HYDERABAD HEADLINES

RNI NO.APENG/2010/33328 | VOL NO. 17 | ISSUE NO.: 172 | RANGAREDDY (HYDERABAD) | PAGES: 12 | RS. 1/-

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026 | WWW.HYDERABADHEADLINES.COM

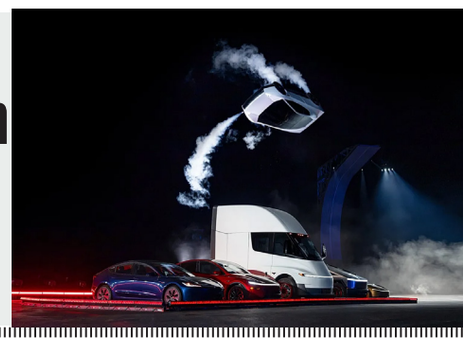


The Next Step in Poverty Eradication

OPINION 06

New Tesla Roadster with SpaceX thrusters

SPECIAL 02



Rahul targets Modi over Rubio visit

NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's upcoming Mumbai visit, alleging confusion within the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) over his proposed engagements with Indian officials. "Mr Rubio has summoned his employee to Mumbai. Modi ji, your officials in the external affairs ministry are confused about what's going on. You might want to explain. Unless, of course, you want me to," Rahul posted on X.

His remarks came amid a political row over the Centre's silence on Rubio's proposed meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Mumbai. US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor had indicated that American officials expected Jaishankar to meet Rubio during the visit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

Set Up Hyundai Car Manufacturing Plant in Hyderabad: CM Revanth

- *Chief Minister invites Hyundai management to establish a car manufacturing facility in Hyderabad*
- *Rs. 8,528 crore Global R&D Centre planned in Zaheerabad; project ready for groundbreaking soon*
- *CM directs officials to expedite pending clearances; assures full support for manufacturing investments in Telangana*



Hyderabad, October 16: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the state government was ready to develop Telangana into a major hub for automobile manufacturing. He urged Hyundai management to establish a car manufacturing plant in Hyderabad and assured the company of all necessary support to promote the manufacturing sector in the state.

The Chief Minister also directed officials to expedite pending approvals for the proposed Hyundai Global Research and Development (R&D) Centre in Zaheerabad.

On Friday, a delegation led by Changyeon Cho, Managing Director of Hyundai Motor India Engineering (HMIE), met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Bodhi Pavilion. During the meeting, they discussed investment opportunities in Telangana and the progress of the proposed project in Zaheerabad.

Hyundai Motor India Engineering plans to establish an integrated Global R&D Centre at the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) in Zaheerabad, Sangareddy district, with an investment of ₹8,528 crore. The project will be developed in phases across 678 acres and is expected to generate employment for 4,276 people. The Hyundai delegation briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of the project and informed him that preparations were underway to perform the groundbreaking ceremony for the R&D Centre in the coming months. The representatives sought the state government's support to accelerate the project. Responding positively, Revanth Reddy instructed officials to complete the necessary approval procedures at the earliest.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

CM invited to Bathukamma film awards

Hyderabad, Oct.16: A delegation led by Telangana Film Development Corporation (TGFDC) Chairman Dil Raju met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and invited him to the award presentation ceremony of the Bathukamma Young Filmmakers Challenge 2026, scheduled to be held at Shilpakala Vedika in Hyderabad on October 17.

CJP Tiranga rallies sweep cities

NEW DELHI, OCT 16: Tiranga rallies organised by Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) and allied groups were held in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru on Friday to protest alleged irregularities in electoral roll revision and demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The demonstrations, held under the banner "Lehra Do Tiranga", saw participants carrying the national flag and raising concerns over electoral transparency, democratic rights and restrictions on peaceful assembly.

In Delhi, police detained CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke and activist Neha Bora ahead of a proposed march at Connaught Place. Authorities cited restrictions on public gatherings and concerns over law and order. Police deployed personnel in the area and dispersed groups of protesters who assembled carrying the Tricolour and raising slogans. In Mumbai, hundreds of activists gathered at Azad Maidan for a rally organised in solidarity with CJP leaders Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das, who were reportedly remanded to judicial custody following an incident at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. Protesters criticised the arrests and demanded accountability from the Election Commission. In Bengaluru, more than 100 activists and supporters of allied organisations, including Jagrita Karnataka and My Vote, My Right, participated in a symbolic march carrying national flags and copies of the Constitution's Preamble. The march was conducted under police restrictions, with organisers required to comply

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Five women drown in Andhra reservoir during Dasara outing

TIRUPATI, OCT 16

Five women from the same family and neighbourhood drowned at Gollapalli Reservoir in Penukonda mandal of Sri Sathya Sai district on Friday, turning a Dasara holiday picnic into a tragedy. The deceased were identified as Gayatri (45), Pushpa Latha (35), Aswini (20), Sheik Hasina (48) and Attar Mahi (16). They were among a group of family members and women from Dargapeta area who had visited the reservoir for a festive outing.

According to local authorities, the group had lunch before some of the women entered the reservoir for recreation. They reportedly ventured into deeper waters and struggled to stay afloat after slipping into a deep section of the water body. Family members raised an alarm after realising that the women had disappeared underwater. Police, revenue officials, rescue divers and local swimmers rushed to the spot and launched a search operation. After an extensive search, the bodies of all five women were recovered. The Penukonda police registered a case and shifted the bodies to a government hospital for post-mortem examinations. An investigation is underway to establish the exact circumstances leading to the tragedy. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock over the deaths of the five women in Sri Sathya Sai district.

KISHAN REDDY ACCUSES RAHUL OF CONSPIRING AGAINST MODI GOVT



HYDERABAD, OCT.16

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Friday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of conspiring with opposition parties and separatist forces to undermine Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. He dismissed allegations of vote theft and defended the Election Commission's role in conducting elections impartially.

Addressing the media at the BJP state office in Hyderabad, Kishan Reddy alleged that Rahul Gandhi was attempting to weaken constitutional institutions and malign the Election Commission. He asserted that even if global powers united against Modi, they could not destabilise the NDA government which had a popular mandate.

The Union Minister criticised Rahul Gandhi for allegedly targeting national security officials such as Ajit Doval, arguing that bringing individuals who had dedicated their lives to the country's security into political controversies was inappropriate.

Defending India's electoral process, Kishan Reddy described the Election Commission as an independent institution that enables the mandate of 140 crore people to be reflected in election results. He contrasted India's electoral process with those of other countries and accused Rahul Gandhi of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

MINISTER TUMMALA SEEKS CENTRE's SUPPORT ON KEY TELANGANA PROJECTS



Hyderabad, Oct.16: Telangana Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has urged Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy to expedite eight key issues concerning the state, including coal allocation, fertilizer supply, railway projects and infrastructure development. During a meeting with the Union minister on Friday, Tummala submitted a memorandum seeking the Centre's intervention to resolve pending issues and accelerate major projects. He requested Rs.100 crore from Coal India's CSR funds for developing Dr. Manmohan Singh Earth Sciences University in Bhadradri Kothagudem district into a national-level research and educational institution. Kishan Reddy responded positively and immediately spoke to the Coal India Managing Director.

Tummala sought coal allocation from the Mahanadi coalfields for the Yadadri Thermal Power Station to ensure uninterrupted power generation. He also proposed allocating the Sattupalli Block-III coal mine to Singareni Collieries, citing existing infrastructure, faster mining operations and reduced environmental impact. Highlighting technical disruptions at Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, the minister warned that irregular urea production could affect fertilizer availability during the Rabi season. He urged the Centre to coordinate with Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister J.P. Nadda to ensure a permanent solution and adequate urea allocations for Telangana.

VICAT
TRUST. LEGACY. FOREVER.

Don't give it a chance.

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

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

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

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

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



Bharathi CEMENT
SUPERIOR QUALITY. GUARANTEED.

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

KTR challenges Revanth to order sitting judge probe into Singareni scam

HYDERABAD, OCT.16

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Friday challenged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to order an inquiry by a sitting judge into the alleged ₹10,000-crore Singareni scam, proposed foreign coal purchases and other alleged irregularities under the Congress government.

Addressing a meeting of he Narsampet constituency at Telangana Bhavan, KTR alleged that the government was creating crises in coal production, power supply and irrigation to justify costly purchases and earn commissions. "Revanth Reddy says he will order an inquiry if we write to him. If he has the courage, let him order a probe by a sitting judge into our allegations," KTR said, demanding an investigation into the alleged Singareni and solar power scams. He claimed that domestic coal from Singareni cost around ₹3,800 per tonne, compared with ₹10,000 to ₹12,000 per tonne for imported coal. Accusing the government of planning coal imports from Australia to secure commissions, he questioned the need for expensive imports when domestic coal was available.

KT Rama Rao further alleged that coal production had been reduced and around ₹60,000 crore in dues to Singareni remained unpaid, even as the company was being blamed for coal shortages.

Calling Revanth Reddy an "EMI Chief Minister", the BRS leader alleged that payments to the Congress high command were driving the proposed foreign coal purchases. He accused the government of creating an artificial crisis and then citing shortages to justify buying coal and electricity at higher prices. On irrigation, KTR alleged that the government had failed to utilise available water from the Kaleshwaram project despite the BRS urging it to act six months ago. He claimed that water was allowed to flow downstream without being lifted from the Kannepalli pump house, leaving crops to dry and worsening drinking water and irrigation shortages. He criticised the government for citing the El Niño phenomenon instead of taking timely measures to address the situation, alleging that its failure to act had compounded the problems faced by farmers.

Transforming Local Spaces for Global Goals: CMC Drives Green and Inclusive Upgrades

Commissioner Srijana mandates high-quality, long-term maintenance across parks, public health facilities, and roadscapes in Kukatpally.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 16: Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) is stepping up its commitment to sustainable urban growth by directly aligning local development initiatives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically focusing on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). In a comprehensive high-level inspection today, by the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, Commissioner G. Srijana, I.A.S., conducted an extensive field review of public parks, civic amenities, and ongoing infrastructural upgrades across the Kukatpally zone. The inspection aimed to enforce strict quality benchmarks, accelerate work timelines, and ensure that public resources directly contribute to an eco-friendly, resilient, and community-centric urban ecosystem.

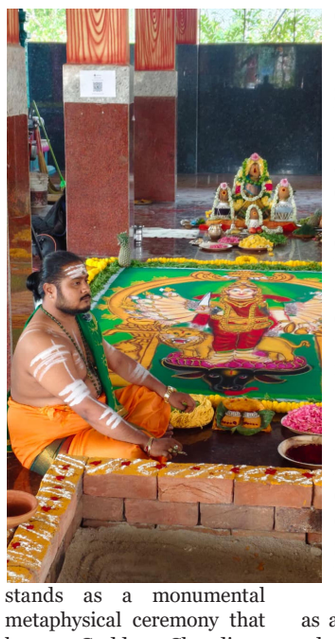
Driving local action for global sustainability, Commissioner Srijana reviewed the newly developed Dream View Colony Parks, executed at an estimated cost of ₹40.00 lakh. Recognizing the necessity of durable civic messaging under SDG 11, she directed officials to immediately replace temporary flex banners with permanent, durable guideline boards to enhance public awareness, convenience, and long-term sustainability. Continuing her assessment of neighborhood green spaces, she inspected Vishvambhara Park–1, built at a cost of ₹10.00 lakh, and instructed the engineering teams to optimize park accessibility and aesthetics by shifting the watchman's room to a suitable location and erecting a proper entrance board. At Vishvambhara Park–2, the Commissioner examined the newly installed outdoor gym equipment, instructing officers to ensure continuous equipment maintenance and clear signage, directly promoting active lifestyle choices and physical well-being aligned with SDG 3.

Addressing the vital civic requirement for dignified public space management under SDG 11, Commissioner Srijana inspected the ongoing ₹40.00-lakh development works at the Viveknagar Graveyard. Emphasizing that community facilities must uphold safety, sanitation, and respect, she instructed officials to execute necessary repairs and prioritize the continuous maintenance of grills, public toilets, and essential amenities on a top-priority basis to ensure a safe, clean, and convenient environment for visitors. Furthermore, to support green corridor development and climate resilience in line with SDG 11 and SDG 13 (Climate Action), the Commissioner reviewed the ₹70.00-lakh central median transformation project along the KPHB 5th Phase stretch. She issued strict directives to maintain high execution standards and mandate regular upkeep, ensuring that central medians serve both traffic safety and urban greening functions effectively.

This initiative highlights a collaborative governance model where administrative oversight directly guarantees quality execution across all civic tiers. The high-level review was conducted in the presence of Mayank Singh, IAS & Zonal Commissioner (KPZ), G. Anjaneyulu, Deputy Commissioner (Kukatpally Circle 52), Venkataramana, ACP (Kukatpally Circle 52), Deputy Executive Engineers D. Ramesh and S. Sravanthi, SWM Deputy Executive Engineer Shankar Ganesh, Urban Biodiversity Wing (UBD) Manager Shiva Jyothi, Assistant Engineer S. Srinivas, along with other key officials of the CMC who committed to bringing these sustainable development goals to fruition.

The Eternal Radiance of Divine Grace: Grand Celebration of Maha Chandi Homam

Weaving Ancient Vedic Lore, Trishakti Energies, and Epic Puranic Splendor into a Sacred Day of Devotion and Benediction



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 16: As the sacred rhythms of Sharad Navaratri filled the atmosphere with divine grace, the Phase 7 Pochamma Temple bore witness to a profoundly uplifting spiritual celebration on Friday, October 16, 2026. Under the meticulous and Vedic guidance of eminent TTD Agama Pandits, led by Sri Suman Shivam, a grand Maha Chandi Homam was performed with deep reverence, drawing streams of devoted souls eager to immerse themselves in the warmth and sanctity of the holy fire. The air resonated with the powerful reverberations of sacred chants, beginning with the timeless invocation: "Ya Devi Sarva Bhuteshu Shakti Rupena Samsthita, Namastasyai Namastasyai Namastasyai Namo Namah!!" and the profound mantra "Om Namah Chandikayai", setting a deeply devotional tone that anchored the entire gathering in spiritual peace.

Rooted deeply within the sacred lore of the Epics and Puranas, the Chandi Homam stands as a monumental metaphysical ceremony that honors Goddess Chandi as the unified manifestation of the Trishakti—the supreme cosmic triad of Maha Kali, Maha Lakshmi, and Maha Saraswati. Puranic scriptures declare that invoking the Divine Mother through this sacred ritual during the auspicious days of Navaratri yields boundless spiritual potency, carrying the transformative grace equivalent to a hundred standard homams. As ghee, herbs, and sacred offerings were poured into the blazing flames of Agni Deva, devotees experienced a profound alignment with the Mother's divine energy, seeking the removal of karmic obstacles, negative planetary influences, and all forms of spiritual or material darkness.

The collective prayers offered during the homam encompassed a vast array of blessings, ensuring that every participant received the multi-faceted grace of the Goddess. Devotees prayed for the bestowal of Ashta Lakshmi and Ashta Aishwarya, inviting enduring prosperity, abundance, and the steady growth of trade and enterprise. Furthermore, the sacred ritual served as a powerful shield against adversity, invoked to dispel severe afflictions, drishti (evil eye), shatru (enemy) doshas, and turbulent duswapna (bad dream) afflictions, while imparting the sacred blessing of Sumangalitvam to women to ensure the health, longevity, and harmony of their families. As the ceremony culminated in the serene stillness of the final Purnahuti, the congregation departed with hearts full of divine light, cradling the eternal assurance of the Mother's omnipresent protection.

PONNAM CALLS FOR INTENSIVE GRADUATE VOTER REGISTRATION

HYDERABAD, OCT.16

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has urged Congress leaders and workers to intensify efforts to identify eligible graduates and register them as voters ahead of the Graduate MLC elections.

Chairing a preparatory meeting at Gandhi Bhavan, attended by AICC In-charge Secretary Sachin Sawant, DCC presidents and other party leaders, Ponnam stressed the need for booth-level voter registration campaigns across the twin cities of Hyderabad. He called on party workers and social organisations to reach graduates in courts, government offices, schools and other institutions and help them register their voting rights.

The minister said the party had planned an extensive registration drive in every Assembly constituency and appealed to graduates to verify their voter details and participate in the democratic process. Highlighting issues concerning government employees, lawyers, teachers and job aspirants, Ponnam said Congress was committed to addressing graduates' concerns.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

New Tesla Roadster with SpaceX thrusters can jump and do barrel rolls



Inspired by iconic stealth aircraft design and incorporating technology developed with SpaceX, the Roadster is reported to pull up to 2 Gs around corners and has a claimed 0-100 km/h time under 1 second. Nine years after a prototype of the 2nd-gen Roadster was showcased, it has finally been revealed and is reported to enter production in 2028.

The new Tesla Roadster gets edgy styling, with design cues from stealth aircraft like the SR-71 Blackbird and the F-35, with a key highlight being a multi-mode fan placed underneath the car that Tesla claims can create enough suction to hold the car upside down. Combined with active wings and suspension, the system is claimed to generate up to 2 Gs of suction force, allowing the car to go faster around corners than what would be possible solely with mechanical grip.

Another trick up the Tesla Roadster's sleeve is the cold-gas thrusters co-developed with SpaceX, which use stored pressurised air to generate thrust, unlike rockets that burn propellant, shooting the Roadster from a standstill to 100 km/h in a claimed sub-1 second time. The thrusters use all-electric actuators that can make micro-adjustments on the go, allowing car control mid-flight. The end result: stunts like jumps, barrel rolls and flips as showcased at the event.

The interior of the Roadster is standard Tesla fare, with a yoke-style steering wheel on the left, and a massive touchscreen taking centre stage on the dashboard. This will reportedly be Tesla's only manually driven car in the long term, while the rest of the fleet transitions to fully-autonomous driving. The Tesla Roadster will be offered in three configurations: Performance: 2-seater, with active aerodynamics and the multi-mode suction system. Thrust: 2-seater, limited edition with multi-mode suction system and cold-gas thrusters at the rear

Rocket: single-seat, invite-only configuration with additional cold-gas thrusters placed along the perimeter of the car, which can provide forward and upward acceleration, as well as lateral rotation.

Bjp alleges rahul's anti-national ties

HYDERABAD, OCT.16



BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao on Friday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of joining hands with anti-national forces allegedly seeking "regime change" in India by triggering unrest and violence, drawing parallels with developments in Bangladesh.

Addressing the media here at the BJP state office, Rao questioned Congress's silence over remarks allegedly made by lawyer Prashant Bhushan, All India Students Association (AISA) president Neha Bora and Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leader Abhijeet Dipke regarding regime change in India. He warned that the citizens of the country are closely observing the efforts of certain individuals who hold the national flag in one hand while attempting to create riots and anarchy in the country backed by foreign funding. He alleged that Rahul Gandhi and groups like "Urban Naxals" and the "Tukde-Tukde gang" were attempting to undermine democratic institutions, including the judiciary and the Election Commission of India. Rao said political power must be secured through elections and questioned whether Congress endorsed attempts to bring about regime change through unrest. He demanded that the party clarify its stand on the remarks and warned that its silence could invite public criticism.

sustainable packaging a necessity, not an option

HYDERABAD, OCT.16

Sustainable packaging, circular economy practices and technological innovation took centre stage at TG-PackCON 2026, organised by CII Telangana in Hyderabad on Friday, with industry leaders and policymakers calling for stronger collaboration to enhance India's global competitiveness in the packaging sector. The conference deliberated on sustainable materials, pharmaceutical and food safety, automation, regulatory compliance and export opportunities, emphasising the need to build a resilient and globally competitive packaging ecosystem.

M. Goutham Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana, said sustainability had become a necessity rather than an option for the packaging industry. He stressed that adopting eco-friendly solutions was crucial to reducing environmental impact while meeting evolving consumer and business needs. A.V.P.S. Chakravarthy, Chairman of TG-PackCON 2026 and Chairman and Managing Director of Ecobliss India Private Limited, said the conference aimed to translate industry discussions into tangible outcomes. He highlighted the role of packaging in economic growth, manufacturing excellence and global trade, underscoring the need for sustainable materials, circular solutions and smart technologies.

R.P. Naidu, Regional Head of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), emphasised the importance of packaging innovation in strengthening India's agricultural and processed food exports. He encouraged businesses to utilise APEDA's support schemes for export infrastructure, quality development and market access. Dr. Narendran, Deputy Drugs Controller (India), Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), highlighted the critical role of packaging and labelling in ensuring pharmaceutical quality and patient safety. He stressed strict compliance with regulatory requirements to safeguard the identity, strength and purity of medicines. Gaurav Maheshwari, Vice Chairman, CII Telangana, called on the packaging industry to develop solutions that use fewer materials, consume less energy and offer greater recyclability while meeting changing consumer expectations. The conference featured deliberations on four key themes: policy and global trade; pharmaceutical and life sciences packaging; circular economy and sustainable materials; and smart technologies and automation. Discussions covered export competitiveness, extended producer responsibility (EPR), design for recycling, regulatory compliance, artificial intelligence and digital supply-chain solutions.

TG-PackCON 2026 underscored the importance of collaboration among industry, government and regulatory institutions to accelerate sustainable innovation and strengthen India's position in the global packaging market.

Set Up Hyundai Car Manufacturing Plant in Hyderabad: CM Revanth

➢FROM PAGE 1

Hyundai has maintained a presence in Hyderabad for two decades. Its facility in HITEC City supports advanced automotive engineering and carries out key R&D activities. To expand these capabilities, the company plans to establish a Global R&D and mega testing centre in Zaheerabad. The proposed facility will support vehicle design, testing, performance evaluation, validation, quality assessment and improvements in engineering processes. The project is expected to play a significant role in strengthening Hyundai's advanced technological capabilities.

