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Dussehra: The Victory of Light Within

OPINION 06

Hyd Prepares for El Niño Challenge

SPECIAL 02



Permission Granted for Congress Rally at Ramlila

New Delhi, OCT 17: Delhi Police have granted permission for a large rally to be organized by the Congress Party on November 1 at Ramlila Maidan in the national capital, New Delhi. According to reports, the police have approved the Congress Party's request to hold the rally. Following this, Congress leaders have begun focusing on preparations for the event.

The rally is expected to focus primarily on protecting democracy in the country, ensuring transparency in the electoral process, and safeguarding voters' rights. The Congress Party is reportedly organizing the event with the aim of questioning the central government about developments in the electoral system and raising public awareness about these issues.

CJP's Deepke Granted Conditional Bail

New Delhi, OCT 17: Abhijeet Deepke, the founder of Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), has been granted bail. According to reports, he was granted bail subject to certain conditions. He is expected to be released after signing a peace bond, assuring that he will not disturb public peace and order. Police took Abhijeet Deepke into custody after a call was made to organize a Tricolour March in Delhi. He was subsequently produced before a Special Executive Magistrate's Court. The court reportedly heard the case and granted him conditional bail. The police took this action in connection with the proposed march and concerns relating to

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SHORT TAKES

TELANGANA HIGH COURT DECLARES OCT 21 HOLIDAY



HYDERABAD, OCT.17

The High Court for the State of Telangana has declared October 21, 2026 (Wednesday), a holiday on account of the following day of Dussehra festival to the High Court. The holiday applies to the Telangana High Court, Telangana State Judicial Academy in Secunderabad, Telangana State Legal Services Authority, High Court Legal Services Committee and High Court Arbitration and Mediation Centre, Hyderabad. The notification was issued in partial modification of earlier notifications and covers the institutions under the administrative control of the High Court.

India Is Not Bangladesh

Union Minister Criticises 'Regime Change' Remarks



New Delhi, OCT 17: Union Minister Kiren Rijiju criticised those talking about "regime change" in India, stating that the country is not Bangladesh. He called on Indian youth to give an appropriate response to such remarks. Rijiju said that the country's youth were not naive and were emerging as a force to take India forward on the path of development rather than destroy it.
Rijiju said Indian youth were making the country proud by winning medals in sports. He noted that young people were demonstrating their talent in skill development, innovation, startups and technology. He added that they were also bringing global recognition to Indian culture. The minister stressed that the capabilities of India's youth should not be underestimated. He urged people to recognise the country's development and the achievements of its young people.

Young Filmmakers Must Take the Lead in Creating Social Awareness

Hyderabad to Be Developed as a Major Hub for Indian Cinema: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka

- *Bathukamma symbolises social justice and equality*
- *Young filmmakers urged to create short films on climate change and water scarcity*
- *State Government committed to encouraging young cinematic talent*
- *Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka at Bathukamma Young Filmmaker Challenge Awards–2026 at Shilpakala Vedika, Hyderabad*



Hyderabad, OCT 17: Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has called upon young filmmakers to use their creativity to produce short films that inspire society to think and act on important social issues. He urged them to create awareness among the public about climate change, rising temperatures and the potential water crisis in the coming years.

Drawing a parallel with the vibrant flowers of the Bathukamma festival, he expressed the hope that the lives and careers of young filmmakers would blossom with success. He encouraged aspiring directors to come forward with compelling stories and produce films that combine entertainment with a meaningful social message.

He emphasised that the State Government's objective was to develop Hyderabad beyond its identity as a hub for Telugu cinema and establish it as a major destination for Indian cinema. The government, he said, was committed to nurturing Telangana's young cinematic talent and strengthening Hyderabad's position as a prominent filmmaking destination at the national level. Bhatti Vikramarka attended the Bathukamma Young Filmmaker Challenge Awards–2026 at Shilpakala Vedika in Hyderabad as the chief guest and inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Addressing the gathering, he described Bathukamma as a reflection of Telangana's cultural identity and spirit. Just as flowers of different colours and fragrances come together to form Bathukamma, the festival brings together people from diverse social backgrounds, he said.

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Yogi Credits 'Zero-Tolerance' Policy for Improved Law and Order, Women's Safety

NEW DELHI, OCT 17

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said the BJP-led double-engine government's zero-tolerance policy towards crime and criminals over the past nine-and-a-half years had helped curb criminal activities, strengthen the rule of law and create a fear-free environment across the state. In a post on social media platform X, Adityanath invoked Goddess Kaalratri, the seventh form of Goddess Durga, to emphasise his government's commitment to maintaining law and order and ensuring women's safety and empowerment. "The divine form of Goddess Kaalratri—who destroys malevolent forces, demons, and entities like 'Raktabeej' (a metaphor for persistent, multiplying evil), while establishing righteousness (Dharma) and granting fearlessness to her devotees—conveys a profound message: the eradication of unrighteousness, tyranny, and terror is the very foundation upon which a society built on justice, peace, and fearlessness can be established," he wrote.

The Chief Minister alleged that before 2017, Uttar Pradesh was

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Delhi Police's Assault on Female Students Is Shameful: Rahul

New Delhi, OCT 17: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi strongly condemned the alleged police assault on female students who raised their voices in defence of democracy, calling the incident shameful. He expressed serious outrage over allegations of sexual harassment, pulling at women's clothing, and assaults on their private parts. Rahul Gandhi alleged that the authorities were resorting to intimidation and humiliation to silence those who questioned them. He criticised the alleged attacks, saying their aim was to instil fear and prevent people from questioning the government in the future. Rahul Gandhi remarked that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah feared that their arbitrary exercise of power would come to an end once they lost office. He alleged that this fear was manifesting itself in the form of violence in police actions. He stated that police violence against the country's youth and women posed a threat to democracy. He also demanded that the government take responsibility for ensuring women's safety and protecting citizens' right to protect.

Harish opposes Godavari-Cauvery link agenda

Hyderabad, Oct.17: BRS senior leader and former minister Harish Rao has strongly objected to the inclusion of the Godavari-Cauvery river-linking project in the agenda of the National Board for Dam Safety (NBDS) meeting scheduled for November 3, alleging that the move would undermine Telangana's water rights. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, Harish Rao alleged that the Centre had acted promptly on a letter written by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on October 7 and included the issue in the meeting agenda without adequately considering Telangana's interests. Accusing Chandrababu Naidu of attempting to divert Godavari waters for Andhra Pradesh, Harish Rao alleged that Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was remaining silent on the issue as

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Warangal being developed on a par with Hyd: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, Oct.17: Minister for IT and Industries D. Sridhar Babu said the State government was developing Warangal into a major urban centre on a par with Hyderabad, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy set to inaugurate the KU Hub as part of the initiative. The Minister offered prayers at the Sri Bhadrakali temple in Warangal on Saturday as part of the Devi Sharannavaratri celebrations. He said the government was taking precautionary measures across Telangana in anticipation of the impact of El Niño.

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TELANGANA TIGHTENS ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

Hyderabad, Oct.17: Preventing road accidents and saving lives remain the Telangana government's top priorities, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said here on Saturday. The state government has issued comprehensive guidelines under GO Ms. No. 48 for the effective management, monitoring and utilisation of road safety funds at the state and district levels, in line with the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' directions.



The road safety cess collected under the Telangana Motor Vehicles Taxes (Amendment) Act, 2026, has been allocated to the Telangana Road Safety (Non-Lapseable) Fund. The statutory State Road Safety Council, chaired by the Chief Minister with the Transport Minister as Vice-Chairman, will administer the fund. To ensure transparency and accountability, the Telangana Online Accounting System will be extended to all districts. Fund accounts at both state and district levels will be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), while details will be uploaded to the Union Transport Ministry's portal for access by the Supreme Court Road Safety Committee. The minister said district collectors had been directed to activate

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Comprehensive Land Resurvey to Be Completed in 3 Phases

- *Survey completed in 285 villages; notices issued inviting objections*
- *Preparations underway to complete the first phase by the end of next month*
- *Tenders finalised for procurement of another 400 rovers*
- *Bhu Dhar pattas to be distributed soon in Palair constituency*
- *Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy reviews progress with Revenue officials*

Hyderabad, OCT 17: Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has announced that the comprehensive land resurvey undertaken by the Telangana government will be completed in three phases. The initiative aims to provide a permanent solution to land-related problems and disputes by establishing accurate boundaries for every land parcel and ensuring clarity over ownership rights. The Minister said that surveys had already been



completed in 285 revenue villages and notices had been issued to landowners inviting objections. To accelerate the survey process, tenders had been finalised for the purchase of an additional 400 rovers, over and above the 411 rovers already available. He directed officials to ensure transparency and

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Record-Breaking 20,003 MW Demand Tests Telangana Grid

Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 17: 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.

Hyd Prepares for El Niño Challenge with Major Water Conservation Drive

Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 17, 2026: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) has intensified preparations to prevent drinking water shortages in the city during the coming summer. The measures are being taken in view of the possible impact of El Niño, which may lead to reduced rainfall, lower groundwater levels and increased pressure on water reserves in the Singur and Manjeera reservoirs.



El Niño is a climate pattern in which Pacific Ocean temperatures become unusually warm, potentially affecting rainfall patterns in India. For Hyderabad, reduced or irregular rainfall could result in lower reservoir inflows, poor groundwater recharge, drying of local water sources and increased dependence on tankers. The situation may become more challenging during summer because of higher temperatures and increased demand from households, industries, construction projects and commercial establishments. The Water Board is preparing an eight-month action plan covering the period from November 1 until the beginning of the next rainy season. The plan focuses on protecting drinking water sources and promoting the use of treated wastewater for construction, industries, parks, green belts, golf courses, landscaping and other non-drinking purposes.

A special meeting was held at the Water Board's headquarters on Friday under the leadership of Managing Director Ashok Reddy, IAS. Representatives of CREDAI, TBF, NAREDCO, construction companies and other departments discussed water conservation, reducing the use of drinking water and groundwater for construction, expanding treated water supplies and developing alternative distribution systems. The Water Board is making arrangements to launch a "Dial-a-Green Tanker" service from November 1. The service will supply treated water for approved non-drinking purposes. Officials are examining the availability, quality, transportation facilities and supply capacity of treated water before finalising detailed guidelines and operating procedures.

A digital Green Water Tanker platform is also being developed to make the system transparent and convenient. Water suppliers, tanker operators, construction companies, industries and other consumers will be able to register on the platform. Users will be able to book tankers online, check the availability of treated water at nearby sewage treatment plants and track tanker movements. The platform is expected to be ready within seven to ten days.

The Water Board has set a first-phase target of using 500 million litres of treated water per day for construction, industrial, park and landscaping requirements. Officials are planning filling points, transport facilities and pipeline connections to achieve this target. Direct pipelines from sewage treatment plants to nearby construction projects, parks, golf courses, gated communities and other large consumers will also be considered to reduce dependence on tankers and lower transportation costs. Private sewage treatment plants in gated communities, apartment complexes and other institutions will also be included in the programme. The Water Board is collecting information about their treatment capacity, daily production, internal use and surplus water. So far, 51 private STPs have registered, and they are estimated to have around 1.5 million litres of surplus treated water available each day.

The Board is examining the possibility of using suitable private STPs as temporary tanker-filling centres. This would help make surplus treated water available to nearby construction projects, parks and landscaping sites. It could also reduce tanker travel distances, fuel consumption and delivery costs.

Officials discussed the need to keep treated water affordable for consumers. Although treated water is cheaper than drinking water, long-distance transportation can increase its final cost. A pricing system may therefore be developed based on the quantity supplied, tanker capacity, travel distance and transportation expenses. Supplying water from nearby STPs and expanding pipeline connections could further reduce costs.

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ACB REGISTERS DA CASE AGAINST KEESARA INSPECTOR

HYDERABAD, OCT.17

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a disproportionate assets case against Arkapally Anjaneyulu, Inspector of Police at Keesara Police Station under the Medchal-Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate, for allegedly amassing assets beyond his known sources of income.

ACB City Range-1 officials conducted searches on October 17 at his residence, office and four other locations linked to his relatives, associates and alleged benamidars.

During the searches, officials reportedly found property documents relating to two plots measuring 150 square yards each, along with an old house at Lingojiguda in Saroornagar, valued at Rs.30 lakh; an old house on 240 square yards at CR Enclave, Mansoorabad, valued at Rs.40 lakh; an under-construction house on 180 square yards at Perur village, valued at Rs.50 lakh; and two acres of agricultural land at Haliya in Miryalaguda, valued at Rs.80 lakh.

Investigators also suspect that the officer acquired additional agricultural land in the Haliya-Miryalaguda area. The market value of the properties is believed to be higher than the estimated values.

The searches also yielded Rs.7 lakh in cash, 60 tulas of gold ornaments valued at approximately Rs.5 lakh, a Maruti Vitara Brezza car worth around Rs.6.5 lakh, and household articles and electronic gadgets valued at Rs.10 lakh. Verification of additional assets is underway.

The case has been registered under Section 13(1)(b) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018. The investigation is continuing. Anjaneyulu was earlier caught in an alleged bribery case on September 16, 2026, when he reportedly demanded Rs.8 lakh and accepted Rs.5 lakh through his subordinate, Sub-Inspector D. Gyanender Reddy, in exchange for an official favour. He was arrested on September 17 and remanded to judicial custody. He is currently lodged at Chanchalguda Central Prison. The ACB stated that he would be produced before the court in the disproportionate assets case on a prisoner transit warrant.

Warangal being developed on a par with...

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Sridhar Babu said Godavari water was being pumped from Dharmasagar Lake into Bhadrakali Lake to help improve groundwater levels in Warangal and Hanamkonda. He also announced that IT Towers would be inaugurated in Warangal to create employment opportunities for local youth. The State government had allocated ₹40 crore for the construction of mada streets around the Bhadrakali temple, he said. The Minister also appreciated the donors who had sponsored the construction of a new temple chariot.

Deepke Granted Conditional Bail

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law and order. As part of his bail, Deepke will have to comply with the conditions imposed by the court. His release process will be completed only after he signs the peace bond. This development has sparked discussion in Delhi regarding civil rights and the organization of protest activities. However, the full details of the bail conditions and the subsequent legal proceedings are yet to be officially disclosed.

Yogi Credits 'Zero-Tolerance' Policy..

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gripped by fear and disorder due to the activities of mafias, rioters and criminals, which adversely affected women's safety, education and opportunities for self-reliance. "Over the past 9.5 years, the 'double-engine' government's policy of 'zero tolerance' toward crime and criminals has suppressed these malevolent forces, establishing the rule of law and a fear-free environment across the state," he said. Highlighting initiatives aimed at women's safety, Adityanath cited Mission Shakti, the integrated 1090 helpline, women-focused beat policing and the Safe City project as key measures to improve security for women and girls at home, in public spaces, educational institutions and workplaces. He also claimed that police response time had declined significantly, from 65 minutes in 2016 to five minutes at present, reflecting improvements in emergency response capabilities.

"The reduction in police response time, from 65 minutes in 2016 to just 5 minutes today, serves as clear evidence of the state's administrative readiness and the government's unwavering commitment to women's safety," he wrote.

Young Filmmakers Must Take the Lead..

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He noted that Bathukamma therefore represents the values of social justice, equality and unity.

Hyderabad to Emerge as a Major Centre for Indian Cinema

The Deputy Chief Minister observed that, although the Telugu film industry was based in Hyderabad, there had previously been a perception that talented people from Telangana were not receiving adequate opportunities in the industry. Today, however, several directors, actors and producers from Telangana are making their mark in cinema, he said. Emphasising that Telangana had no shortage of creative talent, he said that identifying and encouraging young artists would help bring many more talented individuals into the spotlight. The State Government was working towards positioning Hyderabad as a major destination for the Indian film industry, he said. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and the State Cabinet were giving serious consideration to this objective.

He explained that the government was making efforts to invite leading personalities from across the country to Hyderabad and provide the infrastructure and favourable environment needed for the growth of the film industry. These initiatives, he said, would help establish Hyderabad as a key centre for Indian cinema.

Telling a Story in Three Minutes Is Also a Remarkable Creative Achievement

Bhatti Vikramarka appreciated the Telangana Film Development Corporation for organising the Bathukamma Young Filmmaker Challenge to identify and encourage emerging filmmaking talent. He observed that narrating a story that could otherwise be told in a three-hour film within a short film lasting just two or three minutes required considerable creativity and storytelling skill. Young directors who could engage audiences and communicate their ideas effectively within a limited duration would have greater opportunities in the future, he said. He also noted that several films that did not win awards had demonstrated considerable talent. Urging participants not to become discouraged by the absence of an award, he said that winning a prize was not the only measure of success. It was difficult to predict who among the young filmmakers would eventually become a leading director, he said, encouraging all participants to continue developing their creative abilities and pursue their ambitions with determination. The State Government was ready to extend the necessary support and encouragement to young filmmakers, he affirmed. He expressed happiness that the event recognised emerging talent through a total of 29 awards across various categories, including short films, songs, folk songs, influencers and essays. He also said he would watch the short films produced by young participants and explore opportunities to further encourage talented filmmakers.

Create Public Awareness About Climate Change

The Deputy Chief Minister said cinema should not be confined to entertainment but should also serve as a powerful medium for communicating messages that benefit society.

He pointed out that climate change, the effects of a possible Super El Niño, rising temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns could significantly affect people's lives in the coming years. Young filmmakers, he said, should play an active role in alerting the public to these emerging challenges. Through engaging stories and compelling visuals that people could easily understand, short films could promote awareness about environmental protection, water conservation and ecological balance. He observed that even a short film based on an incident in a small village could reach audiences across the world with the help of modern technology. Young filmmakers possessed the power to influence public thinking and should use that ability constructively, he said.

Comprehensive Land Resurvey to Be Completed in 3 Phases

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give top priority to public satisfaction so that landowners do not face any inconvenience during the survey. The Minister said the government had launched the comprehensive resurvey in line with the vision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to build a Telangana free from land-related disputes. He made these remarks during an extensive review meeting with Revenue officials on the progress of the land survey at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Saturday.

Of the state's total 10,954 revenue villages, the government has selected 70 villages in each of the 32 districts, excluding Hyderabad, for the first phase. Including villages where maps are unavailable, the resurvey is being undertaken in a total of 2,720 villages. So far, surveys have been completed in 285 villages, the Minister said.

Land is not merely an asset for a farmer but also the source of his livelihood, Ponguleti observed. The government's objective is to establish clear boundaries for every inch of land, assign a unique Bhu Dhar number to every survey number and provide assurance to every farmer. He expressed confidence that the comprehensive resurvey would mark a major milestone in clarifying land ownership rights and resolving disputes that had persisted for generations.

The Minister pointed out that in many parts of the state, survey records dating back to the Nizam era in 1936 continued to serve as the primary reference for land boundaries. Over time, land subdivisions, an increase in sub-divisions of survey numbers, urbanisation and changes in administrative boundaries had created uncertainty regarding the original boundaries of land parcels.

To provide a permanent solution to these problems, the government is conducting a comprehensive resurvey using modern technology and scientific methods, he explained.

Moving away from traditional surveying equipment such as chains, rods, cross-staffs and measuring tapes, the government is adopting advanced technologies, including DGPS, rovers, GIS and QGIS. These technologies will improve measurement accuracy and enable survey records to be preserved digitally, helping prevent future disputes over land boundaries, he said.

Minister Ponguleti stated that the government was providing the necessary technological equipment to speed up resurvey operations across Telangana. While 411 rovers had already been procured, tenders had been finalised for purchasing another 400. The use of rovers would enable land surveys to be conducted more quickly and accurately, he added.

Following completion of the resurvey, precise boundaries will be established for every land parcel, and a unique Bhu Dhar number will be allotted to each survey number. Bhu Dhar cards will be issued to provide every parcel of land with a unique identity, similar to the Aadhaar identification system, the Minister said.

Survey data collected through DGPS will be incorporated into QGIS software and uploaded to the Bhu Bharati portal. He explained that while the Telangana region had approximately 40 lakh survey numbers as of 1948, the figure had now increased to 2.29 crore. The government has prepared a comprehensive action plan to assign Bhu Dhar numbers to all survey numbers across the state in a phased manner.

Bhu Dhar Pattas to Be Distributed Soon in Palair

The Minister said that the resurvey would provide accurate boundaries and individual survey maps for every land parcel. The process would bring greater clarity to ownership rights and help reduce complications during future land transactions, registrations and mutations. Ponguleti announced that the resurvey had been successfully completed with 100 per cent coverage across all 665 acres in Kongara village of Nelakondapalli mandal in his Palair constituency. The distribution of Bhu Dhar pattas in the village would begin shortly, he added.

