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We will foil attempts to privatise Singareni: KTR

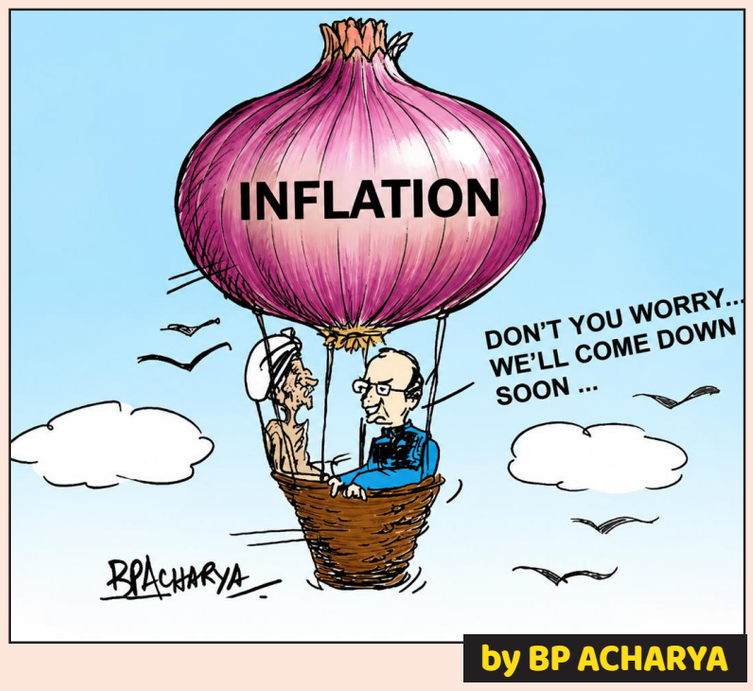
TELANGANA 04

Drying Fields, Stressed Power Systems

OPINION 06



OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

CM assures UK Mayors of policy continuity in Telangana

Investments made in Telangana are safe, Chief Minister assures business delegation from Yorkshire, UK

"Telangana is competing with world states; Our biggest focus for next few years is on manufacturing"

UK Delegation comes forward to explore deeper collaboration opportunities with Telangana state

Hyderabad, OCT 14: Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy assured investors and businesses from the United Kingdom of policy continuity, availability of large talent pool and a conducive business environment. With a focus on expansion in manufacturing sector,

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CM Revanth Pitches Telangana as Global Investment Hub

- *Striving Telangana to contribute 10 per cent of India's GDP*
- *States cooperation is crucial to achieve PM Modi's 'Vikasit Bharat -2047'*
- *Main focus is on development, Politics only during elections*
- *CM highlights the goals of "Telangana Rising 2047"*
- *TG Government accorded top priority to women empowerment*
- *CM appeals SAMAKHYA Chamber of Commerce to encourage women and youth*
- *CM Revanth Reddy participates in the global summit - SAMAKHYA Chamber of Commerce in Hyderabad today.*



HYDERABAD, OCT 14

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy affirmed that the youngest State of Telangana would be promoted as the best destination for global investments. Participating in the global summit organised by SAMAKHYA Chamber of Commerce here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister highlighted the 'Telangana Rising: 2047 Vision Document' and the main objectives of the government to roll out CURE, PURE and RARE regions.

Our goal is to transform the Telangana State into a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2034 and a three-trillion-dollar economy by 2047. To achieve this goal, we envisaged plans to develop the state by dividing it into three zones: CURE, PURE, and RARE. " The CURE area within the Hyderabad Outer Ring Road is being developed as the hub of IT , service sectors, as well as cutting-edge technology and innovation. The PURE between the ORR and the Regional Ring Road will promote manufacturing industries, industrial parks, and the logistics sector. The RARE—the Rural Agriculture Region Economy - will focus on agriculture, food processing, agro-based industries, and rural employment' , CM Revanth Reddy said that " Our resolve is to transform Telangana into the best destination for global investments. Our aim is to increase the Telangana contribution to India's GDP to 10 per cent from the present 5 per cent "

Observing that India will complete 100 years of independence by 2047, the Chief Minister mentioned Prime Minister Modi is working towards the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) by 2047. The CM emphasized that cooperation from the states is important to achieve the goals set by the centre. ' Our main focus is on development and

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President Murmu Arrives at Vijayawada

State Governor S. Abdul Nazeer and other dignitaries accord a grand welcome to the President.

Gannavaram, October 14: The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, arrived at Vijayawada International Airport in a special aircraft at 6:10 PM on Wednesday. Governor of Andhra Pradesh S. Abdul Nazeer and other dignitaries accorded her a grand welcome. The President arrived at Gannavaram to participate in various programmes in Vijayawada, NTR District. Along with the State Governor, the dignitaries who welcomed the President included Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications; Kamlesh Paswan, Union Minister of State for Rural Development; Kollu Ravindra, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise; Vangalapudi Anitha, Andhra Pradesh Minister for

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No Discrimination in Development, Whether in Power or Opposition



Political considerations will not influence the allocation of Indiramma houses; eligibility is the sole criterion: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

Hyderabad, OCT 14: State Revenue, Housing, and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has made it clear that there will be no discrimination in providing Indiramma houses to eligible poor families, irrespective of whether their constituencies are represented by ruling party or opposition MLAs. He said that while the previous BRS government restricted the allocation of double-bedroom houses largely to constituencies represented by that family, the people's government under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was treating every constituency in the state equally, without any distinction based on political affiliation.

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78-Day Bonus for Railway Employees

RS.53,428 Crore for Social Pension Scheme

New Delhi: Several important decisions were taken at the Union Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Union Cabinet approved the payment of a 78-day Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) to railway employees and the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). A total of ₹53,428 crore will be spent on the social security pension scheme over five years, from 2026–27 to 2030–31. These decisions are expected to benefit lakhs of railway employees and crores of poor people, senior citizens, widows, and persons with disabilities across the country. The Union Cabinet has approved the payment of a 78-day Productivity Linked Bonus to railway employees.

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Wife Cannot Claim Absolute Ownership Under Restricted Will: SC

New Delhi, October 14: The Supreme Court has clarified that a wife does not automatically acquire absolute ownership of her husband's self-acquired property if a will grants her only limited rights over it. The court also held that sale deeds executed by purchasers who bought the property from the wife could not be upheld in the case before it. The observations came in a property dispute involving Tulsiram of Haryana and his second wife, Ramdevi. After the death of his first wife, Tulsiram executed a will in 1968, making provisions for Ramdevi and his son. Under the will, Ramdevi was entitled to enjoy the income generated from the property for her maintenance during her lifetime. However, the will stipulated that the property would pass entirely to his son after her death.

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VICAT
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one man, $366 million, one congress for the asking!

musk's midterm money machine roars as washington watches!



The world's richest citizen buys the loudest voice in America's election, and the cheque book is still open!

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

Elon Musk has spent roughly $366 million on America's 2026 midterm elections, including $276 million since July, to help Republicans retain control of Congress. His spokesman has confirmed the figures, first reported by The New York Times. The spending makes him the largest known donor of the election cycle, even as Democrats' chances of retaking the House and Senate have improved.

HYDERABAD/NEW YORK/WASHINGTON: The ledger has landed, and it reads like a Finance Minister's budget speech. Elon Musk, Tesla and SpaceX supremo and the world's richest man, has poured about $366 million into the election cycle. Of that, $276 million came in just three months, from July to September. Reuters reported the breakdown on October 12, citing confirmation from a spokesman for Musk's America PAC. Let the figures speak, for they shout.

Nearly half a billion rupees would be small change here; this is a sum that could fund a state. And it comes from one pocket.

Follow the money, as we always do. A mighty $158 million went to the Senate Leadership Fund, the super PAC aligned with Majority Leader John Thune. Another $20 million went to the Congressional Leadership Fund, the House

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Boduppal Water Theft: 9 Illegal Motors Confiscated in HMWSSB Vigilance Raid

Officials issue a stern warning against pipeline tampering that starves neighboring communities of drinking water.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 14: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), working alongside its vigilance wing, has initiated severe legal and physical action against individuals illegally attaching electric motors directly to main drinking water supply pipelines.

During targeted inspection drives conducted across the Boduppal Circle—specifically focusing on East Hanuman Nagar and HUDA Lakshmi Nagar within the Boduppal ward—joint enforcement teams identified and confiscated 9 illegal water motors that were actively drawing water unauthorizedly.

Official statements from the Water Board highlighted that mounting heavy pumps onto main pipelines during scheduled supply hours severely drops hydraulic pressure across the distribution network, leaving surrounding households without adequate drinking water and disrupting overall infrastructure operations. Issuing a stern warning to all violators, HMWSSB declared that strict vigilance checks will continue continuously across the region, and anyone caught bypassing regulations or tampering with public pipelines will face criminal charges, heavy fines, and immediate line disconnections.

"No Water Crisis in November": HMWSSB Slams Fake WhatsApp Alerts Warning of Dry Reservoirs

Officials assure residents that viral drought warnings lack official backing and urge reliance solely on verified water board channels.

Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 14: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, commonly known as Jalamandali, has issued an urgent public clarification regarding alarmist messages currently circulating across WhatsApp and various social media platforms. The widespread posts falsely claim that the effects of El Niño and an upcoming drought will cause the city's major supply reservoirs to completely dry up by the end of November, forcing authorities to severely restrict or halt drinking water distribution throughout Hyderabad. HMWSSB has explicitly refuted these statements, confirming that no such advisory or warning was ever released by the department and that the alarming predictions lack any official authorization or factual backing. Addressing the rising public anxiety, board officials emphasized that all claims regarding declining reservoir reserves and potential supply disruptions made in the viral message are entirely baseless. The water board appealed directly to citizens to remain vigilant, ignore these unverified rumors, and refrain from forwarding misinformation to secondary groups or contacts. HMWSSB stressed that all genuine policy updates, reservoir status reports, and water conservation guidelines are issued exclusively through their official press communications and verified digital channels, which residents should consult as their sole trusted sources of information.

While debunking the false scarcity narrative, Jalamandali took the opportunity to remind the public of the ongoing necessity of responsible civic habits. Authorities urged all residents to practice mindful water usage in their daily routines, eliminate unnecessary waste, and adopt conservation measures as a standard practice regardless of seasonal rumors. By ignoring unauthorized social media updates and maintaining prudent consumption habits, citizens can help ensure both accurate public awareness and sustainable water management across the metropolitan area.

CM Revanth Pitches...

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politics should be confined during the elections only'. CM Revanth Reddy highlighted how the city of Hyderabad transformed into a world class city. 400 years ago, the famous Charminar became a landmark for entrepreneurs from India and abroad. After the Charminar, HITEC City emerged as the destination for the world of investments. Appealing to the investors to join hands with the government to achieve the goals of Telangana Rising, the CM assured that the government will provide necessary support and protection to the investments by pursuing friendly policies.

CM Revanth Reddy stressed that the local entrepreneurs should also become partners in the new industrial policy. Until now, our investors have primarily focused on providing services to corporate companies. People from our region should make investments and grow globally. The Chief Minister noted that the barter system was practiced in the ancient times and now the Chambers role is important in understanding the business practices and embracing new methods in the modern times. Listing the women empowerment schemes launched by the People's Government, the CM suggested the chamber of commerce to encourage youth and women entrepreneurs to strengthen the country economically further. " We have provided bank linkage loans worth ₹61,000 crore to women and also empowered women to become owners of RTC buses, petrol bunks, and solar plants. CM Revanth Reddy commended the chambers for organising sucha big event to foster the growth of the new generation.

Harish consoles families of Dalit workers killed in Karnataka accident



HYDERABAD, OCT 14

Former Minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday visited Induvasi village in Gattu mandal of Gadwal district to console the families of two Dalit agricultural labourers who died in a road accident in Karnataka's Yadgir district.

He also met the injured workers and assured their families of the BRS party's support. Acting on the instructions of BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao, Harish Rao visited the village and extended immediate financial assistance to the families of the deceased workers, Asepu and Naganna, and those injured in the accident. Harish Rao demanded that the government announce compensation of ₹10 lakh each to the families of the deceased. He also sought the best possible medical treatment free of cost and financial assistance for those who sustained serious injuries. Expressing concern over the plight of the villagers, Harish Rao said around 40 Dalit families from Induvasi had migrated to Karnataka in search of daily-wage employment. Two workers died in the accident, while several others suffered serious injuries, including fractures to their arms, legs and backs. The BRS leader criticised the government for its alleged failure to respond adequately to the tragedy. He said neither the district administration nor the two Ministers from the district had extended the necessary support to the affected families.

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one man, $366 million, one congress for the asking!

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Republican fundraising machine associated with Speaker Mike Johnson. Seventy-six million dollars went to Musk's own America PAC. Another $10 million went to Lone Star Liberty PAC, which backs Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton against Democrat James Talarico. Ten million dollars went to the Republican Governors Association and $2 million to the Republican Attorneys General Association. The New York Times reported that additional money has flowed through groups that do not disclose their donors. That is the visible iceberg; nobody has sounded the depth below the waterline.

One donor now accounts for nearly half of Senate Republicans' record fundraising war chest, according to reports. When a single hand fills the vault, who really holds the keys?

This is no flash in the pan. In 2024, Musk spent around $290 million to help return Donald Trump to the White House. The current election cycle began on January 1, 2025, and has already surpassed that figure, with the November 3 vote still weeks away. In July, he authorised his America PAC to spend $100 million to $120 million on a field programme aimed at turning out conservative voters. The PAC is operating in seven battleground states and nearly three dozen House races.

Why the frantic generosity? Because the political wind is shifting. Forecasters favour Democrats to win the House, while the Senate remains a toss-up. History, that stern schoolmaster, usually punishes the party in power during midterm elections. Musk has chosen to answer history with cash.

America PAC spokesman Andrew Romeo made no secret of the stakes. If Democrats seize Washington and key state offices, he said, America risks becoming a "socialist, woke and borderless country." That is the argument of the donor's camp, and it deserves to be reported in full. The Democrats' counterargument is equally plain: democracy cannot become a game in which the deepest pocket holds the loudest microphone.

American law permits unlimited contributions to super PACs, and defenders call it free speech. Critics call it oligarchy in a business suit. Both sides are reading from the same open ledger.

Mark the personal angle, too. Musk's companies have deep ties with Washington through government contracts. That is a matter of public record, and American voters are entitled to ask why one of the biggest beneficiaries of public business is also the largest known financial backer of one party's political ambitions.

For Indian readers, from Dalal Street to the villages of Vidarbha, the subject needs no introduction. We have watched the interplay between big capital and the ballot box on our own soil, while the Election Commission and courts have grappled with questions about the influence of money in politics. America is now conducting that experiment on a scale that commands global attention. A democracy is supposed to mean one person, one vote. It must never become one balance sheet, one verdict.

The next disclosures are due on Thursday, when super PACs file their third-quarter reports. Mark the date. SCOOPX will be watching the numbers, and so should you.

MY SHOT:

The ballot belongs to the people and the people alone, whether in Washington, Hyderabad or Hooghly. When one fortune can rent the public square, the republic is on notice, and the citizen must keep his vote dearer than any billionaire's cheque.

CM assures UK Mayors of policy..

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Telangana is well placed for aggressive growth in the next few years, he said.

A high-level UK delegation led by Mayors of South Yorkshire, York & North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire -- Oliver Coppard, David Skaith and Tracy Brabin respectively -- met the Hon'ble CM at the Dr. MCRHRD Institute on Wednesday. The meeting focused on strengthening Telangana-UK regional partnerships in trade, investment, innovation, education and culture, in context of the recent signing of the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

The CM said Telangana, being the youngest state in India, emerged as one of the most dynamic states with dominance in information technology, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, biotechnology, aerospace and defence, and electronics manufacturing. On this occasion, he invited UK-based investors and industrialists to attend the upcoming Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 between 7-9 December 2026 in Bharat Future City. The CM recalled that former British prime minister Tony Blair played a key role as a knowledge partner in preparing the state's long-term development roadmap "Telangana Rising 2047," launched in December 2025. Mr. Blair was among several global leaders, leading economists, tech leaders, and industrialists who helped in shaping the state's 2047 roadmap. The mayors called for collaboration in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, digital technology, defence, aerospace, technical textiles, skills and R&D. The UK delegation was keen on revisiting Telangana in near future to translate the Telangana-UK relationship into a concrete trade, investment and institutional partnership.

Oliver Coppard, Mayor of South Yorkshire said that Yorkshire, with as many as 1,50,000 businesses across sectors, and Telangana, being the highest per capita GDP state in India have their interests in alignment. We can leverage the massive scalability and the 'hugely impressive' digital economy ecosystem that Telangana offers with its large talent pool and resources, he added. Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, drew parallels between Yorkshire and Telangana. With so many shared interests, we are like brothers and sisters, she stated.

The Chief Minister explained to the delegation that Hyderabad successfully hosted the 72nd Miss World Pageant in May 2025 during turbulent geopolitical times. He also threw light on the state government's special emphasis on skilling the youth in wake of artificial intelligence. We have launched a unique university – Young India Skills University -- dedicated to direct skilling by large businesses.

The masterplan for Bharat Future City, a 30,000 acre world-class satellite city, will be unveiled very soon. He also explained the government's vision to revive and rejuvenate the Musi River and transform it into an engine for night-economy and riverfront economy.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister unveiled the UK-India Business Council's report 'UK-India CETA & Regional Synergies'. Earlier, Hon'ble IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu welcomed the delegation top explore Hyderabad's Genome Valley and its thriving innovation ecosystem. Our state's ambitious vision for advanced technology, clean energy and knowledge-led growth, align closely with the strengths of the North of England, creating significant opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration, the Minister explained. The Minister mentioned that recently the Chief Minister led a delegation to a visit to the UK and forged partnerships with leading universities and businesses. "Telangana is on course to be home to some of the world's premier universities."

Along with Oliver Coppard, Mayor of South Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, Kishore Jayaraman, CEO, UK-India Business Council (UKIBC), officials from the British Deputy High Commission, Hyderabad also attended the meeting.

K. Ramakrishna Rao, Advisor to CM, Sanjay Jaju, and several other senior officials participated in the meeting.

78-Day Bonus for Railway Employees

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An amount of ₹2,009.61 crore has been allocated for these bonus payments. Approximately 11,40,770 railway employees across the country will benefit from this decision. Each eligible employee will receive a maximum bonus of ₹17,951. Track maintainers, locomotive pilots, train managers, station masters, technicians, pointsmen, supervisors, and other Group C employees are eligible for the bonus.

The central government's objective is to recognize employees' contributions and encourage better performance by paying the bonus before the Dussehra and Durga Puja festivals.

Railways Achieve Record-Breaking Performance

The central government stated that Indian Railways delivered outstanding performance during the 2025–26 financial year. During this period, the railways transported a record 1,670 million tonnes of freight. They also carried approximately 7.41 billion passengers to their destinations. The government said the decision to pay the bonus was taken in recognition of employees' efforts in freight transportation and passenger services.

53,428 Crore for the Social Security Scheme

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), which provides social security to poor families. The scheme will continue for five years, from 2026–27 to 2030–31, with a total allocation of ₹53,428 crore. The programme will be renamed the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana (Prime Minister's Social Assistance Scheme). However, the old-age pension, widow pension, and family benefit schemes will continue under their existing operational procedures.

Major Changes to Disability Pension Eligibility

The central government has announced significant changes to disability pension eligibility. Until now, the required disability percentage for pension eligibility was 80%. The government has decided to reduce this threshold to 40%. This change is expected to benefit more persons with disabilities who were previously unable to qualify for pensions because of the higher disability-percentage requirement. Another important decision is the removal of the minimum age requirement for disability pensions. As a result, younger persons with disabilities, including those with congenital disabilities, may also become eligible to receive pensions if they meet the applicable eligibility criteria. The payment of bonuses to railway employees and the continuation of pension assistance for poor people were among the key highlights of the Union Cabinet meeting.

No Discrimination in Development, Whether in Power or Opposition

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On Wednesday, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy laid the foundation stone for Indiramma Towers at Pocharam in Medchal–Malkajgiri district, along with Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Minister for Industries and IT and in-charge Minister for Rangareddy district; MP Eatala Rajender; MLA Ch. Malla Reddy; and MLC Mahender Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti said that although land prices in Hyderabad run into hundreds of crores of rupees per acre, the government had launched the construction of Indiramma Towers with the objective of providing dignified housing to poor families in the very areas where they live.He said the government was putting an end to the practice of relocating poor people who earn their livelihoods in the city to distant places, thereby creating difficulties for their employment and daily lives. The minister announced that the government had set a target of constructing one lakh houses in the first phase within the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) limits. The tendering process for works in 23 constituencies had been completed, and foundation stones had already been laid for Indiramma Towers at six locations. He stated that in the first phase in Medchal constituency, 480 beneficiaries had been selected through a transparent public lottery.