The Chief Minister highlighted Telangana's geographical location at the centre of India and Hyderabad's world-class infrastructure. He said Hyderabad was recognised as a safe and liveable cosmopolitan city compared with the country's six major metropolitan cities.

He noted that Telangana had the transportation infrastructure and facilities required by the automobile manufacturing industry. These include road networks, rail connectivity and airport facilities, along with plans to provide high-speed connectivity to seaports in the future.

Revanth Reddy said the development of dedicated mobility clusters would further strengthen the automobile manufacturing sector. Through initiatives such as the Peri-Urban Region (PURE) development plan, the government was promoting industrial expansion and positioning Telangana as an attractive destination for manufacturing investments. As part of its efforts to attract investments to Telangana, a delegation led by the Chief Minister held discussions with Hyundai representatives at the 2024 World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting. Subsequently, in June 2025, a state Cabinet subcommittee approved the proposal for the Hyundai R&D Centre.

The Chief Minister also explained the government's vision of developing Bharat Future City into a major satellite city equipped with world-class facilities. Highlighting the investment opportunities available in Telangana, he invited Hyundai management to participate in the upcoming Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, HMIE Managing Director Changyeon Cho said Hyundai's objective of further strengthening Hyderabad as an international hub for technology and advanced engineering aligned with the Telangana Rising–2047 vision. He stated that Hyundai would continue to be a partner in Telangana's development journey.

Chief Minister's Adviser and Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Sangareddy District Collector Prateek Jain and other senior officials attended the meeting.

CJP Tiranga rallies sweep cities

➢FROM PAGE 1

with conditions imposed by authorities. The protests centred on allegations that electoral roll revision could lead to the exclusion of eligible voters, particularly among vulnerable communities. Opposition groups and activists have called for greater transparency and safeguards to ensure that no eligible citizen is denied the right to vote. The Election Commission has rejected allegations of political bias, maintaining that electoral roll revision is part of the established process for ensuring accurate voter lists. Eligible voters whose names are missing can seek inclusion through the prescribed procedures. The rallies have intensified the debate over electoral accountability and the right to peaceful protest, with demonstrators invoking constitutional freedoms and authorities stressing the need to maintain public order.

Rahul targets Modi over..

➢FROM PAGE 1

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh termed the ambassador's statement "extraordinary" and questioned why information about the external affairs minister's engagements in India was coming from a US official rather than the MEA. "Why is the MEA silent on the external affairs minister's tryst with Mr Rubio in Mumbai?" Ramesh asked, alleging that India was being kept informed about the developments through the US ambassador.

According to the US State Department, Rubio will visit India from October 17 to 22 as part of efforts to strengthen energy cooperation. His itinerary includes Mumbai and Jamnagar, following a visit to Samarkand in Uzbekistan.

KISHAN REDDY ACCUSES RAHUL OF CONSPIRING..

➢FROM PAGE 1

attempting to undermine public confidence in democratic institutions.

Kishan Reddy also criticised the Congress leader's remarks on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, claiming that he lacked an understanding of its historical background. He questioned the Congress leadership's commitment to constitutional values, citing the alleged midnight arrests of BJP leaders in Telangana.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's alleged attempts to destabilise the Modi government, Kishan Reddy challenged him to seek a change of government through democratic means rather than undermine an elected administration. He stressed that political parties and governments may change, but constitutional institutions must be protected.

Graduate MLC Polls: Congress Meets at Gandhi Bhavan

Hyderabad, October 16: A preparatory meeting of the Hyderabad District Congress Party was held at Gandhi Bhavan under the chairmanship of District In-charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar to discuss preparations for the Graduate MLC elections.

AICC In-charge Secretary Sachin Sawant, DCC Presidents Motha Rohith and Deepak John, Minority Finance Corporation Chairman Obedullah Kotwal, State Library Corporation Chairman Riyaz, Waqf Board Chairman Azmatullah Hussain, in-charges of 15 Assembly constituencies and PCC coordinators participated in the meeting. The leaders were given directions on measures to be taken for graduate voter registration, identification of eligible graduates and other related issues in view of the upcoming Graduate MLC elections.

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

Tender Notice No: LGD/L/12 &13/2026-27/OT Date: 16.10.2026 PUB/737

Dy.CEE/LGDS acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against **Tender No. LGD/L/12/2026-27/OT & Tender No. LGD/L/13/2026-27/0T** — E- TENDER- closing date **13.11.2026** at 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money (Bid Security) shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as per Annexure VIA and shall be valid for a period of 60 days beyond the bid validity period. The original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document within 5 working days of deadline of submission of bids. Non submission of scanned copy of B.G. with the bid on e-tendering portal (IREPS) and/or non-submission of original B.G. within the specified period shall lead to summarily rejection of bid.

1.Tender No. : LGD/L/12/2026-27/OT **Description of work :** Extension of Traverser I & II and Extension of Corrosion Shop Bay I, II, III, IV, V & VI towards East Gate Side - Electrical arrangements **Advertised value (₹):** 77,78,249/-(Rupees Seventy-Seven Lakh Seventy-Eight Thousand Two Hundred and Forty-Nine Only) **Bid Security (₹):** 1,55,600/- **Period of Completion :** 12 Months from the date of issue of letter of acceptance **Date of Closing :** 13.11.2026 at 15:00hrs.

2.Tender No. : LGD/L/13/2026-27/OT **Description of work :** Outsourcing of non-core activities of AC shop, ER shop & EMU/ MEMU Motor Coaches and Stripping of electrical items from condemned coaches at CWS/LGD **Advertised value (₹):** 76,07,347/-(Rupees Seventy-Six Lakh Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Forty-SevenOnly) **Bid Security (₹):** 1,52,200/- **Period of Completion :** 27 Months from the date of issue of letter of acceptance **Date of Closing :** 13.11.2026 at 15:00hrs.

Website Particulars: www.ireps.gov.in

Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen. : Office of the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad-500017.

For further Tender conditions/details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of tender documents, corrigendum, please visit our website **https://www.ireps.gov.in/**.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer,CWS, Lallaguda, Secunderabad

No.NW/148/WIII/Tender notice/ 2026-27 Date: 15.10.2026 PUB/738

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tenders for the following works.

1. Tender No. :T-202627-3-063 **Authority :** Co-ord **Description of the work :** Nanded Division: AK-PAU Section: Supplying and Stacking of 50 mm Gauge hard and durable machine crushed stone ballast at BOLDA(BLC)Ballast depot and loading the same into Hopper/Traffic ballast wagon by Mechanical means under ADEN/PAU's Jurisdiction for Completion Period 30 (Thirty Months) Including (03)Three months **Tender value in (₹):** 160701186.24 **Earnest money in (₹):** 3214000.00 **Completion period :** Thirty Months **Cost of tender form in (₹) :** 0/-

2. Tender No. :T-202627-3-064 **Authority :** Co-ord **Description of the work :** Purna Replacement of Old dilapidated quarter (5-Type-III and 5-Type-II) in Sr. DEN west section. **Tender value in (₹):** 25605424.92 **Earnest money in (₹):** 512100.00 **Completion period :** Fifteen Months **Cost of tender form in (₹) :** 0/-

1. **Tender No.:** T-202627-3-063 **Similar nature of work (for costing above 50 lakhs) :** E-1: Any Civil Engineering Work except zonal maintenance work, consisting of i)Supply of Machine crushed graded stone aggregates or Railway Track Ballast. (or) ii) Construction of road with Flexible or Rigid pavement or laying of Granular sub-base (GSB). (or) iii) Construction of foundation and sub structure or super structure of major bridges, in concrete.

2. **Tender No.:** T-202627-3-064 **Similar nature of work (for costing above 50 lakhs) :** Any civil Engineering work (excluding Track works/Zonal works).

All above tenders will be closed 10.11.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. It for information and necessary action please.

For bid document and other details, login to **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. Any corrigenda will be issued online only

Sr. DEN/WEST/Nanded

Open e-Tender Notice Nos. C/E. 29/Elec/M/SC/53/54/55 & 56/PA/ OSW/OT/2026-27 Dt.15.10.2026 PUB/735

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the given below work up to **15.00 hours on 09.11.2026**

1. e-Tender No. : etenderNo. C/E.29/Elec/M/SC/53/PA/OT/2026-27 etender No.E-M-SC-53-OT-2026-27 **Name of work :** Secunderabad Division Electrical Maintenance Department : (i) OEA-Development - Development of Odela Railway station with facilities of NSG-4 category (ii) OEA-FOB - Ramp - Proposal for Contraction of 2.4 m wide Ramp at Existing FOB at Odela Station (iii) ASAF-SRUR PF - Raising of platform from Medium level to High level at ASAF (PF1) & SRUR(PF3) in Sr.DEN/North jurisdiction (iv) Rechini road - Raising of platform no 1 from ML to HL PF at RECH in Sr.DEN/North jurisdiction. & Proposed extension of existing 3.0m wide FOB from island PF-2/3 to the other side of station (NH side) at RECH - Electrical arrangements. **Tender Value (₹):** 2,74,66,746.50 **EMD (₹):** 5,49,300.00 **CTF (₹):** 0.00 **Completion period :** 6 Months

2. e-Tender No. : etenderNo. C/E.29/Elec/M/SC/54/OSW/OT/2026-27 etender No.E-M-SC-54-OT-2026-27 **Name of work :** Secunderabad Division Electrical Maintenance Department - (i) Bhongir- Construction of 8 Bedded RPF barracks for Male at Bhongiri -Out Post (ii) DLS/KZJ - Upgradation of RPF Out post building at DLS/KZJ (iii) Jamikunta - Construction of CPWI office and shed at JMKT (iv) Provision of 2 Nos. of 8 passenger capacity lifts in place of existing over aged lifts in Sanchalan Bhavan and Provision of 02 Nos of 13 passenger lifts capacity at New Annex Building at RSB (v) CHZ - Construction of new type design RPF post- office building at Cherlapalli (vi) Secunderabad - Additional block for TTE Rest House with 27 Beds (14 Beds for Male TTEs and 13 Beds for Lady TTEs with separate toilets) with AC's, kitchen, Store, RO water and furniture provision (vii) Proposal for construction of new building of 5000 Sqft fri Cyber Cell/SCR for formation of integrated command control Center - Electrical arrangements. **Tender Value (₹):** 1,63,90,606.53 **EMD (₹):** 3,27,800.00 **CTF (₹):** 0.00 **Completion period :** 6 Months

3. e-Tender No. : etenderNo. C/E.29/Elec/M/SC/55/PA/OT/2026-27 etender No.E-M-SC-55-OT-2026-27 **Name of work :** Secunderabad Division Electrical Maintenance Department - (i) MABD-Development of Parcel office at Mahbubabad (ii) WL-Development of Parcel office at Warangal (iii) KMT-Development of Parcel office at Khammam (iv) MCI-Development of Parcel office at Manchiryal (v) SKZR-Development of Parcel office at Sirpurkagaznagar - Electrical Arrangements. **Tender Value (₹):** 98,24,063.28 **EMD (₹):** 1,96,500.00 **CTF (₹):** 0.00 **Completion period :** 6 Months

4. e-Tender No. : etenderNo. C/E.29/Elec/M/SC/56/PA/OT/2026-27 etender No.E-M-SC-56-OT-2026-27 **Name of work :** Secunderabad Division Electrical Maintenance Department - COP-Central - SC-KZJ Section- Provision of additional COP's in GNP,ALER,WP, BN,MLY and Upgradation of Existing COP's with new sheeting & gutter at GNP, RGP,ALER, BN, MLY stations in DEN / C Jurisdiction-Electrical Arrangements. **Tender Value (₹):** 2,57,37,123.00 **EMD (₹):** 5,14,800.00 **CTF (₹):** 0.00 **Completion period :** 6 Months

1. Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at "www.ireps.gov.in" which can be downloaded, can be participated and can view any modifications if any.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, (Maintenance)/Secunderabad

TENDER NOTICE No. 121_ DRM_W_HYB_26 dt. 16/10/2026 PUB/736

On behalf of the President of India, Divisional Railway Manager/Works, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the following works through **e-procurement** up to 15.00 hours of **11/11/2026**

1. Tender No. :121_DRM_W_HYB_26 **Name of the work:** Secunderabad - Dhone Section: Proposed safety related track maintenance works under ADEN/KRNT Section **Approx Value (₹):** 1,99,50,955 **EMD (₹):** 3,99,000

For further details visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divisional Railway Manager works, Hyderabad

A851

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Record-Breaking 20,003 MW Demand Tests Telangana Grid

MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, OCTOBER 16

The Telangana electrical power grid crossed a major operational milestone on October 15, 2026, when statewide peak power demand reached an all-time high of 20,003 Megawatts (MW) at 10:29 AM. Driven by simultaneous load growth across agricultural pumping systems, industrial machinery, commercial establishments, IT data infrastructure, and domestic cooling appliances, the state transmission and distribution network successfully sustained its highest ever real-time power transfer. According to technical metrics released by the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL), this record surpasses the financial year 2025–26 maximum coincident demand of 18,548 MW by an active power load increase of 1,455 MW. Aggregate energy consumption across the state grid reached 334.54 Million Units (MU) on the same day, while the average peak load for the first fortnight of October (October 1–15) maintained a high baseline of 19,289 MW with an average daily energy delivery of 321.34 MU.

Within the DISCOM jurisdiction of TGSPDCL, real-time telemetry recorded a peak demand of 12,281 MW and a daily energy distribution of 228.14 MU on October 15, reflecting a 5.80 MU increase over the previous year's daily peak of 222.34 MU. Earlier in the operational cycle, on September 30 at 4:16 PM, TGSPDCL feeders catered to a peak load of 12,299 MW, showing significant expansion compared to the FY 2025–26 DISCOM peak of 11,318 MW. In the urban distribution network serving the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area, high ambient temperatures combined with reactive power demands from inductive cooling loads drove grid utilization to 4,220 MW at 6:19 PM on October 15, up from 3,552 MW recorded during the corresponding period last year, with daily throughput reaching a record 88.22 MU on October 9.

Addressing these grid developments, TGSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Jitesh V. Patil, IAS, confirmed that load dispatch centers, sub-stations, and feeder networks are under continuous automated and manual monitoring to maintain frequency stability, correct power factors, and prevent thermal overloading on distribution transformers. He highlighted that power procurement, long-term power purchase agreements, and generation capacity augmentation are being executed in parallel to maintain necessary active reserve margins. However, CMD Patil noted that falling groundwater tables have compounded grid stress, as deeper agricultural tube wells require pumps to operate under higher mechanical head pressure, drawing heavier current and reactive power from rural feeders. Aligning with directives from the Chief Minister, he urged consumers to practice demand-side energy and water conservation to mitigate harmonic distortions, thermal stress, and localized load spikes across distribution lines. To preserve grid integrity and protect equipment in rural regions, TGSPDCL engineering crews and field staff have instituted intensive site inspections under the 'Polam Baata' (Field Path) initiative. Operating every morning across rural distribution circles, technical teams perform comprehensive audits of step-down Power Transformers (PTRs) and Distribution Transformers (DTRs), checking oil levels, phase balancing, neutral grounding, service drop wires, and insulator health. These field teams actively identify and resolve low-voltage conditions, loose connections, and reactive power imbalances directly at agricultural borewell installations while executing load redistribution across rural 11kV/33kV feeders to prevent single-phasing and voltage sags during peak pumping hours. Finally, CMD Jitesh V. Patil commended the dedicated service of DISCOM engineers, line staff, and Load Dispatch Center operators whose real-time telemetry tracking, preventive maintenance, and feeder coordination successfully sustained grid stability under unprecedented high-load conditions.

Dandiya Utsav Celebrated at GITAM

Hyderabad, October 16: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, celebrated Shubharambh 2026, a vibrant Dandiya Utsav, at the Football Court, bringing together thousands of students in colourful traditional attire to celebrate the spirit of Navratri. Organised by Kalakriti, a student club, the festivities began with Bathukamma, a vibrant celebration of feminine energy, ecological harmony, and regional identity. The celebrations continued with an energetic evening of Garba and Dandiya, filled with music, dance, and cultural ervour. Theevent fostered unity and camaraderie among students from diverse academic disciplines, reflecting GITAM's vibrant campus culture and rich cultural heritage. Shubharambh offered students an opportunity to connect through shared cultural experiences, creating cherished memories and celebrating the joy of togetherness.



Workshop on GO No. 626

for Effective Implementation of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2025: Special CS JayeshRanjan



HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 16

A workshop on Government Order (GO) No. 626, pertaining to the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2025, was held on Friday, 16 October 2026, at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Hyderabad. The workshop was jointly organized by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Area Urban Development authorities, and Re Sustainability Limited to create awareness about the implementation of the new regulations. Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath,Re Sustainability Limited Managing Director&CEO Masood Mallick,ESCI Director Col. Harpal Singh Grewal and SBU Head Krishna Thota attended the workshop. Senior officials and representatives from GHMC, MMC, CMC, HMRL, HYDRAA, HMDA, Municipal Corporations, Southern Power Distribution Company, Water Works, RTC and other Government agencies also participated.

Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan stated that approximately 2,000 metric tons of construction and demolition waste are generated in Hyderabad every day. He expressed serious concern over the negligence shown by certain real estate developers and even some government departments undertaking construction activities in managing such waste. He emphasized that the systematic collection, transportation and monitoring of construction waste must be treated as a responsibility of the concerned authorities. He warned government officials and both public- and private-sector contractors that strict action would be taken against those found illegally dumping construction and demolition waste. HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath stated that, after the Dasara festival, another awareness workshop would be organized at the ESCI Convention Centre for hundreds of government and private contractors. The workshop would focus on GO No. 626, responsible construction waste management and the scientific recycling and reuse of waste materials.

ESCI Director Col. Harpal Singh Grewal stated that the ESCI, good management of Construction and Demolition works will ensure cleaner city and proto choice of environment. He also highlighted the importance of recycling water as this year theme has been major shortfall of rains due to El Nino effect.

Re Sustainability Limited Managing Director andCEO Masood Mallick explained that, as part of the circular economy, the company follows the principles of conserving resources, diverting waste from landfills, circulating recovered materials and continuously improving recycling practices. He stated that construction and demolition waste is scientifically processed at the company's plants in Jeedimetla and Fathullaguda to manufacture value-added products such as paving blocks, Hume pipes, RCC benches and parking tiles. He added that these products, featuring attractive designs and made from recycled construction waste, are witnessing considerable demand.

Hyderabad gears up for El Niño, targets 500 MLD treated water

Hyderabad, October 16: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) is preparing an eight-month water conservation plan to tackle possible summer shortages amid El Niño concerns. The Board will launch a Dial-a-Green Tanker service on November 1 to supply treated wastewater for construction, industries, parks and landscaping, reducing dependence on drinking water and groundwater. Managing Director Ashok Reddy said the first-phase target is to supply 500 million litres of treated water daily. A digital platform will enable online bookings and tracking of green tankers. The Board is also exploring pipeline connections and private sewage treatment plants to improve supply and reduce costs.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER
Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-MS-EPC-MT-05-2026 DATED 15-10-2026

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

NAME OF THE WORK

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL for the "Construction of 3rd and 4th line between Attipattu and Gummudipundi for Civil Engineering, Signalling & Telecommunication, Electrical General & OHE Electrification works including utility shifting" on EPC MODE.

Cash Value (Cr.,)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion (Days)	Closing Date @17.30 Hrs	Pre-Bid Conference Date @ 11.30 Hrs.
356.16	7,12,33,700.00	730	27-11-2026	26-10-2026

For further details, please refer to web site portal www.ireps.gov.in or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

for Chief Engineer (Construction), Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
THIRUVANATHAPURAM DIVISION-ELECTRICAL / WORKS
Divisional Railway Manager / Electrical-Genl / Trivandrum Division for & on behalf of the president of India invites E-Tender. On-line bids only will be accepted.

(Amount in ₹ only)

1	V-EG-OT-19-2026-27	Trivandrum: Setting up of quick watering arrangements at TVC for watering trains at PF-1&2, PF 3&4 and at PF 5-Electrical arrangements	₹ 95,91,364/-	₹ 1,91,800	10.11.2026
2	V-EG-OT-24-2026-2027	Trivandrum Divn: Enhancement and Modernisation of Ollur and Nagercoil Goods shed-Electrical arrangements	₹ 60,25,775.75	₹ 1,20,500	10.11.2026
3	V-EG-OT-25-2026-2027	DEN / S jurisdiction Provision of facilities for Divyajan at 57 stations-Electrical arrangements.	₹ 10,71,593.20	₹ 21,400	10.11.2026

Detailed NIT, bidding document etc can be viewed/downloaded from website portal site **www.ireps.gov.in**, EMD shall be made on-line gateway made only. Addendum / Corrigendum, time extension, Clarification etc if any will be uploaded in website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical) Trivandrum



Chief Minister Has Completely Failed to Take Advance Measures to Tackle Drought: Kalvakuntla Kavitha

HYDERABAD

Telangana Rakshana Sena chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha strongly criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that he had completely failed to take preventive measures despite advance warnings about the possibility of drought. Speaking to the media at the Telangana Rakshana Sena office in Banjara Hills on Friday, she said warnings had been issued as early as January this year about the possibility of a severe drought due to the El Niño effect, but the government had failed to take even the minimum precautionary measures. She said it was shameful that the Chief Minister was now lecturing farmers about making sacrifices, as though the government had woken up only after the damage had occurred. Kavitha alleged that Revanth Reddy had expressed helplessness over the drought and effectively admitted that he could do nothing to address the situation. A leader must have foresight, she said, adding that the Chief Minister lacked this essential quality. She termed it unfortunate that the government was asking farmers to make sacrifices after the situation had gone out of control. Kavitha pointed out that August had recorded a 28 per cent rainfall deficit and said the situation could have been different had the government acted promptly at that stage. She noted that neighbouring states had already declared drought-affected mandals and submitted reports to the Centre.

