliable digital infrastructure closer to emerging demand hubs. As part of this strategy, the company plans to establish 20+ Edge datacenters across Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities in India over the coming years.

As demand grows for localized, low-latency and resilient digital infrastructure, CtrlS is well positioned to accelerate the adoption of Edge datacenters. With a clear roadmap for expansion, the company aims to bring compute and connectivity closer to customers, enabling the next wave of digital services and AI-led applications across India.

Strong statistical system essential to achieve 'Viksit Bharat 2047' vision: Senior policymaker

NEW DELHI, OCT 13

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr PK Mishra, on Tuesday said a strong statistical system is essential for evidence-based policymaking and achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Addressing the inaugural session of the Conference of State Planning, Finance and IT Secretaries, organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) here, Mishra emphasised the importance of credible statistics, data harmonisation and technology-enabled governance in creating a developed economy. Dr Mishra said statistics, data, technology, planning and governance are increasingly interconnected elements of India's development journey. A robust statistical system must enable governments to measure development progress across States and districts, assess policy outcomes, identify gaps and ensure that public resources deliver the intended results, he noted. "What cannot be measured cannot be managed effectively. And what cannot be managed effectively cannot be transformed sustainably," he observed. Highlighting the need to modernise economic measurement, Dr. Mishra said India's statistical systems must evolve alongside an economy that is increasingly digital, formalised and interconnected.





Reliance Foundation's Drishti Braille Newspaper Goes Weekly to Expand News Access for Visually Impaired

Over two lakh visually impaired people have been reached through various services of Reliance Foundation Drishti programme

India's only registered fortnightly international Braille newspapers in Hindi and in Marathi, in partnership with the National Association of the Blind (NAB) will now be published weekly.

Beyond newspapers: Reliance Foundation Drishti is working for people with visual impairment for vision health, from free eye consultations and corneal transplants to provision of spectacles.

In January 2026, Smt. Nita M. Ambani announced a ₹5 crore funding commitment from Reliance Foundation at the 75th Foundation Day of NAB India

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 13, 2026

In a step towards making news and information more accessible to people with visual impairment, Reliance Foundation Drishti programme, India's only registered fortnightly international Braille newspapers in Hindi and Marathi, will now be published every week. This will bring readers more frequent access to news, current affairs and stories strengthening access to information and participation in society. The Braille newspapers are part of Reliance Foundation Drishti's broader commitment to vision care and inclusion of people with visual impairments. Initiated in 2003, the programme works to protect and restore sight, improve access to eye care and promote awareness about eye donation. Through partnerships with the National Association for the Blind (NAB) India, Sankara Eye Foundation and Aravind Eye Care System, the interventions seek to address preventable and treatable vision loss, particularly among people from underserved communities, reaching over two lakh people since inception. The fortnightly newspapers, published in both Hindi and Marathi, have a readership of over 30,000 and now weekly editions being published, the reach of the newspapers is expected to increase and touch the lives of many more visually impaired people. As the Drishti newspapers move to weekly publication, the initiative seeks to strengthen an essential link between accessible information and inclusion. Over the past two decades, the partnership has helped restore the gift of sight to more than 22,500 people and empowered them to lead lives filled with confidence and opportunity. Reaffirming Reliance Foundation's commitment to the visually impaired community. In January this year, Smt. Nita M. Ambani, Founder and Chairperson, Reliance Foundation, announced a ₹5 crore funding commitment from Reliance Foundation at the 75th Foundation Day celebration of NAB India, in Mumbai. As the Drishti newspapers move to weekly publication, the initiative seeks to strengthen an essential link between accessible information and inclusion.

RECPDCL Transfers Two Transmission Project SPVs to Bidders

Lakadia II Power Transmission Limited to M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and Jam Khambhaliya Jamnagar Power Transmission Limited to M/s Ceigall India Limited

REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSU under the Ministry of Power, handed over two project-specific Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), namely Jam Khambhaliya Jamnagar Power Transmission Limited and Lakadia II Power Transmission Limited, to the respective successful bidders on 12th October 2026.

GURUGRAM, OCTOBER 13



The projects were awarded through the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) route, with RECPDCL as the Bid Process Coordinator, for development of the projects on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis. The SPVs were formally handed over by Shri T. S. C. Bosh, Director (Projects), REC Limited, in presence of other officials from RECPDCL and the respective developers. Lakadia II Power Transmission Limited — Handed Over to M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Limited M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) emerged as the successful bidder for the inter-state transmission project titled "Transmission system for Integration of Power from RE Projects in Lakadia REZ in Gujarat-Phase II (7500MW)". The SPV was handed over to Mr. Arup Samanta, General Manager (CS), PGCIL, in the presence of Shri Amit Bhargav, ED (TBCB), PGCIL, and other senior officials from PGCIL and RECPDCL. The transmission project broadly envisages establishment of 765/400 kV, 6x1500 MVA & 10x500 MVA, 400/220 kV Lakadia-II substation (Near Chitrod)with 2 Nos. of Synchronous Condensers at the Lakadia II substation; 765 kV D/c Lines from Lakadia II to Halvad (141 km), Lakadia II to Ahmedabad (197 km) and Lakadia II to Vataman (261 km) along with other associated works. The project is scheduled for implementation within 36 months. Jam Khambhaliya Jamnagar Power Transmission Limited — Handed Over to M/s Ceigall India Limited

M/s Ceigall India Limited emerged as the successful bidder for the inter-state transmission project titled "Common Transmission System for evacuation of power from Lakadia (Phase-II: 7.5GW), Jam Khambhaliya (Phase-II: 5.5GW) and Jamnagar (Phase-I: 1GW) - Part-B". The SPV was handed over to Mr. Mr. Ayyalusamy Saravanan, CEO, Ceigall India Limited, in the presence of other senior officials from Ceigall India Limited and RECPDCL.