Applications received online were scrutinised, applicants who already owned houses were identified, and eligibility was verified before conducting the lottery transparently. He explained that houses were being allotted only to eligible beneficiaries who were local residents. Across the state, the government had sanctioned 4.50 lakh Indiramma houses in the first phase, providing financial assistance of ₹5 lakh for the construction of each house. More than 2.20 lakh houses had been completed so far, he said. In the second phase, another 2.50 lakh houses had been sanctioned. The minister added that applications would soon be invited again for the second phase of Indiramma Towers.

He announced that the government would not merely issue allotment letters to beneficiaries selected for Indiramma Towers. Instead, the flats would be registered in their names with full ownership rights, without any registration charges. The land share corresponding to each apartment would also be included in the registration documents.

The government's objective was to complete the houses for first-phase beneficiaries and hand over the keys to them by the next Bathukamma festival, he said. The minister urged eligible applicants who had not secured a house in the first phase not to feel disappointed. Their applications, along with those of new applicants, would be considered in subsequent phases, subject to eligibility.

KISHAN REDDY HAILS CENTRE's Rs.53,428-CR

SOCIAL SECURITY PACKAGE

Hyderabad, Oct.14: Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday welcomed the Union Cabinet's decision to restructure the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and continue it as the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana for five years from 2026-27 to 2030-31, with an outlay of Rs.53,428 crore. Reddy said the decision reflected the Narendra Modi government's commitment to the welfare of weaker sections, particularly senior citizens, widows and persons with disabilities from below-poverty-line families in rural and urban areas.

The restructuring is expected to increase the number of beneficiaries under the programme from three crore to 3.2 crore. A major change is the expansion of disability pension eligibility from persons with at least 80% disability to those with 40% or more disability, along with a 25% increase in assistance for persons with disabilities.

The government has also removed the requirement to wait until the age of 18 for disability pension benefits. Financial assistance will now be available from birth for eligible children with disabilities, with parents receiving the support until the child turns 18, Reddy said.

Consequently, the number of disability pension beneficiaries is expected to rise from 8.33 lakh to 27.48 lakh. The annual expenditure on the scheme will increase from Rs.290 crore to Rs.1,268 crore, he added.

The Union Cabinet has also approved the renaming of various social assistance schemes, including the National Old Age Pension Scheme, National Widows' Pension Scheme, National Pension Scheme for the Disabled and National Family Benefit Scheme. Reddy clarified that the changes in names of the old-age pension, widow pension and family assistance schemes would not alter their existing eligibility criteria, central assistance amounts or beneficiary limits.

An annual allocation of Rs.10,685.60 crore has been earmarked for the programme during the five-year period, taking the total expenditure to Rs.53,428 crore. The revised disability pension eligibility criteria, beneficiary limits and enhanced assistance are expected to be implemented within the next three months, he said.

In Telangana, 7.28 lakh people currently benefit from the Centre's social security schemes, and the number is expected to increase following the latest changes. The Union Minister said the Modi government had directly transferred Rs.2,132 crore to beneficiaries of these schemes in the State over the past 12 years. Describing the Cabinet decision as a significant step towards strengthening social security, Reddy said extending assistance to eligible children with disabilities from birth and bringing more people under the pension scheme would provide much-needed relief to vulnerable families.

President Murmu..

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Home Affairs and Disaster Management; G. Sai Prasad, Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh; Harish Kumar Gupta, Director General of Police (DGP); D. K. Balaji, District Collector of Krishna District; and V. Vidya Sagar Naidu, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Krishna District. Following the welcome ceremony, the President departed for Vijayawada by road in a special vehicle, accompanied by her security personnel.

Wife Cannot Claim Absolute..

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Tulsiram died in 1969, following which certain individuals purchased the property from Ramdevi. The transaction subsequently triggered a legal dispute that eventually reached the Supreme Court. The Bench, comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M.M. Sundresh, observed that when a Hindu man provides for his wife's maintenance and welfare through a will, granting her only a restricted right to enjoy his self-acquired property during her lifetime, such a provision does not automatically confer absolute ownership on her.

The court clarified that the nature and extent of the rights granted under the will must be considered while determining ownership. Since Ramdevi's rights were limited by the terms of the will, the sale deeds executed in favour of the purchasers could not be sustained.

First Phase of Indiramma Houses to Be Completed by Next Dasara: Minister Sridhar Babu

HYDERABAD



IT and Industries Minister and Ranga Reddy District Incharge Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has assured that all Indiramma houses sanctioned in the first phase will be completed within a year and handed over to beneficiaries by the next Dasara.

Stating that the delays in house construction witnessed during the previous government would not be repeated, the Minister said the present government was committed to ensuring that poor families received their own homes within the stipulated timeframe.

Sridhar Babu was speaking on Wednesday at the foundation-laying ceremony for Indiramma houses sanctioned to 480 beneficiaries at Pocharam in Ghatkesar mandal. Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, local MP Eatala Rajender, Medchal MLA Mallareddy and MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy, among others, attended the programme. The Minister assured that essential infrastructure, including roads, drinking water facilities and lifts, would be provided to the Indiramma Towers within the stipulated deadline. Recalling the welfare initiatives launched soon after the government assumed office, Sridhar Babu said the Congress government had fulfilled its promises by implementing free electricity for households consuming up to 200 units a month and distributing six kilograms of fine-quality rice per person to white ration cardholders.

He said the government was constructing Indiramma houses within the respective constituencies of eligible beneficiaries, enabling homeless poor families to secure permanent housing in their own areas. He emphasised that the houses were being built on highly valuable land, offering beneficiaries a substantial asset.

Pointing to the high property prices in the Pocharam area, the Minister said that purchasing even a single-bedroom flat there could cost around ₹40 lakh. In contrast, eligible beneficiaries would receive homes of considerable value by contributing just ₹6 lakh, he said.

Sridhar Babu said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy had taken up the Indiramma housing programme as a major mission to fulfil the aspirations of homeless families across the state.

He stressed that the allocation of houses was being carried out in a completely transparent manner through a lottery system, eliminating human intervention and ensuring fairness in the selection of beneficiaries. The Minister said the government was implementing the first phase of the Indiramma housing programme with a target of 25 lakh houses across Telangana. He reiterated that the government would provide houses to every eligible homeless family in a phased manner, reaffirming its commitment to affordable housing and social welfare.

Don't create inter-district discord over irrigation projects: Gutha

HYDERABAD



Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy on Wednesday expressed strong concern over attempts by certain political elements to create regional friction between districts, warning that such discord would severely harm Telangana's broader interests.

Speaking informally to media representatives at his camp office here, Sukhender Reddy clarified that both the Palamuru-Rangareddy and Dindi lift irrigation schemes were designed with a unified goal to bring fertility and guaranteed irrigation water to Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda districts.

Highlighting recent Cabinet decisions aimed at expediting pending works, he noted that the government had approved the allocation of 1.5 TMC per day from the Edulla reservoir for Palamuru and 0.5 TMC for the Dindi project.

Gutha Sukhender Reddy termed it "inappropriate" that some groups were politicising this allocation to incite regional sentiment among the people of Mahabubnagar.

Alleging that unnecessary controversies were being cooked up to pressure Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Council Chairman explained that diverting water directly from Narlapur would entail massive extra expenditure, cause delays, and risk environmental and statutory clearances.

"Technical viability, financial implications, and execution timelines must be the primary criteria when taking up irrigation projects," Sukhender Reddy emphasised, calling on all stakeholders to safeguard the unity and regional harmony of Telangana.

SLOPE PROTECTION & OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS

Tender Notice No.: CON/2026/SEP/03, **Dated:** 08-10-2026. E - Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Tender No.:** CE-CON-DK-PW-2026-08; **Name of Work:** Slope protection work and other ancillary work etc. at Piphema yard in between Ch 59.400 km to Ch 60.700 km in connection with Dimapur (Dhansiri)-Kohima (Zubza) New BG Railway Line Project. **Tender Value :** ₹318,26,12,003.07/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **14:30** hrs. on **11-11-2026** and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **11-11-2026**. For complete information and tender document of e-Tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/Con/ Nagaland Project/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

Bathukamma Celebrations Held Grandly Under the Aegis of the Women's Wing of the Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association

- **Bathukamma festivities showcase the richness of Telangana's culture and traditions; women employees participate in large numbers**

HYDERABAD



The Women's Wing of the Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association (TGO Association) organised grand Bathukamma celebrations at TGO Bhavan, Gruhakalpa Complex, Nampally, Hyderabad, to mark the Bathukamma festival, a symbol of Telangana's rich culture, traditions and the self-respect of its women.

The celebrations were organised under the leadership of Dr. Deepa Reddy, Chairperson of the Women's Wing, with the coordination of Mrs. J. Sujatha, Convener, and Mrs. Shanti Sri, Treasurer. The programme, which commenced at 3 p.m. on Saturday, witnessed enthusiastic participation by women employees and gazetted officers, who showcased the richness of Telangana's cultural heritage.

Bathukammas beautifully arranged with colourful flowers were the main attraction of the event. The TGO Bhavan premises were filled with festive spirit as women sang traditional Bathukamma songs and participated collectively in the celebrations. The women employees performed traditional rituals associated with Bathukamma and celebrated the occasion with great joy and enthusiasm.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka, who holds portfolios including Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, and Women and Child Welfare, called upon everyone to contribute to the development of Telangana and work towards improving the living standards of its people. She urged all stakeholders to work together to position Telangana among the leading states in the country.

TGO Association State President Eluri Srinivasa Rao and State General Secretary B. Shyam also participated in the programme and extended Bathukamma greetings to women employees. They emphasised that women play a crucial role in preserving Telangana's culture and traditions. They noted that such cultural programmes strengthen unity, camaraderie and mutual bonds among employees.

Bathukamma acquired a distinctive cultural identity during the movement for a separate Telangana state. Symbolising Telangana's identity and the self-respect of women, the festival continues to remain an inseparable part of the state's cultural life. The participation of women in singing traditional songs and celebrating Bathukamma together reflected the enduring cultural heritage of Telangana.

The programme organised by the Women's Wing of the Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association further strengthened unity and friendly relations among women employees. The celebrations conveyed the message that, while discharging their professional responsibilities, everyone also has a duty to respect, preserve and promote the state's culture and traditions.

On the occasion, the organisers called upon everyone to make efforts to pass on Telangana's cultural heritage and traditions to future generations. They stated that Bathukamma is a symbol of Telangana's self-respect and that the grandeur of this floral festival highlights the state's unique cultural identity across the world.

Representatives of the TGO Association from Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Medchal–Malkajgiri districts participated in large numbers and contributed to the success of the event. The celebrations concluded on a joyous and grand note, with enthusiastic participation from women employees and representatives of various districts.

Participants

- Dr. Deepa Reddy – Chairperson, Women's Wing
- Mrs. J. Sujatha – Convener
- Mrs. Shanti Sri – Treasurer, Women's Wing
- Shirisha
- Dr. Naveen Jyothi
- Poonam
- Kiranmayi
- Jayashree
- Enjula Reddy
- Gadwal Anitha
- Sabitha
- Lavanya
- Sunitha Joshi
- Alivelu
- Kavitha
- Goreti Aruna
- Sreeleela
- Ramadevi
- Sheela

Others who participated included Upender Reddy, Ramakrishna Goud, Dr. Rama Rao, M. B. Krishna Yadav, Ganduri Venkateshwarlu, Shaukat Hussain, Srin esh Kumar, Niranjan Reddy, Harikrishna and others.

Vivek calls for affordable, clean energy for all

HYDERABAD

Minister for SHAKTI and Mines Dr. Vivek Venkataswamy has stressed the need to ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all and promote renewable energy sources to achieve sustainable development. He emphasised that clean energy solutions, including solar power, should adhere to quality and safety standards.

Speaking as the chief guest at the World Standards Day–2026 programme organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) at a hotel in Hyderabad on Wednesday, the Minister said this year's focus, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7, was on ensuring access to affordable and clean energy for all.

Calling for coordinated efforts by industries, governments and educational institutions, Vivek Venkataswamy urged all stakeholders to work together to improve energy efficiency and promote eco-friendly technologies for a sustainable future. He said efforts were also being made to encourage industries to adopt solar power, including the installation of solar panels on building rooftops. He also encouraged people to use solar lights in their homes and gardens.

ELECTRICAL TRD WORK AT KATIHAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No.: EL_TRD_16_26-27; Dated: 07-10-2026. (BID No.: EL_TRD_16_26-27). E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of work:** Electrical TRD Work in connection with "Comprehensive annual maintenance contract of Control & Relay Panel incorporating Numerical Relays for 25KV AC for TSS & Shunt Capacitor Bank of Traction substation Katihar, Samsi, Dalkhola, Gunjaria, Rangapani, Araria Jn., Bangalbaree, Buniadpur & Kaliaganj under jurisdiction of Katihar Division for a period of 03 (Three) years." (Ashida Make Control & Relay Panel at location Katihar, Samsi, Gunjaria, Rangapani, Araria Jn., Bangalbaree & Buniadpur). **Tender Value:** ₹1,89,00,000/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,44,500/-. **E-tender will be closed at** 15:00 hrs.on 29-10-2026 and **Opened at** 15:30 hrs. on 29-10-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 29-10-2026 in website http://www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. DEE/TRD/Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

Open E-Tender

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 10/10/2026. The following **E-Tenders** can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in.** Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender** Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or AMM/HQ-II, 9163340724.**Office Address:** Office of The PCMM /CLW/Chittaranjan. **Sl. No.:[1]. Tender No.: 70265014. Brief Description of Item:** Brake Control System including Driver's Vigilance Control Device for WAG-9HC Class of Loco motives with necessary Software, Hardware, Electrical & Pneumatics for interface with DPWCS as per Specification No. CLW/MS/3/001 Alt.23 or latest. [**Warranty Period:** 72 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 61.00Set. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 20,00,000.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 09/11/2026 at 11:00 AM.**

PR1/521 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan

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GSB and Hetero Launch Two-Day MDP on Workplace Excellence

HYDERABAD



GITAM School of Business (GSB), GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, in association with Hetero, one of India's leading global pharmaceutical companies, inaugurated a two-day Management Development Programme (MDP) titled "Communication, Collaboration and Commitment: 3C Advantage for Workplace Excellence" at the GSB campus on Wednesday.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Divya Kirti Gupta, Director, GSB, in the presence of Dr. Srinivasan, Head of Learning and Development, Hetero; Dr. Kunman Mishra, Programme Coordinator; and Dr. K. N. Rekha, Area Chair and Assistant Professor of Organisational Development and Human Resource Management, and Convenor of the MDP.

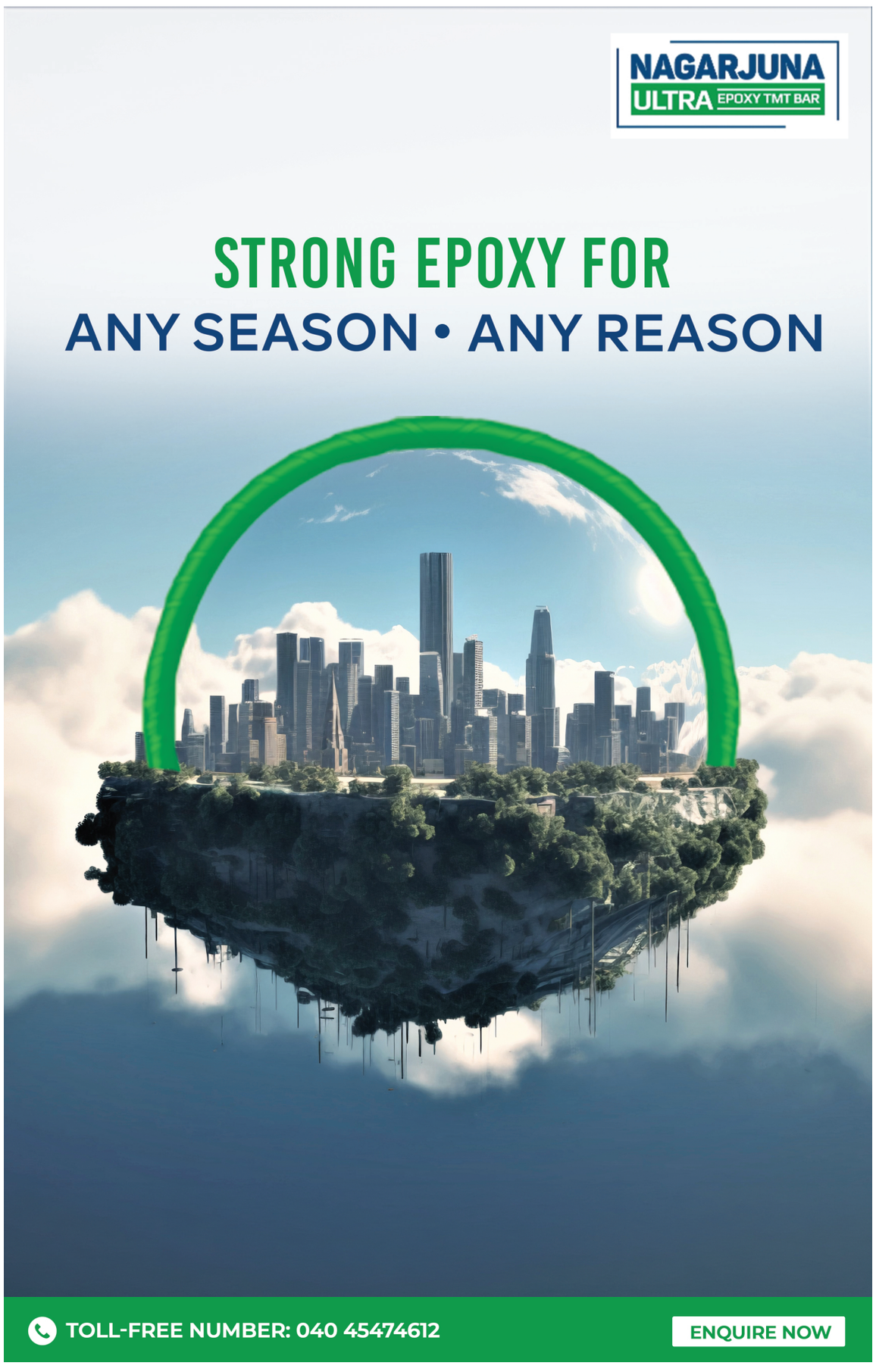
In her welcome address, Dr. Divya Kirti Gupta introduced participants to GITAM's academic programmes, state-of-the-art infrastructure, experienced faculty, multidisciplinary approach, liberal education framework, and vibrant campus culture. Emphasising the programme's interactive learning approach, she encouraged participants from diverse industries to exchange ideas, share professional experiences, and actively engage in discussions to maximise their learning outcomes.

Dr. Srinivasan underscored the importance of continuous learning and professional development in today's evolving workplace. He noted that returning to an academic environment provides professionals with an opportunity to refresh their knowledge, enhance their skills, and gain fresh perspectives. Highlighting Hetero's commitment to employee development, he reaffirmed the organisation's continued investment in learning and training initiatives. He also encouraged participants to ask questions, exchange ideas, and make the most of the learning environment to drive positive change in their professional lives.

Dr. K. N. Rekha presented the programme schedule and emphasised the importance of openness, teamwork, and collaborative learning. She also outlined a group assignment designed to encourage meaningful discussions, collective problem-solving, and the practical application of concepts discussed during the sessions.

The first day of the programme featured sessions on Communication and Collaboration, facilitated by Dr. Rekha and Dr. Honey Kanojia. These were followed by sessions on Workplace Behaviours and Learning Log and Key Takeaways, led by Dr. Kunman Mishra and Dr. Rekha. The day concluded with a group assignment aimed at reinforcing the principles of teamwork and collaborative learning.

The second day will focus on essential professional competencies, including Time Management and Prioritisation, Ownership Mindset, and Accountability, among other workplace-relevant themes. The sessions are designed to help participants strengthen their professional effectiveness and translate learning into practical workplace outcomes. Around 30 professionals from diverse industries are participating in the two-day programme. Through this initiative, GSB and Hetero aim to strengthen essential workplace competencies, promote effective communication and collaboration, foster a culture of accountability, and encourage continuous professional development. The programme reflects the shared commitment of academia and industry to developing capable, collaborative, and future-ready professionals.



