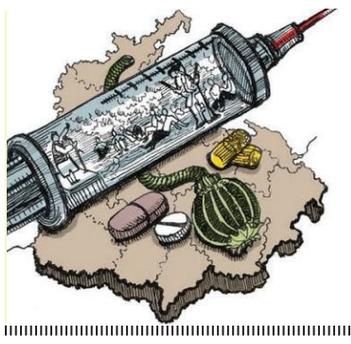
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Why Punjab Alone Being Defamed for Drug - Menace?

OPINION 06

Rukmini Vasanth's Beauty Spell

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Inter-State Talks on Tummidihetti Barrage Soon: CM REVANTH



Telangana to make a presentation on the construction of barrage at 152 meter height and seek Maharashtra's approval

Maharashtra Chief Minister is ready for a dialogue with Telangana after October 23

CM Revanth Reddy instructs officials to release water for Dindi and Achampet lift irrigation schemes from Yedula

CM Revanth Reddy holds a review of irrigation projects on Friday

"The Tummidihetti barrage is crucial for addressing the long-standing irrigation needs of the tribal-dominated Adilabad district. We will make every effort to secure Maharashtra's cooperation and maximise water diversion to benefit farmers."
— A. Revanth Reddy, Telangana Chief Minister

HYDERABAD, OCT 23

Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy ordered the officials concerned to prepare for a crucial dialogue with the Maharashtra government on the construction of the Tummidihetti Barrage. The Chief Minister said that Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed his willingness to hold talks after October 23. The CM held a review with irrigation department officials at the Bodhi Pavilion, attended by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Ministers Jupally Krishna Rao and Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Rajya Sabha member Vem Narender Reddy, and senior officials from the Irrigation wing.

During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy reviewed various contentious issues surrounding the Tummidihetti Barrage as well as the Dindi and Achampet lift irrigation projects. The Irrigation engineers briefed the Chief Minister on the volume of water that could be diverted, up to the Yellampalli project, by constructing a barrage at Tummidihetti at the heights of 152 meters and 150 meters, respectively. The officials clarified that the construction of the Tummidihetti barrage would not pose any risk of submergence to villages within the state of Maharashtra. If the barrage is constructed at the height of 152 meters, it would result in the submergence of approximately 2,300 acres of land, whereas a height of 150 meters would limit the impact to less than 1,000 acres. The CM directed the officials to assess the potential submergence impact in

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Telangana ready to share technology with Neighbouring states for effective policing

CM Revanth appeals to Southern States police to build cross border coordination network to lower crime

02

Chinmaya Mission's journey and Viksit Bharat goal go hand in hand: Modi



New Delhi, October 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, praising the Chinmaya Mission for spreading India's spiritual wisdom and cultural values worldwide. Modi said the Mission's centenary in 2047 would coincide with the centenary of India's Independence, adding that both journeys shared the vision of a developed India.

Recalling his 1993 meeting with Swami Chinmayananda, the Prime Minister highlighted the spiritual leader's emphasis on youth empowerment and nation-building. He praised young Mission volunteers for travelling 40,000 km over 300 days and engaging with more than one lakh young people. Modi said the Mission's network of over 100 educational institutions was combining modern education with Indian values. He also highlighted the National Education Policy's focus on integrating traditional knowledge with science and technology. Referring to India's cultural revival, he cited the redevelopment of Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and other spiritual centres. He also noted the return of more than 650 ancient idols and artefacts to India over the past 12 years.

The Prime Minister called upon citizens to unite against divisive forces, strengthen self-reliance and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

BJP–Akali Dal Reunion Talk Ahead of Polls

Chandigarh, October 23: Speculation is growing over the possibility of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) renewing their alliance ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections. Political attention has turned to remarks made by SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal a day after Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that an NDA government would be formed in Punjab in 2027.

Badal said his party was willing to form alliances with parties that agreed with its ideology and policies. However, he ruled out any alliance with the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Recalling the BJP–Akali Dal coalition government in Punjab, Badal claimed that law and order and development had been better during their time in power. The BJP and the SAD ended their 24-year-old alliance in 2020 following disagreements over the farm laws introduced by the central government, which triggered widespread protests by farmers.

Centre Extends Deployment of Central Forces

New Delhi, oct 23: The Central Government has taken a key decision to further strengthen security in the national capital, Delhi. In view of the possibility of protests and concerns over law and order, the government has extended the deployment of 273 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in the city until October 31. Sources familiar with the matter said the decision was taken by the Union Home Ministry. The extension is reportedly part of precautionary security measures amid assessments that protests could erupt unexpectedly in Delhi. Authorities are maintaining heightened vigilance to prevent any untoward incidents and ensure public safety. Security arrangements are also being monitored in key and sensitive locations across the capital. According to Home Ministry sources, this is the second extension of the deployment of these forces. The move is aimed at maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety of the public in the national capital. With the deployment continuing until October 31, security agencies in Delhi will remain on heightened alert.

Yadav Hails Husnabad Steel Bank Initiative



Hyderabad, Oct.23: Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav has mentioned the initiative of State Transport and BC Welfare Minister and Husnabad MLA Ponnam Prabhakar to set up a 'Steel Bank' to reduce the use of single-use plastic items in auspicious events and other mass events held in rural areas in Husnabad constituency. He has written a letter to this effect. The letter states that the idea of setting up a 'Steel Bank' with complete sets of stainless steel utensils to be used in the auspicious events and other celebrations held in villages would help reduce plastic consumption and plastic waste at the field level. The Union Minister explained that the Central Government was taking several steps to control the plastic pollution. He said that measures such as banning the single-use plastic items identified as causing high pollution and having low usage, implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) on plastic packaging, reusing items and promoting eco-friendly alternatives were part of this.

He said that to promote eco-friendly alternatives to plastic, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had released the 'Compendium of Manufacturers/Sellers of Eco-alternatives' on the occasion of World Environment Day 2025.

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Minister Ponguleti holds review on Indiramma Towers

Hyderabad, Oct.23: The state Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has made it clear that their government's goal was to build Indiramma houses near the areas where the poor currently live, without any hindrance to their employment. He instructed the officials to identify the lands required for the ambitious construction of the Indiramma Towers on a war footing. In addition to completing the identification of the sites required for the first phase of the construction in the constituencies within the CURE area, he advised



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KTR Confident of KCR's Comeback

Hyderabad, Oct.23 (NSS): BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Friday claimed that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's return to power in Telangana is "inevitable," citing growing public dissatisfaction with the ruling Congress government. Addressing party leaders from the Amberpet constituency, Rama Rao alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's administration has only one year remaining in office before the public votes BRS back to power. The BRS leader criticised the State government's handling of essential services and agriculture, pointing to widespread power disruptions, drinking water shortages, and a deepening crisis in the farm sector. KT Rama Rao specifically targeted the administration's drought management, alleging that the Congress government failed to prepare for El Niño conditions despite receiving warnings 10 months in advance. He noted that while neighboring states proactively filled their reservoirs, Telangana failed to optimize its water resources.

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Stresses Funds for Collectors, Interdepartmental Coordination



HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 23

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has called for comprehensive and coordinated drought preparedness measures at the state and district levels, stressing the need for advance planning, adequate financial resources for district collectors and close coordination among all departments concerned to tackle the emerging situation.

Addressing the first meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted to review drought and El Niño conditions in Telangana and recommend mitigation measures at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Friday, the Minister called for a proactive approach to safeguard drinking water supplies, meet irrigation requirements, protect crops and ensure timely relief to people in vulnerable areas.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka chaired the meeting, which was attended by Ministers Thummala Nageswara Rao, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Seethakka and Vakiti Srihari, along with Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju. The participants stressed the need for a swift, coordinated and statewide response to the emerging drought situation.

Emphasising the importance of preparedness rather than a reactive response, Uttam Kumar Reddy said district collectors and departmental officials should

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Telangana ready to share technology with neighbouring states for effective policing

CM Revanth appeals to Southern States police to build cross border coordination network to lower crime

CM Revanth Reddy inaugurated the Southern Regional Police Coordination Committee Meeting at ICCC in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, OCT 23: Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy has announced that the Telangana Government is ready to join hands with Southern States to strengthen policing and share technology to reduce crime rate in the future. Inaugurating the Southern Regional Police Coordination Committee Meeting at ICCC in Hyderabad today, the Chief Minister said that the Telangana is committed to sharing its technological infrastructure and ICCC framework with the neighbouring states. The CM emphasized the need to work together to build a safe South India.

The Chief Minister hoped that the delegates from the Southern States will deliberate upon the crucial issues for a strong coordination between the police wings by preparing a strong action plan in the conference. "It is your responsibility to make South India more safer and lowest in crime by developing strong mechanisms for cross-border coordination between police headquarters".

CM Revanth Reddy asserted that no state can become free of crime only with its efforts. It required a lot of coordination between all state police departments. The Chief Minister highlighted the reforms introduced by the Telangana government to curb drug trafficking, cybercrime, naxal violence and the maintenance of law and order in the state. HYDRAA, EAGLE, T- SAFE are focusing on different categories of crimes. Today, cyber crime, narcotics, and traffic problems are very important. Each division and wing can focus on technology and training to give best results.

Stating that the reforms are bringing good results, the CM said that Telangana Police achieved excellence and recognition at national and international levels in curbing narcotics, cyber crime and ending Naxal violence. Telangana was ranked first in India in the cybercrime performance during the Hon'ble Prime Minister's PRAGATI review.

Further, CM Revanth Reddy brought to the attention of the conference the applause received from the union government. Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated Telangana officers for making Telangana completely Naxal-free. EAGLE secured more than 80 percent marks from the Central Government in fighting Narcotics and the Cyber Security Bureau has set new standards in recovering money for victims. TG-SAFE was established on the lines of FDA in the USA, to combine efforts to control food adulteration and drugs control. The Chief Minister explained how the HYDRAA force was winning the hearts of people by protecting, restoring and rejuvenating lakes and water bodies, and ensuring safety of public assets and properties. A decision of recruiting transgenders as Traffic Assistants in Hyderabad police is the first of its kind in the country.

Division of Hyderabad Police into three Commissionerates in the core urban region - Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri and the benefits of the trifurcation of the big commissionerate was also highlighted. The CM listed out the welfare measures for the police and their families introduced by the state government. We created a Young India Police School to provide the best education to children of police forces to match the best national Sanik Schools. Home Guards to DGP, their children can get education there. Since the brave police are taking risks in the performance of their duties, the government enhanced ex-gratia from constable to IPS officer-

minimum Rs 1 crore,
up to Rs 2 crore

based on rank and service. We are also allotting housing plots to the bereaved police families and ensure jobs for eligible family members on compassionate grounds. CM Revanth Reddy observed that the Society was demanding safety and security as a foundation. Efficient, moral and fair policing is the first expectation of citizens. The Chief Minister strongly believed in reforms and the resources provided to the police system will not be an expenditure but an investment for a better society, and safety of citizens.

Civic Rot at KPHB 7th Phase: CMC Open Gym Park Lies Ruined Under Mismanagement

Dried grass, broken fitness gear, and unauthorized events trigger sharp anger among daily walkers demanding GHMC action



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 24: Public parks are created so that morning walkers, children, and fitness lovers can enjoy a clean, green, and healthy space right in their neighborhood. However, the CMC Open Gym Park located in the 7th Phase of KPHB Colony tells a completely different story today. Once a lively and welcoming space for the local community, the park is now struggling with heavy neglect, damaged property, poor maintenance, and a total lack of basic upkeep. A close look at the park shows that the green carpet grass has completely dried out and faded away, leaving behind dusty, empty patches of mud and bare soil across the grounds. There is also a major problem with everyday cleanliness and sanitation. Large piles of dry leaves, scattered trash, and organic debris are left lying around uncleared near the fences and walking pathways, making the area look abandoned and unkempt.

The outdoor gym machines, which were installed to help people stay fit and healthy, are now completely broken, rusted, and dangerous to use. Vital parts like handles, foot pedals, and structural joints are missing, cracked, or completely snapped off, turning what should be a helpful health facility into a major safety hazard for anyone who tries to exercise. On top of this, unauthorized vehicles are constantly parked right in front of the main park gates, creating heavy traffic bottlenecks and making it very difficult and unsafe for senior citizens and walkers to enter the premises. Residents point out that the maintenance agency assigned by the previous municipal administration is completely failing to do its job. Even though official Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) rules require regular watering, proper lawn mowing, daily trash collection, and prompt equipment repairs, the agency is ignoring these guidelines. Locals feel that the agency is simply collecting funds while providing zero ground-level maintenance, leaving taxpayers to suffer the consequences. Another major issue causing frustration among regular visitors is that the park is frequently being used for unauthorized religious and devotional activities. While residents deeply respect spiritual gatherings, turning a dedicated sports, fitness, and walking park into an event space violates municipal rules. This misuse disrupts the peace, blocks walking tracks, and takes away a much-needed fitness area from the public.

Localites, senior citizens, and daily walkers are now urging the GHMC authorities to take immediate and strict action. They want the authorities to inspect the park, penalize or cancel the contract of the careless maintenance agency, repair all the broken gym equipment, clean up the grounds, and make sure the park is strictly used only for walking, health, and fitness.

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Stresses Funds for Collectors, Interdepartmental Coordination

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work in close coordination to anticipate local challenges and take timely preventive measures. He called for district-specific action plans identifying vulnerable areas, assessing likely shortages and outlining clear measures to address contingencies.

The Minister stressed that adequate funds should be placed at the disposal of district collectors to enable them to respond immediately to emerging contingencies without delays arising from procedural requirements. He also called for effective coordination among the Irrigation, Rural Water Supply, Agriculture and other departments, as well as local administration, to ensure that essential services remain uninterrupted and relief reaches affected communities promptly.

The meeting reviewed the prevailing rainfall deficit, reservoir storage, irrigation water availability, groundwater levels, agricultural conditions and the preparedness of various departments to mitigate the impact of drought. The need for coordinated monitoring of drinking water availability and irrigation requirements at the district level was also discussed.

The meeting was informed that 358 mandals were facing drought-related concerns, of which 315 had met the prescribed drought assessment criteria, while another 43 were at risk of crop losses. The sub committee discussed the need to assess the situation in these additional mandals and document the supporting evidence in a memorandum to the Centre, seeking assistance under applicable schemes.

The assessment presented at the meeting indicated that Telangana had recorded a cumulative rainfall deficit of around 24 per cent, while irrigation reservoir storage remained substantially below normal and groundwater stress had been reported in several mandals. The Cabinet Sub-Committee discussed the need for comprehensive action plans, effective interdepartmental coordination and timely mobilisation of resources to minimise the impact of drought and El Niño conditions on agriculture, drinking water supplies and rural livelihoods.

Sarath City Capital Mall launches ₹1-crore shopping campaign



Hyderabad, October 23: Sarath City Capital Mall hosted its Annual Retail Performance Awards 2026 on Friday, recognising outstanding retail performance across 69 categories for the financial year 2025-26. The event also marked the launch of its year-long promotional campaign, 'Mall Banayega Crorepati', offering shoppers a chance to win prizes, including a grand cash award of ₹1 crore. The campaign, running from October 2026 to October 2027, aims to enhance customer engagement through shopping rewards, weekend quizzes and quarterly promotional events. Customers making purchases worth at least ₹10,000 at the mall will be eligible to participate in lucky draws, subject to the campaign's terms and conditions.

Apart from the ₹1-crore grand prize to be awarded at the finale, quarterly events will offer prizes such as premium cars, sports bikes, electronics and other gifts. Weekend quizzes will also provide participants opportunities to win instant prizes. The retail awards recognised several brands for their sales performance and market achievements. The Souled Store secured the top position nationwide among its stores in total sales, while Adidas was recognised for housing South India's largest concept store. Comet recorded the highest trading density among new brands, and Snitch was recognised as the leading direct-to-consumer (D2C) store in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh by sales. Tira Beauty ranked first in South India in sales performance, Technosport topped nationwide sales among athleisure brands, and New Balance secured the top store position in South India by sales. Syed Mohammed Aslam, CEO of Skill Promoters, said the campaign was aimed at rewarding customers and strengthening partnerships with retail brands while combining shopping with entertainment and customer engagement. The event was attended by COO Syed Naveeduddin Ahmed, Director Tarachand Bopanna and second-generation leaders Syed Mohammed Akram, Syed Basheeruddin Faayez and Syed Mohammed Hamza. Sarath City Capital Mall is a major shopping, lifestyle and entertainment destination in Hyderabad, housing national and international brands, dining outlets and entertainment facilities.

Inter-State Talks on Tummidihetti Barrage Soon: CM REVANTH

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Maharashtra and proceed with the construction of the barrage in a manner that maximizes water diversion. CM Revanth Reddy further instructed officials to keep all details from the previous meetings held in Delhi between the two states under the aegis of the Central Water Commission (CWC) readily available and to ensure that any information requested by the CWC is provided. The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of the Tummidihetti barrage which is being built to provide irrigation water to 2 lakh acres in the undivided Adilabad district endowed with forests, huge tribal population, and significant socio-economic backwardness. The CM was hoping that positive discussions and consultations with Maharashtra would help to address decades-old water crisis in the tribal dominated district. The chief minister stressed that the barrage would benefit the forest-dwelling communities who have long struggled under the banner of "Jal, Jungle, Zameen" (Water, Forest, and Land). The officials were directed to make all necessary arrangements to expedite the Tummidihetti project and fulfill the Adilabad people's demand for irrigation needs . Considering the importance of the barrage, CM Revanth Reddy instructed irrigation engineers to focus on the route design for water flow from Tummidihetti to Yellampalli, and land acquisition soon after a clarity regarding the height of the barrage emerged.

Noting that Maharashtra had previously agreed to construct the barrage at a height of 148 meters, the CM pointed out that a barrage built at such a low height would not allow for the diversion of the required volume of water. Preparation of comprehensive technical reports, covering water availability, the extent of the submergence area, and other relevant factors to persuade the Maharashtra government to agree to a barrage height of 152 meters was discussed in the meeting.

The officials were also directed to promptly submit details regarding the recent meetings held in Delhi by CWC, the main issues discussed and the reports requested by the Commission. The Chief Minister suggested the ministers to clearly articulate Telangana's water requirements and to present the state's position effectively during discussions with Maharashtra. Reviewing the increasing water requirements, CM Revanth Reddy instructed officials to make the necessary arrangements to lift 0.5 TMC of water from the Edula reservoir for the Dindi project, and 0.1 TMC for the Achampet lift irrigation scheme.

The Chief Minister further directed that arrangements be made to source this total of 0.6 TMC of water for these two projects from the Srisailam reservoir. A dedicated system should be established to lift additional water from Srisailam via Narlapur to the Yedula reservoir, The CM said ordering the Irrigation officials to immediately conduct a study and prepare designs, specifically examining where pumps and pump houses should be installed, whether the existing canal and tunnel infrastructure is sufficient, and where the capacity of the canals needs to be expanded. Such important measures would ensure there is no shortage of water requirements in the Palamuru project. These works should be executed in a manner that allows water to be supplied from Yedula to the Dindi and Achampet projects, without compromising the water allocations earmarked for the Palamuru project. The meeting also addressed concerns and requests raised by representatives from the Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda districts regarding water for the Dindi project sourced from Narlapur or Yedula. The officials presented a detailed breakdown in the powerpoint presentation comparing the estimated costs for both options (sourcing from Narlapur versus Yedula) and outlined the respective advantages and disadvantages of each.

Minister Ponguleti holds review on Indiramma Towers

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the collectors to prepare the lands in advance for the construction to be undertaken in the second and third phases.

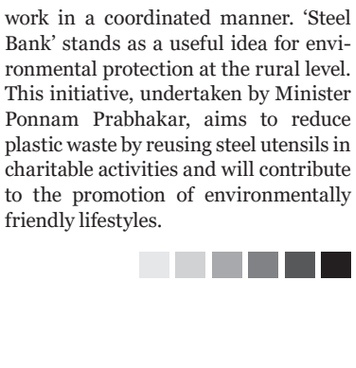
On Friday, the Minister held a review meeting with the Collectors, RDOs and Housing Department officials of Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri districts in his chamber at the Dr. BR Ambedkar Secretariat. The construction of Indiramma Towers in the Cure area, identification of the lands required for the second and third phases, selection of beneficiaries of double bedroom houses and other issues were discussed in detail. Revenue Department Secretary D.S. Lokesh Kumar, Housing Department Secretary V.P. Gautam and others participated in this meeting. Speaking on this occasion, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that in line with the ideas of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy , the state government had initiated the construction of the Indiramma Towers with the intention of constructing the houses near the areas where the poor living in the Cure area do not face any difficulties in their livelihood and they are currently living. He said that this program was being implemented by taking the constituency as a unit.

The Minister made it clear that the government was undertaking the construction of Indiramma Towers with great ambition and added that no other aspect was more important to his government than providing a house of its own to the poor. He advised the officials to work with full responsibility and coordination in line with the government's goals. He instructed them to move forward with specific action at every stage, from land identification to the start of construction and to give top priority to the conservation of the government lands in the selection of sites.