The transmission project broadly envisages establishment of 765/400 kV, 3x1500 MVA & 400/220 kV, 3x500 MVA Nasik substation, 765 kV D/c Line from Nasik to South Olpad (266 km), 400 kV D/c line from Nasik to Pimpalgaon (MSETCL) (40 km) along with associated works. The project is scheduled for implementation within 36 months.



El Niño and World Agriculture

How a Warming Pacific Can Disrupt Global Food Production

Agriculture depends heavily on the balance of nature. Rainfall, temperature, soil moisture and seasonal weather patterns determine what farmers grow, how much they harvest and how much food reaches consumers. However, this balance can be disturbed by a climate phenomenon that begins thousands of kilometres away from many of the world's major farming regions. Known as El Niño, it can alter rainfall patterns, intensify heatwaves, increase drought risks and trigger flooding in different parts of the world.

El Niño is part of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a natural climate cycle associated with changes in ocean temperatures and atmospheric circulation across the tropical Pacific Ocean. During an El Niño event, sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific become warmer than normal. This warming influences winds, clouds and rainfall patterns, affecting weather far beyond the Pacific region.

For agriculture, the consequences can be significant. Some regions experience prolonged dry conditions, while others receive unusually heavy rainfall. Temperatures may rise in already hot areas, increasing crop water requirements and putting livestock under stress. These changes can reduce agricultural production, disrupt food supply chains and increase prices in international markets.

Although El Niño does not affect every country in the same way, its influence demonstrates how closely the world's food systems are connected to global climate patterns.

How El Niño Changes Weather Patterns

Under normal conditions, trade winds blow from east to west across the tropical Pacific, pushing warm surface water towards Southeast Asia and Australia. This helps maintain differences in ocean temperature and supports familiar patterns of rainfall and atmospheric circulation. During El Niño, these trade winds weaken, allowing warmer water to spread towards the central and eastern Pacific. The movement of warm water changes where clouds develop and where rainfall is concentrated. As a result, weather patterns shift across continents. The agricultural impact depends on the location and strength of the event, the season in which it develops and the condition of local farming systems. A region that normally receives reliable monsoon rainfall may experience a weaker rainy season, while another region may face intense precipitation and flooding. El Niño can also contribute to higher global temperatures. When combined with human-caused climate change, its effects can increase heat stress on crops and livestock. However, El Niño is not the sole cause of every drought, flood or heatwave. Local weather conditions, land use, water management and other climate patterns also influence the severity of agricultural damage.

Asia: Pressure on Rice, Wheat and Other Staple Crops

Asia is particularly vulnerable to El Niño because a large share of its population depends on agriculture for food, employment and income. Millions of farmers rely on seasonal rainfall, making changes in monsoon patterns especially important. India is among the countries where El Niño can influence agricultural performance. The phenomenon is often associated with a weaker southwest monsoon, although this relationship is not absolute and individual years can differ. When monsoon rainfall becomes deficient or arrives irregularly, rain-fed crops such as pulses, oilseeds, cotton, maize and millets can suffer. Rice cultivation is particularly sensitive to the availability and timing of water. In areas where farmers depend on rainfall to prepare fields and maintain flooded or moist conditions, a delayed monsoon can postpone sowing and reduce yields. Wheat may also be affected by unusual winter and spring temperatures, particularly when heat arrives during grain development. The consequences extend beyond farms. Lower production can reduce rural incomes, increase demand for irrigation and put pressure on food prices. Governments may need to adjust procurement, trade policies, food stocks and assistance programmes to protect vulnerable households. In Southeast Asia, El Niño can increase drought risks in major rice-producing countries such as Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. Dry conditions may reduce harvests, damage plantations and increase competition for water between agriculture, households and industry. Water-intensive crops can become especially difficult to maintain when reservoirs and rivers fall to low levels. Farmers may reduce the area planted, switch crops or postpone cultivation until conditions improve. These decisions can affect domestic food availability as well as international agricultural trade.

China can also experience significant regional differences in rainfall and temperature during El Niño. Some farming areas may face heat or drought, while others may experience excessive rain. The overall effect depends on the event's characteristics and the wider atmospheric conditions.

The Americas: From Drought to Flooding

In South America, El Niño can bring contrasting agricultural conditions across different countries. Parts of Argentina, Uruguay and southern Brazil may receive heavier rainfall, while other areas can experience dry spells or unusual heat. Excessive rainfall can delay planting and harvesting, waterlog fields and increase the risk of crop diseases. Flooding may wash away fertile topsoil, damage rural roads and interrupt the movement of agricultural products to storage facilities and ports. Soybeans, maize and wheat are important crops in South American agricultural markets. When production is disrupted in major exporting countries, the effects can spread through international supply chains, influencing the availability and prices of animal feed, vegetable oils and other commodities. In parts of Central America, El Niño can increase drought risks and disrupt the cultivation of maize, beans and other staple foods. Small farmers may struggle when rains begin late or stop earlier than expected. Repeated crop failures can reduce household food supplies and encourage migration in communities where alternative employment is limited. In the United States, El Niño can alter winter temperatures and precipitation, with effects varying by region and season. Some areas may receive additional rainfall, while others experience drier conditions. Agricultural outcomes depend on the timing of the event, the crop calendar and local water availability. Farmers must therefore consider more than annual rainfall totals. The timing of precipitation is often just as important as the amount received. Heavy rain after a long dry spell cannot always compensate for water shortages during flowering or grain formation.