Bhatti Lays Foundation for Rs. 70-Cr Power Projects

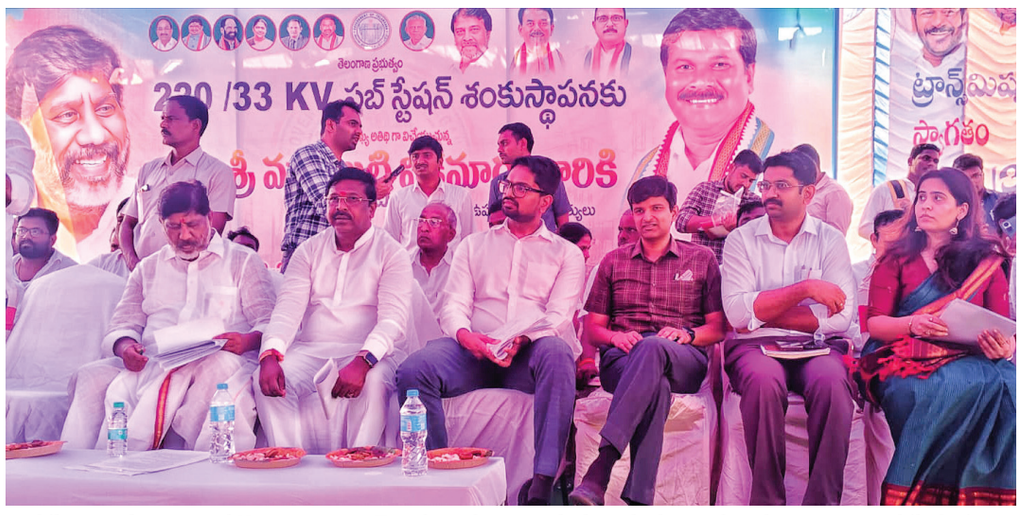
Modernisation Drive Includes Six Key Projects and New Substations to Boost Grid Reliability Across Nagarkurnool District

ACHAMPET, OCTOBER 14

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Energy, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, laid the foundation stones on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, for six major power infrastructure projects totaling ₹70.02 crore in the Achampet constituency. Executed by the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL), these projects are designed to strengthen the regional distribution network, build modern infrastructure to keep pace with rising power demand, and deliver reliable, high-quality electricity across the region.

The project rollout includes key installations across several mandals. Administrative capabilities will be enhanced through the construction of an Achampet Division Office in Achampet Mandal at a cost of ₹1.20 crore to bolster maintenance, local operations, and consumer services. Power supply to rural areas will be expanded through four 33/11 kV substations: the Gajara (Thippareddypally) Substation in Vangoor Mandal (₹3.29 crore, equipped with a 5 MVA transformer to benefit 1,500 consumers in 4 villages), the Achampet IPDS Substation in Achampet Mandal (₹1.28 crore, featuring an 8 MVA transformer serving 7,100 consumers in 8 villages), the Siddapur Substation in Achampet Mandal (₹2.62 crore, equipped with a 5 MVA transformer benefiting 1,010 consumers in 5 villages), and the Ramajipally Substation in Balmur Mandal (₹2.63 crore, featuring a 5 MVA transformer serving 1,950 consumers in 5 villages).

The flagship investment of the package is the Amrabad 220/33 kV Substation, costing ₹59 crore in Amrabad Mandal. This facility includes two power transformers rated at 50 MVA and 31.5 MVA, a



1.5-kilometer-long 220 kV transmission line, and five 33 kV outgoing feeders. Once commissioned, this major substation will significantly reinforce the electricity grid across Achampet, Amrabad, and Padara mandals while offloading demand from seven existing 33/11 kV substations in the surrounding areas.

Together, these newly launched power projects will transform the local electricity network by balancing distribution loads efficiently, eliminating grid overloading issues, stabilizing voltage levels, and minimizing technical transmission losses. The infrastructure ensures a dependable electricity supply to domestic, commercial, and agricultural consumers while laying a resilient foundation for future load expansion.

The initiative builds on substantial investments made in Achampet constituency since December 2023, where a total of ₹339.68 crore has been spent, dividing into ₹74.25 crore for power distribution infrastructure and ₹265.43 crore for welfare programs. During this period, three 33/11 kV substations, 5 power transformers, and 1,219 distribution transformers were installed, alongside 403.39 kilometers of new lines and 5,000 new agricultural power connections. These welfare measures have directly benefited 42,149 farmers through free agricultural electricity and 37,647 households through the Gruha Jyothi scheme.

Across the wider Nagarkurnool district, overall sector spending since December 2023 reached ₹1,014.88 crore, with ₹253.31 crore dedicated to infrastructure and ₹761.57 crore allocated to welfare. This expenditure delivered eight 33/11 kV substations, 30 power transformers, 5,177 distribution transformers, 1,252.20 kilometers of network lines, 15,576 agricultural connections, and covered 1,15,269 families under the Gruha Jyothi scheme. On a broader scale, the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district received ₹3,477 crore in total power sector spending (₹996.29 crore for infrastructure and ₹2,480.51 crore for welfare). Across the entire state of Telangana, TGSPDCL and TGNPDCL together executed ₹39,951 crore in total expenditure (₹7,257 crore on infrastructure and ₹32,694 crore on welfare), adding 174 new 33/11 kV substations, 713 power transformers, 1,09,897 distribution transformers, 40,282 kilometers of network lines, and 2,54,247 agricultural power connections statewide.

The ceremony was attended by prominent dignitaries and senior power corporation officials, including Achampet MLA Chikkudu Vamshikrishna, MLC Kuchukulla Damodar Reddy, Wanaparthy Collector and Adarsha Surabhi In-charge Collector, TGTRANSCO CMD D. Krishna Bhaskar (IAS), TGSPDCL CMD Jitesh V. Patil (IAS), Achampet Sub-Collector Ms./Kum. Saloni Chhabra (IAS), Director of Operations Dr. N. Narsimhulu, Chief Engineer (Rural) Balaswamy, Nagarkurnool Superintending Engineer K. V. Narsimha Reddy, and Divisional Engineer Sudhakar.

Come to the Global Rising Summit

Be a part of achieving the "Rising Telangana" vision

Minister Sridhar Babu at the Samakhya Global Business Meet – 2026



Hyderabad, October 14: Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has invited industrialists, investors, and innovators to participate in the prestigious Telangana Global Rising Summit 2026, which the state government will organize from December 7 to 9, in line with the Telangana Rising – 2047 vision. He called upon them to invest in Telangana and become partners in achieving the goal of "Rising Telangana."

The minister attended the Samakhya Global Business Meet – 2026, organized on Wednesday under the auspices of the Samakhya Chamber of Commerce, as the guest of honour. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu said that the state has set a target of growing its economy to US$3 trillion by 2047. To achieve this goal, the government is focusing on promoting development across all regions of the state, encouraging new industries, and creating a business-friendly environment.

He stated that the government is giving priority to industries, emerging technologies, and innovation so that Telangana can play an even more significant role in the country's economic growth. Along with further developing the IT and technology sectors in Hyderabad, the government is also placing special emphasis on promoting manufacturing industries and agro-based industries in other parts of the state. The minister said that priority is being given to sectors such as IT, pharmaceuticals, life sciences, artificial intelligence (AI), aerospace, defence, and advanced manufacturing. Minister Sridhar Babu urged investors and industrialists to make the most of the Telangana Global Rising Summit 2026 to invest in the state and expand their industries.

We will foil attempts to privatise Singareni: KTR

BRS leader alleges ₹10,000-crore scam, 6,317-crore fund diversion; warns of protests over workers' dues

GODAVARIKHANI (PEDDAPALLI): BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Tuesday accused the Congress government of large-scale irregularities in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), vowing to foil any attempt to privatise the public-sector coal company. Addressing the 'Singareni Workers' Roar' meeting at Singareni Stadium in Godavarikhani, attended by thousands of workers and supporters, KTR alleged a ₹10,000-crore scam and claimed that ₹6,317 crore had been diverted from company funds over two financial years. He demanded a comprehensive probe by the CBI or a sitting judge into alleged irregularities in Naini coal block tenders, site visit certificates, machinery purchases and other operations. Questioning the Naini tender controversy, KTR asked who stood to benefit from the alleged irregularities. He claimed that repeated tender delays had affected coal production and demanded an inquiry into the role of contractors and officials.

KTR alleged that coal production had declined from around 70 million tonnes in December 2023 to 58 million tonnes in the following year. He also claimed that four million tonnes of coal had gone missing and sought an audit of production, stocks and transportation records. He alleged that the state government owed Singareni around ₹60,000 crore in dues and demanded a time-bound plan to clear the payments. KTR accused the Congress government of failing to honour its promises on workers' profit-sharing benefits and demanded payment of pending bonuses and dues. Warning of an agitation, he said the BRS would stage protests outside the residences of Congress MLAs and ministers if workers were denied their rightful benefits. Recalling Singareni's 137-year history and miners' role in the Telangana movement, KTR credited the KCR government with introducing welfare measures and providing dependent employment. He demanded the clearance of pending compassionate appointments and resolution of workers' land-title issues.

KTR alleged that both the Congress and BJP governments were pursuing policies that threatened public-sector enterprises. He vowed that the BRS would oppose Singareni's privatisation and intensify its agitation to protect workers' rights.

"You have only one Brahmastra — KCR," he said, expressing confidence that the BRS would return to power in 2028.





Bandi Sanjay Kumar Leads Special Prayers at Trishakti Temple in Karimnagar

KARIMNAGAR, OCTOBER 14

Special prayers were performed for the Goddess at Trishakti Temple in Karimnagar from the morning under the leadership of Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs. Every year during the Dasara festival, Bandi Sanjay Kumar observes the Goddess's Deeksha (religious vow) and spends ten days at the temple, participating in various religious rituals and offering prayers. This year too, after undertaking the Bhavani Deeksha at the same temple, he participated in special prayers and a homam (sacred fire ritual) today, followed by Dandiya dance programmes. The organisers stated that Bandi Sanjay Kumar has been observing this annual religious vow to the Goddess for the past 16 years.

After serving annadanam (free meals) to thousands of devotees, Dandiya dance programmes were held in the evening. Hundreds of young people participated in the celebrations. Those who attended the programme along with Bandi Sanjay Kumar included local police officials, BJP State Vice-President Jayashree, BJP National Council member Geetha Murthy, State spokesperson Shri Sangappa, local leaders Smt. Manga Reddy, Smt. Suma and Smt. Uma Srinivas, Sumukh and Sukrith, local BJP leaders, and Alapati Lakshmi Narayana, a BJP leader from Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.

Pancha Janya Sankalpa Sabha to Be Held on oct 30



- ***Telangana Rakshana Sena leaders release the event poster***
- ***The Pancha Janya Sankalpa Sabha will be held on the 30th of this month in Indravelli, Adilabad district.***
- ***Senior party leaders unveiled the poster for the meeting on Wednesday at the party office in Banjara Hills.***

Hyderabad, October 14: Under the leadership of party chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha, Pancha Janya Sankalpa Sabhas have already been held in Nizamabad and Kosgi (Kodangal). Following what the party described as the success of these two meetings, the gathering for the undivided Adilabad district is being organized in Indravelli, a place symbolized by the Indravelli Martyrs' Memorial, which represents the struggle for Adivasi self-respect. Party chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha announced the formation of the Telangana Rakshana Sena party on April 25 this year. Since then, she has been regularly engaging with the public.

The party has undertaken several protests and movements to address public issues. At the same time, it has been organizing meetings across the former undivided districts to widely communicate its principal agenda, known as Pancha Janyam, to the public.As part of this initiative, the Pancha Janya Sankalpa Sabha has been scheduled for the 30th of this month in Indravelli. Former minister Boda Janardhan, former MLA Rathod Bapurao, and party leader Kaveti Manohar have been appointed as coordinators responsible for organizing the meeting. Responsibilities for conducting the event have also been assigned to several senior party leaders.

Bathukamma Symbolizes Telangana's Culture and Traditions

Irrigation CE Nagabhushanam and SE Srinivas Inaugurate Bathukamma Celebrations at the Irrigation Department's District Office in Suryapet



Suryapet, October 14: Irrigation Department Chief Engineer Nagabhushanam and Superintending Engineer Srinivas of Suryapet district said that Bathukamma, Telangana's floral festival, reflects the state's rich culture and traditions. They inaugurated the Bathukamma celebrations organized by the Irrigation Department's district office in Suryapet, under the aegis of the Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association (TGOs), on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, they emphasized the need to communicate the significance of Bathukamma, a festival unique to Telangana, to future generations. They expressed happiness over the celebrations being organized at the Suryapet Irrigation Department's office under the aegis of TGOs, noting that the Telangana state government organizes Bathukamma festivities on a grand scale every year.

Later, women employees enthusiastically participated in the celebrations, singing and dancing around the Bathukammas. The floral arrangements were subsequently immersed in a local water tank. Executive Engineers Yadagiri, Satyanarayana and Ram Kishore; Telangana Gazetted Officers' Association Secretary Bhukya Pandu Naik; Deputy Executive Engineers Ramesh, Kiran Kumar, Srinivas, Ravi Kishan and Govindarajulu; Susmitha, Sunitha, Suvarnarekha, Ramakrishna, Harikrishna and Naveekanth; Women's Wing Vice-President Dharavath Swapna; Joint Secretary Malsur; Executive Committee Member Uma Maheshwar; DTO Ravi Kumar; Assistant Executive Engineers Mamatha, Susmitha, Bhavani, Harika, Shruthi, Sujatha, Sandhya, Rubina, Keerthi, Bhavani, Keerthi, Manasa and Saritha; President Venkanna; Senior Assistants Prakash and Krishna; Jayalakshmi, Manasa, Janaki, Rajitha and Balu; and others participated in the programme.

Velichala Rajender Rao Meets AICC Chief Kharge in Delhi

Discusses Strengthening Congress in Karimnagar and Strategy for Upcoming Local Body Elections

KARIMNAGAR, OCT 14

Velichala Rajender Rao, Congress party in-charge for the Karimnagar Assembly constituency, met AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Imran Masood, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee working president and Saharanpur MP, in Delhi on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Rajender Rao briefed Kharge on the initiatives being undertaken to strengthen the Congress party in Karimnagar, efforts to address public grievances and the strategy being implemented to improve the party's prospects in the upcoming local body elections.



Focus on Grassroots-Level Strengthening

Rajender Rao explained the efforts made at the grassroots level to secure victory for the Congress party in the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation elections, highlighting coordination with party leaders and workers. He also stated that he had worked towards ensuring the election of the maximum number of Congress-supported candidates as sarpanches in the Karimnagar Assembly constituency. He said the party was continuing its efforts to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level, with the objective of securing victories for Congress candidates in the forthcoming local body elections.

Priority to Public Grievances

Rajender Rao said he remained accessible to people, party leaders and workers across the constituency and was giving priority to resolving their issues. He explained that public grievances were being identified and brought to the attention of the concerned officials, with continuous follow-up to ensure their resolution.

Welfare Schemes to Reach Eligible Beneficiaries

He also briefed Kharge on the efforts being made to ensure that the welfare and development schemes implemented by the Congress government under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy reached eligible poor and deserving beneficiaries. Rajender Rao said awareness was being created among people about government welfare programmes and that efforts were underway at the field level to ensure eligible beneficiaries received the intended benefits. He reiterated that strengthening the Congress party in Karimnagar, addressing public issues and working collectively to ensure the success of party candidates in the upcoming local body elections remained his key priorities. Rajender Rao said Kharge offered suggestions on continuing efforts to strengthen the party and work with greater commitment towards its organisational growth and performance in the upcoming elections.

International experts inspect Polavaram project works

Team expresses satisfaction over progress; eighth visit to continue until October 17

POLAVARAM, OCTOBER 14





An international team of experts on Wednesday inspected the ongoing construction works on the Earth-Cum-Rock-Fill (ECRF) dam of the Polavaram Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh as part of its eighth visit to the project. The team examined the works being carried out in Gap-1 and Gap-2 of the ECRF dam and subsequently viewed the construction activities from the G Hill View Point. Representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Department and Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) explained the progress of construction in the respective areas. The officials also used a photographic presentation to brief the experts on the works completed so far and the current status of various project components. Officials said the experts had expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved so far during the review held after the first day's inspection.

Review meeting precedes field inspection

The international experts and officials from various divisions of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti arrived in Rajamahendravaram from Delhi before proceeding to the project office at Polavaram. Representatives of the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), the State Water Resources Department and MEIL received them. A review meeting was subsequently held under the chairmanship of PPA Chief Executive Officer Sanjeev Vohra. The officials briefed the team on the progress of construction and the measures taken to implement the recommendations and suggestions made by the experts during their previous visits.

The field inspection of the ECRF dam formed part of the ongoing assessment of the project's construction progress and the implementation of technical recommendations.

Eighth visit to projec

The international experts have already visited the Polavaram project on seven occasions and are undertaking their eighth visit this time. The team had last visited the project in May this year. During the current visit, the experts are reviewing the progress of the works and the action taken on their earlier recommendations. The visit by the international experts and officials of the Central government is scheduled to continue until October 17.

Officials and experts present

The international experts who participated in the review included Richard Donnelly, Gianfranco Di Cicco, Sean Hinchberger and David Paul. Officials from the Central government included Sarabjit Singh Bakshi, Chief Engineer, Designs Division, Central Water Commission; M. Raghuram, Member-Secretary, PPA; A. Praveen, Deputy Director; M. Ramesh Kumar, Chief Engineer; C.H. Sanjeev, Assistant Director; Panneer Selvam, Director, National Water System; Ashwani Kumar Verma and Gaurav Tiwari, Deputy Directors; and Hemant Gautam, Assistant Director. Scientists from the Central Soil and Materials Research Station (CSMRS), Shahid Noor, M.K. Basha and Uday Bhanu Chakraborty, were also present. K.P.S. Tyagi, General Manager, WAPCOS, attended the meeting. Representing the Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Department were M. Venkateswara Rao, Adviser; K. Narasimha Murthy, Engineer-in-Chief; K. Seshubabu, Chief Engineer; P. Ramachandra Rao and D. Tirumala Rao, Superintending Engineers; and D. Srinivas, Prem Chand and K. Balakrishnamurthy, Executive Engineers.

MEIL was represented by A.V. Gangadhar Kumar, General Manager; Murali Pammi, Deputy General Manager; and Thagur Chand, Coordinator, among others.

SC Issues Notices to AP Govt Over Village Merger

Petitions challenge the merger of villages into municipalities and municipal corporations
Petitioners allege that villages were merged without their approval
The Supreme Court has clarified that the merger process will be subject to its final judgment

NEW DELHI:



The Supreme Court has taken up petitions challenging the merger of nearby villages into municipalities and municipal corporations in Andhra Pradesh. The court has issued notices to the Andhra Pradesh government in connection with the matter.

The bench clarified that the process of merging villages into urban local bodies will be subject to its final judgment. The development has brought the issue of municipal expansion and village mergers in the state into focus.

A Supreme Court bench comprising Justice P. S. Narasimha and Justice Alok Aradhe (also spelled Alok Rathe) heard the petitions. The petitioners approached the court opposing the merger of nearby villages into the jurisdiction of various municipalities and municipal corporations in Andhra Pradesh.

Petitioners Allege That Legal Procedures Were Not Followed

The petitioners argued that resolutions and approvals from the respective villages had not been obtained before the villages were merged into municipalities. They also objected that the legally required rules and procedures had not been followed during the merger process.

They challenged the mergers, alleging that decisions had been taken unilaterally without considering the views of the villagers.

Senior advocate Ramakrishna Prasad appeared on behalf of the petitioners, Edulla Subba Reddy and Valle Palli Venkata Subrahmanyam. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta presented arguments on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh government.

Objections to Village Mergers in Several Towns

Petitions have been filed opposing the merger of villages into urban local bodies in several parts of Andhra Pradesh.

The cases include merger-related proceedings involving the following municipalities and municipal corporations:

- Ponnur Municipality
- Srikakulam Municipal Corporation
- Tadepalligudem Municipality
- Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation

The petitioners have also challenged the merger of nearby villages into the municipalities of Palakollu, Kandukur, Bhimavaram, Gudur, and Gudivada.

The petitions also refer to the proposed upgrading of the Rajanagaram area into a higher-level urban local body.

Merger Process Subject to the Supreme Court's Final Judgment

During the hearing, the Supreme Court made an important clarification regarding the dispute over the village mergers. It stated that the process of merging villages into municipalities and municipal corporations would remain subject to its final judgment. The court also issued notices to the Andhra Pradesh government in the matter. The key questions likely to arise in further proceedings include whether the procedure followed for the mergers was legally valid, whether the necessary resolutions and approvals were obtained, and whether the relevant statutory requirements were complied with. The Supreme Court's clarification regarding the merger process will remain significant until the court delivers its final judgment.

However, the Supreme Court has not yet issued a final ruling cancelling the village mergers. Further clarity is expected after the state government submits its response and the court considers the arguments presented by both sides in subsequent hearings.