In contrast, she alleged, the Telangana Chief Minister had acted negligently and was now attempting to buy time through review meetings.

She said the government and the Chief Minister could have prevented hardship to the people by taking timely action. Accusing Revanth Reddy of lacking concern for the public and focus on their problems, she said nearly three years had passed since he came to power, yet the Palamuru–Rangareddy project remained incomplete and the Medigadda barrage had not been repaired. Had these works been completed, the state would not have faced the present situation, she argued.

Kavitha said the previous BRS government had spent ₹1.86 lakh crore without completing the irrigation projects, while the Congress government had spent ₹26,000 crore since assuming office but had not provided new irrigation water to even a single acre. She said this was the right time to undertake repairs to the Medigadda barrage and demanded that the work be completed before the next monsoon so that Godavari water could be put to use. Questioning how long the Congress government would continue blaming its predecessor, she advised it to stop criticising the previous government and start completing projects. She also alleged that the Congress government was undermining Telangana's interests by diverting Krishna river water to Andhra Pradesh, using as a pretext the fact that the previous BRS government had entered into a water-sharing agreement for only one year.

Calling it unjust that Revanth Reddy, despite being a son of the Palamuru region, had not completed even the Bhima and Nettampadu projects, she accused him of repeating the very mistakes for which he had criticised the BRS government before coming to power.

Conspiracy to Privatise Yadadri Power Plant

Kavitha alleged that while the state was facing a serious crisis, the Chief Minister was working to build wealth for his family. She claimed that there was an attempt to privatise certain components of the Yadadri Power Plant and demanded that the Chief Minister disclose his alleged links with a company named Power Mech. Questioning the government's intentions, she asked why Revanth Reddy was pursuing privatisation when he had previously argued that the government should retain control over electricity generation and supply. She said the Congress government was failing to provide irrigation water and electricity to farmers despite having the capacity to do so, and urged farmers to take note of the situation. Kavitha recalled that her party had repeatedly warned the government about the possibility of an electricity crisis. Had the government entered into advance agreements with states having surplus electricity, the present power shortage could have been avoided, she said. She made it clear that the government must ensure free electricity supply to farmers until the end of November, regardless of whether it had to arrange power through purchases or other means. Otherwise, farmers dependent on borewells could suffer severe losses, she warned.



Kavitha said that, if necessary, she would meet Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar and travel to Delhi to discuss the state's electricity difficulties with the Central leadership.

Congress Government Responsible for Hyderabad's Water Crisis

Kavitha blamed the Congress government for the water shortage in Hyderabad.

She said the El Niño effect, combined with large-scale encroachment of lakes in the city, had contributed to the water crisis. According to her, around 8,000 lakes had disappeared after the Congress government came to power, resulting in a decline in groundwater levels.

She questioned the role of HYDRAA, the agency responsible for protecting lakes and other water bodies, asking what it was doing to prevent such encroachments.

Kavitha further alleged that the Chief Minister was holding daily meetings with his brothers to benefit his family while neglecting a drought-hit state.

She said the present difficulties could have been avoided if the Chief Minister had devoted even a portion of the time allegedly spent on family-related matters to addressing the problems of the people.

Has the Chief Minister Remembered the All-Party Meeting Only Now?

accused the Chief Minister of showing complete negligence in tackling the drought and shedding what she described as crocodile tears only after the situation had worsened. Questioning the usefulness of the proposed all-party meeting on drought, she said the initiative should have been taken much earlier. She also asked why the Chief Minister had not taken an all-party delegation to Delhi over the BC Bill, accusing him of remaining silent on important issues and now attempting to make everyone share responsibility for his own failures. "Has he remembered the all-party meeting only now?" she asked. Kavitha said the government was appealing to poets, artists, opposition parties and film stars to support it in addressing the drought. However, she questioned the appeal in light of the difficulties these sections had allegedly faced in the past. She assured farmers that her party would stand by them during the crisis and extend whatever assistance it could. At the same time, she said, her party would explain to the public how the government's alleged incompetence had contributed to the present drought situation.

KTR Has a Habit of Turning Against His Own People

Kavitha expressed surprise over a letter reportedly written by BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) seeking an inquiry against Prathima Srinivasa Rao in connection with foreign coal procurement agreements. She said Srinivasa Rao had extended strong support to the BRS during the Telangana movement and alleged that seeking an inquiry against someone who had stood by the party amounted to betraying a trusted associate. Accusing KTR of troubling people who had helped him and members of his own community, she alleged that he even had people hired to abuse her despite her being a member of his own family. Whether KTR had written the letter knowingly or unknowingly, she said, it reflected his lack of understanding. "If he did it unknowingly, it proves that he knows nothing and that my earlier statements about him are true. If he did it knowingly, then it reflects his true nature," she said. Kavitha described KTR as someone who turned against his own people and questioned why the Chief Minister was allegedly protecting Prathima Srinivasa Rao. She said anyone found guilty of wrongdoing should be punished, but questioned the propriety of writing letters seeking inquiries against people who had helped the party. She also alleged that KTR was unaware of the hardships faced by Singareni coal mine workers. According to her, the BRS had organised a meeting at Singareni in an attempt to demonstrate its strength but had failed to address the workers' problems. Kavitha said it was only because of her party's struggles that the government had eventually agreed to conduct the medical board process at Singareni. Expressing confidence about the upcoming Singareni elections, she said the HMS and TRS workers' alliance, which she described as working for the welfare of employees, would emerge victorious.

Chief Minister's Inexperience Has Become a Curse for the State

Kavitha alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's inexperience had become a curse for Telangana. She said he had demonstrated no foresight in managing water resources or preparing the state to face drought. While asking farmers to make sacrifices, the Chief Minister had failed to clarify what compensation the government would provide them, she said. She alleged that reports suggesting compensation of ₹10,000 per acre for crop losses were being leaked to the media, but the Chief Minister had made no clear official announcement. Kavitha expressed concern that agricultural labourers would face severe hardship if farmers did not cultivate crops during the Rabi (Yasangi) season. Farmers themselves could also be forced to migrate to cities in search of work, she said, adding that adequate employment opportunities were not available in urban areas either. She demanded that agricultural labourers be provided ₹12,000 annually along with insurance coverage for their families. If anything happened to these workers, their families would be left without a livelihood, she said. Citing an incident in which 20 labourers from Aija mandal in Jogulamba Gadwal district were travelling to Karnataka in search of employment when an accident occurred, Kavitha said two of them had died, leaving their families without their primary source of income. Questioning the government's promise to provide work to agricultural labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, she asked how this could be achieved without consulting the Centre. She also questioned the timing of the government's decision to form a committee to recommend an increase in employment days, asking when the committee would submit its report to the Centre and when the recommendations would be approved.

Draft Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill Within Three Months: Deputy CM Bhatti

Protecting students' rights is the primary objective
Committee to be constituted under the leadership of the Scheduled Castes Development Department
Legal, Education and Home Departments, along with the UGC, to be involved in the drafting process
Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad: Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to prepare a preliminary draft of the proposed Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill within three months. The legislation aims to protect students' rights in universities and higher educational institutions and prevent discrimination based on caste and social background. He instructed officials to submit the preliminary draft to the Senior Civil Servants Committee (CSC) within the stipulated period. He emphasised that every stage, from constituting the committee to consulting various stakeholders, must be completed within the prescribed timeline without any delay. The second meeting of the Senior Civil Servants Committee on the proposed Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill was held at the Telangana Secretariat on Friday under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka. The meeting discussed in detail the proposed approach to drafting the legislation, the composition of the committee, legal aspects and the process of consultation with various sections of society. The Deputy Chief Minister directed officials to proceed with a clear action plan to ensure effective legal protection for students.

Scheduled Castes Development Department to Lead the Process

Bhatti Vikramarka instructed the Scheduled Castes Development Department (SCDD) to lead the process of drafting the Rohith Vemula legislation. He said the committee should include representatives from the relevant departments and institutions, with the Law Department being made a member. He also directed officials to examine the participation of the Education Department, Home Department, University Grants Commission (UGC) and other relevant institutions. The Deputy Chief Minister ordered that the committee be constituted at the earliest and that preparatory work for drafting the bill begin immediately.

Consult Students, Faculty and Legal Experts

The Deputy Chief Minister called for a comprehensive consultation process involving different sections of society. He directed officials to prepare a list of stakeholders, including students, faculty members, legal experts, civil society organisations, education specialists and other relevant groups, for consultations. The draft should take into account the problems faced by students at the grassroots level, instances of discrimination in higher educational institutions and the challenges that could arise during implementation of the legislation. He said suggestions from government officials and representatives of expert organisations could also be considered while preparing the draft. Following discussions on these issues, Bhatti Vikramarka reiterated that the Law Department should be included as a member of the committee, while the Scheduled Castes Development Department would lead the exercise. Consultations with other departments, experts and relevant institutions should be undertaken as required.

NALSAR University to Provide Legal and Technical Support

The meeting discussed seeking assistance from NALSAR University of Law in addressing the legal and technical aspects of the proposed Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill. Scheduled Castes Development Department Secretary Vijayendra Boi informed the Deputy Chief Minister that NALSAR University had agreed to extend its expertise in drafting the provisions of the proposed legislation. The meeting decided to utilise the university's expertise and prepare a comprehensive draft by incorporating suggestions from the relevant departments and specialists. The proposed legislation should give priority to ensuring equal opportunities for students, preventing discrimination and strengthening a fair and equitable environment in educational institutions. The meeting also emphasised that the provisions of the law must be practical and implementable, with clear mechanisms established for their enforcement.

Draft to Be Submitted Within Three Months

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka directed the concerned departments to submit the preliminary draft to the Senior Civil Servants Committee within three months to facilitate further examination and processing. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts among the departments to complete the exercise within the stipulated deadline and called for special attention to drafting comprehensive legislation that would effectively safeguard students' rights. Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Adluri Lakshman Kumar, Special Chief Secretary Savyasachi Ghosh, senior IPS officer Devendra Singh Chauhan, IAS officers Yogita Rana and Vijayendra Boi, advocate Disha Wadekar and other officials participated in the meeting.

Jupally invites Governor to Saddula Bathukamma celebrations

HYDERABAD, OCT.16

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Excise Jupally Krishna Rao on Friday met Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan and invited him to attend the Saddula Bathukamma celebrations to be organised by the Telangana government on a grand scale at Tank Bund in Hyderabad on October 18.

The Minister presented the formal invitation to the Governor, requesting him to grace the celebrations as the chief guest. Special Chief Secretary to the Tourism Department Vani Prasad and other officials accompanied the Minister during the meeting.

Sridhar Babu proposes Telangana-Karnataka industrial partnership

Hyderabad, Oct.16 : Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Friday pitched a strategic industrial collaboration between Telangana and Karnataka, describing the economic strengths of both states as complementary components of a unified value chain. Speaking at the Bengaluru Roadshow for the upcoming Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026, organised in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Sridhar Babu addressed business leaders and investors, emphasising synergy over inter-state competition. "We have not come to Bengaluru to take anything away. Karnataka has its strengths, and they are extraordinary. Telangana has its own. We have come with humility, to propose a partnership," Sridhar Babu said. Paying tribute to Karnataka's industrial and scientific legacy citing historic milestones from Kempegowda and M. Visvesvaraya to the establishment of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) the Minister noted that Karnataka has long recognised knowledge as "the first industry." He lauded Bengaluru's position as India's startup hub and its foundational role in aerospace via HAL, ISRO, and NAL. Outlining a concrete blueprint for cross-state integration, Sridhar Babu highlighted potential supply-chain links between Bengaluru's R&D capabilities and Telangana's manufacturing ecosystem:

The Minister urged global enterprises with existing operations in Bengaluru to establish secondary hubs in Hyderabad, leveraging the talent pool from premier institutions including IISc, IIT Hyderabad, ISB, and IIIT, alongside innovation ecosystems like T-Hub.

WOMEN BENEFITTED WITH NDA's WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

HYDERABAD, OCT 16

BJP State President N RamchanderRao today emphasised that NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated various programmes for women empowerment in the country and crores of women are getting benefits from centrally sponsored schemes. He was addressing state BJP Women Mahila Morcha Executive meeting organised at state office here which was attended by BJP Mahila Morcha National President Roop Kumari Choudary, BJP Mahila Morcha Telangana in-charge Mrs Nalini and state Mahila Morcha president Dr Mekala Shilpa Reddy and others. Stating that real empowerment and respect for women only under Narendra Modi's government, Rao urged Mahila Morcha members to take central women development programmes to every door step in the state as crore of women are getting benefits from various programmes like Jan Dhan, Mudra yojana, Shakti Sadan launched by Modi government for women empowerment. He strongly criticised Congress, BRS, and INDIA alliance parties for creating obstacles when the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi prestigiously passed the Women's Reservation Bill (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) with the noble intent of providing 33 per cent reservations for women in legislative bodies. He alleged that both Congress and BRS adopted an opposing stance regarding women's reservations. Recalling the hypocritical and deceptive attitude of Congress toward women, he mentioned the "Mahila Akrosh Yatra" organized with thousands of women in Hyderabad, alongside a large-scale protest held at Indira Park.

He criticized the opposition for continuously being unjust to women, while the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government has been paving the way for women's empowerment by implementing numerous historic welfare schemes. He explained that under Modi's governance, over 11 crore free gas connections were provided through PM Ujjwala Yojana, banking services reached nearly 32 crore women through Jan Dhan Yojana, and direct financial assistance was provided to 3 crore women farmers through PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. He noted that nearly 10 crore women in rural areas are gaining employment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs). BJP state chief stated that the central government deserves the credit for encouraging women to grow as entrepreneurs not just through employment, but via schemes like PM Mudra Yojana, Lakhpati Didi, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, e-Shram portal, Women in Startups, Shakti Sadan, Swachh Bharat Mission, and Fast Track Special Courts. He emphasized that compared to the conditions before 2014, women today live with self-respect and empowerment. Criticising ruling Congress government in Telangana, he expressed deep concern that women's safety has become questionable and that atrocities and crimes against women have increased excessively. Providing statistics, he detailed that around 20,000 cases of crimes against women were registered in 2024, which surged to 21,000 in a single year by 2025, marking an increase of over 3.16 per cent in crimes against women. He demanded that the Congress government answer to the public and take moral responsibility. He slammed the current Congress government for continuing the negligent attitude of the previous BRS government. He called upon the Mahila Morcha cadres to wage an uncompromising struggle against the injustices and atrocities committed against women in the state and against government failures, while simultaneously taking central schemes to every doorstep. Speaking on the occasion BJP Mahila Morcha National President and MP Smt. Roop Kumari Choudhary stated that in the past, owning a house was an unfulfilled dream for poor families. Recognizing these hardships, Prime Minister Narendra Modi built permanent houses for lakhs of the poorest of the poor through Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Expressing anguish, she recalled how opposition parties mocked Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi when he announced the construction of toilets under Swachh Bharat from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2014, noting that the Congress party which ruled the country for 70 years never cared about the pain endured by pregnant women and rural women for their self-respect. She stated that today, Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented at a rapid pace, providing toilets in every home alongside clean drinking water through taps. She mentioned that Jan Dhan accounts were opened for rural women who were afraid to even look toward banks prior to 2014, thereby ushering in an economic revolution. She lauded Indian women for showcasing their talent today across corporate sectors, industries, science, defense, and space research, rather than being confined to the kitchen. She noted that over 3 crore "Lakhpati Didis" and Drone Didis have been created in the country. She recalled that Prime Minister Modi not only elevated women to the skies but also washed the feet of sanitation worker sisters who work at the grassroots level, offering women the highest respect. She stated that although the opposition parties blocked the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament and Assemblies, the BJP always provides a rightful place for women. She slammed Priyanka Gandhi—who boasted "I am a girl, I can fight" when 11 young women sought justice following the JNU incident—and Rahul Gandhi for not uttering a single word against a Congress MP facing allegations, exposing their double standards. She affirmed that the BJP Mahila Morcha will always stand by such victims. Expressing firm confidence in the capability and relentless hard work of Telangana's women workers, she stated that the lotus will bloom in the state in the coming days, with Mahila Morcha playing a pivotal role in establishing a BJP government. Mahila Morcha state office bearers, state executive members, and others participated in the program.

Keralam man attacked with stones, beaten to death; SIT formed, 7 arrested

An unidentified man was lynched by a mob in Keralam's Palakkad district, with seven people arrested in connection with the killing, Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala told the state Assembly. Condemning the incident as "extremely brutal", he said a 10-member SIT had been formed to probe the case. Keralam Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala on Friday condemned the alleged mob lynching of an unidentified man in Palakkad district and said seven people had been arrested, news agency PTI reported. A 10-member special investigation team will investigate the killing, while efforts are underway to identify the victim, who was estimated to be between 35 and 40 years old.

Replying to a submission in the state Assembly, Chennithala described the incident as "extremely brutal and condemnable". He said such cruelty could not be accepted in a progressive state like Keralam, which had achieved complete literacy and implemented progressive legislation. Chennithala assured the House that no one involved in the crime would be spared. He said he had directed the Additional Director General of Police, Intelligence, to seek the help of his Tamil Nadu counterpart in identifying the victim as the incident occurred in a village bordering the neighbouring state. Calling the killing inhuman and heinous, the minister said the victim's body bore around 52 injuries, according to PTI. "How can we justify a group of people joining together to commit such an inhuman and heinous murder?" he asked.

Chandrababu Naidu and Wife Offer Silk Saree, Traditional Offerings to Goddess Kanaka Durga

VIJAYAWADA, OCTOBER 16





Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, accompanied by his wife, visited Sri Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada. On the occasion of the Dasara Navaratri celebrations, the Chief Minister offered silk garments and traditional saare (auspicious offerings) to the presiding deity on behalf of the state government and performed special prayers.

The Chief Minister said he prayed to Goddess Kanaka Durga for the happiness and well-being of all the people of Andhra Pradesh and for the state's continued prosperity.

The Chief Minister and his wife were accorded a traditional welcome by temple officials and priests upon their arrival at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Temple. Temple Sthanacharya Shivaprasad Sharma ceremonially adorned the Chief Minister with the customary pariveshtam.

Subsequently, Chandrababu Naidu offered silk garments and saare to the Goddess and performed special rituals in the sanctum sanctorum amid Vedic chants by priests.

Even during the Chief Minister's offering of silk garments, the temple authorities ensured that the darshan of ordinary devotees continued without interruption by maintaining the queue lines.

Following the prayers, priests bestowed Vedic blessings on the Chief Minister and his wife at the Ashirvachana Mandapam. Executive Officer Sheena Naik presented the Goddess's sacred garments to the Chief Minister, while the temple chairman and the Executive Officer presented him with a portrait of the deity.

Eight Lakh Devotees Have Darshan in Six Days

on the occasion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu extended Dasara greetings to the people of Andhra Pradesh.

"On behalf of the state government, I offered a silk saree and traditional offerings to the Goddess along with my family and prayed for the happiness and well-being of everyone. The temple governing body and officials have made arrangements to ensure that devotees do not face any inconvenience," he said.

The Chief Minister noted that large numbers of devotees were visiting Indrakeeladri to participate in the Dasara festivities. As many as eight lakh devotees had darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga in just six days, he said.

Devotees ranging from young children to senior citizens were arriving with deep devotion to seek the blessings of the Goddess.

He also highlighted the organisation of Vijayawada Utsav 2.0 and the National Saras Mela at the venue. He said it was a matter of pride that Vijayawada's Dasara celebrations had earned a prominent place among the major festivals organised across the country.

The Chief Minister said he had prayed for abundant rainfall in the state and for the happiness and prosperity of all its people. He also expressed his wish for improved living standards and said he had sought the Goddess's blessings to transform Andhra Pradesh into a healthy, prosperous and happy society.

State Election Commission Issues Orders Appointing 28 IFS Officers as Expenditure Observers

Contested Candidates Must Not Exceed the Expenditure Limit Prescribed by the State Election Commission: State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha

VIJAYAWADA, OCTOBER 16

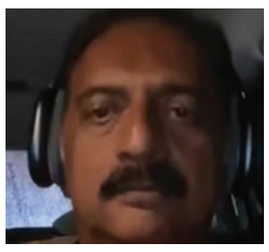
State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha has clarified that candidates contesting local body elections must not spend beyond the expenditure limit prescribed by the State Election Commission. The Election Commissioner has issued orders appointing 28 IFS officers as expenditure observers for 28 districts and held a meeting with them on Friday to review election expenditure monitoring and related arrangements. During the meeting, he instructed the observers to ensure daily monitoring of candidates' election expenditure from the date of filing of nominations until the completion of the election process. He also directed them to guide Returning Officers to provide candidates with the prescribed formats for recording election expenditure, free of cost and within the stipulated time. He stated that every contesting candidate must submit details of their total election expenditure to the State Election Commission through District Election Officer within 45 days of the declaration of election results. The Commissioner directed the expenditure observers to ensure that candidates, their agents and the general public do not face any inconvenience at polling stations. He also instructed them to coordinate with the district police authorities and make adequate security arrangements to maintain law and order. The observers were asked to continuously monitor political representatives to prevent violations of the Model Code of Conduct. He urged the need to remain vigilant against violations of election rules and take appropriate action to ensure compliance. He further instructed that the supply of liquor must be stopped 48 hours before the hour fixed for closure of polling in municipalities and 44 hours in case of gram panchayats. He directed the observers to coordinate with the police and Excise Department officials to prevent the illegal supply and sale of liquor during the election period. The State Election Commissioner emphasised that all concerned officials must discharge their duties with utmost responsibility and take special care to ensure that the election process is conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner.