Australia: Drought Risks for Crops and Livestock

Australia is another major agricultural region affected by El Niño. The phenomenon is often associated with reduced rainfall across parts of eastern Australia, although local outcomes vary. Wheat, barley, cotton, sugarcane and livestock production can all be affected by changes in rainfall and temperature. Dry soil conditions may reduce the area suitable for planting, while higher temperatures increase evaporation and the demand for irrigation. For livestock producers, drought can reduce pasture growth and force farmers to purchase additional feed or sell animals earlier than planned. These measures can help manage immediate costs but may also reduce future production capacity. Water availability is especially important in regions where agriculture depends on reservoirs, rivers and groundwater. During prolonged dry periods, farmers may face restrictions on irrigation allocations, making it difficult to maintain yields in water-intensive crops. Drought can also increase the risk of agricultural fires and damage ecosystems that support farming. The resulting losses may extend beyond a single harvest, particularly when soil moisture takes time to recover and farmers have limited financial reserves.

How El Niño Affects Global Food Prices

The agricultural consequences of El Niño rarely remain confined to the countries where crops are grown. Modern food systems are interconnected through international trade, processing industries, transport networks and financial markets. When a major producing country suffers a poor harvest, the reduction in supply can influence global prices. Rice, wheat, maize, soybeans, sugar and vegetable oils are particularly important because they serve as food, livestock feed and industrial raw materials. Rice markets can be sensitive to production disruptions in Asia because many countries depend on a relatively concentrated group of exporters. If supplies tighten, importing nations may compete more aggressively for available stocks. Export restrictions, precautionary purchases and changes in government stock policies can amplify price movements. Higher grain prices can also raise the cost of producing meat, milk and eggs because livestock farmers use grains and oilseed products as feed. Food processors and restaurants may pass some of these additional costs on to consumers. However, El Niño does not automatically cause global food inflation. The final impact depends on harvest conditions, existing reserves, trade policies, exchange rates, transport costs and demand. A strong harvest in one region may offset losses elsewhere, while diversified sourcing can reduce the risk of shortages. The greatest burden often falls on low-income households, which spend a larger share of their income on food. Even a temporary price increase can force families to reduce dietary diversity, postpone other essential expenses or rely on cheaper, less nutritious foods.

Africa: Drought, Food Insecurity and Livelihood Losses

Agriculture in many parts of Africa depends on rainfall, while irrigation infrastructure and access to credit remain limited in several farming communities. Consequently, even a moderate disruption in seasonal precipitation can have serious consequences. In southern Africa, El Niño is often associated with an increased risk of below-average rainfall. Countries such as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique and parts of South Africa can experience dry conditions that threaten maize production and other staple crops.

Maize is central to the diets and livelihoods of millions of people in the region. When drought strikes during planting or critical growth stages, crops may fail to germinate, develop poorly or produce smaller grains. Farmers who lose their harvests may struggle to repay loans, purchase seeds for the next season or meet household expenses. Livestock are also affected. As pastures dry out and water sources shrink, cattle, goats and sheep face shortages of feed and drinking water. Animals may lose weight, produce less milk or die during severe droughts. Families that depend on livestock for income, food and savings can experience lasting economic damage. The impact can be particularly severe where food insecurity already exists because of conflict, poverty, displacement or high food prices. Reduced harvests may increase reliance on imported food and humanitarian assistance.

However, El Niño's influence is not uniform across the continent. Parts of East Africa can experience wetter-than-normal conditions during some El Niño events, particularly when other climate factors reinforce the rainfall response. Heavy rain can replenish water supplies but may also cause floods, soil erosion, crop damage and livestock losses. This contrast highlights why agricultural planning must rely on regional forecasts rather than assuming that El Niño will produce the same outcome everywhere.



Two Bihar Friends Build ₹1.5 Crore a Month Makhana Business

Syed Faraz and Shishir Shubham founded Shhe Foods in 2021. Today, the company works with 300+ farmers, supplies over 41 brands and exports makhana to international markets.

Makhana, also known as fox nut, has become a popular snack and ingredient in India and international markets. From roasted and flavoured snacks to makhana flour and pasta, the crop is finding its way to a wider range of food products. Bihar, one of the main centres of makhana cultivation, is playing an important role in this growing market. Two friends from Bihar saw an opportunity to build a business around this local crop. With an initial investment of just Rs 3 lakh, Syed Faraz and Shishir Shubham started Shhe Foods in November 2021. Before starting the venture, Faraz had worked as an engineer in Bengaluru for nearly a decade. After returning to Bihar and trying a few other business ideas that did not work out, the two decided to focus on makhana, a crop closely associated with the state.

How Shhe Foods Started

The founders began with Rs 3 lakh and chose a business-to-business (B2B) white-labelling model instead of selling directly to consumers. Shhe Foods supplies raw and flavoured makhana to other food companies, which sell the products under their own brand names.