The Minister issued clear instructions to officials on the procedures that must be followed during the land resurvey. He directed officials to issue advance notices to the respective pattadars before visiting villages to conduct surveys. Informing landowners in advance would ensure their availability and enable them to verify and confirm their land boundaries. He also instructed officials to make public announcements in the concerned villages one or two days before the survey.

Furthermore, officials were directed to clearly mark government lands in villages and undertake surveys only after establishing the boundaries of Grama Kantham areas, which comprise designated village habitation lands. He emphasised the need to eliminate confusion on the ground regarding government lands, private properties and Grama Kantham boundaries.

The Minister said that objections raised by landowners in villages where surveys had been completed must be received, examined and resolved in accordance with the prescribed rules. He urged officials to ensure maximum transparency throughout the process and take public views into account.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stressed that officials should not treat the land resurvey merely as a government assignment, but recognise it as a crucial responsibility that directly affects people's lives. He called upon them to work in coordination and with dedication to complete the exercise successfully in accordance with the government's targets.

The Minister made it clear that every measure must be taken to ensure that people face no difficulties during the survey and that landowners remain satisfied with the process. He instructed officials to approach every decision from the public's perspective and resolve problems encountered at the field level in a constructive manner.

TELANGANA TIGHTENS ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

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District Road Safety Committees immediately and ensure monthly meetings. District Road Safety Coordinators must be appointed, and district-level safety plans submitted. Police, Health, Roads and Buildings, Education departments and GHMC have also been asked to appoint nodal officers. Several departments and agencies, including TG-TMARS, Panchayat Raj, NHAI, EMRI's 108 services, municipal bodies and educational institutions, must submit quarterly action-taken reports to the Lead Agency for Road Safety. The office of the Additional Director General of Police (Road Safety) is also being brought under the State Road Safety Council to improve coordination among departments. Prabhakar said the government was committed to significantly reducing road accidents and making roads across Telangana safer for all commuters.

Harish opposes Godavari-Cauvery link agenda

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a form of "gurudakshina" to his Andhra Pradesh counterpart.

Harish Rao asserted that Telangana's interests could be protected only if the river-linking project was taken up through the Sammakka Sagar project. He alleged that the Centre's proposal to route the interlinking project through Bollepalli, which he claimed would be under Andhra Pradesh's control, was part of a larger conspiracy against Telangana. Harish Rao said the previous BRS government had secured half of the clearances required for Sammakka Sagar. However, he alleged that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) had been returned due to the negligence of the present Congress government. Harish Rao also accused the government of releasing Devadula waters downstream, warning that the situation could force farmers in Telangana to observe a crop holiday. Demanding an immediate apology from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to the people of Telangana, Harish Rao questioned whether the Centre was giving greater weight to Andhra Pradesh's demands because the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) had 16 MPs in the NDA. He also questioned the silence of Telangana's 17 MPs and Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, asking why they were not raising the issue with the Centre. Warning that the BRS would not remain silent if Telangana's rightful share of Godavari waters was denied, Harish Rao said the party would announce its action plan shortly.



Department of Tourism & Heritage Telangana, Organises Special Heritage Walk for Trainee Civil Services Officers

Hyderabad, 17 October 2026: The Department of Tourism & Heritage Telangana, organised a special Heritage Walk for approximately 170 trainee Civil Services Officers on 17 October 2026. The walk commenced at the iconic Charminar and concluded at the historic Chowmahalla Palace, providing the participants with an opportunity to explore Hyderabad's rich history, architectural splendour and cultural legacy. The programme offered the trainee officers insights into the historical significance of these prominent landmarks and their contribution to the cultural identity of Hyderabad. The initiative forms part of the Department's efforts to familiarise visitors with Telangana's rich historical and cultural assets and showcase the State's tourism potential.

OU VC Calls for Timely Results, Academic Reforms and Greater Administrative Efficiency

Hyderabad: Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, Prof. Kumar Molugaram, chaired an academic meeting at the University Administration Building today with Deans, Heads of Departments and Chairpersons of Boards of Studies from various faculties and departments to review key academic and administrative priorities. Emphasising the need for coordination, accountability and time-bound action, the Vice-Chancellor urged all academic functionaries to work in cohesion to minimise procedural delays and streamline administrative processes. He called for effective measures to expedite result processing and ensure the timely declaration of results in the interest of students.

The meeting deliberated on making undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) syllabi more contemporary, incorporating stakeholder perspectives, changing market trends, employer expectations and students' future career prospects. A key agenda was the proposed restructuring of Ph.D. coursework from the existing two-subject pattern to a four-component framework comprising Research Methodology, Publishing and Research Ethics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and a Broad Area of Research, with a total of 12 credits.

Prof. Molugaram reiterated the responsibilities of Deans, Heads and Chairpersons, urging them to discharge their duties with commitment and accountability, keeping students' interests and the University's academic mission at the forefront. He also directed the concerned functionaries to expedite the implementation of app-based online attendance recording and ensure compliance at the earliest. The meeting concluded with the University fraternity paying homage to Prof. Smitha Sambrani, who passed away on 13 October 2026, by observing two minutes of silence in her memory.

72-FOOT BATHUKAMMA MAKES HISTORY IN AMBERPET

Kishan Reddy Leads Grand Celebrations

Hyderabad, October 17: Bathukamma celebrations were held on a grand scale in Amberpet under the leadership of Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy. A record-breaking 72-foot-tall Bathukamma was the main attraction, earning recognition in the Universal Book of Records. The Telangana Governor, accompanied by his spouse, attended the celebrations. Thousands of women, children and others participated in traditional songs, dances and cultural programmes, showcasing Telangana's rich heritage. Addressing the gathering, Kishan Reddy described Bathukamma as a symbol of Telangana's culture, self-respect and connection with nature. He recalled the festival's historical significance during the Telangana armed struggle and said it transcended caste and economic barriers by bringing people together. The Minister appreciated the organisers, particularly the Devi Organisation, for arranging the massive Bathukamma. He offered prayers for people's prosperity and well-being.

Press Club Hyderabad Delegation Meets Deputy CM, Ponguleti

Hyderabad, October 17: A delegation of Press Club Hyderabad met Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Revenue and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and urged the government to implement a time-bound action plan to address the long-pending issues faced by journalists. The delegation primarily discussed the allotment of land to Press Club Hyderabad at a nominal rate, issuance of health cards to journalists, allotment of house sites, and pension benefits for veteran journalists. During the meeting, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka announced that the file relating to the Press Club Hyderabad land, which was pending with him, would be cleared within a day or two. Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy assured the delegation that he would arrange a meeting with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the earliest to discuss and resolve the issues concerning health cards and house sites for journalists. The delegation comprised Press Club Hyderabad President S. Vijay Kumar Reddy, General Secretary Ramesh Varikuppala, Treasurer Ramesh Vaitla, and senior journalists R. Ravikanth Reddy and Nemani Bhaskar.



GITAM National AI Challenge 2026

20 Lakh Prize Pool for Student Innovators

Hyderabad, October 17: GITAM Deemed to be University will organise the GITAM National AI Challnge 2026, inviting students from Classes 11 and 12 and undergraduate programmes across India to develop AI-powered solutions to real-world problems. Under the theme "Build with AI. Compete Pan-India," participants can compete individually or in teams of up to four members. The competition will feature online quarter-finals, campus-based semi-finals and a grand finale, with the top 20 teams competing for prizes. The winning team will receive ₹9 lakh, the second prize ₹6 lakh and the third prize ₹3 lakh. Two runner-up teams will receive ₹1 lakh each. The initiative aims to promote AI innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial thinking among young people.

30-Year Legal Battle Ends: SCB Demolishes KJR and Viceroy Gardens

Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 17, 2026: The Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) on Friday demolished the KJR Gardens and Viceroy Gardens function halls near Diamond Point in Karkhana's Sikh Village, bringing a nearly 30-year legal dispute over alleged unauthorised construction on defence land to an end. The enforcement action began early in the morning, with SCB teams arriving at approximately 6 a.m. with heavy earthmoving equipment and two jumbo machines. Under the direction of SCB Chief Executive Officer Arvind Kumar Dwivedi and the supervision of Cantonment Engineer Ch. Uma Shankar, officials dismantled five sheds spread across nearly 50,000 square feet on a four-acre property identified as Bungalow No. 218.

Police personnel were deployed after initial resistance from some local residents. The operation was completed within roughly five hours, and officials reported no major law-and-order incident.

Action on B-3 Defence Land

The property is recorded as B-3 land under General Land Records No. 463. According to SCB officials, the four-acre plot belongs to the Ministry of Defence but had been held or leased by private individuals or entities. The board maintained that the land was designated for residential use and could not lawfully support large commercial function halls without the required permissions. SCB officials cited alleged violations of zoning provisions, building regulations and land-use classifications as the basis for the demolition. The five demolished structures reportedly consisted of two sheds operating under the KJR Gardens name and three associated with Viceroy Gardens.

A Case That Began in 1996

The SCB began legal proceedings in 1996, seeking action against the function halls and their alleged unauthorised use of cantonment land. The dispute continued through several stages of litigation before a recent judgment was delivered in favour of the board. The court's decision cleared the way for SCB officials to proceed with the demolition. Authorities moved quickly after the judgment, issuing notices and mobilising enforcement and engineering teams at the site. The property was associated with former Congress MLC and former Secunderabad Cantonment Board Vice-President Kanukula Janardhan Reddy, popularly known as KJR. For decades, the venues operated as prominent event spaces in the area.

Breaking Barriers in Law: P.B. Srivalli's Rise from Yadagirigutta to the Judicial Bench

From temple town roots to presiding over the courtroom: P.B. Srivalli's historic achievement proves education is the ultimate equalizer for ambitious women



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 17, 2026: In an era where women are actively rewriting the rules of leadership across traditionally male-dominated spheres, P.B. Srivalli has etched her name among the legal system's brightest trailblazers by successfully clearing the 2026 Telangana Junior Civil Judge examination. Her remarkable achievement stands as a shining testament to academic excellence, relentless determination, and true female empowerment in today's fiercely competitive environment.

Raised in the historic temple town of Yadagirigutta as the daughter of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple priests, Rangacharyulu and Lakshmi, Srivalli chose to channel her potential into higher legal education as her ultimate path forward. Recognizing early on that deep domain expertise commands respect and authority, she built an exceptional educational foundation by earning her Bachelor of Legislative Law degree from the University College of Law, Osmania University. She further advanced her legal mastery by completing her Master of Laws at the prestigious NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, before qualifying for the national UGC-NET exam and serving as an assistant professor of law to mentor the next generation of legal scholars.

Srivalli's transition from an esteemed academic career to securing a seat on the judicial bench directly challenges structural social boundaries and proves that education remains the ultimate equalizer. By taking on one of the state's most rigorous competitive examinations and emerging victorious, her triumph delivers an unequivocal message to ambitious women everywhere: higher academic pursuit, strategic discipline, and unyielding self-belief are the most potent tools for overcoming any glass ceiling. As Judge P.B. Srivalli prepares to preside over the courtroom, her journey serves as an enduring inspiration, proving that when women are empowered to pursue bold ambitions, they do not merely enter competitive fields—they lead them.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Dy Chief Engineers Office, Track Machine Unit, Royapuram, Chennai-600 013.
E-Tender Notice No. TMC-RPM-2026-13-MFI, dated: 16.10.2026

Dy Chief Engineer, Track Machine Unit, Royapuram, Chennai-600 013. Invites Open Tender has been the execution of following work vide IREPS E-Tender Notice

Sl. No	Tender No	Name of the Work	Advertised Tender value of the work	Amount of EMD (in ₹)	Completion period of work.	Closing Date
1	TMC-RPM-2026-13-MFI	POH of MFI-56916, 56917, 56924, 56925, 56942,56973, 57110,56571 & 56588	₹ 42,30,78,604	₹ 84,61,600	24 months	10.11.2026

Dy. CE / TMC / RPM&HQ

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(Signal & Telecom Branch / TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI DIVISION)
E-Tender Notice No. T-SG-36-I-11-2026-2027 Dt. 12.10.2026

The Sr. DSTE / TPJ, Tiruchchirappalli Division invites online tender on behalf of The President of India, for the following works up to **14.00** hrs on **03.11.2026**

Item No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Work
1.	T-SG-36-I-11-2026-2027	Provision of Integrated Passenger Information System (IPIS) at Nagapattinam station (NGT)

Item No.	Cash Value in Lakhs of ₹	Earnest Money Deposit Amt	Validity Offer	Closing Date and Time	Period of Completion in months
1	₹ 222.89 Lakhs	₹ 4,45,800/-	60 Days	on 03.11.2026 at 14:00 Hrs	Six Months.

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.

The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through **https://www.ireps.gov.in** / GST will apply as per extent norms of GOL

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Signal & Telecom Branch, Tiruchchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
AUCTION PROGRAMME - NOVEMBER 2026
NOTICE NO:11 / 2026

e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

S. No	e-Auction conducted by	Date of auction for the month of for NOVMBER 2026			Material for Auction
1	GSD/PER	09/11/26	17/11/26	25/11/25	The details of item to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue in **www.ireps.gov in** Website
2	CSSD/GOC	02/11/26	10/11/26	18/11/26	
3	SSD/PTJ	04/11/26	12/11/26	23/11/26	
4	MAS	05/11/26	13/11/26	24/11/26	
5	SA	03/11/26	11/11/26	19/11/26	
6	TVC	06/11/26	16/11/26	26/11/26	
7	PGT	02/11/26	10/11/26	18/11/26	
8	TPJ	09/11/26	17/11/26	25/11/26	
9	MDU	12/11/26	20/11/26	30/11/26	

Total no. of auctions: 27

For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our **web-site http://www.ireps.gov.in ->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.**

Dy. CMM / IC / PER for PCMM

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

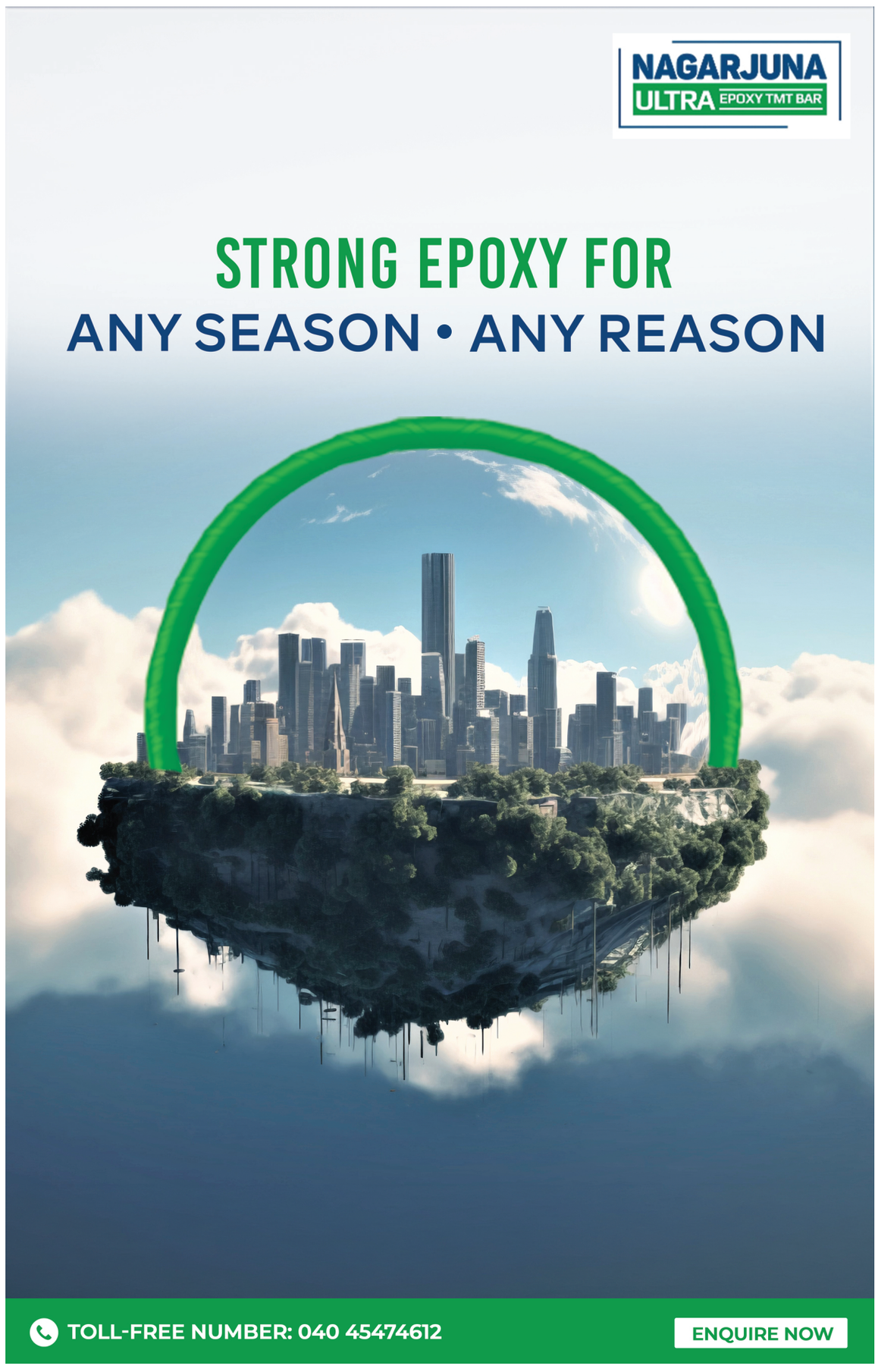
Electrical (General), Construction, Egmore, Chennai
Tender Notice No : E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-23-2026-2

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Southern Railway / Egmore, Chennai - 000008, Invites e-Tender for the following work.

(1)	(2)	(3)
Sl. No	Tender Notice No	Name of the Work
1	E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-23-2026-2	**PH-11:** (1). Electrical lighting and Power supply arrangements for Station buildings, Platforms, FOBs, S&T huts, El cabins, Tower wagon sheds, Staff quarters -Type II & Type III, Other service buildings, Approach roads and Circulating areas at Kodakkal (H) & Sholinghur Town (C), (2). Pumping arrangements for LUS between Walajah Road Jn. (Excl.) and Sholinghur Town (Incl.) stations for the proposed new BG Railway line under the Tindivanam - Nagari new BG line project.

(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Period of Completion	Approximate Cost of Work	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Tender Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
4 Months	1,22,35,799.73	2,44,700.00	10 / 11 / 2026 & 11.00 am	10 / 11 / 2026 & 11.30 am

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai, Egmore - 600 008



Bike Rally to Achieve a Drug-Free India

Iron-fisted action against narcotics that are destroying the future of youth: DGP C.V. Anand
DGP flags off motorcycle rally on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 17





Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand said a nationwide motorcycle rally was being organised with the objective of eradicating the drug menace from the country and protecting the future of young people. On Saturday, he flagged off the rally at the Integrated Command and Control Centre in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The rally is being organised nationwide under the coordination of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the nodal agency, in connection with Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Bike riders from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are participating in the rally. Addressing the gathering, the DGP called for stringent action against the supply and consumption of narcotic drugs. He expressed concern that young people were ruining their bright futures by falling prey to drugs. Both the Central and State governments were working towards making India a drug-free nation, he said. He explained that in Telangana, the EAGLE Force, in coordination with the Police Department, was taking measures to curb the illegal trafficking and consumption of narcotic substances. Despite the country's diverse languages, cultures and traditions, national unity remained a common objective for all Indians, he observed. The rally, organised under the theme of combating drugs, aims to promote unity and social responsibility while creating public awareness about the harmful effects of narcotics. The DGP called upon everyone to work collectively towards achieving the goal of a drug-free India under the Nasha Mukt Bharat initiative by December 2029. He explained that the Telangana government had established the EAGLE Force for this purpose and was taking stringent action against drug suppliers as part of its efforts to make Telangana drug-free. Telangana Police personnel also participated in the rally. The DGP advised the riders to strictly follow traffic regulations and ensure their safety while travelling to their destinations. The participating motorcyclists will travel through various locations across the country and are scheduled to reach Kevadia in Gujarat by October 30. They will take part in the National Unity Day celebrations to be held there on October 31, marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. EAGLE Force Director Sandeep Shandilya, Hyderabad Police Commissioner Sajjanar, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence officer Vikram, Narcotics Control Bureau Assistant Director Vishal, police officers and personnel, NCC students and media representatives participated in the rally along with the DGP.