The Minister said that the government was moving forward with the target of constructing a total of one lakh houses in the Cure area. He revealed that the construction of about 500 houses was being carried out in each assembly constituency in the first phase. He instructed the Collectors to expedite the identification of the sites required for two and three constituencies in relation to the first phase and to identify and keep ready the lands required for the construction of the second and third phases in the remaining constituencies in advance.

TPCC Revokes Suspension of Kukatpally Leader Sheri Satish Reddy Ahead of Upcoming Polls

"Positions are temporary, but commitment is permanent", declares Sheri Satish Reddy as party leadership directs him to rally cadre and strengthen local operations



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 23: In a significant political development, the Disciplinary Action Committee (DAC) of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has officially revoked the suspension order against former Kukatpally Town Congress President Sheri Satish Reddy. The decision was taken after the DAC carefully examined and accepted the explanation submitted by Satish Reddy on October 1, 2026. In an official communication issued from Gandhi Bhavan, Hyderabad, signed by TPCC DAC Chairman Dr. Mallu Ravi (MP) and Vice Chairman Shyam Mohan Anantula, the party hierarchy advised Satish Reddy to strictly adhere to party discipline and guidelines. He was further instructed to work in close coordination with local leaders and the District Congress Committee (DCC) President to strengthen the party organization in preparation for the forthcoming elections.

Reacting to the decision, Sheri Satish Reddy expressed his sincere gratitude to the TPCC leadership, Dr. Mallu Ravi, Shyam Mohan Anantula, and the DCC leadership for their trust. Reaffirming his unshakeable dedication, Reddy emphasized that positions are temporary, but commitment to the Congress party is permanent. He stated that Congress remains the foundation of his political journey and that he stays devoted to its ideology despite any challenges. Declaring that his true strength lies in the affection of Congress workers, Reddy affirmed that his primary goal is strengthening the party rather than chasing power, assuring full cooperation with the party to secure victory in the upcoming elections.

Yadav Hails Husnabad Steel Bank Initiative

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He said that this compendium was available on the website of the Central Pollution Control Board. The Union Minister, in his letter, opined that pollution caused by single-use plastic can be controlled effectively and sustainably if the Central, State Governments, local bodies and all sections of the society work in a coordinated manner. 'Steel Bank' stands as a useful idea for environmental protection at the rural level. This initiative, undertaken by Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, aims to reduce plastic waste by reusing steel utensils in charitable activities and will contribute to the promotion of environmentally friendly lifestyles.

Nitin A. Gokhale Delivers Guest Lecture on India's Future Defence Preparedness at KSPP

HYDERABAD

Nitin A. Gokhale, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the Bharat-Shakti Group, delivered a guest lecture titled "Preparing for the Wars of Tomorrow: From Three Services to One Fighting Force" at the Kautilya School of Public Policy (KSPP), Hyderabad, on Friday.



Gokhale traced the evolution of India's higher defence organisation, discussing the three-tier structure and the establishment of the National Security Guard (NSG). He highlighted key milestones in defence reforms, including the Kargil Review Committee's recommendations and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement on 15 August 2019 regarding the creation of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). He also outlined the subsequent appointment of India's first CDS on 1 January 2020 and the establishment of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA). Explaining the role of the CDS, Gokhale emphasised the importance of jointness among the three services, providing single-point military advice to the government, and developing expertise in military affairs and defence matters. He also discussed the CDS's responsibilities as Chairperson of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), Secretary of the DMA, and head of tri-service organisations. These institutional changes, he noted, have laid the groundwork for theatreisation, integration and greater operational coordination among the Armed Forces.

The lecture examined key areas of defence transformation, including enhancing combat capability, optimising manpower and resources, modernisation and indigenisation, human resource reforms, women's participation in the Armed Forces, addressing colonial legacies, and strengthening national security efforts.

Gokhale also highlighted practical and institutional challenges to integration, including differences in service headquarters, operational requirements, and the coordination of military and civilian administrative structures.

Outlining the way forward, he stressed the need to establish Integrated Theatre Commands, integrate and operationalise air defence and joint command architectures, develop a long-term vision for the Armed Forces towards 2047, formulate joint doctrines, issue tri-service orders and instructions, and expand relevant agencies.

In his concluding remarks, Gokhale reflected on the implications of Operation Sindoor for India's higher defence organisation and the central role of the COSC. He also presented a SWOT analysis of the CDS framework, identifying domain expertise and participation in government decision-making as key strengths, while noting the learning curve, institutional prejudices and administrative workload as weaknesses. He highlighted opportunities arising from closer involvement in policy decisions and compressed timelines, alongside the continuing need to strengthen inter-service synergy and institutional coordination.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion in which Gokhale engaged with aspiring policy professionals and patiently addressed their questions. Dean of KSPP and Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Syed Akbaruddin, also attended the lecture.

BHEL Artisan Recruitment -2027

HYDERABAD: Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, a Government of India undertaking, has invited applications from young, dynamic and skilled artisans for filling up of 660 skilled artisan posts. Candidates must possess class ten, plus National trade certificate (NTC/ITI) plus National apprenticeship certificate with not less than 60 percent marks for general and OBC candidates and 55 percent marks for SC and ST candidates in both NTC/ITI and NAC.

OU to hold job Mela on Oct. 30

HYDERABAD

The Employment Bureau of Osmania University will organize a job fair under the auspices of Manappuram Finance Limited on 30th of this month. The job fair will be held at the Employment Bureau office opposite Arts College in Osmania University.

The posts of Junior Assistant in Manappuram Finance Limited will be filled through this job fair. Only those aged between 18 to 35 years with any degree/diploma will be given an opportunity in this job fair, the University Employment Information Bureau (UEI & GB/MCC) said in a statement. For more details on these Junior Assistant jobs, which carry a salary of up to Rs. 20,000, the advertisement asked candidates to contact Ravinder Kumar, Regional Manager (Ph.No. 6261688998). The advertisement stated that the candidates should appear directly at Osmania University Employment Bureau (UEI&GB/MCC) on October 30, 2026 with a copy of their educational certificates.

We will support RTC workers, who have lost their jobs: Gadwal Vijayalakshmi



HYDERABAD

CM Prajavani State In-charge and State Planning Commission Vice Chairman Gadwal Vijayalakshmi on Friday assured that steps would be taken to bring the issue of reinstatement of RTC workers , who have lost their jobs due to various reasons to the attention of the RTC MD and the CM and find a solution to the problem.

She said that the RTC workers, who have lost their jobs due to various reasons came to the CM Prajavani held on Friday in large numbers and explained their problems to Gadwal Vijayalakshmi. She said that some time ago, 317 RTC workers were given jobs again and the state government would take steps to support the remaining 180 people, Vijayalakshmi said. She said thet they 103 applications were received in the 263rd CM Prajavani program organized at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday.

CM Prajavani State In-charge and State Planning Commission Vice-Chairperson Gadwal Vijayalakshmi received the applications, made endorsements and spoke to the concerned officials over the phone to resolve the issues. 27 applications were received for the Revenue Department, 18 for the BC Welfare Department, 14 for the Municipal Department and 44 for other departments. State Nodal Officer K. Vidyasagar, Deputy Collector Venkateshwarlu, ACP Umender, NRI Advisory Council Vice-Chairman Manda Bheem Reddy and officials of various departments participated in this Prajavani program.

Failed PM has no right to call Rahul a failed product: Shabbir Ali

HYDERABAD

Advisor to the Telangana government (SC, ST, OBCs and Minorities) Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Friday strongly condemned Prime Minister Narendra Modi for describing Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi as a "failed product", asserting that a failed Prime Minister had no moral authority to ridicule a leader fighting to protect people's democratic and voting rights. Reacting to Modi's remarks at a media summit, Shabbir Ali accused the Prime Minister of resorting to personal attacks on Rahul Gandhi and the Nehru-Gandhi family instead of addressing pressing issues such as governance, unemployment, economic distress, electoral integrity and the functioning of democratic institutions. "Rahul Gandhi is among the people, raising questions about voting rights and demanding accountability. A Prime Minister who repeatedly avoids those questions has no right to call the Leader of the Opposition a 'failed product'," he said in a statement on Friday.

Shabbir Ali alleged that personal attacks had become Modi's standard response whenever Rahul Gandhi or the Congress questioned the government. Whenever Rahul Gandhi raised issues such as unemployment, inflation, electoral manipulation, cronyism and institutional independence, Modi brought up Jawaharlal Nehru and the Gandhi family, he said.

"Instead of answering today's questions, Modi attacks those who served the country or sacrificed their lives for it," Shabbir Ali added.

Three-Day 'Desha Rakshana, Dharma Rakshana Yagam' Begins in Hyderabad

BJP Telangana President N. Ramchander Rao Participates in the Ritual



HYDERABAD

A three-day Desha Rakshana, Dharma Rakshana Yagam (Yagam for the Protection of the Nation and Dharma) commenced on Friday under the leadership of Maddikunta Srikanth Sharma, founder of the Hindu Dharma Chakra organisation.

The yagam is being conducted at VNR Gardens in Mallapur, Nacharam, Hyderabad, under the guidance of Vedic scholars Brahma Sri Chebium Raghava Sharma and Naresh Sharma. BJP National Council member Geetha Murthy and her husband are performing the rituals as the chief sponsors of the yagam.

BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao attended the programme on Friday, participated in the yagam and received the blessings of the presiding priest. Brahma Sri Rangi Satyanarayana Sastry, a recipient of the Rashtra Pati title, delivered a discourse on Sanatana Dharma.

The day's rituals began with Ganapathi Puja and Sankalpam, followed by Sudarshana Homam, Narasimha Homam, Purusha Suktam and Sri Suktam, among other Vedic rituals.

The day's proceedings concluded with the offering of aarti. Vani, Indraganti Sharma, Bharathi and hundreds of women participated in the yagam. Annadanam was organised at the conclusion of the programme. The organisers announced that T oguta Swamy Sri Sri Madhavananda Swamy would attend the yagam on Saturday and bless the participants, Srikanth Sharma said.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
E-Tender over Salem Division
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Salem Division, Southern Railway invites E-Tender for awarding the contract for Development, Operation and Management of Cargo Related Facilities (Cargo storage, logistics service, value added services) in vacant Railway Land over Salem Division as per details hereunder.

Sl. No	E-Tender reference no	Location of Railway land	Area in Sq.meter	Tender Closing Date
1	SA_C490_CRF_2026_TVK_01	At Km 194/000-700 near Thiruvakavandanur by pass in Salem-Salem Market section	50,000	15.00hrs of 16.11.2026
2	SA_C490_CRF_2026_CHE_01	At Km 152/500-153/100 near Chettipalayam station in Podanur to Kinathukadavu section.	70,000	

All other details can be viewed in the website - www.ireps.gov.in
For enquires / clarifications, if any, please contact the Office of Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Salem Division, Southern Railway, Salem-636005 on any working day or mail queries to **srdcm@sa.railnet.gov.in.** Phone No. **0427-2431010.**
"Dear Railway Passengers! Don't pull the Alarm Chain in Train unless it is Emergency"
For Divisional Railway Manger (Commercial), Salem – 636005

IE(I)-ENGINEERING STAFF COLLEGE OF INDIA
Gachibowli, Hyderabad – 500 032
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Sealed tenders are invited from Authorized Dealers / Agencies for the following work of ESCI in its campus:-
1. Supply, Delivery and Installation of Heat Pump Water Heating System to a capacity of 500 Liters at Krishna Hostel Block in ESCI campus, Gachibowli, Hyderabad.
Last Date to submit tenders is : **30-10-2026 @ 03.00 PM**
For more details, visit our website: www.escihyd.org
Place : Hyderabad
Date : 23-10-2026
O/o. Chief Projects Coordinator, ESCI

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER
Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-MS-EPC-MT-06-2026 DATED 16-10-2026
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.
Name of the work:
Request for Proposal for the "Construction of Patch Doubling from Km:303.556 to Km:325.528 between Aduturai (incl) and Sundaraperumal Koil (incl) stations for Civil Engineering including Utility shifting between Villupuram and Thanjavur."

Cash Value (Cr.,)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees)	Period of Completion (Days)	Closing Date @17.30 Hrs	Pre-Bid Conference Date @ 11.30 Hrs.
145.62	29124600.00	334	18-11-2026	27-10-2026

For further details, please refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai 600 008. **For Chief Engineer (Construction), Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.**
For and On behalf of President of India

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE No. 1 Dt. 21-10-2026 To The E-TENDER NOTICE No. E148-CN-TPJ-TF-058 Dt: 29-09-2026
Name of work:
Provision of Power Quality Restorer for AC Traction System at Traction Substation at Tiruthuraipundi (TSS) and Pattukottai (TSS) - Works Contract - Reg.
With reference to the above tender notice, the Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/General/Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore 600 008, for and on behalf of the President of India, hereby notifies that the date and time for closing of the tender are extended as detailed below:

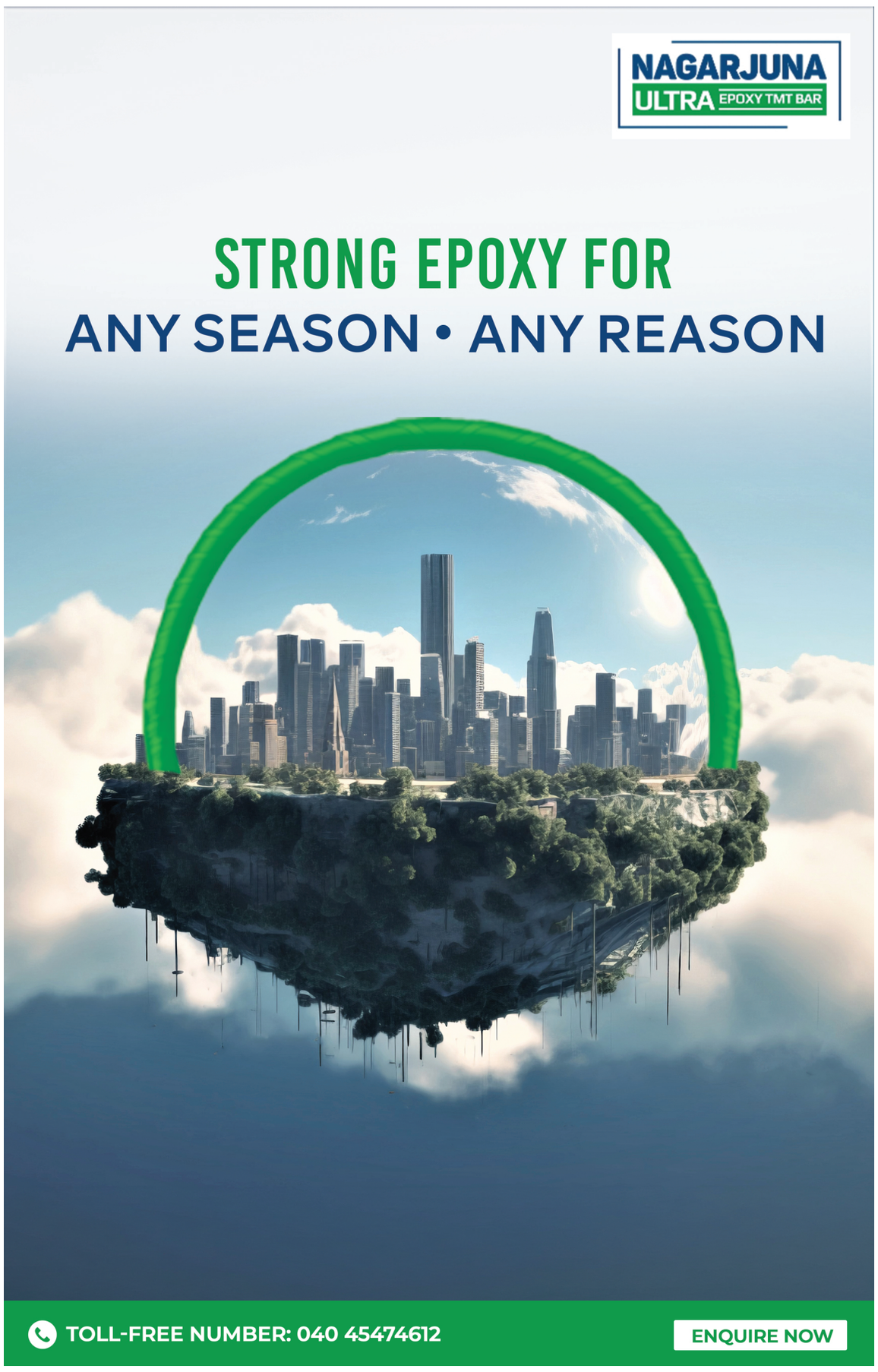
Sl.No	Description	Revised details
1	Revised tender closing date	05-11-2026
2	Tender closing time	11:00 Hrs

All other terms and conditions of the original tender notice shall remain unchanged.For further details, please visit the official Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer,Construction, Southern Railway, Chennai Egmore.
(For and on behalf of President of India)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
EOI for Development of Cargo Related Facilities in Railway land
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Salem Division, Southern Railway invites Expression of Interest for (EOI) for Development of Cargo Related Facilities (Storage facilities) in Railway land available as tabulated below over Salem Division.

S.No	Location of Rly land	Area of in Sq.m
1	Nallampalayam (Coimbatore North-Mettupalayam section)	1,20,000
2	Vijayamangalam (Erode-Tiruppur section)	2,34,700

Interested parties/firms may submit their interest duly completed in a sealed cover to the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Commercial Department, DRM Complex, Suramangalam, Salem - 636005, and send through post/hand/email at srdcm@sa.railnet.gov.in, so as to reach latest by 15:00 Hrs of 31.10.2026. All other details of EOI can be viewed in the Tenders section of website **www.sr.indianrailways.gov.in** For enquires /clarifications, if any, please contact the Office of Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Salem Division, Southern Railway, Salem-636005 on any working day or mail your queries to **srdcm@sa.railnet.gov.in.** Phone No.0427-2431010.
"Dear Railway Passengers! Don't pull the Alarm Chain in Train unless it is Emergency"
For Divisional Railway Manger (Commercial), Salem-636005



SHORT TAKES

Azharuddin calls for wider graduate voter enrolment



HYDERABAD: *Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin has stressed the importance of graduate voter registration ahead of the upcoming Graduates' MLC elections, describing it as a crucial first step in electoral preparations. Azharuddin, along with Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, participated in a graduate voter registration drive organised at Teachers Colony Park in the Cantonment constituency on Friday in support of Congress candidate Sama Ram Mohan Reddy for the Hyderabad–Rangareddy–Mahabubnagar Graduates' MLC constituency. Azharuddin said the Congress had fielded a young and educated candidate, Sama Ram Mohan Reddy, and described efforts to ensure that all eligible graduates were enrolled in the electoral rolls as an important initiative. He expressed confidence that Ram Mohan Reddy, if elected to the Legislative Council, would effectively raise public issues and represent people's aspirations. The Minister urged eligible graduates to complete their voter registration and called for active participation in the process, stressing its importance in the party's preparations for the election.*

Special Welfare Boards for Unorganised Workers: Minister Vivek Venkataswamy

- **Separate boards for hamalis and domestic workers to be set up soon**
- **Protecting workers' rights is the strength of democracy**
- **Industrial development and workers' welfare are equally important**

HYDERABAD



The Telangana government is taking special measures to provide social security to unorganised sector workers and protect their rights, State Energy and Mines Minister Dr. Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy said. He announced that separate welfare boards would soon be established for hamali workers and domestic workers.

He said the government had initiated legislative measures to safeguard the welfare of gig and platform workers and that the relevant rules would be announced shortly.

The Minister was speaking at a conference on "Social Democracy, Political Leadership and Trade Unions: Rebuilding the Architecture of Social Dialogue", held at Lemon Tree Hotel in Hyderabad on Friday. The conference deliberated on strengthening democracy, protecting workers' rights and preparing the labour sector for changing work patterns in the future.

Vivek Venkataswamy said that approximately 93 per cent of the country's workforce was employed in the unorganised sector. While workers in the organised sector had opportunities to fight for their rights and demands through trade unions, unorganised workers lacked comparable representation and protection. He stressed the need for further dialogue and policy interventions to address their concerns.

Recalling the contribution of his father, Gaddam Venkataswamy, the Minister said he had paid special attention to the problems of unorganised workers. Even when industrial groups opposed the introduction of a pension scheme for private-sector employees, his father had stood firmly in support of workers' interests.

The Minister highlighted Rahul Gandhi's initiative to protect the rights of gig workers. He said that, following Rahul Gandhi's initiative, Telangana had introduced legislation for the welfare of gig workers and established a board to safeguard their interests. The relevant rules would be announced soon, he added.

He said steps were also being taken to establish separate welfare boards for hamali workers and domestic workers. The government was according priority to the rights of gig and platform workers, social security, fair wages and workplace safety.

The Minister said that minimum wages had not been notified in Telangana for the past ten years. After he assumed responsibility for the Labour Department, minimum wages were notified following consultations with industry representatives, ensuring that workers' interests were protected. He explained that productivity would improve and industrial peace would prevail when workers received fair wages and enjoyed a dignified standard of living. Investment and employment opportunities would increase only when industries and workers progressed through mutual cooperation.