From Bihar To International Markets

Shhe Foods has built a network of more than 300 farmers in Bihar and supplies products to over 41 Indian and international brands. Its exports reach markets such as the UAE and the US, according to Marketing Mirrors. The company reportedly generates an average monthly revenue of around Rs 1.5 crore. Alongside its B2B operations, it has also de veloped consumer-facin g brands, including Mak hanza, Nutrimix and Maket.

What Shhe Foods Offers

According to its website, Shhe Foods sources makhana from the Mithila region of Bihar and processes and packs its products in Darbhanga. The company describes its snacks as roasted or baked rather than fried. Its product range extends beyond plain and flavoured makhana to include makhana cookies, flour, pasta and macaroni, along with other snack varieties. From starting with Rs 3 lakh to supplying brands across markets, Faraz and Shubham's journey shows how a small business can grow with hard work.



Maharashtra Farmer Earns ₹15 Lakh From Dragon Fruit Farm

A pharmacy graduate from Akola chose agriculture over corporate job offers and built a thriving farm growing multiple crops across 17 acres. Dragon fruit, also known as pitahaya or pitaya, is gaining popularity in India for its unique appearance and mildly sweet taste. Tapping into the growing interest in the exotic fruit, 28-year-old Prasad Ramchaware from Akola, Maharashtra, has built an agricultural venture centred on its cultivation. As per Startup Pedia, his dragon fruit farming brings in an average annual income of Rs 15 lakh.

Why Did Prasad Turn To Farming?

Prasad first tasted dragon fruit in 2017 and was intrigued by its taste and texture. After doing his research on its cultivation on YouTube, he learned that the fruit was grown in parts of West Bengal and western Maharashtra. Believing Vidarbha's hot and dry climate was unsuitable, he initially dropped the idea. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, Prasad and his father began exploring farming opportunities. He drew on the agricultural knowledge he had gained from his father and planted his first dragon fruit crop in July 2021. He sourced around 6,300 plants from Solapur and Gujarat at Rs 62 each, investing approximately Rs 3 lakh in the plantation. Prasad's dragon fruit plants began bearing fruit around 11 months after planting, earlier than the nursery suppliers had predicted. During his first harvest season in 2022, which lasted about six months, he collected nearly two tonnes of fruit and earned approximately Rs 1.5 lakh. However, he gave away a large portion of the harvest to friends, family members and fellow farmers who visited his farm. Prasad also completed his B.Pharm in 2022 and went on to pursue M.Pharm from Shri Gurudatta Shikshan Prasarak Sansthan in Akola. After graduating, he chose to pursue agriculture despite receiving job offers from pharmaceutical companies.

Organic Farm And Crop Portfolio

Today, Prasad manages approximately 17 acres of farmland spread across four locations, where he grows a mix of fruit crops, timber trees, seasonal vegetables and traditional crops. His dragon fruit plantation spans two acres and houses around 6,400 plants. It features varieties such as Jumbo Red, Sea, Israeli Yellow, Australian Yellow, Highlys Red and Ecuadorian Palora. His farms also have approximately 1,600 sandalwood trees, 1,600–1,700 custard apple trees and over 800 mango trees. He also cultivates guava, soybean, arhar and chana and a diverse mix of fruit-bearing trees and crops across his land.

SHORT NEWS

Sher-E-Punjab T20

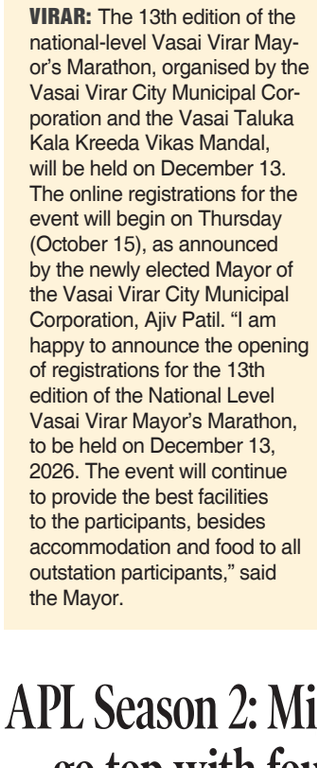
McIlroy's performance environment around the world gets a boost in crucial deal



NEW DELHI: For Rory McIlroy, competing across continents means constantly adapting to new courses, conditions and time zones. But when it comes to training and recovery, the four-time Major champion wants that to remain unchanged: consistency. That is where DP World has stepped in. The global logistics company has announced a multi-year partnership with McIlroy, under which it will transport his personalised fitness and recovery facilities across his PGA Tour and DP World Tour schedules. The initiative brings together the demands of elite sport and DP World's expertise in moving equipment across borders, ensuring the Northern Irishman has a familiar environment wherever he competes.
The partnership comes as McIlroy prepares to compete at the DP World India Championship at Delhi Golf Club.

MARATHON

13th Vasai Virar Mayor's Marathon to be held on December 13



VIRAR: The 13th edition of the national-level Vasai Virar Mayor's Marathon, organised by the Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation and the Vasai Taluka Kala Kreeda Vikas Mandal, will be held on December 13. The online registrations for the event will begin on Thursday (October 15), as announced by the newly elected Mayor of the Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation, Ajiv Patil. "I am happy to announce the opening of registrations for the 13th edition of the National Level Vasai Virar Mayor's Marathon, to be held on December 13, 2026. The event will continue to provide the best facilities to the participants, besides accommodation and food to all outstation participants," said the Mayor.