APC Surendra Mohan Inspects Crops in Suryapet, Nalgonda and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Districts

Farmers advised to take precautions in view of El Niño conditions
Cultivate dryland crops instead of paddy during Yasangi and adopt sprinkler irrigation
Officials directed to provide drip irrigation equipment and subsidised seeds through the Horticulture Department

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 17



Agriculture Production Commissioner and Agriculture Department Secretary K. Surendra Mohan, IAS, conducted a field visit to Suryapet, Nalgonda and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri districts on Saturday to inspect agricultural and horticultural activities.

Field Visit to Cauliflower Farms in Kodad Mandal

The Agriculture Secretary personally inspected cauliflower fields in Gudibanda village of Kodad mandal in Suryapet district. A farmer, Khajamiya, is cultivating cauliflower on six acres.

In view of the prevailing El Niño conditions, Surendra Mohan advised farmers to take appropriate precautions while cultivating crops. He directed officials to provide drip irrigation equipment and subsidised seeds to farmers through the Horticulture Department. He also advised farmers to cultivate dryland crops instead of paddy during the Yasangi (Rabi) season and adopt sprinkler irrigation methods to conserve water. Officials were instructed to regularly educate farmers about El Niño conditions through Rythu Vedikas (farmers' platforms). During the visit, farmers requested that seeds be supplied to them at subsidised rates. They expressed happiness over the Agriculture Department Secretary's direct visit to their fields and his advice on farming practices.

Inspection of Shade-Net House in Korlapahad

In Korlapahad village of Kethepally mandal in Nalgonda district, the Agriculture Secretary inspected a shade-net house established under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.

Farmer Alam Mounika is cultivating leafy vegetables and onions in the shade-net house. Ginger and turmeric are also being grown in grow bags, with 13,500 plants of each crop. The Meghalaya variety of turmeric and the Rio de Janeiro variety of ginger are being cultivated.

Nutrients are supplied through fertigation using a reverse osmosis (RO) plant. Farmers Mounika and Harika have been pursuing this cultivation method for the past year. Officials informed the Secretary that proposals relating to the unit had been submitted under the MIDH scheme. Surendra Mohan advised officials to take steps to expand the area under vegetable cultivation.

Inspection of Cotton Fields in Aregudem

The Agriculture Secretary also visited cotton fields in Aregudem village of Chouttuppal mandal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. He interacted with farmers and enquired about the condition of their crops and the problems they were facing during cultivation.

District Agriculture Officers and District Horticulture Officers from the respective districts participated in the field visits.

Revanth Reddy Extends Saddula Bathukamma Greetings to People

Hyderabad : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended his warm greetings to the people, particularly women, on the occasion of Saddula Bathukamma, the grand finale of the Bathukamma festival. He described Bathukamma as a vibrant symbol of Telangana's culture and traditions and a magnificent celebration of nature and the worship of women. The Chief Minister said Telangana was home to a rich cultural heritage that revered nature and flowers. He wished that all women would celebrate Saddula Bathukamma with great enthusiasm, singing and dancing around beautifully decorated Bathukamma floral arrangements made with a variety of seasonal flowers.

He expressed hope that the festival of flowers would shower happiness on every household, bring prosperity, peace and well-being to every family, and ensure that the glory of Telangana's cultural heritage continued to flourish for generations to come. Revanth Reddy observed that the festival reflected the cultural splendour of the people and the unity of women, while also embodying several important social values. He said it was heartening that Bathukamma was being celebrated with grandeur across the state over nine days. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also recalled that the people's government was continuing its efforts to empower women by implementing several welfare programmes for women across Telangana.

41 WOMEN AMONG 146 EXCISE SUB-INSPECTORS PASSING OUT

Hyderabad, Oct.17 (NSS): Principal Secretary for Revenue (Excise), Mines and Geology Mukesh Kumar Meena has urged newly recruited Andhra Pradesh Prohibition and Excise officers to uphold integrity, maintain discipline and enforce the law impartially. Addressing the Passing Out Parade at the Telangana Police Academy in Himayatsagar, Hyderabad, MK Meena stressed for professionalism, accountability and commitment to public service. A total of 147 officers completed six months of institutional training, comprising 146 Sub-Inspectors and one Assistant Prohibition and Excise Superintendent.

Jakkali Ilaiah Yadav Writes to Minister Jupally on Diversion of Water to Dindi Project

NALGONDA, OCTOBER 17:



Congress state leader Jakkali Ilaiah Yadav has stated that it is inappropriate for Minister Jupally Krishna Rao to oppose the diversion of water from the Edula Reservoir to the Dindi Project, despite the State Cabinet having passed a resolution to supply water to the project, which is a major water source for Nalgonda district. On Saturday, Ilaiah Yadav wrote a letter to Minister Jupally, explaining the benefits that the Dindi Project would bring to Nalgonda district and the hardships the region would face if water was not supplied. He pointed out that the Munugode and Devarakonda constituencies are widely known for severe fluoride contamination in drinking water. In his letter, he explained the difficulties faced by thousands of people in these two constituencies due to the problem. He recalled that the previous BRS government had initiated the Dindi Reservoir Project but had failed to clarify the source of water and how it would be brought to the project. He said that, following the efforts of Munugode MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy and Devarakonda MLA Balu Naik, along with the support of district ministers, the Cabinet of the people's government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had resolved to supply water to the Dindi Project from the Edula Reservoir. He further stated that the government had sanctioned Rs. 1,800 crore for the construction of canals, headworks and tunnels, and tenders had been finalised. Seeking cancellation of the project at this stage would amount to a grave injustice to the people of the region, he said. Ilaiah Yadav also informed the Minister that it was inappropriate for some leaders in Palamuru district to create controversy by demanding the cancellation of the Dindi Project and proposing that water be brought from the backwaters of the Srisailam Reservoir. He said that WAPCOS and engineering experts had previously concluded that bringing water through that route was not feasible. He explained that bringing water from Narlapur would involve forest-related clearances and tunnel construction challenges, imposing an additional financial burden of around Rs. 10,000 crore on the government. After conducting various surveys, the government had concluded that diverting water from the Edula Reservoir was the most feasible option and issued a Government Order (GO) on January 22, 2025, he said. He alleged that public representatives and leaders belonging to various political parties in Palamuru were creating water disputes between the two districts and obstructing the supply of water to the people of Munugode and Devarakonda. On behalf of the people of these regions, Ilaiah Yadav appealed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to intervene and ensure that land acquisition and the construction of headworks, tunnels and canals were completed immediately, in accordance with the Cabinet resolution, to facilitate the supply of water from Edula Reservoir to the Dindi Project.

GP Office Building Must Be Constructed as per Quality Standards: Sarpanch Lavudya Srilatha Balaji Naik

SURYAPETA, OCTOBER 17

Sarpanch Lavudya Srilatha Balaji Naik said that contractors must ensure quality standards in the construction of the Gram Panchayat office building, which is being built for the convenience of village residents. On Saturday, she inspected the ongoing construction work of the Gram Panchayat office.Speaking on the occasion, she said that she would strive to develop the Gram Panchayat in all sectors with the support of MLA Mandula Samuel and MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy under the people's government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. She recalled that cement concrete (CC) roads had already been laid on internal roads in the hamlets of the Gram Panchayat to improve convenience for residents. She further stated that she would identify the remaining problems in the Gram Panchayat and work towards resolving them one by one.

Deputy Sarpanch Jatoth Sirisha Seenu Naik, village unit president Bhukya Kishan Naik, ward members Dharavath Kandiya, Lavudya Raghu, Lavudya Vinod, Yakub Naik, Bhukya Sajjan Naik, PACS director Ramji Naik, village elders Lavudya Venkanna, Dharavath Nanu, Deva, Phool Singh, Shankar, Ramoji, Hachya, Vasram, Chanda and Sai, along with women and others, participated in the programme.

Stay Alert Against Cyber Fraud During the Festive Season

Pochampally Cooperative Urban Bank Manager Kishan Musham

Suryapet, October 17: Pochampally Cooperative Urban Bank Branch Manager Kishan Musham urged customers to remain vigilant against cyber fraud during the Dasara festive season. An awareness meeting for customers was held on Saturday at the bank's MG Road branch office in the town. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the bank was regularly educating its customers about banking services, digital transactions, cyber fraud prevention, and security measures. With online shopping and digital transactions expected to increase during the upcoming festive season, cybercriminals may attempt to cheat people through fraudulent messages and attractive fake offers. He advised customers to remain extremely cautious.

Easy Way to Block Your Bank Account Yourself

He urged customers to make use of the new facilities introduced by the bank to enhance account security. He explained that if any customer suspects that their account has been targeted by a cyberattack or fraud, the bank has introduced a facility that allows them to block their account themselves immediately to protect their funds. Customers can instantly block their accounts by sending an SMS from their registered mobile number in the format "BLOCK <last 5 digits of account number>" to 9512002051. He further stated that customers whose accounts have been blocked can visit the bank the following day, submit the required valid supporting documents, and have their accounts reactivated.

Bathukamma is a celebration that transcends caste and religion: Ghanta Chakrapani

Hyderabad, Oct.17 (NSS): Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University celebrated traditional floral festival of Telangana Bathukamma with great enthusiasm at its campus on Saturday. Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice-Chancellor, BRAOU attended as chief guest and inaugurated the celebrations along with Dr. L. Vijaya Krishna Reddy, Registrar; Prof. K. Rani Rajita Madhuri, In-charge Women's Cell were present of the occasion. On this occasion Prof. Chakrapani extended his greetings to the women employees and highlighted the cultural significance of the Bathukamma festival in Telangana. The Bathukamma festival is a celebration centered on the worship of flowers, observed collectively by women, irrespective of their caste, religion, or region. The women employees of the university enthusiastically participated in the celebrations of Bathukamma.

Prominent Figures Join Green India Challenge at Padmakshi Gutta

Everyone must take responsibility for environmental protection only greenery can ensure a healthy life for future generations

HANAMKONDA, OCTOBER 17, 2026



As part of the Green India Challenge, a sapling plantation programme was organised at Padmakshi Gutta in Hanamkonda under the auspices of Orugallu Wildlife Society and Vana Seva Society. Green India Challenge founder and former Rajya Sabha Member Joginipally Santosh Kumar, former Government Chief Whip and former MLA Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar, and MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy participated and planted saplings. On the occasion, the leaders highlighted the importance of nature conservation, environmental balance, and increasing greenery. They stressed that in the face of rising pollution, climate change, and deforestation, it is not enough merely to plant trees — everyone must also take the responsibility of protecting and nurturing them. The programme reflected the new inspiration that the Green India Challenge has brought to environmental protection efforts across the state. The leaders noted that plantation activities should not remain one-time events. By nurturing the saplings into full-grown trees, clean air and a healthy environment can be ensured for future generations. They observed that enhancing greenery in historic and naturally beautiful places such as Padmakshi Gutta helps conserve both the environment and the area's natural beauty. Protecting nature is the social responsibility of every citizen, and youth, voluntary organisations, and public representatives must work together in coordination. Organised under the guidance of Orugallu Wildlife Society and Vana Seva Society, the programme aimed to create greater public awareness about the environment and convey the message that every individual must become a partner in building a Green Telangana. Let's plant saplings – let's grow them into trees – let's protect the environment! Green Telangana is our goal... A green future is our resolve!

Mettapalli's Bathukamma Song Celebrating the Gulf

Grand Song Launch Event in Dubai



Hyderabad: A special Bathukamma song beginning with the evocative line "Edarilo Thangedu Vaname Moliseno" (A Thangedu flower grove blossomed in the desert) was grandly launched in Dubai, bringing the vibrant culture and traditions of Telangana to the Gulf.

Kota Kumar (KK), Chairman of Akshara Gold & Diamonds Jewellery Group of Companies, produced the song, while renowned Telangana folk poet and singer Mettapalli Surender penned the lyrics. Popular singer Mangli lent her voice to the song, with Madeen SK composing the background music.

A Song Reflecting the Emotions of Gulf Migrant Workers

The song beautifully captures the emotional struggles of Telangana migrant workers living in Gulf countries. It reflects their longing to celebrate Bathukamma, Telangana's iconic floral festival, in their native villages with their families and loved ones. For many Telangana women and men living far from home for their livelihoods, the festival brings memories of their hometowns and families. The song seeks to offer them a sense of belonging, nostalgia and emotional connection to their roots.

A Message of Hindu-Muslim Brotherhood

The lyrics blend the cultural warmth of doodh semiya and sattu bellam with the sweetness of dates and the melody of Bathukamma. Through these cultural references, the song highlights the harmony, affection and mutual respect shared by different religions and traditions. From Dubai, the song sends a powerful message of communal harmony to the world through the spirit of Bathukamma: "Hindu-Muslim Bhai Bhai" — Hindus and Muslims are brothers.

From Golconda Fort to Burj Khalifa: Telangana's Cultural Pride

Celebrating Bathukamma as a symbol of Telangana's rich culture and heritage, the event showcased the emotional bond between Telangana and its people living abroad. The concept symbolically connected seven countries through the seven colours of Bathukamma, with the journey stretching from Golconda Fort to the iconic Burj Khalifa. Produced through Mettapalli Studios, the song was dedicated by Kota Kumar, Chairman of Akshara Group of Companies, to the women of Telangana in their homeland and across the Gulf countries.

Traditional Telangana Folk Performances Steal the Show

Traditional Dappu and Oggu Dolu troupes from Telangana were among the major attractions of the event, adding colour and cultural vibrancy to the celebrations. A large number of migrant workers and their family members from Dubai and Abu Dhabi participated in the event, making the Bathukamma celebrations a grand success. The programme was organised by Suthari Satyam and Mallesh Goud of Spark Media.

Bihar: Inter-state theft gang busted, 15 women arrested

PATNA, OCT 17

Bihar Police have busted an alleged inter-state gang of women accused of stealing gold chains, purses, mobile phones and cash from crowded places during the Navratri and other festival seasons. The Nagar police station team arrested 15 women during a raid in the Railway Station Road area of Muzaffarpur on October 16. According to the police, 11 of the arrested women are from Uttar Pradesh, while the remaining four are residents of Siwan district in Bihar. Cash, gold jewellery and mobile phones were recovered from their possession. City SP Mohibullah Ansari shared details of the operation during a press conference on Saturday. He said the police had intensified surveillance across the city to prevent chain-snatching and thefts during the festive season.

On October 16, the Nagar police received a tip-off that a group of women from outside the state was planning to carry out thefts in Muzaffarpur, targeting gold chains, mobile phones and purses. Acting on the information, a police team conducted a raid and apprehended the 15 women. According to the police, the gang members allegedly targeted fairs, religious gatherings and crowded public places during festivals such as Durga Puja.

President Murmu Mourns Kolkata Stampede Deaths

NEW DELHI: (Oct 17) President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives in a stampede in Kolkata and extended her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. At least 17 people died, and 25 others were injured in a stampede-like situation at a Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata on Saturday evening, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said. As it started raining, the crowd waiting outside the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal rushed forward, and some of them fell on the road, leading to the stampede.

CS Reviews Arrangements for Telangana Global Summit

Invitations to be sent to leading personalities from aerospace, space and defence sectors



Hyderabad: State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Saturday reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming Telangana Global Summit at the Secretariat. The meeting primarily focused on inviting prominent personalities and key stakeholders from various sectors to the prestigious event and ensuring their participation. The Chief Secretary reviewed the status of invitations for the curtain-raiser events of the Invest Telangana Global Summit, scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on the 24th of this month and in New Delhi on the 29th. Officials informed him that invitations had been sent out for both events. He directed officials to ensure that invitations were sent to representatives of relevant organisations, industry leaders and experts from the aerospace, space and defence sectors. He emphasised that their participation would be crucial to achieving the objectives of the Global Summit. He also instructed officials to extend invitations to ambassadors from various countries, representatives of prominent industry associations such as the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), as well as other prominent personalities from various sectors. The Chief Secretary stressed that the invitation process should be comprehensive and well-planned to ensure the participation of all the key invitees identified for the events. He advised officials to take responsibility for the arrangements, coordinate with the concerned stakeholders and make concerted efforts to ensure the attendance of invitees. He further emphasised the need for meticulous planning and effective coordination to ensure that the events in Hyderabad and New Delhi achieved their intended objectives. The Chief Secretary directed officials to make the events successful by securing the participation of industry leaders, international representatives and other key stakeholders. Several senior officials attended the meeting.

Andhra HC hands over Sai Krishna custodial death case to CBI

AMARAVATI, OCT 16



The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday ordered that the investigation into the alleged custodial death of Gade Sai Krishna be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). A division bench pronounced the order on a petition filed by Vijayalakshmi, mother of Sai Krishna, who died in custody at Krishnalanka police station in Vijayawada. Expressing a lack of faith in the police investigation, Vijayalakshmi had filed a petition requesting that the case be handed over to the CBI. The High Court has directed that the circumstances leading to Sai Krishna's death be examined, the responsible officials be identified, and legal prosecution be initiated against them. The court ordered immediate registration of a case by the CBI and directed the CBI Director to entrust the investigation to a senior officer within the agency. Till now, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the State government had been probing the case. The High Court directed the Director General of Police (DGP) to send the case records directly to the CBI Director. It has also issued directives to the State Government to initiate strict departmental action against the officials held accountable for the custodial death. The High Court also directed the state government to pay Rs. 25 lakh as compensation to Vijayalakshmi, mother of Sai Krishna. Sai Krishna, 25, went missing after he was picked up by the Krishnalanka police of the NTR Police Commissionerate on May 6 over his involvement in a crime. He was allegedly tortured by Circle Inspector (Station House Officer) S.S.V.V. Nagaraju and some other police personnel. A habeas corpus petition filed by his mother in the High Court on June 2 brought the case to light. The state government constituted an SIT headed by Inspector General (Law and Order) M. Ravi Prakash to probe the case. It arrested the suspended SHO on June 21. Last month, the SIT filed a chargesheet against Nagaraju and six other accused. Head constables Ashok Kumar and Nani, Nagaraju's associate Gulivindala Suresh, constables Babu Rao and Sambaiah, and home guard Venkat are the other accused. Suresh confessed that he had seen Sai Krishna in the police station during interrogation, and later at a private house at Ranigari Thota, where he reportedly died on May 12. Suresh told SIT that Nagaraju, head constables Ashok Kumar and Nani cremated the body to destroy the evidence. Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has welcomed the High Court order transferring the case to the CBI and also directing the State Government to pay 25 lakh to his mother within four weeks. "This judgment is a slap in the face of the Chandrababu Naidu government. A heinous crime committed with no sense of remorse," Jagan said in a post on 'X'. "We have consistently demanded a CBI inquiry and a thorough investigation into the role of senior police officials, including the DGP and the Vijayawada Commissioner of Police. Rank and political protection must never place anyone above the law," he said.

YS Jagan alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu sought to bury this case through a State-controlled SIT instead of ensuring an independent investigation. "His government must answer for the lapses in the probe and the failure to adequately examine the role of senior officials, which today highlighted the need for a CBI enquiry. Appointing a SIT cannot become an excuse to shield those who should face scrutiny." The former Chief Minister said that the CBI must uncover the full truth, establish responsibility and bring everyone involved to justice, regardless of their position.

Strong Security Measures Must Be Ensured to Prevent Obstruction of Nomination Filing

State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha

Commissioner reviews complaints from political party leaders and speaks to district Collectors over the phone

Key instructions issued to officials amid tensions at nomination centres in Rayachoti, Pulivendula, Tirupati, Darsi and other areas

VIJAYAWADA, OCTOBER 17



State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha has directed officials to take all necessary measures to ensure that the election nomination process in Andhra Pradesh proceeds without any obstruction and that every candidate is able to file their nomination freely and peacefully. The Commissioner responded to complaints from several public representatives who alleged that attempts were being made to prevent them from filing their nominations. Taking immediate note of complaints about tense situations at nomination centres in Rayachoti, Pulivendula, Tirupati, Darsi, Rajampet, Dachepalli and other areas, Punetha spoke to the Collectors of the respective districts over the phone and reviewed the situation. State Election Commission Secretary Dr. Mallikarjuna, IAS, and Inspector General of Police B. Rajakumari, IPS, participated in the review. The Commissioner issued clear instructions to officials to take immediate steps to ensure the smooth conduct of the nomination process and implement preventive measures to avoid any untoward incidents. With tomorrow being the last day for filing nominations for the municipal elections, Punetha directed officials to pay special attention to security arrangements. As a large number of candidates are expected to visit nomination centres on the final day, he asked officials to remain vigilant, deploy adequate police personnel at the centres and take special measures to maintain law and order. The Commissioner emphasised that everyone visiting nomination centres must be provided with adequate security. Eligible candidates must receive the necessary assistance to file their nominations in accordance with the prescribed rules. Officials were instructed to ensure that candidates' rights to file nominations were not obstructed and that all procedures governing the receipt of nominations were strictly followed.