Vivek Venkataswamy cautioned that workers' safety must not be neglected in the name of ease of doing business. Referring to the accident at the Sigachi industry, in which 54 workers lost their lives, he said industrial managements must compulsorily implement the safety measures recommended by officials during factory inspections.

He called for inspection reports to be discussed at company board meetings and for corrective measures to be taken to address safety deficiencies. Industrial managements must recognise their responsibilities and give priority to protecting workers' lives, he said. The Minister said skill development would be crucial to achieving Telangana's target of becoming a $3 trillion economy by 2047. The state was upgrading Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) and providing training in modern technologies in line with industry requirements.

He said the objective was to prepare skilled youth for emerging industries in sectors such as defence and aerospace. The government had also launched a programme to provide a monthly stipend of ₹2,000 to ITI students.

The Minister said Telangana's youth were being trained in German to help them access employment opportunities abroad. Germany offered opportunities for skilled workers, and discussions with German organisations had included references to approximately five lakh job opportunities, he said. In his constituency, 70 young people in Mandamarri were receiving German-language training. He said his organisation was also providing them with stipends and efforts were underway to facilitate employment in Germany after they completed their training.

He emphasised the need for young people to learn foreign languages and acquire modern skills in line with changing employment opportunities in Europe, Japan and other countries.

The Minister stressed that workers must play a key role in policymaking. He said a just and inclusive society could be built through strong trade unions, responsible political leadership, fair wages, social security and meaningful social dialogue.

FIEO to conduct Two-Day Export Training Programme in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) is organizing a Two-Days Certificate Program on Export Opportunities and How to Start an Export Business on 29 th & 30 th October, 2026 at Hyderabad, with the support of Central Bank of India.

The programme aims to equip aspiring entrepreneurs, start-ups, existing exporters and business professionals with the knowledge and practical skills required to enter international markets, identify export opportunities and build sustainable export businesses. The programme is designed to benefit both beginners and experienced professionals seeking to strengthen their understanding of international trade procedures and practices.

The sessions will cover a wide range of topics, including export registration procedures, Foreign Trade Policy and export incentive schemes, export finance, product and country selection, international market research, ITC-HS classification, and innovative tools for identifying potential overseas buyers. Participants will also gain insights into International Commercial Terms (Incoterms), international payment methods, Letters of Credit, export packaging and labelling standards, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), GST basics and refunds, and FEMA regulations relating to exports and imports.

Other important areas of discussion include credit risk management in international trade, export opportunities through Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras (DNK) and India Post, and the role of Export Promotion Councils and FIEO in supporting exporters.

Experts on the respective subjects will deliver detailed presentations and interact with participants. Officials from Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC), Department of Posts, Bank and Subject Experts have been invited to participate and address the sessions, providing valuable insights into exports.

A certificate will be provided to participants upon completion of the programme. The programme is expected to help participants understand the essential requirements of starting an export business, explore new international markets, improve export compliance, and make effective use of available government schemes and institutional support, said Mr. Unnikrishnan K., Joint Director General, FIEO. For participation and other details, please contact: Mr. R. Kulkarni, Head - Telangana Chapter on 9848286640, email: kulkarni@fieo.org



MeeSeva Now at Your Doorstep, Certificates and Aadhaar Services Delivered at Home

- **Within a month of its launch, the MeeSeva Doorstep Delivery Service has received 3,885 calls from citizens on toll-free number 1100**

HYDERABAD

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Minister for ITE&C, D. Sridhar Babu, MeeSeva continues to strengthen its citizen-centric services, bringing greater convenience, accessibility and transparency to the people of Telangana.

Citizens can now avail a wide range of MeeSeva services, including Income, Caste, Residence, Birth and Death certificates, as well as Aadhaar enrolment and updates, right at their doorstep through the MeeSeva Doorstep Delivery Service – without visiting a MeeSeva or Aadhaar centre or waiting in queues.

Citizens simply need to dial toll-free number 1100 or raise a request on the MeeSeva citizen portal, and a MeeSeva executive will visit their home to complete the service.

Response Since Launch

• 3,885 calls received from citizens on the 1100 helpline within the first month.

The initiative is part of the Government's Telangana Rising vision of citizen-centric, transparent and accessible governance. Doorstep delivery is currently available only in CURE areas. Applicable service charges will be levied.

How to Avail the Service

1. Dial toll-free number 1100 or raise a request on the MeeSeva citizen portal.
2. Select the required service (certificate or Aadhaar) and share the necessary details with the call centre executive.
3. A MeeSeva Doorstep executive visits the citizen's home at the scheduled time and completes the service.

Telangana Achieves 100% Implementation of Phase I Reforms



- **State Targets Completion of All Applicable Phase II Reforms by November 15**
- **Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju Reviews Progress at Secretariat**

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju reviewed the progress of the State's Deregulation and Compliance Reduction exercise at a meeting held at the Secretariat on Friday. The meeting was attended by Sukriti Likhi, Secretary to the Government of India. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary briefed the Central Government officials on the progress achieved by Telangana under Phase I of the exercise. He stated that the State had successfully implemented all 23 out of 23 identified Priority Areas, achieving 100 per cent implementation under the first phase. With the recent enactment of the State Jan Vishwas Bill, the remaining reform under Phase I has also been completed.

Sanjay Jaju stated that the successful implementation of the reforms reflects the State Government's continued efforts to simplify regulatory frameworks, reduce compliance requirements and create a conducive environment for businesses and enterprises.

28 Priority Areas Identified Under Phase II

The Chief Secretary informed the meeting that Phase II comprises 28 Priority Areas, including 23 mandatory and five optional reforms. Telangana has implemented 12 of these 28 Priority Areas so far. The State is targeting the completion of all applicable Priority Areas under Phase II by November 15, 2026. He observed that Telangana is among the highly urbanised States in the country and has been at the forefront of implementing reforms aimed at strengthening its business environment. He emphasised the importance of simplifying procedures, reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens and promoting a business-friendly ecosystem to support the growth of industries and enterprises.

Centre Appreciates Telangana's Progress

Sukriti Likhi, Secretary to the Government of India, explained that the Central Government has been undertaking several initiatives to improve the Ease of Doing Business across the country.

She stated that the Deregulation and Compliance Reduction exercise is one such initiative, aimed at streamlining regulatory requirements and reducing the compliance burden on businesses and citizens. She appreciated the progress made by Telangana and discussed the implementation of the identified Priority Areas with the officials. Director General of Fire Services Vikram Singh Maan, Principal Secretary for Civil Supplies Stephen Raveendra, Principal Secretary for Environment, Forests, Science and Technology Shailaja Ramaiyer, Law Secretary Papi Reddy, Industries Special Secretary Krishna Aditya and other officials attended the meeting.

We have sought CPI support in the graduates' MLC elections: TPCC President

HYDERABAD

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud on Friday said that he had requested CPI leaders to support the victory of the Congress party candidates in the upcoming graduates' MLC elections. A meeting was held between the Congress and CPI leaders at the CPI state office in Himayatnagar. On this occasion, political coordination between the two parties, support in the graduates' MLC elections and other issues were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud stated that the CPI was a partner in the India alliance and contested the last assembly elections together with the Congress party. He said that they were moving forward with the CPI in the public sphere with the aim of public welfare. He revealed that the CPI had sought the support for the victory of the Congress party candidates in the upcoming two graduates' MLC elections. He also said that discussions were ongoing with the CPM for its support in the elections.

State Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Azharuddin, Rajya Sabha member Vem Narender Reddy, and MP Mallu Ravi, participated in the meeting. On behalf of the CPI, State Secretary Kunanneni Sambasiva Rao, MLC Nellikanti Satyam, National Executive members Palla Venkat Reddy, Chada Venkat Reddy and others were present.



BRS State Leader Kethireddy Devender Reddy Meets KTR

- **Offers Dasara Greetings, Discusses Party Strengthening in Manakondur Constituency**

KARIMNAGAR

BRS state leader Kethireddy Devender Reddy, a native of Thimmapur in Karimnagar district, met BRS working president and former minister Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday. During the meeting, Devender Reddy extended Dasara greetings to KTR and felicitated him with a traditional shawl as a mark of respect and affection. The two exchanged festive wishes and held discussions on various political issues. Devender Reddy said he was pleased to meet KTR and convey his festive greetings. He added that they discussed strengthening the BRS in the Manakondur Assembly constituency.

He stated that the party would intensify its efforts to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level and highlight the alleged failures of the Congress government in the coming days.

BC Commission Focuses on Modernization of Traditional Occupations

- **Emphasis on Creating Sustainable Income Opportunities for Backward Class Communities**

HYDERABAD



The Telangana Commission for Backward Classes held an in-depth discussion on modernizing traditional occupations pursued by Backward Class (BC) communities and creating sustainable income opportunities for traditional artisans and occupational groups.

The meeting was held under the leadership of BC Commission Chairman G. Niranjan, along with Commission Members Rapolu Jayaprakash, Tirumalagiri Surender and Dr. Balalakshmi Rangu, and Commission Member Secretary B. Bala Maya Devi, IAS.

During the meeting, the Commission held detailed discussions with officials of various Caste Corporations and Federations functioning under the Backward Classes Department. The discussions focused on modernizing traditional caste-based occupations and identifying measures to ensure sustainable livelihoods and long-term income opportunities for those dependent on these professions.

Officials briefed the Commission on the initiatives undertaken so far for the development of various traditional occupations and outlined the measures that need to be implemented in the future.

On the occasion, the Commission decided to undertake field visits to study progressive practices and innovative approaches being followed in traditional occupations. It also resolved to examine successful models adopted in different parts of Telangana and other states and, if necessary, explore best practices followed in other countries.

The Commission further decided to conduct consultations with concerned government officials and various organizations to identify effective strategies for strengthening traditional occupations. Suggestions and recommendations will also be sought from representatives of the respective caste communities to ensure that the proposed measures address the needs and challenges of occupational groups.

The initiative aims to explore ways to modernize traditional professions, improve their economic viability and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for Backward Class communities.

Senior officials of the Backward Classes Department, including K. Aloke Kumar, Dr. Mallayya Battu, M. Indira, D. Srinivas Reddy, Uday Prakash and Mamidi Harikrishna, participated in the meeting. Commission officials, including Special Officer N. Sunitha, Section Officers Irfan Bin Khalid and G. Satish Kumar, and Research Officer G. Lakshmi Narayana, along with others, were also present.

Hold inquiry in Saraka industries gas leak incident: Harish Rao

HYDERABAD



BRS party Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao on Friday said that it was extremely sad that two workers died due to a gas leak in the Saraka Chemical Industry in Gaddapotharam Industrial Area of Jinnaram Mandal in Sangareddy District. He expressed his deep condolences to the families of the deceased. He demanded that the state government provide better medical treatment to the injured and announce an ex-gratia of Rs. 1 crore to the families of the deceased.

Harish Rao said that it was wicked that the state government does not care even though such incidents happen frequently in industries. He was angry and asked what this government should learn from the bitter experiences of the past? He said that the negligence of the Congress government was costing the lives of innocent workers.

He expressed his concern that the implementation of safety standards in industries had become questionable and added that there was no supervision by the authorities. He said that apart from coming after the accident and posing for photos, the ministers were doing nothing to ensure the lives of the workers? Harish Rao questioned the Congress government as to when strict action would be taken against the owners of industries that are playing with the lives of workers without following safety standards?

He demanded that a thorough investigation be conducted into the Saraka industry incident and strict action be taken against the owners of the company responsible for the accident. He demanded that the safety measures be strengthened in the industries to prevent such accidents from recurring in the future. He demanded that the government ensure the lives of the innocent workers, who came for employment. He demanded that the CM keep his promise by providing the compensation of one crore rupees announced by him to all the 54 working families who lost their heads in the Sigachi incident.

Why Is Respect for Teachers Declining? A Shared Responsibility of Parents, Schools and Society

BY DR. KOMATIREDDY GOPAL REDDY

Educationist and Environmentalist | Chairman, Lotus Lap Group of Public Schools



Introduction: The Changing Role of Teachers

Teachers have traditionally held a respected position in Indian society, guiding students beyond textbooks and examinations to develop character, discipline and responsibility. However, concerns about indiscipline and disrespect towards teachers among some students highlight the need to strengthen values within the education system. This challenge cannot be addressed by schools alone. Parents, teachers and society must work together to restore mutual respect and create a positive learning environment.

The Family as the First School

Children learn values primarily through observing their parents. When parents speak respectfully about teachers and cooperate with schools, children are more likely to develop similar attitudes. Disagreements should be addressed through constructive discussions rather than personal criticism or public confrontation.

Modern parents often face demanding work schedules and other responsibilities, leaving limited time for meaningful interaction with their children. Providing quality education and material comforts is important, but children also need emotional support, guidance and attention. Parents should regularly discuss their children's school experiences, behaviour and relationships with teachers.

Digital Influence and Academic Pressure

Smartphones and social media offer valuable learning opportunities, but excessive screen time can affect concentration, sleep and communication skills. Parents and schools must encourage responsible technology use and establish balanced routines. Similarly, excessive emphasis on marks, ranks and competitive examinations can overshadow character development. Academic success alone does not define a person's values. Education must nurture honesty, patience, empathy, humility and self-discipline alongside intellectual ability.

Teachers and Parents Must Work Together

Teachers play an important role in identifying students' strengths, correcting mistakes and building confidence. However, respect must be mutual. Teachers should avoid humiliating students, discriminating against them or damaging their self-esteem. Discipline should encourage understanding and self-control rather than fear.

Parents and teachers must work as partners. Regular meetings should address not only academic performance but also behaviour, emotional well-being and social development. Schools should provide counselling and fair grievance-redressal mechanisms whenever necessary.

Making Value-Based Education Essential

Values must become part of everyday school life rather than remain confined to moral lessons or special occasions. Schools should promote respectful communication, community service, environmental protection, digital responsibility and peaceful conflict resolution.

Governments and educational institutions must also strengthen teacher training, student safety measures and professional support. Teachers deserve protection from threats and harassment, while students must be safeguarded against humiliation, discrimination and physical punishment.

Conclusion: Respect Must Begin at Home

Restoring respect for teachers requires consistent efforts from parents, schools, policymakers and society. Parents must lead by example, while teachers must demonstrate fairness, compassion and professionalism.

Education should produce more than successful examination candidates. It must nurture responsible citizens who respect others, accept accountability and contribute positively to society.

Respect for teachers, dignity for students, quality in education and values in society are essential foundations for a responsible and progressive India.

RAIL JAN SAMVAAD CONDUCTED SUCCESSFULLY AT 330 STATIONS OVER SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

HUBBALLI

South Western Railway successfully conducted the nationwide 'Rail Jan Samvaad' programme at 330 railway stations across its jurisdiction on 22 October 2026 as part of Special Campaign 6, with the objective of strengthening direct interaction with passengers and obtaining public feedback for improving railway services. Approximately 700 railway officials, including officers, Station Masters and other supervisors, participated in the programme and interacted with passengers, commuters, youth and other stakeholders to gather their valuable suggestions and feedback. As part of the programme, Shri P. Ananth, General Manager, South Western Railway, interacted with passengers at Belagavi Railway Station. During the interaction, passengers appreciated the station's cleanliness, information boards and parking facilities. The General Manager also sensitised passengers to the importance of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene within railway station premises and encouraged them to actively contribute towards keeping railway stations clean.

Divisional Railway Managers of Hubballi, Bengaluru and Mysuru also conducted Rail Jan Samvaad at various stations. The interactions across South Western Railway focused on various aspects of railway services, including cleanliness, passenger amenities, train punctuality, ticketing facilities, safety, accessibility and other passenger-related issues. The initiative provided an opportunity for passengers to share their concerns and suggestions directly with railway officials. The suggestions and grievances received during the programme will be documented and categorised for appropriate follow-up action, including immediate resolution, departmental action and long-term interventions, wherever required. The programme also reinforced the importance of cleanliness and public participation in improving the overall railway travel experience.



IRISET Observes Swachhata Hi Seva and Swachhata Pakhwada 2026

The Swachhata Hi Seva campaign was observed from 17 September to 2 October 2026, followed by Swachhata Pakhwada 2026 at the Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) from 1 October to 15 October 2026. Hyderabad: As part of the celebrations, the Swachhata Pledge was administered by Shri Piush Kumar Gupta, Director General, to all faculty members, staff and trainees. Extensive cleaning and sanitation activities were carried out in various areas of the administrative building and all five hostels attached to the institute. Shramdaan activities were also organised at different locations across the campus to promote cleanliness, water conservation and the prohibition of single-use plastics. Various activities were conducted during the campaign, including the felicitation of Safai Mitras, who play a vital role in maintaining a clean and hygienic campus. A drawing competition on the theme "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat Viksit Bharat" was organised, with enthusiastic participation from IRISET staff and trainees. Tree plantation activities were also undertaken on the campus to promote environmental sustainability. In addition, posters highlighting the importance of waste segregation were displayed at prominent locations to raise awareness and encourage responsible waste management practices. Through these initiatives, IRISET reaffirmed its commitment to cleanliness, environmental protection and the active participation of all stakeholders in building a cleaner and greener India.

Jagan Seeks Amicus Curiae to Oversee Andhra Local Body Polls

TADEPALLI (ANDHRA PRADESH), OCT 23



Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday accused the NDA government in the state of not honouring the Supreme Court directives in connection with the conduct of local body elections and sought an appointment of an amicus curiae to supervise the polls. Accusing the TDP-led coalition of continuing its mocking of democracy, he also demanded deployment of central forces and CCTV coverage of the election process. Addressing a press conference, YS Jagan said the Chandrababu government is not honouring the apex court directive and is going ahead with the anarchy in the local body elections by continuing its attacks on YSRCP candidates and snatching of ballot papers. Alleging that police were acting with bias, he claimed that the basic structure of democracy was being threatened, pushing the state towards a constitutional crisis. The YSRCP chief remarked that the script in the ZPTC and MPTC nominations is no different from the elections to urban local bodies, as YSRCP candidates, including women, were attacked, threatened, and nomination papers snatched and torn away.

He released a book titled 'Pachamookala Dadulu' (attacks by yellow mobs), which is a compilation of pictorial evidence of the attacks. The QR code of the book would be made available to all those who want to safeguard democracy, and will also be submitted to the Courts, he said.

"We have been reporting all incidents to the concerned officials and will also move the Courts as democracy is at stake with the prevailing anarchy, and the TDP is rigging the nominations even by filing papers on behalf of YSRCP to add up to the number and mislead the Courts. They have also forged the signatures of our candidates and announced the withdrawal of nominations," he said.

The former Chief Minister said that in the prevailing anarchy, the Court should order the appointment of an amicus curiae to supervise the elections, besides deployment of central forces, video recording of the election process and providing protection to all contesting candidates. "When the elections are being held on party basis, and when we released the list of our party candidates, where is the necessity for not allowing anyone to file nomination papers?" he asked, adding that the State Election Commission (SEC) has been undermining the Supreme Court directives and has cherry-picked a few centres to allow re-nominations.

He said while YSRCP complained that nominations were obstructed in 19 municipalities, the SEC considered a handful of wards in four urban bodies -- Tirupati, Kadapa, Rajampeta and Mydukur.

YS Jagan alleged that the government has been playing all the tricks to keep the opposition away from the fray by rejecting nominations during scrutiny and resorting to all kinds of malpractices. He lauded the efforts of the YSRCP cadre, which stood against the tide to save democracy, and said that in the coming days, all erring officials will have to bear the consequences. Listing out the attacks on party candidates and leaders, YS Jagan said, MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy was arrested from the Party Office in Kadapa, and former Deputy Chief Minister Narayana Swamy was attacked in Chittoor. "We have reported the bias of officials to the SEC, but no action was taken, which shows that Chandrababu is pulling the strings as he is afraid of the results, as he failed to fulfil his poll promises," he said. He claimed that YSRCP has conducted local body elections despite adverse conditions of the Covid pandemic and a hostile SEC. He said the people had then voted for YSRCP with a decisive mandate as it had rolled out the welfare programme and had effectively reached out to the people.

Pawan Kalyan Meets Naidu Again Over Local Body Polls

Amaravati, October 23: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan met Chief Minister and TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu for the second consecutive day on Friday to discuss seat-sharing arrangements for the upcoming MPTC and ZPTC elections. The two leaders held a half-hour meeting at Naidu's residence amid differences among the ruling NDA partners over the allocation of seats in Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTCs) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTCs). With no formal agreement in place, aspirants from the TDP, Jana Sena and BJP have filed nominations in constituencies where they believe they have strong prospects. The leaders are understood to have discussed ways to reach a consensus. Their latest meeting follows Thursday's discussions on developments arising from the Supreme Court's directive to the State Election Commission (SEC) to extend nominations in urban local bodies where candidates could not file papers because of law-and-order issues. Following the order, the SEC postponed municipal elections from October 28 to November 1 and extended nominations in four urban local bodies. The NDA partners had already agreed on seat-sharing arrangements for 100 urban local bodies. The deadline for MPTC and ZPTC nominations ended on Friday evening. Around 2.81 crore voters are eligible to vote in the elections scheduled for November 3. Polling will be held for 659 of 663 ZPTCs and 9,829 of 9,858 MPTCs.