TGSPDCL Achieves a New Milestone in Quality Standards

Four International Quality Recognitions Mark Another Major Step Forward in Power Distribution
CMD Jitesh Patil Receives the Recognitions from Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 14

The Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) has achieved another significant milestone in the power distribution sector in implementing quality standards, ensuring information security, managing stores, and delivering quality services to consumers. On the occasion of World Standards Day, the organisation received four quality recognitions: ISO 9001 for quality management, ISO 27001 for information security, the Japanese 5S methodology for stores management, and the Quality Mark for delivering quality services to consumers. These recognitions stand as a testament to the company's efforts to improve operational efficiency and service quality. At a programme organised to mark World Standards Day, TGSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Jitesh V. Patil, IAS, received the four recognitions from Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. The programme was held in the presence of ISO auditor Shivaiah. Achampet MLA Chikkudu Vamshikrishna, MLC Kuchukulla Damodar Reddy, Director (Operations) Dr. N. Narasimhaulu, Company Secretary Anil Kumar, Chief Engineer (Rural) Balaswamy and other officials attended the programme.

ISO 9001 for Quality Management

TGSPDCL received the ISO 9001 recognition for effectively implementing quality management systems across its offices and various departments, maintaining records, strengthening internal controls and monitoring mechanisms, improving operational processes, and pursuing continuous improvement. The standard helps the organisation perform its functions in accordance with prescribed benchmarks while continually improving service quality. It also emphasises management practices that promote accountability within the organisation and enable it to provide better services to consumers.

Priority to Information Security

Information security has become extremely important in the present digital era. TGSPDCL received ISO 27001 recognition for adhering to international standards in areas such as IT networks associated with the power distribution system, protection of critical information and data, access control, and cyber threat management. The standard helps safeguard the confidentiality and integrity of the organisation's information while ensuring that information remains available whenever required. With technology being increasingly used across the power distribution system, this recognition assumes particular significance.

Japanese 5S Methodology for Stores Management

TGSPDCL secured another recognition by implementing the Japanese-developed 5S methodology to improve discipline and efficiency in storing and managing equipment and materials required for power distribution. The methodology emphasises cleanliness, systematic organisation, standardisation, discipline, and continuous improvement in stores management. It plays a crucial role in ensuring that materials required for power supply and maintenance activities are properly stored, easily identifiable, accurately recorded, and readily available whenever needed. This approach helps reduce delays in maintenance operations and improves overall operational efficiency.

Quality Mark for Quality Services

TGSPDCL received the Quality Mark in recognition of its efforts over the past five years to provide consumers with quality and reliable electricity services. The recognition reflects the organisation's emphasis on service quality, operational efficiency, continuous improvement, and consumer satisfaction. It is expected to further encourage the company's initiatives aimed at delivering improved services to electricity consumers.

Government Support and Collective Efforts of Employees

Since the formation of the present people's government in Telangana, the state government has accorded priority to the development of the power sector, strengthening infrastructure, adopting modern technologies, and improving services to consumers. The recognitions underscore the importance of the measures being implemented to make the power distribution system more efficient under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. The recognitions also reflect the coordinated efforts of the organisation's officers and employees in adhering to quality standards, strengthening information security, streamlining stores management, and providing better services to consumers. Company sources stated that such achievements are possible only through government support, guidance from senior officials, the dedication of employees working at the field level, and collective efforts across the organisation. Going forward, TGSPDCL aims to further strengthen the power distribution system in accordance with international standards, enhance transparency in management, make effective use of technology, and improve services by according the highest priority to consumer satisfaction. The four quality recognitions not only bring distinction to the organisation but also inspire it to deliver even better services in the future. CMD Jitesh V. Patil stated that the organisation's objective is to strengthen consumer confidence by ensuring that quality is not confined merely to certificates, but is reflected in discipline in every process, accountability in every task, and commitment in every service.



Celebrating Telugu Pride

'Telugu Vaibhavam' Kavi Sammelanam Captivates Palakollu

Over 75 poets, vibrant young literary talents, and prominent leaders unite to honor the ancient glory and cultural soul of the Telugu language

Palakollu, October 14, 2026: The rich heritage and literary depth of the Telugu language took center stage at the 'Telugu Vaibhavam' poetry convention held at Ullamparu's Montessori Educational Institutions. Organized by the Jatiya Telugu Saraswata Parishat, Palakollu, the grand gathering brought together over 75 distinguished poets from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to praise the ancient glory of Telugu literature. \Chief Guest and Rajya Sabha MP Shri Paka Satyanarayana emphasized that culture and traditions form the body of a language, while the language itself is its living soul. He noted that traditional art forms, folklore, and festivals give language its true dignity, and highlighted that ancient Indian civilization and literary giants like Kalidasa predated Western counterparts by centuries. Former MLC Shri Angara Ramamohan underscored reading as the best key to preserving language, while Sri Sri Kalavedika President Kattimanda Pratap highlighted his organization's decade-long efforts in conducting 170 literary events. A special highlight was the performance by 20 young students (aged 8 to 12), whose impressive poetry recitations earned widespread praise and cash encouragements from Shri Areti Prakash. The event concluded with prestigious honors, including Lifetime Achievement Awards (Jeevitha Saphalya Puraskaram) presented to Paka Satyanarayana and Angara Ramamohan, alongside Vagdevi Special Service Awards to several prominent local figures. Organized seamlessly under the leadership of Parishat President Mutyala Srinivas, Executive President Keshiraju Ram Prasad, General Secretary Dr. K.S.P.N. Verma, and Convener Dr. Peddiraju Kolati, the program warmly felicitated all participating poets with mementos and certificates.

Karnataka BJP urges LoP Gandhi to visit drought affected areas; questions Rs 2,500 as relief for farmers

Bengaluru, Oct 14 (SocialNews.XYZ) Senior BJP leader R. Ashoka on Wednesday urged Congress MP and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to visit drought-affected areas of Karnataka, assess the severity of crop losses and intervene to ensure adequate and timely relief for farmers. He also questioned the first instalment of input subsidy of Rs 2,500 per farmer recently given by the state government.



Notably, Karnataka has sought Rs 10,000 crore to Rs 12,000 crore in drought relief from the Centre, while the State Government recently released a first instalment of Rs 2,500 each to around 50 lakh farmers affected by the drought. Under the Centre's National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) norms, farmers are eligible for a total relief of Rs 8,500, comprising the Centre and State shares. However, as the Centre has not yet released its share, the State Government decided to release Rs 2,500 from its own funds as the first instalment. The government has already spent around Rs 1,250 crore to provide the assistance to 50 lakh farmers. In a letter to LoP Gandhi on Wednesday, Ashoka accused the government in Karnataka of failing to provide sufficient assistance to distressed farmers, claiming that even after four months, farmers had not received meaningful relief despite extensive crop losses. He urged LoP Gandhi to seek answers from the state government and direct it to undertake relief measures on a scale comparable to those implemented by the previous BJP government. Ashoka said Karnataka was facing one of its most severe drought situations in recent years, with a 35 per cent deficit in southwest monsoon rainfall, described in his letter as the worst recorded in the state since 1971.The state government has declared 217 taluks drought-affected, with estimated crop losses of Rs 46,324.50 crore across approximately 47.09 lakh hectares, he stated. He said the scale of the damage had severely affected the livelihoods, economic security and future of lakhs of farming families, making immediate government intervention essential. Questioning the state government's decision to provide an input subsidy of Rs 2,500 per farmer as a first instalment, Ashoka said the amount was inadequate even to meet the basic cost of preparing agricultural land.Considering the extent of crop losses, rising agricultural debt and increasing cultivation costs, the assistance announced by the government would offer little meaningful relief to farmers who had lost an entire season's income, he argued. "Real and effective support is needed, not just support in name," Ashoka said in the letter, adding that the government must demonstrate its commitment to farmers through adequate financial assistance rather than announcements. To support his argument, Ashoka cited the assistance provided by the previous BJP government between 2019-20 and 2022-23. According to the figures mentioned in his letter, the government disbursed a total of Rs 6,651.15 crore in input subsidies to 51.90 lakh farmers for crop losses across 57.43 lakh hectares. In 2019, crop losses were recorded across 9,72,517 hectares, and Rs 1,232.20 crore was provided to 6,71,314 farmers. In 2020, losses affected 19,68,247 hectares, with Rs 941.70 crore disbursed to 12,00,346 farmers. In 2021, the government provided Rs 2,446.10 crore to 18,56,083 farmers for crop losses across 14,93,811 hectares. In 2022, Rs 2,031.15 crore was disbursed to 14,62,841 farmers for losses across 13,09,421 hectares, Ashoka stated.

He also cited the relief rates applicable during the previous government's tenure, arguing that they were substantially higher than the assistance currently announced by the state government.

According to the letter, the rates for rain-fed crops were Rs 13,600 per hectare, including Rs 8,500 from SDRF/NDRF funds and Rs 5,100 as the state's share. For irrigated crops, the assistance was Rs 25,000 per hectare, comprising Rs 17,000 from SDRF/NDRF funds and Rs 8,000 from the state government.

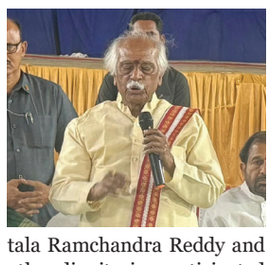
For perennial crops, the rate was Rs 28,000 per hectare, including Rs 22,500 from SDRF/NDRF funds and Rs 4,500 as the state's share, he said. Ashoka questioned why the current government was providing only Rs 2,500 per farmer despite the severity of the ongoing drought, when the previous government had disbursed substantial assistance during earlier droughts. He urged the government to explain why it had not extended comparable support to farmers in the state.

Ashoka also criticised the delay in identifying and declaring drought-affected areas, saying farmers could not wait for administrative procedures while their crops dried up and their financial liabilities continued to mount. He said agricultural loans, cultivation expenses and household needs did not wait for government notifications, and every delay in decision-making risked pushing vulnerable farming families into deeper economic distress. The Opposition leader also pointed to concerns reportedly expressed by some Congress legislators over delays in declaring their constituencies drought-affected. He said such concerns raised questions about the government's preparedness, administrative response and commitment to protecting farmers during a crisis. Merely announcing relief would not be sufficient if the assistance remained inadequate, drought-hit areas were identified late and farmers continued to struggle to meet their basic needs, he argued.



Bandaru Dattatraya Attends Preparatory Meeting for Alai Balai–2026

Hyderabad, October 14, 2026: Former Governor Shri Bandaru Dattatraya attended the preparatory meeting for Alai Balai–2026 as the Chief Guest at the Exhibition Grounds, Nampally, Hyderabad, on October 14, 2026. The meeting was presided over by Smt. Bandaru Vijayalakshmi, Chairperson of the Alai Balai Foundation. BJP General Secretary Shri N. Gowtham Rao, former MLA Shri Chintala Ramchandra Reddy and other dignitaries participated in the meeting and reviewed the arrangements for the event.



EDITORIAL

The Attention Economy Is Becoming a Public Health Challenge

The most valuable commodity in the digital age is no longer information, but human attention. Every notification, autoplay video, trending topic and personalised feed competes for a share of our time. What appears to be a matter of personal choice is increasingly shaped by digital platforms designed to keep users engaged. This makes the attention economy not merely a technological concern, but a growing public health challenge.

Smartphones and social media have transformed communication, learning and access to information. They connect families across distances, provide educational opportunities and give people platforms to express themselves. The problem begins when meaningful use gives way to compulsive scrolling, constant distraction and an inability to disengage. Sleep suffers, concentration weakens and face-to-face relationships can become secondary to virtual interactions.

The risks are particularly significant for children and adolescents, whose emotional and cognitive development is still underway. The World Health Organization's 2024 report on adolescents across 44 countries and regions found that problematic social media use increased from 7% in 2018 to 11% in 2022. Such findings warrant attention, although the relationship between digital use and mental health is complex and does not establish that screen time alone causes psychological distress. A WHO policy brief in 2025 called for coordinated action to make digital environments safer for young people. The challenge extends beyond the young. Adults struggle to concentrate on work, remain available to family members or enjoy uninterrupted rest. The constant flow of alarming headlines, online arguments and carefully curated lifestyles can encourage anxiety, social comparison and information fatigue. When every idle moment is filled by a screen, opportunities for reflection, physical activity and genuine social connection diminish.

It would be simplistic to blame users for lacking discipline. Digital platforms operate within an attention-driven business model in which engagement can translate into advertising revenue. Features such as endless scrolling, autoplay and frequent notifications make continued use effortless. Asking individuals to exercise restraint while leaving these incentives untouched places the burden on the wrong shoulders. Governments, technology companies, educational institutions and families must share responsibility. Platforms should provide meaningful controls over notifications, recommendation systems and usage limits, while making their design practices more transparent. Independent researchers need access to reliable data to assess the effects of digital products, particularly on vulnerable users. Schools should teach digital literacy alongside conventional education, helping children distinguish useful engagement from harmful habits. Families and workplaces, meanwhile, can encourage screen-free meals, protected sleep hours and regular offline activities.

Regulation must remain evidence-based and proportionate. Technology itself is not the enemy, and blanket restrictions may overlook its educational, social and professional benefits. The objective should be to make digital spaces healthier without undermining freedom of expression or access to information. Public health campaigns once challenged tobacco use and promoted road safety by recognising that individual behaviour is influenced by the surrounding environment. The attention economy demands a similar shift in thinking. Personal responsibility matters, but responsible design and public accountability matter too.

A society constantly connected is not necessarily a society that communicates better. Progress should be measured not by how long people remain online, but by whether technology improves the quality of their lives. Human attention is finite, and protecting it is essential to protecting mental well-being, meaningful relationships and the freedom to think without interruption.

The Genetic Crossroads: Balancing Food Security with Ecological Integrity

" Emerging genome-editing techniques, including CRISPR-Cas systems, offer additional possibilities for developing crops with targeted genetic changes. "

Feeding a growing global population amid climate change and mounting pressure on natural resources is one of the defining challenges of the twenty-first century. Agricultural biotechnology, particularly genetically modified (GM) crops, offers potential solutions by introducing or modifying genetic traits to improve pest resistance, nutritional value and tolerance to environmental stresses. Yet, whether these technologies can strengthen food security without compromising ecological stability remains a subject of scientific, economic and public debate.

The case for GM crops rests on the need to make agriculture more productive and resilient. Water scarcity, soil degradation, extreme weather and pest outbreaks threaten agricultural production worldwide. Certain genetically modified varieties can help address these challenges by reducing crop losses and, in some cases, lowering the need for chemical insecticides. Biofortification offers another potential benefit. Golden Rice, engineered to produce beta-carotene, illustrates an approach designed to help address vitamin A deficiency. Its contribution, however, depends on nutritional effectiveness, accessibility, regulatory approval and integration with broader public health measures. Genetic engineering may also improve tolerance to drought, salinity and heat, although the effectiveness of these traits varies across crops and growing conditions.

Despite these potential benefits, GM crops raise legitimate ecological concerns. The widespread cultivation of genetically uniform varieties can contribute to the displacement of locally adapted crops and reduce agricultural biodiversity, weakening resilience to environmental change. Herbicide-tolerant crops may encourage repeated use of particular herbicides, accelerating the evolution of resistant weeds, while pest-resistant varieties can lose effectiveness as target insects develop resistance. Certain genetic traits may also affect non-target organisms, including beneficial insects and soil organisms, depending on the crop and the ecological context. These risks are not uniform across all GM crops, nor are they exclusive to genetic engineering; conventional monocultures and intensive farming can create similar problems. Their management therefore requires crop-specific risk assessments, biodiversity conservation, integrated pest management and long-term environmental monitoring.



The economic implications of agricultural biotechnology are equally significant. Patented seeds and concentrated market power can affect seed prices, farmers' choices and access to agricultural innovation. Where growers depend heavily on commercial suppliers and associated inputs, production costs and financial vulnerability may increase. Intellectual property arrangements can also influence traditional seed-saving and exchange practices, although the extent of these restrictions depends on applicable laws, licensing conditions and the crop concerned. Public investment in agricultural research, transparent licensing and support for locally adapted varieties can help prevent technological progress from deepening inequalities between large commercial producers and small-scale farmers.

The central policy challenge is to evaluate agricultural biotechnology on the strength of evidence rather than ideological preference. Decisions should account for yield performance, nutritional benefits, environmental effects, production costs and the distribution of benefits. Independent research, transparent field trials and publicly accessible safety assessments are essential to credible regulation. Research should also examine how modified crops perform under different climatic and ecological conditions, rather than extrapolating from limited trials. Farmers, consumers and local communities need clear information about the benefits, limitations and uncertainties associated with these technologies.

Emerging genome-editing techniques, including CRISPR-Cas systems, offer additional possibilities for developing crops with targeted genetic changes. Some approaches can modify existing DNA without introducing genetic material from another organism. Such modifications may avoid certain concerns associated with foreign DNA, but they do not automatically eliminate every potential risk. Unintended genetic changes and altered plant characteristics may still warrant assessment. Regulation should therefore be proportionate to the specific modification and its potential effects, while maintaining robust standards of safety and transparency.

Ultimately, neither unconditional acceptance nor blanket rejection of genetic engineering adequately addresses the challenges facing global agriculture. GM crops can contribute to food security when their benefits are demonstrated, their risks are appropriately managed and their advantages are widely accessible. However, biotechnology cannot replace sustainable soil management, efficient water use, diverse cropping systems, equitable food distribution or investment in rural livelihoods. Food security depends not merely on how much food agriculture produces, but also on whether production remains environmentally sustainable, economically viable and capable of nourishing future generations.



K AMARAVATI
MEMBER
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Drying Fields, Stressed Power Systems

El Niño Triggers Severe Multi-District Drought Across Telangana as State Deploys Emergency Action Plan and War Room

Telangana is confronting one of its most challenging climate emergencies in recent memory, as an acute rainfall shortfall driven by the El Niño phenomenon has left vast swathes of the state grappling with severe water scarcity, depleted irrigation reserves, and extraordinary pressure on the electrical power grid. The southwest monsoon, which officially concluded at the end of September, recorded a total cumulative rainfall of roughly 615 mm against the state's historical normal benchmark of approximately 740 mm. This represents a significant 17 percent overall deficit across the state. While meteorological classifications technically categorize the statewide percentage as near-normal, the localized reality on the ground is drastically harsher. Out of Telangana's 33 districts, an alarming 18 districts have logged severe rainfall deficits, plunging expansive rural agricultural belts and semi-urban communities into acute moisture stress.

Detailed state assessments indicate that severe drought-like conditions have taken hold across approximately 215 to 235 mandals, with independent localized surveys suggesting the number of severely impacted mandals could be even higher across the 18 suffering districts. This widespread moisture deficit spans multiple crucial agricultural belts, raising immediate alarm among farming communities and policymakers over massive impending crop losses, shrinking rural incomes, and overall agrarian distress. Cultivators who planted standing crops in anticipation of late-monsoon showers now find their fields dried out and their crops withering, while rural daily wage laborers face a sharp decline in agricultural employment opportunities at a critical stage of the cropping season.

The vulnerability of Telangana's rural infrastructure is most visible in the state's minor irrigation tank network, which serves as both a primary surface water source for localized agriculture and a vital mechanism for regional groundwater recharge. Of the more than 21,500 minor tanks continuously monitored across the state, roughly 17,700 held less than half of their normal storage capacity by early October. Even more concerningly, nearly 13,000 of these tanks have either completely dried up into baked mud beds or retain less than a quarter of their live storage volume. The total stored water across the entire minor irrigation system has plummeted to roughly 94 tmc ft, standing at a fraction of its total combined capacity of nearly 254 tmc ft. Concurrently, major and medium surface reservoirs along the Krishna and Godavari river basins have reported stagnant inflows, pushing several key multi-purpose projects dangerously close to their designated dead storage thresholds.

With surface reservoirs and minor tanks failing to provide required irrigation, the agricultural sector has been forced to rely heavily on underground aquifers, triggering a sharp decline in groundwater tables statewide. On average, groundwater levels have fallen by more than two metres across the affected regions, compelling farmers to sink deeper borewells or run existing submersible pumps for extended hours. This desperate push for subterranean extraction has exerted unprecedented load demand on the state's electrical power transmission grid. Agriculture-driven power consumption has surged rapidly, pushing peak electricity demand across Telangana to record-breaking highs near 19,900 MW. Although the state grid has managed to avoid complete blackouts so far, power authorities acknowledge that open-market power procurement options remain severely constrained and expensive.

The resulting pressure on power infrastructure has sparked widespread discontent across rural agrarian belts. In districts such as Siddipet, Medak, and Nalgonda, farmers report receiving irregular and truncated three-phase agricultural electricity supplies, frequently restricted to fewer than eight hours a day. Furthermore, persistent low-voltage fluctuations are damaging heavy pump motors, placing an extra financial burden on struggling farm households. Pushed to the brink of losing their standing crops, frustrated cultivators have organized public protests, road blockades, and sit-in demonstrations outside regional electrical substations to demand a guaranteed, continuous, and high-voltage power supply necessary to keep their fields hydrated.