Punetha stated that it was the responsibility of the election machinery to provide equal opportunities to every candidate and ensure a free and fair environment for filing nominations. As the deadline approaches, officials must remain particularly alert and take all precautionary security measures to prevent any untoward incidents. The State Election Commissioner directed the concerned district authorities to take every necessary step to ensure that the nomination process concludes peacefully and smoothly. He also instructed district Collectors to make immediate arrangements for installing CCTV cameras at nomination centres in accordance with the directions of the High Court. As part of the review, State Election Commission IG B. Rajakumari, IPS, spoke to the Superintendents of Police of the concerned districts and instructed them to provide strong police security at nomination centres and further strengthen arrangements depending on the prevailing situation. She emphasised that every candidate arriving to file a nomination must be provided with adequate protection and be allowed to complete the process in accordance with the rules, without obstruction or intimidation. Officials were also advised to take effective legal action if anyone attempted to disrupt the nomination process. Police officials were further instructed to continuously monitor conditions at nomination centres and respond immediately to any tensions to bring the situation under control. Officials from all departments were directed to work in coordination to maintain law and order and ensure that the election process remains transparent and impartial.



MP CM attends Vijayawada Utsav, offers prayers at Kanaka Durga temple

BHOPAL, OCT 17

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Friday participated in the Vijayawada Utsav and offered prayers at the famous Kanaka Durga temple during his one-day visit to Andhra Pradesh, where he also met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Yadav visited the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Temple on Indrakeeladri Hill in Amaravati, Guntur district, and participated in a special puja organised as part of the Sharad Navratri Festival 2026. He later attended the Vijayawada Utsav at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada, where he received a warm welcome. The festival, being organised during Sharadiya Navratri, showcases the city's cultural identity through artistic performances, colourful programmes and other cultural activities. Addressing the gathering, Yadav described the festival as a celebration of India's rich cultural heritage and traditions. "I am delighted to be part of the second edition of Vijayawada Utsav and the auspicious occasion of Sharadiya Navratri. This festival, dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga, symbolises the remarkable traditions of our Sanatan culture," he said.

He said India was establishing a new identity on the global stage through its strength, capabilities and rich cultural heritage.

Describing Vijayawada as a land of victory, the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister extended advance greetings for Vijayadashami to the people of Andhra Pradesh and the country. "On behalf of the people and the government of Madhya Pradesh, I extend my advance greetings for Vijayadashami to all residents of Andhra Pradesh and the people of the country," Yadav said. He also praised the festival's theme, "One City, One Festival, Ten Days and Infinite Experiences", saying it highlighted Vijayawada's distinctive identity and reflected India's cultural diversity and festive traditions. During the visit, Yadav also paid a courtesy call on Naidu at his residence and met Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The meetings formed part of his engagements with the state's political leadership during the visit. Yadav's programme combined religious observances, cultural participation and meetings with senior leaders, with Navratri celebrations providing the backdrop to his visit.

Machilipatnam Railway Station to Be Fully Operational by March

Vijayawada Divisional Railway Manager Mohit Sonakiya reveals





MACHILIPATNAM, OCTOBER 17

The modernly built railway station in the rapidly developing Machilipatnam will be fully functional by next March with all work completed and some of the problems currently faced by passengers will be resolved, Vijayawada Railway Divisional Manager Mohit Sonakiya said.

Speaking at a face-to-face program called Rail Jan Samvad organized with passengers from the town and surrounding villages at the Machilipatnam railway station premises on Saturday, the Divisional Manager said that the difficulties faced by the elderly and the disabled in moving from the first platform to two or three platforms with luggage will be eliminated by next March. By then, the construction of the flyover bridge currently under construction will be completed and a ramp that can be climbed steeply and elevators connecting it to two or three platforms will be installed, he explained in the face-to-face meeting. He also said that the currently running Machilipatnam-Visakhapatnam Express train should be extended up to Palasa or at least up to Srikakulam. Thousands of people from Uttarandhra who have migrated to Machilipatnam, Gudivada and the surrounding areas of these towns and settled in this area have requested that it be given a stop at Chilakalapudi as it would be convenient for their travel. Another passenger representative said that if the current Machilipatnam-Yeswanthpur express, which runs only three days a week, is changed to a daily express, it would be very useful for the gold covering industry, which relies on more than 50,000 people to commute to Bangalore for business purposes, it would also be very useful. Also, Chilakalapudi, which is the center of rolled gold processing, should also be given a halt. Another said that it was unfair to cancel the Machilipatnam-Tirupati train and requested that it be reinstated. Responding to these issues, the Divisional Manager assured that they would do their best to resolve these issues. In this Rail Jan Samvad program, Divisional Public Relations Officer Smt. Susrat M. Mandrushkar and many other railway officials participated in this program. Machilipatnam Railway Officer Ameer welcomed the officials to the stage and invited them. Later, Divisional Manager Sonakiya inspected the flyover bridge and other construction works under construction at Machilipatnam Railway Station with the concerned officials.

NFR Marks Mental Health Day with Week-Long Campaign

Programmes at Central Hospital





MALIGAON, 17 OCTOBER, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) observed World Mental Health Day 2026 through a week-long programme held from 4 th to 10 th October 2026 at Central Hospital, N.F. Railway, Maligaon. The programme was organised by the Department of Psychiatry under the guidance of the Medical Director, in collaboration with the Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS), Assam State Branch, with the objective of promoting mental health awareness and encouraging open discussions on psychological well-being. As part of the initiative, awareness programmes and a mental health quiz were conducted at Netaji Vidyapeeth School and Railway Higher Secondary School by Ms. Satakshi Mishra, Clinical Psychologist, along with her team. The activities aimed to sensitise students to the importance of mental health, emotional well-being and seeking timely professional support. The theme of World Mental Health Day 2026, "Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Changes," was introduced to healthcare professionals at Central Hospital by Dr. Anamika Phukan and further elaborated by Dr. Sanjay Singh. The discussions highlighted the importance of listening to individuals with lived experiences of mental health conditions and fostering a more understanding, inclusive and supportive environment. Information, Education and Communication materials were also distributed during the week to spread awareness about mental health and its importance in everyday life. In addition, students of St. Martha Institute of Nursing presented a skit at the Outpatient Department (OPD) complex to convey key messages on mental health awareness and help-seeking behaviour. Through these activities, N.F. Railway reaffirmed its commitment to promoting mental health awareness, reducing stigma associated with mental health conditions and encouraging a compassionate approach towards psychological well-being among railway employees, their families and the wider community.

PM Modi mourns death of Morbi's Rajmata Vijaykunwarba

GANDHINAGAR, OCT 17

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday expressed grief over the death of Vijaykunwarba, known as the Rajmata of Morbi, remembering her spirit of service and close association with the people of the Gujarat town. In a message posted on social media platform X, PM Modi said her personality, commitment to public service and bond with Morbi's residents would always be remembered. He also prayed for peace for the departed soul and strength for her family members and admirers to cope with the loss. "I am deeply saddened by the news of the demise of Morbi's revered Rajmata Vijaykunwarba. Her personality, spirit of service and bond with the people of Morbi will always be remembered," PM Modi wrote in Gujarati. He added: "May the most compassionate Almighty grant peace to the departed soul and give her family members and admirers the strength to bear this grief. Heartfelt tribute. Om Shanti." Vijaykunwarba was associated with Morbi's erstwhile royal family, which has historical links to the Jadeja dynasty. Morbi was formerly a princely state in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat and is known for its royal heritage.

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

Dussehra Special | October 20, 2026

Dussehra: The Victory of Light Within | — From Self-Conquest to National Awakening

One of the greatest strengths of Indian culture is that it has never confined festivals to joy, celebration and merriment alone. Instead, it has transformed them into occasions for introspection, spiritual discipline, the cultivation of values and meaningful change in life. Every festival in India carries within it a timeless message. Dussehra, also known as Vijayadashami, is one such inspiring festival, deeply rooted in the rich heritage, spiritual traditions and philosophical wisdom of Indian civilisation. It guides humanity towards truth, courage, righteousness and self-conquest. The festival reminds us that the true victory of life does not lie in defeating others, but in overcoming our own weaknesses, inner conflicts and negative tendencies. The triumph of truth over falsehood, light over darkness, hope over despair and righteousness over evil has, for centuries, infused the Indian collective consciousness with renewed energy, faith and determination.

The most compelling cultural foundation of Dussehra is Lord Shri Rama's victory over Ravana. This episode from the Ramayana is not merely the conclusion of a mythological or historical battle; it is an enduring narrative of the conflict between human virtues and the destructive force of ego. Shri Rama embodies righteousness, compassion, truth, duty and adherence to moral principles. Ravana, despite possessing immense knowledge, extraordinary strength and magnificent wealth, becomes a symbol of arrogance, unrestrained desires and unethical conduct. His life reveals a profound truth: knowledge divorced from wisdom, power unchecked by restraint and prosperity detached from morality ultimately become instruments of human downfall. The victory of Shri Rama is significant because he remained steadfast in his ideals even in the face of formidable adversities. Dussehra teaches us that however difficult circumstances may be, those who remain committed to truth and righteousness eventually become a source of faith for society and an enduring inspiration for generations to come.

In Indian culture, Dussehra is associated not only with Lord Rama's victory over Ravana but also with Goddess Durga's triumph over Mahishasura. The worship of divine feminine power during the nine days of Navratri, culminating in the celebration of Vijayadashami on the tenth day, symbolises the truth that sustained spiritual discipline paves the way for accomplishment, struggle leads towards success, and the awakening of inner strength prepares the ground for victory. The worship of Goddess Durga teaches us that confronting life's challenges requires a harmonious combination of strength and sensitivity, courage and wisdom, and valour and compassion. In the Indian spiritual tradition, power does not merely signify physical might or dominance over others. It also encompasses inner strength, determination, patience, self-restraint and the moral courage to stand against injustice. Dussehra is, therefore, not only a celebration of the worship of power but also a reminder of the responsibility to use that power wisely and for the greater good.

The spiritual significance of Dussehra is profound. The burning of the external effigy of Ravana becomes meaningful only when we summon the courage to recognise and conquer the Ravana within ourselves. Lust, anger, greed, attachment, pride, envy, arrogance, laziness, violence and dishonesty are among the tendencies that weaken human character from within. The ten heads of Ravana can also be interpreted as symbolic representations of ten such inner evils. Every year, effigies of Ravana are set ablaze, fireworks illuminate the sky and celebrations come to an end. Yet, if jealousy, deceit, selfishness, hostility and ego continue to





thrive within us, the true purpose of Vijayadashami remains unfulfilled. A meaningful Dussehra is one in which we overcome the resentment we harbour against others, eliminate deceit from our conduct, recognise our duties alongside our rights, and acknowledge the contributions of others to our own success. Self-conquest is the foundation of every true victory.

Indian culture connects celebration with spiritual discipline and spiritual discipline with the pursuit of excellence in life. Vijayadashami is a living expression of this timeless tradition. On this day, weapons and instruments of work are worshipped, new ventures are inaugurated, and people move forward with prayers for success and a renewed determination to achieve their goals. The true significance of weapon worship extends beyond the ritual reverence of arms; it signifies respect for power and a commitment to exercising it responsibly. In the contemporary world, our most effective weapons are knowledge, wisdom, education, science, hard work, ethical conduct and integrity. When these strengths are directed towards the welfare of humanity, they become powerful instruments of nation-building. Dussehra inspires us to move from inertia to purposeful action, from despair to hope, and from passivity to creativity. It offers an opportunity to fulfil unfinished commitments, explore new possibilities and resolve to give our lives a more meaningful and constructive direction.

Another important dimension of Dussehra is its connection with nature, agriculture and rural life. In Indian society, the festival has long been associated with harvest traditions, prosperity, seasonal transitions and collective celebration. The worship of the Shami tree, the exchange of its leaves as tokens of goodwill and the commencement of new ventures express reverence for nature and the desire for prosperity and well-being. In an agrarian country like India, a bountiful harvest is not merely an economic achievement; it is also a celebration of the interdependence of the earth, farmers and the natural world. These traditions remind us that human progress cannot be sustained by severing our relationship with nature. A civilisation that perceives sacredness in trees, rivers, mountains and the earth itself naturally carry within its festivals the values of environmental protection and harmonious coexistence. At a time when environmental degradation has emerged as a serious challenge to humanity, Dussehra provides an opportunity to rediscover our responsibility towards the natural world and renew our commitment to protecting it.

Vijayadashami is also a celebration of the inclusive and integrative spirit of Indian civilisation. Across the country, the festival is observed in diverse ways. In some regions, it is marked by Ramlila performances and the burning of Ravana's effigies; elsewhere, it follows the grand celebrations of Durga Puja and the ceremonial farewell to Goddess Durga. In many places, people worship weapons, while others express the joy of victory through their distinctive folk traditions. Beneath this diversity lies a common cultural thread: faith in truth, devotion to righteousness, respect for strength and the aspiration for peace and prosperity. The need to translate the message of Dussehra into our social and national life has become more urgent than ever. Corruption, violence, social hostility, unethical competition, deceitful conduct and self-serving politics undermine the moral strength of society. Such evils cannot be eradicated through speeches, slogans or symbolic celebrations alone. They require the strengthening of individual character, social responsibility and institutional integrity. If we embrace honesty in our professional lives, remain conscientious in public life, infuse education and healthcare with human sensitivity, and promote mutual respect, love and harmony in society, we will be practising the true spirit of Dussehra. A nation's strength lies not merely in its economic prosperity, military capabilities or technological achievements, but equally in the character, integrity, discipline and mutual trust of its citizens.

Ultimately, Dussehra is a festival of inner awakening rather than external triumph alone. It inspires us to kindle the light within, discover hope amid despair, preserve courage in the face of adversity and direct our lives towards renewal and constructive creation. On this Vijayadashami, let us resolve not to limit ourselves to burning the effigy of Ravana, but to eradicate the Ravana within us by overcoming ego, selfishness, falsehood and our own inherent weaknesses. Let us make truth our foundation, wisdom our guide, compassion our nature and purposeful action our spiritual discipline. This is how we honour the spiritual legacy of Indian culture; this is what gives meaning to celebration; and this is the victory that can illuminate individual lives while awakening a new consciousness in families, society and the nation. For the true spirit of Dussehra is fulfilled only when Ravana is vanquished not merely on the battlefield of public celebration, but also within the battlefield of the human mind; when the triumph of good is reflected not merely in fireworks, but in our conduct; and when the light of the festival shines not only in lamps, but also in our thoughts, values and actions.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist, Columnist

Rahul's Rising Wave:
A New Hope for Democracy



The strengthening of voices that question those in power is a source of reassurance for the people and a warning to the rulers in a democracy. The protests being led by Rahul Gandhi on the streets of Delhi are injecting fresh energy into opposition politics. The growing interest in him, particularly among young people, represents a ray of hope not only for the Congress but also for Indian democracy. However, the true strength of this rising wave will not be determined by slogans, but by his commitment to addressing people's problems and the results he delivers.

After Rajiv Gandhi, many believed that it would be difficult for another charismatic leader to emerge from the Gandhi family. However, through the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Nyay Yatra, Rahul Gandhi reached out to the people. He consistently raised issues such as unemployment, rising prices, social justice and the protection of the Constitution. Despite criticism and political setbacks, his continued efforts to connect with the masses reflect a transformation in his leadership. As a result, even those who once dismissed him lightly are now compelled to take him seriously as a political force.

A New Appeal Among Young People

For today's Gen Z, a leader's understanding of their future matters more than age or political lineage. Young people are seeking clear answers on issues such as jobs, skills, examination paper leaks, educational opportunities, the cost of living and digital freedom. In this context, Rahul Gandhi's efforts to connect with young people and bring their concerns into the national debate have assumed significance. Although the BJP has several experienced leaders, questions are being raised about whether its leadership is responding adequately to the aspirations of the younger generation. Age alone may not be a measure of capability, but connecting with the new generation is essential for every political party. Rahul Gandhi's real challenge lies in converting the growing interest among young people into sustained public support.

What Are the Answers to Concerns Over Voting Rights?

The objections raised by opposition parties to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls undertaken by the Election Commission are significant. If the names of eligible citizens are deleted, their voting rights are directly affected. At the same time, the removal of ineligible voters cannot automatically be regarded as wrong. Therefore, every deletion must be supported by transparent reasons, a mechanism for resolving objections and adequate opportunities for appeal.

By raising questions on this issue and seeking judicial scrutiny, Rahul Gandhi can help strengthen democratic accountability. However, allegations such as vote theft must be substantiated with evidence and subjected to an independent investigation. The Election Commission, too, cannot evade its responsibility to address and dispel public doubts.

Question the Government, but Offer Solutions Too

Protesting against the government is a democratic right, while holding those in power accountable is a responsibility of the opposition. At the same time, protests must remain peaceful and respect judicial processes. If Rahul Gandhi links his political struggle to credible policy alternatives, it will benefit not only the revival of the Congress but also the health of Indian democracy. Rahul Gandhi's rise cannot simply be dismissed as a political strategy, nor would it be appropriate to declare him a defender of democracy prematurely. Nevertheless, the growing public support for an opposition voice that questions those in power is a welcome development.

In a democracy, a strong opposition is as essential as a strong government. Winning power may be a leader's political victory, but winning the trust of the people is the true measure of leadership.

— KOLANU VENKATESWARA REDDY,
RTED.SP TELANGANA JAILS

CM SHRI YUMNAM KHEMCHAND SINGH GRACES JAN SEVAK MAHA KUMBH AT CITY CONVENTION CENTRE

IMPHAL, OCTOBER 17, 2026:



Chief Minister Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh today graced the Jan Sevak Mahakumbh organised in observance of "Seva Sankalp Abhiyan" along with Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Govindas Konthoujam and Hon'ble Art & Culture Minister Shri Kh. Loken Singh at the City Convention Centre, Imphal. The month-long nationwide public service and outreach campaign, which commenced on 17th September, culminated today with enthusiastic participation of a large number of citizens and Jan Sevaks from across the state. Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Chief Minister said the historic observance marks 25 years of selfless and dedicated public service by our visionary Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, with a noble vision to promote Jan Bhagidari towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047. The Chief Minister said the programme celebrated the spirit of selfless service, good governance and public welfare, reaffirming the commitment to peace, unity and inclusive development. The Chief Minister sincerely thanked all Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioners and dedicated officials for making the campaign a grand success. Hon'ble MLAs Shri Thongam Shanti Singh, Shri Khongbantabam Ibomcha, Shri Khwairakpam Raghumani Singh, Shri Karam Shyam and Shri Thokchom Radheshyam Singh, senior officials of the Government of Manipur, district administrations and a large number of Jan Sevaks attended the Mahakumbh.

Grand Religious Procession Marks Ninth Maa Bhagwati Jagran in Barkot

Tableaux of Lord Shiva-Parvati, Radha Rani and Navdurga enthral devotees; Kali Maa's spectacular dance within a ring of fire draws huge crowds

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL





Barkot (Uttarkashi) UTTARAKHAND, October 17: A grand religious procession was taken out in Barkot as part of the ninth annual Maa Bhagwati Jagran organised by the Yuva Vyapar Mandal Jagran Samiti. The procession, marked by devotion, cultural performances and religious fervour, attracted a large number of devotees from Barkot and surrounding areas. The procession featured beautifully decorated tableaux depicting Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, Radha Rani and the nine forms of Goddess Durga. Artists dressed in traditional costumes brought the divine characters to life, creating a vibrant spiritual atmosphere across the town. Devotional chants and slogans in praise of Maa Bhagwati resonated along the procession route as devotees gathered to witness the celebrations. The most striking attraction was the captivating performance of Kali Maa, who danced within a ring of fire. The spectacular presentation drew considerable attention, with crowds gathering to watch the artist's performance. The tableaux and cultural presentations added to the grandeur of the religious event. The procession passed through various parts of Barkot under police security and traffic management arrangements. The event concluded peacefully, with the organisers and participating artists expressing satisfaction over the enthusiastic public response. The ninth grand Jagran also featured devotional performances by renowned folk singers Saurabh Maithani, Sattu Veera and Nipun Sarang. Their performances further strengthened the festive and devotional atmosphere, drawing music lovers and devotees to the celebrations. The event reflected the town's religious faith, cultural traditions and community spirit. The organising committee members were actively involved in managing the procession and other activities.

Those present included committee president Mohit Agrawal, vice-president Suresh Saini, general secretary Jai Singh Panwar, treasurer Ankit Agrawal, Ankit Aswal, Dinesh Rana, Pawan Tamta, Sanjeev Bashir, Rahul Jagudi, Vipendra Farswan, Bobby Nautiyal, Kapil Chona, Lakshmi Raturi, Sushil Peter, Pradeep Rangarh, Amit, Anil Raturi, Ashish, Rajat Adhikari, Sagar Agrawal, Mohit Jain, Shivam Jain, Vrishabh Rawat, Vicky Rawat and Ashish Kala, among others.