₹20 Crore Sanctioned for Development of Panagal Chaya Someswara Temple

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Thanks Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Jupally Krishna Rao

NALGONDA :

Will strive to secure UNESCO recognition for the temple with the support of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy: Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Chaya Someswara Temple, designed to cast a continuous shadow on the Shiva Lingam, is a testament to Telangana's architectural brilliance: Minister Devotees and local residents express happiness over the release of funds Hyderabad: State Roads and Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has expressed happiness over the state government sanctioning ₹20 crore for the development of the historic Chaya Someswara Temple at Panagal. The Minister said that the temple, which stands as a symbol of Telangana's historical and cultural heritage, would be developed in all respects and transformed into a world-class tourist destination. He stated that the Chaya Someswara Temple is unique in the world, as artisans hundreds of years ago masterfully combined light, shadow and architectural science to ensure that a continuous shadow falls on the Shiva Lingam. He described the temple as a remarkable example of Telangana's architectural excellence and the advanced engineering knowledge of ancient times. The Minister made it clear that he would strive to secure UNESCO recognition for the temple. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Jupally Krishna Rao for sanctioning ₹20 crore for the temple's development. He said the government's objective was to preserve the state's historical heritage while enhancing its importance as a tourist destination. Devotees and local residents have expressed their happiness over the allocation of funds for the temple's development, facilitated by the Minister's initiative.

Bias Allegations in AP Local Body Elections: MP Gurumoorthy Seeks Removal of Several IPS Officers

New Delhi: YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MP Gurumoorthy has demanded the removal of several IPS officers from election duties, alleging bias in the conduct of local body elections in Andhra Pradesh. According to party sources, he has written to the President of India, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the State Election Commissioner, the Union Home Secretary, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), and the Governor, seeking action on the matter. The MP has lodged complaints against several officials, including DIG Koya Praveen, Annamayya district Superintendent of Police Dheeraj Kanubilli, and Kadapa district SP Shelke Nachiket Vishwanath. Gurumoorthy alleged that Koya Praveen had been removed from election duties during the 2019 elections following allegations of bias, and that his reappointment to election-related duties amounted to a violation of the rules.

In his letter, the MP reportedly alleged that TDP workers attacked MP P. Mithun Reddy and YSRCP candidates in Punganur. He also claimed that obstacles were created during the nomination process in Pulivendula, Kamalapuram, Rajampet, Badvel and Proddatur in Kadapa and Annamayya districts. He called for an independent investigation into these allegations.

Gurumoorthy further demanded an inquiry into the implementation of High Court directions, police conduct and alleged failures in supervision. He urged the authorities to collect CCTV footage, videos, complaints and FIRs to conduct a comprehensive investigation and ensure adequate protection for candidates. The responses of the officials concerned to these allegations are awaited.

Green Push at Sangaithel: Home Minister Govindas Launches Orchard at SEEDS Complex

IMPHAL, 23RD OCTOBER 2026:



The SEEDS Complex at Sangaithel is set to turn greener and more vibrant in the coming years with the launch of the 'SEEDS Green Legacy Orchard' initiative. An initiative of the Socio Economic and Environment Development Society (SEEDS) and the Editors' Guild Manipur (EGM), the orchard was launched today with the theme "Planting Today, Nourishing Generations" aimed at promoting fruit tree plantation, a greener environment and sustainable livelihoods. The orchard was formally launched by Hon'ble Minister Shri K. Govindas Singh, Minister for Home, Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of Manipur, by planting mature, fruit-bearing trees. The Minister himself also brought some mature trees for planting on the occasion. The Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Government of Manipur, co-sponsored the programme and extended support by contributing saplings and fruit-bearing trees. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Govindas appreciated the efforts of the SEEDS. He stressed that plantation alone is not enough and that sustained maintenance is key to ensuring the survival and growth of saplings. He noted that with proper care and preservation, the SEEDS Complex will become a very pleasing and beautiful green space within the next four to five years. He also acknowledged the CRPF personnel for their role in looking after and safeguarding the complex. The Green Legacy Orchard initiative seeks to develop the SEEDS Complex into a model green space through systematic planting and preservation of fruit-bearing trees. Following the launch, the Home Minister also inspected the adjacent Olympian Park and reviewed its present condition. A talk on plantation of horticulture plants was also given by the Assistant Agriculture Officer, Imphal West. The function was attended by AMWJU President Asem Bhakta Singh, Editors' Guild Manipur President Khogendra Khomdram, members of the print and electronic media, and members of SEEDS. The programme was supported by the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union and Manipur Hill Journalists' Union. The programme concluded with an interaction and lunch.

India Tells Pakistan at UN It Has No Right to Lecture India on Minority Rights

New Delhi: India has told Pakistan at the United Nations that it should examine the situation of minorities within its own borders before lecturing India on the protection of minority rights. India's representative strongly questioned Pakistan's position on minority protection and religious discrimination, urging Islamabad to explain how it safeguards minorities and ensures their rights are upheld.

Speaking at the United Nations, India's representative, Bhavika Mangalanandan, said that protecting minority rights is the responsibility of every country. She urged Pakistan to address concerns over religious discrimination and the safety of minorities within its own territory before criticising India on these issues.

During her remarks, the Indian representative also referred to the 1999 Kargil War. She recalled that India had accorded military honours to the bodies of Pakistani soldiers killed during the conflict and conducted their last rites in accordance with Islamic traditions. She said the incident reflected India's approach to humanity and respect for the dead.

India also urged Pakistan to address the situation in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, emphasising the need for responsible action on issues concerning the rights and welfare of the people living there.

India stressed that minority rights should not be reduced to political accusations but should instead focus on ensuring security, equal rights and religious freedom on the ground. It also sent a strong message that Pakistan should address concerns within its own country before making allegations against other nations on international platforms.

EDITORIAL

Indian Agriculture Needs Resilience, Not Just Relief

Indian agriculture remains the backbone of rural livelihoods, yet millions of farmers continue to face uncertainty over rainfall, crop prices, input costs and market access. Government support through subsidies, loan waivers, minimum support prices and compensation for crop losses provides necessary relief. However, repeated dependence on emergency assistance highlights a deeper problem: Indian agriculture needs resilience, not merely relief. Climate change has made farming increasingly unpredictable. Erratic monsoons, prolonged dry spells, floods, heatwaves and changing pest patterns threaten crop yields and farmers' incomes. Small and marginal farmers, who often lack irrigation facilities, savings and access to affordable credit, are particularly vulnerable. When a crop fails, the consequences extend beyond the farm, affecting household consumption, children's education and repayment of loans. India has made considerable progress in food production, irrigation and agricultural technology. Nevertheless, the benefits remain unevenly distributed. Many farmers continue to depend heavily on monsoon rainfall, while inadequate storage, processing facilities and transport infrastructure contribute to post-harvest losses. Price fluctuations further weaken farm incomes, often leaving producers with limited bargaining power despite their essential contribution to food security.

The answer lies in shifting the focus from crisis management to long-term preparedness. Expanding micro-irrigation, rainwater harvesting and watershed development can improve water-use efficiency. Investments in drought-resistant and flood-tolerant crop varieties, soil health and scientific farming practices can help farmers adapt to changing weather conditions. Reliable local weather forecasts and timely advisories must reach cultivators in languages and formats they can easily understand. Crop insurance also requires greater effectiveness. Farmers need transparent assessment of losses, simplified procedures and timely compensation. Insurance should function as a dependable safety net rather than a promise that is difficult to realise after a disaster. Affordable institutional credit and accessible agricultural extension services are equally important to prevent farmers from falling into cycles of debt.

Market reforms must accompany these measures. Better storage, cold chains, food processing and farmer-producer organisations can reduce wastage and strengthen bargaining power. Assured and remunerative prices, supported by efficient procurement where appropriate, remain important. At the same time, crop diversification towards pulses, oilseeds, millets and suitable horticultural crops can reduce dependence on water-intensive cultivation and improve nutritional security. Agricultural resilience cannot be built through government action alone. State governments, research institutions, cooperatives and private enterprises must work together, with farmers participating in decisions that affect their livelihoods. Public investment should prioritise regions and communities most exposed to climate risks.

Relief will always be necessary when disasters strike. But a farming economy that repeatedly requires rescue is not sufficiently protected against foreseeable risks. India must measure agricultural progress not only by record harvests, but also by stable incomes, efficient water use, lower losses and farmers' ability to withstand shocks. The ultimate goal should be to move Indian agriculture from vulnerability to preparedness. Farmers do not need assistance only after their crops fail; they need the resources, knowledge and security to ensure that failure does not become a recurring threat to their survival.

LET'S POUR WATER FIRST

Let's pour some water gentle and clear,
"Why?" you ask then lend your ear.
A seed won't sprout on lifeless ground,
Just like hearts where love's not found.

Today we cry for things so small,
A word misplaced and tears will fall.
Storms arise from thoughts misread,
When trust is gone, and hope lies dead.

The roots of love are parched and dry,
Connections fade, as years go by.
So pour the water warm and kind,

For faith can heal the doubting mind.
Between two souls, let trust be grown,
Without it, we are lost, alone.
Each lock we fix, each guarded door,
Speaks of belief we hold no more.

Each street now hums a silent song,
Of hearts that ache to just belong.
Where trust is strong, peace starts to flow,
Like streams that spring from melting snow.

But when we doubt, and faith is thin,
The fights erupt, and none can win.
Revenge is just a wasted race,
While trust can lift the darkest face.

So let us pour not rain, but grace,
That brings back light to every place.
It soothes the soul, it clears the skies,
And makes the heavy spirits rise.

Let faith come first in all we say,
The guiding stream along our way.
For in its flow, new dreams take flight,
And every heart shines full and bright.

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

Special Article on United Nations Day (24 October 2026)

The UN's credibility under scrutiny: Reform is the only way to restore its prestige



United Nations Day is not merely a celebration of the establishment of an international organisation; it is an occasion to reaffirm the ideals of world peace, human rights, justice, equality and cooperation among nations—ideals that inspired the creation of the United Nations in the aftermath of the devastation of the Second World War. When the UN Charter came into force on 24 October 1945, the world placed its hopes in a new international order in which dialogue would prevail over war, cooperation over confrontation, and justice over the brute force of power. Today, however, as the world grapples with multiple wars, terrorism, geopolitical rivalries and humanitarian crises, serious questions are being raised about the role, impartiality and effectiveness of the United Nations. When an organisation expected to uphold international justice, itself comes under a cloud of suspicion, a process of introspection becomes imperative. It would be unfair to overlook the achievements of the United Nations. It has provided a common platform for international dialogue, established global standards of human dignity through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and sought to restore stability in several countries through peacekeeping operations. Its various agencies have made significant contributions to global health, child welfare, education, refugee assistance and sustainable development. Yet the fundamental question remains: has the United Nations succeeded in fulfilling its most critical responsibilities—preventing wars, effectively curbing terrorism and ensuring equal treatment for all nations? The experience of recent years offers no reassuring answer.

The greatest weakness of the United Nations is evident in the structure of its Security Council. The veto power enjoyed by the United States, Russia, China, France and the United Kingdom often becomes an instrument for safeguarding their national interests rather than advancing global peace. Whenever decisive action on a war or humanitarian catastrophe is blocked by geopolitical rivalries, the declarations and appeals of the United Nations begin to lose their moral authority. Conflicts such as those in Gaza, Ukraine and Syria have sharpened the question of whether an organisation entrusted with maintaining international peace is genuinely capable of playing a decisive role. The irony is that while the world has changed dramatically, the UN's decision-making framework remains largely shackled to the same old balance of power.

A recent controversy concerning Dawood Ibrahim and his criminal syndicate, D-Company, has further raised questions about the credibility of the United Nations. A report by Ben Saul, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, described D-Company as an "India-based" criminal syndicate. On 21 October 2026, India strongly objected to this description before the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, calling it factually incorrect and damaging to the organisation's credibility. Indian representative Raghu Puri referred to Dawood Ibrahim's history of involvement in terrorist activities and the relevant facts recorded in the UN sanctions list. He emphasised that Dawood is a wanted fugitive in India and, according to India, is residing in Pakistan.

This controversy is serious because factual accuracy and impartiality must be paramount in matters as sensitive as terrorism. Incorrect or incomplete information about the geographical origins or base of a terrorist organisation is not merely an error in a report; it raises questions about the credibility of international counter-terrorism efforts. While a mistake in one report cannot justify dismissing the entire work of the United Nations, it is essential to ensure that such errors are investigated, corrected and accompanied by appropriate accountability. The independence of Special Rapporteurs is important, but independence cannot mean freedom from factual scrutiny or responsibility.

The United Nations must also adopt a balanced approach to human rights. Human rights are not confined by national borders, but conclusions drawn against any country in their name must be based on credible evidence and a careful assessment of the circumstances. The rights of civilians affected by terrorism must receive the same serious consideration as the rights of individuals who may be wronged during counterterrorism operations. The human rights of terrorism victims are just as important as those of innocent people affected by measures taken to combat terrorism. If the international community appears to apply different standards to those who sponsor terrorism, those responsible for violence and those who suffer its consequences, doubts about its impartiality are bound to arise.

Another major challenge confronting the United Nations is the unequal representation of nations and regions. Despite the growing global importance of countries such as India and the increasing influence of Africa and Latin America, comprehensive reform of permanent membership and the veto system in the Security Council remains elusive. Without a structure that reflects the contemporary political, economic and demographic realities of the world, it will be difficult to make the United Nations more democratic, representative and legitimate. A common strategy against terrorism, effective mechanisms for securing ceasefires, uninterrupted access to humanitarian assistance and the equal enforcement of international law must also become priorities. The real meaning of introspection on United Nations Day lies not in merely celebrating the organisation's achievements, but in acknowledging its shortcomings and resolving to correct them. The UN must ensure greater transparency in decision-making, factual accuracy in its reports, accountability among its officials and impartiality towards every nation. Concrete initiatives are needed to curb the misuse of veto power, expand the Security Council and eliminate double standards in the fight against terrorism.

At a time when the world is passing through an era of war, terrorism, violence, humanitarian emergencies and growing distrust among nations, the relevance and responsibility of United Nations Day have become greater than ever. This day is not simply a commemoration of the founding of an international organisation; it is an opportunity to renew the global commitment to peace, coexistence, human dignity and international cooperation. Through its impartiality, credibility and effectiveness, the United Nations must demonstrate that it serves not the interests of powerful nations, but the cause of justice and security for all humanity. Its fundamental responsibility is to prevent wars, curb terrorism and pave the way for peace. The purpose of the United Nations is not to govern the world, but to help protect it from war, injustice and destruction. Its prestige will be determined not by the declarations it issues or the principles it proclaims, but by the impartial and effective action it takes when the world faces a crisis. The message of 24 October will acquire genuine significance only when the organisation returns to the spirit of its founding principles and becomes a trusted forum for equal justice for all nations—powerful or vulnerable, large or small. The United Nations must preserve not merely its existence, but also its relevance. To achieve this, freedom from bias, institutional accountability and far-reaching structural reforms are no longer optional; they have become an absolute necessity.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

Why Punjab Alone Being Defamed for Drug – Menace?

Murder of Parvinder Singh Jhota, an activist who was fighting against the Drug-Menace, has boiled up the political and social atmosphere in the state of Punjab. Seeing the assembly elections on the head, all political parties are trying to get the waves in their own favour and targeting each other for the current deteriorated condition due to root level web of drug menace.

During his continuous second visit to Punjab within three weeks on Dussehra Day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated his claim that the BJP government will eradicate the drug menace up to December 31, 2029. Slamming the present Aam Adami Party (AAP) ruling the state, Shah alleged that the chief minister Bhagwant Mann assumed power promising to eradicate drugs in 3 months; 5 years have passed, and the trade has only grown.

Shah said, "Under the AAP government, the 'Chitta' trade has reached every village in Punjab, and the state government has completely failed to stop it. I promise the people of Punjab - we will end the drug trade by 31 December 2029, and the Modi government will put drug smugglers behind bars."

Union Home Minister further claimed that in the past 1 year, 929 people were arrested across the country under the NDPS Act but in Punjab, where the drug trade is the highest, not a single person was arrested. NCORD, formed to eradicate the drug problem, held 48 meetings across the country, but the Chief Minister of Punjab did not hold even one, showing neither intent nor seriousness. Shah questioned how these drugs are reaching the youth of Punjab? It is impossible to run a drug trade on such a massive scale in Punjab without political patronage.

On the other hand, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) President Sardar Pargat Singh has questioned the BJP-led Central Government and Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the growing drug trade across the country, the illegal sale of pharmaceutical drugs, and the destruction of the younger generation as a result of this menace. He said that the BJP has been in power at the Centre for the past 13 years, with Amit Shah serving as the Union Home Minister. Under these circumstances, neither the Central Government nor the Home Minister can evade responsibility for the spread of the drug trade across Punjab and other states.

Speaking to the media on the occasion of Dussehra celebrations, Sardar Pargat Singh questioned-- What concrete steps had the Central Government taken to curb this menace? Cornering the Central Home Minister, Amit Shah, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab President and Cabinet Minister Aman Arora with his pointed questions on Drug Smuggling, Gujarat's Heroin Seizures and Deteriorating Law & Order Across Country, asked –"Why has the Centre failed to stop drug smuggling across Punjab's 543-km international border, how did heroin consignments of up to 3,000 kg reach Gujarat's Mundra Port, why was the BJP silent on 'chitta' and gangster culture during the 2007–2017 Akali Dal-BJP government, and why must Punjab face scrutiny while gangsters and law-and-order concerns persist in BJP-ruled Haryana, Maharashtra and Rajasthan?"

Addressing a press conference, AAP Punjab President and Cabinet Minister Aman Arora said, "Punjab has a proud tradition of welcoming its guests with open arms, and we welcome Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to meet the families of victims. The Punjab government is ready to answer every question about its performance, but the Union government and the BJP must also answer to the people of Punjab for their own record over the last 12 years." The AAP Punjab President said, "Punjab shares a 543-kilometre international border with Pakistan, and the responsibility for guarding this border rests with the Border Security Force (BSF), which operates under the Union government. Despite this responsibility, drug consignments continue to enter the country. Union Home Minister Amit Shah must explain why the Centre has repeatedly failed to prevent drugs from being smuggled across the international border."

"The Punjab government has strengthened the second line of defence by deploying anti-drone systems to counter cross-border smuggling. When the state is taking measures to prevent drugs from entering Punjab, the Centre must explain what steps it has taken to make the international border more secure and dismantle the networks operating across it," he added.

"My second question to Union Home Minister Amit Shah concerns the massive heroin consignments seized at Gujarat's Mundra Port. How did consignments involving up to 3,000 kilograms of heroin reach a port in Gujarat, a state governed by the BJP for years? What concrete action has the Union government taken against the networks responsible for bringing such huge quantities of drugs into India and distributing them across different states, including Punjab?" Aman Arora asked. "My third question concerns the BJP's own record during the SAD-BJP government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017. The BJP remained part of the government throughout both terms, when the word 'Chitta' became widely associated with Punjab's drug crisis. Why did the BJP fail to raise the alarm or take effective action when the drug problem and gangster culture were emerging in the state?" Aman Arora asked.

The AAP Punjab President further asked, "Why was the BJP silent then, and why is it shedding crocodile tears today? The BJP must explain to the people of Punjab what it did during its decade in power alongside the Shiromani Akali Dal. It cannot escape responsibility for the period when it shared power in Punjab and now selectively questions others."

"My fourth question to Union Home Minister Amit Shah concerns law and order in BJP-ruled states, including Haryana, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Before making Punjab the sole focus of political criticism, the Home Minister must explain the situation in states governed by his own party," Aman Arora said.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on October 20 launched a sharp attack on the BJP and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, challenging them to answer for their failure to curb drug trafficking during their years in power instead of exploiting Punjab's drug crisis and the grief of bereaved families for electoral gains.

Addressing the media on the unfortunate incidents that had taken place in Punjab in recent days, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "Union Home Minister Amit Shah is welcome to visit Punjab whenever he wants. But the BJP is propagating that it has come to save Punjab and make it drug-free. I have a few questions for the Home Minister. When your government was in power in partnership with the Akali Dal from 2007 to 2017, and the problem of drugs grew into a major crisis, with drugs arriving in quantities running into quintals, why were you not concerned about saving Punjab then? Why did you not take action?"

He said, "The border belt extending 50 kilometres is under the Border Security Force (BSF)'s control, and you are the Union Home Minister. Why have you not taken effective action to stop drugs coming from Pakistan? Why do you remember Punjab only when elections approach?"

CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said that he had held several meetings with the Union Home Minister and other authorities, urging them to install anti-drone systems along Punjab's international border with Pakistan. "I have repeatedly requested you to install anti-drone systems along the 532-kilometre border with Pakistan. You have not allowed the necessary system to be installed. We installed our own system in coordination with the BSF, yet you did not take the required action," he said.

The AAP Punjab Media In-charge, Baltej Pannu, said, "Blaming Punjab alone for the drug problem exposes the BJP's political mindset. Several states across the country are facing this challenge, and Punjab's international border makes the problem even more complex. We have installed anti-drone systems to tackle smuggling through drones, but the Centre must also fulfil its responsibility. The Punjab Government has repeatedly written to the Centre seeking to bring certain medicines under the National Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, but no action has been taken."