Beyond the agricultural sphere, the compounding effects of low surface water storage and receding water tables have begun to severely impact drinking water security for



millions of residents. Urban municipalities and rural Panchayats alike report growing operational difficulties in maintaining daily municipal supply schedules. Towns and villages throughout the deficit districts are finding themselves increasingly dependent on emergency interventions, such as ramping up extraction through the Mission Bhagiratha piped supply scheme, drilling deep emergency municipal borewells, and mobilizing fleet water tankers to service distressed neighborhoods where local surface sources have dried up.

In response to the mounting emergency, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has stepped in to lead a comprehensive, multi-departmental government response, explicitly warning that the next eight months represent a critical period that will decide the state's water and energy security. During high-level review meetings with Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, DGP C.V. Anand, and key department heads, the Chief Minister mandated the creation of an integrated action plan spanning agriculture, irrigation, municipal drinking supply, and power distribution. A dedicated state-level war room alongside a public toll-free helpline is being established to actively track reservoir levels, grid stress, and local drinking water complaints on a daily, real-time basis. Senior officers in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) have been assigned to directly monitor power distribution metrics around the clock to prevent unannounced load-shedding in vulnerable farming clusters. The administration has also instructed power utilities to explore the temporary postponement of electricity-intensive non-essential activities wherever possible to save energy for agriculture and domestic consumers.

On the policy and relief front, the Telangana government has taken decisive executive and legislative action to secure external support and protect rural livelihoods. The state Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted an official resolution requesting the Central Government to formally declare the identified 215-plus mandals as drought-affected and release an emergency special financial relief package of ₹20,000 crore. To buffer rural households against widespread economic hardship, the Chief Minister has urged the Centre to grant an additional 50 days of employment under the rural employment guarantee scheme (VB-GRAM G) beyond the standard allocation, with the state government expressing full readiness to facilitate the extra workdays. Furthermore, officials are finalizing targeted interventions based on inputs from cabinet sub-committees, subject experts, and farmers' organizations to ensure standing crops receive sufficient water right up until the harvest is completed.

Recognizing that administrative measures alone cannot solve a macro-environmental deficit, the government is launching an aggressive public awareness and community conservation movement. An extensive educational campaign will roll out across rural and urban centers to inform citizens about the lasting impacts of El Niño and the imperative of extreme water and power conservation. The state plans to utilize public broadcasting networks, regional television channels, cinema hall advertisements, and traditional street theatre (Janapadha) performances to reach every community. By involving local civic bodies, farmers' organizations, and political leaders as partners, the administration aims to make citizens active participants in preventing water wastage, managing shared groundwater extraction, and ensuring the state successfully navigates this prolonged dry spell.

An insightful video covering CM Revanth Reddy's urgent review of the El Niño impact and the state's 17% rain deficit can be viewed via this Telangana El Nino Review Video. This video provides direct news coverage and visual context regarding Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's emergency response plan and the rainfall shortfall affecting Telangana.



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Bathukamma, Dandiya and Garba Celebrations Held in Grand Style at Malla Reddy University

Hyderabad, October 14: Celebrating the richness of Telangana's culture and traditions, Malla Reddy Group of Universities organized grand Bathukamma, Dandiya, and Garba festivities. More than 15,000 female students participated in the spectacular celebrations, with a magnificent 65-foot-tall Bathukamma emerging as the event's major highlight. The event stood out as one of the largest Bathukamma celebrations organized in Telangana. Popular film actress Sreeleela and Mrs. Kavya, wife of Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Government of India, Sri G. Kishan Reddy, attended the celebrations as chief guests. Sri Chamakura Malla Reddy, Medchal MLA and Founder Chairman of Malla Reddy Group of Universities, also participated along with his family members. The event was attended by Mrs. Mahender Reddy, Mrs. Shalini Mahender Reddy, Dr. Bhadra Reddy, Dr. Preethi Reddy, and Mrs. Mamatha Reddy. The celebrations continued in a vibrant and enthusiastic atmosphere in the presence of university management, faculty members, staff, and students. Several academic leaders also participated in the festivities, including Dr. V. S. K. Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of Malla Reddy University; Professor P. Ravinder Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of Malla Reddy Deemed-to-be University; Professor Anil Kaul, Vice-Chancellor of Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth; Dr. Y. Madhavi Latha, Principal of Malla Reddy Engineering College for Women; and Dr. Vaka Murali Mohan, Principal of Malla Reddy College of Engineering and Technology, among others. Speaking on the occasion, Sri Chamakura Malla Reddy, Founder Chairman of Malla Reddy Group of Universities, said that Telangana's culture and traditions were a matter of pride for everyone and that preserving and passing them on to future generations was a collective responsibility.

Adityanath: Kovind's Autobiography

Inspires Through Adversity

LUCKNOW, OCT 14



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said the autobiography of former President Ram Nath Kovind is a "source of inspiration" for the new generation and described how the latter never used adversity as an excuse while growing up. The Chief Minister made the remarks during the launch of the Hindi edition of the former President's autobiography 'Bharatiya Ganatantra Ki Vijaygatha: Mera Jeevan, Mera Sangharsh', in Lucknow. Addressing a gathering during the event, he urged the youth to step out of the virtual world of social media and connect with books. Noting that people today spend five to seven hours on smartphones and social media, he said: "If even one or two of those hours were dedicated to reading good books, it could give a new direction to their lives. Advancing in real life is far more beneficial than chasing 'likes' by creating reels on social media. Good books serve as life's most important guides. Young people should read the biographies and autobiographies of great figures, as these provide the inspiration to move forward amidst struggles."

Chief Minister Adityanath described Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography as the "life story of an Indian who never used adversity as a shield but instead paved the way to the country's highest constitutional office through struggle, hard work, and determined effort"."This autobiography will serve as a source of inspiration for the new generation," he added. The UP CM mentioned that Ram Nath Kovind, born in Paraukh village in Kanpur, lost his mother during his childhood. "He began his education at the village school and, after pursuing higher education and becoming a lawyer, became a voice for the poor and the marginalised. He discharged responsibilities within the BJP organisation, the Rajya Sabha, and as the Governor of Bihar and the President of India...True greatness lies in possessing the spirit to struggle; confronting adverse circumstances rather than fleeing from them is the hallmark of greatness," the Chief Minister stated. CM Adityanath further said that even after attaining the highest constitutional office, Ram Nath Kovind has maintained a deep bond with his birthplace, Paraukh. "He visits the village whenever the opportunity arises and has kept his relationships alive with old friends and local tea and chaat vendors. He made efforts to develop educational facilities in the village; the local school building was upgraded and handed over to the state government, subsequently being developed into a residential school," he said.

Citing the example of Lord Ram's love for his birthplace, Ayodhya, Chief Minister Adityanath remarked that one's mother and birthplace are "even greater than heaven". Meanwhile, the UP CM said that libraries are being established in every Gram Panchayat across the state. "So far, 57,600 Gram Sachivalayas (village secretariats) have been constructed in the state. Each of these includes a designated room for a library where village children are studying. Digital libraries are also being developed. Library facilities are being expanded across all levels of education -- from basic and secondary schools to colleges and universities," he said while adding that the former President's autobiography should also reach these libraries on a large scale, assuring that the government would make efforts to ensure this happens.

Referring to the book fairs organised by the National Book Trust, Chief Minister Adityanath mentioned that, initially, the organisers had harboured doubts about who would buy books in the current era. "When a book fair was held in Lucknow, a large number of people attended. Subsequently, even more books were sold in Gorakhpur. Recently, the book fair organised at the Lucknow University campus also saw significant participation from the youth and students," he said. Maintaining that people do have an interest in reading, he said: "What is needed is to provide them with the right platform."



16-year-old girl rescued ahead of wedding to 50-year-old man in UP

LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 14

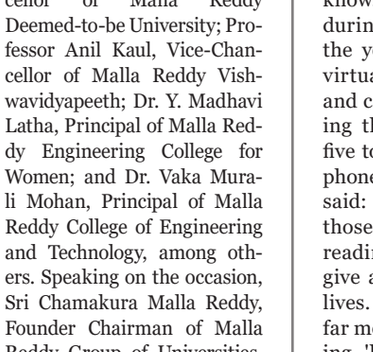
A 16-year-old girl was rescued in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district after a marriage to a 50-year-old widower, fixed in exchange for Rs 5 lakh, was stopped ahead of the scheduled wedding on October 15. The girl's family had accepted the money for the marriage, according to Prayatna, a partner organisation of Just Rights for Children (JRC), India's largest NGO network working for child protection. The wedding preparations were nearly complete, and the 'haldi' ceremony was scheduled for October 14 when a joint team of police, local administration, and Prayatna intervened. The team discovered rituals were already underway at a house where the girl had been brought. As authorities arrived, her family members fled, leaving the girl behind. The house belonged to a middleman involved in arranging the marriage, who also managed to evade the police, while his wife and children were at the premises. The girl was later rescued and taken to a One Stop Centre, with further legal action currently underway. Gaurishankar Chaudhary, project manager at Prayatna, noted that the prospective groom was a widower. "This is not just a case of child marriage. There is also an element of trafficking as money was exchanged for the marriage. No child should ever be treated as a commodity. Every girl deserves the chance to grow up, continue her education and decide her own future, rather than have her life determined by a transaction," he said. Prayatna, a partner of Just Rights for Children (JRC) works with more than 300 partner organisations across 782 districts to protect children from abuse, trafficking and child marriage. In her statement to the police, the girl revealed her family had brought her to the location under false pretenses and that she had no idea a marriage was being arranged for her. She realised what was happening only after reaching the premises, where wedding preparations were already underway. Confirming that the 'haldi' ceremony was set for that day and the wedding procession was expected on October 15, she expressed relief after the intervention, saying, "You arrived just in time and helped me immensely." Nakhasa station house officer Sanjay Kumar and outpost in-charge Ravindra Chaudhary acted promptly upon receiving the tip-off, successfully preventing the wedding.

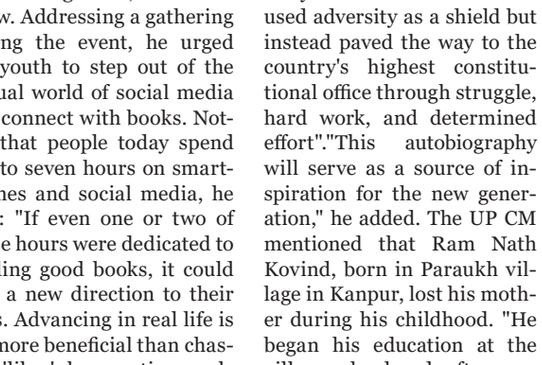
NFR RPF STRENGTHENS PASSENGER SECURITY WITH

FOCUSED INITIATIVES FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

Dedicated 'Meri Saheli' teams at 22 major stations, escorting of 45 trains daily and sustained action against offenders reinforce women's security across Northeast Frontier Railway

MALIGAON, 14 TH OCTOBER, 2026





The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) continues to strengthen passenger security through sustained vigilance, dedicated women-centric initiatives and prompt grievance redressal. Special emphasis is being laid on ensuring the safety, dignity and confidence of women passengers, particularly those travelling alone, through preventive measures, onboard security and timely assistance. A key initiative in this direction is 'Meri Saheli', under which dedicated teams have been deployed at 22 major stations across NFR. These teams interact with women passengers, particularly those travelling alone, provide necessary assistance and offer reassurance to make their journeys safer and more comfortable. In addition, RPF personnel escort an average of 45 trains daily across NFR, including 13 Mail/Express trains covered by mixed escort teams comprising male and female RPF personnel. These measures strengthen the security presence onboard trains and facilitate prompt assistance to passengers in need. To prevent unauthorized entry into ladies' compartments, RPF regularly conducts special drives against male passengers violating railway rules. During the period from January to September 2026, 2,466 persons were apprehended and prosecuted under Section 162 of the Railways Act. Further, between 19 June and 30 September 2026, 219 persons were apprehended and penalties amounting to approximately ₹4.9 lakh were realised under the Jan Vishwas Act. These enforcement measures reinforce efforts to maintain a safe and comfortable travel environment for women passengers. Under Operation 'Matrishakti', which focuses on assisting pregnant women passengers requiring help during childbirth, RPF personnel, particularly women officials, have played a significant role in providing timely assistance. During the current year, RPF personnel assisted in two childbirth cases on railway premises, demonstrating their commitment to extending support during emergencies. To enhance awareness about railway safety and the assistance available to women passengers, awareness videos are also being regularly shared through the social media handles of RPF/NFR and the official social media platforms of NFR. RPF/NFR has also intensified its efforts to protect vulnerable passengers and combat human trafficking. Under Operation 'Nanhe Farishtey', 591 children, comprising 387 boys and 204 girls, were rescued from trains and railway premises between January and September 2026. These children were found to be runaway, left behind, destitute or missing. During the same period, RPF/NFR rescued 22 persons from trafficking, including 13 minors (eight boys and five girls) and nine women, while apprehending 10 alleged traffickers. These initiatives underscore RPF's commitment to safeguarding children, women and other vulnerable individuals from exploitation and distress. In another significant initiative, RPF/NFR has leveraged the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal to trace lost or stolen mobile phones. A total of 2,437 mobile phones have been traced, of which 352 have been recovered, with 21 criminals arrested in connection with these cases. RPF has also continued its drive against nuisance and disorderly conduct on railway premises. During the first nine months of 2026, 1,023 persons were apprehended and prosecuted under Section 145 of the Railways Act for creating nuisance. RPF/NFR has maintained a proactive approach towards addressing passenger grievances received through Rail Madad. During September 2026, the force received complaints relating to 321 cases of luggage left behind, 52 cases of nuisance by passengers, seven complaints of misbehaviour with women passengers, 126 cases involving missing or non-responsive passengers and 27 cases concerning unauthorized persons in ladies', disabled or reserved coaches. RPF personnel responded promptly to these complaints and resolved the reported issues, reinforcing the importance of effective grievance redressal and responsive passenger assistance. Further strengthening passenger security, RPF/NFR registered 434 cases of theft of passenger belongings between January and September 2026. Of these, 241 cases were detected, leading to the arrest of 315 criminals. These efforts reflect the force's continued focus on preventing crime and protecting passengers and their belongings across the railway network. Through dedicated women-safety initiatives, regular train escorting, strict enforcement against offenders, rescue operations and prompt grievance redressal, RPF/NFR remains committed to providing a safer and more secure railway environment. Its sustained efforts reaffirm the priority accorded to passenger safety, with particular focus on women, children and other vulnerable sections of society.

JP Nadda accuses Kharge of spreading false claims on electoral rolls, defends HM Shah

NEW DELHI, OCT 14

BJP leader and Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, JP Nadda, on Wednesday strongly criticised Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, accusing him of lying over remarks linked to Home Minister Amit Shah and the electoral rolls.

Nadda asserted that Shah had never labelled 13.39 crore Indians as "infiltrators." In a post, he clarified the Election Commission's position on the draft electoral rolls.

He stated that the 13.39 crore names were not a final exclusion list but were marked under the absent/shifted/dead/duplicate (ASDD) category. The breakdown, according to him, included 2.80 crore deceased persons, 6.30 crore who had permanently shifted, 3.01 crore marked absent, and 1.02 crore duplicates. Nadda dismissed attempts to attribute the BJP's and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. He noted that SIR only came into effect after 2024, while the Congress has failed to win elections in Gujarat for 31 years, has not produced a Chief Minister in Tripura for 33 years, and has not secured victory in West Bengal for 54 years. He said the Congress's rejection by voters in states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra reflected a loss of public trust that could not be reversed through "misleading propaganda and negative politics." Nadda urged Rahul Gandhi and the Congress to focus on earning the people's confidence rather than using SIR as a "pretext to shield infiltrators and spread confusion." Reiterating confidence in the ruling alliance, the Union Minister declared that public trust rests with PM Modi, the BJP and the NDA. He predicted that the NDA would form the government with a massive majority in 2029, while the Congress would suffer its fourth consecutive national defeat. "The reality of the public mandate cannot be altered by mere allegations," he said. The remarks come amid ongoing political debate over the revision of electoral rolls and allegations surrounding the identification of voters under the ASDD categories.

Savarkar Case: Surveillance Fears Raised

PUNE: (OCT 14)

Satyaki Savarkar, the grandnephew of V D Savarkar, has alleged that his cross-examination in the criminal defamation case filed by him against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is being prolonged by the defence and has apprehended that he is being followed or kept under surveillance.

Satyaki Savarkar on Wednesday filed a "pursis" before Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Amol Shinde of the special MP/MLA Court in Pune alleging that the defence is prolonging his cross-examination for nearly 10 months, asking several questions which are irrelevant to the proceedings, his lawyer said.

Pursis is a written statement or formal notice which serves to update the court records, convey new information, or request a specific procedural action.

Forest Patrol Team Seizes 49 Deodar Wood Pieces Being Transported Illegally in Uttarkashi

Vehicle Impounded After Driver Abandons Pickup and Flees; Forest Department Initiates Legal Action Under Indian Forest Act, 1927

SUNIL THAPLIYAL





Barkot/Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand | In a significant action against forest-related offences, a forest patrol team of the Upper Yamuna Forest Division, Barkot, seized 49 pieces of deodar wood products allegedly being transported illegally and impounded the vehicle used for transportation. The estimated market value of the seized material is approximately ₹1 lakh. The driver reportedly abandoned the vehicle and fled from the spot after noticing the approaching patrol team. According to the Forest Department, the action was carried out during a routine night patrol in the Rawain Range under the direction of Divisional Forest Officer Ajay Lingwal and the guidance of Sub-Divisional Forest Officer Sadhu Lal Paliyal. The patrol was part of ongoing efforts to prevent forest offences and curb the illegal transportation of forest produce.

During the night patrol in the Bigaradi Beat area, along the Gadoli–Pauti motor road, the team noticed a pickup vehicle approaching from Gadoli towards Pauti Bridge near the Primary Health Centre at Saradi. The patrol personnel attempted to stop the vehicle for inspection. However, upon noticing the forest officials approaching, the driver stopped the pickup at some distance, abandoned it and fled from the scene. The forest personnel subsequently searched the vehicle and discovered 49 pieces of deodar wood products of various sizes, including door panels, window panels and ventilator panels. Suspecting illegal transportation, the team took the vehicle and the seized material into its custody for further investigation.

Legal Proceedings Initiated

Forest Range Officer Ashish Nautiyal stated that a case has been registered against the concerned vehicle driver under the relevant provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The vehicle has been impounded, and further legal proceedings are underway.

The Forest Department is continuing its efforts to prevent illegal activities involving forest produce and strengthen surveillance through regular patrolling, particularly during night hours.

Forest Patrol Team

The patrol team included Forest Guards Jayveer Rana and Satish Rawat; Beat Officers Sandeep Uniyal, Ankit Rana and Ajit Singh Chauhan; Beat Assistant Yashwant Singh Rawat; and government vehicle driver Rajveer.

Cabinet approves Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) for 78 days to Railway Employees

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved payment of PLB of 78 days for Rs.2009.61 crore to 11,40,770 railway employees, in recognition of the excellent performance by the Railway staff. Payment of PLB to eligible railway employees is made each year before the Durga Puja/Dusshera holidays. This year also, PLB amount equivalent to 78 days' wages is being paid to about 11.40 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees. The payment of PLB acts as an incentive to motivate the railway employees for working towards improvement in the performance of the Railways.

The maximum amount payable per eligible railway employee is Rs.17,951/- for 78 days. The above amount will be paid to various categories, of Railway staff like Track maintainers, Loco Pilots, Train Managers (Guards), Station Masters, Supervisors, Technicians, Technician Helpers, Pointsman, Ministerial staff and other Group 'C staff.

The performance of Railways in the year 2025-26 was very good. Railways loaded a record cargo of 1670 Million Tonnes and carried nearly 7.41 Billion Passengers.

Taiwan to buy 30% of Alaska LNG: Trump

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has announced that Taiwan has agreed to purchase 30 per cent of the natural gas produced by a major Alaska pipeline project for the next 20 years and invest an additional $4.4 billion, describing the agreement as a significant boost to American energy exports and infrastructure development.

Addressing an election rally in Wasilla, Alaska, Trump said the Taiwanese commitment would help secure the commercial future of the proposed 800-mile pipeline, which his administration is promoting as one of the largest energy infrastructure projects in the United States.

"Taiwan has just agreed to buy 30 per cent of the gas coming off the pipeline for the next 20 years," Trump told supporters. He said the long-term purchase arrangement would provide financial certainty for the project and strengthen its prospects.

"Will also invest $4.4 billion into the project, on top of $50 billion already committed by South Korea to Alaska," the President said.



The announcement places Taiwan and South Korea at the centre of Washington's plans to develop Alaska's natural gas resources and expand energy exports to Asian markets.

Trump said his administration had completed the federal permitting process for the pipeline, removing what he described as a longstanding obstacle to its construction.

"Every single permit that you need has been granted," he said.

The President credited Republican Senator Dan Sullivan of Alaska with helping advance the project and said the administration had worked for years to bring it closer to construction.