Vijay govt to sell fine rice at Rs 30/kg in TN as prices soar to Rs 85 in open market

The Vijay government in Tamil Nadu has announced subsidised sales of fine-quality rice at Rs 30 per kg after open-market prices surged to Rs 75-85 per kg. The rice will be sold across the state through Amudham departmental stores and cooperative stores. The decision comes after retail rice prices in the open market rose to between Rs 75 and Rs 85 a kg. Food and Civil Supplies Minister P Venkataramanan said the increase in prices was caused by the impact of El Nino on agriculture, regional supply shortages and global economic factors. In the first phase, the government will distribute 25,000 metric tonnes of fine-quality raw and parboiled rice at Rs 30 a kg through 201 cooperative stores and 49 Amudham outlets. Consumers can buy up to 5 kg, depending on their requirement, from this weekend, the government said in a release. "As our first and foremost priority, we are procuring one lakh metric tonnes of Grade A rice. About 25,000 metric tonnes have been released for immediate distribution through Amudham departmental stores and cooperative stores across the state," Venkataramanan told reporters, according to PTI. "We are also planning to supply toor dal to all shops from Monday at Rs 130 a kg, while rice will be sold at Rs 30 a kg. Distribution of rice will begin today or tomorrow," he said. The government is procuring an initial stock of 500 metric tonnes of toor dal from the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, or NAFED. It will be sold at Rs 130 a kg through 250 Amudham and cooperative outlets across the state.

We're not Bangladesh or Nepal, regime change will be democratic: Prakash Raj

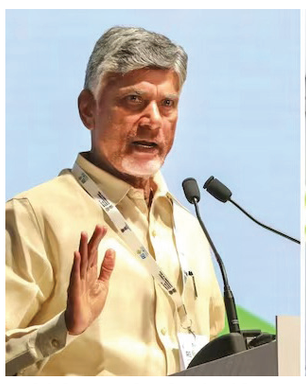
His remarks came after Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was detained ahead of a proposed Tiranga march in Delhi on Friday.



Actor and activist Prakash Raj on Friday backed calls for regime change but said it must come through elections and constitutional means, contrasting India with Bangladesh and Nepal, where mass protests ousted governments in 2024 and 2025, respectively. "We want the regime down, and we will bring it down democratically in this country," Raj said, outlining an electoral fight from Uttar Pradesh to the 2029 Lok Sabha polls. "We are not Nepal. We are not Bangladesh. We have Ambedkar. We have Gandhi. We have Bhagat Singh. We have a Constitution. We have a right to vote," he added. His remarks came after Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was detained ahead of a proposed Tiranga march in Delhi on Friday. The outfit has been protesting against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Raj accused the Centre of using force to silence protesters and said its refusal to engage had fuelled demands for its removal. "You have pushed us because you are not talking to us. You're using force," he said. Rejecting suggestions that peaceful protests and calls for electoral change amounted to anarchy, he said citizens were exercising their constitutional rights to question, demonstrate and vote. "We are not armed. We are armed with the Constitution. We are armed with the right to protest," he said. Raj also questioned the detentions ahead of the Tiranga march on Friday, invoking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign encouraging people to display the national flag. "I'm asking Modiji, what happened to your Har Ghar Tiranga nara?" he said. "The youth of this country want to walk with the Tiranga." He alleged police violence against protesters, including women, and urged opposition parties to raise the issue in Parliament during the Winter Session. Citizens, he said, would continue peaceful street protests. Raj pointed to support from farmers, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha and civil society groups, saying the next phase of the protests would bring larger crowds to the streets.

Police blame YSRCP for Andhra civic poll violence; TDP, Opposition trade charges

Annamayya SP Dheeraj K accused YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy and his supporters of violating rules during Punganur Municipality nominations.





Annamayya Superintendent of Police Dheeraj K has blamed the opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), led by former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, for the violence that broke out during the nomination process for local body elections in Punganur on Friday. The police alleged that YSRCP Rajampet MP PV Midhun Reddy and his supporters violated election guidelines, breached security barricades and triggered a disturbance, while the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and YSRCP traded accusations over the incident. In a statement, SP Dheeraj K said Midhun Reddy, accompanied by around 100 party workers and supporters, allegedly violated State Election Commission rules governing access to the nomination centre. According to the guidelines, only the candidate filing the nomination and two other people are permitted within the 100-metre perimeter of the Returning Officer's office. The SP alleged that the MP and his supporters arrived from Punganur town in six batches using multiple vehicles and drove through security barricades and gates at high speed. The incident prompted protests from TDP workers and members of the public, following which police personnel intervened to disperse the gathering. Dheeraj K further alleged that a vehicle suspected to be associated with the YSRCP entered the nomination centre rashly and moved towards TDP cadres and members of the public, injuring several people. The injured were shifted to hospital by ambulance. The SP said police forces were deployed in full strength to bring the situation under control. Midhun Reddy was secured in a safe room as a precautionary measure and was to be moved to a safe location after the crowd outside dispersed. Warning against further escalation, Dheeraj K said anyone attempting to take the law into their own hands would face strict action. He stressed that the election process must be conducted peacefully and without any untoward incidents.

TDP, YSRCP TRADE CHARGES

The ruling TDP and opposition YSRCP offered conflicting accounts of the violence. The YSRCP alleged that TDP workers attacked vehicles in Midhun Reddy's convoy with stones, sticks and iron rods while he was accompanying party candidates and leaders to file nominations. The opposition party also claimed that TDP workers blocked the convoy, attempted to prevent its candidates from reaching the nomination centre and vandalised vehicles belonging to its leaders. A security guard accompanying Midhun Reddy reportedly sustained a head injury. The YSRCP accused police personnel present at the scene of failing to stop the alleged attackers and protect candidates. It demanded the intervention of the State Election Commission, registration of criminal cases, arrests of those responsible and action against officers who allegedly failed to prevent the violence. The party also sought adequate security for candidates and their proposers, along with arrangements to ensure that those affected could submit their nomination papers without obstruction. The TDP, meanwhile, accused Midhun Reddy and his supporters of attacking party leader Madhu Royal and deliberately driving a vehicle towards TDP candidates and police personnel. In a post on X, the party alleged that the convoy's supporters were under the influence of alcohol and had entered the area with the intention of assaulting people.

POLICE DENY ATTACK ON MP

Madanapalli Deputy Superintendent of Police B Prasad said Midhun Reddy arrived in a convoy of more than 10 vehicles, mostly SUVs, and drove through the area without stopping, creating a disturbance. "It was not an attack on the MP (Reddy). He arrived in a convoy of more than 10 vehicles even before the nomination process, creating a disturbance. Several people, including police personnel, sustained injuries," Prasad told news agency PTI. Visuals purportedly from the scene showed four SUVs overturned, smashed window-panes and several cars that appeared to have been burnt. The Andhra Pradesh poll body has recently notified elections to more than 100 urban and rural local bodies.

Whose side is the Pithapuram Municipal Chairman's seat ?

Where is JanaSena's thinking? The leader's decision is unusual..!





PITHAPURAM, OCTOBER 16

Speculations have gained momentum over the Pithapuram Municipal Chairman's seat. Is it Danam Lazar Babu, who has been a supporter of the JanaSena Party since the beginning and is working tirelessly for the party? Or is it Sikolu Rajasekhar (Amma Rajasekhar), who wants to become a leader of the JanaSena Party in the Pithapuram constituency by blocking the News Channel and giving color to the leader as a useless JanaSena worker? Or, it is noteworthy that Dr Bira Vijaya Shekhar, a person who is still recognized as a good doctor who has served the common people in the medical profession and has received praise for his style of medical services to many common people, is on one side. However, a person named Danam Lazar Babu from the SC community has always been in the public struggles.. responding to public problems.. and has always been in the eyes of JanaSena leader, Pithapuram MLA, and State Deputy Chief Minister Konidala Pawan Kalyan, who has given him a suitable position in the JanaSena party and given him the responsibility of the post of Director of Andhra Pradesh State SC Corporation. It is not known whether Danam Lazar Babu, who holds a responsible position, will be selected as the candidate for Pithapuram Municipal Chairman.. It is noteworthy that at present, people are on the side of Dr. Bira Vijaya Shekhar, whom the people are getting. Educated... unassuming... willing to serve... a person who is born... a person who is friendly and does not forget the hardships he has gone through. The people of the three mandals of Pithapuram constituency, who have received medical services from party chief Pawan Kalyan, are gathering strength with open arms to select Dr. Beera Vijaya Shekhar as the candidate for Municipal Chairman and to win the hearts of the people. The JanaSena leadership has taken this decision and put the Municipal Chairman's seat in the JanaSena account and the aspiration of the people of Pithapuram is to get the victory through Dr. Beera Vijaya Shekhar.



Y. S. Sharmila Reddy Invites Karnataka CM D. K. Shivakumar to Her Daughter's Wedding

Bangalore:

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President Y. S. Sharmila Reddy met Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar at his office and personally handed him the wedding invitation for her daughter, Y. S. Anjili Reddy, and Somala Raghuram Reddy. She invited the Karnataka Chief Minister to attend the wedding ceremony along with his family and bless the newlyweds. Expressing her happiness over the meeting, Sharmila Reddy said it was a pleasure to meet D. K. Shivakumar and personally invite him to her daughter's wedding. She thanked him for the warmth and courtesy extended to her and expressed hope that the special occasion would be celebrated with his blessings and good wishes for the bride and groom.

Sabarimala ghee supply row: Milk producers' union suffers Rs 75.5 lakh loss, says minister

Keralam's dairy minister told the Assembly that Sabarimala ghee supply irregularities cost a Milma union more than Rs 75 lakh. The case has prompted multiple investigations and plans for end-to-end supply monitoring.

Keralam Dairy Development Minister Bindu Krishna on Friday said alleged irregularities in the supply of ghee to the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala had caused a loss of Rs 75.5 lakh to the Thiruvananthapuram Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Union, news agency Press Trust of India reported. The minister said the union's governing body had been dissolved after the irregularities came to light, while a departmental investigation was in its final stage. The state government had also recently ordered a probe into allegations concerning the quality and quantity of ghee supplied during the 2025-26 pilgrimage season. The Thiruvananthapuram Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Union is one of three regional unions under the Keralam Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd, popularly known as Milma. Responding to questions during Question Hour in the Assembly, Krishna said the largest part of the loss was caused by supplying ghee at Rs 510 per litre when its wholesale price was Rs 552 per litre, according to PTI. "Several allegations had surfaced in connection with the issue. As the irregularities were serious, the regional union was dissolved. A departmental-level investigation is under way and is in its final stage," Krishna said. She said all relevant files had been handed over to the Vigilance Department as part of the investigation. The role of the contractor responsible for transporting ghee to Sabarimala was also being investigated.

Krishna said the Dairy Development Department was committed to preventing such irregularities from recurring and that strict action would be taken against those found guilty.

EDITORIAL

WATER SECURITY CANNOT DEPEND ON THE MONSOON

India needs a lasting water-management strategy that combines conservation, efficient irrigation, groundwater recharge and responsible urban planning. For generations, the monsoon has shaped India's agriculture, economy and everyday life. But relying on seasonal rainfall to secure the country's water future is becoming increasingly risky. Erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells, intense downpours and growing demand are exposing the limitations of a system that often treats water scarcity as an emergency rather than a problem requiring year-round planning. The warning signs are evident. According to the Central Water Commission's reservoir assessment reported in September 2026, water storage in 178 major reservoirs stood at around 70 per cent of their total capacity, below the decadal average of 76.62 per cent. Southern India faced particular pressure, with reservoir storage at about 50 per cent of capacity. These figures underline the need to prepare for water stress well before the next dry spell arrives.

India has made substantial investments in dams, irrigation networks, drinking-water schemes and groundwater management. Yet infrastructure alone cannot guarantee water security. The challenge lies in ensuring that available resources are conserved, distributed equitably and used efficiently. A reservoir filled during a good monsoon offers little long-term protection if water is wasted, groundwater is overdrawn or local storage systems are neglected. Groundwater deserves particular attention. The Central Ground Water Board's 2025 assessment estimated annual groundwater extraction across India at 247.22 billion cubic metres, against annual extractable resources of 407.75 billion cubic metres. Although the national average does not indicate uniform depletion, local aquifers face considerable pressure. The answer lies in better monitoring, stronger regulation and community participation, rather than assuming that groundwater will remain an unlimited reserve.

Agriculture must be central to the solution. Irrigation accounts for the overwhelming majority of groundwater extraction. Expanding drip and sprinkler irrigation where suitable, repairing leaking canals, promoting water-efficient crops and aligning cultivation with local water availability can help farmers obtain greater value from every drop. Such changes must be supported by agricultural extension services, affordable technology and assured market access, so that conservation does not become an additional burden on farmers. Urban India also needs a fundamental shift in its approach. Cities cannot continue to depend almost entirely on distant reservoirs while allowing rainwater to flow into drains and stormwater channels. Rainwater harvesting, protection of lakes and wetlands, restoration of traditional tanks, wastewater recycling and the prevention of encroachment on natural drainage systems must become integral to urban development. Buildings and industries should be encouraged to reuse treated wastewater wherever appropriate. For Telangana and other drought-prone regions, these measures are especially important. Tank restoration, watershed development, groundwater recharge and scientific crop planning can strengthen rural resilience. In cities such as Hyderabad, protecting water bodies and improving rainwater capture must accompany the expansion of residential and commercial infrastructure.

Ultimately, water security requires coordination across departments, local governments, farmers, industries and citizens. Every watershed needs a plan based on rainfall, groundwater availability, storage capacity and projected demand. Public spending should be assessed not merely by the number of structures built but by the water conserved and the reliability of supply achieved. The monsoon will remain indispensable to India. But it cannot be the country's only insurance against water scarcity. A secure future demands that every rainy season becomes an opportunity to replenish resources, every dry season tests the strength of our planning, and every drop is treated as an asset to be protected.

Water security is not achieved when the rains arrive; it is achieved when a society is prepared for the rains to fail.

THE WORLD NEEDS A LITTLE MORE HUMANITY

We have learned to build machines that fly,
And send our dreams across the sky.
We touch the world through screens of light,
Yet miss the tears beside us at night.
We count our wealth, we chase our fame,
We change our flags, but stay the same.
We win our wars, we claim our land,
Yet fail to reach a trembling hand.
The streets grow loud, the hearts grow still,
We bend the truth to suit our will.
A thousand voices fill the air,
But who has time to stop and care?
A child needs books, a farmer rain,
A worker's hope, relief from pain.
A mother prays for peaceful days,
While power walks a thousand ways.
What good is progress, swift and grand,
If kindness dies across the land?
What worth is all that we acquire,
If human hearts grow cold as wire?
Let every dawn bring more than light,
Let truth stand tall, let wrongs be right.
Let hands unite where borders divide,
Let love be more than words of pride.
For history won't remember all
Who built the towers, raised the wall.
It will remember, when years depart,
Who gave the world a human heart.
Tomorrow is not merely a day to see;
It is the world we choose to be.

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

(On the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty / October 17)

The Next Step in Poverty Eradication



K AMARAVATI

MEMBER PLUS NGO

Escaping poverty is a significant achievement, but ensuring that families sustain their progress is equally important. Rising incomes, employment opportunities and social welfare programmes can help people overcome deprivation. Yet illness, job loss, crop failure or a sudden rise in essential expenses can undo these gains. The next phase of poverty eradication must therefore focus not only on lifting people above the poverty line, but also on creating conditions that enable them to build secure and stable lives.

India has made considerable progress in reducing poverty. The World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief estimates that the share of the population living below the lower-middle-income poverty line of $4.20 a day, measured at 2021 purchasing power parity, fell from 57.7% in 2011 to 16.1% in 2023. Separately, estimates based on the Tendulkar Committee methodology put poverty at 4.7% in 2022–23 and 2.3% in 2023–24. These estimates use different thresholds and methodologies and are not directly comparable. Together, however, they underline the importance of building on the progress achieved.

Crossing a poverty threshold does not necessarily mean that a household has enough savings to meet an unexpected expense. Informal workers, daily-wage earners, small business owners and agriculture-dependent families often face uncertain incomes. When earnings fall, they may borrow at high interest rates, sell productive assets or cut spending on nutritious food, healthcare and children's education. These choices can have consequences long after the immediate crisis has passed. Poverty reduction must therefore be assessed not just by income levels, but also by whether families can meet essential needs without sacrificing their future prospects.

The cost of essential services is central to this challenge. Rising expenditure on housing, healthcare, education, transport and food can leave little room for savings, even when incomes improve. A medical emergency can wipe out years of modest financial progress, while insecure housing can disrupt employment and children's education. The United Nations has highlighted safe housing as a key concern for the 2026 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, noting that more than 2.8 billion people worldwide experience some form of inadequate housing. Affordable homes, reliable public services and accessible healthcare are therefore essential components of sustainable poverty reduction.

"Expanding employment in labour-intensive sectors, improving skills, supporting small enterprises and widening access to formal credit can help households move beyond subsistence."

Healthcare deserves particular attention. Preventive care, timely diagnosis, affordable medicines and effective health insurance can reduce the financial burden of illness. Strengthening primary healthcare facilities and limiting excessive out-of-pocket expenditure would help families avoid debt and preserve their savings. Insurance coverage must also translate into practical protection, with clear procedures, timely claim settlements and fewer barriers to



treatment.

Social protection can provide an important safety net. According to the Economic Survey 2025–26, the share of India's population covered by social protection systems rose from 22% in 2016 to 64.3% in 2025. The next priority is to make these benefits easier to access through simpler enrolment, timely payments and portable entitlements for migrant workers. Updated household records can also help identify those who need support as their circumstances change.

Public assistance, however, cannot substitute for reliable livelihood opportunities. Expanding employment in labour-intensive sectors, improving skills, supporting small enterprises and widening access to formal credit can help households move beyond subsistence. Credit initiatives should be accompanied by market access and business guidance so that borrowers can build viable enterprises without taking on unsustainable debt.

Agriculture-dependent families need equally focused support. Better irrigation, water conservation, storage facilities, access to markets and effective crop insurance can reduce the impact of weather-related losses and price fluctuations. Diversifying rural livelihoods through allied activities and non-farm employment can also reduce dependence on a single source of income.

Policy design must recognise that families do not become financially secure the moment their incomes cross a poverty threshold. Support should evolve as their circumstances improve, allowing them time to establish stable livelihoods and build savings before assistance is reduced. Coordinating welfare programmes with employment, healthcare, housing and livelihood initiatives can make this transition more effective.

Ultimately, the next step in poverty eradication is to turn short-term gains into lasting improvements in living standards. Success should be measured not only by how many people rise above the poverty line, but also by whether they can afford essential services, maintain their livelihoods and provide better opportunities for their children. Poverty reduction becomes meaningful and lasting when families gain not just higher incomes, but the freedom to plan their futures with confidence.

Amit Shah's Questions and the Congress's Electoral Reality



Rahul Gandhi has repeatedly alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) wins elections with the help of the Election Commission rather than through its own popularity. The Congress and several other opposition parties have questioned the Election Commission over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. But an important question remains: is it enough to blame the Election Commission for the Congress's electoral decline over several decades? Should the party not also review its policies, leadership and organisation?

Rahul Gandhi's allegations have also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The Congress claims that the Election Commission is working in favour of the ruling party. Demanding free and fair elections is a democratic right of the opposition. However, serious allegations must be supported by facts and evidence. Political statements alone cannot establish the truth of an allegation. While questioning the Election Commission, the Congress must also examine the reasons for its electoral performance that have little or no direct connection with the SIR.

In response to the Congress, Home Minister Amit Shah referred to the party's electoral history. His question was straightforward: if the Election Commission and the SIR are responsible for the Congress's defeats, why has the party remained weak in several states where it has been out of power for years? Shah argued that the Congress must seriously examine the reasons behind its electoral failures.

After Shah's remarks, Congress leaders raised different issues. Jairam Ramesh asked how many infiltrators had been identified, how many names had been removed from electoral rolls and how many people had been deported from the country. Pawan Khera questioned the deployment of a large police force at Jantar Mantar. K. C. Venugopal described Shah's remarks as an advance announcement of the next election result and accused the BJP of trying to influence elections.

Amid these reactions, the debate over the Congress's electoral performance appeared to take a back seat. Questions about the SIR process and the accuracy of electoral rolls are important in their own right. However, the Congress must also explain what it has done to rebuild its support in states where it has remained out of power for a long time. Shah's central message was that the opposition must examine its own weaknesses while criticising the government.