Is Punjab Government not active to barricade the Drug Menace?

Addressing a press conference, AAP Punjab Media In-charge Baltej Pannu said, "The fight against drugs is not the battle of any one political party; it is a battle involving the entire society. Under the leadership of CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Punjab Government has launched the 'Yudh Nashean Virudh' campaign systematically to eradicate the drug network from its roots." Special DGP Law and Order Praveen Sinha, in a press release on October 20, claimed that meanwhile, Police teams have continued its drive against drugs "Yudh Nashian Virudh" for 598th day with 138 drug smugglers arrested on today and recovered 389 grams heroin, 780 grams opium, 1277 intoxicant tablets/capsules and Rs 10,650 drug money from their possession. With this, the number of total drug smugglers arrested has reached to 86,903 in just 598 days. As part of De-addiction, the Punjab Police has convinced 19 persons to undergo de-addiction and rehabilitation treatment today.

Whether other states are Drug Free?

The current seizure of drugs in other states indicates that the evil also has spread up there. A PIB Delhi release on 19 October, 2026 states - "In a significant crackdown on cross-border narcotics trafficking, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 591.3 kg Ganja (cannabis), in an intelligence-led operation conducted during 17–18 October 2026 in Uttar Pradesh. The operation exposed an elaborate concealment method involving specially fabricated cavities in a truck suspected to be transporting the contraband from Nepal. Another PIB Delhi release of October 19,2026 states— "The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has intensified its crackdown on narcotics trafficking through coordinated, intelligence-led operations, resulting in the seizure of around 7.1 kg amphetamine in two operations and around 3.1 kg of cocaine in a third operation, leading to the arrest of three persons. The seizures were made at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru; near Nagpur; and Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), New Delhi."

Is Haryana, the adjusting state, not in the grip of drug menace?

The Sirsa MP, Former Union Minister, General Secretary of All India Congress Committee and CWC Member Kumari Selja has expressed serious concern over rising drug addiction in Haryana and the poor condition of de-addiction centres, accusing the BJP government of making hollow claims about making the state drug-free. She said unemployment, growing drug addiction and inadequate treatment facilities were jeopardising the future of young people. Addiction was destroying families and adversely affecting the social environment and law and order, she added. Questioning the BJP's claims on tackling drugs, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann pointed to the drug problem in Rajasthan, the presence of gangsters in Haryana and the seizure of large consignments of narcotics originating from Gujarat. "Today, Rajasthan has the highest drug problem, while Haryana has become a nursery for gangsters. Drugs are coming from Gujarat. The Punjab Police has repeatedly seized consignments of around 3,000 kilograms each from the Kandla Port operated by your friend Adani. Why can you not stop drugs from entering the country at their source?" he asked.

Will attacking each other and not acting in consonance, neither the central government nor the state governments can curb the drug menace. Will they work on the same platform or continue alleging for their political gain setting aside the country's welfare? (E P Features)

JAG MOHAN THAKEN

C-DOT Sets Up Sixth Telecom Technology Centre of Excellence at IIT (BHU)

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) Establishes Sixth Centre of Excellence (CoE) At IIT (BHU), Varanasi to Advance Next-Generation Telecom Technologies
MoU aims to create a dedicated platform for collaborative research, technology development and capacity building in emerging communication technologies
CoE to focus on 5G Advanced/6G, AI, Quantum Technologies, Cybersecurity and Advanced Wireless Systems



The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi, a leading institution of national importance, for establishing C-DOT's sixth Centre of Excellence (CoE). The partnership brings together C-DOT, a market leader in indigenous telecommunications research and development with the academic and research strengths of IIT (BHU), Varanasi, to strengthen India's telecom innovation ecosystem. The collaboration between C-DOT and IIT (BHU) is aimed at bridging academic research with real-world technology requirements, creating opportunities for innovation while building a strong pipeline of skilled professionals for the evolving telecommunications sector. It will bring together researchers, faculty, students and technology experts from C-DOT and IIT (BHU) to undertake joint research and promote sustained knowledge exchange. The initiative will strengthen academia and industry to support development of native technologies in areas critical to nation's digital and communication infrastructure. CoE will focus in technologies such as Wireless Communications, Quantum Technologies, Cybersecurity and AI-driven Communication Systems. It will undertake advanced research in emerging areas including 5G Advanced/6G Technologies, very large-scale Multiple-Input Multiple-Output (MIMO) systems, Integrated Sensing and Communication, AI-Native Communication Networks and devices, and Quantum and Post-Quantum Communication Technologies. The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. Pankaj Kumar Dalela, EVP, C-DOT, and Professor Amit Patra, Director, IIT (BHU), Varanasi, along with faculty members from IIT (BHU) and senior officials from C-DOT. The signing ceremony was followed by the inauguration of the Centre of Excellence dedicated to advancing communication technologies through collaborative research and innovation. Dr. Rajkumar Upadhyay, CEO, C-DOT, highlighted the importance of the collaboration and said, "This Centre of Excellence is more than a research platform, it is an investment in India's future technology capabilities. The next generation of communications will be shaped by advances in AI, quantum technologies, advanced wireless systems and intelligent networks. Through this CoE, C-DOT and IIT (BHU) are creating a collaborative ecosystem to explore these frontiers and accelerate the development of indigenous technologies for India's digital future." Prof Amit Patra, Director, IIT (BHU), said, "The collaboration with C-DOT will provide a strong platform for translating academic research into impactful technological solutions. It will enable our students and researchers to engage with real-world challenges in telecommunications while contributing to India's journey towards self-reliance in advanced communication technologies." The establishment of the CoE further expands C-DOT's national network of Centres of Excellence to six, building on its existing collaborations with IIT Kanpur, IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Roorkee, IIT Hyderabad and IISc Bengaluru through FSID.

Fisheries Conclave 2026 to Drive Investment and Boost Inland Fish Exports

BHOPAL, OCTOBER 23:



The Government of Madhya Pradesh, in association with the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, and the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), organised the Fisheries Investors & Exporters Conclave 2026 in Bhopal on Friday to promote investment, processing, value addition and export opportunities in inland fisheries. The conclave was attended by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister of State Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, and Madhya Pradesh Minister for Fishermen Welfare and Fisheries Development Narayan Singh Pawar. Senior officials, including Dr Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of India, and Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary Ashok Barnwal, also participated. The event brought together investors, exporters, entrepreneurs, fish processors, start-ups, financial institutions, research organisations, fisheries cooperatives and Fish Farmer Producer Organisations. More than 1,000 fish farmers from across Madhya Pradesh participated, highlighting the state's potential to attract investment and expand opportunities across the fisheries value chain.

Focus on Investment and Export Opportunities

India's fish production reached 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024–25, with inland fisheries contributing 151.60 lakh tonnes, accounting for nearly three-fourths of total production. Meanwhile, India's seafood exports were valued at ₹73,890 crore in 2025–26.

The conclave focused on connecting the country's expanding production base with processing facilities, cold-chain infrastructure, quality assurance, logistics, market access and export networks. The initiative aims to improve the commercial potential of inland fisheries and provide fish farmers with better access to domestic and international markets. Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav released the Madhya Pradesh Fisheries Investment and Export Guidelines, 2026, along with Standard Operating Procedures outlining the export potential of inland states. The guidelines seek to facilitate investment in hatcheries, fish seed and feed production, reservoir and cage fisheries, aquatic animal health, processing, cold storage, logistics and value-added products.

Madhya Pradesh has also been notified by the Central Government as a Reservoir Fisheries Cluster, creating an opportunity to develop reservoir-based fisheries and strengthen the state's position in inland fish production.

Development of Reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars

The programme featured the virtual inauguration of integrated cage culture units and the handover of administrative approval for the integrated development of reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars in Madhya Pradesh. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), administrative approval was handed over for developing 49 reservoirs across the state at an approved project cost of ₹8,755.60 lakh. Another five Amrit Sarovars will be developed at an approved cost of ₹69 lakh. The projects aim to harness the fisheries potential of water bodies, improve fish production and productivity, strengthen supporting infrastructure and generate employment and livelihood opportunities. They are also expected to improve the socio-economic conditions of fishers and fish farmers. Certificates were distributed to beneficiaries under various fisheries initiatives, including the Kisan Credit Card scheme for fisheries, fisheries cooperatives, fisheries start-ups and performance grants under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY).

Chief Minister Announces Key Initiatives

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav highlighted the fisheries sector's potential to drive investment, entrepreneurship, industrial development and exports. He stressed the importance of water resource management in expanding aquaculture and developing the state's fisheries economy. He said Madhya Pradesh's irrigation potential had increased to 60 lakh hectares over the preceding two-and-a-half years, with a target of 100 lakh hectares by the end of the state government's tenure. He also highlighted the Ken–Betwa and Parvati–Kalisindh–Chambal river-linking projects, along with efforts to develop reservoirs and conserve traditional water bodies. The Chief Minister outlined three key initiatives to promote fisheries enterprises. These include integrating fisheries with the food processing industry to encourage processing, packaging, value addition, cold-chain facilities and distribution; extending support and incentives to fisheries enterprises under the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) framework, including land and other facilities; and introducing the Madhya Pradesh Fisheries Policy 2026 to facilitate land allocation and infrastructure for fisheries businesses.

The measures are intended to attract private investment, create employment and unlock the state's aquaculture potential.

Union Minister Calls for Industry-Led Growth

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh said India exports fish to 130 countries, but inland states account for only 2% of total fisheries exports despite recording a 147% increase in fish production.

He emphasised the need to develop reservoirs and large ponds through scientific cage and pen culture, improve productivity and connect fish farmers with investors, processors and exporters. Welcoming the state's fisheries investment and export promotion initiatives, he stressed that fisheries must be recognised and developed as an industry to attract investment and expand exports. The conclave sought to establish stronger partnerships between farmers, entrepreneurs, investors and export agencies, positioning inland fisheries as a source of economic growth, rural employment and improved livelihoods in Madhya Pradesh.

Bengal to end extended Durga Puja holidays for govt hospital staff from 2027: Minister

KOLKATA: (Oct 23) The West Bengal government will end extended Puja holidays for staff at state-run hospitals from next year and introduce a duty roster to ensure round-the-clock healthcare services, Health Minister Sharadwat Mukhopadhyay said on Friday. Mukhopadhyay said an unwritten rule has continued since Independence, with the festive break beginning on Sasthi, the sixth day of Durga Puja, and extending until Lakshmi Puja. "The health department is not like other departments. It is an emergency department. People have to be provided services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But since Independence, there has been an unwritten rule in the state of the festive mood setting in at offices from Sasthi, with the holidays continuing until Lakshmi Puja. This practice will end from next year," he said.

United in driving 'vote chors' out of power: Cong reviews preparations for INDIA bloc rally

NEW DELHI: (Oct 23) The Congress on Friday reviewed the preparations for the INDIA bloc's November 1 rally here against "vote chori" and asserted that such programmes will send a strong message that "we are united" in protecting democracy and driving the "vote chors" out of power. Congress general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and K C Venugopal met party leaders from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana at the AICC headquarters here to review preparations for the rally to be held at Ramlila Maidan here. The meeting with Uttar Pradesh leaders was attended by AICC state in-charge Rajendra Pal Gautam, former UPCC chief Ajay Rai, state Congress working president Imran Masood, senior leaders Salman Khurshid and Ajay Lallu, among others.

Water Resources Department Clears 85% of Public Grievances Under Special Campaign 6

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23



The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has resolved 84.7% of targeted public grievances and reviewed 80.2% of identified physical files under Special Campaign 6, being conducted from October 2 to 31, 2026, by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The campaign, organised under the aegis of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), aims to expedite the disposal of pending matters and promote cleanliness in government offices. As of October 19, the department and its organisations had addressed 161 of the 190 targeted public grievances. They had also reviewed 6,200 of the 7,724 physical files identified for scrutiny and 3,460 of the 6,443 targeted e-files. Smt Archana Varma, Secretary of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, reviewed the campaign's progress with the heads and senior officers of various organisations on October 19. She expressed satisfaction with the efforts being made to achieve the targets and stressed the need to dispose of pending matters at the earliest, before the campaign deadline. The department reported 100% achievement in two categories: Inter-Ministerial Consultations (Cabinet Notes) and simplification of rules and processes, meeting both targets. It also addressed 25 of 29 Prime Minister's Office references, achieving 86.2% of the target. In addition, five of seven references from state governments were addressed, while 22 of 32 parliamentary assurances were completed. The department disposed of 37 of 61 public grievance appeals, representing 60.6% achievement, and addressed 56 of 98 Members of Parliament and VIP references, achieving 57.1% of the target. Under the cleanliness drive, 278 of the 371 identified sites had been cleaned, accounting for 74.9% of the target. The department also reported the disposal of 182 out of 1,515 targeted e-waste items. As part of the campaign, scrap disposal generated revenue of ₹13,13,748. A total of 1,456 physical files were weeded out, 835 e-files were closed and 901 square feet of office space was freed.

The department and its organisations are documenting the before-and-after conditions of sites covered under cleanliness drives through photographs and videos. These records are being uploaded daily to the DARPG campaign portal.

To increase public awareness, the department has also issued a Press Information Bureau release and published 68 posts across various social media platforms highlighting the campaign's achievements.

The department is continuing its efforts to meet the remaining targets before the campaign concludes on October 31.

NFR Advances Towards Greener Rail Operations with Conversion of 12 More Train Services to Electric Traction

MALIGAON, 23 OCTOBER, 2026:



Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has converted 12 more train services from diesel to electric traction with effect from 16 th October, 2026, marking another significant step towards cleaner and more energy-efficient railway operations. With this transition, a total of 30 train services have been shifted to electric traction over NFR during the current financial year, strengthening its efforts to reduce dependence on diesel and promote environmentally sustainable transportation. The train services included in the latest conversion are Train no. Train no. 15613/15614 Lachit Express, 15813/15814 Dekargaon-Silapathar Express, 15895/15896 Rangiya-Murkongselek Express, 15927/15928 Rangiya-New Tinsukia Express, 15967/15968 Rangiya-Ledo Express and 15603/15604 Guwahati-Ledo Intercity Express. As per railway estimates, the transition is expected to reduce annual diesel fuel consumption by approximately 98.55 lakh litres, lowering expenditure by around Rs 140 Cr. annually and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 26,411 tonnes each year. Passengers will also benefit from reduced locomotive changes from diesel to electric traction, helping save transit time and improve punctuality. Further, Head-on Generation facilities in electric locomotives enable power supply to compatible coaches directly from the locomotive, reducing diesel consumption in generator cars attached in LHB rakes and helping minimise noise and air pollution. The milestone has been achieved under the guidance of General Manager Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava and Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Shri Sudhanshu Krishna Dubey, with coordinated efforts by the divisional team. NFR remains committed to expanding electric traction to provide cleaner, more efficient and reliable railway services across the region.

Punjab Police Constable Arrested With 15 Kg Heroin Worth Over ₹40 Crore; Probe Points to 24 Cross-Border Drug Deliveries

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 23, 2026

A Punjab Police constable assigned to an anti-drone unit tasked with preventing cross-border drug smuggling has been arrested in connection with the alleged trafficking of heroin from across the India-Pakistan border. The accused, identified as Karandeep Singh, was apprehended by the Border Security Force (BSF) on October 15 in Tarn Taran district while allegedly transporting 15 kg of heroin valued at more than ₹40 crore. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) subsequently took over the investigation.

According to reports citing investigators, the probe has uncovered suspected links between the constable and Pakistan-based drug handlers. Investigators allege that he used his knowledge of anti-drone deployments and border surveillance to help traffickers identify locations where drug consignments dropped by drones could be collected safely. Communications allegedly exchanged with handlers across the border and information about designated drop-off points have helped investigators trace at least 24 drug deliveries since June 2026. Reports indicate that the constable initially collected consignments and later allegedly began assisting the network by sharing information about suitable delivery locations. Investigators are also examining the reported use of China-made drones by trafficking networks operating across the international border. Such drones are said to have the capacity to carry payloads of approximately 5 kg to 15 kg, allowing smugglers to transport narcotics into Indian territory while attempting to evade conventional border surveillance. According to media reports citing NCB sources, the accused allegedly came into contact with Pakistan-based handlers through encrypted communications. Investigators are examining whether personal vulnerabilities, including reported drug addiction, were exploited to recruit him into the suspected trafficking network.

The investigation has also widened to examine possible links with other individuals. Reports on October 23 said that Lakwinder Singh, a former sarpanch of Rajoke village in Tarn Taran district, had been taken into NCB custody in connection with the investigation. Officials are reportedly examining possible links between the suspected network, drone movements and locations where consignments may have been dropped. The case has raised serious concerns about the alleged involvement of a police personnel member in the very activity he was assigned to prevent. The investigation is continuing to establish the full extent of the alleged network, identify other suspected participants and determine the route taken by the seized consignment. The allegations remain subject to investigation, and the accused are entitled to the due process of law.

Northeast Railway Organises Tree Plantation Drive Under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign

GORAKHPUR, OCTOBER 23, 2026





In line with its commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development, the Northeast Railway regularly undertakes tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, water conservation initiatives, waste management programmes and other environmental activities. As part of these efforts, a tree plantation programme was organised under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (One Tree in the Name of Mother) campaign at Gol Park, Railway Model Colony, Bichhiya, Gorakhpur, on October 23, 2026. The programme was held under the chief guestship of Northeast Railway General Manager Uday Borwankar.

General Manager Uday Borwankar, Additional General Manager Vinod Kumar Shukla, Principal Heads of Departments, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction Anuj Mittal and other senior officials planted saplings, reaffirming their commitment to environmental protection.

On the occasion, General Manager Uday Borwankar said that trees are not only the foundation of environmental protection but are also essential for human life, biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance. He emphasised that planting trees and ensuring their proper care are equally important to effectively address challenges such as climate change, rising pollution and the depletion of green cover.

He called upon all railway employees to plant more trees around their workplaces and residences and ensure their regular care and maintenance.

During the plantation drive, saplings of various shade-giving, fruit-bearing and environment-friendly species were planted in the park. The programme aimed to promote environmental protection, increase green cover and strengthen the sense of social responsibility towards nature.

Railway officers and employees also pledged to protect and regularly maintain the saplings to ensure their healthy growth and contribution to a clean and green environment.

The programme conveyed a message that public participation could make the mass movement for environmental protection more effective.

The tree plantation drive marks another significant step in the Northeast Railway's sustained efforts towards environmental conservation. It is expected to play an important role in developing greener and cleaner railway premises while raising public awareness about environmental protection.

Actively engaged to facilitate return of Indian pilgrims from Saudi Arabia: MEA

NEW DELHI



The Indian Embassy and Consulate in Saudi Arabia continue to be actively engaged with concerned airlines and tour operators to facilitate the early return of Indian pilgrims who are stuck in Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that about 3,000 stranded Umrah pilgrims have returned to India from Saudi Arabia over the past week and over 10,000 normal Umrah pilgrims have also travelled back to India.

Asked whether India has plans to repatriate Indians pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia amid the ongoing conflict, Jaiswal responded, "They (India's Embassy and Consulate in Saudi Arabia) remain actively engaged with concerned airlines and tour operators to facilitate the early return of Indian pilgrims who are stuck there. Over the past week, about 3,000 stranded Umrah pilgrims have travelled back home from Saudi Arabia on available flights. In addition, we've also had more than 10,000 normal Umrah pilgrims who were booked on the available flights, and they have also travelled back home."

"Arrangements are being under discussion to facilitate the return of other Umrah pilgrims at the earliest. Our Embassy and Consulate, they have been in touch with people who are stuck there. They are rendering support and service to them in collaboration with our volunteers, our community volunteers, and they are also running 24x7 control rooms both in Riyadh as also in Jeddah to assist Indian nationals who are there. And they are also issuing regular advisories so that they can be better informed of the situation on the ground," he added.

On Thursday, India condemned the continued attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including the attack on King Fahd International Airport and Aramco's Shaybah oil field, while expressing hope that peace and normalcy would return to the region at the earliest.

"We strongly condemn the continued attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, including the attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam and Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field in the Eastern Province on October 21. These attacks have unfortunately resulted in civilian deaths and injuries," the MEA said in a statement.

The MEA stated that one Indian was killed and two others were injured in the attack on Dammam airport, while another Indian national was injured in the attack on the Shaybah oil field. It offered condolences to the family of the deceased person and wished for the speedy recovery of those injured in the attack.

The MEA said that the Indian Embassy in Riyadh is in contact with the Saudi authorities and will provide all possible assistance. It expressed India's solidarity with Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty.

"We also reiterate that the attacks on civilian and critical infrastructure are completely unacceptable and must cease immediately. We stand in solidarity with the people and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in safeguarding its sovereignty, and hope that peace and normalcy would return to the region at the earliest," it said.

Trump praises Melania's Ukraine peace efforts

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Friday praised First Lady Melania Trump's efforts to reunite children separated from their families during the Russia-Ukraine conflict, saying both Moscow and Kyiv were cooperating with her humanitarian initiative.

Speaking to reporters on the White House South Lawn before departing for a campaign rally in Florida, Trump welcomed a ceasefire and said the First Lady was concentrating on bringing children back to their families. "The ceasefire is really good news," Trump said.