Sports Ministry approves 166 athletes for Aichi-Nagoya Para Asian Games

NEW DELHI



With less than a week before the Para Asian Games, the Sport Ministry has approved the participation of an Indian contingent comprising 275 members for the continental Games, which will be held in Aichi-Nagoya from 18 to 24 October, with 45 nations competing in 492 medal events across 18 sports.

India will field 166 athletes, 111 male & 55 female, across 10 disciplines, along with 94 team officials/supporting staff and 15 contingent staff. There is a significant reduction as compared to the 309-athlete contingent sent to the previous edition, due to the limited quotas available this time.

India had sent 123 athletes (Athletics) to Hangzhou, but only 60 quotas were initially allocated this time by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The Indian contingent won 111 medals in Hangzhou, including 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze.

Paralympic medallists Pramod Bhagat (badminton) and Bhavina Patel (table tennis) have been named flagbearers for the opening ceremony. Para athletics has the biggest share in the Indian contingent with 62 athletes, followed by 28 in para badminton and 16 in para swimming.

The Ministry, in its communication dated October 1 and October 10, contained the names of athletes and officials in eight disciplines.

In its latest notification, the ministry included the namewise details of sportspersons and team officials approved for participation in two additional disciplines, namely Para Badminton & Para Table Tennis

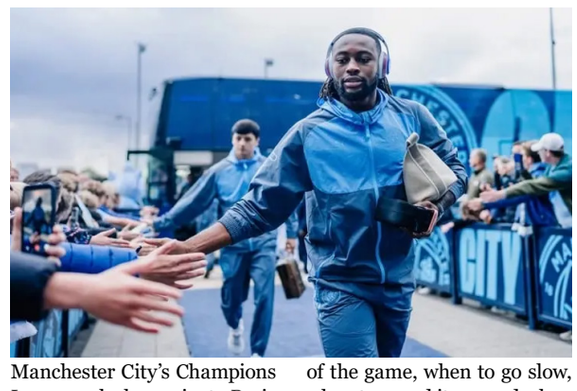
However, the ministry noted that, "Actual number of sportspersons/coaches/officials participating at cost to the government may be less than mentioned if they happen not to participate for some reasons."

It added that "Sanction in respect of athletes as well as team officials/ supporting staff participating in Boccia, will be issued separately, subject to eligibility."

The Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) will formally flag off the Indian contingent at a send-off ceremony on Thursday. The ceremony will be graced by Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, as Chief Guest, with Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, as guest of honour.

'Every goal I've written down has manifested': Semenyo credits journaling for success

NEW DELHI



Manchester City winger Antoine Semenyo has credited the habit of journaling, which he began at the age of 14, for helping him overcome career setbacks and achieve his ambitions in professional football.

The 26-year-old has come a long way after facing rejection at trials during his teenage years before securing a professional contract with Bristol City in 2018. A move to Bournemouth in 2023 helped him establish himself further, eventually earning him a transfer to Manchester City in January.

Semenyo said he began writing down his thoughts and ambitions as a teenager when he was struggling with overthinking, and the habit has since become an important part of his personal and professional development.

"A lot of the time I was overthinking, so it became a habit. I manifest what I want for the season and for the years ahead, and it's worked out well so far." Semenyo said in an interview with UEFA ahead of Manchester City's Champions League clash against Paris Saint-Germain on Thursday.

"Every goal that I've written down so far has manifested. When anything pops up, I write it down and come back to it to see it at a later stage," he added.

The winger has made an impressive start to life at City, scoring 13 goals in 35 appearances for the club, including the winner in last season's FA Cup final. He said the habit of revisiting his notes has also helped him track his progress and understand his development as a player.

"From day one, I had to understand myself as a player. It's understanding the pace of the game, when to go slow, when to speed it up, and when to dribble. Pep drilled that into me a lot, and it's helped me. That's where the journaling comes in because I've written all this stuff down. Then I can go back to it and tick it off," he said.

Semenyo also acknowledged the role of adversity in shaping his character, recalling periods at Newport County, Bristol City and Sunderland when he struggled for form and found himself out of the team.

He said those experiences taught him resilience and the importance of remaining mentally strong during difficult phases of a career.

Rahul's batting trouble continues; Jadeja scalps three wickets after century

NEW DELHI



India star batter KL Rahul was dismissed for another cheap score for Karnataka as he followed his four-run outing in the first innings with one run in the second against Andhra in a Group B clash in Vijayawada.

Meanwhile, another India veteran Ravindra Jadeja backed his century with a three-wicket haul for Saurashtra in the clash against Chhattisgarh in Rajkot in Group B, while Punjab have started to lose the plot in their Group B encounter against Assam.

Karnataka are in trouble as they ended the third day at 176/4 and have only a 32-run lead. This could have been worse if not for an unbeaten 81 from Karun Nair, while captain Smaran Ravichandran is also unbeaten on 21. Rahul was earlier dismissed for one, while Mayank Agarwal also managed to score just 18. With one day remaining, Karnataka need some magic for an outright win, or else they can at most manage one point if the match ends in a draw, as they had a first-innings deficit. Andhra will take six points if they win (seven if they win by 10 wickets) or they will take three points if the match is drawn, as they have the first-innings lead after bowling Karnataka out for 274 and putting 418 in reply.