The Congress Has Been Away from a Majority for Four Decades

More than four decades have passed since the Congress last secured a full majority in the Lok Sabha on its own. In the 1984 general election, held in extraordinary circumstances following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the party won 404 of the 543 elected seats. Since then, the Congress has never secured a majority in the Lok Sabha on its own. Under Rajiv Gandhi's leadership, the Congress contested the 1989 and 1991 general elections but failed to secure a majority on either occasion. Under Sonia Gandhi, the party made a significant comeback in 2004 and 2009. It won 145 seats in 2004 and 206 in 2009. With the support of its allies, it formed the government at the Centre. However, its electoral performance weakened considerably in the years that followed.

The Congress won only 44 seats in the 2014 Lok Sabha election. Its tally rose to 52 in 2019 and 99 in 2024. The latest result marked an improvement, but the party remained far short of a majority. These figures show that the Congress's electoral challenges began long before the SIR. Therefore, the revision of electoral rolls cannot, by itself, explain the party's long-term political decline.

The Congress, which once formed governments across large parts of India, is now struggling in several states. It has been more than six decades since Tamil Nadu last had a Congress chief minister. The party has also remained out of power in West Bengal for a long time. In Uttar Pradesh, it has been unable to form a government on its own for decades. Gujarat and Odisha, too, have remained beyond its reach for many years.

However, the political situation differs from state to state. Regional parties have established strong positions in some states, while the BJP has expanded its support in others. The Congress must understand these changing circumstances and develop strategies accordingly. Reminding voters of its past glory will not be enough to regain their trust. The party needs a strong organisation, effective local leadership and a sustained presence among the people.

Politics Cannot Be Won Through Protests Alone

Political analysts believe Amit Shah has given the Congress sound advice. Simply gathering a few thousand people in Delhi is not enough to win elections. Political parties must reach villages, towns and remote areas. They must understand people's problems and work consistently to resolve them.

This principle applies not only to the Congress but to every political party. Protests are an important part of democracy. The biggest question facing the Congress is what it has learnt from its electoral defeats. Has its organisation weakened? Is its leadership meeting voters' expectations? Are its policies attracting younger voters? Without finding answers to these questions, a political comeback will be difficult. The BJP is presenting its performance in recent local body and village committee elections as evidence of public support. The Congress, too, must assess its electoral results objectively.

Rahul Gandhi and the Congress leadership face a twofold challenge. They must support their allegations against the Election Commission with evidence. At the same time, they must acknowledge their electoral weaknesses and improve the party organisation. These two tasks are not mutually exclusive.

In a democracy, no political party has a permanent right to win elections. Public trust is earned through performance, leadership and policies. If the Congress wants to regain the political ground it has lost, it must move beyond allegations and undertake serious self-examination. Questioning the neutrality of the Election Commission is its democratic right, but correcting its own weaknesses is a political necessity.



VIVEK SHUKLA

'With arrival of SSR, SIR has become zero'

Akhilesh Yadav's swipe at EC's new revision exercise in 17 states

LUCKNOW, OCT 16



Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday trained guns at the Election Commission's new drive titled Special Summary Revision (SSR), stating that it has made the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) "null and void". "SIR (voter revision drive) has become zero because SSR has arrived. Isn't that correct? If the SSR exercise is being conducted, then SIR has become zero now," Akhilesh Yadav alleged in his address at a gathering here. The SSR exercise was rolled out by the poll panel on Thursday. In a notification, the EC directed the special revision of electoral rolls in 17 states and Union Territories and also mandated, for the first time, sharing of "machine-readable" versions of voter lists with the political parties. The SP supremo, taking potshots at the SSR exercise, presented a young voter with multiple registrations in different districts, questioning the efficacy of the drive. "This young man did not even know how many voter registrations existed in his name. He applied for only one. Look at the gift that the BJP has given him by colluding with the Election Commission," Akhilesh Yadav said. Notably, the machine-readable/PDF list of electoral rolls has long been a pending demand of political parties. With the new directives, the panel officials will now provide copies of draft and final electoral rolls to political parties not in image format but in 'machine-readable' PDF format. The SP supremo, unconvinced with the EC's new revision exercise, remained unsparing in his criticism of the EC and accused it of conspiring with the ruling BJP dispensation for facilitating 'vote chori'. He said that when the EC's wrongdoings were caught during the voter revision exercise across poll-bound states under the SIR, they called it a "minor mistake", "but this is not an erroneous step but a conspiracy and plot to loot the mandate of people". "The protest is taking place because their (EC and BJP) theft is being exposed and their actions are being uncovered. Why are they trying to steal votes? Why are they engaging in theft, conspiracies and manipulation through SIR or SSR?" Akhilesh Yadav asked. Notably, the SSR drive will be held in 17 states and UTs, where the polling has been completed. According to EC officials, the elections in these states are scheduled next year. The SSR, an annual exercise, seeks to enrol new eligible voters and update the electoral rolls. Under this, the applicants aren't expected to submit documents to prove their citizenship or get mapped through previous electoral rolls.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Meets Gold Medal-Winning Indian Women's Kabaddi Team at Rail Bhawan

Union Minister Congratulates Indian Railways' Women Sportspersons on Their Gold Medal Victory, Making the Tricolour Proud
Indian Railways Continues to Nurture Sporting Talent Through the Railway Sports Promotion Board



Union Minister for Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, today met members of the Indian women's Kabaddi team at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. The team won the gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. India's women's Kabaddi team secured the gold medal after defeating Iran 37-34 in a closely contested final on 26 September 2026, successfully defending its Asian Games title. Union Minister Shri Vaishnaw congratulated Indian Railways' women sportspersons on their gold medal victory, commending the players for making the Tricolour proud and bringing laurels to the country through their dedication, determination and sporting excellence. The team was coached by Neeta Moreshwar Dadwe and captained by Pushpa Rana.

The Railway sportspersons who met the Minister included Head Coach Neeta Moreshwar Dadwe of South Central Railway; Ritu Negi of South Central Railway; Pooja of Northern Railway; Pinky Roy of South Central Railway; and Sonali Vishnu Shingate and Raj Rani of Western Railway.

Indian Railways has a long record of nurturing sporting talent through the Railway Sports Promotion Board. Its sportspersons have represented India at major international competitions, including the Olympic Games, World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Through institutional support and opportunities to pursue sporting careers alongside employment, Indian Railways continues to contribute to the development of sporting talent in the country.

Committed to Providing Pure and Clean Drinking Water to Passengers – North Eastern Railway

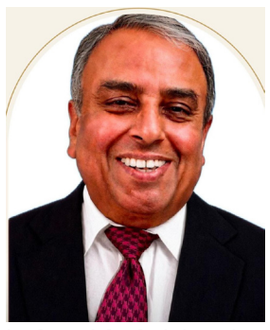
GORAKHPUR, OCTOBER 16, 2026:



With the objective of providing clean and safe drinking water to railway passengers and employees, the North Eastern Railway has accorded priority to the continuous monitoring and maintenance of water tanks, water coolers, taps, filters, distribution points, and pipelines at railway stations, offices, and residential colonies. Chief Health Inspectors and Health Inspectors of the Railways are regularly conducting residual chlorine tests, bacteriological culture tests, and chemical analyses to ensure the safety of drinking water. Providing pure drinking water to railway passengers and employees is one of the key priorities of the Railway Administration, and these efforts will continue on a sustained campaign basis. In the Lucknow Division, under the joint direction of Dr. Ramesh Chand, Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Hospital/Badshahnagar, and Shri Bhuvnesh Singh, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infrastructure), Chief Health Inspectors and Health Inspectors conducted a total of 251 residual chlorine tests and 37 bacteriological culture tests at 21 major railway stations and four major residential colonies. Following the inspections, all water samples were found to comply with the prescribed standards. Similarly, residual chlorine tests and bacteriological culture tests are being conducted regularly at major railway stations in the Izzatnagar Division. In the Varanasi Division, Chief Health Inspectors and Health Inspectors inspected water tanks, water coolers, water filters, pipelines, and pumping systems at railway stations, residential colonies, coaching depots, hospitals and health centres, running rooms, crew lobbies, and offices. This inspection campaign will continue across all stations, residential colonies, and offices of the North Eastern Railway to ensure the availability of pure drinking water. Health Inspectors are conducting regular tests to ensure that passengers and employees receive clean drinking water that meets the prescribed standards. Providing clean drinking water to railway passengers and employees remains a priority for the Railway Administration, and continuous monitoring of water quality will continue to ensure compliance with the prescribed standards.

Tribute to Mr Ashok Kumar Jha IAS retd (1969:AP)

HYDERABAD:



The passing away of Shri Ashok Jha, IAS (Retd.), on 13 October 2026, is a profound loss to the civil service fraternity and to all those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. An officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, Shri Jha had an illustrious career in the Indian Administrative Service, marked by administrative acumen, sound judgement and a deep understanding of economic and financial affairs. He served as Finance Secretary in the Government of Andhra Pradesh and subsequently held several important positions in the Government of India, including Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, and Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs. He finally rose to the position of Finance Secretary to the Government of India, one of the highest responsibilities in the country's financial administration. What made Shri Jha particularly endearing was the warmth and simplicity with which he conducted himself. Soft-spoken, ever smiling and easily accessible, he put people at ease and made even the most formal interactions feel personal. Despite the senior positions he held, he remained approachable and courteous, always willing to listen. These qualities earned him the affection and regard of colleagues and contemporaries and made his association memorable beyond the offices he occupied.

His journey through important assignments in state and central administration reflected the confidence reposed in his professional competence and judgement. His wide experience in financial administration, industrial policy and economic affairs enabled him to contribute to matters of considerable significance for the country's governance and economic progress. A career spanning nearly four decades in public service is a testament to sustained commitment and dedication. Yet, a person's lasting legacy lies not only in the responsibilities discharged or the positions held, but also in the respect and goodwill earned through personal conduct. Shri Jha's professional accomplishments, coupled with his gracious demeanour, leave behind a legacy worthy of remembrance. His passing leaves a void in the civil service community. He will be remembered with respect for his professional contribution and with affection for the warmth, humility and accessibility that defined his interactions with others. We the serving and retired IAS officers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May they find strength and solace in their memories of him and in the knowledge that he leaves behind a legacy of service and goodwill. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

- Mr PC Parakh IAS retd , former Coal Secy , Govt of India

Govt: AI Agent Incident Poses No Major Financial Loss

NEW DELHI: (OCT 16)

Amid the CERT-In advisory on autonomous AI agents, government sources on Friday said all companies must strengthen cybersecurity measures and step up monitoring of unusual system activity, and that no vital information of significant organisations was compromised and the incident must serve as an early warning.

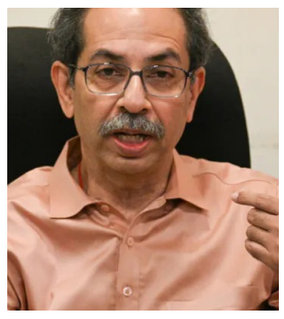
India's cybersecurity agency CERT-In has issued a 'critical' advisory warning that autonomous Artificial Intelligence (AI) agents have accessed live systems and confidential data of Indian organisations without authorisation, while threat actors are actively weaponising open-source agentic AI tools to execute rapid cyberattacks. Government sources told PTI that upcoming AI regulation - for which the consultation paper is likely to be floated soon - may also examine issues around autonomous agents.

CBI Assures Fair Probe to Ankita Bhandari's Parents

NEW DELHI: (Oct 16) Parents of Ankita Bhandari, the 19-year-old resort receptionist whose body was found near Rishikesh in 2022, met senior officials of the CBI, which is probing the alleged role of a "VIP" in the murder case, officials said. The victim's father, Virendra Singh Bhandari, and mother, Soni Devi, met with senior officials at the CBI Headquarters in Delhi and shared information regarding various aspects of the case, a CBI spokesperson said in a statement. Special Directors Manoj Shashidhar and Sampat Meena assured them of a fair and impartial investigation, with all aspects of the case being thoroughly examined, it said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Mocks Mahayuti's Rs. 5,000 Diwali Gift to Farmers

MUMBAI, OCT 16



The Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray on Friday attacked the Mahayuti government led by Devendra Fadnavis, labelling its festive financial assistance of Rs 5,000 for farmers and Rs 2,000 for Anganwadi workers as an "insult" to the working class. It said that amid soaring inflation and widespread drought, the announced package is nothing short of a cruel joke. By announcing these as "Diwali gift, the Fadnavis government has "bankrupted its own intellect". The Thackeray camp in the party's mouthpiece, 'Samaana', said that over 300 talukas in the state have been officially declared drought-hit, leaving rural families grappling with severe water shortages, failed kharif and rabi crops, and mounting debts. Instead of substantive relief, the administration is merely holding meetings and making empty declarations. The editorial highlighted that the Rs 5,000 being distributed to farmers is not a special grant, but rather an advance drawn from funds expected from the Central government. It criticised the government for rebranding an advance payment as a benevolent "Diwali gift" to take undeserved credit. Questioning how a family can celebrate a festival or buy basic essentials and clothing with such a small sum during a massive inflation wave, the editorial labelled the payout a mockery of the hardships faced by the agricultural community and Anganwadi workers. "How to rub salt into the wounds of the poor should be learned only from Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The fire of drought is blazing. The lives of people and cattle are being scorched, and the government is making a dry rain of meetings and announcements on drought relief. Moreover, the whole affair is such that the helping hand is a span wide, but its publicity is a cubit wide," remarked the editorial. The editorial further stated that CM Fadnavis has done a great favour to the drought-affected people. "This bountiful assistance is being trumpeted so much that people might mistake this five-thousand figure for five lakhs. Fadnavis and his people must think that this five-thousand assistance will bring a tide of joy into the lives of farmers, make farming families happy, and sweeten their Diwali. If they think that 1.25 crore farmers will benefit from this five-thousand assistance, then they do not know the plight of the devastated farming brethren of rural Maharashtra," it commented. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena drew a sharp contrast between the state's financial allocations, pointing out that while districts receive hefty sums of Rs 50 lakh for events like the Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan, only nominal pittances are doled out to drought-stricken farmers and grassroots workers. "This is not assistance; it is a mockery of their plight and a cruel joke on the ongoing drought," the editorial said, summing up the widespread discontent in rural Maharashtra.

'Conspiracy to destabilise economy': BJP on Tiranga rally staged in CP

New Delhi, Oct 16: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday came down heavily on the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-organised 'Tiranga rally', calling the staging of protests in New Delhi's Connaught Place, a "conspiracy to destabilise India's economy". Addressing a press conference, BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi cautioned students of all age groups to be wary of such "foreign-backed forces" whose reality, he said, has been revealed within months of the anti-paper leak protest. "Congress, the INDIA bloc, and the declining Left parties, facing diminishing public support and see little possibility of political success. Consequently, terms such as 'regime change'—referring to attempts to overthrow governments through violent struggle, conspiracy, or collaboration with foreign powers—are increasingly appearing in Indian politics," he said. According to the BJP leader, a change achieved through democratic processes and elections is called a 'change of government'. "In contrast, 'regime change' refers to an attempt to overthrow a government through conspiracy and violent conflict," Trivedi stressed. The BJP leader said that the "so-called giant movement in Connaught Place (CP)" would have made former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi and former Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi "have their heads hang in shame witnessing that the organisers could not even gather a handful of people", since the Inner Circle and Outer Circle of CP are named after them, respectively.

NFR Installed EV Charging Facilities at its Headquarters





MALIGAON, 16 OCTOBER, 2026

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) installed electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities at its Headquarters in Maligaon, Guwahati, on 16 th October 2026. The facilities were inaugurated by Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railway, in the presence of senior officials of NFR Headquarters. The initiative marks a significant step towards promoting sustainable mobility and encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles. The newly installed facilities cater to both four-wheelers and two-wheelers, providing convenient charging options for employees and visitors and supporting the growing shift towards cleaner and more environmentally friendly transportation. The facilities include a 60 kW DC fast charger with dual guns for four-wheelers, equipped with CCS2 connectors compatible with electric cars of different makes and models. The charger offers an estimated charging time of approximately 30–40 minutes, enabling quicker charging and reducing waiting time for users. This facility is expected to make EV charging more convenient for car users and support the growing adoption of electric vehicles. In addition, a 3.3 kW charger with a universal socket for two-wheelers has been installed to facilitate the charging of electric two-wheelers. Depending on the make and model of the vehicle, the charging time may be up to 1.5 hours, providing a practical charging option for daily commuters and other users. The installation of these facilities is expected to improve access to EV charging infrastructure within the NFR Headquarters premises, encourage employees and visitors to opt for electric mobility and reduce dependence on conventional fossil-fuel-powered vehicles. The initiative also reflects Northeast Frontier Railway's commitment to promoting environmentally responsible practices and supporting cleaner, more sustainable transportation.

4,000 Crore LoIs Signed During CM Nayab Singh Saini's Sweden Visit

Gurugram–Stockholm city-to-city collaboration; Rs 3,000-crore LoI signed in line with the vision of a strong and self-reliant India
Swedish companies to invest in Haryana and also provide employment opportunities for its youth

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 16



Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini during the exchange of Letters of Intent (LoIs) for proposed investments worth Rs. 4,000 crore between the Haryana Government and Swedish companies at Sweden. (16.10.2026)

During the historic visit to Sweden led by Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, Letters of Intent (LoIs) worth a total of Rs 4,000 crore were signed between the state government and Swedish companies. This important visit has opened new avenues for trade, investment and economic cooperation between Haryana and Sweden, as well as employment opportunities for the youth. Urban Local Bodies Minister Sh. Vipul Goel was also present on the occasion. During the visit, a city-to-city collaboration agreement was reached between Gurugram and Stockholm. The two cities will work together in the areas of technological innovation, smart city solutions, sustainable urban development, knowledge exchange and investment promotion. This collaboration will strengthen the long-term partnership between the two cities.

In line with the vision of a strong and self-reliant India, the Haryana Government signed a major LoI worth Rs 3,000 crore. In addition, an agreement was reached on LoIs worth Rs 1,000 crore in the retail and warehousing sectors. These agreements are expected to bring modern warehousing infrastructure, the expansion of retail chains and new investment in the logistics sector to the state. An important agreement was also reached to increase trade and promote economic cooperation between Haryana and Sweden. Swedish companies have assured that they will provide employment opportunities for Haryana's skilled youth. This will open new avenues for skill development, training and employment of international standards for the state's youth.

The Chief Minister said that the visit is an important step towards further strengthening Haryana's position on the global investment map. By combining Sweden's advanced technology, innovation and sustainable development model with Haryana's dynamic economy and youth power, the state will be taken forward rapidly towards the goal of a self-reliant India.

These agreements will give fresh impetus to employment generation, industrial development, export growth and urban modernisation in Haryana. The state government will provide all necessary facilities to ensure that these investments are implemented at the earliest.

EAM Jaishankar to host counterparts from UAE, US in Mumbai next week

NEW DELHI, OCT 16

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar will host counterparts from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States (US) in Mumbai on October 19-20 and also attend the celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the US as a Guest of Honour, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday. Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Friday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the meeting between EAM Jaishankar and his UAE counterpart Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan will be an opportunity to review all facets of bilateral cooperation and discuss the situation in West Asia, as well as global and multilateral issues.

"On 19th and 20th October 2026, External Affairs Minister will host in Mumbai the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of UAE, His Highness Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, for an official visit. On 20th October, External Affairs Minister will hold talks with the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and attend the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States of America as the Guest of Honour," Jaiswal said when asked about EAM Jaishankar's upcoming meetings. "The visit of the UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister will be an opportunity to review all facets of bilateral cooperation under the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

India-US trade deal 98-99 per cent done: US official

WASHINGTON, OCT 16



A long-awaited trade agreement between India and the United States is almost complete, with only one or two per cent of negotiations remaining, a senior US official said, signalling that the two countries are approaching a breakthrough after months of high-level discussions. The official said the biggest issues had already been resolved and that negotiations were continuing at the highest political levels, including between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The biggest items have been settled. I mean ...., it's pretty much done. We have that one, one or two per cent left," the official told reporters during a State Department briefing on Friday. The remarks came ahead of Secretary of State Marco Rubio's scheduled visit to India, where he will hold discussions with Indian government officials and leading business executives in Mumbai and Jamnagar. The official said the two governments remained in constant contact over the proposed agreement. "We are actively engaged every single week," the official said, adding that high-level discussions on the trade deal were taking place regularly. The official cited recent diplomatic engagements involving US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and conversations between Trump and PM Modi as evidence of the momentum behind the negotiations. However, the official also identified a significant complication that had delayed the agreement. An earlier understanding had been linked to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, but the legal framework had to be reconsidered after the law was struck down, according to the official. The development forced negotiators to revisit elements of the proposed agreement and contributed to several additional months of discussions. Despite those complications, the official expressed optimism that the remaining differences could be resolved soon. Rubio is scheduled to travel first to Uzbekistan for meetings with Central Asian leaders before proceeding to India. In Mumbai, he will meet Indian government counterparts and senior executives from some of the country's largest companies. The official said the decision to visit Mumbai rather than New Delhi reflected the administration's growing emphasis on commercial diplomacy and Indian investment in the United States. Rubio will also travel to Jamnagar. The official said Washington was seeking closer engagement with India across information technology, pharmaceuticals, defence cooperation and other sectors. Further visits by senior American Cabinet officials are also anticipated next year as both governments seek to expand bilateral engagement.

Proud of what India, UK achieved together: Outgoing envoy

NEW DELHI, OCT 16



UK's outgoing High Commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron, said on Friday that she is proud of what India and the UK have achieved to deliver for people across all corners of both nations while looking forward to what comes ahead in the bilateral ties. Highlighting the growing ties between India and the UK, Cameron said that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has boosted the economies of both nations and the 'Vision 2035' roadmap has strengthened bilateral cooperation in defence, education, innovation, climate and technology sectors.