Asked whether Melania Trump would participate in proposed trilateral peace talks involving the United States, Russia and Ukraine, the President did not rule out the possibility, although he indicated that no such arrangement had been made. "No, but it's not the worst idea I've ever heard," he said. Trump said the First Lady's immediate priority was humanitarian rather than formal diplomatic negotiations.

"What she wants to do is save children, and that's her focus, and both sides are cooperating with her," he said.

The President credited Melania Trump with initiating the effort and establishing contact with the parties involved. "Her initiative, and they contacted both sides, and both sides wanted to do it," Trump said.

Later in the exchange, Trump returned to the First Lady's work, describing it as an important effort to help families affected by the fighting. He said she was working to bring children back to their parents and that Russia and Ukraine were involved in the process. "She wants to see babies come back to their families, and that's between Russia and Ukraine," Trump said.

The President also referred to a ceasefire in what he described as a particularly difficult location. "And they worked a ceasefire in a very rough place, by the way," he said. His remarks suggested that the First Lady's involvement was focused on family reunification rather than taking a formal role in the wider peace process.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has separated families and displaced children, making their return and reunification a humanitarian concern alongside broader diplomatic efforts to end the fighting. The First Lady's initiative, as described by Trump, involves contacts with both sides.

EU leaders highlight stronger ties with Hungary

BUDAPEST

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa highlighted Hungary's close ties with the European Union (EU) and the benefits of European integration on Friday, addressing a special session of the Hungarian parliament. Von der Leyen welcomed Hungary's renewed commitment to the EU, describing the country as an integral part of the European family. "Your story is our European story. Your future is our European future," she said.

Addressing Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar, von der Leyen welcomed the government's efforts to strengthen anti-corruption legislation, increase transparency in public spending and reinforce the rule of law, Xinhua News Agency reported.

She said these reforms were producing tangible results, including the return of EU funding and renewed access to European research and education programs, such as Horizon Europe and Erasmus+. Von der Leyen also pointed to further funding opportunities under the EU's Next Generation EU recovery program, saying that Hungary's renewed engagement would contribute to a stronger Europe.

For his part, Costa emphasised the economic and social benefits Hungary had gained since joining the EU in 2004.

Over the past 22 years, Hungary's economy has nearly tripled in size, while average wages have increased fivefold, Costa said.

He recalled that the EU currently accounts for nearly 80 per cent of Hungary's exports and almost 70 per cent of its imports, highlighting the country's integration into the European single market.

Costa also stressed that European cooperation helped strengthen competitiveness, strategic autonomy and economic resilience, while creating opportunities for investment, innovation and job creation.

Major Ebola vaccine trial begins in DR Congo as outbreak continues

KINSHASA



A major clinical trial to evaluate vaccines against the Bundibugyo Ebola virus began Friday in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with the first participants vaccinated as the country battles the largest recorded outbreak of the virus.

The Phase 2/3 trial, known as Tumaini, was launched in Bunia, the capital of the hardest-hit Ituri Province, said the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, which is funding and supporting the study.

The trial comes amid a worsening Ebola crisis that has claimed more than 4,600 lives in the DRC since May. Despite the scale of the outbreak, no vaccine has yet been approved specifically against the Bundibugyo virus, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Tumaini, meaning "hope" in Swahili, aims to assess the safety, immune responses and effectiveness of several vaccine candidates, particularly among people who have been in contact with confirmed Ebola patients and face a high risk of infection.

The trial uses an adaptive platform design, allowing multiple vaccine candidates to be evaluated within a single study through a ring vaccination approach targeting contacts of confirmed cases.

The first vaccine entering the trial is Ervebo, which is already licensed to prevent disease caused by the Zaire Ebola virus but has not been proven effective against the Bundibugyo virus.

Two additional vaccines specifically developed against the Bundibugyo virus, one by Moderna and another by the University of Oxford in collaboration with the Serum Institute of India, are expected to join the trial "shortly."

"The launch of the Tumaini trial marks a critical step towards establishing whether candidate vaccines can effectively protect people against the Bundibugyo virus," said Chikwe Ihekweazu, executive director of the World Health Organization's Health Emergencies Program.

WHO Regional Director for Africa Mohamed Janabi also welcomed the launch Friday, saying the trial would generate crucial evidence on candidate vaccines while strengthening the response to the ongoing outbreak and preparedness for future epidemics.

According to the latest figures released late Wednesday by the DRC's health authorities, the country had recorded 9,704 confirmed Ebola cases, including 4,687 deaths, as of October 20, with a case fatality rate of 48.3 per cent. The epidemic was declared in the DRC on May 15 and designated a public health emergency of international concern by the WHO two days later. The Africa CDC subsequently declared it a public health emergency of continental security. The current Ebola outbreak has become the largest and deadliest ever recorded in the DRC and the second-largest Ebola outbreak globally, after the 2014-2016 West Africa epidemic.

Austria expels four Russian diplomats: foreign ministry

VIENNA

Austria has decided to expel four Russian diplomats accredited in Vienna, the Austrian Foreign Ministry said Friday. Among the four diplomats, three members from the Russian embassy had carried out activities "incompatible with their diplomatic status," and each had been declared "persona non grata," said the ministry, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The fourth diplomat, who was from the Russian delegation to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, was responsible for military security and arms control, and was also declared "persona non grata."

As a legal term, "persona non grata" refers to the practice of a state prohibiting a diplomat from entering the country as a diplomat. On the Russian side, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Dmitry Lubinsky said on Friday that a reaction would "inevitably" follow.

In July, Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said that a member of the Russian Embassy in Bucharest had been declared undesirable (persona non grata) and ordered to leave the country within five days.

The Foreign Ministry summoned the Ambassador of Russia to its headquarters upon the instructions of Romanian Foreign Minister Oana-Silvia Toiu.

"The summoning came as a firm response to the repeated violations of Romania's airspace between 24 and 26 July 2026, during which the Romanian Armed Forces downed three drones that entered national territory without authorisation.

Laos airfield sparks concerns over China's expanding military presence in Southeast Asia

WASHINGTON



Laos, a landlocked nation ruled by a fellow communist government, appears to be a natural ally for China, as it does not perceive Beijing as a direct security threat. Chinese assistance in air force training and support could strengthen Laos' military capabilities while providing access to economic assistance, despite the risks of increasing dependence on Beijing, a report has stated.

It noted that by positioning itself as China's preferred partner, the Southeast Asian nation could secure considerable strategic and economic benefits.

The Chinese Ministry of Defence announced on September 29 the establishment of a "joint support and training center" at an airport in Ban Keun, Laos, drawing renewed attention to the expanding presence of the Chinese Army in Southeast Asia.

While Beijing has refrained from describing the facility as a "base" and maintained that it is "not targeted at any third party," the centre represents China's first publicly acknowledged overseas military facility focused on airpower, according to a recent report in American news website 'War on the Rocks'.

Alongside Djibouti and Cambodia's Ream Naval Base, it said, the facility in Ban Keun forms part of China's expanding network of overseas military and security infrastructure. "Concern is understandable. While smaller than China's base in Djibouti, satellite imagery reveals eight light attack aircraft and support vehicles on a 2,000-metre runway that is currently under construction. Although insufficient to support long-range bombers, the facility likely benefits China's logistics and intelligence capabilities, diversifies Southeast Asian base access beyond Cambodia, and ties Laos into its arms sales network," the report detailed.

According to the report, the joint centre in Laos could eventually strengthen the Chinese Air Force's ability to project power across mainland Southeast Asia, with potential implications for US forces operating in the eastern Indian Ocean. For Vietnam, the development further reinforces its perception of being increasingly encircled.

"The reflex among many policymakers in Washington after each rumoured or announced Chinese military facility overseas is to interpret it through the lens of US-Chinese competition. In Cambodia's case with Ream, Washington imposed sanctions as punishment. Yet, this reflex misunderstands the nuanced interests driving regional partners to work with China — and how to counter it," it noted.

China continues to militarise land features in the South China Sea while expanding its strategic footprint across mainland Southeast Asia. The Laos airfield adds to the increasing influence alongside Cambodia's Ream Naval Base, which opened in 2025 under official Cambodian control and hosts a rotating naval deployment, the report mentioned.

"Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand stand out for the depth of military-to-military relationships with Beijing, while Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have recently established 2+2 dialogues with China, involving foreign and defence ministers from both countries. Arms sales are also a growth area for Beijing. Indonesia expects the delivery of J-10 fighter jets, while Beijing surpassed the United States as Bangkok's primary supplier," it added.

Highlighting the wider implications of China's growing footprint, the report said, "On the whole, Southeast Asian states may distrust the United States, but no government in the region wants Washington gone. While realistic assumptions are necessary about how far hedging states can move away from China and toward the United States, Washington needs to devote more resources and institutional attention to Southeast Asia's complex security and threat landscape. A broad brush risks abdicating the initiative to China, but a tailored approach can better counterbalance Beijing.

Trump says US holds 'all the cards' in trade talks

WASHINGTON



US President Donald Trump on Friday said the United States was close to reaching a trade agreement with Mexico and was negotiating from a position of strength with Canada, declaring that Washington held the advantage in both negotiations.

Speaking to reporters on the White House South Lawn before leaving for a campaign rally in Florida, Trump made clear that any agreement would have to serve American interests. "We're very close to a deal with Mexico," Trump said. "It'll be a very good deal for, hopefully, them, but it's gonna be a good deal for us or we won't make it."

He said Canada was also seeking an agreement with Washington amid continuing tariff tensions between the neighbouring countries.

"The same thing with Canada. Canada's working very hard to make a deal with us," he said. Trump then offered a blunt assessment of the American negotiating position. "And I hate to say this, but we have all the cards in both of them," he said. "We have all the cards. Just like I told Zelensky, we have all the cards." The President did not provide a timetable for concluding either agreement or disclose specific concessions being discussed.

His remarks came during a wide-ranging exchange that also covered the conflict with Iran, developments in Ukraine, energy production in Britain and the approaching US midterm elections.

On Iran, Trump suggested that Washington was weighing whether to intensify its military campaign or allow economic pressure to further weaken Tehran.

"We can end it very quickly, but Iran is a failing nation," he said. He claimed that American naval operations had secured the movement of oil through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz while restricting Iran.

"We have it blocked up for them, but nobody else," he said. "The question is, do we want to finish it off, or do we just want to let it wither?" Trump added. "Because we're getting everything we want."

The President also claimed that more oil was passing through the waterway than before the conflict. Turning to Ukraine, Trump welcomed a ceasefire and praised First Lady Melania Trump's efforts to reunite children separated from their families during the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"The ceasefire is really good news," he said.

Asked whether the First Lady might participate in proposed trilateral peace negotiations, Trump replied, "No, but it's not the worst idea I've ever heard."

He said her principal concern was the welfare of children and that both sides were cooperating with her initiative. Trump also disclosed a conversation with the British Prime Minister about expanding North Sea oil production. "We discussed the fact that they're opening up the North Sea oil," he said, arguing that increased production would strengthen Britain's economy.

On domestic politics, Trump defended his intensive campaign schedule ahead of the midterm elections and rejected suggestions that his appearances could produce a voter backlash.

Bank of India's Q2 Net Profit jumps 25% to ₹3,202 crore; Operating Profit up 33%

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23, 2026

Bank of India announced its results for the quarter and half-year ended 30th September 2026. Net Profit for Q2FY27 rose 25.34% YoY to ₹3,202 crore. Net Profit for H1FY27 grew 30% YoY to ₹6,270 crore. The Bank's ROA and ROE for Q2FY27 improved to 1.01% and 16.36%, respectively.

Operating Profit for Q2FY27 increased 33.19% YoY to ₹5,089 crore, while Operating Profit for H1FY27 grew 30% YoY to ₹10,140 crore. Net Interest Income for the quarter rose 18.52% YoY to ₹7,007 crore, and Non-Interest Income grew 24.78% YoY to ₹2,770 crore. Global NIM improved 6 bps YoY to 2.47%, and the Cost to Income Ratio improved 507 bps YoY to 47.95%.

The Bank's Global Business grew 21.13% YoY and crossed ₹18.92 lakh crore. Global Deposits increased 21.59% YoY and crossed ₹10.37 lakh crore. Global Advances grew 20.58% YoY and crossed ₹8.55 lakh crore. Overseas Advances grew 35.21% YoY to ₹1.51 lakh crore. Retail Advances increased 19.27% YoY, MSME Advances 20.27% YoY and Agriculture Advances 16.34% YoY. RAM Advances made up 58.63% of domestic gross advances. Domestic CASA Deposits increased 7.17% YoY to ₹3.07 lakh crore in Sep'26.

Gross NPA ratio improved 94 bps YoY to 1.60%. Net NPA ratio improved 23 bps YoY to 0.42%. Provision Coverage Ratio stood at 94.45%. Slippage ratio for Q2FY27 was 0.15% and Credit Cost was 0.12%.

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) as on 30.09.2026 stood at 17.78%, up 109 bps YoY, with CET-1 at 15.49%.

On the digital front, Omni Neo Mobile Banking users rose to over 1.49 crore and Internet Banking users to over 1.11 crore. Digital transactions grew 25% YoY to 2.21 billion. The Bank opened 7.07 lakh new PMJDY accounts during H1FY27.

Sindhu Hospitals Launches BeyondA1C Screening for Diabetic Complications

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 23, 2026.



Sindhu Hospitals, an initiative of Sai Sindhu Foundation, and BeyondA1C, a division of MedicaMetrix, Inc., today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch BeyondA1C testing at Sindhu Hospitals. The Sheffield One-Stop becomes its frontline mass screening test for diabetic complications, and regular BeyondA1C testing and could become a potential model for diabetic, dialysis and chemotherapy patients, in the first launch of these tests in India. Diabetes quietly damages the body's smallest blood vessels, affecting the nerves, kidneys, eyes and feet. Up to half of people with diabetic nerve damage have no symptoms when it is found, and some estimates put the share left undiagnosed in well-developed health systems at up to 80 percent.

The AI enabled device can deliver testing for 3 key clinical scenarios.

- Sheffield One-Stop: A screening test for people at risk of diabetes and suffering from established diabetes - assesses nerve function, foot, kidneys and metabolic health. It screens for several microvascular complications at one appointment, so patients don't need a separate visit for each test.
- BeyondA1C Onco: It measures sural nerve function in both legs for those undergoing chemotherapy and compares it with the patient's own baseline, so neuropathy is graded objectively and routed to the oncologist for personalized care.
- BeyondA1C Dialysis: Through the test, patients who are on regular dialysis receive an IWGDF 2023 risk category from 0 to 3, so the nephrologist can initiate early intervention based on the close surveillance report. The tests are built on the patented DPNCheck device, which delivers objective, fast and accurate point-of-care nerve conduction testing. The Sheffield One-Stop service was developed and validated by Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust(UK) and University of Sheffield. This novel device is currently being commissioned by the NHS (UK). "Sindhu Hospitals is the right place to begin in India," said Robert Rudelius, Chief Executive Officer, MedicaMetrix. "Its clinicians and its commitment to research will show what earlier testing means for patients with diabetes, cancer and kidney disease." "Finding diabetic complications early should be routine care," said Dr. B. Soma Raju, Consultant Cardiologist and Mentor Director, Sindhu Hospitals. "BeyondA1C tests will become part of our specialties, including oncology and dialysis." "Many patients with microvascular complications have no symptoms, which is why point of care screening is critical," noted Dr. Smitha Nalla, Consultant Endocrinologist, Sindhu Hospitals. "Screening every patient at risk lets us act sooner."

About Sindhu Hospitals

Sindhu Hospitals is envisioned as 1500 bed multi super specialty, quaternary care hospital in Hyderabad, Telangana, India. Founded by Dr. Bandi Parthasaradhi Reddy as an initiative of Sai Sindhu Foundation and inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2026. Located in HITEC City, Sindhu Hospitals is one of India's largest not-for-profit cancer-focused multi-super specialty hospitals. Spread across 2.2 million square feet with 18 floors, the hospital offers comprehensive care across more than 30 specialties, supported by advanced diagnostics, state-of-the-art infrastructure, cutting-edge technology, and a highly experienced team of specialists dedicated to delivering compassionate and accessible healthcare.

About BeyondA1C and MedicaMetrix, Inc.

BeyondA1C is a division of MedicaMetrix, Inc., based in Waltham, MA, USA. Its screening, diagnostic and surveillance tests for nerve injury and its diabetic and non-diabetic complications use objective, point-of-care nerve conduction testing with the FDA-cleared DPNCheck device. BeyondA1C works with hospital and lab partners globally and with the University of Sheffield, UK.

Jio Platforms IPO Sees Record ₹7 Lakh Crore Demand, Massive Investor Participation

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23, 2026

- **Jio Platforms IPO Creates History with Over ₹7 Lakh Crore in Investor Demand**
  Jio Platforms attracted aggregate investor demand exceeding ₹7 lakh crore, including over ₹2.5 lakh crore in anchor investor demand and approximately ₹4.90 lakh crore in public IPO bids. This sets a new benchmark for investor demand in India's capital markets.
- **World's Widest IPO Participation with Over 1.38 Crore Applications**
  Jio Platforms received over 1.38 crore applications, surpassing the reported global benchmark of approximately 97 lakh applications. The IPO recorded the highest reported number of applications for any public offering worldwide, reflecting unprecedented investor participation.
- **India's Largest-Ever IPO at ₹30,213 Crore**
  Jio Platforms surpassed Hyundai Motor India's ₹27,870 crore IPO to become India's largest public issue. The entire ₹30,213 crore issue comprised fresh equity shares, with existing shareholders not selling a single share.
- **India's Most Valuable Company to Launch an IPO at ₹10.3 Lakh Crore**
  Jio Platforms entered the capital markets with an IPO valuation of approximately ₹10.3 lakh crore ($109 billion), making it the most valuable company to launch an IPO in India. At this valuation, Jio would rank among India's five most valuable listed companies.
- **Jio Platforms Could Debut as India's Second-Most Valuable Company**
  A hypothetical 15% listing premium would take Jio Platforms' market capitalisation to approximately ₹11.85 lakh crore. Depending on prevailing market valuations, this could position Jio among India's most valuable listed companies, potentially at No. 2. This is a scenario, not a confirmed ranking or listing-price forecast.
- **Jio IPO Attracts Demand for 655.68 Crore Shares Against 27 Crore Shares Issued**
  Against a fresh issue of 27 crore shares, Jio recorded aggregate demand for approximately 655.68 crore shares, including anchor and public IPO bidding interest. The anchor book attracted demand exceeding 30 times, while the public IPO book was subscribed 22.2 times.
- **Jio IPO's Anchor Book Attracts Over ₹2.5 Lakh Crore in Demand**
  Against an anchor allocation of approximately ₹8,110 crore, Jio received over ₹2.5 lakh crore in demand, representing more than 30 times the anchor book. The response reflected substantial interest from domestic and global institutional investors.
- **Jio IPO Closes with 22.2 Times Subscription**
  The public IPO book attracted bids worth approximately ₹4.90 lakh crore against an available book of ₹22,078 crore. The QIB portion was subscribed 70.55 times, NIIs 14 times, retail 2.72 times, employees 2.93 times and shareholders 7.60 times.
- **Jio Sets Institutional Demand Record with ₹3.87 Lakh Crore in QIB Bids**
  Qualified Institutional Buyers placed bids worth ₹3,86,901 crore, subscribing 70.55 times their allotted portion. This surpassed the previous reported institutional demand benchmark of approximately ₹3.86 lakh crore.
- **Jio IPO Sets New Application Record, Surpassing Waaree, Bajaj and Bharat Coking Coal**
  Jio's over 1.38 crore applications surpassed Bharat Coking Coal's 84.51 lakh, Waaree Energies' 77.78 lakh and Bajaj Housing Finance's 74.47 lakh applications in the supplied Indian comparison. This represents approximately 63%, 77% and 85% more applications, respectively.
- **Jio Sets Retail Application Record with Over 98.58 Lakh Applications**
  Jio surpassed Waaree Energies' 70.13 lakh retail applications by 41%, Bharat Coking Coal's 68.95 lakh by 43% and Tempsens Instruments' 65.95 lakh by 49%.
- **Jio Breaks HNI Application Record with Over 9.37 Lakh Applications**
  Jio surpassed Waaree Energies' 7.61 lakh HNI applications by 23%, LG Electronics India's 6.96 lakh by 35% and Bharat Coking Coal's 6.65 lakh by 41%.
- **Jio Sets Small HNI Application Record with Over 5.74 Lakh Applications**
  Jio exceeded Waaree Energies' 4.90 lakh small HNI applications by 17%, LG Electronics India's 4.46 lakh by 29% and Bharat Coking Coal's 4.31 lakh by 33%.
- **Jio Sets Big HNI Application Record with Over 3.62 Lakh Applications**
  Jio surpassed Waaree Energies' 2.71 lakh big HNI applications by 34%, LG Electronics India's 2.50 lakh by 45% and Bajaj Housing Finance's 2.34 lakh by 55%.
- **Jio Sets Shareholder Application Record with Over 20.77 Lakh Applications**
  Jio exceeded Tata Technologies' 11.96 lakh shareholder applications by 74%, Bajaj Housing Finance's 9.52 lakh by 118% and Bharat Coking Coal's 8.83 lakh by 135%.
- **Jio Breaks Employee Application Record with Over 2.04 Lakh Applications**
  Jio surpassed SBI Funds Management's 57,073 employee applications by 258%, LIC's 47,460 by 330% and Bajaj Housing Finance's 10,377 by 1,866%.
- **Jio IPO Records Over ₹1 Lakh Crore in Non-QIB Bids**
  Combined bidding from HNI, retail, shareholder and employee categories reached approximately ₹1.03 lakh crore. The HNI category alone attracted ₹57,109 crore in bids and was subscribed 14 times.
- **Jio Sets Shareholder-Quota Demand Record with ₹19,000 Crore in Bids**
  Jio's shareholder portion attracted bids worth ₹19,000 crore, more than twice the previous reported benchmark of ₹9,350 crore. The category was subscribed 7.60 times.
- **Jio IPO Attracts ₹67,117 Crore in Bids on Opening Day**
  The IPO recorded 3.04 times subscription on its opening day, with bids worth ₹67,117 crore. This was identified as a record opening-day performance in the supplied IPO comparison.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Hosts the Bridal Jewellery Show in Hyderabad

A curated showcase featuring heritage, Polki, diamond and contemporary bridal jewellery collections, celebrating the diverse styles and aspirations of the modern Indian bride.