Meanwhile, Jadeja followed his 102 from the first innings with 3-40 in the first essay with the ball to bowl Chhattisgarh out for 312. Saurashtra are 45/0 in the second innings at stumps on Day 3 and would fancy three points or a win on the final day. Punjab are seemingly losing the plot in their fixture against Assam in their Group B fixture in New Chandigarh. They ended the third day at 287/5 and trail by 86 more runs. Salil Arora and Emanjot Singh Chahal are unbeaten on 25 and 28, respectively. In Group A, Madhya Pradesh are 151/5 against defending champions Jammu and Kashmir in their second innings as Shubham Sharma went back unbeaten on 51 to help the team take their lead to 227.

Puducherry were dismissed for 313 in their first innings against Vidarbha on Day 3 of the clash in Nagpur. Ritesh Gudge (95), Mohit Kale (78) and Nikhil Gangta (54) scored strong fifties, but Parth Rekhade and Aman Mokhade took three wickets each. In reply, Vidarbha are 22/1 at stumps and have a lead of 137 runs.

Goa are trailing Baroda by 238 runs after being asked to follow-on as they ended Day 3 at 35/1. They were earlier dismissed for 199. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh defeated Bihar by an innings and 267 runs.

In Group C, Delhi trail Bengal by 88 runs after ending the day at 101/3. Bengal had earlier posted 429 on the back of Abishek Porel's 149 and Sudip Gharami's 133. Kerala are in all sorts after ending the third day at 269/6 against Jharkhand in reply to 587, trailing by 318 runs.

Maharashtra lead Services in Delhi by 172 runs after ending the third day at 66/5. They had earlier bowled Services out for 227. Odisha ended Day 3 against Gujarat at 119/4 and have a four-run lead, but Gujarat took a 115-run advantage in the first innings.

In Group D, Mumbai completed a stellar innings and a 155-run win over Chandigarh at Wankhede, while Rajasthan led Yamil Nadu by 170 runs after ending Day 3 at 81/4. They had a 91-run lead in the first innings.

Railways have a 158-run trail against Uttarakhand as they were 34/0 at stumps. They were bowled out for 278 in the first innings, while Uttarakhand made 470.

4th T20I: India eye series-clinching win against West Indies in Hyderabad run-fest

HYDERABAD



India will look to seal the five-match T20I series when they take on the West Indies in the fourth match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Wednesday, with the high-scoring venue promising another batting spectacle after the hosts' victory in Indore.

India, who are leading the series 2-1, will look to maintain their current form and put pressure on the visitors, while the West Indies hope to make a comeback and keep the series alive.

Since Hyderabad is a ground that favours batters and has short boundaries, both teams may once again be facing a high-scoring game. The place has seen several successful T20I chases of 208 and 187, and India once nearly exceeded the 300-run mark, ending up with the second-highest score in T20Is played between ICC Full Member countries.

The city also hosts Sunrisers Hyderabad, which is one of the most aggressive batting teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL), a team attitude exemplified by Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head and Heinrich Klaasen.

In Hyderabad, exceptional totals have been chased in recent domestic and franchise cricket, with the venue recording scores of 310, 297, 286 and 277 over the past two years. The pitch has recently been relaid, but the conditions are likely to be in favour of the batters, especially if dew plays a role in the second innings. Since there is no rain predicted, the match is set to proceed without interruption.

India, on the other hand, will take into account their bowling problems after having to put up large totals during the tour. The hosts have admitted that their failure to defend their highest T20I total and their third-highest ODI score has been a concern.

Even though the batting side has kept on performing well, India will hope that the Hyderabad wicket will provide their bowlers with sufficient help in order to keep a large total if they have to chase it. At the same time, the West Indies are not likely to be put off by the idea of a pitch that favours batting. Their attacking batting lineup would be helped by conditions that provide a more reliable bounce than those in Indore, where India had managed to defend a total.

Since only one of the six matches played during the tour has seen the side that batted first win, the result of the toss and the possibility of dew may well be decisive.

A major match between India's fast-opening batsman Abhishek Sharma and the West Indies off-spinner Roston Chase is possible, since Chase played a decisive part in the visitors' win in Ranchi by getting rid of Abhishek, Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer.

India might keep the combination which had worked well in Indore, having chosen an extra seamer instead of wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav. Even though spin was effective in that game, the home side may want the extra pace option on a wicket expected to give more help to the stroke players.

At the same time, the West Indies will be keeping an eye on Romario Shepherd, since he picked up an injury during his bowling in Ranchi. Even though he did manage to bat in that match, the all-rounder was still excluded from the game in Indore. His availability would have given the visitors an additional seam bowler and useful depth in the lower order.

A further interesting statistic involves Naman Dhir from India, since all of his five international wickets have been taken on the ball that follows immediately after he has conceded a six.

APL Season 2: Mighty Marathas go top with fourth straight victory; Knights, Royals win too

HYDERABAD

Mighty Marathas and Kakatiya Knights seem to be peaking at the right time as they moved clear at the top of the table with eight points each, while Rajputana Royals made it back-to-back wins on the sixth day of Season 2 of Archery Premier League (APL) in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

While Royals and Knights blanked their opponents, Chero Archers and Chola Chiefs won 6-0, respectively; Marathas beat Yodhas 6-2.

Marathas' recurve star Dhiraj Bommadevara was in terrific form, repeatedly shooting clutch 10s with barely any time left on the clock as the anchor for his side. At the top, 'Mr. Perfect' Mike Schloesser set up the sets well and finished with 78 out of the possible 80 points as Marathas' stunning resurgence continues. They top the table ahead of Knights with only a set-points difference separating the two sides. In the final match of the day, the Knights consigned Chola Chiefs to the bottom of the table as Nico Wiener and Neeraj Chauhan were both in terrific form at the start and end of the sets – both registering 59 out of 60 – while Spain's recurve archer Elia Canales was an able support. In Jyothi Surekha Vennam's absence, Avneet Kaur also stepped into the lineup admirably for the home franchise.