In a video message shared by the UK High Commission in India on X, Cameron said, "Hello India, what a journey... It's been an extraordinary privilege to serve here. I think there's nowhere quite like India. I'm so proud of everything we've achieved to deliver for people across all corners of both of our great countries. From the Free Trade Agreement, boosting our economies together, to our future-focused Vision 2035, strengthening the UK-India partnership across defence, technology, education, innovation and climate. But what sounds like most to me is the people behind the progress."

Cameron spoke about meeting people from government, business, education and civil society in India while she served as the UK's High Commissioner in New Delhi. She noted that India will always have a special place in her heart as she is set to leave India to assume duties in her new role in the UK.

"Across India, I've had the real privilege of meeting people from government, business, education and civil society, all of whom share our ambition for this relationship. You, all of you, have helped to grow the UK-India relationship and create new opportunities for people and businesses in both of our countries and across both of our economies. So, as I move on to my next job back in London, India will always have a really special place in my heart," said Cameron. "I leave incredibly proud of what we've achieved together and really excited about what comes next. The UK-India relationship has got extraordinary momentum, and with my amazing deputy Ben Miller taking on this wonderful job as Acting High Commissioner, I know that I leave the relationship in really safe hands. Thank you very much indeed for your friendship, for all of your support and for your hard work. It's been a genuine honour to serve alongside all of you," she added. She concluded her message by saying, "Phir Milenge India, we'll meet again soon."

Cameron has been appointed as the new Permanent Under-Secretary (PUS) at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the first woman to take up the position.

While making the announcement about her appointment on September 10, the UK's Foreign Secretary, Ed Miliband, said that Cameron brings enormous experience across the fields of diplomacy, development and national security.

"I am delighted that Lindy Cameron has been appointed as Permanent Under Secretary of the FCDO. Lindy brings enormous experience across the fields of diplomacy, development and national security, and a reputation for dynamic leadership in postings across the world, most recently as High Commissioner in India," Miliband stated.

Ed Miliband said that Lindy Cameron will lead an FCDO committed to promoting British values and interests by deploying the full talents of the UK's "amazing, dedicated and renowned staff." He thanked Nick Dyer for his work as Interim Permanent Under-Secretary.

Asim, Imran and personalisation of Pakistan's power struggle

ISLAMABAD, OCT 16



Pakistan's political landscape is currently defined by the confrontation between the army chief, Asim Munir, and former Prime Minister Imran Khan. While Khan remains imprisoned, along with hundreds of his party members, and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party faces sustained pressure, the General Munir-led military establishment has expanded its hold over the country's political affairs through constitutional manoeuvring facilitated by the current Shehbaz Sharif government. For Khan and his supporters, this confrontation has taken on a personal dimension, with accusations that the army chief is using his power to settle scores with the former Prime Minister, who once presided over his removal from the country's intelligence leadership. These allegations are not new and merit scrutiny as the relationship between the two men had deteriorated well before Khan's removal from office in April 2022. The chronology of events over the years reveals how a series of institutional confrontations and political decisions have fuelled suspicions of personal animosity on both sides. It raises a question of whether a dispute between powerful individuals has become inseparable from the military's continuing role in Pakistan's political order.

The roots of the conflict go back to 2019 when Khan was Prime Minister and Munir was serving as Director-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), a position widely regarded as the most powerful in the country after the army chief. Munir held the position for approximately eight months before being replaced by Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed. It was the shortest tenure of any military officer in that position. While the military did not publicly explain the change, subsequent accounts alleged that Munir had raised concerns about Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, and corruption in her circle. Khan later rejected that account and denied that Munir had presented him with evidence of corruption or had been removed for raising the matter. Instead, his party alleged that Munir tried to reach out to Bushra Bibi after his removal as spymaster to discuss his removal. The episode nevertheless became an important reference point in later speculation about their relationship. Khan's critics and supporters have interpreted it differently, while the absence of a definitive public explanation has allowed allegations of a personal grievance to persist. A personnel decision within the intelligence establishment thus became part of a much larger political narrative. The political relationship between Khan and the military, then led by General Qamar Javed Bajwa, deteriorated further during his final months in office. Disagreements over senior military appointments and the government's direction, including its foreign policy orientation, strained an alliance widely believed to have helped Khan consolidate power after the 2018 election. When Munir was appointed chief of army staff in November 2022, Khan had already been removed through a parliamentary vote of no confidence in April, becoming Pakistan's first Prime Minister to lose office by that mechanism. Khan's party alleged that the no-confidence motion, which brought together various smaller parties and saw many PTI members defect, was supported by the army establishment from behind the scenes.

Khan claimed that his removal resulted from a conspiracy involving the United States and Pakistan's military establishment, with backing from Saudi Arabia. The parliamentary opposition maintained that it had exercised its constitutional right to remove a government that had lost its majority. The vote itself was a parliamentary process, though the broader political environment surrounding Khan's departure remains contested. The episode intensified his confrontation with the army leadership and turned his political campaign into a direct challenge to the establishment's influence.

The consequences became more severe after Khan's arrest on May 9, 2023 triggered protests across Pakistan. Demonstrators attacked military installations and other state property, including the residence of a senior military commander in Lahore. Following this, the authorities launched a sweeping crackdown on PTI leaders and supporters, hundreds of whom have been tried in the military courts.

China mulls export curbs on AI, biotech, solar power technologies

BEIJING: (Oct 16) China on Friday released a draft plan proposing new export restrictions on 14 technologies in sectors ranging from artificial intelligence to biotechnology and photovoltaic solar power, which could have significant implications for global technology competition, particularly for countries that rely on Chinese AI. The draft, jointly issued by the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Science and Technology, proposes export bans for a string of AI-related technologies, certain cell and gene therapy technology platforms and technology for producing certain kinds of solar cell modules.

Pakistan: Fear grips dozens of Christian families following mob attacks, blasphemy allegations

ISLAMABAD, OCT 16



A Christian man's house and shop were set ablaze by a Muslim mob in Pakistan's Punjab province after he was accused of blasphemy. Subsequently, over 35 Christian families were forced to leave their homes amid fear of further violence, a report has detailed. A day prior to the incident, police arrested a 40-year-old Christian man, identified as Kamran Masih, who ran a small pharmacy in Gharial Kalan village of Punjab. Local Muslims had accused him of sharing a blasphemous video in WhatsApp groups, Christian Daily International reported, citing a source. "As word of Masih's arrest spread, his family and other Christians started fleeing the village, fearing a mob attack," Christian Daily International-Morning Star News quoted the source on condition of anonymity.

The source stated that dozens of Muslims gathered near Masih's shop and his residence to protest and set fire to the two buildings. Human rights organisations and legal experts have criticised blasphemy laws of Pakistan, stressing that the provisions are vulnerable to misuse in personal disputes and other conflicts and have disproportionately impacted religious minorities, Christian Daily International reported. On July 22, a leading minority group accused Pakistan of failing to curb the misuse of blasphemy laws, citing false allegations, widespread mob violence against the accused and failure to protect the minorities from their consequences. According to the Voice of Pakistan Minority (VOPM), the blasphemy laws remain among Pakistan's most "controversial issues", with their impact on religious minorities and the continued failure of institutions to prevent their misuse. The rights body noted that one of the biggest failures has been the inability of Pakistan's justice system to safeguard the innocent from false allegations.

Referring to the case of Rimsha Masih, a Pakistani Christian girl with Down syndrome, the VOPM said that the incident exposed serious weaknesses in the system. She was accused of desecrating the Quran, but subsequent evidence indicated that the allegations were "fabricated". While she was eventually released, the rights body said the damage was already done, with her family facing immense pressure and the case highlighting how easily someone can become a victim before the court examines the facts. "The judiciary and law enforcement agencies have repeatedly been criticised for failing to act strongly against those who misuse blasphemy allegations. When false accusers or those who manipulate religious emotions are not held accountable, it sends a dangerous message that such actions can continue without consequences. This lack of accountability weakens public trust in the legal system," the VOPM stated.

Poverty is a Syndrome Affecting Mankind

(On the occasion of "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Day" on 17 October)

Poverty is a challenging syndrome that is affecting health, education, economic growth, employment, social upliftment and many more worldwide. It is the main problem plaguing global mankind from ages. To promote understanding and dialogue between people living in poverty and their communities, and society at Lange, UN has decided to observe "International Day for the Eradication of Poverty" on 17 October annually since 1992 but officially from 2008 onwards. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and struggles of underprivileged, a chance for them to make their concerns heard and a moment to recognise that the poor people are in the forefront in the eradication of poverty, along with remaining society at large.

Theme of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:

The theme selected for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty -2026 is "Safe Housing for All". The aim of the theme is to build institutions that help the deprived families stay together, thrive, and shape their own futures in their safe houses. Shelter, food and clothing are the three basic rights for humans worldwide. Families living in poverty are navigating impossible choices while confronting stigma, scrutiny, and systems that can panish rather than support. The parents, single mothers, indigenous families, discriminated groups - report daily experiences of judgement and control the places meant to help such as schools, clinics, child protection offices, welfare agencies.

Poverty Scenario in India:

The multidimensional poverty index-2026 reveals that over 108 developing countries are having around 1.2 billion people in absolute poverty, over 18 percent of total population of the world. India and Pakistan are listed as countries with most people in poverty. Poverty over the past decade, India has significantly reduced poverty, with extreme poverty falling from 16.2 percent in 2011 - 12 to 2.3 percent in 2022 - 23, lifting 171 million people above this line. Employment growth, especially among women, recorded higher figures. Urban unemployment fell to 6.6 percent in 2024-25, the lowest since 2017-18. The youth is at 13.3 percent, increasing to 29 percent among tertiary education. Only 23 percent of non-farm paid jobs are formal, and most agricultural employment remains informal. Self-employment is raising, especially among rural workers and women. Despite a female employment rate of 31 percent, gender disparities remain, with 234 million more men in paid work. The disadvantages of poverty include dangerous work conditions, unsafe housing, lack of nutritious food, unequal access to justice, lack of political power, and limited access to health care. The most important poverty elevation schemes in India are Integrated Rural Development Program, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Rural Housing, MGNREGA, DAY-NRLM, National Urban Livelihood Mission, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Task force on Elimination of Poverty in India, and many more. For the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2025, the way ahead will be to enhance social protection, guarantee equal rights, build resilience, and sustain inclusive policies on poverty eradication by 2030.

- Capt Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
9949700037.



Bangladesh fails to graduate from 'Class 1' in policymaking: Report

NEW DELHI, OCT 16

Bangladesh has made significant social and economic gains over the past 55 years but continues to struggle with weak institutional capacity for policymaking, a new report has said. The report from Bangladesh-based The Daily Star said that the country has spent over five decades "struggling to move beyond Class 1" in policymaking and argued that frequent transfers of policymakers, short tenures and appointments of officials that often overlook sectoral expertise harm the sector. Dr Syed Abdul Hamid, a professor at the Institute of Health Economics of the University of Dhaka, said that such practices in public administration undermine the ability to design and sustain long-term reforms. Rather than shortage of talent, a failure to preserve institutional memory and accumulate specialised knowledge is the failure of Bangladesh's policy making, the report said. Officials who lack prior experience in a sector spend their limited time learning basics rather than implementing reforms, but when experienced officials finally develop the necessary understanding, they are often reassigned or retire before meaningful reforms can take root. "One critical aspect of governance remains underdeveloped: our capacity to formulate, implement, evaluate and improve public policies through strong institutions and consistent leadership," the report noted. Citing an example of how a digital public service gets affected by policymaking-related issues, the report said that if a new platform or approach is introduced with change in leadership, then public resources may be wasted on overlapping systems and repeated investments. Good policymaking is a continuous cycle of learning and improvement, where "problems must be identified, evidence collected and analysed, stakeholders consulted, alternatives assessed, and financial and administrative feasibility examined." Hamid called for giving greater weight to relevant expertise in key appointments, reducing unnecessary transfers, ensuring reasonable minimum tenures, and documenting policy rationales and implementation records. The report also urged greater coordination among ministries and agencies. "Universities, research institutions, professional bodies and independent experts should contribute more meaningfully to policy development and evaluation.

Sensex ends 413 points higher, Nifty above 23,100; TechM up 8%

Strong buying in information technology stocks, led by Tech Mahindra, Infosys and TCS, supported the benchmarks as investors responded to encouraging second-quarter earnings and developments in global technology markets.

Stock markets extended their recovery for a second consecutive session on Friday, with the Sensex rising over 400 points and the Nifty closing above the 23,100 mark.

Strong buying in information technology stocks, led by Tech Mahindra, Infosys and TCS, supported the benchmarks as investors responded to encouraging second-quarter earnings and developments in global technology markets. The BSE Sensex gained 413.66 points, or 0.56%, to close at 74,729.27. The NSE Nifty 50 advanced 148.80 points, or 0.65%, to settle at 23,146.15. The gains followed Thursday's sharp rally, when the benchmark indices posted their biggest single-day gains in four months. Friday's advance was led by IT stocks, which extended their winning streak to four sessions, while buying in auto and metal shares also supported sentiment.



TECH MAHINDRA, INFOSYS AND TCS LEAD GAINS

Tech Mahindra was the top Sensex gainer, surging 8.45%. TCS advanced 4.61%, while Infosys climbed 4.55%. Bharti Airtel gained 2.86% and Mahindra & Mahindra rose 2.38%. Other notable gainers included Bajaj Finance, up 1.38%; HCLTech, up 1.08%; and NTPC, which advanced 0.76%. UltraTech Cement gained 0.58%, while Maruti Suzuki rose 0.50%. On the losing side, IndiGo fell 2.23%, while Reliance Industries declined 1.09%. Asian Paints dropped 1%, and ITC slipped 0.66%. Larsen & Toubro fell 0.66%, while Kotak Mahindra Bank declined 0.63%. The performance reflected strong demand for select large-cap stocks, particularly technology companies, although losses in several heavyweight stocks limited the broader advance. The Nifty IT index surged 3.92%, making it the strongest-performing sectoral index in the latest market snapshot. The rally came after better-than-expected second-quarter revenue from Tech Mahindra and Wipro, alongside encouraging results and management commentary from other major IT companies. The global correction in artificial intelligence-linked stocks has also helped improve India's relative appeal, encouraging investors to look at domestic large-cap technology companies. The Nifty Media index gained 1.92%, while the Nifty Auto index advanced 0.75% and the Nifty PSU Bank index rose 0.67%. The Nifty Metal index gained 0.95%, while the Nifty Private Bank index edged up 0.08%. However, several sectors ended lower. The Nifty FMCG index declined 0.39%, the Nifty Realty index fell 0.33% and the Nifty Pharma index slipped 0.14%. The Nifty Financial Services 25/50 index edged down 0.05%.

BROADER MARKETS REMAIN SUBDUED

The broader market did not keep pace with the benchmark indices. The Nifty 100 rose 0.61%, the Nifty 200 gained 0.47% and the Nifty 500 advanced 0.40%. In contrast, the Nifty Midcap 50 declined 0.06%, while the Nifty Midcap 100 fell 0.11%. The Nifty Smallcap 100 was nearly flat, slipping 0.01%. This divergence suggests that the recovery remained concentrated in large-cap stocks, particularly IT companies, rather than reflecting widespread buying across the market. India VIX, which measures expected market volatility, rose 0.35% to 14.08.

WHAT IS DRIVING THE MARKET RECOVERY?

Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice-President of Research at Religare Broking, said markets extended their recovery for a second consecutive session, supported by buying in select heavyweight stocks, particularly technology companies. He said IT stocks had led sectoral gains for the fourth consecutive session, rising around 4% amid sustained earnings-driven momentum. Metal and auto stocks also contributed to the positive sentiment, while weakness in select FMCG, realty and energy heavyweights capped the upside. Mishra said the recent buoyancy in IT stocks following quarterly results had been the primary driver of the market rebound, with other sectors playing a supporting role. The rupee's strengthening against the US dollar offered some relief to domestic sentiment. However, Brent crude remained elevated near $106 a barrel, while concerns over persistent inflation and US bond yields continued to warrant caution.

WHAT SHOULD INVESTORS WATCH NEXT?

Investors will track the next set of quarterly earnings, developments in global markets and foreign investor flows for direction. Results from major banking players, including HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank, are among the key events to watch in early trade on Monday. From a technical perspective, Mishra said the Nifty was approaching the 23,300 level. A decisive breakout above this level could extend the recovery towards 23,500-23,700, while the 22,700-22,900 zone is expected to provide support.

He maintained a positive but cautious outlook, citing the mixed market signals and busy earnings calendar. For investors, the key question is whether earnings-led buying in large-cap stocks can broaden into mid- and small-cap shares, while elevated oil prices and global inflation risks remain important headwinds.

Education, healthcare, infrastructure, entrepreneurship key to Viksit Bharat 2047: NITI Aayog Vice Chairman

NEW DELHI, OCT 16



NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri on Friday identified education, healthcare, infrastructure and entrepreneurship as the four key pillars essential to achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the Pathway to Viksit Bharat event, Lahiri emphasised the importance of entrepreneurship in generating employment, noting that India needs more people who can create jobs rather than simply seek them. “Entrepreneurship is very important. If everyone is looking for a job, we also need people who can create jobs for others,” he said.

Encouraging young people to venture into business, Lahiri urged students to consider entrepreneurship as a career path. “I encourage these young students to become entrepreneurs themselves,” he said.

Expressing optimism about India's entrepreneurial ecosystem, Lahiri said entrepreneurship was growing rapidly, with several startups achieving unicorn status. He also highlighted the success of Indian companies in the information technology (IT) and artificial intelligence (AI) sectors. "Infrastructure is essential. If you cannot go from your village with your fruits to the city or you can't commute to the towns, then you can't develop. So you need this," he noted. Referring to the transformative potential of entrepreneurship, he cited Lala Shri Ram and Jamsetji Tata as examples of individuals who demonstrated what entrepreneurship could achieve. On improving productivity, Lahiri said it depended on how effectively human capital, physical capital and entrepreneurship were combined. "There are so many of these pioneers who showed what entrepreneurship can be. So job creation and productivity, very important. Now productivity is basically, you have to combine human capital with physical capital and entrepreneurship," he mentioned.

India, Thailand hold talks on cementing strategic partnership

BANGKOK/NEW DELHI, OCT 16



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Ekniti Nitithanprapas held talks in Bangkok on Friday on ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The meeting that took place on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF annual meetings placed particular emphasis on enhancing bilateral trade, mutual investment opportunities, financial connectivity, digital payments, and cooperation in emerging financial technologies, according to a Finance Ministry statement.

Sitharaman also expressed heartfelt condolences on the passing of Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother of Thailand, and Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendiradebyavati. She also expressed deep condolences for the loss of life and property due to the recent floods.

The Indian minister underlined that India and Thailand share a very special relationship forged by strong cultural ties, and highlighted investment opportunities offered by India's International Financial Services Centre (IFSCA) at GIFT City in Gujarat. She encouraged Thai banks, financial institutions and fintech companies to leverage its expanding ecosystem for cross-border banking, trade finance, capital markets, treasury operations, fintech innovation and wealth management.

The discussion also focused on facilitating greater two-way investment flows, including opportunities for Thai investors to participate in India's growing infrastructure and emerging sectors through investment platforms and vice versa, while encouraging stronger business and financial linkages between the two economies.

Besides, both ministers exchanged views on advancing the proposed UPI–PromptPay linkage to facilitate seamless cross-border payments for tourists and businesses, and exploring local currency settlement mechanisms using the Indian rupee and Thai baht to support bilateral trade and investment.

The two leaders also discussed prospects for enhanced fintech collaboration, cross-border settlement of tokenised financial assets, and regulatory sandboxes, among others, besides emerging technologies like AI and quantum as areas of future cooperation.

Finance Minister Sitharaman also held a meeting with her Luxembourg counterpart Roth Gilles in Bangkok. Both sides discussed enhanced cooperation between the financial sectors of the two countries, exploring opportunities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in sustainable finance and banking.

Sitharaman said that India looks forward to the forthcoming State Visit of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg to India early next year as an opportunity to further strengthen the India-Luxembourg economic and financial partnership.

Haryana signs Rs 4,000-crore letters of intent with Swedish companies

CHANDIGARH, OCT 16



Haryana has signed letters of intent (LoIs) of Rs 4,000 crore with Swedish companies during Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's historic visit to Sweden, opening up new opportunities for trade, investment, economic cooperation and employment for the state's youth. Urban Local Bodies Minister Vipul Goel also accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit. As part of the visit, Gurugram and Stockholm signed a city-to-city collaboration agreement to strengthen cooperation in technological innovation, smart city solutions, sustainable urban development, knowledge exchange and investment promotion.

The partnership is expected to foster long-term collaboration between the two cities, a statement by the state government said on Friday. In line with the vision of a strong and self-reliant India, the Haryana government signed a major LoI of Rs 3,000 crore. In addition, agreements of Rs 1,000 crore were reached in the retail and warehousing sectors. The proposed investments are expected to support the development of modern warehousing infrastructure, expansion of retail chains and fresh investment in logistics, giving a boost to the state's industrial and commercial ecosystem. The visit also saw an agreement aimed at expanding trade and strengthening economic cooperation between Haryana and Sweden. Swedish companies have assured the state of employment opportunities for skilled young people from Haryana, potentially opening new avenues for international-standard skill development, training and jobs. Chief Minister Saini said the visit marked an important step towards strengthening Haryana's position on the global investment map.