HYDERABAD, 23 OCTOBER 2026:

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's fourth-largest jewellery retailer and The Responsible Jeweller, hosted the Bridal Jewellery Show at its Malabar Gold & Diamonds Somajiguda Showroom, Hyderabad,bringing together an exquisite selection of bridal jewellery for customers in Hyderabad. Renowned model, fashion designer and entrepreneur Shilpa Reddy graced the occasion as the special guest. The event was attended by Siraj P. K., Head of Retail Operations (India); Muhammed Shareej K., Zonal Head, Telangana; Muhammed Ali Rejai A., Showroom Head, Somajiguda; and Jijeesh K. M., Deputy Showroom Head, Somajiguda. The showcase celebrated the evolution of Indian bridal jewellery, bringing together traditional craftsmanship and contemporary aesthetics. Reflecting the diversity of Indian wedding traditions, the curated selection featured intricate Polki creations, fine gemstone jewellery, temple jewellery, certified diamond pieces and handcrafted designer-wear collections, catering to the varied preferences and styles of today's brides. The Bridal Jewellery Show featured an extensive selection of bridal jewellery across Malabar Gold & Diamonds' signature sub-brands, each offering a distinctive design aesthetic. Precia showcased fine gemstone and precious stone jewellery, while ERA presented exclusive uncut diamond and Polki creations. MINE featured certified fine diamond jewellery, complemented by the royal heritage-inspired and antique Polki designs ofViraaz, the traditional temple jewellery of Divine, and the handcrafted designer-wear collections ofEthnix. Together, these collections offered a diverse range of designs for brides-to-be, their families and wedding guests, catering to preferences ranging from traditional bridal adornments to contemporary styles. Speaking on the occasion, M. P. Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "India's wedding traditions reflect the country's rich cultural diversity, with every region and community bringing its own distinctive customs and jewellery preferences. At Malabar Gold & Diamonds, we recognise that bridal jewellery is not merely an adornment but a meaningful expression of heritage, identity and personal style. Through the Bridal Jewellery Show, we aim to celebrate this rich legacy of craftsmanship and the evolving aspirations of today's brides, helping them discover pieces that become part of their most cherished memories." The showcase coincided with Malabar Gold & Diamonds' festive campaign, 'Har Tyohar Ke Sang Malabar'. As part of the festive offer, customers can avail of up to 30% off on value addition (making charges) on gold, uncut and gemstone jewellery, along with up to 30% off on diamond value until 15 November 2026. Terms and conditions apply. Reinforcing its commitment to responsible retail practices, Malabar Gold & Diamonds continues to uphold its Malabar Promises, which include transparent pricing, guaranteed buyback and quality and purity assurances. These include HUID-hallmarked gold jewellery and tested and certified natural diamonds, reflecting the brand's focus on transparency and customer confidence.

Joyalukkas showroom set to light up with the 'Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show'

Hyderabad, October 23: The world's favourite jeweller, Joyalukkas, is set to dazzle Hyderabad with the Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show, from 23rd October 2026 at its Vanasthalipuram showroom. This much-awaited exhibition promises an unforgettable celebration of craftsmanship, elegance, and innovation in diamond jewellery. From statement bridal sets to contemporary everyday sparkle, the show features pieces that marry timeless tradition with modern aesthetics. Every design is a masterpiece, available only for a limited time during the show.

Dr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman and MD of the Joyalukkas Group, remarked:

"The Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show is our tribute to the enduring allure of diamonds and our passion for perfection in jewellery design. Hyderabad holds a special place in our journey, and this exhibition during the festive season will offer customers an exclusive opportunity to discover designs that reflect beauty, individuality, and craftsmanship at its finest."

Amazon Great Indian Festival 2026 sees seller sales grow 3.5X, with small businesses achieving significant festive milestones

BENGALURU, OCTOBER 23, 2026

- **New sellers recorded over 2.5X growth in units sold during the first week of AGIF 2026 compared to business-as-usual**
- **The number of new sellers crossing ₹1 lakh in sales grew 2.4X. The number of SMBs crossing ₹10 lakh in sales grows over 4.6X, while the number of new sellers reaching the same milestone grows over 4X**
- **Select women entrepreneurs associated with Amazon Saheli record 10X spike in sales, while Amazon Karigar sellers see over 1.5X spike**
- **Record SMB participation, up nearly 30% year-on-year, with over 70% of participating businesses from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities**
- **Following Amazon's fee reductions, in the first 24 hours the number of sellers offering products below ₹500 who recorded a 10X spike in sales grew over 2X year-on-year**

From women entrepreneurs in Churu and Bhopal to traditional artisans in Jodhpur and Saharanpur, small businesses across India recorded strong sales during the first week of Amazon India's Great Indian Festival (AGIF) 2026. Overall seller sales grew 3.5X compared to business as usual (BAU), while products sold more than twice as fast. New sellers recorded over 2.5X growth in units sold, while the number of small and medium businesses (SMBs) crossing ₹10 lakh in sales grew over 4X. The festival also witnessed Amazon's highest-ever seller participation, up nearly 30% year-on-year, with over 70% of participating businesses coming from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. This strong performance comes as Amazon continues to make selling simpler and more affordable, including through zero referral fees on products priced below ₹1,000.

Sachin Kaushik, Vice President, Selling Partner Services, Amazon India, said, "Every festive season, we see inspiring stories of entrepreneurs reaching new customers and achieving significant milestones. This year, we're particularly encouraged by the success of new sellers, women entrepreneurs, artisans and small businesses, with over 70% of participating SMBs coming from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. From Jaipur and Kota to Nagaur and Nadia, entrepreneurs are building businesses that reach customers far beyond their local markets. At Amazon, we believe that when our sellers succeed, we succeed. That's why we remain focused on making selling simpler and more affordable through lower selling fees, tools and support that help businesses of all sizes realise their full potential."

New and existing small businesses achieve significant sales milestones

Gopinath, Owner, KAILESTA said, "Before Amazon's Great Indian Festival, my brand KAILESTA received 18–20 orders a day. This year, we took a bold step by reducing our tote bag prices and launching new designs to offer customers great value. The response has been incredible! In the first week alone, we sold over 11,000 units, recording more than 50X growth in units sold compared to last year. Two of our products also became #1 bestsellers in the tote bag category on Amazon. For a small business like mine, this is more than a sales milestone. It's proof that with the right support, competitive pricing and the courage to dream bigger, even a small brand can achieve extraordinary growth and reach customers across India." The number of new sellers crossing ₹1 lakh in sales grew 2.4X, while the number crossing ₹10 lakh grew over 4X in the first week of AGIF highlighting the opportunity for emerging businesses to achieve significant sales milestones.

- Small and medium businesses recorded strong festive performance, with the number of SMBs crossing ₹10 lakh in sales growing over 4.6X during the first week.
- The momentum extended to larger sales milestones, with the number of sellers crossing ₹1 crore in sales growing over 1.5X.



Women entrepreneurs and artisans tap into festive opportunities

- Women entrepreneurs associated with Amazon Saheli witnessed strong festive momentum across cities including Churu, Bhopal, Jaipur and Kota, with several sellers recording a 10X spike in sales. These results highlight the growing opportunities for women-led businesses to reach customers beyond their local markets. Sanjay Rathore, Founder of MoonlitDreams, shared: "The Amazon Great Indian Festival has started on a fantastic note for us. In just the first 12 hours, our units sold increased by 454%, while our revenue grew by 530% compared to the same period last year. We've also seen sales reach 5 times the level of a regular business day, reflecting the encouraging response to our festive lighting range. What has made a real difference this year is Amazon's reduction in referral fees, resulting in savings of approximately 12–15% on our selling costs. These savings have helped us offer customers more competitive prices while continuing to invest in expanding our product range. We've launched more than 40 new products and registered with 10+ additional Amazon Fulfilment Centres under Amazon's Samriddhi Program to strengthen our ability to serve customers. For a growing brand like MoonlitDreams, this momentum reflects our commitment to bringing attractive decorative lighting to homes across India and continuously expanding our product range to meet customers' festive needs." Artisans and traditional craftspeople associated with Amazon Karigar recorded over 1.5X sales, with strong momentum across Jodhpur, Nagaur, Saharanpur, Ajmer and Nadia. Their performance reflects the opportunity for traditional craftspeople to bring locally made and handcrafted products to customers across India.

Jewellery, Shoes and Automotive among top-selling categories for sellers

- Jewellery, Shoes, Automotive, Major Appliances and Wireless emerged as the top five categories by sales for sellers during the first week of AGIF 2026, reflecting festive demand across a diverse range of products.

Helping sellers prepare for the festive season

Ahead of AGIF 2026, Amazon India launched its 'Sell on Amazon' digital campaign in September, reaching prospective sellers across 150+ cities and towns. Amazon also launched its Festive Readiness Seller Academy, offering 10 expert-led sessions in partnership with three leading ecommerce influencers and Amazon Ads specialists. Covering festive preparation, advertising and business growth, the programme included sessions such as 'How to Use AI for Festive Preparation', interactive AI-enabled experiences and bite-sized Seller University resources. Sessions received an average rating of 4.5/5. These initiatives reflect Amazon India's continued focus on reducing the cost and complexity of selling while helping businesses across the country access new growth opportunities.







South India's Real Estate Triangle

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala Compared

South India's real estate market is evolving beyond its traditional metropolitan centres, driven by urbanisation, infrastructure development, industrial expansion and changing homebuyer preferences. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala offer three distinct property investment environments, each shaped by its economic strengths, population patterns and urban development priorities. While Karnataka benefits from Bengaluru's technology-led economy, Tamil Nadu draws strength from manufacturing, automobiles, logistics and information technology. Kerala, meanwhile, has a distinctive market influenced by overseas remittances, residential aspirations, tourism and demand for premium homes.
For homebuyers and investors, comparing these states requires mo re than looking at property prices. Employment opportunities, rental demand, infrastructure connectivity, land availability, construction costs and resale prospects all influence long-term value.
Each market has opportunities, but the best choice depends on whether the objective is capital appreciation, rental income, affordable homeownership or long-term land investment.

Karnataka: Bengaluru Leads a Technology-Driven Property Market

Karnataka's real estate sector is closely associated with Bengaluru, one of India's leading technology and business centres. The city's concentration of information technology companies, global capability centres, startups, research institutions and multinational corporations has created sustained demand for residential and commercial properties. Employment opportunities attract professionals from across India, supporting demand for apartments, gated communities, rental homes and premium housing.

Bengaluru's property market has expanded across several corridors. Whitefield, Sarjapur Road, Electronic City, Marathahalli and the Outer Ring Road continue to attract technology professionals and homebuyers seeking proximity to employment hubs. North Bengaluru, particularly areas around Hebbal, Yelahanka and the airport corridor, has also attracted interest because of its commercial development potential and improving connectivity.

The market is increasingly characterised by premiumisation. Buyers are showing interest in larger apartments, integrated townships, clubhouses, security systems and modern amenities. Developers have responded with projects targeting middle-income professionals, affluent families and high-net-worth buyers. However, the growing preference for premium housing also creates affordability challenges for first-time buyers. Recent market data illustrates both the strength and complexity of Bengaluru's housing sector. According to Knight Frank India figures reported in July 2026, the city recorded 27,968 housing sales in the first half of 2026, while average residential prices rose approximately 9% year-on-year to ₹9,354 per square foot. At the same time, unsold inventory increased, indicating that expanding supply and rising prices require buyers to assess individual projects carefully. Karnataka's advantage extends beyond Bengaluru. Mysuru has emerged as an alternative destination for technology businesses, professionals and residential development. Mangaluru offers opportunities linked to education, healthcare, port activity and the service sector, while Hubballi-Dharwad and other emerging cities provide scope for more affordable housing and commercial expansion.

Infrastructure is an important factor in the state's long-term outlook. Metro expansion, airport connectivity, road improvements and the development of new employment districts can influence property demand. Nevertheless, infrastructure announcements should not automatically be treated as guarantees of appreciation. Actual construction progress, accessibility and the availability of supporting services matter more than proposed projects alone. The principal risk in Karnataka is the concentration of investment activity in Bengaluru. Heavy dependence on the technology sector makes parts of the housing market sensitive to hiring cycles, corporate restructuring and changes in office occupancy. Water availability, traffic congestion, high acquisition costs and delays in project approvals can also affect the attractiveness of particular locations. Overall, Karnataka is especially appealing to buyers who prioritise employment-driven rental demand, an established corporate economy and the possibility of long-term capital appreciation. Yet success depends on choosing a suitable neighbourhood rather than assuming every part of Bengaluru will deliver similar returns.

Tamil Nadu: Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Urban Expansion

Tamil Nadu offers a more diversified real estate story, combining manufacturing, automobile production, information technology, healthcare, education, ports and logistics. Chennai is the state's largest property market and an important economic centre, but industrial towns and emerging urban locations also contribute to demand. Chennai's residential market serves a broad range of buyers, from employees seeking apartments near technology parks to families purchasing established neighbourhood homes and affluent customers looking for premium residences. Old Mahabalipuram Road, Sholinganallur, Pallavaram, Porur, Tambaram and other suburban corridors have benefited from employment growth and residential expansion. The city's property demand is closely connected to its industrial and technology ecosystem. Automobile manufacturers, electronics companies, IT firms and global capability centres generate demand for housing, offices and supporting commercial infrastructure. Manufacturing clusters around Sriperumbudur, Oragadam and other industrial belts also encourage demand for worker accommodation, rental housing and residential communities for managerial employees. Chennai has traditionally been regarded as a relatively end-user-oriented market, although investor participation and premium housing have become increasingly significant. Recent research indicates that the market entered 2026 with strong sales momentum. JLL reported that residential sales in the first half of 2026 increased 26% year-on-year, with the southern submarket accounting for a substantial share of activity. Infrastructure investment is another important growth driver. Chennai Metro Rail expansion, road upgrades, suburban connectivity and the planned development of additional transport corridors could improve accessibility and support the expansion of residential districts. The Chennai Port–Maduravoyal elevated corridor, scheduled for completion in November 2027 according to a March 2026 government announcement, is an example of infrastructure intended to improve freight and urban connectivity. Beyond Chennai, Coimbatore is an important real estate destination because of its industrial base, textile businesses, engineering companies, healthcare facilities and educational institutions. Its comparatively manageable urban scale attracts families and professionals seeking a balance between employment opportunities and residential comfort. Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Hosur also offer distinct opportunities. Hosur benefits from its manufacturing base and proximity to Bengaluru, while Coimbatore attracts both local homebuyers and people returning from other cities. In these markets, demand is often connected to local economic activity rather than the scale of large metropolitan investment flows. Tamil Nadu's strengths include economic diversity, industrial employment and demand across multiple housing categories. Its market can appeal to investors seeking a combination of residential and commercial opportunities without depending entirely on a single industry. However, location-specific risks remain significant. Chennai faces flooding concerns in vulnerable areas, water-management challenges and exposure to coastal weather events. Buyers must examine drainage, flood history, groundwater conditions and the quality of local infrastructure. Industrial expansion may support housing demand, but properties far from established employment centres can take longer to appreciate. For investors, Tamil Nadu offers a balance between industrially supported property demand and metropolitan housing growth. It can be particularly suitable for buyers seeking residential assets in Chennai or diversified opportunities in Coimbatore and other growing cities.

Rental Income and Investment Potential

Rental income is one of the clearest areas of difference among the three states. Karnataka, particularly Bengaluru, has a broad tenant base consisting of technology employees, students, corporate transferees and professionals. Apartments near employment hubs and transport links can benefit from recurring rental demand. However, purchase prices, maintenance charges and competition from newly completed projects affect net returns. Tamil Nadu offers rental opportunities in Chennai's technology corridors, industrial clusters and educational districts. Coimbatore and other urban centres may appeal to investors seeking tenants from healthcare, manufacturing, education and local businesses. A property's proximity to a genuine employment or institutional centre is usually more important than its distance from a major road alone. In Kerala, rental demand can be strong near hospitals, universities, IT parks and commercial centres. Holiday accommodation may offer additional opportunities in tourism locations, but seasonal fluctuations and management expenses make this a different investment category from a conventional long-term residential lease. Investors should compare net rental yield rather than monthly rent alone. Annual rent, vacancy periods, maintenance, taxes, repairs and management costs must be deducted from the expected income. Capital appreciation should also be treated as uncertain rather than guaranteed.

Property Prices and Affordability: Which State Offers Better Value?

Comparing prices across the three states is difficult because each contains expensive urban districts, emerging suburbs and lower-cost towns. A premium apartment in Bengaluru cannot be directly compared with a suburban house in Kochi or a plot in a smaller Tamil Nadu city. Bengaluru generally commands a substantial premium in locations close to major technology employment centres. Established neighbourhoods and well-connected corridors can be expensive, while emerging areas may offer more accessible entry points. However, lower-priced properties can involve longer commutes, weaker infrastructure or greater uncertainty over future development. Chennai provides a wider range of residential options, including established city neighbourhoods, suburban apartments and homes in expanding employment corridors. Coimbatore and other tier-two cities can offer alternatives for buyers who want urban amenities without paying central Chennai prices. Kerala's affordability varies according to location and property type. Prime Kochi apartments and premium villas can be expensive, while some smaller towns offer more accessible land and housing options. Yet construction costs, land scarcity and the need for specialised maintenance can affect the total cost of ownership. A meaningful comparison must include more than the advertised price.

Kerala: Lifestyle Housing, Remittances and Tourism

Kerala's real estate market differs from those of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu because its demand drivers are less concentrated around a single technology metropolis or manufacturing network. Residential purchases are influenced by overseas Malayali communities, domestic migration, healthcare and education facilities, tourism, retirement planning and lifestyle preferences. Kochi is the state's leading commercial real estate destination. Its port, information technology sector, business services, healthcare institutions and transport infrastructure support demand for apartments, offices and retail spaces. Areas such as Kakkanad, Edappally, Vyttila and locations around established transport corridors attract different categories of buyers. Kakkanad has benefited from the presence of Infopark and associated commercial development, making it an important location for technology professionals and rental housing. Other parts of Kochi attract families who prioritise hospitals, schools, shopping facilities and convenient transport connections. Thiruvananthapuram has a different economic profile, with government institutions, technology employment, research organisations and educational establishments contributing to housing demand. Kozhikode is another important centre, supported by healthcare, education, commerce and connections with the wider Malabar region. Thrissur, Kottayam and other towns attract buyers seeking established residential neighbourhoods and properties close to family networks. One distinctive feature of Kerala's market is the role of non-resident Indians. Remittances and overseas earnings have historically supported residential construction, independent houses, villas and premium apartments. For many families, property ownership represents not only a financial investment but also a place to return to after years abroad or a home for relatives.

This preference supports demand for spacious houses, gated villa communities and apartments with modern amenities. However, the importance of emotional and family considerations means that property purchases do not always follow the same investment logic as those in employment-driven metropolitan markets. Tourism also creates opportunities. Kochi, Alappuzha, Munnar, Wayanad and other destinations attract interest in holiday homes, serviced apartments and hospitality-related real estate. Nevertheless, tourism potential should not be confused with guaranteed rental income. Seasonal occupancy, maintenance costs, local regulations, management quality and access to transport all influence returns. Kerala can be attractive to buyers who value residential comfort, established social infrastructure and long-term personal use. Compared with Bengaluru's employment-led rental ecosystem, some Kerala locations may offer a more lifestyle-oriented investment proposition. But rental demand varies substantially between commercial centres, educational districts, tourist destinations and smaller towns. The state also faces structural challenges. Limited availability of suitable land in some urban areas, high construction costs, fragmented land parcels, environmental sensitivity and restrictions affecting certain locations can complicate development. Heavy rainfall, flooding, landslides in vulnerable highland areas and coastal erosion are important considerations when assessing property risk. Land purchases require particular care. Buyers should verify ownership history, land classification, access rights, permitted use, building approvals and any applicable environmental restrictions. Properties marketed as future tourism investments or promising high rental returns deserve independent financial and legal assessment. Kerala's long-term prospects are supported by its human development strengths, healthcare and education sectors, urban centres and connections with the global Malayali community. However, investment performance depends heavily on the town, neighbourhood and intended use of the property.