Clean and Safe Drinking Water: A Priority for NE Railway

GORAKHPUR, OCTOBER 17, 2026:

North Eastern Railway is conducting regular and intensive inspections to ensure the availability of clean and safe drinking water for passengers and railway employees. Priority is being given to the continuous monitoring and maintenance of water tanks, water coolers, taps, filters, water distribution points and pipelines at railway stations, offices and residential colonies. Health inspectors are regularly conducting residual chlorine tests, bacteriological tests and chemical analyses to ensure that drinking water remains safe for consumption. Providing pure drinking water to railway passengers and employees is one of the highest priorities of the railway administration, and these efforts will continue as an ongoing campaign. As part of this initiative, health inspectors, under the directions of the Chief Medical Superintendent, Lucknow, and the Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infrastructure), Lucknow Division, conducted 264 residual chlorine tests and 14 bacteriological tests at 17 major railway stations and four residential colonies on October 17. Following the inspections, all the samples were found to conform to the prescribed standards.

SSR begins in UP, CEO urges citizens to 'participate in democracy'

LUCKNOW, OCT 17



The Election Commission's Special Summary Revision (SSR) began in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, with the state's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa urging citizens to ensure their "participation in democracy" by getting their names added to the voter lists. Under the campaign, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are assisting those voters across districts, who got left out during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, for registering their names and correcting details.

In a post on the social media platform X, the Uttar Pradesh CEO said: "A special campaign is being run in Uttar Pradesh to add the names of eligible citizens who were missed from the voter list and young voters."

"Under the campaign, a large number of youths filled out Form-6 after meeting their BLO at special camps set up at all polling booths in Pilibhit district," he added. The Uttar Pradesh CEO appealed citizens to get their names added to the voter list and urged them to ensure their "participation in democracy". Meanwhile, in Etawah, BLOs were deployed at 1,437 polling booths from the morning to facilitate the addition of new names and corrections to existing voter records. Officials were also present at polling stations in Government Girls Inter College and Islamia Inter College. Etawah Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Manoj Kumar Pathak inspected polling stations in the urban area and reviewed the arrangements. "There are four booths here, and all four BLOs are present. I have visited around 10 centres so far. Awareness about the campaign has been spread through electronic media and newspapers. We are continuing our efforts, and we expect people to gradually start arriving," Pathak said. In Basti, special camps were organised at Begum Khair Inter College, Khair Inter College and Saxseria Inter College to facilitate voter registration and corrections. A BLO said officials were receiving Form-8 applications and distributing voter ID cards. The camps had been operating at the location for the past four days, allowing residents to access the necessary forms and services. In Lucknow, residents also visited camps to register family members whose names were missing from the electoral rolls.

In Unnao, a special drive was also underway to help residents whose names had been deleted from the voter list. People visited polling booths to seek re-registration and submit the necessary documents. In Unnao, a special drive was also underway to help residents whose names had been deleted from the voter list. People visited polling booths to seek re-registration and submit the necessary documents.



'Yes, we want regime change': Uddhav Thackeray attacks Centre

MUMBAI, OCT 17

The Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray on Saturday strongly criticised the Centre over allegations of attempting a "regime change." He delivered a fierce rebuttal, stating that if opposing the government democratically is branded as a regime change, then "Yes, we are trying to bring about a regime change, and we stand here precisely to overthrow this power." Addressing an awards presentation ceremony organised by the All India Journalists' Conference here, Thackeray questioned how the opposition could remain silent when the ruling establishment deprives citizens of their fundamental rights to express opinions through elections and stage peaceful protests. He attacked the Centre for labelling anyone who raises a voice against the government as "anti-national." Responding to the controversy surrounding the phrase "regime change," Thackeray referred to advocate Prashant Bhushan's recent remarks in Delhi. "If the ruling party claims that we are attempting to change this system, what is wrong with that?" he asked.

SC Recognises Internet Access as Fundamental Right, Orders Database to Tackle CSEAM

NEW DELHI :



Declaring the access to and use of the internet a 'fundamental right' for every individual, including children, the Supreme Court directed the central government to create a national database for the detection and removal of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Material (CSEAM) on digital platforms.

A bench comprising Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice K Vinod Chandran also suggested introducing "child mode" for social media accounts, with greater emphasis on parental consent, guidance and oversight. The court observed: "We have no hesitation in saying that the right to access and use the internet is a fundamental right of every individual under Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Our children, irrespective of their age, enjoy the same rights, and to deny the same altogether would be as absurd as saying children below a certain age do not have a conscience worth protecting or a freedom of speech worth expressing. The safety of our children and their freedom are not at odds with each other." The court made the observations in connection with Just Rights for Children Alliance (JCRA) and Anr vs S Harish & Ors case. Just Rights for Children is India's largest civil society network with over 300 NGOs against child sexual exploitation, child trafficking and child marriage.

The Supreme Court acknowledged that the internet is far from safe for children but held that keeping children away because of the failures of intermediaries to detect and remove harmful material would amount to mistaking the victim for the problem.

It directed that National Hash & URL List Database be set up for detection and removal of CSEAM, and said any entry in the database should be made after multiple tiers of verification, with the final screening being done by at least three trained human analysts who independently determine whether the material constitutes CSEAM.

Every database entry shall be used by intermediaries to cross-check and remove any content on their platform that matches the entry. Law enforcement agencies shall use the same process to identify, detect and remove any such material that matches an entry in the database. Where an intermediary finds a match against an entry i.e., CSEAM of "known origin", the intermediary shall immediately disable and remove it, without awaiting further verification at its end. The guidelines or standard operating procedures will be revised periodically by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The court directed the Union Government to formulate guidelines, standard operating procedures and suitable amendments to this end.

Speaking about the introduction of "child mode" for social media accounts, the Supreme Court stated that these measures may include accounts being made private by default, restrictions on contacts and messages from unknown adults, moderation of advertising and content accessible to children. Such measures may be implemented for pre-teens, with reasonable and proportionate means to verify parental consent.

The court also directed that Union and state governments, national and state commissions for protection of child rights and other stakeholders take measures like teaching children ways to use the internet safely, protect their personal data and privacy online, to recognize signs of enticement, sexual extortion, and other similar exploitative and abusive practices.

Senior advocate H S Phoolka, who represented the petitioner in the case, said that with the government's support, India can now have one of the strongest child online safety frameworks in the world. "The Supreme Court has laid down a clear and practical roadmap: immediate removal, reporting to the police within two hours, dedicated grievance officers and a uniform reporting mechanism." Hailing the SC's order, Rachna Tyagi, who represented Just Rights for Children Alliance, said " The SC has reaffirmed its 2024 judgment in the clearest possible terms: no platform, however large or powerful, is above the law when it comes to the safety of our children. The court has made it plain that taking down child sexual abuse material quietly is not enough. It must be reported to the police as POCSO mandates. Safe harbour is not a shield for silence."

Ashish Bansal GM NFR (CON) Inspects Railway Infrastructure

from Badarpur to Agartala, Nishchintapur and Sabroom

MALIGAON, 17 OCTOBER, 2026





Ashish Bansal, General Manager (Construction), Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), conducted a window trailing inspection from Badarpur to Agartala, Agartala to Nishchintapur and Sabroom on 14 th October 2026. The inspection commenced from Badarpur and covered the entire stretches, with detailed reviews and discussions involving senior officers from NFR. During the inspection, Shri Ashish Bansal reviewed ongoing construction activities and existing railway infrastructure, including tracks, bridges and associated safety aspects. He assessed the progress of various works and issued necessary instructions to the concerned officials, emphasizing safety, quality, timely completion and proper maintenance of railway assets. Shri Ashish Bansal reviewed the status of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) in the Kumarghat–Agartala section, which are aimed at eliminating level crossings, enhancing road safety and improving public convenience. A total of 23 ROBs have been sanctioned under the Second Revised Estimate of the Kumarghat–Agartala project, with contracts awarded for 12 ROBs, where work is in progress. He instructed the concerned officials to ensure the commissioning of eight ROBs during the current financial year, along with the completion of railway portion works for three ROBs. He further directed officials to expedite the completion of the remaining ROBs through close coordination with the State Government, particularly regarding land acquisition and early processing of pending issues. Three ROBs are being constructed by the Public Works Department (PWD), while one ROB is being undertaken by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL). Railway officials were instructed to maintain close coordination with these agencies and promptly resolve issues related to Railway. For the remaining ROBs where construction agencies are yet to be appointed, the General Manager directed officials to explore innovative and modern construction techniques, including the use of Ultra-High-Performance Concrete (UHPC), to minimize land requirements and facilitate efficient execution. Shri Ashish Bansal also inpected the Agartala–Akhaura cross-border railway project and visited Nishchintapur railway station to review the status of the remaining works. He instructed the officials to expedite the completion of pending activities so that passenger train operations can commence at the earliest. The Agartala–Akhaura project is an important India–Bangladesh cross-border rail link that is expected to strengthen regional connectivity and support the Government of India's Act East Policy. During the inspection of the Agartala–Sabroom section, Shri Ashish Bansal reviewed railway infrastructure, safety arrangements and maintenance activities. He issued necessary instructions to the concerned officials to ensure the continued safety, reliability and efficient maintenance of railway assets. Shri Ashish Bansal also reviewed the progress of the Moinarband–Agartala doubling survey. The Final Location Survey (FLS) has been completed, and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been submitted to the Railway Board for approval. The proposed doubling is expected to support future traffic growth and enhance railway capacity in the region, subject to approval and implementation. The inspection reflects Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction) focus on expediting ongoing infrastructure projects, strengthening railway safety and improving operational efficiency. These initiatives are expected to enhance passenger convenience, improve connectivity and contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the Northeast region.

Shah Cancels Bengal Visit Programmes After Kolkata Pandal Stampede

NEW DELHI: (Oct 17) Union Home Minister Amit Shah has postponed his programmes in West Bengal scheduled for Sunday in the wake of a stampede at a Durga Puja pandal in North Kolkata. He will visit the hospital to meet the injured on Sunday. In a message posted on X, Shah said,"I have just received the extremely distressing news of multiple casualties after the stampede at the Chorbagan Sarbojanin Durga Puja pandal. I have spoken with Chief Minister Shri Suvendu Adhikari about this matter."

Assam CM's son graduates from NLSIU Bengaluru, secures AIR 40 in CLAT

GUWAHATI, OCT 17

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday shared an emotional message after his son, Nandil, received his law degree from the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, recalling his journey from preparing for the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) to graduating from one of the country's premier law institutions. In a social media post, the Chief Minister said that he and his wife were proud parents as they witnessed their son receive his degree at a ceremony held in Bengaluru. Sarma recalled that Nandil had once expressed his desire to take a year off to prepare for CLAT, a decision that had initially raised questions and concerns among the family. " As parents, we had our share of questions and, admittedly, a few worries too," Sarma wrote, adding that his son remained confident about his decision and worked hard to achieve his goal. Nandil subsequently secured All India Rank (AIR) 40 in CLAT, demonstrating the importance of determination, self-belief and perseverance, the Chief Minister said. Reflecting on the experience, Sarma said parents often spend years guiding their children but eventually discover how much they learn from them along the way. The Chief Minister also emphasised the importance of trusting children's choices and allowing them to pursue their ambitions with confidence. "Today, our hearts are full. So proud of you, Nandil. Go write your next chapter," Sarma said in his message. NLSIU Bengaluru is widely regarded as one of India's leading institutions for legal education and has produced several prominent lawyers, judges, legal scholars and public policy professionals. Admission to the university's undergraduate law programme is through CLAT, a highly competitive national-level entrance examination conducted for admissions to participating national law universities across the country.



Kenya confirms four new Ebola cases, total rises to seven

NAIROBI, OCT 17

Kenya's Ministry of Health on Saturday confirmed four new cases of Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease, bringing the total number of cases to seven, as efforts to prevent community transmission of the disease gathered pace. The four patients include a close male relative of the first Ebola patient, who died, and three health workers who attended to him while he was in hospital, Patrick Amoth, director-general for health in Kenya's Ministry of Health, said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital. "All four individuals developed fever as their first symptom and were immediately isolated, with specimens collected for testing," Amoth said. "All four tested positive for Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease at both the National Virology Reference Laboratory and the Kenya Medical Research Institute laboratory," he added. Amoth said all four patients were currently receiving supportive care from trained health personnel, while the risk of their transmitting the virus to their families and the general public remained low because they had been detected early at quarantine facilities, Xinhua News Agency reported.

"The Ministry wishes to reassure Kenyans that the risk to the general public remains low, as there is no evidence of community transmission of the disease," Amoth said. Kenya reported its first imported case of Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease on Oct. 6 in a man who had lived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for seven years. The man died at a hospital in Nairobi while receiving treatment and was later given a safe and dignified burial at a public cemetery to prevent further spread of the virus. On Wednesday, Kenya reported its second Ebola case, involving a 39-year-old man who was a close relative of the first patient. On Friday, the country announced its third case of Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease, involving a 65-year-old woman who was a primary contact and a close relative of the first and second patients. Amoth said that of the 130 contacts who may have interacted with the first patient, 128 had been traced and were in quarantine for monitoring through the 21-day incubation period, during which symptoms of Ebola may develop. He added that all people in quarantine facilities continued to receive mental health and psychosocial support. The country remained open for business, with no restrictions imposed on travel, trade or public gatherings.

10 killed, including 6 of a family, in Bangladesh seaside resort fire

Nine injured people were taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, bdnews24 reported. Five remain under treatment with burns covering about 5 per cent of their bodies, while four have been discharged.



At least 10 people, including six members of a family, were killed in a fire that gutted a seaside resort in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district on Saturday. The resort had no fire-safety licence and had been warned after an inspection in June, officials said. The blaze broke out at Tuptup Resto and Resort in Ukhiya around 7.25 am local time, destroying the three-storey structure built mainly of bamboo and wood. Nine injured people were taken to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, bdnews24 reported. Five remain under treatment with burns covering about 5 per cent of their bodies, while four have been discharged.

MAN ESCAPES, SIX FAMILY MEMBERS KILLED

Ashiqul Islam, who was holidaying at the resort with his family, survived by jumping from the second floor, Prothom Alo reported. His wife, Israt Jahan Maliha, and five other family members died, the newspaper said, citing his brother. The six have been identified as Maliha, 30; Milita Mehezabien Alvi, 23; Laila Jahan Nabila, 27; Nafista Meem, 27; Fariha Kabir, 33; and five-year-old Faizan Ahmed. The other four victims have yet to be identified.

The Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters confirmed the recovery of 10 bodies, The Daily Star reported.

RESORT HAD BEEN WARNED OVER FIRE SAFETY

Fire Service and Civil Defence Director Sultanul Afreen Junaid said the resort lacked a fire-safety licence and had been warned following a June inspection, according to local media reports.

Around 30 people were reportedly at the resort when the fire broke out. The Dhaka Tribune reported that four or five escaped, but the whereabouts and condition of the others were unclear. Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner A Mannan said the cause was under investigation. While some suspected the fire began in the kitchen, he said this could be established only after the probe was completed.

Protests in Albania escalate into violent clashes

TIRANA, OCT 17



Protests in Albania continued on Saturday, which have escalated into violent clashes with police and leaving government buildings, banks, businesses and public facilities damaged in the capital, Tirana. The latest wave of protests began on Oct. 13, when students gathered outside the Ministry of Education to demand better university conditions, lower education costs and improved youth employment prospects, according to local media. Clashes broke out that afternoon, when some demonstrators threw stones and other objects at police and government buildings. Police responded with tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowds. The situation remained tense into Friday evening, with large numbers of riot police deployed to disperse protesters, Xinhua News Agency reported. Widespread damage was caused to public institutions, banks, businesses and public facilities in Tirana. The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice and the central bank were among the institutions targeted.

Albanian police said on Friday that 56 people had been arrested in connection with the unrest, while another 97, including 16 minors, had been placed under criminal investigation. The protests have spread to several cities across the country, further deepening political divisions between the government and the opposition over the unrest. Prime Minister Edi Rama said he would not yield to violence and accused the opposition of seeking to exploit the protests to destabilize the country, according to Albanian media reports. The latest protests have unfolded amid the broader "Flamingo" movement that began in late May. According to local media reports, the movement initially focused on opposition to a proposed tourism project in a protected coastal area in southern Albania linked to Jared Kushner, son-in-law of U.S. President Donald Trump. The movement later expanded to address concerns over corruption, the cost of living, health care and education.

UN agencies in Albania called on all sides on Friday to end the violence, ease tensions and resolve differences through dialogue.

Menopause : Chronic Pain at Midlife

(On the occasion of "World Menopause Day" on 18 October)

For a woman, there is no escape from menopause and monthly periods at different ages of their life. The International Menopause Society founded "World Menopause Day" in 2009 as an annual event to raise awareness of menopause and improve the experience of women around the world at a critical productive stage of their life. It is also to support menopausal women to realise the supportive options available to improve their health and wellbeing. The World Menopause Day-2036 theme is ""Chronic Pain at Midlife" highlighting the pain from aches to stiffness to headaches and pelvic pain. This dais is to bring awareness about that midlife pain and mood swings.

Age of Menopause:

A woman reaches menopause after it's been one year since their last period. For many woman, reaching menopause stirs up various emotions. Women are happy to no longer have their menstrual cycle. Most women experience menopause between the ages of 45 to 55. The average age of menopause is 51 years but very few reach menopause before the age of 40 years. Menopause experience symptoms that affect their emotional, physical and mental wellness.

Symptoms & Remedial Measures :

Menopause can be difficult for other reasons as well. The fluctuations in hormones cause symptoms that can be hard to manage such as hot flashes, night sweats, vaginal dryness, discomfort during intercourse, insomnia, depression or anxiety, other sleep disturbances, moodiness and irritability and also severely interfere with daily activities. To help manage this traumatic symptoms, women should stay active, drink enough water, and eat a healthy diet. After a woman has reached menopause, they go through post menopause issues like osteoporosis, heart diseases, weight loss, and urinary inconvenience. Let's encourage women worldwide to embrace this natural transition with required knowledge, confidence and support. It is important to understand menopause as a normal stage of life rather than a medical problem or social taboo. Menopause can be a challenging time for women. It is important to reach out to their doctor for help. Finding a support system is also extremely beneficial. From this dais of World Menopause Day many women health related organisations conduct seminars, workshops, webinars, special talks, and other related programmes. Women are also encouraged to share their personal experiences that helped them to overcome the menopause inconveniences.

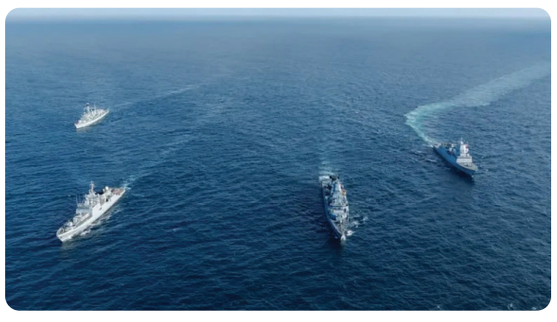
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Iran's IRGC says 2nd supertanker explodes after hitting mine in Hormuz Strait

TEHRAN, OCT 17

The navy of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) announced Saturday that a second "violating" supertanker had exploded in the Strait of Hormuz after hitting a naval mine, hours after a similar incident involving another tanker. In a statement published on the IRGC's official news outlet Sepah News, the navy said the blast occurred on Saturday morning, causing a "huge" fire on the vessel, which was carrying over 2 million barrels of crude oil. It said the oil tanker had turned off its GPS and radar systems and was seeking to cross the waterway through an "illegal" route, adding that the explosion occurred in the vessel's engine room and brought it to a halt, Xinhua News Agency reported. Earlier in the day, the IRGC Navy said another "violating" supertanker seeking to transit the strait through an "unauthorised" route had suffered a "huge" explosion after hitting a naval mine. It added that the explosion resulted in a "massive" fire on the oil tanker, which had turned off its GPS and radar systems and was carrying more than 2 million barrels of crude oil. On Wednesday, the IRGC Navy said a "violating" container ship attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz via an "unauthorised and high-risk" route sank earlier in the day after hitting a naval mine south of the waterway. Speaking to state-run IRIB TV on Tuesday, IRGC Navy Commander Ali Azmaei said his troops are controlling the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz "round the clock," while the Gulf of Oman is under the control and supervision of Iran's navy. He warned that those violating shipping rules under US "deception or provocation" would face a decisive response from Iran. Meanwhile, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on Friday reiterated that his country does not seek to develop nuclear weapons, dismissing anti-Tehran propaganda claiming otherwise as a "lie." Pezeshkian made the remarks during a meeting with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze on the sidelines of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, according to a statement on his office's website. "Iran does not seek to develop nuclear weapons, and we consider the destructive propaganda against our country as a lie," he said, citing the clear positions of Iran's late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei regarding the prohibition of developing nuclear weapons.