Archery Premier League (APL), the world's first franchise-based archery league, was started by the Archery Association of India and comprises six teams and a total of 48 archers -- 36 Indians and 12 elite international archers. The league, taking place at People's Plaza in Hyderabad, will culminate on October 18 with the grand finale featuring the top four teams in the semifinals, followed by the title clash.

In the first match, bouncing back after a poor run of results, defending champions Royals produced a classy display against high-flying Chero Archers.

Wild card Guo Hanyu overturns Cirstea at Wuhan Open

WUHAN (CHINA)



Wild card Guo Hanyu of China rallied to beat 12th-seeded Sorana Cirstea of Romania at the Wuhan Open WTA tennis tournament on Tuesday, while Asian Games champion Wang Xiyu was beaten by Wimbledon junior champion Mia Pohankova. Guo, the Wimbledon doubles champion, progressed to the second round after a 1-6, 7-6(6), 7-5 victory against Cirstea, marking her first win over a top-20 player in her career, as well as her first victory in Wuhan's main-draw singles match.

"It was a very tough match. Honestly, I never imagined I would win until the match was actually over," Guo said. "Especially after losing the first set 1-6, I just wanted to stay on court a little longer and enjoy the feeling of playing on the centre court."

"I didn't expect my level to get better and better. Even when facing match point, I just told myself not to give the match away easily and to keep trying. I held on to that mindset, and I'm very happy I could win in the end." Guo will next play Katie Volynets of the United States, who ranks 88th in the world, reports Xinhua.

Wang dropped the opening set against the 17-year-old Pohankova despite clawing back from 0-3. Both players held serve to 6-6, and Pohankova took the tiebreak 7-2.

The second set followed the same script to 6-6, but Wang erased a 2-5 deficit in the tiebreak to win it 9-7 and level the match.

Pohankova broke twice in the decider, raced to a 5-1 lead and converted her first match point on serve to close out the match in two hours and 55 minutes. Elsewhere, Zhang Shuai struggled with illness in the match against Ashlyn Krueger of the United States before losing at 6-3, 6-0.

"It's a pity to end my Wuhan singles campaign this way. To be honest, I was completely drained today. This was the best I could do," Zhang said. "I'm sorry I couldn't do better given my condition, but I didn't want to give up the chance to play in front of you, so I tried my best to finish the match." Zhang also expressed gratitude to local audiences. "I am so grateful for your love of tennis. It's the passion of the people of Wuhan that has made Chinese tennis history," she said.

CWC 2027 ticket demand crosses 15 million applications in 12 days

DUBAI

The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027 has attracted more than 15 million ticket applications within 12 days of the ballot opening, underlining the growing anticipation for the tournament scheduled to be co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

According to the International Cricket Council (ICC), a total of 15,083,752 ticket applications have been submitted, with 4,423,417 ballot registrations recorded from fans across 142 countries. The surge marks a significant jump from the one million applications received during the first week of the registration process.

The 14th edition of the tournament will return to Africa for the first time in 24 years and is set to feature a new format, with organisers anticipating a global following for what is being billed as the biggest edition in the competition's history.

ICC Chief Executive Officer Sanjog Gupta attributed the response to the tournament's global appeal, the attraction of its African host nations and the promotional efforts leading up to the launch.

"The overwhelming demand for tickets is testament to the stature and appeal of the Cricket World Cup, the allure of Africa as a destination and the anticipation for the event generated by the ICC and its partners' promotional activities leading up to the event launch," ICC Chief Executive Officer Sanjog Gupta said. Gupta also outlined the ICC's plans to build momentum in the lead-up to the tournament, which is now less than a year away.

"With a year to go, the ICC has planned an exciting runway of 360 degree activations, multi-platform campaigns and content line-ups, which will elevate the fandom associated with the ICC Cricket World Cup 2027."

Fans can register for the ticket ballot until 23:59 Central Africa Time (CAT) on November 21, 2026. The deadline falls exactly one year before the scheduled World Cup final at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.

Casting Couch Buzz in Telugu Cinema



Oftentimes, we see a lot of actors sharing their experiences of the casting couch and sexual harassment in the South Indian film industry. Now, the latest to join the list is actress Niti Taylor, who has done couple of movies in the South, particularly in Telugu. The actress shared that the director she worked with reportedly asked her to sleep with him. In a recent interview, the actress shared that she worked on only two films in the South Indian film industry. After completing her first film, the same director reportedly approached her for another project. However, Niti Taylor revealed that the director made an inappropriate proposition, demanding a physical relationship as a prerequisite for casting her in the second film. Having hearing that from the director, the actress reportedly was shocked and then she explained that it was deeply distressing to face such a situation when she had hoped to earn roles based purely on her talent. Niti Taylor reportedly said that, caught off guard by the incident, she didn't know what to do for a moment. Instead of arguing with him, the actress blocked his phone number. Recalling the aftermath, she said she broke down in tears while telling her mother about the incident. Niti Taylor added that stepping into the industry with a passion for films, only to face such an incident, left a profound impact on her. The actress debuted with Tanish's Mem Vayasuku Vachham in 2012. Later, she was seen in Rahul Ravindran's Pelli Pustakam and Love Dot Com.