He also linked the pipeline to his broader policy of expanding domestic energy production, attracting foreign investment and reducing energy costs for American households. According to Trump, the project would create more than 13,000 jobs and save a typical Alaskan household more than $2,000 annually on energy bills.

US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who accompanied Trump to the rally, provided additional details about the negotiations with Taiwan and South Korea. Lutnick said discussions with the Taiwanese government had taken place during the preceding week.

"All week we were working with the Taiwanese government, and they agreed to buy 30 per cent of everything produced on that line," he said.

He also said South Korea had committed $50.1 billion towards construction of the pipeline.

"They will invest $4.4 billion on top of the Koreans to make sure this line gets built," Lutnick said, referring to Taiwan.

The Commerce Secretary credited Trump with pushing officials to strengthen the project after its announcement at the White House.

Trump presented the agreement as part of a broader effort to bring foreign investment into the United States while expanding American manufacturing and energy production.

The President also criticised Taiwan over the historical shift of semiconductor manufacturing from the United States to the island, arguing that American trade policies had previously failed to protect domestic chip production.

He said his administration's tariff policies were now encouraging companies to move manufacturing operations back to the United States.

The Alaska LNG project is intended to transport natural gas from Alaska's North Slope to the state's southern coast, where it could be processed and exported to international markets.

Its location offers a potential supply route to Asian economies, including Taiwan, South Korea and Japan, where imported liquefied natural gas plays an important role in electricity generation and industrial energy consumption.

PM Modi wishes speedy recovery to Pope Leo XIV as he undergoes surgery

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday wished Pope Leo XIV a full and speedy recovery as he underwent surgery. In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "Happy to learn that His Holiness Pope Leo XIV's surgery last night was successful. Wishing him a full and speedy recovery as well as continued good health."

PM Modi's statement comes after Pope Leo XIV underwent thoracic surgery at Gemelli Hospital on Tuesday.

According to the statement from Dr Luigi Carbone and Professor Stefano Margaritora released by the Holy See Press Office, the surgeons removed the lower lobe of Pope Leo XIV's right lung during the operation, Vatican News reported.

The statement said, "To ensure a radical resection, the lower lobe of the right lung was removed using a video-assisted technique." Tissue examined during the surgery confirmed the diagnosis suspected from tests that were conducted before the operation.

South Korean President Lee calls for restructuring social system to meet needs of changing population structure

SEOUL



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Wednesday called for restructuring South Korea's social system to reflect rapid changes in demographics, stressing that the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) provides an opportunity to redesign the industrial, employment, education and other sectors. The president made the call during a meeting of the presidential committee on population strategy, attended by government ministers and dozens of citizens and aimed at helping design the country's population policies.

South Korea has been grappling with a fast-ageing population, with people aged 65 and older already accounting for more than 21 per cent of the total population, making the country a "super aged society," where over 20 per cent of its population are aged 65 years or more, Yonhap News Agency reported.

Lee called for policies to facilitate "qualitative," as well as "quantitative," population growth, saying the country needs "a major turnaround" in its population policies.

"This means, South Korea's entire social and economic systems should be redesigned from scratch in accordance with population changes," the president said, citing labor, welfare, employment, housing and childcare as sectors that require policy improvements in line with population changes.

The president pointed out that AI-induced innovation, in particular, marks an opportunity to restructure the social system, including employment, education, and elderly care and childcare.

Besides population ageing and low birth rates, the president cited growth in the immigrant population and the emergence of "various forms of family structures" as new demographic trends, stressing that the key priority would be to "make a country in which all people can enjoy happy lives throughout their life cycles."

"The clue to resolving population issues would be found only when (people) have hope that they and their families can grow together and be happy together.

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: drug control; counter-terrorism and legal cooperation; repatriation of fugitives; cybersecurity and cybercrime investigation; and institutional cooperation and capacity building.

Vance announces Defense Production Act expansion of Texas refinery

WASHINGTON

US Vice President JD Vance said the Trump administration had used the Defense Production Act to expand an oil refinery in Tyler, Texas, as he campaigned for Republican Senate candidate Ken Paxton three weeks before the midterm elections.

"Today, I am pleased to announce that the Trump administration working with the refinery at Delek has used the Defense Production Act, and we are going to expand the refinery right here in Tyler, Texas," Vance told the rally. "We want millions of gallons of commercial grade and military spec fuel to come out of this refinery in addition to what it's already producing," he said.

He said the expansion would "mean hundreds of good paying new jobs" in Smith County and lower fuel and travel costs for families.

He did not give a cost or the planned increase in capacity.



The Tyler refinery, owned by Delek US Holdings, processes about 74,000 barrels a day.

The administration has used the Cold War-era law to back energy projects as high fuel prices weigh on household budgets ahead of the November 3 elections. In April, President Donald Trump signed a determination under the Act declaring domestic petroleum production, refining and logistics capacity essential to national defence.

Vance turned the announcement into a pitch for Paxton, the Texas Attorney General, who is running for the US Senate against Democrat James Talarico.

"He fights for you every single day and number two, he delivers he's not just a talker he's a guy who gets things done," Vance said of Paxton.

Vance accused Talarico of "contempt" for the oil and gas industry. "Talarico says Texas energy dominance is like being the leader in cassette tapes in the 1980s," Vance said. "He says jobs like the ones at the Texas refinery in Tyler aren't going to last."

"If we elect Ken Paxton and we continue to support an energy dominance agenda ladies and gentlemen, Texas oil and gas jobs are going to be safe, and we're going to build more of them," he said.

"We will never abandon the men and women of the oil and gas industry of Texas," Vance said. Vance also said Talarico had backed rejecting a ten-year minimum sentence for human smugglers and wanted the southern border to have "a giant welcome mat for the drug cartels".

"That's what's on the ballot, ladies and gentlemen, on November 3rd," Vance said. "This November, let's send Ken Paxton to Washington and let's get back to work for the United States of America."

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, a Texan, attended the rally. Vance also briefly called out a protester waving a Mexican flag near the stage, saying, "we'll kick her out".

India and Fiji strengthen bilateral ties in public health, pharmaceuticals

SUVA

India and Fiji held the fourth Joint Working Group (JWG) on Health, with discussions focussed on strengthening cooperation in public health as well as drugs and pharmaceutical products.

India's High Commissioner to Fiji Suneet Mehta, Acting Permanent Secretary for Fiji's Ministry of Health and Medical Services Luisa Cikamatana and Economic Adviser at India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Geetu Joshi attended the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral health cooperation for the benefit of the people of India and Fiji.I

In a post on X, the Indian High Commission in Fiji stated, "High Commissioner Suneet Mehta participated in the 4th India–Fiji Joint Working Group (JWG) on Health, held virtually, alongside Fiji's Acting Permanent Secretary for Fiji's Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ms. Luisa Cikamatana and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Economic Advisor, Ms. Geetu Joshi."

"Discussions focused on strengthening India–Fiji cooperation in public health, communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and drugs and pharmaceutical products. The virtual meeting provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on key health priorities and explore avenues for enhanced collaboration, reaffirming both countries' commitment to strengthening bilateral health cooperation for the benefit of their peoples," it added.

Afghan police destroy 161 tons of seized illicit drugs in Herat

KABUL

Afghan police incinerated 161 tons of assorted illicit narcotics uncovered during a year-long counter-narcotics campaign in western Herat province, a provincial police spokesman said.

The illicit substances were recovered in a series of counter-narcotics operations carried out in Herat city, the provincial capital, and various districts of the province, said Sayed Massoud Hussaini, the provincial police spokesman.

Without revealing the number of individuals arrested for storing or trafficking the seized narcotics, Hussaini emphasised that police would not allow anyone to smuggle, cultivate, or process illicit drugs anywhere in Afghanistan, Xinhua News Agency reported.

In the broader anti-narcotics effort, police also destroyed 10 drug-processing laboratories and discovered a large quantity of materials used to manufacture heroin in neighboring Ghor province, officials reported on Wednesday. The Afghan government has banned drug trafficking and production and opium poppy cultivation, pledging to sustain the campaign until the war-ravaged nation, long known for its poppy fields, becomes a drug-free country. On October 9, provincial police spokesman Naqibullah Masroor said that police seized more than 600 kg of opium-type illegal drugs from an ambulance in the northern Afghan province of Takhar.

In an unusual incident, counter-narcotics police stopped and searched a private ambulance early Thursday, recovering 614 kg of opium, the official said.

Landslide triggering Budhi Gandaki River floods in Nepal unleashed energy equivalent to 3.5-magnitude quake

KATHAMANDU



A massive landslide in the high Himalayas of Nepal's Gorkha district on October 11, which triggered devastating floods in the Budhi Gandaki River, generated energy equivalent to that of a 3.5-magnitude earthquake, according to a preliminary assessment by the Department of Mines and Geology.

The landslide occurred in the upper reaches of the Ungdilung Khola, a tributary of the Budhi Gandaki River, triggering destructive flood surges after a large volume of debris blocked and subsequently released river flows, the technical report said.

The report provides an initial explanation of how the high-altitude landslide and the repeated blockage and release of river flows contributed to the flooding downstream.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said in a social media post, citing the department's report, that the Budhi Gandaki River experienced repeated flood surges in a single day following the massive landslide involving snow, water and glacial debris in the high Himalayas.

The latest disaster left at least five people missing and destroyed several hydropower projects, roads and bridges, according to the NDRRMA.

The October 11 flooding was the second major flooding disaster, which occurred around one and a half months after devastating floods struck the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers on August 26, which killed nearly 1,500 people and left more than 5,000 missing while devastating communities, houses, hydropower plants, roads and bridges along the affected rivers, the authority said.

Citing the department's technical report, the NDRRMA said the largest of the repeated flood surges reached an estimated height of 20 to 25 metres.

The incident occurred at around 4:20 a.m. in the upper reaches of the Ungdilung Khola, between Chamar Himal and Syerangi Himal, in Chumnubri Rural Municipality, which borders China.

According to the report, an avalanche originated at an altitude of approximately 6,000 metres in the Tibetan Tethys Himalaya, an area characterised by relatively weak rock formations, and a landslide occurred at around 5,500 metres.

"The massive landslide, comprising a mixture of snow, water and debris, flowed southward along the Ungdilung Khola, depositing a large volume of debris at the narrow confluence of the Ungdilung Khola and Syar Khola, another tributary of the Budhi Gandaki River, at an altitude of around 2,000 metres," the authority said in its social media post.

The debris repeatedly blocked and released the flow of the Syar Khola, potentially generating successive flood surges. A similar process may also have occurred at the confluence of the Syar Khola and the Budhi Gandaki River, contributing to repeated flooding downstream, it said.

However, the report suggests that the enormous volume of debris carried by the Ungdilung Khola played a more significant role in generating the largest flood surge than the water accumulated behind the blockage of the Syar Khola. The first mud-laden flood reached the Salleri area at around 4:30 a.m., where a camp for the 341-MW Budhi Gandaki Hydroelectric Project was located.

UN head condemns attacks on shipping

UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemns the attacks of civilian shipping, the most recent of which were in the Black Sea on Tuesday, his Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. "It's very worrisome because these attacks on ships carrying grain, food, and other products destined for the global market have multiplied and have expanded recently", he told reporters at his briefing.

"Also, it has a terrible knock-on effect on the price of commodities worldwide", he said.

According to Bulgarian officials, two cargo ships were attacked by drones off its coast and one of them sank.

Eleven sailors were missing, they said, but did not give their nationalities.



Dujarric said, "We all owe a debt of gratitude for all of these seafarers who continue to operate in extremely dangerous circumstances, just so that all the goods that we rely on for our daily lives keep moving".

He noted the toll on seafarers also in the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, which are fallouts of the Iran conflict. Last week alone, at least 35 Indian crew members faced attacks on their ships, and India and Liberia, which co-chair a group for maritime safety, condemned the attacks on commercial shipping and seafarers in the Gulf region and the Black Sea.

India, which has the largest number of seafarers, and Liberia, where the highest number of ships are registered, head the Group of Friends on Safety & Security of Shipping & Seafarers (GoFoS4).

Their statement said they "strongly condemn the string of unacceptable attacks that commercial ships and seafarers have been subjected to in the Gulf and its vicinity, [and] the Black Sea, over the past few days". According to Bulgarian officials, the 11 missing seafarers were from the Guinea-Bissau-flagged cargo ship HS Dignity that sank off its coast on Tuesday, and five were rescued.

The Maltese-flagged Chelsea 3 was also hit by drones and 15 members of its crew from Ukraine and Ukraine were rescued, they said.

Last week, an Indian seafarer was injured when the cargo ship MV Royad Mammadov flying under the flag of St Kitts and Nevis was hit near the Romanian coast in the Black Sea.

Bulgaria did not directly blame Russia for the attacks near its coast, but Prime Minister Rumen Radev called Russia's envoy for a meeting at which he said "the results of these strikes favour Russia's interests", according to Bulgaria's press office.

IDBI Bank restructuring to strengthen banking ecosystem: FM Sitharaman

New Delhi, Oct 14: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the government's decision to strategically restructure IDBI Bank reflects India's continued commitment to economic reforms and financial sector transformation. In a post on social media platform X, FM Sitharaman said the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs' (CCEA) approval of the restructuring was achieved under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and would pave the way for the bank's next phase of growth through foreign direct investment while the government retains a minority stake. "Propelled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership, India's reform trajectory reaches another milestone today with the CCEA's approval of IDBI Bank's strategic restructuring," the minister noted. She stated that after supporting the lender's turnaround over the years, the government is now enabling fresh growth opportunities by facilitating the induction of a strategic investor. According to the minister, the move will strengthen the banking ecosystem and help banking services in India move closer to global benchmarks.

Sensex, Nifty snap winning streak, end lower as crude oil tops $106

Stock markets snapped their previous session's rally on Wednesday, with the Sensex and Nifty closing in the red as rising crude oil prices, sustained foreign investor outflows and caution ahead of key US inflation data weighed on sentiment. Investors also booked profits after Tuesday's sharp gains, while stronger information technology stocks limited the losses.



The BSE Sensex fell 251.89 points, or 0.34%, to close at 72,781.89. The index opened at 73,049.76 and moved between an intraday high of 73,195.26 and a low of 72,578.75. The NSE Nifty 50 declined 99.25 points, or 0.44%, to settle at 22,622.70. The index opened at 22,715.75 and traded in a range of 22,558.95 to 22,757.95 during the session. The decline came a day after both benchmarks gained around 1.6%, supported by information technology stocks and hopes of a possible review of long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax and securities transaction tax (STT) following Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's comments.

IT STOCKS, FMCG LIMIT LOSSES

Information technology stocks remained among the market's strongest performers, extending gains from Tuesday's rally. The Nifty IT index rose 1.14%, after climbing 5.22% in the previous session. Infosys was the top Sensex gainer, rising 2.51%, while Tech Mahindra gained 2.20% and TCS advanced 1.54%. HCLTech rose 0.61%. The gains followed strong investor interest in the sector after HCLTech's quarterly profit beat expectations. The Nifty FMCG index gained 1.21%, while the Nifty Media index rose 0.59%. Oil and gas stocks also advanced, with the sectoral index gaining 1.04%. The Nifty PSU Bank index rose 0.26%, while consumer durables gained 0.20%.

However, losses across several heavyweight stocks dragged the benchmarks lower. Bajaj Finance fell 2.55%, Bajaj Finserv declined 1.99%, Eternal dropped 1.68% and ICICI Bank lost 1.54%. Indigo fell 1.50%, while Sun Pharma declined 1.14% and Larsen & Toubro dropped 1.06%.

The Nifty Auto index fell 0.93%, while the Nifty Financial Services 25/50 index declined 1.21%. Metals, private banks, real estate and healthcare stocks were also under pressure. The broader market performance was mixed. The Nifty 100 fell 0.34%, the Nifty 200 declined 0.29% and the Nifty 500 slipped 0.24%. The Nifty Smallcap 100 lost 0.32%, while the Nifty Midcap 100 edged down 0.08%. The Nifty Midcap 50, however, rose 0.14%. India VIX, the market's volatility gauge, climbed 3.39% to 14.60, signalling an increase in expected market volatility.

CRUDE OIL, US INFLATION DATA IN FOCUS

Crude oil remained a key concern for investors, with Brent crude rising to around $106.37 a barrel and US West Texas Intermediate crude trading at $95.32. Supply concerns intensified after reports that two vessels were struck in the Strait of Hormuz, adding to uncertainty over energy flows. Higher oil prices are a concern for India because the country relies heavily on imported crude. A sustained rise can increase the import bill, add to inflationary pressures and complicate the outlook for interest rates and the rupee.

Investors were also awaiting US inflation data for clues on the Federal Reserve's interest-rate trajectory. Higher US interest rates can make emerging markets such as India less attractive to overseas investors by improving the relative appeal of dollar-denominated assets. Foreign portfolio investors extended their selling streak to 13 consecutive sessions on Tuesday, taking year-to-date outflows to a record $32.52 billion, according to the figures cited in market commentary. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said Indian equities witnessed a volatile session as investors booked profits after recent gains and turned cautious ahead of key US inflation data. He said sentiment received some support from rupee appreciation following the Reserve Bank of India's foreign exchange measures, along with expectations of a possible review of LTCG tax and STT. However, a higher-than-expected domestic wholesale price inflation reading pushed bond yields higher, reviving concerns about the monetary policy outlook and weighing on automobile stocks, private banks and metals. Nair added that encouraging business updates from IT, FMCG and PSU banks reinforced investors' preference for companies with stronger earnings visibility amid a challenging macroeconomic environment.

Reliance Consumer Launches Joyland Flavoured Milk

Made with authentic dairy ingredients, Joyland delivers dairy goodness and taste at ₹20

CHENNAI, 14TH OCTOBER 2026



Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL), the FMCG arm of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), today announced the launch of Joyland flavoured milk in Tamil Nadu, marking its strategic entry into the ready-to-drink dairy market. Made with authentic dairy ingredients and priced at ₹20, Joyland brings consumers in the state a range that combines the goodness of dairy with flavours such as Strawberry and Vanilla.

The launch extends RCPL's Total Beverage portfolio, reinforcing its commitment to bringing world-class products to consumers at accessible prices. Staying true to the company's promise of 'Global Quality at Affordable Price', Joyland offers authentic taste and a quality dairy experience in a convenient, ready-to-drink format. T Krishnakumar, Director, Reliance Consumer Products Limited, said: "Our entry into the ready-to-drink dairy market is a significant step in extending RCPL's portfolio and widening the choices we offer consumers. With Joyland, we are bringing together authentic dairy ingredients, quality and affordability to make world-class products accessible to more households. Tamil Nadu marks the beginning of this journey, as we build Joyland into a broader dairy beverages portfolio and progressively expand its reach across India." Backed by RCPL's distribution infrastructure, retail scale and consumer insights, Joyland is available in Tamil Nadu with immediate effect. The launch reflects the company's long-term commitment to the ready-to-drink dairy market, with plans to introduce additional flavours and expand into multiple dairy beverage categories.

Following its launch in Tamil Nadu, Joyland will be progressively rolled out across India.

About Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL)

Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL), the FMCG arm of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), is on a mission to empower the everyday life of consumers. With a strong commitment to innovation and consumer satisfaction, RCPL blends global standards with local insights to create products that resonate with consumers while being accessible to everyone at honest prices and within an arm's length of desire. Backed by the robust infrastructure and trust of RIL, the company aims to offer solutions that cater to the evolving needs of consumers, fostering long-term relationships with communities and contributing to the nation's growth. RCPL is on a journey of shaping the future of the consumer goods industry by meeting the diverse needs of households and communities, offering solutions that are world-class, trusted, value-driven and reflect the evolving lifestyle of today's consumer.

SEBI continues curbs on Rajesh Exports, chairman over unresolved concerns in financial disclosures

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has upheld its interim directions against Rajesh Exports Limited (REL) and its chairman Rajesh Mehta, citing unresolved concerns over the accuracy, completeness and verifiability of the company's financial disclosures. In a confirmatory order, SEBI said a substantial discrepancy remained between the consolidated revenue reported by Rajesh Exports and the standalone revenue disclosed by its Swiss subsidiary, Valcambi SA, over a five-year period from FY21 to FY25. According to the regulator, Rajesh Exports reported consolidated revenue of Rs 15.34 lakh crore during the period, while Valcambi SA's standalone revenue stood at Rs 3,027 crore. The company had argued that differences in reporting periods between Indian and overseas entities accounted for the variation. However, SEBI said the explanation failed to adequately justify the scale of the discrepancy, even when figures for the entire five-year period were examined collectively. SEBI Whole-Time Member Kamlesh Chandra Varshney said the noticees had not demonstrated, by referring to underlying records, how reporting-period differences could explain the magnitude of the revenue mismatch. He observed that the explanation was not tenable and that concerns regarding the reliability and verifiability of the consolidated revenue figures continued to persist. The regulator said the company had submitted additional information following the interim order, but the material furnished did not satisfactorily address the deficiencies identified during the investigation.