India-UK maritime exercise Konkan-26 concludes off Plymouth

LONDON, OCT 17

The India-UK bilateral maritime exercise Konkan-26 has concluded off Plymouth in the UK, enabling the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy to engage across a wide range of professional and operational domains, the Indian Navy said on Saturday. Conducted from October 8 to 15, the exercise saw the Indian Navy represented by stealth frigate INS Trishul, while the Royal Navy deployed HMS Sutherland, a Duke-class anti-submarine warfare frigate. The exercise was conducted by the Royal Navy's Fleet Operational Standards and Training (FOST). "The intensive four-day Sea Phase, conducted from 12-15 Oct 26, encompassed advanced seamanship manoeuvres, joint tactical exercises, communication procedures, anti-surface asymmetric warfare, anti-submarine warfare and weapon firings in a multi-threat maritime environment. These serials enhanced interoperability between the participating units," the Navy said in a statement. "Through the exchange of professional expertise and best practices, Konkan-26 reinforced the ability of the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy to operate together across complex maritime scenarios, furthering the enduring maritime partnership between India and the UK," it added.

The Indian Navy's guided missile stealth frigate INS Trishul had arrived at the United Kingdom's Plymouth on October 11 to participate in the exercise, the Ministry of Defence had said. "India-UK annual bilateral maritime exercise Konkan-26 is a testament to the enduring maritime partnership between India and the UK. Over the past two decades, the exercise has grown significantly in scale and complexity, fostering enhanced interoperability and mutual understanding in maritime operations between the two navies," the ministry said. "Since its inception, KONKAN has evolved into a cornerstone of cooperation, showcasing the commitment of both navies towards enhancing maritime security," it added. The Ministry said the exercise exemplified the partnership envisioned by the two countries. "The exercise is a reaffirmation of the shared commitment to ensuring secure, open and free seas and exemplifies the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership outlined in the India-UK Vision 2035," it said.

Bangladesh minister raids suspected drug den carrying pistol, sparks debate

DHAKA: (OCT 17)

A junior minister carrying a pistol raided a suspected drug den in a slum in the Bangladeshi capital on Saturday along with some associates in plainclothes, triggering a debate on social media over his actions.

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Ishraque Hossain uploaded a video clip in which he was seen stepping out of a vehicle with a megaphone in one hand and a pistol in the other, before chasing a group of people. At least one of his associates was also seen carrying a handgun. You are ruining the entire town, destroying the entire area," Hossain was heard saying in the footage recorded at a slum near Gandaria Railway Station.

Debt-strapped Pakistan to chair IMF, World Bank boards of governors in 2027

The Pakistani government called the appointment a "historic milestone", saying it would allow Islamabad to contribute to global economic discussions and facilitate dialogue among member countries. The diplomatic recognition, however, comes alongside a continuing need for external financing.



Pakistan is awaiting approval for another $1.2 billion from the IMF, yet the repeat borrower will chair the Boards of Governors of the IMF and World Bank Group in 2027. The role puts the country in charge of proceedings attended by member countries' finance ministers and central bank governors, giving Islamabad a prominent platform but no control over lending decisions. Pakistan will hold the chairmanship for the first time since 1953, its Ministry of Economic Affairs said on Friday. Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Khan Cheema, Pakistan's governor to the World Bank, was announced as the incoming chair for 2027 during the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings in Bangkok.

The ministry called the appointment a "historic milestone", saying it would allow Pakistan to contribute to global economic discussions and facilitate dialogue among member countries. For Islamabad, however, the diplomatic recognition comes alongside a continuing need for external financing.

A BORROWER AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE

Pakistan has entered into at least 25 IMF loan programmes since joining the institution in 1950. Its repeated returns to the lender reflect persistent difficulties in securing enough foreign currency to meet external obligations, compounded by inflation and financing pressures. It is currently supported by a $7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for economic reforms and external payment needs, alongside a $1.4 billion Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) to address climate-related risks. The latest staff-level agreement could unlock about $1 billion under the EFF and $210 million under the RSF, taking total disbursements under both programmes to about $5.7 billion. It requires IMF Executive Board approval and covers the fourth EFF review and third RSF review, following talks led by the Fund's Iva Petrova. The World Bank has described Pakistan's growth model, marked by high public consumption, low productivity and heavy borrowing, as unsustainable. The longer-term test is whether these loans can support growth that reduces the need for another bailout.

STABILITY RETURNS, DEPENDENCE REMAINS

The latest IMF assessment offers signs of improvement. The lender said Pakistan had preserved macroeconomic stability despite the West Asia conflict, helped by strong policies and support under its loan programme. Real GDP grew 4 per cent in the first three quarters of FY26. Higher energy prices and supply disruptions then weakened momentum, leaving full-year growth estimated at 3.6 per cent. Inflation eased to about 10.3 per cent in September after peaking in May. Strong remittances helped keep the current account broadly balanced in FY26, while gross reserves rose to about $21 billion by the end of September.

Petrova pointed to sovereign rating upgrades and renewed access to international markets as signs of stronger policy credibility. But geopolitical tensions, volatile energy prices, tighter global financing conditions and trade disruptions remain risks.

Pakistan has secured the chairmanship. Reducing its need for financial support from the same institutions will be a harder task.

37,000 classrooms in Pak's KPK in dilapidated condition: Official

PESHAWAR: (Oct 17) Around 37,000 classrooms across Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province are in dilapidated condition, an education department official said, highlighting serious infrastructure challenges in government schools. The remarks came days after a school building collapse in Peshawar killed 35 people, including 34 students, and injured 52 others. The incident occurred on Thursday at Al-Khair Education System in Dir Colony, where the roof of a nursery classroom on the second floor collapsed onto rooms on the lower floors.

Gujarat to Get ₹307-Crore Vande Bharat Maintenance Hub

AHMEDABAD, OCT 17

The Western Railway is developing a Rs 307-crore maintenance hub at Sabarmati to carry out scheduled maintenance of Vande Bharat trains, with construction of the heavy repair bay shed nearing completion and the wheel care shed already built. The project is being undertaken by the Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway as Phase II of the Integrated Coaching Depot (ICD) at Sabarmati. It is designed to provide specialised infrastructure for the maintenance of modern trainsets, reducing the need to send them to other locations for major maintenance.

The facility is being developed to handle scheduled soft schedule (SS-I and SS-II) maintenance of 24-coach Vande Bharat trainsets. According to the project's planned capacity, SS-I maintenance of a 24-coach rake can be completed in around 30 days, while SS-II maintenance is expected to take approximately 45 days. The depot is designed to undertake SS-I maintenance of about 12 rakes or SS-II maintenance of eight rakes annually. The project includes a heavy repair bay shed, section sheds, a wheel care shed, a tandem wheel lathe shed, a drop pit, retractable overhead equipment (OHE), machinery and plant (M&P), and other associated facilities. Construction and installation work is progressing in stages, with some major structures already completed. The heavy repair bay shed, measuring 322 metres by 25 metres and covering 86,597 square feet, is almost complete. It will have two maintenance lines. One will be equipped with synchronised pit jacks to lift coaches and remove bogies, while the other will be used to maintain coach interiors, passenger amenities, braking systems and electrical equipment.

Our Collective Effort Is the Foundation of Singareni's Future

SINGARENI BHAVAN, OCTOBER 17, 2026

Workers' Welfare and Company Expansion Are Priorities of the Praja Prabhutvam

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Extends Festive Greetings letter to Singareni Employees

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Energy Sri Bhatti Vikramarka extended his greetings to Singareni workers, employees, officers, trade union representatives and their families on the occasions of Bathukamma, Dasara and Diwali. He said the Praja Prabhutvam is taking steps to secure new mines and expand Singareni's operations across thermal power and solar energy, ensuring a sustainable future for the company. He called on workers, employees and officers to work together to strengthen Singareni and help it meet the challenges of a changing coal market. The coal produced by workers in difficult conditions in underground and opencast mines is a driving force behind Telangana's power needs and development, he said. In the face of climate challenges such as El Niño, he urged employees to work with greater responsibility to ensure uninterrupted coal supplies to power plants.

To compete with other companies in the changing coal market, Singareni must supply quality coal at competitive prices, improve productivity and reduce unnecessary expenditure, Sri Bhatti Vikramarka said. He called on workers, employees, officers and management to work in coordination and make efficient use of machinery throughout the available working hours. He stressed that safety must never be compromised in the pursuit of production targets, adding that every worker's safe return home is the first measure of success. The Praja Prabhutvam is according special priority to securing new mines so that Singareni, with its 137-year history, can be handed over to future generations as a stronger organisation. The necessary approvals for the Naini coal mine in Odisha have been obtained, and production has commenced. The mining lease for the Tadicherla-2 block has been obtained, while the Manuguru Prakasham Khani Open Cast-2 Dip Side block has been secured through auction. Efforts are under way to regain the Sathupalli-3 and Koyagudem-3 blocks. He added that plans are being developed to expand Singareni into power generation, renewable energy, gold, copper and other critical minerals, alongside coal.



Measures for Workers' Welfare

The Deputy Chief Minister said several directions had been issued at a recent review meeting to resolve workers' long-pending issues. He has directed the company to expedite the appointment process for around 250 to 300 pending dependent-employment cases and to consider issues relating to name variations with a humanitarian approach. He has also directed officials to expedite measures to provide housing benefits to eligible beneficiaries on Singareni land. An action plan is being prepared to establish Nehru Housing Colonies to help fulfil workers' aspirations of owning a home. The Praja Prabhutvam is focusing on replacing dilapidated quarters with new ones and developing workers' colonies. Cath Lab facilities have been established to improve access to advanced medical care. The management has also been asked to distribute safety kits every six months and take steps to address workers' concerns relating to income tax on perks and allowances. Sri Bhatti Vikramarka said that 34 per cent of Singareni's net profit of ₹1,754 crore in the last financial year, amounting to approximately ₹596 crore, has been distributed to workers as a profit-sharing bonus. Each eligible regular employee received an average of ₹1,53,912, while contract workers received ₹5,500 each. Sharing the company's profits with workers recognises their contribution, he said. "Taking the necessary initiatives to expand Singareni is our responsibility. It is your responsibility to make the company one of the best through hard work and unity. Our predecessors built this great institution through their efforts. Protecting it, developing it further and passing it on to future generations is our collective responsibility," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

FSSAI Initiates Prosecution Against Priyagold Biscuit Manufacturer

NEW DELHI:

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has focused its attention on the raw materials used in the manufacture of Priyagold, a popular biscuit brand. According to reports, inspections found that bran, commonly used as cattle feed, was being used in biscuit production. The development has raised concerns over food quality and manufacturing standards.

Following a consumer complaint, officials conducted an inspection at the manufacturing facility. They examined the raw materials used in production, hygiene practices, pest control measures, and the storage of ingredients. Several deficiencies were reportedly identified during the inspection. In this connection, the FSSAI has initiated prosecution proceedings against Surya Food & Agro, the company associated with the manufacture of Priyagold products. Reports also indicate that the company's licence had been suspended earlier. Regulations require raw materials used in food manufacturing to comply with prescribed standards. The incident has once again sparked discussion about quality control and compliance with hygiene standards in food manufacturing units. However, the full details regarding the reported use of bran and the final findings of the investigation are yet to be officially confirmed.



International experts conclude four-day review of Polavaram project

13 hours of field inspections, 27 hours of technical discussions; focus on ECRF dam quality

POLAVARAM, OCTOBER 17:

An international team of experts has concluded a four-day review of the Polavaram project, inspecting key construction activities and quality-control procedures at the Earth-Cum-Rock-Fill (ECRF) dam. The experts — Richard Donnelly, Gianfranco De Cicco, Sean Hinchberger and David Paul — visited the project from October 14 to 17. Their schedule included 40 hours of field visits and review meetings, with 13 hours spent inspecting construction works and testing facilities and 27 hours in technical discussions. The team examined construction progress at ECRF dam Gaps 1 and 2 and visited quality-control laboratories to assess testing procedures. It expressed satisfaction with the construction and quality-control arrangements, including the use of technology in the ECRF dam and other structures.

At a meeting on Saturday, the experts briefed Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) officials and representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Department and MEIL on their observations. They advised the project authorities to maintain construction quality as work progresses, continue established testing procedures and document every test result. With the project targeted for completion ahead of the Godavari Pushkarams next year, the experts indicated that they would visit Polavaram again in March. PPA Chief Executive Officer Sanjeev Vohra chaired the review meetings. Central and State Water Resources Department officials, scientists from CS MRS and representatives of WAPCOS and MEIL participated in the discussions and field inspections. Mr. Vohra felicitated the international experts and officials with shawls and mementoes. Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Department Engineer-in-Chief K. Narasimha Murthy felicitated Mr. Vohra.

India's space economy poised to grow to up to $45 billion in 7-8 years: Dr Jitendra Singh

NEW DELHI, OCT 17

Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh has said that India's space economy -- currently valued at around $9 billion -- is expected to grow to $40-45 billion over the next seven to eight years, an official statement said on Saturday. Addressing a media roundtable organised by the Bloomberg New Economy Forum here, the minister said India must move beyond demonstrating technological capabilities to building globally competitive commercial space companies. He stressed that greater domestic and international investment, predictable demand, faster regulatory approvals and sustainable business models would be crucial to scaling up Indian space enterprises and expanding their presence in global markets. The minister said the opening of the space sector to private participation in 2019-20 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had yielded significant results within five to six years. The priority now was to translate these capabilities into commercially viable businesses capable of competing internationally, he said. Singh further emphasised that generating demand was essential for the growth of private space companies. Anchor government customers and support for proof-of-concept projects could help enterprises demonstrate their technologies and move towards commercial deployment, according to him.



The minister also called for timely regulatory approvals, lower business costs and stronger supply-chain integration. Companies seeking installation or export licences should receive the necessary approvals within defined timeframes, he said, adding that reforms, including GST-related measures for space products, must translate into tangible benefits for industry. On investment and international cooperation, the minister stated that India was opening up opportunities for capital and partnerships while continuing to strengthen indigenous capabilities.Greater investment could support technology development, manufacturing and access to international markets, while domestic capabilities remained important for national security and strategic autonomy, he said. The minister called for stronger collaboration between government institutions and private enterprises in India, complemented by partnerships with international counterparts.

Such cooperation could help Indian companies integrate into global supply chains, expand their customer base and contribute to the wider space economy without compromising national interests, according to Singh.

Crude oil prices may ease to $80 by 2027 as supply recovers: Report

NEW DELHI, OCT 17



Global crude oil prices are likely to ease to nearly $80 a barrel in 2027 as Middle East supplies recover and the oil market moves toward a surplus, a new report has said. The report from Goldman Sachs said that renewed escalation in the US-Israel-Iran conflict could keep prices higher for longer. Revising its near-term view, the investment bank forecasted benchmark Brent at $90 a barrel in December 2026, up from a previous estimate of $85, before averaging $80 in 2027. The recovery in Middle Eastern oil exports, higher production outside the Persian Gulf and dwindling demand had narrowed the global supply deficit sharply. As exporters adapted to the conflict and increased transportation capacity, Persian Gulf oil exports recovered to around their 2025 average by late September. However, supply risks continue to keep prices elevated as Physical Brent crude prices for near-term delivery have exceeded $130 per barrel, while benchmark Brent futures have recently traded above $100. The investment bank found the market nearly balanced in September, with demand exceeding supply by just 0.3 million barrels per day (mb/d), compared with a deficit of 7.2 mb/d in March.

The report forecasted the global oil market to move into a surplus in Q4 2026 and remain in surplus in 2027, supporting its outlook for lower prices. Crude prices currently include a risk premium of around $25 per barrel, due to chances of supply disruptions and additional inventory drawdowns if the conflict escalates. On the demand side, global oil consumption weakened largely in China, the Middle East and developed Asian economies. The report forecasted demand to recover gradually as the availability and affordability of refined oil products improve. Brent crude touched $110 a barrel this weekend for the first time since May as hopes for near-term supply relief faded and traders increased bets on further price gains ahead of the weekend. The benchmark had climbed 3.7 per cent in a session marked by renewed conflict in major export regions that tightened an already fragile supply outlook. Iran-backed Houthi rebels continuing missile and drone strikes on Saudi Arabia impacted the outlook, while Russia and Ukraine also attacked each other's energy infrastructure.

Gujarat Hits Record 29,822 MW Power Demand, Plans 4,200 MW Nuclear Project

GANDHINAGAR, OCT 17

Gujarat recorded its highest-ever electricity demand of 29,822 MW on October 16, a 36.6 per cent increase over the corresponding period last year, prompting the state government to step up power procurement and accelerate plans for battery storage, thermal generation and a nuclear power project. The state's daily electricity consumption also rose to 574 million units in October, compared with 457 million units in the same month last year, an increase of around 27 per cent. Electricity demand during September and October has increased by approximately 12 per cent, or 4,000 MW, compared with previous years, according to the state Energy and Petrochemicals Department. Energy Minister Rushikesh Patel and Minister of State, Kaushik Vekariya, reviewed the power supply situation with senior officials of the department and power companies in Gandhinagar on Saturday. The meeting examined the reasons for the increase in demand, measures to ensure adequate supply and plans to meet future requirements. Officials attributed the higher demand to continued high temperatures despite a weak monsoon, increased electricity consumption for agricultural irrigation, and higher industrial demand during Navratri and ahead of Diwali. Adequate power supply to farmers for irrigating standing crops has pushed agricultural demand to a daily peak of 12,000 MW. Lower rainfall in Gujarat and neighbouring states has also reduced hydropower generation, which usually peaks in October and November.



Lower wind speeds have further curtailed wind power generation, adding to the pressure on the state's electricity supply. The challenge is particularly pronounced during the evening peak between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m., when solar generation falls to zero after sunset and wind power remains intermittent. Coal- and gas-based power plants meet demand during these hours, while the State Load Dispatch Centre and distribution companies work to maintain grid frequency and balance. To secure additional supplies, the state has held high-level meetings with the Centre to ensure adequate coal availability for the Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd (GSECL).

The Union Ministry of Coal has assured 10–11 railway rakes of coal daily until November and 13–14 rakes daily from November onwards. Measures are also being taken to improve efficiency and optimise resources at state power stations. The state has arranged to procure 379 MW from NTPC's Farakka plant for November and 500 MW on a long-term basis from Assam's share of central power generation, with the latter supply expected to begin shortly. Gujarat has also been allocated an additional 500 MW from the unallocated share of central power generation. Short-term procurement arrangements have been made for 2,990 MW in October, 1,740 MW in November and 1,335 MW in December.

The government also plans to maximise the use of around 12,000 MW of solar power generated during daylight hours, with agricultural electricity consumption scheduled during these hours to make better use of available solar energy. Battery energy storage systems (BESS) are being expanded to store solar power generated during the day for use during evening peak hours. A capacity of 192 MW is currently operational, while contracts have been finalised for 2,742 MW, equivalent to 5,517 MWh of storage. A further 500 MW/1,000 MWh is expected to become operational by March 2027, and a tender for 1,000 MW/4,000 MWh is under process. For longer-term requirements, more than 1,300 MW has been allocated to Gujarat from central thermal generating stations. Supply is scheduled to begin in phases from 2027, with full availability expected in 2028–29. Another allocation of more than 1,200 MW from central hydropower stations is expected to begin in phases from November 2026, with availability projected for 2028–29. The state government has also sought an allocation of more than 5,000 MW from central thermal generating stations to meet projected demand in 2031–32.

Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (GUVNL) will soon issue a tender for 4,000 MW under the SHAKTI scheme, with power expected to become available from 2030–31. An agreement has been signed with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) for a 4,200 MW nuclear power project, with the first unit expected to become operational in 2032. An 800 MW thermal power plant is under construction at Ukai and is expected to be commissioned by September 2029. The process of acquiring land and securing in-principle approvals for new thermal power projects at Sinor, Wanakbori and Gandhinagar is also under way. The state government said power supplies were adequate to meet current demand and expected consumption to decline as weather conditions changed in the coming days. It urged citizens to avoid rumours and electricity wastage, shift electricity-intensive activities to daylight hours wherever possible, and limit unnecessary consumption during the evening peak between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.