Tamannaah In For Dirty Picture2?

Vidya Balan's Dirty Picture is one of the country's most popular films. Based on the life of Silk Smitha, the film earned Vidya a National Film Award for her acting. Plans are underway to make a sequel. If the reports are true, Ekta Kapoor will produce the second part of Dirty Picture. Speculation suggests Tamannaah will headline the sequel, with no further connection to Silk Smitha's life. Ekta Kapoor revealed in an interview that a sequel is in the works. The reports indicate that the narrative will explore the discrimination women face in the film industry and the darker reality of sexual harassment. Since Ekta Kapoor teased plans for the sequel, speculation about the film has run rampant. Casting Tamannaah would easily allow the project to be mounted on a pan-India scale. Moreover, her recent streak of high-profile special dance numbers has cultivated a bold new screen image. At the same time, Triptii Dimri's name is also in circulation. Meanwhile, another prevailing theory suggests that Ekta Kapoor might be adapting the tragic life story of erstwhile glamour queen Nisha Noor. During the 1980s, Nisha Noor had a dazzling run in Malayalam and Tamil cinema, playing key roles alongside top stars and acclaimed directors. However, as film offers dried up, pressure from a producer reportedly pushed her into the flesh trade. The reports say that the actress eventually contracted AIDS and passed away under heart-wrenching circumstances in 2007. As of now, there is no official confirmation of the details of the story or which actors will be part of the film. More details will be out soon.

The Cult Gang Is Back!



Some friendships never go out of style, and the enduring popularity of Ee Nagaraniki Emaindi stands as a testament to that. Eight years after the original film introduced audiences to a memorable gang of friends, director Tharun Bhascker Dhaassyam is bringing them back with ENE Repeat, which is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on November 19. The makers have now released a new poster featuring Vishwak Sen, Abhiinav Gomatam, Venkatesh Kakumanu and Srinath Maganti. The image places them amid an assortment of yellow suitcases, luggage trunks and camera equipment, with each character displaying a personality of his own. The resulting visual is playful, eccentric and packed with the kind of youthful energy associated with the franchise. The sequel is produced by Srujan Yarabolu and Sandeep Nagireddy under S Originals and Rootnode Cinema. AJ Aaron handles cinematography and Vivek Sagar composes the music. With the gang reunited and a new story awaiting them, ENE Repeat aims to rekindle the nostalgia surrounding the original while taking its characters into another adventure.

Shriya Saran Slams AI Image Misuse

Actor Shriya Saran has raised concerns over the growing misuse of artificial intelligence to create sexually explicit images of women without their consent. The Drishyam 3 actor revealed that she has also been targeted by digitally manipulated images, highlighting how increasingly realistic AI-generated content is making it difficult to distinguish between what is real and what is fabricated. Manipulated pictures can sometimes look so convincing that even she sometimes struggles to recognise whether the person depicted is actually her. Other times, morphing can include changing the size of b**bs or removing clothes of the person. "It's funny. Sometimes, I don't even know if it's me." Acknowledging the usefulness of AI, she said, "While AI has a lot to give us and a lot to help us with, there's also a lot it can change for us. It can lead to things that can be dangerous. I think that applies to every technology." The actor added that society would eventually have to find ways to deal with the challenges posed by AI as the technology becomes more widespread. Recently, an AI-altered video involving Janhvi Kapoor sparked outrage, with several members of the film fraternity criticising the non-consensual use of technology to sexualise women. Such incidents have intensified discussions about the responsibility of social media platforms, the need for stronger safeguards and the difficulties victims face when trying to have manipulated content removed. Shriya acknowledged that the industry still has a long way to go, but said change has begun. Her comments highlight a broader concern about women's representation and agency, both within the entertainment industry and in the digital world, where technological advancements have created new avenues for harassment and exploitation.

Producer's Unexpected Take on Raja Saab



The disaster result of The Raja Saab turned out to be a nightmare for Prabhas and his fans. The film also burned the pockets of producer TG Vishwa Prasad. The film which was made as a great ambitious film in Prabhas career became a damp squib. It's been over 9 months since The Raja Saab was released in cinemas and failed miserably, media, critics and fans couldn't overcome the film's failure. When asked about TG Vishwa Prasad's analysis and introspection over Raja Saab's failure, the producer gave a shocking response. He stated that releasing the film during the Sankranthi season was a huge mistake that cost him dearly. He said the film would have performed differently if it had been released on another date instead of clashing with other major films during the festive season. Many of Prabhas fans weren't convinced with the producer's response. The Raja Saab received unanimous poor reviews and faced outright rejection from audience and critics. Directed by Maruthi, the film turned out to be a huge disaster. Prabhas is trying to come out of the Raja Saab's failure. He has set his focus on Fauzi and Spirit, being directed by Hanu Raghavpudi and Sandeep Reddy Vanga.

Printed, Published, Edited and Owned by Pisati Janga Reddy, Printed at : Jayadurga Printers, Plot No.48, H.No.24114/ 3/1, Survey.No.551, Laxmi Narayana Nagar, Uppal, Medchal District, Telangana State.
Published at : Flat No.303A, Prajay Alakapuri Apartments, Road No.2, Green Hills Colony, Kothapet, Hyderabad 500035,Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State.
Editor: Pisati Janga Reddy, Ph : 040 24123467, Email : hyderabadheadlines@gmail.com