Infrastructure and Future Growth Corridors

Infrastructure shapes all three property markets, but its impact differs according to local economic conditions.

In Karnataka, metro connectivity, airport access, arterial roads and employment clusters are central to Bengaluru's expansion. Mysuru's economic development and improved regional connectivity could also strengthen its position as an alternative urban centre. In Tamil Nadu, Chennai's metro network and road infrastructure are important, while industrial corridors and logistics connectivity support demand around manufacturing centres. Coimbatore's continued development may reinforce its role as a regional commercial and residential hub. In Kerala, urban transport improvements, road networks, the Kochi Metro and connectivity to commercial centres influence property demand. Tourism infrastructure and access to healthcare and educational institutions can also affect residential values. In every state, buyers should distinguish operational infrastructure from projects that are proposed, under construction or awaiting approvals. Buying solely on the expectation that a future metro station, airport or highway will increase property prices can expose investors to delays and speculative pricing.

Risks, Regulations and Due Diligence

Legal verification is essential in all three markets. Buyers should check title deeds, encumbrances, approved layouts, building permissions, land-use classifications, applicable RERA registration and the completion or occupancy certificates required for the property. In Karnataka, buyers should pay particular attention to land records, municipal documentation, property tax records and the applicable e-Khata requirements. In Tamil Nadu, title verification, planning permission, approved layouts and relevant registration records deserve careful scrutiny. In Kerala, land classification, access rights, local-body approvals and environmental restrictions may be especially important for certain properties.

Conclusion: Invest in the Market That Matches Your Objective

Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala each present distinct opportunities within South India's evolving real estate landscape. Karnataka benefits from Bengaluru's technology-driven economy and expanding metropolitan corridors. Tamil Nadu combines Chennai's housing demand with a diversified industrial and commercial base. Kerala offers a distinctive mix of residential demand, overseas connections, tourism and lifestyle-oriented property ownership. The most effective investment strategy is to match the property with a clear objective, whether that means earning rent, building long-term wealth, purchasing a family home or securing land for future use. Buyers should evaluate local demand, affordability, infrastructure delivery, environmental risks and legal documentation before committing their capital.

Ultimately, the strongest property investment is not necessarily in the state with the fastest-growing prices. It is in the location where genuine demand, sound documentation, sustainable costs and long-term usability come together.

SHORT NEWS

ISL 2026-27

Ramírez, Loba on song as East Bengal FC thrash Inter Kashi 5-1



PUNE: Aké Loba scored a brace while Dani Ramírez, PV Vishnu and Lukasz Zwolinski contributed one goal each as the defending champion East Bengal FC delivered a commanding performance against Inter Kashi, for a convincing 5-1 victory in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026/27 at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex. The defending champions made a dominant start, with in-form Ramírez opening the scoring in the 8th minute. Receiving the ball on the right side of the penalty area, Ramírez lifted the ball over Albino Gomes to put East Bengal ahead. The Torchbearers doubled their advantage in the 16th minute through Vishnu, who finished a swift counterattack with a left-footed strike into the bottom-left corner after being set up by Loba.

CRICKET

KTR felicitates Sircilla cricketer on national selection

HYDERABAD: BRS Working President KT Rama Rao on Friday congratulated Gudepu Vanshika, a Class 10 student from Rajanna Sircilla district, on her selection for the upcoming national-level cricket tournament. Vanshika, a student at the Zilla Parishad High School in Namapur village, Mustabad mandal, met Rama Rao at Telangana Bhavan to seek his blessings and support. Her national selection follows an impressive campaign at the state-level cricket tournament held in Rajanna Sircilla district from October 10 to 13. Captaining the combined team representing Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Sircilla, and Jagtial districts, Vanshika led her side to the semifinals while earning high praise for her standout bowling performances. She is set to represent Telangana at the national-level competition scheduled for the first week of November in Jammu and Kashmir. Interaction with Vanshika, KT Rama Rao emphasised the critical need to encourage and nurture sporting talent from rural areas.

1st ODI: Charani's four-wicket haul helps India bowl out Zimbabwe for 197

VADODARA



Spinner Shree Charani claimed a four-wicket haul as World Champions India bowled out Zimbabwe for 197 in 49.5 overs in the first ODI of the three-match series at the BCA Stadium in Kotambi near Vadodara on Friday.

Zimbabwe, who came out to bat after winning the toss, suffered an early setback when opener Loryn Phiri was caught and bowled by Kranti Gaud in the third over.

India had an opportunity to strike again in the same over, but wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh dropped a regulation catch to give Chipo Mugeri-Tiripano a reprieve. The missed chance allowed Zimbabwe to rebuild as Mugeri-Tiripano and opener Modester Mupachikwa looked to establish a partnership.

India maintained an attacking approach with two slips in place, but the Zimbabwe batters rotated the strike well and capitalised on loose deliveries. The scoring rate, however, remained low, and India missed another opportunity to break the partnership when vice-captain Deepti Sharma dropped a catch in the slips in the eighth over. Zimbabwe reached 46/1 at the end of the powerplay.

With the fielding restrictions lifted, India captain Smriti Mandhana introduced Charani, who provided the breakthrough by trapping Mugeri-Tiripano leg before wicket. The batter departed for 21 off 27 balls.

Mupachikwa continued to hold one end after the dismissal of her partner, but Charani struck again in the 15th over. Attempting a lofted shot, Mupachikwa mistimed her effort and was caught by Gaud after scoring 25 off 44 balls.

India tightened their grip on the innings when Deepti dismissed Sharne Mayers in the 18th over. Mayers attempted to take the aerial route against a tossed-up delivery but failed to clear the infield, departing for eight off 12 balls.

With wickets falling at regular intervals, Zimbabwe needed a partnership to stabilise their innings. Beloved Biza and Nyasha Gwanzura responded by rotating the strike effectively and finding boundaries to rebuild. Their stand helped Zimbabwe cross the 100-run mark in the 26th over of their first ODI against the Indian women's team.

Mandhana turned to Charani again when the partnership threatened to grow, and the spinner delivered in the first over of her third spell. Charani took a return catch to dismiss Gwanzura, who scored 13 off 28 balls.

Biza continued to anchor the innings despite losing her partner and found support in Chiedza Dhururu, who looked in good touch after arriving at the crease. Biza brought up her half-century in the 35th over, reaching the milestone with a boundary off the 64th ball of her innings.

India, however, struck again when Gaud bowled Dhururu in the same over. Dhururu departed for 10 off 23 balls, leaving Zimbabwe needing another substantial contribution to build a competitive total.

Michelle Mavunga, batting at No. 8, provided some momentum with an aggressive approach against the world champions. Her boundaries helped Zimbabwe reach the 160-run mark in the 39th over, but Charani ended her entertaining innings in the 43rd over to complete her four-wicket haul. Mavunga scored 29 off 23 balls.

Zimbabwe's stand-in captain Nomvelo Sibanda fell in the following over to Shafali Verma as India continued to make inroads into the lower order.

Biza remained Zimbabwe's main source of resistance, but her fighting knock came to an end when Gaud dismissed her, with Mandhana taking a good catch. Biza top-scored with 62 off 92 balls, hitting four boundaries.

Deepti delivered the final blow by bowling Tendai Makusha off the penultimate ball of the innings as Zimbabwe were dismissed for 197 in 49.5 overs. Charani was India's most successful bowler, finishing with four wickets for 23 runs. Gaud also impressed with three wickets, while Deepti claimed two and Shafali picked up one.

Brief scores:
Zimbabwe Women 197 all out in 49.5 overs (Beloved Biza 62, Michelle Mavunga 29; Shree Charani 4-23, Kranti Gaud 3-42) against India Women

1st T20I: India aim to carry Asiad momentum against West Indies



NEW DELHI

Former India left-arm pacer Irfan Pathan on Friday came out in support of head coach Gautam Gambhir, saying the criticism over Ishan Kishan batting lower down the order in the first T20I against New Zealand at the Hagley Oval was unfair as the wicketkeeper-batter had been nursing a niggle, which later turned out to be a groin strain.

The strain forced India to rejig their batting order in the series opener, with Tilak Varma promoted to number three, Kishan's usual position. Kishan came in at number five and lasted only three balls before falling for just 1 when he was caught on the leg-side boundary off New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner.

Pathan took to social media to urge fans and critics to hold off on passing judgment without knowing the full facts. "So, Ishan Kishan had a niggle during the first T20, which is why he batted lower down the order.

"But everyone was quick to go after @GautamGambhir for changing the batting order. Criticising him has become everyone's favourite timepass these days. Please, please wait a bit before passing judgment. Don't jump to conclusions without knowing the full story.

"And this applies to everything in life. In the rush to get 'views' and 'numbers' on social media, you might end up hurting someone without even knowing the full story. Think before you judge," wrote Pathan in a note on his 'X' account on Friday.

Later, the BCCI said on Friday that Kishan has been ruled out of the second T20I, to be played in Christchurch on Saturday, with a right adductor strain picked during the first T20I. India won the series opener by four wickets after chasing down a record 226 with two balls to spare. Sanju Samson set up the chase with a 33-ball 67, while sharing a 93-run opening stand inside the Powerplay with Abhishek Sharma. Captain Shreyas Iyer added 42 off 28 balls, and Naman Dhir hit an unbeaten 42 off 15 deliveries. With Kishan unavailable for the second game, teenaged opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is the frontrunner to take his place in the playing eleven.

Sooryavanshi, 15, has been on the bench since featuring in the semi-final and final of their Asian Games gold medal winning campaign in Japan. The only other batter in the squad is seam-bowling all-rounder Shivam Dube, who would not be a like-for-like replacement. After the second game, both teams will travel to Wellington, Auckland and Hamilton for the remaining three T20Is on October 27, 30 and November 1.

CHL 2026: Yuvraj Walmiki's hat-trick sinks Sanskardhani Strikers; Chakradhar Champions go to top

RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)



It was yet another great day for hockey at the Chhattisgarh Hockey League (CHL) with Chakradhar Champions blazing past Sanskardhani Strikers 6-4 in a lopsided evening match in Raipur.

The proceedings were witnessed by the Deputy Chief Minister of the state, Shri Arun Sao, which only motivated the players to deliver their best at the state-of-the-art Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Hockey Stadium, Raipur.

The match started with seasoned Indian player SV Sunil's brilliance. When chances weren't coming for Chakradhar, all he needed was a pass from the midfield. From there, he sent down a precise pass to Yuvraj Walmiki in the circle, who attempted a shot and scored on the rebound. Just a minute later, CC created another opportunity that resulted in a goal.

Arjun Yadav managed to steal the ball from the Strikers defender just outside the circle and passed it in front of the goalpost. Kartik Yadav was ready with a big dive to swell the lead to 2-0. It did not take long in the 2nd quarter for the Champions to come up with their third goal.

This time, it was a PC conversion, a rare combination where the ball was directed towards Sunil by the drag-flicker, and then to Walmiki, who just guided the ball into the post.

But despite the setbacks, Strikers did pull one back in the quarter when Shahrukh sounded the board on the rebound. Vaibhav Singh Chandel could not stop the bullet strike from inside the circle. Things further went downhill for the Strikers when keeper Aditya Kumar Netam went for a tackle against Kartik. As a result, Walmiki received a penalty stroke and struck another goal.

The third quarter was a complete turnaround for Sanskardhani Strikers, where they produced two more goals. The first was a field goal by Shahrukh, while the other came in the form of a late penalty stroke by Shamsher, bringing the score to 4-3.

Come the fourth, CC came all guns blazing, and Manish scored through a fine deflection in the circle. That goal, in a way, ended all hopes for the Strikers.

Another PC meant another scoring opportunity for Sunil's team; the goal did come, albeit on the rebound by Walmiki, who went on to score his third of the night. Shamsher concluded the proceedings with a field goal, with the score reading 6-4. Shahrukh won the striker of the match award, while Walmiki won the player of the match. Mainpat Titans, Bailadila Bulls play out close 3-3 draw

Earlier in the day, Mainpat Titans and Bailadila Bulls played out a closely fought 3-3 draw. It was Pradeep Mor's Titans who dominated the proceedings in the first two quarters, while Chinglensana Singh's Bulls were the better side in the last two.

Titans led by two goals until halftime, but Jaskaran Singh and Rahul Yadav brought their team back when no one expected them to. The match was so evenly poised that both the sides managed to score twice in the dying minutes of the match. For his excellent play, Prahalad was awarded the striker of the match, while Karan Dhanuk won the player of the match.



Vakiti reviews preparations for Khelo India Games

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has initiated comprehensive preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of the Khelo India Games, scheduled from December 11 to 22 across the state, Youth Services and Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari said. Reviewing event readiness during a high-level meeting at the Secretariat on Friday, the Minister evaluated venue preparedness, training schedules, and athlete selection protocols.

He directed inter-departmental officials to maintain seamless coordination to host the national event on a grand scale and strengthen Telangana's standing as a premier sporting hub.

Emphasising strict deadlines, Vakiti Srihari instructed officials to conclude all logistics well ahead of schedule, ensuring seamless accommodation and facilities for visiting athletes, coaches, and delegates.

To boost local talent, the government is executing a multi-stage selection process across 27 disciplines using a phased 1:4, 1:2, and 1:1 ratio. The initiative aims to identify promising rural athletes and provide targeted training to prepare them for national competition, he said.

Commonwealth Kabaddi C'ship: Indian teams stamp authority in opening games

AHMEDABAD



The Indian men's and women's teams dished out clinical displays to thrash England and Malaysia, respectively, in their opening matches of the Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad on Friday.

The women's team, led by Sakshi's 13 points and Renuka and Nidhi Sharma's nine and eight points, respectively, eased to a 73-13 triumph over Malaysia. India scored 40 raid points, 20 tackle points -- a testament to their all-round game -- and inflicted six all-outs on their opponent as they began their quest for the gold medal with an authoritative show.

The men's team, though, were given a stern test by England before India's superior all-round skills paved the way for a comfortable victory. After India led 23-9 at half-time, England came out all guns blazing in the second half to trim the deficit to 21-30.

Thereafter, India's two consecutive successful raids and a tackle increased the gap before the hosts inflicted an all-out on England. Ultimately, India, led by Naveen Kumar's 12 points and Neeraj Narwal's 11 points, emerged victorious 46-26.

In the last match of the day, the Ugandan men's team led Malaysia 24-14 at half-time.

The Kenyan men's and women's teams commenced their respective campaigns at the Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026 with contrasting victories at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex on Friday.

While the men's team enjoyed a comprehensive 48-28 victory over Singapore, with James Kamweti leading the scoring charts with 19 points, the women's team held their nerves to defeat Bangladesh 34-25 in a tightly contested match.

Sri Lankan men outplayed Tanzania 48-21, with Milinda Chathuranga and Adhan Viduranga contributing 11 and 10 points, respectively, in the team's victory. The island nation's aggression helped them score 25 raid points compared to Tanzania's nine points.

Sri Lanka also outscored Tanzania 13-12 in tackle points, apart from inflicting three all-outs on their opponents. Tanzania was led by Juma Sultania with seven points.

In the day's third contest, Scotland men thumped Australia 59-30. Scotland's attacking approach yielded them 40 raid points. A strong defensive set-up also helped them bag eight tackle points, as Scotland inflicted four all-outs on Australia to run away with an easy victory. For Australia, Jasmeet Grewal scored eight points.

Barcelona defender Kounde fails to train just two days ahead of 'Clasico'

MADRID

FC Barcelona look almost certain to be without defender Jules Kounde for Sunday's vital La Liga game at home to arch-rival Real Madrid after the Frenchman failed to train with his teammates on Friday. Kounde sprained his ankle in last Saturday's 5-2 win away to Betis, and although he missed Tuesday's Champions League defeat away to Paris Saint-Germain, there had been hopes he could recover in time for Sunday's match, in which Barcelona will look to extend their six-point lead over their historic rival.

However, Kounde's failure to train with the group on Friday, as he worked with a physiotherapist in the gym, means he is now highly unlikely to be available for Sunday's game. His injury comes at a bad time for Barcelona coach Hansi Flick, who also lost Eric Garcia to a thigh injury last Saturday, with the Spain international expected to be sidelined for three to four weeks. Andreas Christensen is also unavailable as he continues to recover from a thigh injury.

Rukmini Vasanth's Beauty Spell



Rukmini Vasanth has built her name on soft, natural acting and a growing fan base across Kannada, Telugu and Tamil cinema. She won hearts with Sapta Sagaradaache Ello and Bagheera, and her role in Kantara Chapter 1 took her popularity even higher. For Mysuru Dasara, she wore a royal blue silk saree with thin gold zari stripes. The wide gold border carried woven double-headed bird motifs. She paired it with a beige blouse, a long gold chain, gold bangles and jhumkas. Her hair was tied in a neat bun with a small bindi, and her makeup stayed light and fresh. Next, Rukmini will be seen in Dragon, directed by Prashanth Neel and starring Jr NTR. It is among the most awaited Telugu films, and fans are eager to watch her.

Sam Shines With Natural Glow



Samantha Ruth Prabhu has built her name on range, moving between Telugu and Tamil cinema and streaming. Eega, Theri, Rangasthalam, Majili and Oh Baby cemented her as a top draw, while The Family Man 2 widened her fan base across India. Her black embroidered anarkali look comes with sheer sleeves, tiny mirror-style sequins and a flowing silhouette that drapes softly over her baby bump. A silver choker, statement rings and loose waves keep the styling simple, while dewy skin and soft-lit portraits give the shoot a calm, glowing mood. Samantha was last seen in Maa Inti Bangaaram. Next, she headlines Celebrity MasterChef Tamil on Sony VIZHA and Sony LIV, and she fronted the Diwali campaign for her perfume brand Secret Alchemist. A maternity break follows once her commitments wrap up.

Meet The Maya Lady on Nov 13th



Young talented actor and passionate producer Rakesh Varre is gearing up to entertain audiences with his upcoming film Maya Lady, which is scheduled for a grand worldwide theatrical release on November 13. Produced under the Crazy Ants Productions banner, the film is directed by Prasankar, with Madhumitha Sarcar playing the female lead. Rakesh Varre, who previously earned appreciation for producing content-driven films such as Evvarikee Cheppoddhu and Peka Medalu, is now bringing another interesting project to audiences. The film also features Satya, Indraja and Mysore Suresh in important roles, while V D Jagan Mohan Rao presents it. The promotional campaign for Maya Lady has been attracting attention, with the already-released teaser impressing audiences and generating positive buzz. The songs have also received an encouraging response, adding to the growing interest surrounding the film. The makers have further strengthened their promotional strategy with innovative content, including the entertaining Producer vs Actor series, which offers audiences a different glimpse into the film's team and its promotional journey. With its unique promotional ideas, appealing music and encouraging response to the content released so far, Maya Lady is steadily building anticipation ahead of its theatrical arrival. The team is confident of bringing an entertaining cinematic experience to audiences. Featuring music by Vishal Chandrasekhar, Maya Lady is produced by Rakesh Varre under Crazy Ants Productions and presented by V D Jagan Mohan Rao. The film is all set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on November 13.

Nani's The Paradise Needs an OTT Fix



The Paradise is facing fresh criticism after its OTT release. Despite several flaws, the Nani starrer managed to survive theatrical criticism to some extent, thanks to its big-screen experience and Anirudh Ravichander's music. However, the OTT release has brought the film under the scanner. The action drama is currently trending at No. 1 on Netflix, but the online trolling has not stopped. Even Nani's fans are finding it difficult to defend the film, with several aspects becoming targets of criticism. The action sequences, Nani's characterisation, and the overdose of emotions are being widely discussed. Director Srikanth Odela is also facing backlash for reportedly wasting a talented actor like Mohan Babu, whose role could have been handled much better. The second half, in particular, has become a major talking point among viewers, with many questioning the writing and execution. While the film had its share of supporters during its theatrical run, the OTT audience appears to be heavily trolling the film and has exposed several issues This response should serve as a lesson for both Nani and Srikanth Odela. Audiences may appreciate scale and technical brilliance, but they also expect strong writing and convincing characterisation when such big names are involved. Srikanth Odela has given a lot of justification about various scenes in the film, but the OTT audience has pointed out even more issues ever since the film landed on Netflix. He is the one in radar and one needs to see if he learns from his mistakes.

Imanvi's Glamourous Aura

Imanvi first grabbed attention with her dance reels, which pulled in a huge following online. Her sharp moves and expressive face made her a familiar name long before she signed a film. She is yet to have a big screen release, but the wait for her debut is getting louder. In her latest pictures, Imanvi wore a bright orange sleeveless dress with a square neckline and a flared skirt. She added a white bow in her hair and gold hoop earrings. A thin layered necklace, a ring and a delicate bracelet completed the look. Her hair stayed loose, and her makeup was soft and natural. Imanvi will make her acting debut with Fauji, starring Prabhas and directed by Hanu Raghavapudi. Fans are eager to see her on the big screen.

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