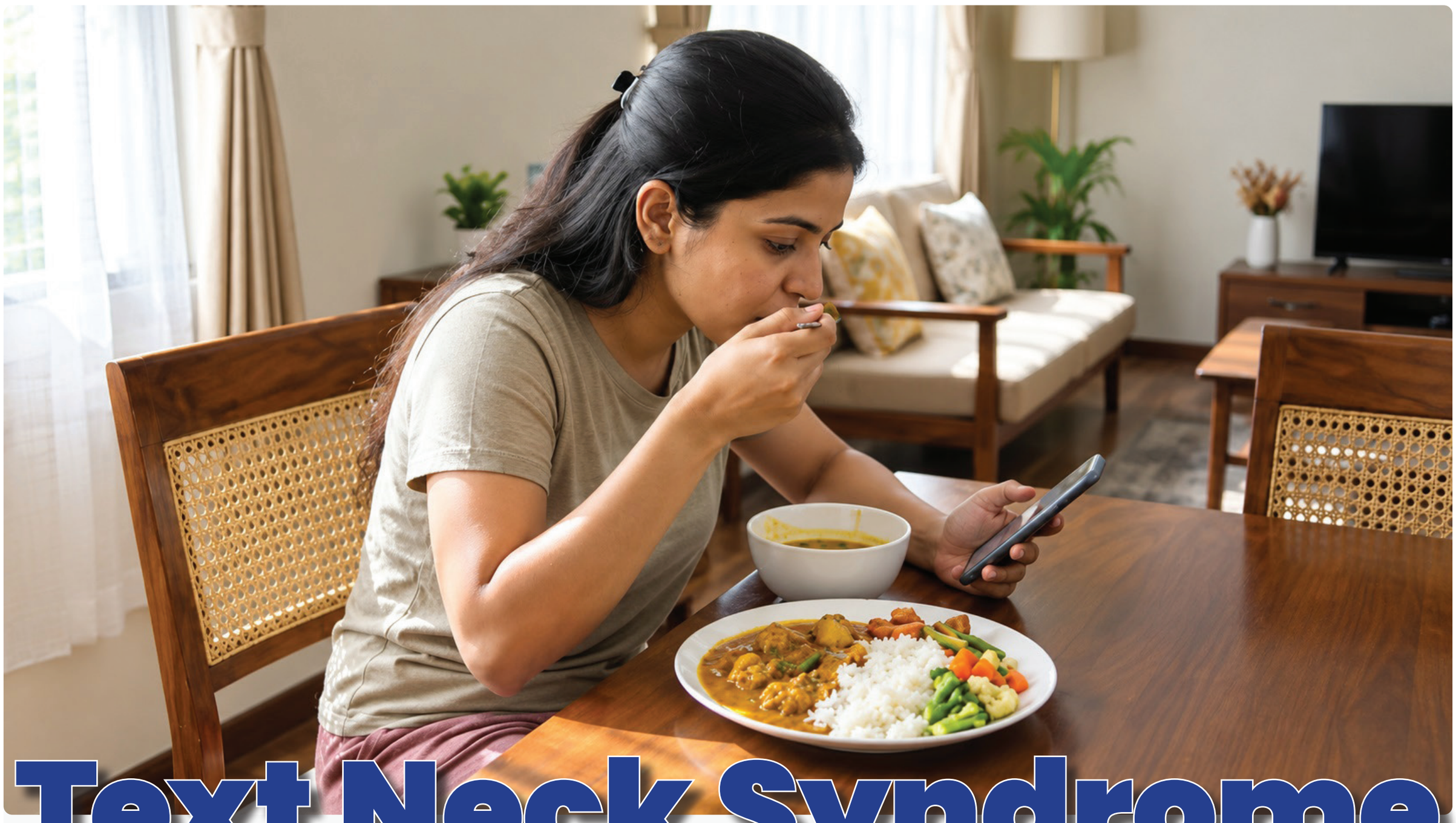
ICICI Bank Q2 profit surges 20 pc to Rs 14,843 crore

NEW DELHI, OCT 17



India's second-largest private lender -- ICICI Bank -- on Saturday reported a 20.1 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit for the second quarter of FY27. The lender posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 14,843 crore for the quarter ended September 30 compared with Rs 12,359 crore a year earlier. Meanwhile, the bank's net interest income rose 18 per cent year-on-year to Rs 25,339 crore from Rs 21,529 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Meanwhile, operating profit increased 18.9 per cent to Rs 20,575 crore from Rs 17,298 crore a year ago. Asset quality improved sequentially during the quarter. The gross non-performing asset ratio declined to 1.2 per cent from 1.38 per cent in the June quarter and was better than the estimated 1.4 per cent. Net NPA ratio improved to 0.30 per cent from 0.35 per cent in the previous quarter. Provisions fell to Rs 851 crore, compared with Rs 914 crore in the year-ago quarter and Rs 1,260 crore in the preceding quarter. However, the net interest margin narrowed to 4.18 per cent from 4.36 per cent in the June quarter.

Separately, ICICI Bank said it has filed an application with the Reserve Bank of India seeking approval for the continuation of Pradeep Kumar Sinha as non-executive part-time chairperson from July 1, 2027, to February 16, 2029. The bank said the proposed tenure falls within his term as an independent director that has already been approved by the board and shareholders. The disclosure follows the lender's earlier exchange filings made on Feb. 17, 2024 and May 24, 2024. Shares of ICICI Bank on Friday closed at Rs 1,396.80, an increase of 0.13 per cent, on the BSE. The banking stock has recorded a 52-week high of Rs 1,479.90 and a 52-week low of Rs 1,187.55, according to the exchange data.



Text Neck Syndrome

6 Exercises to Relieve Neck and Shoulder Pain

Smartphones, laptops and other digital devices have become an integral part of modern life. From checking messages and browsing social media to attending online meetings, studying and working, people spend several hours every day looking at screens. Although these devices have made communication and access to information easier, prolonged screen use can also contribute to physical discomfort, particularly in the neck, shoulders and upper back. One commonly used term for this problem is text neck syndrome. Text neck refers to neck discomfort and related symptoms associated with repeatedly bending the head forward to look at a phone or another screen. The condition is not necessarily caused by a single movement or a particular posture. Instead, it often develops when the neck remains in an uncomfortable position for extended periods without sufficient movement or rest. Repeatedly looking down at a smartphone, leaning towards a laptop or working at a poorly arranged desk can increase the strain on the muscles and other structures that support the head. The neck is designed to support the weight of the head while allowing it to move in different directions. When the head is held forward for long periods, the muscles at the back of the neck may have to work harder to maintain its position. Over time, this can contribute to muscle fatigue, stiffness and soreness. The shoulders and upper back may also become uncomfortable, particularly when a person sits for hours with rounded shoulders. People who use smartphones frequently, office employees who work on computers, students attending online classes and individuals who spend considerable time playing mobile games may experience these symptoms. However, screen use alone does not automatically lead to text neck. The duration of use, frequency of breaks, workstation arrangement, physical activity and individual health conditions can all influence the likelihood of developing discomfort.

The good news is that gentle exercises, stretching and simple changes to everyday habits may help reduce muscle tension and improve comfort. The aim is not to maintain a perfectly rigid posture throughout the day but to develop better movement habits, strengthen supporting muscles and avoid remaining in the same position for too long.

Recognising the Symptoms of Text Neck

Neck pain is one of the most common symptoms associated with prolonged smartphone and computer use. It may begin as mild soreness after several hours of work and gradually become more noticeable when the same posture is repeated every day. Some people experience stiffness when turning their heads, while others feel discomfort when looking down or trying to straighten their neck after a long period of screen use. Shoulder pain and tightness around the upper back are also common complaints. When the head moves forward and the shoulders round inwards, the muscles supporting the neck and shoulder region may become fatigued. This can create a feeling of heaviness or tension around the shoulder blades. Some individuals also report headaches, particularly around the base of the skull. These may be associated with muscle tension in the neck and upper back, although headaches can have many other causes and should not automatically be attributed to screen use. In some cases, discomfort may extend towards the upper arms. Numbness, tingling or weakness, however, should not simply be dismissed as text neck because these symptoms may indicate nerve irritation or another medical problem. The severity of symptoms varies from person to person. While mild discomfort may improve with movement, rest and changes in posture, persistent or worsening pain requires medical assessment. Recognising symptoms early can help people make practical adjustments before the discomfort begins to interfere with work, sleep or everyday activities.

Why Prolonged Screen Use Strains the Neck

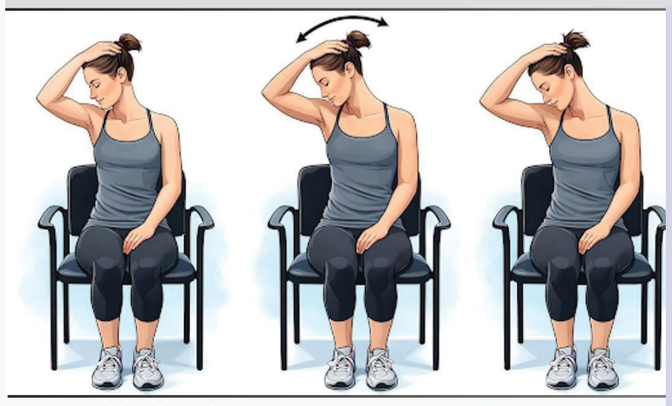
The position in which a screen is viewed can influence the amount of work required from the neck muscles. When a person holds a phone close to the chest and looks down, the head moves forward and the neck bends. Remaining in this position for an extended period can increase the demand on the muscles responsible for supporting the head.

The problem is often made worse by a lack of movement. People may become so absorbed in reading, typing or scrolling that they remain in the same position for an hour or longer. Even a relatively comfortable posture can become tiring when maintained continuously. Poor workstation arrangements can also contribute to discomfort. A laptop placed too low on a desk may encourage a person to bend the neck forward. An office chair without adequate support, a monitor positioned too far away or a keyboard that requires the shoulders to remain raised may increase tension in the upper body. Stress and fatigue can further influence muscle tension. When people are tired or under pressure, they may unconsciously tighten their shoulders, clench their jaw or adopt a slouched position. For these reasons, managing text neck involves more than performing a few stretches. Exercise can help, but it is also important to change the habits that repeatedly place the neck under strain.

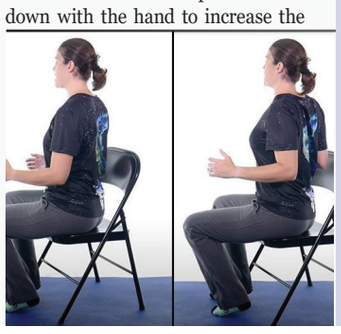
Six Exercises and Stretches That May Help Relieve Text Neck

Gentle movement can help ease stiffness, improve flexibility and strengthen the muscles that support the neck and shoulders. The following exercises can be incorporated into a daily routine, particularly for people who spend long hours working on computers or using mobile devices. They should be performed slowly and comfortably. Stretching should produce a mild pulling sensation rather than sharp pain. Stop any movement that increases symptoms, causes dizziness or produces tingling or numbness. People with an existing neck injury or medical condition should seek professional advice before starting a new exercise routine.

Neck Side Stretches to Ease Muscle Tightness



The muscles along the sides of the neck help support the head and allow it to tilt and turn. Remaining in one position for long periods can make these muscles feel tight, especially when the shoulders are raised or the head is repeatedly tilted towards a screen. Neck side stretches may help improve flexibility and reduce a feeling of tightness when performed gently. Begin by sitting upright in a comfortable chair with both feet resting on the floor. Keep the shoulders relaxed and look straight ahead. Slowly tilt the right ear towards the right shoulder without lifting the shoulder towards the ear. Stop when a mild stretch is felt along the opposite side of the neck. Hold the position for approximately 15 to 20 seconds while breathing normally. Return to the starting position and repeat on the other side. Perform two or three repetitions on each side if comfortable. There is no need to pull the head down with the hand to increase the stretch. Forcing the movement can aggravate discomfort rather than improve flexibility. People experiencing pain that travels down the arm or symptoms associated with nerve irritation should avoid pushing through the stretch and seek appropriate medical advice.



Chin Tucks to Improve Head and Neck Alignment

Chin tucks are commonly used in rehabilitation programmes to help improve awareness of head position and activate the deep muscles that support the neck. They can be particularly useful for people who frequently work with their heads positioned forward. When looking at a smartphone or laptop, people may gradually allow their chins to move towards the screen. Repeatedly practising a gentle chin tuck helps them learn to bring the head back into a more neutral position without bending it excessively. To perform the exercise, sit or stand comfortably with the shoulders relaxed and look straight ahead. Slowly draw the chin backwards, as though making a double chin. Keep the eyes level and avoid looking upwards or forcing the head downwards. Hold the position for about five seconds before relaxing. Repeat the movement eight to ten times, provided it remains comfortable. The movement should be small and controlled rather than forceful. Chin tucks may help improve neck muscle control and postural awareness. However, they should not be treated as a guaranteed cure for neck pain. Consistency, appropriate screen positioning and regular movement breaks are also important.



Shoulder Rolls to Release Tension in the Upper Body

Neck discomfort frequently occurs alongside shoulder tension. During prolonged computer work, people may raise their shoulders, round them forwards or hold their upper bodies in a fixed position. Shoulder rolls provide a simple way to introduce movement and reduce the feeling of stiffness. The exercise can be performed while sitting or standing. Keep the spine comfortably upright and allow the arms to rest naturally at the sides. Slowly raise both shoulders towards the ears, move them backwards in a circular motion and then lower them. Repeat the movement ten times. After completing the backward rolls, perform another ten in the forward direction. Keep the circles smooth and avoid jerking the shoulders or tightening the neck. Shoulder rolls are particularly convenient because they require no equipment and can be performed during short breaks at work. They may help maintain shoulder mobility and remind people to relax muscles that have remained tense for long periods. Although the movement is simple, it is not necessary to exaggerate the circles. Smaller, controlled movements are often more comfortable, especially for people who already experience shoulder pain.



Upper Trapezius Stretch to Reduce Neck and Shoulder Tightness

The upper trapezius muscles extend across the back of the neck and shoulders. They help support and move the shoulder blades and assist with certain head and neck movements. Prolonged sitting, raised shoulders and repetitive screen use may contribute to tightness in this region. Stretching the upper trapezius may help improve flexibility and ease muscle tension. Sit upright with both shoulders relaxed. To stretch the right side, gently hold the seat of the chair with the right hand or rest that hand beneath the right thigh. Slowly tilt the head towards the left shoulder until a mild stretch is felt along the right side of the neck. Maintain the position for 15 to 20 seconds while breathing normally. Return the head to the centre without making a sudden movement, then repeat on the opposite side. The stretch should remain comfortable throughout. Avoid twisting the head or pulling it forcefully with the opposite hand. If the movement causes pain, dizziness, tingling or symptoms extending down the arm, stop immediately. This stretch may be useful after a long period of desk work, particularly when the shoulders feel tense. However, persistent pain may have causes that stretching alone cannot address.

Doorway Chest Stretch to Counter Rounded Shoulders

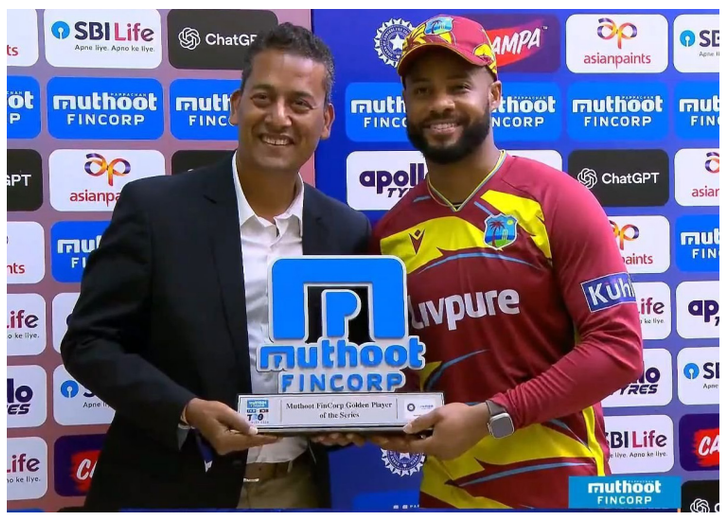
Prolonged screen use often encourages the shoulders to roll forwards and the chest to move into a closed position. When this posture is repeated throughout the day, the chest muscles may feel tight and the upper back may become uncomfortable. A doorway chest stretch gently opens the front of the shoulders and chest. It can complement neck exercises by encouraging more comfortable movement around the upper body. Stand in a doorway and place the forearms against the doorframe, with the elbows bent to approximately 90 degrees. Position the feet comfortably, then take a small step forward. Gently move the chest forwards until a mild stretch is felt across the chest and the front of the shoulders. Hold the position for 20 to 30 seconds while breathing normally. Return to the starting position slowly and repeat two or three times if comfortable. The stretch should not cause pinching in the shoulder joints or pain in the neck. Avoid leaning too far forward or arching the lower back to increase the sensation. Opening the chest may make it easier to adopt a comfortable, upright position, but it does not permanently correct posture on its own. It works best when combined with regular movement, appropriate desk arrangements and exercises that strengthen the muscles supporting the upper back.

Shoulder Blade Squeezes to Strengthen the Upper Back

The muscles around the shoulder blades play an important role in supporting the upper back and controlling shoulder movement. When these muscles are weak or poorly coordinated, maintaining a comfortable shoulder position may become more difficult during prolonged sitting. Shoulder blade squeezes are a simple exercise designed to activate these muscles without requiring weights or specialised equipment.

Rain Washes Out Fifth T20I; India, West Indies Share Series 2-2





BENGALURU, OCTOBER 17

The fifth and final T20 International between India and the West Indies was abandoned due to rain after just 7.4 overs of India's innings in a truncated nine-overs-a-side contest at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday. With the series level at 2-2, the trophy will be shared by the two teams.

After a rain delay, the match was reduced to nine overs per side. India managed 118 for five in 7.4 overs before further rain brought the contest to an end. Ishan Kishan and Naman Dhir provided an explosive finish to the innings with entertaining cameos, while West Indies bowlers Shamar Springer and Keemo Paul claimed two wickets each.

Asked to bat first by the West Indies, India got off to a shaky start when Abhishek Sharma was dismissed for six. After striking a six, Abhishek was caught by Shamar Joseph at mid-wicket, leaving India at 13 for one in 0.5 overs.

Ishan Kishan immediately took the attack to Romario Shepherd in the following over, turning the momentum in India's favour with a 24-run over. He began with a six over fine leg, followed it with a four and another six, and then struck another boundary. A wide from Shepherd further added to India's total, taking the score to 38 in two overs.

Kishan continued his aggressive approach in the next over, slicing a delivery over the cover region for four. However, the pacer had the last laugh, dismissing the left-hander for a blistering 30 not out? Kishan's innings ended at 30 off just 10 balls, including three fours and two sixes, as India slipped to 45 for two in 2.3 overs.

Sanju Samson ensured that the momentum was maintained, finishing the over with a boundary and a six over deep backward point. India reached 55 for two at the end of three overs.

Gudakesh Motie's fourth over was comparatively economical, conceding just 10 runs, including a boundary from Samson. However, Shamar Springer struck a crucial blow by bowling Samson for 16 off seven deliveries, reducing India to 66 for three in 4.1 overs. At the halfway stage of the innings, India were 73 for three, with captain Shreyas Iyer and Tilak Varma at the crease. Iyer stepped up the scoring in the sixth over, hitting two boundaries off Gudakesh Motie. He also survived a run-out opportunity during the over. However, his innings came to an end when Shamar Joseph took a catch off Keemo Paul's bowling. Iyer departed for 22 off 14 balls, leaving India at 88 for four in 6.1 overs. Naman Dhir then walked in and immediately made his presence felt, smashing a six, a four and another six off Keemo Paul to inject fresh momentum into the Indian innings. His aggressive approach helped India cross the 100-run mark in just 6.4 overs. Tilak Varma, however, could not make a significant contribution, as Springer bowled him for seven off six balls. India were 118 for five in 7.4 overs when rain interrupted play once again.

With the weather refusing to relent, the match officials eventually called off the contest, bringing the five-match series to an end in a 2-2 draw. The final game thus ended without a result, denying both sides an opportunity to claim the series outright.

Om Prakash Chouhan Best-Placed Indian After Day Three of India Championship

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 17

Om Prakash Chouhan produced a steady performance on the third day to emerge as the best-placed Indian, sitting tied 30th at five-under 211 in the USD 4 million India Championship, a joint-sanctioned event of the DP World Tour and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), at the Delhi Golf Club here on Saturday. Spain's Eugenio Chacarra led the field at 14-under par after reaching four-under through 11 holes in his third round. Play was suspended due to fading light at 5.44 pm local time, according to a PGTI press release.