Maharashtra CM Highlights Hyundai Plant's Role in Jobs and Auto Sector Growth

PUNE, OCT 14



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said that due to Maharashtra's investor-friendly ecosystem, Hyundai Motor India's smart manufacturing facility in Talegaon, Pune, will significantly boost local employment, drive industrial innovation, and strengthen the state's position as a premier automotive hub.

He commended Hyundai's robust commitment to deep localisation and fostering advanced skill development within the region's workforce. He noted how integration with local tech talent drives sustainable industrial growth. Marking Hyundai's 30th year of operations in the country, he highlighted major economic milestones for the state and the automotive sector. He emphasised that the state's investor-friendly policy framework has enabled a strong local tier-1 and tier-2 supplier network—with over 50 supplier partners operating within a 50-kilometre radius of the plant, generating thousands of jobs. Lauding the company's export milestones, CM Fadnavis highlighted that the Pune plant will play a critical role in bolstering Maharashtra's reputation as a premier international automotive and manufacturing powerhouse, exporting to over 35 countries. He welcomed the plant's utilisation of AI-powered operations, digital factory environments (powered by Hyundai's E-FOREST platform), and future-ready flexible production systems capable of handling next-generation technologies like hybrids and sustainable mobility. State Industries Department Principal Secretary P Anbalagan said the new plant is designed to serve as a catalyst for regional industrial development, high-tech manufacturing, and employment generation. Developed as one of Hyundai Motor Company's most cutting-edge global manufacturing facilities, the Pune plant currently features an annual installed production capacity of 170,000 units, with plans to scale up to 320,000 units annually by 2030.

Hyundai is investing around $1.5+ billion into the Pune manufacturing facility, scaling its production footprint. Equipped with future-ready production lines capable of supporting multiple Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) and Hybrid models.

A state-of-the-art facility utilising advanced manufacturing technologies to produce 150,000 engines annually, informed Anbalagan.

Ahead of IPO, Tonbo Imaging garners Rs 255 cr from anchor investors

NEW DELHI: (Oct 14) Defence electronics maker Tonbo Imaging India Ltd on Wednesday raised Rs 255.36 crore from anchor investors ahead of its Rs 852-crore initial public offering (IPO), which will open for subscription on Thursday.

The company allotted 36.48 lakh equity shares to anchor investors at Rs 700 apiece, the upper end of the price band of Rs 665-700 per share, according to a circular. Investors participating in the anchor round included Goldman Sachs, BlackRock, Aranda Investments, The Prudential Assurance Company and Allianz Global Investors.

Reliance Foundation and The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation Launch Multi-Year Partnership

That Aims to Empower One Million Girls and Young Women in India

The partnership brings together two organisations with a shared commitment to advancing progress for women and girls

MUMBAI / NEW YORK, OCTOBER 14, 2026

Reliance Foundation and The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of The Estée Lauder Companies, have announced the launch of a multi-year partnership that aims to empower one million girls and young women across India. The programme is designed for girls and young women from 14 to 20 years of age, across both rural and urban communities with focus on building life skills and confidence. It will begin in the Indian states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, with plans to expand to other parts of the country in the future. The initiative will help young women and girls strengthen digital and financial literacy, and inform them about future pathways such as educational courses, trainings and livelihoods, so that they may make informed choices about the next stage of their lives. Speaking on the partnership, Ms Isha Ambani, Director, Reliance Foundation, said, "I believe every girl should have the confidence to dream big, the courage to lead, and the opportunity to fulfil her aspirations. I am delighted that through this partnership, Reliance Foundation and The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation are uniting to equip one million girls and young women with the resilience they need to realize their full potential - igniting a powerful transformation that extends from the individual to her household and to the entire community."

Mr Stéphane de La Faverie, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Estée Lauder Companies and President, The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation, added: "We are proud to partner with Reliance Foundation to create more opportunities for girls and young women in India that will build the skills they need to participate and thrive in the modern workforce. The Estée Lauder Companies was founded by an extraordinary woman entrepreneur, and today, women represent more than 80%



of our global workforce. We know the tremendous impact that women can have when they have the opportunity to learn, lead and build their own futures. We are excited to work together to help more women and girls realize their potential and shape what comes next."

A Shared Commitment to Advancing Progress for Women and Girls

This programme brings together two organisations with a shared commitment to advancing progress for women and girls. It comes at a time when India's economic growth presents unprecedented opportunity, when increasing women's participation in the workforce will be a key lever for change. Reliance Foundation believes in the transformational power of empowering women and girls. Since 2010, through various focused initiatives, Reliance Foundation has been enhancing education, sports and livelihood opportunities, enabling agency for women and girls overall. The new partnership also builds on The Estée Lauder Companies' long-standing philanthropic commitment to India. For more than 20 years, The Estée Lauder Companies and its Charitable Foundation have partnered with NGOs in India, enabling women and girls to thrive and advance through health, education, and entrepreneurship. The programme, jointly developed by Reliance Foundation and The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation, will focus on: Life skills: building confidence and self-esteem, strengthening decision-making and leadership, and developing skills to deal with everyday challenges.Digital and financial literacy: building knowledge and confidence to use digital tools and financial services safely and effectively. Choice and agency: helping girls build the confidence and skills to make informed decisions and navigate social and cultural influences on their safety, mobility, education and work opportunities. Providing information on future pathways, including education, livelihoods, employment and entrepreneurship, so that girls have a better understanding of the options available to them. The initiative is being designed together with non-profit Girl Effect, leveraging their expertise to support the development of the curriculum and learning resources for girls. The two-year programme will offer in-person and digital trainings and capacity building, working together with various grassroots implementation partners. Through this programme, Reliance Foundation and The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation are building on their shared vision of accelerating progress, opportunity and empowerment for women and girls.

About Reliance Foundation

Reliance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Reliance Industries Limited, aims to play a catalytic role in addressing India's development challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions. Led by Smt. Nita M Ambani, Founder and Chairperson, Reliance Foundation is relentlessly working for the overall well- being and enhanced quality of life for all, focusing on rural transformation, education, health, sports for development, disaster management, women empowerment, urban renewal and arts, culture and heritage, and has touched the lives of over 100 million people across India, in more than 98,000 villages and urban locations. More on www.reliancefoundation.org.

About The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation

The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation (ELCCF) is the global philanthropic arm of The Estée Lauder Companies, a leader in prestige beauty. Turning The Estée Lauder Companies' and Mrs. Estée Lauder's legacy into action, the ELCCF supports nonprofit organizations that enable women and girls to thrive and advance through the transformative power of health, education, and entrepreneurship. The Foundation invests in programs worldwide that strengthen career readiness, workforce participation, and leadership development for women and girls, and supports scientists and practitioners advancing breakthroughs in breast cancer and women's health.



Sahajanand Medical Technologies garners Rs 140 cr from anchor investors ahead of IPO

NEW DELHI: (OCT 14)

Sahajanand Medical Technologies Ltd, a manufacturer of cardiac stents, on Wednesday raised Rs 140 crore from anchor investors ahead of its Rs 475-crore IPO, which will open for public subscription on Thursday.

The company allotted 40.71 lakh equity shares to anchor investors at Rs 344 apiece, the upper end of the IPO price band, according to a circular uploaded on stock exchanges. Some of the investors that participated in the anchor book included Allianz Global Investors Fund, Natixis International Funds (Lux) -I, Tata AIA Life Insurance Company, DSP Mutual Fund, Nippon India Mutual Fund and WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund.

Worlds Better Than Earth?

Scientists Explore Superhabitable Planets



Researchers believe that planets slightly larger than Earth, with abundant water, stable climates and long-lived orange stars, could offer better conditions for life to emerge and evolve over billions of years. Earth has long been regarded as the ideal home for life. Its liquid water, protective atmosphere, moderate temperatures and diverse ecosystems have allowed millions of species to survive and evolve. Yet, as astronomers explore the vastness of the universe, an intriguing possibility is gaining scientific attention: Earth may not be the best planet for life.Scientists believe that some planets beyond our solar system could offer conditions even more favourable for living organisms. These hypothetical worlds, known as superhabitable planets, might possess more extensive shallow seas, warmer and more stable climates, stronger environmental protection and longer periods during which life could develop. Although Earth remains the only planet known to support life, researchers argue that the search for extraterrestrial organisms should not be limited to finding exact copies of our own world. Instead, astronomers are increasingly interested in identifying planets that could provide conditions better suited to the emergence, survival and diversification of life. The concept raises fundamental questions about the nature of habitability, the evolution of life and humanity's place in the universe. It also offers a new direction for upcoming space missions that aim to identify potentially life-supporting planets around distant stars.

What Are Super habitable Worlds?

The term superhabitable refers to planets that could provide more favourable conditions for life than Earth. The concept was explored in detail by astronomers René Heller and John Armstrong, who argued in a scientific paper published in 2014 that the search for life should extend beyond planets that closely resemble our own. Their research suggested that certain planetary characteristics could make a world particularly suitable for living organisms. These include an appropriate size, a stable climate, abundant liquid water, a suitable atmosphere and a star that remains stable for an exceptionally long period. Some theoretical models suggest that a superhabitable planet could be around 20 to 30 per cent wider than Earth and possess approximately twice its mass. Such a planet might have greater surface gravity, allowing it to retain a substantial atmosphere under suitable conditions. A thicker atmosphere could help regulate surface temperatures and reduce the effects of certain environmental fluctuations. However, the relationship between planetary size, gravity and habitability is complex. A larger planet does not automatically have a stronger magnetic field or a more favourable atmosphere. Its internal composition, geological activity, rotation and atmospheric chemistry would also influence its ability to support life. Scientists have also proposed that a superhabitable world might feature extensive shallow seas, numerous islands and relatively limited areas of deep ocean. Such environments could provide a wide variety of habitats, allowing organisms to adapt to different ecological conditions. On Earth, coastal waters, wetlands and tropical islands support rich biological communities. The interaction between land and water creates diverse environments where nutrients circulate and different species thrive. A planet with extensive shallow-water regions could potentially offer similar advantages on a much larger scale.Nevertheless, these characteristics remain theoretical possibilities. No planet has yet been confirmed to possess all the features required to qualify as superhabitable.

Why a Planet Slightly Larger Than Earth Could Be More Suitable

Planetary size can influence several factors that determine whether life can survive over long periods. A planet with somewhat greater mass could retain an atmosphere more effectively, depending on its temperature and atmospheric composition. This could help maintain surface pressure and support liquid water. An atmosphere plays several essential roles in making a planet habitable. It regulates temperature by distributing heat, supports weather systems and can shield the surface from some forms of harmful radiation. The presence of suitable atmospheric gases can also determine whether water remains liquid rather than freezing or evaporating. A planet's geological characteristics are equally important. On Earth, geological processes help recycle essential elements, while volcanic activity and interactions between rocks, oceans and the atmosphere influence the long-term carbon cycle. These processes contribute to the regulation of global temperatures over geological timescales. A larger rocky planet might maintain internal heat for longer, potentially supporting geological activity over an extended period. However, the outcome would depend on its composition, internal structure and evolutionary history. Scientists also consider the role of magnetic fields. Earth's magnetic field helps deflect charged particles from the Sun and contributes to the protection of its atmosphere from the solar wind. A suitable magnetic field could be advantageous for another planet, although atmospheric retention also depends on several other factors. The availability of liquid water is another major consideration. Water enables essential chemical reactions, transports nutrients and provides a medium in which biological processes can occur. Yet, more water does not necessarily mean greater habitability. A planet covered almost entirely by deep oceans might have limited interactions between its interior and surface, depending on its geology. The most promising worlds may therefore be those that combine several favourable characteristics rather than simply being larger or wetter than Earth.

Why Earth May Not Be the Perfect Environment

Earth's ability to support life can make it tempting to assume that its characteristics represent the best possible conditions for living organisms. Scientists, however, distinguish between a planet that is habitable and one that might be especially favourable for life. Earth has experienced enormous environmental changes throughout its history. Ice ages, volcanic eruptions, asteroid impacts and shifts in atmospheric composition have repeatedly influenced the development of life. Organisms have survived many of these changes, but some environmental events have also contributed to mass extinctions. The planet's long-term future presents another challenge. The Sun is gradually becoming brighter as it evolves. Over geological timescales, this increasing energy output is expected to alter Earth's climate and eventually make its surface increasingly difficult for complex life to inhabit. Scientific estimates suggest that Earth could become unsuitable for complex life in roughly 500 million years, although the timing depends on the definition of habitability and the assumptions used in climate and planetary models. Microbial life may persist under some conditions beyond the period when plants and animals can survive. This does not mean Earth is a poor planet for life. Rather, it demonstrates that habitability is not permanent and that even a successful biological world has limitations. A planet orbiting a longer-lived K-dwarf star might experience a much longer period of relatively stable stellar energy. If its atmosphere, oceans and geological systems also remained suitable, it could potentially provide life with additional time to develop. Yet, a long-lived star alone cannot guarantee a habitable planet. Orbital stability, planetary geology, atmospheric composition and the presence of water remain critical factors.

How Astronomers Plan to Search for These Worlds

The search for potentially habitable planets has advanced significantly as astronomers have discovered thousands of planets orbiting stars beyond the Sun. These planets, known as exoplanets, vary widely in size, composition and orbital characteristics.

Space telescopes can identify some exoplanets by observing the slight dimming of a star when a planet passes in front of it. Other methods examine the gravitational influence of a planet on its host star. The European Space Agency's PLATO mission, short for PLAnetary Transits and Oscillations of stars, is designed to discover and characterise planets around bright stars, with particular attention to rocky planets that could have suitable temperatures for liquid water. The mission is also intended to investigate the properties and ages of stars. Scheduled for launch in 2027 according to the timeline cited in reports about the project, PLATO could help scientists identify promising planetary candidates. Its observations may improve understanding of the sizes, orbits and stellar environments of planets that warrant further investigation. Identifying a planet in a potentially habitable region is only the beginning. Astronomers must determine whether it is rocky, whether it has an atmosphere and whether conditions could allow liquid water to exist on its surface. The James Webb Space Telescope can examine the atmospheres of selected exoplanets by analysing starlight that passes through them during a transit. These observations can help researchers identify certain atmospheric molecules, although interpreting the results is difficult, particularly for small rocky planets. The Extremely Large Telescope being developed in Chile is expected to expand astronomers' ability to study distant planetary systems. NASA's proposed Habitable Worlds Observatory, planned for a future period that could extend into the 2040s, is intended to advance the search for potentially habitable planets and signs of life.

Together, these and other observatories could help researchers move beyond estimating whether a planet might support life to examining its atmosphere and environmental characteristics in greater detail.

The Challenge of Detecting Life Beyond Earth

Even when a planet appears suitable for life, confirming the presence of living organisms is exceptionally difficult. Astronomers search for possible biosignatures, which are substances or patterns that could indicate biological activity. Certain combinations of atmospheric gases may be of interest because living organisms can produce them in large quantities. However, no single gas necessarily proves that life exists. Geological processes, chemical reactions and stellar activity can sometimes produce signals that resemble biological activity. Researchers must therefore consider the planet's overall environment and investigate alternative explanations. Atmospheric observations also face technical challenges. Small rocky planets can be difficult to study because their atmospheres are thin compared with those of larger planets, and the signals may be obscured by the brightness of their host stars. Distance presents another major obstacle. Even the nearest planetary systems are light-years away, making direct exploration with present-day spacecraft extremely difficult. For the foreseeable future, astronomers will rely largely on remote observations to investigate these worlds. The discovery of a potentially superhabitable planet would therefore not immediately establish that it contains life. It would identify a promising target for more detailed scientific investigation.



Could Life Be More Common Than We Imagine?

The superhabitable-world hypothesis has implications beyond the search for individual planets. It raises the possibility that the conditions required for life may occur in many different forms across the universe. If some planets maintain stable environments for longer than Earth, they could offer extended opportunities for biological evolution. If suitable rocky planets are also common around long-lived stars, the number of places worth investigating could be considerable. But scientists still do not know how frequently life emerges when the necessary environmental conditions are present. Earth provides the only confirmed example, leaving researchers without enough evidence to calculate reliably how common life might be elsewhere.

It is also possible that life requires a rare combination of circumstances that scientists have not yet fully identified. The existence of potentially habitable planets would not necessarily mean that life is widespread. The most important task is therefore to combine planetary discoveries with observations capable of testing whether life exists beyond Earth.

A New Perspective on Earth's Place in the Universe

The possibility that Earth may not be the most favourable planet for life challenges a familiar assumption, but it does not diminish the importance of our own world. Earth remains the only known planet with a rich and established biosphere, and its complex ecosystems depend on a remarkable balance of physical, chemical and biological processes. Superhabitable worlds remain a scientific hypothesis rather than a confirmed category of life-supporting planets. Researchers have proposed characteristics that might improve habitability, but no distant world has yet been demonstrated to be more suitable for life than Earth. Future space missions could help determine whether planets with these characteristics exist and whether their atmospheres contain evidence of biological activity. Such discoveries would reshape scientific understanding of planetary evolution and the possible distribution of life throughout the universe. For now, Earth remains our only confirmed example of a living planet. Yet, the search for superhabitable worlds encourages astronomers to look beyond familiar conditions and consider the full range of environments in which life might emerge. The universe may contain planets that are older, more stable or more biologically productive than Earth.

Why Orange Dwarf Stars Are Attracting Attention

One of the most interesting aspects of the superhabitable-world hypothesis involves the type of star around which a planet orbits. Astronomers are particularly interested in K-dwarf stars, sometimes called orange dwarfs. These stars are smaller and cooler than the Sun and generally emit less energy. They also consume their nuclear fuel more slowly, allowing them to remain stable for much longer periods. While the Sun is expected to remain on the main sequence for a total of roughly 10 billion years, many K-dwarf stars can remain in this relatively stable phase for tens of billions of years. This extended stellar lifetime could provide planets in suitable orbits with a much longer window for life to emerge and evolve. Life on Earth has existed for billions of years, but complex organisms took a considerable amount of time to develop. If the evolution of complex life depends on a sequence of biological and environmental changes, a planet receiving stable energy for a longer period might have additional opportunities for such developments. The advantage is not guaranteed. A planet must also maintain suitable temperatures, liquid water and a stable atmosphere. Its star's radiation, activity and evolutionary history could either support or undermine these conditions. Nevertheless, K-dwarf stars are considered attractive targets because they combine relatively long lifetimes with potentially suitable environments for rocky planets.

What Experiments With Orange Light Reveal

Scientists are also investigating whether the light emitted by different types of stars could influence life on their planets. Astrobiologist Iva Vilovic conducted laboratory experiments in Berlin using artificial lighting designed to imitate the light of a K-dwarf star. In these experiments, she grew garden cress under orange-coloured light and compared its growth with that of plants exposed to simulated sunlight. The plants grown under the orange light reportedly grew faster and taller than those exposed to the comparison lighting. The results attracted interest because they suggested that plant growth and photosynthesis could respond differently to the light emitted by stars other than the Sun. Photosynthesis allows plants to convert light energy into chemical energy, supporting their growth and forming the foundation of many ecosystems. On Earth, this process drives much of the biological activity that sustains food chains. However, the experiment does not establish that plants would grow better on planets orbiting K-dwarf stars. Growth depends on numerous factors, including the intensity and spectrum of light, temperature, water availability and nutrient supply. Results from a laboratory experiment involving one plant species cannot directly predict the behaviour of an entire extraterrestrial ecosystem. The research nevertheless highlights an important question: could life adapt to different stellar environments in ways that are not immediately apparent from our experience on Earth? Organisms on other planets might use available light differently, and their biological systems could have evolved under environmental conditions unlike those found here.

Could Super habitable Planets Support Richer Ecosystems?

Scientists have proposed several possible environments that could make superhabitable planets attractive places for life. These include warm but moderate climates, large areas of shallow water, diverse coastlines and environments where essential nutrients remain available. On Earth, shallow marine environments are among the most productive ecosystems. Sunlight can reach much of the water column, while interactions with surrounding land can supply nutrients. Such regions support a variety of organisms, from microscopic plankton to complex marine animals. A planet with extensive shallow seas could potentially support similarly diverse ecosystems. Islands and coastal habitats might create additional opportunities for species to become isolated, adapt and evolve into new forms. Stable environmental conditions could also help biological communities persist over long periods. If a planet avoided extreme temperature fluctuations and retained liquid water for billions of years, its organisms might have more opportunities to diversify. However, greater biological diversity is not an automatic consequence of these conditions. Evolution depends on ecological interactions, genetic variation, environmental pressures and historical events.

SHORT NEWS

CRICKET

'He is giving what the Indian team needs': Pujara backs Kishan



NEW DELHI: Cheteshwar Pujara has backed Ishan Kishan's aggressive approach at No. 3 in India's ongoing T20I series, arguing that the wicketkeeper-batter's contribution should be judged by his impact on the team rather than the size of his individual scores.