He added that the state would leverage Sweden's advanced technology, innovation and sustainable development models by combining them with Haryana's dynamic economy and young workforce to accelerate progress towards the goal of a self-reliant India.

The agreements are expected to give fresh momentum to employment generation, industrial development, export growth and urban modernisation in Haryana.

The state government will provide the necessary facilities and support to ensure that the proposed investments are implemented on the ground at the earliest, according to the statement.



Char Dham: Most helicopter accidents in 2015-25 due to non-adherence to SOP, says AAIB

NEW DELHI: (OCT 16)

There were eight helicopter accidents in the Char Dham sector in 2015-2025, and most of them were due to the flight crew's non-adherence to standard operating procedures, according to probe agency AAIB. An analysis of the data by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) showed that there were 9 occurrences, including 8 accidents and 1 serious incident, in the Char Dham sector during the ten-year period, with at least 1 accident or serious incident every year from 2022 onwards. "Out of these 8 accidents, 5 accidents were fatal. There was no accident in 2015 & 2016 as the Char Dham operations during that time were very limited.

Why are urban Indians likely to spend just Rs 20,000 this festive season?

Festive shopping usually means splurging on new clothes, gifts and gadgets, but this year, urban Indians seem to be watching their wallets more closely.

Festive shopping may be on everyone’s mind, but not every household is ready to open its purse strings this year. With prices still high and borrowing getting costlier, urban Indians appear to be planning their festive purchases more carefully, even as they prepare for Diwali and other celebrations. Urban households are likely to spend an average of Rs 20,000 on discretionary purchases this festive season, down from last year, according to a survey by LocalCircles. The survey estimates that total urban household festive spending will fall 6% to Rs 1.97 lakh crore in 2026, from Rs 2.10 lakh crore in 2025.

The findings point to a more cautious festive season, with nearly one in three households planning no discretionary spending at all. Among those who intend to shop, clothing, footwear and accessories remain the biggest draw. However, a large share of households also expect to dip into their savings to pay for festive purchases.

The survey received over 67,000 responses from urban household consumers across 307 districts of India.

NEARLY ONE IN THREE HOUSEHOLDS PLANS NO FESTIVE SHOPPING

The survey found that 57% of urban households are likely to spend on discretionary purchases during the festive season, while 31% said they have no plans to spend on such items. Among those planning to shop, 18% expect to spend less than Rs 10,000, while 15% have set aside Rs 10,001 to Rs 25,000. Another 9% plan to spend between Rs 25,001 and Rs 50,000, and 6% expect to spend between Rs 50,001 and Rs 1 lakh. At the higher end, 9% of respondents said their festive spending could range from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. Meanwhile, 12% were unsure about how much they would spend. Overall, 30% of households expect to spend between Rs 10,000 and Rs 1 lakh, while 18% plan to keep their budget below Rs 10,000. The cautious approach comes at a time when households are dealing with rising prices and uncertainty over future expenses. Retail inflation rose to 5.54% in September from 4.83% in August, while food inflation climbed to 7.74%, according to government data. This leaves households with less room to increase discretionary spending after accounting for essential expenses such as food, rent, school fees and utility bills.

FESTIVE SPENDING FALLS 6% AFTER LAST YEAR'S RISE

The estimated Rs 1.97 lakh crore festive spending this year marks a reversal from 2025, when spending rose to Rs 2.10 lakh crore from Rs 1.85 lakh crore in 2024. Last year's festive season coincided with GST 2.0 rate cuts, which took effect on September 22, 2025, giving consumers a tax-led boost just as major shopping sales began. This year, households do not have a similar boost to rely on. Inflation remains elevated, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% on October 7, its first increase in more than three and a half years. Higher interest rates can make loans more expensive if banks pass on the increase to borrowers, adding to the financial pressure on households already managing monthly expenses. The RBI has also raised its inflation forecast for the current financial year to 5.2% and expects inflation to reach 6% in the October-December quarter. While the central bank has raised its FY27 GDP growth forecast to 7.1%, household spending plans suggest that consumers may remain selective about where they put their money.



CLOTHING LEADS FESTIVE SHOPPING PLANS

When it comes to shopping priorities, clothing, footwear and accessories are firmly at the top of the list. Around 72% of households planning festive purchases said they intend to buy items in this category.

Home appliances and furniture, along with travel and holidays, came next, with 45% of respondents planning to spend on each. Gourmet food and gifting featured in the plans of 39% of households.

Mobile phones, consumer electronics and gadgets were each part of the shopping plans of 22% of respondents, while another 22% intended to spend on home renovation and interiors. Around 10% planned to buy an automobile or a two-wheeler. Jewellery, however, attracted relatively little interest, with just 6% of respondents planning a purchase in this category. Elevated precious metal prices could be one reason for the subdued interest. Gold and silver have become significantly more expensive, making jewellery purchases a bigger expense for households planning their festive budgets. Online shopping platforms have reported strong activity in categories such as fashion, beauty and festive decor. However, higher device prices are weighing on expectations for smartphone sales. Counterpoint Research expects festive smartphone volumes to decline 12% year-on-year, even as the value of sales rises. This suggests that shoppers may continue to buy during the festive season but could be more careful about expensive purchases.

HOUSEHOLDS TURN TO SAVINGS TO FUND FESTIVE PURCHASES

Perhaps the most telling finding is how households plan to pay for their festive shopping. According to the survey, 83% of households planning discretionary spending expect to use their savings to some extent. Around 34% expect savings to fund at least a quarter of their festive budget. Of these, 18% expect to use savings to cover 25% to 50% of their spending, while 16% said their festive purchases would be funded entirely through savings. By comparison, 17% said they would rely entirely on their earnings and would not use savings.

The findings suggest that even households keen to celebrate may be relying on money set aside earlier rather than depending solely on their current income. While using savings can help avoid borrowing, it also leaves less money available for unexpected expenses or future financial goals.

With inflation eroding purchasing power and borrowing costs rising, households may have to make harder choices between festive treats and longer-term financial needs.

In other words, the survey paints a picture of urban India preparing to celebrate, but with a closer eye on the household budget. Clothing, home purchases, travel and gifts remain on shopping lists, yet a sizeable share of consumers plan to spend little or nothing on discretionary items.

The expected 6% fall in festive spending also marks a shift from last year's growth, when GST rate cuts provided an additional boost to purchases. This time, households appear more inclined to stick to budgets, postpone expensive purchases and use savings to meet festive expenses. The celebrations may continue as usual, but for many families, the bigger question is not what to buy, but how much they can comfortably afford.





Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Real Estate

Two States, Two Growth Stories

The real estate markets of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are entering an important phase of transformation, shaped by urbanisation, infrastructure development, employment opportunities, government policies and changing homebuyer preferences. Although both states share economic and cultural links, their property markets are developing along different paths. Telangana, particularly Hyderabad, benefits from an established information technology sector, a strong corporate presence and a mature residential market. Andhra Pradesh, meanwhile, is looking to unlock its real estate potential through the development of Amaravati, industrial investments, transport infrastructure and the growth of cities such as Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Tirupati. The difference between the two markets is not simply a question of which state is growing faster. Telangana has a relatively established urban property ecosystem, while Andhra Pradesh offers opportunities associated with emerging development corridors and new infrastructure. Both markets also face challenges, including affordability, speculative land purchases, infrastructure gaps and the need to ensure that property development is supported by genuine economic activity.

As the states expand their urban centres and attract investment, the coming years will determine whether real estate growth translates into sustainable housing, employment and long-term economic development.

Telangana: Hyderabad Continues to Drive the Market

Hyderabad remains the principal driver of Telangana's real estate sector. Its growth has been supported by information technology, financial services, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, healthcare, education and a growing number of multinational companies. The presence of established business districts has created sustained demand for office space, rental accommodation, apartments and gated communities.

Areas such as Gachibowli, the Financial District, Nanakramguda and Kokapet have become prominent destinations for residential and commercial investment. Their proximity to major employers, modern office campuses, educational institutions and social infrastructure has attracted professionals and families seeking convenient access to workplaces and urban amenities. The expansion of the western corridor has also changed the geography of Hyderabad's property market. Locations that were once considered peripheral have developed into major residential destinations. Improved road connectivity, the Outer Ring Road, established business parks and supporting infrastructure have strengthened the appeal of these areas. However, Hyderabad's growth is no longer limited to the construction of new apartment complexes. Buyers increasingly compare the quality of construction, community facilities, maintenance costs, accessibility and the reputation of developers. This shift indicates a market in which location remains important, but the overall quality and long-term usability of a property increasingly influence purchasing decisions.

Premium Housing and the Changing Profile of Buyers

The premium housing segment has become an important feature of Hyderabad's property market. Apartments priced above ₹2 crore, luxury residences and larger homes in gated communities have attracted buyers looking for space, security, amenities and proximity to employment centres. This demand is supported by high-income professionals, business owners, senior corporate executives and households upgrading from smaller homes. Developers have responded with projects offering clubhouses, landscaped open spaces, fitness facilities, recreational amenities, advanced security and dedicated work areas.The growing popularity of premium housing reflects rising incomes in certain sections of the urban population. Nevertheless, it does not mean that every segment of the market is experiencing the same level of demand. Affordability remains a major concern for first-time buyers, younger professionals and middle-income families. A market dominated by expensive apartments may attract investment, but sustainable growth also requires adequate housing for households with moderate incomes. Locations with reasonable prices, reliable transport links and access to employment can therefore play an important role in the next phase of Hyderabad's expansion The challenge for developers is to balance premium offerings with homes that remain accessible to a broader range of buyers. For the city, the challenge is to ensure that housing growth does not push working families increasingly far from their places of employment.

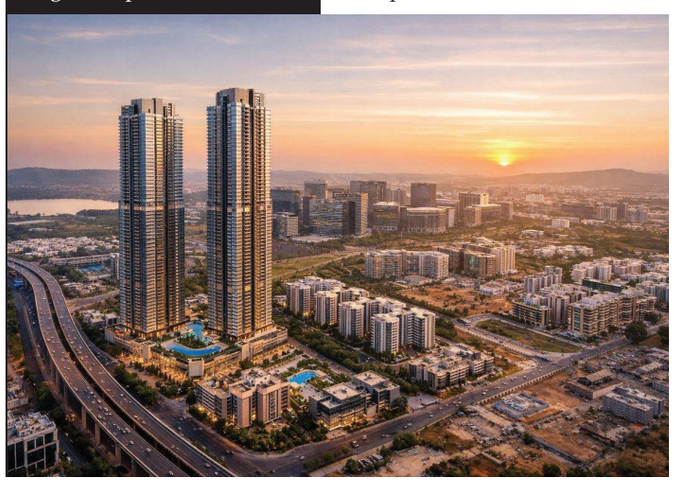
Emerging Residential Corridors in Telangana

While western Hyderabad continues to attract substantial attention, growth is gradually spreading to other parts of the metropolitan region. Kollur, Tellapur, Narsingi and nearby locations have benefited from the expansion of residential communities and improved road connectivity. Northern areas, including Medchal and Kompally, also attract interest from buyers seeking alternatives to the more expensive western corridor. Southern Hyderabad has potential linked to transport infrastructure, industrial activity and connectivity to the airport. However, individual neighbourhoods have different development prospects, and not every location will experience the same pace of appreciation. For homebuyers, the main question is whether a new residential corridor offers more than attractive project advertisements. Access to schools, hospitals, public transport, workplaces, water supply and everyday shopping is essential for a comfortable life. Buyers should also examine the condition of connecting roads and whether promised infrastructure is operational or still under construction. The expansion of Hyderabad creates opportunities, but it also increases the importance of careful location selection. A moderately priced property in an established neighbourhood may offer greater practical value than a cheaper plot or apartment in a distant area where essential services remain limited.

Telangana's Challenges: Affordability, Supply and Infrastructure Despite its economic advantages, Hyderabad faces several challenges. Rising property prices have increased the financial burden on households, particularly those purchasing their first homes. Higher land costs, construction expenses, financing charges and premium amenities can push the final price beyond the reach of many buyers. Another concern is the concentration of new supply in higher-priced housing categories. When developers focus heavily on luxury apartments, the market may become less responsive to demand from middle-income households. This does not necessarily mean that premium housing will lose its appeal, but it highlights the need for a more balanced mix of residential projects. Supply must also be assessed carefully. A large number of new launches can indicate developer confidence, but it does not guarantee that all homes will sell quickly. The time required to sell available inventory, the pace of new bookings and the financial health of developers are important indicators of market conditions. Infrastructure is equally important. Traffic congestion, water availability, drainage, public transport and reliable civic services influence property values over time. If urban expansion outpaces the provision of these facilities, residents may face higher commuting costs and a decline in quality of life. The challenge for Telangana is therefore to sustain real estate growth without allowing rising prices and uneven infrastructure to undermine the advantages that made Hyderabad attractive in the first place.

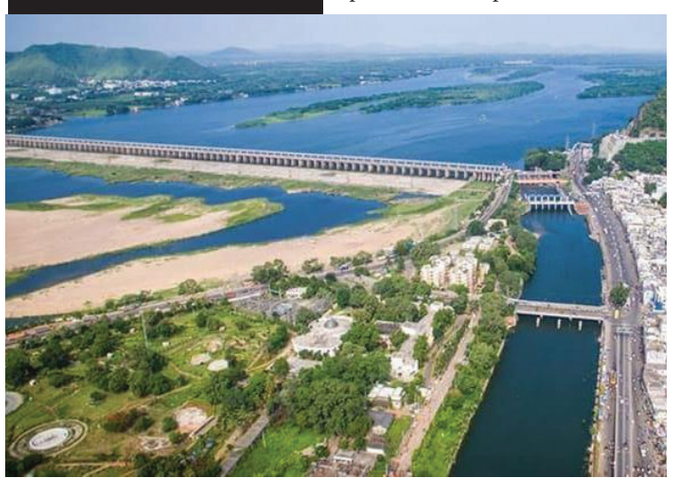
Commercial Real Estate and the Strength of Hyderabad's Office Market

Commercial property is one of Telangana's major advantages. Hyderabad has developed into a significant destination for multinational companies, global capability centres (GCCs), financial services firms and technology businesses. Their demand for office space supports not only commercial construction but also residential rentals, retail outlets, restaurants, hotels and other urban services. According to a report on Hyderabad's first-half 2026 performance, office leasing reached 7.5 million square feet, up 29% year-on-year, with global capability centres accounting for 45% of the total. Residential sales, meanwhile, remained broadly stable. These figures suggest that employment-linked demand continues to underpin the city's property market, even as housing buyers become more selective. The benefits extend beyond office buildings. Employees moving to Hyderabad need rental apartments, while companies create demand for serviced accommodation, retail space, food outlets and supporting services. This relationship between employment and housing makes the city's established business districts important anchors for real estate. Nevertheless, commercial development also carries risks. New office supply must be matched by actual tenant demand, and developers need to consider changing workplace arrangements, corporate expansion plans and the cost of maintaining large buildings. Investors should distinguish between completed, income-generating commercial properties and projects that depend on future leasing assumptions.



Andhra Pradesh: A Market with Multiple Growth Centres

Andhra Pradesh presents a different real estate picture. Instead of being dominated by one large metropolitan economy, its property market has several important centres, including Amaravati, Vijayawada, Guntur, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and emerging industrial locations. The most closely watched development is the Amaravati capital region. Its prospects are linked to government administration, infrastructure construction, public investment and the gradual establishment of educational, commercial and residential facilities. After a prolonged period of uncertainty surrounding the capital's future, renewed development activity has strengthened expectations among landowners, developers and investors. However, the Andhra Pradesh market should not be understood solely through the Amaravati story. Visakhapatnam has its own economic strengths, including port-related activity, industry, education, healthcare and a growing technology ecosystem. Vijayawada remains an important commercial and transport centre, while Tirupati benefits from pilgrimage, education, healthcare and associated services. These different economic foundations create distinct investment opportunities. The strongest long-term locations will be those where infrastructure development is accompanied by employment, business activity and sustained demand from people who intend to live or work there. Amaravati: Capital Development and Renewed Investor Interest Amaravati has re-emerged as a major focus of Andhra Pradesh's real estate sector. Development of government offices, roads, housing and supporting infrastructure can create demand for residential plots, apartments, rental homes, commercial buildings and services.



Andhra Pradesh: A Market with Multiple Growth Centres

Andhra Pradesh presents a different real estate picture. Instead of being dominated by one large metropolitan economy, its property market has several important centres, including Amaravati, Vijayawada, Guntur, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and emerging industrial locations.

The most closely watched development is the Amaravati capital region. Its prospects are linked to government administration, infrastructure construction, public investment and the gradual establishment of educational, commercial and residential facilities. After a prolonged period of uncertainty surrounding the capital's future, renewed development activity has strengthened expectations among landowne

Vijayawada and Guntur: The Commercial Backbone of the Capital Region

Vijayawada and Guntur are central to the development prospects of the Amaravati region. They already have established commercial activity, transport links, educational institutions, healthcare services and residential neighbourhoods. Their existing urban infrastructure gives them an advantage over undeveloped areas that must build essential facilities from the beginning. Vijayawada's importance as a commercial and transport centre supports demand for apartments, independent houses, retail establishments and office premises. Guntur has its own educational, trading and healthcare base, while surrounding locations can benefit from improved connectivity to the capital region. Areas around Tadepalli, Mangalagiri and other accessible corridors may attract buyers looking for a combination of established services and proximity to planned development. However, the investment case differs from one locality to another, depending on land prices, approvals, access roads and the availability of utilities. A key opportunity lies in the development of housing for government employees, private-sector workers, students, healthcare professionals and businesses connected to the expanding region. Such demand would be more reliable than relying exclusively on investors purchasing plots in anticipation of future price increases. The region's success will ultimately depend on how effectively Amaravati's development connects with the economic life of Vijayawada and Guntur. An integrated urban region, rather than isolated development pockets, would provide a stronger foundation for housing and commercial real estate.

Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh's Technology and Coastal Growth Centre

Visakhapatnam offers Andhra Pradesh a different route to real estate growth. Unlike Amaravati, whose prospects are closely tied to capital development, Visakhapatnam has an established economic base built around its port, industrial facilities, educational institutions, healthcare services and tourism. The city's coastline and natural surroundings also contribute to its residential appeal. Areas such as Madhurawada, Rushikonda and parts of the city's northern growth corridor attract interest from homebuyers and investors, although prices and infrastructure conditions vary considerably by locality. The potential expansion of technology companies, data centres and other digital infrastructure could create additional demand for offices, housing and supporting services. However, these opportunities depend on projects progressing from announcements to construction, operations and employment generation. Visakhapatnam's long-term prospects will be strongest if industrial investment and technology growth translate into a stable workforce and sustained demand for housing. Coastal development must also account for environmental protection, drainage, water management and the risks associated with vulnerable locations.

For buyers, the city offers a combination of established urban services and emerging investment opportunities. As in Hyderabad, however, a property's actual location, connectivity and development quality matter more than broad claims about future growth.

Tirupati and Other Emerging Markets

Tirupati has a distinct real estate economy supported by pilgrimage tourism, educational institutions, hospitals and industrial activity in the wider region. Demand for hotels, serviced accommodation, rental housing and commercial establishments can benefit from the continuing movement of visitors and professionals. Other locations across Andhra Pradesh may also experience growth as industrial corridors, transport links and local businesses expand. Yet, development prospects differ considerably between districts, and a rising land price does not automatically indicate strong residential demand. Investors should examine the local economy before purchasing property. A town with reliable employment, established services and regular housing demand may offer a more sustainable investment than a location whose prospects depend mainly on a proposed project.

SHORT NEWS

Win is a win, but plenty to work on, says Mandhana



RAIPUR, OCT. 16

India captain Smriti Mandhana admitted her side fell short of expectations despite beginning her full-time captaincy with a four-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the first T20I on Friday.

India slumped to 19/4 while chasing 115 before Deepti Sharma (49) and debutant Niki Prasad (39 not out) forged an 82-run stand to secure victory with 26 balls to spare and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Mandhana praised Deepti's attacking knock, Niki's composure and Nandni Sharma's bowling, but said the team had areas to improve. Zimbabwe captain Josephine Nkomo lauded her bowlers for putting India under pressure but stressed the need to reduce dot balls. The second T20I will be played on Sunday.

1st T20I: Deepti, Niki knocks rescue India from 19/4, beat Zim by 4 wickets

RAIPUR, OCT 16

Debutant Niki Prasad held her nerve with an unbeaten 39 while Deepti Sharma produced a counter-attacking 49 as India recovered from a dramatic top-order collapse to defeat Zimbabwe by four wickets in the first women's T20I in Raipur on Friday.

The match marked Raipur's first-ever women's international cricket fixture. Zimbabwe, sent in to bat, reached 60/1 at the halfway stage, with Kelis Ndhlovu (42) looking particularly fluent with the bat. However, India's bowlers tightened their grip during the middle overs to restrict the visitors to 114/5.

Sree Charani returned impressive figures of 1-14 from her four overs, while Nandni Sharma claimed two wickets for 11 runs. Nandni dismissed Nyasha Gwanzura and Michelle Mavunga off successive deliveries in the final over, preventing Zimbabwe from finishing with a flourish. Sharne Mayers, however, provided valuable late impetus with an unbeaten 43.

India, chasing a modest target of 115 at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium, reached 116/6 in 15.4 overs, winning with 26 balls to spare. Despite the comfortable margin in terms of deliveries remaining, the chase proved considerably more challenging than anticipated in Smriti Mandhana's first match as India's full-time captain.