The four hours and 50 minutes of play lost to rain on Wednesday resulted in a backlog, with the second round concluding earlier on Saturday. A total of 77 players made the halfway cut at even-par 144. Of them, only 26 managed to complete their third rounds before play was suspended. Chouhan, who earned a place on the DP World Tour in 2024 after topping the PGTI Tour Order of Merit in 2023, had played just two holes, both resulting in pars, in the second round when play was suspended on Friday. He returned to the course on Saturday and completed 34 holes during a demanding day. The 12-time title winner carded four birdies, two bogeys and a double-bogey in his second round of 72 during the first half of the day, finishing the halfway stage tied 29th.

Currently ranked seventh in the DP World PGTI Order of Merit, Chouhan followed it up with a third-round 71, featuring two birdies and a bogey, along with some crucial par-saves, to remain firmly in contention. "My body was feeling very tight after playing 36 holes, but I stayed focused on my game. It was a steady round," Chouhan said. "I have played here many times, so I know how to plan my way around the course and where to position the ball. That experience has helped me."

Emphasising that he was not preoccupied with being the leading Indian in the field, Chouhan said he was concentrating on his own performance. "I am not thinking too much about being the leading Indian. I am concentrating on my own game," he said. "After finishing my second round, I went to the training room. I have not allowed myself to get distracted. I have one target: to focus on my game, my tee shots and my second shots," he added.

Earlier in the morning, Yuvraj Sandhu produced one of the most dramatic fightbacks of the day, making seven birdies in his final 10 holes, including four in the last five, to finish at one-under 143 and secure his place beyond the halfway cut. After being three-over through his first seven holes in the second round, Sandhu bounced back with seven birdies between the ninth and 18th holes to card a round of 68. He continued steadily in the third round, remaining even-par through five holes and at par overall through 50 holes, placing him tied 60th. PGTI Order of Merit leader Saptak Talwar (71-73) was also tied 60th after playing 12 holes of his third round at even-par.

Meanwhile, Anirban Lahiri (70-73) was tied 48th at one-under after playing 16 holes in the third round. With play suspended due to fading light, the remaining players will look to complete their rounds as the championship progresses.

Rekha Gupta to Flag Off Delhi Half Marathon as Over 41,000 Runners Join Event

New Delhi, October 17: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta will flag off the 21st edition of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon on Sunday, October 18, with more than 41,000 participants expected to take part in the prestigious World Athletics Gold Label Race. The event will start and finish at the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma and Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju will also attend the occasion, according to a press release.

The 2026 edition offers a total prize purse of USD 275,732, with the winners of the men's and women's races set to receive USD 27,000 each. An additional bonus of USD 12,000 will be awarded to any athlete who breaks the course record. In the Indian Elite men's and women's categories, the top three finishers will receive prize money of Rs. 3.5 lakh, Rs. 2.5 lakh and Rs. 1.5 lakh, respectively. An additional incentive of Rs. 1 lakh will be awarded for setting a new Indian Elite record at the event.



Distinguished Participants

Chief of Defence Staff General N.S. Raja Subramani will grace the 21st edition. Continuing the event's strong association with the country's security forces, senior officers from the Armed Forces and paramilitary organisations will participate in the Half Marathon.

The participants include Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, National Cadet Corps Director General Virendra Vats and Border Security Force Director General Praveen Kumar. Deputy Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Tejpal Singh will participate in the Open 10K. They will be joined by a large contingent of defence personnel across various race categories.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will also return to participate in the Half Marathon. Two-time Olympic champion Shaunae Miller-Uibo, the event's international ambassador, will encourage runners from the sidelines.

International Elite Field

The international elite field promises a keen contest, with Ethiopia's Birhanu Legese leading the men's line-up alongside Kenya's Samwel Masai and Charles Mbatha Matata. In the women's category, Kenya's Irine Cheptai, winner of the 2022 Delhi Half Marathon and a World Athletics Platinum Label athlete, will headline the field. She will face competition from compatriot Cynthia Limo and Israel's Lonah Chemtai Salpeter. Among the leading Indian men, Kiran Matre, who finished second in the Indian Elite category last year, will compete alongside Dr Kartik Karkera, Panchanan Bera and Mukesh Kumar.

The Indian Elite women's field features former champions Lili Das and Kavita Yadav, along with Neeta Rani and world champion steeplechaser Ankita Dhyani, setting the stage for a competitive battle for national honours.

Multiple Categories for Participants

Beyond the elite competition, the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon will bring together runners from different age groups and backgrounds through the Half Marathon, Open 10K, Great Delhi Run, Corporate Run, Senior Citizens' Run and Champions with Disability Run, which allows participation with a buddy. The day's proceedings will begin early, with the Elite Men's Half Marathon scheduled to start at 5.18 am and the Elite Women's race at 5.20 am. More than 80 athletes are expected to compete in the elite races.

The Amateur Half Marathon and Police Cup will begin at 5.30 am, bringing together more than 13,400 runners. The Champions with Disability Run and Senior Citizens' Run will start at 6.30 am, with over 1,100 participants expected. The Open 10K will get underway at 7.35 am, drawing more than 10,000 runners. The Corporate Run and Great Delhi Run will follow at 9 am and 9.05 am, respectively, with more than 13,300 participants expected across the two categories.

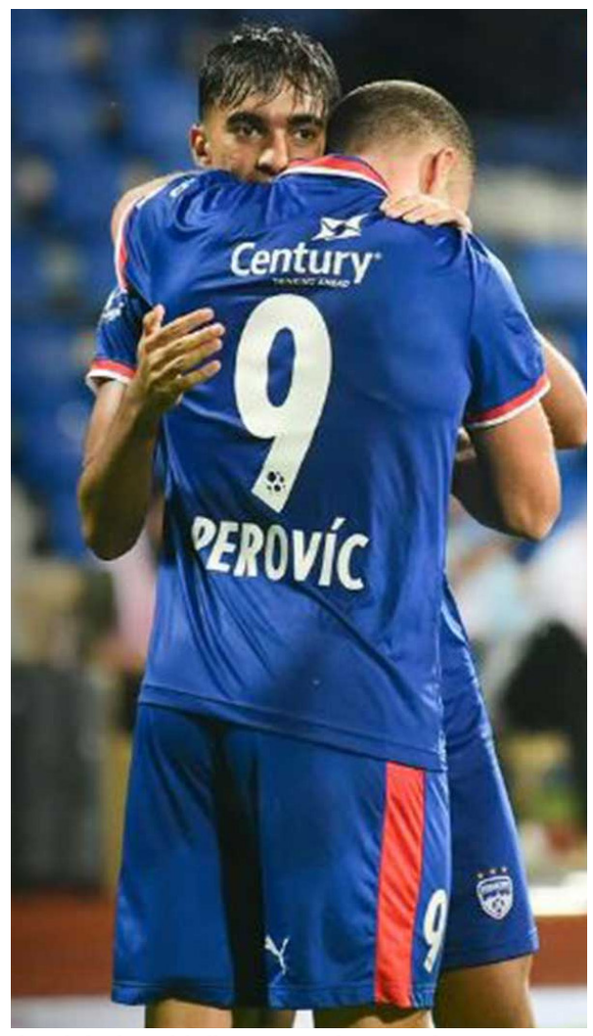
Race Schedule

Elite Men's Half Marathon: 5.18 am
Elite Women's Half Marathon: 5.20 am
Amateur Half Marathon and Police Cup: 5.30 am
Champions with Disability and Senior Citizens' Run: 6.30 am
Open 10K: 7.35 am
Corporate Run: 9 am
Great Delhi Run: 9.05 am

With a strong international elite field, prominent national participants and thousands of recreational runners, the 21st edition is set to celebrate sporting excellence, inclusivity and community participation on the streets of the national capital.

Bengaluru FC Maintain Winning Start with 2-0 Victory over Chennaiyin FC

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 17



Bengaluru FC continued their winning start to the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026-27 season with a convincing 2-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC at the Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday. Ryan Williams opened the scoring in the 24th minute before Mihailo Perovic doubled the hosts' advantage in the 52nd minute, earning Bengaluru three more points on a rain-soaked evening, according to an ISL press release.

With Bengaluru aiming to build on their opening-day victory and Chennaiyin coming into the contest after a 1-1 draw against FC Goa, both teams started with attacking intent despite the wet conditions. The midfield battle was intense, with neither side willing to concede space easily.

Bengaluru created the first clear-cut opportunity in the 11th minute when Ryan Williams delivered a curling ball into the penalty area. Perovic connected with a close-range header, but Chennaiyin goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz reacted sharply to keep the effort out.

The hosts broke the deadlock in the 24th minute through Williams. Soham Varshney produced a line-breaking pass to Borja Martinez, whose right-footed attempt was parried by Nawaz. Williams reacted quickest to the rebound and slotted the ball home to give Bengaluru a 1-0 lead.

Chennaiyin responded with a promising opportunity in the 33rd minute. Mohammed Saheef delivered a cross that picked out Ramon Tanque, whose header was brilliantly saved by Bengaluru goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. The visitors continued to threaten in the final third, but Bengaluru's defence remained organised to preserve their slender advantage at half-time. Bengaluru carried their momentum into the second half and extended their lead just seven minutes after the restart. Williams was replaced by Ashique Kuruniyan at half-time, and the substitute made an immediate impact.

In the 52nd minute, Ashique threaded a through ball to Borja Martinez, who floated a cross into the box. Perovic finished calmly to make it 2-0, taking advantage of Nawaz coming off his line. Chennaiyin attempted to respond immediately, with Prakadeswaran driving into the penalty area in the 55th minute. His right-footed effort, however, was comfortably dealt with by Gurpreet, who continued to provide a reassuring presence between the posts for the home side.

Both teams made changes as the second half progressed in search of fresh energy. Bengaluru introduced Naorem Roshan Singh and Nikhil Poojary in the 63rd minute, while Chennaiyin brought on Bryce Miranda and Ladrinpuia four minutes later.

Bengaluru captain Sunil Chhetri entered the contest in the 70th minute, replacing Soham Varshney. He came close to adding a third goal in the 87th minute when his long-range left-footed effort forced Nawaz into a save, with the goalkeeper tipping the ball over the crossbar.

Chennaiyin continued to search for a breakthrough in the closing stages, with Brison Fernandes testing Gurpreet from distance in the first minute of stoppage time. The Bengaluru goalkeeper made another important save to deny the visitors and preserve his clean sheet.

Despite Chennaiyin's late push, Bengaluru remained defensively disciplined and saw out the contest comfortably to secure a 2-0 victory. The result extended Bengaluru FC's winning start to the season and strengthened their early position in the ISL 2026-27 campaign.

Relay Champions, Miller-Uibo Inspire Ahead of Delhi Half Marathon



New Delhi, October 17: Olympic champion Shaunae Miller-Uibo joined India's Asian Games heroes at a panel discussion ahead of Sunday's Delhi Half Marathon. Women's 4x400m relay gold medallists Kiran Pahal, Poovamma MR, Prachi Chaudhary and Vithya Ramraj shared their experiences after clocking 3:29.69 in Nagoya. "The whole of India has won it, and the whole of India was with us," said Prachi Chaudhary, reflecting on the team's gold medal.

Distance runner Gulveer Singh, who won three medals at the Asian Games, and marathoner Sawan Barwal, who set a national record in April, also discussed their journeys, mental strength and the need for grassroots sports support. Miller-Uibo, a two-time Olympic 400m champion, spoke about returning to elite sport as a mother of two, emphasising the importance of a strong support network. "You can come back. It is possible," she said. The session concluded with Miller-Uibo and World Athletics Vice President Adille Sumariwalla presenting Asian Games gold medals to the relay quartet. More than 41,000 runners are expected to participate in the 21st edition of the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon on Sunday.

Shubman Gill to Feature in Punjab's Second Ranji Trophy Match Against Chhattisgarh

Mohali, October 17: Indian captain Shubman Gill has made himself available for Punjab's second-round Ranji Trophy fixture against Chhattisgarh at New Chandigarh, with former India Under-19 captain Uday Saharan set to lead the side, according to a report by ESPNcricinfo. Gill has been added to the squad at the last minute as he looks to get some domestic red-ball cricket under his belt ahead of India's upcoming Test series against New Zealand, which begins on November 19. Before the Test assignment, Gill is scheduled to feature in the first three ODIs of the five-match series against New Zealand, to be played from November 4 to 15. His deputy, Shreyas Iyer, is expected to take over the ODI captaincy for the remaining matches once Gill leaves to prepare for the Test series.

Gill has enjoyed an impressive run in international cricket this year. In three Tests, he has scored 200 runs in four innings at an average of 50.00, including a century and a half-century. His form in the limited-overs format has been even more remarkable.

Across 15 international matches this year, Gill has accumulated 1,095 runs at an average of 91.25, registering four centuries and six half-centuries in 15 innings. His highest score was an unbeaten 223 against the West Indies in the second ODI.

The Indian skipper also boasts an impressive first-class record for Punjab. In 14 matches, he has scored 1,296 runs at an average of 58.90, including five centuries and five half-centuries across 25 innings, with a highest score of 268.

India's tour of New Zealand will coincide with an India A tour, during which the visitors are scheduled to play three unofficial matches against New Zealand A from October 24 to November 10. Gill will miss the opportunity to participate in the series and gain match practice in New Zealand conditions, as the third unofficial Test, scheduled from November 7 to 10, clashes with the second and third ODIs. India's Test openers KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal, however, are part of the India A squad for all three matches.

Gill is likely to bat at No. 4 for Punjab, with Jashanpreet Sidhu potentially making way for the Indian captain. The batting line-up will also receive a boost with the return of Prabhsimran Singh, who missed Punjab's campaign opener against Assam due to his commitments with India A in the one-day series against Australia A.

Punjab began their Ranji Trophy campaign by securing three points against Assam on the basis of a first-innings lead. Debutant Vihaan Malhotra, Emanjot Chahal and Salil Arora scored centuries in the match, providing a strong foundation for the side. The fixture also marked the return of veteran pacer Umesh Yadav to first-class cricket after a two-year absence. Yadav, who joined Punjab as a guest player for the season, made an immediate impact by claiming his 16th five-wicket haul in first-class cricket.

Malavika's Hot Bikini Avatar





Known for her graceful screen presence, Malavika Mohanan has swapped film sets for sunny shores, and her latest holiday pictures are winning hearts. Malavika spent her days jumping into the ocean and snorkelling for hours, slowly getting over her fear of reef sharks and jokingly calling herself a closeted island girl. On the beach she wore a blue printed bikini top with a matching tie-up sarong skirt and left her wet waves loose. For a relaxed poolside moment, she picked a pink and orange checkered tiered maxi dress with pastel sunglasses. Her recent films, The Raja Saab and Sardar 2, did not click at the box office.

Another Delay For AK 47?



Adarsha Kutumbam is slowly earning the tag of a master of postponements. Despite not being a pan-India film or a big-budget spectacle, Venkatesh and Trivikram's film has missed multiple release dates, testing the patience of Venky fans. After missing the October 2 and October 9 dates, the film has now hinted at another release date, with October 30 emerging as the likely target. The film's release date came up again during the success press meet of Jailer 2. Producer Naga Vamsi revealed that a new date had been finalised, but audiences had stopped believing release announcements after repeated delays. He said Hero Venkatesh would announce the date along with the trailer after returning from Ooty, where he is shooting for his January 12 Vidudala. The announcement is expected around October 21 or 22. Though Naga Vamsi did not directly confirm the date, his comments strongly indicate that Adarsha Kutumbam is targeting October 30. However, Vishwak Sen's Cult and Nagarjuna-presented Itlu Arjun are already lined up for the same date. It remains to be seen whether they move to November or take on the competition. With barely two weeks left, the team will have to speed up promotions, including the release of pending songs, the trailer launch and the pre-release event, if the October 30 plan holds. Directed by Trivikram Srinivas, Adarsha Kutumbam 47 has generated good interest among trade circles, particularly because it marks the first collaboration between the star director and Venkatesh. However, the film needs a stronger promotional push to build wider buzz. So far, only Narayanamma among Thaman's songs has been released.

Mythri's 6 Cr Bet On 418!



Presented by Prashanth Neel, Kirtan Nadagouda's directorial debut, 418, is gearing up for its theatrical release on October 23. A compelling concept, a promising ensemble and a calculated approach to filmmaking come together in this horror thriller, which aims to make a strong impression without relying on a massive production budget or an established star cast. Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Ravi Shankar under the banner of Mythri Movie Makers, the film has reportedly been made on a budget of around 6 crore. The film has already generated encouraging buzz, with its trailer receiving an overwhelming response and drawing considerable attention to the project ahead of its theatrical arrival. Chaithra Achar, Surya Raj Veerabathini, Shree Vaishnav, Charan Lakkaraju, Preethi Pagadala and Shashank Patil play key roles. Whether its combination of horror, fresh talent and controlled production costs translates into a strong theatrical performance remains to be seen. With its Pan-India release strategy, 418 is positioning itself as an ambitious attempt to prove that a compelling genre film can achieve a breakthrough beyond the conventional star-driven formula.

God Of War Naga Vamsi Breaks Silence



NTR is currently busy shooting his next film, Dragon, directed by Prashanth Neel. The actor has an interesting lineup of films with Trivikram Srinivas and Nelson. Although the projects are officially confirmed, they haven't had a formal launch. Naga Vamsi, who will be associated with both films, shared some insights into them today. Trivikram Srinivas is mounting God of War for NTR. The film was officially confirmed, and everyone knew it's based on Muruga: The Lord of War, the God of Wisdom, by Anand Balasubramanian. Trivikram is adapting the book into a feature film. However, Naga Vamsi confirmed that the title is not locked yet. God of War is a working title, but the team is undecided on how to finalize the film's title, and they will decide in the coming days. On the other hand, Nelson who is enjoying the success of Jailer 2 is also going to work with NTR. The project may take time to hit the floors, but it is definitely happening and will be bankrolled by Naga Vamsi. Speaking about the film, Naga Vamsi said that it will take time for the project to be announced and he can not take that initiative while the Hero himself will make the announcement when the time is right. Having said that, the lineup will be decided subject to the progress of God of War. Both the projects will have potential to attract the attention of audiences at the pan-India level. We have to see how the films fare at the box office.

Ranabaali's Jayamma: One of Rashmika's Career Best Performances!



Rashmika Mandanna is receiving appreciation for her performance as Jayamma in Ranabaali. Although the Vijay Deverakonda-starrer opened to mixed reviews, audiences who watched the film have been praising Rashmika for bringing honesty and freshness to her character.

Over the years, Rashmika has shown considerable improvement as a performer. Whether it is her dressing, body language, dialogue delivery, or chemistry with Vijay Deverakonda, she appears comfortable in the role. Her portrayal of Jayamma adds emotional depth to the film, and the romantic portions become more engaging whenever she is around. In many ways, her presence helps the narrative connect better with the audience. One of the notable aspects of her performance is the way she handles the Rayalaseema slang. Rashmika gets it right and makes her character feel more natural. Her expressions and mannerisms also suit the rural setting of the film. This appreciation comes at a time when Rashmika has been choosing roles that allow her to showcase different shades of acting. From Pushpa to The Girlfriend, she has demonstrated her ability to adapt to varied characters and deliver convincing performances. With Ranabaali, she continues that progress through a sincere portrayal that audiences are finding relatable. While the film itself has received a mixed response, Rashmika's work has emerged as one of its positives.

Keerthy Suresh Drives Tractor!



Keerthy Suresh is all set to bring a refreshing dose of fun to the Sankranthi season with January 12 Vidudala. The makers of the much-awaited film have revealed her first look as Latha Reddy to celebrate the actress's birthday, offering a peek of her distinctive appearance in the movie.

The first look poster captures Keerthy Suresh in a village-inspired get-up that instantly grabs attention. Sporting a purple langa voni, a headscarf and stylish sunglasses, she sits on a tractor with a charming smile. The rustic setting and her village belle look make the character particularly intriguing. Directed by Anil Ravipudi, the film features Victory Venkatesh and Nandamuri Kalyan Ram in lead roles, with Krithi Shetty also part of the principal cast. The previously released first-look posters of the lead actors have already generated interest. The film is currently being shot in Ooty, with the major cast involved in the ongoing schedule. Produced by Sahu Garapati under Shine Screens, January 12 Vidudala is presented by Suresh Productions, Smt. Archana and Zee Studios. Anil Ravipudi has built a strong reputation for delivering commercial entertainers during the festive season. January 12 Vidudala will arrive in theatres on January 12, promising a vibrant family entertainer for the festive holidays.

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