Pujara has also praised Naman Dhir's emergence as a useful bowling option, pointing to the allrounder's control, variations and ability to adjust his plans as qualities that can make him effective in the shortest format. With India seeking contributions from a top order built around attacking batters, Pujara believes Kishan's responsibility is to maintain the tempo established in the powerplay rather than to pursue a major score in every innings. The former India batter's assessment offers a different way of looking at the left-hander's performances.

CRICKET

Litchfield sustains hip strain, ruled out of 3rd ODI against Bangladesh



QUEENSLAND: Australia opener Phoebe Litchfield has sustained a low-grade hip muscle strain and missed the third and final ODI against Bangladesh at Allan Border Field, with the injury also casting doubt over her availability for the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand. The 23-year-old left-hander picked up the injury during her innings of 71 in Sunday's second ODI. With Australia facing a quick turnaround ahead of the first T20I against New Zealand on Sunday, Litchfield's fitness will remain a concern for the team management. Australia stand-in captain Tahlia McGrath confirmed the change at the toss, describing Litchfield's condition as a "hip complaint". Allrounder Nicola Carey has been brought into the playing XI for her first appearance in the three-match ODI series.

Hope ton, Paul five-for help West Indies level series 2-2

WEST INDIES BOWLERS REINED INDIA IN AFTER SANJU SAMSON'S 56 OFF 23

WEST INDIES 247 FOR 3 (HOPE 102*, RUTHERFORD 49*, PRINCE 1-36) BEAT INDIA 223 (SAMSON 56, PAUL 5-41, MOTIE 2-13) BY 24 RUNS

SHAI HOPE CELEBRATES HIS SECOND T20I CENTURY IN THE SERIES, INDIA VS WEST INDIES, 4TH T20I





HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 14, 2026

Shai Hope has stayed unbeaten three times on this tour of India. Those are the three matches that West Indies have managed to win. The latest win has helped force a decider on what is proving to be a landmark T20I series for them. Hope became the first West Indies player to three T20I hundreds, each of the four other batters that batted scored between 21 and 49, Keemo Paul became the first West Indies bowler to multiple T20 five-fors, and West Indies registered their first successful defence of the tour..

It is a testament to the hitting prowess of the modern batters that a total of 470 runs were scored on the night despite there being some sort of assistance for bowling in both innings. On a relaid Hyderabad surface, which was quite dry, India managed to slow West Indies down with some tail on the ball. West Indies opted to use the dryness differently, going into the surface and using the lack of dew and big square boundaries to survive a Sanju Samson blitz of 56 off 23.

From 50 for 0 in three overs, West Indies strung together 12 consecutive overs that went for 13 or under. For the first time in the series, they took every catch that came their way. Paul's five-for and a double-wicket over for Gudakesh Motie were the icing on the cake.

Hope has help

For the first time this series, Hope didn't have to do all the running at the start. Jewel Andrew, in for Kamil Pooran, got stuck into Arshdeep Singh's first over, thus negating the man who neutralised Hope in the last match. Hope returned the favour by taking down Mayank Yadav, who had bowled a tight first over to Andrew.

Shimron Hetmyer raced away to 17 off 5 to make it 79 for 1 in the powerplay with Arshdeep's figures reading 2-0-36-0. When Hope took 19 off Naman Dhir's first over, making it 109 for 1 in eight overs, India were in a world of trouble.

A slight slowdown ensued with Prince Yadav finding the wicket of Hetmyer and the ball reversing just a little bit. Rovman Powell, out to three low scores already, gave himself some time here, but found momentum with four, six and four in Axar Patel's last over. Still, going into the death overs, the last eight overs had got them just 76 runs as India kept finding the wide yorker not minding the extra runs through wides.

Sherfane Rutherford took charge in Mayank's last over, letting Hope find a second wind just in time to hit the last two balls of the innings for sixes to go from 90 to 102 in 50 balls. India went for 62 in the last four without bowling badly.

Samson in the mood

Initially it looked like Samson wanted to just keep Abhishek Sharma away from Roston Chase, but it soon turned into a silken but devastating half-century inside the third over. Abhishek faced only three balls in the first three overs as Samson hit four sixes and six fours. It looked like India were well on their way to make this a tour on which both sides registered their highest-successful chases in both formats.

Better call Paul

It took a special catch from Hetmyer to start the turnaround, which was a refreshing change after an ordinary series in the field for most of the fielders. Paul cramped Samson up with a short ball, he still managed a pretty good connection on the hook, but Hetmyer took the catch, threw the ball in the air, stepped over the fence and walked back in to take it calmly. Ishan Kishan started with a sweetly timed six off a slower ball, but couldn't time the next on-pace ball, holing out to deep midwicket.

With smart bowling changes and changes of pace, West Indies tied down Abhishek and Shreyas Iyer. That is only relatively speaking because the partnership managed 30 in 3.4 overs, but in the context of the match it was damaging for India.

A key moment arrived when Hope decided he couldn't delay the introduction of Motie too much even though there were two intentful left-hand batters in the middle. India needed 122 off the last nine at this point. Abhishek hit the first ball for a four. The pressure was on, but the pitch provided enough grip for Motie to be able to draw a false shot big enough for a comfortable catch at long-off. He proceeded with a beauty to have Dhir stumped for a golden duck.

Telangana Tourism Brings the Spirit of Bathukamma and Folk Culture to India–West Indies Cricket Match at Uppal Stadium



HYDERABAD

Blending the excitement of international cricket with the vibrant cultural heritage of Telangana, the Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Telangana, organised a special cultural promotion programme at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Uppal, Hyderabad, on October 14, 2026, during the India vs. West Indies cricket match.

The initiative brought the colours, traditions and festive spirit of Bathukamma, Telangana's celebrated floral festival, to the cricketing arena, offering spectators a glimpse of the State's distinctive cultural identity. Traditional Bathukamma arrangements and celebrations highlighted the beauty of the festival, which symbolises the relationship between nature, community and Telangana's age-old traditions.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, local folk artists presented captivating performances reflecting the State's diverse folk traditions and performing arts. The performances showcased the vibrancy of Telangana's cultural expressions and created a unique confluence of sport, tradition and entertainment for cricket enthusiasts. As part of the tourism promotion initiative, a Telangana Tourism film was screened during the interval of the match, showcasing the State's rich tapestry of attractions, including its historic forts and monuments, magnificent temples, scenic landscapes, heritage sites and cultural experiences of Bathukamma. The film sought to inspire spectators to explore the varied tourism destinations and experiences offered by Telangana. The programme demonstrated the Department's innovative approach to tourism marketing by utilising the wide reach of a major sporting event to connect with a diverse audience. The combination of Bathukamma celebrations, folk performances and visual promotion of tourist destinations provided an opportunity to bring Telangana's cultural heritage into the international & national spotlight.

Through such initiatives, the Department of Tourism and Culture continues to promote the State's traditions, support the visibility of local folk arts and strengthen Telangana's position as a destination offering a distinctive blend of history, heritage, spirituality, nature and living culture.

'An experience that will stay with me': Rahane on playing cricket with Prince William

NEW DELHI



Former India Test captain Ajinkya Rahane has described playing tennis-ball cricket with Britain's Prince William in front of Buckingham Palace in London as an experience that will stay with him for a long time.

Rahane was among a distinguished gathering of cricketing greats invited by Prince William to participate in a friendly match on The Mall, a ceremonial roadway outside Buckingham Palace, as part of the countdown to the Earthshot Prize awards ceremony, which will be held in Mumbai on November 17.

The event brought together several prominent names from the sport, including former India captain Sourav Ganguly, West Indies batting great Brian Lara, and England players Joe Root and Harry Brook.

Reflecting on the occasion in a LinkedIn post on Wednesday, Rahane said the unique setting made the experience particularly memorable.

"Cricket has taken me to some remarkable venues across the world, but playing tennis-ball cricket right on The Mall in London with Buckingham Palace in the backdrop is an experience that will stay with me for a long time," he said.

Rahane added that the gathering celebrated the shared passion for cricket between India and the United Kingdom while highlighting an important environmental cause. "Yesterday was about celebrating the shared love for the game between India and the UK, but more importantly, shining a light on a cause that matters far beyond the boundary ropes. It was a privilege to spend time with HRH Prince William and catch up with wonderful friends and icons of the sport, Dada, Brian Lara, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Danni and everyone else who brought so much joy to the pitch," he said.

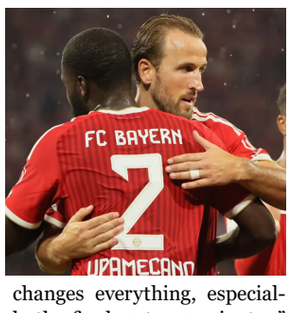
"We spoke about the unifying spirit of cricket, our memories of playing in England and back home in India, and the responsibility we share toward the future," Rahane added. The former India captain also expressed excitement about the Earthshot Prize coming to his home city next month, underlining the importance of collective efforts to protect the planet.

"Repairing and protecting our planet across nature, clean air, oceans, waste reduction, and climate requires the same values the sport teaches us every day: discipline, collective effort, and genuine intent," he said.

Launched by Prince William in 2020, the Earthshot Prize aims to discover, recognise and support innovative solutions to environmental challenges. The sixth edition of the awards will mark the initiative's debut in India, with Mumbai set to host the ceremony on November 17, 2026.

'We made too many simple errors,' says Kane after Bayern's draw against Viking

STAVANGER



Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane rued his team's defensive errors after the German champions were held to a 3-3 draw by Viking FK in their second group stage match of the UEFA Champions League, despite recovering from a two-goal deficit to take the lead.

Kane scored twice in the second half as Bayern overturned a 2-0 deficit, while Luis Diaz put the visitors ahead. However, Michael Olise's red card changed the course of the match before Herman Haugen scored a late equaliser to earn Viking a point. Reflecting on the result, Kane admitted Bayern had struggled in the first half but felt the team had done enough after the break to win the match.

"The first half was poor for us. We did much better in the second half: we were the better side, created chances and turned the game around to 3-2. Then the red card obviously changes everything, especially the final 15 to 20 minutes," Kane said after the match.

"We just made too many simple errors against a good team. When you make such big mistakes, you'll be punished. That's exactly what happened today," he added.

Bayern fell behind inside the opening two minutes when Gianni Stensness headed Viking in front from a corner. Peter Christiansen doubled the home side's advantage on the counterattack before half-time. Kane pulled one back from the penalty spot after the restart before scoring his second with a header to restore parity.

'The game was there for us': Carrick rues Man Utd's defeat to Atletico

MADRID



Manchester United head coach Michael Carrick believes his side missed an opportunity to get a positive result against Atletico Madrid, saying the game was there to win despite a 2-0 defeat in the UEFA Champions League group stage on Wednesday.

United conceded within the opening minute as Pablo Barrios put Atletico ahead after Giuliano Simeone collected a long ball and set up the midfielder to score with a side-footed finish.

Despite the early setback, Manchester United created several opportunities to get back into the contest, with Carrick pointing to four big chances his team failed to convert against Diego Simeone's side.

"The game was really close and in the balance; take away that first minute which is a goal – obviously a major part of it – but take away that, and we were right in the game going through the second half, and I thought there was a really big finish for us," Carrick told reporters after the match.

"There are probably not many teams that would come here and have those chances against them (Atletico), so we've done a lot of things good tonight," he added.

United threatened through Bryan Mbeumo and Marcus Rashford before Atletico had a goal by Johnny Cardoso ruled out following a VAR review for an earlier handball by Marcos Llorente. Julian Alvarez also struck the post early in the second half.

Carrick felt his team grew into the contest after the difficult start but rued their inability to make their opportunities count.

"We had four big chances, big opportunities, and the game can look very different. They were really good opportunities as well; they weren't just little half ones," he said.

United's task became more difficult when defender Leny Yoro was sent off in the 74th minute for a last-man foul following a VAR review. Atletico took advantage of their numerical superiority, with Ademola Lookman doubling the lead in the 79th minute after goalkeeper Senne Lammens had saved Jonathan David's initial effort.

Carrick acknowledged that the red card changed the complexion of the contest but maintained that his side had shown encouraging signs despite the result.

"We feel the game was there for us; it is the biggest thing we could have and should have got more from," he said.

Despite continuous setbacks, the United head coach dismissed concerns over his team's confidence, pointing to their ability to respond to the early setback, retain possession and create chances against a strong Atletico side.

"I don't see the confidence as being an issue. I think to come here and respond and take the ball like we did and control spells and create chances, the confidence is there," Carrick said.

Man United will now turn their attention to the Premier League, where they will face Leeds in search of getting back to winning ways.

Atletico Madrid win 2-0 over Man Utd in Champions League

MADRID

Pablo Barrios and Ademola Lookman scored to lay the foundations for a deserved Atletico Madrid 2-0 win over Manchester United in the UEFA Champions League.

Atletico needed less than a minute to open the scoring after Giuliano Simeone collected a long ball and set up Barrios to side-foot home. Manchester United saw Bryan Mbeumo fire wide before Marcus Rashford came inches away from connecting with Lisandro Martinez's ball from the back.

Atletico's Johnny Cardoso saw his effort from the edge of the area ruled out after VAR detected an earlier handball by Marcos Llorente, while Julian Alvarez hit the post at the start of the second half.

Manchester United's hopes suffered a major setback in the 74th minute when Leny Yoro was shown a red card. Lookman doubled the lead five minutes later, scoring from close range after goalkeeper Senne Lammens had saved Jonathan David's initial effort.

Sara Ali Khan's Ivory Elegance



Admired for her warm, down-to-earth charm, Sara Ali Khan is a fashion favourite who is never afraid to experiment. Her latest outing comes from The Bride Side, Season 7, Episode 1, themed around the scent of divinity. Sara turned ethereal in a sculpted ivory tulle saree gown called Emergence, from The Divine Androgyne Paris Couture Collection SS26. It features a corseted architectural base, fluid draped panels, a thigh high slit, and hand embroidered mogra tassels on the shoulder. She paired it with strappy nude platform heels and a loose messy updo, keeping the glam soft and fresh. Sara will next be seen in the upcoming spy comedy Udta Teer opposite Ayushmann Khurrana, directed by Akash A Kaushik. The film marks their second outing together after Pati Patni Aur Woh Do.

Ranabaali Must Live Up to Vijay's Words



Ranabaali, starring Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna, is among the much-anticipated pan-India releases of the festive season. With its trailer and promotional material building curiosity around its historical setting, the film received another major boost at its grand pre-release event in Hyderabad, where Vijay spoke confidently about the project and the team behind it. Vijay Deverakonda and his energetic speeches need no introduction. VD is known for his bold, aggressive and hard-hitting speeches. He is also known for his over-confident speeches. Some have worked, some have backfired. Vijay is now back with such a confident speech. Vijay's speech made it clear that his confidence in Ranabaali comes from the story's foundation and the director's vision. He described how Rahul explored rural traditions, folk narratives, jatara celebrations and stories of local heroes before shaping the film. During the process, the director uncovered lesser-known historical chapters that gave the project a larger purpose. Vijay felt that the combination of a compelling period setting and a meaningful subject made the film particularly exciting. Praising Rahul's approach to filmmaking, Vijay said that the director does not make films simply to keep his career moving forward; instead, he sets out to tell great stories. He also credited Mythri Movie Makers for playing a key role in taking Telugu cinema to a global audience, noting that the production house brings stories to the screen on a grand scale when it believes in the content. His words highlighted the collective effort behind Ranabaali and the confidence the team has placed in its vision. Vijay said, "I had written a letter earlier about my comeback. When many were enjoying it, I said I will be back. When I said I will be back, be bloody sure I will be back." Vijay also played his old speech during Taxiwaala where Vijay said exactly those words. Vijay had proved that he would be back if he said so. Vijay's confidence extended to the film's casting and music as well. He spoke proudly about Rashmika's growth and dedication, emphasising that she was the right person to bring the female lead to life and create the intended impact alongside him. He also recalled the memorable "Endhayya Saami" song by Ajay–Atul. Directed by Rahul Sankrityan, the period action film is presented by T-Series and produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under the Mythri Movie Makers banner. With the film scheduled to release worldwide on October 16, Vijay invited audiences to experience Ranabaali in theatres and promised a epic cinematic experience.

Hrithik's Cameo: A Hindi Game-Changer?



Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 is set for release on October 15, and one of the film's biggest talking points is the cameo by Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan. Directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, the sequel has already generated consid erable interest, with several popular actors appearing in special roles. Interestingly, the makers have not given any glimpse about Hrithik's cameo in the promotional material or trailer. The team appears to have kept this surprise under wraps, hoping it will create a bigger impact when audiences watch the film in theatres. If Hrithik's appearance delivers the expected excitement, it could give Jailer 2 an additional advantage in the Hindi market. Hrithik enjoys a strong fan following across North India, and his presence could attract more Bollywood audiences to the Rajinikanth-starrer. The film also features cameos from Malayalam superstar Mohanlal, Kannada Superstar Shivanna and other prominent actors, making the casting one of its major attractions. However, the real impact of these appearances will depend on how effectively Nelson has integrated them into the story. With Rajinikanth returning to the world of Jailer, expectations are high for the sequel. Hrithik's cameo could become a major talking point if it is presented well. The big question is whether this surprise will translate into stronger Hindi collections or remain just another exciting moment for fans. Let's see what happens.

Meet Rukmini, Nithiin & Nani's Alias



Natural Star Nani, who delivered a massive blockbuster as a producer with COURT – State Vs A Nobody is presenting Nithiin's ongoing film Alias Rukmini. The film brings together director Murali Kanth Devasoth, known for Dhandora, and producer Deepthi Ganta for a story that combines romance with an unusual conflict. The makers have now announced Aafiya Sayed as the female lead. In the newly released glimpse, Aafiya appears as a strict schoolteacher who has earned some unusual nicknames from her students, including devil, Hitler, and homework police. She firmly writes her name on the artwork and gives the students an intense look, establishing her commanding personality. Interest in the film has been building since the announcement glimpse offered a peek into its offbeat humour and Nithiin's unconventional characterisation as Krishna. The first-look poster also received a positive response. What happens when love turns an ordinary life upside down and exposes a secret that has remained hidden? That intriguing question lies at the heart of Alias Rukmini. As the film moves towards completion, post-production activities are progressing alongside the ongoing shoot. Alias Rukmini is scheduled to arrive in theatres on December 4.

Don't Sleep Teaser Looks Terrifying



Indhra Raam, who was last seen in Chaurya Paatham, takes on the lead role, while well-known cinematographer Shamdat makes his Telugu directorial debut with the forthcoming venture Don't Sleep. V Chudamani produces the film under the V Dream Films banner. The film's teaser has been released by Naga Chaitanya, Vijay Sethpathi and Dulquer Salmaan. Sleep is meant to offer peace, but what happens when closing your eyes brings you closer to death? Don't Sleep builds its central conflict around this frightening question, introducing a psychological thriller in which dreams become an inescapable threat. Its ominous tagline, "The longer you sleep, the closer he gets," serves as the film's central hook, raising an unsettling question about whether the protagonist can escape a threat that seems to grow stronger whenever he sleeps. The teaser creates its impact through visual mood and sound. Shamdat's cinematography lends the proceedings a haunting quality, while the compelling voice-over draws viewers into the mystery. Gokul Harshan's intense background score adds another layer of tension, reinforcing the feeling that danger is never far away.

Indhra Raam brings vulnerability to the central character, while Ravindra Vijay stands out with a threatening screen presence. His character's darker shades become particularly evident in the final stretch. With a premise built around fear, uncertainty and the fragile divide between dreams and reality, Don't Sleep aims to deliver a suspense-driven cinematic experience.

Vijay Devarakonda Meets Vijay Thalapathy!



Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna are testing their luck together for the first time after their wedding with Ranabaali. Directed by Rahul Sankrityan, the film is hitting the screens on the 16th of this month. The lead pair is in Chennai as part of the promotions and got a chance to meet Tamilnadu CM Joseph Vijay. Rashmika earlier acted with Vijay and their pair was a big hit in Varisu. Post their meeting, Vijay Deverakonda shared the pictures on X and wrote his thoughts. This was the first time that Vijay is meeting Thalapathy Vijay. Vijay Deverakonda described that Thalapathy Vijay has become his favourite just in one meeting, which shows the kind of affection that Thalapathy could have showered on this pair. Of late, Vijay is extremely busy with the administration affairs but still he took some time out of his busy schedules to meet the Ranabaali pair and extended his heartfelt wishes and congratulations on the eve of the new release. Set in the 1870s against the backdrop of the devastating Great Madras Famine of 1876–78, the story of Ranabaali follows a folkloric warrior and his village in Rayalaseema rising up against British colonial rule and exploitative tax and grain policies. The film is bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers and is having a good release in Tamilnadu despite the clash with Jailer 2.

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