After a disastrous start saw the hosts lose four wickets for just 19 runs, Deepti and debutant Niki combined to produce a crucial 82-run partnership off 63 balls for the fifth wicket. Their composed batting rescued India from a potentially embarrassing defeat and helped the hosts take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Smriti began the chase positively, striking two boundaries in the opening over. However, her dismissal triggered a stunning collapse that briefly raised hopes of an extraordinary upset for Zimbabwe, who had lost all 18 of their T20Is this year.

Medium pacer Nyasha Gwanzura made an immediate impact, striking with her very first delivery to induce a leading edge from Mandhana's attempted lap shot. Three balls later, she had Anushka Sharma caught at point, leaving India under unexpected pressure.

Michelle Mavunga then dismissed Harmanpreet Kaur, who offered a tame flick that was caught, in a wicket-maiden over. Zimbabwe's momentum continued when Nyasha held on to a sharp return catch to remove Shafali Verma in the fourth over.

At 19/4, India had lost their first four wickets inside four overs for the first time in a women's T20I. The hosts were suddenly staring at a difficult situation, while Zimbabwe sensed an opportunity to register a remarkable victory against a much-fancied opponent.

However, Deepti and Niki had other plans. The experienced Deepti counter-attacked confidently, stepping down the track to loft Nyasha for two boundaries in the sixth over. At the other end, debutant Niki displayed remarkable composure and maturity, refusing to allow the mounting pressure to dictate her approach.

The pair concentrated on finding gaps, rotating the strike and punishing loose deliveries. Their partnership steadily shifted the momentum back in India's favour, forcing Zimbabwe to work hard for every breakthrough.

India collected 15 runs off Olinder Chare in the 10th over, further easing the pressure. Deepti and Niki continued to build their partnership with a combination of controlled aggression and sensible shot selection.

The turning point came during the 12th over, when the pair took 14 runs off Michelle Mavunga, including three boundaries. The scoring burst significantly reduced the required total and left Zimbabwe struggling to regain control of the contest.

Deepti came agonisingly close to a half-century but fell for 49, one run short of the landmark, when she swept Chare towards short fine leg. Her innings proved decisive in steadying India's chase after the early collapse.

Richa Ghosh briefly added to the momentum with a six before falling to Beloved Biza. With the finish line within sight, Niki remained calm and completed the chase in fitting fashion, driving Tendai Makusha through the field for four to seal India's four-wicket victory.

Earlier, Zimbabwe's innings had revolved largely around Kelis Ndhlovu and Sharne Mayers, who contributed 85 runs between them out of the team's total of 114/5. Despite their contributions, the visitors struggled to maintain a consistent scoring rate and played out 67 dot balls.

Zimbabwe suffered an early setback when Beloved Biza was trapped leg-before-wicket by Kranti Gaud for a four-ball duck in the opening over. Ndhlovu, however, took charge of the innings, using confident cuts and drives to keep the scoreboard moving.

India's fielding initially proved disappointing, allowing Zimbabwe to build a platform that could have been more fragile. Anushka Sharma's wild throw at the stumps in the first over raced away for four overthrows. Another missed run-out opportunity in the sixth over resulted in four additional runs after Kranti failed to back up.

For India, the victory offered encouragement through the resilience shown by Deepti and debutant Niki, even as the early batting failures and fielding lapses highlighted areas requiring improvement. The pair's partnership demonstrated the importance of composure under pressure and ensured that India avoided an unexpected defeat in Mandhana's first outing as full-time captain. The second T20I will be played at the same venue on Sunday.

Brief scores:

Zimbabwe: 114/5 in 20 overs (Sharne Mayers 43 not out, Kelis Ndhlovu 42; Nandni Sharma 2-11, N. Sree Charani 1-14) lost to India: 116/6 in 15.4 overs (Deepti Sharma 49, Niki Prasad 39 not out; Nyasha Gwanzura 3-18, Michelle Mavunga 1-19) by four wickets.



India recall Bhuvneshwar for West Indies T20 decider

NEW DELHI, OCT 16

India fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been added to the squad for the fifth and deciding Twenty20 international against West Indies as Arshdeep Singh continues his recovery from a shoulder injury, the country's cricket board said on Friday. Arshdeep sustained a blow to his bowling shoulder during the fourth T20I in Hyderabad and retired hurt after being struck while batting as West Indies levelled the five-match series at 2-2 A decision on Arshdeep's availability for the series decider in Bengaluru on Saturday will be taken before the match Bhuvneshwar, 36, returns to India's T20I setup for the first time in nearly four years. The seamer has also been named in India's squad for the T20I series in New Zealand, which begins on October 22.

INDIA SQUAD: Shreyas Iyer (C), Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, Prince Yadav, Mayank Yadav, Naman Dhir, Bhuvneshwar Kumar

Neeru Dhanda Urges Athletes to Stay Focused on Gold at Asian Para Games

New Delhi, October 16: Indian trap shooter Neeru Dhanda has urged athletes to remain focused on their goals and give their best to win gold medals for the country ahead of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games, scheduled to be held in Japan from October 18 to 24. In a message to the Indian contingent, Dhanda encouraged athletes to block out distractions, believe in themselves and maintain their focus on achieving success. "Cheer for India! My message to you is to create your own bubble, stay within it and protect it. Stay focused on yourself, keep your eyes on the medal, and give your best to win gold for India," Dhanda told ANI.



Dhanda recently achieved a remarkable milestone by winning two gold medals and a silver at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya. She also had the honour of serving as India's flag-bearer at the closing ceremony of the continental sporting event. Describing the experience as a dream come true, Dhanda said she had never expected to receive the opportunity to lead the Indian contingent at the ceremony. She called carrying the national flag an unforgettable and deeply emotional moment.

"Being the flag-bearer for India at the closing ceremony of the Asian Games is a dream for every athlete. I never imagined I would get this opportunity, so it came as a wonderful surprise. Carrying the Indian flag was an incredible feeling, one that is difficult to put into words," she said.

Dhanda also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his encouragement and efforts to promote sports in the country. Modi interacted with India's Asian Games contingent, including athletes, coaches and officials, at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on Thursday.

Reflecting on the interaction, Dhanda said the Prime Minister's words had motivated her to work harder and perform better. "It was a wonderful event organised. Meeting our Prime Minister and his words motivated me greatly. The work he is doing to promote sports in the country is truly inspiring and gives us further motivation to perform better," she said.

With the Asian Para Games approaching, Dhanda's message underlined the importance of determination, self-belief and discipline as Indian athletes prepare to compete for honours on the continental stage. The fifth edition of the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games will take place across Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya, Japan, from October 18 to 24.

Gill to lead India in first three ODIs, Iyer in final two



NEW DELHI, OCT. 16

Shubman Gill will captain India in the first three ODIs against New Zealand, while vice-captain Shreyas Iyer will take charge of the final two matches of the five-game series, the selectors announced on Friday. Iyer will have Ishan Kishan as his deputy in the last two ODIs. The split leadership arrangement is understood to be aimed at managing workloads amid a tight schedule between the Test and ODI series.

Senior batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have been included in both squads for the entire series. However, wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul and pacers Anshul Kamboj and Prasidh Krishna will be available only for the first three matches, subject to Krishna's fitness. Left-handed batter Tilak Varma and pacer Auqib Nabi have been drafted into the squad for the final two ODIs. Wicketkeeper-batter Kumar Kushagra and fast bowler Yash Thakur have received their maiden ODI call-ups. The squads also feature all-rounders Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel and Naman Dhir, along with pacers Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Siraj and Gurnoor Brar, batter Ruturaj Gaikwad and spinner Kuldeep Yadav. There was no recall for senior pacers Mohammed Shami or Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

The five-match series begins in Auckland on November 4, with subsequent matches scheduled for November 7, 10, 13 and 15. All matches will start at 7.30 am IST.

Chamaria to represent India in Boccia at Para Asian Games

New Delhi, October 16: Indian para-athlete Sachin Chamaria is set to represent the country in the BC3 Individual and Pairs events at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Para Asian Games, following the Sports Ministry's approval of two Boccia athletes for inclusion in the Indian contingent. The Games will begin on October 18 in Japan. Chamaria's journey to international sport has been marked by resilience and determination. A severe spinal cord injury in 2008 left him paralysed in all four limbs, significantly changing the course of his life. He discovered Boccia in 2021 and found a new opportunity to pursue competitive sport. Since taking up the discipline, Chamaria has emerged as a six-time consecutive national gold medallist and an advocate for disability inclusion, working to raise awareness about the opportunities available to persons with disabilities through sport.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity to represent India, Chamaria said wearing the national jersey was both an honour and a responsibility. "I am grateful to the Sports Ministry and everyone who has made it possible for me



to represent India at the Para Asian Games. Wearing the India jersey is a responsibility I value deeply, and I will give my best in both events. I hope this opportunity brings greater recognition to Boccia and encourages more athletes with disabilities to take up sport," he said. Chamaria recently delivered an impressive performance at the World Boccia Challenger 2026 in Cairo, winning silver in the BC3 Pairs event alongside Sarita Dwivedi and bronze in the BC3 Individual category. His international achievements also include a gold medal at the World Boccia Challenger in Bahrain in 2024, making him the first Indian male BC3 athlete to win international gold in the sport. At the 2024 Cairo Challenger, he secured silver in the individual event and bronze in pairs. Currently ranked 19th in the world, Chamaria holds the highest world ranking among Indian Boccia players. His contributions have been recognised with the PCI Inspirational Sportsperson of the Year award in 2023 and the Indian Achiever's Award in 2024.

Beyond his sporting achievements, Chamaria is committed to changing perceptions about disability and promoting equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

UEFA Champions League: PSG Beat Manchester City 4-2

NEW DELHI, OCT 16



Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) secured a 4-2 victory over Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium in their UEFA Champions League league-phase encounter on Thursday, while Real Madrid staged a dramatic late comeback to defeat AS Roma 4-3 in another high-scoring contest. PSG made an impressive start against Manchester City, with Desire Doue opening the scoring in the 13th minute before setting up Ousmane Dembele for the visitors' second goal just two minutes later. Vitinha extended the French side's advantage in the 32nd minute, converting a move initiated by Warren Zaire-Emery to give PSG a commanding 3-0 lead at halftime.Manchester City responded after the interval as Erling Haaland pulled a goal back in the 53rd minute. However, Maghnes Akliouche restored PSG's three-goal cushion with a long-range strike in the 63rd minute. Haaland scored his second goal of the match in the 75th minute to reduce the deficit to 4-2, raising hopes of a late City comeback.

The hosts continued to press in the closing stages, but PSG goalkeeper Matvey Safonov produced crucial saves to preserve the visitors' two-goal advantage. The victory took PSG to the top of the Champions League standings with six points from two matches, ahead of Barcelona and Aston Villa in second and third places, respectively. Nine teams have won both their opening fixtures. Haaland, meanwhile, reached another milestone with his brace. At 26 years and 85 days, the Norwegian striker became the youngest player to score 60 Champions League goals, surpassing Lionel Messi's previous record by one day. In another league-phase encounter at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, Real Madrid overturned a 3-1 deficit to defeat Roma 4-3, scoring three goals in the closing minutes.

Roma took the lead through Marten de Roon in the 20th minute, but Kylian Mbappe restored parity for the Spanish side five minutes later. The hosts regained control after halftime, with Donyell Malen scoring twice in the 51st and 57th minutes to put Roma 3-1 ahead. Real Madrid mounted a remarkable comeback in the final stages as Carlos Espi reduced the deficit in the 82nd minute before Endrick struck three minutes later to level the score at 3-3. Antonio Rudiger completed the turnaround in the 90th minute, converting a set-piece delivery from Arda Guler to seal a dramatic 4-3 victory for the Spanish giants.

The result lifted Real Madrid to eighth place in the Champions League standings with six points from two matches, joining eight other teams with a perfect record in the opening two rounds.

Ashwini Vaishnaw Meets Indian Women's Kabaddi Team

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 16

Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday met members of the Indian women's kabaddi team at Rail Bhawan in New Delhi and congratulated them on winning the gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The Indian women's team clinched the gold medal after defeating Iran 37-34 in a closely contested final on September 26, successfully defending its Asian Games title.

Vaishnaw congratulated the Railway sportspersons for their achievement, praising their dedication, determination and sporting excellence. He said their performance had brought laurels to the country and made India proud. The team was coached by Neeta Moreshwar Dadwe and captained by Pushpa Rana. The Railway sportspersons who met the minister included head coach Neeta Moreshwar Dadwe of South Central Railway, Ritu Negi of South Central Railway, Pooja of Northern



Railway, Pinky Roy of South Central Railway, and Sonali Vishnu Shingate and Raj Rani of Western Railway. Indian Railways has played a significant role in promoting sports and nurturing talent through the Railway Sports Promotion Board. Its athletes have represented the country at several major international competitions, including the Olympic Games, World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. By providing institutional support and opportunities for employees to pursue sporting careers alongside their professional responsibilities, Indian Railways continues to contribute to the growth of sports in the country. The women's kabaddi team's gold medal victory at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games highlights the contribution of Railway sportspersons to India's success on the international sporting stage.



Nabha Natesh Dazzles With Her Glam

Nabha Natesh is known for her glam screen presence and dance numbers in Telugu films. Her biggest success is iSmart Shankar, which worked well at the box office. She acted in Solo Brathuke So Better and Maestro, but she has not had a big hit recently. Nabha shared her latest look in a strapless white mini dress covered in pearl and crystal embellishments in a lattice pattern. The bodycon fit highlighted her curves. She paired it with silver strappy heels, statement drop earrings and a delicate bracelet. Smoky eyes, nude lips and soft waves completed the look. Her last couple of films did not do well at the box office, so she needs a hit. Her hopes are on Swayambhu, opposite Nikhil Siddhartha, which could give her career a push.

Anirudh and Kavya Maran Set to Tie the Knot ?

Special Wedding Invitation Extended to Tamil Nadu CM Vijay





Rumours are swirling in Kollywood that music director Anirudh Ravichander and Sunrisers Hyderabad co-owner Kavya Maran have finalised their wedding dates. According to reports, the couple is expected to get married in Greece on November 11, followed by a grand wedding reception in Chennai on November 14. On Thursday, Kalanithi Maran reportedly met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay and personally handed him a wedding invitation for his daughter's wedding. Is popular music director Anirudh Ravichander all set to get married? Is he preparing to tie the knot with the daughter of Sun Pictures chairman Kalanithi Maran? Kollywood circles are abuzz with speculation suggesting that the answer may be yes. Rumours about a romantic relationship between Anirudh and Kavya Maran, who owns the Sunrisers Hyderabad franchise, have been circulating for quite some time. Reports suggest that the two have allegedly been in a secret relationship for the past two years. With the approval of their families, the couple is reportedly planning to get married in November.

Destination Wedding in Greece According to reports, Anirudh and Kavya Maran are expected to have a destination wedding in Greece on November 11. Only members of both families and a few close friends are likely to attend the intimate ceremony. A grand wedding reception is reportedly being planned at a five-star hotel in Chennai on November 14. Several prominent personalities from the film and political industries, including celebrities from Kollywood, Tollywood and other film industries, are expected to attend. Preparations for both the wedding ceremony and the reception are reportedly progressing rapidly, according to sources close to the families.

Anirudh and Kavya Maran Watch Jailer 2

Superstar Rajinikanth's film Jailer 2 was released on Thursday. Anirudh and Kavya Maran reportedly watched the film together at Vettri Theatre in Chennai. Videos and photographs of their reported appearance together have been circulating on social media.

Wedding Invitation to Vijay

Reports suggest that wedding invitations have already been prepared. Kalanithi Maran reportedly met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay on Thursday and personally invited him to his daughter's wedding. It is also being reported that a wedding invitation was presented to DMK leader M. K. Stalin.

Who Is Kavya Maran?

Kavya Maran is currently the co-owner of the Sunrisers Hyderabad franchise in the Indian Premier League (IPL). She has gained considerable popularity on social media through her appearances during IPL matches. Meanwhile, Anirudh Ravichander continues to be one of the leading music directors in the South Indian film industry.

Note: The wedding details and relationship claims in the supplied news item are presented as reports and rumours, not as officially confirmed announcements.

Meenakshi's Hanoi Style Diaries



Meenakshi Chaudhary scored one of her biggest hits with Sankranthiki Vasthunam, which crossed 300 crore, and has also got back-to-back success with Lucky Baskhar, and Guntur Kaaram. Meenakshi has been holidaying in Vietnam and shared pictures from Hanoi. She spent a few days roaming the streets, visiting cafés and vintage book stores, and enjoying the food and coffee. For the outing, she wore a black camisole with distressed denim shorts and an earthy colour block shrug. She added a maroon crossbody bag, hoop earrings, gold bangles and flat black sandals, and kept her hair loose and straight. Her wide easy smile in every single frame says it all. On the work front, she has Vrushakarma opposite Naga Chaitanya and her Hindi debut Bhagam Bhaag 2 with Akshay Kumar lined up.

Hyderabad Set for Ramayana's Big Event



The promotional journey of Ramayana is gathering momentum, with Hyderabad preparing to host a big pre-release event at JRC Convention celebrating one of the most ambitious cinematic ventures in the making. The makers have announced October 19 as the date for the special event, which will bring together the film's leading stars and principal creative team. The occasion promises a star-studded gathering, with Ranbir Kapoor, Yash, Sai Pallavi, Kajal Aggarwal, Rakul Preet Singh and Ravi Dubey expected to be in attendance. Director Nitesh Tiwari and producer Namit Malhotra will join the celebrations, alongside other important members of the production. During yesterday's Bangalore event, the makers unveiled a new trailer that showcased the film's grand vision. Its breathtaking visuals and powerful music reflected an uncompromising approach to filmmaking. The trailer struck a chord with audiences, with viewers across the world praising its quality. The first part of the film will arrive in theatres worldwide on November 5, while bookings will open from Dasara.

Jailer 2 Telugu Gets a Fair Start



Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 released with minimal promotions. Even the film has limited promotions in Tamil Nadu and couldn't hold a public event due to the unknown reasons. All these made Jailer 2 confined to only decent buzz. The film opened to mixed reviews from a section of audiences and critics the other day. Despite the decent buzz and mixed talk, Jailer 2 performed good at Day 1 at the box-office. The film opened to good all over, once again proving Superstar's undiminishing charisma and craze. As per trade sources, Jailer 2 got an estimated opening of over Rs 125 crore worldwide on the opening day, including the overseas premieres. This is a phenomenal start for a film with minimal promotions and decent buzz. With no major releases in Tamil and the advantage of Dasara holidays, Jailer 2 has made a promising start at the box office. Meanwhile, Jailer 2 in Telugu managed to open with around Rs 15 crore gross, as per early estimates and the accurate figures are yet to come. This isn't a great start for Rajini's film in Telugu especially considering its pre release business, but it needs to be seen whether the film will pick up from here. As Vijay Deverakonda-Rashmika starrer Ranabaali releases today, it is interesting to see how it affects Jailer 2's performance in the Telugu market. This weekend and the remaining Dasara holidays look promising for the film. However, with huge targets to achieve in every territory, Thalaivar needs to pull in more numbers in the coming days to make Jailer 2 a successful venture. Let's hope for the best.

Karikaala Journey Begins for Sundeep



A sprawling mythical universe, a formidable warrior, and a story designed to unfold across two cinematic chapters- Karikaala is shaping up to be one of Sundeep Kishan's most ambitious ventures. The pan-India socio-fantasy film was launched with a traditional pooja ceremony today, marking the beginning of a project that aims to bring a grand fantasy world to life. Shining Pictures, headed by producers Mahidhar Reddy and Rajashekhar Annabhimoju, is backing the film, with Ugandhar Muni at the helm. The director, who previously delivered Shambhala, is now attempting a project on a much broader scale, combining mythological imagination with adventure and social elements. The makers have already offered a glimpse of their vision through the title announcement and first-look poster. Sundeep Kishan's fierce warrior appearance immediately established a different visual identity for the film, suggesting a character whose journey will be closely tied to the mysteries of an ancient world. Catherine Tresa, Sakkshi Mhadolkar and Gayatri Bhardwaj will share the screen as the leading ladies, while Sricharan Pakala is composing the music. The remaining cast and technical team are expected to be revealed in due course. One of the film's most notable features is its planned two-chapter release strategy. Chapter 1 is scheduled to reach theatres worldwide on July 2, 2027, with Chapter 2 following on October 28, 2027. The relatively close release dates point to the makers' intention to present the larger narrative as an interconnected cinematic event. Karikaala is being mounted as a multilingual production in Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi.

Amma Kadhili Vacche: A Divine Musical Treat



TGopichand's historical action extravaganza Bharata Varsha, being helmed by Sankalp is gearing up for release. As part of the musical promotions, the makers released second single- Amma Kadhili Vacche. The imagery becomes even more striking with the presentation of Durga's nine forms. Music and visuals work in tandem to heighten the impact. Anudeep Dev crafts the composition with a stirring devotional character, while Kalyan Chakravarthy Tripuraneni's lyrics bring poetic expression to the goddess's glory and might. Skanda Veluvali leads the vocal presentation with considerable force. The presence of T Gopichand and Ritu Varma adds another dimension to the sequence, placing the lead actors within the cultural landscape of the narrative. Yet, it is the collective participation of the devotees and the authenticity of the festivities that give the song much of its emotional weight. Backed by producer Srinivasaa Chitturi under Srinivasaa Silver Screen, the story is set in 642 AD.

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